

Technical sheet | Self-guided walk | Level 2/5   | 5-6 walking days

Spanish Basque coast : where Ocean and Mountains become one

Your route en brief

- Easy hike on the Spanish Basque coast
- Walk with family, friends or as a couple
- Comfortable accommodation in room
- Access to main luggage every day, depending on the option chosen
- Duration 7 days/6 nights
- Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum as an option
- Easy access to Hendaye train station

Highlights

- Coastal hiking with many opportunities for swimming
- Discovery of the Basque coast, its typical atmosphere, its ports and seaside resorts
- Diverse coastal landscapes: hills, coves, cliffs, beaches, forests...
- Discover the rich and varied gastronomy of the Basque Country
- Part of the route on the "Camino del Norte"



The Spanish Basque Country coast features the last reliefs of the Pyrenees, opening in some areas wonderful beaches surrounded with cliffs. The sea is clear, sometimes choppy with beautiful waves. You can take a bath, get a tan, but you can also, and above all, hike along the Atlantic Ocean. Here, no jealousy: ocean and mountain perfectly meet and merge. For you to be able to discover this amazing union between the natural features, we offer you the opportunity to cross the area from North to South, stopping every night in a seaside stopover. With the Ocean always as a backdrop, you will go from hills to creeks, from cliffs to beaches, from lawns to forests. You will also enjoy the gastronomy of this territory whose cultural and culinary heritage is exceptional. Every night you will be invited to taste Basque culinary delights: tapas, Txakoli, fish, axoa...

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•PROGRAM

Day 1 : Start of your holiday in Hendaye

Check-in at your hotel in Hendaye. You can choose to visit the city or to do a walk to discover the famous Domain of Abbadia, remarkable 65ha natural site located on the seafront, within varied landscapes. In this amazing biological reserve, you will be able to visit the well-known Gothic Revival castle of Antoine d'Abbadie. according to the opening hours.

- Distance: 5.5km, duration: around 2h00, altitude gain: +80m, descent: -80m.

Day 2 : Loop of Hondarribia

From Hendaye, you will reach the wharf to take the boat shuttle to cross the Txingudy Bay, which separates Hendaye from the Spanish harbour of Hondarribia. You will quickly reach the Cabo Higuer, the western end of the Pyrenees. From there, the track will offer you a condensed summary of the Basque Country, leading you sometimes above the cliffs, sometimes in the middle of a green valley: ocean and mountain merged! When you get to Hondarribia, after the hike, it is time for a Tapas stop ! Return to Hendaye for a second night with the shuttle boat.

- Distance : 16km, duration : around 5h, altitude gain : +410m, descent : -410m.

Day 3 : From the Jaizkibel mountain to San Sebastian

Short transfer from your accommodation to the Jaizkibel Mountain. There, the track will reward you with magnificent views over the ocean, 400m down, from one side, and over the first French and Spanish Basque mountains, from the other side. Then you will walk down through a lovely pathway on the cliff's edge to reach Pasaia, where you will take another boat shuttle to cross the Pasaia Bay. The remaining part of the track to reach San Sebastian will take place through creeks and green seaside. San Sebastian and its famous "Concha" are waiting for you, for an amazing evening wandering along the "Casco Viejo", discovering the best "Pintxos" (tapas) bars of the whole country!

- Distance : 18,5km, duration: around 6h, altitude gain: +395m, descent : -905m.

Day 4 : From San Sebastian to Zarautz

At the beginning of the day, you will progressively walk higher and higher above San Sebastian to reach a pleasant track overlooking the Ocean. The end of this stage will be punctuated with the crossing of Txakoli green vineyards, this delicious Basque white wine you will surely have the opportunity to taste.

- Distance : 21,5km, duration: around 6h45, altitude gain: +580m, descent : -575m.

Day 5 : From Zarautz to Zumaia

Because this section will be short, you will have the opportunity to take some rest and relax, enjoying the beach in Zarautz. Then, it will be time for you to put your hiking shoes on to start the stage of the day by a pedestrian trail that meanders along the Ocean until Getaria (you can also choose to reach it through the hills if you prefer). Getaria is a small fishing harbour dominated by the San Anton lighthouse. Then, you will reach Zumaia, on the shore of a wonderful bay where the rivers Urola and Narrondo meet.

- Distance : 11km, duration: around 3h45, altitude gain: +335m, descent : -335m (costal path).
- Distance : 9km, duration: around 3h, altitude gain: +325m, descent : -325m (hill path).

