

NIHON JAIA “FIESTA CULTURAL DE JAPÓN” BILBAO NOVIEMBRE DE 2010

Leisure programme

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APPROACH TO BILBAO, BASQUE COUNTRY

The Basque Country, land of colorful contrasts of green and ochre on its mountains grey and golden cities, offers a natural view of small fishing ports against the untamed sea together with the delights of the people who maintain their traditional way of life that springs from their particular life style. This is the Basque Country, waiting to be enjoyed.

Steep cliffs and beautiful valleys, mysterious mountains, breathtaking beaches, picturesque ancient quarters, the charm of the villages and their people and a rich artistic and architectural heritage with many examples such as churches, monasteries, palaces, towers, gardens and so on. We are an ancient people whose origin is still unknown. A singular language and the strength of our hospitable inhabitants describe the character of this surprising land that will seduce the visitors.

This autonomous community offers, between the skies and the sea, the rivers and mountains, a brilliant range of tourist opportunities. The Basque Region is a piece of "the other Spain", suitable for those who love Art, History and Nature: pilgrims, intellectuals, adventurers, gourmets and any other visitors who would like to discover the beauty and diversity that lies within it.

A VAST HERITAGE

From the paintings at prehistoric Santimamiñe Caves to the magnificent structure of the Guggenheim Foundation Museum in Bilbao, 10.000 years of History have gone by. Basque people have always marked the comings and goings of the years with unique artistic expressions. Throughout their lands, they have spread splendid pieces of work, both civil and religious. Good examples of these can be found at the Pozalagua Caves, the Armentia and Estibaliz Basilicas, the Laguardia fortified village, the gothic Santiago Cathedral in Bilbao, the roman-gothic Church of Santa María in Lekeitio, the baroque Loyola Basilica, the New Cathedral in Vitoria, the romantic Butron Castle, the Miramar and Ayete Palaces and the Victoria Eugenia Theater in San Sebastian, the San Telmo Museum, the Bilbao Fine Arts' Museum or the Vizcaya *hanging* Bridge over the estuary of the river Nervion in Bilbao.

Getting close to Basque cultural and artistic expression is to reach the personality of these people. Their works are much more than Art, they are the very reflection of the people's soul, strength and their impetus.

Ancient traditions are also a good example of this Basque personality. These particular ways of life have been kept alive through the years. Nowadays they are re-run again in the picturesque and popular festivities like those ones of "La Tamborrada" (hundreds of drummers playing on the streets) in San Sebastián, the "Alarde de San Martin" (arms' parade for Saint Martin), the Fiesta of Magdalena in Bermeo, the "Errebombillos" in Elorrio (XVIIIth century's soldiers show), the procession for the Virgin of Carmen in Santurce, the Virgin of La Blanca festivity in Vitoria, the huge Fiestas in Bilbao and San Sebastian, the Easter processions of Balmaseda and Bilbao, or the Land and Cattle fairs on the last Monday of October in Gernika and that one on 21st. of December in Bilbao.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Population:	2.150.000
Capital city:	Vitoria – Gasteiz
Largest city:	Bilbao
Other main cities:	Donostia - San Sebastián
Surface area:	7.261 km ² .
Coastline:	197 km./ 123 miles
Maximum height:	1.600 mts. / 5.249 feet
Climate:	Wet oceanic
Average temperature:	14,3 °C / 57,7 ° F
Average temp. (winter):	8 °C / 46,4 ° F
Average temp. (summer):	18 °C / 64,4 ° F

Currency The currency used in the Basque Country is the Spanish peseta, which is part of the European Monetary System. There are 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 peseta coins (the value of each coin is as per the value that appears on it). There are 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 peseta notes. The Euro will be gradually introduced until March 2002, when it will become the official currency.

V.A.T. VAT or Value Added Tax (IVA) applies to all products and services. In restaurants, hotels and farmstays it is 7%. For non-European citizens visiting the region, VAT can be reimbursed for purchases over 10,000 ptas (tax-free). In order to claim back the VAT, the invoice must be presented at the exports customs desk when departing from the last European Union country which has been visited.

