

Friday · August 18th, 2023 - Sunday · September 24th, 2023

# London, Spain and Portugal

Itinerary for Steve and Susan McNae

Friday · August 18th	Fly Auckland to London
Sunday · August 20th	TBA Decided London Accommodation (7 nights)
Monday · August 21st	Things to do in London
Sunday · August 27th	Fly London to San Sebastian or Bilbao Arrival in San Sebastian
Monday · August 28th	Basque Country Wine and Cheese Tour
Tuesday · August 29th	San Sebastian - choice of activities
Wednesday · August 30th	San Sebastian for Bilbao
Thursday · August 31st	Day in Bilbao to Porto
Friday · September 1st	Full day in Porto
Saturday · September 2nd	Porto for Lisbon via Tomar
Sunday · September 3rd	Lisbon full day
Monday · September 4th	Lisbon to Algarve Coast via Sintra
Tuesday · September 5th	
Friday · September 8th	Algarve Coast to Seville
Saturday · September 9th	Seville
Sunday · September 10th	Seville - Day trip to Gibraltar
Monday · September 11th	Seville to Cordoba via Ronda
Tuesday · September 12th	Cordoba to Granada
Wednesday · September 13th	Granada
Thursday · September 14th	Granada to Madrid
Friday · September 15th	Madrid - Day out to Toledo

Saturday · September 16th	Madrid
Sunday · September 17th	Madrid to Barcelona
Monday · September 18th	Barcelona
Tuesday · September 19th	Barcelona day trip to Monserrat
Wednesday · September 20th	Barcelona
Thursday · September 21st	Barcelona
Friday · September 22nd	Barcelona to Auckland
Sunday · September 24th	Arrive Auckland

Friday · August 18th

Fly Auckland to London

Sunday · August 20th

TBA Decided London Accomodation

Aug 20

Check-in

Aug 27

Check-out

7 nights

Duration

#### Room Selection

##### Room Notes

I am thinking central location either hotel or apartment for 7 nights

Monday · August 21st



Things to do in London

Image credits: Jurica Koletić on Unsplash

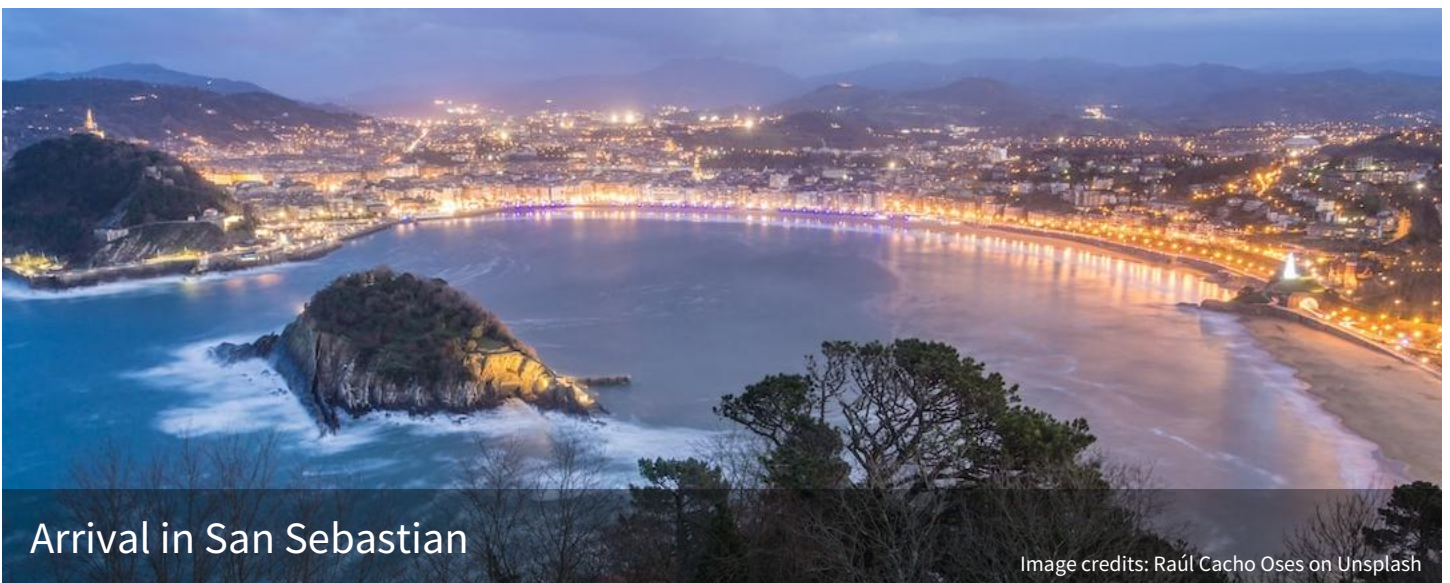
Things to do in London many and varied  
Museums (many are free)

