

Fly and Drive

THE BEST ROAD TRIPS



www.spain.info



Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism
 Published by: © Turespaña
 Created by: Lionbridge
 NIPO: 086-18-006-3

FREE COPY

The content of this leaflet has been created with the utmost care. However, if you find an error, please help us to improve by sending an email to brochures@tourspain.es

*Front Cover: Tenerife.
 Back Cover: Montemolin, Badajoz.
 Photo: Silver Route/ Quique Arenas.*

CONTENTS

Silver Route by motorbike	4
The Green Spain Route	7
The pyrenees from the Mediterranean to the Cantabrian	12
Wine route in the Rioja Alavesa	16
The Mediterranean Coast from Barcelona to Alicante	18
Black Truffle Route, Castellón-Teruel	22
Route of Don Quixote	24
Cherry blossom in the Jerte Valley	26
Alpujarra de Granada	28
A journey to explore the beaches of Cádiz	31
The island of Mallorca from the sea to the mountains	35
The island of Tenerife and its natural wonders	39
Slow Driving Aragón choose an ideal route	42

INTRODUCTION

Spain is ideal for travelling around by car or motorbike. There are routes full of history, towns with special charm and monumental cities.

This country has one of the **best networks of motorways** and highways in Europe and more than **30 international airports** so it is easy for you to get around as you please. And the main **vehicle rental** companies operate throughout the country.

Feel the sea breeze and breathe fresh air as you drive along coastal and mountain highways through incredible countryside. From glaciers and mountain peaks in the Pyrenees to volcanic formations and tropical vegetation in the

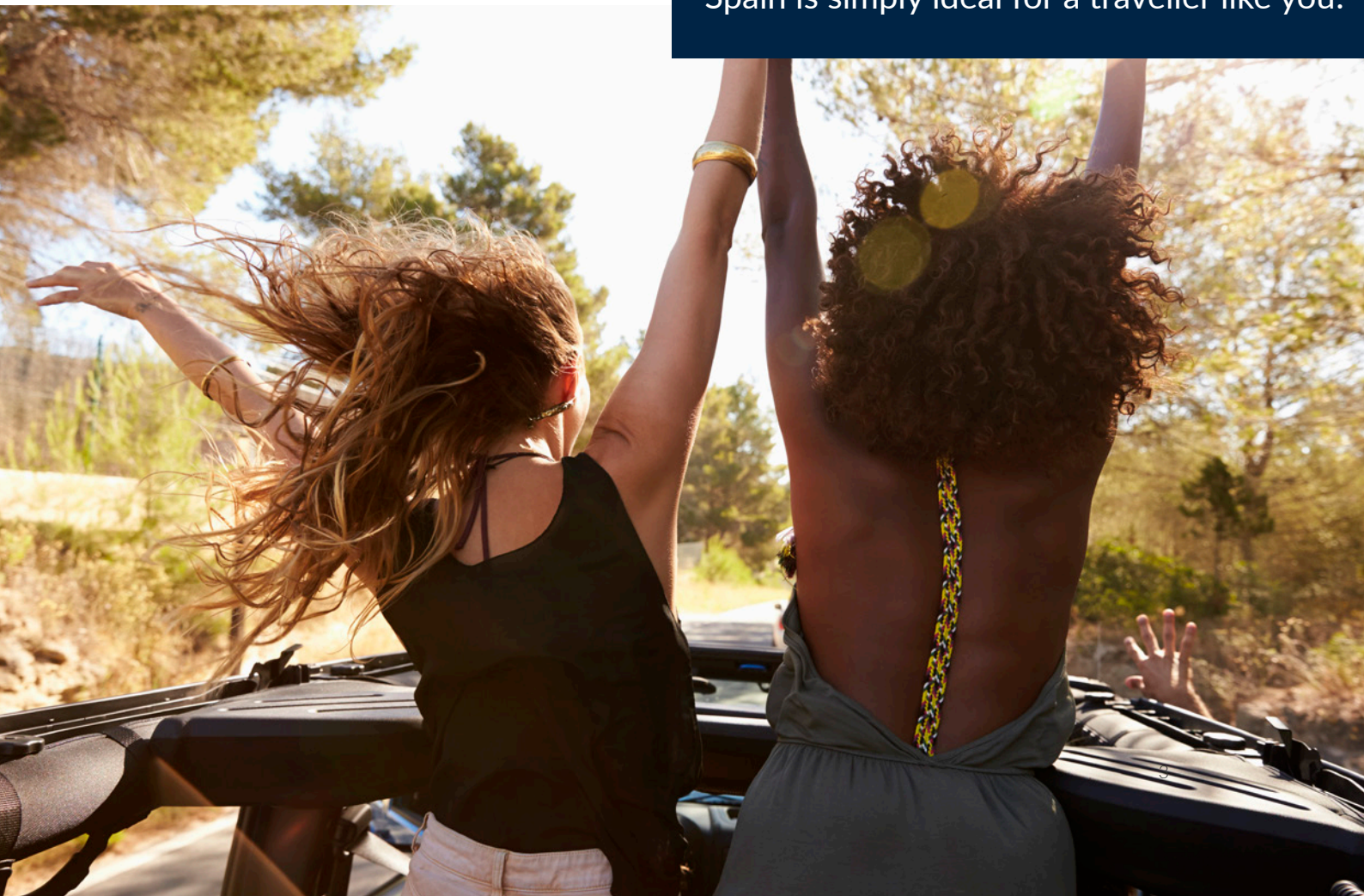
Canary Islands. The variety of Spain's natural spaces makes it an outstanding setting for anyone with an adventurous spirit.

There are thousands of **secret locations** for you to explore. From picturesque white villages in Andalusia to delightful seafaring towns in the north of Spain. Just choose your route and set off down the highway!

It will be an unforgettable experience for you to visit **small towns** full of history and discover the **culture** and **cuisine** of a country with an **unbeatable climate**. Be adventurous and relax using all your senses: What can you see? What can you hear? What can you feel?

▼ IBIZA

Spain is simply ideal for a traveller like you!



