

*Summer in the Basque Country*  
*august - september*



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

## Summer in the Basque Country

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Euskal Herria, which literally refers to the land of the Basques in the local language, is a captivating destination that encompasses in a relatively small area a wide variety of landscapes from the sea to the mountain range to modern cities to the more rural.

Located in a mountainous enclave of Atlantic Europe, the land of the Basques is still shrouded in a history of mystery and legend. The origin of this people is uncertain, whose language, Basque, is said to be the oldest language in Europe still spoken to this day and unrelated to any other language spoken in Europe, or even in the world.

The mysterious origins of Basque have fueled debate as to whether the Basques can also boast the oldest culture in Europe. Any time of year is a good time to visit the land of the Basques, but certainly the warm, sunny weather, longer days and shorter nights, along with the plethora of festivals and outdoor activities, make summer the perfect time to explore and enjoy the destination.

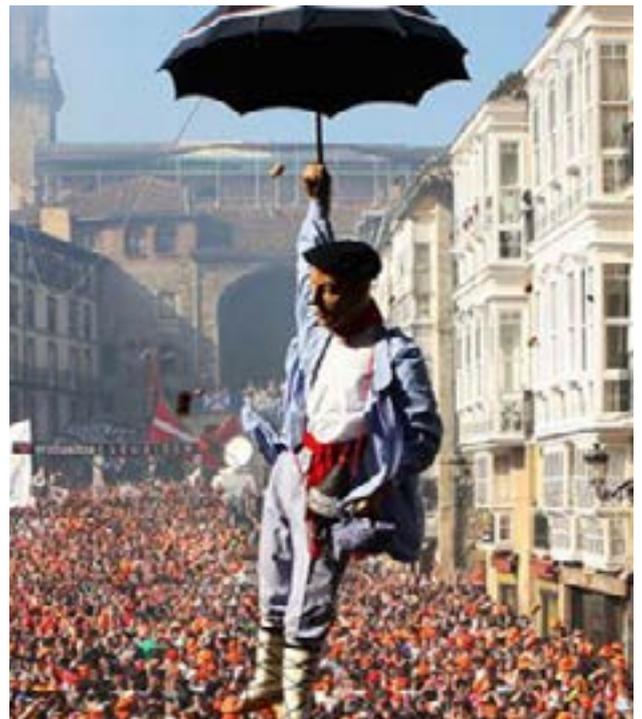


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Preserving the summer spirit that began with the traditional celebration of San Juan, known for its bonfires on the night of June 23, followed by other important events such as the Fiestas de San Fermin in Pamplona or the Fêtes de Bayonne, all during June and July, the month of August continues strong with festivities in the three capitals of the Basque Country, beginning with the Fiestas de la Virgen Blanca in Vitoria-Gasteiz in honor of its virgin.

Every August 4, the descent of Celedón (popular symbol of the festivities) to the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca marks the beginning of this great celebration. The city fills with color and music, while its inhabitants sing the song “Celedón has bought a new house”. The extensive program of festivities will take you to enjoy various musical performances in parks and squares to the streets of the Old Town, where you can enjoy the txikiteo (wine route), while marveling at the walls, palaces and, of course, the Cathedral of Santa Maria. A party that kicks off one of the three most eagerly awaited popular festivals after the break in the pandemic.



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Almost immediately, San Sebastian take over from August 13 with the txupinazo (chupinazo) from the City Hall. This beautiful city dresses up with the best staging during its Semana Grande (blue and white handkerchief included). Every day around 10 p.m., from Mount Igeldo to Urgull, fireworks illuminate the bay of La Concha while children and adults enjoy these magical summer nights. During the day, you can take the opportunity to stroll and taste the best gastronomy in the world –haute cuisine from the best chefs, traditional recipes or the many treasures hidden in the pintxo bars of the Old Town and the neighborhood of Gros–.



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And finally, the party comes to Bilbao to culminate with its spectacular Semana Grande, on Saturday, August 20. An exceptional occasion to discover the street atmosphere of the txosnas (tents) located on the banks of the estuary of Bilbao and get lost in the bustle of the Siete Calles (Old Town), where one thing is a must, the txikiteo of ochotes (gangs) while singing songs. Do not miss it and join them to enjoy the taste of the authentic! Culture is also very present during this week, with many live performances (theater, dance, music...).

From this moment on and continuing with the summer season, you can find popular festivals in every corner, every week, all over the Basque Country.



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For music lovers it is the time to enjoy wonderful music festivals. Leaving behind the Bilbao BBK Live or the Donostia Jazzaldia in July, August brings a particularly remarkable international festival, the Esférica Festival in the Rioja Alavesa (August 18-21), where it will be held in places like Elciego, Laguardia, Labastida and Lapuebla de Labarca. During these days, music, art, land and gastronomy will be mixed to offer the spectator a magical experience to enjoy in the heart of Alava.

