Ongi etorri
The tide comes in, the tide goes out and then it comes back in again. Sometimes the sea is beautifully calm and sometimes the waves crash against the bridges and promenades with amazing force.

Donostia/San Sebastian is a city that is perched above the sea. It is a daily dance between its 186,000 inhabitants and the ever-changing Cantabrian waters.

Donostia/San Sebastian is world-famous cuisine which is continuously updated and comes and goes on the finest dining tables and the popular pintxo (tapa) bars. It is a movie at the Zinemaldia, the "International Film Festival", It is a song at one of the famous music festivals that come here every year to change our view of the world. And it is any of the cultural events held in our city every year for all audiences.

Every wave that reaches here is a part of Donostia/San Sebastian. With every wave, the city’s ideas and ways change. And they are also changed by every visitor, with every look, with every experience in the city. So that’s why we’re so happy that you’re here and we welcome you. Ongi etorri.

* Ongi etorri means welcome in Basque.
the city

do’s and don’ts for the responsible tourist _ 5
10 must-see sights _ 6
a little history _ 8

San Sebastian
district by
district

Parte Vieja _ 12
Centro and área romántica _ 16
Gros and Egia _ 20
Antiguo and Igeldo _ 24
Amara and Riberas _ 28
Aiete and Miramón _ 30

surrounding area
discover the Basque Country

agencies and guides

what to do

dining plans _ 34
cultural plans _ 54
sporting plans _ 68
plans for couples _ 74
family plans _ 77
night plans _ 82
shopping plans _ 85

practical info

tourist office _ 104
useful telephone numbers _ 105
transport _ 106
parking in the city _ 107
opening times & prices _ 108
map of the city _ 110
short dictionary of the basque
language _ 112
LIKE A TRUE NATIVE OF SAN SEBASTIAN

do’s and don’ts for the responsible tourist

In San Sebastian we love our city and we like having a good time. Here are a few suggestions on how to immerse yourself in the local customs while showing respect and taking care of our city.

BASQUE CULTURE. OUR LANGUAGE, BASQUE, THE ESSENCE OF THE CITY

Try greeting people with “kaixo” and “agur”. You will find other simple handy terms in our dictionary.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAY AND GET TO KNOW US PROPERLY

In Donostia/San Sebastian, we have really good tourist agents who will help you to discover the secrets of the city and its people. Authentic places and tours, away from the more popular tourist attractions...

GET AROUND ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Whenever possible, use public transport. We recommend using the Tourist Card for this.

HELP SMALL BUSINESSES AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Explore the streets of the city and buy in traditional stores, like a local.

RESPECT THE SLEEP OF LOCAL RESIDENTS...

If you go out to bars at night, remember that there are people sleeping right above where you are having fun. If you respect their sleep, they will be grateful.

You can also hire a bicycle and travel around the city on two wheels.

eskerrik asko! thank you!

Donostia/San Sebastian Tourist Office is committed to the sustainable and responsible development of tourism, seeking to ensure that local residents and our visitors enjoy the greatest benefits and wellbeing.

tourist office opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 9:00-19:00 / Sundays: 10:00-14:00

www.sansebastianturismo.eus
10 must-see sights

La Concha: the queen of all beaches

It is an unrivalled setting, the jewel in the crown of San Sebastian. The Pearl of the Cantabrian Sea. Relax in La Perla Thalassotherapy Centre - a legacy from the Belle Époque - and then go for a swim (even if it’s winter!) at the beach. _18_

pintxos (tapas)

There are as many ways to enjoy these miniature gastronomic delights as there are districts in the city. The Old Town is the epicentre and the place that brings together old-school bars with some of the most modern ones you will find. Gros has a younger, more local feel, while in the Centre and Antiguo district, the atmosphere is more relaxed and laid back. And if you still want more, sign up for some cooking classes, where you will become a genuine San Sebastian chef. _38_

off to the port!

San Sebastian’s port has provided refuge for generations of whale hunters and fishermen who have battled against countless storms. All of those stories are brought together in the Naval Museum and in the Aquarium, which are both located in the very port. Go there to immerse yourself in San Sebastian’s intense seafaring history. _14_

Walk along the six-kilometre coastline that joins Sagüés to the Peine del Viento (Wind Comb), along the Paseo Nuevo that skirts around Mount Urgull. An uninterrupted promenade, always with the sea alongside, and dotted with some of the finest pieces by Basque sculptors such as Chillida, Oteiza and Basterretxea. And perfect for going running! Walk along the six-kilometre coastline that joins Sagüés to the Peine del Viento (Wind Comb), along the Paseo Nuevo that skirts around Mount Urgull. An uninterrupted promenade, always with the sea alongside, and dotted with some of the finest pieces by Basque sculptors such as Chillida, Oteiza and Basterretxea. And perfect for going running!

a sea for every sport

3 beaches, 3 styles. The surfers go to Zurriola, you go to La Concha for canoeing or stand up paddle boarding and the swimmers go to Ondarreta Beach, from which it is easiest to get to Santa Clara Island. You can also get there by boat or relax in the fine sand. _58_

the real san sebastian? in the ‘old town’, of course

The Old Town is the city’s most authentic district, the place where a gothic church, baroque basilica, a square that used to be a bullring (hence the numbered balconies), narrow alleys bursting with atmosphere and the “baserritarra” (farmers), sell the best vegetables in the city, are all concentrated within just a few square metres. _12_

belle époque architecture

At the start of the 19th century, San Sebastian became one of the most exciting cities in Europe, and its Romantic Area with a pronounced Parisian feel, is proof of this. Enjoy the arcades facing Buen Pastor Cathedral, Gipuzkoa Square and the famous Hotel Maria Cristina. _62_

a journey to the country of the Basques

Explore Basque culture in San Telmo Museum and discover the secrets of the Basque language, the oldest in Europe. All preserved in a former Dominican convent with a cloister, extended with the addition of an internationally acclaimed avant-garde building. _55_

the lookout of San Sebastian

Igeldo, Urgull and Ulia are San Sebastian’s three mountains and they are the perfect size for making your way to the top. They will all reward you with the finest panoramic views for your photos and they each have an added surprise. Igeldo? A funicular and an age-old amusement park. Urgull? A romantic cemetery. Ulia? Cliffs overlooking the sea. _85_

made in San Sebastian

The best way to remember the city is to take a piece of it with you, either in the form of a bottle of txakoli wine, a pantxineta custard slice or Idiazabal cheese. Or perhaps an exclusive gift from one of the city’s boutiques, a surf board ‘made in San Sebastian’, or a piece of local art...the list is endless! _85_
King Sancho the Wise of Navarre’s desire to have a route out to sea from his kingdom led to him granting San Sebastian a charter in 1180, and this event can be considered the moment when the town was officially founded. This then saw maritime trade being combined with traditional whaling and cod fishing.

Its proximity to France and its position on the Road to Santiago not only drove the development of this small coastal town, they also made it a strategic location during times of war. It therefore became a fortified town in the 12th century. Over the centuries it was subjected to numerous sieges, but the people of San Sebastian managed to defend it from their enemies until 1719, when the town surrendered for the first time and fell into the hands of France for two years. In 1794 the town succumbed again when besieged by the French, this time until 1813, when San Sebastian was liberated by Anglo-Portuguese soldiers, who burnt down and looted the town. Only a few houses were left standing, forcing the people of San Sebastian to rebuild it, almost from scratch, creating the Old Town that we know today.

Happier times were to follow when Queen Isabella II, whose doctors had recommended that she bathed in the sea to alleviate her skin problems, made summering in San Sebastian fashionable. This was in 1845 and, from then on, her presence attracted the court and numerous aristocrats during the summer months. The town was becoming famous and needed to grow and expand. The walls were demolished in 1864, and the urban development that took place gave rise to the Cortázar expansion district, which is the current city centre.

At the start of the 20th century, San Sebastian experienced its “Belle Époque”, becoming the preferred tourist destination of the European upper classes. Queen María Cristina made the Miramar Palace the summer residence of her court, and the luxury hotels, casinos and theatres flourished.

During the 1st World War, moneyed Europeans took refuge from the conflict here. Much of the French influence that is visible on the streets of the city is due to these visitors.

The heavy industrialisation in the years following the Civil War in 1936 resulted in a dark period during which certain poorly-judged urban development took place. But in the second half of the 20th century, San Sebastian consolidated its economic, cultural and tourist potential, pushing forward new projects while at the same time preserving its natural and historical heritage, becoming, in the process, the stylish combination of tradition and modernity that we know today.

The royal family chose to spend its summer holidays in San Sebastian. In the photo, Alfonso XIII and his sons Jaime and Alfonso, on a boat in La Concha Bay in 1920.

The Igeldo funicular, the Victoria Eugenia Theatre and María Cristina Hotel were opened.

First edition of the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

1180
King Sancho of Navarra granted a Charter to San Sebastian, considered the moment when the town was founded.

1450
The first trading port was constructed.

1597
The plague devastated the town. The infected were treated on Santa Clara Island.

1662
Felipe IV granted it City status.

1719–1721
San Sebastian surrendered for the first time to the French army.

1813
The Anglo-Portuguese troops “liberated” the city, burning it down and almost completely destroying it.

1845
Isabel II made La Concha Beach fashionable.

1863
The city walls were demolished.

1888
The first stone of Buen Pastor church was laid and it was finished in 1917. In 1953 it was classed as a cathedral.

1893
Queen María Cristina established the Miramar Palace the summer residence of her court.

1912
The Igeldo funicular, the Victoria Eugenia Theatre and María Cristina Hotel were opened.

1953
First edition of the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

The sea brought the first fishermen to San Sebastian, who were seeking refuge on Mount Urgull. It later attracted the interest of King Sancho of Navarre, who was its founder, and of all of the armies who have passed through here in the history of war. The sea also brought with it a queen with skin problems and the subsequent fashion of summering. And the sea also brought our current cultural, economic and tourist potential.
San Sebastian district by district

There’s not just one San Sebastian. There are many. As many as there are districts in the city. There’s the San Sebastian of pintxos (tapas) and the beach, but there’s also the San Sebastian of film buffs, promenades on the seafront, modern architecture, surfers and runners, forests right beside the Cantabrian Sea and the city that all of the family can enjoy. You just have to come and see them...
The Old Town

Preserving the essence of San Sebastian.
When San Sebastian was still but an island connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land, there was a fisherman’s quarter that was sheltered by Mount Urgull. The Old Town is the direct descendent of that district, the beating heart of the city. Its streets are home to the city’s oldest buildings, with their countless bars, restaurants and gastronomic societies.

The Plaza de la Constitución (3) is the epicentre of the Old Town.

The tour starts at La Bretxa Market (1) which takes its name (meaning “breach”) from the place where the English and Portuguese troops broke through the city wall in the siege of 1813, when the French army was stationed in the city. Its traditional street market is home to stalls with some of the most highly-rated products in San Sebastian and some of the most famous chefs visit it almost every day.

Although there are “pintxo” bars and restaurants tucked away in practically every street in the Old Town, Fermín Colbetoñ (2) undoubtedly takes first prize, because of the number and variety of establishments there. A stroll along it at lunchtime or in the evening perfectly illustrates the passion for ‘txikiteo’—hopping from bar to bar, pintxo to pintxo, glass of wine to glass of wine—that has always been a big part of San Sebastian.

A few metres from that street is Constitución Square (3). This is the heart, the very epicentre around which the Old Town’s network of streets dances. It is an arcaded square, overlooked by the city’s old town hall, whose balconies still retain the numbering of the old stands from the bullring that it once was.

A bustling atmosphere, with people and tapas is also found on Mayor Street (5). At the end of this street, overlooked by Mount Urgull, is the Basilica of Santa María (9), a baroque church erected in the 18th century with the money of the Royal Guipuzcoan Company of Caracas.

The building impresses with its size and for being the home of a fascinating Diocesan museum with works by El Greco, Jorge Oteiza and Chillida.

If we turn right we enter 31 de agosto street (6), a road which, besides its gastronomic fame, has great significance for the people of San Sebastian: the properties on the even-numbered side of the street were the only ones to survive the devastating fire caused during the siege of 1813. Halfway down the street there is an open space that is used as a pelota court, playground and a stage for rural sports competitions and concerts: Trinidad Square (7). “La Trini” is the most popular spot during the Jazzaldia jazz festival, an outdoor auditorium with perfect acoustics, which has seen some of the 20th century’s biggest names in blues, soul and jazz, e.g. B.B. King, James Brown and Ella Fitzgerald.

At the other end of 31 de Agosto Street stands San Vicente Church (8), the city’s oldest building. It was built at the beginning of the 16th century, in the late Gothic style, and inside its shaded and peaceful interior, it features a spectacular altarpiece with scenes from the Passion of Christ.

San Sebastian, district by district

Everything that makes San Sebastian what it is, everything that sets it apart, is concentrated here.
On the other side of the bustling Zuloaga Square that opens out to the north of the church is the San Telmo Museum (9), of Basque Society and Citizenship. An exhibition space devoted to Basque history, which is housed in a former Dominican convent that was erected in the 16th century and extended in 2011 with a modern building.

The huge wooded area that overlooks 'lo Viejo' has a name. For centuries, Mount Urgull (10) was owned by the army, which fortified its slopes and summit to defend the city. Some of those walls still remain today, as a reminder of the city's military and defensive past. There are numerous tracks and roads: one route to explore starts at the stairway that is besides San Telmo. From here you go up to the romantic English Cemetery. Soon after you will reach the summit, where you will find the Mota Castle and the Sagrado Corazón (Sacred Heart) monument; here you can explore the History House (a museum where the city's 800-years history is recounted), admire the views from the only place in the city where you can see all three beaches, and go down to the port along the Paseo de los Curas (Priest's Promenade).

The Old Town does not have a beach but it does have a route out to sea: the Port (11), which you get to from the Old Town via one of the gates of the ancient city wall. San Sebastian's dock has a life of its own, with its traditional seafood restaurants, its own snack (kiskillas and karrakelas - prawns and winkles) to nibble as you stroll and the traditional houses of the families of former fishermen. It ends at the Naval Museum (12), which preserves the seafaring history of San Sebastian and the Aquarium (13), with a huge oceanarium through which a tunnel passes with a 360º view.

