



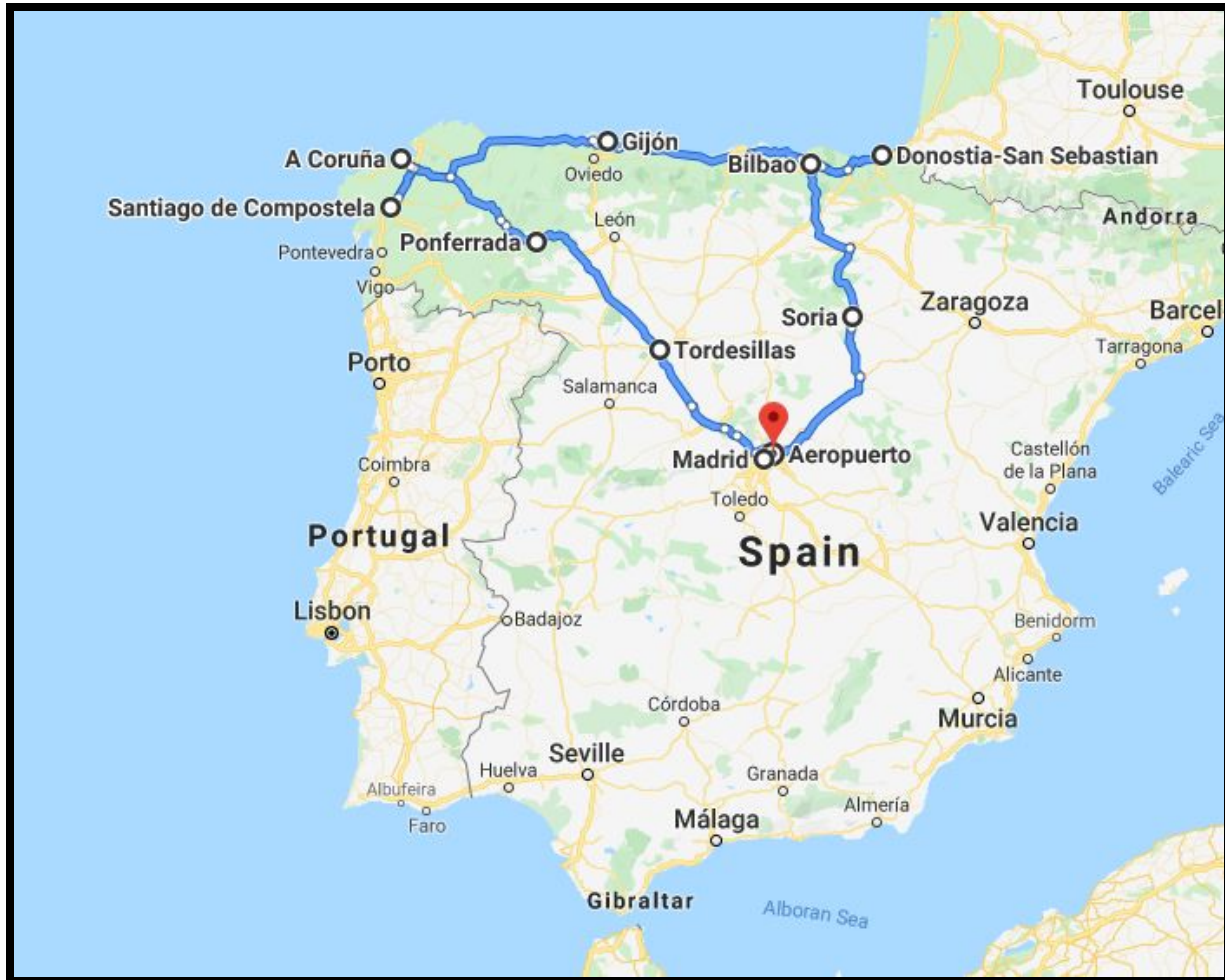
THE **BORDERLANDS**

F O R U M



BORDERCOMMUNITYALLIANCE.ORG Border Community Alliance

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
- 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 1st 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.

Guides:

- (1.) [Luis Valle Cordero](#) [of León, Spain] 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
 - > Border Community Alliance program director



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

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

Last Update: 11/15/2019