



Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Discover the Romance of the Basque Country

A Region Like No Other



June 10 – June 22, 2022 (13 days)

Optional 2+ Day Extension in the Picturesque Bordeaux Wine and Cognac Region Available

Itinerary subject to change

Tour led by one of Europe's best Tour Managers, Stefan Aquilino

Join us on this stunning tour of the distinctive seaside and mountainous region of Spain and France, during the best time of the year
See the Lonely Planet's Top 10 Reasons to Visit the Basque Country: [Click Here](#)

All accommodations are top-tier luxury hotels. All breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 5 dinners are included in the cost of the trip.

****Stefan Aquilino, Tour Manager for WACC's 2019 trip to Greece will join WACC travelers for the duration of the trip***
Prices for the trip and Bordeaux Extension as well as COVID-19 travel requirements can be found on Page 18.*

*A deposit of \$500 is due immediately to secure your seat for the trip. Deposits are fully refundable until March 8, 2022.
Full payment is due by April 1, 2022.*

Space is limited and deposits are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Knight Travel will provide individual airfare quotes on request, as there is no group air pricing. Travelers who have AA air credits will have to communicate directly with Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) to secure your tickets.

We have at least 25 travelers that have expressed interest, so send in your deposit soon!

Please contact Noah Ameris at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7758 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.

Day 1: Friday, June 10, 2022

Charlotte/Madrid/Bilbao

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport at 6:20 pm on American Airlines Flight 748 nonstop to Madrid, Spain. The flight will arrive in Madrid the following morning at 8:25 am and the group will clear Spanish immigration formalities. **Time appropriate meals will be served in-flight.**

Day 2: Saturday, June 11, 2022

Madrid/Bilbao

After arriving in Madrid at 8:25 am, transfer to Iberia Airlines 426 which departs at 11:35 am and arrives in Bilbao, Spain at 12:35 pm. The group will be welcomed by the group tour manager, Stefan Aquilino, who will join for the remainder of the tour.

“Staggering architecture, a venerable dining scene and stunning landscapes just outside the city centre: Bilbao is one of the great treasures of the Basque Country.”- [Lonely Planet](#)

Transfer to your hotel for the next two nights: the [Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao](#), the best hotel in Bilbao, an elegant and cosmopolitan five-star hotel, located in an unbeatable location in front of the [Guggenheim Museum](#) – a great starting point from which to discover the legendary city. The Guggenheim Bilbao is an architectural marvel:

“Designed by Canadian American architect Frank Gehry, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao building represents a magnificent example of the most groundbreaking 20th-century architecture... the Museum represents an architectural landmark of audacious configuration and innovative design, providing a seductive backdrop for the art exhibited in it. Altogether, Gehry’s design creates a spectacular sculpture-like structure, perfectly integrated within Bilbao’s urban pattern and its surrounding area.”

There will be plenty of time to relax today or take the opportunity for an independent visit to the Guggenheim (open until 7 pm), the [Fine Arts Museum](#), or the [Maritime Museum](#).

This evening, join fellow travelling companions for a delicious welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao



[Bilbao](#)



[The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao](#)



[The Gran Hotel Domine](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast, before setting off on a city tour of Bilbao, the de facto capital of the Basque country. The morning excursion will focus on the modernity and tradition of the great city, which is undergoing large-scale renovation and restoration. Walk along the narrow streets of Bilbao Old Town, “Casco Viejo,” and enjoy the beautiful views from Archanda Viewpoint high above the city.

“While credit for Bilbao’s modern rebirth is often rightfully applied to the Guggenheim effect (or as it is more accurately described, the Bilbao effect), the phenomenon would be virtually impossible to replicate in any other city given the unique circumstances in which it took place. Faced with the mission to rebuild, the industrial center made an avant-garde gambit that led to its revival as a cultural hub of art and design.” - Lonely Planet

After an independent lunch, travel to the coast of [Biscay](#), full of small fishing villages and jagged coves, along a route filled with visual surprises. You’ll get the chance to experience Game of Thrones-level scenery on the small island of [San Juan de Gaztelugatxe](#), a location featured in the show and chock-full of Spanish history from knights battling kings to pirates to the Spanish Inquisition.

