

# Pays Basque



## and the French Pyrénées

A mélange of colors awakes your senses in the Pays Basque and Pyrénées Mountains. Taste the clean salty air of the sapphire blue Atlantic, smell the freshness of the green forests and lush mountain valleys, gaze at vibrant building façades and festive clothing unique to the Basque people, and feel the strong deep traditions embodied in the ancient grey stone of this unique region. Overlooked by most travelers, be one of the few to experience the luxurious coast of southwestern France, the picturesque charm of mountain villages, and the historic beauty of Toulouse, capital of the Languedoc region. Your journey will include cooking regional cuisine, a divine chocolate demonstration and tasting, wine and cheese tastings, visiting the sacred pilgrimage site of Lourdes, and leisurely scenic walks.

**Tour Begins in Biarritz June 25, 2011 • Limited to 8 Guests**

**\$3650<sup>00</sup> USD USD Based on Double Occupancy • Single Supplement Charge \$400**

**DEPARTURE GUARANTEED WITH MINIMUM FOUR PERSONS**

#### INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

Most meals: Daily Breakfast, 3 Lunches, 5 Dinners  
Superior room accommodations  
All entrance fees to guided sightseeing activities and wine and cheese tasting  
Cooking class; all local transportation  
Regional wine with meals included on itinerary  
Full-time tour leader and local professional guide

#### EXCLUDED

Alcoholic beverages (other than described in itinerary)  
Personal purchases  
Charges to hotel room such as phone, room service, laundry, Internet, spa services, etc.  
Gratuity to local professional guide  
International airfare  
Travel Insurance

*See other side for detailed itinerary*

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

### Bienvenue!

Rendez-vous at your seaside hotel in the Biarritz area. You will be welcomed by your local French guide and tour director who will introduce the week's exciting activities in this intriguing region seldom traveled by foreign visitors.

### Day 2

### Colorful Reds of the Pays Basque

Walk along the cliffs of the luxurious coastal city of St. Jean-de-Luz on the way to visit the intriguing Château d'Abadie. Then cross the Bidassoa River by boat for a lively exploration of Hondarrabia in the Spanish Pays Basque. Return to your hotel for optional spa services or shop the beautiful boutiques of St. Jean-de-Luz before joining your traveling companions for a welcome dinner. **B, L, D**

### Day 3

### Deep Blue Hues of the Atlantic

Spend the morning on your own relaxing with optional spa services or shopping, then indulge your taste buds with a delectable visit to a chocolate museum for an interactive demonstration and tasting! Walk along the imperial coast of Biarritz where the wife of Napoleon III built her palace. A visit to the chapel of Arcangue will round out your perfect day. **B**

### Day 4

### Ancient Grey Stone

Say au revoir to the Atlantic coast as you travel eastward in the Pyrénées Mountains to visit the infamous pilgrimage site of Lourdes. Settle into your charming mountain village hotel where you will spend the evening learning to cook foods from this region with your passionate and colorful chef. **B, D**

### Day 5

### Lush Green Meadows and Mountains

Venture to the Caunteret area of the Pyrénées for a day in nature. Choose from several options organized by our guide – river rafting, narrated walk along the river, or indulge in spa treatments at a beautiful 18th century mineral spa. A pristine lake will be our setting for a relaxing lunch. **B, L, D**

### Day 6

### Historic Toulouse

Your journey continues to historic and beautiful Toulouse, capital of the Languedoc region and where the Canal du Midi meets the Garonne River. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the highlights and rich culture of this city before dining in a neighborhood bistro. **B, L, D**

### Day 7

### Exploring Toulouse, Capital of the Languedoc

Enjoy a day on your own to further explore the many treasures of Toulouse. Gather for a tranquil farewell dinner while cruising on the Garonne River. **B, D**

### Day 8

### Adieu!

After breakfast, transfer to Toulouse Airport for your departure home. **B**

*B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner*

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