Tower of London  
Changing of the Guard  
Churchills Cabinet War Rooms  
London Eye  
Hop on Hop off Bus  
Day trip to Stonehenge and Bath  
Day Trip to Windsor Castle  
West End Shows  
Walking tours maybe food tours  
Lots of other things, but need to start somewhere

Sunday · August 27th

## Fly London to San Sebastian or Bilbao

Fly from London to Basque Country



### Arrival in San Sebastian

Image credits: Raúl Cacho Oses on Unsplash

The Concha beach and the old quarter will delight you. Today, after you arrive, you'll enjoy a "pintxos" tour. Your local guide will take you to the old quarter where he'll explain you what to see in the old quarter and give a local view of the city. Meanwhile he'll take you hopping from bar to bar, a thing Spanish people do, tasting different pintxos (small portions of food) that will let you try the local food in small bites.



Monday · August 28th



## Basque Country Wine and Cheese Tour

Image credits: Pixabay

Txakoli wine tasting in a family run winery and meet the cheesemaker of the Michelin restaurants. On the hills of the stunningly beautiful Txakoli wine region, are the vineyards of the charming family owned winery you'll be visiting. Discover their famed Txakoli wines, made with local grapes varieties that grow on terraces overlooking the sea; After learning about the special production way of this wine, you will taste the wine accompanied by local tuna, chilli peppers and chorizo! Having set the mood with these savory visit, you'll be just about ready for lunch. Today it will be by the sea, in one of the typical grilled fish restaurants at the harbor of the captivating fishing town of Getaria. Before lunch, go into town and take pleasure in a relaxing stroll with your guide through the enchanting Medieval streets of the center, and the picturesque color and charm of the fisherman's houses with their beautiful wooden balconies. The town's location, perched on the hills overlooking the sea, offers spectacular views that will stay in your memory forever. As dessert, you will savor the exceptional quality of another culinary icon of the area, Idiazabal cheese. You will visit a traditional artisan cheese producer high in the rolling Basque hills. The owner will show you around, you will take an intimate insight into the production, followed by a tasting of six artisan cheeses. Please understand this cheese factory is very small and some times they are producing so the visit is not possible. Should that happen, you'll be taken to some villages in the area and will be offered a tasting of different local cheeses

Tuesday · August 29th

## San Sebastian - choice of activities

Either day at leisure or cross the boarder and visit Biarritz in France for the day  
Today you'll be taken to Biarritz and some of the most beautiful coastal villages of the french Basque Coast including Hendaia, Saint Jean de Luz and Hondarribia. The traditional buildings called "caseros" and the lovely beaches and coastal paths around will delight you. Of course you'll be taken to a great local restaurant for lunch



