8th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism

Gastronomy Tourism: Back to the Roots

5-7 October 2023, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain

General Information Note
(as of 1 July 2023)

Table of contents:
1. Introduction
2. Participation
3. Entry formalities
4. Health requirements
5. Arrivals and departures
6. Accommodation
7. Programme
8. Practical information
1. INTRODUCTION

The 8th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism will take place in San Sebastian (Spain) on 5-7 October 2023. This information note provides relevant information on your participation in this event and it might be subject to change. Any further changes will be promptly notified.

1.1 Venue information

The Forum will take place at:

**TABAKALERA**
Pl. de las Cigarreras, 1,
20012 Donostia-San Sebastian, Gipuzkoa, Spain
T: +34943118855
Website: [https://www.tabakalera.eus/en/](https://www.tabakalera.eus/en/)

1.2 Forum overview

- **Title:** 8th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism
- **Dates:** 5-7 October 2023
- **Organizers:** UNWTO and the Basque Culinary Center
- **Venue:** Tabakalera
- **Participants:** Approximately 500 participants including government officials, regional and local authorities, DMOs, private sector representatives, chefs and restaurateurs, infrastructure providers, academia and UNWTO Affiliate Members.
- **Official Languages:** English, Spanish and Euskera.
- **Official website:** [https://www.unwto.org/8-unwto-world-forum-gastronomy-tourism](https://www.unwto.org/8-unwto-world-forum-gastronomy-tourism)

1.3 Contact information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNWTO Secretariat</th>
<th>Basque Culinary Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>[General enquiries]</strong></td>
<td><strong>[Logistical support]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Maria Soledad Gaido</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Álvaro Oviedo Alcarazo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Coordinator, Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness</td>
<td>Events manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</td>
<td>Basque Culinary Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel.: (+34) 915 678 100</td>
<td>San Sebastián, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mgaido@unwto.org">mgaido@unwto.org</a></td>
<td>Tel: (+34) 943 574 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:aoviedo@bculinary.com">aoviedo@bculinary.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Chloe Bougeard</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ms. Iraitz Chapartegui Tapia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Services Associate, Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness</td>
<td>Events Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</td>
<td>Basque Culinary Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel.: (+34) 915 678 100</td>
<td>San Sebastián, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:cbougeard@unwto.org">cbougeard@unwto.org</a></td>
<td>Tel: (+34) 943 574 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ichapartegui@bculinary.com">ichapartegui@bculinary.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Donostia-San Sebastián is a medium-sized city with almost 187,849 inhabitants. It is a tertiary, tourist city, eminently commercial, with strong emphasis on services and congresses. In recent years, San Sebastián has moved into the leading position among European cities, largely because of its commitment to science, technology, sustainable development and culture. Its designation as European Capital of Culture confirms this pledge.

Its smart urban layout and short distances make San Sebastián perfect for getting around on foot, with sprawling pedestrian precincts bike lanes and promenades that hug the city coastline from tip to tip.

A city of deep-rooted international tourist tradition dating back to the 19th century, San Sebastián offers an excellent clean public transport service, an icon of architecture the Kursaal Congress Centre and Auditorium, a varied choice of hotels and, above all, what is now one of the best-known creative gastronomies in the world.

### Distance from other major cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilbao</td>
<td>102 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitoria</td>
<td>100 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biarritz</td>
<td>50 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamplona</td>
<td>82 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>451 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>565 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. PARTICIPATION

2.1 Registration
To participate in this event, prior registration is required. Participants are encouraged to register online and complete their registrations at the Forum’s website, as soon as possible, and no later than 18 September 2023.

Registrations are subject to approval by the organizers. To register, an invitation code is required. Interested participants should request it to gastronomyforum@unwto.org.

Participants will receive a confirmation email once approval is granted and they will be asked to provide information on their travel schedule and accommodation to enable the host to make the necessary arrangements for local transfers. Should this information remain incomplete once the deadline for registration is reached, organizers reserve the right to cancel registrations to allow other participants to register.

Due to restricted in-person capacity, limitations as per the number of participants per organization/entity may apply.

2.2 Badges
Participants will be able to collect their identification badges at Tabakalera on the following dates and time:

- Wednesday, 4 October 2023: 15:00 – 19:00 Tabakalera - Sala Patio
- Thursday, 5 October 2023: 8:30 Tabakalera - Sala Patio
- Friday, 6 October 2023: 8:30 Tabakalera - Sala Patio

All participants are requested to wear their identification badges for the duration of the 8th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism, as well as at social events.

