Zeste French Tours

**Bordeaux to Bilbao**

19 September – 3 October 2016

Bordeaux to Bordeaux 14 days $3,950

*Starting and finishing at Bordeaux, we explore its famous vineyards before heading south along the coast. First to Arcachon and its nature reserves, sand dunes and beaches, then down to Biarritz the surfing capital of France. Spend time at the jewels of the Basque coast: Bayonne, Biarritz and St Jean de Luz before crossing into Spain to visit San Sebastian and Bilbao. Enjoy the tapas bars and the flavours of Spain and the exceptional Guggenheim Museum at Bilbao. Enjoy fine cuisine and wines.*

Monday 19 September [Bordeaux]

Meet at Bordeaux [airport/train or hotel TBA]. Explore the city of Bordeaux, its highlights and promenade along the Garonne River.

 

Bordeaux

Tuesday 20 September [Bordeaux]

Visit the famous vineyards on the outskirts of Bordeaux, in the Medoc and along the Gironde River. Chateaux and wine.

 

Wednesday 21 [Bordeaux]

Spend the day exploring the countryside between Bordeaux and St Emilion on the Dordogne River. Visit the chateaux, wine tastings.

 

St Emilion

Thursday 22 Bordeaux

A day in Bordeaux, to experience the city. A lively city with a busy shopping district, markets , galleries, museums, parks and walks along the river.

Friday 23 [Arcachon]

Drive to Arcachon to take a boat trip in the Arcachon Basin. View the birds and wildlife in this nature reserve. Roll down the famous sand dunes at the renowned Dunes de Pilat.

 

Arcachon, the pier The Dune du Pilat

Sat 24 [Biarritz]

Follow the coast south through the Landes region, past the lakes, stopping at several small historic villages. Spend the late afternoon at Bayonne before arriving in Biarritz. Spend the next 3 nights at Biarritz, the surfing capital of France.

Watch the sunset over the beach as the surfers catch the big waves. A beautiful city of beaches: the ‘grande plage’ with its famous Casino, the port, sheltered swimming beaches and of course, the surf beach. Museums, galleries, restaurants, walks, excursions.

 

Bayonne Biarritz

Sunday 25 [Biarritz]

Spend time at Biarritz, walk the beaches, swim if hot. Explore the town and the port.

 

Monday 26 [Biarritz]

Visit the nearby town of St Jean de Luz, picnic and walks.

Take a train trip up to the mountain “La Rhune”. Spectacular views across the Pyrenees. [Depart from St Jean de Luz]

 

St Jean de Luz La Rhune Mountain

Tuesday 27 [San Sebastian]

Over the Spanish border and into San Sebastian.

 San Sebastian

Walk along the promenade, along one of the most beautiful beaches of Europe.

Visit the old town and the buildings of la Belle Epoque.

Wednesday 28 [San Sebastian]

Discover the winding streets, the tapas bars, the promenade along the beach.



San Sebastian

Thursday 29 [Bilbao]

Arrive in Bilbao late afternoon; discover the Guggenheim and surrounds in the evening and local tapas bars.

Friday 30 Bilbao

Spend the day at The Guggenheim Museum.



Saturday 1 October [Bilbao]

Explore the city of Bilbao, its architecture and history. Visit Bilbao’s other museums, music in the evening.

Sunday 2 October [Dax]

Drive to Dax, an inland town famous for its curative spa and gallo-roman history.

Monday 3 October [Bordeaux]

Last day, drive from Dax to the airport at Bordeaux.

Included:

All travel in minibus, boat and train trips.

6 dinners

All breakfasts All entries to museums and galleries.

Not included:

Airfares

Travel insurance

Other meals

Accommodation [twin share]