

San Sebastián — Day Plan

2 nights · Pensión Alemana on San Martín · World's most Michelin stars per capita

🚶 LAST TRAIN HOME

- **Dbus day lines:** ~6 AM-22:30.
- **Búho night buses:** 9 lines, **weekends only (Fri/Sat)** + holiday eves, all hub at **Boulevard**, ~23:00-5 AM hourly.
- **Euskotren (Topo):** first 5:45 AM, last 22:45 weekday.
- Our nights are Sat Jun 27 (Berasategui ends late — Búho running) + Sun Jun 28 (no night bus, cab only). Radio Taxi Donosti +34 943 464 646.

★ KNOWN FOR

World's most Michelin stars per capita + La Concha + pintxos capital

- 🍷 11 Michelin stars in a city of 187,000 — Berasategui (3★), Arzak (2★), Akelaré (3★)
- 🍷 Pintxos in Parte Vieja — Basque tapas reinvented as 1-bite art
- 🏖️ La Concha — voted "best urban beach in Europe" repeatedly

📅 LOCAL PICKS

★ = newly added

🚶 **La Perla** (spa, La Concha) — **already BOOKED Sat 2:30 PM**. See Sat plan above.

★ 🍷 **La Mejillonera** — Portu Kalea 15, Parte Vieja. No-frills legend: tiger mussels (mejillones tigre) + patatas bravas with the famous secret sauce. Cheap, loud, shells on the floor. Open daily ~11:30-3 & 6-11. Perfect pre-crawl warm-up. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

★ 🍹 **Drinks (Parte Vieja):** Minuto y Medio · 1810 · The Hole — small Old Town bars to fold into the Sunday crawl. All walkable within the Parte Vieja.

★ 🌐 **Friends VIP Club** — Boulevard Zumardia 27. The spot your friend knew as "*Friends*" — rebranded 2025 under new management, same building. Late-night club: Fri ~12-4:30 AM, Sat 6 PM-6:30 AM, Sun till 6:30 AM; closed Mon-Wed. Lines up with the Sun-night nightcap slot. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

★ 🍏 **Sidrerías (cider houses, both closed Mondays):**

Petritegi — Astigarraga, ~6 km out. The big famous one (seats 400+), best bet for year-round txotx. Tue-Sun 1-3 & 8-9:30. +34 943 45 71 88. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

Saizar — Usurbil, ~10 km out. Huge txuleton; ~€2 bus from Old Town. Tue-Sun. +34 943 37 39 95. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

⚠️ Full barrel txotx season is Jan-Apr (into May). Late June = à la carte cider-house menu, not the barrel ritual — call ahead. Each is a dinner-sized commitment + a cab/bus out of town; doesn't fit the current 2-night plan unless you swap something.

1:45 PM

10 min walk to Pensión Alemana ↗

San Martín 53, 1 block from La Concha beach. ✓

Confirmed 12-13 check-in window (subject to availability)**Reception: 10:30-14:30 / 16:30-21:30**— we arrive at 1:55 PM, inside window. Ring buzzer. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

2:30 PM

🚰 La Perla Talasoterapia ✓ BOOKED + La Concha Beach (\$\$)**✓ BOOKED — Sat Jun 27, 14:30 (2:30 PM), 2 spots.**

Code

20260627001040114300730054. Service: Circuito Talasoterapia (Puesta en Forma). **Pricing per la-perla.net:** €25-54 pp depending on duration (2-hr €25 / 3-hr ~€38 / 5-hr €54). 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

💡 **Plan B:** if La Perla Talasoterapia + La Concha Beach falls through, scan the "Before You Go" list at the bottom for a nearby substitute in the same category — or open Apple Maps and search nearby.

[MORE +](#)

5:00 PM

Wander Parte Vieja ↗Old Town stroll. Pre-game for pintxos. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

6:30 PM

Quick pintxo at Bar Aralar — DON'T fill up (\$) (\$)

Just enough to soak up the spa drinks. Michelin tasting at 8:45 is 15+ courses.

8:45 PM

🎩 Martín Berasategui (3★) ✓ CONFIRMED (\$\$\$)**✓ CONFIRMED — Sat Jun 27, 8:45 PM, table for 2.**Note on file: *Tasting Menu for 2, celebrating our 33-day European trip. €395 pp tasting (2 menu options, both €395). 15 min taxi to Lasarte-Oria (C/ Loidi 4). ⚠***Sun/Mon/Tue closed — Sat is the ONLY Michelin night this trip.**Sat dinner service 8:30-9:30 PM seating; our 8:45 is inside it. 3-hour, ~16-course marathon. Restaurant +34 943 366 471. 📍 [Open in Maps](#) [MORE +](#)

11:45 PM

Museo del Whisky nightcap (\$\$)3,400+ bottles. ONE drink, then bed — Sun starts at 11 AM Monte Urgull hike. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

10:00 AM

Slow breakfast at hotel

Coffee + something light — hike + big lunch incoming. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

10:30 AM

** Mercado de la Bretxa walk-through (Sun lonja stalls) (\$)**

Plaza de la Bretxa, edge of Parte Vieja. Mon-Sat 8-2:30; Sun many stalls closed BUT lonja (fish) + bakers open ~9-1. Use this as the Monte Urgull warm-up — Bretxa sits 4 min walk from the Urgull trailhead.

