

A FLAVOUR OF BORDEAUX AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY

(Small exclusive group tour 6-12 people)

An exclusive immersion into the soul of Spain and France — an invitation to dream, savour, and explore in style.

Embark on a curated 8-night journey through Bordeaux, San Sebastián, and Bilbao, designed for discerning travelers seeking authenticity, refinement, and the true essence of European elegance. This small group experience offers unparalleled access to world-renowned wine estates, award-winning chefs, and local artisans whose passion defines the region's cultural and culinary heritage.

Wander the storied avenues of Bordeaux, sip Grand Cru wines in Saint-Émilion, and cruise the shimmering waters of Arcachon Bay. Discover the timeless charm of the French Basque coast—Bayonne, Biarritz, and Saint-Jean-de-Luz—where gastronomy is woven into the fabric of daily life. In San Sebastián, dive deep into the art of pintxos with insider experiences and exclusive tastings in hidden culinary gems. Journey into the heart of La Rioja, Spain's most prestigious wine region, before concluding in Bilbao, where avant-garde architecture meets Michelin-starred dining and bold Basque identity.

This is more than a trip—it's a gastronomic and cultural voyage tailored for those who seek not just to travel, but to savour every exquisite detail.

SUMMARY (9 days)

Start: Bordeaux

End: Bilbao

3 N Bordeaux

3 N San Sebastian

2 N Bilbao

What's Included?

- All private transfers
- 4-star Boutique Hotels
- Breakfasts & all meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Fluent English speaking Tour Leader
- Fluent English speaking art historian guides
- Skip the line access
- Tips & Gratuities

What's not Included?

- International Air Flights
- Medical/Travel Insurance
- Meals & Drinks, other than those mentioned in the itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small exclusive group tour (6-12 people maximum)
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage city centre, discover local culture and indulge in gourmet delights on a **walking tour of Bordeaux**.
- Feast on fresh oysters, see Europe's largest sand dune and ride on a pinasse boat at the **Bay of Arcachon**.
- Visit the medieval village of St-Émilion, sip wine and savour a vineyard lunch in the **Grand Cru vineyards of St-Émilion and Pomerol**.
- Uncover the **proud local traditions, mouthwatering cuisine and distinctive architecture and landscapes** of the French and Spanish Basque country.
- Discover the **picturesque landscapes and glamorous cities of Bayonne, Biarritz and Saint-Jean-de-Luz** on the French Basque coast.
- Explore the **mouthwatering world of pintxos** on a food tour of San Sebastián, and relish lunch in a private gastro club.
- **Explore Spanish wine** with tastings of world-renowned red wines in La Rioja and lightly sparkling Txakoli whites.
- Marvel at quaint coastal villages, dramatic lookouts and stunning beaches on a **road trip along the Spanish Basque coast**.
- Walk the old quarter of Bilbao and explore modern art at the **iconic Guggenheim Museum**.
- Stay in **4-star hotels** and **discover off-the-beaten-path gems** in the company of expert local guides.



Just Explore Holidays & Tours SL

T: +34 957 022 902

M: +34 639 933 717

E: info@just-explore.com

www.just-explore.com

Spanish Licence: CIAN-146473-2

PRO TIP

To ensure a smooth start to our small group tour, we strongly recommend flying into Paris at least a couple of days in advance. This allows time to explore, adjust to the time zone, and avoid potential travel disruptions.

On the morning of DAY 1, take a high-speed TGV train from Paris to Bordeaux (approx 2 hours), arriving in time for hotel check-in at around 2:00PM.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Bienvenue à Bordeaux

Meet & Greet – Your Journey Begins!

Welcome to Bordeaux! Your adventure through Bordeaux and Northern Spain starts here. Upon arrival, meet your tour leader, who will accompany you for the next nine days as you explore the rich landscapes, history, and flavors of Bordeaux and the Basque Country with your group.

Bordeaux Unveiled: landmarks & legacy

Step into the heart of Bordeaux, a UNESCO World Heritage city where history and gastronomy come to life. Meet your expert local guide in your hotel lobby and set off on a captivating journey through a city that seamlessly blends over 2,000 years of architectural heritage with a dynamic, modern spirit.

Stroll through Bordeaux's beautifully preserved historic center, now dedicated to pedestrians, and uncover landmarks spanning centuries.

