



TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING
LEVEL

2

Europe / Spain / Basque Country + Rioja

Basque Country + Rioja Bike Tour

Bilbao to the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Pedal traffic-free roads through vineyards with majestic views of the Sierra del Cantabrico mountains
- Immerse yourself in the world of *Tempranillo*, *Garnacha tinta*, and *Mazuelo* varietals during tastings with local producers and visits to our favorite *bodegas*
- Savor Riojana and Basque dishes at the two-star Michelin restaurant known for launching the region's culinary renaissance
- Pamper yourself at a series of luxurious historic properties that celebrate the architectural heritage of La Rioja
- Ride a section of the Camino de Santiago to the Monastery of Yuso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognized as the birthplace of the Spanish language



ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
Bilbao, Spain
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:**
The Artist-Grand Hotel
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:**
8:30 am

Departure Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
Bilbao, Spain
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:**
Bilbao Airport or your post-trip Bilbao hotel
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:**
11:00 am

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or emergency@duvine.com.



TOUR ITINERARY

Tour By Day

DAY
1

To the Source

Your DuVine guides will greet you at one of our recommended hotels in downtown Bilbao, then we're off to our boutique Relais & Châteaux hotel. After a safety review and bike fitting, we'll head out on our first ride following the Rio Oja, the river that gives this famous wine region its name. Stop at our friend Victor's organic honey farm, then return to the hotel to freshen up for a show-stopping first meal: a two-Michelin-star lunch prepared by Spain's most influential chef and our good friend, Francis Paniego. This evening, join your guides for a stroll into the charming village of Ezcaray and enjoy a casual dinner of tapas and local wine.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Bilbao, Ezcaray

Accomplished: 13 miles / 20 km, elevation gain: 787 feet / 239 meters

Longer Option: 16 miles / 25 km, elevation gain: 1,180 feet / 360 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Echaurren](#)

DAY
2

The Dynasties of Rioja

Today we move on from Ezcaray and ride to the village of Santo Domingo de la Calzada, stopping at a popular pilgrim's café where your guides relate the story of Saint Dominic and the miracle of the rooster. Our own pilgrimage continues along vineyard roads and past medieval villages. Along the way, stop for photos at a 2,000-year-old Roman bridge before arriving in the town of Haro—the spiritual capital of the Rioja wine region. We'll break for lunch in the barrel room of a historic winery located in the heart of the railway station quarter. Inaugurated in 1863, Spain's first electric railway was built to transport Rioja wines to Bilbao and beyond, bringing them to export markets around the world—many of the region's best-known wine houses established their home base here. After lunch, continue riding or transfer by van for a transfer to the charming town of Briones and our next hotel. Settle in and enjoy an après velo drink at the bar or take a stroll around town. Later, we'll regather for a short transfer to see our friend Don Raphael, who guides us through an exclusive tasting before a spectacular meal at the hotel restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Briones

Accomplished: 27 miles / 42 km, elevation gain: 406 feet / 124 meters

Longer Option: 36 miles / 59 km, elevation gain: 1,358 feet / 414 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Santa Maria De Briones](#)

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY
3

Origins of the Spanish Language

Today we cruise south to the 11th-century UNESCO World Heritage Monastery of Yuso, considered the birthplace of the Spanish language. We'll pass pilgrims from around the globe and stop to chat as they hike this section of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago. Today's lunch is a beautiful array of local cuisine served in the renovated part of the monastery, bridging the gap of time through food. Choose to bike back to the hotel or transfer by van for some downtime (and perhaps a Spanish siesta). Tonight we'll take a short transfer to downtown Haro. There our friend Jaime opens the doors to his family-run restaurant, which has been serving its famous wood-oven roasted lamb since 1870.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: San Millan de la Cogolla

Accomplished: 21 miles / 34 km, elevation gain: 1,692 feet / 516 meters

Longer Option: 40 miles / 64 km, elevation gain: 2,667 feet / 813 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Santa Maria De Briones](#)

