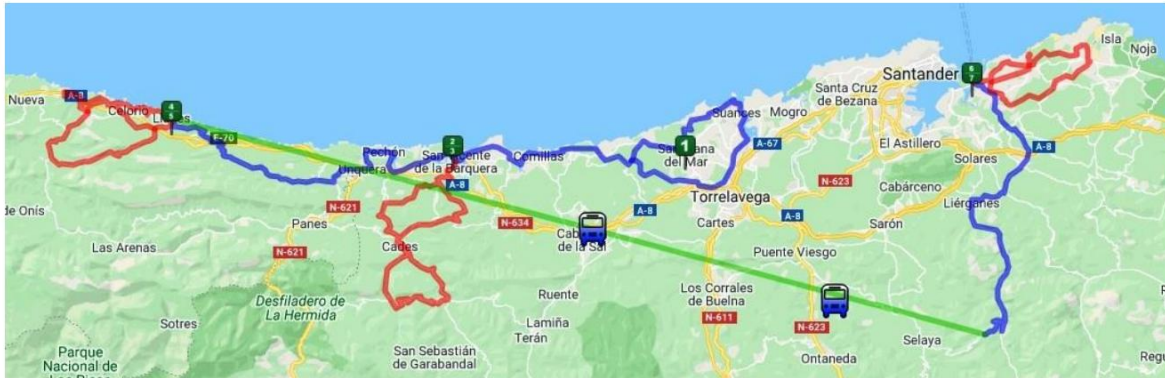


# Cycling Safaris

## Northern Spain – Cantabrian & Asturian Coast 2026 “Coast of Green Spain”

Self-guided Tour: 132 km | 7 nights / 8 days



A beautiful trip taking in the coast, valleys and villages of Cantabria. The tour has a combination of coastal and valley scenery and provides a great introduction to Northern Spain. Our stopovers include a picturesque medieval town, a tranquil fishing village and the beach resort of Somo with the city of Santander just across the bay

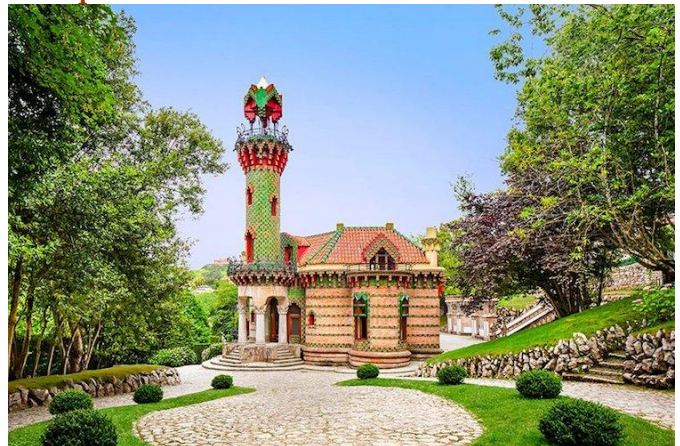
### TOUR ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Transfer to Santillana del Mar

Pick up from arrival point and transfer to the charming medieval village of Santillana del Mar. Introduction to bikes and route briefing. Spend the rest of the day walking round the cobbled streets of this beautiful village, visit the modern museum of the Altamira Caves or enjoy a ride around the country lanes and down to the coast.

#### Day 2 Santillana del Mar- San Vicente de la Barquera 36km or 62km

Westwards through green meadows, hills, valleys and marvellous unspoilt coastline and beaches. Novalles is set amidst lemon groves and with its fine typical rural architecture. Comillas has a fine beach, harbour, a pretty square with tapas bars and restaurants, and the architectural sights of Gaudí's El Capricho and the Palace of the Marqués de Comillas. Cycle through the Parque Natural de Oyambre and along the beautiful beaches of Oyambre and Merón with the stunning view of San Vicente and the Picos de Europa in the distance.



#### Day 3 Free day in San Vicente de la Barquera or roundtrip

Spend time getting to know this pretty fishing village with its many seafood restaurants and magnificent setting. Take a ride on one of the free day routes, visit the lovely mountain village of Carmona, take a train

to the fishing village of Llanes in the neighbouring province of Asturias and enjoy the ride back to San Vicente. Alternatively, enjoy a ride through the unspoilt hill country behind the village, or you may just prefer to spend a lazy afternoon on the beach.



