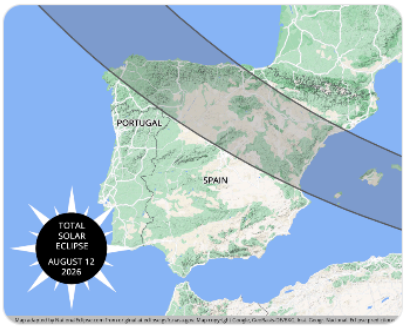
Post-Trip: Spain & Total Solar Eclipse

August 11-13, 2026



Optional, Self-Booked Extension from Central Europe
🎥 **Overview Video:** https://youtu.be/4zX9oPdL2XM?si=gaGkrcV-WIuDJxBT

We're planning an optional, self-booked post-trip adventure to witness the **Total Solar Eclipse in Spain** on **August 12, 2026**, right after our Central Europe Adventure. This is **not** an organized Pride Adventures trip. Everyone will book their own flights and hotel, but we will coordinate plans for eclipse day together.

At this time, we are still reviewing the best town option for eclipse day. There are **several towns within about 2 hours of Madrid** that fall within the path of totality, and we want to make the best decision based on **transportation logistics, return timing, and eclipse viewing conditions**.

One of the most unique things about this eclipse is that it happens **late in the evening**, making Spain an especially memorable place to experience totality.

🌒 Eclipse Details

The August 12, 2026 total solar eclipse will take place in the evening, which is part of what makes this such a special experience.

- **Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2026
- **Region:** Spain
- **General Plan:** Travel from Madrid to a town within the path of totality
- **Partial Eclipse Begins:** Around **7:30 PM**

• **Totality:** Around **8:30 PM**
• **Sunset:** Later that evening

Final eclipse timing and location details will be confirmed once we select our town.

✈️ Tue, Aug 11 – Budapest → Madrid

Host Flight

Iberia IB 872
• Depart **BUD 3:30 PM**
• Arrive **MAD 6:50 PM**
• Nonstop **(3h 20m)**

Host Hotel

ibis Madrid Aeropuerto Barajas
(Click for website)

• Check in: **Tue, Aug 11**
• Check out: **Thu, Aug 13**
• This is the **host hotel** for anyone who wants to mirror the same plan
• If you prefer, you are also welcome to stay at another nearby airport hotel

🌆 Optional Evening Plans

After arriving in Madrid and checking in at the hotel, take a taxi into central Madrid for an independent evening in the **Royal Palace** area.

• Official airport taxis offer a **flat €33 fare** into central Madrid inside the M 30 area
• Have dinner somewhere nearby
• Enjoy a relaxed walk around the surrounding historic center, including **Plaza de Oriente** and **Plaza Mayor**
• Return to the hotel later that evening

Approximate walking distances in the area:
• **Royal Palace to Plaza Mayor:** about **1 km**, or roughly **10 to 15 minutes walking**
• **Plaza de Oriente to Plaza Mayor:** about **1 km**, or roughly **10 to 15 minutes walking**

A few dinner ideas near Plaza de Oriente / Royal Palace:
• **Café de Oriente**
• **Le Bistroman Atelier**
• **Taberna del Alabardero**

Suggested flow:
• Arrive at hotel and check in
• Taxi to central Madrid
• Dinner near Royal Palace / Plaza de Oriente
• Walk through the historic center
• Taxi back to hotel

🚄 Wed, Aug 12 – Eclipse Day

Madrid ↔ Totality Town TBD

We are planning to travel from Madrid on **Wednesday, August 12** to a town within the path of totality for the eclipse, then return to Madrid afterward. There are **several possible towns within about 2 hours of Madrid**, and we are still reviewing the best overall option based on **transportation logistics, return timing, and eclipse viewing conditions**.

Because logistics are still being worked through, we are not locking in one specific town just yet.

We will host a **planning call in mid to late April, after our Japan trip**, for anyone interested in joining this optional post-trip extension. During that call, we will review the current town options, discuss transportation and return logistics, and plan to book **train tickets if available**. We will also decide on the final town we will visit for eclipse day.

If train tickets are available and make sense for the schedule, we may coordinate those as a group. Before booking any train tickets on your own, please check with the host first so we can try to stay on the same departure.

(Click for train website: Renfe.com)

⏰ Approximate Timeline

Subject to change

• Morning departure from Madrid to our chosen eclipse town
• Afternoon arrival with time for lunch and exploring
• Late afternoon / early evening move to our chosen eclipse viewing area
• **~7:30 PM** – Partial eclipse begins
• **~8:30 PM** – **TOTAL ECLIPSE**
• After eclipse – Planned return to Madrid that night

🏙️ Our Plan

Once we arrive in our chosen town, we expect to have time for lunch, walking around, and getting settled before heading to a good viewing area later in the day. Since we are still reviewing town options, the exact walking distances, transportation details, and schedule will be finalized once we confirm the location.

🚐 Transportation Notes

We already have a **9 passenger van reserved** as a backup, so if we decide not to take a train, we do have a vehicle option in place.

That said, we want to make sure we are **not driving too much in a single day**, especially after a long trip, unless the route is manageable and we have **a couple of drivers available** who are comfortable sharing the driving.

🚐 Van Cost Estimate

• Estimated cost: about **$245**, plus shared fuel

✈️ Thu, Aug 13 – Return Flights

My Return Flight Home

For those wanting to mirror:

Madrid → Los Angeles (MAD → LAX)
British Airways BA 4265 operated by Iberia

• Depart **1:00 PM**
• Arrive **4:05 PM**
• Nonstop **(12h 5m)**

I'll plan to **request a late checkout**, if possible, before heading to the airport.

👥 How to Join

This post trip is **book your own**, but we'll coordinate travel times and logistics for those who want to join.

If you are interested, plan to join our **mid to late April planning call, after our Japan trip**, where we will review possible town options, discuss transportation and return logistics, and coordinate **train bookings if available**.

📩 Contact (Chris Smith)

• **Email:** chris@prideadventures.com
• **Phone/Text:** 310-854-2556