

# San Sebastian to Bilbao



Your Camino Agent since 2007

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# YOUR CAMINO JOURNEY STARTS HERE

This travel plan provides a **day-by-day outline** of a sample trip, giving you a clear idea of what to expect. Keep in mind that this package can be fully **tailored** to your preferences. As a **2024 Traveler's Choice Award winner on TripAdvisor**, we're proud to be trusted by hundreds of travelers who praise our **seamless service**, expert **guidance**, and unforgettable **experiences**. Before you set off, take a moment to read some of their stories.



Follow The Camino



Reviews from millions of TripAdvisor travellers place this winner in the top 10% worldwide.



\*There is a Camino for everyone! Photos are for inspiration and may differ from your selected itinerary.

**LIZ F.**



**Walking the french camino is one of the best experiences of my life.**

*I was a bit anxious before starting my Camino walk but once I was into it , I had a brilliant time. Follow the Camino planned my trip and everything went seamlessly , so all I had to do was concentrate on walking ! Il be back for sure.*

**LARA K.**



**Wonderful all round experience**

*Follow The Camino delivered on everything they promised with accomodation selection great and transfer of luggage seamless. The actual walk was wonderful and matched or exceeded my expectations. Wouldn't hesitate to use them again for my next Camino. Loved it!!!!*

**RANDY R.**



**Follow the Camino Frances**

*The Camino Frances was the best vacation experience I've ever had. Fitness, new friends, and fantastic country. Highly recommended.*

**GRETA O.**



**Follow the Camino with an eighty year old**

*Follow the Camino was excellent. Hotels included dinner and breakfast. Clean and good food. Luggage transfer seamless. Well done.*

# ITINERARY

**S**  
Stage 1 of 4

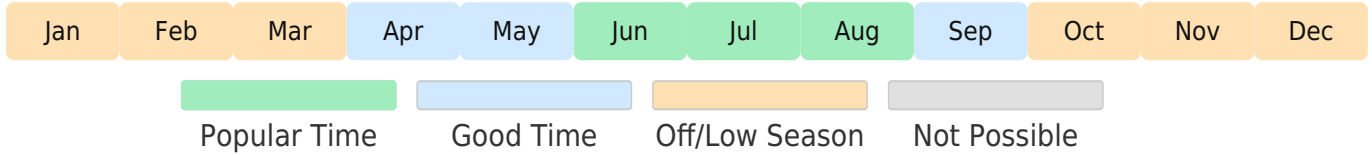
  
128.1km

  
8 days

  
Comfort

  
Moderate

Starting from  
**€1040**



Overall

Distance:

14 min | 21.3km average | 26.1 max

Ascent:

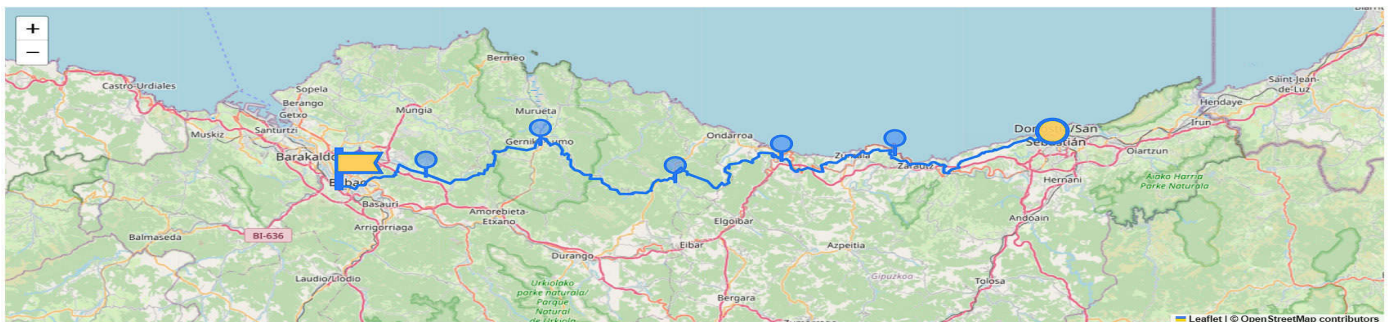
597.3 min | 862.3m average | 1244.9 max

Cardio:

2 3 3 4

This first section of the Camino del Norte takes you from the city of San Sebastian to the city of Bilbao. San Sebastian makes a wonderful starting point for the Camino del Norte. Located on the Bay of Biscay in the mountainous Basque Country, San Sebastian is known for its beaches and waterfront promenade. Here you can enjoy world-renowned cuisine as well as the more informal dining experience of pintxos and wine pairings. This route will take you along the coast's scenic beaches to Bilbao, the capital of Basque culture.

## Map



## Services

### Included in this package

- ✔ Bed & Breakfast
- ✔ Specially Hand-Picked Accommodation
- ✔ Our Holiday or Pilgrim Pack
- ✔ 24/7 On-Call Support
- ✔ Virtual Face-to-Face Pre-Departure Briefing

### Add-On

- ⊕ Premium Accommodation
- ⊕ Airport Pick-Up
- ⊕ Additional Nights
- ⊕ Dinners
- ⊕ Luggage Transfers from Hotel to Hotel
- ⊕ Day Tours to Local Sites of Interest

Not included: Flights/trains, Insurance, Drinks/Lunch

Day  
1  
km

### **SAN SEBASTIAN**

Once you arrive you'll be booked into a hotel in the heart of the town. San Sebastian is located on the Bay of Biscay in the mountainous Basque Country, and is a city known for its stunning beaches and waterfront promenade. Here, you can enjoy world-renowned cuisine as well as the more informal dining experience of pintxos and wine.

Day  
2  
26.1 km

### **SAN SEBASTIAN -> GETARIA**

Leaving San Sebastian and the unspoiled Bay of Biscay, this route curves along the coastline through grassy fields and rolling hills. First, you'll see the Church of San Martin de Tours, a lovingly restored national monument, before passing through some traditional whaling towns. Later, you arrive in the picturesque village of Getaria, perched on a rocky headland above a cute harbour.

Day  
3  
18 km

### **GETARIA -> DEBA**

For Day 3 you'll set out on a small country road hugging the coast, eventually arriving in Zarautz. From there, take the small footpath into farmlands until you reach the Church of Santa Maria la Real and birthplace of explorer Juan Sebastian Elcano, the first man to circumnavigate the Earth in the 16th Century. Once you've stopped to admire the town, continue along the coast to the last stop for the day - the stunning beach town, Deba.

Day  
4  
24.3 km

### **DEBA -> MARKINA-XEMEIN**

Today, we leave the sea behind for more mountainous landscapes and won't see the coast again until Bilbao. The route crosses a river and starts climbing into dense scrub, until it reaches the Hermitage of El Calvario. From here, keep to the narrow footpath (GR-121), which passes through many secluded hamlets. Finally, the trail descends steeply into your destination, Markina. This is a village with a strong sense of history and Basque traditions.

Day  
5  
25.7 km

### **MARKINA-XEMEIN -> GERNIKA**

Leaving Markina, the route follows an ancient cobbled road and crosses the river in Bolivar. It ascends to the 15th Century Monastery of Cenarruza, which contains a Gothic Renaissance church and mediaeval cloister. Leaving the monastic site, the path moves into dense woodland, up to Gontzegarai, and down again to Gerikaitz. At the Hermitage of Santiago, a steep footpath leads downhill to a creek and finally into the town of Gernika.

Day  
6

19.9 km

### GERNIKA -> LEZAMA

Setting out this morning you'll leave Gernika by the hermitage of Santa Luzia Zallo. Shortly after, we'll reach the road (PR-173) that will take us to Morga. Here, we leave the farmland and enter a forest, following a steep descent to the traditional villages of Goikoetxea, Larrabetzu, and finally, Lezama.