Wednesday · August 30th



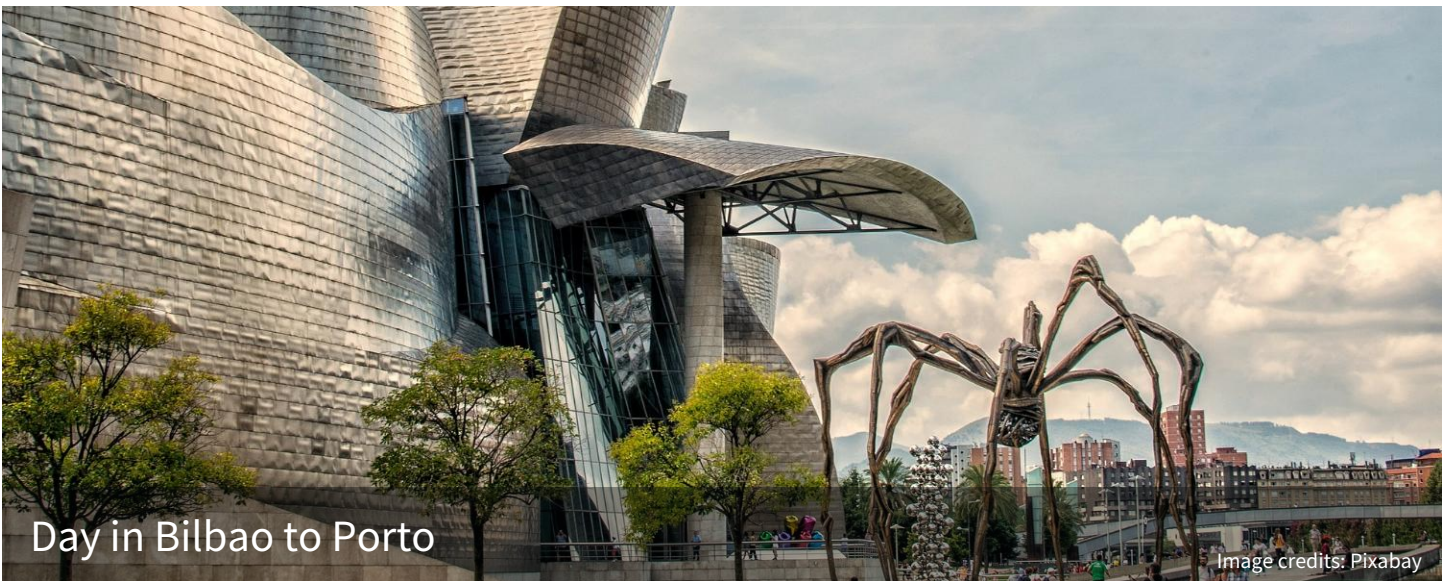
## San Sebastian for Bilbao

Image credits: Pixabay

About a 1 hr to 90 min drive from San Sebastian to Bilbao

Today on arrival you'll have a private guided walking tour through the old quarter with a local guide. His local perspective will delight you. He'll also discover you some hidden places and secrets you'll love to know. Tonight a dinner at a michelin starred restaurant will be arranged

Thursday · August 31st



## Day in Bilbao to Porto

Image credits: Pixabay

Today free time in Bilbao and a visit to the Guggenheim Museum

Flights - Vueling Airlines Direct service Bilbao to Oporto Depart 1845 Arrive 1900



