

A red circular logo with the text "Craig" in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "travel" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Craig
travel

NORTHERN SPAIN

BOOK BY MARCH 7, 2026
SAVE \$300 PP



SMALL GROUP
SEP 7-22, 2026 | 16 DAYS | 30 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: MARY TAYLOR

The Impressive New Cathedral of Salamanca

In Northern Spain, the lush, green coastlines of the Atlantic meet the sun-drenched, golden plains of Castile. On this journey, we will explore the traditions of the Basque, Galician, and Castilian lands, witnessing the legacy of the ancient kingdoms that shaped them. Stand in awe beneath the soaring spires of Barcelona's Sagrada Família, breathe in the serenity of the Picos de Europa at Covadonga, and feel the centuries of devotion that converge at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

We will experience the luxury of living history with stays in iconic Parador heritage properties, savour the unique traditions of an Asturian cider house, and master the art of the perfect paella. This is an in-depth journey designed to immerse you in the diverse cultures, rich flavours, and artistic soul of this region.

Tour Highlights

- Explore Madrid, Pamplona, Zaragoza, and Barcelona through guided sightseeing
- Discover the historic quarters of Segovia, Salamanca, Zamora, and Santillana del Mar
- Admire the iconic landmarks including the Sagrada Família, Alcázar of Segovia, Basilica del Pilar, and Palacio de la Aljafería
- Visit the magnificent cathedrals of Toledo, Salamanca, and Santiago de Compostela (including its museum)
- Enjoy world-renowned art at the Guggenheim Museum and Altamira Museum
- Savour regional cuisine with a cider-tasting lunch, a paella cooking class, and a wine, ham, and cheese tasting
- Witness the artistry and fiery spirit of Flamenco
- Enjoy overnight stays at heritage properties in Santiago de Compostela and Cangas de Onís

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Spain with Air Canada
- First-class accommodation as indicated or similar
- 30 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 3 lunches, D - 13 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for inclusions
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Services of your journey leader and local driver/guides
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described

Journey Leader

Born in England, **Mary** discovered her love of travel early, exploring Europe by train before moving to Canada. A lifelong learner and retired educator, she has since ventured across Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America—always eager to uncover something new. A passionate photographer, hiker, and scuba diver, she loves exploring nature, history, and local culture, from remote islands to vibrant cities. Whether she's spotting wildlife, capturing a sunset, or sharing stories with fellow travellers, her enthusiasm and curiosity shine through. Join her on this journey and experience the joy of discovery through her fun-loving spirit and sense of adventure—every moment promises to be unforgettable.



LIMITED TO JUST 25 TRAVELLERS

For a truly immersive experience

SEP 7, Monday

Travellers gather in Toronto for our direct flight to Madrid.

DEPART CANADA

SEP 8, Tuesday

Welcome to Madrid, Spain's vibrant capital. Upon arrival, we are greeted by our local guide. On our way to the hotel, an introductory drive provides a perfect first look at this energetic city, a place of grand royal avenues and palaces, alongside lively tapas bars and markets. The afternoon is free to relax before we gather for dinner at the hotel.

Catalonia Gran Via Madrid (3 nights)

D

ARRIVE MADRID

SEP 9, Wednesday

Our day starts with a walking tour of Madrid's historic heart. We begin at the Puerta del Sol, the famous starting point for all of Spain's national roads. Then, we make our way to the nearby Plaza Mayor, the city's magnificent 17th-century central square. Our walk continues through the charming Austrias quarter, the old neighbourhood built during the Habsburg dynasty. A highlight of our morning is a visit to the Royal Palace, a Baroque masterpiece and the largest royal palace in Europe. We also admire the Almudena Cathedral, the impressive church where royal events are held. The afternoon is yours to explore. You might choose to stroll through the beautiful El Retiro Park or visit one of the city's famed art museums. This evening, we gather for dinner at a traditional tablao to witness the passionate music and dance of flamenco.

BD

MADRID

SEP 10, Thursday

We journey south to Toledo, a stunning imperial city perched on a hill above the Tagus River. Its golden walls protect a priceless artistic legacy shaped by the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities that left their mark here over the centuries. On a walking tour, we pass through its medieval gates, the winding lanes of its Jewish Quarter, and step inside the magnificent Cathedral of Toledo, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. We also soak up the lively atmosphere of Zocodover Square, the city's main plaza. We enjoy lunch before returning to Madrid.

