

# Great Basque Country Crossing : from the Montains to the Ocean

## Your hike

- Discovering the ridges and valleys of the Basque Country, between France and Spain
- Few transfers, a true itinerant holiday, daily luggage transfers
- Comfortable accomodation : 4 nights in a hotel and 2 nights in a guesthouse
- Easy access to Bayonne train station thanks to the numerous trains

## Highlights

- Discovering the Basque mountain landscapes but also the coast (swimming), a « cross-border » program
- Charming villages : St Etienne de Baigorry, Bidarray, Urdazubi, St Jean Pied de Port...
- A strong regional identity : gastronomy, culture, architecture...
- Hiking on the famous GR10 but also on less known paths and wild ridges



This Basque Country crossing will lead you from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean and partly follows the famous GR10 itinerary – the great crossing of the Pyrenees (866km from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea). This itinerary will make you discover the dual nature of the Basque Country : a wild and inhabited territory, a land of culture and traditions, split between two countries, the green of the mountains and the blue of the ocean. This hike offer a sporty approach of all that represents the Basque Country and, as always, our team will be eager to make you discover the area in the best possible way thanks to our local knowledge and establishment and long-term relationships with our partners. We wanted this crossing to be the outcome of our work and our love for the Basque Country ! After a first comfortable night in our accomodation, [Maison IPU](#)TXAINIA in Saint Jean Pied de Port, you will get to Col de Ronceveaux – famous in the History – and start your zigzagging trip over the border ! You will also spend 2 nights in the Spanish Basque Country. From hike to hike, the Basque Country will reveal itself to you, between panoramic ridges overflown by vultures, typical villages, small but worth the climb summits, forests full of legends... Finally, the mountains will give way to the Ocean, offering you a well-deserved swim as a farewell... or an invitation to come back some day !

## •PROGRAM

### **Day 1 : Beginning of the trip in Bayonne**

Meeting at 17:00 in front of Bayonne train station. Check-in at your accommodation in Saint Jean Pied de Port, our guesthouse where you can enjoy the swimming pool and Jacuzzi to get some rest before the hike. Welcome drink and briefing on the tour.

### **Day 2 : From Col de Roncevaux to St Etienne de Baigorry**

Be prepared for amazing settings on your first day ! An itinerary off the beaten paths from summits to summits, between 1000 and 1250m of altitude, with breathtaking views over the surrounding valleys and the Pyrenean high summits soaring up in the background. A beautiful discovery of the Basque mountain awaits you, before reaching the pretty village of St Etienne de Baigorry.

- Distance : 20 km, duration : 7h00, ascent : +500m, descent : -1400m.

### **Day 3 : From Saint Etienne de Baigorry to Bidarray**

Today's section takes you to Bidarray, a very beautiful village perched over the Nive valley, and goes through the pink sandstone cliffs of the Iparla ridge and its 1044m-high Peak. A panoramic hike that offers magnificent viewpoints over France and Spain !

- Distance : 18,5km, duration : around 7h30, ascent : +1115m, descent : -1190m.

### **Day 4 : From Bidarray to the « Xareta » territory, where the word « border » does not exist**

A section between small summits and villages with a strong Basque identity. When climbing up to Col des Veaux, you will walk through the Peñas de Itxusi – the « Naughty Rocks » – and get a bit closer to the impressive vultures circling over your heads. This itinerary between France and Spain goes through small peaks and passes, and reaches the Gorospil ridge and its breathtaking view over the Rhune mountains and the Ocean, that already looks so close. Then it will be time to go down towards the villages of Dantxarinea and Urdazubi. Your guide will also tell you more about this very special area called « xareta ».

- Distance : 21km, duration : around 7h30, ascent : +950m, descent : -1000m.

### **Day 5 : From Urdazubi to Sare (Lizarrieta pass)**

You will be crossing the « witches » country, an area full of legends and caves... where the small but very beautiful Atxuria ridge (759m) is standing. From there you will enjoy stunning views over the impressive Rhune mountains, that you will discover on the following day. You will then cross the woodpigeon hunting areas, through forests and meadows, before reaching the Lizarrieta pass.

