



## Adventurebug Worldwide Ltd

Bespoke adventure travel & events since 2000

REAT Tourism License AT/MA/00022 Company Registration B93050763  
Apto. Correos 1031, 29680 Estepona, Malaga, SPAIN TEL (34) 635 817 819

# Discover Bordeaux to Bilbao

## 8 Nights / Cultural Tour



### ABOUT THIS TOUR

*The Basque region of southern France and northern Spain retains a level of elegance and sophistication unmatched with other European borders. Known for its dramatic coastlines and backed by the westerly reaches of the Pyrenees – the Vascons are a dynamic culture thriving in pristine nature and engaged in steady traditions making them a force in European heritage. Age old recipes bring some of the most striking culinary delights and the blend of wines with Navarra & Rioja to the south and Bordeaux just north offer a world class array of vineyards. Beginning in Bordeaux we'll explore this elegant city on foot and by river boat before making a day trip into the Dordogne region to sample the finest of wines and experience rural life in a hilltop village. Journeying south we'll explore France's own Basque coastline and culture before discovering Spain's verdant hillsides and valleys that have shaped the 'Pais Vascos' incredible landscapes. This is a unique journey that highlights regional gastronomy and incorporates wonderful medieval architecture with breath taking seascapes and the warm-hearted Basque hospitality.*

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

*Customized for you. This is a cultural discovery tour designed for your energy and interests:*

- Exquisite, well placed 4 star minimum hotels throughout.
- Well balanced cultural visits to suit all levels without long, exhausting road travel.
- Tasty local cuisine and wines provided (as per itinerary).
- A linear direction of travel that captures the best of the region by way of private coach.
- An opportunity to bridge two wonderful countries in one journey!



### GENERAL ITINERARY

**Tour Begins in Bordeaux**

**Tour Finishes in Bilbao**

**Total Nights – 8**

**3 NIGHTS BORDEAUX CENTER / 4 NIGHTS SAN  
SEBASTIAN BEACH FRONT / 1 NIGHT BILBAO  
CENTER**



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## Day 1 – Bordeaux Arrival Day / Welcome Dinner included

Arrival to Bordeaux and meet your group and guide in the hotel. Today is a free day to acclimate from the long journey. We can make some recommendations if you have some free time on your hands. Our hotel is centrally located – offering much to see and do on foot right out the door. Tonight we have a welcome dinner in the heart of Bordeaux! Hotel De Seze (4 star) <http://www.hotel-de-seze.com/home/> Dinner included.



## Day 2 – Bordeaux City Highlights & River Garonne Cruise, Breakfast & Dinner included

This morning we will discover on foot the history and culture of Bordeaux with a local specialist guide. After some free time for lunch, we'll board a river boat to see this beautiful UNESCO monumental city from the water. Same hotel tonight. Breakfast & Dinner included.

## Day 3 - Bordeaux & Saint Emilion Vineyard Day – Breakfast included

Today we venture into the Dordogne region where the famous Bordeaux wineries have been active for centuries. Our destination is the pretty medieval village of Saint Emilion – in the heart of wine country. After a short walking tour of this charming hill top village and a visit to the unique Monolith Cavern Church, take lunch on your own followed by an afternoon tour and tasting of wine in a world class vineyard. Travel time is 45 minutes each direction with our private coach. Hotel same as previous nights. Tonight, you are on your own for dinner to experiment with Bordeaux's varied southern cuisine.



## Day 4 – French Basque Coastal Tour & San Sebastian – Breakfast & Dinner included

This morning we depart Bordeaux and journey south in our private coach. Our first stop is the breathtaking coastline of Biarritz where a number of scenic view points will be visited and we'll catch a glimpse of the chic French Basque culture who've made this coast so exquisite. A scenic drive through rural landscapes brings us to a wonderful lunch destination, St. Jean de Luz where oysters are the specialty! Time permitting, we'll visit the quaint Palace of Louis XIV before continuing on to San Sebastian, Spain. Travel time approximately 2.5 hours

by coach however expect a full day out with visits on route. Our home in San Sebastian is the historic Hotel Londres (4 star) <https://www.hlondres.com/es/> where we'll have 4 nights right on the beach and in the historic town center. Breakfast and dinner included today.



