



THE EXPERT FOR THE WAYS OF ST JAMES

CAMINO DEL NORTE From Hendaye to Bilbao



With the land on one side and the sea on the other, the Camino del Norte takes you all the way to Santiago de Compostela. Your constant companion on this dayney is the Atlantic Ocean. You set off among fishing villages and small sandy beaches, but you also see beautiful towns such as Hendaye, San Sebastian and Bilbao. Exploring the lovely Cantabrian coastline on foot brings with it many agreeable surprises. You make your way through some magnificent countryside. The first week of this long walk, which takes you as far as Bilbao, starts with a footpath overlooking the ocean. After that the route continues into the Basque country, to explore Markina and Gernika... This week's walking ends at Bilbao, a town famous for its museum, the Guggenheim, which is very well worth a visit...



8 days - 7 nights - 6 days' walking

DAY 1 : HENDAYE (or IRUN)

Arrive at Hendaye (or Irun), and check in at the hotel.

DAY 2 : HENDAYE (or IRUN) - SAN SEBASTIAN

From Hendaye, you soon get into Spain. You can either cross the Bidasoa in a boat or start the day by walking from Hendaye itself. This beautiful first day's walk takes you to San Sebastian, through an area of fishing ports and river inlets. **The evening meal is not included.**

Walking time: ≈ 7h, distance 27 km (from Hendaye) or 25 km (from Irun)

DAY 3 : SAN SEBASTIAN - ZARAUTZ

You leave San Sebastian and go along the beautiful beach of la Concha. Along the way you get splendid views of the sea and the high cliffs that tower over the Atlantic. The night is spent in half-board accommodation.

Walking time: ≈ 5h15, distance 21 km.

DAY 4 : ZARAUTZ – DEBA

This day's walk takes you first to Getaria and its fishing port. After that you continue by crossing the terraced vineyards of Txakoli. As you approach Deba, the coastline becomes wild and beautiful. You spend the night in half-board accommodation at Deba or nearby.

Walking time: ≈ 5h45, distance 23 km.

DAY 5 : DEBA - MARKINA

This stage takes you into the Basque hinterland. You leave the coast and go deeper into the countryside as you cross the valley of Olatz. The night is in half-board accommodation.

Walking time: ≈ 7h30, distance 28 km.



DAY 6 : MARKINA - GERNIKA

This is a pleasant day's walk through rolling, unspoiled countryside. On the way you see the 11th century church of s. de Bolibar, the monastery at Cenarruza and then the Ermita Santiago before you arrive in Gernika. The night is in half-board accommodation. **Dinner not included in the price.**

Walking time: ≈ 7h, distance 27 km.

DAY 7 : GERNIKA - LEZAMA (puis nuit à BILBAO)

This day's walk takes you into Bilbao. To shorten the walk itself, and to avoid walking through the suburbs, we suggest you take the train into the town from Lezama (at your own expense). **Dinner is not included.**

Walking time: ≈ 6h, distance 25 km.

DAY 8 : BILBAO

End of the trip after the breakfast.

Note:

- 1 - It will not be possible to alter the places where you are accommodated or the order of the walking stages etc (for obvious organisational reasons). Once the day's walk has started, you are expected to continue the day's programme as arranged, except where exceptional circumstances intervene (for example, safety issues linked to adverse weather conditions).
- 2 - If you wish to shorten a walking stage, you will need to contact and pay for any taxis used when the occasion arises.

> DATES

From April 1 to October 31, at your convenience and subject to hotel availability.

Please indicate on the booking form any other dates that would suit you (e.g.: possibility of postponing the tour by one or more days before or after...); this is in case one or more accommodations are fully booked on the chosen dates, as well as your dietary requirements.

We also ask you to **book as early as possible**. We don't have any reserved places in the accommodations, and some of them may be fully booked several months in advance.

