DAY 1 Barcelona

On arrival at Barcelona airport to start your private food, wine and cultural tour, our chauffeur will be awaiting you with a luxury vehicle ready to transfer you to your 4* boutique hotel. Formerly the residence of a wealthy Duke, it is ideally located in the Barcelona Gothic Quarter, nearby to all major sights, but at the same time on the seafront. The hotel's rooftop terrace bar and plunge pool provide an astonishing view of the city over the old Port and the Mediterranean. Enjoy the views of Barcelona, whilst sipping a glass of cava and relaxing with a little sea breeze. Barcelona is an all-round luxury travel destination offering architecture, culture, history, art, fashion, nature, fine food and good wine! This bustling cosmopolitan city has it all!

Our luxury food & wine tour operator representative will meet you at your hotel for a welcome drink and together you will discuss your personalized itinerary for your tour with us. Apart from having available, prior to travel, your Online Personal Travel Webpage, you will be handed your printed Personal Travel Journals. These will both contain all your day-by-day tour itinerary details and plenty of suggestions for restaurants and free time activities.

On this first evening in Barcelona you might want to relax and unwind after your journey and settle into your lovely hotel before dining at one of the fantastic restaurants nearby. Our tour representative will provide you with some personalized recommendations, but you will also have available the best addresses in Barcelona city in the Personal Travel Journals we have prepared for you!

Tour in a nutshell: Private chauffeur from Barcelona airport. Welcome meeting with your Gourmand Breaks tour representative. Overnight in an excellent 4-star boutique hotel on Barcelona's port front.
DAY 2 Barcelona

This morning your Gourmand Breaks officially licensed guide will await you at your hotel. Together you will beat the queues as you enjoy a private guided tour of the incredible La Sagrada Familia, a work on a grand scale which began in 1882. At the end of 1883 Gaudi, Barcelona's most internationally renowned and emblematic architect, was commissioned to carry on the works, a task which he did not abandon until his death in 1926. Since then different architects have continued the work after his original idea and this icon of Barcelona will be completed in 2026.

You Barcelona tour now focusses on the authentic gourmet foods of Spain, starting with a guided visit to La Boqueria market, Spain's largest marketplace. Our expert culinary tour guide will lead you around the best booths and you will taste some of the most delicious local seasonal produce!

Continuing your private walking tour through the Gothic quarter of Barcelona you will see a few architectural feats: the famous Barcelona Cathedral, Sant Jaume Square and the amazing Santa Maria del Mar Church, considered the finest and most complete example of Catalan Gothic architecture anywhere. You will, of course, enjoy a wander through Las Ramblas, the colorful must-see pedestrian area. Our Barcelona tour guide is a real specialist in local history and will amuse you with fascinating local stories and funny anecdotes.

Now you will taste some of the best natural artisan Spanish cheeses at a charming local cheese shop. The knowledgeable owner will divulge the secrets of the best Spanish cheeses while you taste some of the delicious specialties paired with some excellent Priorat wine. For something sweet, your tour will stop at the oldest venue in Barcelona for dried nuts and fruits, homemade nougats and chocolates. This quaint and local store, specializing in roasting coffee beans and nuts for over 150 years, is still decorated with its original furniture and old wood-burning stove.

Your luxury private tour of Barcelona's best will be rounded off with a light lunch of exquisite Spanish delicatessen produce. This will include Spain's best Iberian ham, Catalan fine cold meats, Galician seafood preserves, some of the best Spanish olive oils and olives, etc. In addition there are English speaking sommeliers on hand to guide you through more than 6000 wines. Your Barcelona guide will leave you at the finale of your tour when you are settled safely into this amazing delicatessen enjoying your meal. The rest of your afternoon will be free to enjoy as you wish.

