

# 2027 Iberia's Atlantic World

## Sacred Pasts & Living Traditions

*with Dr. Joyce Salisbury*

August 14–24, 2027



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**August 14–24, 2027**

From \$10,581

*double occupancy, per person*



## **2027 Iberia's Atlantic World Sacred Pasts & Living Traditions**

*with Dr. Joyce Salisbury*

**Traveling aboard a luxury cruise ship, our journey through southwestern France and along the Atlantic Coast of Iberia is guided by Dr. Joyce E. Salisbury, Professor Emerita of Humanistic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and an expert in Western European history and culture. Her scholarship and teaching focuses on religious history, the Middle Ages, the history of women, and the history of Spain.**

Traveling from French Aquitaine along the coast of the Bay of Biscay to the Atlantic Coast of Iberia, explore the sweep of Western European history, from the prehistoric caves of Altamira to the 21st century. Along the way, visit the Roman walls of Lugo, the Romanesque churches of Oviedo, the splendor of the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, the Baroque opulence of Porto's Church of St. Francis, and the 19th-century exuberance of the Catalan architecture in Comillas. Through onboard lectures and site-specific commentary, Dr. Salisbury will bring her experience and expertise to bear in illuminating the historical and cultural context of all you see and do.

# Your Journey Expert



**Dr. Joyce Salisbury** is a Professor Emerita of Humanistic Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay. She began her career conducting research in Spain and has led tours there for several decades. Professor Salisbury has appeared on PBS specials and on the History Channel. In addition, she has been invited to lecture in many venues around the world for her ability to bring the past alive. Professor Salisbury has been widely recognized for her teaching abilities, including being named Professor of the Year in 1991 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She has taught three times on Semester at Sea, a study-abroad program on a ship that circumnavigates the world with more than 500 students for a full semester. Professor Salisbury earned her Ph.D. in Medieval History at Rutgers University, specializing in religious and social history. She has written more than 10 books, including the widely used textbook, *The West in the World*; and

created 4 Great Courses: *The History of Spain: Land on a Crossroad*; *Warriors, Queens, and Intellectuals: 36 Great Women Before 1400*; *The Middle Ages Around the World*, and *The Story of the Mediterranean World*.

## Highlights

- Visit no fewer than six UNESCO World Heritage Sites representing a wide range of cultures from the prehistoric to the medieval, learning from your Great Courses Journeys expert and knowledgeable local guides about the historical significance of each.
- In Bordeaux, join a guided tour accompanied by the current owner of the château, of the royal residence of King Henri IV, the first Bourbon King of France.
- Spend a full day of discovery at the sacred pilgrimage site of Santiago de Compostela, including an expert-led tour of the inside and outside of the Cathedral.
- Travel to the less-visited coastal town of Comillas to see the 19th-century neo-Gothic Sobrellano Palace and Gaudi's Capricho.
- Sample local cuisine during lunch ashore in Santillana del Mar, Oviedo, Santiago, and Lisbon; opt to dine ashore in Basque Bayonne; and taste local specialties (wines, desserts, and sweets) throughout.



# Iberia's Atlantic World: Sacred Pasts & Living Traditions

with Dr. Joyce Salisbury

## Itinerary



### Day 1: Arrive in Bordeaux

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Arrive at Bordeaux-Mérignac International Airport (BOD), Mérignac, France, where you will be met and transferred to the Hotel Indigo Bordeaux Center (or similar) for overnight. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys Expert for a welcome reception. Dinner is at your leisure.

**Included Meal:** Reception

**Accommodation:** Hotel Indigo Bordeaux Center (or similar)

### Day 2: Châteaux, Terroir, and Royal Legacy in Aquitaine

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Depart your hotel in Bordeaux by coach for Château de Cérons, a listed historic monument and early-17th-century manor house overlooking the Garonne River. Set within stone walls in the heart of the village of Cérons in the Graves region, the château stands opposite a picturesque 12th-century church.

