

Spain: Basque Country & Rioja Wine Region



"I can't speak highly enough of our Sojourn experiences."

- Fred Miller, Sojourn Guest

6 Days / 5 Nights | **Rating:** Intermediate/Avid | **Start / End:** Bilbao, Spain

[See the Departure Dates and Pricing Details](#)



E-Bikes Available

Basque, locally known as Euskadi or País Vasco, is an incredibly hospitable independent community in Northern Spain and Southern France, with a distinct identity of its own. Spanning from the Western Pyrenees to the Bay of Biscay, this proud community of about seven hundred thousand speak their own language of Euskara in addition to French and Spanish and follow some strict traditions including the unique culinary culture of Pintxos. This Sojourn Bike trip traces deep into the Basque country and into its bold and beautiful Rioja Wine Region. After meeting up in Bilbao, we take the van into Alava and ride to Casa Valdelana Winery. Pedal through miles of vineyards, rural villages, and ancient Roman towns inside the heart of Rioja wine country. Catch up with the Christian pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago, marked with iconic yellow arrows leading the way. Explore the sun-soaked beaches, culture and culinary offerings of San Sebastian, the cultural capital and the former playground of Spanish royalty. Ascend Mount Igueldo for panoramic views of the Atlantic coastline, winding your way to the beaches of Lekeitio and San Nicolás Island. Take a ferry with your bike to the colorful Basque fishing villages of Pasajes San Juan, visiting the home of the famous French writer Victor Hugo, and then cross over Mont Jaizkibel and cycle into the old port town of Hondarribia for a Pintxos lunch. Cross over on another ferry and ride along the stunning coastal routes of Hendaye, France. During the week we stay, relax, and unwind at two architecturally striking and luxurious accommodations – Hotel Silken de Laguardia in Rioja and San Sebastian's majestic Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

BOOK THIS TRIP:

[RESERVE ONLINE](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [CALL 800.730.4771](#)



Travel the Sojourn Style



“I had an absolutely wonderful trip and am so glad I chose Sojourn. I haven't done that much laughing in one week in a very long time!”

- Corinne Campbell, Sojourn Guest

EXPERIENCES, NOT BIKE TOURS

While we love our cycling, it makes up only one facet of what a true Sojourn trip entails. We believe in immersing ourselves in local cultures and discovering the hidden gems of the world.

UNWAVERING ATTENTION TO SERVICE

Our commitment to provide you with unwavering service starts from the moment you first interact with the Sojourn team. We believe the little details matter and make the Sojourn vacation a life-list worthy experience for our guests.

REGIONAL PLANNING SPECIALISTS

From Vietnam to France to Glacier National Park, we are committed to offering exceptional trips in regions with which we are deeply familiar. We personally design and operate each of our trips.

PROFESSIONAL TRIP LEADERS

Gracious, engaging, and intelligent, our expert team of tour leaders consist of professionals from all walks of life and make exceptional travel companions. Always a step ahead, they are adept at everything from spinning wrenches to whipping up fabulous picnic lunches.

PREMIER ACCOMODATIONS

We carefully select from some of World's renowned hotels. From highly reviewed and acclaimed Hotel de Londres in San Sebastian, Spain or the Reverie Saigon, Vietnam, one of the leading hotels in the World.

YOUR VACATION, YOUR PACE

We believe that at the end of the day, you are at the helm of your own vacation. We offer an array of day-to-day options to enable you to approach each day at your own pace.

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Sunday: Day 1



Meet at Bilbao Airport – Meet your Sojourn leaders in their Sojourn outfit at the Bilbao Airport. “Ongi etorri” to Northern Spain’s Basque Country, home to people with their own distinct culture, language, award-winning wines, and Michelin-starred restaurants - a region known for its historic villages, beautiful beaches, and fantastic cycling. We transfer to Alava, which is about a 90 min shuttle. After a picnic lunch and bike fitting, get on your saddle for a short warm up ride to the lauded Casa Valdelana Winery,

GOOD TO KNOW

The Basques are extremely friendly people and are very welcoming to tourists. However, English is not very commonly spoken. Both our leaders are local and speak Basque and Spanish fluently. However, we recommend a fast track Spanish language course for our guests visiting this area. The hotels and most restaurants we use are in the luxury category. We suggest carrying a few formal outfits for a couple of our dinners in the hotels and in one of the restaurants in Alava.

