

ROUBAS HOLIDAY

TIPS AND EXPERIENCES





Lebanon has always held a special place in my heart—now, more than ever. Yes, it's hectic here, but there's something about the hustle and bustle that just draws you in. The people are the most incredible in the world, and despite the economic challenges they're facing, they remain as generous as ever. Walk into any shop, and you'll be offered anything you simply glance at, from savory treats to sweets, even drinks—they insist! You could practically fill up just by trying everything they offer. That's just how beautiful and generous the Lebanese people are.



Lebanon is absolutely stunning. One minute, you're at the seaside, soaking up the sun, and within a 20-minute drive, you're cooling down in the mountains, enjoying the most spectacular views. It's a country that has so much to offer, from luxurious resorts to snowy peaks, and everything in between. And the service? Lebanon is all about making sure you're taken care of—anything you want can probably be delivered to you, even medicine.



LEBANON

The hospitality here is unmatched. I walked into a patisserie to buy an ice cream cake, and the lady insisted I try something else too. I politely declined, but she wouldn't take no for an answer. I asked for a mamoul, took a bite, and my husband had the rest. She noticed and immediately brought me another one, saying, "He ate most of it—here's another!" That's just how generous the



Lebanon is a beautiful blend of tradition and modernity. Some places are deeply rooted in tradition, while others are as western as they come. The nightlife is spectacular for those who enjoy a good party. But keep in mind, Lebanon is more of a destination than a place where you can just stroll around aimlessly. We often had a driver with us for the day, or we used taxis to hop around.



One of the biggest highlights of this trip was reconnecting with my family and friends—some of whom I hadn't seen in 40 years. Everyone wanted to invite us over or take us out. The people are so amazing and friendly.



Yes, you'll see poverty, and you'll quickly realize how corrupt the Lebanese government is and how they don't take care of their own country. But you have to put that aside and focus on Lebanon's beauty, its people, and its delicious cuisine. Trust me, they know how to have fun.



Gus and I even got to practice our Arabic—we spoke only in Arabic to the locals, and we had so many funny moments because of it.



LEBANON ISN'T JUST A PLACE, IT'S AN EXPERIENCE FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS AND AMAZING FOOD.

ZAITUNAY BAY

This is a lovely marina in Beirut, perfect for an evening walk. The views are stunning, and it's a great spot to unwind. We had dinner at Em Sherif, a restaurant that offers delicious Lebanese dishes in a cozy setting.

LEBANESE SWEETS

If you have a sweet tooth, Al Hallab is the place to go. The branch in Tripoli is the original and serves some of the best Lebanese sweets you'll find.

A HIDDEN GEM

Don't let the location fool you—Safwan is a small place off the main road, but they make the best sfiha (a meat pie with homemade dough and a lamb mixture). It's not fancy, but it's incredibly tasty.

FARM-TO-TABLE

For something traditional but in a more restaurant-style setting, we visited Lakkis Farm in Beirut. They grow all their own ingredients, and the food is fresh and delicious. The egg and awarma dish was a standout.

EXPLORING BATROUN

Batroun is a beautiful area worth exploring. While I wouldn't say it's the best lemonade I've ever had, you can't visit Batroun without trying Hilmi's lemonade. It's refreshing and a part of the town's charm.

BYBLOS

Byblos is another beautiful town, full of history and character. There are plenty of restaurants to choose from, making it a great spot to enjoy a meal.

TRIPOLI ADVENTURES

If you head north to Tripoli, start your day with a delicious breakfast at Akra in the old souk. The souk is a great place to wander around, with lots of street food, gold shops, and little knick-knacks.

MOUNTAIN ESCAPE

In the mountains, there's a guesthouse called Beyt el Jabal—a spectacular place for lunch or dinner. The views are stunning, and it's a place I'd love to stay at next time.

MORE MOUNTAIN DINING

Jnaynit el Khaweja offers an amazing setting and food. Make sure to book in advance and ask for a table with a view. The asafeer (small grilled birds) there are a must-try. Another favourite mountain restaurant is Mounir. The food is incredible, and the setting is beautiful. When booking, ask for a table with a view, and don't miss the kibbeh nayeesh (raw minced

QUICK BITES

For a quick and tasty bite, Jaber Jaber Sons makes the best labneh wrap—creamy and light, with bread that's to die for.

