

AQUITAINE FROM BORDEAUX TO BASK COUNTRY

Aquitaine is a generous region with beautiful and authentic nature and offers its visitors a thousand and one impressions. Its climate and its art of living make it an ideal place for relaxation and exploration. Heritage, history, natural sites, famous vineyards, gastronomy, beaches... these are the main assets of Aquitaine for visitors to discover during their stay, leading them from Bordeaux to Biarritz.

7 days/ 6 nights.

Day 1. Welcome to Bordeaux.

Welcome and check-in at your hotel in the city centre of Bordeaux.

Dinner at a restaurant in the city and overnight at your hotel.

Day 2. The Splendours of the Médoc.

The Médoc, one of the world's most famous vineyard regions, invites you to follow the Route des Grands Crus. You will go past many prestigious châteaux, reflecting the prosperity and prestige of Bordeaux winegrowers -great names such as Margaux, Latour, Mouton-Rothschild, Lafite-Rothschild. Visiting the estates, you will taste wines of infinite nuances in luxurious cellars. Fine Médoc is full of vigour, with an unforgettable bouquet and inimitable finesse.



After breakfast, departure for a tour of the famous appellations of Margaux, Saint-Julien, Pauillac, Saint-Estèphe and Médoc. Visit and tasting at a Grand Cru Classé. Lunch at a typical Médoc restaurant. Visit and tasting at a Cru Bourgeois.

Gourmet dinner at Le Chapon Fin (1 Michelin-star) and overnight at your hotel.

Day 3. Wine and Heritage in Saint-Emilion.

*Saint-Emilion is set out like an amphitheatre in a splendid natural location. It is a vast indentation on top of limestone hill, exposed to the rising sun and covered with vineyards. The town has conserved its old walls and gateways as well as a series of prestigious archaeological sites. Saint Emilion and its surrounding vineyards were the first wine landscape to be listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**. Described as "the nectar of the gods" by King Louis XIV when he visited Libourne, the wines of Saint-Emilion are warm, generous and full-bodied, with a fine colour. They acquire a highly distinctive bouquet as they age.*



Tour through the vineyards of Pomerol and Saint-Emilion with visits and tastings at a wine estate in Pomerol and at a Grand Cru Classé in Saint-Emilion. Lunch at a wine bistro well-known for the quality of its regional cuisine and its extensive wine list. Guided visit of Saint-Emilion's subterranean monuments and stroll along the village's narrow cobblestone streets.

Return to Bordeaux. Dinner at a restaurant in the city centre and overnight at your hotel.

Day 4. Bordeaux - Biarritz

Ever since 1854 this old little fishing town has been bearing the trace of Empress Eugénie de France – wife of Napoleon III – who chose Biarritz as her summer residence. Nowadays the town is a seaside resort of international renown, which has succeeded in preserving the traces of its glorious past : the « Avenue de l'Impératrice » lined with beautiful mansions in various styles, the Imperial Chapel, the Great Beach, the Casino, the fishing port, the Virgin's Rock ...



After breakfast, departure from Bordeaux for Biarritz in the South of Aquitaine. Welcome and seafood lunch overlooking the ocean. After breakfast, departure on foot with a private guide to explore the town. Check-in at your hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5. La Rhune and typical Bask villages.

From an altitude of 905 m above sea level La Rhune, the Bask Country's « holy mountain », offers one of the most stunning views one can just about imagine: the tops of the Pyrenees and along the Bask coast from Saint-Sébastien to Biarritz up as far as the beaches of the Landes. The hinterland with its green valleys, villages and framework houses is particularly attractive.



After breakfast, departure for a stroll through the Bask Country.

We suggest:

- to climb La Rhune by means of a « train à crémaillère ».
- to continue towards the Bask villages of Sare, Ainhoa (one of the most beautiful villages of France) and Espelette, where you will meet a producer of the famous “Piment d’Espelette” and enjoy lunch.
- To visit the Villa Arnaga, residence of the writer Edmond Rostand, father of Cyrano of Bergerac, and stroll along the picturesque streets of St Jean Pied de Port to discover its citadel and ramparts. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Gourmet dinner in Biarritz and overnight at your hotel.

Day 6. La Costa Vasca and fishing villages.

Saint-Jean de Luz, an ancient privateer town, hosted the wedding of Louis XIV, King of France from 1638 to 1715, and Marie-Thérèse of Austria in 1660. Today it is a charming seaside resort.



After breakfast departure for St-Jean de Luz. Stroll to discover the fishing port, the framework houses, the church of Saint Jean Baptiste, the Maison de l'Infante... Seafood lunch in a restaurant in the old town.

In the afternoon stop at Fuenterrabia, a picturesque little fishing village nestled at the foot of Jaizkibel mountain. We suggest you a crossing of the Bidassoa river to Spain aboard a shuttle boat. Free evening and overnight at your hotel.

Day 7. Departure.

Breakfast and end of our services.

PRICES 2009

Prices net per person:

- Four-star luxury accommodation during high season: from 2 290€
- Four-star accommodation during high season: from 1 790 €
- Three-star accommodation during high season: from 1 340 €

These prices include:

- Accommodation: 6 nights double occupancy including breakfast.
- Meals excluding drinks: 5 lunches and 6 dinners, one of which Michelin-starred.
- The guided wine estate visits and tastings.
- The guided tour and admission fees in Saint-Emilion.
- The guided tour of Biarritz with a private guide.
- A road book.

Not included are transportation, drinks, personal expenses and generally speaking any service not mentioned in the above itinerary.

Single room supplement:

- Four-star luxury hotel: from 1045 €
- Four-star hotel: from 695 €
- Three-star hotel: from 415 €

Options:

- Self-drive rental car (category B – unlimited mileage, supplement for airport or train station pickup and insurances included) : from 315 € for seven days.
- Comfortable vehicle with chauffeur-guide/wine expert: 400 € / day (from 1 to 5 people).
- Tour guide: from 280€ / day.

Prices and services subject to availability at the time of booking.