



# SECRETS OF SPAIN

JAGUAR E-TYPE & XK CLUB

September 24<sup>th</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup> 2020



*Classics on the Road*

*Miles of Smiles*

# OVERVIEW

Some of you might have been to Spain before, but trust us when we say that the places you will visit and the roads you will drive on during this tour are unlikely to be visited by a regular tourist, Classics on the Road are based in Spain and have unique and extensive knowledge of this country.

The Iberian Peninsula is one of the places with the greatest cultural, geographical and climatic diversity in Europe. A continent in miniature as some geographers have described it, rich in history and traditions, forged over the centuries by its different inhabitants, giving it a unique and different character.

Specifically Spain has a huge diversity of landscapes, heritage and nature driving just 50 miles from one place to another. On this 11 day - 10 night tour in Spain, the routes will be across the communities of Cantabria, Castilla-León, Madrid and Extremadura, driving in some of the most beautiful back roads in Spain. The daily itineraries are designed to make the tour attractive from a landscape and cultural perspective, as well of course, gastronomically!

The route will minimise packing and unpacking as there are two consecutive nights in the hotel in Aracena and two consecutive nights in El Barco de Ávila.

What does the tour include? Visit the spectacular Monastery of El Escorial, National Parks, Merida which was one of the most important Roman Empire colonies, Jabugo Ham factory and ecological geese farm and a special meal in a hidden village where there are no restaurants and where the neighbours of the town will cook traditional food of the area for the group.

Will you join us?

## DAY 1 ARRIVAL AT BILBAO (THURSDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

The first day of the trip, the tour will take the Brittany Ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao. Members of the Classics on the Road team will be waiting at the port for the participants arriving by ferry to guide them to the first hotel, the fantastic Parador of Lerma.

This Parador, set in the upper part of the town of Lerma, is a Ducal Palace which was erected between 1601 and 1617 by Francisco de Mora under the instruction of the first Duke of Lerma, Francisco Gómez de Sandoval y Rojas. The vision for the Parador was “a place of lodging, rest and general enjoyment” for King Phillip III, a sentiment which still applies to its guests hundreds of years later.

In the Parador there will be a welcome dinner and a tour briefing from the team of Classics on the Road.

- > **Link Parador de Lerma**
- > **Total mileage 129 miles**



Brittany Ferries.





Parador Lerma.

## DAY 2 THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF PEDRAZA (FRIDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

Today an scenic route through Castile will take drivers and their companions to Segovia, where the stay will be at the Convento Capuchinos, a former monastery in the center of this World Heritage City. Before arriving to Segovia a visit and lunch to Pedraza is a must in this part of Spain.

Pedraza was declared a National Historical Heritage site in 1951 and it's easy to see why. The entire village is surrounded by a medieval wall with one crumbling door which lets visitors in and out, with no modern buildings, completely unaffected by the passing of time.

- > **Link Pedraza**
- > **Link Convento Capuchinos Hotel**
- > **Total mileage 154 miles**



Segovia.





Pedraza.



## DAY 3 SAN LORENZO DEL ESCORIAL ROYAL MONASTERY & PALACE (SATURDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER)

On the third day the tourers will enjoy driving the mountainous roads of Sierra de Guadarrama, where the views are stunning.

The morning route will finish at El Escorial Monastery in San Lorenzo de el Escorial a town in the Northwest of Madrid, where an amazing visit is scheduled.

The monastery is an impressive sight, it measures 205m (about 670ft) from north to south and 160m from east to west, with more than 2,600 windows and 1,200 doors.

Felipe II is said to have found the site on 10 August 1577, which is St Lawrence's Day and also the date of Spain's military victory over France at St Quentin. To commemorate this, the monastery is named after the saint and the parallelogram plan represents the gridiron on which he was burnt to death.

The stay will be at at Hotel Vincci Valdecañas golf.

> **Link El Escorial  
Royal Monastery  
and Palace**

> **Link Hotel Vincci  
Valdecañas Golf**

> **Total mileage 110  
miles**



San Lorenzo del Escorial Royal Monastery and Palace Library.





San Lorenzo del Escorial Royal Monastery and Palace.



