

Cycling Safaris

THE FRENCH BASQUE COAST 2024

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. Discover the many faces of the region which will surprise you. Our tour 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 ocean view! 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**. 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 every senses.

Day 2 **Biarritz to Hondarribia**

32 km / 300m elevation

Today you cycle through the open spaces that make up the corniche Basque: Valley, ridges, cliffs, mountains and farmland. You will have the opportunity to visit the many villages in this region: Saint-Jean-de-Luz and its famous bay, Hendaye and the domain Abbadia. You will cross over the Bidassoa river to be immersed into the Spanish atmosphere!



A river shuttle will drive you from Hendaye to Hondarribia, a fortified city with many historical treasures.

Fontarabie (Hondarribia) is famous for its tapas and nightlife. It is a coastal fishing town, with colourful Basque houses and many balconies with flowers.

Its walled old town is full of stately buildings and was declared a Historic and Artistic Monument. Perched 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)**

43 km / 650m elevation

From Hondarribia you will board again onto the river shuttle to rejoin Hendaye. You cycle to Ascain and its prestigious roman bridge and cultural richness. The little train of the Rhune will bring you to the highest point of the Basque country. After strolling in the town of Sare, with picturesque streets, you cycle 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. **Dinner Included**



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

46 km / 780m elevation

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



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

41 km / 680m elevation

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

Day 6 **Back to Biarritz**

45 km / 230m elevation

After the first 15 kilometers you continue on a cycle track that leads to Bayonne. You will have plenty of 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.



Day 7 **Departure day**

Departure after breakfast

2024 TOUR DATES

Arrival daily from 1 April to 31 October
Except in July & August, no departure on Mondays

2024 TOUR PRICE

High Season (July - August)

€900 per person sharing
+€445 single room (if traveling with others)
+€150 person travelling alone

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

€845 per person sharing
+€370 single room supplement (if traveling with others)
+€150 person travelling alone

Note that for 2023 bike hire is separated out / **not included** in the standard tour price

€105 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock, helmet and a small pannier bag
€200 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock, helmet and a small pannier bag
€205 Road Bike

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 (1 bag up to 20kg and 1 handbag)
- Route details and maps
- Return river shuttle transfer Hendaye - Hondarribia
- 24 hours service hotline

Not included:

- Bike Rental is not included in the basic tour price
- Return transfer from the airport and/or the train station to Biarritz
- Train ticket from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Cambo-les-bains
- Additional nights in Biarritz: €100 pps low season / €180 single, €135 pps (high season) / €250 single
- Additional nights in Bordeaux: €85 pps low season / €140 single, €85 pps (high season) / €140 single
- Option for GPS App for smartphone in addition to the usual paper roadbook: €7



BIKE RENTAL



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

E-Bike



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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The arrival and departure point is easily accessible from Biarritz Airport which is accessible from many international locations

Getting from Biarritz to your accommodation >

Taxi from Biarritz airport to first hotel is approx €30

Alternatively, there is an airport shuttle bus to the centre of Biarritz (No 14) every 30 minutes, approx €1-3 per person