

San Sebastian and Bilbao

📅 7 Days

📍 Locations Included

- San Sebastian (4 nights)
- Bilbao (2 nights)

Daily Schedule

Day	Highlights	Location
Day 1	Arrival in San Sebastian, Pintxos Tour	Hotel Villa Favorita San Sebastian <small>Meals: Dinner</small>
Day 2	Cooking class	Hotel Villa Favorita San Sebastian <small>Meals: Lunch</small>
Day 3	Rioja Wine Tour: Picnic in the vineyard, Michelin starred restaurant	Hotel Villa Favorita San Sebastian <small>Meals: Lunch, Dinner</small>
Day 4	Hiking the Camino de Santiago Trail	Hotel Villa Favorita San Sebastian <small>Meals: Lunch</small>
Day 5	From San Sebastián to Bilbao (or viceversa) along the Basque Coast, City Tour	Hesperia Bilbao San Sebastian to Bilbao
Day 6	Guggenheim tickets (and guide)	Hesperia Bilbao Bilbao
Day 7	Depart Bilbao	

Detailed itinerary

1

Arrive in San Sebastian



Private transfer from San Sebastian Airport (EAS) to San Sebastian

Private transfer · 0.5 hours

Private driver will pick you up from San Sebastian Airport (EAS) and transfer you in comfort to San Sebastian.



Pintxos Tour

Private group · 2.5 hours · Dinner Included

Why go in a generic tour? We do not want you to eat like a tourist, we want you to dine as a local!

We will take you to the best 5 places in town and will introduce you to this fantastic local custom.

This tour will allow you to enjoy the region's famous miniature food in the old town of San Sebastian.

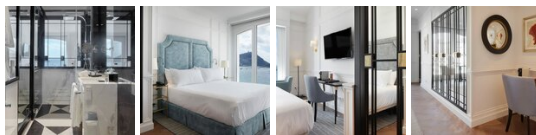
A special selection of 5 pintxos (Basque tapas) paired with 5 Spanish wines(or water or softdrinks) in up to 5 bars.

It is a very nice way to have an informal dinner, learning about the local customs and tasting the best specialities in our favourite bars!



Hotel Villa Favorita

Calle Zubieta 26



San Sebastian



Cooking class

Private group · 4 hours · Lunch Included

Our private cooking class happens in the most important and well known Gastronomic Club of San Sebastian, temple for toddlers and where my partner Jon is a member, so Ihe can grant access for you to make a wonderful cooking class with a professional chef. The chef worked in Michelin starred restaurants in the past and has got a big knowledge of the traditional Basque cuisine, so you will be in good hands!

Being a private class, we could arrange the desired menu but trying to offer a traditional basque lunch, this is what we offer:

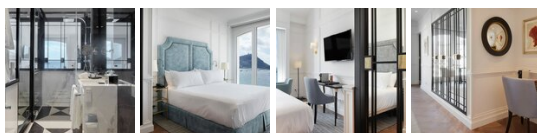
The day starts with a walking tour in the market, where we would buy some of the ingredients we would be using in the class and then, we would head to the Gastronomic Club located in the Old Town of San Sebastian. We would open a nice bottle of wine and would start the class. Let me tell you the class is quite informal, as you would be cooking in the same kitchen as the chef, and could be as participative as you want.

The traditional menu is based in some appetizers you will buy in the market and will prepare and eat while cooking, Lobster Rice, Hake fish with clams and cheeks and a Pantxineta (almond and custard dessert), all paired with wine, or beer or whatever you fell like drinking.



Hotel Villa Favorita

Calle Zubieta 26



San Sebastian



Rioja Wine Tour: Picnic in the vineyard

Private group · 9.5 hours · Lunch Included

WINE TASTING & FOOD PAIRING

In a Family owned boutique winery In this elegant family owned winery, we will taste 4 of their top wines, paired with 4 tapas/pintxos

Starting with their barrel aged white wine, and going through 3 of their elegant and special single plot red wines. Each of these wines, reflect the influence of the specific location, sun exposure, inclination of the plot and many other characteristics, that make them unique wines.