In the summer season, motorboats leave the port for Santa Clara Island (14), a favourite haven of the people of San Sebastian. This islet, which for years has only been inhabited by the lighthouse keeper, is away from the hustle and bustle of the city: there are no vehicles and there is only a tiny beach (one of the few on the Cantabrian Sea to face the south), footpaths, stairways, picnic benches, quiet spots and excellent views of the sea and the San Sebastian skyline. And a tip if you want to swim there: the shortest route is from Ondarreta Beach: 400 m.

At the end of the port, the Paseo Nuevo (15), starts, the wildest and most beautiful in the city. Along its entire length it skirts around Mount Urgull, and it is where you can watch the spectacle of giant waves on stormy days. There, you will find the Construcción Vacia (16), (Empty Construction), the large sculpture by Jorge Oteiza, defiantly facing the sea.

At sunset, the beautiful, Rationalist-style building of the Real Club Náutico (17), (Royal Yacht Club - 1929) draws out the last rays of sunlight of the day. The platform that starts next to it and enters the sea is a favourite spot among locals to see out the day.

Now it’s time to relax. The city walls that encircle Mount Urgull are another good reason for going up to the summit and enjoying the best views of the city and the bay.
San Sebastian’s romantic area emerged in the mid-19th century, along the urban development that was planned after the demolition of the wall that had protected the town. This is where the charm of the Belle Époque is revealed in casinos, theatres and hotels, where the main shopping streets are concentrated and the city’s unmistakable Parisian feel is most evident.

The old walls that used to protect the Old Town extended as far as the Boulevard (1) area, which now serves as a borderline with the romantic area of San Sebastian, constructed in the mid-19th century. The old city walls of Donostia/San Sebastian were demolished in 1863, although you can still see remains on the ground floor of the Bretxa market. The Boulevard is the most bustling pedestrian thoroughfare in the entire city; a pleasant, tree-lined avenue with shops, ice cream parlours etc. On the west side there is a bandstand with delightful modernist touches. Next to this is the “reloj del Bule” (Boulevard clock) underneath which couples and “cuadrillas” (groups of friends) have been arranging to meet for generations. Further along is the City Hall (2) building, formerly the city’s casino, which was built in 1887 in the style of the gambling houses that were dotted along the French and Italian Riviera.

Opposite the city hall, the Alderdi Eder Gardens (3): a green space that was meticulously planned at the end of the 19th century, with a carousel that enthrals children and ever-present tamarisks or tamarind trees (as they are commonly known), a tree that is present in all of San Sebastian’s marine areas.

A few blocks away is the first city park to be built in San Sebastian, Gipuzkoa Square (4), a beautiful, French-style garden from the 19th century. The square is overlooked by the Provincial Council building, and at the top of its façade you can see the busts of some of the most celebrated Basque explorers. This part of the city is a neatly arranged grid of houses that was most celebrated Basque explorers, but with touches of San Sebastian: the characteristic yellowish stone with which these buildings were constructed came from the sandstone quarries that operated on mounts Igeldo and Ulia. In the area closest to the river, two of San Sebastian’s landmarks from the Belle Époque immediately stand out: the Victoria Eugenia Theatre and Hotel Maria Cristina (5), an inseparable duo, both initiatives of a city with the (successful) ambition of attracting European tourists during the interwar period. Hundreds of celebrities have passed through the doors of these two buildings, from Mata Hari to Bruce Springsteen to stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Davis, Woody Allen, Richard Gere and Brad Pitt, invited to Zinemaldia, the city’s International Film Festival.

The River Urumea runs alongside them and, at its mouth, stands the Zurriola Bridge, the bridge that is most exposed to the fury of the sea, recognisable by its large art deco-style lamp posts. The second
bridge, with a more conventional style, Santa Catalina, is the oldest in the city. The third, half a kilometre upriver, is the María Cristina Bridge (6), the most famous thanks to its fancy streetlights, inspired by the Alexander III Bridge in Paris.

This bridge connects directly to Bilbao Square (7), which has a circular design and a beautiful fountain at its centre and was built at the start of the 20th century. The square is a gateway to the romantic area and to the main shopping streets, such as Hondarribia and Loiola. The latter of these, which is fully pedestrianised, is where you will find the Buen Pastor Cathedral (8), a neo-gothic building that was inaugurated in 1897, a tribute to the large European medieval cathedrals.

Its 75-metre steeple is still the highest building in San Sebastian.

The romantic area is also known for its pleasant streets and pedestrianised squares, with shopping areas and coffee terraces. Next to the bustling Reyes Católicos Street, with views of the back of the cathedral, stands the stately building of the Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre (9), where, as well as having a library, numerous events and interesting contemporary exhibitions are held. It is worth taking a look at its programme of events.

On the way to La Concha Beach, we will come across another of the food markets that dates back over one hundred years, San Martín (10), now rehoused in a modern building. Inside there are stalls where they sell fresh products from local market gardens, and there are also butchers and fishmongers.

We continue along Easo Street until we reach the historic Hotel Londres, opposite the city’s biggest landmark: LA CONCHA (11) and its iconic railings, designed by the then municipal architect, Juan Rafael Alday, in 1916. From these railings we gaze upon the beach of all beaches. In 1845, Queen Isabel II came to La Concha after her doctors recommended that she bathe in the sea to alleviate her skin problems. After that, with the new fashion of going to the beach, high society aristocrats followed behind her, leading to San Sebastian becoming stylish and chic. And then came the rest: the nickname of the Pearl of the Cantabrian Sea, the tourists and the acclaim for being one of the most beautiful city beaches in the world. Today thousands upon thousands of visitors continue to lean on the famous railings on its promenade and take an iconic photo of the city, or they go down to the sand and walk barefoot along its more than 1,300 metres, or they take a dip in its hypnotic waters.

There is a route with a distance of nearly two kilometres between the City Hall and the Antiguo tunnel, which you can walk down, run along (people have been passionate about running here for decades) or ride down on a bicycle, thanks to the convenient bicycle lane. Soon we reach the famous “clocks” and then the renovated building of La Perla Tolaso-Sport Centre (12), opened in 1912 and still retaining the attractive style of the Belle Époque.

There are no buildings along the final stretch of La Concha’s promenade. Very near to the Miramar palace and the Antiguo district, on a balcony with splendid views of the bay and Santa Clara Island, is the sculpture “Homenaje a Fleming” (13) (Homage to Fleming) by the local artist Eduardo Chillida.
Gros starts on the other side of the River Urumea and, together with the neighbouring Egia district, is one of the city’s most vibrant areas. A forward-looking area that overlooks the Cantabrian Sea through Zurriola Beach, where we will find surfers on the street, board in hand, bars with live music, a mountain and a park with numerous footpaths, innovative architecture and, a few streets away, a modern cultural centre where countless events are programmed.

Zurriola beach is a prelude to everything that’s going on behind it, in the Gros and Egia districts.

For decades, the Gros district was known for its workshops, factories, a bullring (El Chofre, demolished in 1973) and the fierce waves on its coastline. However, Gros is now one of the youngest, most dynamic and most invigorating areas in the city, with modern shops and bustling streets to go out for “pintxos” and a few drinks (locally known as ‘poteo’). With the improvement and expansion of the beach twenty years ago, and the subsequent construction of the Kursaal Congress Centre and Auditorium, the area started to undergo a metamorphosis that has made it what it is today.

The city’s first major contemporary building was also built in Gros: The Kursaal (1), Palace, the work of Rafael Moneo, consists of two large buildings that mimic two stranded rocks facing the sea. These ‘cubes’ are the main headquarters of the Zinemaldia, the San Sebastian International Film Festival and an exciting programme of events is held here (concerts, classical music, exhibitions, etc.) which are worth checking out. One last thing: the esplanade that opens out to the north of both buildings is where they hold the official photocall for the movie stars who visit the city in September.

One of the drivers of this change is Zurriola Beach (2) and the promenade that runs alongside it, frequented by surfers on days when the sea promises good waves. Unlike the quiet and elegant character of the other beaches in San Sebastian, Zurriola reflects the more versatile and bohemian nature of the district and is favoured among young people. It is known for its surfing atmosphere, with constant, powerful waves allowing you to go surfing at both high and low tide. It is also perfect for surfing beginners, thanks to the numerous schools offering their services. In July, Zurriola hosts one of the most popular stages of the Jazz Festival. Only there can you dance with sand between your toes as the night falls. And it also has a specific area for nudists.

At the end of the promenade, on the eastern edge of the city, is Sagüés (3), one of the best spots in the city for watching the sun set over the sea. For decades, its famous, popular ‘wall’...
San Sebastian, district by district

has been a meeting place for surfers, groups of friends and couples, who come here to view the sea conditions, chat or simply sit down and chill. The large white sculpture near to the end of the promenade is La Paloma de la Paz (the Dove of Peace) by Nestor Basterretxea, a work that symbolises the power of words and dialogue over violence. This work concludes the Bosque sculptural route, which also includes Chillida’s Peine del Viento (Wind Comb, in Antigua) and Oteiza’s Construcción Vacía (Empty Construction, on the Paseo Nuevo).

The mountain that looms over the city from the east is Ulia (5). At its summit there were once lookout points where people scanned the sea in search of whales. At the start of the 20th century, one of Donostia/San Sebastian’s first amusement parks was built there, which you would travel to on a funicular, with restaurants and shooting facilities. Ulia is now one of the green lungs of Donostia/San Sebastian, a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. With just a 20-minute climb we can reach its forests and cliffs, and admire a spectacular panoramic view of the city. It is through Mount Ulia where pilgrims come walking towards Santiago. Numerous well-marked footpaths cross the mountain; perfect for going on a morning excursion. The most popular path takes you to the Faro de la Plata (Silver Whitehouse), in the neighbouring town of Pasaia, without ever losing sight of the sea.

Gros also has numerous establishments where they offer the best pintxos (tapas) in Donostia/San Sebastian. The pedestrianised Peña y Goni and Zabaleta streets are where many of these trendy ‘pintxeros’ (tapas bars) are found.

The development of the Gros that we now know started in the 1920s. Many of the buildings in the district reflect the architectural vanguards of the period, notably Rationalism. Another, more interesting example of the expressionist branch of this new trend is the Equitativa (7) building. Its curved façade welcomes everyone who enters Gros over the Santa Catalina Bridge. Another Rationalist work is the Casa de los Soñeros (6) (House for Unmarried Men, where the Zurriola promenade meets Bermingham Street), so called because it was one of the city’s first buildings with small flats; it also features an entrance hall with a pronounced art deco style.

To the south of Gros is Egia. If we cross Miracruz Street (one of Gros’s main thoroughfares), we come to Duque de Mandas Street, which takes us into San Sebastian’s new trendy neighbourhood. Egia is the latest area to join the places you must visit in the city, largely thanks to the Tabakalera (8), the International Contemporary Culture Centre. Opened in 2015, it is the city’s old tobacco factory that was converted into a multipurpose venue with a highly extensive programme that covers several artistic disciplines.

Egia has also become the new focus of the city’s music offerings. In addition to the concerts scheduled in the Tabakalera, there are bars in the area with live music and shows.

Cristina Enea Park (9) is Egia’s ‘green’ resident. It is the largest and most wooded urban park in the city, a gift made to San Sebastian by the Duke of Mandas (which is why it bears his wife’s name) on the condition that its original appearance was preserved. And it has been; the park still retains the charm of yesteryear, with a full network of footpaths. And in the upper area, next to the house, you can see still the peacocks that freely roam the site.

don’t Stop! We go to Gros, crossing the Zurriola Bridge, we stroll around the halls of the Tabakalera, we enjoy Cristina Enea Park and we end the day surfing the waves at Zurriola Beach. Are you game?
Antiguo and Igeldo

Antiguo is where the city originally emerged, almost ten centuries ago, although it is slightly outside the centre of it. It has its own beach, a mountain with a retro amusement park, an English-style royal mansion and a bustling network of shops, hotels and dining establishments. It’s time to go through the tunnel that leads to Antiguo...

For many people from San Sebastian, going through the Antiguo tunnels is like visiting a neighbouring village that moves at its own pace.

San Sebastian, district by district

located between the Peine del Viento and the Miramar Palace, Ondarreta is perfect for a family beach day.

European Capital of Culture in 2016. Another is along Mirachoncha Promenade, which rises up alongside the other promenade and ends at the very door of the Miramar Palace. And, of course, another route is along La Concha Beach itself, if the tide is low we will get to Ondarreta Beach by walking along the walkway from the Pico del Loro [2].

If the sea is on our right, to the left we will never lose sight of the stately, British-style Miramar Palace [3]. This peculiar building from the end of the 19th century evokes the style of an English country mansion and from 1893 it was the summer residence of Queen María Cristina, Alfonso XIII and Juan Carlos de Borbón. The best thing about this complex is its beautifully maintained gardens, with views of the bay, perfect for lying down, reading or chatting. To the rear there is an inviting miniature forest and if we leave the park via Matia Street [4], the main road in the district with its friendly bars and countless traditional stores, we will find Antiguo’s San Sebastián Church.

In the nearby Sert Square [5], the palm trees and fountains form a relaxing oasis amid the hustle and bustle of the neighbourhood. Further along, is the start of the residential district of Benta Berri, where the headquarters of the Muskene [6] stand, the Basque Country’s Higher School of Music.

Antiguo is one of the city’s most special neighbourhoods. It was here where the first population centre was established, around a monastery devoted to the French saint, Sebastian. The religious complex, of which nothing remains now, was where the Miramar Palace now stands. For centuries, Antiguo was a farming area located outside the city walls, almost two kilometres from the Old Town, so it developed its own character with its own customs. For many locals, going through the Antiguo tunnel is like visiting a neighbouring village that moves at its own pace and has a wide and appealing range of activities to do with all of the family.

There are several ways of getting to Antiguo from the city centre, always with a pleasant view of the bay on our right: one is along La Concha’s promenade, going through the Tunnel [1] that is decorated with maritime motifs and one of the legacies of being the
The building, the latest addition to San Sebastian’s contemporary architecture, stands out for its geometric volumes and golden panels. Can you guess what musical instrument it’s copying? (*)

If we head back towards the beach, we will come to Ondarreta Villas (8), a quiet network of streets with hardly any traffic, where there are easy residential and holiday villas from the 20th century. They come in all kinds of styles: Basque, Rationalist, adorned with Portuguese tiles or with a neoclassical look.

