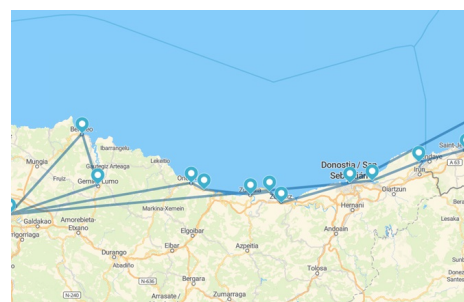




Southern Europe, 6 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Basque Coast Route with Biarritz and Saint-Jean-de-Luz

Maritime charm, natural beauty and the glamour of the French Atlantic coast, all accompanied by mouthwatering cuisine. Between the deep blue of the Cantabrian Sea and the lush green of the northern mountains, our route crosses through the heart of the Basque Country (Euskadi) to explore emblematic cities such as the industrial and avant-garde Bilbao or the beautiful and chic San Sebastián; wild beaches surrounded by steep cliffs and frequented by surfers from around the world; quaint fishing villages sheltering in the recesses of a rugged and hypnotic coastline and that amaze travellers with their ancestral customs; and the glamour of exquisite destinations on the French Atlantic coast such as Saint-Jean-de-Luz and Biarritz. The Basque Country rewards you with over 246 kilometres of coastline dotted with beautiful maritime towns such as Hondarribia, Zaraut, Zumaia, Lekeitio, Getaria and Bermeo; traditional hamlets next to the vineyards where Txakoli (the local white wine) is produced; unique natural environments such as the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, the beautiful forest of Oma or the Basque Coast Geopark; and places that nurture the spirit, such as Gernika-Lumo or the spectacular shrine of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe. Throughout the tour, you'll enjoy a road dotted with spectacular vantage points that command extraordinary views. The Basque Country is a land of monument-rich cities, a people proud of their culture and the cradle of one of the best cuisines in the world. It doesn't matter if you're sitting at a bar full of pintxos or dining at one of its famous Michelin-starred restaurants, it will always be a delectable culinary experience.



CULTURAL

**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

**From:** Cork, Shannon, Dublin

### Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - BILBAO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Bilbao and rental car pick-up.

Industrial, artistic, edgy, culinary, urban, redeveloped... Bilbao welcomes us with open arms. Its joie de vivre, its fabulous culinary universe, its excellent museums and its amazing ability to combine its past life of furnaces with Art Nouveau treasures, baroque and contemporary monuments and buildings designed by the world's most famous architects make this city a truly unique place.

Must-visits include its iconic Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry; the lively Paseo de Abandoibarra, a boulevard shared by tourists, locals, runners and families alike; the imposing Isozaki twin towers, and the bustling Azkuna Zentroa, a former wine warehouse converted by Philippe Starck into the place to see and be seen...

In this first leg of the tour, we'll discover a welcoming Bilbao that invites you to stroll along its Ría and cross the Vizcaya Bridge, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site; wander through its lively old town and "Seven Streets"; sit at a never-ending bar covered with delicious pintxos while enjoying a few txikitos (small glasses of wine); or engage in some retail therapy at its traditional shops...

If you have time, take a trip out to Getxo. The Old Port, the marina and Getxo Aquarium are some of its most interesting attractions. When night falls, discover the authentic city from the vantage point on Mount Artxanda or experience some of its amazing nightlife.

Overnight stay in Bilbao.

## DAY 2 · BILBAO - SAN SEBASTIÁN

Departure from Bilbao to continue on this coastal tour. On the way to San Sebastián, admire the verdant landscapes flanking the motorway. After driving just over an hour we'll arrive at our destination.

Romantic and majestic, San Sebastián will captivate us with its chic atmosphere, one of the most beautiful bays in Spain, the Instagram-ready Concha beach and its vibrant cultural agenda structured around the Kursaal and the recently-opened Centro Tabakalera, which earned it the title of European Capital of Culture 2016... Buildings such as the Hotel Maria Cristina, the Teatro Victoria Eugenia, the City Hall or the La Perla Spa remind travellers of the splendour of the belle époque when this city was the summer destination of choice for the upper echelons of European royalty and aristocracy. San Sebastián is a city for walking, fine dining, relaxing and enjoying life. Known as the world capital of the pintxo, its Parte Vieja is peppered with traditional restaurants and taverns where you'll enjoy a truly gastro experience.

And that's just the start of the trip.

