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Example customized vacation package Northern Spain

Sep 1, 2025 - Sep 14, 2025

Trip Summary

September 1 - Monday

Welcome in North-West Spain!

Car rental in Bilbao

Check in at 7Kale Bed & Breakfast - 7Kale Bed & Breakfast

September 2 - Tuesday

Group Bike Tour of Bilbao with a German-speaking guide

Explore Bilbao

September 3 - Wednesday

Car rental in Bilbao

From Bilbao to the Picos de Europa

Explore the Cantabrian coast

Check in at El Covaju - El Covaju

September 4 - Thursday

Visit the mountain village Potes

Visit the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liebana

September 5 - Friday

Visit Picos de Europa National Park with the Fuente Dé Cable Car

September 6 - Saturday

Hiking in the surroundings of Mogroveju

Via Ferrata in Picos de Europa (optional)

Canyoning tour with English-speaking guide (optional)

Horseback riding in Picos de Europa (optional)

September 7 - Sunday

From the Picos de Europa to the Asturian coastline

Check in at Arredondo Hotel Rural - Arredondo Hotel Rural

Discover Llanes and its surroundings

September 8 - Monday

Surf lesson in Celorio

Visit to a cheese dairy farm near Llanes (optional)

September 9 - Tuesday

Relax on one of the beaches around Llanes

September 10 - Wednesday

From Llanes to nature reserve Urdaibai in Basque Country

Visit the highlights of Cantabria

Check in at Artiketxe Casa Rural Bermeo - Agroturismo Artiketxe

Explore Bermeo

September 11 - Thursday

Kayaking in Urdaibai nature reserve

Discover Mundaka

September 12 - Friday

Hiking in Urdaibai biosphere reserve

Visit the town of Gernika in Urdaibai nature reserve

Visit a vineyard with the local Txakoli wine (optional)

September 13 - Saturday

From nature reserve Urdaibai to Bilbao

Discover San Juan de Gaztelugatxe

Check in at Petit Palace Arana - Petit Palace Arana

Visit the Guggenheim museum

September 14 - Sunday

Car rental in Bilbao - Return

Departure

September 1 - Monday

Welcome in North-West Spain!

Bienvenido, welcome to North-West Spain!

I warmly welcome you to this beautiful region. In the coming weeks you can enjoy the beautiful nature, culture and gastronomy of this area.

Car rental in Bilbao

Since you will be staying in Bilbao for the first few days and won't actually need a car then, you can pick up the car in 2 days. You can take the **bus or taxi** from the airport to the centre of Bilbao.

Check in at 7Kale Bed & Breakfast

You will spend the next few days in a **Bed & Breakfast** where you will have **double** and **triple** rooms. The B&B is located in Bilbao's old town so many attractions are within walking distance. You can of course enjoy breakfast here.

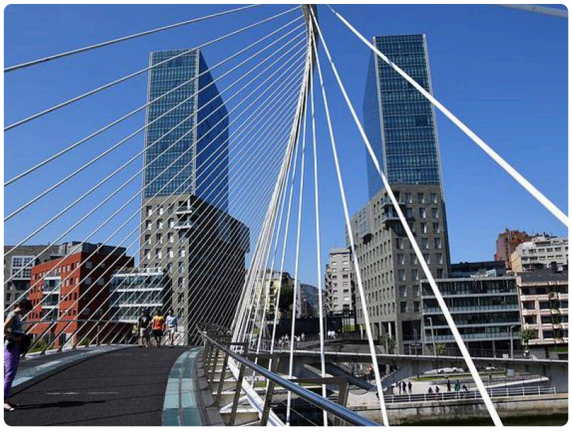
7Kale Bed & Breakfast
13 Andra Maria Kalea, Bilbo, Euskadi, ES, 48005

September 2 - Tuesday

Group Bike Tour of Bilbao with a German-speaking guide

Together with a German-speaking guide, you will cycle through Bilbao. The guide will point out all the highlights and give you insider tips on special places, monuments, museums and restaurants. It is a very fun (and efficient ;)) way to get to know Bilbao.

Duration: 3 hours



Explore Bilbao

Bilbao seems big, but you can see a lot of the city centre in 1 day. A good start to explore the city and learn all about its historical development is to take a **boat trip**. Another option is to hire a bike and cycle along the river.