According to [Eusko Guide](#): *“The island is connected to the mainland by a man-made stone bridge... Once at the top of the island, you will find the church which has a bell situated along the front of its facade. According to legend, after you have completed the climb, you should ring the bell three times and make a wish. The church on top of the island is dedicated to John the Baptist.”*

Next, stop at the town of [Bermeo](#), one of the most important fishing ports of the Cantabrian coastline. Located a few minutes to the north of Mundaka, this fishing port has historical roots centered on Bermeo’s past vibrant whaling industry. A highlight of the tour are the fishermen’s houses, colorful and vivid, displaying the popular architecture of the region.



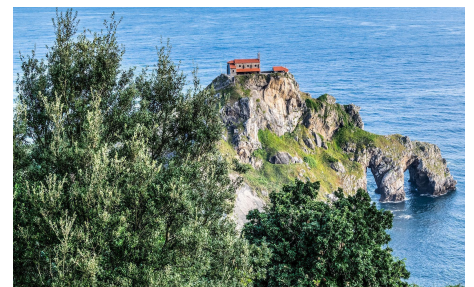
[Bilbao](#)



[Casco Viejo](#)



[The Biscay Coast](#)



[San Juan de Gaztelugatxe](#)

“Famous for its fishing tradition, [Bermeo] is a great place to stop for a while and explore. Enjoying some pintxos at the marina, going for a walk through the old town or taking a dip in one of the nearby beaches are just some of the things you can do in Bermeo.”



[Bermeo](#)

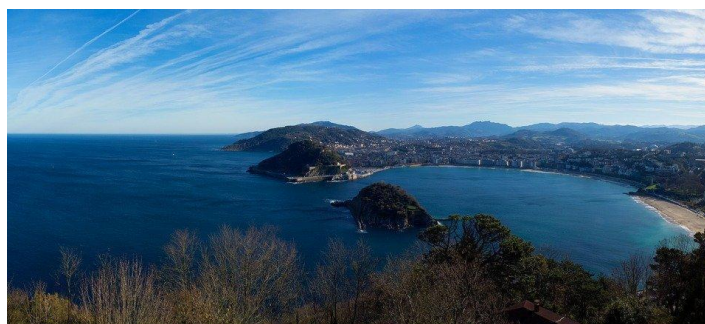
This evening, return to Bilbao for an independent dinner and an evening at your leisure.

Looking for things to do? [Read: 10 Things to Do and See in Bilbao, Spain](#)

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao

Day 4: Monday, June 13, 2022

San Sebastian



[San Sebastian Bay](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

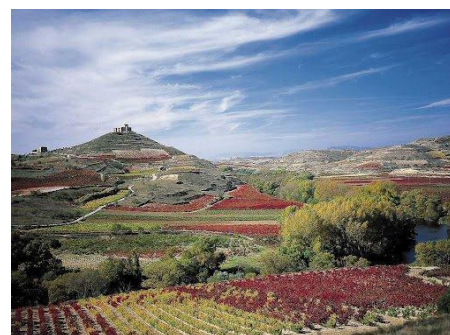
Enjoy breakfast on your last morning in the Hotel Gran Domine Bilbao. Today, as you drive towards the city of San Sebastian along the stunning Cantabrian Coast, experience the incredible views of your tour through Basque Country.

On the way, stop and visit [Vitoria-Gasteiz](#), the political capital of the Basques, where you can walk the ancient and beautiful town center. [Eusko Guide](#) says:

“Vitoria-Gasteiz is the most modest of all the Basque cities. It doesn’t have a fancy beach like San Sebastian nor a Guggenheim Museum like Bilbao and because of this it is often overlooked. But don’t be so quick to skip it. Vitoria offers visitors many of the same things other Basque cities do but it also offers things they don’t.



[Vitoria-Gasteiz](#)



[Rioja Wine Area](#)

Take for example Vitoria's medieval city center. Many buildings there date back to the 1500's and earlier and are very nicely preserved. The almond-shaped center is also partly surrounded by a wall from the 11th century along with several impressive watchtowers."



[Marques de Riscal City of Wine](#)

En route to San Sebastian, pass through the Rioja Wine region, arguably Spain's top wine region. A pit stop at the [Marques de Riscal City of Wine](#) will yield a delicious lunch and an exquisite wine tasting.