3. ENTRY FORMALITIES

A valid passport is necessary for visitors entering Spain. Participants who require an entry visa are requested to contact diplomatic or consular missions of Spain in their countries to obtain their entry visa.

Citizen of the following countries, DO NOT REQUIRE a visa to enter Spain:
Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia-
Erzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Dominica, El
Salvador, Georgia, Granada, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia,
Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru,
Nicaragua, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salomon
Islands, Samoa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, United Arab Emirates,
United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Participants are requested to check on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
for information on visa requirements and procedures:
https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/washington/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Co
nsular/Condiciones-de-entrada-en-Espana.aspx

Please note that visa applications must be made individually by each participant, and she/he
will be directly responsible for any delay it might occur in the process.

4. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Entry in Spain no longer requires presenting the certificates related to Covid-19. Health
controls are no longer carried out at points of entry into Spain. Spain Travel Health –SpTH –
and the associated form are no longer needed.

5. TRANSPORT

Its strategic location and excellent infrastructures make Donostia-San Sebastián a place
easy to reach from anywhere in the world, no matter what your method of transport.

BY PLANE
San Sebastián has 5 airports (3 international) within just over 100 km of the city. Only 20
minutes from the city centre, San Sebastián Airport has connections to the major Spanish
cities; Madrid and Barcelona. Bilbao Airport, with connections to all Europe, is 100km from
the city, and Biarritz Airport, served by French and international low-cost companies, 40km.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Sebastián Airport (EAS)</td>
<td>20 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilbao Airport (BIO)</td>
<td>105 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biarritz Airport (BIO)</td>
<td>40 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamplona Airport (PNA)</td>
<td>90 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitoria Airport (VIT)</td>
<td>120 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrival journeys from different airports

Bilbao Airport: The public transportation system in Spain is great and there is a public bus
that will take you to the center of San Sebastian every hour (at 45 minutes past the hour). The buses can be found front (all the way to the right if you are facing the street with your back to the airport). Link of interest: http://www.pesa.net/pesa/en/horarios

**San Sebastián Airport**: Thanks to the convenient public transportation system in Spain, there is a public bus that will take you to the center of San Sebastian every 15 minutes; travel time is approximately 36 minutes. Link of interest: http://www.aena.es/en/san-sebastian-airport/public-transport.html

**Biarritz Airport (France)**: The bus company ALSA is recommended for you. The bus will take you directly to the center of San Sebastian every 4 hours; travel time is approximately 45 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online and at the bus station. Advance booking is recommended. Link of interest: https://www.alsa.es/

**Pamplona Airport**: The bus company ALSA is advised for you to take. The bus will take you to the center of San Sebastian every 1 to 2 hours; travel time is 1 hour and 5 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online and at the bus station. Advance booking is recommended. Link of interest: https://www.alsa.es/

**BY TRAIN**
The train station in the centre of San Sebastián, the "Estación del Norte", offers connections to numerous Spanish cities including Madrid and Barcelona, and to international destinations such as Paris and Lisbon.

There is also an underground railway, the Metro Donostialdea, a narrow-gauge train connection with Bilbao and cities along the Basque Coast, such as Zarautz, and a service linking it with France (Hendaye) popularly known as the "Topo" or "Mole".

**BY BUS**
San Sebastián bus station has lines to cities throughout Spain and part of Europe.

**BY CAR**
Getting to San Sebastián by car is quite easy. The city is connected to the rest of Spain and France by the N-1 (the national highway connecting Madrid to Irun), the AP-8 (Bilbao-Irun) and A-63 (Paris-Irun) motorways and the A-15 highway (Pamplona-San Sebastián).

Once in San Sebastián, you can leave your car in one of the more than 6,000 parking places located in different parts of the city.
More information: www.sansebastianaturismo.com
4.3 Local transportation
On 4, 5 and 6 October, an information desk will be available at Tabakalera and the official hotels (mentioned on section 6).

During the Forum, there will be shuttle buses to take participants from the official hotels to the venues, from the venues to the social programme locations, and from these back to the official hotels.

Based on the information provided by participants during registration until 18 September 2023, a detailed schedule of shuttle services and routes for local transportation will be provided and will be available at every information desk.

6. ACCOMMODATION

6.1 Hotel reservations
The host has negotiated special room rates with some designated official hotels for participants of the 8th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism. Participants are invited to contact the chosen hotel directly to book their rooms as soon as possible since accommodation facilities might run out quickly.

Rooms at special rates will be blocked for participants at the main hotels until the date mentioned in the table below. After the said date, availability cannot be guaranteed.