Since 2012, Xavier and Caroline Perromat have managed the family estate, producing exceptional wines in Cérons, one of Bordeaux's oldest and rarest appellations. Meet one of the owners for a guided tour of the estate and cellars, followed by a tasting of three wines. Enjoy a traditional French lunch featuring grilled steak or roasted poultry prepared in the château's chimney.

In the afternoon, travel through the Sauternes wine region to Château de Cazeneuve, originally built in the 11th century on a Gallo-Roman stronghold. Once home to the Dukes of Albret and the Kings of Navarre, it remains owned by their descendants, the Sabran-Pontèves family. Explore richly furnished historic rooms and conclude with a glass of Sauternes before returning to Bordeaux to embark your ship.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*

### Day 3: From Estuary to Open Sea

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Enjoy a day at sea attending lectures from your accompanying expert, enjoying the amenities of the ship, or simply relaxing on deck as *Le Boréal* makes its way through the Gironde estuary and south along the coast of Aquitaine toward the village of Saint-Jean-de-Luz.

**Including Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*





## Day 4: Grottes de Sare: Prehistoric Basque Heritage

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The Grottes de Sare, among the most important prehistoric sites in the Basque Country, offer a fascinating glimpse into human life spanning tens of thousands of years. Used by Neanderthals and later early modern humans, these vast limestone caves reveal evidence of habitation dating back to the Paleolithic period, when the region served as a vital crossroads between the Iberian Peninsula and northern Europe.

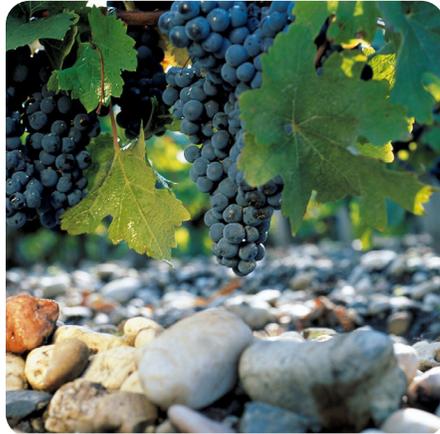
Accompanied by your expert and a local guide, explore the dramatic underground chambers while learning about the daily lives, tools, and artistic expression of prehistoric communities, as well as the geological forces that shaped the caves over millennia. Your visit also illuminates the deep cultural continuity of the Basque people, whose traditions and language are considered among the oldest in Europe.

This immersive experience provides a compelling introduction to the ancient foundations of Basque identity and the enduring relationship between humans and the natural landscape.

*Note: Please note, reservations to visit these caves only open in mid-February. This tour is still in development, but we can visit the Grottes de Sare if desired.*

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*



## Day 5: Catalans, Caves, and Cobblestones

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Spend the morning in the architecturally rich coastal town of Comillas, where your time is divided between the late-19th-century Neo-Gothic Sobrellano Palace, designed by Catalan architect Juan Martorel, and the nearby Capricho de Gaudi, one of only three Gaudi-designed buildings outside of Catalonia. Then travel to Altamira, the World Heritage Site where cave paintings dating to some 36,000 years ago were discovered in 1879. The actual cave was closed to the public in 2002, but painstakingly detailed reproductions of the paintings are on display in a replica cave and museum.

After the visit to Altamira, enjoy lunch at the parador in nearby Santillana del Mar, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in western Europe. Established in the 8th century as a waystation on the Camino de Santiago, this cobblestoned city is built around the Church of Santa Juliana and contains some of the best examples of Romanesque architecture in Galicia.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*



## Day 6: Kings, Pilgrims, and Sacred Architecture

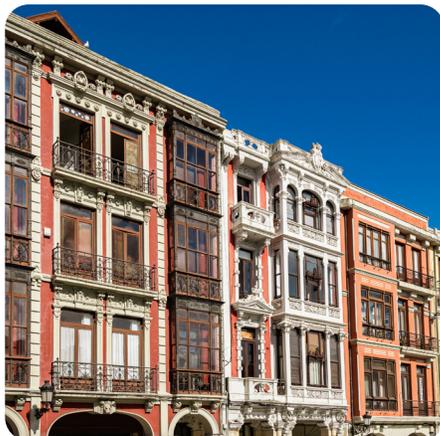
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Oviedo is the capital of Spain's province of Asturias and one of the most charming and historic cities in northern Spain. Established in the 8th century as the first Christian kingdom on the Iberian Peninsula after the Moorish conquest, Oviedo is considered a "cradle of the Reconquista." It became a political, religious, and cultural center under king Alfonso II, who initiated the Camino de Santiago by undertaking the first recorded pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James after its discovery. Alfonso also commissioned numerous churches and palaces, many of which survive today in Oviedo as Romanesque architectural masterpieces.

