

Factsheet | Guided walking | Level 2/5  | 5 walking days

The best of the Basque Country, guided walking

Your Tour briefly

- Easy hiking in the Basque Country
- Star-shaped itinerary (returning to the same base each day)
- Comfortable accommodation in a 3-star hotel with a swimming pool
- Discovery of the rich and diverse Basque gastronomy

Highlights

- Easy access from Bayonne train station
- Coastal hiking, St. James' Way trails, GR10, and picturesque villages
- Shepherd's meal, lunch in a traditional restaurant
- Discovery of the Basque Coast and the inland Basque Country



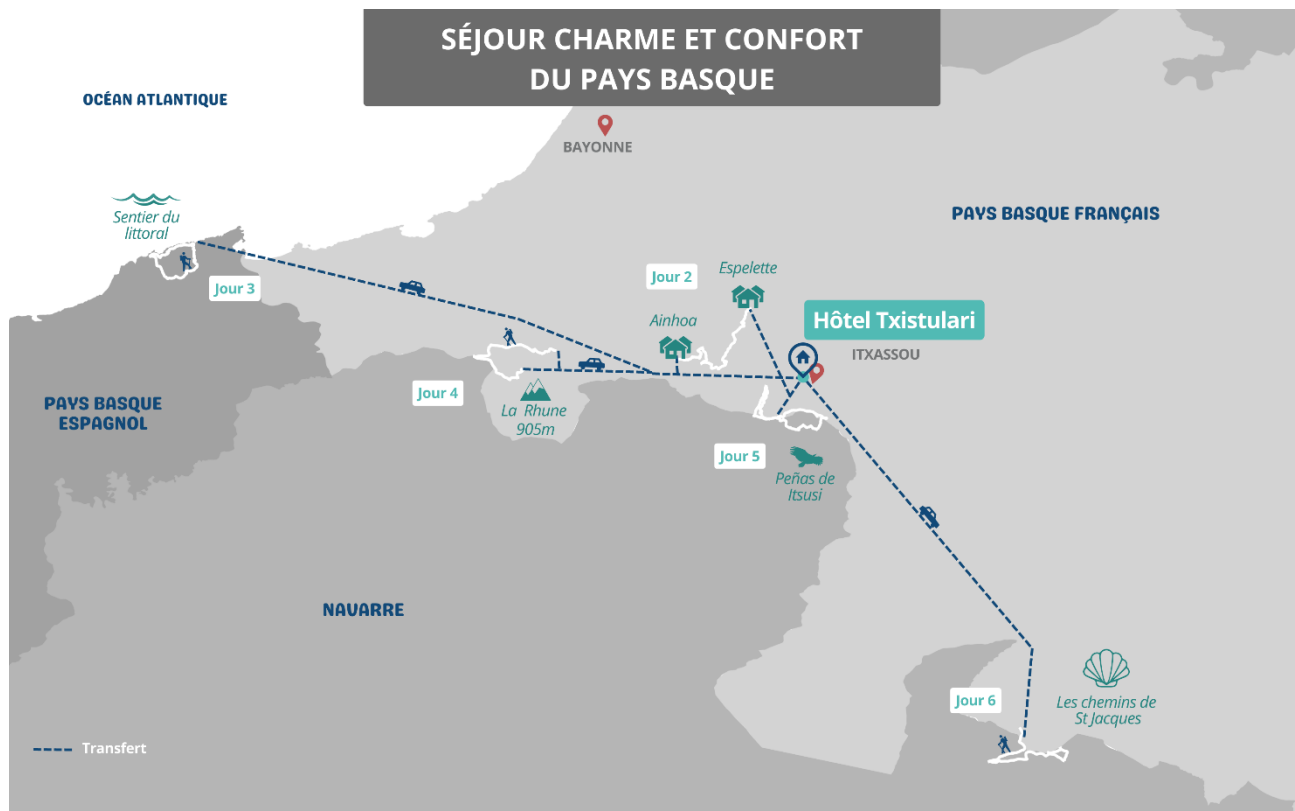
This accessible hiking tour takes you to the foothills of the Pyrenees, offering an immersive discovery of the Basque Country! Explore numerous unique villages nestled in lush green valleys, as well as the iconic Rhune Mountain.

