**The Vasconavarro Route:** By bike from Vitoria-Gasteiz to San Sebastián
**Codice tour:** SP03C



**Beyond the Basque Horizon: A Journey through History, Nature, and Freedom**
This itinerary is not just a simple bike excursion, but a profound crossing of Northern Spain's identity. Starting from **Vitoria-Gasteiz**, elected Europe's **Green Capital** and the beating heart of the Basque Country, the journey unfolds like a thread stretched between the mountains of Navarra and the waves of the Atlantic. The route follows the embrace of the **Vías Verdes** (Greenways), ancient railway tracks where the train whistle has been replaced by the silence of nature. Along the way, history reveals itself in architectural gems such as the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Estíbaliz**, a Romanesque masterpiece, and the suggestive **Monumental Complex of Antoñana**, where time seems to stand still. The ride becomes a unique sensory experience when entering the **Izki Natural Park** or crossing the **Leitzarán Valley**, a pristine landscape of Atlantic forest where green dominates every corner. One of the most fascinating aspects of the trip is the thrill of passing through **over 40 tunnels** carved into the rock, once used by trains and now safe paths offering unprecedented perspectives on the valleys below. From the quiet of **Estella** to the liveliness of **Pamplona**, every stage is an invitation to discover ancient traditions, culminating in the splendor of **San Sebastián**. Here, the beauty of the bay blends with **first-class gastronomy**, celebrated worldwide, turning every stop into a true triumph of taste.

**Highlights of the Route**

- **Northern Capitals:** The green elegance of Vitoria, the historical charm of Pamplona, and the coastal exclusivity of San Sebastián.
- **Architecture & History:** From the Romanesque art of Estíbaliz to the fortified village of Antoñana.
- **Pristine Nature:** Total immersion in the woods of Izki Park and the wild landscapes of the Leitzarán River.
- **Iron Heritage:** The thrill of cycling through the evocative darkness of over 40 historic railway tunnels.
- **Gastronomic Excellence:** A journey of flavors through local markets and high-end Basque cuisine.




**Departures:** Every day from April 8th to October 31st, 2026.

**Participants:** Minimum two people. Solo traveler available on request with a supplement.

**Level: 2/3 (Moderate Difficulty):** Some experience with cycling trips is required. Daily itineraries are not excessively long, but there are occasional significant elevation gains. Most paths are easy or on dedicated cycle lanes.

**Daily Distance:** min. 31 km – max. 78 km
**Total Distance:** 241 km or 288 km

**Program in short:**
**Day 1:** Arrival in Vitoria-Gasteiz
**Day 2:** From Vitoria-Gasteiz to Maestu
**Day 3:** From Maestu to Estella/Ayegui
**Day 4:** From Estella/Ayegui to Pamplona
**Day 5:** From Pamplona to Lekunberri
**Day 6:** From Lekunberri to San Sebastián
**Day 7:** End of the tour after breakfast

## Daily Program:

**Day 1: Arrival in Vitoria-Gasteiz**
The adventure begins in the heart of Europe's **Green Capital**. This first day is entirely dedicated to relaxation and discovering one of Spain's most livable and charming cities. You will have time to stroll through the almond-shaped alleys of the historic center, admire the majestic Cathedral of Santa Maria, or simply enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of its plazas.
In the afternoon, **check-in and bike delivery** (for those who chose rental) will take place: a fundamental moment to adjust your bike, test the equipment, and mentally prepare for the departure the following morning.
An evening among the city parks and an excellent Basque dinner will be the perfect prelude to the start of the journey.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: Vitoria-Gasteiz