PICNIC IN THE VINEYARD

PRIVATE & UNIQUE LUNCH EXPERIENCE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE UNIQUE LOCATION OF THIS PRIVATE VINEYARD, on the top of a hill with amazing 360 degree views over the Rioja Wine Region, we will be welcomed with a glass of local Cava(sparkling wine) to start enjoying a fabulous lunch, where the chef will cook in open fire for us! *(Note the open fire cooking is only available on weekends, the other days of the week the picnic will be made with traditional Spanish food already cooked in a arbor/bower in the middle of the vineyard)*

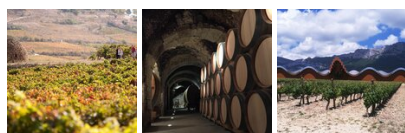
The Country-style lunch is based in 4 appetizers paired with Rioja White wine, 2 Main Courses that will be cooked right there, in open fire by the chef, paired with 2 different Rioja Red wines. A sweet dessert will be served to finish this unique lunch experience!

Note the open fire cooking can only be done in determinate weekends. When it is not possible you'll have a picnic of spanish food (Spanish omelette, meats, croquettes...) in and arbor in the middle of the vineyard.

MEDIEVAL STYLE VILLAGE OF LAGUARDIA

ICONIC ARCHITECTURE WINERY ESSituated on a hill and surrounded by a 13th century wall, it is a natural balcony towards the wine region. Its streets and corners preserved medieval taste great and economy is based on the wine industry with many subterranean cave-wine-cellar.

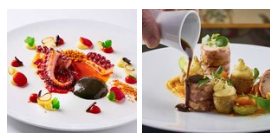
We will take you to get external views & photo opportunities of the unique architecture wineries as Marques del Riscal & Ysios



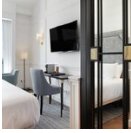
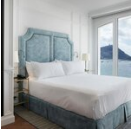
Michelin starred restaurant

Private group · Lunch, Dinner Included

Enjoy a delicious meal at a michelin starred restaurant.



Hotel Villa Favorita



San Sebastian



Hiking the Camino de Santiago Trail

Private group · 8 hours · Lunch Included

START YOUR HIKE IN SAN SEBASTIAN

walk the "CAMINO"

The mountainside is etched with a centuries-old walking trail that was once a Christian pilgrimage route to the town of Santiago de Compostela, where St James' remains are said to be buried.

Known as the Way of St James or the Pilgrims' Way, the coastal trail is now as popular for its views as it is for its history, offering incomparable vistas of San Sebastian and the Basque Coast.

CROSS BY BOAT TO PASAJES SAN JUAN

Hiking rocky paths, we will make plenty of stops to soak up the panoramas. The route heads down the hill and goes at a steady pace, allowing you to focus on the idyllic scenery stretched out before you. Once we arrive to Pasajes San Pedro on the Bay of Pasaia, we will board a sightseeing boat to cross the waters to Pasajes San Juan.

FULL LUNCH A WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

5 COURSE FULL LUNCH BY THE WATER

A very well deserved great lunch will be awaiting in a waterfront restaurant in Pasajes San Juan, a captivating coastal village, with very narrow streets, where the 19th-century French poet Victor Hugo found inspiration.

TAXI BACK TO SAN SEBASTIAN

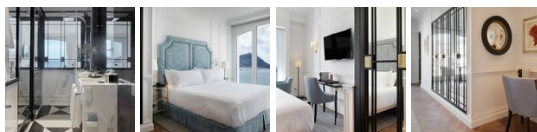
After lunch and crossing back by boat, the return to your hotel will be very relaxing.

We will get back to your hotel in San Sebastian by taxi



Hotel Villa Favorita

Calle Zubieta 26



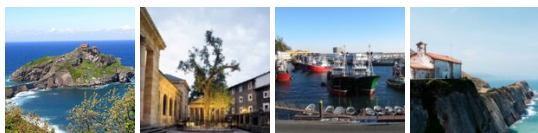
San Sebastian to Bilbao



From San Sebastián to Bilbao (or viceversa) along the Basque Coast

Private group · 8 hours

From San Sebastián to Bilbao visiting some small coastal villages like Zarautz, Getaria or Zumaia and the flysch formations and the amazing landscape of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe.



