









Barcelona to Basque Country: Tracing History and Culture on the Iberian Peninsula

Trace the shores of the Iberian Peninsula, witnessing the remnants of history, from the Romans and Moors to the explorers that spearheaded the Age of Discovery. Experience some of Europe’s most captivating cities, including Barcelona, Lisbon, and Porto, and head to the countryside to visit the timeless villages of the Algarve, Galicia, and Spain’s Basque country. Encounter wonders both ancient and modern, from the Roman ruins of Cartagena to the avant-garde architecture of Valencia. Along the way, savor local cuisine, sampling paella and port at their source.

From
\$ 22,243 / per person
Does not include flights

 DATES May	 DURATION 13 Days
 SHIPS <i>National Geographic Explorer</i>	
 STARTS AT Barcelona, Spain	  ENDS AT Bordeaux, France

Highlights

- ★ Discover an array of architectural marvels, from the Alhambra in Granada to Lisbon's 16th-century Jerónimos Monastery and Ronda's impressive Puente Nuevo bridge
- ★ Explore six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Granada's extraordinary Alhambra palace, the Tower of Belém in Lisbon, and Porto's old city
- ★ Learn how cork oak is harvested in the orchards of the Algarve, and explore Galicia's estuaries with local fishermen
- ★ Stroll through San Sebastián's historic city center and enjoy an introduction to its gastronomic history





Day by day

■ DAY 1

Barcelona, Spain / Embark Ship

Arrive in Barcelona and explore the iconic architectural masterpieces of this city, the energetic street rhythms coming from Las Ramblas, and the beautiful views atop Montjuic. Embark *National Geographic Explorer* in the late afternoon and set a course west for Valencia.

Meals included: dinner, lunch

◇ DAY 2

Valencia / Albufera National Park

In sunny Valencia, old-world cafes mingle with Gothic cathedrals and futuristic architecture. Explore the rich birdlife of Albufera National Park—Thekla's Lark, the Wood Sandpiper, and more—by hopping aboard private fishermen's boats along the canals of the lake, where they cultivate rice and harvest shellfish. Enjoy a traditional paella, Valencia's signature dish.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Cartagena

Today we explore Cartagena, where Phoenicians, Romans, and Moors all left their mark. Walk amid the city's medieval fortress and visit the lookout at Parque Torres to view the ruins of the Roman amphitheater side by side with a modern-day one.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Motril / Granada / Alhambra

Nestled at the foot of Spain's Sierra Nevada range, Granada is a city rich in history and culture. Its

legacy as the last stronghold of the Moors lives on in the architecture, cuisine, and culture of the modern-day city. Spend the day exploring Granada's vibrant center, or choose to explore the Alhambra on a private tour, a fortified palace complex boasting exquisite Moorish architecture and decor, as well as meticulously landscaped gardens. This evening, we enjoy the Alhambra by night, watching as it magically twinkles into the distant valleys below.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Malaga / Ronda

Choose to dedicate your day to discovering Málaga, the birthplace of Picasso and a gem of a coastal city surrounded by charming Andalusian towns. Or spend the day in Ronda, where bullfighting originated. Discover the town's iconic Puente Nuevo, a stone bridge spanning the gorge and separating the new and old towns, or set for a hike in the countryside.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

At Sea

After having navigated through the Strait of Gibraltar overnight, enjoy National Geographic Explorer's amenities during this day at sea. Listen to talks by our onboard experts, get photo tips from a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor, or spend some time on the Bridge with our officers, who are happy to answer questions. A massage from our wellness specialist is an inviting option, or relax with a book on the observation deck.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Portimão, Portugal

Portimão is our gateway to Portugal's southernmost province, the Algarve, known for its picturesque beaches, whitewashed villages, lush farmlands, and remnants of Moorish culture. Travel north to Silves, home to a fortified sandstone castle built by the Moors and learn about the tradition of harvesting cork from cork oak trees. Or, spend the afternoon exploring the sea caves of the Algarve coast by small boat while savoring a glass of medronho, a local fruit brandy.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Lisbon / Sintra

Lisbon, the second oldest European capital, maintains a reputation as one of the continent's most vibrant and charismatic cities. Explore the historic city's stunning 18th-century downtown area, including Terreiro do Paço, "the palace's square." Or, visit the Restelo neighborhood—home to the Gothic-style Jerónimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site—and its 16th-century Belem Tower that served as a start and end point for numerous Portuguese explorers. More active travelers can opt for a stroll along Lisbon's hillside streets: take in colorful street art, panoramic overlooks, and the wonderful smells of Portugal's culinary traditions.