Any inquiries about reservations should be made by contacting: events@bculinary.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Distance to the venue by car</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact email</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel 3 Reyes****</td>
<td>12 min distance to the venue</td>
<td><a href="https://www.hotel3reyes.com/es/hotel-tres-reyes-san-sebastian/">Website</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:reservas@hotel3reyes.com">reservas@hotel3reyes.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>135 €</td>
<td>165 €</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arima Hotel &amp; Spa****</td>
<td>13 min distance to the venue</td>
<td><a href="https://arimahotel.com/">Website</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sales@arimahotel.com">sales@arimahotel.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>155 €</td>
<td>175 €</td>
<td>01/09/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barceló Costa Vasca****</td>
<td>13 min distance to the venue</td>
<td><a href="https://www.barcelo.com/es/es/barcelo-costa-vasca/">Website</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.barba@barcelo.com">a.barba@barcelo.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>145 €</td>
<td>165 €</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Zenit San Sebastián****</td>
<td>10 min distance to the venue</td>
<td><a href="https://sansebastian.zenithoteles.com/es/">Website</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:reservassansebastian@zenithoteles.com">reservassansebastian@zenithoteles.com</a></td>
<td>4/5 – 10-2023</td>
<td>146 €</td>
<td>157 €</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6/7-10-2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>180€</td>
<td>191€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Distance to Venue</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Arrival Date</td>
<td>Departure Date</td>
<td>Room Prices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinema7****</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zinema7@zinema7hotel.com">zinema7@zinema7hotel.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
<td>159 €</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel NH Aránzazu****</td>
<td>12 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ma.mutiloa@nh-hotels.com">ma.mutiloa@nh-hotels.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
<td>188,10€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Avenida***</td>
<td>12 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:avenida@hotelavenida.net">avenida@hotelavenida.net</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>21/08/2023</td>
<td>121,65€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Niza***</td>
<td>9 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:recepcion@hotelniza.com">recepcion@hotelniza.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
<td>176€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Bed4u San Sebastián***</td>
<td>9 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nuria@bed4uhotels.com">nuria@bed4uhotels.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>01/09/2023</td>
<td>110€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual de las Olas San Sebastián**</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grupos@casualhoteles.com">grupos@casualhoteles.com</a></td>
<td>4/5/6 – 10-2023</td>
<td>21/09/2023</td>
<td>139€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Based on the information provided by participants during registration, shuttle service will be organized by the host from these official hotels to the different venues of the Forum. Other accommodation facilities are also available in the area. Please note that delegates staying in other hotels or accommodation facilities will have to independently reach the main Forum venue(s) in San Sebastian.
7. PROGRAMME

7.1 Forum Programme
The Provisional Programme of the Forum extends over 3 days with technical sessions, panel debates and keynote and thematic presentations, as well as technical visits on 5-7 October 2023.

Detailed information on the sessions’ speakers and their biographies will be available on the Forum’s website: https://www.unwto.org/8-unwto-world-forum-gastronomy-tourism

7.2 Official languages
The languages for the Forum will be English and Spanish, and Euskera for the Opening Ceremony. Simultaneous interpretation will be offered in these languages.

7.3 Social Programme and Technical visits
The Forum will host a social programme for participants which includes technical visits and learning excursions on Saturday, 7 October 2023. Participants will be able to choose one experience from the below options during registration (first come, first served).

1. **Rioja Alavesa, excellence in wine tourism:** Between infinite vineyards, impressive design wineries and wonderful medieval villages, Rioja Alavesa is presented as one of the most complete rural destinations in the Basque Country. La Rioja Alavesa presents a spectacular natural panorama that fits perfectly with immense undulating vineyards and some monumental villages that resemble an authentic tale. We invite you to visit two unique wineries in the region and end up enjoying the wonderful traditional cuisine of Rioja Alavesa.
   - Starting time: 8.00 a.m. (from Tabakalera)
   - Duration: 7-8 h.
   - Capacity: 25 pax.