This tour is an opportunity to experience an exceptional cultural identity as you walk along coastal cliffs between Hendaye and Spain, and from village to village, across ridges and through forests.

Your guide, a Basque Country specialist, will introduce you to this rich culture through encounters in the many villages you'll pass through.

You'll follow sections of the legendary GR10, the Trans-Pyrenean trail that stretches from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, crossing the entire Pyrenean range. You'll also trace the footsteps of pilgrims on the Way of St. James, starting from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port.

Your guide will inspire you with the vibrant Basque culture and traditions. And, of course, the gastronomy will be a highlight: Itxassou black cherries, Espelette pepper, Bayonne ham, sheep's cheese... enough to delight your taste buds!



• PROGRAM

Day 1: Start of the Tour in Bayonne

Meet at 6:00 PM in Itxassou (or at 5:25 PM at Bayonne train station). Check into your accommodation, a 3-star hotel with a swimming pool, where you'll stay for the entire week. Welcome drink and briefing about the tour.

Day 2: Typical Basque Villages



Explore the villages of Ainhoa (listed among "The Most Beautiful Villages of France") and Espelette, world-renowned for its peppers that decorate the façades of village houses. This is the perfect introduction to the "Basque World," its culture, gastronomy, and lush green landscapes.

Note: When the group has fewer than 9 participants, the hike is a loop. For groups of 9 or more, the hike may be linear, from Ainhoa to Espelette.

• Distance: 12 km | Duration: 5 hours | Ascent: +490 m | Descent: -530 m | Transfer: 20 minutes

Day 3: A Foray into Spain via the Stunning Coastal Trail



Today, we're heading to Spain. Facing the Bay of Txingudi, which separates Hendaye from the Spanish port of Hondarribia, we'll reach Cabo Higuer, the westernmost tip of the Pyrenees! From there, the trail alternates between cliffside paths and lush green valleys, offering a perfect blend of the Basque Country—where ocean meets mountains!

Beach stop in Hondarribia at the end of the hike !!

• Distance: 12 km | Duration: 5 hours | Ascent: +390 m | Descent: -580 m | Transfer: 1 hour

Day 4: Ascent of "Larrun," an Iconic Peak of the Basque Country



La Rhune (or *Larrun* in Basque), rising to 900 m, overlooks the Basque coast and the mountains of both the French and Spanish Basque Country. The exceptional panoramic views are well worth the effort! This mountain also reflects the Basque people's strong connection to traditional practices like livestock farming.

Bonus: Our route avoids the crowds, allowing us to fully appreciate the beauty of this massif.

Note: For those who prefer not to hike, there's an option to take the scenic train to the summit. Advance booking is recommended at the start of the tour!

• Distance: 11 km | Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes | Ascent: +680 m | Descent: -820 m | Transfer: 30 minutes

Day 5: The GR10 and the Penas de Itsusi



The Basque Country is closely linked to the GR10, which begins on the beach of Hendaye. Around Itxassou, the trail follows the ridge known as the "border crest," marking the boundary between France and Spain. It then approaches the Penas de Itsusi, a favored refuge for vultures, giving us plenty of opportunities to observe these majestic birds. To top it off, we'll enjoy a traditional farm lunch at Marie-Pierre's—a typical Basque shepherd's meal that will warm our hearts!

• **Distance: 16 km | Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes | Elevation Gain: +580 m | Elevation Loss: -580 m | Transfer: 20 minutes**

Day 6: In the Footsteps of St. James' Pilgrims



A deep dive into the "Jacobean world": we'll start with a visit to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, the capital of the inland Basque Country and a major pilgrimage site. Then, we'll set off on a hike into Spain, following a historic path trodden by countless pilgrims over the centuries!

