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 4 to 8 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.



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.



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.

This last cider season was highly abundant harvest , collecting over 4 million kilograms of locally grown apples to produce more than 3 million liters of certified Basque cider. This massive yield resulted in exceptionally well-balanced, fresh, and aromatic ciders with a slightly fuller body than usual, standing out as a historically strong year before production experienced a significant drop in the following 2026 season.

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.



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

01.11.2026

All Hollows day (Arimen Gaua) - *All around the country*

Cheese market - *Turtzioz*

Lekitto Bixirik Herri Krosa and Agricultural Fair - *Lekeitio*

Itziar Fair - *Deba*

Agricultural, livestock, and craft fair - *Usurbil, La Arboleda and Valle de Trápaga / Trapagaran*

Azoka Eguna (Fair Day) - *Berastegi*

Mutiloa Pig Fair - *Mutiloa*

Buskantza Jaia (Black Pudding Fair) - *Zumarraga.*

02.11.2026

Chocolate, sweets, and crafts fair - *Zamudio*

07.11.2026

Gernika Bean Day (Exhibition, tasting and market*)* - *Gernika-Lumo*

Cheese and Dairy Fair and Friesian Breed Championship - *Tolosa*

Traditional Chestnut Fair - Soraluze.

08.11.2026

Agricultural and Handicraft Fair - *Sondika, Lemoa, and Forua*

San Martín Fair - *Santa Cruz de Campezo / Kanpezu*

11.11.2026

San Martín Agricultural Fair (Exhibition and sale of products) - *Bilbao, Zegama, Ermua, Laguardia, Labastida, and other Basque towns*

12.11.2026

San Martín Fair - Bermeo and Gamiz-Fika

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14.11.2026

Baba Eguna (Fava Bean Day) - *Arrasate-Mondragón*

Bean Festival - *Tolosa*

20.11.2026

Medieval Market- *Ermua*

21.11.2026

Canned Fish and Farm Produce Fair - *Berriatua*

27.11.2026 to 05.01.2027

Christmas Market - San Sebastián/Donostia

29.11.2026

Saint Andrew's Fair in Bilbao, Zeberio, Zaldibar, and Azkoitia

Blood Pudding Fair (Feria de la Morcilla) - Ormaiztegi

30.11.2026

Pig Product Day (Txarriki Eguna) - Murueta

03.12.2026 to 06.12.2026

Medieval Market - Zarautz

04.12.2026 to 08.12.2026

Durangoko Azoka (Basque Book and Music Fair) - Durango

04.12.2026 to 05.01.2027

Christmas Market - Bilbao

04.12.2026 to 06.01.2027

Christmas Market -Vitoria-Gasteiz

05.12.2026

Snail Day (Tasting and traditional stalls) - Gernika-Lumo

Nekazamudio Azoka (Agricultural Product Market) - Zamudio

Saint Andrew's and Immaculate Conception Fair - Gordexola, Leioa, Atxondo, Plentzia, and Izurtza

06.12.2026

Ibarbi Apple Fair - Errezil

Christmas Fair - Mundaka

07.12.2026

Christmas Fair - Gorliz

Agricultural and Artisanal Fair - Atxondo

11.12.2026

GabonArt (Christmas Craft Fair) in Bilbao

12.12.2026

Saint Lucy's Fair - Zumarraga and Urretxu.

Pig Day (Txerri Eguna) - Oiartzun

13.12.2026

Saint Thomas Fair (Agricultural Market) - Lezo, Pasaia, Deba, and Mutriku

Agricultural and Livestock Fair - Leioa

Farmstead Produce Fair - Usurbil

14.12.2026

Christmas Craft Fair - Bilbao

20.12.2026

49th Basque Country Snail Championship - Gernika-Lumo

21.12.2026

Saint Thomas Fair - Major traditional winter market and kick-off to the Christmas festivities in Bilbao, Donostia-San Sebastián, Azpeitia, Hondarribia, Irun, and Lekeitio

Nearly every weekend

Livestock and local products fair - Different places

Flower Market - Bilbao



Short video of the gastronomic market of the last Monday of October in Gernika.

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CULTURAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

31.10.2026 to 01.11.2026

International Theater Festival - *Vitoria-Gasteiz*

01.11.2026

El Hipnotista by Jeff Toussain - Bilbao

03.11.2026

Eli "Paperboy" Reed live in concert (Dabadaba)- San Sebastián/ Donostia

04.11.2026

The Age of Myths show - Vitoria-Gasteiz

05.11.2026

Rosana concert in Kursaal Auditorium - Donostia-San Sebastián

05-08.11.2026

Seriesland 2026 (Bilbao International Digital Festival) - Bilbao

06.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra presents Aita Donostia in Kursaal Auditorium - Donostia-San Sebastián

El Kanka concert in Santana 27 - Bilbao

Lurrama 2026 (Basque Country Sustainable Agriculture Fair)- Biarritz

07.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra concert - Bilbao

Sôber concert - Bilbao, Bizkaia

Gernika Bean Day - Gernika-Lumo

08.11.2026

Live street music and animation for the Behobia-San Sebastián road race

Michael Schenker MSG concert - Bilbao

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09.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra (Second session) in Kursaal Auditorium - Donostia-San Sebastián

