

helloworld
TRAVEL
HOSTED JOURNEYS

EXPERIENCE NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL

10 April 2020, 26 Days



JOIN OUR HOSTED JOURNEY

WELCOME TO HELLOWORLD TRAVEL HOSTED JOURNEYS

Hosted Journeys are experts in offering travellers unique, hand-picked holidays to destinations all over the world. Our itineraries are designed to ensure you have a hassle-free and seamless holiday experience. With over 30 years experience in group travel you can rest assured you are in expert hands from start to finish.

A professional tour host travels with the group from Australia ensuring all details are taken care of. They provide security and peace-of-mind, maintain positive group morale, provide assistance through airports, immigration and crossing borders, assist with flight cancellations or alterations, lost luggage, reconfirm touring and transfers, distribute tipping, all to maximise your holiday experience.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in the best that Madrid and Barcelona have to offer
- Explore Northern Spain in style as you visit San Sebastian, Santander, Oviedo & Santiago De Compostela
- Experience touring with local expert guides & specialised private touring
- See how the locals live with a visit to Flor's home in Gijon
- Take in the sites of Lisbon, one of the most sought after travel cities in the world today
- Indulge your senses as you cruise the marvelous Douro River
- Cruise in style on board Uniworld's brand new ship, SS Sao Gabriel launching in April 2020

YOUR TOUR HOSTS

John and Kerry Cooney have worked in the travel industry for over 30 years and have travelled extensively to all parts of the world, including all seven continents.

Having hosted groups all over the world, John and Kerry are excited to share the best of Spain & Portugal with you.

"Kerry and I invite you to join us on this amazing itinerary touring through Northern Spain and Portugal. Experience the culture, cuisine, history and unforgettable highlights that this region has to offer. We are excited to experience the brand new Uniworld Ship, SS Sao Gabriel on one of its first few journeys down the Douro River. This is a journey not to miss"

*John & Kerry Cooney
Helloworld Travel Mackay*





From Northern Spain to the Douro River of Portugal, this itinerary is sure to delight. Venture off the beaten path, as you discover scenic delights, ancient churches and authentic cuisine of Northern Spain. Venture to Portugal and marvel at Douro River, indeed, this river – and the landscape that envelops it – is blessed with extraordinary beauty. The tastes, the sights, the sounds, encompass all of your senses.

DAY 1. Fri 10 April 2020
TOWNSVILLE - BRISBANE -
DUBAI - MADRID

Let's begin our journey to Madrid, Spain via Brisbane and Dubai. Our tour host will meet us at the airport in Brisbane.

DAY 2. Sat 11 April 2020 **D**
WELCOME TO MADRID

On arrival at Madrid Airport, we will transfer via shuttle to our accommodation. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we meet our Tour Director and enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 3. Sun 12 April 2020 **B D**
MADRID

Enjoy sightseeing with your local expert as they take you along the main historical areas in the Capital of Spain known as Madrid of the Bourbons. Our drive continues through the Old Quarter discovering the origins of the city.

A highlight of our Hosted Journey will be to visit the Prado Museum where we can discover countless works by Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and others as you are guided by a local art historian.

This afternoon is free to enjoy the city, or rest at your hotel. Tonight we dine at a local restaurant for an evening of local cuisine and entertainment.

DAY 4. Mon 13 April 2020 **B D**
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Journey through the Guadarrama Mountains to the infinite horizons of

Old Castile and pass the impressive Castillo de la Mota. Some of Spain's most fashionable white wines are produced in Rueda and, this morning, we have the opportunity to learn how they are made and sample the delights of the Verdejo grape.

In the afternoon, enjoy the country side as we continue past historic Tordesillas, and on to Santiago de Compostela.

DAY 5. Tue 14 April 2020 **B D**
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Today, a local guide will take us on an orientation tour where we will become acquainted with some of Europe's finest historical buildings. The monumental square, Praza do Obradoiro, is pure grandeur in granite.

In the evening, we take the opportunity to dine at a local restaurant and experience some beautiful local cuisine.

DAY 6. Wed 15 April 2020 **B L**
COSTA VERDE TO OVIEDO

Today, we take a drive through the ancient forests of Galicia and cross to the Green Coast of Asturias before traveling through inland villages en-route to Oviedo.