You can also view the city from above. The **Funicular de Artxanda**, a cable car built in 1915, takes you to a viewpoint on **Mount Artxanda**. From here, you have great views over the city and can enjoy a picnic.

September 3 - Wednesday

Car rental in Bilbao

You can pick up your rental car at **Bilbao airport.**

The offices of the car rental companies are next to the **large covered garage** where your car is parked.

From Bilbao to the Picos de Europa

In a bit less than 3 hours (200 km) you´ll drive to the National Park Picos de Europa. Along the way, there are a couple of nice places to stop.

Explore the Cantabrian coast

Between Bilbao in the Basque Country and Santander in Cantabria lie several delightful places to visit. There's Castro Urdiales, with its harbor and, perched on a high cliff behind it, the Gothic Church of La Asunción and the castle with its lighthouse.

The beach at Oriñón is another beautiful location, squeezed between the towering headlands of Candina and Cerredo.

Laredo boasts an expansive sandy beach, from which you can take a small ferry across the bay to Santoña on the opposite shore.

Check in at El Covaju

You will spend the next few days in a rural accommodation in the heart of **Picos de Europa National Park**. The accommodation has a total of 12 fully equipped flats with kitchen where you will have access to a **2-bedroom flat.** Some flats have one of the bedrooms on another floor.

There is an **outdoor swimming pool** on site, and you can park for free at the accommodation.

There is a nice garden around the complex for you to use and barbecue.

El Covaju
Barrio Medio Aceñaba, Cabezón de Liébana, Cantabria, ES, 39571

September 4 - Thursday

Visit the mountain village Potes

Today you can explore the village of **Potes**, which has about 1,400 inhabitants and a history dating back to the Middle Ages. Two rivers flow through the village, and you can enjoy a wonderful walk or take a break along their banks. Don't forget to climb the tower for amazing views over the village and the surrounding mountains!

Visit the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liebana

A few kilometers from Potes lies the impressive monastery of **Santo Toribio de Liebana.** It is the oldest monastery in Spain, dating from the 6th century. In the 8th century, a major relic—a large piece of wood from the Cross of Jesus—was brought here and is still kept there to this day.

The monastery is open all year round in the mornings and afternoons for visitors.

September 5 - Friday

Visit Picos de Europa National Park with the Fuente Dé Cable Car

Today, you'll be heading up into the mountains with the **Fuente Dé cable car**. From the station, a large gondola will take you to an altitude of **1,800 meters** within just a few minutes. From there, a variety of **fantastic hiking trails** begin, suitable for different **experience levels**. It's truly a **highlight** of your holiday — both literally and figuratively!

September 6 - Saturday

Hiking in the surroundings of Mogroveju

A picturesque place is the tiny mountain village of **Mogroveju**. The **medieval tower** in the village was featured in a cartoon about Heidi, and various elements in the village refer to this.

From Mogroveju, you can take a **beautiful circular hike** of about **10 km** with an **elevation gain** of **300 meters**.

Via Ferrata in Picos de Europa (optional)

This afternoon you are going to do an exciting **Via Ferrata**! The starting point is near Potes and the whole Via Ferrata takes about 1.5-2 hours.

It is a route that is between beginner and intermediate in terms of difficulty. The length is 190 metres and the drop 160 metres.

At the top, you can enjoy the magnificent views of the **Picos de Europa**, after which you descend again along a path, using safety cables.

For this activity, you should not be afraid of heights and bear in mind to be fit and agile, as you will have to jump and climb bits at times.

Note that this activity is “dangerous or extreme” according to some travel insurance companies. When opting for this type of activity, we strongly recommend checking with your insurance policy to see how you can cover this type of activity in your insurance package. There is no need to worry that this activity is not safe. I work with very reliable partners who are 100% certified!

Age: from approx. 8 years

Price: 45€ p.p.

Canyoning tour with English-speaking guide (optional)

Today, you have the opportunity to join a **canyoning tour** with a certified, English-speaking guide. It is a group excursion, so there may be more participants.

The tour is suitable for participants with and without experience, and from 10/12 years of age.

The activity takes a total of 3-4 hours, including 2 hours of the canyoning itself.

Please note that this activity is "dangerous or extreme" according to some travel insurance companies. When opting for this type of activity, we strongly recommend checking with your insurance policy on how to cover this type of activity in your insurance package. There is no need to worry that this activity is not safe. I work with very reliable partners who are 100% certified!

Price: 45 EUR p.p.

