

Autumn in the Basque Country

november - december



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 a relatively small piece of land and 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 also fuelled the debate on whether the Basques can boast the oldest European culture.

Anytime is a good time to visit The Land of the Basques, especially in Autumn, when temperatures are still mild and our forest exhibits an incredible palette of colours, together with multiple food markets and cultural activities along the country, it is the right season to experience and enjoy the destination calmly.



Culture and Gastronomy are protagonist of many events along the country.

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Autumn begins with one of the most relevant and international events of the year – San Sebastian International Film Festival. Together with Cannes, Venice and Berlin, form the club of most important Film Festivals in Europe.

And going on with the cultural activity, the iconic Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao celebrates its anniversary every autumn. In fact, although during the whole year you can find a special program of exhibitions and numerous cultural activities, main celebrations occur during the months of November and December.

We can not forget to mention the [Durangoko Azoka](#), the largest Basque music and literature fair that will take place from December 6 to 10 this year.



Music is present also with the return of the Opera season, Symphonic Orchestra´s concerts, or some international music events such as [BIME](#) apart from the regular music scene in the main cities.

And it is also the time for the Basque Bertsolari contest, a kind of Basque Poetry Slam performed alive, with ancestral roots in the Basque Culture.

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Related to festivities, November starts with the All Hallows, which roots are ancestral in the Basque Country from a secular celebration to the Celtic festivities of the end of the Summer.

And the other remarkable festivity is Saint Martin ´s festival spread out in different villages.

During the week around Saint Martin Day (11th of November), that concurs most of the years with specially warm temperatures known popularly as the Little Summer of Saint Martin, the protagonist is the Pig.

These days were specially preserved for the traditional pig slaughter in the Basque Farms (Txarriboda in Basque Language), from where chorizo, black pudding (morcilla) or bacon will be produced.

Traditionally pigs together with cows were slaughtered this time of the year, to provide enough meat for the Winter.

Continuing with gastronomy, Autumn is a very remarkable season from the Haute Cuisine to traditional food markets in addition to being Wine Harvest time in Rioja and Txakoli white wine areas.

At the same time, Autumn is the main season for Street Food Markets, full of all the seasonal vegetables and fruits, highlighting in november the one called San Andres celebrating in different villages along the Basque Country

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In the orchards the different varieties of beans are collected, together with aubergines, pumpkins, leeks, carrots, lettuce, onions, squash and all kinds of cabbage (cauliflower, brussels sprouts, broccoli...).

But if there is a top product that nature gives us these days, these are mushrooms, fungi and truffles, found in multiple varieties all along our mountains.

The right time to taste these delicatessens



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Fruits such as grapes, apples, pomegranate and some others like blackberries, blueberries and redcurrants come in Autumn, last ones used mainly to make jams. Also, the best moment of the year to enjoy tasting all kinds of nuts such as walnuts or chestnuts.

And undoubtedly among fruits, the main protagonist is the grape.

Between September and October, the most important time of the year reaches the Vineyard areas of Rioja and Txakoli, with the Wine Harvest. It is a process that can last between 30 and 40 days, which means that the collection can arrive well in November.

The process is still done in the traditional way in many of the Vineyards, in which the collected fruit are deposited in wicker baskets that usually have a capacity between 15 and 20 kilos.

Once collected the grape is taken directly to the wineries to begin the process of making red, white and rose wines, following the characteristics of each of them.

Harvest time is an exceptional moment to learn about the way of life that identifies the people of La Rioja.



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A way of knowing their customs and history that have been maintained throughout the years, reaching to the present day being a reference product not only in the Basque Country and Spain, but worldwide



After the harvesting of very appreciated local apples, it is time to produce the Basque Cider – Euskal Sagardoa, that could be tasted with the beginning of the new year.

Last year 1.320.000 litres were produced and this year it seems production will be excellent, as the apple trees have a lot of fruit!

As far as fish are concerned, Mackerel, Mullet, Conger, Sardines, Gilthead and Octopus, among others, live their best season in Autumn.

And related to the meat, Hunting takes the lead above all, from wild boar to rabbit, scholarships or quail.