Friday · September 1st



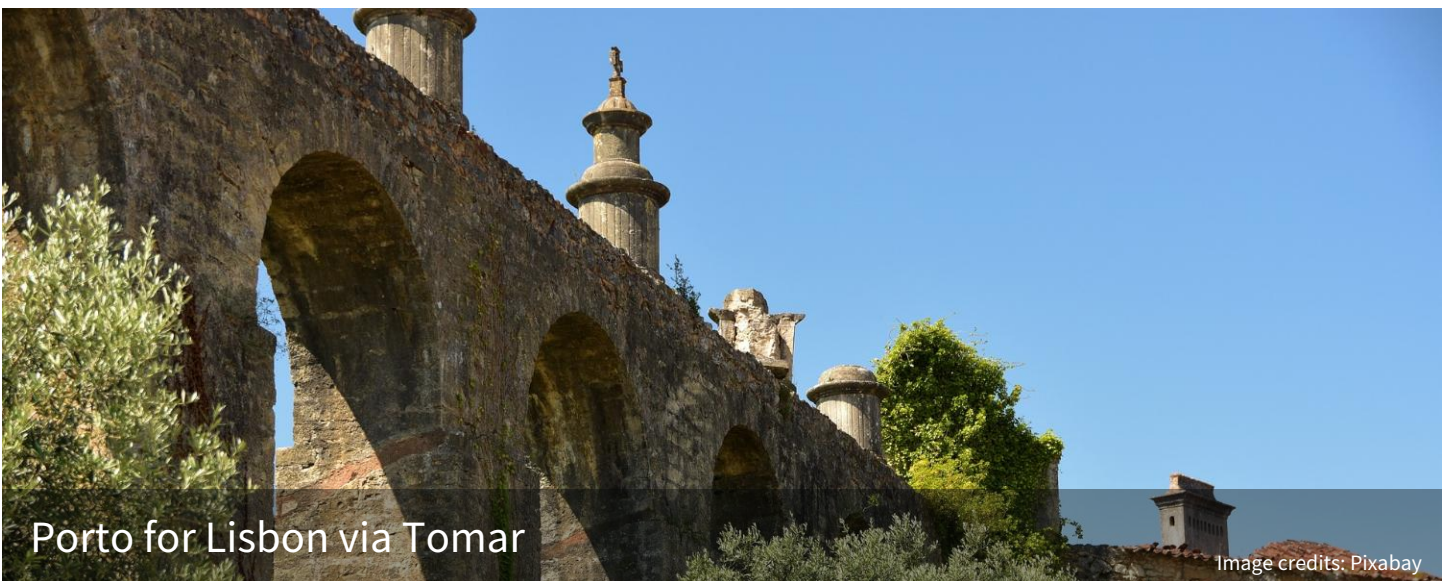
## Full day in Porto

Today you'll discover the amazing city of Porto. Start this walking tour, by visiting some historical monuments. S. Bento Station, with its atrium lined with tiles, is a great way to start! Just ahead is the Cathedral followed by Clérigos Tower, worth climbing for a different view of Porto. Don't forget to stop in the Lello bookshop, that inspired some of the Harry Potter stories. Then pop in to the Café Majestic for a break. Continue south and descend by steps and mediaeval streets to Ribeira with its café terraces and picturesque corners.

Free afternoon to explore the city on your own.

(Port tastings might be on the agenda on this day?)

Saturday · September 2nd



## Porto for Lisbon via Tomar

Pick up car for self drive

Drive to Lisbon via Tomar on this day (about 300km total)

Make a Stop in Tomar, the Templar City. Go to the Templar castle and discover the monumental work of the Convent of Christ learning how the Order of the Knights Templar became the Order of Christ, upholding their power, knowledge and wealth in Portugal

Continue to onto Lisbon (about another hours drive)



Sunday · September 3rd



## Lisbon full day

In the morning, with a walking tour, you'll discover Lisbon. Lisbon, the city of the seven hills, will seduce you in every neighbourhood, on every street. It's old. It's modern. It is, without doubt, always surprising. It's a cosmopolitan city with so much to see and do that it is difficult to have enough time to see everything you want. For today, we suggest a selection of things from amongst all those you can do, which cannot be missed in the Portuguese capital. Start with the historic Alfama and Castelo districts, with one of the most fabulous views over the city and the river. In Chiado and Bairro Alto, the most bohemian part of the town, stroll around, feel the atmosphere and do some shopping. In the evening, have a typical dinner at a Fado house while enjoying a Fado performance.

Plus make sure you eat the famous Portuguese Tarts!!

Monday · September 4th



## Lisbon to Algarve Coast via Sintra

In the morning travel about 30-45min to Sintra, the Mountain of the Moon, is a place full of magic and mystery. The town and the northern slope of the Serra de Sintra has wonderful natural characteristics and impressive historic landmarks, which you'll discover with a guided tour. It's difficult to see all of Sintra has to offer in one single day, so our suggestion goes to one of the most romantic palaces in Portugal, the Pena Palace, a fancy, revivalist reconstruction built in the Romantic period.