## DAY 4 TRADITIONAL POTTERY AND GUADALUPE (SUNDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

An interesting guided and exclusive visit is scheduled this morning: The traditional pottery factory Cruz.

In this factory which is not a touristic place, the group will see how different ceramic products are still manufactured by hand without being disturbed by tourists.

Valdelacasa de Tajo is a hidden little town with no restaurants, so neighbors will cook a traditional local food for the tour group.

Once the lunch is over, the group will head towards Guadalupe, a charming (and UNESCO protected) town in the Las Villuercas region of Caceres, a beautiful place of cobbled streets and houses of traditional architecture.

> **Link Parador de Guadalupe**

> **Total mileage 78 miles**

The hotel for tonight will be the Parador of Guadalupe, two buildings from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries which became a Parador in 1965.



Cruz Pottery.



Parador de Guadalupe.



## DAY 5 THE WORLD'S BEST ECOLOGICAL FOIE (MONDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

Today travellers will enjoy the great scenery of Extremadura on the way to "Patería de Sousa", an ecological geese farm.

This Farm produces the first organic Foie Gras in the world. Their geese are raised in freedom in the extensive lands of the pasture of Extremadura where they enjoy a semi-wild ecosystem that covers most of the southwest of Spain.

This "Patería" is not a touristic place, the kind of visit and lunch that travellers are going to experience is special and exclusive for this group.

After the visit the route will continue to Aracena, in the heart of the Sierra de Huelva. The stay for the next two nights will be at a beautiful convent dating back to the 17th Century, and carefully restored to become a 4 star hotel.

> **Link Patería de Sousa**

> **Link Hotel Convento Aracena**

> **Total mileage 165 miles**



## DAY 6 JABUGO HAM FACTORY AND ARACENA CAVES (TUESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

A “delicious experience” is programmed this morning. From the Hotel Convento de Aracena the tourers will drive to Jabugo to visit a Ibérico ham Factory, where the group will also have lunch.

Bodega Cinco Jotas produces only Iberico Ham of the best quality, and they have implemented modern, appealing and exciting initiatives in the form of an adventurous tourism-gastronomy experience, the aim of which are to surprise visitors by giving them an unforgettable experience for the senses.

If the tourers can leave this delectable place, there is a recommended stop at Aracena Grottoes or “Gruta de las Maravillas”, an spectacular place with fantastic karstic formations very close to the hotel.

- > **Link Cinco Jotas**
- > **Total mileage 25 miles**



Bodega Cinco Jotas.





Aracena caves.



## **DAY 7** MÉRIDA, THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE CITY (WEDNESDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020)

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>, the group will have a historic visit in Mérida.

This city is the capital of Extremadura and was once also capital of the Roman province of Lusitania (as Emerita Augusta, founded 25 BC) and is still home to the most impressive and extensive Roman ruins in Spain. The ruins lie sprinkled around town, often

appearing in the most unlikely corners, and one can only wonder what still lies buried beneath the lively, modern city.

The hotel for tonight will be the Parador of Mérida.

- > **Link Mérida**
- > **Link Parador Mérida**
- > **Total mileage 92 miles**



Mérida, Roman Empire remains.





Mérida, Roman Empire Theatre.

## DAY 8 MONFRAGÜE NATIONAL PARK (THURSDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020)

Today the route will be across the beautiful National Park of Monfragüe,. This park was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2003.

Monfragüe takes its name from the Romans, who called it “Mons Fragorum”, The fragmented mountain. Difficult to access and covered by scrubland, it is the largest and best preserved stretch of Mediterranean mountain landscape in the world. The wild mountains delimiting the Tagus and Tiétar valleys are home to oak forests and Mediterranean trees and shrubs, boulders, reservoirs and streams.

Monfragüe’s forests are home to an incredible variety of fauna and is a paradise for bird watching.

Travellers will spend the next two nights at the Hotel Izan Puerta de Gredos.

- > **Link Monfragüe National Park**
- > **Link Hotel Izan Puerta de Gredos**
- > **Total mileage 152 miles**



Monfragüe National Park.





Hotel Izan Puerta de Gredos.



## DAY 9 LA ALBERCA, NATIONAL MONUMENT VILLAGE (FRIDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2020)

On Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> the drive will be along amazing mountain roads. Recommended stops are La Alberca and the Peña de Francia peak.

