



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Spain: Basque Country and Barcelona

9-Day, 8-Night Journey

Bilbao, San Sebastian, Barcelona

This trip takes you from historic Basque Country to cosmopolitan Barcelona. You'll experience the contrast between the distinct Basque culture, stunning beaches, and world-renowned gastronomy, and the vibrant, artistic, and historic allure of Barcelona in Catalonia. Bilbao is home to the iconic Guggenheim Museum. San Sebastian was once a favorite destination for Spanish royalty and is famous for its pintxos (small snacks) and culinary innovation. Barcelona is renowned for Gaudí's architecture (Sagrada Familia, Park Güell, and Casa Batlló), relaxed Mediterranean lifestyle and delicious tapas.



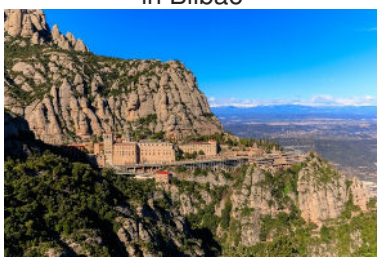
Ribera market on river Nervion, in Bilbao



La Concha Beach, San Sebastian



Pintxos, Basque Style Tapas



Montserrat Monastery



Sagrada Familia Cathedral, Barcelona



Park Güell, Barcelona

Inclusions	Exclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Hotel Accommodations ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals (See tour plan for details) ▶ English-speaking driver ▶ Bilbao – San Sebastian Bus Ticket ▶ Airport & Train Station Transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ International Air Fare ▶ San Sebastian – Barcelona Flight/Train Ticket ▶ Government Tourism Fee ▶ Travel Insurance ▶ Medical Expenses ▶ Visa Fee (if applicable) ▶ Gratuities ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Bilbao – Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Barcelona - El Prat Airport (BCN)

Itinerary

DAY 1: BILBAO

Arrive at **Bilbao** Airport and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Bilbao is the largest city and the gateway to Basque Country in northern Spain. It has a rich architectural heritage including the iconic Guggenheim Museum. Delicious Basque cuisine abounds in this city.

[2 Nights in Bilbao. Meals: None]



① Add-On: Bilbao Pintxos, Food And History Tour (Small group, about 3 hours)

Follow your local English-speaking guide to their favorite best pintxos (tapas) bars. Including a number of local bites enough for a full meal, paired with red and white wine, local drinks, cider and bottled water. Learn all about what makes the Basque Country's culinary offerings unique.

DAY 2: BILBAO WALKING TOUR

This morning you will join a **guided Bilbao city Walking Tour** (group, 2 hours).

Enjoy Bilbao's most interesting spots by walking across its historic area. Starting from the border of Old Town and Downtown we pass through the serpentine Old Town streets. Visit the “genuine seven streets”, the churches of San Anton and Santiago, and Market of La Ribera.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 3: BILBAO - SAN SEBASTIAN

Transfer from the hotel to San Sebastian by bus (about 1.5 hours), then transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free.

San Sebastián (Donostia) is situated on the breathtaking La Concha Bay. It is book-ended by twin peaks, and a cute little island in the bay. This popular town features a beach front promenade, an intriguing Old Town, plazas, little shops, pastry stores and colorful pintxos (tapas) bars.

[3 Nights in San Sebastian. Meals: Breakfast]

① **Add-On: San Sebastian Walking Food Tour with a Secret Dish** (Small group, about 3 hours)

Enjoy the best Pintxos in the Basque Country in the heart of San Sebastian's neighborhood pintxos bars. Visit a classic Basque restaurant on this walking feast. Taste 6 different Pintxos, wine, cider and a sweet bite. Enjoy the renowned Basque gastronomy, including a delicious Secret Dish. Discover an utmost foodie experience and enjoy the unique way locals eat out.

DAY 4: SAN SEBASTIAN WALKING TOUR

This morning you will join **the guided San Sebastian city Walking Tour** (group).

Explore the serpentine Old Town streets. Visit the two main churches and the pintxo streets. Gaze at the influence of the Spanish Queen Maria Cristina on the construction of many of San Sebastian's most characteristic buildings, such as Hotel de Londres and Maria Cristina Hotel, the Buen Pastor Cathedral, the Tabakalera Museum, and Victoria Eugenia Auditorium.