The villas are the perfect prelude before reaching the gardens (where there is a statue in honour of Queen Maria Cristina) and Ondarreta Beach (9). This is the preferred beach for families and groups: it is large, relaxed, with calm waters, with only a few, very small waves. In the summer it has beach bars, playgrounds and a tent rental service so that you can have a rest.

Where the Ondarreta and urban San Sebastian area ends, at the face of Mount Igeldo, is the Peine del Viento (10) (Wind Comb), the city’s main sculptural landmark. This space is the joint work of the local sculptor Eduardo Chillida –the steel ‘combs’ that look like they are swimming away from the rocks are by him– and the architect Luis Peña Ganchegui, who was responsible for the development of the area. This place has taken on an almost magical significance for the people of San Sebastian, come rain or come shine, which is why countless people make their way there every day to get in shape and, while they are at it, gaze at the horizon. Along with the Paseo Nuevo, the Peine del Viento is one of the best places to take part in a traditional pastime among the locals: watching the waves on days with rough seas. Just wear suitable clothes, take a sturdy umbrella and take basic precautions so that you can enjoy the impressive spectacle of a storm.

The mountain that seems to be swooping down on the
from Igeldo you get the most famous panoramic view of the city, with the bay and the island in the foreground.

The mountain that seems to be swooping down on the

family, let’s go to Antiguo! When you go through the Antiguo tunnel you can relax, you’re in the most ‘village-like’ neighbourhood in San Sebastian. The views of the bay from the gardens of the Miramar Palace, a quiet beach day in Ondarreta and, to top it all off, the Igeldo Amusement Park are just some of the activities that will delight the whole family.
San Sebastian, district by district

If your visit to Donostia/San Sebastian coincides with a match day, it will be a great chance to discover the atmosphere created by the txuri-urdin fans (meaning blue and white, referring to the team’s colours).

A hundred years ago, when San Sebastian was already a top European summer destination, the Amara Berri district (Berri = new) did not even exist. Its land belonged to the marshes of the River Urumea, which had barely been channelled. There was Amara Zaharra (Zaharra = Old), which still exists now, a popular neighbourhood that emerged around (DVR6TXDUH, a perfect starting point for exploring the surroundings of the romantic area, where the area’s liveliest pintxo bars are found. At the opposite end to the bandstand stands the Euskotren station, which connects San Sebastian/Donostia to the French border and Bilbao, travelling along the entire coast.

It is time to go back to the River Urumea, through the city’s most modern neighbourhoods, between parks and bars where they serve pintxos (tapas) and ‘hamaiketakos’ (a local form of brunch). On the avenue that overlooks the river there are several sporting temples, some with façades more reminiscent of Paris than San Sebastian and feats of modern architecture.

The long boulevards alongside the Urumea are perfect for doing sport

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The Anoeta Stadium (9) stands at the southern end of Amara and it is the stadium where Real Sociedad, the local First Division football team, plays its matches. The building houses a museum devoted to the history of this venerable club. There is a large concentration of sporting facilities around Anoeta, e.g. swimming pools, sports centres, a pelota court, a skate park, a cycle track, the Ilumbe bullring, a multipurpose facility where the Gipuzkoa basketball team also plays its First Division games. They are all open, both for doing sport and watching a match of any of the sports played there. Want to take a close look at Basque pelota? Take a look at the season’s schedule at the Atano III. It is best to return to the city centre along the Avenue alongside the Urumea (12), first along Biakala promenade, and then along Gernikako Arbola promenade, where you can appreciate the buildings on Prim Street, which overlooks the River Urumea. This route has a pronounced Parisian feel, with no shortage of modernist tiles and landscaped courtyards. It is also the perfect route if you like to go running.

Look at the different architectural styles of the six bridges until you reach the sea. A real journey through time!

The Iesu Church stands in the Ribera district and was designed by the architect Rafael Moneo (11).
San Sebastián, district by district

**Aiete and Miramon**

The Aiete and Miramon parks have very little in common besides their location: they are both on a hill at the southern end of the city. They are located in the city’s upper districts, in an area that was once full of farmsteads and cider houses. As well as forests and gardens, they hold several surprises, like a summer palace from the 19th century with a history of colourful guests, some neo-gothic fortified towers, a Roman-style amphitheatre and the Science Museum.

San Sebastián is a city that is surrounded by gentle hills and the Aiete district is located on one of them: a quiet residential area, the highest part of which is dominated by the Aiete Palace and Park (1). Everything revolves around this neoclassical building whose construction was commissioned in 1878 by the Duke and Duchess of Bailén. It was the summer residence of the Spanish monarchs, from Isabel II to Alfonso XIII, and also the summer residence of the dictator Franco from 1941 to 1975, with the cabinet meetings held within its walls in the summertime. The building is surrounded by a large, French-style monumental garden with a pond, swans and ducks, a cave and a waterfall made from artificial rock and, on the north side, a rainforest with numerous ancient trees and even giant sequoia trees.

If we follow the old road towards Hernani, we will come to another large San Sebastian park, Miramon. This is a wilder area that has been adapted for walkers. The restored Katsola (2) farmhouse is on its grounds and here they produce cider using traditional methods from centuries gone by, with the ingredients being provided by the two ancient apple trees found in the park. Other interesting sights include the Amphitheatre (3), a curious Roman-style stage area where they hold outdoor events; and the Arbide Towers (4), two neo-gothic buildings erected in the city centre in 1904 (next to the River Urumea) and transferred, stone by stone, to their current location in 1979, to prevent them from disappearing. Between them, countless footpaths trail off through the Miramon Forest (5), with numerous information panels on the fauna and flora found there, which even suggest circuits for doing Nordic walking.

In the developed area near to the park, there is the Eureka Science Museum (6). It has over 170 interactive modules encouraging participation and experimentation and there is also a room with 20 species of live animals. Next to the museum, the ‘Gipuzkoa in Miniature’ outdoor exhibition will catch your eye, with over thirty faithful small-scale reproductions of some of the region’s most iconic historical buildings. The most modern building in the Miramon Technology Park is the Basque Culinary Centre (7), the second gastronomic university in Europe and a state-of-the-art centre where skilled professionals are trained, research is performed on the culinary arts and culinary courses are taught in several languages. Try this game: Identify the common thing in every kitchen that it resembles (*).
what to do

THE ART OF MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

dining 34

cultural 54

sport 68
couple 74

family 77

night 82

shopping 85
In San Sebastian, the cooking expresses what we’re perhaps unable to express with words.

Every pintxo (tapa) and every dish contains the language through which we want to convey unique emotions that you won’t be able to forget. There’s a reason why it’s been chosen as the world’s Best Culinary Destination for 2018.

Adam and Eve were expelled from paradise for eating something tasty. Here the opposite happens. Here you go to eat some pintxos in a little bar in Gros or the Old Town, or you sit at a table to dine in one of the centre’s popular restaurants, and you’re taken straight to a paradise of great food. And if you visit one of the outstanding restaurants that have been awarded a Michelin star, your entry into San Sebastian’s culinary heaven is guaranteed.

The importance given to food in this city, in all of its forms, has made it a universal icon of gastronomy, and rightly so. You only have to wander around San Sebastian’s Old Town to be struck by the omnipresence of the catering establishments in the city. There is such a varied, extensive and high-quality selection that you could visit the city dozens of times without going to the same restaurant and still leave with the same unbeatable impression.

San Sebastian is the home of gastronomic societies, cider houses, pintxo bars, seafood restaurants and signature restaurants. If only for the incredible variety of the pintxos and the exuberance of the miniature cuisine offered in its bars, San Sebastian is in a league of its own. And, if that’s not enough, it also contains one of the highest concentrations of Michelin stars in the world. Indeed, this city is the ultimate expression of dining pleasure. It is a haven of creativity, beauty, magic and harmony. Of all of those exciting emotions conveyed by good cooking.

Donostia in a league of its own

You can eat a stew or some pintxos, seated or on your feet, in a fine restaurant or in the most popular of taverns. It doesn’t make a difference. You eat well in this city. However you do it.
18 Michelin stars

Michelin stars everywhere

Take a compass and place it over a map of San Sebastian. Stick the tip of the compass in the City Hall and draw a radius of 25 kilometres. Do you know how many Michelin stars are there inside that little circle you’ve drawn, which you could cover in about ten minutes in a car? There are 18. Also, of the eleven restaurants with three Michelin stars that are in the country, three of them are in San Sebastian: Arzak, Akelarre and Martín Berasategui. And as many as four other restaurants also have this distinction: Mugaritz, with two, and Kokotxa, Mirador de Ulia, Zuberoa, Amelia and eMe Be Garrote, with one. The Alameda restaurant is in Hondarribia and Elkano is in Getaria, both of which have a Michelin star a little bit further out. This is a remarkable achievement. Indeed, apart from Kyoto in Japan, there’s nowhere else in the world with a higher concentration per square metre. In San Sebastian we’ve turned cooking into a laboratory of ideas and creative workshop that is famous the world over. We have turned gastronomy into a form of art, of engineering, a symbol of our identity. But enough talking. Let’s eat.

Arzak ***
Chef: Juan Mari Arzak
Jose Eloiza-Alli Karrera, 273
Donostia / San Sebastián (G2)
T. 943 36 54 71
www.arzak.es
G 60
Sunday and Monday

Akelarre ***
Chef: Pedro Subijana
Alta Orkogola Pab., 55 · Igeldu
Donostia / San Sebastián (A2)
T. 943 31 12 09
www.akelarre.net
G 60
From March to June and from October to December: Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday. From July to September: Sunday night and Monday.

Martín ***
Berasategui
Chef: Martín Berasategui
Loidi kalea, 4 · Lasarte-Oria
T. 943 36 64 71
www.martinberasategui.com
G 50
Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday, all day.

Mugaritz **
Chef: Andoni Luis Aduriz
Otzazuela Basuria / oldura aldea, 20zk · Errenteria
T. 943 51 83 32 / 943 52 24 55
www.mugaritz.com
G 50 à la carte
Sunday night, Monday, all day and Tuesday midday.

Other restaurants with Michelin stars

Alameda *
Hondarribia
T. 943 27 27 07
www.restaurantalameda.net
Night: from Sunday to Thursday, and Monday all day.

Elkano *
Getaria
T. 943 14 00 24 /649 33 52 74
www.restauranteelkano.com
Sunday and Monday.

Kokotxa *
Donostia / San Sebastián
T. 943 27 27 07
www.restaurantekokotxa.com

Mirador de Ulia *
Donostia / San Sebastián
Tel.: 943 27 27 07
www.miradordeulia.es
Sunday night, Monday and all day Tuesday.

Zuberoa *
Oiartzun
T: 943 49 12 28
www.zuberoa.com
From November 1 to June 1 (Sunday night, Tuesday night and Wednesday all day).

Amelia *
Donostia / San Sebastián
T. 943 10 16 13
www.ameliarestaurant.com
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

...and the last one to arrive

eMe Be Garrote *
Donostia / San Sebastián
T. 943 32 79 71
www.emebarestaurants.com
Sunday night and all day Monday.

*Updated in March 2019
pintxos

If the à la carte and set menus are the cologne of San Sebastian’s restaurants, pintxos are the perfume. The essence. The heart of our cooking. Originally the pintxo (tapa) was a slice of bread onto which a portion of food was placed, held together by a cocktail stick. Nowadays, there are simple but exceptional pintxos, like the traditional potato omelette, or the amazing Gilda, a local creation that is a spicy appetiser with chili pepper, anchovy and olive, created in honour of Rita Hayworth. And, naturally, there are more sophisticated pintxos, examples of "miniature" haute cuisine, flavours created and concentrated into small, tasty morsels.

Going out for pintxos is a social event, and a way of getting to know our culture, a spectacle that combines laughter, conversation, movement and fun.

You can enjoy this food in bars in the Old Town, the Centre, Gros and other areas of San Sebastian. We recommend visiting 4 or 5 bars and trying 1 or 2 pintxos and a drink in each establishment. A tip: don't forget how many pintxos you've eaten. You'll be asked at the end.

• If it's a cold pintxo it's normally available on the bar, and you can help yourself to it.
• If it's a hot pintxo, you order it from the waiter.
• When you go out for pintxos, you normally have one round (pintxo and drink) in each bar, and then move on to the next bar.
• You normally pay at the end.
• Usually groups of friends take turns to pay for rounds, or they set up a “kitty” before they start (none of this paying for your own order in each bar).

The “pintxopote” (meaning tapa & drink) is a fun initiative devised by restaurateurs to encourage people to keep the spirit of the poteo (bar-hopping) alive. For the price of a drink, you get the full package: the pintxo (tapa) and the drink, which is normally a glass of wine or a beer. Each neighbourhood has its “pintxopote” day (when bars offer drinks and tapas at very cheap prices). Depending on the area, it can be between Wednesday and Friday and at specific times.(from 19:00 to 22:00 is most common.)

The centre of the Gros district, the Egia, Amara and Antiguo districts and the Gastropote at San Martin Market are places with a particularly lively atmosphere.

TIP FOR BEGINNERS
Every bar has its star pintxo. If you don't know what it is, order a drink and look at what the regulars are eating. Then order the same thing.

Antonio Bar
Bar-Restaurante
Lolle Bergara, 3 / 20005 San Sebastián - Donostia
GIPUZKOA (SPAIN) / T +34 943 429 815
www.antoniobar.com

TASTY APPETISING PINTXOS
the best pintxos in each district

**the old town**

**tradition**

The birthplace and essence of our pintxos is in the bars in the Old Town. Some of the essential bars—brimming with character and tradition—are in this area, which is also dotted with modern establishments.