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## Day 5 – San Sebastian – CITY TOUR Breakfast & Dinner included



*San Sebastian is the cultural heart of the Spanish Basque region. Famous for its UNESCO historic quarter and adorned with fabulous architecture, pretty squares, stunning beaches and of course tapas (known locally as Pintxos), these savoury bar delicacies have fed the Basques for centuries. We'll be introduced to the best of San Sebastian today by a local expert as we stroll the old quarter followed by a journey in a glass bottom boat that circles the Bay –*

*offering us a stop on Santa Clara Island for a short visit. Same hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.*

## Day 6 - San Sebastian – MIMO CULINARY SCHOOL! Breakfast only included

*San Sebastian and the Basque country in general is world renown for its culinary delights. Today we put ourselves in the hands of the famous Mimo Cookery School – led by top chefs so you can hone your skills in the art of Basque cuisine! This activity takes up the bulk of your day as you prepare your own lunch – of course while sampling exceptional regional wines! The cookery course is only 10 minutes walking from the hotel. Today breakfast only is included – leaving your dinner options open after your lunch adventure.*



## Day 7 – FREE DAY! San Sebastian - Breakfast included

*Today is a free day to explore San Sebastian on your own or relax at the hotel or on the beach. The Hop On/Off bus is a great way to see other parts of the city – and take the funicular to the top of Mount Igueldo for a tapas lunch and outstanding views! Today breakfast is included with the option of you taking the guided Pintxo tour with a local expert (costed separately). Tonight is our final night in San Sebastian. Breakfast only included.*



## Day 8 – Bilbao – Breakfast & Dinner included

*Our final tour day offers a deeper glimpse of the Basque country's rural landscapes as we cross the region itself and head for Bilbao – the de-facto capital of the Basques. This colourful, artistic city has been revived thanks to the Frank Gehry designed Guggenheim Museum – Time is allotted today to experiencing explore this architectural wonder filled with*

*grand contemporary art and to experience Bilbao itself. Tonight we'll have our farewell dinner in the city center. Hotel 5 Star Gran Domine, Bilbao Center <https://www.hoteldominebilbao.com/> Breakfast and dinner included.*



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## Day 9 – Departure or onward travel / Breakfast only included

After breakfast our tour ends and you are free to explore more of this part of Europe or make your way to the airport for the journey home. Transfers are not included however we can make suggestions and/or bookings for your onward connections (the airport is 15 minutes from the hotel). Breakfast is included today.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR PRICE:

- 8 nights accommodation in twin share rooming
- All meals with vino as per itinerary
- All transport, entrance fees and activities as per itinerary
- Guiding and trip logistical planning by the Adventurebug Team
- Tips for all included meals, local guides and all transfers / drivers
- All taxes and Administrative fees

## NON-INCLUSIONS:

- Travel insurance (compulsory to have personal travel and medical insurance)
- International flights (to/from the region including internal flight connections)
- Meals (where not listed as included in the itinerary)
- Optional additional tours or activities during free time

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This tour, is designed to bring out the best of the destination in terms of a balanced tour. This incorporates visiting historic sites, tasting local dishes, sampling wines, scenic coach transfers and just having a wonderful time! The trip is non-physical with the exception of exploring historic quarters, villages and natural areas on foot for short durations.

## MODES OF TRANSPORT

- On foot (light explorations only!)
- Chartered bus for all longer transfers
- 2 short boat excursions (1.5 hours total for each), and both on flat river water

**MEALS & BEVERAGES** – Most dinners with wine are included and the cuisine is generally typical of the region and very tasty! Lunches are not included and plenty of options are available at each destination. Wine in the Bordeaux region is famously of the red variety (Merlot in particular). However, some white varieties also come from there as well – we just wanted to pre-warn you of this in advance! Spanish local wines are white and red.

**INSURANCE** You are required to have private travel & comprehensive health insurance for taking part on this tour. We strongly recommend cancellation insurance as well as normal coverage for emergency health and medical issues.

**RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL** Adventurebug's *Responsible Travel Ethos* is at the heart of everything we do, from getting the basics right like respecting local cultures and the environment, to initiating projects in the Developing World that make positive contributions to communities, to volunteer efforts on a wide range of



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projects. At some point during our journey, Adventurebug may share some of the projects associated with his work in tourism, environmental and social entrepreneurial stewardship.

**CUSTOMS AND CULTURE** France and Spain remain safe, welcoming countries and very hospitable to travellers from abroad. Remember, travelling is about new experiences and do not expect the same level of personal service nor speed of delivery that you may be accustomed to at home. Be patient and respect the fact that life in the region moves at a different pace. You will appreciate your journey more so and feel accomplished by adapting better. Having a few words or phrases in the local lingo is fun and shows you're open to understanding the local culture more. In Spain, you can try your hand at Basque language but generally speaking Castellano (Spanish), is more common.

**SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS / MEDICATIONS** Vegetarian diets can generally be accommodated to with ease, but don't be surprised if fish is offered to you! France and Spain remain old world mentality in many places. Special diets such as gluten free (celiac) and lactose intolerance can still be a challenge to source out in some places so we recommend you bring supplements from home just in case. Medicines and glasses / contacts subscriptions we recommend you bring from home as resources can be very scarce in the small mountain villages.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**In the case of a genuine emergency, your local operator, Adventurebug can be reached as follows:**

ADVENTUREBUG OFFICE	+ 34 952 894 308
Matt Butler (Guide)	+ 34 635 817 819
Julie Butler (Office Manager)	+ 34 692 451 362