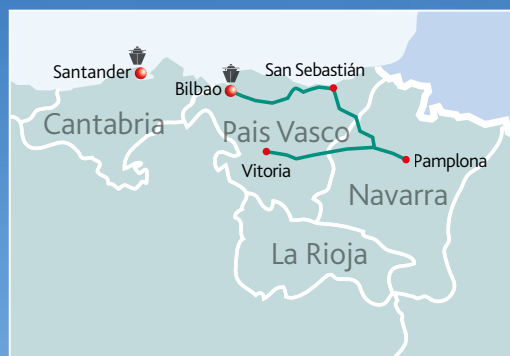


Basque Country & Pamplona

5 night tour - B&B

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear on these pages may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





Maps and guide books Included with your travel documents you will find an excellent map of Spain to help you plan your journeys. For route planning you may wish to

visit a travel website such as Google maps, viamichelin.com* or www.theaa.co.uk.

*Motorway tolls, where applicable, are indicated on this site.

Hotel directions With your travel documents you will find an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow you time to have a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring and advise the hotelier so that your room is held for you.

Extra charges This tour includes breakfast. All additional meals, drinks, phone calls etc must be paid for prior to departure from the hotel.

On this tour you will discover the best of the Basque country, which is overflowing with history, culture and culinary delights!

Bilbao



Guggenheim, Bilbao

Over recent years Bilbao has been transformed into a vibrant modern city with plenty to entice tourists. The top visitor attraction is the Guggenheim museum with its striking modern architecture which is spectacular both inside and out. There are permanent art displays and regular temporary exhibitions held here which are a



Bilbao

must for art lovers! There is much more to see (and best explored on foot) - the atmospheric Casco Viejo old quarter with its maze of cobbled streets filled with shops, cafés and restaurants; remarkable buildings, stunning bridges, squares, lovely parks, museums, art galleries. Shopping is also excellent and there is a large colourful Sunday market.

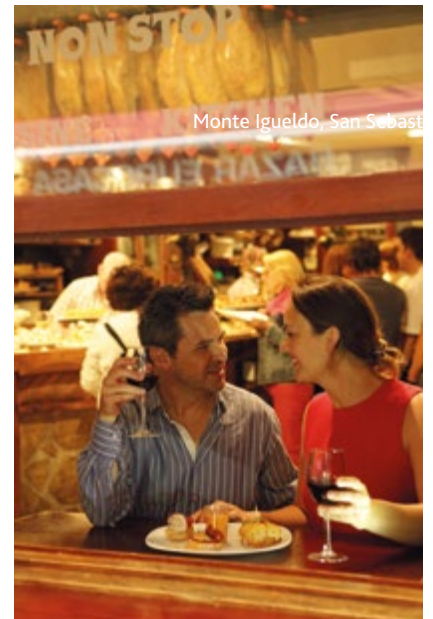
San Sebastián



Monte Igueldo, San Sebastián

Also known as Donostia, this is a stylish, beautiful city built around a bay with fantastic sandy beaches, fine architecture and an endless choice of places to enjoy some of the best cuisine in the world. Some of the greatest views of the city can be seen from Monte Igueldo, reached in 3 minutes by funicular (an experience in itself) or on foot taking the road and a few shortcuts up some steps every so often. There's also an old fashioned funfair at the top.

La Concha beach is the top attraction in the city which crowds of people head for in summer to cool off, relax, sunbathe, swim or surf. Another part of the city not to be missed is the Parte Viejo, a network of streets filled to the brim with bars, restaurants, cafés and pintxo bars (the Basque equivalent of very delicious tapas) - there's a great atmosphere here by day or night. San Sebastián is also famous for its many Michelin starred restaurants so you are really spoilt for choice when it comes to dining.



Monte Igueldo, San Sebastián

Pamplona



The capital of Navarra, Pamplona is probably best known for its 'Los Sanfermines' fiesta which is held annually for 8 days in July, when the world famous Running of the Bulls takes place.

Hundreds of thousands of people line the streets to take part in the spectacle and a rocket is fired from the city hall to herald the start of festivities, when the bulls are released to run through a cordoned route. At other times of year Pamplona offers plenty to see and do with most things being within walking distance of the elegant tree-lined Plaza del Castillo in the heart of the city. There is a wealth of architectural treasures including the huge Gothic cathedral which is in the centre of the old town and boasts one of the most beautiful cloisters found anywhere and some amazing sculptural work. It's also worth visiting the old medieval walls and seeing the Roman artefacts and art in the Museum of Navarre. Pamplona was a favourite haunt of the author Ernest Hemingway whose writings brought the city to international fame.



Hemingway's café, Pamplona

Vitoria

Around 80k south east of the ferry port at Bilbao and 160k from Santander, Vitoria-Gasteiz is a delightful city (and largely undiscovered by tourists) in the heart of the Basque country. There are wide, tree-lined pedestrian areas, central plazas and some wonderful parks and gardens to explore - the



lack of vehicles in the city centre makes this a relaxing place, although it's lively and has a great atmosphere particularly in the evening. While you're here why not try a glass or two of txakoli, the effervescent Basque wine, accompanied by some of the delicious pintxo (tapas) which are excellent here. As well as museums and art galleries Vitoria has 2 beautiful cathedrals - the unmissable Santa Maria dating from the 13th century and in complete contrast the other, known as the new one, originated just over 100 years ago and is still unfinished. There is also some striking modern architecture in the city.



Vital Kutxa bank, Vitoria



Vitoria