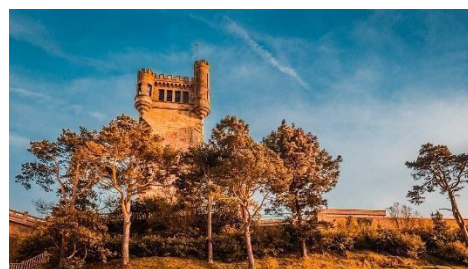
"With their dusty spice notes and elegant cherry-scented fruit, the wines of Rioja are the essence of Spain. Here, in the country's most famous wine region, the Tempranillo grape is king. Most Riojas are blends from dozens of vineyards (there are over 15,000 grape growers here, but only 640 wineries)." - [Food & Wine](#)



[San Sebastian, Spain](#)

Lunch included

This afternoon, arrive in the beautiful coastal city of [San Sebastian](#), one of the most famous resort cities in Spain and home base for the next four nights. In San Sebastian, enjoy the most elegant and luxurious five-star hotel in the city, the [Gran Hotel Maria Cristina](#). This evening, enjoy free time to explore the city and local cuisine for dinner- it will be well worth it.



[San Sebastian, Spain](#)

Read: [Top 7 Must-Try Typical Foods in San Sebastian](#)

According to [Lonely Planet](#): *"San Sebastián has a justly deserved reputation as one of the world's great dining destinations. This is a city that celebrates the art of eating well in all its many forms – whether snacking on fresh oysters and txakoli (a lightly sparkling white wine) at a seaside cafe or lingering over a decadent, multi-course feast in a Michelin-starred dining room. Pintxos (Basque tapas) bars litter the streets of San Sebastián, and showcase first-rate ingredients from the surrounding coast and countryside combined with the culinary creativity of Basque chefs. When it comes to cooking, no other city quite compares."*



[The Gran Hotel Maria Cristina](#)



[The Gran Hotel Maria Cristina](#)

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Maria Cristina



[La Guernica by Pablo Picasso](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

On day five, enjoy breakfast at your hotel before departing for a full-day tour. Start in [Guernica](#), considered the heart of the Basque nation. Enjoy scenery, art, and history- a 1937 air raid here inspired Pablo Picasso to paint *La Guernica*, one of his masterpieces currently housed in Madrid.



[Guernica](#)

Continue on to [Playa de Zarautz](#), a surfer's paradise and the longest beach in the Spanish Basque. The dramatic long coastline not only provides the ingredients for famous Basque dishes but is the ideal place for nature lovers and families as well.

Next up is a visit to the regional parliament building, the Casa de Juntas. Although Guernica lacks an ancient city center due to war damage, [Eusko Guide](#) states it has a different sort of allure:

“Guernica offers visitors a different kind of experience, especially for those who are interested in the background of Picasso’s most famous work as well as those who are interested in Basque culture and politics. The Biscayan Assembly and the Tree of Guernica both offer insight into the history of the Basque people and can give a deeper understanding of more recent historical events such as the Basque independence movement. In addition, the town also has its own Basque museum, the Euskal Herria Museum as well as the Peace Museum.”



[Casa de Juntas de Guernica](#)

A highlight of the day is a glimpse into the “sargadoa” (Basque cider) world, where you will enjoy a unique cultural and gastronomic experience to learn all about local specialty drink production. After a tour and tasting at [Sideria Petritegi](#), a local lunch will be provided.

Lunch included

After lunch, return to San Sebastian for a relaxed, independent evening and another night at the Gran Hotel Maria Cristina.



[Petritegi Cider House](#)

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Maria Cristina



[San Sebastian](#)



[Mount Igueldo](#)



[Museum of San Telmo](#)



[Basilica of Santa Maria of the Choir](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel. Begin touring Donostia, also known as San Sebastian on Concha Bay, home to what is considered one of the best city beaches in Europe. Included in the tour is a ride up the cable car to the top of [Mount Igueldo](#) for unmatched views over the bay.

According to [San Sebastian Travel](#): *“Igueldo mountain is one of the most significant mountains in the city. Located at one end of Ondarreta beach, it is considered to be yet another iconic spot in Donosti and one from which you will surely get a fantastic view of the city.”*

The tour will continue with a walk along the Old Part. See the Church San Vincente, the oldest building in the city, the [Museum of San Telmo \(outside visit\)](#), and the Basilica of Santa Maria of the Choir, the patron saint of the city.