Discover the Roman-era Palais Gallien amphitheater, admire medieval gems like the **Saint-Seurin Basilica and Saint-André Cathedral**, and walk through the grand Cailhau Gate. Bordeaux's 18th-century Golden Age shines through in its neoclassical masterpieces, from the stunning **Grand Théâtre** to the elegant Tourny Alleys and the iconic 4km-long quay façades, once bustling with wine merchants. The breathtaking **Place de la Bourse**, formerly the Royal Square, stands as a symbol of the city's opulent past.

Beyond its architectural splendor, Bordeaux is alive with energy. Wander Europe's longest pedestrian shopping street, where designer boutiques meet charming antique shops. See the city's evolution firsthand, from its historic quarters to the sleek modern lift bridge connecting the old and new districts.

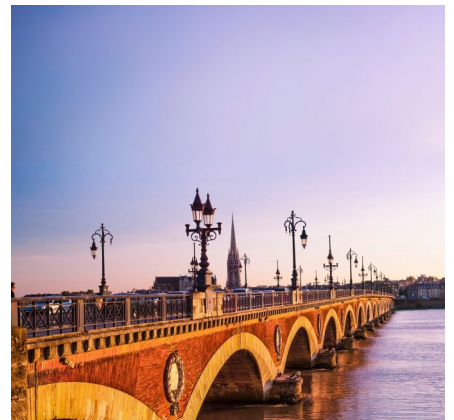
Wrap up this exciting first day with a lively welcome dinner, the perfect way to toast to the unforgettable journey ahead!

Bordeaux is a mesmerizing blend of 18th-century grandeur, cutting-edge modernity, and dynamic urban energy. As France's sixth-largest city, it stands among Europe's most vibrant and forward-thinking destinations. Recognized as the world's largest urban UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bordeaux spans an impressive 18 square kilometres of protected landmarks, with nearly half the city graced by UNESCO-listed charm.

The city's architectural brilliance is undeniable. From the perfect symmetry of Place de la Bourse to the grand hôtels particuliers—once home to 18th-century wine merchants—Bordeaux's neoclassical beauty is unmatched. Ornate stone façades, tree-lined boulevards, and majestic palaces tell the story of a city shaped by elegance and prosperity. Yet Bordeaux is far from frozen in time; its contemporary designs boldly redefine the skyline, with avant-garde structures evoking wine decanters, gleaming pebbles, and other striking innovations.

A rich collection of art museums, spanning diverse eras and styles, adds depth to the city's architectural splendor. Once nicknamed "the Sleeping Beauty," Bordeaux has undergone a stunning 20-year transformation, reclaiming its former glory and seamlessly weaving together its historic soul with a bold, modern edge.

Meals included: Dinner



DAY 2: Oysters, Dunes, and Seaside Views

Half day trip to explore the Arcachon Bay

Embark on a captivating journey to discover the beauty of **Arcachon Bay**, a hidden gem of the French Atlantic coast. Accompanied by your private driver-guide, set off on a scenic excursion to explore this protected area of breathtaking landscapes.

Your adventure begins with a private cruise aboard a **traditional pinasse boat**, an iconic wooden vessel that glides across the bay's tranquil waters. Enjoy stunning views of the **Dune du Pilat**, Europe's tallest sand dune, the quaint oyster farms, and the picturesque Île aux Oiseaux, known for its charming stilted cabins.

Next, visit an **authentic oyster village** for a **traditional seafood lunch**. Savor the freshest Arcachon oysters, prawns, pâté, and local wine, all served in a relaxed, waterfront setting.

This day trip perfectly blends **natural beauty, cultural immersion, and exquisite local cuisine**, making it a memorable experience on your southwestern France adventure. After a fulfilling day, you'll be transferred back to your hotel in Bordeaux.

Free afternoon & evening

You will have time to further discover Bordeaux at your own pace. From strolling through its historic squares and gardens to visiting its art museums and vibrant markets, there's plenty to explore. Don't miss the beautiful river views, fascinating architecture, and local experiences that truly capture the spirit of the city.

*Nestled in the heart of Arcachon Bay in southwest France, **Arcachon** is a charming resort town on the French Atlantic Coast, known for its pristine white sandy beaches, delicious seafood, and laid-back coastal ambiance. Just a short distance from the awe-inspiring Dune du Pilat, Europe's tallest sand dune, and the serene Gascogne Landes Regional Nature Park, this picturesque destination offers an idyllic escape. Arcachon is also a popular weekend getaway for Bordeaux locals, drawn to its quaint wooden oyster villages and tranquil setting. The bay, often described as a "small interior sea," opens to the Atlantic and is framed by lush pine forests. Its unique triangular shape, bordered by charming villages, and constantly shifting tides make Arcachon Bay a place of endless discovery, where every visit feels like the first.*

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 3: Saint-Emilion Splendour: Vineyards, chateaux & timeless charm

Today, you'll spend the day indulging in exceptional French reds and whites in the prestigious Saint-Emilion and Pomerol wine region.

