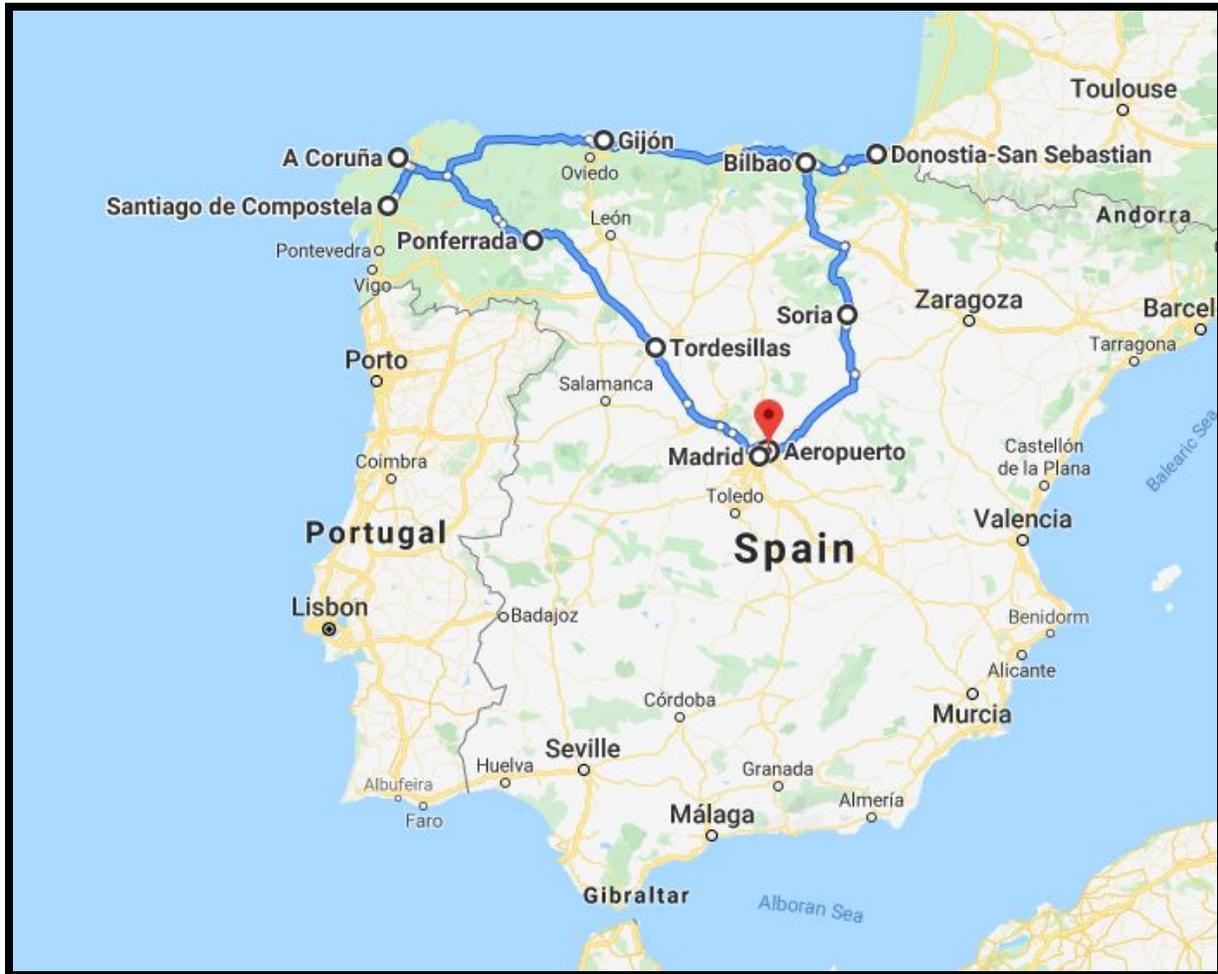




## The Basque Connection & Spain's Northern Coast - BCA Spain Trip 2020 Info-sheet



**Dates:** 26 May - 6 June 2020

**Route:** Madrid-Soria-Bilbao-Solares-Gijón-Santiago de Compostela-Ponferrada-Tordesillas-Madrid

**Overview:** Arizona and Sonora's direct connection to Spain lasted three hundred years (1521 to 1821) when it was called New Spain. There are many legacies: language, religion, culture, architecture. This trip will introduce the traveler to all of these, with an explicit Sonoran/Arizonan connection to the Basque country and Northern Spain. *El Pais Vasco* is the fascinating region from which a majority of the early settlers of our two states originated from. We will visit the ancestral homeland of the Anza family, the leader and pathfinder of the 1775-76 expedition to found San Francisco, California as well as the unique autonomous Spanish regions of Cantabria, Asturias, Galicia and Castilla y Leon.