Alternatively, spend the day in Sintra, a charming town hidden in the pine-covered hills of the Serra de Sintra. Home to the whimsical Palácio Nacional de Pena, the medieval Palácio Nacional de Sintra, the Moorish Castelo dos Mouros, and the Arabian-inspired Monserrate Palace, Sintra was the first European site listed by UNESCO as a Cultural Landscape.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Porto

Take a panoramic drive from the port into the UNESCO World Heritage site of Porto in the early morning. The birthplace of port wine, Porto straddles a gorge on the Douro River linked by numerous bridges and filled with medieval architecture. Throughout the day, pick out your favorite azulejo tiles covering the facades of the old town and take in the views from the iron masterpiece Ponte Dom Luís. Take a tour of the Bolsa Palace Stock Exchange and the Monument Church of Saint Francis, or opt to discover the Clérigos Church and Bell Tower and the surrounding hilltop neighborhood of Clérigos. This afternoon, explore the iconic Ribiera along the waterfront at your leisure. Reconvene for a special dinner this evening at one of the historic port houses along the Duoro river, during which you will learn the secrets of port-making and enjoy a tasting.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Vilagarcía de Arousa, Spain / Santiago de Compostela

Anchor in Villagarcía de Arousa and take a day trip to the Galician countryside, where you'll visit a winery, watch fishermen as they collect mussels, and enjoy the verdant Galician landscapes from the river. Alternatively, travel to Santiago de Compostela, and visit the cathedral that has welcomed millions of pilgrims over the centuries. Enjoy a typical Galician musical performance and a tapas lunch at the adjacent Hostal dos Reis Católicos. Take the opportunity to hike a portion of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, offering beautiful views of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela through meadows and forests, before heading back to the ship.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 11

At Sea

Navigating around Cape Finisterre and into the Bay of Biscay, we are greeted by one of the most active bodies of water in Europe. The Bay of Biscay has over 30 rivers that empty into its basin and currents running through it from the North Atlantic. Spend time on the Bridge today and learn from our officers about the sailing history in this region, while we navigate along the Spanish coast.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 12

San Sebastián

Explore Spain's Basque capital of San Sebastián today. Discover the connection to the Celts and hear the bouncing rhythms of a *trikitixa*, a traditional accordion. Learn some of the regional language that pre-dates Romance languages, and delve deeper into the gastronomic traditions of this gem along the Bay of Biscay.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 13

Bordeaux / Disembark Ship

From the stunning symmetrical architecture of Place de la Bourse to charming side streets brimming with cafés, Bordeaux has no shortage of nooks and crannies worth discovering. Arrive in the picturesque riverside city this morning. After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals included: breakfast

2024 Expedition

Barcelona, Spain → Bordeaux, France

2024 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Explorer*

08 May		
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National Geographic Explorer

Guests

148

Cabins

81

Built to handle deep swells and towering waves, the *National Geographic Explorer* lends herself to globe-spanning travel and a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

Originally constructed for service along Norway's coast as part of the famed Hurtigruten, or Coastal Express, she ferried passengers among the fjords of this iconic coast in conditions that could deteriorate into heavy seas in a matter of minutes. She had to be able to handle deep swells and towering waves—and have a high degree of maneuverability. Those traits, and an ideal size, made her a natural choice for addition to the Lindblad fleet.

The plans to completely rebuild her drew on 50 years of pioneering expedition history and expertise. *National Geographic Explorer* was equipped with an ice-strengthened hull and advanced navigation equipment for polar expeditions; a roster of tools for exploration; and a well-appointed interior with vast expanses of glass for an unprecedented connection to the environment. Her interior and exterior design embodied the Lindblad expedition ethos—the privilege of wildness and the luxury of comfort.

For many guests she remains their paradigm of an expedition ship. She is devoted to exploration—from her Welcoming Bridge, and the Chart Room below it where you can tuck in to warm up with a hot chocolate, to her high-perched Observation deck with its aqueous light and compelling 24/7 views. Even the art on the walls— from the Hurley prints of Shackleton’s expedition to the stunning National Geographic photos— tells an uber- narrative of globe-spanning travel and a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

National Geographic Explorer is a state-of-the-art expedition ship. She is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, with an ice-reinforced hull, enabling her to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort.