• **Distance: 11 km | Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes | Elevation Gain: +300 m | Elevation Loss: -300 m | Transfer: 1 hour**

Day 7: End of Your Tour

The tour ends after breakfast. For those who arrived by train, a transfer to Bayonne train station is provided, with an expected arrival at 9:30 AM.

The itineraries have been planned based on the latest information available at the time of writing. However, unforeseen circumstances may arise, and situations beyond our control could alter the program. On-site, our guides are the best judges and may adjust the itinerary based on weather conditions or if required for the safety of the group.

• MEETING POINT AND END OF TOUR

Meeting Point:

On Day 1 at 6:00 PM at your accommodation in Itxassou (64 – Pyrénées-Atlantiques): *Hotel Txistulari*.

For participants arriving by train: Meet at 5:25 PM in front of the Bayonne SNCF train station. It is **MANDATORY** to **notify us one week in advance via SMS at +33 6 10 97 16 54** to reserve the shuttle between the train station and the hotel.

If You Arrive Early in Bayonne:

1/ Luggage Storage: Hotel Côte Basque, located opposite Bayonne train station, offers luggage storage services (€10 per bag, 2024 rate subject to change).

Address: Hôtel Côte Basque, 2 Rue Maubec, 64100 Bayonne. Phone: +33 5 59 55 10 21

2/ Visit Bayonne:

The Bayonne Tourist Office provides a city guide that you can download here or pick up directly at the Tourist Office, Place des Basques - 64108 Bayonne.

<https://www.calameo.com/read/004039137bf2929b7092e?trackersource=library>

End of Tour:

On Day 7, around 9:30 AM, after breakfast.

For participants who arrived by train, a transfer to Bayonne train station is provided, with an arrival time of 9:30 AM.

• DATES AND PRICES

Number of Participants

Group of 4 to 15 people.

Departures

EVERY WEEK FROM MARCH 30 TO NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Departure guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants.

Price per Person:

865€ IN APRIL, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER

895€ IN MAY AND JUNE

915€ IN SEPTEMBER

940€ IN JULY AND AUGUST

Supplements/Discounts:

- Single Room Supplement (Standard): €195 per person
- Single Room Supplement (Standard) **IN JULY/AUGUST**: €225 per person
- Extra Night (B&B, Double Room): €52 per person
- Extra Night (B&B, Single Room): €80 per person

Price Includes:

- Full-board accommodation from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 7
- Transfers during the tour
- Guidance by a certified mountain guide (*BE AMM*), specialist in the Basque Country

Price Does Not Include:

- Insurance
- Meals not specified in "Price Includes"
- Transfers not mentioned in the program
- Entrance fees for visits
- Drinks
- Booking fees: €15

• TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Terrain Type

Fairly easy hikes on good trails, with varied terrain, but often rocky.

Level 2

These tours are designed for those seeking an active vacation. A reasonable level of physical fitness is required. Expect to walk for 4 to 5 hours per day. *Uphill speed*: +300 m per hour.

Please note that walking times are average estimates, accounting only for actual walking time and excluding rest breaks.

Guidance

The hike is led by a certified mountain guide (*BE Accompagnateur Montagne*), specialist in the Basque Country.

Luggage

Only personal items for the day and your picnic need to be carried.

• ACCOMMODATION / MEALS

Accommodation

6 nights in a *3-star hotel with a swimming pool, in a double room.

www.txistulari.fr

The TXISTULARI Hotel Restaurant has been our trusted partner for several years. It is a family-run hotel where Jean-Jacques and his son Michel prepare delicious Basque specialties, along with some dishes inspired by fresh, local products. Anne-Marie's warm hospitality will also delight you.

Single rooms are available upon request, with an additional fee and depending on availability. Private parking is available for those traveling with their own vehicle.



OTHER ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

On certain dates, depending on the size and distribution of the group and the type of rooms, we may work with the Gure Gostuan guesthouse, a very charming and comfortable guesthouse located 200 meters from the Txistulari Hotel. If this is the case, you will be informed before your registration is confirmed, so that you can make the decision.

