



# Tour Information



# Bilbao and the Guggenheim Effect





## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Spain.

## Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Spanish consulate: 20 Draycott Place, London SW3 2RZ;

Tel: 020 7589 8989 / 020 7594 4904;

Fax: 020 7581 7888;

Email: [cog.londres@maec.es](mailto:cog.londres@maec.es)

Open Mon-Fri 0915-1400 (except Spanish National holidays).



## Tickets

You will be issued with an e-ticket rather than a printed ticket. There will be some additional printed documentation which you should take to the airport when you travel and this will be sent to you 10 days before departure date. After you have presented your e-ticket you will be given your Boarding Pass.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Transfers

On arrival in Bilbao, transfer by coach to Guernica for check-in to your hotel for three-night stay (approx. 35-minute journey).

## Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



## Accommodation

### Barcelo Nervion Hotel

This 4\* hotel is situated in the heart of Bilbao, next to the Town Hall and a 10-minute walk from the Guggenheim Museum, surrounded by the best areas for shopping and tasting the famous "pintxos". Hotel facilities include a bar and café, the Ivaizabal restaurant, a fitness studio and free wi-fi throughout the hotel. Each of the comfortable bedrooms feature TV, heating and air-conditioning, en-suite facilities with a rain effect shower and complimentary toiletries, safe, mini-bar and tea and coffee making facilities.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

[https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/barcelo-hotels/hotels/spain/bilbao/barcelo-bilbao-nervion/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=my\\_business&utm\\_content=h80](https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/barcelo-hotels/hotels/spain/bilbao/barcelo-bilbao-nervion/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=my_business&utm_content=h80)

### Food

Eating out in Spain can often be cheap, and meals substantial rather than gourmet. But the Basque Country is an exception to this – the region's capital on the Spanish side of the border, San Sebastián, has the highest concentration of Michelin-starred restaurants after Paris! An excellent way to sample Spanish food (and atmosphere) is to try *tapas* (known as *pintxos* in Basque Country), which are served at any time of day in local bars. These are small tasters or snacks, which range from cheese and olives to squid or meat delicacies.

As most of Spain's coastal areas, Basque cuisine is dominated by seafood – freshly caught *bacalao* (salt cod), baby squid, anchovies, *merluza* (hake), sardines, *besugo* (sea bream), clams, crab, tuna, baby eels... Often served with a tomato, capsicum pepper, onion and the local *Espelette* pepper side (*piperade*), they are also prepared as a stew or soup, such as *toro* or the tuna-based *marmitako*. But the lush, mountainous inland area also boasts excellent regional produce, including cured meats, sausages, chorizo, *boudin*, the excellent *Jambon de Bayonne*, cheeses, and delicious vegetables, such as peppers, beans, asparagus and artichokes. Traditional sweets include *cuajada* (milk curd) served with honey and walnuts, *macarons*, and *Touron* (*pâte d'amade* or marzipan).

Coffee (*café*) is served black, in small cups, unless a *café con leche* is ordered.

Some restaurants will offer a set meal at a fixed – *menú del día* – at lunchtime, generally good value for money. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, but it is customary to leave small change if good service is provided.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in Spain are much later than in the UK. Lunch is normally taken between 1400 and 1600; dinner is very often eaten any time after 2100 or even 2200.

### Drink

Spain is essentially a wine-drinking country, with sherry being one of the principal export products. Its English name is the anglicised version of the sherry producing town *Jerez*, from which the wine was first shipped to England. There are four main types: *fino* (very pale and dry), *amontillado* (dry, richer and darker), *oloroso* (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden), and *dulce* (sweet).

Wine in the Basque country tends to be light, fresh, fruity, and white, an excellent accompaniment to the seafood of the region – the Txakoli DO white wines are young, light, and slightly sparkling. If you prefer a red, try the soft and fruity local *Rioja Alavesa DO*.

Well-known Spanish beers (*cerveza*) include *San Miguel*, *Damm*, *Estrella Galicia* and *Cruzcampo*. Spanish brandy is as different from French as Scotch whisky is from Irish. It is relatively cheap, pleasant, although some brandy drinkers may find it a little sweet. Brands include *Carlos I*, *Osbourne* and *Fundador*.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – dinner with wine is provided at the hotel on days 1 and 2



## Destination

Bilbao, an industrial port city in northern Spain, is surrounded by green mountains. It's the de facto capital of Basque Country, with a skyscraper-filled downtown. It's famed for the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, which sparked revitalization when it opened in 1997. The museum houses prominent modern and contemporary works, but it's the curvy, titanium-clad building that receives the most attention.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Guernica

Guernica is a town in the province of Biscay in Basque Country. During the Spanish Civil War, it was regarded as the northern bastion of the Republican resistance movement and the epicentre of Basque culture, adding to its significance as a target. At about 16:30 on Monday, 26 April 1937, warplanes of the German Condor Legion, commanded by Colonel Wolfram von Richthofen, bombed Guernica for about two hours. Germany, at this time led by Hitler, had lent material support to the Nationalists and were using the war as an opportunity to test out new weapons and tactics. Later, intense aerial bombardment became a crucial preliminary step in the Blitzkrieg tactic. After the bombing, Picasso was made aware of what had gone on in his country of origin. At the time, he was working on a mural for the Paris Exhibition to be held in the summer of 1937, commissioned by the Spanish Republican government. He deserted his original idea and on 1 May 1937, began on Guernica. This captivated his imagination unlike his previous idea, on which he had been working somewhat dispassionately, for a couple of months. It is interesting to note, however, that at its unveiling at the Paris Exhibition that summer, it garnered little attention. It would later attain its power as such a potent symbol of the destruction of war on innocent lives.