**Day 2: From Vitoria-Gasteiz to Maestu**
The first stage begins with a gentle ride along the **Vasconavarro Greenway**, progressively leaving the capital behind to immerse yourself in the silence of the countryside. The first recommended stop is the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Estíbaliz**, an authentic 11th-century Romanesque jewel overlooking the landscape. Continuing, the route enters dense native forests and small rural villages that seem frozen in time.
The original track meets the Laminoria tunnel (currently closed), offering an evocative detour: a short scenic stretch through the **Alava mountains**. This section, the only one with a minor technical challenge involving forest climbs and descents, offers spectacular views of the local wilderness. After passing the Guereñu pass, a pleasant descent leads back to the old railway track. Through a suggestive sound tunnel, you will enter **Maestu**, the gateway to the stunning Alavesa Mountain.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: Maestu
Distance: 31km/19 mi or 78km/48mi
Elevation gain: + 400m or +700m




**Day 3: From Maestu to Estella/Ayegui**
After a restorative breakfast in the heart of the Alavesa Mountain, we resume our journey for one of the most significant stages of the trip. Shortly after starting to pedal, we will leave the borders of Alava behind to officially enter lush **Navarra**. The landscape changes gently, opening onto hills dotted with olive trees and vineyards that signal the change of region. The route continues smoothly along the final kilometers of the **Vasconavarro Greenway**, a track that seems to glide toward the valley.
The final destination of this stretch is the splendid **Estella-Lizarra**, a city of noble origins and a fundamental stop on the Way of St. James, historically known as "Estella la Bella." The journey along the tracks of history concludes symbolically at the **Old Railway Station**, an imposing Neo-Basque building that today, despite being a bus station, preserves the architectural charm of the golden age of steam.

From here, we will reach nearby **Ayegui**, where the medieval atmosphere and local wine tradition offer the perfect setting for a well-deserved evening of rest.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: Estella/Ayegui
Distance: 45km/28 mi
Elevation gain: + 150m




**Day 4: From Estella/Ayegui to Pamplona**
Following an energetic breakfast, today marks an exciting turning point in our itinerary. We say a final goodbye to the Vasconavarro Greenway to join the **Eurovelo 1**, the great European cycling route. On this stretch, we will have the unique experience of traveling along the famous **French Way of St. James**, but from a different perspective: we will be pedaling in the opposite direction to the flow of pilgrims heading toward Compostela. The landscape changes radically once again, leaving the railway atmosphere behind to open up into wide valleys, rolling hills, and paths rich in spirituality and history. It is a visually breathtaking stage that leads us to the gates of **Pamplona (Iruña)**. Entering the city is a special moment: once past the ancient walls, you will find yourself in the heart of a vibrant capital rich in tradition. A visit to the historic center is a must—from the famous Plaza del Castillo to the Cathedral and the narrow streets world-renowned for the running of the bulls—where you can immerse yourself in the local culture and taste the best **pintxos** in Navarra.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: Pamplona
Distance: 60km/37 mi
Elevation gain: + 700m



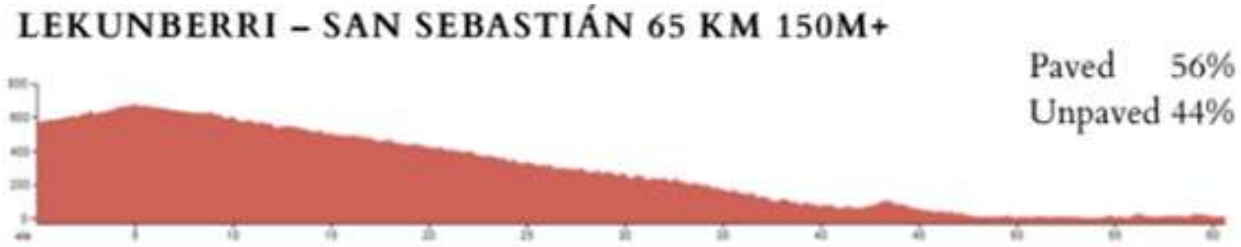

**Day 5: Pamplona – Lekunberri**
Today's stage leads us away from vibrant Pamplona toward the greener and wilder lands of northern **Navarra**. We leave the city under the watchful eye of **Mount San Cristóbal**, which dominates the horizon and marks the boundary between the urban area and the pristine nature that awaits. Cycling toward the start of the famous **Plazaola Greenway**, we begin the first kilometers of this historic route, once traveled by the train connecting Pamplona to San Sebastián. The road climbs with gentle and steady gradients, allowing us to fully enjoy the changing scenery: the air grows cooler and the forests thicken as we gain altitude toward the **Larraun Valley**. The day concludes in **Lekunberri**, where the old railway station—now beautifully restored and transformed into a tourism office and welcome point—greets us with its old-world charm, leaving us ready for the final great descent toward the ocean.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: Lekunberri
Distance: 40km/25mi
Elevation gain: + 450m




