

Autumn in the Basque Country

november - december



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

Autumn in the Basque Country

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Euskal Herria, The Land of the Basques in the local language, is a fascinating destination which comprises a relatively small piece of land and a great diversity of sceneries from the ocean to the mountain range and from modern cities to countryside and vineyards.

Nestled in a mountainous corner of Atlantic Europe, the Land of the Basques is still wrapped in a mystery and legend story.

The origin of this people is uncertain, whose language – Euskera - is said to be the oldest living language in Europe and unrelated to any other spoken in Europe, or indeed the world. Euskera's mysterious origins have also fuelled the debate on whether the Basques can boast the oldest European culture.

Anytime is a good time to visit The Land of the Basques, especially in Autumn, when temperatures are still mild and our forest exhibits an incredible palette of colours, together with multiple food markets and cultural activities along the country, it is the right season to experience and enjoy the destination calmly.



Culture and Gastronomy are protagonist of many events along the country.

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Autumn begins with one of the most relevant and international events of the year – San Sebastian International Film Festival. Together with Cannes, Venice and Berlin, form the club of most important Film Festivals in Europe.

And going on with the cultural activity, the iconic Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao celebrates its anniversary every autumn. In fact, although during the whole year you can find a special program of exhibitions and numerous cultural activities, main celebrations occur during the months of November and December.

We can not forget to mention the [Durangoko Azoka](#), the largest Basque music and literature fair that will take place from December 3 to 8 this year.



Music is present also with the return of the Opera season, Symphonic Orchestra´s concerts, or some international music events such as [BBK Live Udazkena](#) rock festival from November 11 to 13., apart from the return of the regular music scene in the main cities.

And it is also the time for the Basque Bertsolari contest, a kind of Basque Poetry Slam performed alive, with ancestral roots in the Basque Culture.

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Related to festivities, November starts with the All Hallows, which roots are ancestral in the Basque Country from a secular celebration to the Celtic festivities of the end of the Summer.

And the other remarkable festivity is Saint Martin´s festival spread out in different villages.

During the week around Saint Martin Day (11th of November), that concurs most of the years with specially warm temperatures known popularly as the Little Summer of Saint Martin, the protagonist is the Pig.

These days were specially preserved for the traditional pig slaughter in the Basque Farms (Txarriboda in Basque Language), from where chorizo, black pudding (morcilla) or bacon will be produced.

Traditionally pigs together with cows were slaughtered this time of the year, to provide enough meat for the Winter.

Continuing with gastronomy, Autumn is a very remarkable season from the Haute Cuisine to traditional food markets in addition to being Wine Harvest time in Rioja and Txakoli white wine areas.

Related to Haute Cuisine from 14th to 17th of November [“Gastronomika” Congress](#) becomes the city of San Sebastian in the World Gourmet Capital , welcoming the best of Basque, Spanish and World Cuisine. One of the most relevant gastronomy events in the world that takes place in the city with more Michelin Stars per capita, and that will count with France as special guest country this year.

At the same time, Autumn is the main season for Street Food Markets, full of all the seasonal vegetables and fruits, highlighting in november the one called San Andres celebrating in different villages along the Basque Country.

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In the orchards the different varieties of beans are collected, together with aubergines, pumpkins, leeks, carrots, lettuce, onions, squash and all kinds of cabbage (cauliflower, brussels sprouts, broccoli...).

But if there is a top product that nature gives us these days, these are mushrooms, fungi and truffles, found in multiple varieties all along our mountains.

The right time to taste these delicatessens.



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Fruits such as grapes, apples, pomegranate and some others like blackberries, blueberries and redcurrants come in Autumn, last ones used mainly to make jams. Also, the best moment of the year to enjoy tasting all kinds of nuts such as walnuts or chestnuts.

And undoubtedly among fruits, the main protagonist is the grape.

Between September and October, the most important time of the year reaches the Vineyard areas of Rioja and Txakoli, with the Wine Harvest. It is a process that can last between 30 and 40 days, which means that the collection can arrive well in November.

The process is still done in the traditional way in many of the Vineyards, in which the collected fruit are deposited in wicker baskets that usually have a capacity between 15 and 20 kilos.

Once collected the grape is taken directly to the wineries to begin the process of making red, white and rose wines, following the characteristics of each of them.

Harvest time is an exceptional moment to learn about the way of life that identifies the people of La Rioja.



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A way of knowing their customs and history that have been maintained throughout the years, reaching to the present day being a reference product not only in the Basque Country and Spain, but worldwide.



After the harvesting of very appreciated local apples, it is time to produce the Basque Cider – Euskal Sagardoa, that could be tasted with the beginning of the new year.

Last year 1.320.000 litres were produced and this year it seems production will be excellent, as the apple trees have a lot of fruit!

As far as fish are concerned, Mackerel, Mullet, Conger, Sardines, Gilthead and Octopus, among others, live their best season in Autumn.

And related to the meat, Hunting takes the lead above all, from wild boar to rabbit, scholarships or quail.

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On the other hand, if you are keen on sports, the Football League starts the season with three Basque teams playing La Liga: Athletic of Bilbao, Real Sociedad and Alavés. That means, every week we will find the chance to see high level matches in our cities.

