

Basque Rhapsody

AN ODYSSEY OF FOOD, WINE AND WONDERS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE PYRENEES

2022 Departure



A CURATED
SOJOURN

TAKE A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME JOURNEY FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN AND DISCOVER THE PEOPLE,
HISTORY, CULTURE AND GASTRONOMY OF AN EXTRAORDINARY CORNER OF EUROPE—
THE PASSIONATE, RICH AND VERDANT LAND KNOWN AS BASQUE COUNTRY



SOJOURN DETAILS AT A GLANCE

2022 DEPARTURE:

September 18—October 2, 2022

SOJOURN BEGINS:

Bayonne, France

SOJOURN CONCLUDES:

Bilbao, Spain

PRICE:

\$7,695/person (double occupancy)

\$8,595/person (single occupancy)

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE:

From \$1,395/person*

*See back page for details

TO REGISTER

Call us at 1-800-419-3443 or

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ABOUT CURATED SOJOURNS

These unique journeys give you the opportunity to engage with a variety of experts and explore a number of topics as you travel across areas of unparalleled beauty. Accompanied by your Scholarly Sojourns Sojourn Director, your journey in a small group to discover and sample the riches of the region.



The spires of Bayonne's cathedral tower over the city at sunset

Basque Rhapsody

AN ODYSSEY OF FOOD, WINE AND WONDERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PYRENEES

In a tiny region that crosses the Pyrenees and straddles the border of France and Spain is a somewhat mysterious land that historically cannot be found on maps, save the ones produced by those who lived here. This area is rich in resources and possesses tranquil, natural beauty that is both alluring and haunting. But, first and foremost, it is the people of this region that make it an incomparable destination.

The Basques are truly an enigmatic lot—they live in what they declare to be Europe's oldest nation without ever having been a recognized, sovereign state. Their exact origins still remain somewhat unclear (even to them) and the unique language they speak, Euskera—the oldest language in Europe—has no relatives. Yet, despite their obscure roots, these industrious people have extended their influence far and wide, and their accomplishments in art, architecture, and trade (just to name a few) are momentous. But ultimately it is their delectable culinary heritage that brings foodie pilgrims from all parts of the globe to explore this remote corner of Europe. And for those who make the journey, lie rewards of unforgettable delights—truly a feast for the senses.

From fairy tale-like villages to modern architectural landmarks to world-class food and wine, the Basque Country is truly exceptional. Quite simply, it is like no other place on Earth. Join us for this unforgettable sojourn as we go deep inside this enchanting land to discover its secrets and sample its riches. In our quest to uncover culinary treats and savor delectable wines, we will stroll atmospheric, cobblestone lanes and weave through majestic medieval cities. We will encounter picturesque byways, rustic villages, and discover stunning, off-the-beaten-path locales. We will sniff out the artisanal delicacies found only in this extraordinary region and we will meet the warm and welcoming people who produce them. In the end, we will be forever richer for the days we pass here and we will leave rewarded with a deep appreciation for this remarkable plot, this rich and verdant realm—a place known to those on the outside as the Basque Country, but known to the Basques themselves as their beloved, beautiful homeland—*Euskadi*.

Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN BAYONNE

We rendezvous in beautiful Bayonne today—the largest settlement and capital of the French Basque Country. This historic city still retains its ancient fortifications and it is the center of culture and arts for the region. After our group has assembled, we make our way to the Musée Basque—a state-of-the-art institution which explores Basque culture, decorative arts, architecture & language—in the heart of the city’s medieval quarter. Here we enjoy a guided tour led by a museum docent and then gather for a special welcome reception which allows us to mingle and get to know fellow sojourn participants a bit better. Tonight, we enjoy our first meal together—one which gives us our first taste of the delectable Basque culinary tradition that we will enjoy throughout our journey. [R | D]

DAY 2

BAYONNE

Following breakfast, we enjoy a guided walking tour around historic Bayonne, including a stroll along its defensive ramparts and a visit to its 13th-century, gothic cathedral. Afterward, we experience a true culinary delight—a visit to the Pierre Ibaialde ham factory, producers of the celebrated Bayonne ham (or jambon de Bayonne). Here, we discover the entire process of how whole, fresh hams are salted and dried to become the sweet, cured slices prized around the globe. French Basques are also famous for their chocolate, so before lunch we pay a visit to Puyodebat Chocolates—perhaps the most celebrated chocolatiers in France. Afterward, the remainder of the day is left free for you to explore Bayonne at your own pace. Those wishing to soak up some sun can head to the beautiful beaches of nearby Biarritz. Your sojourn director will point you in the right direction as well as provide dining suggestions for this evening. [B]