That afternoon we transfer to Hotel Silken de Laguardia, a luxury hotel located in the heart of Rioja wine country. This evening gather with your tour leaders and travel companions for a delectable dinner in the hotel's fine dining room.

LODGING:
Hotel Silken de Laguardia, Guar-
dia-013-00 <https://www.hoteles-silken>.

CYCLING OPTIONS:
Up to 15 Miles

BOOK THIS TRIP ONLINE OR CALL 800-730-4771

Monday: Day 2



Villabuena de Álava – This morning after breakfast we set out on a revelatory ride into the Rioja wine region, passing through rolling vineyards and more than a dozen towns and villages in the shadow of the Sierra de Cantabria. We ride into the historic town of Najera to catch up with Christian pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago, recharging with a picnic lunch. After a short shuttle (to avoid some vehicular traffic) we cycle from outside of Santa Domingo de la Calzada on the banks of the Oja River. Saint Domingo built a bridge, hospital, and hotel here, and began construction on the cathedral for pilgrims following the “French Way” of Saint James. In the evening we head out to the walled village of Laguardia, for a special dinner at one of the most acclaimed restaurants in the area that is home to 16th century cellars.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

We’re constantly looking for ways to enhance our trips. We’ll do our best to notify you of any changes in this itinerary. Other changes may be communicated to you on the trip by your leaders.

LODGING:

Hotel Silken de Laguardia, Guadalupe-013-00 <https://www.hoteles-silken.com>

CYCLING OPTIONS:

Up to 45 Miles
(Shorter options with van support available)

Tuesday: Day 3



San Sebastian – After breakfast, embark on a leisurely ride through Rioja’s vineyards into the Romanesque town of Baños de Ebro and the 10th century fortress town of San Vicente de la Sonsierra. Today, we shuttle back to San Sebastian to our home for the next three nights, the historic, elegant Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra. This beachfront hotel features spectacular views of the city and ocean and is close to numerous famed San Sebastian Pintxos bars. San Sebastian is where the sea reclaims its place and according to the locals, is the best place to experience the Cantabrian Sea. This afternoon, take some time to walk up Monte Urgull for some incredible views, stroll La Concha beach, or just explore the gardens and the old quarters of San Sebastian, dubbed “the pearl of the Cantabrian Sea.” Dinner is on your own tonight. Renowned for its fine cuisine (there are at least six Michelin-starred restaurants and countless bars serving a diverse selection of Pintxos), San Sebastian offers plenty of options to tempt your palate. Reservation is highly recommended for most of the restaurants.

LODGING:

Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra, San Sebastian
34-943-44-07-70 www.hlondres.com/en

CYCLING OPTIONS:

Up to 16 Miles

BOOK THIS TRIP ONLINE OR CALL 800-730-4771



San Sebastian - Today's ride follows the city's bike path, ascending to Mount Igueldo for panoramic views of the coastline and winding through several villages, before ending at the beaches of Lekeitio. Pause in Getaria, the home village of legendary Basque explorer Juanv Sebastián Elcano, who completed the first circumnavigation of the world. Recharge with a selection of local dishes for lunch at our favorite local restaurant. Riding on to Lekeitio, take a walk or a dip at the main beach of this small fishing village and port. Depending on the tides and timing, walk along an exposed sandbar to the small island of San Nicolás Island. Shuttle back to San Sebastian to unwind and enjoy the hotel's excellent amenities before heading out for dinner. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

LODGING:

Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra, San Sebastian
34-943-44-07-70 www.hlondres.com/en

CYCLING OPTIONS:

Up to 46 Miles
(Shorter options with van support available)



Thursday: Day 5



San Sebastian – From colorful fishing villages and ferry rides to Victor Hugo’s house, pirates, and a jewel of a beach resort, the journey today brims with intriguing stories and adventure. Begin the ride towards French Basque country through the small fishing village of Pasajes San Pedro, once again following the yellow markers of the Camino de Santiago. Board the ferry to Pasajes San Juan, where the great French writer Victor Hugo

once lived, and cycle to Hondarribia and its well-preserved old town, stopping for a leisurely lunch. Board another ferry to Hendaye, France, and cycle along a coastal route. Tonight, toast to this Basque adventure with a sumptuous farewell dinner at the hotel with your fellow travelers. As the Basque would say, ‘Topa!’