FLY AND DRIVE, THE BEST ROAD TRIPS

Photo: Silver Route/ Quique Arenas

THE BEST ROAD TRIPS

▲ PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
SEVILLE

SILVER ROUTE BY MOTORBIKE

Put on your helmet and get ready to enjoy the views on one of the loveliest motorcycling routes in Spain: the **Silver Route**, which goes from Gijón through several regions to Seville. This route basically follows the old Roman road. This route is ideal for a motorbike (or car if you prefer), just follow the modern A-66 dual carriageway or the classic N-630 road, with lower speed limits but with very interesting landscapes.

You can begin on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, in **Seville**, the ancient Hispalis of the Roman era. A beautiful city with gems like the Giralda, the Cathedral, the Real Alcázar fortress and the Torre del Oro or Golden Tower. There are splendid views along the Andalusian section of the route, which takes you through beautiful hills covered with oak, pine and olive trees. When you reach Santiponce you should

make a stop to explore the **archaeological site of Itálica**, the first Roman city founded in Hispania. You could also visit Carmona, the Roman town of Carmo and one of the most important municipalities in the province of Baetica.

On your way through Extremadura you should stop in some of the charming towns in the province of Badajoz, like **Montemolín**, **Zafra**, and **Fuente de Cantos**, before arriving in two exceptional UNESCO World Heritage Cities: **Mérida** and **Cáceres**. The former, known as "little Rome", has an incredible Roman architectural legacy. Other places of interest are **Plasencia**, the Jewish Quarter of **Hervás** and **Baños de Montemayor** which still preserves a section of the original Roman Road.

Nature is a prominent feature of the route through Castile-León, as you'll see in the medieval town of **Béjar** (Salamanca), where you'll ride along surrounded by rivers, green valleys and beautiful snowy peaks. A little further to the north, after an obligatory stop to try some delicious Iberian cured ham from **Guijuelo** the route takes you through the monumental cities of **Salamanca**, **Zamora** and **León**.

You can also stop off in some of the other towns which are smaller but full of charm like: **Benavente** (Zamora), with its Romanesque churches; and **La Bañeza**, the town where they hold the only motorbike race in Spain which takes place entirely on an urban circuit.

▼ PLASENCIA



You can explore Asturias at your own pace along the A-66 or the winding N-630 up to the **Pajares Mountain Pass**, truly a dream for bikers. It is a beautiful section full of bends running parallel to the railway where there are still the remains of some of the old stations. Stop for a breath of fresh air and to enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the Las Ubiñas-La Mesa Nature Reserve. This wonderful area is also the access to the district of **Lena**, known as the "Gateway to Asturias", and where you'll find the World Heritage Pre-Romanesque Church of Santa Cristina de Lena.

The final stage takes you through the districts of the Central Asturias Mountains to put a splendid finishing touch to this bike route. This is an area with incredible natural lookout points like El Angliru, Coto Bello, El Puerto de la Cubilla and El Gamoniteiro.

The route passes through **Oviedo**, an elegant and stately city with a marvellous Gothic cathedral. After the Roman town of **Veranes** you'll reach **Gijón**, a splendid town on the shores of the Cantabrian Sea which still preserves remains of its Roman past, like the Campo Valdés thermal springs and the Campa Torres Natural Archaeological Park.

One tip: pick up a "Moto Vía Card" (it's free), which offers discounts in a range of establishments all along the Route.

① **Nearby airports:**

*Sevilla-San Pablo and Asturias
(at each end of the route)*

Approximate distance: 800 km

Further information:

www.rutadelaplata.com



THE GREEN SPAIN ROUTE

An unforgettable coastal journey to unspoiled beaches, charming villages, extraordinary cities and fantastic nature reserves all across the north of Spain: **Basque Country/Euskadi, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia.**

▲ CUDILLERO
ASTURIAS

Your starting point will be **Donostia-San Sebastián**, one of the most beautiful cities in Spain. Don't leave without trying some of their renowned *pintxos* (delicious aperitifs) and, weather permitting, taking a dip at the spectacular Playa de La Concha beach.

The route continues through the Basque Country along the N-634, a beautiful highway running parallel to the coast. In the province of Guipúzcoa you'll pass through seafaring towns like **Zarautz**, a haven for surfers, and **Getaria**, where you should try the *txakoli*, a typical white wine from the region. From this town's lighthouse, up on Mount San Antón, you'll get fantastic views of the port in Getaria and the surrounding area.



▲ PINTXOS



You should turn off to the **Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve**, in Vizcaya, one of the best-preserved wetlands in southern Europe and visit lookout points like the **Cape of Matxitxako**, the northernmost point on the Cantabrian coast. From there you'll be able to see **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, an islet which you can only reach on foot over a bridge and a stairway with 242 steps to the top of the hill where you'll find a small chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. Then return to your route along the Cantabrian motorway from **Bilbao**.

The picturesque towns of **Castro Urdiales**, **Laredo** and **Santoña** will welcome your arrival in Cantabria, a region with numerous cave art sites like the amazing Altamira Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near the beautiful medieval town of **Santillana del Mar**. Your route will take you to the regional capital, **Santander**, one of the most beautiful cities along the coast (with stately buildings, gardens, a spectacular bay and surrounding hills), and fishing towns like **Laredo**, **Comillas** and **San Vicente de la Barquera**.

Here you can take a detour along the N-621 towards the **Picos de Europa** National Park, a bewitching area consisting of three mountain ranges and with very special conditions due to the proximity of the sea, barely 20 kilometres away, and which is easily reached from the towns of **La Hermida** and **Potes**.

You'll know you have arrived in **Asturias** when you cross the Deva River. You'll immediately see a signpost for another famous cave with prehistoric art, that of El Pindal. Your journey continues through valleys and delightful coastal towns like **Llanes** and **Ribadesella**, ideal for stopping for the night and trying some traditional cider. In **Gijón** you should visit the old fishing quarter, Cimadevilla, and climb up the Santa Catalina hill. There you'll find the huge ***Elogio del Horizonte*** sculpture, by Eduardo Chillida. Stand under it and you'll feel the waves and the howling wind.

