



SMALL GROUP
Maximum of
24 Travelers

**LAND
JOURNEY**

Basque Country

Spain & France

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Discover what it means to be Basque in **its Spanish and French regions.**
- ▶ Marvel at the shimmering, titanium-clad **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**, Frank Gehry's wondrous masterpiece.
- ▶ Bask in beautiful La Concha Bay and a world-renowned dining scene in **San Sebastián.**
- ▶ Get firsthand perspectives on Basque life at a **dinner with local residents.**
- ▶ Delight in picturesque **Espelette**, where flame-red strands of peppers adorn whitewashed homes.
- ▶ Fill your glass right from the cask in a rustic *cidrerie*, a **Basque cider house.**
- ▶ Learn about the **Routes of Santiago de Compostela** as you visit sites on these famed pilgrimage paths.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in San Sebastián, Spain, at the first-class Hotel Catalonia Donosti.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city✈️
- Day 2** Arrive in Bilbao and transfer➡️ to hotel in San Sebastián
- Day 3** San Sebastián
- Day 4** Bayonne | Biarritz
- Day 5** Bilbao
- Day 6** Sare | Espelette | St-Jean-de-Luz
- Day 7** Pamplona
- Day 8** San Sebastián
- Day 9** Transfer➡️ to Bilbao airport and depart for gateway city✈️

✈️ Flights and ➡️ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Activity Level: We have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Please call or visit our website for full details.



Pamplona



Alumni Campus Abroad®



**SPARTAN
PATHWAYS TRAVEL**
MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Discovery

AHI Connects: Meet the People. Discover new viewpoints on everyday Basque life as you enjoy lively conversation and dinner with local residents.

San Sebastián. Get to know your home base on a guided walk. This sophisticated resort town dazzles with gorgeous beaches and bays and a world-class food culture. See the Old Town highlights, including the baroque Basílica de Santa María del Coro and the many grand Belle Epoque buildings. Stroll along the boardwalk that hugs La Concha Bay and its postcard-perfect beach for incredible waterside views.

Bayonne. This lovely gem where the Adour and Nive rivers meet is France's Basque capital. On an Old Town walk, visit the elegant Sainte-Marie Cathedral and its 13th-century cloisters, a stop on The Way of St. James. At a cozy cider house, relax over a lunch of classic dishes and pour yourself a glass right from the cask!

Biarritz. This chic seaside town has been a beloved resort since the 1850s. Start at St. Eugénie Church on the waterfront and walk to the outcrop, Rocher de la Vierge, to admire the majestic scenery. Visit the old fishing port and the medieval watch tower.

Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum. View the exciting modern art at this visually stunning museum, designed by Frank Gehry. Afterward, see the city's landmarks on a panoramic tour and enjoy lunch in Bilbao.

French Basque Traditions and Espelette. Step back in time at Maison Ortillopitz, a 16th-century farmhouse in Sare, and learn about the everyday customs of French Basque families. Next, stroll through quaint Espelette, famed for its red peppers, and have lunch in town. First brought to the area in 1650 by a local sailor, the peppers are integral to Basque cooking and officially protected as a regional product.

St-Jean-de-Luz. Centuries ago, fishermen in this pretty beachfront town traded their nets for swords and cannons to become feared pirates. Delve into its intriguing past.

Pamplona. With a guide, meander down the town's atmospheric streets, where the chaotic Running of the Bulls occurs each July during the festival of San Fermín. See the bullfighting ring and the Gothic cathedral.

Enrichment

- ▶ **A History of Northern Spain**
- ▶ **Basque Strength Games**
- ▶ **The Romance of Hemingway and Spain**
- ▶ **The Way of St. James**

UNESCO World Heritage Routes of Santiago de Compostela



Espelette



Bilbao

Electives

We've designed an engaging excursion to take you further afield.

Wines of the French Basque Country. Explore the walled old town of St. Jean Pied de Port, a traditional starting point on the Way of St. James, near the foothills of the Pyrenees. Then savor fine Irouléguay wines at a tasting in the breathtaking countryside.

Electives are available at an additional cost.

Accommodations

Hotel Catalonia Donosti



The information in this flier is correct at the time of printing. Please visit our website to ensure that you receive the most current information.

AHI Sustainability Promise

We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit, whenever possible.

Environmental Impact | Thoughtful choices to minimize our environmental footprint: eco-friendly transportation, guided walks in lieu of bus tours and less plastic waste.

Social Impact | Ongoing initiatives to support local businesses that employ and benefit people in the community. Curating meaningful experiences by staying in intimately sized locales instead of cities affected by overtourism.

Economic Impact | Community-based tourism using expert local guides and lecturers, plus program scheduling during quieter, "shoulder seasons."

AHI Travel Expertise

Passenger Service Representative | Helps with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling special requests.

Travel Director | Manages all details to ensure a memorable trip.

Travel information | Prepares you fully for your journey.

Expert local guides and lecturers | Provide friendly, knowledgeable service and share their passion for their country.

Let us arrange your flights!

AHI FlexAir | Our **personalized air program** features transfers, assistance and flexibility.

DATES & PRICES

October 15-23, 2022

From Price **\$3,745**

Special Savings **\$250**

Special Price \$3,495

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$895 (limited availability).