

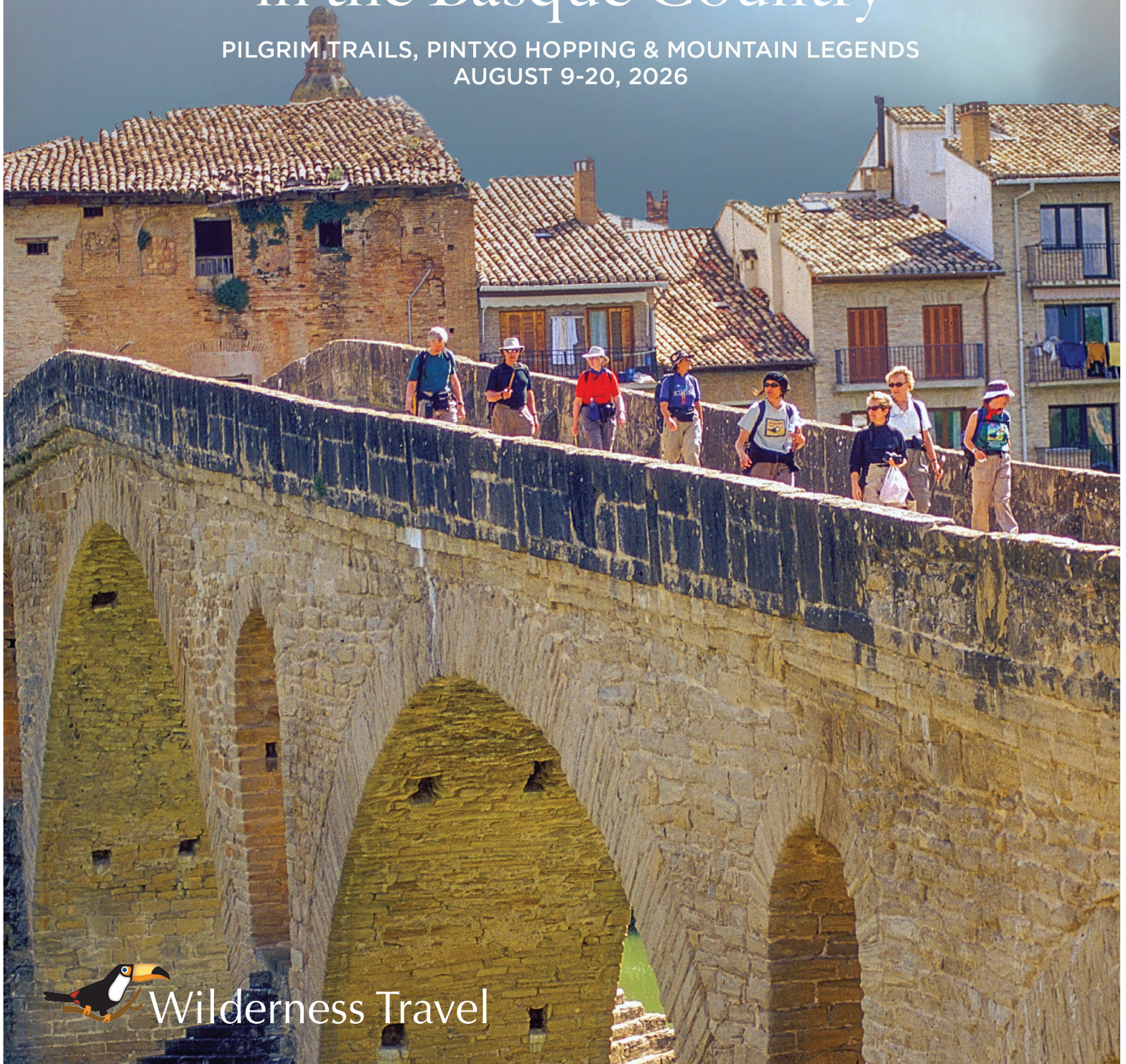
WILDERNESS TRAVEL SPECIAL EVENTS PRESENTS

# Total Solar Eclipse 2026

WITH POST-ECLIPSE TOURS IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL & FRANCE