The food isn't the only part of San Sebastian that [Lonely Planet](#) found worth mentioning: *“Once a favourite destination for Spanish royalty, San Sebastián has lost none of its lustre over the years. Elegant art nouveau buildings, ornate bridges and beautifully manicured parks and plazas create a captivating backdrop to this seaside city. Far from being mere set pieces, the grand architecture remains an integral part of San Sebastián, from the lavish Hotel Maria Cristina to the belle époque spa perched over the shoreline. Meanwhile, the old buildings lining the cobblestone streets of the Parte Vieja have been given new life with charming guesthouses, colourful boutiques and buzzing pintxos bars all part of the great and vibrant mix that is San Sebastián.”*

After an independent lunch in the Old Part (with no shortage of delicious options!), continue along the bay to San Juan at the foot of Mount Jaizkibel, and stroll around the old quay to enjoy the fishermen's houses hanging from the hillside. History buffs will love the visit to a



[The Meson Portaletas](#)

traditional 17th-century home with direct access to the bay where Victor Hugo stayed in 1843.

Next, take a boat across the bay to San Pedro to continue learning about the Basque fishing tradition.

Return to San Sebastian, to enjoy a delicious local Pintxos dinner at the [Meson Portaletas](#).

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Maria Cristina

Day 7: Thursday, June 16, 2022

San Sebastian/Pamplona

Complimentary breakfast included

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before departing to [Pamplona](#), where you'll spend a full-day excursion in the town famous for the Running of the Bulls. Begin with a panoramic tour of the city to get your bearings and enjoy a 3-course lunch in a local restaurant.

Pamplona is a city rich with history and culture, with its architecture and grand cathedral, archaeological jewels, and military fortifications. Although you will miss the major festival which has been likened to one of the largest parties in the world, do not worry!

[Eusko Guide](#) promises that: *“During the rest of the year, Pamplona or Iruña as it is known in Basque, is a pretty laid-back city. There is a constant, steady flow of visitors, many of whom are pilgrims or hikers doing the Camino de Santiago (Route of St. James). The city is very easy to navigate and almost every place of interest can be found within the well-preserved medieval city center and is within walking distance from the Plaza del Castillo (Castle Square).”*

Lunch (3-course) included

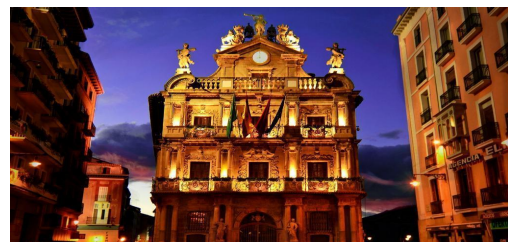
The walking tour of Pamplona will begin along the theme of the [Running of the Bulls \(El Encierro\)](#) and the [Festival of Saint](#)



[Pamplona](#)

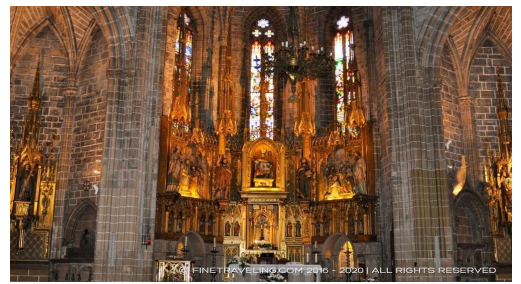


[The Plaza de Toros](#)



[Pamplona's Ayuntamiento](#)

[Fermin \(Los Sanfermines\)](#). See the famed Plaza de Toros bullfighting arena and stroll down the well-known Estafeta Street. Next, ascend to the [Cathedral](#), an amazing temple from the 15th century, which is the highest point in town. Follow the [Rua de los Peregrinos \(Street of the Pilgrims\)](#) to the Ayuntamiento (town hall), which is known as the launch site for the famous rockets (chupinazo) that starts the nine-day festival of Saint Fermin.