We will enjoy a stop at the delightful Gijón a city with a history dating back 5,000 years. Meet Flor, a local who will invite us to join her for lunch. Hear about daily life in this seaside city as we enjoy a delicious meal that Flor has prepared from locally sourced ingredients, accompanied by delicious local cider.

This afternoon, a local expert will show us the 9th century churches built when the city was the capital of Christian Spain. A short drive will then bring us to the Asturian coast and the Bay of Biscay.

DAY 7. Thu 16 April 2020 **B**
SANTILLANA DEL MAR TO
SANTANDER

Our journey continues as we head into the foothills of the Picos de Europa National Park, giving us the opportunity to see the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís. We visit the holy cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo, who achieved the first Christian victory over the Moors in 722 and we also enjoy views of Costa de Cantabria while travelling to Santillana del Mar,.

This afternoon, we continue on to the sophisticated beach resort of Santander where we will have free time in the evening to enjoy this luxurious hotel.

DAY 8. Fri 17 April 2020 **B**
BILBAO

In nearby Bilbao, we will see the striking modern architecture of the Guggenheim Museum, one of the world's most spectacular buildings, and also enjoy the views as we drive along part of the Costa Vasca, dotted with small coastal fishing villages.

At the mouth of the Urola, we stop at Getaria to see El Ratón, the mouse-shaped rock, before we continue to San Sebastián where a local expert guide will take us on a walking tour through the Old Quarter.

Here, we will see the numbered balconies of the Plaza de la Constitución, a reminder of the days when bullfights were held in the square.

This afternoon, we will travel to Monte Igueldo for breathtaking views of the town and La Concha Bay.

**DAY 9. Sat 18 April 2020 B
SAN SEBASTIÁN**

Today, we will be able to enjoy a day at leisure. Take the opportunity to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk and, with the city harbour filled with fishing boats and pleasure craft, you can enjoy a number of sporting activities on its large sandy beach. Optional tours will be offered by Insight Vacations, perhaps you'll want to explore the nearby French villages of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, also known as Little Paris and Biarritz. Maybe stroll the promenade of the famous La Concha bay or enjoy the boutiques of the Old Town.

**DAY 10. Sun 19 April 2020 B
PAMPLONA TO BARCELONA**

As our journey continues, we make our way to the famed town of Pamplona, known for its Running of the Bulls festival. Upon arrival, we will have free time to explore and perhaps take a stroll to the famous Estafeta Street or visit Café Iruña, immortalised by Ernest Hemingway in the 'The Sun Also Rises.'

This afternoon, we continue the drive to Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia.

**DAY 11. Mon 20 April 2020 B D
BARCELONA**

This morning, we join a local expert

guide in the heart of the Barri Gotic, the Gothic Quarter, and walk through the Roman Gate to see its narrow lanes and old squares.

We will then continue through the Eixample district to behold Gaudí's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. We will venture inside and take the opportunity to look above to see its giant, tree-like pillars and spectacular vaulting. Admire the wonderful rainbow of the incredible stained-glass windows.

This afternoon will be at leisure, we will be able to take the opportunity to relax before we join our Tour Director at a local restaurant for a delightful Celebration Dinner.

**DAY 12. Tue 21 April 2020 B L
BARCELONA.**

Today, we will enjoy a private tour in Barcelona. Learn the art of cooking Spanish cuisine on this half-day itinerary. Visit the local markets to sample some of the fresh ingredients before returning to the cooking class to prepare and enjoy lunch.

**DAY 13. Wed 22 April 2020 B L
BARCELONA**

A private tour will see us take in the sites of the local vineyards in the Penedes wine region. Enjoy a drive through the countryside before we arrive at a local winery for a tour and leisurely lunch before returning back to Barcelona.

**DAY 14. Thu 23 April 2020 B
BARCELONA TO LISBON**

Our journey continues today as we make our way to Barcelona Airport for

our flight onto Lisbon. Upon arrival we will be transferred to our accommodation.

This afternoon, we enjoy some time at leisure to relax and explore the local area.

**DAY 15. Fri 24 April 2020 B
LISBON**

We explore Lisbon today, as we take a city tour of all the top sights and are treated to an iconic, locally-made pastry with an intriguing tale all its own.

Lisbon is known for its glorious historic architecture that reflects the wealth brought in during the "Age of Discovery," when the Portuguese owned the seas, but it is also a modern centre of finance and international trade.

