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## The Best of **Northern Spain** Escorted 2021 Basque Country & Biarritz

14 Nights | 6 Rounds | March 6 - 20  
8 Nights | 4 Rounds | May 17 - 25

\*This Tour is Hosted by PerryGolf Co-Founder **Gordon Dalglish**

### Tour **Pricing** Per Guest

Golfer: \$8,195 | Non Golfer: \$6,595 | Single Supplement: \$

This golf and wine vacation features the Basque Country located in the western Pyrenees, straddling the border between **France** and **Spain** along 100 miles of the Bay of Biscay. The inhabitants here are the oldest surviving ethnic group in Europe. Their traditions for excellent wine and *pintxos*, or tapas, will produce lasting memories of your visit along with a rich list of experiences. We will tour the magnificent **Guggenheim Museum** in **Bilbao**.

Equally interesting for this tour is our lodging. The **Hotel Palacio Tondón** is a 16th century palace made 33 room hotel on the Ebro River in Briñas plus the **Maria Cristina Hotel** in **San Sebastián**, the address of choice for the international film industry when their annual festival comes to town in September. We'll tour two leading wineries for guided tastings at the spectacular **Txomin Etxaniz** winery and **Bodegas Baigorri** winery which is one of the major producers of Rioja red wines. Better still, we have four exceptional clubs scheduled for our golf. While Spain's Costa del Sol gets more attention, the game took shape here more than 50 years earlier. **Neguri Golf Club** was founded in 1911. **Pedreña Golf Club** is a Harry S. Colt design that Seve Ballesteros called home. Jon Rahm's club at **Larrabea** plays through a heavily wooded site among streams, lakes and meadow. The **Seignosse Golf Club** near Baritz is a Robert von Hagge creation that isn't long but requires accurate tee shots.

If you enjoy combining your love of golf with a passion for travel, you'll find a relaxing and highly rewarding experience on this Escorted Tour for a party of 24 - 30. Every aspect is fully managed from the handling of your luggage and equipment to hotel and golf course check ins. Various meals, guided sightseeing, carts / caddies, local taxes, service charges and gratuities (excluding caddies) are included in addition to sandwiches, snacks plus an open bar for beer and wine during our time at each of the golf courses. Best of all, this PerryGolf vacation promises an ideal opportunity to join a group of like-minded new friends.

### **Detailed Itinerary**

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#### **MONDAY, MAY 17: BILBAO, SPAIN**

Arrive **Bilbao** where you will be met at the Bilbao airport by PerryGolf staff who will assist you to your private transfer awaiting to take you to your hotel.

Check-in to **Gran Hotel Domine**, a 5-star property overlooking the famed **Guggenheim Museum**. The rest of

the day is free to relax.

Your Welcome Dinner at Bistró Guggenheim Museum Restaurant. The menu includes an appetizer, entrée, dessert, wine, petit fours plus coffee or infusion.

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

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## TUESDAY, MAY 18: SANTANDER, SPAIN

GOLF: Today play **Pedreña Golf Club**. Many people think of the Costa del Sol as the place to play golf in Spain, and it surely is, but the game on the northern coast predates most of the Mediterranean courses by fifty years. One of the gems here, designed by none other than Harry S. Colt, is Pedreña, which happened to be the home club of none other than Seve Ballesteros. Opened in 1928, the course enjoys a spectacular setting on a small peninsula jutting into the Bay of Santander. While only 6,340 yards, Mr. Colt cleverly presents risk/reward opportunities that the thinking golfer will be challenged to master.

SIGHTSEEING: Non-Golfers will continue to **Santander** where a local guide take us on a leisurely private tour of this port city on Spain's northern shore. Our walking visit will include Centro Botin (Botin Art Center, a Renzo Piano design) found on the tree-lined 'Paseo de Pereda' promenade and the Cathedral to see its octagonal cupola and Gothic cloister.

Non-Golfers will return to Pedreña to join the Golfers for lunch. After lunch, the group will return to Bilbao.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

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## WEDNESDAY, MAY 19: BILBAO, SPAIN

This promises to be a memorable day as we tour the **Guggenheim Museum**. Our private guide lead us through one of the most admired masterpieces of contemporary architecture. Design by famed architect Frank Gehry, the titanium-clad structure opened in 1997 to a rare reception of unanimous approval. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a walking tour of the Old Quarter. Bilbao was awarded the 2018 European City of the Year, in part surely because of the culinary experience. There are over 40 Michelin-starred restaurants in town and the surrounding Basque country!