STREET FOOD

If you're in the mood for a shawarma, grab one from Mano Burj Hamoud. It's so good, but be prepared for garlic breath that lasts two days!

FAMILY MEALS

My best meal was at Gus's aunty's house, where she cooked us a feast of home-cooked food. My aunty in Tripoli also made me the most amazing mansaf.

JORDAN

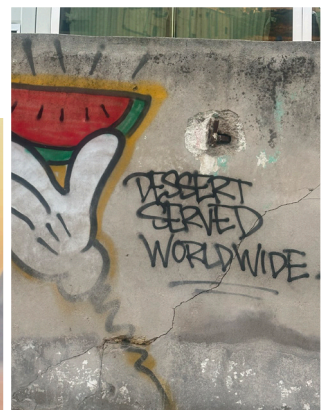
My time in Amman, Jordan, has been eye-opening. I knew so little about this city's rich history, from its biblical stories to its modern-day tales. The food is delicious, though I have to be honest - it's not quite as tasty as Lebanese food! Haha.



But let me tell you about the Jordanian people. They are so humble, kind, and loving. They give without expecting anything in return. I asked a supermarket owner if there was a bakery nearby, and he replied, "Please, my wife can make you a pastry in less than ten minutes." He was so serious, I was speechless. We quickly learned how hospitable they are. Every time we met someone, they'd invite us over. A man in a falafel shop even refused to take money because we were guests in his town.



From meeting Bedouins in the desert to exploring the ancient city of Petra, and seeing olive trees everywhere, Jordan has left a lasting impression on my heart. The landscapes, the history, and especially the people - I can't speak highly enough of them.



HERE ARE SOME FOOD PLACES WE ENJOYED:

1. OSRAH (AMMAN)

This local spot is perfect for breakfast. It's friendly, tasty, and gives you that authentic Jordanian experience. We couldn't have asked for a better start to our day.

3. LEVANT RESTAURANT (AMMAN)

This restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor seating, but trust me, you'll want to sit outdoors on warm nights. The setting is beautiful, and the service is unreal. It's a unique Armenian experience, and the food is just as special. You must try the freekeh in the bilfukhara and their homemade sujuk—both are amazing.

5. KHASHOKA JORDAN (AMMAN)

This is a really cool place in Amman. The chicken liver here is outstanding, and the decor adds to the charm. It's a spot I'd highly recommend.

7. SUFRA RESTAURANT (AMMAN)

We had so much fun here, and I had one of my all-time favourite experiences in Jordan. When I asked the waiter to take a photo of my husband and me, it turned into a moment I'll never forget (I'll be sharing the photos and story behind it separately). Also, don't miss out on the Mansaf—a traditional Jordanian rice dish that's a must-try.

2

On our way to Petra, we stopped at this humble bakery (here's a shot of the window, as I didn't quite capture the name). While waiting for our order to be freshly made, we were treated to a free pastry and two cups of tea. The hospitality didn't stop there—I was welcomed into the kitchen, asked if I could take a video, and the old lady even posed for a selfie with me! It was such a heartwarming experience.

4. LEBANESE UM KHALIL (JERASH)

We had just come over from Lebanon and thought, "This can't be as good," but it didn't disappoint. The food here is delicious and offers a great taste of Lebanon right in the heart of Jordan.

6. CANTALOUPE GASTROPUB (AMMAN)

I never thought I'd find such a dry country to be so beautiful, but the view from this rooftop bar was spectacular. Not a single green tree in sight, yet something about it just captured me. The setting is mind-blowing, and it's definitely worth a visit.

8. A LITTLE CORNER BAKERY

While exploring, we both spotted a little girl turning a corner with a tray of mana'eesh. She disappeared before we could ask where she got it from. We did a U turn with the car, turned that corner and there it was! . Wow, wow, wow—so good, so yum! It's a place for the locals, but the flavour is worth tracking down.

