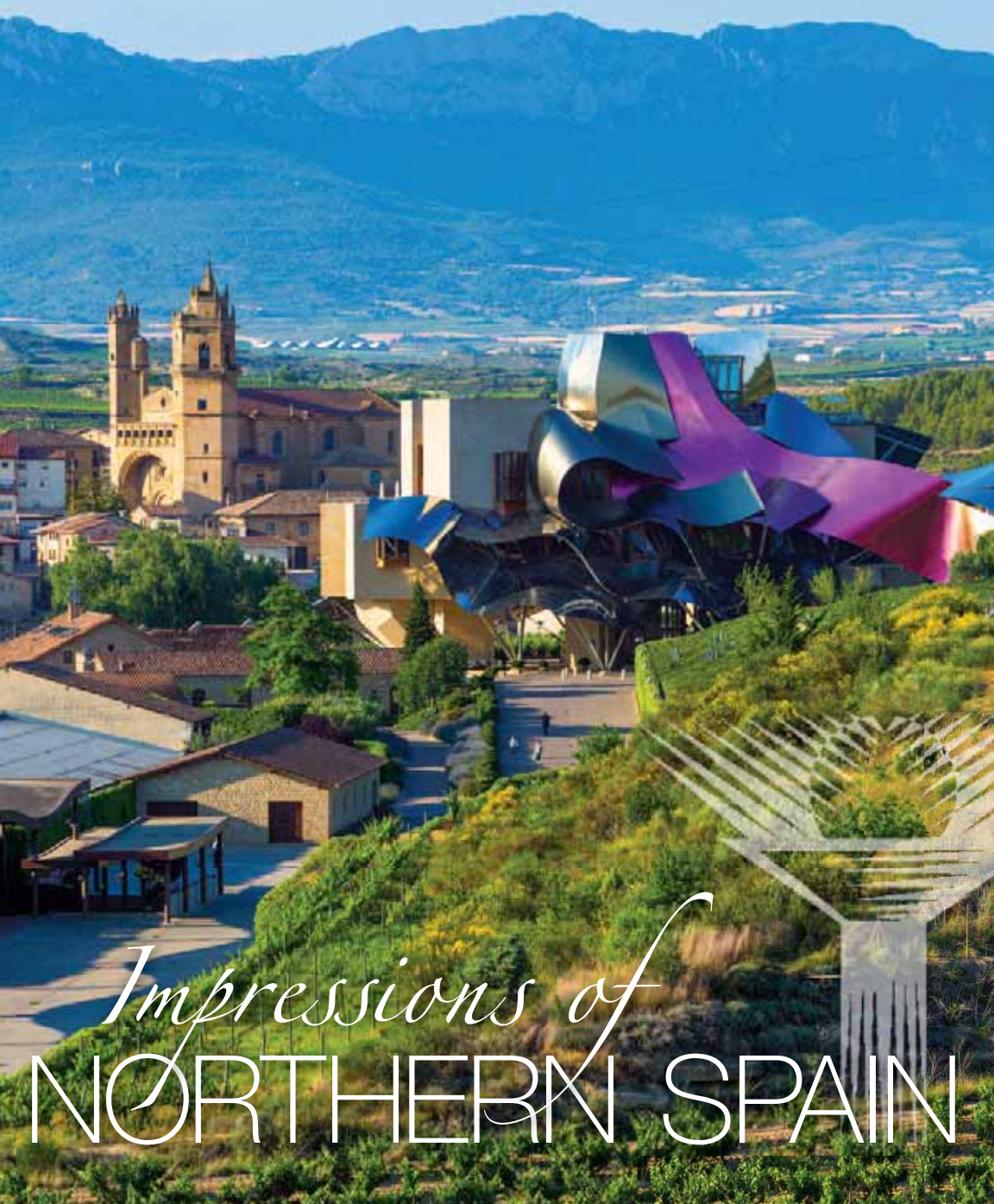


MADRID | LAGUARDIA | SAN SEBASTIÁN



*Impressions of*  
NORTHERN SPAIN

**SPONSORED BY**



**Traveling Aggies**

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students™



**MAY 31-JUNE 9, 2017**



## Inspiring Moments

# A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in Spain's breathtaking beauty and incomparable culture, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

*Above: Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao*

► **Sip Rioja** at a family-owned vineyard in Spain's fertile wine country.

► Engage with gregarious locals during an **intimate gathering in San Sebastián**.

► In Bilbao, get an insider's look beneath the iconic contours of the **Guggenheim Museum**.

► Discover the grandeur of **Madrid**, a truly Spanish city with a delightful allure.

► Step inside **Toledo's Gothic Cathedral**, one of Europe's finest gems.

► Roam **Laguardia's** honeycomb of historic wine bodegas.





# Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



## Howdy, Ags!

Join us on a ten-day journey that showcases Northern Spain's personality-packed regions. On this intimate program, you will travel under blue Castilian skies to encounter timeless churches, avant-garde architecture and lively city plazas – all while experiencing Spain's irresistible verve and passion for life.