**Day 4 San Vicente de la Barquera to Llanes 47 km**

Westwards around the beautiful headland of Pechón with its magnificent coastline. Cross the River Deva in Unquera to enter the Asturias. Colombres is home to the sumptuous villas of the *indianos*, emigrants to the Americas who made their fortune then returned. Continue between the coast and the dramatic mountains of the Sierra de Cuera, foothills of the magnificent Picos de Europa. A beautiful descent through eucalyptus forests leads to the coast and unspoilt beaches, to arrive at the charming fishing village of Llanes

**Day 5 Free day in Llanes or roundtrip**

Visit a string of fine beaches including the incredible landlocked beach of Gulpiyuri, or ride through the most beautiful hills and valleys behind Llanes. Alternatively, give the bikes a rest and take a canoeing trip on the Deva or Sella Rivers, or a hike through the dramatic and renowned Cares Gorge in the heart of the Picos de Europa. Take a train to Ribadasella and visit the Caves of Tito Bustillo with their prehistoric paintings before cycling back. Enjoy the busy atmosphere of the fishing village of Llanes, so popular with Spanish tourists.



**Day 6 Descent of the Miera Valley to Somo 43 km**

Vehicle transfer to the Cantabrian Mountains, to begin our descent of the Miera Valley to our final stop in Somo from the starting point at 822 metres / 3757 feet above sea level. From here, a marvellous ride through the stunning limestone valley of the River Miera takes us down to the farmland around Somo and the Bay of Santander. Visit the mountain village of San Roque de Riomiera and the spa village of Liérganes with its charming old quarter.

## Day 7 Roundride from Somo

Somo has a marvellous beach with miles of golden sand. A short boat ride across the Bay to visit the lively and elegant city of Santander, capital of the province of Cantabria. Enjoy the belle époque atmosphere of El Sardinero or shop in the town centre. Cycle through green country lanes to visit the beautiful beaches of Loreda, Langre or Galizano and the village of Ajo, famous for its paellas. Eat freshly grilled sardines in the seaside restaurants of Pedreña, birthplace and home of the famous golfer, Severiano Ballesteros.

Rides of various distances

## Day 8 Departure from Somo

Transfer from Somo to Santander or Bilbao.

## DATES AND PRICES 2026

### Season 1

28<sup>th</sup> March - 29<sup>th</sup> May

€955 per person sharing

19<sup>th</sup> September - 30<sup>th</sup> October

€260 single room supplement

### Season 2

30<sup>th</sup> May - 26<sup>th</sup> June

€1030 per person sharing

29<sup>th</sup> August - 18<sup>th</sup> September

€330 single room supplement

### Season 3

27<sup>th</sup> June - 31<sup>st</sup> July

€1215 per person sharing

€380 single room supplement

### Season 4

1<sup>st</sup> August - 28<sup>th</sup> August

€1280 per person sharing

€530 single room occupancy

Touring bike hire

€160

E-bike, tandem

€250

Road bike

€220

Helmet

included

Pedals Shimano and look: No charge

Bringing your own bike

this will include a €70 bike case transfer supplement

Self guided tour dates: Any Saturday from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

### Start dates:

Arrival and departure day is Saturday

Groups of 4 or more can choose any start date at no extra cost

Non-standard dates : 1 person €220, 2 persons €110 each, 3 persons €75 each.

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights Hotel accommodation in 3- & 4-star hotels & country-inns with en-suite bathroom
- Breakfast
- All luggage transfers
- Information Pack (Route Guide and maps, elevation profile, GPS files)
- Transfer to and from hotels on arrival and departure dates (Bilbao or Santander)

Not included:

Personal insurance

Evening meals

GPS device

## BACK-UP SERVICE

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As this is a self-led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation. On some stages cyclists are also transferred part of the way to avoid unnecessary climbs (details in individual route descriptions).

Our "On Call" service means we are always available for help or advice.

## TERRAIN

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Generally easy to intermediate cycling. The combination of days when you move on to the next hotel and days when you do not need to do so, means you can often choose the distances you cycle. Day Six is a descent day down the Miera Valley to the Coast.