The colorful port of St. Jean de Luz

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: SUNDAY

September 18

Sojourn begins in Bayonne, France

DAY 2: MONDAY

September 19

Bayonne

DAY 3: TUESDAY

September 20

Bayonne—Biarritz—St. Jean de Luz

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY

September 21

Bayonne—Espelette—Ainhoa—St. Jean Pied de Port

DAY 5: THURSDAY

September 22

St. Jean Pied de Port—Puente la Reina—Pamplona

DAY 6: FRIDAY

September 23

Pamplona

DAY 7: SATURDAY

September 24

Pamplona—Olite—Laguardia

DAY 8: SUNDAY

September 25

Laguardia—Santo Domingo de la Calzada



Espelette's red and green half-timbered houses are wonderful examples of Basque architecture

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 9: MONDAY

September 26

Santo Domingo de la Calzada

DAY 10: TUESDAY

September 27

Santo Domingo de la Calzada—
Bilbao—Guernica—Lekeitio

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY

September 28

Lekeitio—Getaria—Hondarribia

DAY 12: THURSDAY

September 29

Hondarribia—San Sebastian

DAY 13: FRIDAY

September 30

San Sebastian

DAY 14: SATURDAY

October 1

San Sebastian

DAY 15: SUNDAY

October 2

San Sebastian—Bilbao Airport



The medieval town of St. Jean Pied de Port is the starting point for pilgrims

Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

DAY 3

BAYONNE—BIARRITZ—ST. JEAN DE LUZ

This morning, we walk to the nearby rail station to take the train south along the coast to the charming resort of St. Jean de Luz—the picturesque seaside town which sits on a gentle, crescent-shaped bay with fine sand and has an old town that is filled with colorful timbered Basque houses. But behind this gorgeous façade lies a culinary mecca of the French Basque Country. Our visit culminates with a ‘treasure hunt’ through the narrow, winding streets to enjoy tastings at several purveyors of the fine delicacies to be found here, including Jambon Kintoa—made from a rare breed of Basque pig called the Pie Noir du Pays Basque—Bay of Biscay anchovies, and Basque macarons. Before departing, we also enjoy a tasting at the winery of young, innovative, local winemaker. Heading back up the coast to elegant Biarritz this afternoon we explore on our own before gathering with a celebrated Basque chef to enjoy our first cooking class of the sojourn—this one focusing on French Basque cuisine. Our hands-on session concludes with a dinner of the dishes we have prepared. [B | D]

DAY 4

BAYONNE—ESPELETTE—ST. JEAN PIED DE PORT

We depart Bayonne this morning and make our way south into the verdant, rolling foothills of the Pyrenees to discover the beautiful villages of the interior valley of French Basque Country and to taste the homemade specialties prepared by local producers along the way. Our journey takes us to the villages of Ainhoa, Espelette, and Sare, where together we explore the narrow streets lined with red and green, half-timbered houses so representative of Basque architecture. We will have a chance to learn the Basque game of *pelota*, popular in this area, before sitting down to sample some delicious products prepared by a local producer. Afterward, we will visit a farm producing the famous piment d’Espelette—a designated appellation hot pepper from which Espelette powder is made—and learn from a passionate producer how this ingredient is used in almost every typical local dish, making it a true cornerstone of Basque cooking. Late this afternoon, we enjoy a tasting at one of

“This was the best introduction to the country, its culture, and its history that I could have asked for. I wouldn’t want to travel any other way!”