**DAY 16. Sat 25 April 2020 B
LISBON**

Today, we will experience our own "Age of Discovery" with a full day to explore Lisbon at leisure.

Explore the sites and ride the famous iron elevator from the Baixa district up to the Bairro Alto, the cultural and bohemian heart of Lisbon. Enjoy a fantastic view of the city from the vantage point of São Pedro de Alcantara Belvedere.

Lisbon hosts remarkable museums and excellent shopping, especially at Centro Commercial Colombo, the biggest mall in the Iberian Peninsula, The Campo de Santa Clara flea market is fantastic to hunt for unique treasures. Natives of Lisbon boast that they have the best food in the world; take this opportunity to dine at the many cafés and taverns in the city.

**DAY 17. Sun 26 April 2020 B L D
LISBON TO PORTO**

We travel through Portugal's picturesque countryside toward Porto. En-route we will visit Coimbra, home to an ancient university and a lavish baroque library considered one of the most beautiful in the world. Whilst here, we will enjoy a traditional Portuguese lunch.

After lunch, we will continue on to the port city at the mouth of the Douro River, where we will board the Brand New Uniworld Boutique River Ship, SS Sao Gabriel.

**DAY 18. Mon 27 April 2020 B L D
PORTO**

Today, we will have the opportunity to choose between two distinctive - and distinctively Portuguese - ways to



explore Porto. You can choose of Panoramic city tour or Exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" Porto walking tour, with local tastings and vintage tram ride. After our touring in Porto, the ship will set sail, cruising up the Douro toward Porto Antigo.

DAY 19. Tue 28 April 2020 B L D CRUISING THE DOURO RIVER

As we cruise along the river today, we will see all the little chapels along the banks. Though the river is slow and calm, now that it has been tamed by dams, it was once extremely hazardous. These tiny chapels mark spots where entire rabelo boat crews perished attempting to get their cargo of Port wine to Porto.

Today, we learn about wine which has been cultivated in the Douro River Valley since ancient Roman times. Get a crash course on the history of Port during our visit to the Douro Museum.

DAY 20. Wed 29 April 2020 B L D PINHÃO, VEGA DE TERRÓN

Feel the centuries fall away as we wind our way through the pristine, dramatic, UNESCO-protected landscapes of the Douro River Valley.

We have the opportunity to head ashore for a choice of excursions - a tasting at a prestigious port wine estate or a vineyard hike.

This evening, we enjoy a special Gala Dinner on board.

DAY 21. Thu 30 April 2020 B L D VEGA DE TERRÓN (SALAMANCA), BARCA D'ALVA

The ship will dock near the Spanish

border today, where we may head across the country to the historic university town of Salamanca - the "Golden City" - famous for its sand-coloured buildings and abundance of churches.

DAY 22. Fri 1 May 2020 B L D BARCA D'ALVA, POCINHO, CRUISING THE DOURO RIVER

A tiny village surrounded by mountains, Barca d'Alva is our base for today's adventures. Go medieval today at Castelo Rodrigo, both the name of a hilltop castle as well as the village that surrounds it. The view from the top is incredible and the village is a charming place to ramble, relax and replenish. Alternatively, we can also lace up our hiking boots and unleash our inner Indiana Jones with an up-close gander at some prehistoric carvings during a visit to Portugal's first archaeological park, Foz Côa.

DAY 23. Sat 2 May 2020 B L D CRUISING THE DOURO RIVER, PORTO (GUIMARÃES)

Today, we will have the choice to visit either Guimarães or Porto. Guimarães is the town where Portugal was born and its well-preserved architecture and stylish young residents make it a pleasure to visit.

Alternatively, we can opt to explore one of Porto's oldest neighbourhoods, picturesque Ribeira, considered the soul of the city.

DAY 24. Sun 3 May 2020 B PORTO (DISEMBARK)

We have now experienced the best of Portugal, Spain and the pristine Douro River. Today, John and Kerry will bid

you farewell before ensuring you are transferred to the airport to begin the journey home. Alternatively, why not stay and explore more of Europe. Please speak to your travel consultant for more inspiration.

DAY 25. Mon 4 May 2020 PORTO TO BRISBANE

In flight.

DAY 26. Tue 5 May 2020 BRISBANE - TOWNSVILLE

Upon arrival in Brisbane, we collect our luggage and transfer to the domestic airport for our flight home to Townsville.