- Distance : 15km, duration : 6h00, ascent : +900m, descent : -600m.

### **Day 6 : Crossing the Rhune mountains**

Getting closer to the end of the trip, you are facing today the Rhune mountains, the last Pyrenean bastion that seems to be defending the mountains against the Ocean ! You will approach this magnificent mountain offering varied landscapes on its south-east slope, the most quiet one. After enjoying a well-deserved cold drink at the top, the way down follows a beautiful path on the ridges toward the Ibardin pass.

- Distance : 12km, duration : 5h00, ascent : +1000m, descent : -800m.

### **Day 7 : Arriving at the Ocean.... short hike and swimming !**

From the border and through green landscapes, you will progressively leave the Atlantic Pyrenees foothills to go down towards the village of Biriadou. Here is where the hike ends.... Let's now enjoy the beach and swimming ! It is time to get to Hendaye beach (20min-transfer) for a picnic and a well-deserved refreshing swim ! Then it will be time to say goodbye....

- Distance : 7km, duration : 3h00, ascent : +340m, descent : -700m.

**End of the trip around 16:30, after the hike. Transfer to Bayonne train station.**

*This program is an example of the itinerary we aim to adhere to. It may be necessary, if situations arise that are beyond our control, for the itinerary to be modified. Onsite, our guides are the ones who know best and they may have to adjust the itinerary depending on the weather or should the safety of the group require it.*

#### • MEETING POINT AND END OF THE TRIP

##### **Meeting point :**

On Day 1 at 17:00 in front of Bayonne train station.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CONTACT RESPYRENEES one week beforehand, texting: + 33 6 10 97 16 54, to inform us about your arrival time at Bayonne train station.**

**Accommodation the night before the trip or on the last day : see our Accommodation section.**

##### **End of the trip :**

On Day 7 around 16:30, after the transfer to Bayonne train station.

#### • DATES AND PRICE

##### **Group size**

From 4 to 14 people.

##### **Departures**

Departure is secured from 4 people.

From Saturday 09/05/2020 to Friday 15/05/2020

From Saturday 16/05/2020 to Friday 22/05/2020

From Saturday 06/06/2020 to Friday 12/06/2020

From Saturday 20/06/2020 to Friday 26/06/2020

From Saturday 11/07/2020 to Friday 17/07/2020

From Saturday 18/07/2020 to Friday 24/07/2020

From Saturday 25/07/2020 to Friday 31/07/2020

From Saturday 01/08/2020 to Friday 07/08/2020

From Saturday 08/08/2020 to Friday 14/08/2020

From Saturday 15/08/2020 to Friday 21/08/2020

From Saturday 22/08/2020 to Friday 28/08/2020

From Saturday 05/09/2020 to Friday 11/09/2020

From Saturday 19/09/2020 to Friday 25/09/2020

##### **Price per person :**

Price of the trip per person	<b>735€</b>
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##### **Extras :**

- Single room extra (available for 5 nights) : 150€/ pers

##### **The price includes :**

- Full board accommodation from the dinner on Day 1 to the picnic on Day 7
- Transfers
- Luggage transfers
- Guiding by a mountain guide specialised in the Basque Country

##### **The price does not include :**

- Travel insurance
- Meals that are not specified as included in the price
- Additional transfers
- Drinks
- Additional visits

## • TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### Nature of the terrain

The hikes are on good paths, the terrain is varied but often rocky.

### Level 3

For hikers with a good physical condition and a first experience of mountain hiking. Walking times are mentioned for information only. They are average times that only take into account the effective walking time and do not include the stops during the hike. Depending on the weather conditions, the walking pace can also vary, ranging from +300m to +500m of climbing per hour.

## • ACCOMODATION / FOOD

### Accommodation

4 nights in a 2-star hotel and 2 nights in a guesthouse in a double room.  
Single room available upon request, with extra and depending on availabilities.