Encounter Madrid's treasures and tapas bars on an outing through Spain's sunny capital city. Beyond this regal center, discover Toledo's unique blend of Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures, and taste the exceptional flavors of Spain's fertile wine country. Step inside the serpentine walls of the Guggenheim Museum, and bask in refreshing breezes in San Sebastián, along the Bay of Biscay. This educational adventure in Spain is certain to enrich your life with an experience you will never forget!

Our carefully planned itinerary combines exciting excursions and stimulating lectures with ample leisure time, allowing you to create your own adventures. Space is limited on this memorable journey, so we encourage you to make your reservation today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director, Travel Programs  
The Association of Former Students

**800-633-7514**

**[AggieNetwork.com/Travel](http://AggieNetwork.com/Travel)**





Celebrate the sights, sounds, tastes and traditions of Northern Spain. From the elegant Spanish capital of Madrid to the upper reaches of Spain's Basque Country, the sultry rhythms of this region are certain to thrill your senses. Admire sprawling vistas of seashores and vineyards, and laud skylines trimmed with castles and spires. Delve into the beguiling cultural tapestry of the Castilian, La Rioja and Basque Country regions, and please your palate with savory tapas and warm Rioja wine. Explore the heart of Northern Spain, and cultivate a fondness for this storied land.

#### DAY ONE

##### IN TRANSIT

Depart gateway city for Madrid, Spain. <sup>↑</sup>

#### DAY TWO

##### MADRID, SPAIN

Upon arrival, transfer <sup>↑</sup> to Hotel Wellington. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception at the hotel.

#### DAY THREE

##### MADRID

**Educational Focus:** *Spanish Art.*

**Excursion:** *The Spanish Capital.* Conceived

and built when Spain was at the height of its power, Madrid still has the look and feel of the seat of a great empire. Discover this bustling European capital during a panoramic tour. See the Royal Palace, the Plaza España, which features a monument dedicated to Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, and the Plaza Mayor, which was built during the reign of King Philip III during the 1600s. Enjoy the sights along the Gran Vía, Madrid's beautiful main boulevard.

**Local Flavor:** Break for lunch at a restaurant in the Plaza Mayor.

**Independent Exploration:** The afternoon and evening are at leisure in Madrid. Perhaps visit Madrid's myriad parks, churches or museums.

#### DAY FOUR

##### TOLEDO

**Excursion:** *Toledo, the Cultural Capital.*

Perched on the banks of the Tagus River, marvelous Toledo displays a harmonious blend of Jewish, Moorish and Christian cultures. On a walking tour, explore this community where narrow streets flaunt sword shops and marzipan bakeries. See the city's well-preserved historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the





La Rioja



Royal Palace, Madrid

imposing Toledo Cathedral, one of the most impressive Gothic structures in the world. Stand before El Greco’s “The Burial of the Count of Orgaz,” inside Santo Tomé Church, and step inside the Santa María La Blanca Synagogue.

**Educational Focus:** *Contemporary Spain.*

DAY FIVE

B I L I D

**BURGOS | LAGUARDIA**

Today, travel from Madrid to the hilltop town of Laguardia, which overlooks the romantic La Rioja wine country.

**Excursion: Burgos.** En route to Laguardia, visit medieval Burgos, nestled near the Arlanzón River. Stroll through the Old Town, and visit the Burgos Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Founded in 1221 by Bishop Mauricio, the cathedral features three naves, several beautiful

chapels and a golden staircase.

**Local Flavor:** Dine on delectable regional dishes near the cathedral.

Following lunch, enjoy the rolling countryside as you travel through La Rioja.

Upon arrival in Laguardia, check in to the Hotel Villa de Laguardia Sercotel.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a typical Rioja dinner this evening, complemented by the region’s famous wine. Characterized by fresh produce and quality ingredients, the savory cuisine from the La Rioja region will delight you with new flavors.

DAY SIX

B I L I D

**LAGUARDIA**

**Excursion: Wine Tasting in La Rioja.** Visit Bodegas Luis Cañas, a family-owned winery. Explore the beautiful property during a guided tour, and enjoy a tasting of the local vintages.

**Local Flavor:** Banquet at the winery for lunch.

**Excursion: Laguardia.** Set amid a backdrop of rolling vineyards and the Cantabrian Mountains, the 12th-century walled city of Laguardia was originally noted for its strategic military position. Tour this romantic medieval hamlet, and visit the church of Santa María de Los Reyes and the Plaza Mayor. In the neighboring village of Elciego, enjoy a guided tour and tasting of the famous Marqués



Laguardia

de Riscal winery. See the estate's Frank Gehry-designed hotel featuring a multihued mosaic reminiscent of pink, gold and silver wine bottles.

**DAY SEVEN**

**B I D**

**BILBAO | SAN SEBASTIÁN**

This morning, depart for San Sebastián.

**Excursion: Bilbao.** In transit, visit Bilbao, the capital of Basque Country, and tour the Guggenheim Museum. Inside the museum's undulating titanium curves, admire an excellent collection of contemporary masterpieces by artists ranging from de Kooning to Rothko. Then, see the highlights of Bilbao during a guided tour.

