

Spring in the Basque Country

March - April



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

Spring in the Basque Country BASQVIUM

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 BASQVIUM

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 BASQVIUM



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.

Spring in the Basque Country BASQVIUM

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 BASQVIUM

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.

Spring in the Basque Country BASQVIUM

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

17-26.03.2023

San José - Popular festival
Deusto, Bakio and Güeñes

31.03.2023

Friday of Sorrows - exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Llodio

01.04.2023

Mackerel day
Mutriku

02.04.2023

Txakoli day
Larrabetzu

05-09.04.2023

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

06-10.04.2023

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

06-10.04.2023

Snail sauce - Snail tasting
Tolosa

06-07.04.2023

Living Passion Performance
Balmaseda, Segura, Arkotxa

06-09.04.2023

Ham fair
Bayona

08.04.2023

Txakoli day
Aia

Spring in the Basque Country
BASQVIUM

08-18.04.2023

Eskutartie handcraft fair
Bilbao

21-23.04.2023

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

22.04.2023

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

23.04.2023

Farm products, handicrafts, music and entertainment
Ortuella

28.04.2023

San Prudencio - Pilgrimage
Vitoria - Gasteiz

29.04.2023

Cider day
Errenteria

30.04.2023

Day of Navarre
Saint Etien de Baigorri

CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

10.02.-28.05.2023

Joan Miró - Exhibition
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

02.02.-02.04.2023

Surf like you are, live like you surf - Exhibition
Itsasmuseum Bilbao

01-31.03.2023

Duelo perinatal - Exhibition
Okendo K.E. Donostia - San Sebastián

01.03-19.04.2023

(Con)tacto- Exhibition
Okendo K.E. Donostia - San Sebastián

06.03-07.05.2023

Antoni Abad. Oídos sordos - Exhibition
Fine Arts Museum Bilbao

17.03-03.09.2023

Oskar Kokoschka. Un rebelde de Viena- Exhibition
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

22.03.2023

Ez naiz inoiz Dublinen egon - Theatre
Principal Antzokia Theatre - Vitoria - Gasteiz

24.03.2023

Pole - Concert
Sala Santana - Bilbao

22.03.2023

Dani Fernandez - Concert
Sala Sonora - Bilbao

30.03.2023

Ciclo de música de cámara 2023 - Music
Orfeón Donostiarra - Donostia - San Sebastián

Spring in the Basque Country
BASQVIUM

31.03.2023

Su ta Gar - Concert
Jimmy Jazz - Vitoria - Gasteiz

31.03.2023

Kaos Etiliko - Concert
Jimmy Jazz - Vitoria - Gasteiz

01.04.2023

Fernando Costa - Concert
Jimmy Jazz - Vitoria - Gasteiz

01-10.04.2023

BLV-ART - Cultural Festival
Bilbao la Vieja - Bilbao

01.04.2023

La noche de San Juan - Dance
Principal Antzokia Theatre - Vitoria - Gasteiz

Desde 08.04.2023

Motion. Autos, Art, Architecture - Exhibition
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

13.04.2023

Alberto Rodriguez. Diálogos cineastas 2022-2023
Koldo Mitxelena Kulturunea. Donostia - San Sebastián

16.04.2023

Ara Malikian
Palacio de Congresos. Donostia - San Sebastián

21.04.2023

Paraiso perdido
Principal Antzokia Theatre - Vitoria - Gasteiz

22.04.2023

Zea Mays - Concert
Dabadaba. Donostia - San Sebastián

SPORT ACTIVITY PROGRAM

26.03.2023

Saski Baskonia - Bilbao Basket
Fernando Buesa Arena

28.03.2023

Saski Baskonia - Alba Berlin
Fernando Buesa Arena

31.03.2023

Saski Baskonia - Fenerbahçe
Fernando Buesa Arena

01.04.2023

Athletic - Getafe
San Mamés

01.04.2023

Bilbao Basket - Zaragoza
Bilbao Arena

04.04.2023

Athletic - Osasuna
San Mamés

06.04.2023

Saski Baskonia - Lyon - Villeurbanne
Fernando Buesa Arena

08.04.2023

Real Sociedad - Getafe
Reale Arena

09.04.2023

Bilbao Basket - Barça
Bilbao Arena

09.04.2023

Saski Baskonia - Manresa
Fernando Buesa Arena

Spring in the Basque Country
BASQVIUM

16.04.2023

Athletic - Real Sociedad
San Mamés

19.04.2023

Saski Baskonia - Obradoiro
Fernando Buesa Arena

19.04.2023

Bilbao Basket - CB Canarias
Bilbao Arena

23.04.2023

Real Sociedad - Rayo Vallecano
Reale Arena

26.04.2023

Athletic - Sevilla
San Mamés

29.04.2023

Bilbao Basket - Manresa
Bilbao Arena

30.04.2023

Saski Baskonia - Breogán
Fernando Buesa Arena



basqvium

food, culture & luxury experiences