3 THINGS YOU MUST DO IN JORDAN

1. WADI RUM

Spending a night at the Memories of Aicha camp in Wadi Rum was like stepping onto another planet. The red sand and towering cliffs made it feel more like a Mars colony than a campsite. We immersed ourselves in Bedouin culture, meeting the friendliest people, and our guides were pros with the video camera! The domes were spacious and comfortable, complete with AC, bathrooms, and running water. Watching the stars through the transparent roof at night was pure magic.

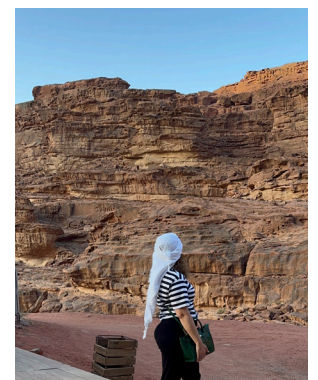


The food was unforgettable—lamb, chicken, and vegetables cooked underground for hours until the meat just fell off the bone. The rice, soaking up all the juices, was the hero of the buffet. And yes, I learned to watch my step with all the cats around. Thankfully, the kind Jordanians kept them away from me!

2. VISIT PETRA



Petra is a wonder of the world and an absolute must-see when in Jordan. The ancient city, carved into rose-red cliffs, leaves you in awe at every turn. The Treasury is just the beginning—there's so much more to explore, from the Monastery to the Roman Theater. Walking through the Siq and finally seeing the Treasury emerge is an experience I'll never forget. I highly recommend you do this with a tour guide; their insights make the experience even



3. THE DEAD SEA

Visiting the Dead Sea was high on my bucket list, and it did not disappoint. Floating in the salty water is an unbelievable experience, but here's a tip: don't try to flip or float on your stomach. It's hard to turn back over, and you don't want that salt in your eyes—the salt level is incredibly high. I recommend you do this through a resort or travel agent to ensure you're in a safe space. You'll find many people trying to usher you into the sea, and while you do pay to get in, I feel that should be avoided. Safety first—enjoy the experience in a controlled environment where you can relax and take it all in.



We were out for a meal, and I was determined to get the perfect photo with Gus. So, I asked our waiter to snap a picture of us. Little did we know, this waiter had a real passion for traditional-style photography.

He was so serious about positioning us, especially how we should hold hands, that it completely caught us off guard. There I was, standing behind Gus, and the waiter comes over to arrange our hands together, very seriously instructing us on the 'right way' to do it. Neither of us expected this, and I just couldn't stop myself from laughing—especially because I kept imagining what must have been going through Gus's head!



The whole thing turned into an absolute giggle fest, and the best part is that it was all captured on camera. These photos show the real moment, full of laughter, and honestly, that made it even better than the 'perfect' picture I had in mind.





OUR TRAVELS: CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AND DISCOVERING GREAT FOOD

Traveling is so much more than just seeing new places—it's about connecting with people, discovering new foods, and learning to see the world from a different perspective. Over the course of our travels, Gus and I have had the privilege of visiting some incredible cities, each with its own unique charm.

We explored Istanbul, Sicily, Malta, Tunisia, Barcelona, and took a road trip through northern Spain, stopping in several cities before continuing into Porto and finally Lisbon. Each destination left its mark, but some cities captured our hearts more than others.

Sicily was a standout, especially our stay in Catania—a beautiful town where I got completely addicted to their iced coffee. And if you're in Sicily, you absolutely must try the ricotta cannoli—it's heavenly. We also visited Taormina, just a 45-minute drive from Catania. I highly recommend staying there if your holiday involves a resort by the beach. It's very touristy but undeniably gorgeous. We found a local family-owned restaurant there and ended up eating there twice in our four days. That alone should tell you how good it was!



One thing to keep in mind about Sicily is that it has an active volcano, Mount Etna. Apparently, it erupts once a year, and wouldn't you know it erupted on the day we were flying out! The airport was shut down, flights were canceled, and for the first time, I saw the sky raining ash, with people walking around with umbrellas. It was surreal. But as with all travel adventures, we made the best of it and ended up taking a ferry to Malta. It turned what could have been a disaster into a memorable experience.