You choose whether to sail around the bay in the summer months, to visit the famous Aquarium, to watch the waves breaking from the Paseo Nuevo, to experience the bracing Cantabrian Sea while admiring Eduardo Chillida's "Peine del Viento" sculpture, or to enjoy a candlelit dinner on the waterfront...

Overnight stay in San Sebastián.

## DAY 3 · SAN SEBASTIÁN - PASAIA (ALBAOLA) - HONDARRIBIA - SAINT JEAN DE LUZ - BIARRITZ - SAN SEBASTIÁN

With the morning light, we'll set out on a beautiful drive to the towns of Pasaia and Fuenterrabía (Hondarribia), two jewels of the Basque coast that dazzle the traveller with their authenticity, maritime atmosphere and magnificent cuisine full of fusions and flavours. Then we'll enter the French Basque Country, visiting the exquisite towns of Saint-Jean-de-Luz and Biarritz. Here we'll discover the ever-so-chic French Atlantic Coast made fashionable in the nineteenth century by the Empress Eugénie. Located around 40 kilometres from San Sebastián, Biarritz rewards us with six kilometres of beaches popular with surfers; famous spas to escape from the madding crowd; the idyllic Grande Plage and the luxurious Hotel du Palais; the golden mile of the Avenue Edouard VII; the "chocolat chaud" at the historic Café Miremont; and incredible panoramic views from the Pointe Saint Martin lighthouse. Return journey to San Sebastián by motorway.

Overnight stay in San Sebastián.

#### ● DAY 4 · SAN SEBASTIÁN - ZARAUTZ - GETARIA - ZUMAIA - MUTRIKU - ONDARROA - BILBAO

This is one of the most Instagram-ready stretches of the Euskadi coastline.

We'll be able to admire a rugged salt-scented coastline dotted with beautiful wild beaches surrounded by steep cliffs, stone-built villages seemingly lost in the emerald green mountains, and picturesque fishing villages with heaps of history...

And, between stops, we'll be able to sample the excellent local cuisine.

Once in Zarautz, we'll find a 3.5 km beach that attracts surfers from around the world, a lively old town and some very interesting Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

After a short drive along a beautiful seafront road - considered one of the best roads in the world according to a list made by a leading car rental company - we'll reach Getaria, an former whaling village that is the birthplace of Juan Sebastián Elcano, the first sailor to circumnavigate the earth 500 years ago, and which now endears itself to travellers with its historic harbour, renowned fish restaurants and the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum. From Getaria there's an almost mythical coast road which leads to the fishing village of Zumaia, linked forever to the painter Ignacio Zuloaga, and its beaches beneath the amazing Flysch cliffs... After driving through green valleys lined with Txakoli vineyards, we'll return to the coast to explore towns with a truly Basque flavour, such as Mutriku and Ondarroa.

Overnight stay in Bilbao.

#### ● DAY 5 · BILBAO - GERNIKA - URDAIBAI BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOREST OF OMA AND SANTIMAMIÑE CAVE - CHAPEL AND VANTAGE POINT OF SAN JUAN DE GAZTELUGATXE - BERMEIO - BILBAO

We'll set off for Gernika-Lumo, symbol of freedom and peace for the Basque people, where we'll visit the Casa de Juntas del Señorío de Vizcaya (provincial government building) with its symbolic tree, the "oath" church of Santa Maria, and the Euskal Herria and Paz museums.

Back on the road and it isn't long until nature surprises us again. This time with a protected area covering 12 kilometres of extensive sandbanks. It's commonly known as the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve. A true delight to the senses. (We recommend entering from the coast, along the Laga and Laida beaches). A unique natural environment that is complemented by the magical Oma Painted Forest by the artist Agustín Ibarrola, and the cave of Santimamiñe (Kortezubi), declared a World Heritage Site. We'll end the day visiting Mundaka beach, internationally renowned for its left-hand wave, one of the ten best waves in the world, and from where we'll be able to view the full extent of the Urdaibai Reserve and admire the sunset from the spectacular shrine of San Gaztelugatxe. And participating in the lively atmosphere of the fishing port of Bermeo.

Overnight stay in Bilbao.

#### ● DAY 6 · BILBAO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Bilbao.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Bilbao.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Sebastián.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Sebastián.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

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Bilbao



Getxo



San Sebastián



Pasaia



Hondarribia



Saint-Jean-de-Luz



Biarritz



Zarautz



Guetaria



Zumaia



Mutriku



Ondarroa



Guernika-Lumo



Bermeo



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to

accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.