

San Sebastian Culinary Tour



Highlights

Experience foodie heaven on earth in the coastal Spanish town of San Sebastián. Expert guides will take you on a mouth-watering culinary tour including a tasty pinxtos trail, a ride into the Rioja region and a chance to create your own Iberian dish with well-known Spanish chefs.

The Basque country, in northern Spain, is the jewel in the Iberian foodie crown. The beautiful coastal town of San Sebastián has seven Michelin starred restaurants (that's the most per capita anywhere in the world) and is the perfect place to enjoy a mouth-watering tour of the best cuisine the country has to offer. San Sebastián has a lively pinxtos (tapas) scene and bar-hopping through the old town is the best way to get a taste of true Spain. But what would tapas be without wine? Luckily picturesque San Sebastián borders La Rioja, the famous wine region, one of only two regions in Spain to receive the prestigious DOC award. So there is plenty of the celebrated wine to sample! Only a short flight from the UK, San Sebastián is the short-break destination for serious foodies looking for a place to get their teeth into.

On this four-day culinary tour of the Basque region, you will enjoy a relaxed and varied trip that will give you an insider's view of the Spanish gourmet scene. Explore the city's vibrant evening atmosphere with a local guide who will take you on a private pinxtos tour through the winding streets of the old town. Then, spend a day learning to cook the Basque way, going first to a local market to buy local produce and then heading off for a private cookery class. It's thirsty work, but a trip to La Rioja region to sample some of the ripe red wine should quench you. And if that's not enough, San Sebastián is surrounded by stunning scenery where you can walk off some of that delicious Iberian ham on a gentle coastal hike to a nearby fishing village, passing medieval ruins and picturesque views of the town along the way.

Is it for me?

This guided culinary tour in San Sebastián is perfect for food and wine lovers looking for the complete San Sebastián experience. Whether you enjoy fine dining, or just tasty tapas to mop up your wine – you'll be taken to the hidden places where you can get your fix, without feeling like you're on a tourist treadmill. Whilst there is a clear interest here for budding chefs and foodie die-hards, San Sebastián is a beautiful location in its own right with beaches, culture and a great vibe, so is suitable for anyone with at least a passing interest in food and culture.

You won't need to worry about where to eat, as your local guide will be on hand to book you a table in one of the towns seven Michelin-starred restaurants.

This is available as a small group tour (2-8 people) on fixed dates or a private trip (minimum of 2 people) at a day to suit you.

Accommodation

You'll be staying in a four-star hotel in central San Sebastián with sea-views from your bedroom. As you'll be in the gastronomical capital of Spain you will be absolutely spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing somewhere to eat. Dine at one of the seven Michelin-starred restaurants including Akelare, Arzak, and Martín Berasategui, or revisit some of the pinxtos bars that you'll discover on your old town tour on the first night.

As well as eating delicious food, you'll also be cooking with it and will have the chance to find out more about the

Prices from
1,119 GBP (4 days) per person

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production of Iberian ingredients in a customised cookery class. Wine lovers will also be in their element on a day-trip to La Rioja region.

Itinerary

Day 1

You'll have a private transfer from the airport or train station to your hotel to relax. It's in the centre of San Sebastián so you'll have time for a walk along San Sebastián's beautiful La Concha beach. In the evening you'll be picked up for a private pintxos (tapas) tour with your expert guide through the atmospheric Old Town.

Day 2

Today will start with a visit to San Sebastián market to pick up fresh local ingredients from the fantastic fresh fish and farm stalls. You can taste local cheeses and learn about the many different types of Iberian ham. Near the market is a chic tasting room where a talented local chef will be waiting to teach you in an exclusive cookery class. After you've created your culinary masterpieces you can enjoy them in a private dining room with specially chosen local wines to accompany your dishes. Tonight you can enjoy one of the fantastic local restaurants in town.

Day 3

Today it's time to put down your fork and pick up your glass to enjoy a full-day excursion to Spain's premier wine region La Rioja. Your guide will take you around the vineyards and you'll enjoy traditional Riojan cooking for lunch. Afterwards you'll return to San Sebastián in time for a dinner of pintxos or at one of the outstanding Spanish restaurants.

Day 4

It's time to walk off all of that food on a coastal hike from the heart of San Sebastián to the fishing village of Pasajes de San Juan. As you climb Monte Ulia you'll enjoy stunning views of the city and the mountains on the horizon. You'll then follow a picturesque route away from the city that hugs the rugged unspoiled coastline and passes an area of rocky cliffs inhabited by seagulls. Your guide will point out medieval ruins and the remnants of defense posts that were carved out of the rock during the War of Spanish succession in the 19th century.

After about three miles of gentle walking you'll come to La Plata Lighthouse, where you'll head down to the end of your walk at the large fishing harbour at Pasajes de San Juan. You can either take a taxi back to San Sebastián with your guide or take a short boat ride across to Pasajes de San Juan and its 18th and 19th century houses. There you can enjoy a picnic or lunch in a restaurant overlooking the water and enjoy this attractive area where Victor Hugo spent the summer of 1843 writing *Voyage aux Pyrenees*.

Day 5

Private transfers will take you back to the airport to head home.

Details

Getting there

There's an airport and train station in San Sebastian, or you can fly to nearby Bilbao airport.

Price includes

Four nights in San Sebastián
Four-star hotel with sea-view room
Insiders Pintxos Tour
Private Cooking Class
Excursion to La Rioja
Coastal Walk
Three lunches, One dinner
Transfer to/from airport
All transport during trip

Price details

4-5 people \$1920,

6-8 people \$1710,

For 2 - 3 people, please contact direct

When is best

If there are 2 or more of you, then departures can be all year round. Please contact for more information.

Typical Duration

4 days

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