Zinexit 2026 (Human Rights Film Showcase) until november 13th - BIlbao

10.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra symphonic - Vitoria-Gasteiz

The Del Fuegos concert in Kafe Antzokia - Bilbao

12.11.2026

Frédéric Chopin Cycle Recital -Donostia-San Sebastián

AMUA 2026 (Hondarribia Musical Short Film Festival)- Hondarribia

13.11.2026

Beast In Black + Sonata Arctica + Frozen Crown concert - Bilbao

18.11.2026

La M.O.D.A. concert - Bilbao

Blow Up Fest 2026 (Garage & Rock Festival) - Bilbao

19.11.2026

Besmaya concert - Bilbao

Bilbao TX Fest 2026 (Bilbao International Puppet Festival- Bilbao

20.11.2026

Bryan Adams live concert - Bizkaia Arena - BEC! Barakaldo

ZINEBI 68 Film Festival opening (projections & audiovisual live shows, Nov 20–27) - Bilbao

Shinova concert - Bilbao

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21.11.2026

Vetusta Morla concert in Kursaal Auditorium- Donostia-San Sebastián

Tolosa Bean Festival - Tolosa

Elrow Bilbao 2026 (Electronic Music Event)- Bizkaia Arena - BEC! Barakaldo

23.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra: Falla / Debussy / Stravinsky symphonic program - Vitoria-Gasteiz

25.11.2026

Euskadiko Orkestra: Falla / Debussy / Stravinsky concert - Bilbao

27.11.2026

Zea Mays special year-end concert - Barakaldo

Zinecittà 2026 (Italian Film Festival) in Basque Maritime Museum Donostia-San Sebastián

04.12.2026

Camin concert - Bilbao

61st Durangoko Azoka (Basque Book and Record Fair), featuring daily live concerts at Ahotsenea (rock, pop, indie) until December 8 - Durango

05.12.2065

La Oreja de Van Gogh concert - Bizkaia Arena - BEC! Bilbao

06.12.2026

Saurom concert (Folk Metal) in Jimmy Jazz - Vitoria-Gasteiz

10.12.2026

Jay Wheeler concert -Bilbao Arena

11.12.2026

Amaral live concert - Bilbao Arena

Sho Hai concert - Vitoria-Gasteiz

ITURFEST 2026 (Contemporary Culture Festival) - Bilbao

12.12.2026

Sergio Dalma concert - Bilbao Arena

18.12.2026

Special Christmas Concert by the Bilbao Choral Society & Bilbao Symphony Orchestra (BOS) - Bilbao

Hofe concertat at Jimmy Jazz - Vitoria-Gasteiz

19.12.2026

Fito & Fitipaldis concert - Bizkaia Arena - BEC!

26.12.2026

Carolina Durante concert - Bizkaia Arena - BEC!

SPORT ACTIVITY PROGRAM

01.11.2026

Basque Derby: Real Sociedad vs. Athletic Club at Reale Arena - Donostia/San Sebastián

San Sebastián International Cross Country in Donostia- Donostia/San Sebastián

07.11.2026

Villamonte Cross Country in Algorta - Getxo

08.11.2026

61st Behobia - San Sebastián Fun Run. The iconic 20 km route between Irun and Donostia

Athletic Club vs. Real Oviedo at San Mamés Stadium- Bilbao

09.11.2026

Orduña Mountain Race in Orduña.

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14.11.2026

Asier Cuevas Popular Race (Fun Run) - Elgoibar

15.11.2026

37th Bilbao Popular Race (Bilbao Fun Run). One of the most popular urban sports events in Biscay

21.11.2026

Deportivo Alavés vs. Celta de Vigo at Mendizorroza Stadium- Vitoria-Gasteiz.

22.11.2026

47th Zurich Donostia - San Sebastián Marathon

29.11.2026

"From Santurtzi to Bilbao" Popular Race. A classic event of the Biscayan winter running season

Real Sociedad vs. Villarreal C.F. at Reale Arena - Donostia/San Sebastián.

02.12.2026

Athletic Club vs. Real Madrid at San Mamés Stadium - Bilbao

06.12.2026

Athletic Club vs. Atlético de Madrid at San Mamés Stadium - Bilbao.

Deportivo Alavés vs. Real Sociedad at Mendizorroza Stadium- Vitoria-Gasteiz.

Christmas Race in Portugalete

09.12.2026

Athletic Club vs. PSG (UEFA Champions League League Phase) at San Mamés - Bilbao

13.12.2026

Deportivo Alavés vs. Real Madrid at Mendizorroza Stadium- Vitoria-Gasteiz

Real Sociedad vs. Girona FC at Reale Arena- Donostia/ San Sebastián

20.12.2026

Athletic Club vs. RCD Espanyol at San Mamés - Bilbao


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