Language: Euskadi (basque word for Basque country) has two official languages: Basque (called Euskera) and Spanish. Spanish is spoken by nearly everyone. Euskera, not so widespread, is Euskadi's own, original language. It is a language whose origins have not yet been ascertained, and has no apparent relationship with any of the neighbouring languages. Signals on the roads, airports, ports, government offices, and so on, are very often in both languages. Many Basques have also some knowledge of French or English.

Time: The official time in Euskadi is the same as in the rest of peninsular Spain. In the autumn-winter months, GMT + 1, and in the spring-summer time, it is GMT + 2.

Business hours: The most common office work hours are: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Most companies and offices close on Saturdays. Government offices are usually only open to the public in the mornings until 14:00 hrs, and after that the only service operating is to receive documentation. The same happens with banks and savings banks, although some branches open in the afternoon.



N.I.S. NORTH INCOMING SERVICE

NIS is a company specialised in **incoming operations** and professional assistance to visitors to the Basque Country and the rest of Northern Spain. NIS is currently working from two branches in Bilbao and San Sebastián and looking forward to covering new destinations **in Spain**. A new branch is operating from Madrid since January 2001.

NIS provides its clients with assistance to organize **cultural tours, incentive trips, conventions and cruise stopovers** offering the possibility to become your representative agent in Spain. Our aim is to offer a personalised and specialised service to our clients, to those who demand an added value in our assistance satisfying their specific interests and needs during their stay in Northern Spain and the Basque Country.

Since 1992, NIS has welcomed more than **320,000 visitors** to the Basque area either for cultural, artistic or business purposes. All sized congresses, incentive programmes, heritage tours, gastronomic adventures, have been successfully run by our company with best references coming from all our satisfied clients.

NIS was the **first private company** created to deal professionally with touristic resources in Basque Country aimed to increase the number of visitors of the Basque destination. Our experienced team have always guaranteed the **highest standard** of service.

Over the years, we have learned that the secret of an authentic experience in this land lies in combining your interests with the essential elements that make up our diverse culture and landscape: the sea, mountains, valleys, rivers, beaches, gastronomy, art, culture, tradition and our people.

N.I.S. **guides staff** is of highest quality standard and can assure a qualified service in any language for any kind of incentive or exclusive trips **specialized on contemporary and antique art, Basque culture and traditions**, gastronomy and heritage. We have chosen professional guides who are enthusiastic and entertaining - as well as extremely knowledgeable.

N.I.S. **transport service** includes modern and comfortable means for road transport - coaches, minivan, limousines -. Users can choose from the most luxury large coach to a small Mercedes for a 2 or 3 passengers party. Our transportation supplier provides a **two-year old fleet** of twenty **Mercedes Benz**-engineered units which are fully-equipped with the latest in security and comfort equipment, including air conditioning, double-glassed windows, saloon, refrigerator, video, and lush seats. The fleet ranges from larger, group accommodating 77 passenger buses to smaller, luxurious 4 person automobiles, such as the Mercedes Benz Limousine. All drivers have EU authorization, a professional appearance and a friendly disposition.

Arrangements for main monuments, theatre, cultural and musical performances are usually provided to all our clients. Other special services such as **private visits** to Museums, Palaces and private art collections can be easily supplied by NIS. Visits to **wine cellars** in Rioja and Navarra and **wine tasting exclusive lectures** are currently arranged. Organization of meals in **restaurants and culinary clubs** with traditional and **new Basque cuisine** menus as well as Basque rural sports, Basque Ball matches "**Pelota Vasca**" and folklore performances are regular topics for us.

