

Information Note

Madrid, January 2019

5th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism Creating Jobs and Promoting Entrepreneurship

Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain, 2 – 3 May 2019

In collaboration with:



World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - A Specialized Agency of the United Nations

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1. DATE AND VENUE

The Forum will be held on 2-3 May 2019 at the:

KURSAAL

Avda. de Zurriola, 1

20002 Donostia-San Sebastián (Gipuzkoa)

www.kursaal.eus

In 2009, the Basque Culinary Center Foundation was created thanks to Mondragon Unibertsitatea, the Basque chefs and the public institutions. The Basque Culinary Center has the aim of guaranteeing the continuity of cuisine as a centre for innovation in the future, which also implies the generation of high-level knowledge and the training of qualified professionals; promoting research and knowledge transfer among haute cuisine professionals and business sectors and knowledge related directly and indirectly to gastronomy; and to achieve international projection.

2. REGISTRATION AND BADGES

Registration is required for this Forum. Kindly bear in mind that the capacity of the venue is limited, for this reason we encourage registration at your earliest convenience. Further information upon the online registration will be provided soon.

Badges will be available for collection prior to the conference at the registration desk on 2 May from 8:00-11:00. Participants will be required to wear the identification badges in the area reserved for the Forum. They will also be required for entry to the dining areas.

3. ENTRY FORMALITIES

Participants are requested to refer to the webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of Spain in order to obtain information on visa requirements and procedures:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Inicio.aspx>

4. SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

No vaccinations are required.

5. TRANSPORT

Its strategic location and excellent infrastructures make 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.

San Sebastián Airport (EAS)	20 km
Bilbao Airport (BIO)	105 km
Biarritz Airport (BIQ)	40 km
Pamplona Airport (PNA)	90 km
Vitoria Airport (VIT)	120 km

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.

Train journeys to and from San Sebastián will gain enormously in speed with the new Tren de Alta Velocidad (high speed train), due to connect the city with other destinations in the near future.

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 extremely 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 found in different parts of the city.

More information: www.sansebastianturismo.com

6. ACCOMMODATION

Special discounted fares for participants:

Hotel (Breakfast and taxes included)	Special UNWTO Rate (EUR per night)			
	Dates	Single occupancy	Double occupancy	Deadline
Official Hotel Arima **** ARIMA www.arimahotel.com info@arimahotel.com	01/05 – 03/05	125	143	28/02/2019
Barceló Costa Vasca **** www.barcelo.com costavasca@barcelo.com	01/05 – 03/05	140	155	15/04/2019
NH Aranzazu **** www.nh-hoteles.es nhcollectionaranzazu@nh-hotels.com	01/05 – 03/05	143,22	157,52	20/03/2019
Codina *** www.hotelcodina.es reservas@hotelcodina.es	01/05 02/05	86,85 104,85	108 137,70	01/03/2019
Europa *** www.sercotel.com reservas@sercotelhoteleuropa.com	01/05 – 03/05	129	138	01/04/2019
Amara Plaza **** www.amaraplaza.com bookingamara@hoteles-silken.com	01/05 – 03/05	135	145	01/03/2019
Arrizul Congress **** www.arrizul.com info@hotelarrizulcongress.com	01/05 – 03/05	179	249	31/03/2019

* Reservations must be made directly. When making the reservation it is necessary to identify yourself as participant to the Forum.

7. LANGUAGE AT THE CONFERENCE

The languages for the Conference will be Spanish and English. Simultaneous translation will be offered for these languages.



8. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Weather

The average temperature for San Sebastián in the beginning of May ranges between 13 and 15 °C or 55 to 59 °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.

Banking hours

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

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.

Buses

There will be buses departing from Hotel Arima going to the Kursaal and the dinner venues. Aside from this, if you wish to arrive at your leisure, the public buses are: G1, 31 and 35.

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.

Emergency number

The emergency number for Spain is: 112

Official time

The local time in San Sebastián is (GMT +1)

Official language

The official languages are Basque and Spanish.

Electric current

220/50 (volts/hz). (Europlug, Schuko)

9. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT SAN SEBASTIAN

San Sebastián is a medium-sized city with almost 186,000 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

Bilbao	102 km
Vitoria	100 km
Biarritz	50 km
Pamplona	82 km
Madrid	451 km
Barcelona	565 km

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO Secretariat	Basque Culinary Center
[General enquiries]	[Logistical support]
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