Likewise, between September 16 and 17, the Donosti Festibala -twin brother of the BBK Live- returns with the remarkable aspect that this year the festival will be held for two days, and not one, as usual. During the weekend, national and local artists such as Lola Indigo, Nil Moliner, Arnau Griso, Marlon, Melendi, Sofia Ellar, Bulego and many more will be performing.

And simultaneously, many famous artists will be performing outdoor and indoor concerts throughout the territory.

Summer is also harvest time for many of the products that were sown during the spring, such as the famous green peppers from Gernika, different types of red peppers, chilli peppers from Ibarra and tomatoes, all of them distinguished with the Basque Quality Seal - Eusko Label. But it is also the time for pumpkin, cucumber, lettuce, eggplant, parsley and fruits such as melon and cherry that make up the great vegetable panorama of the Basque rural countryside.

And the king of seasonal fish is undoubtedly the prized tuna, one of the most traditional fish in Basque gastronomy. The tuna are caught one by one with long rods, using the traditional and sustainable technique.

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Once the boat is over the school of fish, water sprays are turned on to hide the rods, a real spectacle to see live! This tuna is then sold fresh in the markets to prepare traditional dishes such as Marmitako (tuna, potato, tomato and bell pepper stew).



And it is still time for other species of fish such as sardines, anchovies or mackerel, which last from the spring season. Perfect time to enjoy the grills in many of our ports!

This is also a perfect time to enjoy the highly appreciated and delicious D.O. Idiazabal cheese, made from raw milk from native Latxa breed sheep. At the end of summer, after having finished producing the cheese in an artisanal way, they are left to mature until they are ready to be sold. So these months are the best to taste one of these delicatessen.



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On the other hand, for sports fans, it is still the time for outdoor sports activities. In addition, during the festivities in the villages, we can also enjoy traditional Basque sports, which are usually held during the morning-midday.

The good weather invites more outdoor activities, especially water sports, horseback riding and mountain trekking. And in August the soccer season returns, with the start of La Liga in the stadiums of Mendizorroza, Reale Arena and San Mamés.

As you can see, summer is full of traditions and is a perfect time to enjoy the land of the Basques, although it is the high tourist season, especially in cities like San Sebastian and coastal areas.

And to celebrate that summer has given way to longer and warmer days, here you can see a beautiful video of the coast of the Basque Country filmed from a drone, made by The Sam Productions.

We are waiting for you!



*\*All the content and pictures cannot be used or broadcast without the permission of Basqvium. Most of the pictures are assigned by different Basque Regional Tourism Organizations.*

## TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

**From 04.08.2022 to 09.08.2022**

Festivities of Virgen Blanca  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**10.08.2022**

Moon Fest  
*Basque Mountains*

**From 13.08.2022 to 20.08.2022**

Semana Grande  
*San Sebastián*

**From 14.08.2022 to 18.08.2022**

San Roque and Nuestra Señora de Asunción Festivities  
Numerous municipalities in the Basque Country

**15.08.2022**

Artzain Eguna  
*Araia*

**17.08.2022**

Arrantzale Eguna  
*Ondarroa*

**From 18.08.2022 to 21.08.2022**

Festival Esférica  
*Rioja Alavesa*

**21.08.2022**

Day of the Morcillas  
*Laudio*

**31.08.2022**

Commemoration of 31 August  
*San Sebastián*

**From 01.09.2022 to 09.09.2022**

Euskal Jaiak  
*Zarautz*

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**From 04.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

Flag of La Concha  
*San Sebastián*

**05.09.2022**

Goose Day  
*Lekeitio*

**From 05.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

Euskal Jaiak  
*Ordizia*

**From 06.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

Tomato week  
*Aretxabaleta*

**06.09.2022**

Disembarkation of Juan Sebastián Elcano  
*Getaria*

**08.09.2022**

Hondarribia Alarde  
*Hondarribia*

**From 09.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

Folkezblai Burdin Jaia (Mining Festival)  
*Abanto-Zierbena*

**From 16.09.2022 to 18.09.2022**

Beer Fair  
*Tolosa*

**17.09.2022**

Olagarro Eguna (Octopus day)  
*Zumaia*

**18.09.2022**

Grape Harvest Festival  
*Rioja Alavesa*

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**18.09.2022**

Feria Ibarra, Azoka eta Piparra  
*Ibarra*

**25.09.2022**

Sagar Uzta  
*Astigarraga*

**Every Wednesday**

Wednesday market  
*Bergara*

**From the beginning of July to the end of September**

Festival ComeCultura  
*Rioja Alavesa*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

**04.08.2022**

*Tanxugueiras*  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**05.08.2022**

Mikel Erentxun  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**06 - 07.08.2022**

Pozalagua Music Festival  
*Montes Vascos (consultar)*

**06 - 07.08.2022**

Theatre: "El Peligro de las Buenas Compañías"  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**06.08.2022**