1. **La Viña**
   - Cheese and anchovy cornet
   - Abuztuaren 31, 3 · (1E)
   - T: 943 42 74 95
   - www.lavinarestaurante.com

2. **La Cepa**
   - Pork loin brochette with Germika peppers and chips
   - Abuztuaren 31, 7 · (1E)
   - T: 943 42 63 94
   - www.farfallas.com

3. **Casa Gandarias**
   - Txangurro (crab) tart
   - Abuztuaren 31, 23 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 63 85
   - www.restaurantegandarias.com

4. **Dakara Bi**
   - Pork loin with foie gras and a berry reduction
   - 31 de Agosto, 25 bajo · (2D)
   - T: 607 27 96 45

5. **A fuego negro**
   - Gordal olives stuffed with vermout gel
   - Abuztuaren 31, 31 · (2D)
   - T: 943 42 74 95
   - www.afiugonegro.com

6. **Bartolo**
   - Grilled foie gras
   - Fermin Kalbenton, 38 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 72 72
   - www.casaborlosolotxoa.com

7. **Zumeltzegi**
   - Monkfish brochette
   - Fermin Kalbenton, 15 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 82 10
   - www.restaurantezumeltzegi.com

8. **Haizea**
   - Filo pastry stuffed with cod
   - Aldamar, 8 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 57 10
   - https://facebook.com/BarHaizea

**centre**

**delicatessen**

This is the most stylish and classicist area of the city, and this is also reflected in the pintxos sold in its bars, focused on products and delicate and subtle preparation. Perfect for more discerning diners.

1. **Victoria Café**
   - Mini corn cake of confit of duck with raisins, pine nuts and apple, accompanied by cabbage and potato
   - República Argentina (Oleandro Plaza) · (2E) T: 943 42 03 14
   - www.victoriacafe.es

2. **Mesón Martín**
   - Trainera. Grilled squid and prawn on a bed of Iberian ham
   - Elcano, 7 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 28 66
   - www.mesonmartin.com

3. **Cafetería Lombi**
   - Iambi: Pintxo of foie gras and quail’s egg
   - Gipuzkoa Plaza, 15 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 98 95
   - facebook.com/barcafeteriaIombi

4. **Antonio Bar**
   - Anchovy in Cantabrian sea salt, with chilli and green pepper
   - Bergara, 3 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 98 15
   - www.antoniobar.com

5. **Avenida XXI**
   - Avenida XIX Crepe
   - Askatasunaren hiribidea, 21 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 84 94
   - www.forfallas.es

6. **SM Café Bar**
   - Filo pasty stuffed with leeks and prawns. (Third prize for the best pintxo, 2016)
   - Urbketa, 6 · Lokoka 20
   - C.C San Martín (3E)
   - T: 943 35 83 00
   - www.rojoynegrodosnast.es

7. **Rojo y negro**
   - Longostuirne brochette with Emmental cheese in tempura
   - San Martzial, 52 · (2E)
   - T: 943 35 83 92
   - www.rojoynegrodosnast.es

8. **Iturrioz**
   - Club Ranero-style cod
   - San Martín, 30 · (2E)
   - T: 943 42 85 18

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**Interpretation of the pintxo and restaurant reviews**

(2E) Location on the map | Closed on | Kitchen open all day | Vegetarian-Friendly | Diabetic-Friendly | Coeliac-Friendly | Euskadi Gastronomika | Capacity
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
| | | | | | | | |
Gros
cutting edge

The establishments in this district are more geared towards innovative ingredients and recipes, and the fusion of styles and origins. There is a modern feel and very lively atmosphere, especially on pintxo/pote days.

Antiguo
authentic

The Antiguo district has a unique character of which its residents are very proud. And the same goes for the food in its bars. There you will find unique flavours and options to please all of the family.

What to do, gastro

The restaurants in Donostia/San Sebastian are one of the main attractions for the visitors who come to our city. And this is because we are one of the world’s leading gastronomic destinations. We pushed the concept of tourism beyond fine dining and towards a genuine gastronomic culture, linked to our region, our landscapes, our festivals, our people and our eating establishments.

1. Café Kursaal
   Taurino pibil with tacos and guacamole
   Ramón Mª Lili 2 · (2F)
   T: 943 35 93 36
   www.cafekursaal.com
   Sunday evening

2. Bodegadonostiarra
   Indurain: Bonito tuna with anchovy, chilli, spring onion and olives, in olive oil
   Pueyo y Goi’s 13 · (2F)
   T: 943 01 13 80
   www.bodegadonostiarra.com
   Sunday

3. La pepataberna frutal
   Cold-pressed juices, super bowls of acai berries, pitaya, coconut, etc.
   Zurriola-Hribidea, 3B · (2F)
   T: 943 983 668
   Tuesdays

4. San Francisco 33
   Belartxeta: Bed of rocket, brie cheese, tomato, coriander, avocado and lemon.
   Jose Miguel Barandiaran, 24 · (2F)
   T: 943 14 24 86
   www.sanfrancisco33.com
   Winter

The establishments in this district are more geared towards innovative ingredients and recipes, and the fusion of styles and origins. There is a modern feel and very lively atmosphere, especially on pintxo/pote days.

1. Kukuarri
   Tuna tartare: Tuna, lemon juice, soy sauce and sesame oil. Accompanied with fried manioc and tomato confit
   Vitoria-Gasteiz 1 · (4B)
   T: 943 21 67 35
   www.restaurantekukuarri.com
   It does not close

2. El café de Mario
   Grilled foie gras with apple
   Julio Caro Barnoja Plaza, 2 · (4A)
   T: 943 31 50 77
   https://es-es.facebook.com/ cafedef Mario/
   It does not close

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Approximate opening hours of the restaurants:
Lunch from 13:30 to 15:30.
Dinner from 20:30 to 22:30.

San Sebastian delicacies

• Txangurro is a spider-crab that is served baked.
• Cod or hake kokotxas. This is the bottom of the fleshy part of the jaw of the cod or hake. It is cooked in a casserole dish with olive oil and garlic.
• Cod à la Koxkera. Cooked in a casserole dish with clams, peas and parsley and served with sliced hard-boiled eggs and asparagus.
• Cod omelette. Simple and delicious.
• Pil pil-style cod, prepared using olive oil, garlic and chili peppers.
• T-bone steak. The Basque Country has exceptional meat so you mustn’t miss this chance to try this tasty and tender dish, cooked on the grill.
the Old Town

traditional cuisine

Bodegón Alejandro — 2E
Seasonal dishes
À la carte: 45€
Tasting menu: 52€
Fermin Kaltbston, 4 · T. 943 42 11 27
www.bodegonalejandro.com

Gandarias Jatetxea — 2E
Joselito Iberian ham, catch of the day, T-bone and sirloin steak
À la carte: 90-156€
Abatuan 31, 2 · T. 943 42 63 62
www.restaurantegandarias.com

Fax 25/26 and 01/01

Á la carte:
15€ - 27€

Set menu:
70 - 95€

Sunday evenings and Sunday evenings

market cuisine

Bokado Mikel Santamaría — 2C
Seasonal dishes and fish
Set menu: 45€ + VAT
À la carte: + 95€ + VAT
Jaquie Costante, Plaza, 1 · T. 943 43 18 18
www.bokadomikel.com

Á la carte:
20€ - 35€

Set menu:
115€

Monday, Tuesday evenings and Sunday evenings

centre

signature cuisine

Chin chin — 2E
Bluefin tuna Tataki, with avocado and edamame beans
Set menu: 10,95€
À la carte: average price 19€
Tasting menu: 25€
Goriboy, 5 · T. 943 43 04 09
www.chinchindonosti.com

Set menu: 16,90€
À la carte: average price 30€
Weekend menu: 25,50€ + VAT
Chikando, 8 · T. 943 42 07 79
www.restaurantechikando.com

market cuisine

Oquendo — 2E
Bistro with cinematic atmosphere
Set menu: 32€ + VAT
À la carte: 50€
Zubieta, 5 · T. 943 42 33 79
www.oquendo.es

traditional cuisine and grill

Foodoo — 2D
Yakisoba noodles with prawns and squid
Set menu: 10,50€
À la carte: 19€
Group menu: 20/25€
Boulevard, 3 · T. 943 43 55 07
www.foodoo.es

Via Fora — 4E
Rice
Set menu: 19€
À la carte: 30€
Tasting menu: 32€
Federico Garcia Lorca, Pas. 10, · T. 943 43 09 89
www.viaforadonosti.com

La perla — 2E
Carpaccio of sirloin, turbot, hake in salada verde, sole, cheeks, vanilla eggy bread
Set menu: 24€
À la carte: 30/40€
Tasting menu: 52€
Kontxako Pasealekua, z/g · T. 943 43 60 84
www.laperla.net

international cuisine

Raviolina — 2D
Pizza and pasta
Set menu: 13,95€
Weekends: 17,95€
Portu, 9 · T. 943 42 87 45
www.ravislimnarestaurante.com

La fábrica — 2D
Traditional cuisine with a modern twist
Set menu: 31€
À la carte: 36€ - 45€
Weekends: 43€
Enbretxan, 3 · T. 943 43 21 12
www.restaurantelafabrica.com

Fax 25/26 and 41/01

Á la carte:
110€

Set menu:
75€

Sunday evenings and Monday

La muralla — 2E
Blends traditional flavours with creative presentation
Set menu: 29€
Enbretxan, 3 · T. 943 43 35 09
www.restaurantelamuralla.com

Fax 25/26 and 41/01

Á la carte:
60€

Set menu:
40€

Sunday evenings

modern cuisine

Astellena 1997 — 1E
Fish and meat
Set menu: 30€ / À la carte: 60€
Tasting menu: 42€
Euskad Harris, 3 · T. 943 42 50 67
www.restaurantetxoko.com

Fax 25/26 and 41/01

Á la carte:
110€

Set menu:
70€

Sunday and Wednesday evenings; Sunday nights

Xibaris — 2E
Tempura shrimps, fried squid with black aoli sauce, mushroom risotto
Set menu: 15-27€
À la carte: 18-30€
Tasting menu: 29€
San Jeronimo, 20 · T. 943 42 11 27
Fax 25/26 and 41/01

Á la carte:
60€

Set menu:
40€

Monday evenings and Tuesday

* The prices shown are approximate
Asador Portuetxe erretregea
Seasonal vegetables, fish and grilled beef chops
À la carte : 55-60€
Portueta, 4/3 · T. 943 21 50 1B
www.asadorportuetxe.com

Rekondo
Rice with clams, crab, chops
À la carte : 95-100€
Igeldo Pasalekueta, 57 · T. 943 21 29 07
www.rekondo.com

Tenis Ondarreta
Fish and meat
Set menu: 19,00€
À la carte : 40€ - 45€
Eduardo Chillida, Pza. 9 · T. 943 31 41 18
www.tenisondarreta.com

Txinparta
Chops and fish
Set menu: 14,50€
À la carte : 30€
Ilarra Berri, 2 · T. 943 22 47 00
www.txinparta.com

La piazzetta de Gros
Pasta, pizzas, artisan desserts
Set menu: 15,95€
À la carte : average price 20 - 30€
Usandizaga 23 · T. 943 32 08 38
www.lapiazzettadegros.com

Topa sukaldieria
Eggy bread and taco wraps (Basque/Latin American fusion cuisine)
À la carte : 25€
Aguinza Miresagorri, 7 · T. 943 56 91 43
www.topasukaldieria.com

Araeta sagardotegia
Fish and meat, grilled and baked in a wood-fired oven
Set menu: 17€ / Tasting menu: 31€
À la carte : from 40 - 60€
Barkaiztegi Bizkaia, 42 · MARTUTENE
T. 943 15 13 04 · www.barkaiztegi.com

Barkaiztegi
Cod, grilled fish and meat, stuffed asparagus and seasonal produce
À la carte : from 34€
Barkaiztegi Bizkaia, 42 · MARTUTENE
T. 943 15 13 04 · www.barkaiztegi.com
Sunday and public holidays: 180

Gurutze berri
Game (pigeon in sauce)
Set menu: 13€
À la carte : between 30 and 45€
Bizkaia Plaza, 7 · OIARTZUN
T. 943 05 05 26 / www.gurutzeberri.com
Sunday and Monday: 350

Marina berri
Grilled fish, Tbones steak, seafood, Segovia-style suckling lamb
Set menu: 11,55€
À la carte : from 55€
Tasting menu : 25€
Weekends and Public Holidays: from 33€
Santiago Auzoa, 1 · Kirol Portua · ZUMAIA
T. 943 86 56 17
www.restaurantemarinaberri.com

Ziaboga bistrot
Baby squid
Set menu: 30-35€
À la carte : 8-35€
Tasting menu : 40€
Donibane Kalea 91- PASAI DONIBANE · T. 943 51 03 95
www.ziabogabistrot.com

Antiguo and Igeldo

Asador Portuetxe erretregea
Seasonal vegetables, fish and grilled beef chops
À la carte : 55-60€
Portueta, 4/3 · T. 943 21 50 1B
www.asadorportuetxe.com
Sunday nights from 15 October to 15 June

Rekondo
Rice with clams, crab, chops
À la carte : 95-100€
Igeldo Pasalekueta, 57 · T. 943 21 29 07
www.rekondo.com

Topa sukaldieria
Eggy bread and taco wraps (Basque/Latin American fusion cuisine)
À la carte : 25€
Aguinza Miresagorri, 7 · T. 943 56 91 43
www.topasukaldieria.com

Sunday (from November to April)

Antiguo and Igeldo
any time of the year is perfect for enjoying the unique experience of dining in a cider house. It’s sure to leave a good taste in your mouth.

**the cider ritual**

We’ve been making cider here for centuries and it is obtained from the fermented apple juice, using traditional methods. From the middle of January to the end of April, the txotx ritual brings Basques to the cider houses, where they can taste the season’s cider before it is bottled, along with traditional menus based on cod and T-bone steak. The cider houses are open throughout the year and they are restaurants that are normally located in the same farm buildings where the cider is produced, surrounded by apple orchards. In some places they still uphold the tradition of standing as you eat and wrapping up warm to protect yourself from the cold of the cellar. But there are also modern cider houses with heating, where people sit at long wooden tables which they share with the other regulars. There’s a very special atmosphere.

In Hernani and Astigarraga, less than ten kilometres from San Sebastian, there are over 100 cider houses. And in Astigarraga, is the highly-recommended Cider Museum or Sagardoetxea.

