



Drive Espana

Duero Discovery

Iberia from East to West

2—13 September 2020



The River Duero (Duro in Portugal) is one of Spain's great rivers and home to many important wine making regions—so we're going to follow it in September for a leisurely trip staying at great hotels and experiencing some stunning driving.

We start with an overnight ferry service from Portsmouth to Bilbao and a drive to Soria where we have a night in a hilltop hotel. There are views over the upper reaches of the river and a typically Spanish town to explore—they filmed *Dr Zhivago* in Soria. Next we head west to stay in Aranda del Duero at Bodega Torremilanos—a grand old Spanish Estate. Two nights here puts the Rioja in striking distance, or just relax in this lovely spot. There will be a wine tasting!

Next we go to Salamanca for two nights at the stunning Hacienda Zorita, a converted water mill which was once frequented by Christopher Columbus. Hacienda Zorita is also a wine hotel and the food is excellent. Another tasting here and a chance to connect with a spot steeped in history Portugal calls so we spend a night at the Pousada at Alijo where Duro river boat trips are possible before reaching the sea at captivating Porto, a stunning location with a great hotel. We'll get a Port House visit organised. We head back via Benavente and then, after some great driving over mountain passes take the Saturday ferry to Portsmouth

Comments from previous tours

"Fantastic! Fantastic! Fantastic!" "A must-do trip"

"What a super tour! Many thanks, can't wait for the next one."

"Wonderful fluid organisation" "Just perfect"



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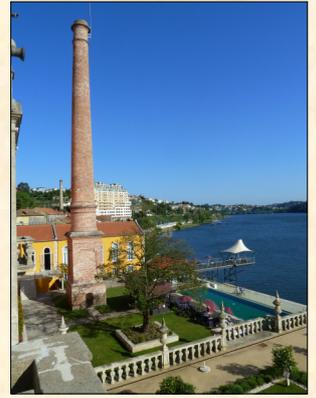
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Itinerary



Baiona

Wed 2 Sept	Morning departure from Portsmouth on Brittany Ferries
Thur 3 Sept	Arrive in Bilbao then drive 165 miles to Soria for a night at the Parador which is perched on a hilltop with spectacular views
Fri 4 Sept	Drive 75 miles to Aranda de Duero for two nights at Hotel Bodega Torremilanos which is a wine estate dating from 1903. There will be a bodega visit and on the free day a chance to visit Valladolid—the ancient capital of Spain
Sun 6 Sept	Drive 140 miles to Valverdon, close to Salamanca, and stay at Hacienda Zorita for two nights. Salamanca is a joy with so much to see and explore—a day is never enough. Hacienda Zorita do an excellent wine tasting
Tues 8 Sept	Drive 180 miles to Alijo in Portugal to stay at the Pousada, originally the home of Mr Forrester, an English Port Merchant. It's a fantastic drive on quiet roads with a comfortable hotel at the end
Weds 9 Sept	It's only 85 miles to Porto so there is time to do a river trip on the Duro before heading to the exquisite Pousada at Freixo in Porto for two nights. We will get a Port House visit organised and a city tour is a must
Fri 11 Sept	We have to head home—but no reason to be downcast! Just over 200 miles gets us to Benavente in Castille and Leon. This C12th Castle was home to Fernando II of Leon and it's lovely little spot with great views over the river Esla which flows into the Duero
Sat 12 Sept	Drive 200 miles to Santander for the evening ferry—there is plenty of time for a great drive through the Picos de Europa and over the pass into Cantabria
Sun 13 Sept	Arrive Portsmouth early evening

What is included.

Return ferry with outside twin cabin

Dinner bed and breakfast at all hotels. Wine tastings at Zorita and Torremilanos

Services of Jasper Gilder as Tour Leader.

£3600 per car with two occupants.

To book contact Drive Espana on 01442 842542 or 07831 327727 or email info@driveespana.com.



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