

# From France to Spain: Hiking in the Basque Country

PILGRIM TRAILS, PINTXO HOPPING, AND STUNNING BILBAO



Wilderness Travel

# Overview



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 8 days

**Arrive:** Biarritz, France

**Depart:** Bilbao, Spain

**Lodging:** 7 nights historic hotels and inns

**Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner

**Activity:** Hiking & Trekking

**Trip Level:** 1 2 ③ ④ 5 6

6 hiking days on moderate trails, some steep sections, 2-5 hours a day, van support

## QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience Basque country with Trip Leaders who have a passion for sharing their unique culture and cuisine
- Hike from France to Spain on the classic pilgrim trail to Puente la Reina
- Enjoy delicious picnics and meals in local Basque gathering spots
- Learn about the fascinating heritage of El Camino de Santiago
- Savor a special Basque dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant

# Introduction



Basque country is a world apart, with its own language, a renowned cuisine, and some of the most gorgeous hiking trails in Europe. With our Basque Trip Leaders, this insider's journey brings us to evocative megalithic monuments, ancient farmsteads, and from France into Spain on the historic Camino de Santiago pilgrim trail to Puente la Reina. Eating well is the second religion of the Basques, and we'll have lunches among farmers and fishermen, taste local mountain cheeses, go pintxo-hopping in the foodie capital of San Sebastián, and finish up with a private guided visit to the spectacular Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

## TRIP DATES

May 15-22, 2024

June 26-July 3, 2024

August 28-September 4, 2024

October 2-9, 2024

May 21-28, 2025

June 25-July 2, 2025

August 27-September 3, 2025

October 1-8, 2025

# Itinerary



## Overnight: Hotel Argi Eder

This quiet hotel is within walking distance of the center of Ainhoa, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France (the most beautiful villages of France). Like many other hotels in France, it is family-run. Guest rooms are comfortable, airy, and spacious, and there is a swimming pool and lovely gardens in which to relax after a day of hiking.

### Meals: L, D

**Hiking Details:** 2-2.5 hours; 4.3 miles; 400 feet ascent/310 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 1 hour total

## DAY 1 BIARRITZ, FRANCE / AIHOA

We meet this morning in the stylish Basque resort of Biarritz, with its long beachfront promenade and white lighthouse set along the French Côte des Basques. This former fishing village transformed itself into an elegant resort a century and a half ago with the arrival of Napoleon III and his wife, the Empress Eugenie. We transfer to Bayonne and visit its historic medieval center with timbered houses and the gothic Cathédrale Sainte-Marie, designated on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1998. We will also visit the old and colorful Halles Market on the banks of the Nive River. After lunch, we head to our trailhead for our hike on “The Smugglers’ Trail,” a path that traces the historical border between Spain and France (and we’ll cross it on foot several times!). The route, which ambles through oak forests, rolling hills, and past pristine trout rivers, remains somewhat hidden, and has been used throughout the ages by Basque smugglers, by armies during the Civil Wars of the 19th century, and by people persecuted for political or racial reasons who tried to flee Nazi-occupied France during World War II. At hike’s end, we walk straight into our hotel in Ainhoa, a quintessential Basque village and one of the most beautiful in France. In the evening, we gather for our Welcome Dinner.

**Note:** Biarritz is the meeting point for the trip on the morning of Day 1 and is easily reached by train or air. You will need to arrive in Biarritz the day before the trip starts. Please refer to the Arrival and Departure page for hotel recommendations.

# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Hotel Argi Eder

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7.5-8 miles, 4.5 hours; maximum elevation 1,950 feet; 257 or 507 feet ascent/983 or 50 feet descent (both depending on option)

