

## Passport, Visa & Entry Requirements

- This tour visits France and Spain. To enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond the date of reentry.
- We recommend having at least one blank passport page for entry stamps.
- Beginning in 2025, passport holders from visa-exempt countries like the U.S. and Canada will need to register for an [ETIAS](#) travel authorization to enter certain European countries. Even if you've previously traveled to any of these 30 countries without a visa, you'll need to get ETIAS authorization to visit them again. If you're traveling to multiple countries with this requirement, you'll only need to complete the form once.
- All Go Ahead travelers will be responsible for obtaining their own ETIAS authorization before departure. For more details, please visit our [Help Center](#).
- If you aren't a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to [goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code FSP.

## Arrival & Departure Information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in Paris and depart from Madrid (or from Valencia on the tour extension).
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travelers who purchase their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travelers who purchase their own flights, and who'll arrive and depart from the same airports on the same travel days as their fellow group members, may request transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.
- When you arrive in Paris, a Go Ahead representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall with either a Go Ahead sign or one bearing your name. If you don't see them immediately, please be patient and

stay in the arrivals area. They may be assisting another traveler and will be back shortly.

## On-Tour Transportation

- This tour utilizes various modes of transportation, including trains and a private motor coach. To board them, you may have to climb raised platforms or steps. Often, there won't be access to ramps or lifts.
- A train ride from Paris to Bordeaux is included in the price of your tour. The tour extension also includes a train ride from Madrid to Valencia.
- All other included transportation on this tour is by private motor coach.
- European train stations typically operate similarly to airports: Security measures, such as baggage and body scanners, are common. Additionally, platforms are often spread across large distances and require travelers to carry their luggage up and down escalators or stairs. Porterage services aren't offered and storage space is extremely limited. Please keep in mind that trains may only stop at each station for a few minutes; quick boarding and debarking may be imperative.

## Baggage Allowances & Expectations

- Please note that our travelers are limited to one checked bag and one personal item each due to storage limitations on motor coaches and other transfers.
- Some airlines may impose additional charges if you exceed baggage size and weight restrictions. Be advised that you're responsible for any baggage fees incurred.
- Contact your airline(s) for the baggage size and weight restrictions on your flights.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag.
- Travelers must be able to manage their luggage throughout tour; porters aren't guaranteed at hotels, airports, or train stations.

## Clothing & Packing Tips

- We recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered to accommodate varying temperatures, as well as a light jacket or rainwear.
- A sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers is recommended for sightseeing.
- You may want to pack dressier attire if you plan to visit a high-end restaurant or attend a special performance.
- It's preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs or shoulders. Entrance may be denied on this basis.
- We recommend packing a reusable water bottle to cut down on single-use plastic waste.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using a hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- In case of emergencies, we also recommend packing your medical insurance card in your carry-on.
- Please note: Porterage isn't included on train transfers, and storage space is extremely limited. You should feel comfortable lifting and carrying your bags over steps, onto platforms, and into storage. To make things easier, we recommend traveling with one suitcase and personal item (e.g. a backpack or purse) per person.

## Meals & Cuisine

- This tour includes three dinners: They may be set menus; buffets; or family-style meals, depending on the location. Dinners also include one glass of beer, wine, or a soft drink, as well as water, coffee, and tea.
- A hotel breakfast is included each morning, and is typically a buffet-style meal with hot and cold options.
- For a picnic with French flair, stop at a small grocery store for cheeses, pâtés, cured meats, fresh-baked breads, and fruits. In the cities, sidewalk vendors are known for their steaming crepes, while mouthwatering pastries and hot café au lait beckon from cafes. In restaurants, the prix fixe option is a popular way to enjoy a set three- or four-course menu for a good price.
- Although lunch is generally served from

# France & Spain: Paris, Bordeaux & Madrid

Pre-departure information for your tour



noon until 2pm in France, dinner is served from 7:30pm onward. Those wishing to eat earlier can stop at a cafe, where light entrées and sandwiches are available throughout the afternoon and evening.

- In Spain, breakfast like a local with just a pastry and coffee. Then, tuck into a three-course lunch featuring Spanish staples like savory seafood paella or grilled meat and fried potatoes. Dinner is less hearty than lunch and is served late, between 9pm and midnight. Snack on small plates (tapas) any time of day.
- In the Basque Country, pintxos—small, tapa-style snacks that're spiked to a piece of bread with a toothpick—are especially popular.

## Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it's customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity in local currency. Please keep current exchange rates in mind.
- We recommend tipping the equivalent of \$10–\$12USD per person, per day for your Tour Director and the equivalent of \$3USD per person, per day for your driver.
- If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD per local guide.
- Tips can only be paid in cash.
- If you're traveling with the same Tour Director to multiple countries with different currencies, ask them what currency they prefer for their tip.
- The cost of portage is included in your tour price; it isn't necessary to tip baggage handlers.

## Currency

- You'll use the euro on this tour.
- Better rates of exchange are usually available overseas, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive.
- We strongly advise that you take debit and credit cards, which can be used to withdraw cash at local banks as needed.
- You can use most cards at ATMs on the international networks Cirrus and Plus, but make sure to check with your home bank about withdrawal fees.

- International banks and businesses primarily accept debit and credit cards that work with the EMV chip system. If you don't already have at least one card with a chip in it, we strongly recommend requesting one from your bank prior to your tour.
- Plan ahead and bring cash to tip your Tour Director, local guides, and bus drivers. We also recommend keeping coins in the local currency on hand, as some public bathrooms may charge a fee for use.

## Responsible Travel

- When you travel with Go Ahead Tours, you'll make a positive impact on the places you visit and the people and animals you meet along the way. That's because our three core Responsible Travel commitments—protecting the environment, supporting local communities, and promoting animal welfare—are at the heart of every tour we offer.
- Travel, when done responsibly, can have an enormous socioeconomic impact on communities. To maximize your impact, eat at locally owned restaurants and shop at small businesses. Ask your Tour Director to point out restaurants they recommend.
- Prepare for your trip: Be aware of monetary norms such as tipping and negotiating in a market; learn about the destination's forms of etiquette; and take some time to learn a few words in the local language.
- When interacting with locals, make sure to ask people for permission before you take their picture, and approach cultural differences with empathy and an open mind.
- Go Ahead Tours encourages travelers to limit their waste while on the road, especially single-use plastics. You can cut back on generating plastic waste by packing your own toiletries, using electronic documents, and bringing a reusable water bottle and shopping bag. If you need to use plastics or paper, please recycle.