- Jeffrey S., Kitchener, ON

Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

the spectacular wine producers in the Irouléguy AOC—the only growing area with AOC certification in the French Basque Country—and then continue to the charming village of St. Jean Pied de Port, perched high in the Pyrenees. The walled, medieval old town is famous as the starting point for the most popular route of pilgrims travelling the Camino de Santiago. After checking into our quaint, pilgrims hotel, the evening is free to relax, explore, and dine on your own. [B]

DAY 5

ST. JEAN PEID DE PORT—PAMPLONA

Before departing St. Jean Pied de Port this morning, we take some time to learn about the humble pilgrims who have trekked across northern Spain since the Middle Ages to pay homage at the tomb of St. James in Santiago. Afterward, we take a scenic drive over the Pyrenees and cross the border into Spain. Arriving at the postcard-perfect village of Roncesvalles, we leave the bus to take an invigorating walk along part of the Camino Santiago that leads us to the village Espinal. Along the way, we pause to visit Quesería Roncesvalles-Orreaga for a tasting of their celebrated pressed cheeses made with raw Latxa sheep milk and aged a minimum of 2 months. Afterward, we stop at a traditional, rustic restaurant which serves hearty meals to pilgrims walking the Camino. Here we enjoy a typical lunch of delicious food sourced from the surrounding mountains, meadows and orchards. This afternoon, we continue to the beautiful town of Puente la Reina—the main town in the Valdizarbe sub-region

You visit vineyards, enjoy wine tastings, and meet producers such as Emmanuel Poirmeur

In 2007, at only age 30, maverick winemaker Emmanuel Poirmeur decided to return to his Basque Coast roots when he founded Egiategia Winery in the seaside town of St. Jean de Luz. It was in his workshop here that he filed a patent for the unique process of subsea wine vinification. This new technique involves using the sea to deliver all the conditions required for winemaking: pressure, darkness, constant temperature, and—most important of all—motion generated by tides.



Maverick winemaker Emmanuel Poirmeur in his vineyard



Hôtel des Basses Pyrénées

HOTEL PROFILE

A charming, boutique hotel set in the historic center of Bayonne, the Hôtel des Basses Pyrénées combines tranquility, comfort and modernity within its ancient stone walls. Completely renovated in 2015, the hotel has retained many of its historic details—including a beautiful stone tower—which add to its character and elegance.

The hotel is ideally situated for exploring the center of Bayonne, and is just steps away from the city's most famous attractions including the gothic cathedral and the medieval defensive ramparts.

“Your attention to detail is way beyond any tour operator I have ever worked with!”

-Paula F., Travel Agent,
Mahwah, NJ

A SAMPLING OF WHAT YOU WILL SEE AND DO

HISTORIC BAYONNE
ST. JEAN DE LUZ
ESPELETTE AND AINHOA
A COOKING CLASS IN BIARRITZ
ST. JEAN PIED DE PORT
CROSSING THE PYRENEES
PUENTE LA REINA
PAMPLONA
A PINTXOS TOUR
ROYAL PALACE OF OLITE
RIOJA WINE TASTINGS
SANTO DOMINGO
DE LA CALZADA
HILLTOP TOWN OF LAGUARDIA
MARQUES DE RISCAL
CITY OF WINE
THE CAMINO SANTIAGO
VITORIA-GASTEIZ
BILBAO
GUGGENHEIM BILBAO
SAN JUAN DE GAZTELUGATXE
A CIDER HOUSE DINNER
GUERNICA
HONDARRIBIA
SAN SEBASTIAN



A panoramic view across La Rioja to the village of San Vicente de la Sonsierra

of the Navarra DO—where we stop for an extensive wine tasting. This evening, we arrive in Pamplona—our home of the next two nights—where we find the city gearing up for the spectacular Festival of San Fermin Txikito over the weekend. This lively festival—the sister celebration to the famous one held each July with the “running of the bulls”—brings the city to life with music in the streets, dancing, pipers, fanfares, brass bands, and jotás (folk songs) on just about every corner. After checking into our lodging, we head out to enjoy the festivities and to savor the city’s remarkable tapas (called “pintxos” in Basque Country) as we take a walking tour to visit some of it’s most celebrated eateries. [B | L | D]

DAY 6

PAMPLONA

We take a guided walking tour through the historic center of Pamplona (“Iruña” in Basque) this morning which includes visits to its medieval ramparts, the city’s 15th-century Gothic cathedral, *Santa Maria la Real*, and its celebrated bull-fighting arena, the Plaza de Toros. We’ll also learn about Pamplona’s importance as the capital of Spain’s Navarra region, and as a stopping point along the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. Following our tour, the remainder of the day is left free for you to explore on your own and take in the dazzling scenes of the Festival of San Fermin Txikito. Keep your eyes peeled for the traditional cortege of ceremonial giant puppets with enormous heads that makes its way through the streets from morning to night and you’ll notice that these “giants” get bigger as the day wears on. [B]

