Albarino Wine Tour of the Rias Baixas Galicia Spain a Land of Seafood and Fine White Wines

General Overview

Country: Spain  
Region: Galicia  
City: Santiago de Compostela  
Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Type: Chauffeur Driven Tour  
Theme: Food, Wine Tours and Cultural Adventures  
Group Size: 2 - 6 People  
Price from: €

Introduction

On this deluxe food & wine tour of Spain you will explore Galicia’s Rias Baixas (pronounced REE-as BUY-zhas) an exceptionally indented coastline, with creeks and hidden coves at every turn, a scattering of inlets lying close inshore, and an alternating pattern of cliffs and beaches. In this Forgotten Celtic region of Northwestern Spain nature alone is not at play however. There is much to be enjoyed including its famous Albariño wines accompanied by rich local cuisine most notably Seafood.

On this tour you will discover the Galicia, Northwestern Spain with all senses... starting off in Santiago de Compostela the Capital of the region and also the end of the important Pilgrimage Way of St. James. Here you will walk the streets of the old quarter and visit the Cathedral which marks the heart of this historic centre. Then you will follow down the Atlantic coast in the area called the Rias Baixas (Low Estuaries or Bays), here you will get a chance to stroll along the ports of small fishing villages and enjoy exclusive visits to various wineries making the highly acclaimed Albariño white wines of the D.O. Rias Baixas.

In between winery & cultural sites you will stop to dine in a mix of different types of restaurants while touring, we have selected them to show you the variety of the Galician Cuisine... from Michelin Star Restaurants like Toni Vicente in Santiago to small fishermen’s taverns right on the docks offering an abundance of fresh seafood (Spider Crab, Bay Prawns, Lobster, etc...) caught just that morning and served in handmade wicker baskets right on the table for everyone to dig in and enjoy this delectable finger-food. While on the coast you will get the chance to learn in-depth about the gastronomy by cooking side-by-side with a Galician woman who owns/runs a small Rural Country Manor & Restaurant and knows just about all the traditional coastal cooking secrets of Galicia!

After following down the Rias Baixas coast your inland journey begins alongside the Mino River visiting a few more Albariño wineries, before winding down our unforgettable wine journey of the Rias Baixas

For your comfort during the trip we have selected a couple of stays in Paradores (Santiago and Baiona), these accommodations are placed within historic building like Monasteries, Castles, etc... Ranging from 4* to 5* GL (Grand luxury). Then as well you will have a few more rural stays in Galician Pazos, which are Noble Manor Houses with all the amenities of a Parador but on a smaller more personal scale.

Come Savor Seafood and Albariño wines of Galicia, Atlantic Spain!
DAY 1: MON
SANTIAGO
- Arrived to SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, the end of the Pilgrims way.
- Your private driver/guide will meet and greet you at the Airport or train station depending which way you arrive.
- Transfer to hotel.
- Check into hotel anytime after 2:00pm
- On this evening we meet in the hotel lobby (meeting time: 7:30pm)
- GALICIA tour orientation meeting with your private driver/guide.
- Enjoy a Galician Welcome Dinner in the beautiful Paradise.
- Overnight in Santiago

B, D

DAY 2: TUE
SANTIAGO - WALKING DAY TOUR IN THE HISTORIC QUARTER OF THE ANCIENT PILGRIMAGE CITY
- Breakfast.
- Morning visit of the Ethnographic museum of the galician people, plaza de Abastos market, cathedral & old quarter
- Lunch on your own.
- Head of the day aim to explore the city.
- Dinner in Michelin Star Restaurant restaurant with fine cuisine in the old quarter.
- Overnight in Santiago
B, D

DAY 3: WED
SANTIAGO - NOIA - BARÓN - CORUBEDO - CATOIRA - CAMBADOS
- Breakfast.
- Follow down the UPPER RIAS BAIXAS coastline passing by many small fishing villages.
- Visit the CATEDRAL DE SANTIAGO.
- Visit the area of the RIA OF VIGO.
- Lunch in a restaurant in the village of CORUBEDO.
- Visit the sub-zone of the RIAS BAIXAS.
- Enter into the RIAS BAIXAS, visit the remains of the 17th century defense towers in CATOIRA.
- Visit the island of NOIA and the Orgado winery located in the D.O. RIAS BAIXAS, sub-zone of the DENOMINACION OF ORIGIN RIAS BAIXAS.
- Then we will visit another selected winery of the region.
- After this visit CAMBADOS, a Galician wine village.
- Walk around the Paseo de Pescaderos and quiet streets of this noble village.
- After this make our way to a quaint Galician Pazo (Manor House) surrounded by vineyard and they have their own winery.
- Check-in to Pazo and some free time.
- Overnight in Cambados.