## From France to Spain: Hiking in the Basque Country

PILGRIM TRAILS, PINTXO HOPPING & MOUNTAIN LEGENDS  
AUGUST 9-20, 2026



Wilderness Travel





## 2026 Spain Eclipse Program

Join us in northern Spain in 2026 to experience a total solar eclipse as it sweeps across the Iberian Peninsula. Our exclusive viewing location atop a hilltop winery aligns with the eclipse’s centerline. Chosen in collaboration with esteemed eclipse meteorologist Jay Anderson, it promises the finest weather and sweeping views across the flat Meseta Norte—we should be in for a visual treat. Because the total eclipse will occur low on the horizon just one hour shy of sunset, we can look forward to a number of effects being different from when totality is high overhead. Intensified atmospheric scattering should greatly enhance the colors of the surrounding horizon, and the setting sun will appear magnified by the “moon illusion.” Throughout the program, we’ll enjoy insightful talks on eclipses and cosmic wonders curated by our distinguished lecturer Dr. Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley.



### OUR EXPERT ASTRONOMER ALEX FILIPPENKO, PHD

A name familiar to many, Dr. Filippenko is a celebrated professor at UC Berkeley, revered for his expertise in the fields of exploding stars, active galaxies, and universal expansion. His accolades are numerous, and notably, he’s been voted “Best Professor” at UC Berkeley a record nine times!



# Eclipse Program Locations



## BILBAO

We begin the Eclipse Program in Bilbao exploring this Basque capital where timeless traditions fuse with the avant-garde. Bilbao's dedication to innovative architecture and cuisine is felt throughout the city, from the iconic Guggenheim Museum—a shining example of 20th-century architecture housing one of the most important private collections of modern and contemporary art—to its historic Old Town filled with eateries serving pintxos and Txakoli wine.



## BURGOS

On our way to Burgos, the capital city of the unified kingdom of Castile and León for five centuries, we'll tour the prehistoric site of Atapuerca, where the oldest known evidence of humans in western Europe was unearthed. In Burgos, we'll visit the famed cathedral, one of the masterpieces of Spanish Gothic architecture and the only cathedral in Spain to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## LERMA

Our lodging during this astronomical event is the iconic Parador de Lerma, once the Ducal Palace and the seat of the Spanish Empire from 1599-1618 under the clandestine rule of the Duke of Lerma, a favorite of King Phillip III. Dating back to pre-Roman times, Lerma experienced significant growth and wealth in the 17th century under the Duke's patronage, including the construction of buildings in the Herrerian style that today are among the best-preserved historical-artistic complexes in Spain.

## Eclipse Program Schedule

### DAY 1, AUGUST 9: BILBAO

- Arrive in Bilbao and Transfer to the Hotel Carlton
- Welcome Reception and Dinner

### DAY 2, AUGUST 10: BILBAO

- Morning Lecture on Eclipses
- Walking Tour of Bilbao, and Cruise Down the Nervión River
- Haute Cuisine Pintxos Lunch Designed by Chef Zuriñe García
- Tour of the Guggenheim
- Afternoon Lecture on the History and Culture of the Basque People

- Late Afternoon Astronomy Presentation

### DAY 4, AUGUST 12: LERMA

- Morning Astronomy Presentation
- Free Time to Explore Lerma
- Transfer to Viewing Site
- Pre-Eclipse Presentation, Winery Tours and Tasting
- Eclipse!
- Celebratory Farewell Dinner at the Winery

### DAY 3, AUGUST 11: BURGOS / LERMA

- Transfer to Lerma, via Burgos
- Tour of Atapuerca Archaeological Site
- Walking Tour of Burgos' Historical Center and Gothic Cathedral

