



## Trip description

### Basque country cycle tour in 4 days, inland detour and coast

4-day cycle tour through the Basque country. The itinerary takes you to the hills of La Bastide-Clairence, then along other typical villages such as Espelette, before heading down to the coast along the Atlantic bike route.



Destination	France
Location	Basque country
Duration	4 days
Difficulty Level	Challenging
Validity	From April to October
Minimum age	14 years old
Reference	BPB0402

Type of stay  
loop trip



### Itinerary



From the coast to the hills of La Bastide-Clairence, this self guided cycle tour through the Basque country will showcase different sides of this

colourful region. On the first day, you will already be able to admire the beaches of the Atlantic coast, the half-timbered houses of Bayonne historic town, the riverbanks of the Adour, the peaceful pastures on the hills and the architectural beauty of La Bastide-Clairence. You bike further through the green landscapes of the low mountains, pass by nice typical villages and enjoy the best views on the coast. Your itinerary leads over the "Col de Pinodieta" and "Col de Saint-Ignace" mountain passes, where you will enjoy wonderful views on the sea and the mountains. You end up along the Atlantic cycle route from Saint-Jean-de-Luz back to Biarritz.

## Day 1

### Biarritz - La Bastide Clairence

Bike  
**40km**

Altitude  
 **±260m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

You leave the luxury hotels and wonderful houses of the Biarritz seaside resort to follow at your own pace the coastline and then the Adour River to discover the colorful houses of Bayonne. Enjoy the special atmosphere of the city, labeled "City of Art and History". You leave Bayonne by taking a beautiful bike path along the Adour. Then, you ride away the river and start climbing the first Basque hills. Your efforts will be soon rewarded by the magnificent view over the green landscapes.

Finally, after a long descent with a breathtaking panorama, you arrive in La Bastide-Clairence with its white facades striped with green or red, ranked among the most beautiful villages of France. The village is known for its numerous craftsmen and annual fairs.

## Day 2

### La Bastide Clairence - Itxassou

Bike  
**28km**

Altitude  
 **±480m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

You leave La Bastide-Clairence on a country road meandering on top of the hills. You cycle surrounded by pastures where only the sound of the cows' bells echoes. Then, you get to Hasparren, a traditional Basque village at the foot of Mount Ursuya. Take a tour in the village to admire its old Basque farms dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Then, follow Napoleon's footsteps by riding for a few kilometers on the "Imperial Road of the Heights" built by the emperor to facilitate access to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port during the Spanish war of independence. On your way, do not miss to visit the beautiful Villa Arnaga, house of the French writer Edmond Rostand, author of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Finally, you reach Itxassou where you will probably have the opportunity to see basque pelota players on the fronton square.

## Day 3

### Itxassou - Sare

Bike  
**25km**

Altitude  
 **±420m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

This morning you'll leave Itxassou and head towards the charming village of Espelette, where houses are colorfully decorated with dried peppers. Along the way, stop at local farms to buy fresh fruits or tasty treats. After crossing Pinodieta Pass, you're rewarded with time to visit Ainhua, designated as one of France's prettiest villages.

You are now close to the French-Spanish border. Pass the old Customs House before cycling on Spanish roads. The village of Zugarramurdi is worth a stop to see its well-known caves and "Witches Museum". Here you have a choice to ride directly to Sare or take an 8km detour and visit the impressive Caves of Sare. The 45-minute guided tour takes you 900meters deep into the cave.

## Day 4

### Sare - Biarritz

Bike  
**32km**

Altitude  
 **±365m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

You leave Sare and cross the Saint-Ignace pass. Take the "Petit Train de La Rhune" and discover the breathtaking views at the summit of La Rhune. This authentic vintage rack railway train dating from 1924 will take you on a 35-minute ride, up to 905 meter high, where you will enjoy one of the loveliest panoramic views on the French and Spanish Atlantic coast and the peaks of the Pyrenees.

A few pedal strokes further, you reach Saint-Jean-de-Luz and its sumptuous houses built in the neo-Basque style. Your cycle itinerary follows the "Vélodyssée" along the Atlantic coast, its beaches, its cliffs and waves loved by surfers. On your way discover the town of Guéthary, famous for its sumptuous villas. Finally, you come back to Biarritz and enjoy its relaxed atmosphere in the evening.

## Accommodation

### Category A

You'll enjoy staying in these clean and cozy 2-3 Star hotels that give you a pleasant rest after your day of biking. Breakfast is included when you spend the night in these friendly and family-run hotels.



*\* Example of the type of accommodation*

## Practical information

### To get to departure point :

**By plane:** flight to Biarritz.

**By train:** Direct TGV (fast trains) from Paris Montparnasse. The duration of the trip is about 4h10. Then, take a bus to reach the city center (20-25min). To plan your trip, [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com).

### Parking:

It is very difficult to park in downtown Biarritz, especially in high season. If you wish, you can park your car in the secure car park at Biarritz SNCF station (~4km from the city center). The price is 45€/7days. You must then, take the bus to reach the city center (20-25min).

Otherwise, you can also park in Anglet (~4km from Biarritz). Parking is usually much easier. Our bike partner has a shop in Anglet, so you can pick up your bikes directly and cycle to Biarritz (30min).

### Meeting time:

You pick up your bikes in the morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm. We recommend you to arrive at around 10am to enjoy your day fully without rushing and be able to do the visits on the way.

**If you chose luggage transport, you must arrive before 10am to drop off your luggage.** Bikes pick up point and luggage drop off point are located in the city center and will be given in your travel documents.

## Price description

### Category A

Double room fare

395 €/pers

3 nights in \*\*/\*\* hotels

3 breakfasts

4-day rental of a fully-equipped **electric bike** (front pack, locks, toolkit)

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

local visitors' taxes  
sending charge of the travel documents in France  
7/7 hotline

High season extra (*)	20 €/pers
Half-board	25 €/dinner
Single occupancy extra (**)	36 €/night
Extra night in Biarritz	60 €/pers
Extra night in Biarritz - High season (from 01/07 to 15/09)	85 €/pers

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## Options

Luggage transport (4-person basis)	65 €/pers
Luggage transport (2- to 3-person basis)	130 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-118 €/pers

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(\*) **High season :**

- from 01.07 to 15.09.2019

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(\*\*) These prices are guaranteed for 2 participants minimum.

### The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location  
the drinks  
the meals which are not included  
the entrance fee to sites  
insurances (optional)

### Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants):

0-4 year : -70%  
5-11 year : -50%  
12-17 year : -30%

For more information or booking : [www.levelovoyageur.com](http://www.levelovoyageur.com)  
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