Explore renowned vineyards, tour historic wine estates, and savour tastings of some of Bordeaux's finest wines, all set against the stunning backdrop of rolling hills and medieval villages.

Please note: *The châteaux and the order of the program included in this day trip are subject to change based on their availability.*

Your private driver/guide will meet you at your hotel for a scenic drive to the Saint-Emilion wine region. The first stop will be a private visit and wine tasting at **Château de Valandraud**, a remarkable estate founded by passionate wine lovers Jean-Luc Thunevin and Murielle Andraud. Since its inception in 1991, the château has been dedicated to producing top-tier wines, with a team of experts ensuring every vintage reaches its full potential.



Afterward, enjoy a leisurely **lunch at Atelier de Candale**, a charming restaurant nestled in the Saint-Emilion vineyards. This elegant yet rustic venue offers gourmet French cuisine crafted from local ingredients, paired perfectly with the region's exceptional wines, all set against panoramic vineyard views.

In the afternoon, embark on a fascinating tour of the **underground monuments of Saint-Emilion**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Wander through the town's maze of narrow cobblestone streets, lined with remnants of medieval monasteries and convents, and visit the impressive underground monuments that add to the town's historic charm.

Next, enjoy an **exclusive private tasting** in a renowned wine cellar in the heart of Saint-Emilion. Surrounded by some of France's top wines, your local wine expert will guide you through a special selection of Saint-Emilion and Pomerol wines. After a day of discovery, you'll be transferred back to Bordeaux, enriched by the beauty, history, and flavours of one of the world's finest wine regions.

Saint-Emilion is one of the oldest wine-producing appellations in the Bordeaux region, with a rich history dating back to Roman times. Roman ruins can still be found scattered throughout the area. Saint-Emilion is also famed as the home of Decimus Magnus Ausonius, the Roman poet and wine enthusiast, after whom Château Ausone is named. The village takes its name from a Benedictine monk named Emilian, who began the construction of the striking limestone church at the heart of the village. Today, Saint-Emilion is a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned not only for its beauty but also as the home of France's oldest wine society.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 4: A Taste of the French Basque Country

Explore the French Basque Country's rich history, stunning coastlines, and vibrant culinary scene on this unforgettable journey.

Today we travel through the French Basque Country blending history, vibrant markets, stunning coastal landscapes, and local gastronomy.

Traveling from Bordeaux to San Sebastián, you'll explore charming towns, savor regional delicacies, and experience the relaxed Basque way of life.

Your adventure begins in **Bayonne**, a town famous for its half-timbered houses, lively markets, and artisan chocolate.

A guided tour will take you through the UNESCO-listed **Bayonne Cathedral**, the bustling **Les Halles market**, and the **scenic canals**. Before leaving, enjoy some free time to browse and pick up handmade Basque chocolates from one of the town's renowned chocolatiers.

Next, you'll continue to **Biarritz**, a glamorous seaside town once favoured by European royalty. Stroll along the **beach**, take in the elegant architecture, and explore Les Halles market, known for its fresh seafood, Basque cheeses, and pintxos. A delicious lunch awaits at Bar de Jean, a lively spot near the market specializing in seafood and local specialties.



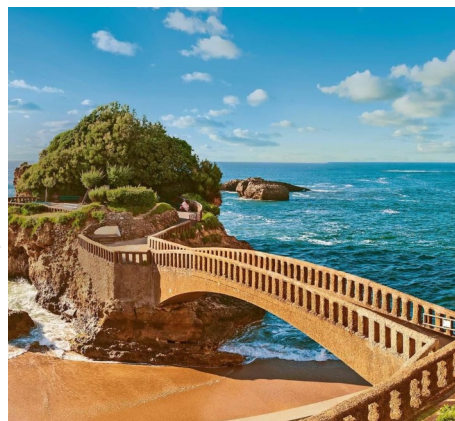
After lunch, take a short walk to admire Biarritz's iconic beaches and ocean views before heading south to the charming fishing village of Saint-Jean-de-Luz. Here, you'll have time to soak in the town's relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere with a leisurely coffee break at a local café.