### DAY 5, AUGUST 13

- Depart Lerma on Your Post-Eclipse Tour





# Overview



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 12 days  
**Arrive:** Bilbao, Spain  
**Depart:** San Sebastián, Spain  
**Lodging:** 11 nights hotels  
**Meals:** All meals included except 2 dinners  
**Activity:** Hiking  
**Trip Level:** 1 2 ③+ 4 5 6  
6 hiking days on moderate trails, some steep sections, 2-5 hours a day, van support

## QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the dramatic phenomena of a total solar eclipse with renowned astrophysicist Alex Filippenko, PhD (veteran of 14 eclipse events with WT!)
- Enjoy the fabulous Parador de Lerma and our private eclipse-viewing site at a hilltop winery
- Experience Basque Country with Trip Leaders who have a passion for sharing their unique culture and cuisine
- Hike from France to Spain on the classic pilgrim trail to Puente la Reina
- Savor delicious picnics and meals in local Basque gathering spots
- Learn about the fascinating heritage of El Camino de Santiago



# Introduction



After the thrill of witnessing the total solar eclipse, we'll head to Basque Country to hike some of the most gorgeous and historic trails in Europe with WT's Basque Trip Leaders, who have a gift for sharing the delights of their homeland. Visiting both the French and Spanish sides of Basque Country, we'll hike the coast, the mountains, and iconic stretches of the pilgrim trail to Santiago de Compostela and savor an insider's journey into Basque life. Eating well is the second religion of the Basques, and we'll have classic lunches among farmers and fishermen, taste local mountain cheeses, go pintxo-hopping in the foodie capital of San Sebastián, and enjoy a festive meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant.

## TRIP DATES

August 9-20, 2026



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Hotel Carlton**

The Hotel Carlton, built in 1919, is an impressive Beaux Arts monument in the grand style of its era. It is centrally located in the Old Town on Plaza de Federico Moyúa and just a short walk to the Guggenheim Museum. The hotel was the seat of the Basque government during the Spanish Civil War.

**Meals: B, L, D**

## **DAYS 1-2 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PROGRAM, BILBAO, SPAIN**

Our eclipse program begins in Bilbao, with a tour of the acclaimed Guggenheim Museum, a masterpiece by Canadian architect Frank Gehry that put Bilbao on the map for art lovers, a cruise along the Nervión River, which flows through the city to the Cantabrian Sea, and a walking tour of the pedestrianized Old Quarter. We'll savor a pintxos lunch designed by chef Zuriñe García, the first Basque woman to get a Michelin star, and enjoy dinner in the old Alhóndiga, or wine warehouse, of Bilbao. Our Guest Astronomer, Dr. Alex Filippenko, will begin his series of lectures on eclipses and other astronomical phenomena, and we'll discover the ancient and mysterious culture of the Basque people with a local historian, Professor Alberto Santana. Our Bilbao accommodation on Days 1-2 is the luxurious Hotel Carlton, a Bilbao landmark. Meals begin with Dinner on Day 1.



# Itinerary



## Overnight: Parador de Lerma

Built in the 17th century atop a medieval castle, this former Ducal Palace was built by the Duke of Lerma as a place of lodging, rest, and general enjoyment for his close friend, King Felipe III. The palace has a central courtyard surrounded by stately columned galleries, and features interiors from the era of the Hapsburgs, with beautifully designed lighting and décor.

**Meals: B, L, D**

## DAYS 3-4 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PROGRAM, BILBAO TO LERMA, SPAIN

Departing Bilbao, we visit the prehistoric Atapuerca archaeological site, whose caves hold a rich fossil record of Europe's early humans. Heading to the charming town of Burgos, located on the Camino Frances, we'll tour its imposing Gothic cathedral before continuing to the medieval town of Lerma, where you will have time to explore before we gather for another astronomy lecture. On eclipse day, we'll craft our viewers and enjoy a bit more of Lerma before heading to our private eclipse-viewing site at an expansive winery on a hill—virtually on the centerline. Winery tours and tastings will be available this afternoon as we prepare for the eclipse and enjoy the winery's grounds and views. On Days 3-4, we stay at the fabulous Parador de Lerma, a Ducal Palace originally built for King Felipe III.



