

CHOOSE THE DATES, THIS IS YOUR PRIVATE TOUR

WILDLIFE WATCHING IN EXTREMADURA

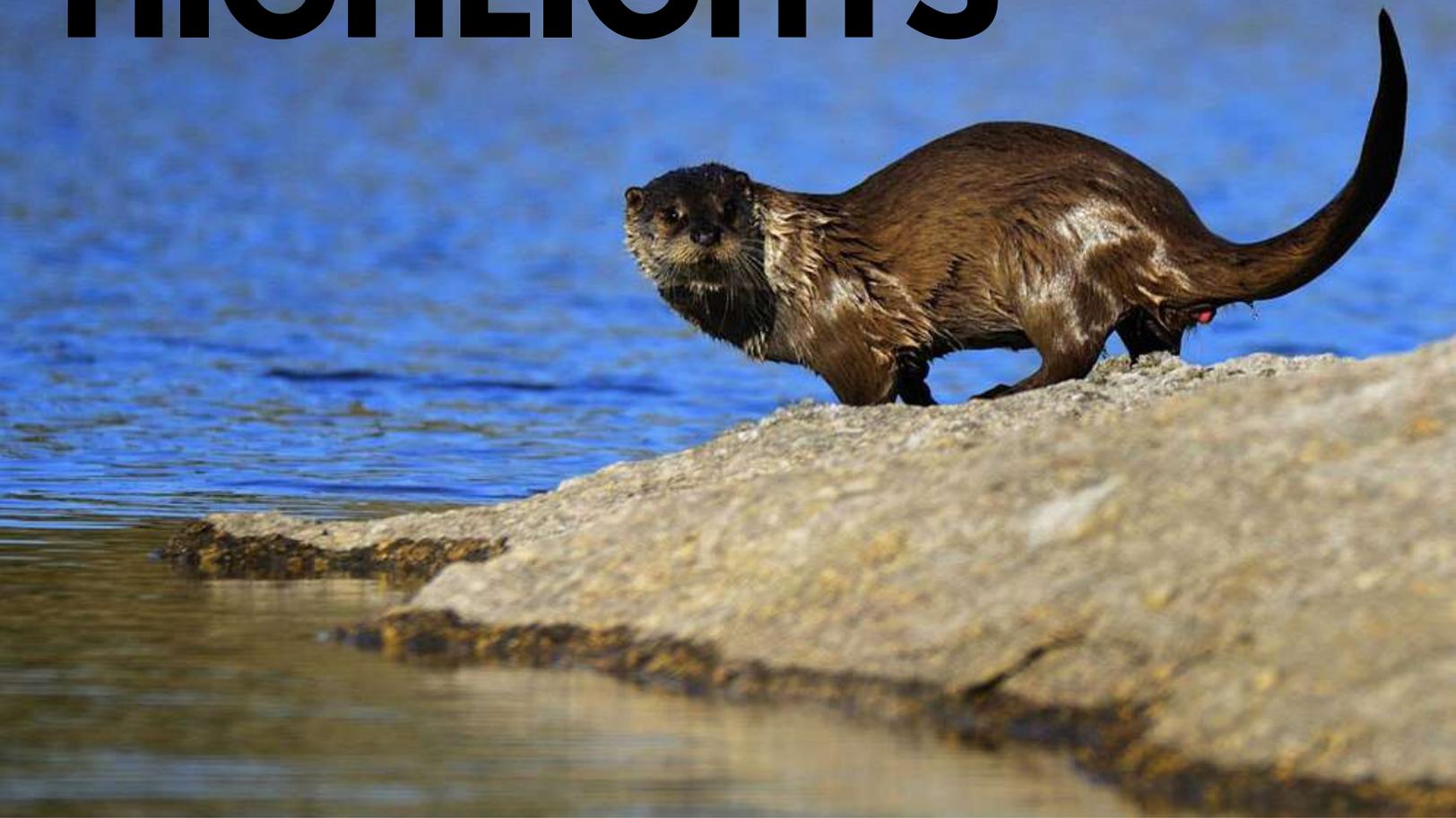


INSIDER'S TRAVEL



This 6 night privately guided trip takes guests to see one of the world's best examples of mediterranean forests and the area with the largest concentration of birds of prey in the world - visit the flora and fauna of the Monfragüe National Park, the Jerte Valley, the Ambroz Valley and the Vera. With wildlife watching as the focus, guests opt for as much or as little walking as they wish. Bird-watching in the Monfragüe National Park, one of the most important Special Protection Areas in Europe to see the black vultures, black storks, the Iberian imperial Eagle, the Common Elanio and the Alimoche against the rugged rock formations of the Peña Falcón. Afternoon walking through the centennial cork forests and a rustic sunset dinner of artisan Extremeñan goodies from the jeep while deer-watching. Lucky autumn guests are likely to hear their impressive bellowing. Visit the Jerte Valley known for its two million cherry trips planted on steep mountain terraces, but also for its forests of chestnut trees dating back to the 12th century. Our guide takes you to its gorges, valleys and streams. An afternoon on the dehesa pasture to visit the black Iberian pigs, the achilles' heel to the meat-eating Spaniard. Learn about the breeding and if appealing, a private visit to see how the meat is cured with tastings to follow. Three nights in the Romanesque walled city of Plasencia for easy access to day time pursuits, a night in Hervás, a small picturesque town at the foot of the Ambroz Valley with one of the best preserved Jewish quarters in Spain. From here, a walk through the largest chestnut forest in Extremadura and then on to la Vera, at the foot of the Gredos mountains by the Tietar river, home to the highly sought-after pimentón de la Vera. Two nights in Jarandilla de la Vera at the 15th-century fortified Palace Parador de Jarandilla de la Vera and visit Charles V's chosen resting place, the simple Yuste Monastery, along with the picturesque medieval towns of Garganta de Olla and Cuacos de Yuste. Dramatic landscapes, flora and fauna, expert guides. Comfortable hotels with charm and history. Excellent Extremeñan food and wines.

HIGHLIGHTS



Introduction Walking-Tapas Tour of Madrid

Wine tastings in three different wine regions in Spain and Portugal

The Natural Park of Arribes del Duero, one of the best preserved nature reserves in Europe

The impressive prehistoric rock-art site in the Valley of Coa

Meet winemaker Jesús Arbás and his wife, Mayte Bajo, a professional flamenco dancer, for lunch at their winery

Ride along the Duraton River Gorge, the Duero River, in Toro and Ribera del Duero wine country, through medieval towns, and the natural park of Arribes del Duero .