Continue towards **Galicia** and join the incredible route past lighthouses and



▲ PICOS DE EUROPA
CANTABRIA



RIBADESELLA
ASTURIAS

FLY AND DRIVE, THE BEST ROAD TRIPS





CÍES ISLANDS
PONTEVEDRA

unspoiled beaches from **Ribadeo** (Lugo) to **A guarda** (Pontevedra), a beautiful tour along the Galicia coast with cliffs, beaches, fishing villages and, of course, lighthouses in spectacular locations.

There is so much to explore, like the wonderful Playa de las Catedrales de Ribadeo beach (you need to book at Easter and in the summer season), said to be one of the prettiest in the world with extraordinary rock formations and the beach of Llas, in the town of **Foz** (Lugo), 30 metres wide and backed by dunes.

Whatever route you take you really should include the **Estaca de Bares** lighthouse, the northernmost point on the Spanish mainland, in the district of Mañón (A Coruña). There are incredible views of the coast from this historical

lighthouse up on the mountain top. In the same province you'll find **Cape Finisterre**, for so long considered to be the westernmost point of the earth, hence "Land's End". From here you get a good view of the Costa da Morte, a rugged coastline with sheer cliffs and incredible beaches.

If you have time we suggest you continue on to the port of **Vigo** and while you're there visit the **Cíes Islands**. They make up the Galicia Atlantic Islands National Maritime - Land Park, a highly protected area which can only be reached by boat and there is a restriction on the number of daily visitors permitted.

📍 **Nearby airports: San Sebastián and Santiago de Compostela (as well as others)**

Approximate distance: 863 km

THE PYRENEES

FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE CANTABRIAN

You can explore the **Pyrenees**, the natural frontier between Spain and France, on two or four wheels. This 430-kilometre long mountain range runs from the Cantabrian Sea to the Mediterranean, with really picturesque highways taking you through beautiful landscapes with extraordinary waterfalls, valleys and forests.



▲ ARÁN VALLEY
LÉRIDA

You can start out from the east, in the **Catalan Pyrenees**, or in the west, in the **Navarre Pyrenees**. If you choose the east, your starting point will be **Cap de Creus** (Girona), where the Pyrenees meet the Mediterranean Sea. In the nature reserve with the same name you'll find the easternmost lighthouse

in mainland Spain which you can reach via a narrow road from **Cadaqués**, a delightful coastal town where the great artist Salvador Dalí lived. Whilst you're there you can visit the Dalí Theatre-Museum to take a close look at his work and where he forged his eccentric personality. As you travel through the

province of Girona you'll be surrounded by intense green. You can take the N-260 westwards across **La Garrotxa**, known as the volcanic region, and visit this nature reserve. You can make short stops and detours to visit really charming places like **Besalú**, a beautiful medieval town, and **Castelfollit de la Roca**, one of Spain's smallest villages which occupies less than 1 km². Watch out for the signposts pointing to the numerous lookout points you'll find along the way. You could make a detour towards the N-230 and explore the valleys and mountains in the **Vall d'Arán** (Lleida).



▲ ARÁN VALLEY
LÉRIDA



▲ BESALÚ
GIRONA



▲ BENASQUE
HUESCA

▼ ORDESA Y MONTE PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK
HUESCA



Very near, now in the **Aragón Pyrenees** in the province of Huesca, stands the **Pico Aneto**, the highest peak in this mountain range. Then return to the N-260 through fairy-tale mountain villages like **Benasque**, **Aínsa**, **Sallent de Gallego** and **Ansó**. There are beautiful natural surroundings all along the route which takes you to the protected area of the **Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park**. Park your vehicle and take a walk or the special bus which stops at three spectacular lookout points.

The final third of your trip is in the **Navarre Pyrenees**. Continue westwards along the A-21 to **Pamplona**, the city of the **Sanfermines** so loved by Hemingway. While you're here you should sample the delicious Navarre cuisine and try some traditional **txistorra** sausage. Before you reach Pamplona you could make a detour towards the town of **Ochagavía**. Get into low gear and climb the beautiful **Tapla** mountain pass to reach the **Selva de Irati**, one of the biggest and best-preserved beech and fir forests in Europe. It is spectacularly colourful in the autumn. Nearby you'll find the town of **Roncesvalles**,

one of the starting points for the Way of Saint James, a shelter for walkers and pilgrims, a focal point for legends and a cultural meeting place.

