

# SECRET TREASURES of FRANCE & SPAIN

TOUR 4740—13 days from Paris to Madrid

Priced From \$1,949<sup>US</sup>



## YOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

Individual headsets 

**SIGHTSEEING:** Visits to Mont St. Michel, St. Malo, Brest, Nantes Castle and Cathedral, La Rochelle, Rochefort, Biarritz, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Santander, Burgos Cathedral, Salamanca, Segovia aqueduct and cathedral

■ Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description including admission charges where applicable.

**GUIDES:** Local Guides for city sightseeing in Paris, Carnac stones site, Bordeaux, Ávila, Madrid; professional Tour Director while touring

**SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS:** Brittany, Dune du Pilat, Landes of Gascony, Basque Country

**TRANSPORTATION:** Touring by private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach

**HOTELS:** Listed below or equivalent. Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portorage, tips and service charges

**PARIS** Forest Hill La Villette (ST), **ST. MALO** Ibis Styles Port (ST), **BREST** Escale Oceania Airport (ST), **NANTES** Ibis Centre Tour Bretagne (ST), **BORDEAUX** Mercure Centre Meriadeck (ST), **BIARRITZ** Ibis Anglet (ST), **SANTANDER** Santemar (F), **SALAMANCA** Sercotel Artheus Carmelitas (ST), **MADRID** Rafaelhoteles Ventas (ST) or Holiday Inn Calle Alcalá (F)

**MEALS:** Buffet breakfasts (B) daily; 4 dinners (D)

**MyACCOUNT:** Personalise your tour ahead of time with additional excursions. Visit our website for details and conditions.

### Day 1, Sat. ARRIVE IN PARIS, FRANCE.

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore France's vibrant capital city. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers.

**Day 2, Sun. PARIS.** Paris is a world-class city that probably has more familiar landmarks than almost any other city in the world. Enjoy an included sightseeing tour with a Local Guide. Later, feel like a French aristocrat on the optional walking tour through the expansive Palace of Versailles. This evening, why not join an optional welcome dinner? (B)

**Day 3, Mon. PARIS—MONT ST. MICHEL—ST. MALO.** Depart from the City of Light and travel towards the unique beauty of Mont St. Michel. This distinctive 8th-century abbey is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

that creates an inspiring scene as it stands sentry on a small island just a kilometre off the French coast. Later, drive along the shoreline to the fortified seaside resort of St. Malo. (B)

**Day 4, Tue. ST. MALO—BREST.** This morning, visit the ancient walled city of St. Malo. Situated on the English Channel, this attractive port town has a notorious past as the home of corsairs and pirates. Spend some free time walking along its cobblestone streets, and admiring the granite mansions that line the characteristic lanes and squares, encircled by massive ramparts. Travel across Brittany to coastal Brest, nestled in a beautiful natural harbour. Heavily bombed in 1944, the city centre was completely rebuilt after the war. See the Pont de l'Iroise, a cable-stayed bridge spanning the Élorn River—an amazing architectural feat. (B,D)





GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, BILBAO

**Day 5, Wed. BREST-CARNAC-NANTES.**

Follow the coastal road towards Carnac, catching glimpses of the Atlantic Ocean. Carnac is known for its STANDING STONES that were erected by the pre-Celtic people of Brittany—one of the most extensive Neolithic collections in the world. Visit one of the sites with a Local Guide and learn about the mystery of the Carnac stones. Then, head for Nantes, located on the Loire River. Visit the CASTLE of the Dukes of Brittany, and the CATHEDRAL of St. Peter and St. Paul, which took 457 years to complete and features a unique external pulpit. (B)

**Day 6, Thu. NANTES-LA ROCHELLE-ROCHEFORT-BORDEAUX.**

Two coastal towns are on the agenda today. First, stop at picturesque La Rochelle, situated off the Atlantic Coast in the Bay of Biscay and known as *La Ville Blanche* (the White City) due to its luminous limestone facades that reflect the bright sunlight. Next up: historic Rochefort with its naval beginnings that date back to Louis XIV. Continue to Bordeaux. (B,D)