[📍 Open in Maps](#) [MORE +](#)

11:00 AM

** Monte Urgull hike ↗****The big hill before lunch.**

12 min walk to entry at Plaza de Zuloaga (Parte Vieja), then ~30 min uphill via paved switchbacks. ~120 m climb, sneakers fine. Top: Sacred Heart statue, castle ruins, 360° city + bay view. Free. Down by 12:15 PM. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

12:30 PM

Lunch at La Cuchara de San Telmo (\$\$)**Right at the base of Monte Urgull**

in Parte Vieja — perfect post-hike payoff. Open Sun (12:30-3:30 PM). Cult hot pintxos: braised veal cheek in red wine, foie gras, octopus. €4-7 per pintxo, eat 4-5 + drinks = €30-40 pp. [MORE +](#)

[📍 Open in Maps](#)

2:00 PM

Old Town Pintxos & Wine Tour (\$\$)

~3 hr Viator tour — guided pintxos + wine through Parte Vieja. Treat lunch as your warm-up; the tour is round 2. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

5:30 PM

Zurriola Beach ↗

Walk off the food. Surfing + sunset spot. Different vibe from La Concha. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

7:00 PM

 SUNDAY Pintxos Crawl — Parte Vieja (6 stops, all Sun-open) \$\$



START 7:00 SHARP.

Three stops (Goiz-Argi, La Cuchara, La Viña) only open at 7 PM, and

La Cuchara + La Viña both CLOSE at 11 PM

— move briskly to land the cheesecake finish in time.

Néstor + Borda Berri are CLOSED Sundays

— not on this route. All 6 within a 5-min walk; one or two pintxos + a drink each, standing. ~€80-100 for two.

Order (verified Sun Jun 28 hours):

1. **Goiz-Argi** (7:00 opener — Sun 6:30-10:30 PM) — legendary grilled prawn brochette (brocheta de gambas) + grilled baby squid.
2. **Casa Urola** (Sun 7-11:15 PM) — heartier stop (Néstor's replacement): scallop, grilled fish, txuleta.
3. **La Cuchara de San Telmo** (Sun 7-11 PM) — foie gras, slow-cooked pig's ear, octopus. Cult cooked-to-order.
4. **Atari Gastroleku** (Sun 12:30-11 PM) — beef cheek + txuleton, outdoor tables facing the basilica.
5. **Gandarías** (Sun 11 AM-12 AM) — sirloin (solomillo) pintxo + spider-crab stuffed pepper. The flexible late one.
6. **La Viña** (Sun 7-11 PM — be here by 10:30) — FINISH: one slice of the original Basque burnt cheesecake + a glass of red. Grab a slice to go for La Concha tomorrow. MORE +

 [Open in Maps](#)

11:00 PM

GU OR Bataplan nightclub \$\$\$

GU = bay-view nightclub till 5 AM. Backup if dead:

Bataplan

(Concha-side, 8 min west, 40-year institution).

2:00 AM

Arraun OR La Gintoneria — cap the night \$\$

Arraun = creative cocktails, intimate. La Gintoneria = 100+ gins in balloon glasses.  [Open in Maps](#)

11:00 AM



Galparsoro Okidegia + Bretxa cheese run (\$)

Walnut croissant + cortado at **Galparsoro Okidegia** (C. Mayor 6). Then 5 min walk to **Mercado de la Bretxa** (open Mon 8-2:30 — Sun was closed, Mon is the real shop day).



Open in Maps **MORE +**

12:00 PM



Optional — Pasaia/Pasajes port grills (fishermen's lunch) (\$)

15 min taxi (€18) OR Lurraldebus E09 from Plaza Gipuzkoa to Pasai San Pedro — Donostia's actual working fishing port. Where SS fishermen eat, not tourists. **Casa Cámara** (San Juan side, lift-up live lobster tank straight from the harbor, €40-60 pp) or budget pick **Txulotxo** (boat-to-grill bonito + besugo, €25-30 pp). Open in Maps **MORE +**

2:00 PM

Quick lunch (if skipped Pasaia) — Bar Txepetxa anchovy pintxos (\$)

C. Pescadería 5 in Parte Vieja. 9 different anchovy preparations, €2.50 each. Last Basque bite. Backup: Atari Gastroteka next door. Open in Maps

2:45 PM

Euskotren to Hendaye ↗

~35 min from Donostia-San Sebastián.