Following a guided tour of Oviedo's Old Quarter, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your ship in Aviles.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*





## Day 7: Tomb and Tower

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Santiago de Compostela is one of the most beautiful and historic medieval cities in Spain and the third most important Christian pilgrimage site in the world, after Jerusalem and Rome. Your visit, accompanied by your expert and led by a local guide, includes the Townhall, the Palace of Saint Jerome, and the Hostel de Los Reyes Catolicos, now a luxury parador, but originally built by Ferdinand and Isabella as a hospital for weary pilgrims. The 11th-century cathedral, which marks the traditional site of the tomb of Saint James, is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture, enriched with later Gothic and Baroque additions.

After some time at leisure to explore on your own and enjoy an independent lunch, return to La Coruña, stopping at the Tower of Hercules, built by the Romans in the 1st century CE and still functioning as a working lighthouse.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*



## Day 8: Roman Rule in Galicia

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Your second day in La Coruña focuses on Roman influence in Galicia, beginning with a visit to Castro de Viladonga, an extensive archaeological site and museum that documents how the indigenous Castro culture of hilltop communities of characteristic circular buildings adopted to and integrated with Roman rule between the 2nd and 5th centuries CE.

Lunch will be at your leisure, and afterward we will visit the nearby town of Lugo, whose Roman walls stand between 35 and 50 feet tall, completely encircling the city's historic center and supporting 85 towers along the 1.3-mile perimeter, is one of the finest examples of Roman military architecture to be found anywhere in Europe. The Roman bridge over the River Miño is also a superb example of Roman engineering.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*



## Day 9: Cathedrals, Castros, and Columbus

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Your exploration of the Galician province of Pontevedra begins with a drive inland to the city of Tui to visit the fortress-like Cathedral de Santa María de Tui overlooking the Miño River and guarding the border with Portugal as it has done for more than 800 years. After a tour of this Romanesque-Gothic blend of military and ecclesiastical architecture, travel to the archaeological site atop Mount Santa Trega, where an Iron Age settlement of circular structures typical of Castro culture has been partially excavated and where there are unparalleled views of the river, the valley, and the Atlantic Ocean.

In the coastal town of Baiona, home to an important harbor and fishing fleet, a tour along walls that once protected the Castle Monte Real gives your guide a chance to tell some of the history of this village at the western tip of Galicia, including the fact it was where the caravel Pinta made landfall on its return from Columbus' first voyage to the New World, you may enjoy lunch on your own in town or head back to the ship for an included lunch.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*





## Day 10: Porto and Port

A walking tour of Porto's historic town center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of granite buildings and bridges, includes stops at the 18th-century baroque Clérigos Church and the São Bento Train Station, famous for its magnificent azulejo tiles, as you make your way to the Church of St. Francis. The originally modest Gothic interior of this 13th-century church was transformed in the late 17th century into the opulent display of intricately carved panels covered with nearly 700 pounds of gold leaf that you will see during your visit.

