

Hearst Ranch Winery Spanish Basque Country Pre-Cruise San Sebatian/Bilbao



May 4 - 8 2022



The Spanish Basque Country San Sebastian/Bilbao

The Basque Country is one of Europe's oldest and strongest cultures: Straddling two nations on the Atlantic Coast — stretching about 100 miles from Bilbao, Spain, north to Bayonne, France — lies the ancient, free-spirited land of the Basques. The Basque Country is famous for its beaches, modern architecture, for its feisty, industrious natives and for its incredible cuisine! The two main cities, San Sebastian and Bilbao, have become world leaders in gastronomy, counting more Michelin starred restaurants per square meter than any other city in the world.

The Spanish Basque Country is also simply beautiful: Bright white chalet-style homes with deep-red and green shutters scatter across lush, rolling hills, a stunning coast-line, and the Pyrenees Mountains soaring high above the Atlantic!

Our custom designed 5 day adventure is based in San Sebastian, the cosmopolitan seaside resort with beaches framed by a gorgeous bayfront promenade, and world-renowned restaurants helmed by innovative chefs. Its cobblestoned old town (Parte Vieja) houses chic upscale shops and vibrant pintxos bars. From there we venture off to the spectacular wine regions of Northern Spain, the Txakolina and the Rioja, where Spain's finest wines emerge from.. and we get to taste at the most famous wineries.

Small hilltop medieval towns overlooking an awesome countryside, charming fishing villages serving the freshest grilled fish, the site of **Guernica** immortalized by Picasso, the **Balenciaga** museum featuring some of the gowns designed for Princess Grace of Monaco, a walk along the **Camino de Santiago trail**, the incredible outdoor "mercados" – food markets, **pintxos bar hopping**... these are some of the fun daily adventures we will enjoy as we discover this extraordinary corner of Spain.

Our last day and night is dedicated to Bilbao, the capital of the Basque Country: With its staggering architecture, venerable dining scene and stunning land-scapes just outside the city center, Bilbao is one of the

great treasures of the Basque Country. It is renowned for the Frank Gehry – designed Guggenheim Museum which houses prominent modern and contemporary works, but it is the curvy, titanium-clad building that receives the most attention. After lunch at the museum's famed Bistro restaurant, our private guide will tour us through this awesome building.

There are multiple choices for celebrating our last night in the Basque Country: Bilbao is a vibrant city with Michelin-starred eateries and buzzing pintxos bars, all offering a different take on Basque cuisine. The cobblestone streets of the old town also feature endless rewards for foodies with eateries lining the Plaza Nueva. Three of the four evenings/dinners on this tour have purposely been left "at leisure" in order to give each of us the opportunity to select our own culinary feast in this gastronomic wonderland!

I am happy to provide a list of the top-rated restaurants for San Sebastian and Bilbao to those interested; reservations well in advance are recommended and I certainly can assist you with that.

I have selected the hotel Villa Soro for us in San Sebastian as it is the most lovely 19th century manor house with utter comforts and charm. The renovation that transformed it from a private house into a top-notch hotel was done with care and attention to detail in keeping with a Belle Epoque style and feel, without, of course forsaking modern niceties such as Internet connection.

It is surrounded by beautiful gardens and about 1 kilometer from the beach and downtown: I have included a nightly scheduled shuttle for your convenience in getting you to center town and back.

By contrast, I have chosen **Hotel Miro in Bilbao**, a smart, modern boutique hotel staying very much in the architectural style of its neighbor, The Guggenheim Museum. **Created by fashion designer António Miro, the hotel has a very cosmopolitan vibe and contemporary bright décor.** Great location.



LOGISTICS: There are no nonstop direct flights from the US to San Sebastian or Bilbao: the best connection is via Madrid. There is 1 daily flight from Madrid to San Sebastian on IBERIA, departing Madrid at 12.00pm, arriving San Sebastian at 1pm: our tour's meeting place will be at the San Sebastian airport at 1pm om May 4, 2022. Air schedules for May 2022 are not posted yet and most probably wont be until June 2021. However I have checked and currently flights arriving from most US gateways arrive in time for a 12.00pm San Sebastian flight connection. My colleagues in the Frosch Air Dept. can assist in ticketing your itinerary, let me know and I will put you touch.

Some of you may want to spend a night or 2 in Madrid prior to the pre-cruise: I am happy to assist you with hotel reservations, please indicate so on the Pre Cruise Sign Up Form.

The Pre Cruise program includes the transfer to Bilbao airport and the airfare between Bilbao and Porto on May 8th 2022. Upon landing in Porto a Uniworld staff member and motorcoach will transfer us to our ship, the S/S Sao Gabriel.

Please beware that though we embark in Porto, we disembark in Lisbon on May 18, 2022: you return air ticket will be out of Lisbon.

I very much look forward to sharing this exciting fun-filled adventure with you: please secure your spot by signing up quickly as the tour is capacity limited to 12 couples.

From fairy tale-like villages and modern architectural landmarks to world-class food and wine, the Basque Country will enchant you!