In the afternoon drive down to the Algarve Coast about 300km so should take 3-4 hours

Arrive Algarve stay 4 nights

Beach, Pool, Golf opportunities abound....free time



Tuesday · September 5th



Image credits: Dan Gold on Unsplash

Friday · September 8th

## Algarve Coast to Seville

Depart Algarve should take about 2 hours

Arrive Seville Late Afternoon private walking tour of the City

Saturday · September 9th

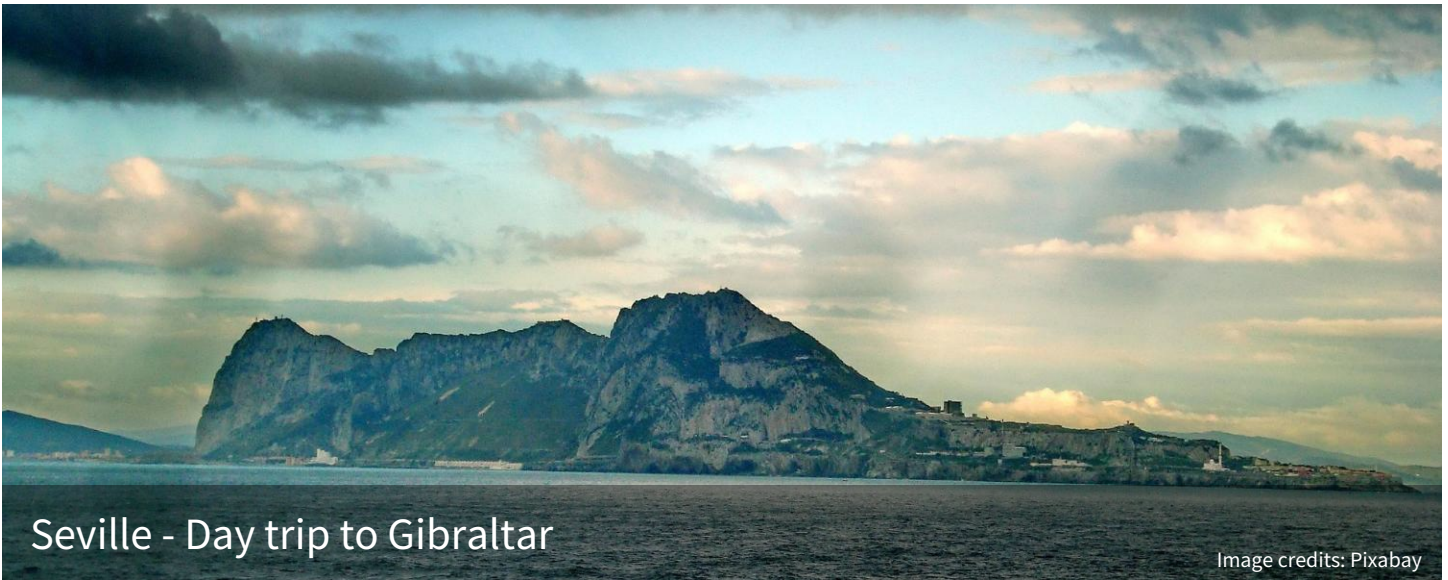


Image credits: Pixabay

private tour departing from your hotel in Sevilla. a local guide, will pick you up and take you to visit the famous so called “white villages” before going to an equestrian show with andalusian horses in the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art. Later you will be taken to a winery in Jerez to taste the popular sherry wines. You can have lunch at the winery before returning to your hotel in the evening



Sunday · September 10th



## Seville - Day trip to Gibraltar

Image credits: Pixabay

Day trip to Gibraltar about 2 hour drive

Visit the monkeys on the “Rock” and stroll around the very British streets of Gibraltar

Monday · September 11th



## Seville to Cordoba via Ronda

Image credits: Pixabay

Drive to via Ronda Cordoba in the morning takes about 60 min

On arrival do a tour of Ronda (best example of a bull ring around and historic viaduct/bridges are outstanding can arrange a guided tour [here](#)).