Related to the traditional Basque Sports, this is the time for the Jai Alai World Tour Final Series. Considered as the fastest ball game in the world, it is a real spectacle to see a game alive!!

In November the Basque 4,5 Hand Ball Championship continues being celebrated.

And the weather is still good enough to enjoy our mountain range and forest dyed in the beautiful colours of Autumn. That's why still some mountain trekking and mountain bike competitions are held at this time of the year.

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We wait for you!



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TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

01.11.2021

All Saints Day
All over the country

01.11.2021

Cattle and Agricultural Fair. Food Market
Itziar

01.11.2021

Cheese Fair and Agricultural Market
Turtzioz

02.11.2021

Gernika Bean Day. Bean Stew Tasting. Food & Gastronomy Market
Gernika

04.11.2021

Cattle and Agricultural Fair: Cows, horses, Donkeys of the
Encartaciones and autochthonous sheep and goats.
La Arboleda - Trapagaran

06.11.2021

Black pudding day
Beasain

07.11.2021

Cattle and Agricultural Fair
Santa Cruz de Campezo

07.11.2021

Grape Harvest Festival
Balmaseda

11-13.11.2021

Saint Martin Festivity Markets (traditionally pig slaughter days)
*San Sebastian, Soraluze, Bergara, Zegama, Ermua, Bermeo,
Zamudio*

14-17.11.2021

San Sebastian Gastronomika Congress
Kursaal Palace San Sebastian

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14-17.11.2021

Tolosa Bean Fair and Contest. Basque Culture & Music Exhibitions
Tolosa

30.11.2021

San Andres Festival. Agricultural Fair and Basque Culture & Music Exhibitions
Eibar, Azkoitia

07.12.2021

Snail Day. Tasting of snails. Agricultural fair
Gernika

02.10.2021 - 06.01.2022

Nativity Scene, composed by more than 200 human figures, buildings and hundreds of animals and accessories
Florida Park. Vitoria-Gasteiz

03.12.2021

Cattle and Agricultural Fair. Frison Cows and Donkeys of the Encartaciones contest
Gordexola

03-08.12.2021

EUSKAL DENDA. XXV Trade fair of the Basque artisan sector
Durango

12-13.12.2021

Saint Lucy Fair - Cattle and Agricultural Fair
Zumarraga, Urretxu

13.12.2021

Cattle and Agricultural Fair. Cheese & Bread contest. Terrazo Cows
Orozko

14.12.2021 - 06.01.2022

Christmas Crafts Fair
Vitoria - Gasteiz

17.12.2021 - 05.01.2022

GABONART - Christmas Crafts Fair
Bilbao

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21.12.2021

Saint Thomas Cattle and Agricultural Fair
Arrasate, Azpeitia, Bilbao, San Sebastian

CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

11.06.2021 - 16.01.2022

The line of ingenuity
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

17.09.2021 - 06.02.2022

Alice Neel: people first
Guggenheim Bilbao museum

17.09.2021 - 16.01.2022

Lorea Alfaro. Do mess with me
Artium. Vitoria-Gasteiz

23.09-05.12.2021

Dantzaldia Dance Festival
Bilbao

24.09.2021 - 16.01.2022

José Félix González Placer. Etxegarai'ko Goti
Artium. Vitoria-Gasteiz

15.10-14.11.2021

"World Press Photo" Exhibition
Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria-Gasteiz

17.09-14.11.2021

Rosalind Nashashibi Sala Z
Artium. Vitoria-Gasteiz

22.10.2021 - 27.02.2022

Women of abstraction
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

01.11.2021

Les Contes D'Hoffmann
Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

03.11.2021

ACT Festival, inaugural performances
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

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04.11.2021

Sharon Lockhart, talks with artists
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

29.10-05.11.2021

Fantastic and Terror Film Week
San Sebastian

07.11.2021

Bizkaiko Bertsolari Txapelketa. Basque Poetry Slam
Muxikebarri zentroa. Getxo

07.11.2021

Music Legends. Uli Jon Roth
Sala BBK Bilbao

09.11.2021

International Biennial of Architecture of the Basque Country Mugak.
Conference
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

10.11.2021

MEM Festival. Experimental Concerts
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

11.11.2021

Niña Coyote eta Chico Tornado
Sala BBK Bilbao

12 - 13.11.2021

BBK Udazkena Live Music Festival
Bilbao Arena

12 - 14.11.2021

Retro Clásica Bilbao, the Classic, Vintage and Collection Vehicle Trade
Fair
Bilbao Exhibition Center

12 - 19.11.2021

ZINEBI (Bilbao International Documentary Film and Short Film
Festival)
Bilbao

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13.11.2021

La Bella Durmiente y el bosque escondido
Euskalduna Opera Hall. Bilbao

13.11.2021

Dantzaldia Festival. Jesus Carmona - Dance of the beasts
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

13.11.2021

Kenophobia
Sala BBK Bilbao

13.11.2021

Gatibu, 20 urte bixotzetik. Concert
Bilbao Exhibition Center

18-20.11.2021

CIMASUB-San Sebastian International Underwater Film Series
San Sebastian Aquarium