[Church of San Saturnino](#)

Lastly, visit the [Church of Saint Saturnino](#), patron saint of Pamplona, highlighted by its two high towers and is one of the most emblematic silhouettes in the city.

Return to San Sebastian for an independent dinner and evening.

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Gran Hotel Maria Cristina

Day 8: Friday, June 17, 2022

San Sebastian/ St. Jean-de-Luz /Biarritz

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, leave San Sebastian and cross into France in the direction of the city of Basque corsairs, St. Jean-de-Luz. Nestled between Biarritz and the Spanish border, the Atlantic fishing village of Saint-Jean-de-Luz combines Basque charm with welcoming beaches on the bay.



[Port of St. Jean-de-Luz](#)

Enjoy a walking tour covering 17th-century architecture. Notable examples include Place Louis XIV, the historic heart of the city of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, and the Eglise Saint John-Baptiste, a large and beautiful Basque church, built in the 14th and 15th centuries.



[Eglise Saint John-Baptiste](#)

Stroll along the city's lovely waterfront, which sports beautiful 20th century houses and hotels. Enjoy an independent lunch in the local market hall of St. Jean-de-Luz, a must to appreciate the rich and exquisite regional gastronomy.

According to [Forbes Magazine](#): *"It's difficult to get lost in a small town bordered by the ocean, so it's rewarding just to wander. Enter Les Halles, the inner marketplace across from the tourist office, where you can buy meat such as boudin Basque or saucisse Basque, or peer at seafood such as whiting (merlan), shrimp or salmon*

attractively laid out at the fish market (poissonnerie). Local foods are delicious—whether sweet cherry cake known as gâteau Basque cerise, or fresh tortilla cakes made from ingredients that may include ham and mushrooms. At stores in the city center you can find Bayonne ham flavored with the local spice piment d’espélette, or chocolate almond feuilleté from Maison Etchebaster bakery, or pata negra—delicious Spanish ham from free range pigs raised on a diet of acorns. If the weather is warm and your interests are so inclined, book a lesson with the Txingudi surf school.”



[Saint-Jean-de-Luz-Maison de l'Infante](#)

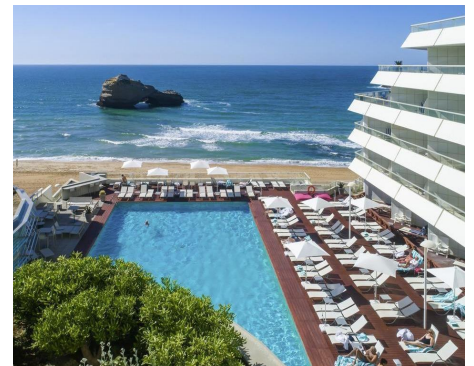
After time for lunch and shopping, continue along the shoreline to the jewel of the French Atlantic coast - Biarritz, a popular resort since European royalty began visiting in the 1800s. Enjoy the qualities Biarritz is best known for: long sandy beaches and a prime surfing destination. [Eusko Guide](#) says of Biarritz:



[Biarritz](#)

“Known for its famous beaches, therapeutic water and a thriving surf scene, Biarritz offers visitors a unique atmosphere. This is a place where posh restaurants and spas live harmoniously side-by-side with laid-back pizza joints and surf shops.”

Later, you will arrive at the best hotel in town, and your home for two nights, the elegant five-star [Sofitel Biarritz la Miramar Thalassa](#), overlooking one of the most beautiful beaches in the Basque region and mere steps from the town center. Enjoy an exquisite dinner at a local restaurant.



[Sofitel Biarritz la Miramar Thalassa](#)

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Sofitel Biarritz la Miramar Thalassa

Complimentary breakfast included

Start your day with breakfast in the hotel before beginning right in the heart of [Biarritz](#). The first stop, close to the lighthouse, will provide unbeatable views of the city before continuing with a walk along the beach and old port to the Virgin's Rock ([Rocher de la Vierge](#)). Enjoy an independent lunch.