Rulo y la Contrabanda  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**07.08.2022**

Izaro  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**08.08.2022**

Talco  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**08 - 09.08.2022**

Theatre: "El Aguafiestas"  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**13.08.2022**

Izaro  
*San Sebastián*

**14.08.2022**

La M.O.D.A.  
*San Sebastián*

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**14.08.2022**

Chill Mafia  
*Amurrio*

**14.08.2022**

Huntza  
*Portugalete*

**15.08.2022**

Bilbainadas: Gau Pasa  
*Bilbao*

**From 16.08.2022 to 24.08.2022**

International Music Festival  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**16.08.2022**

Zetak  
*San Sebastián*

**17.08.2022**

Los Zigarros  
*Portugalete*

**17.08.2022**

MITIC El Espectáculo  
*San Sebastián*

**18.08.2022**

Ana Guerra  
*San Sebastián*

**18 - 21.08.2022**

Festival Esférica  
*Rioja Alavesa*

**19.08.2022**

Green Valley  
*San Sebastián*

**20.08.2022**

Gatibu  
*San Sebastián*

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**20.08.2022**

Mikel Urdangarín & BOS (Bilbao Orquesta Sinfónica)  
*Bilbao*

**21.08.2022**

Bilbainadas: Los 5 Bilbaínos  
*Bilbao*

**22.08.2022**

Bilbainadas: Mapa Mundi  
*Bilbao*

**22.08.2022**

El Drogas  
*Bilbao*

**24.08.2022**

Ana Mena  
*Bilbao*

**25.08.2022**

Bulego  
*Bilbao*

**26.08.2022**

Dani Fernández  
*Bilbao*

**26.08.2022**

En Tol Sarmiento  
*Bilbao*

**27.08.2022**

Bilbainadas: Gau Pasa  
*Bilbao*

**From 05.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

FesTVal (Festival de Televisión)  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

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**From 05.09.2022 to 11.09.2022**

Ariel Rot & Kiko Veneno  
*San Sebastián*

**07.09.2022**

Latxa Sheep Cheese Competition  
*Ordizia*

**09.09.2022**

Los Secretos  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**09.09.2022**

Izal  
*Bilbao*

**10.09.2022**

International Paper Dress Competition  
*Güeñes*

**10.09.2022**

Aitana  
*Bilbao*

**From 12.09.2022 to 18.09.2022**

Magialdia 2022  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**From 15.09.2022 to 30.09.2022**

Kursaal Film Festival  
*San Sebastián*

**16 - 17.09.2022**

Donostia Festibala 2022  
*San Sebastián*

**From 16.09.2022 to 24.09.2022**

Zinemaldia  
*San Sebastián*

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**From 21.09.2022 to 25.09.2022**

Exfilna (Exhibition of antique stamps, envelopes and/or documents)  
*Irún*

**23.09.2022**

Lunay Sessions Festival  
*Portugalete*

**24.09.2022**

Sum 41 & Simple Plan  
*Bilbao*

**29.09.2022**

Counting Crows  
*Bilbao*

**Every saturday**

Monthly street market  
*Zarautz*

## SPORT ACTIVITY CALENDAR

**06.08.2022**

Cycling – VII Premio El Carmen  
*Larrabasterra*

**09.08.2022**

Cycling – 45° Premio San Román  
*Muxika*

**10 - 15.08.2022**

Golf – LXIII Copa La Galea  
*Getxo*

**15.08.2022**

La Liga – Athletic Club VS. RCD Mallorca  
*Bilbao*

**19.08.2022**

La Liga – Deportivo Alavés VS. CD Mirandés  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**21.08.2022**

Cycling – Tour Eguna  
*Sopela*

**04.09.2022**

La Liga – Athletic Club VS. RCD Espanyol de Barcelona  
*Bilbao*

**04.09.2022**

La Liga – Deportivo Alavés VS. UD Las Palmas  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**04.09.2022**

La Liga – Real Sociedad VS. Atlético de Madrid  
*San Sebastián*

**From 17.09.2022 to 24.09.2022**

European Multisport Triathlon Championships  
*Bilbao, Montes Vascos*

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**18.09.2022**

La Liga – Athletic Club VS. Rayo Vallecano  
*Bilbao*

**18.09.2022**

Deportivo Alavés VS. SD Huesca  
*Vitoria-Gasteiz*

**18.09.2022**

La Liga – Real Sociedad VS. RCD Espanyol  
*San Sebastián*

**21.09.2022**

La Liga – Athletic Club VS. Valencia CF  
*Bilbao*

**21.09.2022**

La Liga – Real Sociedad VS. F.C. Barcelona  
*San Sebastián*

**From 24.09.2022 to 25.09.2022**

Kolitzza Balmatrail  
*Enkarterri*

**June - September**

Horse racing  
*San Sebastián*

**Every monday**

Galarreta Jai-Alai  
*Hernani*



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