Visit splendid Romanesque town of Sepulveda

A stay in one of the pioneering wineries of Ribera del Duero, the famous Valbusenda Winery

Arrival by bike to the finish line in Peso da Régua, the Port wine capital

ITINERARY



Day 1: Introduction in Madrid

Route: 0 km (only light walking!)

**Accommodation: Hotel NH Collection Madrid
Palacio de Tepa 5***

Welcome to Spain's capital!

A private guide will pick you up from your hotel for an introductory walk around Madrid's center with delicious gourmet tapas and wines along the way. A warm up to the Spanish language & culture!

Day 2: Peñafiel, Spain

Route: 55.4 km +326 m / -614 m

Accommodation: Castilla Termal Monasterio de Valbuena 5*

Our team will pick you up in the morning from your hotel in Madrid and transfer you to the splendid Romanesque town of Sepulveda in the Province of Segovia. From here we continue to the stunning gorges of the Duraton river, Las Hoces del Duraton, where we will see the impressive Hermitage of San Frutos carved into the rock and possibly also spot some local eagles or vultures. Then we hop on the bikes and pedal to the wine town of Peñafiel to our hotel for the night.



Day 3: Peñafiel, Spain

Route: 60.6 km +398 m / -301 m

Accommodation: Castilla Termal Monasterio de Valbuena 5*

Today's biking takes us on a scenic loop ride from the hotel through the surrounding vineyards with the opportunity to stop and visit some of the most interesting wineries of the area. We stop to meet Jesús Arbás & his wife, Mayte Bajo, a flamenco dancer, for a tour of their namesake winery, Arbás Winery, followed by a rustic lunch with the couple accompanied by their award-winning, biodynamic and ecological wines. Post lunch, we conclude the day with an easy ride to visit the impressive 10th-century castle of Peñafiel and its interesting wine museum.





Day 4: Toro, Spain

Route: 41.9 km +194 m / -287 m

Accommodation: Hotel Valbusenda 5*

After a quick transfer to Rueda, the area that is known for its white wine variety, verdejo, we jump on our bikes and make our way towards the medieval town of Toro, the focal point today for some of Spain's premium wine-makers. It's a gentle ride today through picturesque, agricultural countryside with lots of sprawling vineyards. Toro is a relatively new wine-making region, which is slowly gaining recognition for its bold, red wines made from the local tempranillo grape, Tinta de Toro. We won't leave Toro without paying a visit to its wine cellar, Bodegas Divina Proporción, where we will have an excellent lunch and enjoy its famous red wine.

Tonight we stay in luxurious surroundings at the 5* Hotel Valbusenda, where you can choose to pamper yourself with the soothing properties of the local grape in their wine spa.