Horseback riding in Picos de Europa (optional)

You will have the opportunity today to do some **horseback riding in the mountains**, led by experienced guides. Great fun to explore the area this way!

Prices:

- 1 hour: 25 € pp (suitable for children between 5 and 10 years old)
- 1 1/2 hours: 30 € pp
- 2 hours: 35 € pp
- 3 hours: 50 € pp

September 7 - Sunday

From the Picos de Europa to the Asturian coastline
In 1.5h (65 km) you´ll drive to the Asturian coast.

Check in at Arredondo Hotel Rural
You will be staying in this rural hotel for the next few days, where you will have a 2- and 3-person room. It is wonderfully quiet and you can enjoy breakfast here.

The accommodation also has a restaurant that uses regional and home-grown products.

Parking is free at the accommodation.

Arredondo Hotel Rural
Carretera De Porrúa, Celorio-Llanes, Spain

Discover Llanes and its surroundings
There is a lot to do in and around Llanes. A nice short coastal walk from Llanes is the **Paseo de San Pedro**, in use since 1847 and once utilized as a lookout point for whale-spotting, keeping watch on fishing boats, or detecting hostile ships.

In addition, Llanes and the surrounding area offer plenty of restaurants to choose from.

September 8 - Monday

Surf lesson in Celorio
Along this northern coast of Spain, you have beautiful waves and lots of surfing. There is a surf school in **Celorio** where you can take lessons. The course lasts **2 hours** and can be scheduled for **1, 2 or 3 days.**

Visit to a cheese dairy farm near Llanes (optional)

Today, you'll visit a **cheese farm** where you'll enjoy a **guided tour** of the premises, visit the **cave** where the cheeses are aged, enjoy a **cheese tasting**, and finally take part in a **workshop** to **make your own cheese!**

Length: 2.5 hours
Price: 25 EUR per person

September 9 - Tuesday

Relax on one of the beaches around Llanes

Today you can spend the day **lounging** on one of the **beautiful beaches** around **Llanes**. This Asturian municipality has **56 kilometers of coastline** with all kinds of beaches.

September 10 - Wednesday

From Llanes to nature reserve Urdaibai in Basque Country

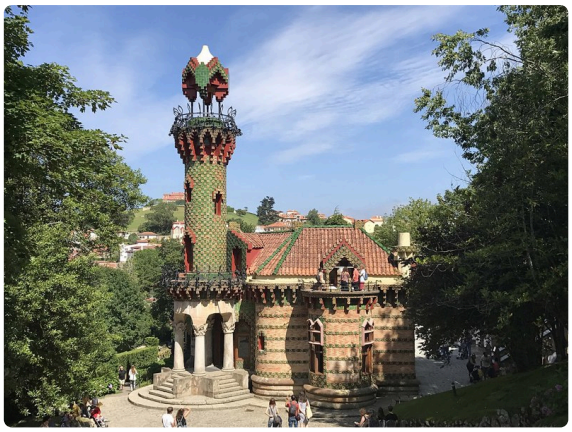
In 2.5h (215 km) you´ll drive along the northcoast in the direction of Basque Country. Along the way, you can visit the highlights of Cantabria.

Visit the highlights of Cantabria

For lovers of unusual architecture, a visit to “**El Capricho”**, a villa designed by Gaudi, is well worthwhile. Then don't forget to immediately visit the sequioa forest located there 10 minutes' drive today (**El Bosque de Secuoyas del Monte Cabezon**); a lovely green oasis with impressive trees. From Comillas where El Capricho can be found, it is just a short drive to the lovely town of **San Vicente la Barquera** (there is a nice route along **Oyambre** beach).

You can also visit the famous **Altamira caves** with prehistoric rock art. You can also visit the beach, for instance in **Suances**.

For animal lovers, animal park **Cabarceno** is a very nice outing, which you can go through on foot and by car. The animals have plenty of space here and you can take a cable car up to look down on elephants, bears and lions from above. Don't forget the birds of prey show! It is quite spectacular to see the vultures soaring towards this from the surrounding mountains.



Check in at Artiketxe Casa Rural Bermeo

You will spend the next few days in a cosy *casa rural* in the heart of **Urdaibai biosphere reserve**. You will have a double and triple room here. Breakfast is served each morning with local produce from the farm.

The hotel is located between the beaches of Bakio and Mundaka and 1 km from the town of Bermeo.