Tour in a nutshell: Private guided tour of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and Barcelona's Gothic & Born areas with gourmet food and wine tastings. Overnight Barcelona.
DAY 3 Barcelona

This morning, after a delicious breakfast, the day can be as full as you please. Aside from the many suggestions in your Personal Travel Journals, our Barcelona tour guide will have given you further sightseeing ideas yesterday. Maybe you wish to see some more of Gaudi's fantastic architecture: Parc Guell is located in uptown Barcelona and is one of the most beautiful icons of the city of Barcelona. On the Passeig de Gracia, in Barcelona center, you can see other famous works of Gaudi's including his famous Casa Batllo and la Pedrera. This is one of Gaudi's main residential projects and one of the most imaginative houses in the history of architecture. This building is more a sculpture than a building!

If you wish we can also include in your tour with us, a Spanish cooking class today, where you will first meet with the chef to learn about the local produce and subsequently head to the market to buy the ingredients required for your class. It's then off to the cooking school where, on chef's instructions, you will prepare lunch which you will then be able to enjoy with local wines.

Alternatively, we can arrange for you a private wine tasting with our local expert, including some of the top Spanish wines from the best Spanish wine regions.

Maybe you would like to do your own thing today and take advantage of Barcelona's shopping, stroll along the beachfront of Barceloneta or return to the old Gothic Quarter, the choices are yours! We have many suggestions for restaurants which will suit your mood of the moment, whether it's an informal dinner you are looking for or a Spanish Michelin star experience.

Tour in a nutshell: Free day in Barcelona. OPTIONAL Spanish cooking class / Spanish wine tasting. Overnight Barcelona.

DAY 4 San Sebastian

Early this morning our chauffeur will await you in a luxury car to transfer you to Barcelona train station for your first-class train journey to San Sebastian, the heart of the Basque Country, which takes around 5.5hrs. In San Sebastian you will check into your luxury seaside hotel, one of the best in the city and with the best beach front location.

The famous Spanish La Rioja wine region is on the way to San Sebastian. So, should you wish to include some La Rioja winery tours and tastings in your private tour with us, we can happily customize your tour itinerary accordingly.

In the late afternoon our officially licensed San Sebastian tour guide will await you and escort you on a fantastic private gourmet & cultural tour of San Sebastian. This wonderful "beach in the city" is renowned as the best city to eat in Spain! Our tour guide will show you around all the most interesting parts of San Sebastian, where you will be privileged not only to go to the best bars, frequented by local foodies, but also to sample the specialties of each place, accompanied by the best Txaccoli wine. Although tapas were invented in Andalucia they have been perfected in San Sebastian and here are known as pinchos. Each bar is bursting with so many different and creative pinchos that Spanish tradition suggests to have one or two and a wine in one bar and move on to the next. For sure you will try a glass (or two...) of the best local Txakoli wine!
Tour in a nutshell: First class train tickets from Barcelona to San Sebastian. Private guided tour of San Sebastian with tapas hopping & wine. Overnight in a 4* luxury hotel with sea views in San Sebastian.

DAY 5 San Sebastian

Today you are free to discover San Sebastian at your leisure. Aside from the many suggestions in your Personal Travel Journals, our San Sebastian tour guide will have given you further sightseeing ideas yesterday.

If you are feeling adventurous why not climb Monte Urgell for some amazing views over San Sebastian and the surrounding Basque Country. At the top of this hill you will also see the remains of the walls and canons from San Sebastian's military past and, guarding the city, stands the Sacred Heart statue (Cristo de la Mota). It's no Rio de Janeiro but this giant statue of Christ measures over 12 meters.

San Sebastian is known as a stylish city and an image-conscious one, so it is stuffed with high-end shops. Peruse La Parte Vieja (the old part of town) for cool boutiques filled with quirky designer gear. Stop, as the locals do, to get your strength back at one of the numerous bars and restaurants with a little glass of Txakoli wine and the odd ubiquitous pintxo!

You may like to head out of the city and have a chauffeured tour of the Basque Country scenic coast and its rugged seaside villages. We can also arrange for you a fun cooking class with our chef from one of the Basque Gastronomic Societies, to discover why the Basque Country is a foodie mecca!

This evening, why not re-visit some of the authentic San Sebastian tapas bars you visited with our tour guide, or you may wish to fine dine in style at one of the many Basque Michelin star restaurants. Prior reservations are necessary and we will be delighted to assist with a booking.