Lunch at San Mames Stadium Restaurant.

After lunch, the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or explore Bilbao on your own.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

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## THURSDAY, MAY 20: ELTIZIEGO, SPAIN

Check out of the hotel.

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**Neguri Golf Club**, or as it is known here, the Real Sociedad de Golf de Neguri. The club was founded in 1911, it has been at its present site since 1961.

The fairways are wide and the hazards are few on this layout that measure 6,900 yards from its championship tees. The nines are decided different. The front works its way along open terrain to the Cantabrian Sea where two holes play along 200 foot cliffs. The back is routed through a forest of towering Atlantic pines. Good luck on the 14th, a 211 yard uphill par three guarded by a single and magnetic bunker.

SIGHTSEEING: We begin at the **Vizcaya Bridge** which was built in 1893 as the world's first transporter bridge. Fewer than two dozen were ever built, and only 12 still operate. The unusual design features a gondola suspended by cables about 30 feet above the Nervion River that can ferry six cars and several dozen people to the other side in 90 seconds.

Next, seaside in **Getxo**, we'll walk narrow streets where taverns serve *pintxos* (tapas on bread) and *banderillas* (tapas on skewers) on our way to the Old Quarter in Algorta on Ereaga Beach.

There will be free time for shopping after which the group will return to Neguri to join the Golfers for a light lunch. After lunch the group shall continue to the **Rioja Alavesa** wine region for a tour and tasting of Spain's most famous red wine in America.

Casual dinner at the winery this evening

OVERNIGHT: **Hotel Palacio Tondón** - River View Room

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## FRIDAY, MAY 21: LAGUARDIA, SPAIN

This morning we visit **Bodegas Baigorri** winery, one of the leading producers of Rioja wines where we will enjoy a guided visit and hosted tasting of 4 wines accompanied by 4 tapas. The facility is striking. Production takes place on six underground levels crowned by a glass-walled room for meetings and events.

After the vineyard, we continue to **Laguardia** for a walking visit of this walled medieval fortress town founded in 1164 in a region with history documented to the twelfth century BC. One of the highlights is the Portico of Santa Maria Church which is made of stone and consists of a double Gothic arch that forms five archivolt, all of them elaborately decorated.

Dinner for the group will be at 1860 Tradición Restaurant including 6 courses, dessert, wine, coffee or tea.

OVERNIGHT: **Hotel Palacio Tondón** - River View Room

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## SATURDAY, MAY 22: VITTORIA, SPAIN

GOLF: Today play at **Larrabea Golf Club**, the home course for PGA Tour star Jon Rahm. The course is played over uneven terrain in an estate sheltered from the north winds and overlooking the marshes of Urrunaga and Ullibarri. The fairways are generous but the green complexes are demanding. It's a heavily wooded site where holes wind their way among streams, lakes and meadows.

**SIGHTSEEING:** This morning the full group will depart the hotel together for Larrabea Golf Club where the Golfers will play. Non-Golfers will continue to **Vitoria**, the capital city of the Basque region. Here we will meet our local guide for a private, walking tour highlighted by the medieval quarter home to the Gothic-style Santa María Cathedral with its sculpted facade and towering columns. The Church of San Miguel has a large, baroque altarpiece and houses a statue of the White Virgin, the city's patron saint.

Afterwards, we'll gather the Golfers for lunch before the group continues to San Sebastian.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

**OVERNIGHT: Maria Cristina Hotel** – Premium River View Room

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## **SUNDAY, MAY 23: SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN**

This morning we'll meet our guide and depart for **Getaria**, a charming fishing village famous for its beaches and Txakoli white wine which enjoys a protected designation of origin and is wonderfully paired with grilled fish this town is known for. Our walking tour includes a visit to the workshop plus a tasting of Anchovy Maisor products. We conclude with a guided tasting at the spectacular Txomin Etxaniz Txakoli winery.

[View Google's "Model Your Town" Tour of Getaria](#)

Lunch at Araeta Cider House, traditional cider menu.