For more information about Guernica, please visit:  
<https://www.pablocassio.org/guernica.jsp>

#### Peace Museum

The Guernica Peace Museum -formerly known as the Guernica Museum-- was founded on 7th April 1998 by the Gernika-Lumo Town Hall in a building, designed by Manuel Mr Smith-after the reconstruction of the city - that is located in Los Fueros Square.

This building was previously been used by the Courts and the post office and Telegraph service. From 1999 to 2002, with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture (Fine Arts and Cultural Property Section), among other activities on other occasions, the museum carried out adaptation work on the building. A museographic project was drawn up and carried through, and the decision was taken to turn the museum into a Peace Museum (the first peace museum in the Basque Country and the whole of Spain). The Guernica Peace Museum has been a Foundation since July 2002, with founder trustees the Basque Government, the "Diputación" or Provincial Council of Bizkaia and Gernika-Lumo Town Hall.

For more information about the museum, please visit:  
<https://tourism.euskadi.eus/en/museums/gernika-peace-museum-foundation/aa30-12375/en/>

#### Casco Viejo

Casco Viejo forms the medieval old quarter, a lively riverside district of narrow alleys lined with modern shops and traditional taverns. The name means Old Town and it used to be the walled part of the town until the end of the 19th century. La Ribera market has food stalls in a boatlike waterfront structure, flanked by pintxo bars serving Basque tapas on sticks. Santiago Cathedral is a 14th-century landmark rising to a dramatic Gothic spire, and Teatro Arriaga draws well-dressed crowds to opera and dance performances.

For more information Casco Viejo, please visit:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casco\\_Viejo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casco_Viejo)

#### Guggenheim

Designed by Canadian American architect Frank Gehry, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao building represents a magnificent example of the most ground-breaking 20th-century architecture. With 24,000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 11,000 are dedicated to exhibition space, the Museum represents an architectural landmark of innovative design, providing a wonderful backdrop for the art exhibited in it. Altogether, Gehry's design creates a spectacular sculpture-like structure, perfectly integrated within Bilbao's urban pattern and its surrounding area. Frank Gehry is considered one of the most relevant and influential architects in the world. He is internationally renowned for his unique designs that incorporate new shapes and materials and is especially sensitive towards his buildings' surroundings. The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is one of Frank Gehry's most celebrated

works. Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Collection offers the viewer a selection that includes Marilyn Monroe's iconic image repeated time and time again by Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg's expressive Barge (oil and silkscreen ink on canvas), Cy Twombly's Nine Discourses on Commodus. Outstanding works by German painter and sculptor Anselm Kiefer and American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat are also present in this exhibition, along with sculptures by Basque masters Eduardo Chillida and Jorge Oteiza, on display within an international context.

For more information about the Guggenheim, please visit:

<https://www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus/en>

## Museum of Fine Arts

The origin of the current museum can be found in the first Museum of Fine Arts, founded in 1908 and opened in 1914, and in the one of Modern Art, opened in 1924. Both institutions and their respective collections were united in 1945, and in 1970 the modern building was added. With its permanent and temporary exhibitions available including works by El Greco, Goya and Gauguin.

For more information about the Museum of Fine Arts, please visit:

<http://www.museobilbao.com/>

## Maritime Museum

The collection of the Bilbao Maritime Museum, located in the former Eukalduna shipyards, is based on elements and objects that tell the history of maritime activity on the Ría de Bilbao and its port, as well as maritime culture in general, special attention is given to the pieces that relate the lives and accomplishments of the men and women who made the maritime history of this town. In addition to the boats that are exhibited in the museum's dykes, there is a collection of scale model boats constructed in the famous Bilbao Estuary shipyards.

For more information about the Maritime Museum, please visit:

<https://www.itsasmuseum.eus/>

## Your lecturer / Guide

Dr Peter Higginson specialises in the art and culture of early modern Europe, and the modern period. He has taught numerous university courses abroad and has wide experience in leading cultural tours to different parts of Europe including Rome, Venice, Florence, Paris and further afield to Cuba.

### During your trip enjoy two evening lectures:

*'Bilbao: from its origins to the Guggenheim Effect'*  
*'Picasso's Guernica and its Legacy'*

## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday

## Reading Suggestions

### Coosje Van Bruggen, Frank O Gehry: *Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao*

This is a celebration of the architecture of Frank O. Gehry's Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. It details the design process that is an intrinsic part of Gehry's revolutionary approach: his use of non-traditional materials and his sensitivity to the environments of his buildings, his method of envisaging a building through semi-automatic drawings and hand-made models.



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in northern Spain at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Spanish and Catalan

Religion – Roman Catholic

**National holidays** – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; St George's Day (23 Apr); Labour day (01 May); Whit Monday; St John the Baptist Day (24 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); Catalonia Day (11 Sep); Spanish National holiday (12 Oct); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Spanish Constitution Day (06 Dec); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephen's Day (26 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink, although some complain it has a strange taste, so it is generally recommended to drink bottled water, readily available in supermarkets and shops.

**Shops and Museums** – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1400 and 1700-2000. Supermarkets and department stores tend to open 0930-2100/2200 and may open on Sundays in large cities.

Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Spanish summers can be hot and sunny, so always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.

## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Barcelona

Avda Diagonal 477-13

08036 Barcelona

Spain

Spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Fax: +34 933 666 221

Telephone enquiries: 902 109 356 (in Spain), +34 917 146 300 (if outside Spain).

Consular phone lines are open 0900-1700.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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