Tour in a nutshell: Free day in San Sebastian. Overnight San Sebastian.

DAY 6 Bilbao

Today, after breakfast, your adventure continues with a chauffeured transfer to Bilbao where you will first have a panoramic tour of the city before checking in to your 5* modern and luxurious hotel, situated opposite the amazing Guggenheim Museum.

You have entrance to the famous Guggenheim Museum so take your time as you explore the works of art in this spectacular building designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry. The museum features permanent and visiting exhibits of works by Spanish and International artists.

Why not stay for lunch at the Museum and enjoy a tasting menu paired with wines at Michelin 1* (current World's Number 56 restaurant) Nerua which has an excellent reputation and is located right at the Guggenheim. This modernist, chic, restaurant is under the direction of superchef Josean Martinez Alija. Needless to say, the nueva cocina vasca (Basque nouvelle cuisine) is breathtaking and the ever-changing menu includes mouth waterers such as Iberian pork meatballs with carrot juice and curry. Even the olives are
vintage classics: all come from 1000-year-old olive trees! We will be delighted to make a booking for you.

Afterwards take a stroll through the atmospheric old town of Bilbao, with its worn facades, bars, restaurants and shops. At the heart of the Casco are the original seven streets, Las Siete Calles. In the middle is the 19th-century arcaded Plaza Nueva, a rewarding pintxo haunt. The Gothic Cathedral de Santiago, has a splendid Renaissance portico, itself once the scene of medieval markets and civic meetings.

For dinner, do as the locals and experience delicious, typical food in the center of the old town. We have a wonderful pinchos hopping route for you to experience the best and authentic bars for pinchos in Bilbao.

Tour in a nutshell: Bilbao Guggenheim Museum visit. OPTIONAL Michelin starred restaurant booking. Overnight in a 5* luxury hotel in Bilbao.

DAY 7 Departure

This morning after a delicious breakfast at your hotel and a last glimpse of the Guggenheim Museum, your chauffeur will be waiting in a luxury vehicle to transfer you to Bilbao airport for your onward flight.

We very much hope you will join us for this wonderful Food, Wine and Cultural Private Tour

Tour in a nutshell: Chauffeured transfer to Bilbao Airport.

Please note: If, however, your onward journey is from Barcelona or Madrid Airport you may like to extend your tour with transport to Barcelona/Madrid and a couple of extra nights in the city or even include La Rioja Wine Country en-route.

Your tour includes:

- Accommodation for three (3) nights in a 4* boutique style hotel in the heart of Barcelona (port view room, double occupancy)
- Accommodation for two (2) nights in an elegant 4* Boutique hotel with the best sea views of San Sebastian (double occupancy)
- Accommodation for one (1) night in a 5* modern and Luxury Hotel opposite the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao (Guggenheim views, double occupancy)
- Six (6) full breakfasts
- Chauffeured transfers in a luxury vehicle, as indicated in the itinerary
- Rail tickets on a Preferente (1st class) basis from Barcelona to San Sebastian
- Private Guided Tours with Officially Licensed Guide in Barcelona and San Sebastian as noted in your itinerary
- All the samplings of foods and wines during your tours, including a light lunch of delicatessen produce in Barcelona and a tapas tour in San Sebastian, as stated in your itinerary
- Online Personal Travel Webpage including daily itinerary, general local information, details of places of interest, suggestions for restaurant reservations, and your free time, etc.
Handy elegant Personal Travel Journal, which includes the extended information from your Personal Travel Website, that you can take with you as you go and keep as a souvenir to look back on

24/7 Back Office Assistance

Your tour does not include:

- Flights
- Meals and drinks not stated in the itinerary
- Personal expenses such as telephone, minibar, etc.
- Tips and gratuities at restaurants etc. at your discretion, NOT obligatory
- Travel Insurance may be included in your quotation on request. We strongly recommend you to take out separate cancellation insurance.

Prices:

Please note our tours are available for PRIVATE GROUPS ONLY and are not scheduled mixed group tours. Price is available upon request and varies depending on the number of guests and time of year. Feel free to contact us for your personal tour quote.