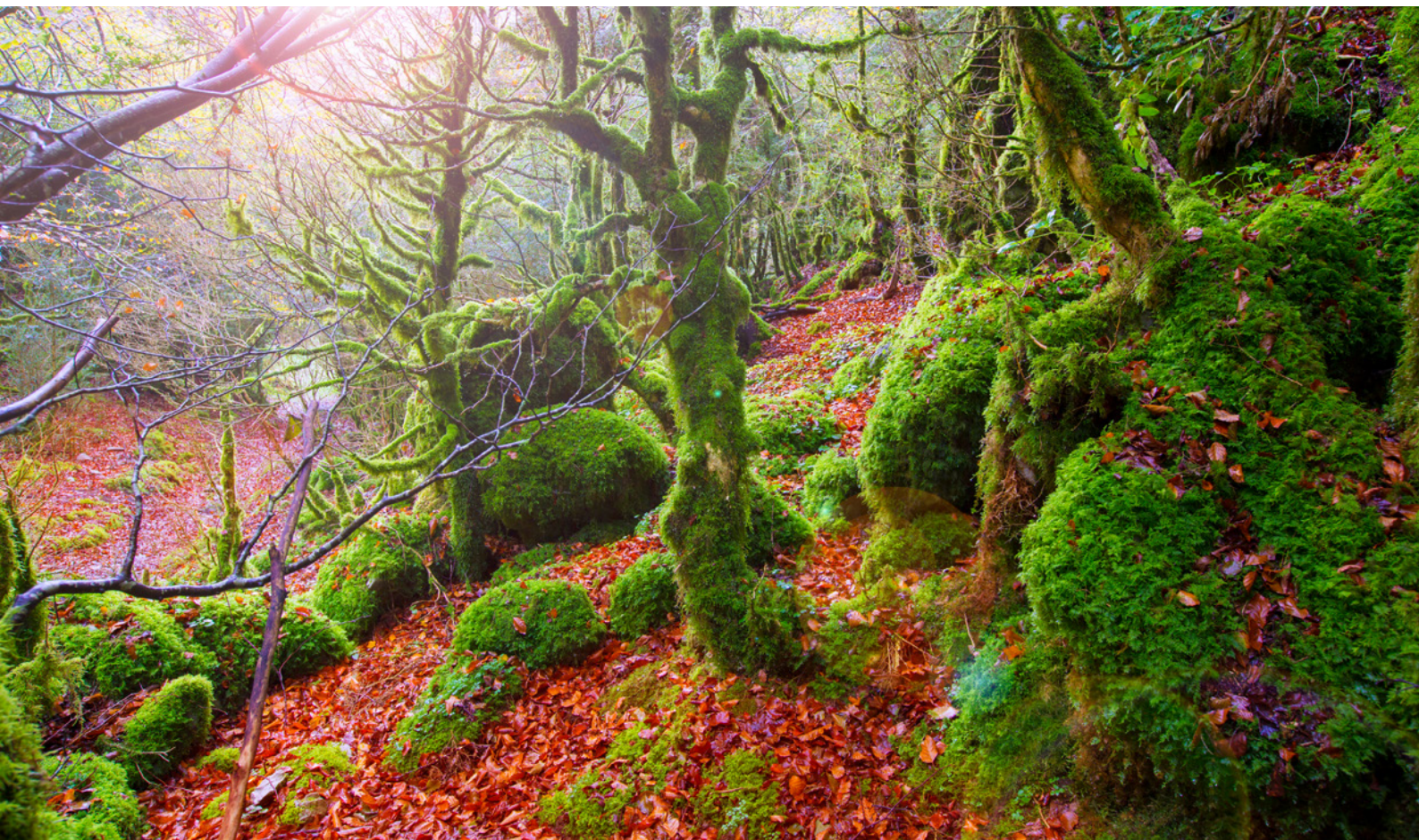
You can finish your journey through the Pyrenees with a visit to two small villages in the Baztán Valley in Navarre where time seems to have stood still, **Amaiur** and **Zugarramurdi**. In the latter there is a cave where legend has it that witches used to hold their Sabbath.

📍 **Nearby airports:**

Barcelona-El Prats, San Sebastián and Bilbao

Approximate distance: 650 km

▼ IRATI FOREST
NAVARRE



WINE ROUTE IN THE RIOJA ALAVESA

This route takes you through beautiful vineyards to what have become today's cathedrals of wine: avant-garde buildings and wineries designed by truly prestigious contemporary architects.



Start your journey in **Vitoria-Gasteiz**, the capital of the Basque Country and the province of Álava, a delightful city with many green areas and a magnificent old town where you'll find a good selection of bars and restaurants.

Take the A-2124, a mountain road over the Herrera Pass and prepare yourself for the spectacular views you'll get over the Ebro valley from the Balcón de La Rioja Alavesa lookout point in the district of **Samaniego**. On a clear day you can see the whole of the Rioja Alavesa and part of the La Rioja Region.

Continue along the N-232 surrounded by vineyards towards amazing towns like **Laguardia**, the capital of the region, with narrow streets and ancient walls. There you'll find Bodegas Ysios, designed by Santiago Calatrava, a building which blends perfectly with the local landscapes. There is also the surprising Bodega Viña Real, designed by the French architect Philippe Mazières, where the main building is made of red cedar and is in the form of a vat.

A visit to the town of **Elciego**, the City of Wine is a feast for all the senses. This

ground breaking building by the famous architect Frank O. Gehry rises out of the ground like a vine. The interior is also spectacular and includes a luxury hotel and restaurant, a wine-therapy spa, a meeting centre and a museum.

You can finish your journey in **Logroño**, in the neighbouring La Rioja Autonomous Region. You can immerse yourself in history in the churches and palaces, which feature the Co-Cathedral of Santa María. You'll just love the atmosphere in the Calle Laurel, renowned for its fantastic *tapas* and locally-produced wines.

📍 **Nearby airports: Bilbao**

Approximate distance: 95 km

Further information:

www.rutadelvinoderiojaalavesa.com



Photo: ACEVIN

▲ RIOJA ALAVESA

▼ **YSIOS WINERY**
LAGUARDIA, ÁLAVA

There are about 400 wineries, all under the La Rioja Designation of Origin.



Photo: Alberto Loyo/123rf.com

THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST FROM BARCELONA TO ALICANTE



▲ VIEWS OF BARCELONA

Explore the Mediterranean coast and its delightful fishing villages with turquoise-blue waters, interesting historical complexes and delicious cuisine. Most of your journey will be along the A-7, better known as the Mediterranean Motorway, as well as other roads running parallel to the coast. Open the car windows and enjoy the wonderful sea breeze.

Your journey starts in the incredible city of **Barcelona**. It is not far to your first stop: **Castelldefels**, which features

the ancient castle of Fels looking out over the district's coastline. Continue along the C-32 to the delightful town of **Sitges**. You should spare a few days for relaxing on the beaches and strolling around the streets, which inspired a generation of Catalan artists from the late 19th century.

Now in the province of **Tarragona**, you can enjoy a wonderful natural area right by the sea: the Punta de la Mora Nature Reserve. You'll love the incredible coves with crystal-clear waters

like L'Arboçar, Cala Fonda and Waikiki and there are interesting places to visit like Escipiones Tower and the Tamarit Castle. The coastal route continues along the C-31 to **Salou**, one of the most popular tourist resorts on the Costa Dorada. Along the coast you can enjoy long beaches like Levante and Playa Larga interspersed with coves with fine, golden sand. Are you looking for an equal measure of nature and tranquillity? Then you'll love the **Isle of Buda**, located at the eastern end of the Ebro Delta. It's a natural paradise for bird watching.

Take the A-7 to **Peñíscola** (Castellón, Region of Valencia). It is said to be one of the prettiest towns in Spain and is home to the Templar Castle of Papa Luna, one of the locations for *Game of Thrones*. You should visit the Sierra de Irta Nature Reserve, a bewitching place full of cliffs and little coves which are so essentially Mediterranean. You'll also pass through other beautiful towns like **Oropesa del Mar**, with excellent beaches and tourist facilities, and **Benicàssim**, with historical villas and a lively promenade.