BL

TOLEDO

SEP 11, Friday

Depart Madrid and drive to Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its fairy-tale skyline. A walking tour leads us through the city's Old Town to the bustling Plaza Mayor. We will admire the impressive Gothic cathedral and

MADRID / SEGOVIA / SALAMANCA

the ancient Roman aqueduct, a staggering feat of engineering. We will tour the Alcázar of Segovia, a fortress that once served as the palace for the royal family of Castile. Following free time for lunch, we continue to the historic university city of Salamanca and our hotel, where we gather for dinner this evening.

Catalonia Plaza Mayor Salamanca (2 nights)

BD

SEP 12, Saturday

SALAMANCA

Today, we explore the Old City of Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site defined for centuries by its prestigious university, the oldest in Spain. It was once a global centre of thought: scholars debated the impact of Spain's expansion into the Americas, created the first Spanish grammar book, and helped propose the Gregorian calendar we use today. Our walking tour reveals this legacy as we visit the magnificent Plaza Mayor, the famed university façade, the impressive twin cathedrals, and the unique Casa de las Conchas, a palace adorned with more than 300 shells. For lunch, we enjoy a special tasting of local wine, ham, and cheese. After a free afternoon, we have dinner together at a local restaurant.

BLD

SEP 13, Sunday ZAMORA / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Leaving Salamanca, we travel to Zamora, a quiet gem on the Duero River. This city's history is among the oldest in Spain, founded in the Bronze Age and later settled by the Celtic Vacceos people. Still known as the "Romanesque capital," it boasts more than twenty Romanesque churches. A brief walking tour leads us through the city's ancient castle walls. After a break for lunch, we drive to Santiago de Compostela and our spectacular heritage hotel. Once a royal hospital built by the Catholic Monarchs, it is now regarded as one of the oldest and most exclusive hotels in Spain. **Hotel Parador Santiago** (2 nights)

BD

SEP 14, Monday

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Santiago de Compostela is defined by its role as one of Christianity's most important sites in Spain. Founded in the 9th century upon the discovery of the tomb of St. James the Apostle, it soon became the celebrated destination of the Camino de Santiago. This pilgrimage network, travelled since the Middle Ages, brought a rich mix of European cultures to the city. Our walk leads us through the Old Town to the Praza do Obradoiro, its grand, iconic square. A highlight is our visit to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the traditional burial place of St. James, along with its museum. We then continue to Praza das Praterías and Praza da Quintana, before wandering the bustling Market of Abastos for a taste of local life.

BD

SEP 15, Tuesday

LUARCA / PARADOR DE ONIS

A scenic drive along Spain's "Green Coast" brings us into the region of Asturias. We make a stop in the picturesque fishing village of Luarca, with time to explore its charming harbour. We then pause for a light lunch, featuring a true Asturian tradition: a cider tasting. "Sidra" is a tart, still cider that defines this region. Our day concludes as we settle into our parador, a historic treasure housed within the walls of the 8th-century San Pedro de Villanueva monastery.

Parador de Cangas de Onís (1 night)

BLD

SEP 16, Wednesday SANTILLANA DEL MAR / BILBAO

Today we take a short drive to Covadonga, a place of great historical importance in Spain. After strolling through this picturesque area in the Picos de Europa mountains, we continue to Santillana del Mar, a village of cobblestone streets and medieval houses often called "the most beautiful town in Spain." We explore its charming historic



Dine at a traditional tablao and see a lively flamenco show



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, a revered pilgrimage site



Luarca's dramatic coastline



Visit the Altamira Museum, home to a replica of the Altamira prehistoric cave

centre before visiting the Altamira Museum, home to a state-of-the-art replica of the prehistoric Altamira cave. Later, we arrive in Bilbao and settle in for the night. **Catalonia Gran Via Bilbao** (2 nights) BD

