

Basque Country & La Rioja | Spain | Guided Bike tour | scheduled departures - 8 Days

Wine Culture & the Pilgrim's Way

Cycling Through La Rioja, the Basque Country & Spain's Camino de Santiago

The name La Rioja alone is enough to excite wine lovers — but this remarkable journey offers far more than world-famous vineyards and exceptional wines.

Following sections of the legendary Camino de Santiago, you'll cycle through historic pilgrimage towns such as Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Estella, and Pamplona — famous worldwide through Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. Along the route, scallop shell symbols and modern-day pilgrims constantly remind you of the spiritual and cultural importance of this ancient trail leading across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela.

This is a very different Spain from the sun-drenched image many travelers expect. Northern Spain is lush, green, and surprisingly dramatic — with rolling vineyards, grazing cattle, rugged coastlines, and charming medieval villages. The journey also reveals the extraordinary culinary traditions of the Basques and Rioja regions. From world-class wines and traditional bodegas to elegant pintxos bars and innovative cuisine, this tour is as much a feast for the palate as it is for the eyes.

UNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

- Bilbao and its spectacular modern architecture by Frank Gehry, Calatrava & Norman Foster
- La Rioja — Spain's most famous wine region
- Cycling along the legendary Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route
- Scenic and easy cycling on beautiful Vías Verdes through dramatic landscapes
- San Sebastián and the famous "La Concha" Bay
- Boutique hotels and historic Paradores in exceptional locations
- Outstanding Basque cuisine, Rioja wines & authentic wine tastings

Day 1: Bienvenido! Welcome to Bilbao

Individual arrival in Bilbao. Your hotel is conveniently located near the world-famous Guggenheim Museum. At 6:00 PM, your tour guide welcomes you for an introductory walk along the Nervión River and through Bilbao's beautifully revitalized city center and old town.

services:

TERRANOVA INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights in a double room with breakfast in excellent hotels with exceptional quality standards
 - Half-board with 6 multi-course dinners and one lunch
 - Rental bike with 8-speed coaster or 24-speed freewheel, chain or hub gears
 - Guided tours and entry fees in Bilbao, Vitoria, Santo Domingo, Pamplona, and more
 - Two winery visits with wine tastings in the D.O.C. wine region "La Rioja Alavesia"
 - Support van with luggage transport and technical assistance
 - TERRANOVA tour guide leading you on selected and tested cycling routes
 - All transfers as per the itinerary
- ### AND ADDITIONAL INCLUSIONS:
- Picnic buffet service and drink breaks (costs for purchase shared)
 - All tourist taxes and fees
 - Detailed travel information
 - Drinking water for bike tours
 - More Information about this trip to Spain:
- The minimum number of participants for the tour is 8 people.

added options / discounts:

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| Touring Bike rental incl. (insurance included) | 0 € |
| E-Bike rental (insurance included) | 180 € |
| Pre-tour night in Bilbao - from | 185 € |
| Airport transfer - departure transfer | 75 € |

dates & prices:

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| 29.08.2026 - 05.09.2026 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2790 € |
| Price per Person in a Single room | 3290 € |
| 05.09.2026 - 12.09.2026 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2790 € |
| Price per Person in a Single room | 3290 € |
| 23.05.2027 - 30.05.2027 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2890 € |

Few European cities have reinvented themselves as dramatically as Bilbao. Once an industrial port city, Bilbao transformed itself into a global architectural showcase through visionary urban renewal projects led by architects such as Frank Gehry, Norman Foster, and Santiago Calatrava. This evening, enjoy your first taste of Basque cuisine with traditional pintxos and local Txakolí wine in the lively old town.

Day 2: Around Vitoria-Gasteiz & Into La Rioja | 25 mi (41 km)

This morning, travel across the Cantabrian Mountains to Vitoria-Gasteiz, the elegant capital of the Basque Country. After exploring its beautifully preserved medieval center, begin your first cycling route along peaceful bike paths and quiet country roads surrounding the Ullibarri reservoir. Later, continue south into the famous wine region of La Rioja and the historic pilgrimage town of Santo Domingo de la Calzada.

Tonight, stay in a magnificent historic Parador housed in a former 16th-century monastery. Dinner and overnight stay in Santo Domingo de la Calzada.

Day 3: Along the Camino de Santiago into Rioja Wine Country | 26 mi (42 km)

Today's route closely follows the legendary Camino de Santiago through vineyards, tiny villages, and peaceful rural landscapes. Pilgrims walking toward Santiago are a constant presence along the route, adding a unique atmosphere to the day's ride. After visiting the famous cathedral of Santo Domingo and learning about its legendary "miracle of the chickens," continue cycling toward Nájera, once the capital of the Kingdom of Navarre.

Crossing the Ebro River, you enter Rioja Alavesa, one of Spain's premier wine-growing regions. A wine tasting at a renowned bodega is included before continuing to your beautifully located vineyard hotel near Laguardia. Dinner and overnight stay at a wine estate hotel in Rioja.

