



SPAIN &  
PORTUGAL'S  
**BEST TRIPS**  
32 AMAZING  
ROAD TRIPS

This edition written and researched by

**Regis St Louis**

**Stuart Butler, Kerry Christiani, Anthony Ham,  
Isabella Noble, John Noble, Josephine Quintero,  
Brendan Sainsbury, Andy Symington**

## SYMBOLS IN THIS BOOK

	Top Tips
	History & Culture
	Essential Photo
	Family
	Walking Tour
	Food & Drink
	Eating
	Trip Detour
	Outdoors
	Sleeping

	Telephone Number
	Opening Hours
	Parking
	Nonsmoking
	Air Conditioning
	Internet Access
	Wi-Fi Access
	Vegetarian Selection
	Swimming Pool
	English-Language Menu
	Family-Friendly
	Pet-Friendly

## MAP LEGEND

Routes	
	Trip Route
	Trip Detour
	Linked Trip
	Walk Route
	Tollway
	Freeway
	Primary
	Secondary
	Tertiary
	Lane
	Unsealed Road
	Plaza/Mall
	Steps
	Tunnel
	Pedestrian Overpass
	Walk Track/Path

Boundaries	
	International
	State/Province
	Cliff
	Wall

Population	
	Capital (National)
	Capital (State/Province)
	City/Large Town
	Town/Village

Transport	
	Airport
	Cable Car/Funicular
	Parking
	Train/Railway
	Tram
	Underground Train Station

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<b>4 Spain's Interior Heartland .....</b>	<b>5–7 Days</b>
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# Classic Trips

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**Josephine Quintero** Spain is Josephine's favourite country on earth and she has lived in Málaga province on the Costa del Sol for over 20 years. As well as co-authoring four editions of the Lonely Planet Spain title, she has worked on the Andalucía regional guide, as well as numerous other LP titles. Highlights during this trip including gazing at evocative art at the brand new Pompidou museum in Málaga and discovering still more fine dining venues in the cobbled Marbella backstreets.

Read more about Josephine at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/josephinequintero>



**Brendan Sainsbury** Originally from Hampshire, England, Brendan first went to Spain on an Inter-rail ticket in the 1980s. He went back as a travel guide several years later and met his wife-to-be in a small village in rural Andalucía in 2003. He has been writing books for Lonely Planet for a decade, including four previous editions of the Spain/Andalucía guides. Brendan loves Granada, the writing of Federico Lorca, cycling along via verdes, and attending as many flamenco shows as his research allows.

Read more about Brendan at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/brendansainsbury>



**Andy Symington** Though he hails from Australia, Andy's great-grandfather emigrated to Portugal in the 19th century and that side of his family still calls the country home. This connection means that he has been a frequent visitor to the country since birth, and now nips across the border very frequently from his home in Spain. Andy has authored and co-authored numerous Lonely Planet and other guidebooks.

Read more about Andy at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/andysymington>



**Kerry Christiani** Kerry's love affair with Portugal began as a child clambering along the cliffs of the Algarve. She returned years later and fell for the rest of the country – its captivating landscapes, super-friendly locals, fresh seafood and photogenic light. For this guide, she road-tripped her way through vineyards, over mountains, deep into national parks and along the wave-lashed Atlantic coast. Kerry is the author of more than 20 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet Pocket *Lisbon* and *Porto*. She tweets @kerrychristiani.

Read more about Kerry at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/KerryChristiani>



**Anthony Ham** In 2001, Anthony ([www.anthonymham.com](http://www.anthonymham.com)) fell in love with Madrid on his first visit to the city. Less than a year later, he arrived on a one-way ticket, with not a word of Spanish and not knowing a single person. After ten years living in the city, he recently returned to Australia with his Spanish-born family, but he still adores his adopted country as much as the first day he arrived. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Scandinavia, the Middle East, Australia and Africa for newspapers and magazines around the world.

**My Favourite Trip 1 Castilla y León** for the combination of unforgettable cities and timeworn villages.

Read more about Anthony at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/anthonymham>



**Isabella Noble** Isabella has always thought that learning to drive in central Málaga taught her to cope with roads absolutely anywhere. A London-based, English/Australian travel journalist, she grew up in a white Andalucian mountain village, and spent plenty of summers whizzing across to Cádiz' Costa de la Luz – perfect training for this title. She has contributed to several Lonely Planet guides including *Andalucía, Spain* and *India*, and is a Spain expert for Telegraph Travel. She's on Twitter/Instagram @isabellanoble and blogs at [www.isabellanoble.blogspot.com](http://www.isabellanoble.blogspot.com).