City Tour

Private group · 3 hours

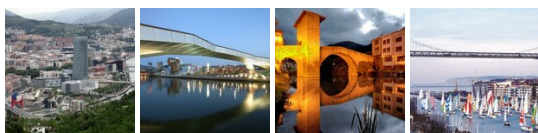
OLD TOWN OF BILBAO

THE HISTORY OF BILBAO STARTS HERE

In order to understand the foundation and history of Bilbao, we will walk through the narrow streets of the Old Town, exploring the highlights such as PLAZA NUEVA, CATEDRAL DE SANTIAGO, LA RIBERA MARKET, SAN ANTON CHURCH

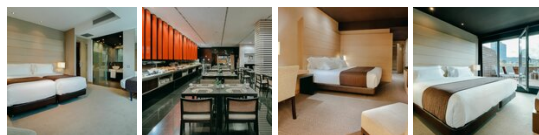
My local guide, Sergio, is greta delving with people and will be able to share local insights to this tour, giving his local point of view of the city. He'll also tell you about hidden corners and places where only locals go.

A wonderful walk of about 20 minutes starting in the Old Town and going through Abandoibarra, will take us directly to the GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM (*a tour inside the museum can be included*).



Hesperia Bilbao

Campo Volantin, 28



Bilbao



Guggenheim tickets (and guide)

Private group

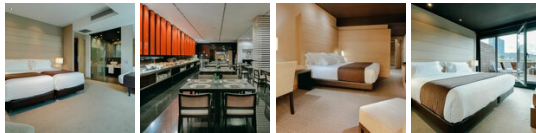
Tickets for the Guggenheim museum will be purchased in advance for you.

Note I can arrange a private guide to go along with you inside the museum to explain the museum itself and the exhibition at this time. Please ask!



Hesperia Bilbao

Campo Volantin, 28



Transfer to Bilbao Airport (BIO), Departure



Private transfer from Bilbao to Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Private transfer · 0.5 hours

You will be transferred from your hotel to Bilbao Airport in an air-conditioned car or mini-van.

Accommodations

Day 1 - 5

Hotel Villa Favorita

On one side of the window, one of the world's most beautiful seaside promenades: La Concha Beach in San Sebastian.

On the other, the intimacy and charm of an original...



4-star Hotel



+34 843931111



Calle Zubieta 26



[Hotel website](#)

Day 5 - 7

Hesperia Bilbao

In Bilbao, whether you are visiting for work or pleasure, you will be a part of this charming city where tradition becomes a path towards the future. In this privileged...



4-star Hotel



+34 944051100



Campo Volantin, 28



[Hotel website](#)

What's Included

Activities

- Day 1: Pintxos Tour (private group)
- Day 2: Cooking class (private group)
- Day 3: Rioja Wine Tour: Picnic in the vineyard (private group), Michelin starred restaurant (private group)
- Day 4: Hiking the Camino de Santiago Trail (private group)
- Day 5: From San Sebastián to Bilbao (or viceversa) along the Basque Coast (private group), City Tour (private group)
- Day 6: Guggenheim tickets (and guide) (private group)

Transportation

- Day 1: Private transfer from San Sebastian Airport (EAS) to San Sebastian
- Day 7: Private transfer from Bilbao to Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Accommodations

- Day 1 - 5: 4 nights stay at Hotel Villa Favorita (San Sebastian)
- Day 5 - 7: 2 nights stay at Hesperia Bilbao (Bilbao)

Excludes

- International flights
- The meals not mentioned in the trip plan
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance, and repatriation insurance
- Optional excursions, activities, and optional tours

Places you will visit

San Sebastian

4 nights



San Sebastián starts taste buds water from afar with its world-renowned culinary scene, but seeing even a snapshot of its arresting setting on the Bay of Biscay, edged by magnificent gold-sand horseshoe bays and backed by lush hills, is enough to make any aesthete eager to visit.

Basque gastronomy has gained fame largely for *pintxos* (the Basque version of tapas), but the city offers the gourmand a great deal more. Nineteen Michelin stars within a 15.5-mile (25-kilometer) radius of the center tempt diners and beyond the pintxos bars, the *Sidrerias* (cider houses) offer another distinctive culinary experience. The beaches are a major draw too. The highlight is the 1-mile (1.5 km) long **Playa de la Concha**, a stunning sweep of sand along the city front, connecting the two sides of the city with a long promenade overlooking the coast.