# Itinerary



## Overnight: Hotel de Silhouette

Set across from Biarritz' covered market and a few steps from the Côte des Basques, the boutique Hotel de Silhouette is a renovated 17th century mansion and one of the oldest buildings in the city. It offers 20 comfortable air-conditioned rooms, a breakfast room and bar, and a lovely peaceful garden in the heart of the city.

**Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 1.5 hours

**Driving Details:** 1.5 hours

## DAY 5 LERMA, SPAIN / BIARRITZ, FRANCE

This morning we enjoy a 1.5-hour hike starting at the neo-Gothic Château d'Abbadie in Hendaye, France, then head to the small fishing port of Sokoa for lunch on the French Basque Coast. We'll continue in the afternoon to the stylish Basque resort town of Biarritz, with its long beachfront promenade and white lighthouse set along the French Côte des Basques. This former fishing village transformed itself into an elegant resort a century and a half ago with the arrival of Napoleon III and his wife, the Empress Eugénie. In the late afternoon, we'll take a scenic walk along the Grande Plage from the Old Port up to the Rocher de la Vierge (Rock of the Virgin), a statue of the Virgin Mary set on a rock outcrop and linked to the mainland by a small iron bridge. We gather for our Welcome Dinner tonight.



# Itinerary



## DAY 6 BAYONNE / NIVE RIVER TOWPATH / AINHOA

We head to Bayonne, capital of French Basque Country, and begin our hike from the market square, walking upstream along the left bank of the Nive River (or in Basque, Errobi River). We'll follow a towpath once used by pilgrims walking to Santiago de Compostela. The path (now mostly paved) was also used to tow goods by barge from the coast to upper Basque Country. We should have excellent views of the mountains and the Roncesvalles Pass en route. We'll have a picnic lunch or stop at the scenic village of Villefranque for a tavern lunch. In the afternoon, we head to our hotel in the picturesque village of Ainhoa.

### Overnight: Hotel Argi Eder

This quiet hotel is within walking distance of the center of Ainhoa, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France (the most beautiful villages of France). Like many other hotels in France, it is family-run. Guest rooms are comfortable, airy, and spacious, and there is a swimming pool and lovely gardens in which to relax after a day of hiking.

### Meals: B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 3-3.5 hours; 7-7.5 miles; fairly level path

**Driving Details:** 1 hour



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Hotel Argi Eder

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7.5-8 miles, 4.5 hours;  
maximum elevation 1,950 feet; 257 or 507  
feet ascent/983 or 50 feet descent (both  
depending on option)

**Driving Time:** 1.25 hours

## DAY 7 LIZARRIETA / NEOLITHIC MONUMENTS / ZUGARRAMURDI

Today's hike brings us through the green mountains of the Basque Pyrenees, a pristine pastoral setting. We begin at Lizarrieta Pass (1,443'), an ancient crossing between Spain and France. Border milestones mark our trail on the crest of the hills, and we enjoy breathtaking views on both sides of the Pyrenees. From the Three Milestones Point, we skirt the peak of Atxuri and hike to a prehistoric shepherds' cemetery (large circles of family tombs and dolmens of tribal chiefs from 2,500-3,500 years ago) then reach the Collado de Ibañeta (1,703'). From here we have two options to reach Zugarramurdi, known as the village of witches during the Spanish Inquisition. For centuries, this Basque region was considered the witchcraft capital of Europe; the town has a witches' museum and nearby "Witch Caves." We can descend through pine forest along a historic path, or climb up Airagarri (1,950'), the highest point of the day, then descend across steep, grassy slopes to the Collado de Urbia (1,900'), where we'll head to Zugarramurdi for lunch in a local tavern. We return to Ainhoa for dinner and overnight.



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Gran Hotel La Perla**

Located right on the Plaza del Castillo in Pamplona's Old Town, the Gran Hotel La Perla has the ideal location (and has since 1881). One side of the hotel faces the plaza and the other faces Estafeta Street, one of the main routes in the Running of the Bulls. Previous guests have included Ernest Hemingway, Orson Welles, and Charlie Chaplin. The hotel was completely renovated in 2007 with superb modern amenities to add to its historic charm. It is one of the Leading Hotels of the World.

