

Summer in the Basque Country

august - september



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

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.



Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM



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.



Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM



Almost immediately, San Sebastian take over from August 9 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.



Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

And finally, the party comes to Bilbao to culminate with its spectacular Big Week, on Saturday, August 16. 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.



Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM



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 basque festivities.

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.

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 pa-norama 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.

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

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.



Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

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. It is also the season. And to round off the Basque rowing season, the Bandera de la Concha in San Sebastian attracts thousands of fans

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

01.08.2026

Las Nieves Eguna- *Abanto-Zierbena*

Baserri Azoka - *Ondarroa*

From 02.08 to 06.08.2026

Festivities of Xanistebanak - *Oiartzun*

87th San Sebastián Musical Fortnight - *San Sebastián* (Various Venues)

From 04.08 to 09.08.2026

Virgen Blanca festivities - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

06.08.2026

Festivities of Astrabudua - *Erandio*

Festivities of Sodupe - *Güeñes*

07.08.2026

San Roque Festivities & Kuadrillas parade - *Portugalete*

From 08.08 to 15.08.2026

Semana Grande (Big Week festivities)- *San Sebastián*

10.08.2026

San Lorenzo festivities.Culture, Gastronomy & Leisure activities - *Getxo*

From 11-08 to 17.08.2026

Festivities of Andra Mari - *Ondarroa*

12.08.2026

Festivities of Amurrio - *Amurrio*

From 14.08 to 18.08.2026

San Roque Festivities & Bull-Running Traditions - *Deba*

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

15.08.2026

Artzain Eguna (Shepherd's Day) - *Araia*

Craft Fair - *Deba*

16.08.2026

Villa de Plentzia Cheese Competition - *Plentzia*

From 22.08 to 30.08.2026

Aste Nagusia / Big Week of Bilbao - *Bilbao*

23.08.2026

Festivities of Bartolomé - *Elgoibar*

28.08.2026

Festivities of Antolín - *Plentzia*

31.08.2026

31st August Commemoration (Candlelight Procession) - *San Sebastián*

01.09.2026

Festivities of San Antolin- *Lekeitio*

02.09.2026

Euskal Jaiak (Basque Culture & Basque Heritage Week) - San Sebastian

Dantz Point Bizkaia (Electronic Music & Heritage) - Durango

04.09.2026

Ferixa Nausikoak Main Festivities - *Elorrio*

Festivities of Mamariga - *Santurtzi*

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

05.09.2026

Antzar Eguna / Goose Day - Lekeitio

Sagardo Eguna (Cider Day) - San Sebastian

07.09.2026

Andra Mari & Santa Eufemia Festivities - *Bermeo*

08.09.2026

Virgin of Guadalupe Festivities & Alarde of Hondarribia - *Hondarribia*

12.13.09.2026

Burdin Jaia (Mining Heritage Festival) - *Gallarta (Abanto-Zierbena)*

13.09.2026

Rioja Alavesa Wine Harvest Festival

16.09.2026

Santa Eufemia Agricultural Fair - *Bermeo*

From 18.09 to 26.09.2026

74th San Sebastián International Film Festival (Zinemaldia) - San Sebastian

19.09.2026

Olarro Eguna (Octopus Day) - *Zumaia*

Santa Anastasia Festivities - *Urretxu*

20.09.2026

Pablo Lasa Euskal Jaia (Basque festivities) - *Hernani*

Organic Agriculture Fair - *Zerain*

26.09.2026

Artzai-Eguna (Shepherd's Fair) - *Atxondo*

27.09.2026

Sagar Uzta (Apple Harvest Festival & Cider Pressing) - *Astigarraga*

CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

01.08.2026

Galtzagorri Rock Festival 2026 - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

La Oreja De Van Gogh concert - *San Sebastián*

02.08.2026

Glad is the Day 2026 - *San Sebastián*

Neskak Blues Rock Festival 2026 - *Urzainqui*

San Sebastián Musical Fortnight 2026 - *San Sebastián*

From 03.08 to 05.09.2026

"Versionando" Concert Series 2026 (every monday) - *Pamplona*

Irati Kantuz 2026 - *Larrau*

04.08.2026

2026 Walls Festival - *Pamplona*

Etzakit (Concert) - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

Ezta Ilen + Estoldetan + Fito Skins + Akerbeltz - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

05.08.2026

Leire Martínez concert - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

Chocolate Remix + Arranbe + Maruxak - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

07.08.2026

Pozalagua Festival 2026 - *Valle de Carranza*

13.08.2026

La Cubana: "La cuisine de ma cousine" - *Bilbao*

26.08.2026

En Tol Sarmiento (ETS) concert - *Bilbao*

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

28.08.2026

Bidasound Festival 2026 - Irun

Dantz Festival 2026 - San Sebastián

Until September 2026

725 Years of Bilbao and Its Port in Nautical Charts - Itxasmuseum

09.09.2026

Getxo Folk Festival 2026 - Getxo

From 10.09 to 21.09.2026

Maitaldia 2026 Festival - *Biarritz*

11-13.09.2026

Boga Boga Festival 2026 - *San Sebastián*

17.09.2026

Dalecandela Festival 2026 - Getxo

18.09 and 19.09.2026

Aitana - Bizkaia Arena (BEC)

24.09.2026

Alex Ubago concert - Bilbao

SPORT ACTIVITY CALENDAR

01.08.2026

XLVII Ikurriña Santurtzi Udaletxea - Santurtzi

08.08.2026

XLII Ondarroako Bandera - Cikautxo Main Event - Ondarroa

15.08.2026

V CMO Valves Bandera / XLI Pasaiaiko Ikurriña - Pasai Donibane

Football match Alavés vs. Getafe - Mendizorrotza

22.08.2026

Football match Athletic Club vs. Sevilla - Bilbao

28.08.2026

Football match Alavés vs. Villarreal - Mendizorrotza

29.08.2026

Football match Real Sociedad vs. Espanyol - Anoeta

05.09.2026

Sorabilla Trail - Andoain (Guipúzcoa)

UrduFolk Music Festival - Orduña

06.09.2026

Triathlon Sestao - Sestao

Arroletza Mendi March Taldea - Barakaldo

Bandera de La Concha (Day 1) — Trainera Rowing Regattas - San Sebastián

Football match Alavés vs. Osasuna - Mendizorrotza

Football match Athletic Club vs. Atlético de Madrid - Bilbao

Summer in the Basque Country

BASQVIUM

13.09.2026

Football match Athletic Club vs. Elche - Bilbao

Football match Real Sociedad vs. Atlético de Madrid - Anoeta

16.09.2026

Football match Real Sociedad vs. Celta - Anoeta

19.09.2026

Play-off J1 Liga Eusko Label - Bermeo

20.09.2026

LVI GP - LII Bandera El Corte Inglés / Play-off J2 - Portugalete

Football match Athletic Club vs. Alavés - Bilbao

27.09.2026

Gorbeia Suzien Skyrace - Zeanuri



basqvium

food, culture & luxury experiences