The journey concludes with a scenic drive to San Sebastián, where you'll check into your hotel, reflecting on a day filled with history, stunning landscapes, and incredible food.

This carefully curated experience captures the essence of the French Basque region, blending rich culture, local flavors, and breathtaking coastal scenery for an unforgettable day.

As you enter **Bayonne**, you might hear "Ongi etorri eskual herrian" ("Welcome to the Basque Country") or "Adiou," meaning "hello" in Gascon, as the town sits at the crossroads of two distinct cultures. The Nive and Adour rivers meet here, dividing Bayonne into three unique areas. To the south, the "Vieux Bayonne" (Old Bayonne), or "Grand Bayonne," surrounds the cathedral and was built on the foundations of the Roman garrison town of Lapurdum. To the north, near the railway station, is the "Saint-Esprit" quarter, developed in the 16th century by Portuguese Jews fleeing the Inquisition. Nestled between the rivers, "Petit Bayonne" retains its medieval charm. Bayonne is also the birthplace of European chocolate, and it remains one of the largest importers of raw chocolate today.

Biarritz has been a beloved seaside retreat since Napoléon III and his Spanish-born wife Eugénie visited in the mid-19th century. The town still sparkles with belle époque and art deco elegance, featuring a blend of luxurious villas and heritage-listed residences. Today, Biarritz remains a jewel of the southwest, famous for its stunning beaches, therapeutic waters, and vibrant surf culture. The town's unique atmosphere combines upscale restaurants and spas with casual pizza joints and surf shops, offering something for everyone..



San Sebastian Orientation Walk & Pintxos Tasting

This evening, experience the local culture on a fantastic pintxos (Basque tapas) tour.

After checking in and settling into your hotel, enjoy an informal dinner while discovering the best local specialties at our favorite bars.

This tour takes you through the old town of San Sebastián, where you'll sample the region's famous miniature dishes. Your private guide will share fascinating stories about the city's history, allowing you to explore at your own pace. Take your time to savor every delicious bite and sip of wine.

Enjoy a special selection of 4 pintxos paired with 3 Spanish wines (or your choice of water, soft drinks, or beer) across up to 3 different bars, making this an unforgettable evening!



San Sebastián, the capital of Gipuzkoa in the Spanish Basque Country, is a stunning town just 20 km from the French border. Nestled along the crescent-shaped Bay of Biscay (La Concha), it is one of Spain's most fashionable beach resorts. The city boasts a long shoreline, stretching for kilometers between the picturesque Urgull and Igeldo hills. Known for its scenic beauty, delectable cuisine, and vibrant atmosphere, San Sebastián also offers a wealth of cultural attractions.

Pintxos, the Basque take on tapas, are an integral part of the local food culture. The name comes from the Spanish verb "pinchar," meaning to poke or stab, referring to the tradition of serving these small bites on a slice of bread with a toothpick. While pintxos once followed a simple format, today they have evolved into diverse, creative dishes that go beyond the classic bread-and-toothpick style.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5: San Sebastian: A feast for the senses

Today, you will discover the beauty, history, and flavors of San Sebastián on this immersive tour, combining breathtaking viewpoints, a guided walk through the Old Town, and an exclusive dining experience at a private gastronomic club—a rare privilege in Basque culture.

Morning: Iconic Views & Scenic Drive

Your journey begins with a scenic drive around the city's most famous landmarks, with stops at stunning viewpoints offering panoramic vistas of the coastline and mountains:

- Monte Igueldo – A spectacular lookout over La Concha Bay, where you can capture one of the most iconic views of the city.
- Peine del Viento – Eduardo Chillida's famous "Wind Comb" sculptures, dramatically set against the crashing waves of the Cantabrian Sea.
- Zurriola Beach & Kursaal – The city's modern side, home to surf culture and the striking architecture of the Kursaal Congress Center.



Late morning walking Tour: Discovering the Old Town

Continue with a guided stroll through the charming Old Town (Parte Vieja), one of the most atmospheric quarters in the Basque Country.

Highlights include:

- Plaza de la Constitución, the heart of San Sebastián's historic center.
- San Vicente Church, the city's oldest church.
- The Basílica of Santa María del Coro, an architectural gem.
- A walk along the narrow, lively streets, where legendary pintxos bars line the way.