Day  
7

14 km

### LEZAMA -> BILBAO

This is a relatively short stage through pastoral farmland. First, we pass Zamudio and the Roman Church of San Maarten, where the Tower of Malpica is visible above. Slowly climbing to reach the summit of Mount Avril, we're rewarded with spectacular views of Bilbao and the valley below. On arrival in Bilbao, don't forget to visit the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady of Bego, as well as Place de Unamuno, in the old quarter of Bilbao.

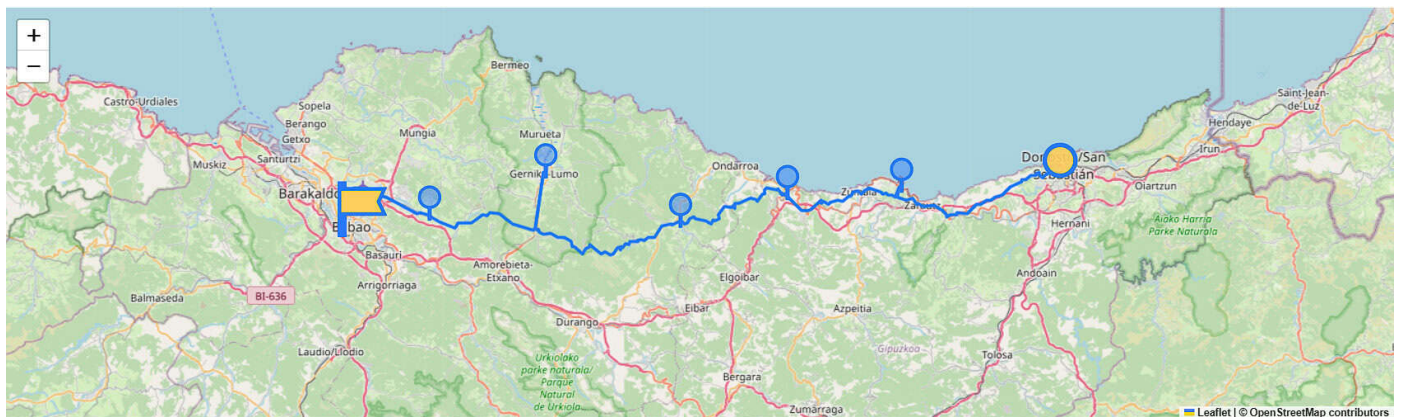
Day  
8

km

### BILBAO

After breakfast we bid you farewell. There is so much to see and do in Bilbao, including the renowned Guggenheim Museum. For something more off the beaten track, check out Place de Unamuno, in the old quarter of Bilbao. Or, if you just want to relax, find a pintxos bar and settle down with a glass of wine, a few small plates of food, and watch Basque life unfold.

## Elevation Chart



# NOTES & QUESTIONS FOR MY CAMINO PLANNER

We know that planning your Camino is a personal journey, and we want to make sure everything is just right for you. Use this space to **jot down your thoughts, questions, and preferences**. Here are some ideas to discuss with your Camino planner:

- Are the daily distances suitable for me, or should I split them into shorter walking days?
- Where would you recommend taking a rest day?
- Would I like to add a tour or special experience along the way?
- Do I need transfers to and from the airport?
- Are there any accommodations I would like to upgrade?
- Would I like luggage transfers for lighter walking days?
- Are there any dietary preferences or special requests I should mention?

Feel free to write down any other thoughts or questions below:

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Your Camino planner is here to help make your journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible!

## ABOUT US

At Follow the Camino, we are re not just a tour operator; we are **passionate Camino enthusiasts** who have been guiding pilgrims **since 2007** As the first tour operator in Ireland to coordinate walks on the Camino de Santiago, we offer unrivaled expertise in designing **life-changing adventures**.

Don't hesitate to contact us at [info@followthecamino.com](mailto:info@followthecamino.com) to request your **personalized itinerary**. We can add rest days or split days to suit your pace, as well as include special day tours or unique activities to **enhance your Camino experience** Let us help you create the perfect journey tailored to your needs!

# Follow the Camino

**START PLANING NOW**

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