Enjoy a delicious round of pintxos and a drink in a traditional bar in the Old Town (at your own cost).

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 5: SAN SEBASTIAN

Free day.

[Meals: Breakfast]

① **Add-On: Getaria Txakoli Wine Tour (small group, about 4 hours)**

Txakoli is a white wine made from local green grapes. It has been produced in the Basque Country long before the 16th century. Visit two coastal towns which produce txakoli: Getaria and Zarautz. Explore a “txakoli degi” (winery) in Getaria to learn about its vineyards and taste its wines alongside pintxos and other local delicacies.

① **Add-On: French Basque Countryside Tour (small group, about 4 hours)**

Experience the best of the French section of the Basque Coast on this trip. Visit the French city of Biarritz to learn about its history as a surfer mecca and enjoy a walk along the seaside promenade.

Stop by Les Halles market to experience the best of French cuisine including its cheeses, charcuterie, bakeries and patisseries. Continue to Guethary, a charming and tranquil seaside village. Visit the birthplace of the macaron at the Maison Adam patisserie in Saint Jean de Luz, and also learn about the town's pirate history. Travel along the Route de la Corniche back to Spain, to reach Hondarribia a city at the forefront of world cuisine.

DAY 6: SAN SEBASTIAN - BARCELONA

Transfer from the hotel to airport or train station for your flight (1 hour) or train (6 hours) to Barcelona, then transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Note: Your choice, flight or train, airfare and train ticket to Barcelona is not included.

Barcelona offers a colorful urban quarter, stunning architecture (iconic landmarks like Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and the historic Gothic Quarter), charming plazas and mouthwatering cuisine.

[3 Nights in Barcelona. Meals: Breakfast]

① **Add-On: Barcelona Tapas And Wine Experience Walking Tour (small group)**

Admire the beauty of Barcelona's famous Gothic Quarter as you enjoy a delicious variety of local food and drinks. Visit 4 local hot spots & sample a number of classic tapas dishes accompanied by a selection of wine, cava, and vermouth.

DAY 7: BARCELONA HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOUR

Make your own way to the nearest pick-up point and explore **Barcelona aboard a double-decker tour bus**. Hop-on and hop-off the bus as many times as you wish and enjoy the city at your own pace. Or stay aboard to enjoy 360-degree views of the sights.

Visit the iconic **Sagrada Familia Cathedral** - the largest Roman Catholic Church in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visit **Parc Guell** in upper Barcelona and enjoy beautiful views out over the city. This is Gaudi's surrealistic park where nature and art blend harmoniously featuring colorful mosaics, twisted columns, dragon fountains and amazing views.

See Barcelona Cathedral, Casa Batllo and many other famous attractions.

Note: Attraction admission tickets are not included.

[Meals: Breakfast]

① **Add-On: Paella Cooking Experience with Professional Chef: Four Course Dinner (group, @5pm 2.5 hours)**

Enjoy a fully-immersive culinary experience in the heart of El Raval in Barcelona. Learn the secrets to cooking an authentic Paella from a team of experienced professionals!

The class begins with a brief introduction of the space over a glass of Cava. Enjoy cooking at your own individual cooking station through 10-steps to a delicious paella! Get to try your paella as well as a variety of other Spanish delicacies at the Dinner Table

The four-course Paella Experience includes: Cava welcome drink, introduction to “Pa amb tomàquet”, Seasonal Entrée, Foundations of Paella workshop, Spanish Wine Pairing and Dessert.

DAY 8: BARCELONA

Free day.

[Meals: Breakfast]

① Add-On: Montserrat With Cog-Wheel Train & Black Madonna Tour (Group, Half Day)

Visit Montserrat Basilica located on Montserrat mountain 4,055 ft above sea level. It offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

The basilica is dramatically set into the rocks with famous attractions like the Black Madonna and Santa Cova grotto. Entry to the basilica and audio-visual museum is included

DAY 9: END OF TOUR

Check-out after breakfast and transfer to **El Prat Airport (BCN)** for your flight home to the USA or Canada.

[Meals: Breakfast]

*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