Spain stood out for its authenticity and fresh produce. Whether in cafes, shops, supermarkets, or even small towns along the way, we indulged in delicious fresh food, with seafood being a highlight. San Sebastian was an incredible city, and the surrounding towns offered some of the best fresh food we've ever had. The best part? Watching the Spanish people themselves enjoying these places—there's no better sign that you've found the real deal.

Tunisia won us over with the kindness of its people. There's a warmth and hospitality in Tunisia that's hard to match, making our experience there particularly memorable.

However, it's impossible to ignore that some cities and countries are losing their authenticity to tourism. It's disappointing to walk through a city and find fast food chains on every corner, with traditional dishes becoming harder to find. For us, traveling is about enjoying good, honest, traditional food, but when you have to look so hard to find it, you know something's wrong.



Gus and I aren't the type to hit museums or tourist hotspots. In fact, we often avoid anything that feels too touristy—though that's not always easy when we're tourists ourselves! We're more interested in speaking with the locals, whether at hotels, cafes, or wherever we find the opportunity. You'll often hear us asking, "So, where do you eat?" It drives me crazy when people hesitate to share this with us! I want them to be proud of their cuisine and culture, and to see us as more than just tourists—we're there to embrace their way of life.

So, I can't tell you much about the sightseeing, to be honest! If we happen to see a famous landmark, we'll take a quick photo, say, "tick," and move on. For us, the real joy of traveling is found in the people we meet and the food we share with them.

ROLLING WITH THE CHANGES: OUR UNPLANNED ADVENTURE IN SPAIN



Sometimes, when you're traveling for several weeks, things don't go exactly as planned—and that's okay. For instance, during our trip, we were supposed to travel from Tunisia to Algeria, but the day before our flight, I realized we needed a visa, which was impossible to get in just one day. To make things more complicated, I was feeling extremely sick. We decided to change our plans and head to Barcelona instead.

After arriving in Barcelona, the pain in my ear from the flight was unbearable, and Gus and I quickly realized that I wasn't in any condition to board another plane. Even though we had flights and accommodations booked for three more cities, we decided to cancel everything. We hired a car and drove from Barcelona to Lisbon, where we were scheduled to fly home. This change of plans turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Driving through the north of Spain was spectacular—Spain is truly underrated! We indulged in fresh seafood, ate with the locals, and enjoyed every moment of the drive.

It wasn't what we had planned, but it ended up being one of the highlights of our trip. So, don't be afraid to make changes to your plans. Everything happens for a reason, and sometimes those unexpected detours turn out to be the best part of the journey.



PACK YOUR ESSENTIALS

When traveling, it's always a good idea to be prepared for the unexpected—especially when it comes to your health. Before we left, we made sure to pack a stash of familiar medications from home: Panadol for headaches, gastro medication, sleeping tablets, nasal sprays, and even antibiotics. I never imagined I'd need so much of it, but when I got really sick during our trip, having those familiar medicines on hand made a world of difference.



While it's certainly possible to visit local pharmacies for things like cough lozenges, it can sometimes be tricky if there's a language barrier. Communicating what you need isn't always straightforward, so it's best to have your own stash of essential medicines just in case. You hope not to get sick while traveling, but it's always better to be prepared.

When it comes to packing, I'll admit—I'm an over packer. I never quite manage to travel light, and I always come back with things I didn't wear. But there are a few essentials that always make the cut: my skincare products, all my hair products, and my trusty hairdryer. Now, there's one thing that does Gus's head in—he can never understand why I really need to take a hairdryer.

Maybe it's because he's quite bald, but for me, the hairdryer is non-negotiable. I need that diffuser for my hair; otherwise, I'd have a bad hair day every day, and that's just not a good feeling. My shampoo and conditioner also always come with me, which probably explains most of the weight in my bag. These are my non-negotiable, and they make traveling feel just a bit more like home.