**Driving Time:** 1 hour

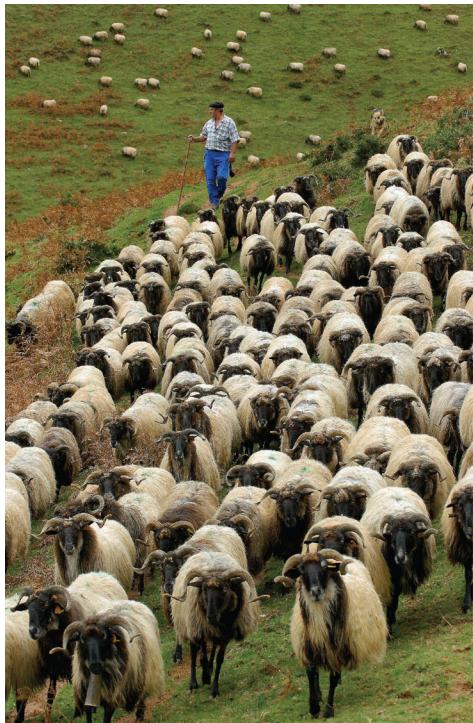
"This was another great adventure for us. The trip was constructed very well, with great locations, food, and experiences. A great combination of trip leaders. A beautiful part of the world to explore with wonderful hikes to get to really appreciate the beautiful countryside and hidden treasures. This experience is exactly why we keep returning to Wilderness Travel."

*Angie R., Kenosha, WI*

## DAY 2 LIZARRETA / NEOLITHIC MONUMENTS / ZUGARRAMURDI

Today's hike brings us through the green mountains of the Basque Pyrenees, a pristine pastoral setting unchanged over the centuries. We begin hiking at the Lizarreta Pass (1,443'), an ancient border crossing between Spain and France. Border milestones mark our trail on the crest of the hills, and we enjoy breathtaking views on both sides of the Pyrenees, which extend to the ocean. From the Three Milestones Point, we skirt the peak of Atxuri and hike to a prehistoric shepherds' cemetery characterized by stone monuments—large circles of family tombs and dolmens of tribal chiefs from 2,500-3,500 years ago—to the Collado de Ibañeta (1,703'). From here we have two options to reach Zugarramurdi (720'), noted as the village of witches who were burned by the Spanish Inquisition in 1609. For centuries, this Basque region was considered the witchcraft capital of Europe; the town has a witches museum and nearby "Witch Caves." We can descend directly through a pine forest and along a historical path, or climb the hill of Airagarri (1,950'), the highest point of the day, and descend across steep grassy slopes to the Collado de Urbia (1,900') where the bus will pick us up and take us to Zugarramurdi. We have lunch in an old local tavern, then return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

# Itinerary



## Overnight: Gran Hotel La Perla

Located right on the Plaza del Castillo in Pamplona's Old Town, the Gran Hotel La Perla has the ideal location (and has since 1881). One side of the hotel faces the plaza and the other faces Estafeta Street, one of the main routes in the Running of the Bulls. Previous guests have included Ernest Hemingway, Orson Welles, and Charlie Chaplin. The hotel was completely renovated in 2007 with superb modern amenities to add to its historic charm. It is one of the Leading Hotels of the World.

## Meals: B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7 miles; 4 hours; maximum elevation 4,787 feet; 1,099 feet ascent/1,624 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 2 hours total

## DAY 3 FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN ON THE CAMINO / THE STORIED RONCESVALLES PASS / HEMINGWAY'S PAMPLONA

El Camino de Santiago, the trail to the holy city of Santiago in Spain, was the most important Christian pilgrimage during the Middle Ages and still draws thousands of pilgrims each year. Before starting our hike, we visit Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, the gate of the Spanish Camino, and have our “pilgrim passports” stamped. From the landmark Cross of Biakorre, we join pilgrims from all corners of the world and begin following this legendary trail from France into Spain, winding through Basque farmlands and enjoying the wonderful trailside camaraderie. After a picnic of Basque specialties, we descend through beech forests, glimpsing the towers of the massive Abbey of Roncesvalles in the distance as we approach the historic village of Roncesvalles. This ancient pilgrim town will welcome us with its history and legends. It is famed as the spot where the Basques defeated Charlemagne’s army in 778—a battle that changed the course of European history. The abbey is a fine example of Gothic architecture and has been a pilgrim stop for a millennium. After exploring the abbey, we head to Pamplona (or Iruña, as it is known in Basque), ancient capital of the Kingdom of Navarre. Ernest Hemingway came here regularly with his band of Bohemian ex-pat friends in the 1920s to attend the city’s annual Festival of San Fermín and the Running of the Bulls. His masterpiece, *The Sun Also Rises*, tells the tale of his summer here in 1925. At our historic hotel, the Gran Hotel La Perla, some rooms still preserve furniture and personal objects of renowned guests such as Hemingway, Orson Welles, and Ava Gardner. Dinner tonight is at a historic restaurant in the heart of Pamplona’s Old Town where we’ll dine on traditional Basque cuisine—the local specialty is bull’s tail in red wine, typically served during the Festival of San Fermín and the running of the bulls.

# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Gran Hotel La Perla

**Meals:** B, L

**Hiking Details:** 4 miles; 2.5 hours;

maximum elevation 1,700 feet; 407 feet ascent/560 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 1.25 hours

"Great food, very nice hotels, the best guides, and a spectacular area to hike in. What more could we ask for?"

*Ronald R., Essex Junction, VT*

## DAY 4 HIKING THE HIGH COUNTRY OF NAVARRE / THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HIKE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO / HISTORIC PAMPLONA

The mysterious Romanesque chapel of Eunate is the starting point for our hike across one of the most classic and beautiful stretches of El Camino. We hike through ancient Basque lands of wine and grain to reach the town of Puente La Reina, with lunch at a local café where we'll meet and mingle with pilgrims. Two of the main pilgrim trails, the Camino Frances and the Camino Aragonese, meet here and cross the Arga River, spanned here by the thousand-year-old "Queen's Bridge." Back in Pamplona, we have the afternoon free to explore the beautiful Old Town, including Castle Square (Plaza del Castillo), the main gathering spot in the center of the Old Town, lined with cafes. The most famous street in Pamplona is Estafeta, the main path the bulls run through during the annual San Fermin Festival. Dinner is your own this evening so you can choose from the many options. Your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations, depending on how fancy or local you want to go.

# Itinerary



## Overnight: Parador de Hondarribia

The Parador de Hondarribia, set on a hill in Hondarribia's Old Town, is built into the ruins of the medieval fortress of Charles V. The hotel's design incorporates the massive outer wall of the old fortress and the terrace along the wall is a great place for a drink and panoramic sunset views across the marina. The hotel's interior is decorated with tapestries, carved wooden chests, and other items that reflect the parador's history, and rooms are well appointed.

### Meals: B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7 miles; 4.5 hours; maximum elevation 3,248 feet; 1,510 feet ascent/755 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 1.5 hours total

## DAY 5 THE BANDITS TRAIL / HONDARRIBIA

Today's hike begins in the quintessentially Basque village of Lantz, birthplace of some of Europe's oldest popular traditions including its ancient Carnival. Our path brings us through fields and forests on a cobblestone road frequented in the past by warriors, smugglers, and murderous bandits, and leads to a lost and abandoned 11th-12th century monastery in the heart of the mountains. We'll have lunch at an atmospheric guesthouse in Almándoz, a rural retreat frequented by shepherds, hunters, and local farmers. From here it's an hour's ride to coastal Hondarribia and our parador, set on a hill in Hondarribia's Old Town. Constructed over the course of centuries, the parador has immense stone walls that frame the outer courtyard, a great place to enjoy a drink and views to the coast of France. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at hotel.

# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Parador de Hondarribia

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** City walk, 3-4 miles

## DAY 6 COASTAL HIKE / SAN SEBASTIÁN: CULINARY CAPITAL / “PINTXO CHALLENGE” / PLAYA DE LA CONCHA

San Sebastián is one of the most entrancing coastal cities in Europe—and a renowned culinary capital. Our beautiful walk today starts at the top of Mount Igeldo with breathtaking views of the Bay of Biscay. We'll descend by cable railway to San Sebastián's Old Town on the far side and visit the historic Mercado de la Brecha, a unique fish market in the medieval area of town. Lunch will be a “pintxo challenge,” as we walk from bar to bar to find the tastiest ones in town (pintxos are Basque “tapas”). The afternoon is free to explore Donostia (as San Sebastián is known in Basque), with its Belle Epoque architecture and tree-lined plazas. The long Playa de la Concha is the city’s great backyard, a picturesque sweep of sandy beach that fronts gently lapping seas. Later, we visit a “Txoko” in Hondarribia for a special dinner. “Txokos” (also called “Sociedades Gastronomicas”) are private, closed culinary societies where, traditionally, Basque men gather to cook and spend time together around the dinner table. Non-members are not permitted without special invitation, so most tourists never get to experience this aspect of Basque culture—but we will! Our meal will be based on some of the best fish recipes, depending on the catch of the day.