## **Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 7 miles; 4 hours; maximum elevation 4,787 feet; 1,099 feet ascent/1,624 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 1.5 hours

## **DAY 8 FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN ON THE CAMINO / RONCESVALLES PASS / PAMPLONA**

El Camino de Santiago, the trail to the holy city of Santiago in Spain, was the most important Christian pilgrimage during the Middle Ages and still draws thousands of pilgrims each year. Before starting our hike, we visit Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, the gate of the Spanish Camino, and have our “pilgrim passports” stamped. From the landmark Cross of Biakorre, we join pilgrims from all corners of the world and begin following this legendary trail from France into Spain, winding through Basque farmlands and enjoying the wonderful trailside camaraderie. After a picnic of Basque specialties, we descend through beech forests, glimpsing the towers of the massive Abbey of Roncesvalles in the distance as we approach the historic village of Roncesvalles. This ancient pilgrim town will welcome us with its history and legends. It is famed as the spot where the Basques defeated Charlemagne's army in 778—a battle that changed the course of European history. The abbey is a fine example of Gothic architecture and has been a pilgrim stop for a millennium. After exploring the abbey, we head to Pamplona (or Iruña, as it is known in Basque), ancient capital of the Kingdom of Navarre. Ernest Hemingway came here regularly with his band of Bohemian ex-pat friends in the 1920s to attend the city's annual Festival of San Fermín and the Running of the Bulls. His masterpiece, *The Sun Also Rises*, tells the tale of his summer here in 1925. At our historic hotel, the Gran Hotel La Perla, some rooms still preserve furniture and personal objects of renowned guests such as Hemingway, Orson Welles, and Ava Gardner. Dinner tonight is at a historic restaurant in the heart of Pamplona's Old Town where we'll dine on traditional Basque cuisine—the local specialty is bull's tail in red wine, typically served during the Festival of San Fermín and the running of the bulls.



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Gran Hotel La Perla

**Meals:** B, L

**Hiking Details:** 4 miles; 2 hours; maximum elevation 1,700 feet; 407 feet ascent/560 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 2 hours

## DAY 9 HIKING THE HIGH COUNTRY OF NAVARRE / EL CAMINO TRAIL / PAMPLONA

The mysterious Romanesque chapel of Eunate is the starting point for our hike across one of the most classic and beautiful stretches of El Camino. We hike through ancient Basque lands of wine and grain to reach the town of Puente la Reina, with lunch at a local café where we'll meet and mingle with pilgrims. Two of the main pilgrim trails, the Camino Frances and the Camino Aragonese, meet here and cross the Arga River, spanned here by the thousand-year-old "Queen's Bridge." Back in Pamplona, we have the afternoon free to explore the Old Town, including Castle Square (Plaza del Castillo), the main gathering spot in the center of the Old Town, lined with cafes. Hemingway would have likely frequented this square while he was writing *The Sun Also Rises*. The most famous street in Pamplona is Estafeta, the main path the bulls run through during the annual San Fermin Festival. Dinner is your own this evening so you can choose from the many options. Your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations, depending on how fancy or local you want to go.



# Itinerary



## DAY 10 THE BANDITS TRAIL / HONDARRIBIA

Today's hike begins in the sleepy village of Lantz, famous for its annual Basque carnival. Our path brings us through fields and forests on a cobblestone road once frequented by warriors, smugglers, and bandits, and leads to an abandoned 11th-12th century monastery in the heart of the mountains. We'll have lunch at an atmospheric guesthouse in Almándoiz, a rural retreat frequented by shepherds, hunters, and local farmers. From here, it's an hour's ride to coastal Hondarribia and our parador, set on a hill in Hondarribia's Old Town. Constructed over the course of centuries, the parador has immense stone walls that frame the outer courtyard, a great place to enjoy a drink and views to the coast of France. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at hotel.