**Day 7, Fri. BORDEAUX.** Built on the banks of the Garonne River, Bordeaux is known as the "Pearl of Aquitaine" and is a flourishing port town. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is home to 362 historic monuments, some dating back to Roman times. Join your Local Guide for a walking tour featuring all the important highlights, including Esplanade des Quinconces, one of the largest squares in Europe. The afternoon is at leisure or maybe join an optional excursion. (B)

**Day 8, Sat. BORDEAUX-DUNE DU PILAT-LANDES-BIARRITZ.** Drive to Arcachon today to see the amazing DUNE OF PILAT, the highest sand dune on the continent. Then, sit back and enjoy a scenic drive

through the Landes of Gascony, the largest maritime-pine forest in Europe. Later, arrive in Biarritz, an ancient fishing village turned trendy seaside resort. (B)

**Day 9, Sun. BIARRITZ-SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN-BILBAO-SANTANDER.** Leave France and cross into Spain's Basque Country to visit San Sebastian, one of just two European Capitals of Culture in 2016 and considered a foodie hotspot! On to Bilbao, where you'll discover a colourful tapestry of architecture, history, natural beauty, and tantalising cuisine. Enjoy free time for leisure activities—maybe visit the world-famous Guggenheim Museum, considered one of the 20th century's great architectural masterpieces. Later, head to the port city of Santander, a renowned tourist destination for Spanish elite in the 19th century. (B)

**Day 10, Mon. SANTANDER-BURGOS-SALAMANCA.** Heading inland, stop in Burgos, former capital of the unified Kingdom of Castile-León for five centuries. Visit the magnificent limestone CATHEDRAL of Santa Maria, dating back to the 13th century and where the legendary national hero *El Cid* is buried. Continue on to

Salamanca. Be sure to spend some time wandering around the Spanish-baroque *Plaza Mayor*, the heart of the city and widely regarded as one of the most beautiful *plazas* in Spain. (B,D)

**Day 11, Tue. SALAMANCA-ÁVILA-SEGOVIA-MADRID.** Journey to Ávila with its medieval town walls and many towers. Join the guided walking tour of the MEDIEVAL WALLS. Next, arrive in pretty Segovia, set on a rocky hill. Visit its landmarks, awe-inspiring Roman AQUEDUCT and gothic CATHEDRAL before heading to Madrid. (B)

**Day 12, Wed. MADRID.** Not only is Madrid capital of Spain, but because it is situated 2,180 feet above sea level, the Spanish rightly say it is the nearest thing to Heaven. This morning, enjoy the city's main highlights on the included guided sightseeing tour. Consider also joining an optional excursion to one of the many important sights surrounding Madrid. (B,D)

**Day 13, Thu. MADRID.** Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

## TOUR 4740 DATES &amp; PRICES

US\$

Departure Number	Start Paris	End Madrid	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Paris	End Madrid	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Paris	End Madrid	Land Only
0428	Sat 28 Apr	Thu 10 May	1949	0616	Sat 16 Jun	Thu 28 Jun	2059	0922	Sat 22 Sep	Thu 04 Oct	2059
0519	Sat 19 May	Thu 31 May	2059	0901	Sat 01 Sep	Thu 13 Sep	2059	0929	Sat 29 Sep	Thu 11 Oct	1949
0526	Sat 26 May	Thu 07 Jun	2059	0908	Sat 08 Sep	Thu 20 Sep	2059				
0609	Sat 09 Jun	Thu 21 Jun	2059	0915	Sat 15 Sep	Thu 27 Sep	2059				

Prices are per person, based on double room occupancy. Single room supplement: \$624; guaranteed shares: see page 5; no triple room reduction.

**Extra nights per person in Paris:**  
in single room \$99-\$192, in twin / in triple \$53-\$102  
**Extra nights per person in Madrid:**  
in single room \$106-\$115, in twin / in triple \$57-\$63