Continue along the Mediterranean Motorway to **Valencia**, the capital of the Valencia Region, where you can spend some time exploring one of Europe's largest centres for the propagation of science and culture, the City of Arts and Sciences, and stroll through the streets

in the historical old town, the ***Ciutat Vella***, where you'll find World Heritage gems like the ***Lonja de la Seda*** or Silk Exchange.

As you continue southwards you'll come to the Alicante coast, still in the Valencia Region. You should stop in lit-



▲ ALTEA
ALICANTE

tle coves like **Denia**, **Jávea** and **Calpe**, and in the charming little town of **Altea**. You'll recognise this beautiful place as soon as you spot the two bright blue domes on the parish church.

And you really must try a good *paella*, the culinary flagship of Spain's east coast.

There is a great variety of rice dishes, seafood and fresh fish for you to try in any of the beach bars and restaurants overlooking the sea in all of these places.

📍 *Nearby airports: Barcelona-El Prats and Valencia-Manises*

Approximate distance: 538 km

BLACK TRUFFLE ROUTE, CASTELLÓN-TERUEL

The **Maestrazgo** region, which lies in Castellón and Teruel (Valencia Region and Aragón Region respectively), is home to one of the great chefs' most coveted ingredients: the black truffle, an edible fungi whose aroma exalts the flavour of any dish. The best time to travel in this area is in winter, to coincide with the season when this culinary delight is harvested.



MORELLA
CASTELLÓN

Morella is the focal point on this itinerary where you'll be driving along picturesque roads surrounded by fields of grain. From January to March a number of Black Truffle Forums are held in this town, a unique opportunity for you to sample the themed menus prepared by local restaurants. This lovely medieval town is dominated by a castle (it's worth climbing up to the top to look out over the Els Ports region) and has 14th-century medieval walls.

13 kilometres from Morella, along the N-232, you'll find the **Bosque de Pereroles**, a splendid pine forest ideal for taking long walks. In these spectacular natural surroundings, right up in the hills, you can spend a night in one of the refuges and enjoy all kinds of adventure sports.

Take a detour to Vallibona or Castell de Cabres towards the **Tinença de Benifassà Nature Reserve**, with spectacular peaks, mountain passes and

incredible ravines. There you'll often see golden eagles, peregrine falcons and griffon vultures, as this is a Special Area for the Protection of Birds (ZEPA in Spanish).

If you turn south along the CV-12 you'll come to the precipitous mountains around **Ares del Maestre**, a picturesque little village with a Templar past and located over 1,200 metres above sea level. The hill is crowned by a magnificent lookout point. Very near here, you'll be able to visit the cave paintings in the Remigia Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The point of access is on the CV-15, the same road which later links up with the detour towards **Benassal**. In its historical old town you can visit the La Mola complex where you'll see remains of the old wall and a gateway with a Moorish arch.

Nearby you'll find the **El Rivet Natural Area**, a beautiful oak forest with pleasant routes and pathways from which you can observe birds of prey. It'll only take you a few minutes to get to **Culla**, with an old town which has been officially designated a historical complex and a Site of Cultural Interest. Apart from being a well-preserved walled enclosure, this town has a hundreds-of-years-old holm oak tree officially listed by the Valencia Region as a Monumental Tree. For the final stop on your tour we recommend climbing up to the El Terrat lookout point where you can see the Mediterranean in the distance on a clear day.

📍 **Nearby airports: Valencia-Manises, Zaragoza and Reus**

Approximate distance: 64 km



TINENÇA DE BENIFASSÀ NATURE RESERVE
CASTELLÓN

ROUTE OF DON QUIXOTE

Would you like to visit the places where the witty nobleman created by Miguel de Cervantes fought against windmills and experienced his knightly adventures? On our route you will in follow his footsteps through centuries-old towns, legendary castles, vineyards and areas of natural beauty in Castile-La Mancha.

