



RECONQUISTA EXPLORATION of Spain

Designed & Led by Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday

Friday, October 9 to Sunday, Oct 19, 2026



Welcome to Spain – The Reconquista

What is now Spain has been a region of great history, wealth, power, and culture.



Day 1 – Oct 9, 2026 - Arrive BCN / Barcelona

You will be met at the airport and driven to our hotel, the lovely Barcelona Astoria Hotel



Meet for lunch and then light afternoon activities

Visit **Barri Gòtic** – Roman, with early medieval layers help set the “pre-Reconquista” stage. The Barri Gòtic or Gothic Quarter goes back to Roman times, continuously occupied since, with many medieval buildings.

Visit – Roman Barcino → Visigothic remains (photo, lower right)

Enjoy dinner at **7 Portes**, historic Catalan cuisine.

Overnight at Barcelona Astoria Hotel



Day 2 – Oct 10 - Barcelona (Gaudí + early medieval context)

Barcelona Sagrada Família - Gaudí
Casa Batlló or La Pedrera



Midday - Lunch in El Born

Santa Maria del Mar – key medieval church (13–14th c., post-Reconquista Catalonia)

Afternoon - Museu d'Història de Barcelona (MUHBA) – Roman/Visigothic

Barcelona Optional: Montjuïc Castle (strategic hilltop, later medieval military, right)

Evening: Early tapas dinner

Overnight: Barcelona Astoria Hotel



Day 3 – Oct 11 - BCN → OVD (Asturias) → Covadonga → Burgos

Birthplace of the Reconquista

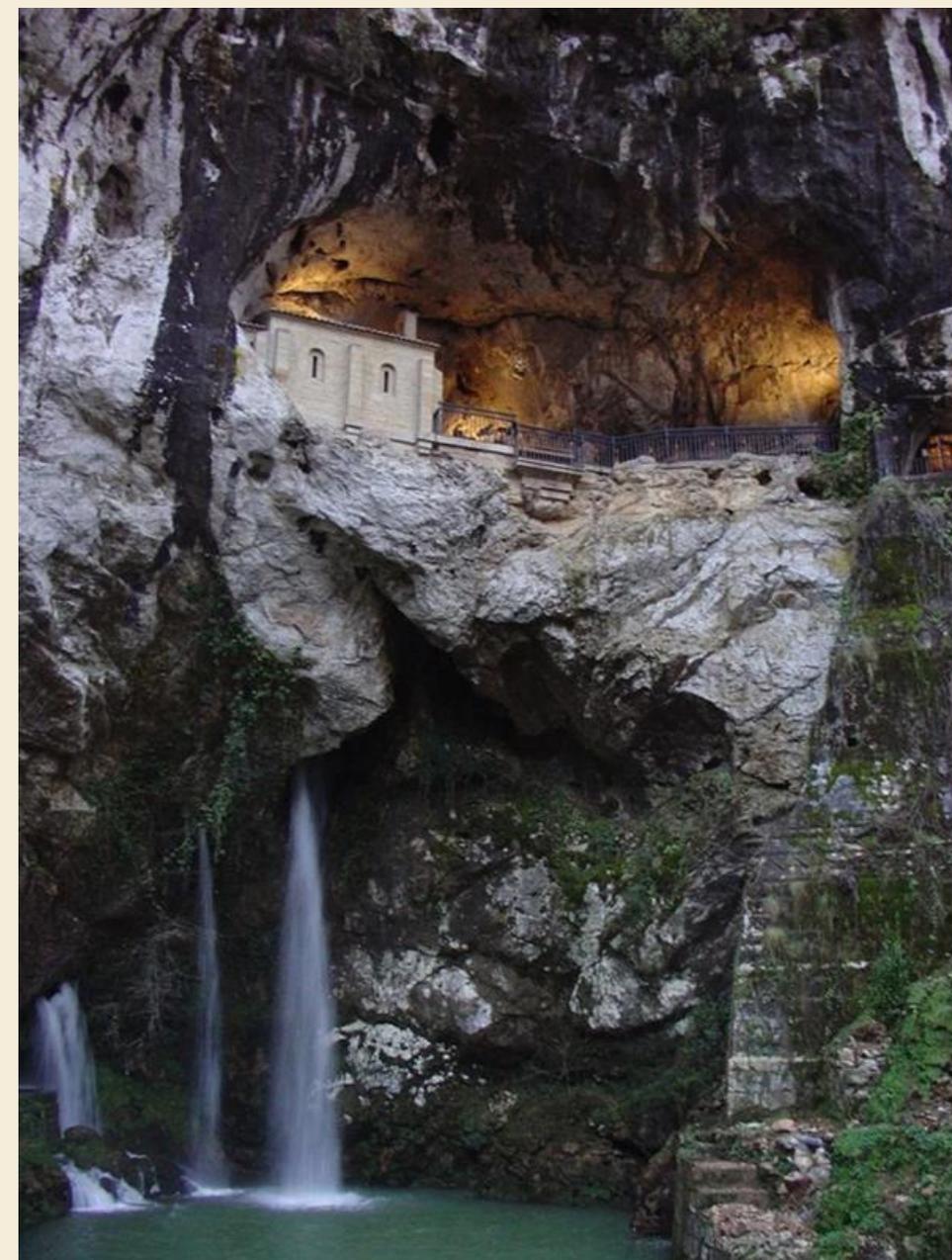
Morning-Fly BCN–OVD - Drive to Covadonga (symbolic start of Reconquista, 722)

