Trip description

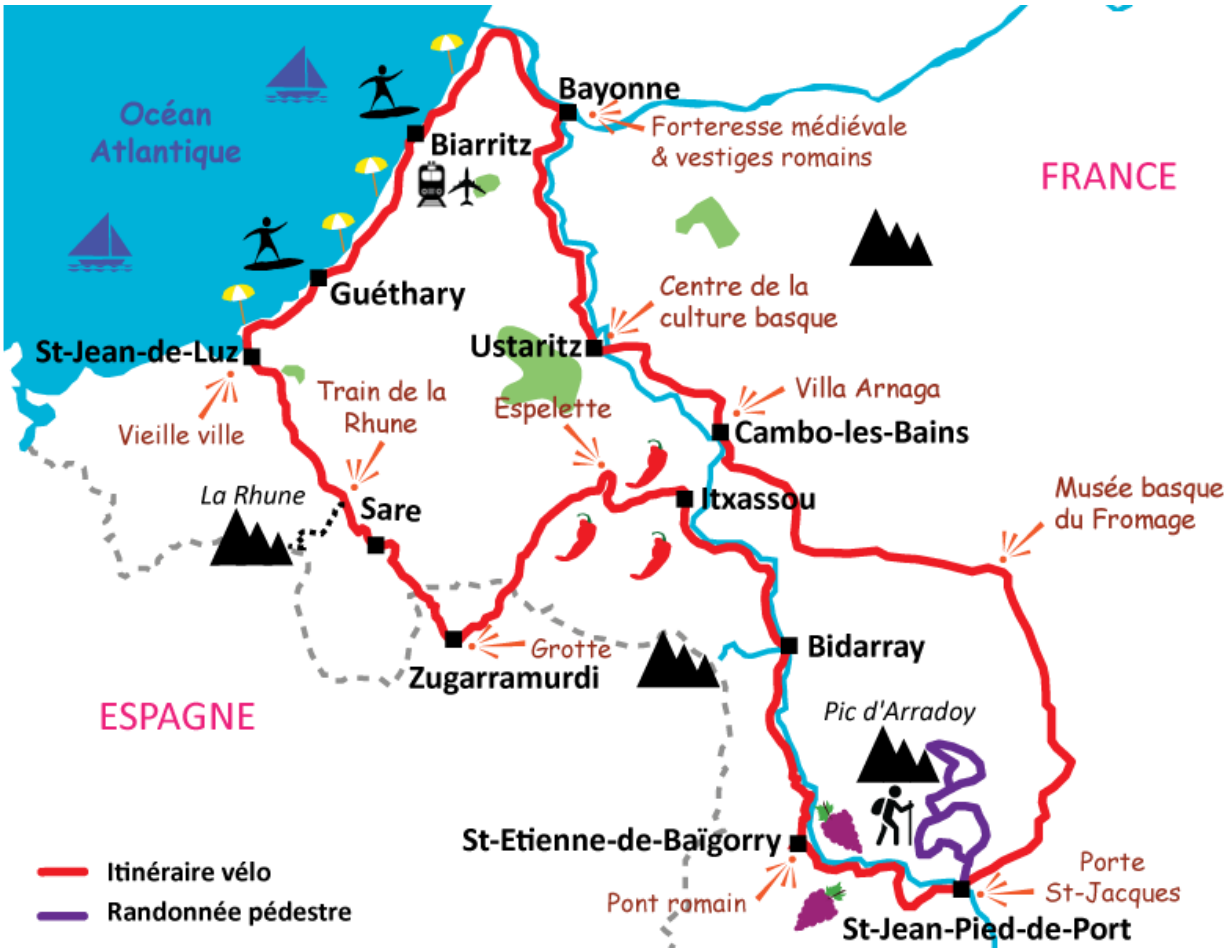
Cycling holiday to the highlights of the French Basque country

From Biarritz, this cycling holiday takes you along the Basque country coast and through its majestic countryside at the foothills of the Pyrenees. This cross-border region has kept a strong identity and a sense of enjoying life that is contagious on a bike trip there!

Destination	France
Location	Basque country
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Challenging
Validity	From April to October
Minimum age	14 years old
Reference	BPB0801

Type of stay
loop trip

Itinerary



Our self guided cycling holiday in the Basque country will totally immerse you in a welcoming region, which is particularly attached to its land and proud of its traditions. You cycle on quiet country roads or cycle paths, on an electric bike (for those who want to make it a challenge, feel free to ride on a classic bike). You discover Bayonne with its colourful timbered houses and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a stopover on the pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela. You ride along traditional villages, where you can enjoy the delicious local products such as the famous Espelette pepers. Your cycle itinerary takes you further to the Atlantic coast on the Velodyssey bike route, passing by the coastal town of Saint-Jean-de-Luz or Bidart before going back to Biarritz. This week bike tour will provide you with an all-round experience of the Basque country.