### Overnight: Parador de Hondarribia

The Parador de Hondarribia, set on a hill in Hondarribia's Old Town, is built into the ruins of the medieval fortress of Charles V. The hotel's design incorporates the massive outer wall of the old fortress and the terrace along the wall is a great place for a drink and panoramic sunset views across the marina. The hotel's interior is decorated with tapestries, carved wooden chests, and other items that reflect the parador's history, and rooms are well appointed.

### Meals: B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7 miles; 4.5 hours; maximum elevation 3,248 feet; 1,510 feet ascent/755 feet descent

**Driving Details:** 1.5 hours



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Parador de Hondarribia

**Meals:** B, L

**Hiking Details:** 6 miles. 3.5 hours, 577 feet ascent/495 feet descent

## DAY 11 SAN SEBASTIÁN: CULINARY CAPITAL / "PINTXO CHALLENGE" / PLAYA DE LA CONCHA

San Sebastián is one of the most entrancing coastal cities in Europe—and a renowned culinary capital. Our beautiful walk today starts at the top of Mount Igeldo, with breathtaking views of the Bay of Biscay. We'll descend by cable railway to San Sebastián's Old Town on the far side and visit the medieval area of town. Lunch will be a "pintxo challenge," as we walk from bar to bar to find the tastiest ones in town (pintxos are Basque tapas). The afternoon is free to explore Donostia (as San Sebastián is known in Basque), with its Belle Époque architecture and tree-lined plazas. The long Playa de la Concha is the city's great backyard, a picturesque sweep of sandy beach that fronts gently lapping seas. Dinner is on your own. Overnight in Hondarribia.

**Meals:** B

## DAY 12 DEPART

Transfer to Bilbao for departing flights.



# Pricing

## TRIP COST

\$11,595 (12-15 members)

\$12,195 (5-11 members)

Single supplement: \$2,160

## PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation \$1,000 per person

Due 180 days prior to departure: 25% of land cost

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

*Please note that this differs from our standard policy.*

## CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum cancellation fee: \$500 per person

365-181 days prior to departure: \$1,000 per person

180-91 days prior to departure: all deposits to date (\$1,000 plus 25% of land cost)

90 days or less prior to departure: 100% of land costs

*We reserve the right to treat the reservation as canceled if payments are not received when due.*

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Presentations by Guest Speakers
- Expert Trip Leaders and local guides
- All accommodations based on double occupancy
- Meals as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites
- Gratuities during the Eclipse Program portion of your journey
- A glass of wine or beer with lunch & dinner

## TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)



# Arrival & Departure

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

**Suggested Airport:** Bilbao Airport (BIO)

**Suggested Arrival Date & Time:** Day 1, August 9, 2026, by 5:00 pm

**Note:** Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from the US one or more days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary.

**Meeting Place:** We will gather for a Welcome Reception in the Crystal Hall of the Hotel Carlton before dinner. Timing to be advised prior to departure.

## DEPARTURE

**Suggested Airport:** San Sebastián (EAS), Bilbao (BIO), or Biarritz (BIQ)

**Date & Time:** Day 12, August 20, 2026, any time after 12:00 pm

**Note:** Trip members can depart from either San Sebastián (EAS), Bilbao (BIO), or Biarritz (BIQ). Wilderness Travel will arrange your airport transfer depending on your departure time.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

If you would like assistance booking your flights, there are many online consolidators for booking travel who can help, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Please remember that the name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US. Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip (as specific as arrival and departure details could change) and we have sent final arrival and departure instructions.

Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward us a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

## EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

If you are arriving one or more days early, we can book extra nights for you at the group hotel in Bilbao (an 'on your own' expense).



# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our web page and click on “Trip Leaders” :

<https://wildernesstravel.com/spain-eclipse-basque-country-walking>



## JOSU ARTETXE

Josu Artetxe is a native of Basque Country with a deep love for his land and culture. He lives with his family in an old farmhouse, where he devotes his time to organic agriculture. Josu is an enthusiastic traveler who speaks six different languages and over the last 20 years has traveled solo all over Europe and South America. When not guiding, he works as a freelance editor of books on the traditional cultures and languages of northern Spain.



