



LAND JOURNEY

# Basque Country

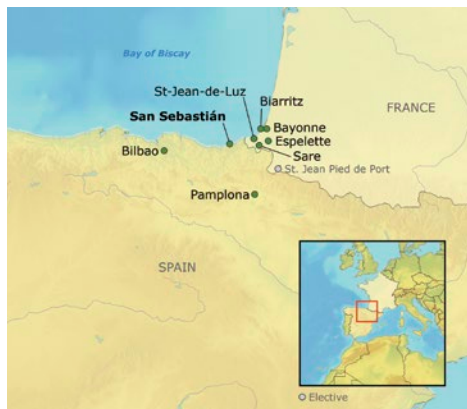
## Spain & France

### Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Discover what it means to be Basque in its **Spanish and French regions**.
- ▶ Marvel at the shimmering, titanium-clad **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**, Frank Gehry's wondrous masterpiece.
- ▶ Bask in beautiful La Concha Bay and a world-renowned dining scene in **San Sebastián**.
- ▶ Get firsthand perspectives on Basque life at a **dinner with local residents**.
- ▶ Delight in picturesque **Espelette**, where flame-red strands of peppers adorn whitewashed homes.
- ▶ Fill your glass right from the cask in a rustic *cidrerie*, a **Basque cider house**.
- ▶ Learn about the **Routes of Santiago de Compostela** as you visit sites on these famed pilgrimage paths.

### Included Features

- Accommodations** (with baggage handling)
  - **7 nights** in San Sebastián, Spain, at the first-class Catalonia Donosti Hotel.
- Extensive Meal Program**
  - 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
  - Opportunities to sample local cuisine.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
  - **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
  - **Discovery excursions** and highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
  - Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
  - **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
  - **Electives** and **free time** to pursue your individual interests.
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
  - **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - Complimentary travel mementos.



### Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city ✈
- Day 2** Arrive in Bilbao and transfer ➡ to hotel in San Sebastián
- Day 3** San Sebastián
- Day 4** Bayonne | Biarritz
- Day 5** Bilbao
- Day 6** Sare | Espelette | St-Jean-de-Luz
- Day 7** Pamplona
- Day 8** San Sebastián
- Day 9** Transfer ➡ to Bilbao airport and depart for gateway city ✈

Flights ✈ and transfers ➡ provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

### ALUMNI CAMPUS ABROAD®



Above left: San Sebastián | Above: Pamplona





**Discovery**

**AHI Connects: Meet the People.**

Discover new viewpoints on everyday Basque life as you enjoy lively conversation and dinner with local residents.

**San Sebastián.** Get to know your home base on a guided walk. This sophisticated resort town dazzles with gorgeous beaches and a world-class food culture. See the Old Town highlights, including the baroque Basilica de Santa María del Coro and the many grand Belle Epoque buildings. Stroll along the boardwalk that hugs La Concha Bay and its postcard-perfect beach for incredible waterside views.

**Bayonne.** This lovely gem where the Adour and Nive rivers meet is France's Basque capital. On an Old Town walk, visit the elegant Sainte-Marie Cathedral and its 13th-century cloisters, a stop on the Way of St. James. At a cozy cider house, relax over a lunch of classic dishes and pour yourself a glass right from the cask!

**Biarritz.** This chic seaside town has been a beloved resort since the 1850s. Start at St. Eugénie Church on the waterfront and walk to the outcrop, Rocher de la Vierge, to admire the majestic scenery. Visit the old fishing port and the medieval watch tower.

**Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum.** View the exciting modern and contemporary art at this visually stunning museum, designed by Frank Gehry and regarded as one of the most important buildings of the 20th century. Afterward, see the city's landmarks on a panoramic tour and enjoy lunch in Bilbao.

**French Basque Traditions and Espelette.** Step back in time at Maison Ortillopitz, a 16th-century farmhouse in Sare, and learn about the everyday customs of French Basque families. Next, stroll through quaint Espelette, famed for its red peppers, and have lunch in town. First brought to the area in 1650 by a local sailor, the peppers are integral to Basque cooking and officially protected as a regional product.

**St-Jean-de-Luz.** Centuries ago, fishermen in this pretty beachfront town traded their nets for swords and cannons to become feared pirates. Delve into its intriguing past.

**Pamplona.** With a guide, meander down the town's atmospheric streets, where the chaotic Running of the Bulls occurs each July during the festival of San Fermin. See the bullfighting ring, Castle Square and the Gothic cathedral.



Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao

**Enrichment**

- ▶ **A History of Northern Spain**
- ▶ **Basque Strength Games**
- ▶ **The Romance of Hemingway and Spain**
- ▶ **The Way of St. James**

**UNESCO World Heritage**

Routes of Santiago de Compostela

**Electives | Go further afield**

**France's Basse Navarre.** Explore the walled old town of St. Jean Pied de Port, a traditional starting point on the Way of St. James, near the foothills of the Pyrenees. Journey next to Truite de Banka, a family-run aquaculture farm nestled in a beautiful valley. Stroll through the farm, learn about the farming process and then relish a delicious lunch featuring fresh fish.

{At an additional cost.}

**Accommodations**

**Catalonia Donosti Hotel | San Sebastián**



**Activity Level:** We have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Please call or visit our website for full details.



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2024

**AHI Travel Expertise**

**Passenger Service Representative |**

Helps with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling special requests.

**Travel Director |** Manages all details to ensure a safe and memorable trip.

**Travel information |** Prepares you fully for your journey.

**Expert local guides and lecturers |** Provide friendly, knowledgeable service and share their passion for their country.

**Travel with Confidence**

For six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely. We provide:

- **Included AHI Travel Assurance Plan.**
- Increased booking **flexibility** and relaxed cancellation penalties.
- **Home support staff and ground team.**
- **A global network of trusted partners.**

**Let us arrange your flights!**

**AHI FlexAir |** Our personalized air program features transfers, assistance and flexibility.



St-Jean-de-Luz harbor