Day 1

Arrival in Biarritz

Discover Biarritz, the historical capital of surfing in Europe and one of the most famous seaside resorts on the Atlantic coast. Stroll through the town and admire the palace built by Napoleon III for his wife Eugénie, the "Rocher de la Vierge" (Rock of the Virgin), the lighthouse of Biarritz or the "Cité de l'Océan" (a museum complex). This former fishing village, which became a popular holiday resort for European aristocrats in the 19th century, is now a dynamic and welcoming city that will seduce you with its relaxed lifestyle.

Day 2

Biarritz - Cambo-les-Bains

Bike **36km** | Altitude **±195m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

On this first riding day, you leave behind the luxury hotels and wonderful houses of Biarritz to follow the coastline and the Adour river towards Bayonne. It is worth a break to admire its nice colourful houses, enter the cathedral and sense the atmosphere of the historic town. Then, you enter the Basque hinterland and cycle along the Nive river banks to the village of Ustaritz.

You cycle on small country roads to reach the spa town of Cambo-les-Bains. Do not miss to visit the beautiful Villa Arnaga, house of the French writer Edmond Rostand, author of Cyrano de Bergerac.

Day 3

Cambo-les-Bains - Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port

Bike **40km** | Altitude **±860m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

You leave Cambo-les-Bains, riding up the first climbs of the Pyrenees foothills. Take the time to admire the magnificent panorama under your wheels. Your bike itinerary continues in the valley where cows and sheeps will keep you company. For gourmets, we recommend a short stop at the Basque museum of pastoralism and cheese. You can see the affinage cellars and taste some cheese !

Your route will then reach that of the pilgrims of Santiago de Compostela joining Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, the last stop in France before the climb of the Roncesvalles pass and Spain. Let yourself be seduced by the charming character of this town. Discover its medieval streets and its local crafts without missing the Saint-Jacques gate, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage.

Day 4

Hiking around Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port

Altitude **±619m**

7km or 15km (2 to 5-hour walk)

You have the choice between a resting day to discover Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port or a hike in the beautiful surrounding valley.

This hike is accessible to all and makes you discover the Arradoy and its AOC Irouléguy terraced vineyards. The gentle ascent offers a breathtaking view over the valley and the Pyrenees. You reach the orientation table and a picnic area, where you can stop before walking down.

For the bravest, an itinerary leads you to the peak of the Arradoy on small paths before entering a forest of oaks and chestnuts with an enchanting atmosphere!

Day 5

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port - Itxassou

Bike **40km** | Altitude **±795m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

Ride up on little countryside roads and admire the wonderful landscapes of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and the Aldudes valley. Discover the vineyards of Irouléguy (the smallest appellation in France) planted by the monks of Roncesvalles in the 12th century. From small villages and their authentic farms to the Roman village of Saint-Etienne-de-Baïgorry, discover the rich historical and cultural heritage of the region.

Your itinerary takes you on nice mountain roads surrounded by the soft hills of peaceful pastures where the cow bells are ringing. From Bidarray on, you cycle along the Nivelle river to Itxassou, a typical Basque village where you will probably have the opportunity to watch pelota players on the fronton square.

Day 6

Itxassou - Sare

Bike **25km** | Altitude **±420m**

E-bike (touring bike available)

This morning you'll leave Ixtassou 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 Ainhoa, 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 detor and visit the impressive Caves of Sare. The 45-minute guided tour takes you 900meters deep into the cave.

Day 7

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.

Day 8

Departure from Biarritz

After breakfast, take a last stroll in the streets of Biarritz before leaving.

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 th 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**.

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:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category A Double room fare	**905 €**/pers
7 nights in ** / *** hotels 7 breakfasts 6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (front pack, locks, toolkit) the luggage transport from one lodging to the other 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 (*)	50 €/pers
Half-board (5 dinners)	140 €/pers
Single occupancy extra (**)	46 €/night
Extra night in Biarritz	60 €/pers
Extra night in Biarritz - High season (from 01/07 to 15/09)	85 €/pers

Options

Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-150 €/pers

(*) **High season** :

• from 01.07.2019 to 15.09.2019

(**) These prices are guaranted 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
+33 (0)1 80 91 98 18 or bonjour@levelovoyageur.com