N.I.S. CLIENTS DIRECTORY

N.I.S. is currently a specialized Destination Management Company in cultural trips, and the **North-American market** is our most important source of operations. Our standard group profile is a 10-35 pax group coming over from the U.S.A. and Western Europe with a special interest in art and architecture. N.I.S has collaborated directly or indirectly with the following clients:

BAYER LABORATORIES
DALLAS FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF ART
DAS KUNSTMUSEUM WOLFSBURG
DIE KUNSTHALLE HAMBURG
ELISABETH ARDEN
LE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE
LES HUGUENOTS
LOS ANGELES MUSIC CENTER
MERCEDES BENZ
MILWAUKEE MUSEUM OF ART
NINO CERRUTTI PARFUMS
SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM
THE ACKLAND MUSEUM
THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
THE ASHEVILLE MUSEUM
THE ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
THE BAYLY MUSEUM
THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM
THE CAPE MUSEUM FINE ARTS
THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE
THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM
THE COMMONWEALTH SOC.
THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF WASHINGTON
THE CHICAGO ART INSTITUTE SUSTAINING FELLOWS
THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM
THE DECORATIVE FINE ARTS MUSEUM
THE DELAWARE MUSEUM
THE DENVER MUSEUM OF ART
THE FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF ISRAEL
THE GEORGIA MUSEUM
THE GIBBES MUSEUM OF ART
THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM NEW YORK
THE HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
THE INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM
THE KEMPER MUSEUM
THE MARGOLIS ART GALLERY
THE MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
THE MOBILE ART MUSEUM

THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF BERLIN
THE NATURAL CONSERVANCY A.
THE NELSON ATKINS MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART
THE NEW YORK GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM MEMBERS
THE NEW YORK GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM NATIONAL TRUST
THE NEW YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
THE NEWARK MUSEUM OF ART
THE NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOC.
THE NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
THE OCKLAND MUSEUM
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
THE PASADENA ART ALLIANCE
THE PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION VENICE
THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART
THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN
THE SAN FRANCISCO MOMA (MUSEUM OF MODERN ARTS)
THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM
THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
THE TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ALUMNI ASSOC.
THE WHITNEY MUSEUM
THE WINTERTHUR MUSEUM
THE ZURICH ART MUSEUM
U.C.L.A.
UNIVERSITY OF BERKELEY
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ALUMNI ASSOC.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOC.
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

NIHON JAIA “FIESTA CULTURAL DE JAPÓN” BILBAO NOVIEMBRE DE 2010

Leisure programme

Day 1: On arrival, meet and greet all participants at Bilbao International Airport and private transfer to hotels in city center of Bilbao with the support of best coaches and professional guides.

On the way to hotels, a sightseeing tour of the city will provide the visitors a first approach to the destination.

BILBAO, ART & ARCHITECTURE

It is worth dedicating some time to visit this noble city. In this sightseeing tour around the city we will be able to see widely the most important buildings and monuments of this Noble town, founded in 1300 by Don Diego López de Haro and sited between two ranges of hills on both sides of the river Nervión. This visit will reach the modern part of Bilbao (nineteenth century) known as the 'Ensanche', where you can find The Gardens of Albia, The Church of San Vicente, and along the Gran Vía (main avenue), the Palace of the County Council and the Palace of Chavarri. Within the Old Quarter: the Cathedral of Santiago, the Church and Bridge of San Antón, the Ribera Market, the Museum of Basque Archaeology, the "Plaza Nueva" (New Square), Doorway of Zamudio, and, walking along the Arenal, the Arriaga Theatre, the Church of San Nicolás de Bari and the 17th century Townhall building among others. In the area of Abandoibarra you will find the Guggenheim Museum, the Euskalduna Palace (Congress and Music Hall), and nearby, the beautiful Park of Doña Casilda de Iturrizar and the Museum of Fine Arts, one of the best art galleries in the Country.

Hotel welcome hospitality desk attended by Nihon Jaia staff.

A hospitality desk might provide a welcoming service as well as a previous check-in to the event. This service will assure a quick delivering of all work materials and identification charts avoiding delays before work sessions start on the following day.

Suggestion:

*As participants might arrive in different flights and arrival times might also be different, our suggestion is aimed to offer a **quick customized lunch** to all participants arriving from 12.00 to 15.00. An open buffet with drinks*



and appetizers served in a private room at hotel from 12.00 to 15.00 will guarantee this need.

15.30 Afternoon optional activity (3 hours)

a) Guided tour to **Getxo**, on the right river bank of the Nervion River. The big rambling houses of predominantly English architecture command the coast bathed by decades, almost centuries, of accumulated wealth. The right bank of the Nervion river looks elegant, with a stately aroma that the visitor perceives as soon as he arrives. It has that splendid air that sometimes borders on snobbery, but at the same time it is very difficult to feel uneasy in such a beautiful place. A paradox of life.