**cider**

**apple core**

**the txotx ritual**

- The owner of the cider house shouts ‘txotx’, inviting everyone to try the cider from a new barrel.
- The diners rise from the table and approach him with their empty glass. In the order in which they arrive, each person tilts their glass until the cider, which comes out of a tiny hole in the barrel, ‘breaks’ in the glass and its aromas are released.
- You stand next to the barrel as you savour the different subtle flavours of the cider and share your thoughts with everyone else. You then return to the table with the empty glass.
- This is repeated again and again until all barrels have been tried.

**cider house menu**

Based on cod omelette, T-bone steak, nuts, cheese and quince jam. And all of the cider that you want, of course.

**what to do, gastro**

**book your cider experience**
txakoli

a winemaking revolution

With great character, txakoli should be drunk within the year and very cold. It is a suitable accompaniment for any dish, in particular the famous “pintxo” (tapas).

30 years ago, txakoli was considered a vulgar drink, acidic, uninteresting. But now it is one of the great ambassadors of our cuisine. A white wine, sophisticated, with irresistible freshness which dazzles the most demanding of diners. A tour of the wineries of Aia, Zarautz and Getaria, the towns in Gipuzkoa that produce the most txakoli, will reveal the secrets of this young and fruity wine, a perfect accompaniment for salted anchovies or tuna in oil. You will also enjoy a delightfully pretty view of the coastal scenery on this tour, anticipating the pleasure of the txakoli that you will be able to taste as soon as you arrive.

**our ambassador, txakoli.**

an age-old local product

Txakoli (G.O) is a wine which has been linked to the culture of the Basque people for centuries, a great accompaniment for our food.

**Basque Culinary Center**
the university of cuisine

If there was going to be a university with a degree in the Culinary Arts, it had to be here.

Juan Avelino Barriola, 101
T: 943 57 45 00
www.bculinary.com

Gastronomic societies
for members and guests

The members meet up to have lunch or dinner in a club equipped with a kitchen in a warm and friendly atmosphere. You must be invited by a member to attend. The food comes from outside and is cooked by one or more of the diners at the meal. The costs are then calculated and split between everyone.

Gastronomic societies are halfway between a home and a restaurant. If you get the chance to go to one, don’t miss it. It’s a way of becoming deeply immersed in the culture of San Sebastian.
In San Sebastian we’ve managed to preserve the essence of traditional trade. In fact, a big part of the success of our cuisine is down to the seasonal produce that the area’s smallholder farmers and cattle farmers bring to the city throughout the year. Just like they used to decades ago.

Also for gourmets.

The city also has that chic and refined touch which is also reflected in its selection of stores, with specialised food shops where you can buy imported produce and culinary delicacies, for connoisseurs and gourmets.

In La Bretxa and San Martín food markets you can see the most renowned chefs personally selecting the best ingredients. They come here every day to select the meat, vegetables and fish which they will go on to serve in their restaurants. Very close to San Sebastian, the markets in Tolosa and Ordizia are also two great options to buy high-quality local produce.
SAN SEBASTIÁN,
PERMANENT EXHIBITION

—
cultural plans
—

The sea has created a masterpiece here. Human being, with his museums, cultural centres and sculptures by the most acclaimed artists, is trying to match it.

Chillida-leku
Jaurrieta Bullido, 66, Hernani
T: 943 33 59 63
www.museochillidaleku.com

Chillida-Leku is “Chillida’s place”, a space conceived by the artist as a living exhibition of his art. Outside the Zabalaga farmhouse there is an exhibition of over 40 large pieces, made from iron and granite. Inside, there are smaller pieces, drawings and the artist’s early sculptures.

museums

for people who want to see and be seen

San Sebastian boasts a full and varied selection of museums: history, science and technology, oceanography and other sources of knowledge are disseminated through exhibition rooms, saltwater tanks and modern audiovisual facilities. To satisfy people who want to know more about how things work. People who want to learn about the world and themselves.

San Telmo museum

Located at the heart of the Old Town, the museum has reopened its doors after major renovations. With the 16th century Dominican convent renovated and extended with a contemporary building, this space has now become the Museum of Basque Society and Citizenship and offers a new perspective of our society.

Zuloaga Plaza, 1 (1E)
T. 943 48 15 80
www.santelmomuseoa.eus

Distances and buses from the Tourist Office on the Boulevard. Practical information about the museums...
Tabakalera
An ambitious project that was launched in 2015, which converted an old tobacco factory into an International Centre for Contemporary Culture and now contains the headquarters of various iconic cultural institutions with an open, varied and multidisciplinary programme.

Entry to the building, its exhibitions and certain activities from the cultural programme is generally free. The Tabakalera is an iconic place in the city which is worth a visit, even if it’s only to go up to the splendid terrace on the fifth floor to enjoy the views of San Sebastian.

Aquarium
The Palacio del Mar (Sea Palace) or Aquarium is one of the most modern in Europe. The building, the work of the architect Juan Carlos Guerra, stands on a rock and has just undergone extensive renovations to give it more of an educational focus. It has an oceanarium that is covered by a 360° acrylic tunnel, where the visitors feel like they are a part of the marine life as they watch sharks and rays pass over them. Over 200 marine species live in the numerous tanks that the museum has, including a touch pool where you can touch some of the live specimens.

Two bull sharks, TXURI and CONCHITA, are the stars of the oceanarium and one of the main reasons why the Aquarium is the city’s most popular attraction. You can dive in and swim with them. If you dare, of course.

History house
History House, located in La Mota Castle high up on Mount Urgull, is the place where San Sebastian exhibits its history. On a tour through audiovisual content, models, objects and historic scenes, the more than 800 years of a young and lively city are recounted.

The Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum exudes the elegance and creative imagination that characterised the designs of the most sophisticated haute couture fashion designers of the 20th century. Set in a stunningly beautiful location, on a hill overlooking the sea, the museum combines the local architecture of the 19th century summer residences with a large, modern building that blends into the landscape. The museum’s own extensive collection is displayed together with temporary exhibitions that cover various aspects of 20th century clothing.
Eureka! zientzia museoa

This interactive museum perfectly combines learning about science with having fun. It has a permanent exhibition with over 170 interactive modules, a digital Planetarium, the Animalia room with 20 species of live animals, an exhibition about the human and animal body with real pieces and a room with simulators. It also has a restaurant-café, picnic area and free parking.

Naval museum

The Naval Museum works to preserve, study and disseminate Basque maritime history and heritage through temporary exhibitions. The museum is located in the former fish market at the Consulate of San Sebastian, a building constructed in the middle of the 18th century.

Environmental resource centre

Duque de Mandas Palace is a training centre for environment-related issues and it features a library, a Zikloteka or documentation centre on the bicycle and cyclist mobility and sustainability-related exhibitions.

Museum cemento Rezola

The museum’s activities tell us about the past and present of the industrial world and how lifestyles have changed.

Albaola

In the Basque Maritime Factory, in a shipyard museum with exhibitions and craftsmen working before you, you can be part of the audience that witnesses the construction of a replica of the San Juan whaling ship, a 16th century galleon.

It’s only 3 km from San Sebastian, in a secluded area that is sheltered by the cliffs, which you can access by boat or by walking along the coast.

Bus E09. From Oquendo street, 14

Bus A1 o A2. From Oquendo street, 14

Bus 28. From Boulevard 9

Real 100 museoa

This Museum opened on September 2009, the day on which Real Sociedad marked 100 years since its foundation. In an area of 400m2 and using innovative set designs, it shows us the club’s history. }

Temporarily closed.

Duque de Mandas Palace

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Naval museum

The Naval Museum

Zikloteka or documentation centre on the bicycle and cyclist mobility and sustainability-related exhibitions.

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other places

Besides the museums, San Sebastian also has other places devoted to art and culture, which are also seen as iconic in the city. Places where there’s room for every kind of artistic expression, from cinema to architecture, design, illustration and new audiovisual trends. Tabakalera, the Kubo Gallery and the Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre are places that bring together artists, experts and the public.

Koldo Mitxelena
Urdoeta, 9 - (6E)
Tel. 943 11 27 60
kmk.gipuzkoakultura.net
850 m

Kubo Gallery
Avenida Zurriola, 1 - (1F)
Tel. 943 01 24 00
www.sala-kubo-aretoa.com
500 m

art galleries

Individual and group exhibitions, local, national and international artists, young creators and renowned figures, innovative expressions of the latest trends and examples of classical art sponsored by prestigious firms.

escape room

In Izurun you can learn about the history of San Sebastian and have fun at the same time. Based on escape games, Izurun is a unique experience that combines leisure with culture, creating a new form of entertainment in the city.

language tourism

Due to its history and geographical location, Donostia / San Sebastian, is a multilingual city. Learn Spanish or Basque during your stay in the city.

#EL AULA AZUL
T: 943 45 29 91 - www.elaulaazul.com

#LACUNZA IH SAN SEBASTIAN
T: 943 32 66 80 - www.lacunza.com

#TANDEM SAN SEBASTIAN
T: 943 32 67 05

SAN TELMO MUSEUM
THE BASQUE SOCIETY OF THE PAST. THE BASQUE SOCIETY OF THE PRESENT.

STM
San Telmo Museoa
20003 Donostia / San Sebastian
T: 943 48 15 80
www.santelmomuseoa.eus
@santelmomuseoa
complete works

Donostia / San Sebastian

The architecture in Donostia/San Sebastian includes works of many styles but unquestionable quality. The Belle Époque left an impressive legacy of elegant aristocratic buildings, with a prominent French-influenced style. But there are many more: fine examples of rationalism, prestigious contemporary works and splendid bridges and palaces all make up a complete selection that is well worth visiting.

Belle Époque
romantic area

In 1893, Queen María Cristina started spending her summers in the city, and she was joined by much of the European aristocracy. This brought San Sebastian fortune, distinction and an impressive series of stately buildings with a marked French style. The City Hall (1) that was a casino from when it was built in 1887 until 1924. The Victoria Eugenia Theatre (2), from 1912, of sandstone and decorated in the Plateresque style. And the splendid Maria Cristina Hotel (3), work of the architecture Charles Mewes, who was also responsible for the Ritz hotels in Madrid and Paris, all splendid examples from that golden era.

Other examples from that period are the Provincial Council Palace (4), in Gipuzkoa Square, the Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre (5) the Perla Spa (6) built in 1912 and considered one of the most beautiful from the period, and the Funicular Station (7)

contemporary work

San Sebastian has excellent examples of contemporary architecture. For example, the Kursaal’s two “beached rocks” (8), by Rafael Moneo, awarded with the Mies van der Rohe award for architecture. He was also responsible for the Isus Church (9). Or there’s also the Basque Culinary Center (10), the centre for Higher Gastronomical Studies, with the appearance of stacked dishes. And the Higher School of Music, Musikene (11), opened in 2016 and inspired by a grand piano.

Concha Beach (6)

You can now enjoy thalassotherapy.

bridges

An intriguing blend of architectural styles awaits you on the banks of the River Urumea: ranging from baroque and more traditional styles to a demonstration of the simplicity of minimalism.

The Zurriola Bridge (14), the nearest to the sea, was built in 1921 and is famous for its fabulous art deco lamp posts. The Santa Catalina Bridge (15) was the first to be built in the city, using wood. And the María Cristina Bridge (16) dates from 1905 and features four monumental abbeys.

converted into museums

Among other things, Donostia/San Sebastian’s ongoing devotion to culture has led to the architectural conversion of old buildings. This is the case of the Tabakalera (17), the former tobacco factory which was converted into what is now an International Centre for Contemporary Culture whose interior and terrace with a panoramic view are worth a visit. And San Telmo Museum (18), a Dominican convent from the 16th century that has been renovated and extended with a modern building.

rationalism

In San Sebastian, there are outstanding examples of this style, typical of the 1920s and 1930s. The Club Náutico (12) (Yacht Club) is one of the most striking: a boat moored in the dock, built in 1929 by the architects José Manuel Arriaga and Joaquin Labajos. The Equitativa (13) building is another rationalist gem, in its expressionist form, in an exceptional setting at the entrance to the Gros district.
more than folklore: an identity
go ahead and speak Europe’s oldest language!

What lies behind the city’s most deep-rooted customs? The Tamborrada (a festival in which the city is filled with people dressed as soldiers and cooks playing drums), the traineras (traditional boating competition), the Euskal Jaiak (Basque Festivals) or the St. Thomas Fair? An ancient language, Basque, and a unique culture come together to form a nation with strong emotional ties. A true identity.

The Basque culture is unique. It has its own language, Basque, the oldest tongue in Europe. And it has traditional values that have been preserved, such as sacrifice, a bond with the land, solidarity and respect for traditions. Its language and its distinctive values have given rise to a unique collective identity and many of the folkloric expressions and sports exhibitions that you can enjoy in San Sebastian.

From the Tamborrada to the St. Thomas Fair, from the carnival to the Herri Kirolak (Basque rural sports event) or San Sebastian’s La Concha Flag (a sailing competition), sporting competitions that originate from old rivalries between farm workers and fishermen, this city’s local festivals will reveal another side to the true nature of the Basques.

January
San Sebastian Day
Can you imagine an entire city with thousands of Napoleonic soldiers and cooks enthusiastically playing the drums for 24 hours straight? It’s the Tamborrada, which is held in honour of the city’s patron saint on the 20th of January. It starts at midnight, when the city’s flag is raised in Constitución Square, to the march of San Sebastian. The celebration goes on for a whole day. You won’t believe it until you see it.

February
Carnival
The month of February sees the arrival of the Carnival. It is announced by the boisterous caldereros (tinkers) who, as the popular song goes, “come from Hungary”. On the Sunday after caldereros Saturday, Iñuadeak eta Artaialk day is held, re-enacting the courtship between the nursemaids and shepherds when they came down to the town. Both events are accompanied by the melodies of Raimundo Sarriegi and come before the Carnival which, when the god Momus appears, fills the streets with a colourful frenzy.

August
Big Week
This is San Sebastian’s biggest festival, held in honour of the feast of Our Lady of Assumption throughout the week that includes the 15th of August. It offers an extensive programme of concerts and cultural events with one star show: the International Fireworks Competition.