Warmest Regards, Joelle Cliff



Hotel Miro





1.00pm arrival San Sebastian Airport Private transfer to our hotel, Villa Soro. Panoramic tour of the highlights of the city. Check into hotel.

Evening:

Guided Pintxos and Wine tour (2 groups of 11 pax).

Visit iconic bars in San Sebastian's most famous neighborhood for the essential Pintxos experience.

Overnight at Hotel Villa Soro**** in San Sebastian



Day 2: Thursday, May 5, 2022

Morning:

Breakfast at our hotel

Guided walking tour of Mercado de la Brexta, the Vieja Parte, the Cathedral & the Basilica

Transfer to Txakolina Wine Region

Visit and tasting at Gaintza Txakolindegia winery. Gaintza has a long and proud history. Four generations of the Lazkano family have prepared, produced and distributed txakoli, (pronounced [tʃakoˈli]) a slightly sparkling, very dry white wine with high acidity and low alcohol content that this Basque region is famous for.

Lunch at restaurant Elkano in Getaria

One of the world's most famous seafood restaurants, Elkano was founded in 1964 and embraces a 'fin-to-tail' ethos. Its speciality is seasonal fish prepared with disarming simplicity, such as its showstopping turbot, accompanied by vegetables from local farms.

Afternoon:

Option 1:

Transfer back to San Sebastian and enjoy afternoon at leisure

Option 2:

Visit of Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum. Situated in his hometown, Getaria, the museum is dedicated exclusively to the brilliant Spanish couturier, Cristóbal Balenciaga. The permanent exhibition includes a selection of 90 items, including Queen Fabiola of Belgium's wedding dress, and the dresses designed for the Princess of Monaco, Grace Kelly.

Option 3:

Walk along the sea on part of the Camino de Santiago Trail from San Sebatian to the picturesque fishing village of Pasaia, that captured the heart of Victor Hugo.

Additional cost Euros 20/pp, minimum 5 hikers

Return by private coach

Evening:

Dinner will be at leisure

One shuttle transfer to the city center and one transfer back in the evening is provided.

Overnight at Hotel Villa Soro**** in San Sebastian













Morning:

Breakfast at our hotel

Transfer to La Rioja Wine Region

Visit Eguren Ugarte winery

Founded in 1870 by Anastasio Eguren, it is known as one of the longest-standing vineyards in Europe. Eguren Ugarte is a 140-year-old landmark in the famous Rioja Alavesa terroir.

Perched on the beautiful hills of Sierra Cantabria, Eguren Ugarte boasts a family winemaking legacy in the Laguardia region with 12 spectacular wine varietals.

Lunch at the winery with wine pairings

Afternoon:

Walking tour in the lovely medieval town of Laguardia.

Situated on a hill and surrounded by a 13th century wall, it is a natural balcony facing the wine region.

Visit Ysios winery in the afternoon.

Located just north of Laguardia, at its foothills, is the chic and truly avant-garde winery of Ysios. The building is a masterpiece from Santiago Calatrava. It's an amazing building in an equally amazing setting right next to Laguardia. Ysios is famous for its Tempranillo.

Transfer back to San Sebastian and, time-permitting, visit La Concha beach area and Monte Iguldo.

Evening:

Tonight's dinner will be at leisure in La Concha area

One shuttle transfer to the city center and one transfer back in the evening is provided.

Overnight at Hotel Villa Soro**** in San Sebastian















Morning:

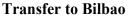
Breakfast at our hotel

Transfer to San Juan de Gaztelugatxe

The Basque coastline is very rough in this area. The sea ceaselessly erodes the rocky coast creating tunnels, arches and caves. The island of Gaztelugatxe is in the center of this section of coast

next to the small Aketx island, a sanctuary for marine birds. The hermitage is accessed by a narrow path, crossing the solid stone bridge, and going up 231 steps. According to legend, after the slightly strenuous climb to the top of the crag one should ring the bell three times and

make a wish.



Walking tour in Bilbao includes La Ribera market, a 10,000 square meter covered market, the largest in Europe.

Located within **Casco Viejo** (Old Town), the market is filled with stands of local fresh produce, bars and restaurants – a must-visit when in the city.

Lunch:

Transfer to the Guggenheim Museum for lunch at the museum's famous **Bistro** restaurant.

Afternoon:

Visit of the museum with a local guide. The Guggenheim which was designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry, features modern and contemporary art.

It is one of the most admired works of contemporary architecture, built alongside the Nervion River.

Evening:

Transfer to hotel Miro and check in.

Tonight's dinner will be at leisure. An opportunity, perhaps, to sample one of the great Michelin restaurants Bilbao is renowned for.

Overnight at the Hotel Miro**** in Bilbao











Day 5: Sunday, May 8, 2022

Morning:

Breakfast at our hotel check out Transfer to Bilbao airport for flight to Porto Transfer from Porto airport to the S/S Sao Gabriel Bon Voyage!