Getxo is Bizkaia's most residential municipality. Five very different areas form Getxo: Algorta, Neguri, Las Arenas, Romo and Andra Mari, a rural area with a golf course, a horse riding club and the blue flag beaches which peep out to the Abra or outer harbour.

The road that exits Bilbao after crossing Deusto bridge towards Las Arenas is the beginning of our route. We continue through Erandio and Lamiako and very soon arrive at Las Arenas. This is an elegant residential town from which we can spot the 109 year old structure of Bizkaia Bridge (a hanging bridge), which since the last century links the river banks at Portugaleta and Las Arenas, thus allowing a free-flowing maritime traffic. The Bridge is contemporary to Eiffel tower in Paris (1893) and is a unique masterpiece of 19th century's engineering. Nowadays, it is the oldest transporter bridge in the world. The tour includes the visit to **the Bizkaia Bridge** and the panoramic lift service up and down the two iron towers.

In this town we can take a walk along the nice promenade that continues along the river mouth and on to the small Las Arenas beach, the Churruca dock and the facilities of the Abra Royal Maritime Club. We continue to Ereaga Beach, past pleasant stately mansions of beautiful architecture, and we finally arrive at El Abra Marina - Getxo Kirol Kaia, Euskadi's largest marina.

19.00 Evening: AS arranged by NIHON JAIA. Includes dinner and welcome ceremony.

20.00 **Welcome ceremony:**

An special welcome ceremony will be held before dinner. Participants leaving the coaches, passing through an arch made of flowered arches and swords held by some locals, wearing traditional Basque dresses. In the meantime, local folk songs will be performed by local musicians (Basque flute and drums). Afterwards, a local "dantzari" will dance a typical Basque welcoming song called "aurreku". This dance is traditionally



performed in order to honor special visitors to the Basque Country.

A welcome **cocktail** will precede a dinner menu designed following the taste and choices of the host of the Seminar. Since all our menus are usually designed accordingly to the use of seasonal products, the choice of dishes and recipes will be provide 2 months before the selected date.

A model of dinner menu as follows:

Cocktail with cold and hot "tapas"
Drinks: Mineral waters, Wine, juice and soda
Leaks' terrine with seasonal vegetables and aromatic olive oil
 -
Special mushrooms soup with duck and liquorice
 -
Ham Iberian Sirloin with meat sauce and mashed truffled potatoes
 -
Puff pastry "milfeuilles" with wipped cream
 -
Bodega: Spanish Cava, Red D.O. Rioja wine, Rosée wine from Navarre, white wine "Txakoli"
Beers, mineral waters and sodas
Coffee

22.00 (ET*) Return back to hotels.

(* Estimated time)

Day 2: *Am. Buffet breakfast at Hotels. NIHON JAIA ACTIVITIES*

Optional programme: Full day guided tour to San Sebastián & Basque Coast.

9.30 Depart from hotels towards Donostia-San Sebastián.

10.30 Arrival to **San Sebastian**, place of holidays for the Royal Family, where we will be able to see that it still preserves most of its charm. Its natural beauty can be well seen in its most known feature "la Bahía de La Concha" - the Bay of La Concha -with its two beaches, La Concha and Ondarreta, protected by the Mount Urgull and the Mount Igueldo and presided by the isle of Santa Clara, thus giving place to a superb beautiful spot.

From Mount Igueldo we have a panoramic view point for all the town. Within the modern part of the town, we find several buildings of enormous architectural and historical value such as



the Cathedral of the Buen Pastor, the County Council, the Town Hall and the bridges over the Urumea river; not to mention the Palace and gardens of Miramar built by the Queen M^a Cristina, the Palace and gardens of Ayete and the architectural structure formed by the Theatre Victoria Eugenia and the Hotel Maria Cristina.

We will walk around the Old Quarter, enjoying its well kept middle aged buildings, its narrow streets and squares and its typical features, such as the "Playa Mayor" and the "numbered windows".

