HOW ABOUT THE BASQUE COUNTRY?
SUGGESTED HOTEL BILBAO
HOTEL VINCCI CONSULADO DE BILBAO, 4*

Name: Vincci Consulado de Bilbao
Category: 4*
Location: Central, next to the Guggenheim Museum
Rooms: 93

Vincci Consulado de Bilbao is a new hotel in Bilbao that takes the form of a sailboat appearing to ride across the Estuary of Bilbao. The hotel is located next to the river and the Guggenheim Museum and boasts avant-garde design.

Delicious cuisine, the utmost relaxation, a terrace that boasts incredible views of the Guggenheim museum and the Estuary of Bilbao; Without a doubt, this hotel offers guests excellent ways to enjoy their stay in Bilbao.

The 93 rooms are located on the top floors of the building. Recently opened, these bright and spacious rooms offer excellent services and exquisite décor made from natural elements such as wood, encasing them in a warm and inviting atmosphere.
SUGGESTED HOTEL
SANTILLANA DEL MAR
HOTEL SPA FELISA, 4*

Name: Spa Felisa
Category: 4*
Location: Santillana del Mar, Cantabria
Rooms: 50

The Hotel Spa Felisa is located in the small village of Santillana del Mar. The four star hotel located in a recently built building with 50 modern and comfortable rooms for a comfortable rest, a restaurant where you can enjoy the local cuisine, lounges and perfect spaces to celebrate your events and celebrations

In the Spa of the hotel, you can enjoy Relax treatments of all kinds in modern facilities with a clear goal: making your stay as relaxing as possible.

In the restaurant you will find traditional Cantabrian cuisine and recipes but also modern and contemporary dishes to satisfy the more demanding palates.

All the 50 rooms of the hotel are exterior and are equipped to detail to offer you a unique rest in a modern and comfortable facilities.
HOTEL PALACIO TONDÓN, 4*

Name: Palacio Tondón
Category: 4*
Location: Briñas, Rioja
Rooms: 33

The Palacio Tondón hotel lies in the small village of Briñas, in the Rioja region, overlooking the Ebro river.

Palacio Tondón is a unique architectural complex surrounded by vineyards and mountains where tradition and history are combined with innovation and sustainability. It’s a place where the word “charm” really comes to life and where time appears to grind to a halt.

Hotel Palacio Tondón is like a binomial between stone and wood, tradition and innovation. There are 33 rooms, all of which combine design, style and elegance, in addition to comfort and functionality.

The hotel also has a restaurant and a wine bar for all guests.
SUGGESTED HOTEL
SAN SEBASTIAN
HOTEL CATALONIA DONOSTI, 4*

Name: Catalonia Donosti
Category: 4*
Location: Central, 5 minutes from Beach and city center
Rooms: 128

Located in a very privileged location, overlooking the entire city and bay of San Sebastian, the Catalonia Donosti hotel opened its door in August 2020. A small part of the building are the old walls of an old cloister with the main facade still left intact.

The 128 rooms on 5 floors offer a very elegant décor, nice materials and all necessary amenities. All rooms are equipped with safe, minibar and complementary coffee maker and kettle.

The hotel offers bar, restaurant, spa, gym, inside pool as well as a stunning rooftop pool with amazing view over the entire city.

The hotel has several meeting rooms of all sizes for meetings and events.
# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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**Lunch References:**
- Free lunch
- Lunch at the hotel
- Lunch at local restaurant
Arrival into Bilbao airport. Our staff will welcome you at the airport and accompany you to the coach waiting for the transfer to Bilbao.

Transfer time to the city center is approximately 20 minutes. Arrival to the restaurant for lunch.

El taller de la Viña is located in the very heart of the new city centre, just next to the main road, Gran Via. It is easily reachable and within walking distance from almost all hotels in the city. The Taller (Spanish for “workshop”) of La Viña del Ensanche is a multifunctional space, designed for a new exclusive experience for our costumers.

After lunch, check-in at the chosen hotel.

In the afternoon and prior to dinner, as a first contact with the destination and the city of Bilbao, we suggest to take you on a discovery tour of Bilbao. We suggest to do this tour on foot in order to discover the city in a relaxed and smooth way and to have enough time to enjoy the city and its many highlights.