Then in the afternoon, another 90min for the drive to Cordoba and maybe do a late walking tour of Cordoba

A private guided walking tour through the jewish quarter will be organized for you. Your local guide has a tremendous expertise of the city. You'll visit the synagogue, the Alcazar, the arab baths and of course the great and magnificent Mosque-Cathedral unique in the world

Plus dinner recommendations for this evening



Tuesday · September 12th



## Cordoba to Granada

Image credits: Pixabay

In your own time make your way to Granada

This afternoon a private guided walking tour through two of the most emblematic neighborhoods, that is Albayzin and Sacromonte.

Wednesday · September 13th



## Granada

Image credits: Pixabay

Private tour with your local guide to the Alhambra. It is one of the experiences you won't want to miss if you visit this city but be careful!!, tickets must be booked in advance, sometimes more than 3 months in advance..The Alhambra ("The Red One") is a palace and fortress complex. It was originally constructed as a small fortress in AD 889 on the remains of Roman fortifications, and then largely ignored until its ruins were renovated and rebuilt in the mid-13th century by the Nasrid emir Mohammed ben Al-Ahmar of the Emirate of Granada, who built its current palace and walls.

Rest of day at leisure



Thursday · September 14th



## Granada to Madrid

Image credits: Pixabay

Drop car off.

Train from Granada to Madrid about 3-4 hours...

In the evening after your arrival in Madrid, a private guide walking tour through the old quarter, Madrid of Augsburg's. Your local guide will be able to show you not only the touristy places but also those hidden corners you wouldn't discover if no one tells you about them.

Friday · September 15th



## Madrid - Day out to Toledo

Image credits: Pixabay

Roundtrip high speed train tickets to Toledo. Toledo, the city of the Three cultures since muslims, jews and christians lived there together and that can be noticed in the buildings, traditions and even the food. A private guided walking (and partially driven) tour will be arranged

Will arrange recommendations for dinner this evening



Saturday · September 16th



Image credits: Pixabay

Day at leisure

In the evening

Madrid Flamenco experience, will pick you up at your hotel to take you to a special Flamenco show. Before it starts, the expert will talk to you explaining the different kind of “palos” (kinds of Flamenco), what the artists express with each one, the artists you'll be about to see and a very good introduction to flamenco. While the show is happening the expert makes explanations and tips to what you are seeing and after the show he summarizes everything and solves all the questions you have about Flamenco and the show.

Sunday · September 17th



Image credits: Pixabay

Train from Madrid to Barcelona

Depending on your arrival time you'll get a guided tour to see the most impressive works of Gaudi including tickets skip the line for the sagrada Familia and Parc Güell. You'll also see the exteriors of Casa Batlló and Casa Milá, two other great works of this wonderful architect. For dinner you'll visit the "spanish village" in Barcelona, a small corner where you'll see a little bit of all Spain where you'll find handcrafts, and buildings of each of the areas of Spain



Monday · September 18th

## Barcelona

Day at leisure in Barcelona

Tuesday · September 19th



Image credits: Pixabay

## Barcelona day trip to Monserrat

Early in the morning your guide will pick you up at your hotel. He'll take you to Montserrat, a magnificent sanctuary located in the mountains where you'll get some great views. You'll be able to get the ZIP train and go into the sanctuary to listen the Boy's Choir. After this experience you'll be taken to a winery in Penedés where you'll visit the facilities and will taste some great wines/cavas. After the visit you'll be offered a traditional catalonian lunch, a wonderful way to finish this exclusive tour. You'll be taken back to your hotel after lunch.

Wednesday · September 20th

## Barcelona

Day at leisure in Barcelona, maybe add in a food tour or other items.

Thursday · September 21st

## Barcelona

Day at leisure in Barcelona

Friday · September 22nd

## Bacelona to Auckland

22 Sep Barcelona Depart home for New Zealand.  
Arrive New Zealand 24 September.

Sunday · September 24th

## Arrive Auckland