After lunch, continue on to the city of [Bayonne](#), famous for well-preserved cultural and architectural heritage such as the Gothic Cathedral, fortresses, fortifications, and even famed chocolate shops. You'll surely love this bastion of culture, because *"...even though Bayonne is technically a city, it is void of the stress normally associated with cities and feels more like a large town. A stroll along the Nive River which separates the two main neighborhoods of the city, Grand Bayonne & Petit Bayonne, is both beautiful and relaxing. The buildings are decorated in a lovely mixture of Basque and French architecture, each adorned with colorful wooden shutters. Both sides along the water are lined with bars and restaurants and make for great places to stop and take in the most beautiful views of the city"* ([Eusko Guide](#))

A highlight is a visit to the famous chocolate workshop [Atelier du Chocolat](#) for a tour and tasting before returning to Biarritz for an independent dinner and evening.

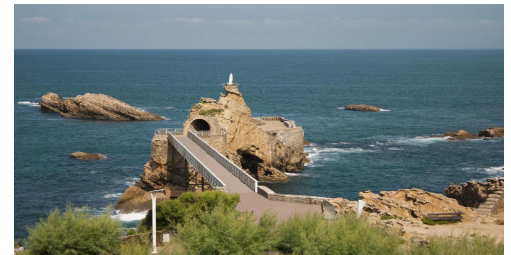
Overnight at the luxury 5-Star Sofitel Biarritz la Miramar Thalassa



[Lighthouse at Biarritz](#)



[Bayonne](#)



[Rock of the Virgin, Bayonne](#)



[Atelier du Chocolat](#)



[Basin of Arcachon](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Have breakfast at the hotel before touring begins. Start at the place where sky and sea intermingle, to admire [l'Île aux Oiseaux \(Bird Island\)](#), with its great ornithological wealth composed of over 150 nesters, migrating or wintering species and the iconic silhouettes of the [Cabanes Tchanquées](#) which keeps watch over Arcachon, a truly unique place.



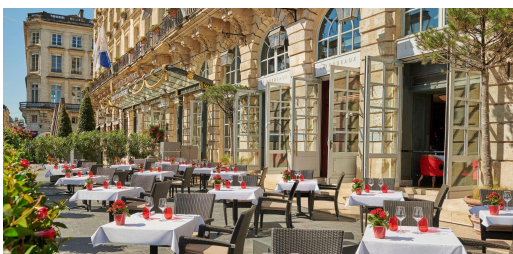
[The Cabanes Tchanquées](#)

[According to Arcachon.com](#): “Just off the coast from Arcachon, the Île aux Oiseaux (Bird Island) is a little corner of naturally wild paradise of 3 km sq. in the middle of the Bay. Among the fifty-three wooden cabins on the Ile aux Oiseaux, feature the two famous cabins standing proudly above the water. A thousand pictures have been taken of these architectural marvels which are an icon of Arcachon Bay and are known locally as the Cabanes Tchanquées. In Gascon, tchanquées are the stilts traditionally used by shepherds.”



[Bordeaux](#)

Meander through 100 hectares of oyster farms and pass tiny oyster-farming hamlets along the water's edge on the Cape Ferret peninsula such as Piquey, Le Canon, l'Herbe, and la Vigne. [Lonely Planet](#) describes a “...long-time oyster-harvesting area on the southern side of the tranquil, triangular Bassin d'Arcachon (Arcachon Bay), this seaside town lured bourgeois Bordelaise at the end of the 19th century. Its four little quarters are romantically named for each of the seasons, with villas that evoke the town's golden past amid a scattering of 1950s architecture.”



[InterContinental Bordeaux- Le Grand Hotel](#)

Enjoy a two-hour boat ride on the Bassin d'Arcachon and a stunning view of the bird island. Afterwards, continue to the hub of the famous wine-making region - Bordeaux.

Check into your luxury hotel for two nights, the historic [InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hotel](#), a beautiful hotel located in the middle of the historic city center. After check-in, enjoy a local dinner with the group.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxury InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hotel

Day 11: Monday, June 20, 2022

Bordeaux Wine Country

Complimentary breakfast included

Today, enjoy a full-day excursion into the heart of Bordeaux wine country as you head for Saint Emilion.

According to the [Wine Paths](#) website: *“The Bordeaux wine region extends 60 miles around the city along three rivers – the Gironde, Garonne and Dordogne – of Europe’s largest estuary to create an ideal setting for wine making that is complemented by a temperate climate with a short winter and high levels of humidity courtesy of the nearby Atlantic Ocean. The region is exceptionally well developed for wine tourism, whether for beginners or connoisseurs, with almost 7,500 producers and close to 10,000 different Bordeaux wines accompanied by stunning chateaux and wineries that line the countryside.”*

You will visit two **as yet to be determined** chateaux and wineries such as Chateaux Laniole or [Chateaux Cantenac](#).

