

Cycling Safaris

“BASQUE COAST” 2018 Self guided Tour Approx 200 km | 7 days / 6 nights



Close your eyes and imagine a perfect day on the bike, and it will match very closely to riding in the Basque Country. Come discover the many faces of the region; this colored area will surprise you. Our circuit combines both **inland and beautiful coastal scenery**: towering cliffs, rugged rocks, sandy bays and an ocean as far as the eye can see...

Your trip starts in **Biarritz** with the beautiful sea salt spray rising from the ocean then you will ride off the Basque coast where you will enjoy the magnificent sea view! Then you will get away on the **Spanish side** off the Bidassoa. Your itinerary will continue inland over lush, green hills and unforgettable landscapes dotted with white timber frame houses built centuries ago, discovering many villages like **Sare**, **Ainhoa** or **Saint Jean Pied de Port**. Their cultural richness and dynamism will amaze you. If there is something else the Basques are serious about besides cycling, its food. Be tempted by the typical local dishes... the Espelette Pepper is the emblematic spice!

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Biarritz

Arrival at your accommodation in Biarritz.

Biarritz is one of the most famous seaside resorts of France and Europe. Its magnificent ocean beaches and surfing, its thalassotherapy and many golf courses are popular worldwide. At night, its restaurants, bars and squares will delight your senses.

Day 2 **Biarritz to Hondarribia** **30 km**

Today you will discover the wealth of natural spaces that make up the corniche Basque: Valley, ridges, cliffs, mountains and farmland.

Enjoy throughout your journey the visit of many villages in this region: Saint-Jean-de-Luz and its famous bay, Hendaye and the domain Abbadia. Then you will cross over the Bidassoa river and be immersed into the Spanish atmosphere! A river shuttle will drive you from Hendaye to Hondarribia, fortified city with many historical treasures.

Fontarabie (Hondarribia) is famous for its tapas and nightlife. It is a coastal fishing town, with colorful Basque houses and many balconies with flowers. Discovering Hondarribia is a real pleasure! Its walled old town is full of stately buildings and was declared a Historic and Artistic Monument. Sat on a hillside, it is surrounded by towering walls of the 16th century, dominated by the castle of Charles V.

Ascent: about 450 meters **Descent:** about 450 meters

Day 3 **Hondarribia to Ainhoa(inland)** **35 to 40 km**

From Hondarribia you will board again on the river shuttle to rejoin Hendaye and to continue your itinerary to Ascaïn. You could discover its prestigious roman bridge and its cultural richness. 4 km from here the little train of the Rhune will wait for you to drive you to the highest top of the Basque country. After strolling in the town of Sare, with picturesque streets, you will ride to discover the village of witches. The legend tells us that their spirits still haunt the surroundings... You will end your day in the typical village of Ainhoa dotted with half timbered houses, palombières, meadows populated with sheep.

Between the medieval village and the elegant bastide, 800 years of history are retraced through the streets of Ainhoa. You will discover the church of the village, and then old stele of the cemetery, the pediment, the washhouse... Admire the impressive houses that line the main street and learn everything of their particularities.

Soon Ainhoa will no longer be a secret to you!

Dinner Included

Ascent: about 800 meters **Descent:** about 650 meters

Day 4 **Ainhoa to Saint Jean Pied de Port** **46 km**

After crossing the Pinodieta Pass, you will go through the market town of Espelette known for the trade of small wild horses called "Pottocks" and its famous pepper of Espelette that will truly tempt your taste buds!

Then you will go down along the river Nive along small paths that snake to Saint Jean Pied-de-Port, typical village, world famous for its Saint Jacques gateway classified by UNESCO, which, year after year, more and more pilgrims are drawn to it.

Ascent: about 1000 meters **Descent:** about 1000 meters

Day 5 **Saint Jean Pied de Port to Itxassou/Camboles Bains** **41 km**

This stage will fit everyone. You can either continue your bike ride or if the journey of the day before has exhausted you, take a train that will take you to the next step. *(1 departure in the morning and/or early afternoon)*

You will have time to explore the surroundings by following an itinerary specially designed for you.

Dinner Included

Ascent: about 1100 meters **Descent:** about 1200 meters

Day 6 **Back to Biarritz** **46 km**

After the first 15 kilometers you will continue on a cycle track that leads to Bayonne. You will have time to enjoy this city famous for its local festivals and its gastronomic food. Then you can cycle along the coast of Anglet and end your journey in Biarritz.

Ascent: about 400 meters **Descent:** about 450 meters

Day 7 **Departure day**
Departure after breakfast

2018 TOUR DATES

Arrival daily from 1 April to 31 October

2018 TOUR PRICE

High Season (July - August)

€1005.00 per person sharing

€1325.00 for single occupancy

€1455.00 for solo traveller

Low Season (April, May, June, September, October)

€925.00 per person sharing

€1190.00 for single occupancy

€1320.00 for solo traveller

Also 5 night option available, please email request for details!

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 6 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 2 dinners
- Luggage transferred locally
- Route details and maps
- Return river shuttle transfer Hendaye - Hondarribia
- 24 speed hybrid touring bike with pannier, repair kit
- 24 hours service hotline

Not included:

- Return transfer from the airport and/or the train station to Biarritz
- Train ticket from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Cambo-les-bains
- E-bike: 65€
- Additional nights in Biarritz: €80 pps low season, €105 pps (high season)



BIKE / FITNESS



We use Trek 7.2 FX (mens/ladies) Hybrid 24 speed touring bike with aluminium frame and Shimano gear system.

Level of difficulty:	2- Moderate level of fitness required. Distances are no more than 30 miles/49km a day, but hilly terrain.
Average daily distance	25 miles/40km
Maximum daily distance	28.5 miles/46km

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Ryanair fly direct to Biarritz from Dublin www.ryanair.com/ie/

For International customers - Air France fly direct to Biarritz also.

Getting from Biarritz to your accommodation >

Taxi from Biarritz airport to first hotel is approx €20

Alternatively, there is an airport shuttle bus to the centre of Biarritz (No 14) every 30 minutes, approx €1 per person