**Day 6: Lekunberri – San Sebastián**
The final stage is, without a doubt, one of the most fascinating of the entire itinerary. As soon as you leave the old Lekunberri station, you find yourself immersed in a fairytale landscape: lush green slopes, thriving forests, and deep valleys accompany us along the final section of the Greenway. This stretch is a masterpiece of vintage railway engineering, featuring **more than 40 tunnels** carved through the mountain; crossing them offers a unique thrill and pleasant natural shelter. In some spots, mandatory small paths allow us to bypass closed tunnels, offering even closer views of the wild nature of the **Leitzarán Valley**. Once we reach the town of **Andoain**, the landscape changes again, becoming softer and more open. From here, we follow a network of rural roads and perfectly integrated cycle paths that guide us toward the capital of **Gipuzkoa**. The arrival in **San Sebastián (Donostia)** is unforgettable: the green of the woods suddenly gives way to the deep blue of the Cantabrian Sea. Riding along the famous city beaches, with the scent of the salt air and the view of **La Concha Bay**, is the perfect crowning achievement of this extraordinary journey.

Overnight stay and breakfast at: San Sebastián
Distance: 65km/40mi
Elevation gain: + 150m




**Day 7: End of the tour and departure after breakfast**

**Hotel:** From * to **** star hotels and apartments.
In the event that the specified hotels are unavailable, alternative accommodations of the same category will be provided.

**Prices per person 2026 in Euro:**
**Season 1: From 08/04 to 31/05 and from 15/09 to 31/10**
In double room: 799,00 €
In single room: 1.274,00 €
Solo traveler supplement: 130,00 €

Extra night in Vitoria in double room: 152,00 €
Extra night in Vitoria in single room: 135,00 €
Extra night in San Sebastian in double room: 199,00 €
Extra night in San Sebastian in single room: 169,00 €

**Season 2: From 01/04 to 07/04 and from 01/06 to 14/09**
In double room: 855,00 €
In single room: 1350,00 €
Solo traveler supplement: 230,00 €

Extra night in Vitoria in double room: 175,00 €
Extra night in Vitoria in single room: 155,00 €
Extra night in San Sebastian in double room: 290,00 €
Extra night in San Sebastian in single room: 250,00 €

**Bike Rental:**
Mountain Bike/Hybrid Bike: 240,00 € / Per bike
E-bike: 360,00 €/ Per bike

**Included in the price:**
- 6 nights including breakfast
- Luggage transfer (1 pc) from hotel to hotel
- Maps and route information
- Telephone assistance service: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- App with GPS tracks and information

**Not included in the price:**
- Travel to and from Spain
- Transfers
- Lunches and dinners
- Bike rental
- Anything not mentioned under "Included in the price"

**Cancellation Policy:**
In the event of trip cancellation before the start date, the following administrative penalties will apply:
- **More than 30 days before departure:** the penalty will be 30% of the total trip cost.
- **Between 30 and 15 days before departure:** the penalty will be 60% of the total trip cost.
- **Less than 14 days before departure:** the penalty will be 100% of the total trip cost.

**The Bikes:** Hybrid, Mountain Bike and E-Bike

**Start/Finish:** Vitoria-Gasteiz / San Sebastian




**ECOLOGICO TOURS**
Cantonal 41C /19
6565 San Bernardino
Svizzera/Schweiz/Suisse

info@ecologicotours.com
tel. (0039) 3463254167 – (0041)(0) 79 2457505
www.ecologicotours.com
www.meravigliosaumbria.com