

The best of the Spanish Basque Country

Your Tour briefly

- Discover the natural parks of the Spanish Basque Country and their peaks (1,500 m), modest but sumptuous and emblematic for the Basques.
- Five hikes carefully selected by our team of locals to give you an overview of the Spanish Basque mountains and their stunning coastline.
- Easy access from Hendaye station, thanks to the numerous high-speed trains.

Highlights

- A wide variety of landscapes, from coastal paths to legendary peaks.
- **Visit to the Guggenheim Museum and the two most beautiful and important monasteries in the Basque Country.**
- High-quality hotels in the heart of the villages.
- A distillation of the best hiking has to offer in the Spanish Basque Country.



Here is a holiday full of surprises and good vibes, with a focus on sports.

The Spanish Basque Country is best known for its coastline and ocean, but its hinterland is home to limestone mountain ranges that form natural ramparts: the sierras. From these, the views are beautiful and far-reaching.

Some of the mountain ranges have been classified as Natural Parks due to their beauty and cultural and heritage interest. Every day, we will hike in one of these ranges, and the great names of the Basque mountains, such as Anboto, Jaizkibel, Aizkorri, Txindoki, will hold no more secrets for you. The predominant colour is green, which makes the landscapes vibrant and magnificent.

These are imposing and relatively demanding mountain ranges, proud to offer level 3 hikes (up to 900 metres of elevation gain). Indeed, such a level is necessary to reach the highest peaks and complete the most interesting hikes in their entirety.

As the ocean remains inseparable from the Basque Country, we will also spend two days hiking in the Flysch massif overlooking the sea between Zumaia and Deba, and in the cathedrals of colour and erosion of Jaizkibel.

Hiking is great, but when travelling in the Basque Country, it would be a serious mistake to miss out on its culture, history, heritage and atmosphere. Of course, our local guide, a specialist in the Basque Country, will tell you all about the remains such as dolmens and menhirs encountered along the way, and why there is a chapel here and there. We will also discover the sanctuary of Arantzazu, where, according to legend, the Virgin Mary appeared. The contemporary basilica is the work of several internationally renowned artists such as Jorge Oteiza and Eduardo Chillida.

We will end our stay in the heart of Bilbao's old quarter with its many tapas bars. We will spend the last day visiting the unmissable Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art, famous both for the architecture of its building and the quality of its exhibitions.

We will also savour delicious moments sipping a cold drink in the shade of the plane trees in the Plaza Mayor, accompanied by a pintxo of tortilla or anchovies, against a backdrop of hubbub created by children running around and grandmothers watching over them. Yes, here, people live outside, in the streets, bars and village square!



•PROGRAM

Day 1: Start of your stay in Hendaye – Coastal path on Jaizkibel

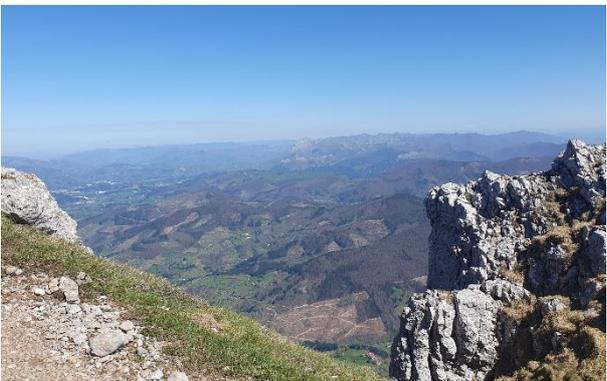


Meet at 9.30am at Hendaye station. Let's make the most of this first day to explore the rugged coastline of the southern Basque Country. Discover the magnificent green plains of Mount Jaizkibel: here, the Pyrenees literally plunge into the ocean. We will walk along cliffs and small coves to discover fossils and a unique geological spectacle.

After the hike, we will head to the village of Segura and settle in for two days at our comfortable hotel in a superb setting.

