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Limited Spaces Available for Smithsonian Journeys 2026 Solar Eclipse Programs in Spain

Travelers to View Total Solar Eclipse with Astronomers at Exclusive Events in Spain's Wine Country

Smithsonian Journeys, the Smithsonian's travel program and a leader in enriching small-group exploration, announced today that there is limited space available on its two popular 2026 Solar Eclipse programs in northern Spain. Travelers may choose from two expertly curated programs that feature renowned Spanish wine regions: one focused on Madrid and historic Old Castile and another featuring Basque Country and sites along the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route.

"Solar eclipse travel is one of the fastest-growing segments in experiential travel," said Walter Littlejohn, senior vice president of Smithsonian Journeys. "These journeys offer travelers a rare chance to witness an extraordinary celestial event in a culturally rich part of the world—elevated by the insight, expertise, and thoughtful curation that define every Smithsonian Journeys experience."

This summer's solar eclipse sweeps down from the Arctic and across northern Spain. Smithsonian Journeys has created two distinct itineraries with private eclipse-watching events at wineries in the path of totality. Each program highlights the region's unique culinary traditions and explores art, history, and local culture through the lens of astronomy.

["Solar Eclipse Over Spain: Basque Country to León"](#)

August 8–15, 2026 8 days from \$7,995

The journey begins with two nights in vibrant Bilbao, home to world-class architecture and a thriving culinary scene. Travelers enjoy a tasting of *pinxtos*, or Basque tapas, and have the opportunity to spend a day in the elegant coastal city of San Sebastián. They travel along the route of the Camino de Santiago, visiting important stops such as Burgos and León, and discovering links to astronomy along the legendary pilgrimage route. Eclipse day will find them at a stunning winery in the heart of Spain's León region—perfectly positioned within the path of totality. A private eclipse-watching event features wine tastings, vineyard tours, a panel discussion with astronomers, and a festive dinner.

The adventure concludes with two nights in Madrid, where specially curated activities include an astronomy-themed tour of the Prado Museum and a private visit to the Royal Observatory of Madrid, home to Spain's National Astronomical Observatory and Central Geophysical Observatory.

["Solar Eclipse Over Spain: Madrid and Old Castile"](#)

August 8–14, 2026 7 days from \$7,195

With a focus on history, astronomy, and Spanish flavors, this program combines the cultural delights of Madrid with the storybook landscapes of Old Castile. It kicks off in the heart of Madrid's museum

district, where highlights include a curated astronomy tour at the Prado Museum, a traditional tapas lunch, and a private, astronomer-led visit to the Royal Observatory of Madrid.

From their base in the lively city of Valladolid, travelers experience the historic region of Old Castile through the lens of astronomy. Along with a planetarium tour and a stargazing party, they explore two World Heritage sites: Segovia, known for its iconic Roman aqueduct, and the fortified medieval town of Àvila. On eclipse day, they head for the renowned Ribera del Duero wine region. Wine tastings, a panel discussion with astronomy experts, and a dinner with live music are on tap during eclipse-watching festivities at the 100-year-old Torremilanos wine estate—an unforgettable setting for the celestial event.

A Legacy of Enrichment and Expert-Led Exploration

Smithsonian Journeys has long been recognized as a pioneer in special-interest and astronomy-focused travel. These 2026 eclipse programs are designed to pair the awe of a total solar eclipse with Spain’s rich cultural heritage, celebrated cuisine, and exceptional wines.

Each departure is accompanied by a Smithsonian expert in astronomy or a related field, who offers engaging lectures, informal discussions, and unique enrichment opportunities that deepen travelers’ understanding of both the cosmos and local culture.

All itineraries include:

- Premium accommodations
- Meals as listed
- All activities and excursions as described
- Lectures and panel discussions with a Smithsonian Journeys Expert and the insights of top local guides
- Services of an experienced tour director
- Post-trip medical and emergency evacuation coverage

Space is extremely limited. To reserve your place on one of these rare eclipse journeys speak with Smithsonian Journeys at (877) 338-8687 or visit www.Smithsonianjourneys.org.

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. It offers small-group land journeys, river cruises, small-ship cruises, active journeys, cultural stays, private jet trips and tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler. Smithsonian Journeys is part of Smithsonian Enterprises, a division of the Smithsonian that oversees the Institution’s commercial activities, including the Smithsonian Channel; the retail operation, which includes 35 museum and airport stores and food concessions; *Smithsonian* magazine, which reaches more than 8 million monthly readers; Smithsonianstore.com, an E-Commerce business; consumer and education licensing; and books. For more information, visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 855-330-1542.

About the Smithsonian

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural

centers, libraries and gardens. Two of the 21 museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum—are in the early planning stages. The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is about 157 million. To commemorate America’s 250th anniversary, the Smithsonian is hosting a full slate of special exhibitions, festivals and public events, including the completion of the National Air and Space Museum’s renovation, which opened to the public 50 years ago for the nation’s bicentennial.

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