DAY
4

Into the Vines

Begin the day with a bang on a spectacular climb towards the Sierra De Cantabria mountains. As we gain elevation, the valley seems to expand endlessly, with vineyards as far as the eye can see. Our reward is a gorgeous descent into the 10th-century village of San Vicente de La Sonsierra, where we'll pause for a well-deserved coffee break. Afterwards, our friend Irene hosts us at her family-run winery for a casual lunch of tuna and local meats grilled over wood cuttings from her vines, paired with a selection of her estate's wines. It's a short ride to our iconic hotel designed by Frank O. Gehry: the glittering, ribbon-like roof appears right from the middle of the vineyards as we approach. Spend the afternoon by the pool or head to the hotel's Caudalie vinotherapy spa for one of their wine-infused treatments. Tonight, transfer to Laguardia for dinner on your own—your guides can suggest their favorite tapas bars or assist with restaurant reservations. *On egin!*

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Destinations: San Millan de la Cogolla, Briones

Accomplished: 21 miles / 33 km, elevation gain: 1,692 feet / 516 meters

Longer Option: 40 miles / 63 km, elevation gain: 2,841 feet / 866 meters

Accommodations: [Marques de Riscal](#)

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY
5

The City of Cellars

Today, take your pick between an easygoing or a more challenging route toward the Ebro River, starting on serene roads high above the vineyards. Stop for coffee at a local market, then continue riding to the medieval town of Laguardia, which sits upon a warren of 300 cellars carved from rock during the Middle Ages. These ancient cellars (called *calados*) aren't just subterranean wineries—they were once hideaways to protect villagers in times of turmoil. They're also a striking contrast to the ultra-modern wineries that have cropped up since Spain joined the European Union in the mid-1980s—but at lunchtime, we'll head to a tasting room in town to try wines that the same family has been producing for five centuries. After, opt to tack on some extra miles or hop in the van for a lift back to the hotel. Tonight, we'll toast to the week's adventures with a celebratory apéritif at the hotel, followed by an unforgettable *Riojana* meal at Marqués de Riscal.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Lapuebla de Labarca, Laguardia, Elciego

Accomplished: 23 miles / 37 km, elevation gain: 2,066 feet / 630 meters

Longer Option: 30 miles / 47 km, elevation gain: 2,600 feet / 788 meters

Accommodations: [Marques de Riscal](#)

DAY
6

Adiós Rioja

Bid *adiós* to La Rioja, its wines, medieval architecture, sumptuous gastronomy, and stunning landscapes. After breakfast, we transfer back to Bilbao where your guides will take you to your post-trip hotel or the Bilbao airport.

Meal: Breakfast

YOUR TOUR DETAILS

Preparing for Your Tour

Travel Services

DuVine can assist with extended reservations at the first and final hotels on your scheduled itinerary, or with private transfers to and from your bike tour. DuVine's travel advisor partners are happy to assist with flight reservations. If you are not already working with an agent, please request a referral from your **Tour Coordinator**.

Travel Protection

DuVine offers a **Travel Protection Plan** to help protect your travel investment, your belongings, and most importantly, you. The offered Travel Protection Plan is non-refundable, but it is strongly recommended in the unfortunate event that you have to cancel or leave your trip.

NOTE: Plan benefits, limits, and provisions may vary by state or jurisdiction. In order to receive full benefits, Travel Protection must be purchased within 21 days of initial tour deposit. This plan is available to citizens of the U.S. and Canada only.

Gratuities

Gratuities are much appreciated to thank DuVine guides for exceptional service, support, and expertise. The industry standard is for each guest to tip 10-15% (U.S. tours and Cycle + Sail tours) or 7.5-10% (all other tours) of their trip price. The recommended per-traveler amount is an appropriate gratuity for your guide team as a whole. (It is not necessary to tip this amount *per* guide.) Tips are customary at the end of your tour, and local currency is always preferred. We recommend bringing extra cash or visiting the ATM at the beginning of your trip.



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YOUR TOUR DETAILS

Bikes

DuVine's top-of-the-line bikes are tuned to perfection and fit specifically to you. Our performance bikes from premier manufacturers feature light frames, smooth-rolling tires, comfortable seats, and wide gear ranges for the best ride possible. Please [see our website](#) for the exact bike models offered on tour. E-bikes are available in most destinations on a first-come, first-served basis. Electric assist provides an extra boost to your own pedal power, so you can ride longer distances, tackle tougher climbs, and maintain a faster pace. Contact your Tour Coordinator if you are interested.

Electrical Overseas

If you're traveling abroad, you will most likely need an [adapter](#), which allows your device's plug to fit into foreign outlets. North American devices run on 110/125V electricity while the majority of the world runs on 220/240V. Converters and transformers change the voltage of electricity to match your device.