DAY 7

PAMPLONA—LAGUARDIA

We depart Pamplona this morning and head south to the town of Olite, where we visit the spectacular Royal Palace of Olite—one of the seats of the Court of the ancient Kingdom of Navarra. After our visit here, we make our way west, crossing from Navarra into the La Rioja wine-growing region to we enjoy a very special wine-and-food pairing lunch at Bodega Marqués de Murrieta. Afterward, we make a short drive north, crossing into Araba/Álava region of Basque Country proper to arrive at the breathtaking hilltop village of Laguardia, our home for the evening. After checking into our stunning hotel—which houses ancient wine caves deep below its main floor—we stroll through the narrow, medieval streets of this atmospheric

*“The absolute
most amazing
vacation I’ve
ever been on...”*

-Jessica H., San Francisco, CA

Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

town to enjoy a final wine tasting of the day before going separate ways to enjoy dinner on our own. [B | L]

DAY 8

LAGUARDIA—SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA

Saying farewell to Laguardia this morning, we make our way to tour the nearby Marqués de Riscal winery, celebrated both for its wines and its dazzling *City of Wine* complex designed by celebrated architect, Frank Gehry, who also designed the Guggenheim Bilbao. Afterward, we cross the Ebro River and head back into La Rioja to explore nearby Davalillo Castle—a ruined, 13th-century structure that was part of a chain of forts built along the border between the kingdoms of Navarra and Castile, on both sides of the Ebro River. Our hike to its ramparts is rewarded with stunning views across the hills and valleys of this area. This afternoon, we travel south to walk another short segment of the Camino Santiago—this one from the village of Villafraanca Montes de Oca to the Monastery of San Juan de Ortega. This stunning, Romanesque structure is widely believed to have been built in 1142 by Saint John of Ortega himself (with the help of his friend and fellow saint, Domingo de la Calzada) as a respite for the pilgrims walking along the Camino Santiago. This evening we arrive at the spectacular Parador of Santo Domingo Bernardo des Fresneda in the medieval village of Santo Domingo de la Calzada which will be our home for the next two nights. After checking in, we gather for dinner and discussion together. [B | D]

DAY 9

SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA

We depart after breakfast to visit the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz—the seat of government and the capital city of the Basque Autonomous Community. It was for this city that Beethoven dedicated his Opus 91 (often called the *Battle of Vitoria* or *Wellington's Victory*) to one of the most famous events of the Napoleonic Wars: the Battle of Vitoria,

Visit sights of historical significance & natural beauty

Together we explore locations of natural beauty and historic significance across the Basque country. These include impressive sights such as San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, the Olite Palace, Guernica, and the Guggenheim Bilbao.



The 10th-century hermitage of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe sits along the rugged Basque Coast



The stunning Olite Palace

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 15 days exploring beautiful Basque Country—on both the French and Spanish sides of the Pyrenees
- ◆ Two in-depth cooking classes where you learn to cook the delicacies of both Basque France and Basque Spain
- ◆ Tastings at ten different wineries across the region, including several in La Rioja
- ◆ Four days in the French Basque Country where you enjoy visits to its most celebrated towns and villages.
- ◆ A night in the village of St. Jean Pied de Port, high in the Pyrenees—the traditional starting point for pilgrims on the Camino Santiago
- ◆ A gourmet, wine-pairing culinary program at Marqués de Murrieta in La Rioja
- ◆ Stays at two exquisite and historic Spanish paradors
- ◆ A visit to the celebrated Guggenheim Bilbao

"I already had very high expectations based on my previous tour with you, but you even exceeded those expectations."