Covadonga

Holy Cave (Cueva Santa) – Pelagius legend site



- Lunch nearby (simple Asturian fare):
 - Fabada asturiana
 - Cabrales cheese



Day 3 – Oct 11 (continued)

Afternoon drive to Burgos with exceptional scenery...

Hidden village of Puentevedey, “the Bridge of God” enroute

Monument to birthplace of El Cid, Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, village of Vivar El Cid



Evening (Burgos)

Stroll along **Arlanzón River**, Dinner near cathedral square

Overnight: Beautiful NH Palacio Hotel in Burgos



Day 4 – Oct 12 - Burgos → Madrid

El Cid at Full Strength

Morning – Burgos

- **Burgos Cathedral**
- Gothic masterpiece (UNESCO)



El Cid & Doña Jimena tomb



Museum of Human Evolution (optional but world-class)

Tizona Sword

Visit **Museo de Burgos** – See the Tizona Sword of El Cid, [confirmed by spectroscopic analysis](#) to date from the time of his life (1043-1099)



Lunch - Morcilla de Burgos for roast lamb (lechazo)

Day 4 – Oct 12 *(continued)*

Afternoon - Drive 2 ½ hours to Madrid

Enroute we'll visit the spectacular Gormaz Castle, occupied by El Cid in 1087

Evening (Madrid)

Gentle walk: **Plaza Mayor** → **Puerta del Sol**



Madrid – Early tapas dinner at a charming restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel Intelier Palacio San Martin in the heart of Madrid



Day 5 – Oct 13 - Madrid

Visigoths → Christian kingdoms → imperial Spain

Morning - National Archaeological Museum - Focus areas: Visigothic crowns (Guarrazar Treasure) Treasure of the Visigothic Kingdom in the museum Kingdom of Toledo material

Midday - Lunch near Barrio de las Letras

Afternoon - Prado Museum - The Prado has the greatest collection of Reconquista and Post-Reconquista Spain art. *The Surrender of Granada* by Francisco Pradilla Ortiz Boabdil, ruler of last Muslim kingdom in Spain, surrenders to Ferdinand & Isabella, January 2, 1492

The Prado has the greatest collection of Reconquista and Post-Reconquista Spain art
Emphasis: Velázquez (court culture of Reconquista-completed Spain) Religious art post-1492