Day 5: Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal

Route: 41.7 km +453 m / -1053 m

Accommodation: Hotel Colmeal Countryside Hotel 4*

After having experienced the last few days in the Spanish wine regions, today we make our way to Portugal through the spectacular gorge of the Duero River. We will be riding along the course of the Duero River into the Natural Park Arribes del Duero, where we will have the chance to see the river and to learn more about this region's remarkable geographical features and wildlife. Along the way we will stop to see the impressive La Almendra Dam, one of the biggest in Europe, built between 1964 and 1970 and forms part of the hydroelectric system known as the "Duero Drops". Crossing the border, we arrive in Portugal at our final destination, the beautiful medieval town of Colmeal, passing by Figueira de Castelo known for its pine-wood forests and rolling hills, just a stone's throw away from our eco-friendly hotel for the night.



Day 6: Pinhao, Portugal

Route: 38.1 km +408 m / -877 m

Accommodation: Hotel Vintage House Pinhao

Our day begins with a visit to one of the most interesting archaeological sites in Europe. The Coa Valley is home to a remarkable set of prehistoric rock carvings, which have been designated a World Heritage Site. It is a fascinating open-air display of rock drawings in a spectacular setting above the Douro River. From here, we make our way to the start of today's bike ride, which is a stunning stretch of riding along quiet roads with vineyards blanketing the landscape.

Our final destination is the beautiful town of Pinhao, which sits peacefully on the banks of the river and further along the river sits our hotel for the night, the luxurious Vintage House Hotel.



Day 7: Peso da Regua, Portugal

Route: 38.1 km +514 m / -529 m

Accommodation: Hotel Quinta Pacheca 4*

After leaving Pinhao by bike, we follow the course of the Douro River on a beautiful and pleasant final ride, which offers us glimpses of the many fortresses that dot the surrounding landscape. This area is at the heart of Port wine production in Portugal. We stop for lunch of delicious local food and wine specialties in

Peso da Regua with free time to visit the wine museum before cycling on to the picturesque Quinta da Pacheca winery, whose estate dates back to 1728. We end the day's activity with a wine tasting before a short drive to your hotel. Tonight we spend our final night of the trip in the beautiful hotel, Quinta de Casaldrinho, where you can relax and relive the memories of your week's biking adventures!



Day 8: Departure

0 km today

After breakfast, your guide will help you with your onward travel arrangements before saying goodbye and making their way back to Madrid by van.

Options for continuing your trip: Porto is a particularly beautiful city, built on gently sloping hills along the meandering curve of the Douro river just before it enters the Atlantic. With many cultural sites of interest, as well as modern art museums and historic port wine cellars, it is no wonder that this city is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. There are a couple of options for you to get to Porto from Peso da Regua, both of which allow you to continue your journey along the Douro. There are regular train services, which take approx. 2 hours to arrive in Porto. The other option is a relaxing river cruise, which can take up to 6 hours. Either way, you are guaranteed a spectacularly beautiful trip.

PRICE, ACCOMMODATION & DETAILS

Price of trip:

For Private Group of 2 people: 3499€ Per Person

Single Supplement: 565€

Deposit: 500€

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For Private Group of 4 people: 2999€ Per Person

Single Supplement: 565€

Deposit: 500€

Includes:

- Transfer from Airport to hotel in Madrid
- Transfer from Madrid to Sepulveda
- All transportation throughout the trip by private luxury van or smaller vehicle
- Bilingual and experienced guide(s) to ensure a superior customer service
- Meals: all breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners including wine
- Bikes: Hybrid bike Specialized SIRRUS: Included
 - Road Carbon Specialized TARMAC: +100.00€
 - E-Bike Specialized VADO: +200.00€
- Entrances & activities as specified
- All winery visits and olive oil tastings
 - Wineries visited: Arbas Bodega in Ribera del Duero, Bodegas Divina Proporción in Toro and Quinta da Pacheca winery in Peso da Regua
- Support vehicle to provide technical assistance, offer refreshments and snacks, give you a lift uphill at the end of the day and transport your luggage from one place to the other
- Detailed document with regional maps, a day-to-day itinerary plus hotel list and regional information
- Gratuities for baggage, restaurants and hotel service
- Bike Kits (handlebar bag, water bottle, luggage tags and bike jersey)
- Travel coordinator, available to assist with all of your pre and post-trip travel plans and arrangements
- Travel insurance with medical assistance

Accommodation:

* 1 night - Hotel Palacio Tapa 5*, Madrid, Spain

* 2 nights - Castilla Termal Monasterio de Valbuena 5*, Peñafiel, Spain

* 1 night - Hotel Valbusenda 5*, Toro, Spain

* 1 night - Hotel Colmeal Countryside Hotel 4*, Colmeal, Portugal

* 1 night - Quinta de Casaldronho 4*, Peso da Regua, Portugal

* 1 night - Hotel Vintage House Hotel 5*, Pinhao, Portugal

DETAILS