B, L

DAY 4: THU
CAMBADOS - COMBARRO - PONTEVEDRA - BUÉU - DONÓN - NATURE WALK AROUND MAN’S CAPE - HBO - ALBÁN
- Breakfast.
- In the morning we leave to visit the quaint fishing village of COMBARRO.
- Walk along the port promenade with Herons (Stone Gannet) abundant on the fishing over the bay.
- Then next in PONTEVEDRA city we visit the Archeology & Art Museum, also the old quarter.
- Continuing on we backtrack the coastline arriving at the point of the PENINSULA OF O MORRAZO.
- In the small village of BUÉU we still have a seafood lunch in a local restaurant.
- After lunch we will walk around what is known as Cape Home (Man’s Cape) in DONÓN here we see a few lighthouses (including an Ancient Celtic Lighthouse at the top of Monte Facho) all with excellent view of the CIÉS ISLANDS from.
- From here we will walk in the direction of the Beach of Melide whereas we reach an other lighthouse of this Cape, which faces to the RIA OF VIGO offering spectacular view over the Ria.
- In the small village of Hizo we visit the RAYEVEIDRO CROSS OF HIZO the most famous in Galicia and built from on solid block of granite. Beside the cross is the Romanesque Church of SAN ANDREU (St. Andrews) we take a peak inside before leaving.
- Then we make our way to a charming Country Manor in the coastal village of Albañ.
- Some time to relax before dinner in a beautiful house that owns this great property.
- After dinner we will enjoy some traditional Galician Bagpipe Music.
- Overnight in Albañ.
B, L, D

DAY 5: FRI
ALBÁN - CANGAS - VIGO - PLAYA AMERICA - BAIONA
- Breakfast.
- Some free time in the morning to enjoy your surroundings, talk a walk around the village or whatever you please.
- 11 O’MERE: Galician Coastal Cooking Class in a Traditional Country Manor in the Fishing village of Albañ-Canas (Duration: 03h30 approx.)
- Today you will cook side-by-side with Galician women who own/man a small Rural Country Manor & Restaurant and know just about all the traditional coastal cooking secrets of Galicia!
- You will be shown how to make a 2-course menu based on fish and seafood in the fully-equipped kitchen of this country manor.
- Lunch will be based on what you have prepared accompanied by fine Albariño wines.
- After lunch we drive around the other side of the Peninsula today stopping at the small fishing village of CANGAS whereas you will enjoy a catamaran ride (20mins.) to cross over the RIA OF VIGO with views of the Rande Bridge and VIGO City on other side of this beautiful Ria.
- Then a tour of VIGO city and some free time for shopping.
- In the late afternoon we drive to BAIONA village stopping to visit the America beach where Europe first got word of the discover of America.
- In the harbor we will also see the replica of the Caravel Pinta which brought the word of the discover of America.
- Then off to the Castle of Montemor which is now a fabulous Parador where we will be staying tonight.
- Free time before dinner.
- Dinner will be in a restaurant of the new up-and-coming young chef of Galicia.
- Overnight in Baiona
B, C, D

DAY 6: SAT
BAIONA - TUI - O ROSAL - NOIA - BAROÑA - COMBARRO - PONTEVEDRA - BUEU - O SALNES - LA GUARDIA - BAIONA
- Breakfast.
- In the morning we make our way to the ancient beaver house of Tui.
- Visit the CATEDRAL DE TUI and it’s old quarter.
- Then we make a visit to BUEU LAGOON (Or similar winery), an Albariño winery located in the D.O. RIAS BAIXAS sub-zone of the D.O. Rias Baixas.
- Lunch in a restaurant at the port of the fishing Village of O Rosal.
- Enjoy a Seafood feast with Lobster, crab etc… and Albariño wines.
- After we will make our way to the top of the St. Tecla Hill with GREAT VIEWS of the RIVER NINO meeting the Atlantic sea, and views of the mountains of Northern Portugal.
- Here we will also see the MIRADOR SANTANA CELTIC HILL-FORT with reconstructed huts and the museum with artifacts.
- Then we follow up the Equipment RIAS BAIXAS until arriving back in Baiona
- Free time before dinner.
- Dinner on your own.
- Overnight in Baiona
B, L