As for clothing, I like to keep it practical, especially when the weather is cooler. I'll pack a couple of pairs of pants, and one is always jeans. Knits and one warm jacket are also staples. But I'll be honest—summer is where I struggle. I'm not a fan of dresses, mainly because of the chafing (just being real here!). I prefer pants and always opt for light cotton or breathable fabrics to keep cool. Personally, I don't believe that wearing less makes you cooler; in fact, long-sleeve cotton or linen shirts often do the trick. They're comfortable and protect you from the heat, which is key for me.



When it comes to planning our trips, Gus and I like to keep things flexible. We always have our internal flights and hotel bookings sorted before we leave home, but we make sure the hotels are refundable, allowing us to cancel up to 24 hours in advance.

This flexibility really paid off when I got sick—we were able to cancel our hotels without any charges. While we try to apply the same principle to airlines, some internal flights aren't refundable, so we did lose a bit of money when we had to cancel, but it was necessary given the circumstances.

HOW WE TRAVEL:

We don't book much in advance because our approach is more about vibing with the city when we get there, connecting with people, and deciding what we want to do based on those experiences. We're not into sightseeing in the traditional sense—no museums or guided bus tours for us. We're more about walking around, discovering new places, eating great food, and just soaking it all in. When we do hire a tour guide, it's a one-on-one experience, just us and them. We also do a lot of driving; Gus is brilliant at navigating other cities, and I'll share more tips on hiring a car later.

One thing we definitely don't do is sit around in resorts or spend time tanning on the beach—unless that's the whole point of the trip, like a dedicated resort holiday. For us, it's all about exploring and experiencing the local culture.



HIRING A CAR: EXPLORING BEYOND THE TOURIST SPOTS

When it comes to hiring a car, Gus and I have done it in both Europe and the Middle East, and it's always been a great way to explore a new place. Gus is brilliant at navigating cities, and we usually rely on Google Maps to get around. There are plenty of car hire companies to choose from—Sixt, Avis, Budget, and more. We usually book our car in advance, along with our accommodation and flights. Once you land at the airport, it's a simple process of walking to the car hire desk, doing the paperwork, and picking up the keys.



One thing to keep in mind is to be aware of which side of the road you'll be driving on. In most countries, the driving is straightforward, and you'll get the hang of it pretty quickly. But it's important to make a responsible decision about whether or not you should drive. For instance, Gus is an excellent driver, but in Lebanon, he decided not to drive because the roads were chaotic, with very few rules being followed. It's important to recognize when it's safer to let someone else take the wheel.

Driving is a fantastic way to get out of the touristy areas and really see the country. You connect with the locals more and soak in so much about the place. I highly recommend driving where you can. In Lebanon, we used yellow taxis or hired a local driver who stayed with us all day, driving us wherever we needed to go. It's a great way to have a local guide who can take you to places you'd never find on your own, and the going rate is around \$120 to \$150 for the day.



NAVIGATING SPAIN: OUR JOURNEY WITH GOOGLE MAPS

Google Maps was our best friend during this trip. We relied on it a lot, not just to get around cities but especially when we were traveling through the north of Spain. Since we didn't have any accommodation booked in advance, we used Google Maps to plan our route day by day.



Each night, we'd look at the map and pick a city about three hours away as our next destination. We'd then search for accommodation in that city, so we knew where we were heading the next day. Along the way, after about an hour and a half of driving, we'd use Google Maps to find a town that was the perfect distance away for a lunch stop. It was all done through the app—finding local towns, planning our breaks, and making sure we didn't drive too long in one

Once we reached our destination city, we'd stay for a night (or sometimes two) and then repeat the process, finding the next city about three or four hours away. We kept our drives manageable—four or five hours max—so we wouldn't get too tired.

This method worked brilliantly, especially since the trip was unplanned, and because we were traveling through local towns and less busy cities, finding accommodation was easy. It was a great way to explore the region on the fly.

TRAVEL TIPS: STAYING SAVVY ON THE ROAD: HERE ARE A FEW TIPS BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCES:

1. CUSTOMS AND VISAS

When going through customs, it's essential to keep things serious and professional. This is a well-known tip, but it bears repeating—customs is not the place for jokes or casual behavior. Make sure to look up visa requirements for each country you're visiting ahead of time. Some countries allow you to get a visa upon arrival, but others, like Algeria, may require a longer process.