Evening – Flamenco dance at Tablao 1911 (historic)



Overnight at Hotel Intelier Palacio San Martin



Day 6 – Oct 14 - Toledo Trip

Visigothic capital → Christian stronghold

Morning – Depart to Toledo

Museo de los Concilios y la Cultura Visigoda - Museum of Visigoth Culture

San Román Church (Visigothic foundations)

Midday

Walk old town: **Alcázar of Toledo** - Visit The Alcazar, where Charles V met Hernando Cotez in 1535

Cathedral of Toledo

Lunch with Tagus River views

Afternoon - El Greco Museum

(post-Reconquista cultural synthesis)

El Greco painting in the Museo del Greco

Dinner with View - Overnight at Parador of Toledo



Day 7 – Oct 15 - Toledo → Valencia

El Cid as Ruler

Morning – Depart Toledo to Valencia

Key sites: **Valencia Cathedral**, Ceiling of Valencia Cathedral



Cathedral claims the **Holy Grail**

<https://aleteia.org/2021/08/29/its-the-jubilee-year-of-the-holy-chalice-in-valencia/> again in 2026



Statue of El Cid in Valencia



Day 7 – Oct 15 *(continued)*

La Almoina Archaeological Centre

Roman → Visigothic → Islamic → Christian layers

We will find many El Cid references in city museums

Lunch - Proper paella Valenciana (nice area-outside tourist strip)



Evening – Overnight in Valencia at highly-rated hotel



The unique underground La Almoina Archaeological Center covered with a glass roof

Day 8 – Oct 16 - Valencia → Granada

End of the Reconquista

Morning - Madrid to Granada - Check in at hotel and lunch

Afternoon - **Alhambra & Generalife** (book early access)

Focus on: Nasrid palace culture; Transition to Christian rule



Granada



Evening – Flamenco Sacromonte Gitano caves
Intimate, raw flamenco with deep Andalusian roots

Evening – Overnight Granada

Day 9 – Oct 17 - Granada → Las Navas de Tolosa → Granada

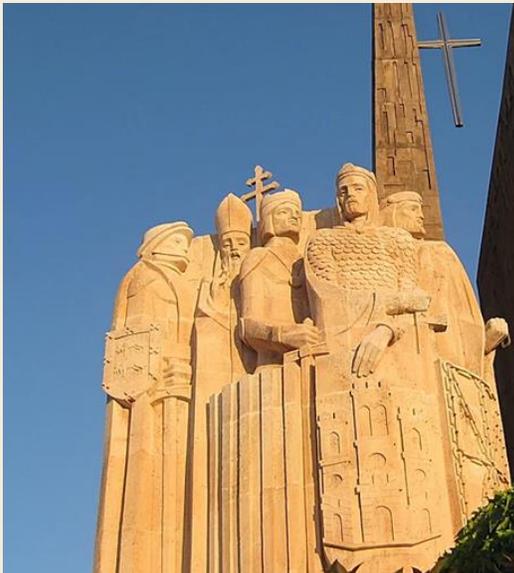
Turning point of the Reconquista

Morning - Drive to Las Navas de Tolosa battlefield



The battle museum overlooks the battle site and provides explanation and reenactments.

Visit nearby **La Carolina monument**



The 1212 battle was the collapse of Almohad dominance and opened Andalusia to Christian reconquest.



Overnight in Granada

Day 9 – Oct 17 - Granada → Las Navas de Tolosa → Granada

Turning Point of the Reconquista

Afternoon – We return to Granada and visit: Basilica de San Juan de Dios

Then we'll see the Royal Chapel which has the tombs of Fernando and Isabel.



Ferdinand of Aragon 1452-1516 – Isabella of Castile 1451-1504



Tonight, we'll **Celebrate our journey** of discovering the Reconquista over an excellent Spanish dinner.

