

Spring in the Basque Country

May - June



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 uncertain cold of April disappears and the clouds give way to a shining sun that illuminates for more hours, the ideal phenomenon between spring and summer appears, mixing bright and intense colours throughout our land.



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The forests and mountains begin to turn green and, in turn, the beaches along the coastline gradually begin to welcome the first brave people for the first swim of the year.



This also marks the end of the Easter period, which usually takes place in April, and gives way to other more summery celebrations.

A few days later, the famous Otxomaïos began in the historic town of Orduña, the only town in Bizkaia with the title of city. These festivities are known for the tradition that narrates the apparition of the Virgin of La Antigua, who is the patron saint of Orduña. As a tribute, a series of livestock fairs, open-air dances, sporting events and an infinite number of activities are held throughout the month of May to commemorate this important date.

Spring is also the sowing season for many of the products that will be harvested in summer and autumn in the Basque Farmhouses. With the arrival of the good weather, sowing work increases considerably, with products such as the famous Gernika green peppers, different varieties of red peppers, Ibarra chilli peppers, beans and tomatoes, all of them distinguished by the Eusko Label Basque denomination of origin quality certificate.

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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.



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And for lovers of good food, at this time we can find different gastronomic events such as the Antxua Eguna of Getaria, which will take place on May 6 and 7; or the XXVII Arrain Azoka of Bermeo, which will take place on May 19, 20 and 21.



Similarly, the rest of the towns in the Basque Country will also be starting their famous festivities during this period. Likewise, the XIX Perretxiko and Livestock Fair of the Basque Country will take place on May 14th in Kuartango and it will be the ideal moment to buy the famous “perretxikos” from the surrounding areas of Gorbeia. As in any other fair, we will also be able to buy craft products, enjoy gastronomic tastings and even discover the local livestock.

On the musical side, this year the cultural agenda is offering more alternatives than ever for spring-summer, due to the recovery of normality after the pandemic. In June starts the open-air festival season, with the Azkena Rock festival to be held in Vitoria-Gasteiz (15, 16 and 17 June) among others.

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And if you are a sports lover, this is also the season for you, as the finals of the Basque Pelota Mano Championship in individual and doubles are very popular.

[Here you can see the video summary of the 2022 pairs final held in April.](#)

In addition, and continuing with Basque pelota, the erremontari of cesta punta championship is held every Monday in May in Hernani, a form of Basque pelota that has been practised for over 150 years and has even reached other parts of the world such as the United States.

The good weather invites more outdoor activities, which is why exhibitions of Basque Rural Sports are more frequent, such as cutting logs, lifting stones or mowing grass. These Basque sports come from the work that used to be done on Basque farms, and that work became Basque farms, and that work later became a sport.

You are also in time to attend the “La Liga” football matches that will take place in the stadiums of Mendizorroza (Vitoria-Gasteiz), Reale Arena (San Sebastian) and San Mamés (Bilbao) during the month of May. In them, our local teams will play for the victory.



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And of course, it is still a good time to find good waves to surf and enjoy the many hiking trails for mountain lovers.

As you can see, the transition from spring to summer is full of traditions, outdoor festivities and is the ideal time to take advantage of the arrival of good weather to do all the activities that the cold weather prevented us



And to celebrate this new stage, here you can see the latest video published by “Euskadi Turismo” with the new slogan “Bizit Euskadi: bizit is to come and live”.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

