

## Spain Basque Country and Navarre



### Inclusive services

- 7 overnight stays with breakfast (Saturday to Saturday)
- 5 selected multiple course dinners
- 1 lunch
- Water at dinner
- All visitor's tax and tourism levies
- All intermediate transfers according to programme
- All admission fees according to programme
- Rotalis touring bike (Pedelec with a surcharge depending on availability)
- Rotalis support vehicle
- Rotalis luggage service
- Additional (city-) tour in the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
- Rotalis drinking bottle
- 2 Rotalis travel guides



Number of participants: min. 8, max. 15 participants

## Tagesablauf

### 1. DAY: SATURDAY

In Bilbao, the Gran Hotel Domine\*\*\*\*\* awaits you, a high-class hotel, directly opposite the Guggenheim Museum. We will meet up at 5:15pm in the hotel lobby for a tour of the world-known museum, which makes a special impression with its bizarre architecture. You will then have the evening to your own disposal.

### 2. DAY: SUNDAY Bilbao – Argomaniz (32 km / 20 miles)

After the adjustment of bikes, we will cycle along the Nervión through the slowly awakening Basque metropolis in the direction of the Atlantic. While travelling mainly on cycle paths and peaceful adjacent routes, we will encounter witnesses of the downfall of the former industrial city, but also numerous buildings which suggest a new, modern Bilbao. In Portugalete we will cross the Nervión with the oldest transporter bridge in the world. After a midday break in the lively bathing area Getxo, we will travel by bus for about an hour to the Embalse de Ullibarri, a reservoir not far from Vitoria-Gasteiz. We will cycle around the Basque capital city on small secluded paths, gradually approaching our daily destination, Argomaniz\*\*\*\*. Dinner will be held in the hotel restaurant.

### 3. DAY: MONDAY Argomaniz – Estella (46 km / 29 miles)

In the morning, we will travel by bus for a half-hour drive into the Sierra de Urbasa. Green meadows alternate with lush beech woods at irregular intervals on this deserted plateau. Flocks of sheep, griffon vultures and grazing horses accompany our cycling party. After a longer descent with splendid views of the bizarre rocky landscape of the Sierra de Santiago de Loquiz, our cycling route leads to Estella. Romanesque churches such as San Sepulcro or the palace of dukes of Granada de Ega can be seen during our city round trip. At the end of the cycling stage, we will be received by the modern Hotel Tximista\*\*\*\*, a former granary with comfortable rooms. We will have dinner in a restaurant which is popular with the locals.

### 4. DAY: TUESDAY Estella – Olite (46 km / 29 miles)

In the morning, a bus will bring us to a Mirador, from which the endless expanses of Navarre are revealed. This cycling day begins with an enjoyable descent through the picturesque Sierra del Perdón to Puente de la Reina. Here the Aragonese branch of the way of St. James joins up with the Navarre branch. Architectural jewels such as the Santiago Church as well as numerous richly ornamented houses are located in the Calle Mayor, silent witnesses of a long pilgrimage tradition. At around midday, we will reach Artajona which is situated on a hill, and is dominated by a legendary medieval fortress. A longer ascent brings us into the wine growing district of Tudela. The famous Rosados de Navarra are produced here. By travelling on desolate paths, we will reach the former royal residence city Olite in the late afternoon. We will round off our eventful day with a stylish dinner in our place of accommodation, the Parador de Olite\*\*\*.



**5. DAY: WEDNESDAY Olite – Vera de Bidasoa (59 km / 36 miles)**

In favourable weather conditions, a small bus will bring us in just short of one and a half hours into the Aralar-Massif, on the Artxueta peak. One can enjoy an impressive view of the mountain ranges of Urbasa from here. After a pleasant bike ride, mainly downhill, we will be brought to another top of the pass, which, after a descent of almost 30 km, will lead us into the most Basque part of our cycling trip. In the original Valle del Rio Ezkurra, one can feel the independent culture of the Spanish Basque country everywhere. We will cycle the last kilometres on a former railway line to Vera de Bidasoa. The family run Hotel Churrut\*\*\* awaits us here. This especially stylish hotel dates back to the 18th century and was converted into comfortable lodgings. In the evening, superb Basque cuisine will await us.

**6. DAY: THURSDAY Vera de Bidasoa – Hondarribia (38 km / 24 miles)**

In the morning, we will travel by taxi to the Spanish – French border. From there, we will cycle into the French Basque country. Our route leads in a constant up and down path through picturesque villages such as Sare and Ascaïn with their impressive Pelota Places. We will reach the mundane St. Jean de Luz at noon. After a joint lunch (included in the travel price), there is enough time to take a stroll in the city or to bathe in the sea, before our path leads us in the direction of Spain once again. In Hendaye, we will travel by ferry and will reach Hondarribia, which lies in Spain. Today we will be welcomed by the very elegant Parador de Hondarribia\*\*\*\*, in whose walls Karl V. once resided. (With travel date 2: Taxi transfer to San Sebastián and two overnight stays in the NH Collection Aranzazu\*\*\*\*). As today's lunch is included in the travel price, you will have the evening to your own disposal. Numerous good restaurants can be found in the picturesque old city of Hondarribia.

**7. DAY: FRIDAY Hondarribia – San Sebastián (12 km / 8 miles + 8 km / 5 miles hike)**

Taxis will bring us in approx. 30 minutes into the fishing village Pasaia, in which the Basque culture is visible and noticeable all around. The Ikurriña, the Basque flag, can be found on many balconies here. After we have had a look around the village, we will take a small ferry over the port basin and will travel several kilometres on the Way of St. James. We are accompanied by old aqueducts and grand views of the cliffs along the way. At noon, we will mount our bikes again and cycle to San Sebastian. Passing the Zurriola beach and mundane buildings from the Belle Epoque period such as the Teatro Victoria Eugenia, our path leads through the crooked old city to the Plaza de la Constitucion as well as the old Town Hall. The last metres of our cycling trip lead along the famous Concha bay to our hotel, the modern NH Collection Aranzazu\*\*\*\*. We will enjoy dinner in a rustic restaurant in the lively centre of San Sebastián.

**8. DAY: SATURDAY San Sebastián**

As there is nothing on today's programme, your departure can be arranged individually. Busses travel hourly to the airport of Bilbao as well as into the city centre of Bilbao (Duration approx. 1 hour 15 min. – tickets are not included in the travel price).

**EXTRA NIGHTS**

We are happy to assist you with the booking in our partner hotels (depending on availability). Bilbao (Gran Hotel Domine\*\*\*\*): Numerous museums, and also the old city inviting one for a stroll make it worthwhile to spend a few additional days in this city. San Sebastián (NH Collection Aranzazu\*\*\*\*): San Sebastián offers



many possibilities for your holiday, whether it is bathing in the Atlantic, watching the fishermen return on the old fishing port or strolling through the picturesque old city.

## Dates and prices

**25.05.24[safe]** ab 0 €    **01.06.24[safe]** ab 0 €    **08.06.24** / ab 0 €