It's also a good idea to have a screenshot of your passport and birth certificate on your phone—just in case. There are express customs services available at some airports for a small fee, which can make the process much smoother, especially after a long flight.

2. TAXI CAUTION

If you're going to encounter any issues, it's likely to be with taxi drivers. In some cities, taxi drivers may refuse to use the meter, even though it's illegal not to. Always ask if the meter is on before you start the ride. If they refuse, negotiate the fare upfront, and make sure it's reasonable. When paying, hand over all the money at once and count it out loud as you give it to them.

This helps avoid any potential tricks, like swapping a higher denomination bill for a lower one. Be aware of your surroundings and don't let anyone take advantage of you, even if the fare seems cheap—it's the principle that matters.

3. RESTAURANT AWARENESS

When dining out, always check the menu for prices before ordering. If prices aren't listed, it's best to avoid eating there. Some places might take advantage of tourists by overcharging, so it's important to be mindful. It's not just about the money; it's about making sure you're treated fairly.

4. SAFETY ON THE ROAD

When driving through the countryside or on highways in foreign countries, it's crucial to prioritize your safety. At no point should you stop the car if someone is asking you to pull over. We were specifically advised of this in Spain, and it's important to heed that warning.

While your instincts might tell you to stop and help, you just don't know who the person on the side of the road is or what their intentions might be. It feels wrong not to help, but in situations like these, it's best to keep driving and stay safe.

TURKEY HIGHLIGHTS

BURSA

- Zennup 1844: After driving to Bursa, we had dinner at Zennup 1844. I have to say, it was the best pide I've ever had—so flavourful and perfectly baked. Definitely a must-visit spot!

ISTANBUL

- Çatkapı Balık Restaurant: We stumbled upon this delicious seafood restaurant, and it didn't disappoint. The calamari was crispy and fresh, paired with a tasty dipping sauce. It's a great find for seafood lovers.

- Seyran Lokantası: We enjoyed a traditional Turkish breakfast here with the locals. The soup was unforgettable—I'm determined to get the recipe. (And yes, I was still in the same clothes as the night before!)

- Dürümcü Mustafa: This place was a hidden gem. The lamb wraps were out of this world. I made sure to note the name so I wouldn't forget—definitely worth a stop if you're in the area.

- Kokoreççi Erdinç Usta: You have to try the kokoreç here—lamb wrapped in lamb intestines. It might sound unusual, but it's a must-try if you're up for something unique and traditional. Found this gem in the markets, and it was phenomenal.

SICILY HIGHLIGHTS

- Trattoria da Nino, Catania: You know it's an experience when you take a photo with the owner! This place is where the locals eat, and I highly recommend it. The calamari here was unforgettable.

- Savia 1897: Every local will send you here for the best arancini and ricotta cannolis. It's a must-visit if you're in the area.

- Ristorante Martorana, Palermo: We stumbled upon this family-run restaurant and it was fantastic. Honest food, great company, and the loveliest people. A true hidden gem.

MALTA HIGHLIGHTS

1. Manuela, Valletta

If you are in Valletta, you must try a pastizzi from here. So yum!

2. Da Pippo's: Here's a true gem in Malta. We loved everything about this place—the vibe, the people, and of course, the food. It's one of those spots where you feel right at home the moment you walk in. Highly recommended!

TUNISIA HIGHLIGHTS

1. Beignets et Bambalouni, Sidi Bou Said

The famous donut in Tunisia! You can't miss this spot in Sidi Bou Said—there's a reason it's so well-known.

2. Medina, Tunis

We went to the Medina, the old Souk. It was too much for me, and I was starting to feel unwell, so I couldn't fully enjoy it. But it's definitely a place you should visit if you're in Tunis.

PORTUGAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Figueira da Foz

Driving through Portugal? Be sure to stop in Figueira da Foz for lunch. This beautiful city is a great spot to break up your journey and enjoy some local charm.

2. Nazaré,

Unfortunately, we picked the wrong day, but I still urge you to explore it. It's definitely worth the visit!