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**Connection:** Our goal is for trip participants to gain a deeper understanding of Hispanic culture and heritage - given the Hispanic legacy of our greater Arizona-Sonora region - with this trip to Spain. In collaboration, we are especially honored to have a professor from Hermosillo, Sonora, Luis Valle Cordero, as one of our guides. A native of Leon, Spain, Luis brings local as well as architectural knowledge. BCA's program director Alex La Pierre brings his considerable knowledge of history as well as a delightful spirit to our travel.

*This is a curated trip based on the nonprofit Border Community Alliance mission of bridging borders via education, collaboration and cultural exchange.*

**Itinerary:** We will be loosely following one of Spain's principal (and said to be the oldest) pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela known as *el Camino del Norte* or the Northern Way, following a scenic corridor with the Atlantic coast to our north and the Cantabrian Mountains to our south. This is verdant green Spain with a surprising Celtic heritage in Galicia and a historical borderlands where the Spanish *reconquista* or reconquering from the Moors began.

**Trip Activity Level:** A fair amount of walking will take place every day and many medieval city centers are vehicle-free zones. Your guides will be available to help with luggage but we request that you only bring luggage that you are able to physically transport from bus to lodging.

**Group Size & Transportation:** As with other BCA tours, we'll travel as a small, personable group (15 to 20) with knowledgeable guides who are close to the people of Spain. We will be traveling with a professional driver and a modern mid-size bus with wifi.

**Cost:**

**\$3800 single or \$3600 (per person) double occupancy**

To reserve your spot on this tour, a \$500 (refundable until March 1, 2020) deposit is required.

**What this includes:**

- lodging
- ground transportation
- guides
- entrance fees
- all breakfasts
- 8 lunches (main meal of Spain ~ American supper)
- 2 dinners

**What this does not include:**

- airfare
- travel insurance
- alcoholic drinks
- drinks & snacks outside of BCA group meals
- meals not included
- taxi from airport to Madrid group rendez-vous point at start of trip



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### Important Dates:

Early bird discount of \$200 off with total cost of trip paid in full by February 1.

Final Payment is due by 1 March 2020.

### Payment:

- Register through our **website:** [www.bordercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bordercommunityalliance.org)
- By sending a check to: **BCA, PO Box 1863, Tubac, AZ. 85646.**
- By calling BCA at **520-398-3229**

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

For trip cancellation, please contact BCA as soon as possible. Cancellations that arise prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> will be liable to a \$200 per person administrative fee. After this date, all trip costs are 100% non-refundable, unless there is a waiting list and your trip place can be filled. In this case, the \$200/person admin cancellation fee will still apply.

**Recommendation:** We strongly recommend that you purchase traveler's insurance for this trip in case of missed flights, group trip cancellation, medical emergencies and other unforeseen incidents. A Google search yields many travelers insurance options.

### Group Communication in Spain:

For group communications during the course of the trip, we recommend downloading on your smartphone from Itunes or the GooglePlay store an app called [Whatsapp](#). We will be creating a "**BCA Spain Trip 2020**" **Whatsapp group** through which we can communicate via text, recording and phone while in-country without cost. It is an effective communication tool because - even if you will not have data service by your telephone provider in Europe - you can easily access it via WiFi which will be available at our hotels and most cafes in the towns we will be visiting.

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### Guides:

- (1.) Luis Valle Cordero [of León, Spain] [luis.valle@itesm.mx](mailto:luis.valle@itesm.mx)
  - > Spanish citizen and resident of Hermosillo, Sonora.
  - > Unique perspective from a native Spaniard.
  - > University Professor of Architecture, [Tecnológico de Monterrey, Hermosillo](#).
  - > Owner & Partner: Architectural Firm, [UV Arquitectos](#). Hermosillo, Sonora.
- (2.) Alex La Pierre [alex@bordercommunityalliance.org](mailto:alex@bordercommunityalliance.org)
  - > Border Community Alliance program director



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## **The Basque Connection & Spain's Northern Coast - BCA Spain Trip 2020 Info-sheet**

- > Historian
- > Iberian cultural studies
- > National Park Service Interpretation and Historic Preservation background

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**DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change due to cancellations, delays, and/or logistical considerations.**

Border Community Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Tubac, AZ. We provide experiential education programs to residents and visitors of southern Arizona.

[www.bordercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bordercommunityalliance.org)

Last Update: 11/15/2019