September
La Concha Flag
On the first two Sundays in September, the city is flooded with rowing fans who come from fishing villages from all over the Cantabrian and they fill the area around the port and the foothills of Mount Urgull with wonderful colour. The occasion merits it: it’s La Concha Flag, the top boat racing trophy. The Olympics of rowing.

St. Thomas Fair
This is held on the 21st of December and it is one of the most eagerly-awaited fairs by the people of San Sebastian. It commemorates the old market that used to be held in San Sebastian, where farmers and cattle ranchers from the province would come to the capital city to pay their taxes and display their best produce.

FUN AND CULTURE
See first-hand the world of Basque pelota:
#FRONTON GALARRETA
Entidad Jauregi, s/n
HERNANI
T. 943 55 10 23
www.galarreta-jaialai.com

#JAI ALAI EVENTS
Frontón Galarrreta
www.jaialai.eus

#JAI ALIVE.
Pozuarte 83, 3º.
www.jaialaiworldtour.com
what to do, culture

Dock of the Bay.
January in San Sebastián starts in the best way possible, with the Dock of the Bay Music Documentary Film Festival.

dFeria.
This is followed two months later by the San Sebastián International Theatre Festival – dFeria, an unmissable event for the Performing Arts industry.

Human Rights Film Festival.
This is held in April and has become a mainstay event on the cultural calendar of San Sebastián. Its objective is to promote values such as solidarity, justice and equality.

San Sebastian Fashion Festival.
In May and October the best shop window display in the textile industry in Gipuzkoa’s Fashion Week: catwalk shows, showrooms, master classes, conferences, markets and workshops and spaces such as the San Telmo Museum and Balenciaga Museum.

Kutxa Culture Festival.
There’s a unique festival in June. A weekend of live, international music. An unbeatable stage: The San Sebastian Racecourse (Lasarte).

Horror and Fantasy Film Festival.
From the end of October until the beginning of November the theatres and streets of San Sebastián become the makeshift set of a horror film to host the Horror and Fantasy Film Festival. Come and have a scarily good time.

San Sebastián Haiku Festival.
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San Sebastián Gastronomika Congress.
In November, this congress of the Gipuzkoan Gastronomy, which is the biggest in Europe, gathers the city’s best chefs and restaurateurs to present the best in culinary arts.

San Sebastián Jazzaldia-
Jazz Festival
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

San Sebastián Gastronomika.
In August, the large crowds at the Music Fortnight show you how much the people of San Sebastian love symphonic music. Concerts by internationally renowned figures and orchestras attract young and old people alike, and the “sold out” sign is almost always upshow.

Cineyderachos humanos
May
San Sebastián Fashion Festival
www.gipuzkoademoda.diarivasco.com
Olatu Talka
www.olatutalka.eu

Jazzoldia-Jazz Festival
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

Human Rights Film Festival
May
San Sebastián Fashion Festival
www.gipuzkoademoda.diarivasco.com
Olatu Talka
www.olatutalka.eu

JULY
Jazzoldia-Jazz Festival
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

Heineken Jazzaldia—Jazz Festival
HEINEKEN JAZZALDIA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL
www.donostiakultura.eus

During the second fortnight in July, San Sebastián moves to the beat of the finest international jazz. Music greats like James Brown, Lisa Minnelli, Bobbie McFerrin, Diana Krall, Cassandra Wilson and B.B. King have come to the city’s beaches, theatres, squares and auditoriums to thrill their audiences.

festival of festivals
Film, theatre and music festivals that attract the world’s best artists and thousands of people throughout the year. When it comes to cultural events, San Sebastián is a real festival.

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The city’s biggest cultural event. The festival of festivals. Major stars and young directors. Every September the whole domestic and international movie scene comes to San Sebastian to attend the most cosmopolitan event of the year.

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Jazz Festival
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

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January in San Sebastián starts in the best way possible, with the Dock of the Bay Music Documentary Film Festival.

dFeria.
This is followed two months later by the San Sebastián International Theatre Festival – dFeria, an unmissable event for the Performing Arts industry.

Human Rights Film Festival.
This is held in April and has become a mainstay event on the cultural calendar of San Sebastián. Its objective is to promote values such as solidarity, justice and equality.

San Sebastian Fashion Festival.
In May and October the best shop window display in the textile industry in Gipuzkoa’s Fashion Week: catwalk shows, showrooms, master classes, conferences, markets and workshops and spaces such as the San Telmo Museum and Balenciaga Museum.

Kutxa Culture Festival.
There’s a unique festival in June. A weekend of live, international music. An unbeatable stage: The San Sebastian Racecourse (Lasarte).

Horror and Fantasy Film Festival.
From the end of October until the beginning of November the theatres and streets of San Sebastián become the makeshift set of a horror film to host the Horror and Fantasy Film Festival. Come and have a scarily good time.

San Sebastián Haiku Festival.
This is held in April and has become a mainstay event on the cultural calendar of San Sebastián. Its objective is to promote values such as solidarity, justice and equality.

San Sebastián Gastronomika Congress.
In November, this congress of the Gipuzkoan Gastronomy, which is the biggest in Europe, gathers the city’s best chefs and restaurateurs to present the best in culinary arts.

San Sebastián Jazzaldia—
Jazz Festival
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

During the second fortnight in July, San Sebastián moves to the beat of the finest international jazz. Music greats like James Brown, Lisa Minnelli, Bobbie McFerrin, Diana Krall, Cassandra Wilson and B.B. King have come to the city’s beaches, theatres, squares and auditoriums to thrill their audiences.

Festival of festivals
Film, theatre and music festivals that attract the world’s best artists and thousands of people throughout the year. When it comes to cultural events, San Sebastián is a real festival.

In August, the large crowds at the Music Fortnight show you how much the people of San Sebastian love symphonic music. Concerts by internationally renowned figures and orchestras attract young and old people alike, and the “sold out” sign is almost always upshow.

The city’s biggest cultural event. The festival of festivals. Major stars and young directors. Every September the whole domestic and international movie scene comes to San Sebastian to attend the most cosmopolitan event of the year.

Film events in Europe. The city’s biggest cultural event. The festival of festivals. Major stars and young directors. Every September the whole domestic and international movie scene comes to San Sebastian to attend the most cosmopolitan event of the year.
Everyone knows that this city is by the sea. It’s perhaps less well-known that the sea is very versatile. To the east of the city, on the Zurriola Beach, the sea is bold, with constant waves that guarantee a great time for surfing enthusiasts.

However, on La Concha you can enjoy the sheltered waters of the bay. There you can row at ease in a canoe or on a paddle surf or, if you prefer it, you can enjoy the views of the city from the gently swaying sea, like a millionaire whose yacht is berthed. Or both.

Whatever you like, whether it’s the wild and intermittent sport of surfing or the sustained exercise of rowing, in San Sebastian you’ve got the perfect sea to do it. And if you like sailing, scuba diving or open water swimming, the best water for you is also right here. In the summer and in the winter, as long as you put on a wetsuit. That really is an extreme sport.
San Sebastian is a perfect destination for running. It’s very popular here and the city has endless promenades on the seafront and countless pedestrianised streets which make up a number of established routes. Two of the most popular routes are completely flat: the three-beach route, which covers six kilometres along the city’s coastline from point to point, without crossing a single traffic light. And the River Urumea route, which you can enjoy on either of its banks, along tree-lined avenues and across all of the city’s bridges; around seven kilometres in total. This city also hosts major events on the athletics calendar, with races such as the 0DUDWKRQ, the +DOI0DUDWKRQ, the NP &ODVVLF and the %HKRELD 6DQ6HEDVWLDQ, one of the most popular races with almost 30,000 runners. And what about cycling? With a 30 kilometre network of bidegorris (bicycle lanes) worthy of Holland and with the “San Sebastian-San Sebastian Classic”, a cycling race, which attracts the world’s best cyclists every summer. The San Sebastian area is the perfect setting for cycling. Very nearby there are epic ports from the Tour de France, beautiful routes along the coast for people of all levels, mountain biking trails and legendary routes along the roads of the Basque countryside, climbs and descents that have tested cycling greats like Olano, Lejarreta and Beloki. Klí provides customised cycling plans, for individuals or groups, guided road, mountain biking or urban cycling tours, designed for you to get on your bike and discover the best parts of the Basque Country. They also rent bicycles. ... and on four wheels

#KARTING OLABERRIA Gaimaro Zuzoa, 21g OLABERRIA T. 943 16 08 62 www.circuitdeolaberria.net

... and to get fit ...

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BIKE RENTALS

#BICIRENT Avenida Zurriola, 22 (1F) T. 943 27 11 73 www.bicirentdonosti.es

#LA BICICLETA Paseo Cordelón, 19. (3E) T. 943 94 22 33 / 639 26 79 16 www.labicicletadonosti.com

#OH MY BIKE! Plaza Teresa de Calcuta, 6 - (2F) T. 943 53 97 03 www.ohmybikeat.com

#SANSE BIKES Boulevard, 25 (2E) T. 943 04 52 85 www.sansebikes.com

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#KIROL MUSIK Zabaleta, 26B (1F) T. 943 28 35 80 www.kirolmusik.com

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#BASQUE COUNTRY CYCLING - Klí Jose Miguel Barandiaran, 24 T. 943 53 71 34 www.basquecountrycycling.com

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... For help designing your personalised route ...
4. Trekking

Más allá de San Sebastián empieza todo lo demás. Muy cerca, en sus alrededores, hay muchos otros caminos que no olvidarás. Desde lo mejor de la costa vasca en un día, a la memoria secreta de los montes vascos, el silencio de los bosques de hayas y travesías de ski fuera de pista en los Pirineos. Excursiones de un día o de una semana. Para ti solo o para tu grupo. Tráete una mochila. Y llenala de valiosos recuerdos.

*strap on your backpack and have an unforgettable experience*

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**San Sebastian - Orio**

When you have crossed the bay you will arrive at Ondarreta Beach and leave the city. Here, the Way regains its rural appearance. A small and clear mountain range composed of three connected mountains, Igeldo, Mendizorrotz and Kukuarri, accompanies the pilgrim or simple walker to the fishing port of Orio. The route is magnificent, peaceful, between isolated hamlets and cattle farms, along trails overrun with vegetation. A 16-kilometre balcony overlooking the Cantabrian Sea. It also passes through the village of Igeldo, where you can have a snack, and it also passes very close to some marvellous restaurants, which is excellent if you’re low on energy or short on time and suddenly feel hungry.

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**San Sebastian - Pasaia**

If you head to the east from Zurriola Beach, in the opposite direction to St James’s Way, you start along one of the most spectacular stretches of the Gipuzkoa coast. On the edge of the deserted cliffs of Mount Ulía, a 7.6-kilometre path winds its way to the fishing village of Pasai San Pedro. First of all, you pass by an old watchtower, used for whale spotting since medieval times. Then you continue between pine trees and lowland forest until you arrive at a crag where the Faro de la Plata (Silver Lighthouse) is located, a fantastic lookout over the entrance to the port of Pasaia. From there, you go down some steep steps to the bay, next to another sensational lighthouse, called Senokozuloa. And you can finish the excursion by taking a boat and crossing the bay to the charming town of Pasai Donibane.
San Sebastian is the perfect setting to enjoy your most romantic side. It has the architecture, the promenades, the hotels and the restaurants that really help you to achieve unforgettable memories. It has museums full of beauty and a thalassotherapy centre straight out of the “Belle Époque” in San Sebastian. And it has the sea, which revives even the slightest of affection and increases the taste and the intensity of a moment, of a gesture, of an emotion. It’s the perfect setting for a naughty getaway, for a quiet couple, for a hot-blooded romance with a happy ending. It’s a city that inspires this thing called love that makes the world go round.

Nothing tastes better than a kiss, you have to admit it. But San Sebastian has all of the things you need to make it taste even better.

**THINGS TO DO IN SAN SEBASTIAN WHEN YOU’RE NOT KISSING**

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**plans for couples**

Discover why Donostia/San Sebastian is a romantic place. Discover all of the things here that help to inflame passion. Take a deep breath and fall in love with this city as well.

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**a room with a view of your feelings**

That moment when you open the door to your room, suitcase in hand, and you see the place where you’re going to be happy. It might be a charming and stylishly-designed room in a small hotel. Or the intense blue colours from the bay may be pouring in through an open window. Or you may be resting on the marvellous bed that you’re going to sleep in in a five-star luxury hotel. In San Sebastian, one of these exciting rooms is waiting for you.

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**immerse yourself in seawater**

**Immersed in water**

**thalassotherapy.**

The Thalasso-Sports Centre is the direct descendent of the first seawater spa opened when the “Belle Époque” was in full flow in San Sebastian. It offers all of the wellness, relaxation and physical toning of seawater in a 5500m2 facility. There are relaxation and hydrotherapy pools, a panoramic jacuzzi, a dry sauna, an ice fountain and a whole maze of sensations. All of the therapeutic effects of seawater. All of the ways possible to immerse yourself, to envelop yourself, to make yourself feel better.

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**place your bets**

At the start of the 20th century, gambling and games of chance were of huge importance here. The best proof of this is the fact that the City Hall building was originally a casino. Nowadays, the city still has a large number of gambling establishments and bingo halls. When it comes to having fun, the Kursaal Casino is a safe bet.

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**#CASINO KURSAAL**

Kala Nagusia, 1 (2E)
T. 943 42 92 74
www.casinokursaal.com

**#LA PERLA CENTRO TALASO SPORT**

Kontxa pasealekua, z/g (3D)
T. 943 45 88 56
www.la-perla.net
The sun never sets in the same place in San Sebastian. For example, in Ondarreta it always sets behind Mount Igueldo. But in the summer, when the days are longer, you can see it from La Concha, in the west from the Nuevo Promenade and on La Zurrriola, a magnificent sunset reflected in the water, glimmering in the waves and with its fantastic spectrum of evening colours. From the top of Mount Urgull, where there are no obstacles, the view is breathtaking. But perhaps it’s from Sagües where the sunset is most spectacular, with the entire city standing between the fading daylight and the parapet on which you sit. If you feel like doing it in style you can also hire a sailing boat and watch it from the sea. It doesn’t get any more romantic than that.