3. Sintra

Make sure to stop by Restaurante da Adraga. It's a seafood restaurant right by the beach, offering fresh and delicious seafood with a spectacular view. I highly recommend it!

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

We spent one night in Bordeaux, and it's absolutely gorgeous. The charming streets and beautiful architecture make it a city worth visiting.

We enjoyed a cheese platter in perfect weather—25 degrees and I was in heaven. The next morning, we skipped the hotel breakfast and found a patisserie with fresh croissants and delicious custard-filled bread. Bordeaux's charm and flavours made it unforgettable.



SPAIN

When traveling, don't miss out on local food stores and gourmet shops. We discovered some of the best anchovies I've ever had by just popping into one of these spots. It's a great way to explore the local flavours and pick up some unique snacks.

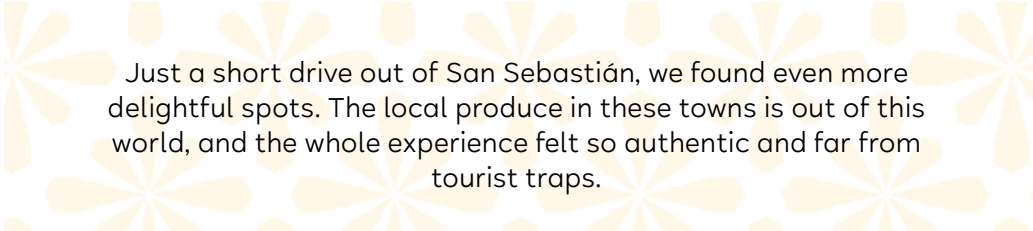
Here are some of our stops as we journeyed through the north of Spain into Portugal. From delightful meals to cozy accommodations, we found spots that suited our travel style perfectly. Keep in mind, though, that what worked for us might not be ideal for everyone. We recommend trying out different places and seeing what fits your vibe as you explore these beautiful regions!

DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN HIGHLIGHTS

San Sebastián is a true food lover's paradise. We indulged in some "Tapas Hopping," discovering incredible dishes at every turn. The city is brimming with places where each spot has its specialty, making it essential to hop around and taste everything.

MUST-TRY SPOTS:

- La Viña: Don't miss the iconic San Sebastián cheesecake here. Gus lined up for it, and trust me, that's true love!
- Pintxos App: This app is your guide to the best pintxos bars, curated by expert chefs. It's like having a local foodie in your pocket.
- Arzak fine dining: If Gus is willing to pose with the chef, you know the meal was exceptional! Arzak was one of those unforgettable dining experiences.



Just a short drive out of San Sebastián, we found even more delightful spots. The local produce in these towns is out of this world, and the whole experience felt so authentic and far from tourist traps.

- Tx (txlasuntalaia): The best tuna we've ever had—so fresh and delicious.
- Maruka_gastro: Perfectly prepared tapas that we couldn't resist. The mushroom and cheese bake were from here.

We'll be back, Inshallah. These places are for the locals, and that's where the real magic happens.

NORTH SPAIN TO PORTUGAL HIGHLIGHTS

During our road trip through the north of Spain into Portugal, we made some unforgettable culinary stops.

- Restaurante El-Rincon de la Coral (Las Presillas): We joined the locals for dinner, and despite the language barrier, the universal language of food made it all work out perfectly. The paella was a highlight—don't miss it if you're ever passing through this beautiful region.

WE STAYED HERE:

- Helguera Palacio Boutique & Antique (Puente Viesgo): A beautiful spot with stunning decor, but was a touch too fancy for us

- Espazo Nature Accommodation (Carballo, Spain): A serene place that got many of you curious! Perfect for relaxing and enjoying nature.

Our last stop before heading into Portugal:

- Cocedero Bar La Piedra (Vigo): A charming city on the northwest coast of Spain, where we had one final seafood lunch before continuing our journey.

REMEMBER:

These recommendations worked for us, but they may not be ideal for everyone. Travel is personal, so find what vibes with you and make it your own adventure!

Also, I haven't linked any specific places here, but don't worry—a quick Google search will point you in the right direction!