

# Basque Country

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Discover the charm of St-Jean-de-Luz and take an **afternoon cruise of the Bay of Biscay**.
- ▶ Explore the **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**, the building itself an artwork designed by Frank Gehry.
- ▶ Compare the similarities and contrast the differences between **Basque towns in Spain and France**.
- ▶ Learn about life in Basque Country during **dinner with local residents**.
- ▶ See strands of red peppers hanging to dry outside the whitewashed homes in pretty **Espelette**.
- ▶ Taste the **local culinary heritage** of Basque Country with wine, cider, ham and chocolate tastings.
- ▶ Experience Bayonne's **UNESCO World Heritage site** along the Way of St. James.



### INCLUDED FEATURES

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- **Seven nights** in San Sebastián, Spain, at the first-class Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

#### EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Seven breakfasts, four lunches and three dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during meals at local restaurants.

#### YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Clearly hear your English-speaking guide with your VOX headset.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

#### ITINERARY

- Day 1** Depart gateway city<sup>†</sup>
- Day 2** Arrive in Bilbao | Transfer<sup>†</sup> to San Sebastián
- Day 3** San Sebastián
- Day 4** Biarritz | Bayonne
- Day 5** Laguardia
- Day 6** Espelette/St-Jean-de-Luz
- Day 7** Bilbao
- Day 8** San Sebastián
- Day 9** Transfer to Bilbao and depart for gateway city<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Excursions often require walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or other uneven surfaces.



Espelette



#### ALUMNI CAMPUS ABROAD®





## DISCOVERY

**San Sebastián.** This seaside town, called Donostia in Basque, is the 2016 European Capital of Culture. See its Old Town, including Buen Pastor Cathedral. Walk on La Concha Promenade along the beautiful bay.

**Bayonne.** Bayonne sits in the heart of France's Basque Country. See Sainte-Marie Cathedral, a stop on The Way of St. James. Bayonne also has a sweet and salty reputation as the first place in France where luscious chocolate was produced, as well as the center of production for Bayonne ham, a cousin of serrano ham produced south of the border. Enjoy a tasting of both plus wine.

**Biarritz.** Formerly a whaling town on the Bay of Biscay, Biarritz today is a chic seaside resort. Visit the old fishing port and the medieval Atalaye watch tower, where careful eyes looked for whales.

**La Rioja Wine.** Explore the medieval town of Laguardia, center of La Rioja wine country. Visit a family-owned winery for a tour and wine tasting.

**Espelette.** Explore this pretty town, where strands of the eponymous red peppers adorn whitewashed homes, the traditional method of drying the peppers.

**St-Jean-de-Luz.** This pretty town has a swashbuckling past! In the 17th and 18th centuries, fishermen traded their nets for swords and cannons to become feared corsairs. Learn about its exciting history during a walking tour and enjoy a cruise on the Bay of Biscay.

**Bilbao.** Explore the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, designed by Frank Gehry. Visit a sidrería, a cider maker, for lunch and a cider tasting. The Basque are known for their hard cider, known as sidra, a traditional drink.

St-Jean-de-Luz



## ENRICHMENT

**Spain's Basque Country.** This area of Spain fiercely protects its unique identity. Learn about its culture and history.

**A Basque Dinner.** Meet with a diverse group of San Sebastián residents for a delicious dinner and conversation about Basque Country and life in Spain today.

**The Way of St. James.** This pilgrimage has several stops in Basque Country. It is both a spiritual and cultural journey. Discover why it remains popular today.

**Hemingway's Spain.** Discover writer Ernest Hemingway's passion for Spain and its culture. Hemingway devoted many years over a period of three decades to living in Spain, which influenced much of his work.

## AHI Travel Expertise

**Passenger Service Representative |** Helps with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling special requests.

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

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

**Expert local guides |** Provide friendly, knowledgeable service.

**Lecturers |** Share their knowledge of and passion for their country.




## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra | San Sebastián**   
<https://www.hlondres.com/en/>



AHI Travel  
 International Tower  
 8550 West Bryn Mawr Avenue  
 Suite 600  
 Chicago, Illinois 60631


## ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

 We have designed an extension and an optional activity to allow you to craft your individual trip.

**Pelota and Gastronomy.** The sport of pelota and the art of eating well are central to Basque life. Attend an exciting professional match. After, visit a txoko, a local gastronomic society in San Sebastián for dinner. Step inside and enjoy a truly local experience.

**Pamplona.** Explore the city best known for its ties to Ernest Hemingway and the annual Running of the Bulls.

**Madrid.** Begin your journey with a three-night extension in Madrid. Enjoy a city tour, an art lecture and ample free time. Also included are includes deluxe accommodations, three breakfasts, one lunch and a high-speed train and transfer to the San Sebastián hotel.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost

## UNESCO World Heritage

### Route of Santiago de Compostela in France

Sainte-Marie Cathedral in Bayonne, a site on the Way of St. James.

## Let us arrange your flights!

✈ **AHI FlexAir |** Our personalized air program offers incredible advantages:

- **price guarantee**
- arrival and departure **transfers**
- **flexibility** to change or cancel
- **assistance** with changes or delays
- flight insurance

Cog railway