We will stroll along the newly renovated riverside and of course we will see all major architectonic attractions such as the Alhondiga Cultural Centre, the White Bridge and the Subway designed by Sir Normal Foster.

The tour will finish at our restaurant for dinner, a very unique, charming and classical Bilbao restaurant.
DINNER AT CASA RUFO
Casa Rufo is located close to the old quarter, just behind the old train station of Bilbao in the quarter of Abando. The restaurant is quite a historic institution of Bilbao as it exists for many years and has always enjoyed a very good reputation.

If you are not a local of Bilbao, you would probably never enter this restaurant, as from the outside you can see nothing than a delicatessen store that still sells excellent products every day but opens its doors and interior for food lovers at night. When entering the restaurant, you will find yourself in a Basque delicatessen store. Only by crossing the store you will enter the cozy restaurant.

The Chef offers local products and typical dishes with focus on fresh products and high quality ingredients. The charmingly rustic and nice interior create a warm and relaxing atmosphere where a pleasant dinner can be enjoyed perfectly.

After dinner, walking transfer back to the hotel and overnight.
DAY 2
GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM
For this morning, we have the main highlight of Bilbao waiting for you, a visit to the famous Guggenheim Museum.

Designed by American architect Frank Gehry, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao building represents a magnificent example of the most groundbreaking 20th-century architecture.

With 24,000 m², of which 11,000 are dedicated to exhibition space, the Museum represents an architectural landmark of audacious configuration and innovating design, providing a seductive backdrop for the art exhibited in it.

Of course the building itself as its the biggest piece of art of the museum is the mayor attraction of the tour.

After the tour, we stay inside the museum for lunch.
LUNCH AT BISTRÓ GUGGENHEIM
At the Guggenheim Bistró restaurant you find yourself in a laid-back atmosphere, steeped in the style and personality of its location and with a clear aim: to bring the public closer to the latest culinary techniques. This is reflected in the range of traditional dishes reinterpreted from the point of view of avant-garde cuisine.

Bistró Guggenheim Bilbao values a free style of cuisine, linked to its roots, to the memory of those dishes that are part of the Basque culture and which need to be adapted to an avant-garde context, without losing neither flavours nor textures.

Recipes and sauces are the foundation of their cuisine, though refined, evolved and adapted for the general public that seeks savoury, healthy cuisine, and an informal gastronomic experience.

After lunch, we continue the program by discovering the Bizkaia Hanging bridge.
BIZKAIA BRIDGE
To visit the bridge, we will use the public transport system and take the subway. In a ride of 15 minutes, we will arrive in Portugalete and a short walk after the stunning construction will appear in front of us.

The hanging bridge is a true highlight of the city, a UNESCO world heritage site. This bridge dates back to 1893 and has great importance as it was the first bridge of that kind and celebrated as an engineer masterpiece.

Climbing up the bridge by lift until 45 meter height will give you a majestic view on the entire surroundings, from the sea to the city of Bilbao and the surrounding mountains.

We go up on one side of the bridge and down on the other. To get back to where we started, we will take the cable car hanging beneath the bridge which takes us to the other side.

Afterwards, we take the subway back to the city center to relax back at the hotel and prepare for dinner.
DINNER AT YANDIOLA
Within the Philippe Starck-designed Alhóndiga Bilbao complex, Yandiola serves chic designer cuisine. The atmosphere is cool but casual, and the market cooking is creative but soundly based on quality products.

The cuisine served by Restaurant Yandiola is rooted in the culinary wealth of the past and projected into the future with all the power of creativity and innovation.

The Chef seeks authenticity in the products he uses, by supporting artisan food production, the small farmer and sustainable and biological fishing and stockbreeding techniques.

Under the concept of Slow Food, the restaurant offers selected local products that are freshly prepared. The restaurant is decorated in an informal yet very stylish way. Many designer elements make this restaurant not only a experience for the tastes but also for the eyes.

