



## TAILOR MADE JOURNEY Basque Country Explorer

### INCLUDED WITH EVERY LUXURY TAILOR MADE JOURNEY

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

#### DAY 1 ○ ARRIVE BILBAO, SPAIN

Arrive at Bilbao Airport where you will join your expert guide to discover the city. Visit the Guggenheim Museum, the masterpiece of Frank Gehry, with its gleaming titanium structure. Apart from the works that form the Guggenheim’s permanent collection, it offers an array of intriguing temporary exhibits. Visit the historic Siete Calles district, beautifully restored after catastrophic floods. Wander through its boutiques, small bars and restaurants before checking in to your hotel in San Sebastian.

Hotel Maria Cristina  
Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 2 ○ SAN SEBASTIAN | CULINARY EPICENTER

In the morning, explore San Sebastian with your expert guide, hanging around the fascinating Old Town, the iconic Comb of the Wind sculpture on the horseshoe bay of La Concha, and the promontory of Monte Igeldo. Head to the nearby fishing village of Getaria. Visit the Balenciaga Museum, dedicated to dress designer Cristobal Balenciaga who was born in the village. There are several vineyards producing small-batch txacoli on the hills overlooking the sea. Take a tour and enjoy a tasting before returning to San Sebastian. This evening, experience the real soul of Basque cuisine in its small bars and restaurants that throng the narrow streets of the Parte Vieja — the oldest district in town — accompanied by your local guide. Along the way, you may sample a wide variety of pintxos (local tapas) for which the region is known.

Hotel Maria Cristina  
Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 3 ○ FRENCH BASQUE COUNTRYSIDE | IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE PYRENEES

The Pays Basque Français is an enchanting area of small villages, lush green landscapes and the rolling foothills of the Pyrenees. Start the day by visiting the charming fishing port of Saint Jean de Luz with its unspoiled center of narrow streets, quayside and old churches, a short distance over the frontier. From there, head to inland to explore villages like Ainhoa, filled with quaint stone houses and delightful parish churches. Perhaps continue to the capital of Bayonne, where the beautifully restored half-timbered houses are a superb example of how to bring an old town back to life. You may prefer to visit the coast again and explore the once-exclusive coastal town of Biarritz. Back to your hotel in San Sebastian.

Hotel Maria Cristina  
Meals: Breakfast

### YOUR JOURNEY



**DAY 4** ○ **LAGUARDIA | WINE TASTING IN LA RIOJA**

Depart San Sebastian and drive to the medieval walled hilltop town of Laguardia where little changes can be seen in hundreds of years. Here ,you can visit a bodega where the grapes are still trodden in a great tank and then left to ferment by the age-old carbonic maceration technique. Take lunch on your own in Laguardia before heading to one of La Rioja's most historic wineries where you can enjoy a tour and tasting, savoring the contrast from the local, homegrown vintage you sampled earlier. Return to San Sebastian with your driver and guide.

Hotel Maria Cristina

Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 5** ○ **DEPART BILBAO**

In the morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your international departure.

Meals: Breakfast

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