After lunch, we return to **San Sebastián** enjoying the panoramic views from bus before our walking tour of the cobblestoned streets of the Old Quarter (Parte Vieja) where you'll find upscale shops and vibrant pintxo bars pairing local wines with specialty tapas. We will include access to Igeldo Mountain by road, Peine de los Vientos and La Concha Bay.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

**OVERNIGHT: Maria Cristina Hotel** – Premium River View Room

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## **MONDAY, MAY 24: BIARRITZ, FRANCE**

**GOLF:** Today play **Seignosse Golf Club**, across the border near Biarritz, France.

Designed by Robert Von Hagge and located just a few kilometers away from the Bay of Biscay, you will experience an invigorating challenge in a beautiful setting. The course won't take any prisoners as the winding fairways run through a huge valley with cork, pine and oak trees lining the fairways. There are also many natural, daunting water features and shots over ravines making this a sterling test of anyone's golf game.

**SIGHTSEEING:** Non-Golfers will enjoy a full-day tour of **Biarritz** and **Saint-Jean-de-Luz**.

**Biarritz** is an elegant seaside town overlooking the Bay of Biscay. It has been a popular vacation destination with European royalty since the 1800s who have been followed by modern global jetsetters even attracting the G7 summit held here in 2019. Biarritz is also a major surfing destination which has produced an interesting

juxtaposition of swanky dinner jacket only restaurants with hip boutiques.

Eleven miles south is **Saint-Jean-de-Luz**. The town's fortune has long been linked to its fishing and its port. Today the enclave has managed to preserve its heritage while at the same time integrating modern creations. "Karrika Handi", or The Great Street, leads you to the church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste where King Louis XIV married Marie-Thérèse of Spain in 1660. Facing Saint-Jean-de-Luz is Ciboure, the birthplace of composer Maurice RAVEL, and its church Saint Vincent with its fortress-like appearance.

Farewell dinner this evening in the Michelin Starred Zuberoa Restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: **Maria Cristina Hotel** – Premium River View Room

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## TUESDAY, MAY 25: SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

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Check-out and private transfer to the Bilbao airport or continue to Barcelona to join the Iberian Peninsula Golf Cruise.

## Golf Schedule

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### PEDREÑA GOLF CLUB: PEDREÑA, SPAIN

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### NEGURI GOLF CLUB: GEXTO, SPAIN

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## LARRABEA GOLF CLUB: LEGUTIO, SPAIN



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## SEIGNOSSE GOLF CLUB: SEIGNOSSE, FRANCE

Across the border and close to Biarritz is **Seignosse Golf Club**. Designed by Robert Von Hagge and located just a few kilometers away from the Bay of Biscay, you will experience an invigorating challenge in a beautiful setting. The course won't take any prisoners as the winding fairways run through a huge valley with cork, pine and oak trees lining the fairways. There are also many natural, daunting water features and shots over ravines making this a sterling test of anyone's golf game.



## Accommodations

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### GRAN HOTEL DOMINE: BILBAO, SPAIN



The Gran Hotel Domine is the only 5-Star hotel located next to the Guggenheim Museum. Having been completely renovated in 2019, luxury can now be found in its spacious ambience, its extraordinary service, the passion for art and design, as well as an elegant and cosmopolitan style.

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### HOTEL PALACIO TONDÓN: LA RIOJA, SPAIN

This stylishly converted 16th-century palace in Briñas overlooks the widest stretch of the Ebro River and the vineyards of the prestigious R López de Heredia bodega. Even with just 33 rooms, you'll find an impressive wine bar and one of the area's best restaurants. Rooms at Palacio Tondón are spacious and windows are often floor to ceiling offering soothing river and countryside views. From the lobby you can hear running water which draws you down one of the building's old stone tunnels into the hotel's tasting room, a cave-like area with wine barrels for tables and a stream of water circulating from the river. There is a shaded sitting in the garden beside the river. They say this is a place where history, avant-guard and innovation come together. We agree.



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## MARIA CRISTINA HOTEL: SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN

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Late in the 19th century San Sebastián turned from sleepy fishing village to playground for European royalty. This coincided with the height of the Belle Époque era, or Beautiful Age, which led architect Charles Mewes (the man responsible for the Ritz in Madrid and Paris) to design and build the **Hotel Maria Cristina** in this style. It opened in 1912 and remains to this day firmly in command of its grand dame status in the Basque Country.