Enjoy lunch in a restaurant in Saint Emilion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and *“...charming medieval village located in the heart of the famous Bordeaux wine area. It is a very unique site where world-famous wineries, fine wine, beautiful architecture and great monuments are a perfect match.”* ([Bordeaux Tourism](#)).

Lunch included

Later in the afternoon, return to Bordeaux. Gather with the group for a farewell dinner at the elegant [Le Chapon Fin](#), or similar.

Dinner included

Overnight at the luxury InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hotel



[Wine Country](#)



[Saint Emilion](#)



[Chateaux Centenac](#)

Day 12: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Bordeaux/Madrid

Complimentary breakfast included

A leisurely breakfast will kick off the first leg of your return journey. Enjoy and explore Bordeaux in the morning before lunch.

In the mid-afternoon, transfer to Bordeaux Airport for a short Iberian Airlines flight leaving at 6:10 pm to Madrid, Spain, arriving at 7:35 pm.

Upon arrival in Madrid, you will be transported to the [AC Hotel Coslada by Marriott Aeropuerto](#), located in the most important commercial and industrial area in Coslada.

Independent lunch and dinner

Overnight at AC Hotel Coslada by Marriott Aeropuerto



[Madrid](#)



[Hotel AC Coslada by Marriott Aeropuerto](#)

Day 13: Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Madrid/Charlotte

Complimentary breakfast included

You will enjoy a final breakfast in Spain before private transfer to the Madrid-Barajas Airport to check in for your American Airlines #749 flight, non-stop to Charlotte. The flight will depart Madrid at 11:15 a.m. and arrive in Charlotte at 2:40 p.m.

Time appropriate meals will be served in-flight.

Welcome Home!



[Madrid](#)

Optional 2+ Day Extension in France

Day 12: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Bordeaux/Lascaux/Dordogne Valley

Complimentary breakfast included

Travelers will enjoy breakfast at the luxury InterContinental Bordeaux- Le Grand before starting an amazing tour into the Dordogne Valley to visit the prehistoric caves of Lascaux, Les Eyzies, and Rouffignac. See the famous cave paintings and explore the lovely Dordogne Region. Dordogne is listed in [European Best Destinations](#):

“With its fascinating cultural heritage and beautifully preserved natural environment, the Dordogne Valley has it all. In the summer months, the clear waters of the Dordogne River provide lots of fun activities including swimming and canoeing. It is the only river in France to be part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, a prestigious recognition for an environment of exceptional quality.

The Dordogne Valley retains many traces of its historic past. From cave paintings to Roman occupation, or from the Hundred Years War to the Renaissance, all have shaped the landscape you see today.”

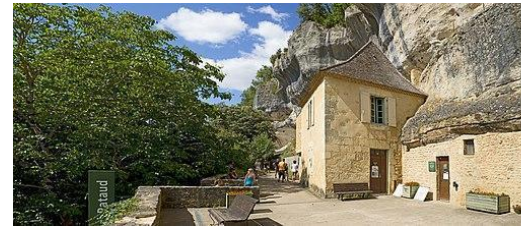
Take a small electric train deep into the Grotte de Rouffignac, the cave of 1,000 mammoths. Phenomenal prehistoric drawings of horses, aurochs, bison, horned sheep, and mammoths will make this a visit to remember.

Next, head to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the first five skeletons of Cro-Magnon (the earliest known examples of homo sapiens) were found. Enjoy an independent lunch.

After lunch, drive to Lascaux to see the incredible new [Lascaux International Center for Cave Art](#).

Later in the afternoon, return to the hotel for an independent evening and dinner.

Overnight at the luxury InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand



[Les Eyzies-de-Tayac](#)



[Cave Paintings in the Grotte de Rouffignac](#)



[Dordogne Valley](#)



[Lascaux International Center for Cave Art](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast at the hotel, gear up for a full-day excursion in the beautiful Cognac Region in the Southwest of France, known for its luxurious spirits. The first stop will be the village of Segonzac in the Charente department in the heart of the region. Visit the esteemed privately owned Frapin Estate, located in the heart of the Grande Champagne Region. The Frapin family has been winemaking since 1270, for 21 generations. Enjoy learning about the classic Frapin estate and vineyard before a private tasting of 4 different vintages of cognac.