Overnight in Granada

Day 10 – Oct 18 - DEPARTURE DAY

Group will depart 11am to airport for **14:10/2pm flight to Barcelona for our flights home!** [Ask your travel agent to check for evening flights out or on Oct 19th.](#)

Expedition Schedule Overview

Early Arrivals (Optional)	THU 8 OCT	PRE-TRIP – EARLY ARRIVALS Barcelona
DAY-1	FRI 9 OCT	ALL ARRIVE – BARCELONA Overnight Barcelona
DAY-2	SAT 10 OCT	BARCELONA Overnight Barcelona
DAY-3	SUN 11 OCT	BCN-fly to OVD (Asturias) Covadonga-Burgos Overnight
DAY-4	MON 12 OCT	Morning in Burgos – Drive to Madrid – Overnight Madrid
DAY-5	TUE 13 OCT	Tour Madrid Overnight Madrid
DAY-6	WED 14 OCT	Madrid-Toledo Overnight
DAY-7	THU 15 OCT	Toledo to Valencia Overnight
DAY-8	FRI 16 OCT	Valencia-Granada Overnight
DAY-9	SAT 17 OCT	Granada - Las Navas de Tolosa Overnight Granada
DAY-10	SUN 18 OCT – DEPART TO BCN	Late am to Airport- Group flies 2p to BCN for Flights Outward. Check times for options in evening or on the 19 th .

Reconquista Exploration of Spain

Arrive Barcelona: Friday, Oct 9, 2026 Return to Barcelona: Sunday, Oct 18, 2026

Trip Details - All Inclusive: € 8,750 per person, double occupancy

Register: [The Reconquista Exploration of Spain Oct 9-18, 2026](#)

All-Inclusive: Accommodations in highly-rated hotels (check-in on Friday, Oct 9 until check-out on Sunday, Oct 18); all transportation, transfers, tours, admissions, guides, and activities in itinerary. Three quality meals per day included during trip dates.

Price does not include: International airfare to/from Barcelona. Any meals, services, and activities not with group or in itinerary; personal expenditures, laundry, additional alcohol, gratuities, etc. Single Supplement of €1,000 for Solo Traveler Private room (€ 9,750 total).

Deposit & Payment: **Deposit of € 3,750 per person** in double occupancy. Same to register if solo traveler: € 3,750 per person. In both cases, balance in 2 payments. The Single Supplement is applied in the payments.

Cancellation and Refund Info: Refund in full on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. We expect this trip to be completed as scheduled. In the event of an unforeseen situation out of our control we will reschedule this expedition on various dates as early as possible. We advise trip cancellation insurance. Let us know if you need assistance.

Contact Us: holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com or holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com.

Important caveat: *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. It rarely happens, yet due to the nature of travel, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. Participants are expected to accept this, and to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.*



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS

Dr. Jack Wheeler, has been called the “real life Indiana Jones” by the Wall Street Journal has traveled to all 193 countries on all seven continents. He’s had two parallel careers: one in adventure and exploration with *Wheeler Expeditions*; the other in the field of geopolitics. After receiving his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Southern California, where he lectured on Aristotelian ethics.

His adventures began early. The youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer’s Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole. His company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years.

Jack founded Wheeler Expeditions in 1976, today he and his sons lead bespoke expeditions each year to unusual destinations. The company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married Ms. Rebel Holiday in St Tropez, France, and these days, Wheeler Expeditions is a family affair. They are delighted to work with their two grown sons also living adventurous lives and leading expeditions: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler.

Rebel Holiday has traveled to 87 countries and has co-led expeditions for 3 decades. She has lived in 5 countries and speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese.) She is involved in business and the arts. Wherever she goes in the world, Rebel is most interested in people and cultures. She is passionate about cuisine and finds the best restaurants and special activities on trips. She currently enjoys sharing the beauty and culture of every country.

We hope you join us...this will be high on your list of
“Best Trips Ever.”

Contact us if any questions:

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holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com

Thanks – see you in Spain!

Jack & Rebel



EST. 1976

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