Cabin Categories

Category 1

Main Deck: #301-308

Cabins feature one or two portholes. Most cabins feature two single beds that can be converted to a queen. Cabins #301-306 feature one queen-sized bed. All cabins feature a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV.



Category 2

Main Deck: #317-320, 335-336

Cabins feature two single beds (some can convert to a queen-sized bed), and one large window. They offer a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, sitting chair, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV.



Category 3

Main Deck: #313-316, 321-328, 337-340, 342, 344, 348, 350

Cabins feature two single beds (some can convert to a queen-sized bed), one large window, and two sitting chairs and a small table and ample storage. They have a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV. Cabins 341 & 343 have a sofa bed for a triple.



Category 4

Upper Deck: #201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228

Cabins feature two single beds and at least one large window. All cabins can convert between two single beds to a queen, except Cabins 217, 226 & 228 that feature one queen-size bed only. All cabins feature climate controls, sitting chairs, and a TV. Bathrooms are also generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall.



Veranda Deck: #103-104, 107-108

Cabins feature two single beds than can convert into a queen. They have a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, sitting chair, private bathrooms with a glass-wall shower, and a TV.

Category 5

Upper Deck: #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224

Cabins feature a balcony with sliding glass doors, one queen-sized bed, writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, private bathrooms with a glass-wall shower, and a TV. (Cabin 221 has two single beds that can convert to a queen.)



Category 6

Upper Deck: #213

This spacious cabin has a private balcony, two single beds that can be converted into a queen, a writing desk, double closet, bookcase, pull-out sofa, armchairs, two large windows, and a TV. The sleeping area has a glass partition separating the living room. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.



Veranda Deck: #101-102

These spacious cabins can be converted into triples. They have two single beds that can be converted into a queen, a writing desk, double closet, bookcase, sofa-bed, chairs, two large windows, and a TV. The sleeping area can be closed off with the glass partition. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.

Category 7

Upper Deck: #215, 219, 230

These large cabins with private balconies have two single beds that can convert to an Olympic-sized queen. They have seating areas with a sofa-bed and can be converted to triples. Cabins also include a desk with chairs, coffee table with sitting chair, and a small table. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.



Category A Solo

Main Deck: #309-311, 329-334

These cabins feature one single bed and a large window, a writing desk, reading lamp, bathroom with a roomy glass-wall shower stall, and a TV.



Category B Solo

Upper Deck: #203, 208

Veranda Deck: #105-106

These cabins feature one single bed and a large window, a writing desk, reading lamp, bathroom with a roomy glass-wall shower stall, and a TV.



CHART ROOM ELEVATOR LOUNGE

DECK

DECK

SUN DECK

Room numbers: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108

[illegible]

Ship amenities

Public Areas

Reception; three dining areas; global gallery; library, B&H Photo locker; 24-hour Bistro area beverage bar; lounge with bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; observation lounge; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Meals are served in the dining room, Bistro bar, or the Observation lounge, at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

Cabins

81 outside cabins. All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical outlets, USB outlets, full length mirror and phones. TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed for onboard presentations, bow camera and ship's position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas is available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of double kayaks, a crow's nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope, and an ROV. Plus, for South Pacific voyages: snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for a number of pre-qualified guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac, and splash-cam.



Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, internet café and laundry. Enjoy a session in the topside library with a good book, or with the book in your lap, eyes trained on the horizon.

Wellness

A glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, a LEXspa treatment room and sauna, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean Coat™ is a light-activated, self- disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. Not only does this create a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike, but this non-toxic, chemical- free system also saves more than one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures, and reduces our carbon footprint as well as the amount of plastic and waste in our supply chain.

Special Offers

SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. [Learn more](#)

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US\$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Call for details.

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

BRINGING THE KIDS

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18 on any departure. Not applicable on extensions or airfare. Call for details.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more

people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

Included in price

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, and spirits aboard the ship (except certain super premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs and kayaks; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photography Expert and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; services of a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not included in price

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

Travel protection plan

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

Cancellation policy

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>