# Itinerary



## Overnight: Hotel Carlton

The Hotel Carlton, built in 1919, is an impressive Beaux Arts monument in the grand style of its era. It is centrally located in the Old Town on Plaza de Federico Moyúa and just a short walk to the Guggenheim Museum. The hotel was the seat of the Basque government during the Spanish Civil War.

## Meals: B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 6 miles; 3.5 hours; maximum elevation 500 feet; 577 feet ascent/495 feet descent

## DAY 7 SEASIDE VINEYARDS OF GETARIA / THE ICONIC GUGGENHEIM / FINE DINING IN BILBAO

We hike part of the coastal pilgrim trail this morning from Zarautz to Getaria, a charming fishing village nestled into one of the most beautiful harbors on the Basque coast. The harbor is alive with activity, and this region is the cradle of Txakolina, the refreshing white wine enjoyed throughout Basque country. We'll sip some as we enjoy a lunch of the freshest fish imaginable right on the docks. After exploring the harbor, we make an early arrival in Bilbao in time for our private tour of the famous Guggenheim Museum, the landmark building designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry. Since its inauguration in 1997, this striking temple of contemporary art has transformed the entire city into a cultural metropolis. In the evening, we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner at our hotel, a classic European-style hotel in downtown Bilbao.

## Meals: B

## DAY 8 DEPART

Depart from Bilbao and connect with homeward-bound flights.

# Pricing

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy**

**2024**

\$6295 (12-15 members)

\$6895 (5-11 members)

Single supplement: \$945

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in historic hotels and inns
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

## TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

# Arrival & Departure

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

**Suggested Airport:** Biarritz Airport (BIQ)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Any time prior to Day 1.

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel de Silhouette in Biarritz at 9:00 am on Day 1.

Come dressed for hiking, with your daypack handy. There will be a short meeting with the group at the hotel, and the trip briefing will take place during our first hike. Taxi from the Biarritz Airport to the hotel is the preferred choice.

Given the meeting time and place, you need to arrive in Biarritz at least one day before the trip begins.

We recommend the Hotel de Silhouette, which we can book for you at an additional cost: [www.hotel-silhouette-biarritz.com](http://www.hotel-silhouette-biarritz.com). Most international connections via Amsterdam, Paris, and other European cities fly to Biarritz. Biarritz is also accessible from Paris by TGV train.

## DEPARTURE

**Date & Time:** Day 8, depart anytime

**Suggested Airport:** Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Trip members will transfer to the airport on their own, but the Trip Leader will help advise. The bus to the Bilbao Airport runs every 15 minutes and stops right in front of the Hotel Carlton. The ride to the airport takes 15-20 minutes.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Europe.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip

# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit [wildernesstravel.com/leaders](http://wildernesstravel.com/leaders).



## JOSU ARTETXE

Josu Artetxe is a native of Basque Country with a deep love for his land and culture. He lives with his family in an old farmhouse, where he devotes his time to organic agriculture. Josu is an enthusiastic traveler who speaks six different languages and over the last 20 years has traveled solo all over Europe and South America. When not guiding, he works as a freelance editor of books on the traditional cultures and languages of northern Spain.



## JOSERRA COMBARRO

Joserra Combarro, a native of Bilbao, Spain, received a degree in law school but has never practiced as a lawyer, working instead for Bilbao's city council until he decided to become a mountain guide. "I love being a Trip Leader in the land I was so lucky to be born in. Basque Country has everything—mountain trails, woodlands, beaches, wine country, tiny, unknown villages, and our own Basque language, culture, and sports—what more could you ask for? I especially love the sea, so a hike along the beach and a swim afterwards is one of my favorite things to do." Joserra is an energetic traveling companion and a wonderful guide to the hiking trails and hidden corners of northern Spain. Besides hiking and swimming, his passions include running, food and wine, music, and reading. His worldwide travels have taken him to such distant spots as Vietnam, Brazil, and Equatorial Guinea.