- **Distance: 12.5km, duration 5.5 hours, ascent +620m, descent -620m.**

Day 2: Aralar Natural Park and Txindoki summit



Short transfer for this hike in the Aralar massif. It is home to the iconic Txindoki summit (1,340 m), also known as the Basque Matterhorn, from which you can enjoy one of the most beautiful panoramic views of the week. Located in the heart of Idiazabal, home to the 'latxa' sheep's cheese par excellence of the Spanish Basque Country, this will be an opportunity for us to taste it!

- **Hiking distance: 9.6 km, duration 5 hours, ascent +910m, descent -910m.**

Day 3: Aizkorri-Arantzazu Natural Park



Today, we leave Segura and head west towards the Aizkorri massif for the most challenging hike of the week. From the Arantzazu sanctuary, we climb up to vast meadows where horses, sheep and cows peacefully share the land. To the rhythm of their bells, we reach the chapel of Aizkorri perched on the summit ridge (1528m). On the way down, we can stop at the Urbia refuge to quench our thirst!

- **Hiking distance: 17.2 km, duration 6 hours, ascent +990 m, descent -990 m.**

Day 4: Basque Coast Geopark: Coastal hike from Zumaia to Deba



Today's stage will allow us to discover one of the most beautiful and interesting areas of the entire Basque Coast, the 'Geoparque de la Costa Vasca'. The route takes us on a journey through an uninterrupted succession of strata representing more than 50 million years of the planet's history! It is one of the most important geological sanctuaries in the world.

- **Hiking distance: 14km, duration 5 hours, ascent +660m, descent -660m.**

Day 5: Urkiola Natural Park and Anboto ridges - Elorrio



From the entrance to Urkiola Park, we walk towards Anboto (1,331 m) and its ridges. Its limestone terrain, which has given rise to caves, sinkholes, caverns and rock shelters, has inspired a multitude of legends, myths and beliefs. It will be time to tell you about the 'laminak', the little elves who work at night, and Anbotoko Dama (the Lady of Anboto in Basque), a female deity representing nature.

After the hike, we will head to the village of Elorrio for some free time to visit. **Then we will return to Bilbao for our last evening, with a tapas night!**

- **Hiking distance: 11km, duration 5 hours, ascent +890m, descent -890m.**

Day 6: Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum



To end the week on a high note, **we leave our hiking boots behind to explore the historic heart of Bilbao. Visit the Guggenheim Museum, stroll through the 'casco viejo' with its pedestrian streets and numerous bars.**

End of your stay

Transfer to Hendaye station in the middle of the afternoon, arriving at 4.30 pm.

The programmes have been drawn up based on the latest information available at the time of writing: unforeseen circumstances are always possible and situations beyond our control may alter the itinerary. Our guides are the best judges on site and may modify the itinerary depending on the weather or if the safety of the group requires it.

•MEETING POINT AND END OF STAY

Meeting point:

Day 1 at 9:30 a.m. at Hendaye station (64).

Accommodation the night before or on the last day: see our Accommodation section.

End of stay:

Day 6 around 4.30pm, after transfer to Hendaye station.

•DATES AND PRICES

Number of participants

Groups of 5 to 12 people.

Departures

Departure guaranteed for groups of 5 or more people.

From Sunday 05/04/2026 to Friday 10/04/2026

From Sunday 19/04/2026 to Friday 24/04/2026

From Sunday 03/05/2026 to Friday 08/05/2026

From Sunday 14/06/2026 to Friday 19/06/2026

From Sunday 12/07/2026 to Friday 17/07/2026

From Sunday 16/08/2026 to Friday 21/08/2026

From Sunday 30/08/2026 to Friday 04/09/2026

From Sunday 13/09/2026 to Friday 18/09/2026

From Sunday 18/10/2026 to Friday 23/10/2026

Price per person:

July-August-September	975 €
Except July-August-September	950 €

Supplements/discounts:

- Single room supplement: €200/person

The price includes:

- Full board accommodation from the picnic on day 1 to breakfast on day 6 (lunch on day 6 not included in Bilbao)
- Transfers during the stay
- Guidance from a BE AMM specialist in the Basque Country
- Visit to the Guggenheim Museum

The price does not include:

- Insurance
- Meals not mentioned in 'the price includes'
- Transfers not included in the programme
- Drinks
- Visits (except the Guggenheim Museum)
- Booking fee: €15

• TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Terrain

Hikes on good trails, the terrain is varied but often rocky.