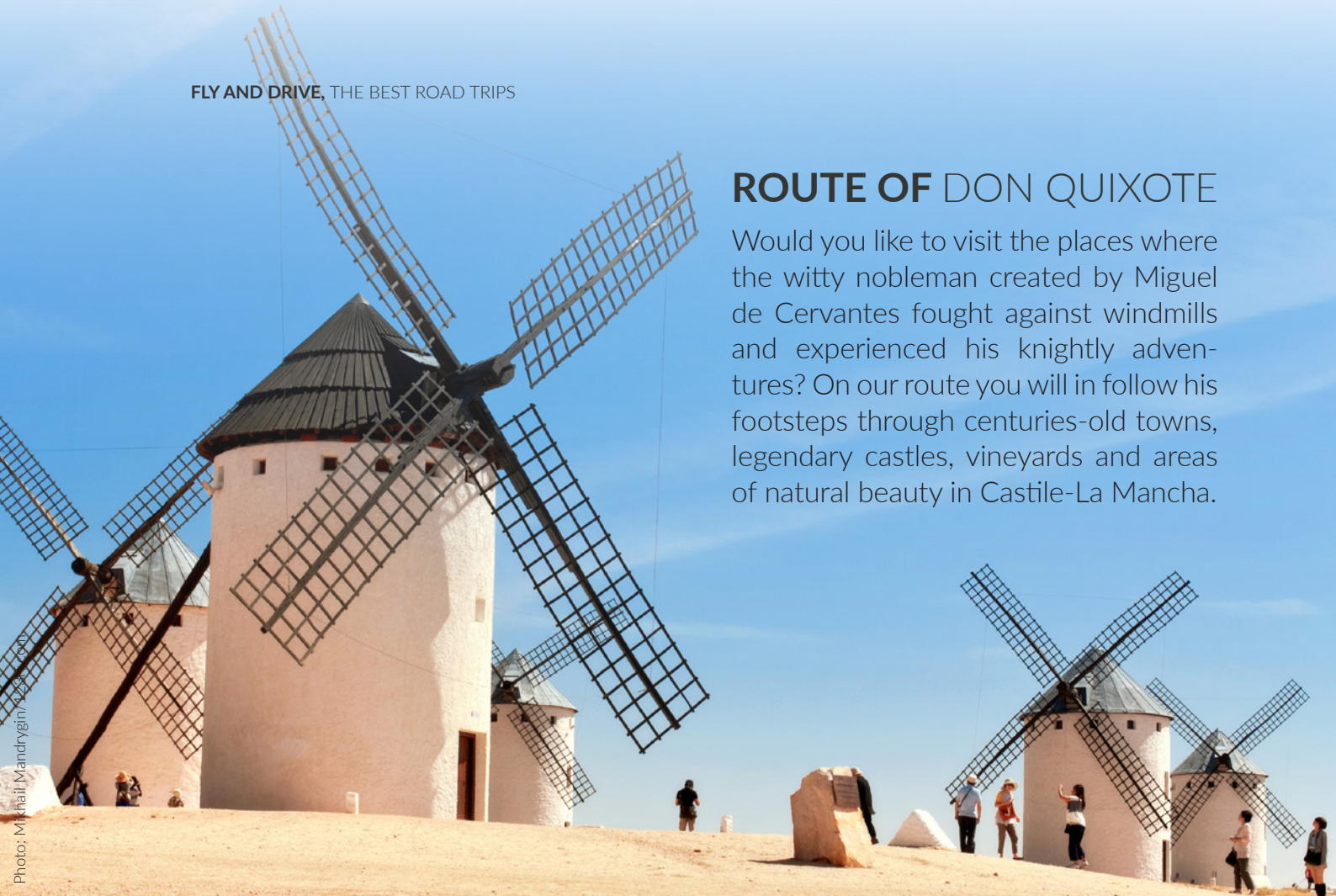


Photo: Mikhail Mandrygin/235.com

▲ CAMPO DE CRIPTANA
CIUDAD REAL

The itinerary starts in **Toledo**, the capital of the Castile-La Mancha Region and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For the best panoramic view of the city you should go up to the El Valle Lookout Point, on the ring road called Ronda del Valle.

Turn off onto the CM-42 to **Campo de Criptana** (Ciudad Real). Here you'll see the huge windmills that Don Quixote confused with giants in one of the book's most famous passages. You can't miss their unmistakable outline high over the town. Of the ten which remain, three have preserved their original 16th-century workings and the others are now small museums.

18 kilometres from here you'll find **El Toboso** (Toledo), the home of Dulcinea, El Quixote's great love. In the Cervantes Museum there they have numerous special editions of this literary masterpiece. Nearby you have **Belmonte** (Cuenca), where there is a spectacular medieval castle, and **Alcázar de San Juan** (Ciudad Real), with ancestral homes from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

Continue southwards to **Ossa de Montiel** (Albacete) where you can recreate two of the book's most famous scenes: Montesinos Cave and the Castle of Rochafriada. Then visit **Villanueva de los Infantes** which boasts an extraordinary architectural heritage.

The route then continues to the solitary Montizón Castle, in **Villamanrique** (Ciudad Real) and on to **Valdepeñas**, and its wonderful vineyards where you can taste Designation of Origin wines.

Following the valley of the Acer River you come to the **Campo de Calatrava** region and arrive in **Almagro**, whose important historic-artistic attractions include the Plaza Mayor and the spectacular 17th-century courtyard theatre known as the Corral de Comedias.

In this same region you could also visit towns like **Puertollano**, with mining connections, and **Calzada de Calatrava** where you'll find the ruins of Salvatierra Castle.

Still in the province of Ciudad Real, your journey ends in **Argamasilla de Alba**. There you'll have a chance to visit the Casa de Medrano cave where they say the writer was a prisoner and started to write his masterpiece.

During your journey you can sample typical gastronomy associated with Cervantes. For example, the dish that he immortalised in his work called **Duelos y Quebrantos**, consisting of scrambled eggs, ham and pork fat.

📍 *Arrival and departure airport:*
Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas
Approximate distance: 600 km

While you're here you should visit the Tablas de Daimiel National Park, one of Europe's unique wetlands and on the migratory route for thousands of birds.

▼ TABLAS DE DAIMIEL NATIONAL PARK
CIUDAD REAL



CHERRY BLOSSOM IN THE JERTE VALLEY

Cherry blossom flooding the delightful **Jerte Valley** (Cáceres) with white flowers is a spectacular sight. To enjoy both this and the local cuisine your best bet is to tour the towns in the valley along this linear route which follows the N-110 parallel to the Jerte River, from Navaconcejo to the Tornavacas mountain pass.

► JERTE VALLEY
CÁCERES



Navaconcejo, where so many cherries are produced, features typical wooden mountain dwellings with overhanging balconies and La Fábrica, formerly a 17th-century wool and fabric factory which is now a Cultural Centre.

Your next stop will be **Cabezuela del Valle**, a town officially designated a Historical-Cultural Asset where you can visit the Cherry Museum.

Very near to **Jerte** you'll find the **Garganta de los Infiernos Nature Reserve**, with spectacular waterfalls and natural pools. Park your vehicle and take some time to visit this amazing natural area.

In **Tornavacas**, the northernmost town in the Jerte Valley, you'll see the source of the river which gives life to the valley as well as its name. This section of

the road is especially pretty, as it takes you between the extraordinary Gredos and Sierra de Béjar mountain ranges. At the highest point in the Puerto de Tornavacas mountain pass there is a splendid lookout point: a natural balcony with wonderful views over the whole Jerte Valley.

The dates when the cherry trees blossom vary each year depending on the winter weather. Check the official Valle del Jerte Tourist Office website for the best time to visit the area.

Apart from its cherries, this region is also renowned for the quality of its cold-pork products.

① **Nearest airport:**
Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas
Approximate distance: 30 km



ALPUJARRA MOUNTAINS IN GRANADA

Enjoy the peaceful mountain atmosphere in the Granada Alpujarra mountains. You'll love driving through the beautiful countryside and exploring some of the prettiest towns and villages in inland Andalusia. Rugged mountains, white-washed villages and olive groves are a feature of this region full of traditions.

▼ ALPUJARRA
GRANADA



From your starting point in the beautiful city of **Granada** take the A-44 and turn off towards **Lanjarón**, the gateway to the Alpujarra Granadina. This romantic spa with medicinal thermal waters is the ideal place to relax. A winding road leads to **Órgiva**, the capital of the lower Alpujarra, on the banks of the Guadalfeo River. The first thing you'll notice is the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Expectación and its amazing towers.