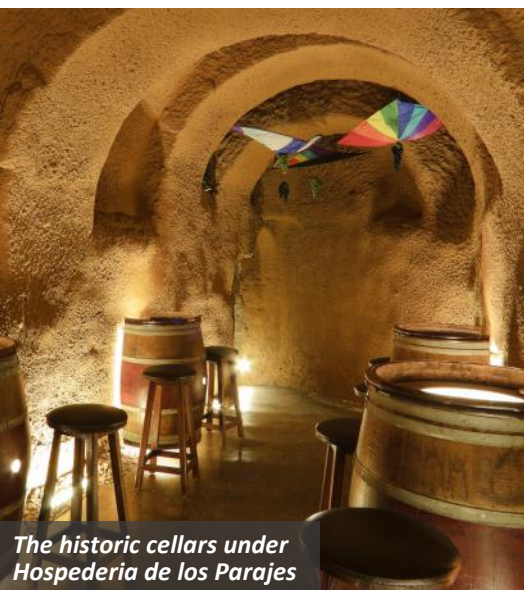
—Tallien P., Santa Monica, CA



The narrow, medieval streets of the hilltop town Laguardia

HOTEL PROFILE

Nestled in the center of Laguardia, the boutique hotel Hospederia de los Parajes sits in a spectacularly-restored and renovated 16th-century palace. Each of its 18 rooms have been elegantly furnished and offer modern comforts in a historic atmosphere. The hotel is just steps away from the 17th-century Church of Santa María de los Reyes and the central Plaza Mayor. Deep beneath the hotel, lie an extensive network of wine caves that were excavated in the sixteenth century and today afford guests the possibility of enjoying tapas and fine wines in these historic surrounds.



in which a Spanish, Portuguese and British army broke the French army and nearly captured the puppet king, Joseph Bonaparte. Today, the city is a cultural center and we learn about its fascinating history and modern-day significance during our guided walking tour. This afternoon, we return to La Rioja to enjoy wine tastings at two additional producers, including the spectacular Vivanco Winery and Museum of Wine Culture. Returning to Santo Domingo de la Calzada, the remainder of the day is left free for you to dine and explore on your own. [B]

DAY 10

SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA—BILBAO—GUERNICA—LEKEITIO

We bid farewell to La Rioja and Santo Domingo de la Calzada early this morning, making our way north to the city of Bilbao—the cultural and industrial capital of Basque Country and one of the largest cities in Spain. Here, we visit the world-renowned Guggenheim Bilbao, which is widely considered one of Spain's treasures. The collection includes large-scale, site-specific works and installations by contemporary artists and it is the sister institution to other Guggenheim locations, notably in New York and Venice. After our visit, we enjoy a brief guided walking tour of the historic center of Bilbao and then take time indulge in some tapas. Following lunch, we continue our journey north to the Bay of Biscay where we explore the haunting hermitage named Gaztelugatxe in Basque (San Juan de Gaztelugatxe in Spanish) which is dedicated to John the Baptist and dates from the 10th century. This afternoon we visit Guernica—the site of an infamous, 1937 air raid that killed nearly two-thousand people and inspired Picasso's eponymous anti-war masterpiece. While Vittoria-Gasteiz is the political capital of the Basque Country, Guernica is arguably the heart of the Basque nation. During our guided walking tour here, we will see the Assembly House and its symbolic Oak Tree, where Basque leaders have met for centuries. The visit will help us better understand the Spanish Civil War and the political issues which continue to reverberate to this day. This evening we head back to the coast and arrive in the picturesque fishing village of Lekeitio where the evening is free for you to explore and dine on your own. [B]

DAY 11

LEKEITIO—GUERNICA—GETARIA—HONDARRIBIA

We set off this morning to enjoy a scenic drive along the rugged Basque coast. Our journey is punctuated with stops at scenic locations and picturesque seaside villages, most notably Getaria where we take a tour of the Maisor anchovy factory. In the

Day-to-Day Sojourn Summary

early afternoon, we head to the hills above the coast to savor another specialty of this region— txakoli wine – at a family-run winery. This slightly-effervescent wine is a staple at tables in the Basque Country and we will enjoy a fine tasting and paired with local cheeses and other specialties. This afternoon, we have the chance to indulge in yet one further specialty product of the region as we visit a working sheep farm to sample Idiazabal Cheese—a traditional, farmhouse, hard cheese made from raw milk of Carranza sheep. This evening, we arrive in picturesque Hondarribia—an ancient border town situated on a little promontory facing across the Txingudi Bay toward Hendaye (in France). Our home for the night is a true highlight of the sojourn as we stay in the Parador de Hondarribia, which sits in the Gothic and Renaissance Castle of Emperor Carlos V. Parts of this remarkable structure date to the 10th Century. After checking in, we head out to discover the vibrant pintxos scene found here and then enjoy dinner together. [B|D]