Optional activity 1: 12.30 – 15.30

INNOVATION WORKSHOP + LUNCH OR DINNER

In recent years, kitchens have become a laboratory of ideas where creativity and free thinking lead to groundbreaking ideas, always resulting in spectacular creations. In Ni Neu Restaurant, managed by IXO, a culinary group run by Bixente Arrieta and Andoni Luis Aduriz, the latter being chef de Mugaritz (2 Michelin star), we can enjoy the genius of the best cuisine in a fresh and attractive format.

Programme:

- Coffee
- Explanation of 3 innovative techniques used in creative cooking
 1. Low temperature cooking applied to boiling an egg
 2. Osmosis or impregnation applied to cheeks of cod or hake
 3. Siphon sponge cake in chocolate mousse
- Hands-on experience putting these techniques into practice
- Pre-dinner drinks
- Lunch in the Restaurant. A model of menu at Mugaritz.

Menu "In Forest's ambiance"

Duck cold Foie-gras on a home-made bread toast with 'cardamomo' – a sort of cashew fruit- and 'guirlache' – almond griddle.

'Vieiras' –Scallops - slightly grilled with a cod's skin stew

Roasted Angler with corn and potatoe cream

'Carrillera' - Veal's cheeks – on its own sauce

White chocolate terrine, hazelnut praliné, almond and nuts

Wild strawberry cold soup with fresh milk cream and dry meringue

Red wine Campillo "Crianza" D.O. Rioja

Mineral waters and Coffee

Optional activity 2: 12.30 – 14.00

VISIT TO SCULPTURE PARK AT CHILLIDA LEKU FOUNDATION.

will approach us to the artistic career of Mr. Eduardo Chillida.

Eduardo Chillida, internationally renown Basque sculptor, has created an oasis where art and nature converge in a delicate equilibrium. "Chillida Leku" is located in Urnieta, 10 minutes from San Sebastian by bus. Thousands of square meters of forest and parks have been interspersed



with some of Chillida's best displays of art. At the center of this open-air museum, emerges a 16th Century Basque farmhouse that has been stripped of its interior leaving only the wood and stone framework. Here, Chillida exhibits a volume of works smaller in size but equal in quality. Chillida has formed a world of spaces and amazing sizes from the most enormous irons to the more fragile gravitations. Chillida Leku is a true delight to the senses and open to visitors through the hands of N.I.S.

Lunch at Restaurant Mugaritz (2 Michelin stars)

The day will be completed with a stroll to the fortified village of **Hondarribia**, by the French border. Hondarribia is divided in two parts, the Middle Age district – the upper part – and the Fishermen's or Marina district – the lowest one in front of the Bay of Txingudi within the Cantabrian Sea. A brief walking tour in the medieval town of Hondarribia will finish at the Parador de Hondarribia.

17.30 Return to Bilbao
18.30 Arrival to Bilbao.

Day 3: Am. Buffet breakfast at Hotels. NIHON JAIA ACTIVITIES

Optional programme: Full day guided tour to **Vitoria and Lands of Rioja**.

9.30 Depart from hotels towards Vitoria.
10.15 Arrival to Vitoria-Gasteiz, capital city of the Basque Country. **Vitoria** is a spacious city, modern and ancient at the same time and yet, between its walls there have been thousand of historical transformations to a new concept of city. Its modern buildings go together in perfect harmony with its palaces, houses - towers, mansions and characteristic constructions that make the ideal city for a weekend away. Vitoria offers long walks through the Park of the Florida with its eternal and solemn views to the pinnacles of The New Cathedral. In Vitoria and all across the province of Alava you can discover the high quality gastronomy in many restaurants. How can you resist the possibility of trying some of the typical wines at one the hundreds of wine-cellar of the southern province, old and new reserves from the origin "Rioja- Alavesa".
A guided visit by foot through the historic city will reach the most interesting historical remains of Vitoria that date back to the medieval era. Among others, the Cathedral, the Palace of Suso, The House of Cordón, The Palaces of Escoriaza, Esquivel and Portalón area.
Not to forget the worthwhile visit to the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca (The Square of the White Virgin) and the Church of San Miguel from where the White Virgin observes the celebrations of its



Patron at the beginning of August which starts with its parish celebrations and is followed by the descent of the mythical Celedón (a local historical figure). Another must is a visit to the **Old Cathedral of Santa María**, dating back to the 16th century. A guided tour inside will show us the best works by the archaeologist team who discovered prehistoric remains under the middle aged walls of the Cathedral.