INSIGHT - THE ART OF TRAVELLING IN STYLE



THE INSIGHT DIFFERENCE

With Insight, you'll have access to rare and authentic experiences that are not available to the independent traveller. Get to know your destination intimately with our incredible activities, meaningful interactions, and expert local insights with our custom collection of Insight Experiences.

"Dine at Home in Spain" allows us to indulge in local specialties at the home of Flor Santiago in Northern Spain. Taste her famous cider and learn her secrets for authentic Spanish cuisine.



STAY IN STYLE IN SPAIN

Where you stay makes the difference between a good holiday and an unforgettable one. That's why Insight take the greatest possible care in choosing hotels that are truly exceptional in terms of style, location and service.

Location matters, which is why, at Insight, they choose hotels that maximise your experience. In larger cities, they stay near main attractions, shops, and restaurants. In regional locations, you will experience stunning, scenic settings, be it mountain panoramas or great ocean views.



SEAMLESS, STRESS FREE TRAVEL

Not only will you be travelling with your Hosted Journey Tour Host, but you will also have access to the best in the business Insight Tour Director. Your Tour Director is passionate and knowledgeable about the destinations, making local introductions and recommendations.. They are expertly-trained to a high standard to provide exceptional service. They are also fluent in the local language and can help you navigate local customs.



TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH INSIGHT

Insight want you to feel entirely at ease and relaxed throughout your journey. So let them take care of the driving while you sit back and enjoy the journey, worry-free. Sitting high above the traffic in your uniquely customised Insight Vacations coach, you'll enjoy double the legroom of a standard coach. The experienced coach drivers transfer you to your destination seamlessly, via the best and most scenic routes.

UNIWORLD - BOUTIQUE AT IT'S BEST



NEW SHIP, NEW HORIZONS

The newest ship on the Douro, SS Sao Gabriel, will debut with more space and higher crew to guest ratio than any other ship in the Uniworld fleet. With only 100 Guests and 37 crew on board. With the addition of butler service on board, and two dining venues, a restaurant and an on-deck al fresco, both serving cutting edge, locally sourced cuisine, Portugal's first Super Ship will never cease to amaze you. On this Hosted Journey, you will be amongst the first guests to experience this brand new ship.



ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISING

Uniworld elevates all-inclusive river cruising in Europe to an entirely new level. Including all gratuities, on board and on shore, In Suite butler service, elegant Riverview Staterooms and Suites boasting the finest linens, towels and Savoir beds ensure an incredible sleep. All inclusive dining and unlimited beverages with premium spirits and wines while on board. A variety of personalised excursions are included as well as a number of excursions curated exclusively for Uniworld guests.



INTRODUCING SS SAO GABRIEL

Launching:	April 2020
Length:	80 metres
Width:	11.5 metres
Staterooms:	50
Language on board:	English
Dining on board:	Open seating
Restaurants:	2
Dress Code:	Smart Casual

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Included Services

- Return Economy Class flights from Townsville
- First Class Touring by coach in Spain
- Twin or double first class accommodation
- All Tipping
- Services of a professional English speaking Insight Vacations Travel Director in Spain
- 2 x Private Half Day Tours in Barcelona
- Special Dining Experiences
- Local Expert Guides throughout the itinerary
- Hotel Portage in Spain
- Airport transfers throughout the itinerary
- Five star farm-to-table cuisine onboard Uniworld luxury river cruise in Portugal
- Unlimited beverages including premium spirits and wines onboard Uniworld luxury river cruise in Portugal
- In suite butler service onboard Uniworld luxury river cruise in Portugal
- Internet and Wi-Fi access onboard Uniworld luxury river cruise in Portugal
- Bicycles and Nordic walking poles onboard Uniworld luxury river cruise in Portugal for use on shore
- Services of an experienced Helloworld Travel Tour Host

Important Luggage Information

- The airline will limit your luggage allowance based on your class of travel. Economy class passengers will have a checked in luggage allowance of two pieces up to 30kg per person, and carry on luggage allowance of 7kg per person.*
- If you are travelling in another class, please confirm the allowances with your travel consultant.
- As we will be travelling around Spain via coach, it is recommended to take one suitcase on wheels.
- Portage is included in your touring with Insight Vacations between the coach and your accommodation.