3:30 PM

At Hendaye station

4:08 PM

TGV 8544 → Paris Montparnasse ↗

1ère Classe, Car 12, Seats 240 & 243. Arrive Paris 9:00 PM.

BEFORE YOU GO

-  **Michelin LOCKED & CONFIRMED: Berasategui (3★) — Sat Jun 27, 8:45 PM, table for 2 ↗** (off the waiting list). Note on file: Tasting Menu for 2, celebrating the 33-day trip. €395 pp. Closed Sun/Mon/Tue. Arzak, Akelañe, Kokotxa, Mirador de Ulia, Amelia all closed Sun in late June — Sat is the only Michelin night. Fallback only if plans change: eMe Be Garrote (Berasategui's casual 1★, open Sun, in town).
-  **SUNDAY PINTXOS CRAWL (Jun 28, 7:00 PM sharp) — Sun-open bars only:** Goiz-Arri (prawn brochette) → Casa Urola (steak/scallop) → La Cuchara de San Telmo (foie/octopus) → Atari Gastroleku (beef cheek) → Gandarías (sirloin) → La Viña (burnt cheesecake, closes 11 PM — be there by 10:30).  **Bar Néstor + Borda Berri are CLOSED Sundays** — do NOT route to them on the 28th. (Néstor's tortilla/txuleton + Borda Berri are a weekday/Sat lunch thing only — but Sat is the Berasategui day.)
- **Berasategui wine tip (Eddie = reds only):** skip the set pairing (≈7 glasses, leans white/sweet to match seafood). Tell the somm "bold reds, Cabernet style, €60-100/bottle, price before you open it." Rioja Gran Reserva / Ribera del Duero = the Silver Oak lane.
- **Molly Malone Irish Pub** = literally 2 doors from your hotel. Quick beer anytime.
- **Spa:** La Perla (BOOKED Sat 2:30 PM) handles the spa need. Hotel María Cristina is the luxe backup.
- **Mon last morning:** Galparsoro Okindegia (C. Mayor 6) for walnut croissant + cortado, then Mercado de la Bretxa for vacuum-sealed Idiazabal cheese for the Paris picnic.
- Skipped: La Viña as a meal (Eddie no — but cheesecake stop only is on the Sunday crawl), Mugaritz, Restaurante Chino Mandarin.
-  **Dani hidden gems (slot in Sun morning / Mon AM before train):**
 - **Tabakalera (former tobacco factory, now contemporary art) ↗** — Plaza de las Cigarreras 1, 10 min walk from Parte Vieja. Massive 1913 factory converted to a free contemporary art center + rooftop terrace with view over Donostia rooftops to the bay. Free entry to all 6 floors of galleries + rooftop. Tue–Sun 11–9. **Slip in pre-train Mon Jun 29** (1 hr enough). The cinema downstairs (Sala 1) shows arthouse films + the bookshop is one of the best in Spain.
 - **Hidden Igeldo funicular + amusement park ↗** — Plaza Funicular, Igeldo. The 1912 funicular climbs Monte Igeldo (the OTHER hill, west bay end — Monte Urgull is east). €3.75 RT, daily 11–8. At the top: a creaky 1910s amusement park with a wooden "Rio Misterioso" boat ride + a Ferris wheel hanging directly over the cliff. Free to walk around. **The best aerial view of La Concha** — Hemingway said so. Skipped per current plan (Urgull is the chosen hike) but flag it as a sunset alt if Urgull rains out.
 - **Mercado de San Martín — 2nd floor pintxos counters ↗** — C/ de Urbieta 9, central SS, 6 min walk from hotel. The locals' market — way less crowded than Bretxa, with a full upstairs gastronomic floor. **Bar Pulpo ↗** (counter, octopus everything €4-12), **El Rincón de Antonio ↗** (Idiazabal flights + sidra). 30-min market sit-down lunch on the Sun, after the Urgull descent — if you skip La Cuchara crowd.
 - **Museo San Telmo — old convent + the giant Sert wall paintings ↗** — Plaza Zuloaga 1, base of Monte Urgull (LITERALLY where the hike starts). A restored 16th-c Dominican convent — 11 monumental José María Sert sepia murals in the old church space depicting Basque history. €6, free Tue. Tue–Sun 10–8. Quick 45-min visit = combines with the Urgull hike start. **One of the most-photographed interiors in Spain and almost nobody knows it.**
 - **Casa Munoa engraving + perfume cellar ↗** — C/ San Marcial 33. The Munoa family have been engraving silver and stationery in SS for 4 generations (1862). Tiny shop with original tools + custom monograms + a small bespoke perfume bar in the back (€80-180 takeaway bottles, sit-down sniff session by appt). M–F 10–2 + 4:30–8.
-  **The Infatuation — San Sebastián:** <https://www.theinfatuation.com/san-sebastian> — bookmark for late-night "where should we eat" decisions.