Day 6 : From Zumaia to Deba

The stage of the day will allow you to discover one of the most amazing and interesting areas of the whole Basque coast, entering the zone of Deba-Zumaia, that was recently declared a coastal biotope. The itinerary allows you to roam in a few hours an unbroken succession of stratus that, layer after layer, represent more than 50 million years of the planet History. It is one of the most important geological sanctuary in the world. At the end of the day, transfer to Zumaia by train for comfort + version.

- Distance : 15km, duration: around 5h00, altitude gain: +605m, descent : -600m.

Day 7: End of the stay in Deba (or extension to Bilbao and Guggenheim Museum)

End of your stay in Deba after breakfast.

Or possibility to book a Bilbao and Guggenheim Museum extension (see supplements) including a transfer from Deba to Bilbao by taxi, entrance fees to the museum, and an overnight stay in a hotel in Bilbao (overnight only)**

Bilbao, a worldwide known city thanks to the Guggenheim museum, which was designed by the architect Frank Gehry, is a must-see in Spain. The museum **The Guggenheim** has propelled the city to one of the most important cultural cities in the world.

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.

• DATES AND PRICES

Departure

Every day from beginning of April to the end of October (according to availabilities).

Booking from 2 people (solitary traveller: consult us).

From 01/04/2023 to 31/10/2023

Prices with luggage transfer :

Price per person for a group of 2 persons	715€
Price per person for a group of 3 persons	670€
Price per person for a group of 4 persons	645€
Price per person for a group of 5 persons	630€
Price per person for a group of 6 persons	620€

Prices without luggage transfer :

Price per person for a group of 2 persons	615€
Price per person for a group of 3 persons	605€
Price per person for a group of 4 persons	595€
Price per person for a group of 5 persons	590€
Price per person for a group of 6 persons	585€

Extras :

- Extra for departure during high season - 15 June to 15 September : 95€/pers
- Single room option : 195€/ pers
- Extra transfer back from Deba to Hendaye on a week day: 135€/transfer
- Extra transfer back from Deba to Hendaye on a Sunday or a Public Holiday: 155€/transfer
- Extension Bilbao / Guggenheim low season : 135€/pers
- Extension Bilbao / Guggenheim high season - 15 June to 15 September : 160€/pers
- Extra transfer back from Bilbao to Hendaye on a week day: 195€/transfer
- Extra transfer back from Bilbao to Hendaye on a Sunday or a Public Holiday: 215€/transfer
- Extra night in Hendaye/Deba/Bilbao: please, consult us

The price includes:

- Half-board accommodation except day 3 in San Sebastian (night only)
- Transfer day 3
- Luggage transfers depending on the option chosen
- Dossier containing maps, route notes (1 for 4 persons, given in 1st accommodation)
- GPS tracks if you ask us + access to the detailed itinerary on the Mhikes GPS mobile application

The price does not include:

- Holiday and travel insurance
- 15€ booking fees
- Diner and breakfast in St Sebastien
- Boat shuttles: D2 (3,60€/pers return journey) and day 3 (0,70€/pers)
- Extension to Bilbao
- Drinks and picnics

• TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS

We can put together a suitable holiday for you taking into account all your specific requests and budget. Many individuals and trekking companies have relied on us for years. With our tailor-made holidays we always aim to provide you with the best quality at the fairest price.

If you want to :

- increase the comfort of your accommodations,
- change the duration of your trip,
- organize additional activities or visits,
- get a transfer from/to an airport,
- organize an extra night

Contact us :

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• ORGANIZATION

We propose a self-guided, independent formula. You choose your departure date and we will take care of all the rest from the initial meeting time through to the dispersion point. We transport your bags between the hotels (depending on the option chosen), we provide you with the maps and detailed walking route notes sent on the first accommodation as well as access to the detailed itinerary on the Mhikes GPS mobile application. This is a way of enjoying complete flexibility, you dictate the pace and rhythm of your holiday. Moreover, our team will answer all your questions, and will provide all useful advice in order to make this holiday a success.

Your transfers during the walk:

- Day 3 : At 9AM, transfer (20min) from Hendaye to the Jaizkibel Mountain at the start of the hike.

• TECHNICAL INFORMATION**Level 2/5**

Occasional walker, in good physical condition. Hiking 5h-6h per day on average, altitude difference 400m-700m on average, on easy paths and tracks. 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.