## JOSERRA COMBARRO

Joserra Combarro, a native of Bilbao, Spain, received a degree in law school but has never practiced as a lawyer, working instead for Bilbao's city council until he decided to become a mountain guide. "I love being a Trip Leader in the land I was so lucky to be born in. Basque Country has everything—mountain trails, woodlands, beaches, wine country, tiny, unknown villages, and our own Basque language, culture, and sports—what more could you ask for? I especially love the sea, so a hike along the beach and a swim afterwards is one of my favorite things to do." Joserra is an energetic traveling companion and a wonderful guide to the hiking trails and hidden corners of northern Spain. Besides hiking and swimming, his passions include running, food and wine, music, and reading. His worldwide travels have taken him to such distant spots as Vietnam, Brazil, and Equatorial Guinea.



## FLORENCIA SAVANTI

Florencia "Flor" Savanti is an anthropologist, community organizer, and Trip Leader with a deep connection to the Basque culture and countryside. Born in Argentina, her love of the outdoors took root when she worked as an archaeologist in the wilderness of Patagonia for 15 years, and has followed her ancestral roots back to Northern Spain in 2002 where she now lives with her family. She has served as an archaeological consultant for the Basque Museum of Bilbao, and has led hiking trips in the Basque country and the Pyrenees for more than a decade. When not guiding, Flor stays actively involved in anthropological work for several community-based programs in the Basque country and afar. Her current projects promote women's literacy and empowerment in the Karakoram mountains of Pakistan and the arid steppes of Northern Patagonia.



# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 3+ (Moderate)** according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 9 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 4.5 hours a day. You will also need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

### Average Hiking Day

- 5 miles
- 3-4 hours
- 750 feet gain and 550 feet loss

### Challenge Days

- Day 3-7 miles; 4 hours; 1,099 feet ascent/1,624 feet descent
- Day 5-7 miles; 4.5 hours; 1,510 feet ascent/755 feet descent

## TERRAIN

On every hike, you can expect varied terrain, including shepherds' trails, wide dirt roads, coastal trails, walks along the rolling countryside, rocky mule tracks, and beautiful sections of the famed Camino de Santiago. The maximum elevation that we hike to is about 4,800 feet. We often drive to a mountain pass each morning to begin our hike, so there is more downhill than uphill and it can be rough on the knees. Hiking poles are highly recommended.

## WEATHER

The weather in Basque Country is generally mild, with cool breezes and occasional showers. Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s°F and nighttime temperatures are in the 50s°F and 60s°F. It is always necessary to bring raingear as the weather can change at any time.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

We'll stay in a collection of historic hotels and inns. Since our accommodations are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

## CUISINE

Eating well is the second religion of the Basques, and we'll have classic lunches among farmers and fishermen, sample the local mountain cheeses, go pintxo-hopping in the foodie capital of San Sebastián, and enjoy a meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant. Lunches are in local restaurants or picnic-style in local Basque gathering spots, and dinners are in restaurants in town. Please note that in Spain, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure the earliest possible reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be after 8:00 pm.



# What to Expect

## TRANSPORTATION

Our van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need for the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day). Please note that driving times can vary dramatically from what is anticipated based on road conditions.



# Additional Information

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at [info@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:info@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this trip.

## ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



# Travel Notes

# Travel Notes



# Travel Notes



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

This brochure provides an indication of the schedule and scope of the program, including the speakers confirmed at the time of publication. While no changes are anticipated, Wilderness Travel reserves the right to make necessary adjustments and substitutions. In the event of a speaker's cancellation, Wilderness Travel will make every effort to secure a suitable replacement, but we cannot guarantee it. A price adjustment would only be considered if, over the next three years, there were exceptional cost increases or significant currency fluctuations that we cannot absorb.

Revised: October 16, 2023



# Wilderness Travel

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