MULTIPLE ROUTE OPTIONS

Itching for that **EPIC** (Extra Pedal if Crazy) ride? No problem, we’ll show you our favorite hills. Looking for more downtime? Your trip leaders will tell you the best days to take a break. All Sojourn tours have multiple route options to accommodate your riding skill or desires!

LODGING:

Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra, San Sebastian
34-943-44-07-70 www.hlondres.com/en

CYCLING OPTIONS:

Up to 46 Miles
(Shorter options with van support available)

Friday: Day 6



Depart - Rise early to take one last stroll along San Sebastian’s golden beaches. After breakfast, you will be transported to Bilbao Airport for your journey home.



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Hotel Viura, Villabuena de Alava

Situated in Villabuena de Álava in the Rioja Alavesa, this architectural masterpiece is a perfect base for discovering La Rioja and sits easily alongside an ultra-traditional church in the center of the village. The tumbling pile of superimposed blocks is liberally sprinkled with balconies, terraces and huge windows that all make the most of the views of the village and the surrounding scenery. Inside, the hotel is just slightly more conventional, giving an atmosphere of unadulterated luxury. **(2 Nights.)**

Calle Mayor, s/n | Villabuena de Álava, 01307
Álava, Spain
www.hotelviura.com | 34-945-609-000

Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra, San Sebastian

Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra is a grand boutique hotel located in the center of San Sebastian, only a five minute walk from historic Old Town. This beachside hotel lies right in front of La Concha Bay, and offers incredible views of Santa Clara island. **(3 Nights.)**

Zubieta Kalea, 2,
20007 Donostia, Gipuzkoa, Spain
www.hlondres.com/en | 34-943-44-07-70



Hotel Viura

Travel & Tour Quick Facts



TOUR START	9:30AM on Sunday at the Bilbao Airport in Bilbao, Spain.
TOUR CONCLUSION	12:30PM at Bilbao Airport, in Bilbao Spain. Any flight reservations out of Bilbao should be made after 2PM.
TRAVEL TO/FROM TOUR	Bilbao (BIO) Airport. Many European Airlines connect Bilbao to major European airports like Madrid, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Paris, London and Barcelona.
DAYS/NIGHTS	6 Days/5 Nights
INCLUDED MEALS	4 Lunches and 3 Dinners.
CURRENCY	Euros. Please always carry some cash with you. All credit cards are widely accepted in stores, taxis and restaurants. Services like Uber are still uncommon or unavailable.
ACTIVITIES	Cycling.
RATING	Intermediate/Avid - This tour offers days or sections of routes that might require riders to push their riding to a new level with occasional steady or steep climbs. However, those instances will be few and far between and the overall trip is at an intermediate level for cyclists who do not mind a few gently rolling hills with some longer grades. Van options are available for tougher segments if you choose to opt out. Routes average 15-45 miles a day with longer options available.

Dates & Pricing



HERE are the Departure Dates and Pricing Details.

**SINGLE ROOM
SUPPLEMENT**

\$800.00



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What's Included?

EQUIPMENT	Computer-equipped road or hybrid bike, helmet, rear light, seat bag for road bike or rack bag for hybrid, map case, water bottle, and jersey. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for a more personalized fit.
VAN SUPPORT	Rides supported by a Sojourn van as well as a tour leader on a bicycle.
TOUR LEADERS	Two experienced local tour leaders guide each trip from start to finish.
RIDE NOURISHMENT	A selection of snacks and refreshments are supplied throughout all rides.
RIDE INFORMATION	Detailed route directions, maps, and a daily briefing are provided.
OFFICE SUPPORT	At your service 9:00am – 6:00pm EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771
DETAILED INFORMATION	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.
E-BIKES & TANDEMS	Electric Assist Bikes are available on all tours where permitted (conditions apply). Call us at 1-800-730-4771 for details.

Weather

Alava

Average	May	Oct
High °F	70°	67°
Low °F	48°	48°
Precip. Inches	1.8	1.3

San Sebastian

Average	May	Oct
High °F	65°	67°
Low °F	54°	56°
Precip. Inches	4.9	5.7

WE'RE HAPPY
TO CHAT!

Call: **800.730.4771**

Write: **info@gosojourn.com**

Visit: **GoSojourn.com**

PRICES & SCHEDULE

All prices and schedules are subject to change at any time.
Click [HERE](#) to view the latest departure dates & prices.