

Portugal & Spain – 2026 Solar Eclipse Journey

July 30 departure • July 31–August 16, 2026 • Lisbon • Porto • Bilbao • Burgos • Madrid

A relaxed, cultural, culinary, and scenic journey through Portugal and Northern Spain, now updated from the Day by Day itinerary. The trip is built around the Total Solar Eclipse on August 12, 2026 near Burgos, with comfortable pacing, distinctive local experiences, and practical transfer plans for a group of six.

Lisbon



Four-night arrival base with Alfama, Belém, Sintra, Chiado, and Fado.

July 31–August 3 • 4 nights

Lodging: Rua Fialho de Almeida 6, Lisbon

Highlights: Arrival day tuk-tuk tour, 1:00–4:00 PM; Belém day: Jerónimos, Discoveries Monument, Coach Museum, O Frade; Sintra day trip and Solidó Fado night

Bilbao



Compact Basque stop for Guggenheim, river walk, Artxanda views, and pintxos.

August 8–9 • 2 nights

Lodging: Hernani Kalea 7, Bilbao

Highlights: Evening arrival from Porto; Guggenheim entry between 10:00 and 10:30 AM; Artxanda Funicular and Plaza Nueva pintxos

Porto



Four nights for Ribeira, Douro Valley, Foz coast, Serralves, and tuk-tuk touring.

August 4–7 • 4 nights

Lodging: Rua Sá da Bandeira 468, Porto

Highlights: Train Lisbon Oriente → Porto, Aug 4; Douro Valley full-day tour, Aug 5; Foz tram, Serralves, tuk-tuk tour, Palácio da Bolsa

Burgos



Eclipse base with rural lodging, van transportation, old town, museum, and Cathedral.

August 10–12 • 3 nights

Lodging: Villanueva/Villalbilla de Gumiel area

Madrid



Final three nights near the historic core, Prado, palace area, and Segovia day trip.

August 13–15 • 3 nights

Lodging: C. de Concepción Jerónima 3, Madrid

Highlights: Train Burgos → Madrid, Aug 13; Historic Madrid walking tour, Aug 14; Segovia day trip by train and Bus 11, Aug 15

Travel Flow & Current Cost Snapshot

- LAX → Lisbon → Porto → Bilbao → Burgos → Madrid → LAX
- Group size: 6 travelers
- Spreadsheet-entered group total to date: \$12,800.13
- Spreadsheet-entered per-person total to date: about \$2,133.36
- Note: this reflects entered/reserved items in the Day by Day spreadsheet; personal meals, cash spending, and costs not yet entered should be budgeted separately.

Detailed Day-by-Day Itinerary

Updated to match the revised Day by Day(2).xlsx itinerary. Times shown are planning times from the spreadsheet where available.

Jul 30 — Flight: Depart LAX for Lisbon, Portugal.

Jul 31 — Lisbon Arrival: Arrive 9:05 AM, meet travelers in Terminal 1, drop bags at Rua Fialho de Almeida lodging, early lunch, private tuk-tuk tour 1:00–4:00 PM, neighborhood dinner/groceries.

Aug 1 — Belém: Jerónimos Monastery 10:30–11:45, Pastéis de Belém, Empire Square, Cultural Center, Discoveries Monument, Coach Museum 2:00–6:00 PM, dinner at O Frade.

Aug 2 — Sintra: Full-day Sintra trip, 9:00 AM–6:00 PM, including Pena Palace and Quinta da Regaleira style highlights.

Aug 3 — Lisbon Free Day: Explore Chiado and surrounding areas by metro; Solidó Fado dinner/show at 7:00 PM.

Aug 4 — Lisbon → Porto: Metro to Oriente; train 9:09 AM–11:48 AM; lunch near lodging; check in at Rua Sá da Bandeira 468; Clérigos, São Bento, Cathedral/Ribeira walk, Postigo do Carvão dinner.

Aug 5 — Douro Valley: Leave around 8:15 AM for Calçada de Vandoma meeting point; Douro Valley full-day tour 8:45 AM–6:45 PM; return to Porto lodging.

Aug 6 — Foz & Serralves: Bolt/taxi to Infante, Tram 1 to Passeio Alegre, Foz waterfront and lighthouse views, Serralves Museum/Villa/Park/Treetop Walk, optional lunch near Serralves or Matosinhos.

Aug 7 — Porto Tuk-Tuk & Bolsa: GetYourGuide tuk-tuk tour 9:30 AM–12:30 PM; Palácio da Bolsa guided visit and relaxed Porto time.

Aug 8 — Porto → Bilbao: Van/coastal Porto-area day after checkout, return vehicle at Porto Airport by about 6:00 PM, evening flight to Bilbao, transfer to Hernani Kalea 7 lodging.

Aug 9 — Bilbao: 9:00 AM walk from Hernani Kalea: Teatro Arriaga, river walk, Zubizuri, Guggenheim exterior, museum entry 10:00–10:30, lunch, optional Fine Arts/Doña Casilda Park, Artxanda Funicular, Plaza Nueva pintxos.

Aug 10 — Bilbao → Burgos: Taxi/Uber to Bilbao Intermodal for ALSA bus to Burgos; pick up Enterprise van; drive south to rural lodging in Villanueva/Villalbilla de Gumiel area.

Aug 11 — Burgos: Drive to Burgos; Museum of Human Evolution at 10:00 AM, old town/lunch, Burgos Cathedral at 2:30 PM, then scout eclipse-viewing location.

Aug 12 — Solar Eclipse Day: Stay flexible near lodging or selected viewing site, use eclipse glasses, water, shade, and an easy schedule; prepare for early departure next morning.

Aug 13 — Burgos → Madrid: Leave rural lodging 7:00–7:30 AM, return van and reach Burgos Rosa Manzano station; train 9:34 AM–11:28 AM to Madrid, transfer to Concepción Jerónima lodging; Prado/Retiro/Gran Vía if energy allows.

Aug 14 — Madrid: Historic Madrid walking tour from lodging: Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Mercado de San Miguel, Plaza de la Villa, Plaza de la Paja, Almudena Cathedral, Royal Palace, Sabatini Gardens, lunch/rest.

Aug 15 — Segovia Day Trip: Walk to Sol, Cercanías to Chamartín, train 9:25–9:51 AM to Segovia-Guiomar, Bus 11 to Aqueduct, old town walk, José María lunch, Cathedral, Alcázar, taxi to station, return train 6:27 PM.

Aug 16 — Return Home: Uber/Bolt to Madrid airport; flights to the U.S. depart around 12:40 PM and 1:35 PM.

Estimated / Entered Costs

- Group lodging, tickets, tours, train/bus, rental and transfer items entered in spreadsheet.
- Current entered total: \$12,800.13 group / \$2,133.36 per person.
- Add separate allowance for meals not prepaid, snacks, cash, taxis not entered, and personal spending.

Trip Themes

- History and architecture
- Food, wine, and local dining
- Coastal landscapes and riverfront walks
- Museums and art
- Small towns and eclipse travel

Key Planning Advantages

- Eclipse lodging already secured
- Four-night pacing in Lisbon and Porto
- Bilbao kept compact and walkable
- Rural Burgos van plan supports eclipse logistics
- Madrid base works well for Segovia train access