

Basque Country : May 25 to June 3, 2024

Where we'll go

- ◆ Biarritz: May 25 to 28
- ◆ Saint-Étienne-de-Baigorry: May 28 to 31
- ◆ Bilbao: May 31 to June 3

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 : Saturday, May 25

Welcome to Basque Country! Travelers will *rendezvous* in the lobby of our hotel in Biarritz in the early afternoon and then set off on a walking tour in English of Biarritz, our home base for the first three nights. After getting a lay of the land, we'll enjoy dinner together while taking in stunning views of the Atlantic seashore.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2 : Sunday, May 26

After breakfast at our hotel, we will take a private tour bus up the coast to Bayonne and spend the day visiting this historic city that was once the capital of the Labourd region. After a tour of the old city, lunch, and time on your own to discover Bayonne, we will return to Biarritz for an evening on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3 : Monday, May 27

Today, we will travel south on the Atlantic to the town of St Jean de Luz. While we are there, we will visit the town as well as the Maison Louis XIV, which welcomed the young King Louis XIV in 1660 when he came to sign the Treaty des Pyrénées and marry the Spanish Infanta Marie Thérèse. End the day and enjoy your last night in Biarritz with a seaside dinner or walk on the beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 : Tuesday, May 28

Pack your bags, today we are heading to the Pyrenées mountains! Our first stop will be in the town of Ortillopitz, to visit a historic Basque heritage site. After lunch and on our way to our traditional Basque estate nestled on the Nive River, at the foot of the mountains, we will visit the town of Espelette and discover the famous pepper of the same name and the *artisans* who grow it. We will enjoy a leisurely dinner together at new home in the mountains, a stunning abode that has been run by the same family for five generations.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 : Wednesday, May 29

After a leisurely morning, discovering the idyllic location, we will venture to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a nearby village renowned for its history and an important stop on the Camino de Santiago. Formerly the capital of the Basque region of Base-Navarre, Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port might be small in size but has great charm. The medieval cobbled streets are lined with beautiful and unique red and white buildings inside the old town walls.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6 : Thursday, May 30

Enjoy *le petit déjeuner* before we cross the Pyrénées on our way to Pamplona, Spain. The bulls won't be running during our visit but we will enjoy discovering the town and its many traditions while retracing Hemmingway's footsteps. After our day *en Espagne*, our coach will bring us back to our retreat in the mountains for a last dinner with our hosts.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 : Friday, May 31

After breakfast, we will load our bags on our coach and head to Hendaye, a village on the French side of the border, to visit Abbadia, the castle, observatory, and its magnificent gardens. We'll have a relaxed lunch in the town before heading south to Spain for an afternoon in San Sebastian and then on to Bilbao for the final three nights of the trip. Once we arrive in Bilbao, we'll enjoy *pintxos*, or Basque-style tapas for dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 : Saturday, June 1

After breakfast, put on your walking shoes as we will take a 2-hour tour of Bilbao on foot with a local guide. Discover the stunning de facto capital of Basque Country, an oasis of green surrounded by mountains, and famed for its Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry that opened in 1997. After our tour and lunch together, spend the afternoon discovering the city, its parks, markets, and sights on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9 : Sunday, June 2

After breakfast at our hotel, we will visit the Guggenheim and admire the work of artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Eduardo Chillida, Yves Klein, Jeff Koons and Fujiko Nakaya. We'll lunch at the museum and then have time to explore on your own or pick up souvenirs before our final dinner together.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 : Monday, June 3

Le départ. After breakfast, we'll say farewell and head on to our next adventures.

Meals included: Breakfast

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