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On the other hand, if you are keen on sports, the Football League starts the season with three Basque teams playing La Liga: Athletic of Bilbao, Real Sociedad, and Alavés. This year, Athletic of Bilbao also competes in the UEFA Champions League, so football fans have even more exciting matches to look forward to. That means, every week we will find the chance to see high-level matches in our cities.

Related to the traditional Basque sports, this is the time for the Jai Alai World Tour Final Series. Considered the fastest ball game in the world, it is a real spectacle to see a game live!

In November, the Basque 4,5 Hand Ball Championship continues being celebrated.

And the weather is still good enough to enjoy our mountain range and forests dyed in the beautiful colours of Autumn. That's why some mountain trekking and mountain bike competitions are still held at this time of the year.

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We wait for you!



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TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

01.11.2025

All Hollows day
All around the country

01.11.2025

Cheese market
Turtzioz

01.11.2025

Bean day. Exhibition and sale of food and agricultural products
Gernika

01.11.2025

Itziarko Feria
Deba

01.11.2025

Agricultural, livestock and crafts fair
Usurbil

02.11.2025

Arboleda's Agricultural and Livestock Fair
Trapagaran Valley

02.11.2025

Azoka Eguna
Berastegi

02.11.2025

17th Mutiloa Pig Fair
Mutiloa

02.11.2025

XLII Buskantza Jaia
Zumarraga

03.11.2025

Chocolate, sweets and handcraft fair
Zamudio

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08.11.2025

IV Esneki azoka and Friesian breed Basque competition
Tolosa

08.11.2025

XXVIII. Gaztañerre azoka - fair
Soraluze

09.11.2025

23rd Agricultural And Crafts Fair
Sondika, Lemoa, Forua

09.11.2025

San Martín fair - Agricultural products fair
Campezo/Kanpezu

11.11.2025

Agricultural Fair of San Martín. Exhibition and sale of food and agricultural products
Bilbao, Zegama, Batxikabo, Ermua, Manurga, Lezama, Gazeta, La guardia, Labastida, Santa Cruz de Campezo

13.11.2025

San Martín fair
Bermeo, Santa Cruz de Campezo, Gamiz-Fika

15.11.2025

Baba eguna - been day
Arrasate-Mondragón

15.11.2025

XXX been party
Tolosa

21.11.2025

Medieval market
Ermua

22.11.2025

Itsas eta baserri kontserben azoka - agricultural and seafood canned food fair
Berriatua

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From 28.11.2025 to 05.01.2026

Christmas market
San Sebastián

30.11.2025

San Andrés Fair - agricultural and handcraft products fair
Bilbao, Zeberio, Zaldibar, Azkoitia

30.11.2025

Morcilla (Blood sausage) fair
Ormaiztegi

01.12.2025

XXII Txarriki Eguna - pig products day
Murueta

04-07.12.2025

Medieval market
Zarautz

05-08.12.2025

Durangoko Azoka. Basque Book and CD/Record Fair
Durango

From 05.12.2025 to 05.01.2026

Christmas market
Bilbao

From 05.12.2025 to 06.01.2026

Christmas market
Vitoria-Gasteiz

06.12.2025

Snail day - snail exhibition, contest and lunch
Gernika

06.12.2025

Nekazamudio azoka - agricultural products market
Zamudio

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06.12.2025

St. Andrew and Immaculate Conception Fair - Agricultural and livestock fair

Gordexola, Leioa, Atxondo, Plentzia, Izurtza

07.12.2025

Ibarbi Apple Fair

Errezil

07.12.2025

Christmas Fair

Mundaka

08.12.2025

IX Christmas fair

Gorliz

08.12.2025

28th Agricultural and Craft Fair

Atxondo

12.12.2025

GabonArt - Handcraft products fair

Bilbao

13.12.2025

Santa Lucía Fair - Agricultural products fair

Zumarraga, Urretxu, Ozoko

13.12.2025

Txerri eguna - pig day

Oiartzun

14.12.2025

St. Thomas Fair - exhibition and sale of agricultural products

Lezo, Pasaia, Deba, Mutriku

14.12.2025

36th Leioa Agricultural And Livestock Fair

Leioa

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14.12.2025

Farm Products Fair
Usurbil

15.12.2025

Christmas craft fair
Bilbao

21.12.2025

St. Thomas Fair - exhibition and sale of agricultural products
Bilbao, Azpeitia, Donostia, Hondarribia, Irun, Lekeitio