Guide

Self-guided walking, without guide.

Carrying

You will need to carry a day backpack only. Our bag-moving service means you can travel light during your walks. Your main luggage (that should please be easily transportable) will be transported by vehicle between the different night stops, unless you have chosen the version without luggage transport.

• ACCOMMODATION / FOOD**Accommodation**

Half board except day 3 (night only)

2 nights in hotel** on days 1 and 2

1 night in a family hotel on day 5

3 nights in a guesthouse (or equivalent) on days 3, 4 and 6.

Food

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, butter, jam)
- Evening meals often based on Basque specialties, include a starter, a main course and a dessert
- Dinner D3 and breakfast D4 in San Sebastian not included: a wide variety of Pintxos bars and restaurants are waiting for you, this is the reason why we don't want to force one choice.
- Drinks and picnics not included

• PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Beginning : Day 1 at your accommodation in Hendaye (64), according to your arrival time.

End : on day 7 in Deba, after breakfast, or on day 8 in Bilbao, after breakfast if you book the "Bilbao option".

How to get to Hendaye :

- **By air :** Biarritz airport (25km) : daily flights via Paris, Londres, Lyon, and the Clermont Ferrand.
- **By train :** Numerous TER trains departing from the main cities in the direction of Bayonne and then Hendaye (<https://www.oui.sncf>).
- **By car :** Bordeaux autoroute A63, 207km. From Toulouse and Bayonne, autoroute A64, 293km, then Bayonne to Hendaye, autoroute A63, 32km.

PARKING :

Free parking in Hendaye : in the town centre and harbours (Gazteluzahar pediment)

Paying : Under the médiathèque (contact Mairie, tel 0559482323) or at the train station

How to get back to Hendaye from Deba :

By train from Deba to San Sebastián and by train from San Sebastián to Hendaye with the company Euskotren.

Taxi (see supplement)

How to get back to Hendaye, from Bilbao (if you book the "Bilbao option"):

- By train from Bilbao to St Sebastian and train from St Sebastian to Hendaye with the Euskotren company.
- By Bus from Bilbao to St Sebastian (PESA company) and by train from St Sebastian to Hendaye (Euskotren company).
- Taxi (see supplement)

Do not hesitate to consult us when you make your booking to help you organize your return.

•WHAT TO BRING AND PACK

Your main luggage:

For logistical reasons, we ask you not to bring more than one item/person. Its weight should not exceed 12kg - 15kg.

Your day backpack

The size of your bag varies upon the type of activity.

For a walk without portage : 30L minimum

For a walk with partial portage : 50L minimum

For a walk with portage : 60L minimum

Whatever activity you participate in, you should always carry in your rucksack:

- Rainwear, warm clothing, spare T-shirt, sunglasses, sun cream, first aid kit, picnic kit, personal items, etc.
- Picnic lunch of the day (bring a plastic box)
- Sufficient water (minimum 1.5 litre water bottle)

Walking Boots

The type of boot depends upon the activities you take part in, however they are one of your most important items. They should be comfortable, waterproof and breathable. For the best protection we advise ankle boots.

We recommend our young walkers to wear flexible walking boots with a good sole and back.

For mountain walking for more than 4 hours long we recommend a boot with a fairly ridged sole.

If you need to buy a new pair of boots, we advise you wear them in before the start of your holiday. Don't wear boots that are too small because feet have a tendency to swell up. Be careful with your shoes that have been left in the wardrobe for too long. The lifespan of a shoe is 2 to 5 years. After a while the soles will come off and the seams can tear.

Clothes:

- A wind and rainproof jacket
- A thick jumper or a fleece
- Comfortable walking trousers
- Shorts, t shirts as well as breathable base layers
- Spare clothes
- Swimwear and towel

For Sleeping

- Earplugs

For Picnics

- Sealed plastic box (0.5L) to carry salads
- Cutlery (folding knife and fork)
- A 1,5L minimum flask

Small equipment

- A pair of tennis shoes, or sandals for the evening
- A pair of telescopic poles (optional)
- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Hat, cap or bob
- Camera...
- A small toilet bag, with towel
- Torch or headlamp
- Toilet paper
- A mini-pharmacy: personal medication, Compeed for blisters, elastoplast, gauze, disinfectant, arnica granules and aspirin in case of minor injuries, a survival blanket.