On our way out of the city we will enjoy the New Cathedral, with its more flamboyant Gothic style, together with the serene Park of the Florida and the Roman Basilica of Armentia.

12.30 Depart towards the Lands of Rioja. where the region's internationally renowned wines carrying the mark of origin, are produced. On the way visit the Balcón de la Rioja, a place which offers a magnificent view of the wine region.

13.30 Time for a **special lunch** at one of the most renowned **wine cellars - winery** in Rioja Alavesa's fields. The lunch will give us the opportunity of tasting some of the delicious red wines produced in the area. Some local food delicacies will join perfectly with wine. Before lunch, we will enjoy a guided tour within the Bodega to learn about the traditional wine production methods in Rioja.

15.00 After lunch, a walking visit to **Laguardia**. Laguardia is the main town at the North part of La Rioja and the most interesting one in terms of history and culture. History is written on its stones and is waiting to be read by the visitors. When you go through one of the gates leading into the town and walk along the streets you can see some palaces like houses that still keep their heraldry ornamentation and some coats of arms engraved on the stone. The church of "Santa María de los Reyes" is on the north side of the town, whose front façade was built with polychrome stone; and on the south side stands the church of "San Juan". Right outside the town walls we find public walks all around Laguardia: The Hill Walk, the "Sietes" Walk, the Barbican Walk, the Stork Walk and the new square. These places let your mind flow when you gaze at the vineyards that lie right at your feet.

Next visit the **Villa Lucía Wine Centre**, where you can visit the wine cellar museum and have the opportunity to learn interactively, some aspects of wine culture in Rioja Alavesa. This Wine Centre is the best approach to this world where you will get to know the wine growing and making process.

17.00 Return to Bilbao

18.30 Arrival to Bilbao

20.00 Transfers with your local escorts from hotels to **Guggenheim Museum** for a **private visit**.



Considered an open door to the architecture and design of the 21st century. It describes for itself. Opened in October 1997, it has brought more visitors to the Basque Country than anything else ever. Just impressive.... Bilbao has lately become a pilgrimage town. The word is out that miracles still occur, and that a major one has happened here. The city's new Guggenheim Museum, a satellite of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York. But people have been flocking to Bilbao for nearly two years, just to watch the building."Have you been to Bilbao?" In architectural circles, that question has acquired the status of a shibboleth. Have you seen the light? Have you seen the future? Does it work? Does it play?

Designed by **Frank Gehry**, the Bilbao Guggenheim is the most important building yet completed by the Californian architect. The miracle taking place here, however, is not Gehry's building, wondrous as it is. The miraculous occurrence is the extravagant optimism that enters into the outlook of those who have made the pilgrimage. What if American art has not, after all, played itself out to its last entropic wheeze? What if standards of cultural achievement have not irretrievably dissolved in the vast, tepid bath of relativity, telemarketing and manipulated public opinion? Has it even become possible, once again, to think about beauty as a form of truth?

Suggestion:

The private visit to Guggenheim museum must be organized in groups of maximum 20 pax. In order to guarantee a fluent visit, our team of guides will follow different itineraries within the Museum, starting from several points but including all highlights of the architecture, Foundation and artistic funds.

NIS professional team of guides is extremely knowledgeable about the artistic funds of the Museum in particular and currents of contemporary art in general terms. Our guided visits to Guggenheim Museum also include a full description of the architecture (project, design, materials and other elements of the building and its settlement). In spite of that, an English speaking architect service is required when visitors wished to learn about Architecture exclusively.

21.15 Farewell dinner at Guggenheim Museum's atrium & hall.

Dinner served by Restaurant Guggenheim in the atrium. A choice of entertainment options will be offered among classic cord quartets, piano soloist, jazz or Basque traditional music.