Day 4: Cycling Through the Ebro Valley | 19 mi (30 km)

Today's ride takes you through the rolling vineyard landscapes of Rioja Alavesa along quiet roads surrounded by vines, medieval villages, and hilltop fortresses. This region was once a contested frontier between the kingdoms of Navarre and Castile, and many fortified settlements still crown the hills above the Ebro Valley. After lunch near the river, visit the beautiful medieval wine town of Laguardia, one of the highlights of La Rioja. Beneath its fortified old town lies an entire network of ancient wine cellars carved into the rock.

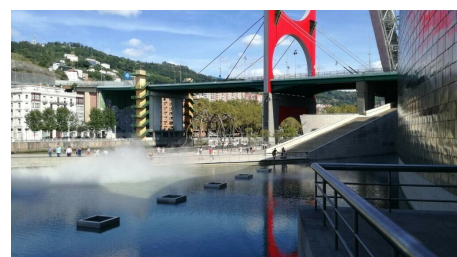
Before dinner, enjoy an optional guided tour of your winery hotel and its impressive underground cellars, followed by another wine tasting. Dinner and overnight stay in Rioja.

Day 5: The Via Verde to Pamplona | 30 mi (48 km)

Today's route begins high in the Cantabrian Mountains before descending into Navarra along one of Spain's most scenic Vías Verdes. Following a former railway line through tunnels, over viaducts, and across peaceful countryside, enjoy nearly traffic-free cycling all the way to the historic pilgrimage town of Estella.

After time to explore Estella's medieval center, continue by transfer to Pamplona, capital of Navarra and world-famous for the Running of the Bulls celebrated during the San Fermín festival. Dinner and overnight stay in Pamplona.

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| Price per Person in a Single room | 3390 € |
| 27.06.2027 - 04.07.2027 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2890 € |
| Price per Person in a Single room | 3390 € |
| 22.08.2027 - 29.08.2027 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2890 € |
| Price per Person in a Single room | 3390 € |
| 12.09.2027 - 19.09.2027 - Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country | |
| Price per Person in a Double room | 2890 € |
| Price per Person in a Single room | 3390 € |



Day 6: Through the Bidasoa Valley to the Sea | 29 mi (46 km)

This morning, discover Pamplona's historic old town during a guided city walk before transferring into the foothills of the Pyrenees. From there, cycle gently downhill along another beautiful Via Verde through the lush Bidasoa Valley toward the Atlantic coast.

Your destination is Hondarribia, one of the Basque Country's most charming seaside towns, where you'll spend two nights in a historic castle overlooking the estuary between Spain and France. The evening is free to explore the town's lively tapas bars and excellent seafood restaurants. Overnight stay in Hondarribia.



Day 7: San Sebastián & La Concha Bay | 15 mi (24 km)

Today's short and scenic final ride leads to glamorous San Sebastián, one of Europe's great seaside cities. Cycle along the famous bay of La Concha — often considered Spain's most beautiful urban beach — with spectacular views of the Bay of Biscay and elegant Belle Époque architecture.

After time to enjoy the atmosphere of San Sebastián, return to Hondarribia for a festive farewell dinner featuring outstanding Basque cuisine. Overnight stay in Hondarribia.



Day 8: Departure

Individual departure or optional transfer to Bilbao Airport.

The distance from Hondarribia to Bilbao Airport is 118 km and takes about 90 minutes.

Itinerary subject to change.



Route Assessment: Total distance by bike and on foot: 231 km. The Basque Country, La Rioja, and Navarra offer a stunning variety of natural and cultural landscapes—from dramatic mountain vistas to rolling vineyard-covered hills. Routes are mostly on quiet paved roads or gravel tracks, often traffic-free, tracing the Camino de Santiago, vineyard trails, and several "Vías Verdes." These repurposed railway tracks make for exceptionally scenic and easy rides.

PRIVATIZE A TRIP

Experience the Freedom of Bespoke Travel. Imagine all the possibilities, and let us bring them to life. With our bespoke travel option, you have the power to design your perfect cycling adventure. Whether it's for a group of friends, a couple, or a family, we can customize our bike tours to suit your preferences. You decide who joins you, how and when you want to travel, and where you want to explore. Our Experience Designer will work closely with you to craft a personalized itinerary, infused with insider knowledge, local connections, and a touch of magic.

Ready to start planning? Before we begin, we'd love to hear more about your vision. Get in touch today to



begin your bespoke cycling adventure: Info@terranova-touristik.de | +49-69693054.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Route rating / difficulty level:** The tour is designed for cyclists of moderate fitness, with daily distances ranging from 24 to 48 km on mostly flat or gently rolling terrain.
- **Meeting Point**
Our tour guide will meet you at 6:00 PM at the reception of Hotel Miró in Bilbao. After a brief welcome, we'll start the trip with a one-hour walk from the hotel along the Guggenheim Museum and the Nervión River to the old town of Bilbao. There, we'll enjoy our first dinner together in a traditional Basque pintxos bar.
If there are any changes to this meeting time, you'll be informed in your final travel documents or the guide will leave a message at the hotel. You will receive the mobile number of your terranova tour guide and an emergency contact number approximately two weeks before departure.