DAY 12

HONDARRIBIA—SAN SEBASTIAN

We enjoy a leisurely morning to explore Hondarribia today, taking time to visit its port and fortified old town and its 16th-century Iglesia del Manzano church. Those who wish, can head to sandy and inviting Hondarribia Beach which lies nearby at the mouth of the Bidasoa River. Afterward, we head up into the hills that rise above

You experience hands-on culinary programs

Each of the regions that we visit in Basque Country is truly distinct—each has its own traditions, an individual atmosphere, and, of course, a unique and delicious cuisine. We investigate their special culinary styles with hands-on cooking classes in Biarritz and San Sebastian. In addition, we enjoy visits to a number of artisanal food producers and have ample opportunities to sample delicious, local *pintxos* (tapas) and street foods throughout the sojourn.



You learn the secrets of cooking traditional Basque cuisine under the guidance of professionals



*Parador de Santo Domingo
Bernardo de Fresneda*

HOTEL PROFILE

Housed in the monastery of San Francisco, this historic building contains a church, a workshop-museum and a hotel. It is finely decorated with rich elements—red tones and blue-grays in the guest rooms, oil paintings and works by modern graphic artists in the public areas.

Located along the historic Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage Route, the hotel is steps from the medieval center of Santo Domingo de la Calzada.

*“My wife and I
would like to
thank you for
perhaps the most
wonderful trip
we have ever
been on.”*

-David R., Los Angeles, CA

*“We seemed to
get special treat-
ment wherever
we went.*

*This made a
great tour, a
fabulous tour.”*

—Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC



The stunning Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao

PRE & POST-SOJOURN EXTENSIONS

See more of France and Spain with a pre or post-sojourn extension. Two great options are listed below, but we can also create customized itineraries to match your travel wishes.

PARIS

Arrive a day or more before the sojourn begins and enjoy the magnificent city of Paris. You can explore the city’s spectacular landmarks, enjoy visiting its world-famous museums, and indulge in its celebrated culinary delights.

2 days/2 nights including transfers;
4-star lodging; and breakfasts:
\$749/person (DO).

MADRID

Spend some additional time and getting to know Spain’s capital city and perhaps take a day-trip into Castilla-La Mancha to visit the historic city of Toledo. Madrid offers a stunning array of historic and cultural sights as well as world-class shopping, dining, and nightlife options.

2 days/2 nights including train
(from Bilbao), lodging, breakfasts,
and customized itinerary from:
\$249/night/person (DO)

the city to south and arrive at the town of Astigarraga—the center of Basque Country cider production. Here, we enjoy a very special Basque tradition—a ciderhouse lunch served family style at long wooden tables. The festive meal includes gigantic beef ribs cooked on an open flame and of course sparkling cider—lots of it—straight from the casks, and, of course, tons of fun. Later this afternoon we arrive in San Sebastian, which will be our home for the next two nights. After getting settled into our hotel, we head out for a guided walking tour of this spectacular seaside resort that is popular with foreign visitors and Spaniards alike. [B | L]

DAY 13

SAN SEBASTIAN

After breakfast today, we take the bus and then a short ferry ride across the Bahia de Pasaia to the village of Pasaia, on the outskirts of San Sebastian. Our destination is chef Alex Barcenilla’s amazing fish restaurant, Ziaboga, where we will enjoy our final cooking lesson. Chef Barcenilla’s class is designed to take you through each stage in preparing fresh fish—from buying to filleting to serving—and is followed by a fantastic lunch paired with Basque wines. Returning to San Sebastian this afternoon, the remainder of the day is left free for enjoying the city’s wonderful dining and nightlife options on your own. Your sojourn director will provide suggestions on how to make the most of your night. [B | L]

