

Bordeaux & Basque Country

Wine & Culture

Inspiring Moments

- Take in the cultural gems of stately **Bordeaux** and charming **Saint-Émilion**, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Delight in **exclusive winery tours** in France's **Bordeaux** region and Spain's **Rioja Alavesa** region.
- Broaden your understanding of wine and its enduring traditions at **La Cité du Vin**, an interactive museum.
- Cruise **Arcachon Bay** on a traditional pinasse boat and sample the bay's famous oysters.
- Get to know beautiful **San Sebastián**, renowned for its world-class dining scene.
- Savor cider right from the cask during lunch at a **Basque cider house**.
- Explore the fashionable French seaside resort of **Biarritz**.
- Gain insights about everyday Basque life at a **dinner with residents**.
- Admire the art collection of the **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**.



Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city 🌐
- Day 2** Arrive in Bordeaux and transfer 🚗 to hotel
- Day 3** Bordeaux
- Day 4** Saint-Émilion
- Day 5** Arcachon Bay
- Day 6** Bayonne | Biarritz | San Sebastián
- Day 7** San Sebastián
- Day 8** Bilbao
- Day 9** Laguardia
- Day 10** San Sebastián
- Day 11** Transfer 🚗 to Bilbao airport and depart for gateway city 🌐

Flights 🌐 and transfers 🚗 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Included Features

Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **4 nights** in Bordeaux, France, at the first-class Hôtel de Sèze.
- **5 nights** in San Sebastián, Spain, at the first-class Catalonia Donosti Hotel.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners, including a Welcome Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- 🌐 **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
- 🕒 **Electives** and **free time** to pursue your individual interests.
- Farewell Reception.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- 🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise |** Striving to make a positive impact wherever we travel.



A World of Discovery

AHI Connects | Meet the People. Dine with residents and learn about Basque life.

Bordeaux. Get acquainted with this dynamic wine capital on the Garonne River that brims with 18th-century architecture. On a guided walk, see the Grand Théâtre, the regal, 15th-century Porte Cailhau gate and the Place du Parlement. Gaze over the expansive Miroir d'Eau, a reflecting pool in front of the elegant Place de la Bourse.

La Cité du Vin. Experience a fascinating interactive and sensory journey through all facets of wine culture and winemaking at this modern museum, from wine's historical impact and influence on the arts to the complexities of viticulture and terroirs around the world. Afterward, enjoy a glass of wine and scenic views over Bordeaux.

Saint-Émilion. This lovely medieval town surrounded by vineyards lies in the heart of the Bordeaux wine region. After a guided walk along its cobblestone lanes, tour the atmospheric, underground monolithic church of Saint-Émilion, carved into the rocky hillside by monks in the 12th century.

Bordeaux Winery Visit. Taste fine regional French wines at a highly regarded winery.

Arcachon Bay. Known as Le Bassin by locals, this large, shallow body of water is ideal for oyster farming. Take a picturesque jaunt aboard a traditional wooden pinasse boat and see Cap Ferrat and its lighthouse; Dune du Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune; and the old cabane tchanquées, wooden cabins on stilts built by oyster farmers to watch over their farms. Finish with a tasting of fresh oysters by the shore.

Bayonne. On a guided walk in France's Basque capital, visit the splendid Cathedral of Saint Mary of Bayonne, noted for its 13th-century cloisters. During the Middle Ages, it was a stop for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Relish lunch later at a cozy cider house.

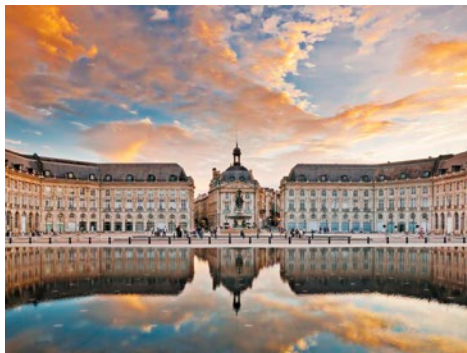
Biarritz. Walk with your guide along the waterfront in this chic French resort town from St. Eugénie Church to Rocher de la Vierge, a rocky outcrop, and see the old fishing port and the medieval watch tower.

San Sebastián. On a guided old town walk, admire the baroque Basílica de Santa María del Coro and other landmarks. Stroll down the boardwalk by stunning La Concha Bay before visiting the San Telmo Museum, focused on the history of Basque culture.

Bilbao & the Guggenheim Museum

Bilbao. After a scenic tour of Bilbao's top sites, view the modern and contemporary art at the Guggenheim, an architectural icon. Relax over lunch afterward in Bilbao.

contd.



Miroir d'Eau, Place de la Bourse

Laguardia. Soak up the wonderful ambience of the capital of Spain's Rioja Alavesa wine region on a guided walk. See the medieval fortifications, the Romanesque church, the Plaza Mayor and the underground tunnels.

Riojan Barbecue & Winery Visit. Enjoy an al fresco barbecue lunch (*weather permitting*) in Laguardia, then head to an excellent winery to try outstanding regional Spanish wines.

Enrichment

- Viniculture & Traditions of Bordeaux

- A History of Northern Spain

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, France**
2. **Jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion, France**
3. **Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France**

🌍 Electives | Go further afield

Pamplona. Meander down the colorful streets where crowds throng for the Running of the Bulls each July. See Pamplona Cathedral, the bullfighting ring, Castle Square and more on a guided walk with free time afterward for lunch.

(At an additional cost.)

Accommodations

Hôtel de Sèze | Bordeaux



Catalonia Donosti Hotel | San Sebastián



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.



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San Sebastián

AHI Travel Expertise

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

Travel & Air Coordinators | Help with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling special requests.

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

Travel information | Prepares you fully for your journey.

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

Let us arrange your flights!

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



The Comb of The Wind, San Sebastián