**My Favourite Trip 23 The Great Outdoors** for the Costa de la Luz' windswept beaches, Tarifa's Moroccan flavour and Doñana's wild beauty.

Read more about Isabella at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/IsabellaNoble>



**John Noble** Two decades of living in Spain and driving all over it have taught John that it's a great country to drive in! (Outside the city centres, that is – they're best negotiated by other means.) The main highways get better and better and it's now possible to drive from any corner of the country to any other without leaving an autovía. The back roads are even better – low on traffic and usually high on long-distance views over Spain's always dramatic scenery.

**My Favourite Trip 13 Coast of Galicia** You can't beat the ever-changing drama of Spain's most spectacular coastline.

Read more about John at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/ewoodrover>

# OUR WRITERS



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end –

broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.



**Regis St Louis** Regis first fell in love with Spain and Portugal on a grand journey across Iberia in the late 1990s. Since then he has returned frequently to the peninsula, often splitting his time between his favourite cities of Lisbon and Barcelona. Memorable moments from his most recent trip include earning a few scars at a correfoc in Gràcia and watching fearless castellers build human towers at the Santa Eulàlia fest. Regis is also the author of *Portugal and Barcelona*, and he has contributed to dozens of other Lonely Planet titles.

**My Favourite Trip** 15 **The Costa Brava** I love the combination of wild coastal scenery and great seafood, with jaw-dropping works of Dalí waiting at the end.

Read more about Regis at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/regisstlouis>



**Stuart Butler** Stuart's first childhood encounters with Spain came on a school trip to Parque Nacional de Doñana in the far south of Spain and family holidays along the north coast. Early encounters left lasting impressions and when he was older he spent every summer on the Basque beaches, until one day he found he was unable to tear himself away – he's been in the region ever since. His travels for Lonely Planet, and a wide variety of magazines, have taken him beyond Spain, to the shores of the Arctic, the mountains of Asia and the savannahs of Africa. He's currently writing a book about the Maasai peoples of East Africa. His website is [www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com](http://www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com).

Read more about Stuart at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/stuartbutler>

## MORE WRITERS

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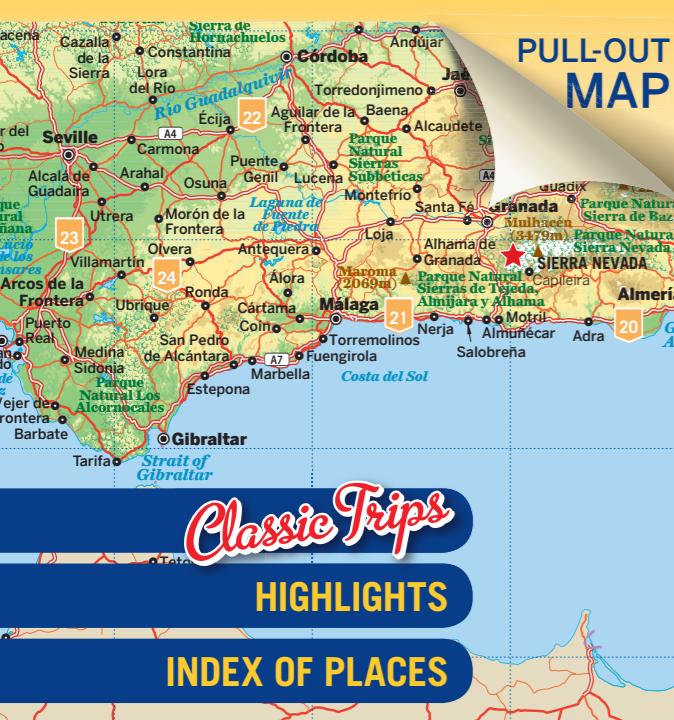
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# SPAIN & PORTUGAL'S BEST TRIPS