23.00 (ET) Return back to Hotels.



Other optional leisure & culture options:

Walking tour in the **Old Quarter** of Bilbao & optional visit to Fine Arts' Museum).

Transfer from hotels on bus (10 minutes). Within the Old Quarter: the Cathedral of Santiago, the Church and Bridge of San Antón, the Ribera Market, the Museum of Basque Archaeology, the "Plaza Nueva" (New Square), Doorway of Zamudio, and, walking along the Arenal, the Arriaga Theatre and the Church of San Nicolas de Bari among others are the highlights of the oldest part of Bilbao.

Every Sunday morning a flowers market is held in the Arenal park, natural entrance to Old quarter. In the Plaza Nueva, a market of antiques, old books and stamps is also an attraction for many visitors.

The old quarter offers some of the best bars & cafés for tasting the delicious "pintxos bilbaínos", such as Café Victor Montes, famous for its good quality product like the "Iberico ham". A break in our visit will give us the opportunity of tasting some of this local "tapas".

Suggestions:

*Sunday morning is a perfect day for a visit to the **Fine Arts' Museum** of Bilbao. We suggest a 90 minutes visit to this museum that contains one of the best collections in Europe of Spanish painters from the 13th, 14th, 16th and 19th centuries. The Museum opened its doors in 1908 for the first time and offers a wide variety of masterpieces. The great artistic interest of this museum is based on a wide exhibition of paintings from all times that goes from the Ancient Art and the Basque painters to the modern works in the Contemporary collection. Among the most famous paintings "The Artes laundry women" by Paul Gauguin or "The Noailles Countess" by Zuloaga "Signo y materia" by Antoni Tapies and works by Goya, Velázquez, Sorolla, Van Eyck, and so on.*

Tour to Gernika & the Biscayan Coast.

Gernika. On April 26th 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, the town was razed to the ground by German aircraft belonging to the Condor Legion, sent by Hitler to support Franco's troops. For almost four hours bombs rained down on Gernika in an "experiment" for the blitzkrieg tactics and bombing of civilians seen in later wars.

Celebrations were staged in 1966 to mark the 600th anniversary of the founding of the town. As part of these celebrations a statue of Count Tello, made by local sculptor Agustín Herranz, was set up in the Fueros square.

In 1987 the 50th anniversary of the bombing was commemorated as the town hosted the Preliminary Congress of the World Association of Martyr Cities. The full congress was held subsequently in Madrid, bringing together representatives of cities all over the world. Since then, Gernika-Lumo has been a member of this association. 1988 saw the setting up of the *monument Gure Aitaren Etxea*, by Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida, and in 1990 *Large Figure in a Shelter*, by British sculptor Henry Moore, was erected beside it. These monuments are symbolic of Gernika-Lumo as a city of peace.

As part of the "Symbol for Peace" movement, Gernika has twinned with several towns, including Berga (Catalonia - 1986), Pforzheim (Germany - 1988) and Boise (Idaho, USA -



1993). The twinning agreements include co-operation in the fields of culture, education and industry.

At present Gernika-Lumo has 15.568 inhabitants. It is a town with a prosperous service sector which is also home to industrial companies and has good cultural and educational amenities. It is a town with a promising future

From Gernika, a coastal road will drive us along the beauty of the Natural Reserve of Biosphere of Urdaibai, protected and declared so by Unesco. Crossing Mundaka and Bermeo we will finally reach the breathtaking peninsula of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, an impressive settlement crowned by the church of San Juan surrounded by cliffs and hills.

A) **Cooking lesson based on the using of ecological products.** Participants will have the opportunity of taking out the products from the land (vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, green beans, lettuces and some more...) to be cooked in one of the beautiful "caseríos" Basque farm houses nearby overlooking the breathtaking natural Urdaibai area. The activity will be coached by a professional. It is available in English or Spanish.

B) **Visit to a Tuna Fish Factory** to learn about the canned-tuna production, the sustainable fishing of all individually caught tuna fish, the benefits of Omega-3 and more about the healthy Mediterranean diet.

Traditional lunch is included.

Late afternoon, return back to Bilbao