* The airline reserves the right to change these rules at any time. The allowances will be re-confirmed prior to travel.

Included Meals

22 Breakfasts (B) 10 Lunches (L) 12 Dinners (D)

HOLIDAY PRICING

26 Day Tour, departing Townsville

French Balcony Cabin

\$18,995 per person

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Deposit and Payment:

A non-refundable deposit of \$2,500 per person is due within 7 days of making a booking along with a copy of your passport, booking form & the Hosted Journeys medical & fitness form. Bookings are subject to auto cancel after 7 days if the deposit is not received. Final payment is due no later than Friday 31 January 2020.

Tour Price:

The package price is per person based on twin share accommodation and subject to a minimum amount of 16 passengers booked. Should minimum numbers not be met, we reserve the right to withdraw the departure and a refund of your paid deposit will be offered, or the tour will proceed as planned however the tour host may not travel with the group and you will be issued with a revised quote for your holiday. Deposits merely hold the reservations and due to ongoing currency fluctuations, prices cannot be guaranteed until final payment has been made. Hosted Journeys reserve the right to modify program itineraries, included sightseeing and substitute accommodations & transportation at any time due to unforeseen circumstances.

Special Requests:

Specific requests such as bedding, adjacent rooms, seat requests on flights and special meal requirements can be made on your booking form. Please note, Hosted Journeys will do everything they can to accommodate your requests, however, they can not be guaranteed.

Single Accommodation:

Single Accommodation may be available upon request. A single supplement will apply and is available on request. Please see your consultant for more information. If you are a single traveler and willing to share with another single traveler of the same gender let your consultant know. This can not be guaranteed.

Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance is compulsory when travelling on an Hosted Journey. We recommend Covermore (offered by Helloworld Travel) as whilst you are away, our tour host can communicate directly with our Covermore representative and provide assistance when making claims or enquiries when overseas. If you choose an alternative insurance provider, our tour host can not guarantee assistance.

"Insurance is issued by Great Lakes Australia (ARBN 127 740 532, ABN 18 964 580 576, AFSL 318603). Any advice provided is general advice only. Please consider your needs, financial situation and the Combined FSG/PDS available from us before deciding to buy this insurance."

What's not included:

Items such as (and not limited to) passports, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals & sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, excess baggage, portage and travel insurance.

Airfare Conditions:

Airfares included in this package are based on Qantas & South African Airways (subject to change without notice) in economy class and are subject to availability at time of booking and the group airfare conditions. Taxes and fuel surcharges included are subject to change & additional charges may apply for alternate routes & airlines. If you wish to upgrade to Premium Economy or Business Class please ask your travel consultant for availability & upgrade costs.

Passport & Visas:

Well before travelling, please ensure you have a current passport that is valid for at least six months after your scheduled return home to Australia. It is the guest's sole responsibility to obtain, and have available when necessary, the appropriate valid travel documents. Your reservations must be made in exactly the same name as your passport. Should any amendments to names be made from those advised on the booking form, or if a change needs to be made as a booking form was not supplied, fees will apply.

The issuance of visas is not the responsibility of your travel consultant and we cannot be held responsible should you be unable to obtain the correct visas to undertake your journey. Australian passport holders do not require a visa for travel to Italy.

Changes & Amendment Fees:

If you extend or alter your holiday, a minimum fee of \$100 per person per change is payable to Hosted Journeys to cover administrative & communication costs. This is in addition to any fees charged by airlines & applicable suppliers.

Refunds & Cancellation:

Cancellation must be in writing & such notice is not effective until received by Hosted Journeys. Any part payments received by Hosted Journeys over and above your deposit, including payment for airfares, will be subject to cancellation fees at the discretion of Hosted Journeys plus any third party suppliers. A 100% cancellation fee will apply if your reservation is cancelled on or after the final payment deadline.

In the event that an act of terrorism occurs or natural disaster at your chosen travel destination after your final payment has been made but before your departure date, Hosted Journeys will perform all possible efforts to minimize your travel disruptions, however in extreme cases, your tour may be altered or cancelled for your safety. Hosted Journeys can not be held responsible should any third party suppliers be unable to offer any refunds due to such causes.

Documentation:

Your documentation will be available approximately two weeks prior to your departure. Approximately one month before departure, you will be sent an invitation to attend your pre departure evening where you can meet your fellow travelers and collect your travel documents.