**a day at the races**

The San Sebastian Racecourse, located in Lasarte, has brought together thousands of racing fans every summer for over 40 years. Thoroughbreds, jockeys, trainers and gamblers come here over twelve Sundays, during which unmissable horse racing events are held. The Gold Cup International Grand Prix, which is held every 15th of August, is the jewel in the crown and a perfect excuse to spend the day doing something different, at the races.

The "Gold Cup" brings together thousands of racing fans

Cristóbal Balenciaga is considered to be one of the most influential fashion designers of the 20th century. His creative genius and boldness made him the international king of "haute couture" until he retired. In the incredible museum recently built in Getaria, in a uniquely elegant, laid back and sophisticated atmosphere, you can discover an exceptional collection with the best outfits from his career.

**choose your sunset**

**the emperor’s clothes**

#HIPÓDROMO
Arrapide pasealekua, 11. ZUBIETA
T: 943 37 31 80
www.hipodromoa.com

#CRISTOBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA
Aldamar Parkea, 6. GETARIA
T: 943 00 88 40
www.cristobalbalenciagamuseoa.com

HAVING FUN IS CHILD’S PLAY

The kids need to be entertained and you want to make the most of your stay. We suggest interesting and fun plans for both you and them. All go out to play!
what to do, family

the mount of San Sebastian and the rollercoaster

An amusement park from the start of the 20th century sits on top of Mount Igeldo. It still has its “Belle Epoque” charm, with its ponies, its lookout and its retro feel, so when you go up there you travel back in time. Its rides have such evocative names as the Río Misterioso (Mysterious River), the Casa del Terror (House of Horror) and the Montaña Suiza (Rollercoaster), whose train carries its brave passengers around the very edge of the cliff at dazzling speeds. It has the most famous panoramic view of San Sebastian; the most widely-painted and iconic view. So you can enjoy the city with one eye and keep the other one on your kids.

all aboard the funicular

It’s San Sebastian’s most scenic form of transport and it’s just as charming as it was a century ago. Sitting on its wooden seats and going up to the Mount Igeldo Amusement Park is a unique experience which no visitor should miss.

treasure Island

A motorboat service connects the port to the island of Santa Clara in the summer. It’s a journey full of dangers. The boat could be boarded by pirates and sea monsters could capsize it. On the island there is a lighthouse, a small beach and many more little gems.

courageous captains

Put your kids on a catamaran and take them around the bay and along the nearby coast. Make them feel like true captains of the sea. The City of San Sebastian offers half-hour excursions. The service is daily throughout the year, except in the winter.

Aquarium

The Aquarium and Eureka! Two museums for kids, two ways of learning and having fun. In the Aquarium you can see sharks, turtles and hundreds of marine species which live together in a tank containing almost two million litres of water. The tunnel with 360 degree vision which crosses through it will allow you to explore it from within.

Eureka! Zientzia museoa

A perfect way to spend a day, combining science and fun. A planetarium, simulators, live shows and over 170 interactive modules divided between 8 themed rooms (optics, electricity, the human body, mechanics, the Earth, the senses...). And Animalia! with over 20 species of live animals. The museum has a large car park and a café-restaurant. All in an exceptional setting, 5 minutes from the centre of San Sebastian.
To learn to ice skate or have fun with all of the family.

**ice palace**

**Txuri-Urdin**

To learn to ice skate or have fun with all of the family.

**City tour**

You can go on the best routes around the city on a tourist bus or train. They both offer you panoramic routes with the best views of the city.

**Kutxa Ekogunea**

Kutxa Ekoguneko Haur Parkea is a place for kids aged between 0 and 12, designed to a high educational standard and with trees, nests, nets and a small farmhouse built using natural materials. Come to play and learn with nature in our workshops. We also have a nice café for adults.

**Kutxa Ekogunea**

Rekalde - Hernani errepiidea zi/gabe (GI-2132, 2 km-a).

T. 943 55 20 20

www.ekogunea.eus

Bus G1 or G2. From Okendo street.

**Eureka! Science Museum**

Science and entertainment: Planetarium, simulators, experiments... and Animalia!

943 012 900

Paseo de Mikelatego, 43-45
bureak@eurekamuseoa.es

**CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND! KUTXA EKOGUNEA**

Come and enjoy a lively, high-quality family entertainment experience!

943 55 20 20

Ctra. Rekalde - Hernani s/n (GI-2132, km 2)
haurparka@ekogunea.eus
what to do at night

Everyone has their own night out here. The one they want, the one they’re looking for. It’s a night surrounded by the sea, which cools the temperature, means that everyone has a different experience and gives it a unique style. For example: you leave a bar on the Boulevard and cross the river to go to another on Zurriola. The city lights are reflected in the water. You hear the waves passing beneath the bridge. You can smell the dark sea. There’s nothing else like it.

There are basically five leisure areas. The lively and diverse selection of bars and pubs. Or beer and water, or gin and tonic and water. The nightlife and the calm of the sea: a fantastic combination that few cities can offer.

Buen Pastor Cathedral, the chic area of town, with trendy bars and alternative music. Egia, with micro-theatre and live music. And the Gros district, young and alternative, with bars that are scattered about but with unique styles, ideal for sitting down and slowly enjoying a cool drink and the Antiguo area. The bars in these three areas close at three in the morning. But don’t leave just yet, there’s still more fun to be had.

The action continues in the port and on the Zurriola and La Concha beaches, with nightclubs on the seafront, as changing as the tides, where everything and anything can happen.

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There are basically five leisure areas. The Old Town, the Gros district and Reyes Católicos Street. The night has only just begun.

The moon is out. The stars are out. So why not go out too? Wander around the Old Town, the Gros district and Reyes Católicos Street. The night has only just begun.

in San Sebastian the nights are varied, changeable, personal.

If might be a relaxed evening of conversations that you’ll never forget, or it might be wild and crazy night, where things happen so quickly that you can hardly remember anything. You can have the night that you decide. Or the night may decide for you.

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Shopping is one of life’s great pleasures. And if you also have an impressive range of stores, a mix of the more traditional and innovative shops, excitement is guaranteed.
On the one hand, San Sebastian has managed to retain the essence of traditional shopping, with a wide variety of establishments that offer tried and tested products with the same quality as always. And at the same time, it has that chic and stylish touch that can be seen in its range of shops, with highly sophisticated stores, alternative establishments and big brand boutiques. And, as it’s also not a very big city, the stores are concentrated in the same areas, so going shopping is very convenient.

The city’s three main shopping areas:

**The Old Town**, with its traditional shops and typical souvenirs, but also with delicatessens and designer stores.

**The Centre**, with its small upmarket stores and the top international brands.

**Gros district**, a diverse selection of art galleries, antique shops, sports shops and surfer and mountain gear stores.

Stores are generally open from 10.00 to 13.30 and from 16.00 to 19.30. However, the shopping centres and supermarkets don’t normally close at lunchtime and they are normally open until 21.00 or 22.00.

**#SSHOPS DONOSTIA**
Urban Commerce Platform C/EIkana nº4, 1º Dcha T. 943 09 09 38
www.sansebastianshops.com

There are lots to choose from. It can be a **typical gastronomical product** (1), like a bottle of txakoli wine from Getaria, Idiazabal cheese, Tolosa beans, a jar of Cantabrian anchovies... or a box of San Sebastian’s fine confectionary with pastries, or the traditional **pantxinetas** (puff pastry dessert) (2). Or a surfboard (3), made by a world-famous company from San Sebastian. Or an **exclusive gift** from some of the city’s finest boutiques (4), or a few drops of perfume **SSirimini**: the essence of San Sebastian (5), or perhaps a splendid **txapela** (local beret-style hat) (6) to top off your visit, or perhaps a marvellous **illustration** by a local artist (7) or a Real Sociedad shirt.

**made in sanse**

are you a foodie? Treat someone (or yourself) to the most delicious souvenir

if you take something with you from San Sebastian, it’s as if you never really left. Especially if it’s one of those things that we do here and here alone.
gourmet
The finest flavours, from here and across the world

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www.ekainartelanak.com

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www.kurgallery.com

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www.elkar.com

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www.fnac.es

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Autobús: 24, 27, 33, E06

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A8 Highway exit 5B Intraurrondo
Latitude 43.310048 / longitude -1.946770
Bus #s: 24, 27, 33, E06
The Basque Country is a maze. There are paths that start at San Sebastian and take you to places that are so unalike one another that it doesn’t seem possible that they’re so close to each other. Behind every valley we cross there’s a change in scenery and architecture, there’s a different Basque language and a microclimate of its own, so it’s easy to believe that you’re inside a maze. Here are some tips so you don’t get lost in the surrounding areas. Or so that you do.
Gipuzkoa’s heart isn’t red, it’s green and winding: deep valleys, curved roads, villages built next to the rivers that cross the region in an inevitably ornate style. The inland has a wealth of curves, slopes and places that are well worth visiting. The N-1 that crosses the valley of the River Oria is the main road connecting the north and the south. You won’t have to drive too far to reach Tolosa, a noble town that was the capital of Gipuzkoa for ten years in the 19th century. It would be an excellent idea to head to Tolosa one Saturday morning, when they hold the bustling and colourful farmer’s market.

Another unique market is in Ordizia, a few kilometres to the south. They’ve been holding its market for five centuries in the very heart of the old town, which has been declared a Historic-Artistic Site. Every Wednesday you get the chance to experience one of the more traditional aspects of the Basque way of life. We’re now in the Basque Highlands, where nature, culture and cuisine come together to form an enticing tourist attraction.

If you go a little further up the Oria River, you will arrive at Beasain, where you can visit the Igartza medieval site: the 12th century bridge, the mill, the wine press and the splendid stone and wooden structure of the palace. And very close by, in Ataun, you can visit the Barandiaran Museum, which is a Basque mythology museum. There’s not a great deal of distance from there to Idiazábal, which is famous for the designation of origin of its cheese. And you also have Segura very nearby, one of the region’s most elegant and beautiful villages, which was founded in the thirteenth 13th. Its narrow cobblestone streets are unique in Gipuzkoa, as are the nearby Aizpea mines (in the town of Zerain), a unique cultural site where you can contemplate the impact that iron mining has had on the landscape, culture and Basque society since the 11th century.

After passing through Zegama, you come to the town of Zumalakarregi, where you can visit the Zumalakarregi Museum. Located in the house where the Carlist general Tomás Zumalakarregi was born.
from Biarritz to Mutriku, along the entire shore

Basque coastal route

To the east and west of San Sebastian, the coastline is an ever-shifting line of steep cliffs and beautiful beaches, an extraordinary collection of lighthouses, vantage points and little fishing villages.

Heading east towards the border with France, Mount Ulla brings us down a signposted path to Pasaia San Pedro, a town with cobbled streets and a fishing tradition, which has a shipyard for traditional Basque boats called Albaola. In the port you can catch a boat to the neighbouring Pasai Donibane, a village crossed by a single narrow street and dotted with passageways.

From there it’s easy to get to the historic quarters that have been preserved in the industrial towns of Lezo and Errenteria. If you continue eastwards, Mount Jaizkibel takes you to Hondarribia and Irun, which was a major Roman settlement. Hondarribia is simply spectacular. Founded eight centuries ago, the upper part of the town has a real medieval feel, which is in contrast with the colourful fishing-village style of the lower district, the Marina.

Next to the border awaits the quiet Hendaye, famous for its beach, summer houses and Abbadie Castle. A few kilometres to the north stands the charming San Juan de Luz, which has a beautifully preserved historic centre and the splendid church of San Juan Bautista. Continuing along the coast, you come to Biarritz, a tourist destination for lots of high society figut.

Most of the finest scenery and most famous sandy beaches in the region of Gipuzkoa spread out to the west of San Sebastian. If you leave San Sebastian and head through Orio, you’ll come to Zarautz, the first real gem on the coastline, where they hold a top international surfing event. The next stop-off is Getaria, famous for its mouse-shaped peninsula, for being the birthplace of the explorer Juan Sebastián Elcano and the fashion designer Cristóbal Balenciaga and for having some of the finest grilled fish in restaurants in the Basque Country.

The neighbouring Zumaia, standing at the mouth of the River Urola and surrounded by beaches, it has a world-famous geological treasure: the flysch. The road from here to Deba is known for its hills and bends, but it’s worth it, if only to see the summer houses, the charming beach or the marvellous cloister of Santa María Church. Mutriku is the final stronghold of Gipuzkoa before you enter Bizkaia, an exceptional amphitheatre with views of the Cantabrian Sea.

The flysch is a curious formation of successive layers of rocks which, due to the continuous action of the sea, have been exposed and reveal information about biological, geological and even climatic changes that have occurred in the last 50 million years. It’s an open book that reveals the deepest secrets of the earth. A genuine tectonic bible.
3. the art of redevelopment

Bilbao

Bizkaia bridge
This famous bridge, better known as the Suspension Bridge, joins the towns of Areatza (Getxo) and Portugalete over the Estuary of Bilbao, just over ten kilometres from the capital. Designed by Alberto Palacio in 1893, it was the first transporter bridge in the world and there are currently only eight others in the whole world. In the year 2007, it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, in the Industrial Heritage category.

An hour down the motorway from San Sebastian you can see a miracle: the profound urban regeneration that Bilbao has undergone in recent years, which has completely changed its appearance and even boosted its self-esteem, is known as the Guggenheim Miracle or the Bilbao effect.

At the end of the 20th century, industrial redevelopment meant that many of the factories in the centre were closed, so the best land in the city was suddenly available again. Thus began some exceptional regeneration, with the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao being the crowning achievement. A fantastic sculpture covered in titanium plates which Frank Gehry built in 1997, on the bank of the River Nervión. The building houses a permanent collection of international contemporary art, in addition to various temporary exhibitions during the year. Outside the museum you can also enjoy the flower Puppy by Jeff Koons, or Maman, the giant spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois. But the land freed up by the old factories left lots more room and the most renowned architects built stunning, unique buildings around the museum: Rafael Moneo, the Deusto Library, César Pelli, the Iberdrola Tower. Alvaro Siza, the Auditorium at the University of the Basque Country, Arata Isozaki, the Isozaki Atea towers. An impressive example of urban redevelopment, famous across the world.

