

Spring in the Basque Country

March - April



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

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Euskal Herria, The Land of the Basques in the local language, is a fascinating destination which comprises in a relatively small piece of land 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 fuelled too the debate about whether the Basques can boast the oldest European culture.

Anytime is a good time to visit The Land of the Basques, but the bright colours of the spring make special this time of the year.

When the cold weather starts giving up and the sun starts shining longer hours, an explosion of colours emerge in our mountains and lands.

Oak and Beech Forest begin dying green with new leaves coming out and small daisies, or txiribitak in Basque, grow everywhere.



Spring in the Basque Country

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It is still time for some rainfalls, combining with sunny days, what is reflected in a bright green colour all around.



The rough orography of the Basque Region historically kept the territory quite nestled, which gave rise to many ancestral pagan rites and the belief in mythological characters, that still remains in the imaginary of the people.

But when the Catholicism arrived in the Region from Spain and France, it expanded very quick. And although in rural and mountain areas precatholic rites were preserved, the Basques embraced the new religion surprisingly quick.

This marked the story of the Basques from that moment, what can be easily followed in the numerous churches and hermitages spread all around the territory together with the celebration of many the religious festivities.

And it is at this last point, where Spring becomes important period of time to celebrate the Easter.

Spring in the Basque Country

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Easter in the Basque Country comprises 5 days of festivity, from Holy Thursday till Easter Monday, in which you can find many religious processions and festivities to commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ.

Probably the most famous one is the “Living Passion” in the medieval village of Balmaseda (founded in 1199), where the historical events that led to the crucifixion of Jhesus are represented dramatically for two days.

But other famous functions are held all over the Basque Country, in villages like Arkotxa, Berango, Durango, Azkoitia or Segura.

And with the celebration of the Holly Week, in the religious old tradition, Lent with their days of fasting and penance are ended.

Spring is also a sowing season for many of the products that will be harvested in Summer and Fall in the Basque Farmhouses.

With the arrival of the good weather, the work of sowing increases considerably, highlighting products like the famous green peppers from Gernika, different types of red peppers, Ibarra chillies, beans and tomatoes, all of them distinguished by Basque Quality Label.

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But it is also time for pumpkin, cucumber, aubergine and parsley, which make up the great vegetable scene in the countryside.



At the same time, other type of food markets are celebrated like Shepherd Fair, held in Ordizia to present the new campaign of the Famous Idiazabal Cheese, the Bayonne Parma Ham Big Fair (French Basque Country) or the Day of Anchovy in Bermeo, Getaria and Ondarroa one of the seasonal fishes of the Spring, together with

Mackerel, Sole, Sea Bream and Mere Fish.

A calm sea allows fishermen to gain these delicatessens from Cantabric Sea and bring them to our ports.



Spring in the Basque Country

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While the last remains of the Basque Carnivals finish in April, with “Maskaradak” hold in the French Basque Country during all the winter, several new season Festivals start celebrating in April too, like Saint George, Basque Fest in Bilbao or Saint Prudence in Vitoria – Gasteiz.

And the symbolic day of Navarre (Nafarroaren Eguna in Basque) in Saint Etienne de Baigorri (French Basque Country), with the reminiscence to the medieval Kingdom of Navarre, when no border separate the territory, today split between Spain and France.

But we could assert that month of May is the beginning of the “Summer Festival Season” in the Basque Country, that will last till October!

And if you are keen on sports, it is the time for the Basque Hand Ball Double and Single Championship Finals, which are very popular.

[Here you can watch the video recap of the double final 2021.](#)



Good weather invites to do more outdoors activities, that is why Basque Rural Sports Exhibitions are more frequent, as Wood Chopping, Stone Lifting or Grass Reaping.

These Basque sports come from the work that people did on Basque farms, and that work became sport.

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And of course, it is still a great time to find good waves for surfing and to enjoy the numerous hiking paths for the mountain lovers.

As you can see, Spring is full of traditions and perfect time to enjoy The Land of the Basques, far away from the crowds of peak tourist season time, despite the Easter Holiday period.



And to celebrate that Spring has come with longer and warmer days, here you can watch a beautiful video by Jeffrey Alex Attoh. We wait for you!