Nearly every weekend

Livestock and local products fair
Different places



[Short video of the gastronomic market of the last Monday of October in Gernika.](#)

CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

01.11.2025

International Theater Festival
Vitoria-Gasteiz

05.11.2025

Sam Garrett - Concert
Kafe Antzokia - Bilbao

05.11.2025

Joaquín Sabina - Concert
Bizkaia Arena - Bilbao

08.11.2025

Bulego - Concert
Euskalduna - Bilbao

08.11.2025

Lagrimas de Sangre
Bilbao Exhibition Center

08-09.11.2025

LII Antique and Second-hand Book Fair
Bilbao

09.11.2025

Giselle - Clasic Ballet
Teatro Campos Eliseos - Bilbao

10-23.11.2025

Literaktum
Cultural centers, museums and theaters throughout Gipuzkoa

13-15.11.2025

CIMASUB 2025 - Underwater film series
Teatro Principal - Donostia-San Sebastian

27-30.11.2025

Festival Internacional de Ochotes de Portugalete (FIOP) - Film festival
Portugalete

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29.11.2025

Raphael - Concert
Euskalduna - Bilbao

29.11.2025

David Bilbal - Concert
Bilbao

05-08.12.2025

Durangoko Azoka - music and book fair
Durango

06.12.2025

Gatibu - Concert
Bizkaia Arena - Bilbao

08.12.2025

CTO 5 Mozart y Lo Ancestral - Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa
Euskalduna - Bilbao

15.12.2025

Winter Concert
Palacio Congresos Europa - Vitoria-Gasteiz

16.12.2025

The South Carolina Gospel Choir
Teatro Arriaga - Bilbao

19.12.2025

Vanesa Martín - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla - Bilbao

20.12.2025

Amaral - Concert
Plaza de Toros de Illumbe - Donostia

21.12.2025

Gaboneko Kontua (Christmas Tale) - Theatre
Campos Eliseos - Bilbao

SPORT ACTIVITY CALENDAR

01.11.2025

Real Sociedad vs. Athletic Club
Reale Arena, San Sebastián

02.11.2025

International cross
Donostia-San Sebastián

22.11.2025

Alavés - Celta de Vigo
Mendizorroza - Vitoria Gasteiz

09.11.2025

Athletic Club - Real Oviedo
San Mamés - Bilbao

09.11.2025

Behobia - San Sebastián
Donostia-San Sebastián

10.11.2025

Orduñako Mendi lasterketa - mountain race
Orduña

15.11.2025

Asier Cuevas Herri Lasterketa - race
Elgoibar

16.11.2025

Herri krosa - cross
Bilbao

23.11.2025

Zurich Maratón San Sebastian
Donostia - San Sebastian

30.11.2025

Popular race
From Santurce to Bilbao

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30.11.2025

Real Sociedad vs. Villarreal C.F.
Reale Arena, San Sebastián

03.12.2025

Athletic Club - Real Madrid
San Mamés - Bilbao

07.12.2025

Athletic Club - Atlético Madrid
San Mamés - Bilbao

07.12.2025

Alavés - Real Sociedad
Mendizorroza - Vitoria Gasteiz

07.12.2025

Gabonetako Krosa - Christmas race
Portugalete

10.12.2025

Athletic Club - PSG (Champions League)
San Mamés - Bilbao

14.12.2025

Alavés - Real Madrid
Mendizorroza - Vitoria Gasteiz

14.12.2025

Real Sociedad vs. Girona FC
Reale Arena, San Sebastián

21.12.2025

Athletic Club - RCD Espanyol
San Mamés - Bilbao

Nearly every week

Basque rural sports exhibitions
Various locations



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