DAY 14

SAN SEBASTIAN

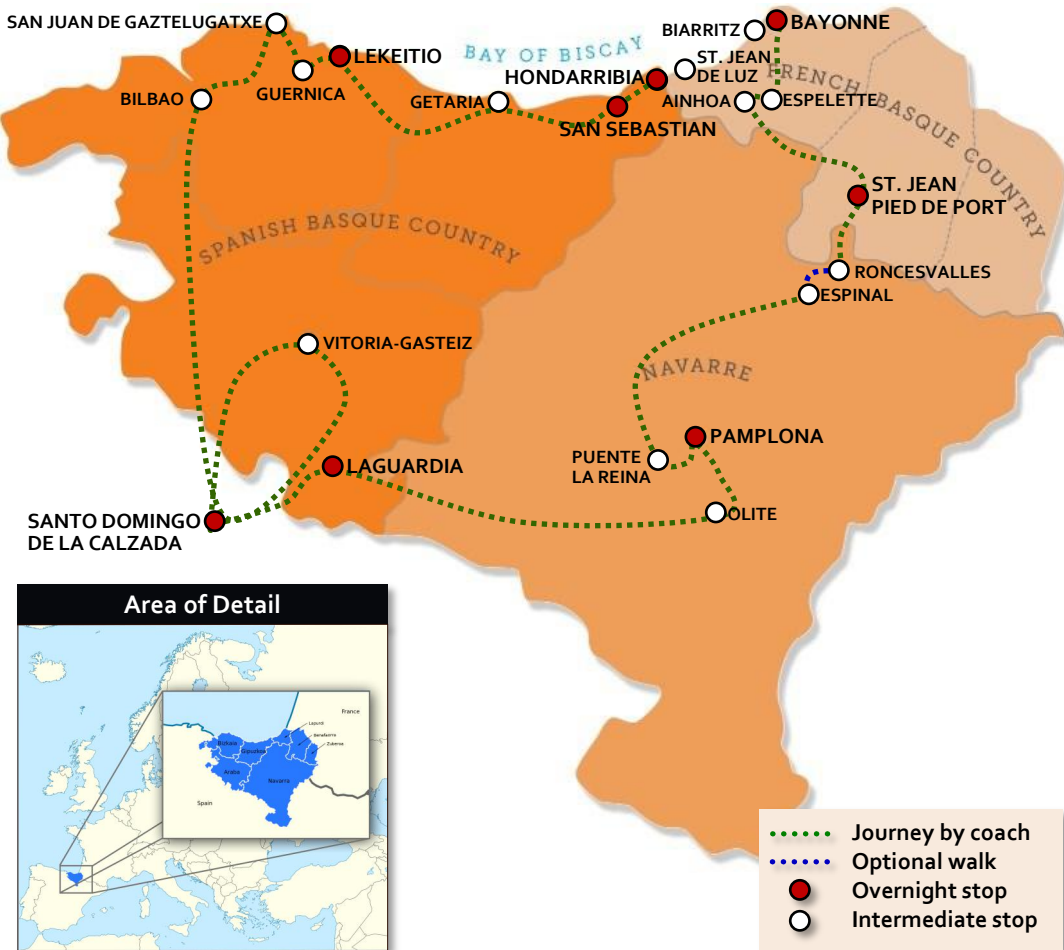
This morning we take a walk to explore Monte Igeldo—located at the end of La Concha Bay—marking the limit between the city and the sea. Our journey rewards with iconic views of the city and across the sea. The remainder of our final day is reserved for you to relax and explore, perhaps enjoying some sun at the beach, taking a long stroll to soak up the atmosphere, or doing some last-minute shopping in the old town. This evening we gather for a very special final dinner together at one of San Sebastian’s Michelin-starred eateries. [B | D]

DAY 15

SAN SEBASTIAN—BILBAO AIRPORT

We enjoy a final breakfast in San Sebastian this morning before checking out of our hotel and making our way to the airport in Bilbao. [B]