Training

First and foremost, get out on your bike and start logging some miles. Experience with the elements and terrain will help with your comfort level (balance, unexpected conditions, etc.) on tour. Nothing compares to the real thing, but if you can't cycle outside, consider spin classes. Always remember, training is a gradual process—don't try to overdo it or push yourself when you aren't ready. However, the most important part of training is to enjoy your ride! [Download a training guide](#) based on your Tour Level.

Travel Sustainably

DuVine is committed to sustainable travel and has been a 100% carbon neutral company since 2022. While cycling is an inherently eco-conscious mode of travel, we continuously seek ways to lessen our footprint, whether it be biodegradable water bottles or compostable gear mailers. [Read more](#) about sustainability at DuVine.



YOUR PACKING LIST

On The Bike

Cycling jerseys or athletic shirts
Cycling shorts
Cycling shoes (if you bring your own pedals)
Sneakers (if you don't bring your own pedals)
Cycling sunglasses
Athletic socks
Arm/leg warmers
Lightweight, waterproof, wind-resistant jacket or vest
Bike gloves
Bike saddle/cover (if you prefer your own)

Off The Bike

Walking shoes
Hiking shoes (if required)
Long + short-sleeved shirts
Sweater/jacket for evenings
Dinner attire (dressy casual) + dress shoes
Swimsuit

Travel Items*

Travel confirmations + tickets for air, rail, etc.
Passport, including photocopy
Local currency
DuVine Tour Itinerary (with meeting + departing info)
Health insurance information
Medications
Cycling gear (+ pedals) if riding on Day 1

*We recommend keeping these items in your carry-on

Additional Items

Cell phone + charger
Photography gear + charger
Power/plug adapter
Toiletries
Sunscreen, hat, + other sun protection gear
Insect repellent

What We Provide

- Bike saddle
- GPS (where available)
- Flat pedals
- DuVine t-shirt and jersey
- Helmet
- Water bottle
- Snacks/nutrition
- Drawstring bag

Order DuVine Gear

Want DuVine bike shorts to match your complimentary jersey? To order, contact tourcoordinators@duvine.com. Gear is shipped free of charge to DuVine guests in the U.S. and Canada. For expedited shipping and guests outside of the U.S. and Canada, additional shipping fees will apply.

Do I need to bring special gear?

- Cycling shorts are designed to provide extra padding when spending the whole day in the saddle. Don't forget the chamois cream!
- If you bring your own cycling shoes, you must bring your own pedals. If you've never used clip-in pedals before, we don't recommend using them on tour.
- Arm and leg warmers are essential for cooler weather. Wear them with your short-sleeve jersey and shorts for lightweight, easy-to-pack, and effective warmth.
- Bike gloves are a preference, but are recommended for Level 3 and 4 tours. The padding in gloves can ease arm, shoulder, and joint fatigue.

Dressing for the Weather

- The location and time of year of your tour can bring all kinds of weather, from extreme heat to relentless rain. Check extended forecasts before your trip and pack accordingly.

Before You Go

- Ensure your passport is valid for 3-6 months after return date.
- Call your bank/credit cards to notify them of upcoming travel.
- Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on.

BIKE SAFETY

We strongly suggest you read these simple safety instructions and watch our [brief safety video](#). They will help you bike safely before and during your tour!

- Wear a helmet—this is mandatory on tour!
- Familiarize yourself with traffic laws and obey them. Bikes do not have the right of way, but most drivers are respectful to cyclists on the road. Always ride in the direction of traffic.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing what is in front of and behind you may help prevent an accident.
- Alert other riders around you by announcing the presence of traffic ("car up") or pot holes ("pot hole").
- When riding as a group, maintain distance between yourself and other cyclists
- Learn the hand signals to indicate when you are stopping or turning.
- Operate your bike consistently and predictably—avoiding erratic movements.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
- Primarily use your rear brake.
- Always be aware of weather and road conditions and how they may affect your ability to brake.
- Never wear headphones or use speakers during rides.
- Always listen to additional instructions from your guides on tour.

If you have chosen an e-bike, be aware that it is slightly heavier, faster, and more powerful than a non-electric bike. Therefore, you should anticipate a different reaction when riding downhill, braking, or dismounting from an e-bike. Your guides can offer further instruction during your bike fitting and safety review.