La Alberca is one of the most beautiful villages in Spain. Its buildings are lovely half-timber houses and in the summer they are hung with vibrant displays of geraniums and summer flowers. The main square, the Plaza Mayor, is surrounded by these lovely buildings with their columned arcades offering shelter from the bright sunshine.

Cars are not allowed into the center of the village except for those belonging to residents and so it really is like stepping back in time as you wander around this beautiful village.

- > **Link Sierra de Francia**
- > **Link La Alberca**
- > **Total mileage 120 miles**



Las Batuecas National Park.





La Alberca.



## DAY 10 TARSUS WINERY AND BURGOS (SATURDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2020)

The final destination for today will be the city of Burgos but first a guided visit and lunch will be waiting for the group at Tarsus winery.

The installations of Bodegas Tarsus, surrounded by vineyards, are enclaved in the town of Anguix, province of Burgos, part of the Ribera de Duero Designation of Origin.

Burgos, a city in Castilla-Leon situated in the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela, still preserves important vestiges of its medieval splendor. The city, which was the capital of the unified kingdom of Castilla-Leon for five centuries, boasts a masterpiece of Spanish Gothic architecture: the cathedral of Burgos.

The hotel for tonight will be NH Palacio de Burgos Hotel, just a short walk from the Cathedral.

- > **Link NH Palacio de Burgos Hotel**
- > **Link Tarsus Winery**
- > **Total mileage 174 miles**



Tarsus winery.





Burgos.



## DAY 11 CABÁRCENO NATURAL PARK (SUNDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020)

On the last day of this fantastic trip participants will enjoy driving along the beautiful Cabárceno Natural Park.

The cabarceno natural park is located in Cantabria, just 15 kilometers from Santander. It has 750 hectares for the enjoyment of animals and visitors, it was opened in June 1990.

Cabárceno Park is a different zoo where you can find hundreds of animals in semi-liberty where they can enjoy nature outdoors.

Once the visit is over, the tour will continue the drive to Santander, staying at the Hotel Real. It has astonishing views over Santander Bay, one of the most beautiful bays in Europe.

- > **Link Cabárceno Natural Park**
- > **Link Hotel Real**
- > **Total mileage 125 miles**



Cabárceno Natural Park.





Hotel Real Santander

## **DAY 12** FERRY FROM SANTANDER TO PORTSMOUTH (MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020)

On Monday September 5<sup>th</sup> drivers and their companions will board the ferry to Portsmouth, ending this Jaguar E-Type & XK Secrets of Spain Tour

- > **Link Brittany Ferries**
- > **Total mileage 2,5 miles**



Santander Harbor.



## Experiences

Stay at the historical towns of Lerma, Merida and Burgos, among others.

Discover the impressive El Escorial Royal Palace and Monastery.

Enjoy Pedraza one of the best preserved Medieval villages of Castile

Walk on the same Streets as the roman citizens did over 2000 years ago in Mérida, the old capital of Lusitania.

Drive through spectacular uncrowded roads in Navacerrada mountain pass, Sierra de Gredos, Extremadura, Sierra de Francia and Monfragüe National Park.

## Also included

Eleven nights in carefully selected 4 and 5-star hotels in Santander, Lerma, Mérida, El Barco de Ávila, Aracena and Burgos.

Seven lunches and six dinners (wine is included in every lunch and dinner).

Guided visits at Patería de Sousa (ecological geese farm), San Lorenzo del Escorial Royal Monastery and Palace, Mérida, Cabárceno Natural Park, Cinco Jotas ibérico ham factory, Tarsus winery.

*Welcome Pack* with a very comprehensive Road Book with tulip notes, maps and information of the places you will see along the way with tips of places to visit.

## Guide price

**3.450 €** per person in double room occupancy

**4.475 €** per person in single room occupancy

**\*Ferry price is not included** (The price can be provided on request if you are coming from the UK.)

Download [here](#) the Booking Form

Registration will be accepted in date order of receipt of booking form and payment of 40% deposit.

\*The hotels selected for this tour might be subject to change for other hotels of the same standard or superior standard without prior notice to the travelers.

## Contact

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