

Wine and Mountains PC4

Navarra - Huesca - Rioja - Basque Country

A ten day tour through the western Pyrenees to the southern deserts and the vineyards of Rioja, finishing in Bilbao and the Basque Country.



by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

From Northern Navarra, this route will take you into the high mountains of Huesca, the dramatic desert landscape of Las Bardenas, through Navarran wine-country to La Rioja and on to Bilbao.

Straddling the ancient kingdoms of Castile, Navarra and Aragon, here you'll find some of Spain's finest castles and Romanesque churches as well as some of its best modern architecture among the vines in La Rioja and, of course, in Bilbao's iconic Guggenheim Museum.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Baztan valley & Basque coast
- Las Bardenas Reales & Medieval Uncastillo & Sos
- Castillo de Loarre & Mallos de Riglo- Superb birdwatching & wild flowers
- National Parks Ordesa, Monte Perdido
- Hecho and Anso Valleys
- Old-favourite wines of Rioja & Navarra
- Bilbao with the Guggenheim museum

Travel Tips:

Western Connections:

Brittany Ferries to Bilbao or Santander from Plymouth & Portsmouth.

Flights to Bilbao from Manchester, BA from Heathrow or Vueling from Gatwick

For Biarritz - Ryanair from Stansted or Dublin

Eastern Connections:

For Zaragoza - Ryanair from Stansted

For Tarbes - Ryanair from Stansted



Itinerary Overview

Stage	First Night	Last Night	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao or Biarritz		
1	Day 1 & 2	West Navarra	Amaiur	HNAV5 Palace hotel in the Navarran Baztan Valley, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs from Bilbao port
2	Day 3 & 4	North Huesca	Tramacastilla	HTEN1 Mountain hotel with Spa, Double room (2 sharing)	3 hrs
3	Day 5 & 6	West Huesca	Uncastillo	HUNC1 Historic posada in medieval setting, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 15mins
4	Days 7 & 8	Rioja	Sajazarra	HSAJ1 Historic hotel, La Rioja, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 15mins
5	Days 9 & 10	Bilbao	Monte Artxanda, Bilbao	HBIL1 City hotel, balcony of Bilbao, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 10mins
			Departing Bilbao		20 mins to Bilbao airport

Included in your tour

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class car hire for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary copy of DK Northern Spain Guidebook
- Our own app including travel documents & destination guides
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stage 1



Region: North and central Navarra

Gateway to the Camino de Santiago, steeped in history.
Excellent varietal and boutique wines not available at home
Fairytale castles at Olite and Artajona – bull runs & pintxos in Pamplona.
Soaring rocky Pyrenees and the immense Irati forest in the east
Rolling green valleys of Baztan & Bidasoa near the coast in the west
Spectacular lunar landscape of Las Bardenas in the south
La Ribera - Spain's finest peppers, artichokes, asparagus....

Palace hotel in the Navarran Baztan Valley

Set in a peaceful spot surrounded by lush, green mountain scenery with the pretty whitewashed houses of the village below, this small yet elegant hotel is located in historic Amaiur, one of the loveliest of the many delightful villages for which the valley of Baztán is justly famous. The village's strategic position, at the foot of the Otsondo mountain pass, has led to its being the scene of historic battles and nowadays makes it the perfe...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Huesca, Valle de Tena

Walking, climbing and all mountain activities. Stunning scenery.
Reindeer, bison, lynx amongst the woods in La Cuniacha Pyrenean Wildlife Park
The unique monastery of San Juan de la Peña, set into the mountain rock
Huesca capital, renowned for its gastronomy and Romanesque architecture.
Spa baths at Panticosa - the height of luxury
A treasure-trove of Romanesque churches in the Tena Valley and nearby

Mountain hotel with Spa

This truly delightful hotel offers a spot of pampering in stark yet delicious contrast to the rugged mountain terrain in which it is set. After a day's rugged hiking what better than to relax in the spa and enjoy the local gastronomic delights in the gourmet restaurant. Though parts of the building date back to the 15th century the hotel was built in 2003 using natural materials in keeping with the local architectural style whilst offering a v...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Northern Zaragoza

Uncastillo - Spain's best-kept 12th century Romanesque village.
 'Spaghetti Western' landscapes in Las Bardenas Reales biosphere reserve
 Sos del Rey Catolico - birthplace of Fernando the Catholic King
 Walking, cycling, mountain biking, birdwatching, canoeing...
 Imposing Castillo de Loarre and nearby stunning rock formations of Mallos de Riglos.
 Olite, Javier, Leyre - a medieval smorgasbord
 Dramatic gorges of Lumbier and Arbayun
 Senda Viva park and zoo - a great day out for the kids.

Historic posada in medieval setting

Walk out of the door of this lovingly restored 18th century town house and step straight back in time into 12th century medieval Uncastillo, Spain's finest Romanesque site. Here you'll find no 'Old Town' just a living museum, untouched by the passing of time. Near the once-strategic border of Navarre and Aragón the local area boasts an architectural heritage of immense importance, including the castles of Javier, Olite and the colossal Loarre...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: La Rioja wine region

La Rioja Alavesa, where the mountains give shelter to the best wineries
 Riojan cuisine- excellent local ingredients with a touch of Basque flair
 A history of architecture from cave-dweller to Gehry
 Medieval towns such as Laguardia, thriving centers of the wine trade
 Dinastia Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, one of the finest private collections in the world.
 Izki Golf, two courses in the midst of the beautiful Nature Park of Izki

Historic hotel, La Rioja

At one time an inn, this 19th century mansion in the medieval village of Sajazarra (meaning Lake of Flowers) in the Rioja Alta region, has been lovingly and carefully restored by its owners to make a comfortable and relaxing small hotel. Great attention has been paid to maintaining its original features and objets d'art and other curiosities from the region blend in with antique furniture. There is even an old barber's chair in the entrada! ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Bilbao & the Basque Coast

Frank Gehry's Guggenheim museum & nearby Bellas Artes
 World famous Basque cuisine - pintxos or something more substantial
 Basque coast, lovely beaches, spectacular rock formations
 Head for the hills - great walking not far from the city
 San Sebastian, Belle Epoque elegance by the sea
 Birdwatching & breathtaking scenery; Urdaibai biosphere reserve
 Catch the tube to the waves & get surfing!

City hotel, balcony of Bilbao

Set high on Monte Artxanda, the "balcony of Bilbao", this small family-run hotel offers all the tranquility of a rural environment with fantastic views over and easy access to the city of Bilbao (a short drive or bus ride, or a half hour's walk). You can literally stay in the hills and walk to the Guggenheim! The hotel is an authentic Vizcayan "caserio", a large stone built country house, and its sixteen spacious rooms are comfortably furnishe...[Read More](#)



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