PRICING

price per person accommodated in a Double/Twin Room	2350€	
price per person accommodated in a Deluxe Room at Villa Soro	2550€	
Single supplement in Double/Twin Room only	590 €t	

A minimum of 22 participating members is required to guarantee this precruise at the above pricing.

Additional Cost for Option 3 on Day 2: Euros 20 per person. Price based on minimum of 5 hikers

The tour price includes:

3-night accommodation at Villa Soro**** in San Sebastian with breakfast, city tax and porterage included

- -1-night accommodation at Hotel Miro**** in Bilbao with breakfast, city tax and porterage included
- -Activities and visits mentioned in the above offer
- -Lunch on day 2, 3 & 4
- -Evening Pintxos and Wine tour with a local guide on day 1 includes food & drinks
- -One English-speaking licensed guide
- -Private luxury coach with driver throughout the tour from arrival in San Sebastian airport on day 1 to drop off in Bilbao airport on day 5 (additional transfers on day 2 for the optional activities).
- -1 small bottle of water per person and per day is included,
- -Flight from Bilbao to Porto
- -Driver and waiters gratuities

The tour price does NOT include:

Guide gratuities, International flights or any fees related to it, passport fees

- Personal expenses such as excess or overweight baggage charges, laundry, telephone, email, room services, Individual travel insurance, baggage/ personal accident insurance, medical expenses,
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees/visits/activities not specified in the itinerary
- Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Any other service that is not listed under the « the price includes » section

TERMS & CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

10% deposit will be due at time of booking
2nd deposit of 30% will be due by December 15th, 2021
3rd deposit of 30% will be due by February 1st, 2022
Final payment will be due by March 15th, 2022
Payment is made in Euros to Inland Travel by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express)

FINAL DOCUMENTS

You will receive the final documents, via email, 30 days prior to the arrival date in Spain.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Prior to February 1st, 2022; Inland Travel will charge a 3% administrative fee.
- Between February 1st, 2022 and March 1st, 2022; Inland Travel will charge 30% of the trip.
 - Between March 1st, 2022 and April 1st, 2022; Inland Travel will charge 70% of the trip.
 - After April 1st, 2022; Inland Travel will charge 100% of the trip.

We strongly recommend that travelers purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

Every cancellation must be notified to Terroirs Travels by email.

Within 30 days of receiving written notification of the cancellation, refund will be processed

DURING THE TRIP

Each tour that will be cancelled, modified, interrupted or shorten for any reason by the client during his stay, will not give right to any refund or any compensation. Each additional fee due to a modification or addition requested by the client, will be charged to the client.

UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Trip costs do not include items not specified in the itinerary. Although Inland Travel will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to make an adjustment to these arrangements. Should such adjustment be necessary, a substitute will be offered when and where possible. Inland Travel cannot accept liability if war, terrorist activities, civil unrest, exceptional closures of airports and seaports, and any other event outside the control of Inland Travel, occurs and causes cancellations, delays, holidays changes or extensions.

HEALTH AND CAPABILITIES

INLAND TRAVEL requires that all participants be in good physical and mental health to participate. While we encourage participation of disabled passengers on our tours, some itineraries and sites are simply not accessible by wheelchair or motorized scooter. When reserving your tour, please inform INLAND TRAVEL of any physical disabilities and limitations so that they can help you determine the appropriateness of the itinerary you select. If such limitations cause you to require additional assistance, INLAND TRAVEL asks that you plan to travel with a companion who can provide assistance.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Each individual traveler is responsible for obtaining any travel documents and verifying entry requirements necessary for each country of travel on your tour. INLAND TRAVEL is not responsible for providing this information or documentation. Each individual traveler is responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of delays or itinerary changes related to his lack of appropriate travel documents and are therefore ineligible for any refund from INLAND TRAVEL.

LIABILITIES – INSURANCE

INLAND TRAVEL SAS owns the national travel agent li cense n° IM034190012 allowing us to act as a Destination Management Company and operate tours in Europe.

INLAND TRAVEL SAS is also a member of the APST which covers all our clients for Inland Travel SAS's risk of bankruptcy.

INLAND TRAVEL SAS liabilities are covered by the insurance HISCOX for all risks outlined in the laws and regulations applicable to the professional bodies operating travel tours in Europe.

However, participants are strongly advised to take a personal travel insurance.

INLAND TRAVEL, its officers, directors, and staff does not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for this tour, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, taxi, or other transportation companies, local ground, visa processing services, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, INLAND TRAVEL is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any third party.

Without limitation, INLAND TRAVEL is not responsible for any injury, loss or damage to person or property, death, delay or inconvenience in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal, terrorist or threatened terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or other defective conditions in lodging facilities (or in any heating, plumbing, electrical or structural problem therein), mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation of for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely, dangers associated with animals, sanitation problems, food poisoning, epidemics or the threat thereof, disease, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, or for any other cause beyond the direct control of DMBC Member Travel. Participants assume all risk.

These conditions are governed by French law and both parties shall submit to the jurisdiction of French courts at all times.