Afterwards, walking transfer back to the hotel.
SANTILLANA DEL MAR
DAY 3

In the morning, free time to enjoy and discover Bilbao on one’s own, do some more sightseeing or shopping. Lunch is at leisure, too. In the afternoon we meet at the hotel for the transfer by coach to Santillan del Mar where we will arrive in the late afternoon / early evening. Check-in at the hotel and dinner at the hotel restaurant

DAY 4

After breakfast at the hotel, full-day to discover the region and the caves. Program organized by local contact. Lunch to be organized by local contact. Coach is at disposal for the entire day. Dinner at the hotel restaurant

DAY 5

After breakfast at the hotel, full-day to discover the region and the caves. Program organized by local contact. Lunch to be organized by local contact. Coach is at disposal for the entire day. Dinner at the hotel restaurant
DAY 6
RIOJA
In the morning after breakfast, check-out of the hotel and transfer to the Rioja wine region. The transfer time is approximately 2h30 and we will arrive to Marques de Riscal winery just in time for a visit.

The Marques de Riscal winery is a very traditional winery with stunning installations and cellars.

The expansive vineyard of Marques de Riscal dates back to 1858, making Marqués de Riscal the oldest winery in the region. Guests can learn more about wine-making on an insight tour of the vineyard’s state-of-the-art facilities. The fascinating journey from grapevine to bottle unfolds as we make our way from fermenting rooms to aging rooms stacked high with oak barrels to the enormous cellar housing eight million bottles of wine. A veritable viticulture ‘cathedral’, the cellar contains vintages dating back to 1862.

The tour ends with a tasting of the Marques de Riscal wines together with some local specialties.

Afterwards, we head up to the stunning building that hosts the hotel for lunch.
LUNCH AT MARQUES DE RISCAL
Lunch will be held at the sensational Marques de Riscal Hotel which is located in the small village of Elciego. Opened in 2006, this masterpiece hotel created by Frank Gehry as become a one-of-a-kind hotel and a sign for contemporary, luxury retreat.

Design, art, gastronomy, wine and the lush landscape all combine to create a memorable sojourn at this hotel. Located in the small village of Elciego in the Rioja Alavesa, the hotel gives a magnificent contrast to it’s old and medieval surroundings.

The Tradición 1860 restaurant offers a traditional, seasonal fresh market cuisine. One can taste the most typical local dishes such as pulse and vegetable stews, homemade meat balls, fresh fish and meat. Healthy recipes with seasonal produce in an avant-garde, easy going and casual atmosphere are always accompanied by the best wines. This restaurant offers stunning views of Elciego village with the Cantabria mountain range as a backdrop together with a modern interior design.

After lunch, we head to one of the most typical villages of the region located in the heart of La Rioja, Laguardia.
LAGUARDIA
After lunch, we head a few kilometers to the west until we reach the medieval town of Laguardia that lies beautifully on top of a hill. From here, the surrounding wineries and especially the breathtaking landscape can be enjoy the best. We stroll through the narrow streets of the town and learn about the importance of this place during the past centuries.

Laguardia is a very interesting town as well from another point of view. Below the surface, a widely expanded web of tunnels and cellars run along the city. These cellars are still used by family run wineries for the storage and preparation of their wines.

After this long day surrounded by wines, we head to the hotel.

Check-in at the hotel and time to relax and freshen up for dinner. Dinner will be held in the restaurant of the hotel as the day has been long enough with a lot of traveling and time on the coach.
DAY 7: THE BASQUE COAST & SAN SEBASTIAN
After breakfast at the hotel it is time to move on, towards our last destination. After a transfer of about 1h30, we will arrive on the stunning Basque coastline.

Our destination is Getaria, a beautiful small fishing town with a nice old part and beautiful buildings.

Upon arrival, we make our way to the Balenciaga Museum. Cristóbal Balenciaga was born into a working-class family in the town of Getaria in 1895 and is, together with Juan Sebastian Elkano, the most famous son of this small town on the coast.

The museum pays homage to his life, career and style. It houses a permanent collection of more than 3,000 garments designed by Balenciaga and is made up of two different areas: the Aldamar building, former residence of the Marquises of Casa Torre, and the large glazed enclosure that overlooks the coast.

After a visit of the museum, we continue our way into the narrow streets of the village of Getaria. As lunchtime is quickly approaching and the smell of grilled fish from the charcoal grills in the streets fill the air, we make our way to the restaurant.
LUNCH IN GETARIA
For lunch, we head back down to town. Getaria is a walled medieval town sitting on a hillside. The silhouette of Mount San Antón, better known as "the Mouse of Getaria", draws special attention and comes out into the sea. The town famous as it is the birthplace of a sailor and a couturier: Juan Sebastián Elcano and Cristóbal Balenciaga.