DAY 7: SUN
BAIONA - SALVATERRA DO MINSO - ARBO
- Breakfast.
- Today we drive by highway to the SUB-ZONE OF RIA, another sub-zone of the D.O. Rias Baixas.
- We will follow along the Mino river stopping to see the Castle of Salavarda and where you also celebrate the wine festival of this sub-zone every year.
- We will pass through small village like as Néus famous for its Goat Cheese and Honey.
- Then we will arrive at ARBO Villa de Lamasco’ (village of Lamping Est)
- Lunch in a quaint Manor House overlooking the Mino River.
- Visit Sean O’ Bruce’s family Artisan wine celler inside the old ABADIA (ABBEY) DE CABEIRAS that does not sell on a commercial level and conserve the traditional method of producing Albariño & Condado wines in the valley.
- We will also visit the MINÉS DE LA ROCHA, recently restored old Flower-mills.
- After this we will walk around the village and get the local flavor of this true Galician village.
- Tonight we will stay in a Noble Galician Manor which also has a winery that we will visit. Views from the Manor are spectacular being surrounded by vines and the Mino River below.
- Dinner will be in the Manor house with traditional local cuisine
- Overnight in ARBO
B, L, D

DAY 8: MON
ARBO - LA UVALLA, SANTIAGO - SANTIAGO'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - TRAIN STATION & CITY CENTRE
- Breakfast.
- Morning (9:30am) departing hotel.
- Transfer to Aeropuerto, Santiago’s International Airport. NOTE: When arranging your flight departure if you are flying out of Santiago it must be no earlier than 12:00pm due to the traveling time from Vilafranca.
- Those who are continuing on by other means of transportation will be dropped off in the Renfe Train Station in Santiago city.

END OF TOUR SERVICES
Included

THE TOUR INCLUDES:
- 7 nights in double room with private bathroom in selected Paradores, Historic Hotels & Pazos (Manor Houses) (See Lodging)
- Transportation in Renault Scenic for 2 to 3 People, Seat Alhambra for 4 to 5 People and Mercedes Vito for 6 People. (See Transportation)
- Private Specialist Driver/Guide for the duration of the tour
- (B): Breakfast Daily except day of arrival
- (L): 5 Lunches: 2 or 3 course gourmet meals changing the cuisine & wines typical of each region visited. All restaurants are selected for location, service & fine quality.
- (D): 5 Dinners 2 or 3 course gourmet meals changing the cuisine & wines typical of each region visited. Most of the dinners are in the hotels where you will be staying overnight. All restaurants are selected for location, service & fine quality.
- (CL) 1 Galician Coastal Cuisine Cooking class in Cangas with our Private Chef including class and followed by with a meal based on what has been prepared accompanied with wine
- 1 night of Celtic/Galician Traditional Bagpipe Music
- 1 Special Queimada spectacular in Galician Manor House
- Entrance fees to sights specified in the itinerary
- Catamaran ride over the Ria de Vigo
- Selected winery tours & commented tastings specified in the itinerary
- Detailed tour information package
- Local Taxes

THE TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:
- Airfare
- Transfers not specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages not specified in selected meals
- Meals not specified in itinerary
- Laundry Expenses
- Telephone & Facsimile charges
- Excess Baggage charges
- Passport & Visa fees
- Personal & Travel Insurance
- Airport & Departure Taxes
- Optional excursions
- Room Service
- Tips & Gratuities to Driver/Guide

Lodging
HOTEL OVERNIGHTS
2 SANTIAGO
PARADOR 5*GL
1 CAMBADOS
MANOR HOUSE
1 ALDAN
MANOR HOUSE
2 BAIONA
PARADOR 4*
1 ARBO
MANOR HOUSE

ITINERARY MAP

HOTEL HIGHLIGHT:

CASA GRANDE LA ALMUIÑA
17TH CENTURY CASA GRANDE LA ALMUIÑA, A NOBLE GALICIAN PAZO MANOR

Located in the Tea Valley you will find the recently renovated 17th Century Casa Grande La Almuiña, a Noble Galician Pazo Manor where every corner is enchanting and designed for sitting back and relaxing in a traditional atmosphere overlooking the vineyard with the Miño River and Portugal on the other side as your backdrop.

The manor has its own wine cellar making one of the best Albariño wines of this Sub-Zone of the D.O. Rias Baixas.