Sojourn Map



Hotel Villa Victoria in San Sebastian

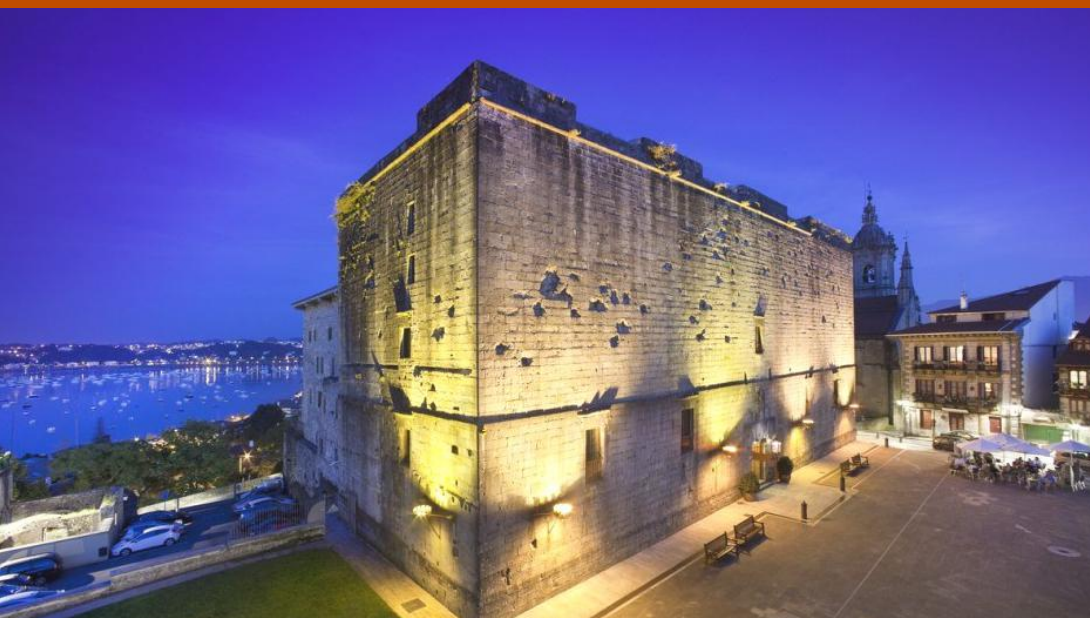
HOTEL PROFILE

A chic abode just steps away from the seafront, Hotel Villa Victoria is a short walk to La Concha Beach, Concha Promenade, the historic city center and the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. This ideal location makes it a fantastic base from which to explore the wonders of San Sebastian.

The hotel offers airy, spacious rooms that provide a place to relax and unwind—an oasis surrounded by the city. Its comfortable rooftop terrace offers spectacular panoramic views across the city and sea.

"We were somewhat apprehensive to try an organized tour, but this experience was phenomenal"

-Barbara B., Annapolis, MD



The Parador de Hondarribia is in the gothic and renaissance castle of Emperor Carlos V

"This was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will take with me personally and professionally for the rest of my life."

- Scott K., Waltham, MA

Sojourn Details & Registration Information

BASQUE RHAPSODY

2022 DEPARTURE

September 18—October 2, 2022
(sojourn #1092138)

PRICE:

\$7,695/Person (Double Occupancy)

\$8,595/Person (Single Occupancy)

**CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER ONLINE**

SOJOURN BEGINS

Bayonne, France

SOJOURN CONCLUDES

Bilbao, Spain

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGES:

From \$1,495/Person*

*Air package includes round-trip, economy airfare from Boise, transfers in Europe, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

TO REGISTER

Call us: 1-800-419-3443—We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

Visit us at: www.scholarlysojourns.com—Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$1000/person deposit

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all participants purchase a travel insurance policy which will protect their trip and cover unforeseen medical expenses that could arise while traveling. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

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PRICES INCLUDE

15-day travel program described in this brochure; 14 nights of lodging in specially-selected, boutique hotels; 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 6 dinners; the services of a dedicated Scholarly Sojourns' Sojourn Director who accompanies the group; all sightseeing, wine tastings, cooking classes, and excursions, and other activities detailed in this brochure; private guides in select locations; ground transportation by private coach; all gratuities (except for hotel porters), and all other sojourn activities as described in the day-to-day summary.

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE

Air travel to/from the destination; meals not indicated in the day-to-day summary; beverages other than water, soft drinks, beer or wine with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, water taxi, metro, or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting location for this sojourn is [Hotel des Basses Pyrenees](#) in Bayonne, France. Our group will rendezvous there at 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 25th and then head off for the first activity of the trip—a guided walking tour of historic Bayonne.

CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

The sojourn concludes at approximately 11:00AM on the morning of Sunday, October 9th, when the group arrives at Bilbao Airport. We will be glad to assist you with your onward travel plans.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your sojourn or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public.



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2723 South State Street · Suite 150 · Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104