From 01.05.2023 to 31.05.2023

International Poetry Festival "Poets in May"
Vitoria-Gasteiz

01.05.2023

Pilgrimage of Estibaliz
Hill of Estibaliz

01.05.2023

Turtzioz Fair
Turtzioz

02-07.05.2023

Komedialdia - Humor Festival
Vitoria-Gasteiz

From 03.05.2023 to 06.05.2023

SSMF San Sebastian Fashion Festival (Spring-Summer)
San Sebastián

05, 12, 26.05.2023

Dantzán plazan (Dance in the Square)
Vitoria-Gasteiz

05-14.05.2023

Festivities of ochomayos
Orduña

06-07.05.2023

Anchovy Day
Getaria

09-12.05.2023

Pasajes Marine Festival
Pasajes

12-20.05.2023

Festivities of San Felix
Ortuella

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13.05.2023

Saint Antonio Padua day
Urkiola

13-14.05.2023

Medieval Market of Balmaseda
Balmaseda

14.05.2023

Perretxiko and Livestock Fair of the Terreña Area
Kuartango

19-21-22.05.2023

XXVII Fish Market
Bermeo

20.05.2023

Alboka day
El Regato - Barakaldo

09-11.06.2023

Kaldearte - International Show of Street Arts
Vitoria - Gasteiz

10.06.2023

Festivity of the Holy Trinity
Las Carreras, Elgoibar

10.06.2023

Festivities of Saint Antonio
Etxebarri, Gallarta

Nearly every saturday

Monthly Street Market
Zarautz

Nearly every saturday

Donostiatruk: Second-Hand Market
San Sebastián

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

04.05.2023

Alex Ubago - Concert
Kafe Antzokia - Bilbao

04.05.2023

Las noches de Ortega - Monologue
Jesús Ibañez de Matauco Antzokia - Vitoria-Gasteiz

20.05.2023

Euskadiko Orkestra Sinfonikoa - Concert
Kursaal - Donostia - San Sebastián

08.05.2023

Euskadiko Orkestra Sinfonikoa- Concert
Teatro Principal Antzokia - Vitoria-Gasteiz

13.05.2023

Pablo Meixe - Monologue
Teatro Campos Elíseos - Bilbao

18.05.2023

Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa - Concert
Euskalduna Jauregia - Bilbao

20.05.2023

Leiva - Concert
Velódromo Antonio Elorza - Donostia - San Sebastián

26.05.2023

Poetas en Mayo: Pedro Guerra
Teatro Principal Antzokia - Vitoria-Gasteiz

22.05.2023

Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa - Concert
Euskalduna Jauregia - Bilbao

24.05.2023

Banda Municipal de Música- Concert
Teatro Principal Antzokia - Vitoria-Gasteiz

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26.05.2023

Poetas en Mayo: Sole Giménez
Teatro Principal Antzokia - Vitoria-Gasteiz

27.05.2023

Pablo Alborán - Concert
Bilbao Arena - Bilbao

Hasta 28.05.2023

Joan Miró - Exhibition
Guggenheim Museum - Bilbao

04.06.2023

El musical de los 80 y 90
Teatro Campos Elíseos - Bilbao

06.06.2023

Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa - Concert
Euskalduna Jauregia - Bilbao

08.06.2023

Andrés Calamaro - Concert
Kursaal - Donostia - San Sebastián

10.06.2023

Andoaingo Rock Jaialdia
Andoain

Desde 14.06.2023

Apreniendo a través del arte 2023 - Exhibition
Guggenheim Museum - Bilbao

15,16,17.06.2023

Azkena Rock Festival
Vitoria - Gasteiz

19,20.06.2023

Bob Dylan - Concert
Kursaal - Donostia - San Sebastián

SPORT PROGRAM

02.05.2023

Real Sociedad - Real Madrid
Reale Arena

04.05.2023

Athletic - Betis
San Mamés

13.05.2023

Real Sociedad - Girona FC
Reale Arena

14.05.2022

Maratón Martín Fiz
Vitoria-Gasteiz

18.05.2023

Harlem Globetrotters Vitoria
Fernando Buesa Arena - Vitoria-Gasteiz

21.05.2023

Athletic - Celta de Vigo
San Mamés

24.05.2023

Real Sociedad - UD Almería
Reale Arena

28.05.2023

Athletic - Elche F.C.
San Mamés

04.06.2023

Real Sociedad - Sevilla FC
Reale Arena

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16-18.06.2023

IV Open Internacional de Gimnasia Vitoria
Vitoria-Gasteiz

Nearly every monday

Galarreta Jai-Alaia: Campeonato Erremontari
Hernani



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