We suggest lunch in one of the restaurants located in the harbour of Getaria. The fish is excellent and you can enjoy some very nice views on the sea and the work going on in the harbor.

After lunch, transfer to San Sebastian where we will arrive in the late afternoon.

Check-in at the chosen hotel and time to freshen up before we start discovering the city.
In the early evening and prior to dinner, a tour as an introduction to San Sebastian and the Basque Country will be done. We suggest to do the tour by foot as San Sebastian is small and can easily be discovered this way.

We will stroll along the beautiful Concha bay and beach and dive into the narrow, stone-paved streets of the old town with its magnificent Constitution Square. Of course we will see all other major attractions such as Cathedral, the San Telmo Museum, the Kursaal, the fishing harbour and the town hall. The charm from the Belle Époque era is still alive in San Sebastian and you will be able to clearly see this by visiting the city’s romantic centre that is filled with beautiful buildings from that time.

You will not only learn about the fascinating and troubled past of the city, but also how it transformed from a fishing port into a summer beach resort for the wealthy and finally into the cosmopolitan and modern city that it is today. Due to its location facing the sea, people tend to stop every once in a while, watch the waves rolling in and then continue their activity. We suggest to adapt this laid back rhythm and explore the city in this mood."

The tour ends in the old town in the restaurant for tonight's dinner.
DINNER AT BODEGÓN ALEJANDRO
In this old eatery, traditional Basque cuisine, that inspires the present spirit of Bodegón Alejandro, was cooked. From the basement of Fermín Calbetón street, the Bodegón has borne witness to the gastronomic evolution that has taken place in Donostia over the past fifty years.

The old photographs covering the walls distinctly hark back to a time when food was served to warm the stomach more than to surprise the palate.

Nowadays, the Bodegón has adapted its image to modern times, yet without losing any of its old charm. It pays homage to that charm through some dishes that are inspired by traditional Basque cuisine, looking to the future without losing sight of tradition and based on knowledge and the use of seasonal produce, sourced daily at the market.

A very charming and authentic start into San Sebastian cuisine, right in the heart of the city.
DAY 8
CHILLIDA LEKU
On this morning in San Sebastian, we want to take you to one of the most important Basque artists of all time, Eduardo Chillida and his museum. The museum should inspire us as the ideal ending to this trip.

“I’m of the opinion, and this is very important to me, that we are from somewhere. Ideally, we are from one place, where our roots are, but we should reach out to the entire world and borrow ideas from other cultures. " Eduardo Chillida

After more than 10 years, Chillida Leku closed its doors in September 2011. Today only privately organized visits can be done in this open space museum.

Eduardo Chillida’s wish to share his work resulted in the foundation of Chillida-Leku Museum, in Caserío Zabalaga Farmhouse, dating back to the 16th century. The adjoining lands are home to over 40 large-size pieces created by means of iron and granite. Within the building are located works of smaller sizes, such as drawings and even his first chest sculptures. But the real nature is found outdoors, where not only his most beloved sculptures are displayed but also the essence of his work.

After the visit, we take you back to San Sebastian where lunch is at leisure and also the last afternoon is free to discover the city on one’s own and enjoy the last hours in the Basque Country.
FAREWELL DINNER AT EME BE
Tonight, a gastronomic highlight is waiting for the group, we head to a very special restaurant for a memorable last dinner.

Eme Be Garrote is a restaurant in San Sebastián by Martín Berasategui, located in the district of Ibaeta in an old cider is characterized by its contemporary “euskandinavo” style.

Located in a natural setting with a very original decoration rooted in the San Sebastian Eme Be Garrote chef revisits the spirit of its origins, offering a kitchen product, spoiled fire and full of flavour as wisely updated more attractive prices. Martin and his team await you with open arms to enjoy his lungs.

Meat and fish are the specialties together with many other traditional Basque dishes. The restaurant has been awarded with 1 Michelin star in 2018.

After dinner, transfer back to the hotel for a last overnight in the Basque Country.
The last morning is again at leisure to enjoy a relaxed breakfast back at the hotel, some souvenir shopping or enjoy a stroll on the beach.

Check-out of the hotel

It is time to say goodbye to the Basque Country. Our coach and staff brings you in about 1 hour minutes to the airport of Bilbao to embark your flight back home.

LAISTER ARTE – SEE YOU SOON
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