Upon arrival in San Sebastián, check in to the Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

**Educational Focus: *The History of Northern Spain.***

**Cultural Experience:** Enjoy a gathering, dinner and conversation with local residents tonight.

**DAY EIGHT**

**B I L**

**SAN SEBASTIÁN**

**Excursion: *A Walk Through San Sebastián.***

Known as the Pearl of the Cantabrian Coast, San Sebastián is famous for its gardens and parks. Admire the city's many attractions including the lively tapas bars, boardwalk and Belle Époque buildings.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a lunch of Spanish tapas. These tasty canapés and finger foods range from nuts and meat-filled pastries to cheeses and seafood.





San Sebastián



DAY NINE

B | D

**SAN SEBASTIÁN**

**Independent Exploration:** Spend the day at leisure in San Sebastián. Perhaps take a stroll along the city’s beaches or search for treasures along the Avenida de la Libertad.

**ELECTIVE | Pamplona.** Renowned for its annual San Fermín Festival, Pamplona was first glorified in Hemingway’s “The Sun Also Rises.” Discover Pamplona’s narrow streets, visit one of the world’s largest bullrings and see the chapel where the matadors pray prior to their duels. Visit the Church of San Lorenzo and the Santa Maria Cathedral, and enjoy lunch.

Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception and Dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY TEN

B

**IN TRANSIT**

Following breakfast this morning, transfer<sup>†</sup> to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** *Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.*

<sup>†</sup> Provided for AHI FlexAir participants

BILD denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

**ELECTIVE** Experiences available at an additional cost



HOTEL WELLINGTON |  
MADRID



HOTEL VILLA DE LAGUARDIA  
SERCOTEL | LAGUARDIA



HOTEL DE LONDRES Y DE  
INGLATERRA | SAN SEBASTIÁN



Our travel experts have selected these luxury properties, each in a prime location, for your comfort. Details in the design and décor celebrate the local culture and enhance the ambience of each hotel. Their restaurants feature menus of elegantly prepared local and international cuisine. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to maximize the enjoyment of your stay.



# Reserve your trip to Spain, today!

**Trip #:5-23323W**

Send to: The Association of Former Students  
 Attn: Traveling Aggies  
 505 George Bush Drive  
 College Station, TX 77840-2918  
 Phone: 979-845-7514 Fax: 979-845-9263  
 Toll Free: 800-633-7514



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_ (Form sent separately)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

Guest 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

**Land Program and AHI FlexAir**

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Madrid, Spain, with a return from Bilbao, to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

**Land Only Program**

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

**Single Accommodations**

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$795 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **March 17, 2017** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600/preson required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.
- Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Amex

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

**NOT INCLUDED:**Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL:** The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**BAGGAGE:** Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program. **AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS:** On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

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**CANCELLATION:** All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS:** Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

All prices listed are in USD. CST Registration No. 2028271-20. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST-33300 Iowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Reg. No. 8889139. Washington State Seller of Travel Reg. No. 601-820-781. PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-all IATA and ARC Member Carriers ©2016 AHI Travel Printed in the USA.

# LAND PROGRAM

**June 1-9, 2017**

**Full Price**

**\$3,545**

**Special Savings**

**\$250**

**Special Price\***

**\$3,295\***

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.  
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$795 (limited availability).

*Let us arrange your flights!*

**May 31-June 9, 2017**

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ a **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ discounted prices for business-class upgrades
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

**Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.**



**Burgos Cathedral**

| UNESCO |

Two of Spain's UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program:

1. **The Historic City of Toledo**
2. **Burgos Cathedral**



**Toledo**

**800-633-7514**

**AggieNetwork.com/Travel**



# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

## ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Three nights in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe Hotel Wellington.
- Two nights in Laguardia at the first-class Hotel Villa de Laguardia Sercotel.
- Three nights in San Sebastián at the first-class Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

## TRANSFERS

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program and baggage handling.

## MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, featuring eight breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

## YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.

- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- **The following excursions:**
  - Revel in the charms of Madrid during a panoramic tour.
  - Explore Toledo's architecture and art.
  - Admire the medieval ambience of Burgos, and step inside the Burgos Cathedral.
  - Taste local vintages at a family-owned winery.
  - Visit the walled city of Laguardia, and tour the Gehry-designed Marqués de Riscal winery.
  - Explore the historical port of Bilbao, and tour the renowned Guggenheim Museum.
  - Enjoy a guided walk through San Sebastián.



## AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

*Before you go:*

- ▶ **TRAVEL CONSULTANTS** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **TRAVEL INFORMATION** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

*Once you arrive:*

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **TRAVEL DIRECTOR** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **EXPERT GUIDES** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **LECTURERS** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



# Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students  
Attn: Traveling Aggies  
505 George Bush Drive  
College Station, TX 77840-2918

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Plaza Mayor, Madrid



San Sebastián

SMALL GROUP  
**MAXIMUM OF  
28 TRAVELERS**

## Experience the myriad wonders of Northern Spain!

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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website for the most current  
program information,  
discounts and pricing.**