Culinary Experience: Exclusive Private Gastronomic Club

This tour culminates in a truly special experience—lunch at a private gastronomic society, a txoko, where locals gather to cook, eat, and celebrate Basque cuisine. This intimate setting, usually closed to outsiders, offers the chance to:

- Watch expert chefs prepare traditional Basque dishes.
- Enjoy a multi-course meal featuring seasonal and locally sourced ingredients.
- Pair your meal with local wines, embracing the convivial atmosphere.

This unique experience blends San Sebastián's stunning landscapes, rich history, and world-famous gastronomy, making it an unforgettable highlight of your journey.

You will have the rest of the afternoon & evening free to enjoy at your leisure. Whether you prefer relaxing by the sea or exploring the city, San Sebastián has plenty to offer. Stroll along La Concha Beach, soak up the local charm at Ondarreta, or watch surfers at Zurriola. Wander through the historic Old Town, the elegant Romantic Centre, or the trendy Gros district. For food lovers, indulge in world-class Basque cuisine at a Michelin-starred restaurant or visit a traditional cider house for an authentic local experience. However you choose to spend your time, San Sebastián is sure to delight.

San Sebastian's unique coastal location, framed by the foothills of the Pyrenees, offers breathtaking views of La Concha Bay, renowned for its crescent-shaped golden sands and turquoise waters. La Concha Beach has consistently been recognized among Europe's top beaches, thanks to its stunning scenery and inviting promenade. This natural beauty, combined with the city's unparalleled culinary scene—from decadent Michelin-starred restaurants to delectable pintxos (Basque-style tapas)—is sure to make you fall in love with our wonderful city.



Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 6: La Rioja: Vineyards & Heritage

This La Rioja tour seamlessly blends gastronomy and education, offering a thorough exploration of the region's winemaking styles, from Rioja Alta to Rioja Alavesa. Not only will you sample some of Spain's most celebrated wines, but you'll also have the chance to admire the captivating architecture that defines this northern region.

Morning

Your private driver/guide will pick you up from your hotel in San Sebastián for a scenic drive to La Rioja (approx. 1.45 hours).

First Stop: A CLASSIC RIOJA BOUTIQUE WINERY (Visit + Tasting)

Located in the renowned Train Station district of Haro, this winery produces a wide range of premium wines, from terroir-driven creations to classic Gran Reservas. The estate's vineyards truly capture the essence of the land.

Note: If unavailable, an equally exquisite winery will be chosen.

Second & Third Stops: TASTING SESSIONS AT 2 SMALL BOUTIQUE WINERIES

You'll stop at two additional wineries for tastings only: one classic Rioja and one small family-owned boutique winery. At each, you'll taste 2-4 wines (all earning 90 Parker Points or more), enjoying intimate wine bar experiences.

A TRADITIONAL HOT & COLD TAPAS LUNCH AT ONE OF THE WINERIES

At one of the wineries, enjoy a traditional **Riojan tapas lunch** — both hot and cold — paired with Rioja red wines. Depending on the weather, lunch will be served on an outdoor terrace overlooking the vineyards or in a private cellar carved into the bedrock.

Note: If this winery is unavailable, you'll be upgraded to a 3-course meal with wine at a local restaurant.

Afternoon

After lunch, explore the medieval hilltop town of Laguardia, surrounded by 13th-century walls. Stroll through its historic streets, lined with Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassical buildings.

You'll then pass by two architecturally iconic wineries—Bodega Ysios (designed by Santiago Calatrava) and Marqués de Riscal (famous for its Frank Gehry-designed hotel)—for sightseeing from outside, but without winery visits.

Early Evening

Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening at your leisure.

The Rioja wine region, Spain's oldest Denominación de Origen (D.O.), is made up of three sub-zones: Rioja Alta, Rioja Baja, and Rioja Alavesa. Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa, with their prestigious wineries, are the most popular for wine tourism, while Rioja Baja lies in the hot, dry southeastern part. A small section of Navarra also belongs to the Rioja D.O., which includes over 600 wineries, with around 300 in Rioja Alavesa alone.

This ancient region, dating back to the Neolithic era, is home to charming hilltop fortress towns, medieval walls, noble homes with heraldic shields, and Gothic churches with gilded Baroque altar-pieces. Ancient burial markers (dólmenes) can be found scattered among the vineyards, blending history with winemaking traditions.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 7: Coastal Basque Bliss

Embark on an unforgettable side trip along the stunning Spanish Basque coast, where dramatic cliffs, rolling vineyards, and charming fishing villages create a picture-perfect adventure. This scenic route from San Sebastián to Bilbao unveils some of the region's most spectacular landscapes and cultural gems.

