

A&K SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Recommended Tours



NORTHERN SPAIN

# FINDING YOUR WAY ROUND SPAIN

## WELCOME TO THE NORTH

The well-travelled tourist knows all about the museums of Madrid, the architecture of Barcelona, and the atmosphere of Andalusia.

Now it's time to explore an undiscovered side of the country...

Let Abercrombie & Kent introduce you to Northern Spain!



The Regions of Northern Spain:



Asturias



The Basque Country



Cantabria



Castile and Leon



Galicia



Navarre



La Rioja

# EXQUISITE CUISINE



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## MICHELIN STARS & GASTRO INNOVATION

The city of San Sebastian is considered a mecca of nouvelle cuisine thanks to years of experimentation from creative chefs like Berasetegui and Arzak. Today chefs flock from all over the world to try out the ultra-modern food technology techniques of New Basque Cuisine and add their own innovate twists.



## ON THE HUNT FOR PINTXOS

The Basque Country also showcases its more traditional food through its own version of tapas, known as pintxos. A leisurely evening of 'pintxo-pote', hopping from one bar to another and trying different samples along the way, is a great way of exploring Bilbao's historic Siete Calles district.



## DID YOU KNOW?

San Sebastian can boast nineteen (19!) Michelin stars within a 10-minute drive of its city hall - the highest per capita concentration in the world!

## TECH & TRADITION IN THE WORLD OF WINE

Culinary innovation extends to the wine of the region, where you find the world's first underwater wine cellar applying scientific ageing techniques to improve flavours. Using more traditional methods inland, producers of Rioja wines have meanwhile made their name synonymous with quality of the highest class.



## RUSTIC RURAL FARE

The lush green hills and mountains of Asturias do a fantastic job of preserving the 'real Spain' and its authentic rural customs. Caves as old as time are used to store wheels of pungent blue Cabrales cheese, which pairs superbly with the local ciders made by the legions of independent producers.



# NATURE & HIKING



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## THE WAY OF ST JAMES

The Camino de Santiago, or Way of St James, is one of Europe's oldest pilgrimage routes, dating back to at least the 9th century. Trails begin near the French border and criss-cross the unspoilt countryside in a westward direction, finishing at the apostle's tomb in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.



## HIDDEN PATHS & TRAILS

A pilgrimage can involve up to a month of walking, but the 'Camino de Santiago' more accurately refers to a whole network of trails. Many of these can be dipped into for just a day or two, offering glorious hikes on some less crowded paths, like the Camino de Salvador, running through the cordillera from Leon to Oviedo.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Scallop shells were traditionally collected by pilgrims as proof of their journey, though these days you can get an official 'pilgrim passport' stamped instead!

## PICOS DE EUROPA

To the east of Oviedo, the only inhabited nature reserve in the country features verdant forests, valleys, lakes, and gorges, stretched across the Cantabrian mountains. Villagers co-exist in this impressive ecosystem with an array of wildlife, from deer and chamois to brown bears and Iberian wolves!



## FILMING LOCATIONS

International film crews have latched on to the natural beauty of this region and its potential to represent other-worldly landscapes. Game of Thrones, for instance, made use of the impressive flysch cliffs of Zumaia and transformed the island hermitage of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe into its 'Dragonstone' fortress.



# HISTORY & TRADITION



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## THE WORLD BELOW

A chance discovery by a hunter in the 1860s uncovered Altamira, one of Europe's most remarkable caves with paintings of bison dating back 36,000 years! Visitors today can explore the painstakingly created replica or witness evidence of neanderthal art in the caves of Hornos de la Peña and Chufín.



## BIRTH OF A LANGUAGE

The Rioja monasteries of Suso and Yuso hold the earliest records of written Spanish and are considered the cradle of a language with half a billion speakers. History abounds here, where cities like Oviedo preserved the Christian culture of the peninsula by resisting Moorish invasion and kickstarting the Reconquista.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Evidence found in the Cantabrian cave of El Castillo suggests it was inhabited at least 150,000 years ago!

## FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Like their compatriots throughout the country, the people of Northern Spain love a good party! Carnival time brings out some of the most colourful scenes, such as the Festival of Ourense, where you're more than likely to run into masked 'peliqueiros' drumming up an atmosphere.



## LOCAL CRAFTS & ARCHITECTURE

Hemmed into remote valleys, many villages continue age-old practices, like the making of ultra-comfy blankets from the mohair of angora goats. Others bear hallmarks of outside influence - migrants returning to Ribadedeva after decades of work in the New World poured their hard-earned fortunes into the majestic neo-classical architecture of new homes, known as the Casas de Los Indianos.



# WHY CHOOSE A&K?



## A&K Key Services

### FIT TRAVEL

Creative FIT consultants design original bespoke itineraries to perfectly suit your client's needs, desires, and interests.



### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Exciting itineraries for special interest and one-off groups, with the best Tour Directors in their respective fields and a wide network of contacts offering unparalleled access.



### MICE

A dedicated division for Meetings, Incentive Groups, Conferences, and Events affords special attention to detail to cover even the most complex bookings of facilities and additional services, such as sightseeing excursions and welcome gifts.

## A&K Benefits

### TRAVEL EXPERTS

Our multi-lingual travel consultants bring decades of experience between them and are dedicated to sharing inside tips on enjoying the sights, sounds, and tastes of the destinations that they live and breathe each day.



### LOCAL GUIDES & GUARDIAN ANGELS

A well-refined network of contacts on the ground allows us to select the most knowledgeable guides and offer the personal concierge services of A&K Guardian Angels, guaranteeing maximum support and comfort for guests.



### INSIDER ACCESS

For something extra special, choose from the wide range of A&K Insider Access options and find that once-in-a-lifetime experience that matches your client's interests, from soft adventure and family activities to cultural and culinary encounters of all kinds.

# ABERCROMBIE & KENT EUROPE DMCS

## KNOWING WHO TO CONTACT

A&K Europe is your DMC for over 25 countries across the continent, managed by our teams on the ground.

For enquiries relating to Spain or Portugal, please contact our office in Madrid.

For enquiries elsewhere please refer to the map to understand which office is best suited to answer your questions.



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A&K Spain & Portugal is here to support you and will be delighted to assist with any queries about Northern Spain or other destinations in the two countries.

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