- **Arrival by Plane**

Bilbao is the biggest International Airport at the North coast of Spain. There are many International flight connections to Bilbao.

- **Airport Transfers (Arrival)**

We recommend taking a taxi from the airport. The ride to Hotel Miró (city center, near Guggenheim Museum) takes only about 15 minutes. Cost: approx. EUR 30.

Alternatively, the airport bus line 3247 runs every 15 minutes to the city center (fare: EUR 4.00). It takes about the same time, but note that the hotel is still 400 m away from the bus stop.

- **Airport Transfers (Departure)**

From the final tour stop (Hondarribia or San Sebastián), the drive to Bilbao Airport takes around 90 minutes. A taxi costs approx. EUR 250. terranova offers a pre-arranged transfer for just EUR 75 per person.

Please book this return transfer at least 3 weeks before departure. On-site arrangements usually require booking a separate taxi at full price (app. EUR 250).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **Pre- and Post-Tour Nights**

- **Bilbao:** Due to late arrivals, there is limited time to explore Bilbao—just a short walk before dinner. We recommend arriving a day early to fully enjoy the Guggenheim Museum and a relaxed stroll along the riverside promenade.

Note: The Guggenheim Museum is closed on Mondays (except in July and August).

Opening hours: Tue–Sun, 10:00 AM–8:00 PM | Admission: EUR 15 (EUR 8 for seniors) | As of 2023.

Also worth a visit: the Museum of Fine Arts, just a few hundred meters behind Hotel Miró, featuring works by Goya, Murillo, El Greco, and many international artists.



- **Seat Belt & Helmet Requirements**

In Spain, wearing seat belts is mandatory—even in our terranova minibus. Fines for non-compliance are currently EUR 100.

Helmet use is legally required for cyclists and has been strictly enforced since 2017. terranova offers rental helmets for EUR 10. Please reserve in advance (at least 3 weeks prior) so we can ensure availability.

- **Dinner Times**

If you're used to early dinners, note that Spaniards typically eat late. Most restaurants do not open before 8:30 PM. Wherever possible, our dinners start at 8:00 PM and finish by 10:30 PM, though delays may occur.

We've selected authentic local restaurants so the dining experience is part of your cultural immersion.

- **terranova Support Vehicle**

Our Mercedes support vans are indispensable—transporting bikes, luggage, and assisting with any repairs or transfers. If your bike has an issue, it's swapped for a replacement and repaired later. The van is also available for non-cycling transfers when needed. terranova holds an official license for passenger transport.

- **What to Pack**

We travel through varying climates! Mornings can be cool—especially in mountain areas—while afternoons may be hot. Please bring layers and rain gear. A warm jacket or sweater is essential, especially in spring and fall.

- **Climate**

In spring and September, Bilbao sees average highs of 20–24°C and lows of 10–14°C. May/June typically have 10 rainy days; September averages 8. Weather conditions inland can differ significantly from the coast.

- **Personal Expenses**

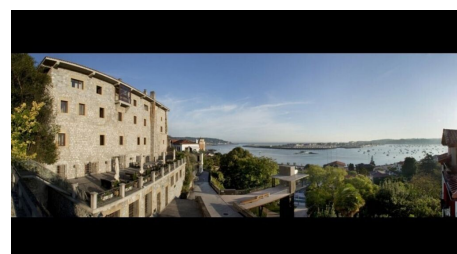
Plan your travel budget to cover lunches, drinks, souvenirs, and tips. Lunch is either in a trusted local restaurant or prepared as a picnic by your guides.

Costs for picnic meals (including drinks) are shared among participants: approx. EUR 15–18 per person per picnic. This includes a fixed equipment cost of EUR 5 per guest per trip (e.g. dishwashing, utensils).

Lunches at restaurants typically cost EUR 20–25. For quicker service, we recommend choosing 1–2 common dishes for the group. Your guides will help with local menu suggestions.

- **Entry, Health & Safety Requirements**

You'll receive a personalized link with current information on entry requirements, health advisories, and safety guidance with your final travel documents.



Hotels - Rioja & Basque Country

Five of the Most Beautiful Hotels in the Basque Country and La Rioja:

Bilbao: [Hotel Miró****](#)

A modern boutique hotel just steps away from the Guggenheim Museum and the riverside promenade of the Río Nervión. 1 overnight stay.

Santo Domingo: [Parador de Santo Domingo Bernardo de Fresneda***](#)

A Parador hotel housed in a former monastery along the Camino de Santiago. 1 overnight stay.

Laguardia: [Winery Eguren Ugarte****](#)

An exceptional hotel located on a winery estate in a stunning setting near Laguardia. 2 overnight stays.

Pamplona: [Hotel Tres Reyes****](#)

Contemporary hotel with a swimming pool, ideally situated at the entrance to the historic Old Town. 1 overnight stay.

Hondarribia: [Parador Hondarribia****](#)

A comfortable Parador set in an impressive 10th-century fortress overlooking the Atlantic coast. 2 nights.