For those staying at Gure Gostuan: breakfasts will be served on-site, but dinners will be shared with the group at the Txistulari Hotel. You will also have access to the Txistulari Hotel's swimming pool, as the Gure Gostuan House does not have one.

Here is the link to the Gure Gostuan guesthouse website if you'd like to take a look before agreeing to stay there:

www.gites64.com/Chambre-d-hotes-ltxassou-lthurry-borgeais-Coeur-Pays-Basque-64G441006.html

Meals

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)
- Dinner often includes Basque specialties, with a starter, main course, and dessert
- Picnic lunches included
- Drinks not included

• PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW? Traveling by train results in an average of 90% less CO2 compared to traveling by plane or car (data from ADEME).

Feel free to reach out to us if you need information on train travel options. You can also use the following very helpful websites:

- www.sncf-connect.com
- www.tictactrip.eu

- www.rome2rio.com

Here is all the information you will need to reach us by train at Bayonne station:

- TGV from Paris (Strasbourg/Lille/Rouen... connected to Paris by Intercités)
- TGV + Intercités from Lyon and Marseille, via Toulouse
- Intercités from Toulouse
- Intercités + TER from Nantes via Bordeaux

How to reach Bayonne by other means:

- By plane: Biarritz Parme Airport (25 km away) with daily flights to Paris, London, Lyon, and the Clermont-Ferrand Hub.
- By road: From Bordeaux, take the A63 motorway, 207 km. From Toulouse, take the A64 motorway, 293 km, then continue on the A63 motorway to Bayonne, exit 5, direction Cambo-les-Bains. If you are coming by car, we recommend parking it at your accommodation in Ixassou: Hotel Txistulari.



Accommodation Before or After Your Stay:

Hôtel Côte Basque in Bayonne:

A comfortable hotel located near Bayonne train station

2 rue Maubec

64100 BAYONNE

Tel: +33 5 59 55 10 21

Hotelcotebasque@orange.fr

www.hotel-cotebasque.fr

Hôtel Ibis Style in Bayonne:

A bright *** hotel located near Bayonne train station

1 Place de la République

64100 BAYONNE

Tel: +33 5 59 55 08 08

h8716@accor.com

<https://url.me/z7ShZJ>

• TO TAKE IN YOUR LUGGAGE

Luggage

- A hiking backpack with a capacity of approximately 35 liters, which will be useful for carrying your personal items during the day.

Clothing

- 1 sun hat or cap
- T-shirts (1 for every 2 or 3 days of hiking). Avoid cotton, as it takes too long to dry; prefer short-sleeved t-shirts (breathable material) like Capilene (Patagonia), Dryflo (Lowe Alpine), Light Effect (Odlo), etc.
- 1 base layer (same notes as above) or long-sleeve shirt
- 1 fleece jacket
- 1 pair of trekking pants
- 1 comfortable pair of pants for the evening
- 1 lightweight, simple Gore-Tex style jacket
- 1 swimsuit and a towel for the pool
- Warm underwear
- Hiking socks (1 pair for every 2 to 3 days of hiking). Avoid "tennis" socks (cotton), as they take a long time to dry and have a high risk of blisters; prefer those made from Coolmax, for example
- 1 pair of waterproof hiking shoes that support the ankle (Vibram-type sole)
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for the evening

The clothing list should be adapted depending on the season chosen.

Small Equipment

- 1 pair of high-quality sunglasses
- 1 water bottle (minimum 1 liter)
- 1 pocket knife (to be placed in checked luggage)
- Toiletries

- Toilet paper, sunscreen, and lip balm
- For the picnic: cutlery

Personal Pharmacy

- Your regular medications
- Vitamin C or multivitamins
- Pain medication: preferably paracetamol
- Elastic adhesive bandage (type Elastoplast, 6 cm wide)
- Adhesive bandages and disinfectant wipes
- Second skin (SOS Blisters by Spenco, available in sports stores, pharmacies, or drugstores)

Collective Pharmacy

- First aid kit under the responsibility of your guide