32 AMAZING ROAD TRIPS

## PULL-OUT MAP



## Classic Trips

### HIGHLIGHTS

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Álora F10	Bayonne J3	Carballo C3	
Amarante D5	Baza H9	Carcaixent K7	
A Guarda C4	Amposta L6	Beas de Segura H8	
A Gudiña E4	Andorra la Vella M4	Beasain J3	
Abrantes C7	Beasain J3	Carapateira C9	
Andújar G8	Benalup y Alhama	Cartagena K9	
Adra H10	Benalmádena C10	Valderaduey F4	
Antequera G10	Beja D8	Cártama F10	
Agen L2	Aracena E9	Casar de Cáceres E7	
Águeda C6	Arahau F9	Beja F6	
Aguilar de Campoo G3	Aranda de Duero H5	Benabrade L4	
Aguilar de la Frontera F9	Aranjuez H6	Benavente F4	
Águilas J9	Arcos de la Frontera E10	Castelldefels M5	
Ahrif J12	Arenas de San Pedro F6	Benicàssim L6	
Ain Deheb M12	Berga M4	Benidorm K8	
Ain Kermes M12	Bergerac L1	Castello Branco D6	
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Albacete J8	Betanzos D3	Castuera F8	
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Alcalá de Henares H6	Bilbao H3	Cespedoso C5	
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Almudévar C9	Barbate E10	Gijón F3	
Almudévar C9	Barbastro L4	Girona N4	
Almudévar C9	Barbastro L4	Gouveia D6	



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Barcelona** M5  
Home to cutting-edge architecture, world-class dining and vertiginous nightlife, Barcelona has long been one of Europe's most alluring destinations.

Visit Barcelona on Trips 18, 19, 20

## La Rioja Wine Country

J3  
La Rioja is the sort of place where you could spend weeks meandering along quiet roads in search of the finest drop. Bodegas offering wine-tastings and villages that shelter wine museums are the mainstay in this region.

Visit La Rioja on Trip 8

## Algarve Beaches

C9  
Beach-lovers have much to celebrate on a drive along Portugal's southern coast. Sandy islands, cliffs and coastline set the stage for a memorable trip exploring the back roads.

Visit Algarve Beaches on Trip 28

## Lisbon

C7  
With its mazelike lanes and hilltop panoramas overlooking the Río Tejo, Lisbon is a marvellous place for wanderers.

Visit Lisbon on Trips 26, 29

## Picos de Europa

G3  
Jutting out in compact form just back from the rugged coastline of Cantabria and Asturias, the limestone massifs here are unique in Spain but geologically similar to the Alps and jammed with inspiring trails.

Visit Picos De Europa on Trip 9

## Sierra Nevada

H10  
Spain's highest peaks aren't just for snapshots. This is the setting for outdoor adventure aplenty: horse riding, rock climbing and mountain biking, with skiing and snowboarding in the winter.

Visit Sierra Nevada on Trip 23

## Asturian Coast

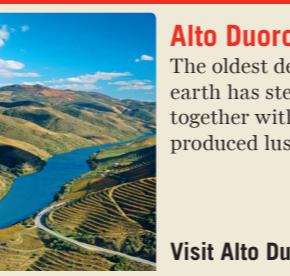
E3  
Wild, rugged and unspoilt, the secluded sandy stretches and coves that line the Asturian coast hide some of Spain's most beautiful beaches.

Visit The Asturian Coast on Trip 7

## Porto

C5  
Portugal's second largest city is laced with pedestrian laneways and blessed with baroque churches, epic theatres and sprawling plazas. Its Ribeira district – a Unesco World Heritage site – is a fascinating place to explore.

Visit Porto on Trips 26, 30



## Alto Duoro Vineyards

E5  
The oldest demarcated wine region on earth has steeply terraced hills stitched together with craggy vines that have produced luscious wines for centuries.

Visit Alto Duoro on Trip 27

## Madrid

G6  
You can spend the day in Madrid gazing at works by Goya, Velázquez and El Greco, then head out into the night for artfully prepared tapas and roaring nightlife.

Visit Madrid on Trips 1, 2, 4



## Sierra Nevada

H10  
Spain's highest peaks aren't just for snapshots. This is the setting for outdoor adventure aplenty: horse riding, rock climbing and mountain biking, with skiing and snowboarding in the winter.

Visit Sierra Nevada on Trip 23



## Asturian Coast

E3  
Wild, rugged and unspoilt, the secluded sandy stretches and coves that line the Asturian coast hide some of Spain's most beautiful beaches.

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## Porto

C5  
Portugal's second largest city is laced with pedestrian laneways and blessed with baroque churches, epic theatres and sprawling plazas. Its Ribeira district – a Unesco World Heritage site – is a fascinating place to explore.