Agroturismo Artiketxe
16 Barrio Artike, Bermeo, Euskadi, ES, 48370

Explore Bermeo

Bermeo is a cosy coastal town and has one of the most important fishing ports in the Basque country. It is great fun to walk to the port and watch all the activity, although you have to get up very early to unload the fishing boats (between 4 and 5 in the morning!). Of course, you will find all kinds of delicious fish restaurants here.

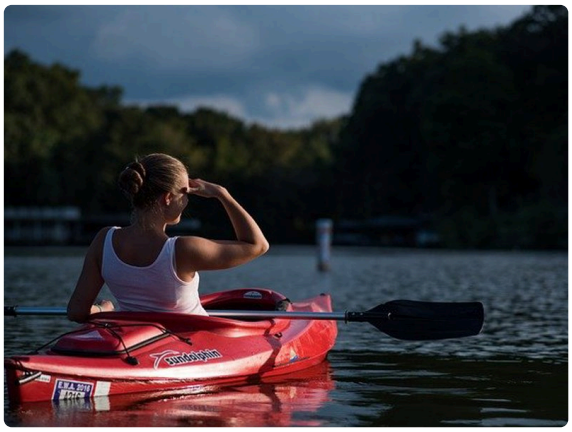
From Mundaka, you can take the **Euskotren** to Bermeo in a few minutes. There is also a nice route along the coast you can take, of about 4 km.

September 11 - Thursday

Kayaking in Urdaibai nature reserve

Today you can explore the Urdaibai biosphere reserve by **kayak**. This area is known for its enormous range of birdlife. In 2.5 hours you descend the river towards the sea. Along the way, you will have every opportunity to disembark, jump into the water or enjoy the natural beauty on the shore.

Please note: *if the weather is too bad or the sea too rough, this trip may be cancelled. In that case, an alternative date or excursion will be sought.*



Discover Mundaka

Mundaka is a cosy fishing village where you can stroll through the alleys and enjoy the view of the harbour and the sea. From the **Mirador de la Atalaya**, you have a great view over this nature reserve.

September 12 - Friday

Hiking in Urdaibai biosphere reserve

Urdabai is known for its birdlife. There is a nice **nature information centre** located in an old cannery, from where you can walk a nice short route (15 min) to the **observation hut** at the marsh. So don't forget your binoculars! You can take all kinds of other nice walks along the river through the reserve itself.

Visit the town of Gernika in Urdaibai nature reserve

The town of **Gernika** introduces you to art and history. The village is known for the bombing by German troops at Franco's request, which killed many civilians during the Civil War in 1937, and the mural replica of Picasso's giant painting about it. Next to that indictment of the brutal war is the **Museum of Peace.**

The Euskotren takes you to Gernika in 20 minutes.

Visit a vineyard with the local Txakoli wine (optional)

You will have the opportunity to visit a **vineyard** and explore the process of making the local **Txakoli wine**. Of course, a tasting is also on the programme, as well as eating some typical **Basque pintxos!**

Price: EUR 65 p.p. for adults, EUR 25 p.p. for children

Duration: 2 hours

September 13 - Saturday

From nature reserve Urdaibai to Bilbao

In 1 hour you´ll drive back to Bilbao.

Discover San Juan de Gaztelugatxe

To visit this famous monastery (known from the **Games of Thrones** series), you need to book tickets in advance (free of charge).

Check in at Petit Palace Arana

You will stay in a beautifully restored hotel near the old town of **Bilbao**, which means that all the highlights are within walking distance.

You will have access to a **double and triple room** and a buffet **breakfast**. The hotel pays special attention to sustainability. The use of single-use plastic is avoided, water is conserved and green electricity is used.

For a fee (approx. 25/day), you can use the **nearest public car park** about 100 metres away.

Petit Palace Arana
Calle Bidebarrieta, 2

Visit the Guggenheim museum

The **Guggenheim Museum** is the symbol of Bilbao. Opened in 1997, it was instrumental in giving the industrial city of Bilbao an urban, economic and social revival that continues to this day.

From the outside, the museum offers beautiful architecture that you can easily see as you walk along the river. There are several exhibitions of modern and contemporary art on display.

It is advisable to book a visit to the museum in advance.

September 14 - Sunday

Car rental in Bilbao - Return

You can return your car at the **Bilbao airport.**

Departure

Today it is time to see goodbye to Northern Spain.

Gracias y hasta luego!