## WHAT TO BRING

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Specialized cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ leggings
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- gloves (only when you book a tour in April. It can be chilly in the mornings that time of year!)
- good shoes
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume
- extra towel
- soap/ insect repellent

## ACCOMMODATION LIST ~ *Please note that confirmation of these places is subject to availability*

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<b>Santillana del Mar</b>	<a href="#">Casa del Organista</a>
<b>San Vicente de la Barquera</b>	<a href="#">Hotel Faro de San Vicente</a>
<b>Llanes</b>	<a href="#">Hotel Don Paco</a>
<b>Somo</b>	<a href="#">Hotel Torres de Somo</a>

## BIKE RENTAL



### Carbon road bike - male

#### Cube Attain GTC

A quality carbon bike with comfortable 32/34 gearing. 50/34 chainring - 11/32 cassette – 22 speeds



### Carbon road bike - female

#### Cube Attain WLS GTC Pro

A quality carbon bike with comfortable 32/34 gearing. 50/34 chainring - 11/32 cassette – 22 speeds



### Trekking bike - male

#### Trek FX

Good all-purpose bike. Fitted with mudguards, rear rack etc.

48/38/28 chainring – 11/32 cassette – 27 speeds



### Trekking bike - female

#### Trek FX

Good all-purpose bike. Fitted with mudguards, rear rack etc.

48/38/28 chainring – 11/32 cassette – 27 speeds



### E-bikes

#### Various models

Over the last few years, the e-bike has revolutionised cycle touring. Tours are made so much easier and differences between riders' abilities are minimized.

### Equipment for touring & e-bikes

These bikes are supplied with a helmet (obligatory in Spain), rear luggage rack, choice of rear rack bag ( 5 litres ) or a pannier (40 litres), mudguards, small front handlebar bag, odometer, basic toolkit, 1.5 litre water bottle and a lock

### Equipment for road bikes

These bikes are supplied with a helmet (obligatory in Spain), small handlebar bag, odometer, pump, basic toolkit, 1.5 litre water bottle and a lock

### Optional extras

€50 rental of Garmin device

€70 charge if bringing own bike. This is a transfer supplement for bike case.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### Route Guide and Maps

You will be provided with our Route Guide which includes detailed route instructions along with interesting information on landscapes, towns and villages, monuments, alternative route suggestions, timetables for local trains and buses, tips on eating and drinking, an exhaustive gastronomic dictionary and a host of other useful information and suggestions to keep cyclists occupied. Routes are carefully described so no time is wasted on unnecessary deviations. Maps of the area are also provided to support the Route Guide.

Trips that include more than one night in the same destination include optional round rides of differing lengths for these free days so cyclists will never be at a loose end.

### Weather and Climate

Many people are put off coming to Spain on a cycling holiday due to the weather. They think it's going to be just too hot – and they are probably right! During the summer months Spain is one of the hottest and driest countries in Europe with temperatures climbing up to 40°C – 105°F or even more - too much for your average cyclist.

However, the coast and mountains of Asturias and Cantabria are the exception to the rule. Summer months are a lot milder and not as dry as in the rest of Spain and mean that cycling is a pleasure and the landscape is kept fresh and green. Our tour program here begins in spring and runs right through to autumn.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

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### Best arrival points:

Airports - Bilbao or Santander

Ferry ports - Bilbao or Santander

Bus / train stations - Bilbao or Santander

### By Air

Travellers on the routes of Asturias and Cantabria and also the Rioja route generally arrive at Santander or Bilbao Airport where they are met by our pick up service. Some companies fly directly to Santander or Bilbao from many European airports.

It is often possible to take connecting flights through Spanish airports such as Madrid or Barcelona or through other European cities. Our nearest airport is Santander connecting with Madrid and Barcelona, although flights are not so frequent. RyanAir has now opened a new route from London, Stansted to Santander Airport, actually closer to our starting point in Santillana del Mar.

Please note that we do not get involved with travel arrangements as we feel that the customer will get the best possible deal either by searching the Internet or asking the local travel agent to check all possibilities.

### By Ferry

Another alternative for these routes is a mini-cruise on the ferry. We can pick you up from the Santander or Bilbao ferry ports. Most companies will allow you to transport your own bicycle - check with individual companies for their policy on this.

### Trains & Buses

If you are travelling within Spain, there is an excellent network of road transport. The Spanish Intercity train service is called Renfe. The local train service along the coast of the Basque Country, Cantabria & Asturias is called FEVE. The major coach companies, depending on where you are travelling, are Alsa and Continental Auto.