Morning – Departure from San Sebastián

After breakfast and check-out, enjoy a 30-minute drive along the breathtaking Basque coastline to Zumaia, home to stunning geological wonders and cinematic views.

Explore the Flysch Cliffs & San Telmo Hermitage

Zumaia features the world-famous Flysch cliffs, a 60-million-year-old rock formation. Walk along the cliffs or visit the San Telmo Hermitage, perched on the edge with panoramic views of the rugged coastline.

Head to Getaria for a Txakoli Winery Experience

A 10-minute drive brings you to Getaria's vineyards, where you can enjoy a guided tasting of Txakoli wine at a family-run winery, overlooking the sea.

Winery Lunch with Ocean Views

Savor a lunch featuring local specialties like anchovies, tuna, cured meats, and cheese, all perfectly paired with Txakoli, while enjoying views of the vineyards and Atlantic Ocean.

Afternoon – Explore Getaria's Fishing Village

A short drive leads to Getaria, a charming village known for its medieval streets, fishing port, and connection to icons Cristóbal Balenciaga and Juan Sebastián Elcano. Visit the Balenciaga Museum and Elcano's monument, then enjoy fresh seafood by the harbor.

End the day with a scenic 1-hour drive to Bilbao, where the Guggenheim Museum awaits to introduce you to the city's art and vibrant atmosphere.

After check-in, enjoy an informal dinner while discovering Bilbao's local customs and tasting its famous pintxos in the Old Town. With a private guide, explore the city's history at your own pace, savoring each bite and sip of wine. You'll enjoy 4 specially selected pintxos paired with 3 Spanish wines (or drinks of your choice) across 3 bars, making for an unforgettable evening.

The Basque coast, stretching from San Sebastián to Bilbao, is a stunning blend of dramatic cliffs, rolling vineyards, and charming fishing villages. Key highlights include the Flysch cliffs in Zumaia, a geological marvel, and the historic village of Getaria, known for its Txakoli wine and connections to fashion designer Balenciaga. This coastal region offers a mix of natural beauty and cultural heritage, with its scenic vineyards, medieval streets, and vibrant fishing ports. The area is also renowned for its seafood, Basque traditions, and rich history, making it a must-visit for travelers seeking an authentic experience.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & dinner



DAY 8: Bilbao: A tapestry of History and Modern Art

Today, you'll dive into the heart of **Bilbao** with a 2.5-hour walking tour through the charming, narrow streets of the **Casco Viejo** (Old Town). This will give you a glimpse into the city's rich history and vibrant foundations. As you wander, you'll come across key landmarks like **Plaza Nueva**, the stunning **Catedral de Santiago**, the bustling **La Ribera Market**, and the beautiful **San Anton Church**, each one telling its own story of Bilbao's past.

After soaking in the Old Town's atmosphere, it's time to head to the world-famous **Guggenheim Museum**, where your skip-the-line tickets will get you straight inside. Enjoy a 1-hour guided tour through this architectural marvel, where art and innovation blend seamlessly.

The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure.

If you're a fan of art, the **Museo de Bellas Artes** showcases an impressive collection of Basque and Spanish masterpieces.

For a taste of the city's contemporary vibe, check out the **Alhóndiga**, a cultural center housed in a former wine exchange **designed by Philippe Starck**. Don't miss **Plaza Moyúa**, either – its beautiful gardens and iconic metro entrances by Sir Norman Foster make it a perfect spot for a snapshot.

When hunger strikes, head to **Café Iruña**, a local gem with stunning neo-Mudéjar decor, perfect for a coffee or pintxos break. If shopping's on your agenda, the **Gran Vía de Don Diego López de Haro** is home to all the top high-street brands.

Whatever you choose, Bilbao offers endless possibilities to explore and enjoy at your own pace.

And to round this off, later in the evening you'll enjoy a delicious farewell dinner to top off this incredible journey.

