

BILBAO, NORTHERN SPAIN JULY 14-17 2011

WE REGRET THAT ANY CHILD WHO ARRIVES WITHOUT A VALID PASSPORT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BOARD THE COACH

ITINERARY

**Wednesday
13/07/2011** **Coach departs Sale Grammar School: 22:30**
Please arrive between 22:00 and 22:15. Children will be required to show their passport and EHIC card to their group leader before boarding. These documents will be collected on the coach for safe keeping. Please note that the car park will **NOT** be open.

**Thursday
14/07/2011** **03:00 Flight Check-in Easyjet at Stansted Airport**
Hand Baggage: One standard piece of hand baggage to maximum dimensions of 56x45x25cm
Hold Luggage: Hold baggage maximum weight of 20kg
Any excess baggage will be charged by the airline at check-in

10:05 Arrive in Bilbao and coach transfer to Hotel

12:30 Arrival at Hotel

14:00 Lunch in Suances and afternoon at leisure in resort, on the beach if weather permits

19:00 Spanish lesson

20:30 Evening Meal

22:00 Bed!

**Friday
15/07/2011** 08:30 Breakfast and collect packed lunches

09:15 Depart by coach for Bilbao

The city of Bilbao is the largest and most lively city in the Basque Country. Bilbao is a particularly historic city, with a legacy of old buildings and a rich culture, based around the old town of Bilbao, in the Casco Viejo area.

However, Bilbao is constantly reinventing itself, with many spectacular projects and impressive contemporary architecture, such as the breathtaking Guggenheim Museum, making this one of Spain's most exciting cities. Often known locally simply as 'Botxo', Bilbao also boasts an impressive selection of restaurants and shops, together with a vibrant nightlife to rival any city. With a scenic backdrop of green hills from the Vizcaya area, Bilbao has long been a major tourist destination and is dissected by the Nervion River, much of which is lined by a host of sightseeing opportunities.

11:15 Guggenheim Museum

<http://www.guggenheim-bilbao.es/?dioma=es>

A spectacular building designed by the American architect Frank Gehry, with 24,000 square metres of exhibition space in the centre of Bilbao. Together with the collections shared with Guggenheim museums in New York and Venice, the Guggenheim collection has over 10,000 works of art, making it the largest and most important private collection of modern and contemporary art in the world.

p.m. Curious – and not so curious – transport in Bilbao

Funicular de Artxanda

<http://www.bilbao.net/funicularArtxanda/jsp/home.jsp>

15:00 Gran Puente Colgante de Vizcaya

<http://www.puente-colgante.com>

Metro de Bilbao

<http://www.metrobilbao.net>

16:15 Return to Hotel

19:00 Spanish lesson

20:30 Evening Meal at hotel

21:30 Relaxation in hotel

**Saturday
16/07/2011**

08:00 Breakfast and collect packed lunches

09:30 Depart by coach

11:00 Santillana del Mar

<http://www.santillana-del-mar.com>

<http://www.bamjam.net/Spain/Santil.html>

There is absolutely no doubt that Santillana del Mar, just 20 miles west of Santander, is one of the most perfectly preserved medieval villages anywhere in Spain, probably in Europe. To wander its network of cobbled streets and alleys lined with ancient stone houses has often been linked to entering a living museum. With a population of little more than one thousand, and to this day still predominantly a farming community, visitors can easily become totally immersed in the atmosphere of centuries ago. Enhancing these feelings of a long bygone age, vehicles (apart from tractors and a few cars owned by locals) are forbidden from entering the village centre.

The architectural highlight of the village is undoubtedly the 12th century **Collegiate Church**, not only the oldest building, but also probably the most important given that it houses the remains of the town's patron saint, Santa Illana (Saint Juliana). The inside is astonishingly beautiful, with superb paintings and carvings, plus an especially fine cloister.

12:00 Altamira Caves Museum

Just over a mile outside of the village are the Altamira Caves, internationally famous for their prehistoric paintings dating from the end of the Ice Age, the first such paintings ever to be discovered. The most famous gallery has large paintings of bison, sleeping, crouching, stretching and galloping. There is also a wild boar and a primitive horse. Such is the excellence and three-dimensional quality of these paintings, the caves have become known as the Sistine Chapel of prehistoric art. Unfortunately, because of damage caused by the warmth of human presence, viewing of these 15,000 year old works is strictly limited to scientific research. However, the museum adjoining the site has re-created an exact copy of the originals using the very same basic materials and rock structures. The museum also houses the best archaeological collection of this period in the Iberian Peninsula.

14:00 Parque Zoológico de Santillana

<http://www.zoosantillanadelmar.com>

Afternoon at the Zoo

17:00 Return to Hotel

20:30 Evening Meal at Hotel

**Sunday
17/07/2011**

10:00 Breakfast and collect packed lunches

12:00 Check out of Hotel

13:00 Depart by coach to Santander for the afternoon

14:00 Parque Atlántico de Las Llamas

<http://blog.reservahotelessantander.com/tag/parque-de-la-vaguada-de-las-llamas>

The largest park in Santander and one of the most modern public spaces in Spain. The park is situated between the main campus of the university and the ultra modern Sports Palace. Across the road is the stadium of Racing de Santander. Within the park there are footpaths, a playground, a lake, and usually an ice-cream van! A chance to each lunch and enjoy the fresh air and the surroundings.

16:45 Boat trip

<http://www.losreginas.com>

A trip around the Bay of Santander on a catamaran – Regina Décimo – equipped with a panoramic viewing system which makes it possible to view the sea bed while enjoying Santander and its surroundings from the sea.

18:00 Depart by coach for Airport

19:25 Check in for return flight to Stansted

22:45 Arrive Stansted Airport

03:30 (Approx) arrive back at School

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INFORMATION

OUTBOUND	Thursday 14/07/2011 (Depart school 13/07/2011 @ 23:30)
INBOUND	Sunday 17/07/2011 (Arrive school 18/07/2011 @ 03:30)
Group Leader	Mrs C Newsham
Party	22 Boys; 16 Girls; 3 Female staff; 1 Male staff
Group Leader Emergency Contact	07508 742494
School Address	Sale Grammar School Marsland Road Sale Cheshire M33 3NH
School Telephone	0161 973 3217
Hotel	Hotel Sandra II Avenida Jose Antonio, 45 39340 Suances Cantabria Spain
Board Basis	Full Board First Meal: Evening Meal (Thursday) Last Meal: Breakfast & Packed Lunch (Sunday)
Flight Outbound	Easyjet Flight No: EZY3473 Depart Stansted: 07:05 Arrive Bilbao 10:05
Flight Inbound	Easyjet Flight No: EZY3476 Depart Bilbao 21:55 Arrive Stansted 22:45
Coach (In England)	TBC
Coach (In Spain)	Europullman Tel: 00 34 93 443 0544

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO PARK CARS IN THE BUS BAY EITHER WHEN DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP. FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS CHILDREN CAN ONLY BOARD AND ALIGHT FROM THE COACH WHEN IT IS PROPERLY PARKED IN THE BAY