

# 25/25 San Sebastián Spain

The grande dame of Spain's seaside resorts, San Sebastián curls gracefully around its golden bay, redolent of 1950s Nice. It also gives most French cities a run for their money gastronomically – it's in a league all of its own. In fact, this quietly self-assured city boasts more Michelin stars per inhabitant than anywhere in the world.

## Essentials

- 01 In the Basque language, San Sebastián is known as Donostia, which is the name you'll see used widely around town.
- 02 Dress up. The donostiarras are among the most well-heeled Spaniards.
- 03 Come hungry. Putting aside the restaurants on which San Sebastián has built its reputation, it brims with excellent pintxos bars (the local tapas).
- 04 Everything comes with zurritos – tiny glasses of local beer.
- 05 Mindful of their clients' need to try everything on the menu, the majority of restaurants will let you order half portions.

## Guide/Info

### Hotels

#### Independent and easy

Villa Soro  
61 avenida Ategorrieta  
+ 34 943 297 970  
[villasoro.com](http://villasoro.com)

#### Dependable chain

NH Aranzazu  
1 calle Vitoria-Gasteiz  
+ 34 943 219 077  
[nh-hoteles.es](http://nh-hoteles.es)

#### Premium

Hotel Maria Cristina  
4 paseo República  
Argentina  
+ 34 943 437 600  
[westinmariacristina.com](http://westinmariacristina.com)

### Dining

#### Fast breakfast

Chez Croissant  
7 calle Easo  
+ 34 943 430 716

#### Leisurely breakfast

Café de la Concha  
Paseo de la Concha  
+ 34 943 473 600

#### Mid-morning coffee

Vaporetto  
38 calle Fuenterrabía  
+ 34 943 453 503

#### Lunch with friends

Kursaal  
1 avenida de Zurriola  
+ 34 943 003 162  
[kursaal.com.es](http://kursaal.com.es)

#### Seafood lunch

La Rampa  
26-27 calle Muelle  
+ 34 943 421 652

#### Picnic spot

Isla de Santa Clara when boats are running, otherwise Monte Urgull.

#### Tapas lunch on your own

La Cuchara de San Telmo  
28 calle 31 de Agosto  
+ 34 943 420 840  
[lacucharadesantelmo.com](http://lacucharadesantelmo.com)

#### Sunset cocktail

Bar at Hotel Monte Igueldo  
134 paseo del Faro  
+ 34 943 210 211  
[monteigueldo.com](http://monteigueldo.com)

#### Dinner for two

Arzak  
273 avenida Alcalde  
Elosegui  
+ 34 943 278 465  
[arzak.es](http://arzak.es)

#### Tapas with friends

El Patio de Ramuntxo  
10 calle Peña y Goñi  
+ 34 943 321 661

#### Best cider house

Sidrería Petritegui  
Petritegi Bidea  
Astigarraga  
+ 34 943 457 188  
[petritegi.com](http://petritegi.com)

#### Dinner with a view

Akelarre  
56 paseo Padre Orcolaga  
+ 34 943 311 209  
[akelarre.net](http://akelarre.net)

#### Late drinks

Dickens Cocktería  
27 alameda del Boulevard  
+ 34 943 427 233

#### On the tiles

Etxekalte Jazz Club  
11 calle Mari Kalea  
+ 34 943 429 788

### Reading

#### Books & newspapers

FNAC  
Calle Loyola s/n  
+ 34 943 437 500  
[fnac.com](http://fnac.com)

### Basics

#### Department store

El Corte Inglés  
25 calle Arrasate/Arrasate  
Kalea  
+ 34 943 427 113  
[elcorteingles.es](http://elcorteingles.es)

### Shopping

#### Something you can't get anywhere else

Basque beret  
from JM Leclercq  
18 calle Narrica  
Parta Vieja  
+ 34 943 422 059

#### Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Zara  
3-5 calle Fuenterrabía  
+ 34 943 420 260

#### Something for the kids

Imaginarium  
31 calle Hernani  
+ 34 943 426 045  
[imaginarium.es](http://imaginarium.es)

#### Something for someone you love

Handmade *txintxorro* biscuits in pretty boxes at Barrenetxe  
9 plaza de Guipúzcoa  
+ 34 943 424 482

#### Something for yourself

Vinateria Manu Mendez  
2 calle General Artetxe  
+ 34 943 289 999

### Two-hour tour

- 01 Examine the paintings, sculptures, Egyptian figures, weapons and ceramics at the Museo San Telmo  
1 plaza Zuloaga  
+ 34 943 481 580  
[museosantelmo.com](http://museosantelmo.com)
- 02 Take the funicular to the top of Monte Igueldo for some stunning views. Find it at the tennis club (near the Peine de los Vientos sculptures).  
[monteigueldo.es](http://monteigueldo.es)

### Limousine/car

One Limo  
[onelimo.com/](http://onelimo.com/)  
[sansebastian.htm](http://sansebastian.htm)

### Transport

#### Blue boat to Isla de Santa Clara

Every 30 minutes from El Muelle port, in summer only.

#### Bus

TITSA 'Guaguas' pass  
Covers the entire island for as little as €12. Clean, comfortable and punctual.

### Fitness

#### Good gym

Hydra Ondarreta Club  
1 Paseo del Peine de los Vientos  
+ 34 943 313 174  
[hydra.es](http://hydra.es)

#### Good running route

Jog right along the seafront from Monte Igueldo to Monte Ulia, it's about 7km in total.

#### Alternative diversion

San Sebastián has three beaches: the Playa de la Concha, Ondarreta and the Playa de Gros. La Concha is the prettiest and is widely considered to be one of Europe's best city beaches.



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