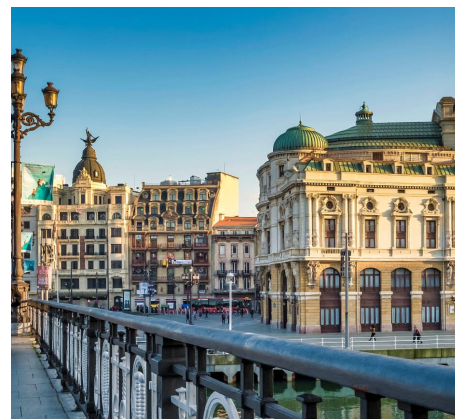
Bilbao is nestled between two small mountain ranges. Founded in the 14th century by Diego López V de Haro, the city became a commercial hub due to its bustling port, exporting iron from Biscayan quarries. By the 19th and early 20th centuries, Bilbao had become the center of Spain's second-most industrialized region, after Barcelona. The 1997 opening of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum sparked a remarkable economic revival, transforming the city. This phenomenon is now known as the "Bilbao Effect," highlighting how a major architectural project can reshape a city's identity.

Meals included: Breakfast & dinner

DAY 9: End of your trip

*Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end...
We hope you enjoy your stay with us here in France & Spain.
Hasta pronto!*

Meals included: Breakfast



PRO TIP

As your journey concludes in Bilbao, you have several options to continue your travels or return home smoothly:

- **Flying Out of Bilbao:** Bilbao Airport offers direct flights to major European cities, including connections to Madrid and Paris if you are returning home from either of those hubs. There are also direct flights to Newark (starting May 2025)
- **Extending Your Adventure:** If you'd like to continue exploring Spain, consider adding a few days in Madrid or Barcelona, both easily accessible by direct flights from Bilbao. Alternatively, you can venture the Balearic islands or into Portugal, with flights to Mallorca, Lisbon or Porto, where we can also arrange an unforgettable experience for you.

Whichever option you choose, we're here to help craft the perfect extension to your journey!

PRICE & INCLUSIONS

A flavour of Bordeaux & The Basque Country



ACCOMMODATION

At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for your hotel. That's why we only use pre-viewed character hotels with great locations to help you relax and enjoy your stay with us.

Your accommodation will be made up of:

- 4 Star Boutique hotels with double or twin rooms sharing
- Breakfasts included - All centrally located
- Air conditioning - En-suite bathrooms

TRANSPORT (all included)

Luxury AC vehicle with driver and tour leader for the duration of the tour

Luggage:

We advise packing light and recommend bringing the following luggage so we can ensure that all bags fit in our vehicle (minivan or minibus):

- 1 medium size suitcase (43x28x66 cm / 17'x11'x26')
- 1 carry on bag and/or backpack

If you are traveling longer and need to bring more than this please advise our office in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements (if needed)

GUIDED VISITS & TOURS (all entrance fees included)

- Bordeaux - walking city walk
- Arcachon Bay - Day trip
- Saint Emilion wine region - Day trip
- French Basque Country - Side trip
- San Sebastian - Orientation walk + pintxos tasting
- San Sebastian - Panoramic & walking city tour
- Basque Coast - Side trip to the Spanish
- Bilbao - Orientation walk + pintxos tasting
- Bilbao - Walking city tour with Guggenheim museum

GOURMET MEALS AND WINE PAIRINGS

6 LUNCHES:

- Arcachon
- St Emilion wine region
- Biarritz
- San Sebastian private gastronomic club
- Getaria Tkakoli winery

4 DINNERS:

- Welcome dinner in Bordeaux
- San Sebastian pintxos
- Bilbao pintxos
- Bilbao farewell dinner

Assistance During Your Trip

Full support & assistance on hand 24/7.

As with all our clients we will provide you with maps, a list of recommended places to visit, bars & restaurants etc. to help you enjoy the authentic Spain whilst you're exploring at your leisure.

Insurance

We recommend that all travelers take out there own private medical & travel insurance whilst traveling to avoid any unforeseen expenses...

Tips

Basic tips* (driver, restaurants, hotels and local guides) are included.

**Additional gratuities can be given at the sole discretion of each individual traveler.*

Please Note:

The above itinerary may change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. We will duly advise of any such changes as soon as possible.

PRICE* (Per person):

7,100 Euros

Please note: An upgrade to a sea-view room in San Sebastián is available! (extra cost 500 euros per person).

Single supplement + 20%

** Subject to our standard terms & conditions (full details on separate sheet)*



Just Explore Holidays & Tours SL

T: +34 957 022 902

M: +34 639 933 717

E: info@just-explore.com

www.just-explore.com

Spanish Licence: CIAN-146473-2