18-25.11.2021

Bilbao Bizkaia Design Week
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

18.11.2021

Music Legends. Aurora Beltrán
Sala BBK Bilbao

20.11.2021

Singing Broadway
Sala BBK Bilbao

20,23,26 and 29.11.2021

Caballería Rusticana y Pagliacci
Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

21.11.2021

Bizkaiko Bertsolari Txapelketa. Semifinal of the Basque Poetry Slam
Etxebarria frontoia

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26.11 - 26.12.2021

Mazoka - Drawing and Illustration Marketplace
Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria-Gasteiz

27.11.2021

Ikastolak Herriari Jaialdia
Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

27.11.2021

Fair Saturday - screenings and colloquium
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

27.11.2021

Bizkaiko Bertsolari Txapelketa. Semifinal of the Basque Poetry Slam
Urreta kiroldegia. Galdakao

28.11.2021

India Martinez
Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

03-05.12.2021

BBK Mendi Film Bilbao-Bizkaia
Bilbao

03-05.12.2021

Short Film Festival of Hondarribia
Itsas Etxea Auditorium, Hondarribia

03-08.12.2021

Durangoko Azoka – The biggest Basque Literature & Music Market
Landako Gunea, Durango

05.12.2021

Cantajuego: te extiende mi mano
Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

10-12.12.2021

Fun & Serious Game Festival
Bilbao Exhibition Center

11.12.2021

Dani Martin
Bilbao Exhibition Center

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16.12.2021

Lukiek

Sala BBK Bilbao

17.12.2021

Music Legends. Wilko Johnson

Sala BBK Bilbao

18.12.2021

Bruna

Sala BBK Bilbao

18.12.2021

Bizkaiko Bertsolari Txapelketa. Final of the Basque Poetry Slam

Bilbao Arena

19.12.2021

Axolotes Mexicanos + La Plata

Sala BBK Bilbao

18.12.2021

Beret

Bilbao Exhibition Center

18.12.2021 - 08.01.2022

Parque Infantil de Navidad (PIN)

Bilbao Exhibition Center

20.12.2021

Bilboko Udal Txistu Banda

Euskalduna Opera Hall (Bilbao)

SPORT ACTIVITY CALENDAR

04.11.2021

Real Sociedad – S.K. Sturm Graz (Europa League)
Reale Arena. San Sebastian

05.11.2021

Athletic Bilbao – Cádiz FC
San Mamés Stadium. Bilbao

05.11.2021

Baskonia - Maccabi Tel Aviv
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

06.11.2021

Alavés - Levante
Mendizorrotza. Vitoria-Gasteiz

07.11.2021

Acunsa Gipuzkoa Basket - Palmer Alma Med. Palma
Donostia Arena

07.11.2021

Baskonia - Unicaja
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

10.11.2021

Acunsa Gipuzkoa Basket - Levitec Huesca La Magia
Donostia Arena

14.11.2021

Behobia-San Sebastián popular race
San Sebastian , Irun, Lezo, Pasaia

14.11.2021

Surne Bilbao Basket - Monbus Obra
Bilbao Arena

16.11.2021

Baskonia - Crvena Zvezda
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

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19.11.2021

Baskonia - CSKA
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

21.11.2021

Real Sociedad – Valencia C.F.
Reale Arena. San Sebastian

21.11.2021

Acunsa Gipuzkoa Basket - Basket Girona
Donostia Arena

21.11.2021

Baskonia - Andorra
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

25.11.2021

Baskonia - Real Madrid
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

28.11.2021

Athletic Bilbao – Granada FC
San Mamés Stadium. Bilbao

28.11.2021

Alavés - Celta de Vigo
Mendizorrotza. Vitoria-Gasteiz

28.11.2021

San Sebastian Marathon
San Sebastian

05.12.2021

Real Sociedad – Real Madrid
Reale Arena. San Sebastian

05.12.2021

Surne Bilbao Basket - Río Breogán
Bilbao Arena

09.12.2021

Real Sociedad – PSV Eindhoven (Europa League)
Reale Arena. San Sebastian

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09.12.2021

Baskonia - Lyon-Villeurbanne
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

11.12.2021

Baskonia - Bilbao Basket
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

12.12.2021

Athletic Club - Sevilla FC
San Mamés Stadium. Bilbao

12.12.2021

Alavés - Getafe
Mendizorrotza. Vitoria-Gasteiz

12.12.2021

Acunsa Gipuzkoa Basket - ICG Força Lleida
Donostia Arena

19.12.2021

Athletic Club - Real Betis
San Mamés Stadium. Bilbao

19.12.2021

Real Sociedad - Villarreal C.F.
Reale Arena. San Sebastian

19.12.2021

Surne Bilbao Basket - Gran Canaria
Bilbao Arena

Best day from 15.10.2021 to 28.02.2022

Punta Galea Challenge – Big Waves Surf Competition
Getxo

30.12.2021

Baskonia - Barça
Buesa Arena. Vitoria - Gasteiz

Nearly every weekend

Basque Rural Sports Exhibitions
Different locations



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