[Short video of "Euskadi, Basque Country"](#)



TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

11-20.03.2022

San Jose - Popular festival of Deusto
Deusto, Bilbao

20.03.2022

IX Olive Oil Fair of Álava
Moreda de Álava

20.03.2022

Cattle Fair -exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Mungia

27.03.2022

XXIII Farmhouse Fair -exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Okondo

02.04.2022

Mackerel day
Mutriku

02.04.2022

Plant Fair - Exhibition and sale of ornamental and fruit plants
Mungia

03.04.2022

XVI Agricultural and Livestock Fair - exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Ortuella

08.04.2022

Friday of Sorrows - exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Llodio

09.04.2022

IX Flower and Vegetable Market - exhibition and sale of plants
Elciego

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10.04.2022

VIII Plants and gardening fair of Garai - exhibition and sale of flowers, plants and gardening tools
Garai

10.04.2022

Txakoli day
Aia, Larrabetzu

10-17.04.2022

Easter – Holly Week Religious Festivity, with multiple parades and processions
All over the country

14-15.04.2022

Living Passion Performance
Balmaseda, Segura, Arkotxa

14-17.04.2022

Ham fair
Bayona

14-24.04.2022

XI Spring Craft Fair - Exhibition and sale of handicrafts and agri-food products
Bilbao

16.04.2022

Snail sauce - Snail tasting
Tolosa

14-16.04.2022

Basque Fest Gourmet -Exhibition space of the counties of Euskadi
Bilbao

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16.04.2022

XXIII Transparent Agricultural Market - sale of agricultural products of farms from Alava
Vitoria - Gasteiz

17.04.2022

Livestock fair
Mungia

23.04.2022

V Craft beer fair of the Basque Country - beer tasting and brewing
Amasa - Villabona

14-24.04.2022

St. George Festivities - Dance, music and gastronomic events
Santurtzi

24.04.2022

Santutxu Agricultural Fair - Exhibition and sale of livestock, agricultural products and handicrafts
Santutxu, Bilbao

24.04.2022

XXI Morga's Fair - Exhibition and sale of livestock, agricultural products and handicrafts.
Morga

24.04.2022

San Marcos agricultural and livestock fair - Exhibition and sale of livestock, agricultural products and handicrafts.
Gatika

24.04.2022

IX Flower and plants' Fair
Gorliz

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30.04.2022

Cider day
Errenteria

30.04.2022

Sea and farm canned food fair - Exhibition and sale of canned fish
and farm products
Berriatua

30.04.2022

Orduña's Ecological Fair - Farm products, handicrafts, music and
entertainment
Orduña

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Desde 04.02.2022 hasta 29.05.2022

Cuerpos por un momento - Ion Munduate
Museo Artium Vitoria

Desde 08.02.2022 hasta 26.06.2022

Milton Glaser. Carteles
Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao

26.03.2022

Gatibu - Concert
Jimmy Jazz Gasteiz

27.03.2022

Loraldia Festival. Gerorik Balego
Museo Guggenheim Bilbao

30.03.2022

Texas - Concert
Sala Santana Bilbao

07.04.2022

Albert Pla
Teatro Arriaga Bilbao

08.04.2022

Mr. Kilombo - Concert
Le Coup Gasteiz

09.04.2022

The Ara Malikian World Tour
Kursaal Elkargunea Donostia

10.04.2022

No Pleasure. Iker Karrera
Teatro Victoria Eugenia Donostia

22.04.2022

Ghost - musical
Kursaal Donostia

SPORT PROGRAM

20.03.2022

Saski Baskonia - Breogán
Fernando Buesa Arena

23.03.2022

Saski Baskonia - Fenerbahçe
Fernando Buesa Arena

27.03.2022

Bilbao Basket - Baskonia
Bilbao Arena

01.04.2022

Saski Baskonia - Zalgiris
Fernando Buesa Arena

03.04.2022

Saski Baskonia - Gran Canaria
Fernando Buesa Arena

03.04.2022

Athletic - Elche C.F.
San Mamés

03.04.2022

San Sebastian Half Marathon
San Sebastian

03-09.04.2022

Cycling Tour of the Basque Country
All over the country

03.04.2022

Real Sociedad - RCD Espanyol
Reale Arena

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09.04.2022

Bilbao Basket - Valencia
Bilbao Arena

12.04.2022

Bilbao Basket - Real Madrid
Bilbao Arena

13.04.2022

Saski Baskonia - Murcia
Fernando Buesa Arena

17.04.2022

Saski Baskonia - Valencia
Fernando Buesa Arena

17.04.2022

Alavés - Rayo Vallecano
Mendizorroza

17.04.2022

Athletic - Celta de Vigo
San Mamés

17.04.2022

Real Sociedad - Betis
Reale Arena

20.04.2022

Real Sociedad - Barcelona
Reale Arena

23.04.2022

Bilbao Basket - Murcia
Bilbao Arena

24.04.2022

Saski Baskonia - Manresa
Fernando Buesa Arena

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Nearly every weekend

Basque Rural Sports Exhibitions
All over the country



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food, culture & luxury experiences