10 kilometres from Órgiva, along the picturesque A-4132, you'll find **Soportújar**, a destination with links to mystery and witchcraft. Visit the Embrujo Lookout Point, in the main square, guarded by two witches and their cauldron in the form of a fountain, and the La Era de los Aquelarres lookout point, from which you can look out over the Órgiva valley and the Mediterranean Sea. From this town you can also take a very minor road to somewhere very special: a Buddhist centre for those in search of silence, meditation and tranquillity.





▲ ALPUJARRA
GRANADA

Follow the **Poqueira** ravine to reach the upper Alpujarra. There you'll find **Pampaneira**, **Bubi6n** and **Capileira**, three picturesque villages with typical Alpujarra architecture and places selling leather, pottery and textile handicrafts.

Then on to **Trev6lez**, one of the highest towns in Spain. In this little town you'll have incredible views of the Sierra Nevada. Your journey continues along the A-4132 through towns like **Juviles**, **Mecina Bombar6n**, **Yegen**, **V6lor** and

Puerto de la Ragua. In all of them they serve excellent ham.

You can make the return trip along the A-438 which crosses the Alpujarra a little further to the south. Here you'll find towns like **Y6tor**, **C6diar** and the beautiful white-washed village of **Torvizc6n**.

① **Nearby airports:**

Granada/Ja6n-Federico Garc6a Lorca and Almer6a

Approximate distance: 109 km

A JOURNEY TO EXPLORE THE BEACHES OF CÁDIZ

Wind down the windows and enjoy the sea breeze while you drive along the Cádiz coast, a natural paradise with a selection of incredible beaches where you can leave all your stress behind. Explore the white-washed villages and unspoiled beaches surrounded by nature where you can relax or enjoy your favourite water sports. You'll need to take the A-480 and take detours along minor local roads.

Your journey starts in **Jerez del la Frontera**, the capital of the *Sherry* region, and takes you towards the Costa

de la Luz, where the Atlantic Ocean and places like **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** await you. On summer evenings in August, the beaches here are the extraordinary setting for the longest-standing horse races in Spain.

You'll simply love **Cádiz**, a bright, white city, the oldest in Western Europe, and its beautiful bay and narrow streets with white houses, in neighbourhoods dotted with ancient watchtowers. You really should visit the Baroque and Neoclassical cathedral.

▼ PLAYA DE LA CALETA
CÁDIZ



There are places in a wonderful setting, like **Conil de la Frontera**. Here you'll find the incredible beach of El Palmar, with crystal-clear waters and protected by its beautiful surroundings. If you're looking for somewhere more private and unspoiled, then the **Roche** cliffs are interspersed with lovely coves linked by a pathway, some of them only accessible at low tide and thanks to stairways carved out of the rock.





One of the essential features is the Cala de los Alemanes, a beautiful cove with natural pools amongst the rocks protected by a natural breakwater.

▲ ZAHARA DE LOS ATUNES
CÁDIZ

You'll discover the true flavour of Andalusia in fishing villages like **Zahara de los Atunes**. You should try the typical *pescaito frito* (little fried fish) and the exquisite net-trapped tuna fish, and the variety of beaches means there is something for everyone.

Drive on to **Tarifa**, take a stroll along the kilometre-long **Playa de Bolonia**, surrounded by pine trees and enormous dunes of fine white sand. While you're here on the coast you really should visit the ancient Roman city of **Baelo Claudia**. The **Playa de Valdevaqueros** will also surprise you, especially if you love *windsurfing* and *kitesurfing*.

You can continue your journey by going inland to the white-washed villages in the Sierra de Cádiz, a wonderful *road trip* along winding lanes in spectacular surroundings and passing through 19 towns, including **Arcos de La Frontera**, **Algodonales**, **TorreAlháquime**, **Grazalema** and **Benamahoma**. These towns are a reflection of their Moorish legacy, with the white-washed walls of their houses often blending with the rocks themselves.

📍 **Nearby airports:**

Jerez de la Frontera-Jerez la Parra, Seville and Málaga-Costa del Sol

Approximate distance: 204 km

Further information:

www.cadizturismo.es



THE ISLAND OF MALLORCA FROM THE SEA TO THE MOUNTAINS

Spectacular inland landscapes, villages with charm, pre-historic ruins, coves bathed by turquoise-blue waters... These are just some of the delights you'll find in the Balearic Islands.





▲ PUERTO DE ANDRATX
MALLORCA

It is easy to create your own itinerary, but it's a great idea to combine the best panoramic views on the coast with the rugged mountain landscapes in the Sierra de Tramontana which you can cross along the Ma-10 highway.

From the city of **Palma**, take the road to **Puigpunyent** where the show begins. Surrounded by great pinewoods and incredible mountains, this little town is the start of a fascinating route through the interior of the island.

Relax and take your own time as the road winds between sheer cliffs. You can take a detour to the coastal town of **Banyalbufar** and enjoy the beaches, or go as far as **Valldemossa**, sheltered

by the Tramontana peaks, with narrow, cobbled streets and squares decorated with flowers. There you'll find the Real Cartuja, formerly a monastery and where the Polish composer Chopin lived with the French authoress George Sand.

At the western end of the island you'll find the district of Andratx, surrounded by mountains and with picturesque fishing villages like **Puerto de Andratx**.

Continue along the Ma-10 parallel to the coast and stop at lookout points like **Sa Foradada** where you can enjoy the Mediterranean's blue horizon. Your next stop will be **Deià**, a little town with beautiful beaches, woods and olive groves which became a refuge for

many illustrious characters including the Archduke Ludwig Salvator of Austria and the composer, Manuel de Falla.

The route continues to the north until you reach **Sóller**. You'll be surprised by the monumental parish church of Sant Bartomeu and you can take the old tramway to the port of Sóller, another essential feature of your trip through Mallorca.