> PRICE COVERS



- Overnight stays on a half-board basis (**except dinners in San Sebastian, Bilbao and Gernika**)
- Luggage transfers between each walking stage (depending on the option chosen)
- Travel book with topo-guide (1 topo-guide per room booked)

> PRICE DOES NOT COVER

- Lunch
- **Dinners in San Sebastian, Bilbao and Gernika**
- Short boat trip to Pasajes
- Train journey between Lezama and Bilbao
- All drinks
- Insurance.
- International shipping costs (+20€/file),
- Registration fees (+15€/person),
- Priority processing fee for registrations received by D-15 (+45€/file).

> ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE


Beginning of the trip :

Arrival and set up in your hotel in Hendaye late in the afternoon , the day before your first hiking day.

End of the trip :

In Bilbao after the breakfast, the day after your last hiking day

> LEVEL

 Average 6h to 7h walking per day for 25Km on undulating terrain; 300 to 400m vertical drop. No technical difficulties, but the stages can be challenging, as you leapfrog from the coast to the heights of the hinterland. Well-marked trails.

> ACCOMMODATION

In hotel, in a pension or guesthouses.

> MEALS AND LUNCH



Lunch packed are not included in the price.

> LUGGAGE TRANSPORT

Your luggage will be transported between each stage of the walk.

ATTENTION :

We ask you to leave your luggage in the hall of each accommodation in the morning, and to **IMPERATIVELY** bring **ONLY 1 LUGGAGE PER PERSON NOT EXCEEDING 13KG**; beyond this number (1 bag) and weight (13 kg), the transporter may charge you a supplement at the end of the hike, or categorically refuse to transport your luggage if it is too bulky.

Please bring a small backpack to carry your personal belongings for the day. If you are part of a group, we ask you to indicate on your luggage tags the **NAME** of the person responsible for the group (the person who booked the tour).

> ACCESS

*GO



By train



By plane



By car

* RETURN



By train



By bus



By car

A transfer of your vehicle can be organized during your walking holiday, so that you can collect it at the end of your stay (please contact us).



> TRAVEL FILE

The month before your departure, after having paid your trip, we will send you a travel file with all the documents you need to your hike : a topoguide and maps, luggage tags, addresses of your accommodations and also contractual documents (invoice, insurance certificate). In the topoguide you will find the description of the paths (all the way is well-marked) and comments upon the villages, the monuments ... We give 1 topoguide per reserved room.

If you want an additional travel file, you be invoiced +20€/file.

> TAKEOUT LIST

- a small rucksack for a picnic and the day's essentials
- a small first-aid kit (plasters, double skin, eosin, alcohol....)
- a pair of "medium mountain" walking shoes (beware of new shoes)
- sunglasses, sun cream and hat
- rainwear
- Light shoes for the evening
- a water bottle: it's important to drink 1.5 to 2 litres of water a day
- a knife
- torch (not essential)
- a pair of binoculars (optional)
- newspaper for your shoes if they get wet
- tissues
- a needle, a small amount of thread and one or two safety pins
- Masks.

> FORMALITIES

Identity card or passport required.

European health insurance card

You are traveling to a country in the European Union, the European Economic Area (EU/EEA) or Switzerland.

Before you leave, get a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This will enable you to prove your entitlement to health insurance and to have your medical expenses covered, in accordance with the legislation and formalities in force in the country where you are staying.



Nominative and individual, the form should be requested from www.ameli.fr.

Finally, if you're coming to Spain by car, it's compulsory to have 2 warning triangles in your vehicle and 1 reflective warning vest. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in heavy fines, which must be paid locally.

To call France

To call France from Spain, dial the international dialing code 00, then the French dialing code 33, then your phone number, minus the first 0.

To call Spain, dial the international dialing code 00, then the Spanish dialing code 34, then your phone number, minus the first 0.

EXAMPLE : how to call the Pèlerine : 00 33 4 71 74 47 40.

[MORE DETAILS AT THE SUBSCRIPTION](#)