Watch Here: [Frapin Estate](#)

Lunch is a great treat today as we go to a nearby estate located on the banks of the river Charente, built in the 1860s for Cognac distillation, La Secrete. Here, enjoy a private barbeque prepared by a Michelin-star chef served with some top-quality wines. This is a true feast for the senses.

Lunch included

After lunch, visit the riverside town of Cognac. Enjoy a private tour and tasting at the Hennessy Distillery – the world’s largest and most renowned cognac producer.

After your private tasting, head back to Bordeaux, where you will have the evening free to explore the city and enjoy an independent dinner. Take a short 10-minute walk from the hotel to Pey Berland and view the stunning Cathédrale Saint-André or walk to the most photographed place in Bordeaux, the brilliant Miroir d'Eau, a reflecting pool of the classic French architecture (best viewed at night).

Overnight at the luxury InterContinental Bordeaux- Le Grand Hotel



[Frapin Estate](#)



La Secrete Chateau



[Hennessy](#)



[Miroir d'Eau](#)

Day 14: Thursday, June 23, 2022

Bordeaux/Madrid

Complimentary breakfast included

Savor your last French breakfast before spending your day independently exploring the lovely city of Bordeaux. Wander the city and grab an independent bite for lunch.

After lunch, you will transfer via the hotel shuttle service to Bordeaux airport for an Iberian Airlines flight #8701 departing at 6:10 pm and arriving in Madrid at 7:35 pm.

Upon arrival in Madrid, you will be transported to the [AC Hotel Coslada by Marriott Aeropuerto](#), located in the most important commercial and industrial area in Coslada.

Overnight at AC Hotel Coslada by Marriott Aeropuerto



[Bordeaux](#)

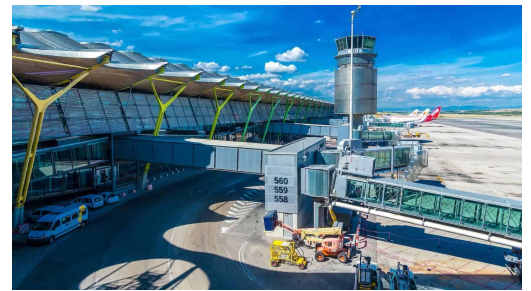
Day 15: Friday, June 24, 2022

Madrid/Charlotte

Complimentary breakfast included

Say goodbye to Europe with breakfast in your hotel. Afterwards, transfer back to the Madrid-Barajas Airport via hotel shuttle to check in for your flight. At 11:15 am, American Airlines #749 will send you non-stop to Charlotte for a smooth 2:40 pm arrival.

Welcome home!



[Madrid-Barajas Airport](#)

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY*

*Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$2,250

Price includes 13 days of luxury accommodations, all breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, local transportation, several tours, and a highly qualified tour manager, Stefan Aquilino, and dedicated local guides.

Min. 15 Travelers
\$7,949

Min. 20 Travelers
\$7,245

Min. 25 Travelers
\$6,648

Min. 30 Travelers
\$6,332

AIR TRAVEL:

Please contact Knight Travel for individualized air travel pricing.

BORDEAUX EXTENSION - PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Itinerary subject to change

Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$620

Min. 15 Travelers
\$1,355

Min. 20 Travelers
\$1,445

Min. 25 Travelers
\$1,650

Travelers must be members in good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact nameris@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7758. [Click here](#) for information on WACC memberships. Please note WACC memberships are fully tax-deductible.

- **Trip payments are due by Friday, April 1st, 2022, to fully secure your seat for this fabulous trip.**
- **Due to destination countries' policies on COVID-19 travel requirements, travelers will be required to submit proof of vaccination in order to travel with the Council.**
- If you are traveling alone but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best on matching you with a roommate.
- Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible for flight information.
- Please note that an approx. 3% processing charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirements. Processing charge is considered a tax-deductible donation. No additional charge if you pay by check.