Be sure to explore the famous Parte Vieja (" **Old Quarter**"), which sits around the eastern edge of **Bahía de la Concha** between the ocean and the River Urumea. This area is the historical nucleus of the city and is known for its maze of churches, pintxos bars, and buildings dating back to the early 19th century. On the western side of Parte Vieja is the iconic **San Sebastian City Hall**. Constructed in 1887, it used to be the Gran Casino during the Belle Époque period until it was closed in 1924, and bullet holes remain in the walls from a 1936 citizens' uprising against General Franco. You might also stroll the banks of the **Urumea River**, where you'll find further fine architecture such as Belle Époque sandstone-built **Victoria Eugenia Theater**, the palatial **Maria Cristina Hotel**, and many aristocratic houses dating to the turn of the 20th century. You can get some good pictures walking across the **Puente María Cristina**, one of the bridges crosses the river from Parte Vieja.

Suggested things to do:

- For great views looking back at San Sebastian, either take a ferry to the offshore island of **Santa Clara** in the middle of Bahía de la Concha, or ride one of Spain's oldest and most charming funicular railways up to **Mont Igueldo**, which offers up some expansive panoramas from the western edge of the city.
- Relax on **Playa de la Concha**, one of San Sebastian's three beaches and overlooked by the La Concha Promenade, which is also worth a stroll. Some say this is the best beach in Spain: see if you agree!
- Have a picnic in the grounds of **Miramar Royal Palace**, where the Spanish monarchy once spent their summers. The house itself is not open to the public, but you can visit its tranquil gardens and marvel at its breathtaking views over the water.

- Learn all about the Basque Country at the biggest museum devoted to Basque history and culture, **Museo de San Telmo**, a Dominican convent complemented by a sleek contemporary extension.

Bilbao

2 nights



Discover **Bilbao**, a marvel of a Basque Country metropolis that is both modern and historic. The beating heart of the city is its **Old Town**, home to the city's oldest landmarks as well as many excellent bars, restaurants, and boutiques. Major sights include the 18th-century Baroque **Church of San Nicolás** with its two imposing cupolas and the 16th-century **Church of San Antón**, dedicated to Anthony the Great, an Egyptian saint and the father of monasticism. Other notable sights include the 14th-century **Cathedral of Santiago** and the **Mercado de la Ribera**, which, at 107,639 square feet, is the largest covered marketplace in Europe.

No visit to Bilbao is complete without stopping in at the **Guggenheim Museum**, a triumph of contemporary architecture designed by the legendary Frank Gehry. This glimmering titanium structure looks more like a sculpture than a building, with its sleek lines curving in virtual defiance of physics. Inside, the museum's nearly 260,000 square feet house a treasure trove of works from sensation modern artists such as Andy Warhol, Anish Kapoor, Mark Rothko, Jeff Koons, Louise Bourgeois, and Eduardo Chillida.

Suggested things to do:

- Indulge in the Basque region's incredible food culture. All around Old Town you'll find bars and restaurants serving up delicious *pintxos*, which is the Basque version of tapas. Be sure to pair your delectable tidbits with a glass of *txakoli*, the local white wine.
- Do not miss the city's oldest art museum, the **Fine Arts Museum** (Museo Bellas Artes), where you can peep at masterpieces by El Greco, Goya and Gauguin.
- Voyage on a **boat trip** down city river Ría del Nervión to see sights like the Guggenheim from a different perspective.
- Take the funicular up **Mount Artxanda** for a breathtaking panoramic view overlooking Bilbao.
- Go whale watching in the **Bay of Biscay**, where razorback whales, long-finned pilot whales, and dolphins are often seen.

About your local specialist



Hidden in Spain is a boutique tour company offering customizable tours in Spain. Operating from our headquarters in northern Spain, we take guests on highly personalized journeys that reveal the hidden cultural, historical, culinary treasures, and natural beauty of the country, from Bilbao in the north to Málaga in the south. I, Luis Fernandez de Vega, founder of Hidden in Spain, and his team of experienced and knowledgeable travel specialists work with our clients on a one-to-one basis to create detailed tailor-made holiday packages to meet your specific interests. We'll take care of every aspect of your tours, from domestic air, hotel and ground transportation, to excursions and scheduled events. Hidden in Spain takes clients beyond the well-worn and familiar tourist spots to find unique "insider experiences" that give our clients a deeper, more immersive connection with the Spanish culture.



Luis

Based in Gijón, Asturias, Spain



[9 reviews](#)

As founder of Hidden in Spain, I am focused on high quality service. My passion for traveling has taken me to different destinations in America, Africa, Europe and Asia where I have been able to enrich my life with other cultures and people. During these trips I...