SEP 17, Thursday BILBAO

Bilbao reinvented itself from an industrial port into a beacon of modern architecture. Our morning is dedicated to touring the Casco Viejo, the city's medieval heart. We explore the 'Siete Calles' (Seven Streets), discovering its traditional taverns and lively markets. We then visit the undisputed icon of the city's renewal: the Guggenheim Museum. Enjoy its groundbreaking collection and the titanium-clad building itself before gathering for dinner this evening. BD

SEP 18, Friday PAMPLONA / ZARAGOZA

We depart for Pamplona, a city famed for the Running of the Bulls and Ernest Hemingway's legacy. A panoramic tour introduces us to its historic heart. We will walk along its ancient ramparts and visit the Plaza del Castillo, the city's lively main square. After some free time, we continue to Zaragoza. **Eurostars Rey Fernando** (1 night) BD

SEP 19, Saturday ZARAGOZA / BARCELONA

Zaragoza, set on the banks of the River Ebro, reveals a striking 2,000-year history. A panoramic drive explores its layers of Roman ruins, Moorish palaces, and grand basilicas. We visit the Plaza del Pilar, the city's main square, and see the ancient Roman Forum and La Seo de Zaragoza. Our tour features a visit to the magnificent Basilica del Pilar, and the Palacio de la Aljafería. After our visits, we continue our drive to Barcelona.

Catalonia Atenas Barcelona (3 nights) BD

SEP 20, Sunday BARCELONA

We devote the day to Barcelona, a captivating city known for its artistic genius and Mediterranean flair. Our tour begins with a walk through the winding medieval alleys of the Gothic Quarter. We then admire the elegance of Passeig de Gràcia, including Gaudí's fantastic facades at Casa Batlló and La Pedrera. Our tour ends with a visit to his ultimate masterpiece: the iconic Sagrada Família. This evening, we immerse ourselves in Spanish cuisine with a hands-on paella cooking class. We join a chef at a local market to select fresh ingredients and learn the secrets to preparing this classic dish. Our day concludes as we enjoy our homemade paella together. BD

SEP 21, Monday BARCELONA

Make the most of a free day to discover Barcelona at your own pace. You may wish to explore the colourful Park Güell or simply relax by the Mediterranean. Tonight, we gather one last time to share a farewell dinner. BD

SEP 22, Tuesday DEPART BARCELONA

All too soon, our journey must draw to a close as we say farewell to Spain and fly home to Canada. B

Important Travel Information: ETIAS Authorization

Starting in late 2026, Canadian citizens travelling to Europe will need to complete an online application for the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS). This is not a visa but a pre-travel screening for visa-exempt visitors entering the Schengen Area. The authorization costs about €20 and is each traveller's responsibility. For details and to apply, visit the official ETIAS website well before departure.

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: This coach tour covers a wide stretch of Northern Spain. Some travel days will be long, with up to eight hours of touring and travel time combined. Walking tours may involve uneven terrain (cobblestones, stairs, etc.) and last a few hours. Porterage is not guaranteed, and members should be willing and able to manage their own luggage. Passengers should be aware of the local custom of siesta, which may mean some businesses close for a few hours in the afternoon and dinner is typically enjoyed later in the evening.



**Book by March 7, 2026
and save \$300 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only (Join Madrid hotel / Leave Barcelona hotel).....	\$10,445
Toronto	\$11,895
Ottawa / Montreal	\$11,995
St. John's / Halifax	\$12,095
Winnipeg.....	\$12,075
Saskatoon / Regina / Victoria	\$12,195
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$12,145
Single Supplement (on request).....	\$2,345

Join our CT Match Program

Find a like-minded traveller to share your cabin and enhance your journey with shared experiences, fostering the potential for future travel companionship.

Land only members join at the hotel in Madrid and leave at the hotel in Barcelona. Tour prices are based on sharing a twin-bedded room and on a minimum of 15 participants for the tour to operate with a group escort. Prices are based on rates, taxes, and fees effective November 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Airfare from other gateways is available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for more details.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information and for terms and conditions.

Deposit is \$800 per person

Final payment is due June 2, 2026

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

1092 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, ON M4P 2M6
416-484-0926 • 1-800-387-8890

tours@craigtravel.com • craigtravel.com/24



A Proud Canadian
Family Business
Since 1969