### Food

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)
- Evening meals are often based on Basque specialities and include a starter, a main course and a dessert.
- Picnics are included
- Drinks are not included

### Accommodation before or after the trip

#### Bayonne :

**Hôtel Côte Basque : comfortable 2-star hotel situated near Bayonne train station**

**2 rue Maubec**

**64100 BAYONNE**

**Tel : +33 5 59 55 10 21**

**Hotelcotebasque@orange.fr**

**www.hotel-cotebasque.fr**

Other option : our accommodation in Saint Jean Pied de Port. Please contact us for the transfer from Bayonne  
[www.maison-iputxainia.com](http://www.maison-iputxainia.com)



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- \* Table d'hôtes avec des produits locaux
- \* Piscine chauffée et un jacuzzi
- \* Espaces détente intérieur/extérieur
- \* Des professionnels de la randonnée et de la pêche à votre service

**"Chez nous, c'est chez vous !"**

64 220 ASCARAT  
06 53 52 95 28  
[mathieu@respyrenees.com](mailto:mathieu@respyrenees.com)

 

## • PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Start :** On Day 1 at 17:00 at Bayonne train station.

**End:** On Day 7 around 16:30 after the transfer to Bayonne train station.

**How to get to Bayonne:**

- By plane:

Biarritz Mermade Airport (25km) : daily flights to Paris, London, Lyon, and Clermont Ferrand Hub.

- By train :

Many TER trains to Bayonne from the main cities in France.

Contact SNCF at 36.35 (direct line) or [www.oui.sncf.com](http://www.oui.sncf.com) to confirm the timetable.

- By car :

From Bordeaux A63 Motorway, 207km. From Toulouse, A64 Motorway, 293km, then Bayonne A63 Motorway, « gare SNCF » exit .

If you come by car, we advise you to park it in the SNCF train station indoor car park.

- Euskadi Tourism : [www.turismo.euskadi.eus](http://www.turismo.euskadi.eus)

- Hendaye Tourist Information Centre: 67 bis, Boulevard de la Mer - 64700 HENDAYE - tel +33 5 59 20 00 34 - [www.hendaye-tourisme.fr](http://www.hendaye-tourisme.fr)

- SNCF Information : 3635, or [www.ter-sncf.com](http://www.ter-sncf.com)

- Local weather forecast : [www.tameteo.com](http://www.tameteo.com)

- Emergency: 112

## • WHAT TO BRING AND PACK

### Luggage

- A 35L (or so) hiking backpack that you will use to carry your personal belongings during the day.

### Clothes

- 1 sunhat or cap
- T-shirts (1 for 2 or 3 walking days). Avoid cotton, very long to dry; rather choose short-sleeved T-shirts (breathable material) in Capilene (Patagonia), Dryflo (Lowe Alpine), Light Effect (Odlo) etc...
- 1 base layer (with the same characteristics) or long-sleeved shirt
- 1 polar fleece jumper
- 1 trekking trousers
- 1 comfortable trousers for the evenings
- 1 wind and rainproof jacket (Gore-tex type), simple and light
- 1 swimwear and towel to go to the spa center. Compulsory if you want to access the health Spa.
- Warm underwears
- Walking socks (1 pair for 2 to 3 walking days). Avoid the « tennis » type socks (cotton), which take a long time to dry and increase the risk of blister; rather choose some Coolmax-based ones.
- 1 pair of waterproof ankle hiking boots (Vibram type soles)
- 1 pair of comfortable trainers for the evenings

This list should be adapted according to the season you choose

### Other little things

- 1 high quality sun glasses
- 1 water bottle (1 liter minimum)
- 1 pocket knife (don't forget to put in your checked baggage for your flight)
- Small toiletry bag and towel
- T-roll, suncream, lipstick
- For picnics: cutlery, glass and a sealed plastic box

### Your own first-aid kit

- Your usual medication

- Vitamin C or polyvitamin
- Pain medication: paracetamol, preferably
- Adhesive bandage (Elastoplast-type, 6cm wide)
- Adhesive dressings + disinfectant wipes
- Blister plasters (Spenco type, available in pharmacies, drugstores, sport stores...)

Collective first-aid kit

- First-aid kit placed under the responsibility of your Mountain Leader