Visit Porto on Trips 26, 30



## SPAIN & PORTUGAL'S BEST TRIPS

### 1 Historic Castilla y León 7 Days

Start: Madrid (G6) End: Soria (I5)  
Madrid to Soria via some of inland Spain's captivating towns and villages.

### 2 Back Roads Beyond Madrid 5–7 Days

Start: Madrid (G6) End: Alcalá de Henares (H6)  
Route running south and east of the capital through wonderfully historic towns

### 3 The Forgotten West 4–6 Days

Start: Cáceres (E7) End: Parque Natural Arribes del Duero (E5)  
Cáceres to deep canyons with villages and quiet back roads en route.

### 4 Spain's Interior Heartland 5–7 Days

Start: Santander (G3) End: Madrid (G6)  
Journey through northern Spain with Roman and very Spanish attractions along the way.

### 5 Route of Don Quixote 4–6 Days

Start: Toledo (G7) End: Villanueva de los Infantes (H8)  
Detective trail across La Mancha in search of Spain's favourite literary hero.

### 6 Ancient Extremadura 5–7 Days

Start: Mérida (E7) End: Zafra (E8)  
Medieval towns, Roman ruins, remote castles and Extremadura's home of jamón (cured ham).

### 7 Northern Spain Pilgrimage 5–7 Days

Start: Roncesvalles (K3) End: Santiago de Compostela (D3)  
Follow pilgrims along roads that crisscross the Camino de Santiago walking route.

### 8 Roving La Rioja Wine Region 2–4 Days

Start/End: Logroño (J4)  
Discover the wealth of the grape on this peaceful countryside drive.

### 9 Mountain Roads in Picos de Europa 2–4 Days

Start: Gijón (F3) End: Fuente Dé (G3)  
Change into low gear and head into Spain's most spectacular mountain range.

### 10 Cantabria's Eastern Valleys 2–4 Days

Start: Santander (G3) End: Laredo (H3)  
Get well off the beaten track on this journey through remote farming hamlets.

### 11 Along the Río Ebro 2–4 Days

Start: Reinoso (G3) End: Zaragoza (K5)  
Wine, dinosaurs, Islamic architecture and desert. It's all along the Río Ebro.

### 12 Castles & Cathedrals in Medieval Spain 2–4 Days

Start: Avilés (F3) End: Salamanca (F5)  
Tour the churches and cathedrals of the Aviles-to-Salamanca route.

### 13 Coast of Galicia 5–7 Days

Start: A Guarda (C4) End: Cabo Ortegal (D2)

Take a fearsome drive along the imposing Costa da Morte (Coast of Death).

### 14 Unsung Wonders of Murcia & Alicante 2–4 Days

Start: Murcia (K9) End: Villena (K8)  
Relax in seaside villages, wander through Roman ruins, and hike highland trails.

### 15 Artistic Inspiration on the Costa Brava 2–4 Days

Start: Tossa de Mar (N5) End: Figueres (N4)  
Feast on seafood off beautiful beaches, then visit the wondrous world of Dalí.

### 16 Central Catalan's Wineries & Monasteries 2–4 Days

Start: Girona (N4) End: Reial Monestir de Santa Maria de Vallbona de les Monges (M5)  
Stroll medieval lanes, ride the funicular up Montserrat and visit Penedès vineyards.

### 17 Peaks & Valleys in Northwest Catalonia 2–4 Days

Start: La Seu d'Urgell (M4) End: Taüll (L4)  
Go white-water rafting in Llavorsí, hike past waterfalls and visit charming hilltop villages.

### 18 The Pyrenees 5–7 Days

Start: San Sebastián (J3) End: Barcelona (M5)  
Breathe in the mountain air on this epic drive over the Pyrenees.

### 19 Barcelona to Valencia 5–7 Days

Start: Barcelona (M5) End: Valencia (K7)  
Explore historic villages and revel in buzzing city life.

### 20 Mediterranean Meander 7 Days

Start: Málaga (G10) End: Barcelona (M5)  
Over 1000km of coastal splendour providing an ever-changing window onto the Mediterranean.

### 21 Costa del Sol Beyond the Beaches 3–4 Days

Start: Nerja (G10) End: Gibraltar (F10)  
There's far more than tacky resorts on Spain's much-maligned and misunderstood southern coast.

### 22 Golden Triangle 5–7 Days

Start: Seville (E9) End: Osuna (F9)  
The potent legacy of the Moors is omnipresent in this Seville–Cordoba–Granada link-up.

### Geographic Features

#### 1 Mt Perdido (3355m)

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