Your tour ends at the Ribeira, a pedestrian area along the Douro River filled with shops and cafés. Pause here for a coffee break and a sampling of the eponymous fortified wine for which the region is famous.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** *Le Boréal*



## Day 11: Lisbon | Disembark

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to the Humberto Delgado Airport, is (LIS), in Lisbon, Portugal, for flights homeward.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## What's Included:

- Comprehensive 9-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Boréal*
- One pre-night at the Hotel Indigo Bordeaux Center (or similar) in Bordeaux, France, with welcome reception (dinner on own) on August 14, 2027
- One PONANT EXPLORATIONS Tour Director dedicated to The Great Courses Journeys from the Pre-Night on August 14, 2027, through the end of the voyage/disembarkation on August 24, 2027
- Half day of touring in Bordeaux, and lunch, with transfer to pier for embarkation on August 15, 2027
- One exclusive The Great Courses Journeys onboard hosted cocktail reception
- 2-3 onboard lectures given by The Great Courses Journeys Expert
- Exclusive shore excursions in each port, thoughtfully designed in close collaboration with TGCJ Experts specifically for The Great Courses Journeys guests, led by local guides.
- Captain's gala dinners and cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee and pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner
- Meals ashore as listed in the itinerary
- Open bar aboard ship excluding premium alcohol, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- 24-hour complimentary room service
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite)
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on official arrival and departure days, August 14, 2027 and August 24, 2027, respectively
- Port taxes and charges
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers on tours

# Accommodations



## Luxury Ship *Le Boréal*

*Le Boréal* is part of PONANT EXPLORATIONS' Sisterships series of luxury small ships, featuring 132 cabins and suites accommodating up to 264 guests with highly personalized service. Designed with French elegance and advanced marine technology, she combines refined comfort with strong environmental stewardship, including Clean Ship certification and systems that reduce emissions and help protect sensitive marine environments. More compact than large ocean liners, *Le Boréal's* versatile design and relatively shallow draft allow access to smaller ports and coastal regions, while modern stabilizers ensure a smooth and comfortable voyage. **(9 nights)**

### **Hotel Indigo Bordeaux Center**

*Bordeaux, France*

The Hotel Indigo Bordeaux is a stylish boutique property set along the Garonne River and inspired by the wine-trading district that surrounds it. Guest rooms feature warm colors, bespoke furnishings, and modern comforts, offering river or city views. The on-site restaurant and wine bar celebrate regional flavors and local wines, and the hotel is within easy walking distance of museums and the riverside promenade. **(1 night)**



SPA



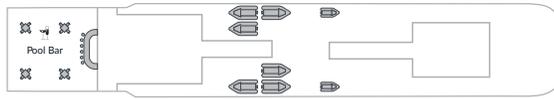
RESTAURANT



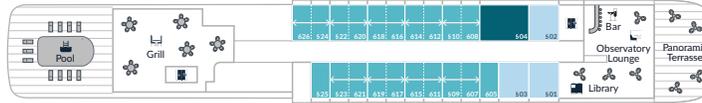
OWNER'S SUITE

# Le Boréal Deck Plan & Pricing

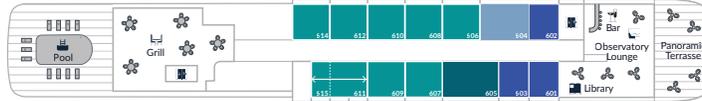
DECK 7



DECK 6



DECK 6 - Le Lyrial



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 2



- Superior Stateroom  
Deck 3
- Deluxe Suite  
Decks 3
- Prestige Stateroom  
Decks 4-5-6
- Deluxe Suite  
Deck 6
- ↔ Prestige Suite  
Decks 5-6
- Owner's Suite  
Deck 6

CATEGORY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>	SINGLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>
Super Stateroom - Deck 3	\$10,581	\$17,090
Deluxe Stateroom - Deck 3	\$11,075	\$14,720
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 4	\$11,787	\$15,790
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 5	\$12,139	\$16,320
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 6	\$12,566	\$16,960
Deluxe Suite - Deck 6	\$15,682	\$21,630
Prestige Suite - Deck 5	\$19,596	\$27,500
Prestige Suite - Deck 6	\$20,375	\$28,670
Owner's Suite - Deck 6	\$29,840	\$55,610

**Departure: Iberia's Atlantic World: Sacred Pasts and Living Traditions**  
**August 14–24, 2027 | Deposit: 25% of Tour Fare**

You will be allocated a cabin within The Great Courses Journey's allotment, specific cabin requests based on availability.

[For Full Terms & Conditions Click Here](#)