

Spring in the Basque Country

May - June



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

Spring 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 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.



Spring in the Basque Country

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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.

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

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And for lovers of good food, at this time we can find different gastronomic events such as the Sagardo Eguna of Oiartzun, which will take place on May 24th; or the XXXI Arrain Azoka of Bermeo, which will take place on May 16, 17 and 18.



Similarly, the rest of the towns in the Basque Country will also be starting their famous festivities during this period. Likewise, the XXI Perretxiko and Livestock Fair of the Basque Country will take place on May 11th 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 (19, 20 and 21 June) among others.

Spring in the Basque Country

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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 2023 final of pairs 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.



Spring in the Basque Country

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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 “Euskadi Basque Country Confidential”.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

From 01.05.2025 to 31.05.2025

International Poetry Festival "Poets in May"
Vitoria-Gasteiz

01.05.2025

Pilgrimage of Estibaliz
Hill of Estibaliz

01.05.2025

Turtzioz Fair
Turtzioz

02.05.2025

Anchovy Day <i>Getaria</i>	Legazpi Fair <i>Legazpi</i>
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02-11.05.2025

Festivities of ochomayos
Orduña

03.05.2025

Ibarrangelu Fair
Ibarrangelu

03-04.05.2025

Idiazabal cheese fair
Idiazabal

04.05.2025

Asparagus Fair
Dicastillo

05-10.05.2025

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

09-11.05.2025

Medieval Market of Balmaseda
Balmaseda

Spring in the Basque Country

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11.05.2025

XXI. Perretxiko and Livestock Fair of the Terreña Area
Kuartango

15.05.2025

San Isidro Fair
Astigarraga, Hondarribia

16-18.05.2025

XXXI Arrain Azoka
Bermeo

17.05.2025

XXIV. Anchovy Day
Ondarroa

18.05.2025

XXXIV Zalla Wine Day
Zalla

25.05.2025

Txakoli Day
Amurrio

31.05.2025

Euskal Jaia
Getaria

07-08.06.2025

Txakolina Fest Portugalete
Portugalete

07.06.2025

Cherry Fair	Urdaibai Txakoli Day
<i>Barakaldo</i>	<i>Gernika-Lumo</i>

13.06.2025

Saint Antonio Padua day
Urkiola

Spring in the Basque Country

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22.06.2025

XX San Juan Fair
Orduña

28.06.2025

Txakoli Day
Donostia-San Sebastian

Every Friday

Livestock market
Amurrio

Last Sunday of every month

Local product market
Artziniega

Every Thursday and Saturday

Local product market
Llodio

Fist Sunday of every month

Arrieta market
Arrieta

First and third Saturday of the month

"The Market of our Land"
Balmaseda

Every Sunday

Flower and plant fair
Bilbao

Nearly every saturday

Monthly Street Market
Zarautz

Nearly every saturday

Donostiatruk: Second-Hand Market
San Sebastián

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

01.05.2025

Symphony Orchestra of Navarre: 'Symphony of Toys'.
Auditorio Baluarte - Pamplona

01.05.2025

Dantza Plazetan 2025 - Event
Bilbao

01-04.05.2025

XXIII. Hondarribia-Peñiscola International Guitar Festival
Hondarribia

02-10.05.2025

XXXI. FANT. Bilbao Fantasy Film Festival
Bilbao

07-11.05.2025

Cirque Du Soleil: "Corteo"
Navarra Arena - Pamplona

08.05.2025

"Il Lamento Di Caravaggio" - Theater
Teatro Arriaga - Bilbao

09.05.2025

Pecos - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla - Bilbao

09.05.2025

BIMFest - Music Festival
Bilbao Arena Miribilla - Bilbao

10.05.2025

Amaral - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla - Bilbao

10-11.05.2025

Mentes Peligrosas - Monologue
Auditorio Baluarte - Pamplona

Spring in the Basque Country

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16.05.2025

Chayanne - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla - Bilbao

17,20,23,26.05.2025

ABAO: Otello by Giuseppe Verdi - Opera
Euskalduna Jauregia - Bilbao

22.05.2025

Ariozonea - Theater
Jesus Ibáñez de Matuco Theater- Vitoria-Gasteiz

23, 30.05.2025

Dantzari plaza (Dance in the Square)
Vitoria-Gasteiz

30.05-08.06.2025

55. BLA. Bilboko Liburu Azoka-Bilbao Book Fair
Bilbao

Until 01.06.2025

Masterpieces on Paper from Budapest - Exhibition
Guggenheim Museum - Bilbao

05.06.2025

TONY ANN - Theater
Teatro Arriaga - Bilbao

05-06.06.2025

Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa "La Heróica y Zimmermann" - Concert
Euskalduna Jauregia - Bilbao

13-14.06.2025

White Night Festival
Bilbao

14.06.2025

KINK: shibari, electronic music and poetry
Izaskun Arrue Kulturgunea - Vitoria-Gasteiz

Spring in the Basque Country

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19-21.06.2025

Azkena Rock Festival
Vitoria - Gasteiz

21.06.2025

Bruce Springsteen - Concert
Reale Arena - Donostia - San Sebastián

23-30.06.2025

ZINEGOAK Film Festival
Bilbao

27.06.2025

Eva Soriano - Monologue
Teatro Campos Elíseos - Bilbao

Until 30.06.2025

Max Ernst. París, 1922-1928' - Exhibition
Bilbao Fine Arts Museum - Bilbao

26.06.2025

Jon Plazaola - Monologue
Teatro Principal - Donostia - San Sebastián

SPORT PROGRAM

01.05.2025

UEFA Europa League Semifinal
San Mames

01.05.2025

Liga de Trainerillas de Bizkaia 2025 - Rowing
Mundaka

02-30.05.2025

Bilbao Jai Alai Iron Cup 2025
Bilbao

04.05.2025

Green Series Challenge XCO - Cycling
Bilbao

10-11.05.2025

Araba Rugby Cup
Vitoria-Gazteiz

11.05.2025

Marín Fiz Marathon
Vitoria-Gazteiz

17.05.2025

V Campeonato Scramble Mixto de Bizkaia - Golf
Ortuella

25.05.2025

XXIV Zegama Aizkorri Mountain Marathon
Zegama

21.05.2025

UEFA Europa League Final
San Mames

31.05-08.06.2025

I Liga de Naciones de Pelota Vasca en 54m
Gernika-Lumo

Spring in the Basque Country

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31.05.2025

Finals of the Basque rugby league
Vitoria-Gazteiz

07.06.2025

VI Half Gasteiz Triathlon
Vitoria-Gazteiz

07-08.06.2025

VI Open Internacional Gimnasia Vitoria
Vitoria-Gazteiz

14.06.2025

TradeINN Zarauzko Triatloia - Triathlon
Zarautz

15.06.2025

Maratón T3T
Tolosa

21.06.2025

Vitoria Gran Fondo Race
Vitoria-Gasteiz

28.06.2025

Bilbao Triathlon
Bilbao

28.06.2025

XXVI. Lekeitioko Kilin Kala Igeri Zeharkaldia - Swimming
Bilbao

29.06.2025

XXXVIII. Triatlon de Donostia
Donostia-San Sebastian

29.06.2025

XI. Flysch Beltza Travesia - Swimming
Deba



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