2. **Rural flavors of the Basque Country and the Idiazabal territory:** Tolosaldea represents the authentic rural flavors of the interior of Euskadi. It stands for beans, chillies, ribeye grills, Idiazabal cheese, cider, local markets and sweets traditions. A destination where you will enjoy all these ingredients that attract foodies from all over the world, discovering some of its gastronomic secrets. Goierri represents gastronomy tourism from its product’s origin: the traditional market, the Idiazábal cheese, the black pudding, the small producer and the shepherd. On this route, the focus will be placed into the quality of the local products that enrich the culture and give identity to the territory and participants will visit a cheese factory to learn about its ways of doing and the lifestyle of current Basque shepherds.
   - Starting time: 9.00 a.m. (from Tabakalera)
   - Duration: 4-5 h.
   - Capacity: 25 pax.
3. **Urola Kosta: Fishing villages, landscapes and dream flavors:** Urola Kosta is a region within the historical territory and province of Gipuzkoa, in the Basque Country. It has two areas, one coastal, located between the mouths of the Oria and Urola rivers, and another in the middle and lower watershed of the Urola river. This region is on the way to the *Camino de Santiago* and its towns have a wide tourism offer deeply rooted in maritime sports and traditional gastronomy. An exciting visit to the best landscapes of the Basque Country and a great opportunity to get to know its gastronomy where the hot coal becomes the main protagonist.

Starting time: 9.00 a.m. (from Tabakalera)
Duration: 4-5 h.
Capacity: 25 pax.

4. **A sea of mountains, Gorbeialdea and Arratia Valley:** The Valley of Arratia is one of the greatest attractions of the Arratia-Nervión region undoubtedly because of its ecological and landscape wealth. *El Gorbea* has been the scene, like many mountains of Bizkaia, of legends of lamias and gentiles who held their covens in remote caves like: Itxulegor, Mairulegorreta, Supelegor. Arratia offers endless tourism resources to the visitors. The same occurs with the Gorbea Natural Park located between Bizkaia and Alava, possibly the most popular and most frequented peak in the Basque Country. Surrounded by a sea of mountains, impressive forests and immense meadows, it is an unprecedented tourist destination where you can enjoy its gastronomy, cheeses Idiazabal, its characteristic honey, and many more.

Starting time: 9.00 a.m. (from Tabakalera)
Duration: 5 h.
Capacity: 25 pax.

5. **Bizkaia – Urdaibai coast:** Urdaibai is an extraordinarily beautiful and varied natural area, declared a Reserve of the Biosphere by UNESCO in 1984. Its heart is the Oka River that rises on Mount Oiz and transforms into an estuary when it reaches Mundaka, creating spectacular marshes full of life. Urdaibai offers you some of the most beautiful and appreciated beaches in the Basque Country, as well as beautiful fishing villages such as Bermeo, Elantxobe and Mundaka. In Urdaibai, the rural and the marine coexist, an exceptional fact that is successfully reflected in the variety of its gastronomy. The raw material makes the difference, with the local and seasonal products. The great standard-bearers par excellence are the Cantabrian anchovy and the bonito from the north, two exquisite canning specialties. Tradition and economic activity united.

Starting time: 9.00 a.m. (from Tabakalera)
Duration: 5 h.
Capacity: 25 pax.

**7.4 Dress code**

Business attire is required at official meetings of the Forum.
8. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

8.1 Weather
The average temperature in San Sebastián in the beginning of October ranges between 13º and 20ºC or 55º to 68°F. Please note that the weather in San Sebastián can vary from day to day and we recommend that you bring clothing appropriate for rain as well as sunshine. Furthermore, we recommend that you look at your preferred weather app or channel before departing for San Sebastián. In general, the climate of San Sebastián is temperate, characterized by mild temperatures, high humidity, frequent cloudiness and abundant rainfall distributed evenly throughout the year.

8.2 Banking hours
In Spain, the banking hours are typically between 8:30 and 14:00 or 14:30, Monday through Friday.

8.3 Local currency
The local currency is the Euro, its symbol is €. The existing bills are for the values 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. There are eight types of coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and 1 and 2 euros.

8.4 Buses
San Sebastian is a city with good bus connections. The venue is in the city centre and is served by several bus lines.

For the attendees staying at hotel Arima and hotel Tres Reyes, there is a direct bus connection with the bus lines 17 and 28.

For attendees staying at the hotels located in the Amara neighbourhood (Hotel Zenit and Zinema7), there is a direct line on bus 26.
For attendees staying in the hotels located in the Antiguo neighbourhood (Hotel Barceló), there is a direct line on bus 24.

8.5 Taxi
In San Sebastián, it is not possible to hail a taxi on the street. Instead, you will have to go to a taxi stand to get a taxi.

8.6 Emergency number
Unique emergency number in Spain is 112.
8.7 Official time
The local time in San Sebastián is (GMT +1)

8.8 Official language
The official languages are Basque and Spanish.

8.9 Electric current
The power supply in Spain is 220V/50 Hz (two round pins). Adaptors and converters may be needed if you are travelling from countries that use 110V or other types of plugs.

8.10 Local and International Phone Calls
For international inbound calls, the country code is +34, and the area code for San Sebastian is 843.