Level 3/5

These trips are designed for those looking for an active holiday. Regular walkers, in good physical condition, with experience of hiking in the mountains. Hikes of 6-7 hours per day on average, with an average elevation gain of 700-1000m, on fairly easy trails with a few minor technical difficulties.

Carrying

During the hike, you will only need to carry your personal belongings for the day, your picnic and sufficient water.

Supervision

Hike supervised by a qualified guide who is a specialist in the Basque Country.

The RESPYRENEES team of guides is 100% local. Based in the Basque Country or the Pyrenees, we know the landscapes, culture and history of these mountain ranges like the back of our hand!

• ACCOMMODATION / FOOD

Accommodation

5 nights in a 2 or 3-star hotel, based on double occupancy.

Single rooms are available on request, subject to availability and at an additional cost.

Meals

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)
- Evening meals often based on Basque specialities, including a starter, main course and dessert
- Picnics included
- Drinks not included

Accommodation before or after your stay:

Hôtel BELLEVUE: comfortable ** hotel located near the train station and the bay

36, boulevard du Général Leclerc

64700 HENDAYE

Tel: 05.59.20.00.26

<http://hotelbellevue-hendaye.com/>

• PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get to Hendaye:

- By plane: Biarritz Airport: daily flights to and from Paris, London, Lyon, Clermont Ferrand, etc.
- By train: Numerous TER trains depart from major cities to Bayonne and then Hendaye (<https://www.oui.sncf>)
- By road: From Bordeaux, take the A63 motorway, 207 km. From Toulouse and Bayonne, take the A64 motorway, 293 km, then from Bayonne to Hendaye, take the A63 motorway, 32 km.

Car parking in Hendaye:

All paid and free car parks are listed on this page: <https://www.hendaye-tourisme.fr/fr/infos-pratiques/parkings-et-stationnement/>

- If you are leaving your vehicle for the duration of your stay, please check with the tourist office to find out if any events (festivals, markets, etc.) are planned in your parking area.

- Euskadi Tourism: www.turismo.euskadi.eus

- Hendaye Tourist Office: 67 bis, Boulevard de la Mer - 64700 HENDAYE - tel 05 59 20 00 34 Website: www.hendaye-tourisme.fr
- SNCF information: 3635, or www.ter-sncf.com
- Local weather: www.tameteo.com
- Emergency services: 112

•WHAT TO PACK IN YOUR LUGGAGE

Luggage

- A hiking rucksack with a capacity of approximately 35 litres, which will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day.

Clothing

- 1 sun hat or cap
- T-shirts (1 for every 2 or 3 days of walking). Avoid cotton, which takes a long time to dry; opt for short-sleeved T-shirts (breathable fabric) in Capilene (Patagonia), Dryflo (Lowe Alpine), Light Effect (Odlo), etc.
- 1 undershirt (same as above) or long-sleeved shirt
- 1 fleece jacket
- 1 pair of trekking trousers
- 1 pair of comfortable trousers for the evening
- 1 simple, lightweight Gore-tex style jacket
- 1 swimsuit and a bath towel
- Warm underwear
- Walking socks (1 pair for 2 to 3 days of walking). Avoid cotton socks, which take a long time to dry and increase the risk of blisters; opt for Coolmax socks, for example.
- 1 pair of waterproof hiking boots with good ankle support (Vibram-type soles)
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for the evening

The clothing list should be adapted to the season.

Small equipment

- 1 pair of high-quality sunglasses
- 1 water bottle (minimum 1 litre)
- 1 pocket knife (to be placed in checked luggage)
- Toiletries
- Toilet paper, sun cream + lip balm
- For picnics: cutlery

Personal first aid kit

- Your usual medication
- Vitamin C or multivitamins
- Pain relief medication: paracetamol preferred
- Elastic adhesive bandage (Elastoplast type, 6 cm wide)
- Adhesive bandages + disinfectant wipes
- Blister plasters (Spenco brand SOS Ampoules, available in sports shops, chemists, drugstores, etc.)

Group first aid kit

- First aid kit under the responsibility of your guide