25.5.2019

Santa Maria Cathedral
Also known as the Old Cathedral, it stands in Vitoria-Gasteiz, at one end of the medieval ‘almendra’ (meaning ‘almond’ so-called because of its shape) in the capital of Araba. Erected in the High Middle Ages on the foundations of a Roman temple, the Old Cathedral is the only gothic church of its kind in the Basque Country and it has had structural problems since it was built. Therefore, for the last fifteen years or so, it has been undergoing a complex restoration process. This hasn’t prevented the cathedral from being ‘open for repairs’ so that locals and visitors alike can see the foundations of a gothic cathedral and the hidden recesses of the vaults. The novelist Ken Follett came to learn about the cathedral when writing the sequel to the bestseller ‘The Pillars of the Earth’.

Santiago Calatrava, Ysios, in Laguardia. And Iñaki Aspiazu, Baigorri Wineries, in Samaniego. Most of them are open to the public, so that they can view the premises, go on wine tastings and buy some wine. There are also charming villages like Laguardia, Elciego and Labastida dotted around Rioja Alavesa.

4. the architecture of wine

Vitoria and Rioja Alavesa

Acclaimed wine and widely-praised architecture. These have come together to make Vitoria and Rioja Alavesa a first-rate tourist magnet. On the one hand, the age-old tradition and culture of wine in Rioja Alavesa and the history of Vitoria carved through the centuries in its Old Cathedral. And on the other hand, the contemporary designs that have transformed some of the wineries, with the construction of exceptional buildings by architects like Frank Gehry, Santiago Calatrava and Zaha Hadid.

The scenery in Rioja Alavesa has a personality all of its own, completely different to the rest of the Basque Country. There are no woods or green meadows here, only endless rows of plants that make up impressive seas of vineyards. There are a hundred wineries devoted to this activity. Some are over a hundred years old and others have been designed by renowned architects: Frank Gehry, Marques de Riscal, in Elciego. Santiago Calatrava, Ysios, in Laguardia. And Iñaki Aspiazu, Baigorri Wineries, in Samaniego. Most of them are open to the public, so that they can view the premises, go on wine tastings and buy some wine. There are also charming villages like Laguardia, Elciego and Labastida dotted around Rioja Alavesa.

The novelist Ken Follett came to learn about the cathedral when writing the sequel to the bestseller ‘The Pillars of the Earth’.
agencies and guides

There are agencies and private guides that specialise in organising customised excursions for individuals and groups. They join you, explain everything and tell you all you want to know. They take you there and bring you back. And they give you the gift of an unforgettable memory from your visit to San Sebastian and its surrounding area.

PRIVATE GUIDES

All of the guides work for individual visitors as well as groups and they are specialised in gastronomic tours. They offer advice and personalised visits.

TOURIST SERVICE

Excursions, workshops and all kinds of activities like pintxo and Basque cuisine workshops, surfing classes...

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www.tenedortours.com

The better you know a place, the more interesting and attractive it becomes.
Donostia/San Sebastian has a number of agencies that offer genuine experiences and tourism products that you can trust. Professionals who design routes that are tailored to you and take care of everything: arranging services, transfers, support, excursions etc. All to ensure a unique visit that you can treasure. To give it special significance that you will never forget.
All of the information you need so that you don’t miss a thing. And so that you don’t get lost.

**Tourist offices**

- **San Sebastian Card / Basque Card**
- **Tourist bus and tourist train**
- **Sale of local tourist activities**
  - Daytrips, Gastronomy, Boat trips & sports, City tours

**Where to find us**

- **Main office:** Boulevard, 8
- **Train and bus station office:** Federico García Lorca Pasealekua, 1
- **Summer office:** Cervantes Plaza

**Reserve here**

**Useful telephone numbers**

- **Emergency Services:** 112
- **Local Police - Lost property:** 092
- **Regional Basque Police - Ertzaintza:** 081 / 943 20 76 06
- **San Sebastian Car Pound & Tow Truck:** 943 32 06 58
- **San Sebastian Tourist Office:** 943 48 11 66
- **Taxis:** 943 40 40 40 - 943 46 46 46

*Area code for calls outside Spain (00) +34*
San Sebastian’s surroundings

Park in the city

Donostia/San Sebastian has over 6000 parking spaces in different parts of the city.

At San Sebastian Tourist Office we recommend using the car parks and getting around on public transport, especially during periods with high numbers of tourists.

Get around with our tourist cards

OTA blue zone

A tao or ota zone is a blue zone where ground-level parking is allowed. You need to buy a ticket from one of the machines that allow you to park for between ninety minutes and nine hours, depending on the zone. When that time has passed, you have to move the car and buy another ticket.

Note: the zones painted white, bearing the letter b or r, are for residents. Just like the car parks, the prices vary; the zones closest to the centre are more expensive (90 minutes = €2.87), and you must remember that this is the maximum stay time.

 OTA blue zone

PARKING FOR CARAVANS AND MOTORHOMES

There is a car park for caravans and motorhomes in the Ibaeta university district, with a capacity for 50 vehicles.

Location: Calle Barrio (43°18’28.33” N y 2°00’52.20” W)

Buses

Bus Station*

Local, national, international

Federico García Lorca pasarela, 1
20012 Donostia/San Sebastián
T.: 943 46 70 00
www.estaciondonostia.com

National and international bus services

Alsa

www.alsa.es
T.: 902 42 22 42

City buses

Dbus

www.dbus.eus
T.: 943 00 02 00

Rail

RENFE

www.renfe.es
T.: 902 24 02 02
Francisco pasarela de la plaza, 1

EUSKOTREN

www.euskotren.eus
T.: 943 01 35 00
Easo Plaza, z/g

Practical info
TOURIST OFFICE:
Winter: Monday to Saturday: 9:00-19:00
Sundays: 10:00-14:00
Summer: Monday to Saturday: 9:00-20:00
Sundays: 10:00-19:00
Public Holidays: 10:00-20:00

— SAN TELMO MUSEUM
Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00-20:00
Closed: Monday, except for public and bank holidays), 1st and 2nd January, 24th and 25th December.
General admission €6 Concessions €3.

— AQUARIUM
From October to Easter Week: Weekdays: 10:00-19:00 Weekends: public holidays and long weekends: 10:00-21:00
Easter Week to 30th June and September: Weekdays: 10:00-20:00 Weekends, public holidays and long weekends: 10:00-21:00
From 1st July to 31 st August: Every day: 10:00-21:00
Closed: 25th December, 1st January, and 20th January.
Adults €13
Children (aged 4 to 12): €6.50
Children (0-4): free.

— CHRISTOBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEUM
November-February: Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00-15:00 March - October: Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00-19:00
July - August: Every day: 10:00-20:00
Closed: 25th December, 1st January
Open: Monday (July and August)
€10; Concessions: €7

— NAVAL MUSEUM
From Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00 / 16:00 - 19:00
Sundays and holidays: 11:00 - 14:00 / 16:00 - 19:00 (June 15 to September 15)
December: 24th and 31st: 10:00-14:00
Closed: Monday, Days 1, 6, and 20 of January, and the 25 of December
€6; Students and pensioners: €1.5;
Under 18's and the unemployed: free. Thursday, free entry.

— EUREKA!
ZIENTZIA MUSEOA
Monday - Friday: 10:00-19:00
Weekends: 11:00-20:00
July, August, Christmas, Easter Week: 10:00-20:00
€10
Closed: 1st January, 25 December
General: €10 Reduced: €7
Planetarium 2D-3D / Simulators / Guided tour Animalia: Consult web

— ALBAOLA
1st January, 14 June
Closed: 1st January, 25 December
General: €10 Reduced: €7

— HISTORY HOUSE
31 March - 30 June: 10:00-17:30
Wednesday to Sunday.
Easter Week (15 - 28 April): 10:00-17:30 from Monday to Sunday
July - 31st August: 11:00-20:00 from Monday to Sunday
1 September - 9 December: 11:00-17:30 from Wednesday to Sunday
Closed from October 12 December to March 2020
Closed until the new stadium opens in 2020.

— REAL 100 MUSEOA
Closed until the new stadium opens in 2020.

— REZOLA CEMENT MUSEUM
Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00-14:00
Closed: Monday, Sunday and public holidays

— KUTXA EKOJUNEA
Open: Fridays: 16:00-20:00
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays (Bank holiday weekend, Carnival, Easter Week and Easter): 10:30-20:00

Prices: Fridays 6 Euros, Saturdays and public holidays: All day 8 Euros, morning half-day (10:30-16:00), €6 afternoon half-day (13:30-20:00)

— TXURI URDIN
ICE PALACE
Weekdays: 05:00 - 22:00
Weekends: 08:00 - 18:00
Winter: Up to 12 years: €6; Adult: €8.85; Weekends, holidays and Vespers: Up to 12 years old: €6.85
Closed: 25th December and 1st January
Opening times: 09:00-22:00

— FUNDICULAR
Winter: 11:00 - 20:00
Spring: 11:00 - 20:00
Summer: 10:00 - 21:00
Weekends: 11:00-15:00 - 18:00
Closed: 1st January; 25, 1st, 6, and 20 of January, and the 25 of December
€8.50

— MOUNT IGELDO AMUSEMENT PARK
Winter weekends: 11:00 - 13:30 / 15:30 - 18:30
Spring: Weekends + Easter Week
10:00 - 14:00 / 15:30 - 20:00
Summer: weekdays: 11:00 - 14:00 / 15:30 - 20:00
Weekends: 11:00 - 20:30
Big Week (Semana Grande): 11:00 - 23:30
Adult: €9.85; Children: €6.85

— TOURIST BUS
Departures all year. Check the web for updated schedules: www.sansebastian.city-tour.com
Adults: €12
Young people (aged 5-12): €6
Children (0-4): free.

— SS CITY CATAMARAN
Spring and autummers: 10:00-20:30
Closed: 25th December and 1st January

— ISLAND MOTORBOATS
1 June to 30 September
Red line: direct service: 10:00 - 20:00 (leaves every 30 mins or hour, depending on the weather)
Children: €1.50; Special ticket: €2.50
Groups of +20 people: Free entry for 1 in every 10 people (except Sundays, bank holidays and August).

— OPENING HOURS COLLECTIVE DRESSING ROOMS / BEACHES
June-September:
9:00-20:00
July-August:
9:00-20:00
April-May: October:
10:00-18:00
The rest of the year:
10:00-17:00
25th December and 1st January:
10:00-18:00
€1.10 / €1.50

* Prices and opening hours valid in March 2019
USE EUROPE'S OLDEST LANGUAGE TO ORDER A BEER. Basque is the oldest living language in Europe and one of the few non-Indo-European languages that has not only survived but is actually thriving in San Sebastian today. Half of the people in San Sebastian speak Basque. Join in and learn some expressions. Use our language to say hello or order a beer: “Egunon. Zurito bat, mesedez”. (Good morning. A small glass of beer please).

ENGLISH | EUSKERA
---|---
**GREETINGS** | **AGURRAK**
My name is Miren | Ni Miren naiz
Hello! Hi! | Kaixo
Good morning | Egun on
Good evening | Egunon, gela
Good night | Odegiak
Bye | Agur
See you tomorrow | Bihartza
See you later | Gero arte
See you soon | Laster arte
Please | Mesedez
Excuse me / sorry | Biltzeko
Thank you / Thanks | Eskerrik asko
Not at all | Ez horregatik
Yes | Bai
No | Ez
Welcome | Ongi etorri
Enjoy your meal | On egin

**PLACES** | **LEKUAK**
Street | Kalea
Square | Plaza
Tourism office | Turismo bulegoa
City Council / Hall | Udala
Bank | Banketxea
Library | Liburutegia
Church | Eliza
Museum | Museoa
Cinema | Zinema
Exhibition | Erakusketa
Hotels | Hotel
Youth hostel | Aterpetxea
Agrotourism | Landara etxea
Campsite | Campina
Parking | Aparkalekua
Bus Stop | Autobus geltokia
Train station | Tren geltokia
Pub | Taberna
Restaurant | Jatetxea
Beach | Hondartza
Basque police | Ertzaintza
Municipal police | Udaltzaingoa
Chemist’s | Botika

**AT THE HOTEL, PUB OR RESTAURANT** | **HOTELEAN, TABERNAN, JATETXEAN**
Good morning, | Egun on, gela
I’d like one room | bat nahi dut
Room | Gela
Double room | Gela bikoitza
Bed | Ohea
Toilet | Komuna
Bathroom | Bainugeta
Key | Gilta
Sheet | Maindireak
Blanket | Estalkia
Towel | Eskuholia

**ENGLISH** | **EUSKERA**
Breakfast | Gosaria
Lunch | Bazkaria
Dinner | Aria
Heating | Berogailua
Air conditioning | Aire girotua
Price | Prezioa
Card | Txariela
Bar/Pub | Taberna
Restaurant | Jatetxea
Dining room | Jangela
Sidreria/Cider bar | Sagardotegia
Coffee | Kafea
Milk | Ezina
White coffee | Kafesnea
Wine | Ardoa
Red wine | Ardo beliza
White wine | Ardo zuria
Rose wine | Ardo gorria
Beer | Garagortoa
Cider | Sagardoa
Txakoli | Txakoliea
Patxaran | Patxaranoa
Water | Ura
Sandwich | Ogi tartekoa
Mixed grill | Plater kombinatua
Today’s menu | Eguneko menua
Menu | Karta
Appetizer | Jonearekoa
Pintxoa (appetizer) | Ogi gainekoa
First course | Lehena platera
Second course | Bigarren platera
Dessert | Postreaa (azken burua)
Food | Janaurrekoa
Drink | Aguirrekoa
Sweet | Ezpeletako
Salty | Gazteko
Tasteless | G Suite
Bitter | Batu
Tip | Zortzi
Waiter | Zortziak
Cook/Chef | Erriñorak
Meat | Arraina
Fish | Arriareko
The bill, please | Kantua mesedez
Cheap | Merke
Expensive | Gareste

**NUMBERS** | **ZENBAKIAK**
1 | Bat
2 | Bi
3 | Hiru
4 | Lau
5 | Bost
6 | Sei
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8 | Zortzi
9 | Bederatzi
10 | Hamar
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