

Spain's Game of Thrones®

5 Night Tour - Bed & Breakfast

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.



Zumaia - Shores of Westeros in Game of Thrones®

11/204



Advance planning

To decide on places to see and plan your route it's useful to refer to tourist office and travel websites such as Google maps, viamichelin.com (which will also show motorway tolls if applicable) or theaa.co.uk. It may also be worth checking the websites of individual attractions, monuments and museums for opening dates and times to avoid disappointment.

Hotel directions

With your travel documents is an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival

Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow time for a fairly leisurely drive between overnight stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring the hotel so your room is held for you.

This tour is on a bed and breakfast basis.

The tour takes in some of the spectacular locations in Spain used for the filming of Game of Thrones®. Even if you've never watched the series, the diverse range of places chosen for this itinerary give it universal appeal. The stunning Basque coast, in particular San Juan de Gaztelugatxe and the beach at Itzurrun, Zumaia, made an ideal setting for Dragonstone Castle and the shores of Westeros.



Plaza Nueva, Bilbao

Bilbao

This is a vibrant modern city whose top visitor attraction is the **Guggenheim** museum, with striking architecture that is spectacular both inside and out. There are permanent art displays and regular temporary exhibitions held here which are a must for art lovers! There is much more to see (and best explored on foot) - the atmospheric **Casco Viejo** old quarter with its maze of cobbled streets filled with shops, cafés and restaurants; remarkable buildings, stunning bridges, squares, parks, museums, art galleries. Shopping is also excellent and there is a large colourful Sunday market. Just to the north east of Bilbao, Playa Muriola or La Cantera (the quarry) as it's known locally is popular with nudists and scuba divers but featured as King's Landing beach in Game of Thrones® and from where Davos Tyrion and Gendry had to flee from the Gold Cloaks.

Heading along the coastal route towards San Sebastian, 35k from Bilbao, discover the natural scenery and amazing historical remains of **Gatzelugatxe** Island. This islet, which is exposed to the winds of the Bay of Biscay, is home to Dragonstone, the entry point of Daenerys Targaryen to Westeros. The island and its small chapel can be reached by a stone bridge and then a narrow path with 250 steps that zigzag up to the top. Gaztelugatxe became Peyredragon, the ancestral home of the Targaryen, the Daenerys clan - and at the very top you will see the chapel with a bell on the front of its facade.



Gatzelugatxe, home to Dragonstone

Magical places were needed to celebrate "the meeting of ice and fire" in the 7th season of Game of Thrones®. The long-awaited meeting of Jon Snow, now King of the North, and Daenerys Targaryen, known as the Mother of Dragons. On the mystical side, this place was used for trials throughout the Witch Hunt during the Inquisition, also in Season 7.

Zumaia - the Itzurrun beach here was used to portray Dragonstone beach in Westeros and featured in several scenes in the series. Just to the east of here is **Getaria**, a pretty fishing village with 2 lovely beaches.

San Sebastian

Also known as **Donostia**, this is a stylish beautiful city built around the Bay of La Concha with an endless choice of places to enjoy some of the best cuisine in the world. **San Sebastian** has more Michelin starred restaurants than anywhere else and this, along with its fantastic beaches, culture and stylish architecture makes it one of Spain's most visited cities. Head up from the city into the hills above - some of the greatest views can be seen from **Monte Igueldo**, reached in 3 minutes by funicular (an experience in itself) or on foot taking the road and a few shortcuts up some steps every so often. There's also an old fashioned funfair at the top.



San Sebastian

Another part of the city not to be missed is the **Parte Viejo**, a network of streets filled to the brim with bars, restaurants, cafés and pintxo bars (the Basque equivalent of very delicious tapas) - there's a great atmosphere here by day or night.

Pamplona

From San Sebastian it's only around a 90 minute drive to Pamplona, or less if you take the motorway. The capital of Navarra, this city is most famous for its controversial Los Sanfermines (Running of the Bulls) festival in July, but above all it is a fascinating place with a wealth of history, great architecture and art. The huge Gothic cathedral in the centre of the old town has one of the most beautiful cloisters found anywhere and some amazing sculptural work.



Pamplona

It's also good to visit the old medieval walls and see the Roman artefacts and art in the Museum of Navarre. Pamplona was a favourite haunt of the author Ernest Hemingway whose writings brought the city to international fame. Take a stroll through the narrow streets, attractive parks and gardens - most things are within walking distance of the elegant tree-lined Plaza del Castillo in the heart of the city.



Logroño

It's worth taking an indirect route from Pamplona and driving to the UNESCO listed **Bárdenas Reales** Nature Reserve (about 1 hour 20) near the town of **Tudela**. It is one of Europe's few deserts and an impressive one at that, with a rich diversity of flora and fauna that can be discovered on foot, by motorbike or car through winding canyons and long valleys. It takes you through a varied landscape finishing on a large plateau sheltering a turquoise water lake, El Plano. The landscape is like no other and was used as a setting for Game of Thrones® in Season 6, when these lands in the south-east of Navarre become the Dothraki Sea and the great plains of Essos. An immensity of desert and meadows give the illusion of an ocean as far as the eye can see. Daenerys is taken hostage by a Khal and forced to walk to Vaes Dothrak.



Another place to visit (an hour's detour en route to Logroño) is the small city of **Olite**. Listed as a Historic-Artistic site famous for its restored Royal Palace, built for the extravagant French born king of Navarra, Carlos III, that resembles a fairytale castle and is floodlit at night. There are also two very impressive medieval churches.

Logroño is a lovely city full of history and tradition and is one of the main stages for pilgrims following the Way of St James. It has an impressive reputation for good food and drink and, in particular, it is well known for its pintxo (tapas) bars so don't miss a visit to Calle Laurel and Calle San Juan where you will find the vast majority of them.

On your way back to the ferry port, why not visit **Laguardia**, one of La Rioja's most important wine villages. Built high on a rocky outcrop and surrounded by vineyards, this lovely medieval village has not changed much since the 13th century with its walls and 4 entrances remaining intact. Its cobbled streets are virtually traffic free making it a real pleasure to wander around and there is a great choice of excellent places to eat and drink (a very nice fruity red that is best drunk 'young' is produced here).



Santander

From Laguardia, there are various different routes to Santander taking in some interesting places to stop. The village of **Tobera**, 2k before Frias, has a medieval bridge and stunning waterfalls. There are also the beautiful hermitages of Sta Maria de la Hoz and Cristo de los Remedios.

Frias – awarded the title the smallest city in Spain is a beautiful historic village with some highly impressive things to see including its medieval bridge and immaculately preserved 12thC castle and keep from where the views are fabulous.



22k from Frias is the village of **Oña** and its stunning San Salvador monastery, where several kings and noblemen of Castile lay in rest.

Liérganes has a great collection of 17th & 18thC architecture and a famous Roman bridge, although it's not actually Roman, that is just its name! Next door to the bridge there is a museum in a old mill where you can discover the Legend of the Fish Man! There is also an interesting eco museum that is worth a visit.

Enjoy some time by the sea in **Santander**, one of the most traditional holiday resorts of northern Spain. Stroll around the city and discover its many beaches, modern leisure amenities and an attractive promenade laid out with flower borders and trees. There are wonderful restaurants and shops plus a variety of nightlife and entertainment. On the seafront next to the ferry terminal you can visit the Centro Botín. Designed by the architect Renzo Piano, the centre houses the works of the Botín Foundation. Another essential stop is to sample the local specialities at the typical Esperanza covered market.