The Tramontana mountain range is over 100 kilometres long but it is very narrow, so during your journey you'll get extraor-

dinary panoramic views of the inland valleys and mountains as well of the gullies and ravines leading down to the sea. This becomes especially clear on the road to **Pollença**, another delightful town with a lively port and a historical old town with a medieval flavour. Before you get there, turn off towards **Sa Calobra** and drive down a spectacular, winding road ending at one of the most extraordinary places on the island: a spectacular cliff over a wonderful cove with a pebble beach where the Torrent del Pareis natural monument meets the sea.



Then you should visit the **Monastery of Lluc**, the spiritual heart of the island. It is 400 metres above sea level, in the town of **Escorca**. Inside you'll find the Virgen de Lluc, the patron saint of Mallorca, known as "La Moreneta" because of her dark skin.

Then you arrive at **Cabo de Formentor**, the northernmost point on Mallorca. You can climb up to the **Es Colomer** lookout point or visit the Formentor lighthouse and take a photograph for an unforgettable memory of your journey. If you continue northwards before returning to Palma, you'll see how the landscape becomes more and more rugged and the vegetation gives way to the immense blue of the Mediterranean.

📍 *Nearby airports:*

Palma de Mallorca

Approximate distance: 89 km

THE ISLAND OF TENERIFE AND ITS NATURAL WONDERS

Tenerife has untold value for lovers of unspoiled nature. As you drive around the winding roads you might well think it's a dream: volcanic landscapes, sheer cliffs, tropical beaches and jungles all exist in perfect harmony in this island with such strong contrasts.

▼ TEIDE NATIONAL PARK
TENERIFE



LOS GIGANTES CLIFFS
TENERIFE



Take the TF-21 to reach the centre of the island and the **Teide National Park**, an enormous inactive volcano whose peak at 3,718 metres is the highest in Spain. There you'll find numerous volcanic cones and lava flows. In areas like **Pico Viejo**, another volcano with an altitude of over 3,000 metres, you'll see a fascinating array of extraordinary colours and shapes which look more like Mars than the Earth.

If you like a challenge you could try climbing to the top of the Teide, a unique ex-

perience. However, it's quicker and more comfortable by cable car, which can be reached by road from **La Orotava**.

If you cross right through the national park you'll reach the opposite corner of the island where nature speaks for itself the **cliffs of Los Gigantes**. You'll need to take the TF-38 and then the TF-1. Known by the *Guanches* (the indigenous inhabitants of the Canary Islands) as the "**Muralla del Infierno**" or the Wall of Hell, they are sheer cliffs tumbling down to the Atlantic from between 300



and 600 metres. Here you can stop for a rest or take a dip on one of the nearby beaches like the Playa de los Guíos where you'll have a fantastic view of this natural phenomenon.

The next stage of your journey through the natural delights of Tenerife is the **Teno Rural Park**, which is accessible via the TF-436 highway. The Teno is a volcanic range with huge coastal cliffs and lookout points for watching extraordinary birds like ospreys, kestrels and peregrine falcons.



▲ SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA
TENERIFE

From there, take the TF-5 towards **San Cristóbal de La Laguna** (a World Heritage City) and visit the western side of the island where you'll find the **Anaga Rural Park**. Park your vehicle at one of the lookout points and explore the pathways through the magical laurel forests, a pre-historic natural gem in this subtropical region. From high up you'll be able to see the **Roques de Anaga**, a series of islets rising like two titans in front of the Tenerife coast.

📍 **Nearby airports: Tenerife Sur**

Approximate distance: 152 km

Further information:

www.webtenerife.com

SLOW DRIVING ARAGÓN CHOOSE AN IDEAL ROUTE

Aragón is a really beautiful region in inland Spain which is promoting *slow tourism*. Travel along minor roads, take your time and enjoy the villages and incredible natural features suggested by this *Slow Driving Aragón* initiative, with seven routes covering the whole territory. Here are three examples, on the website you'll find full details and the other suggested routes.

► SADABA
ZARAGOZA



Photo: Aragón Tourist Board



LOARRE
HUESCA

Photo: Aragón Tourist Board

The **Castles Route** takes you through the regions of Cinco Villas and La Hoya de Huesca/Plana de Uesca. Churches, medieval fortresses and incredible examples of Romanesque art is what you'll find along this route which will take about three and a half hours. You won't forget the beauty of towns like **Sos del Rey Católico** and **Uncastillo** (Zaragoza) in a hurry.

The **Puertos del Silencio** or Gateways of Silence route in the province of Teruel takes you through delightful walled towns with castles, medieval bridges and Romanesque and Gothic churches. This five-hour itinerary runs through the El Maestrazgo region and the mountains and valleys of the Gúdar-Javalambre district.

The **Origins of the Kingdom of Aragón** Route can be done in about two and a half hours and takes you through the green valleys of Hecho and Ansó in the heart of the Aragón Pyrenees. You'll stop in incredible places like the Monastery of San Juan de la Peña, in Jaca (Huesca) and visit the royal mausoleum.

📍 **Nearby airports:** *Barcelona-El Prat*

Approximate distances:

Castles Route: 186 km

Gateways of Silence: 247 km

Origins of Aragón: 117 km

Further information:

www.slowdrivingaragon.com



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAIN ROADS

Spain has one of Europe's best motorway and road networks and the quality is also amongst the best.

There are ideal connections between all the cities in Spain so it is easy to combine different destinations travelling by road.

There are also national, regional, provincial and local roads, generally just two lanes, which will give you a closer look at the surroundings.

The **speed limits** are 120 kph on motorways and between 90 and 100 kph on the main roads. Keep a sharp lookout because the limit may be lower on some sections for safety reasons.

VEHICLE HIRE

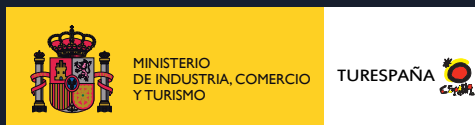
The main companies renting cars and motorbikes operate throughout the country. You can rent a vehicle at one airport and leave it at another which enables your route to be more flexible. This rental option tends to involve an additional cost.

TOLL ROADS

Some motorways are toll roads. They are easy to recognise because the number starts with AP.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Everything will be fine, Spain is one of the safest countries in Europe. There is an extensive network of health centres and hospitals throughout the country. If you need help, you can call the emergency number 112 free of charge.



 @spain

 @spain

 Spain.info

 /spain