## FLORENCIA SAVANTI

Florencia "Flor" Savanti is an anthropologist, community organizer, and Trip Leader with a deep connection to the Basque culture and countryside. Born in Argentina, her love of the outdoors took root when she worked as an archaeologist in the wilderness of Patagonia for 15 years, and has followed her ancestral roots back to Northern Spain in 2002 where she now lives with her family. She has served as an archaeological consultant for the Basque Museum of Bilbao, and has led hiking trips in the Basque country and the Pyrenees for more than a decade. When not guiding, Flor stays actively involved in anthropological work for several community-based programs in the Basque country and afar. Her current projects promote women's literacy and empowerment in the Karakoram mountains of Pakistan and the arid steppes of Northern Patagonia.



## ITZIAR ZORILLA

Itziar Zorilla is a native of the Basque country in Spain and considers the mountains of the Pyrenees her home. An expert climber, she has traveled solo in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America pursuing higher summits and exploring new cultures. Itziar loves to share her passion for Basque culture, the Pyrenees, and the beauty of Spain. One of her favorite hiking areas is in Anboto, close to Bilbao, where "vertiginous limestone peaks rise just from the valley—the most impressive mountains of our land." Itziar's personal rules for happiness are many: "Never leave the house without a book, never say 'no' to a movie, and never waste an opportunity to go on a trip, whether nearby or far away."

# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 3+ (Moderate)** according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 9 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 4.5 hours a day. You will also need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

### Average Hiking Day

- 5 miles
- 3-4 hours
- 750 feet gain and 550 feet loss

### Challenge Days

- Day 3 - 7 miles; 4 hours; 1,099 feet ascent/1,624 feet descent
- Day 5 - 7 miles; 4.5 hours; 1,510 feet ascent/755 feet descent

## TERRAIN

On every hike, you can expect varied terrain, including shepherds' trails, wide dirt roads, coastal trails, walks along the rolling countryside, rocky mule tracks, and beautiful sections of the famed Camino de Santiago. The maximum elevation that we hike to is about 4,800 feet. We often drive to a mountain pass each morning to begin our hike, so there is more downhill than uphill and it can be rough on the knees. Hiking poles are highly recommended.

## WEATHER

The weather in Basque country is generally mild, with cool breezes and occasional showers. Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s°F and nighttime temperatures are in the 50s°F and 60s°F. It is always necessary to bring raingear as the weather can change at any time.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

We'll stay in a collection of historic hotels and inns. Since our accommodations are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

## CUISINE

Eating well is the second religion of the Basques, and we'll have classic lunches among farmers and fishermen, sample the local mountain cheeses, go pintxo-hopping in the foodie capital of San Sebastián, and enjoy a meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant. Lunches are in local restaurants or picnic-style in local Basque gathering spots, and dinners are in restaurants in town. Please note that in Spain, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure the earliest possible reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be after 8:00 pm.

# What to Expect

## TRANSPORTATION

Our van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need for the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day). Please note that driving times can vary dramatically from what is anticipated based on road conditions.

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	MILES	HOURS	ELEV. ASCENT/DESCENT	HOURS
1	4.3 miles	2-2.5 hours	400' ascent / 310' descent	1 hour
2	7.5-8 miles	4.5 hours	257' ascent / 983' descent	1 hour
3	7 miles	4 hours	1099' ascent / -1624' descent	2 hours
4	4 miles	2.5 hours	407' ascent / -560' descent	1 hour
5	7 miles	4.5 hours	1510' ascent / -755' descent	1.5 hours
6	3-4 miles	3 hours		1 hour
7	6 miles	3.5 hours	577' ascent / -495' descent	2 hours

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bilbao	55/40	58/41	60/42	62/44	68/50	72/44	77/58	80/59	75/55	69/51	61/45	57/42
Hondarribia	55/39	57/41	59/43	62/46	68/52	72/57	76/61	77/62	74/57	68/52	60/45	56/41
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Bilbao	5.0	3.9	3.7	4.9	3.5	2.5	2.4	3.2	2.9	4.8	4.6	3.4
Hondarribia	6.6	5.9	5.7	6.6	5.4	3.8	3.9	4.4	5.4	6.8	7.3	6.8

# Additional Information

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at [info@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:info@wildernesstravel.com).

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club](http://wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

# Travel Notes

# Travel Notes



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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