



**Donostia  
San Sebastián**

# **cultural guide 2020**



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## THE THREE KINGS' PARADE

**5 January**  
City centre

The day before Three Kings' Day is one of the most magical days of the year. Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar visit San Sebastián to pick up letters from boys and girls, followed by the traditional parade through the city.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 48 11 68



## DOCK OF THE BAY

**13 to 18 January**  
Principal Theatre and Trueba Cinema

The musical documentary film festival celebrates its tenth edition this year.

Music meets cinema in the Dock of the Bay, which showcases screenings and concerts at different venues across the city.

[www.dockofthebay.es](http://www.dockofthebay.es)  
677 742 220

## TXOTX OPENING

**15 January**  
Cider houses in San Sebastian and Astigarraga

The cider season runs from the second fortnight in January until the end of April. To celebrate the opening of the txotx a great party is celebrated.

Astigarraga (Sagardoetxea)  
[www.sagardoa.eus](http://www.sagardoa.eus)  
943 336 811



## SAN SEBASTIAN DAY (TAMBORRADA)

**20 January**  
Citywide

San Sebastian's biggest party of the year kicks off at midnight on 19 January, when the sound of drums begins to flood the city. After months of rehearsing, over 100 drummers (tamborredas) take to the streets to celebrate San Sebastian Day. Kids have their own tamborrada on the morning of the 20th.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168





## CALDEREROS

**1 February**  
Citywide

True to tradition, the caldereros (tinkers) flood the streets in the days leading up to Carnival, filling San Sebastian with the sounds of banging pots and pans.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## IÑUDE ETA ARTZAIK

**2 February**  
Old Town and Gros district

Another traditional parade that features nursemaids and shepherds.

The nursemaids parade with babies in their arms while the shepherds court them.

High society during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries will also be represented.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## POCKET THEATRE

**February**  
City's districts

A sample of theatrical shows of small and medium format. The program brings together various proposals that combine music, humor, theater, magic or monologues.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168

## GIMNÁSTICA DE ULÍA INTERNATIONAL RACE

**9 February**  
Paseo de Zurriola

This race is a San Sebastian classic. Runners battle it out on a course that stretches from the Kursaal to Ategorrieta, with Zurriola Beach as a backdrop.

[www.gimnasticadeulia.es](http://www.gimnasticadeulia.es)  
943 278 195

## CARNIVAL

**20-24 February / 29 February : Riberas**  
**1 march : Altza / 7 march : Bidebieta**

The carnival parades will take over the city and fill the streets with colour and rhythm.

Locals and visitors alike can enjoy an extensive programme of exciting and extravagant activities.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168

# march

## LILATON

**1 March**  
Citywide

5 km women-only race, a leading event that introduces a significant number of women to a passion for running.

[www.lilaton.es](http://www.lilaton.es)  
943 21 53 54



## SPRING RACE

**15 March**

Every year, at the start of the spring, Donostiarrak Sports Club and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) organise this 10,000 metre race, offering popular athletes a high-quality race designed for and by runners. Meanwhile, this also allows UPV/EHU to

promote sport and volunteering among its students, in the knowledge that this is a way to improve their personal development and complement their academic education.

[www.donostiarrak.com](http://www.donostiarrak.com)

## DFERIA

**11 to 12 March**  
Victoria Eugenia Theatre,  
Principal Theatre and other  
locations

Dferia is a trade fair that aims to showcase the performing arts market, bringing together agents and presenting the latest Basque and international creations.

[www.dferia.com](http://www.dferia.com)  
943 483 860



## DONOSTIA ANTZERKI SARIAREN GALA

**27 March**

Every year, around World Theatre Day on 27 March, the Donostia Theatre Award is given to the best play performed in the Basque language in the city in the last year.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## SEVATUR. SLEISURE AND TOURISM TRADE FAIR

**13 to 15 March**  
Kursaal

This trade fair offers the opportunity to discover different parts of the world through a range of booths, photo and craft exhibitions, competitions, etc.

A total of 7,000 square meters will host 65 booths that provide leisure and tourism information and opportunities.

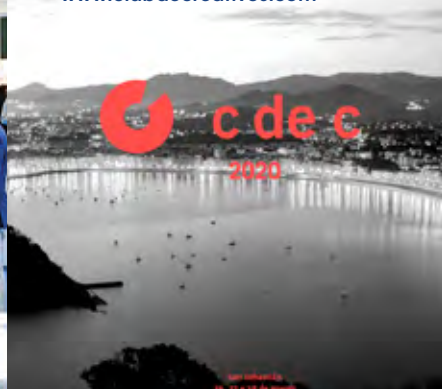
[www.sevatur.com](http://www.sevatur.com)  
943 410 806

## CLUB DE CREATIVOS

**26 to 28 March**  
Kursaal Auditorium

Unic professional forum. Three days of talks, workshops and exhibitions, ending with the National Creativity awards.

[www.clubdecreativos.com](http://www.clubdecreativos.com)





## **SAN SEBASTIAN INTERNATIONAL CHESS OPEN**

**4 to 10 April**  
**Frontón Carmelo Balda (Anoeta)**

The San Sebastian International Chess Open celebrates its 42 edition this year, an event that brings together national and international grandmasters.

[www.fgajedrez.org](http://www.fgajedrez.org)  
943 474 604

## **SAN SEBASTIAN HALF MARATHON**

**5 April**  
**Citywide**

San Sebastian hosts a new edition of its annual half marathon. Athletes must run the traditional 21.097 kilometres on a course that runs through the city centre.

[www.mediadonosti.com](http://www.mediadonosti.com)  
943 459 106 / 670 332 272

## **COMIK•D**

**3 to 5 April**  
**Kursaal Congress Centre**

San Sebastian's Fourth International Comic and Manga Fair brings together publishers, international artists and fans in round table discussions and professional meetings.

[www.saloncomicdonostia.com](http://www.saloncomicdonostia.com)

## **BOOK DAY**

**23 April**  
**Plaza de Gipuzkoa**

The Plaza de Gipuzkoa will once again host Book Day, the perfect opportunity to buy the latest bestsellers or all-time classics.

A number of authors will be on hand in to sign copies of their books.

943 425 557



## **HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL**

**23 to 30 April**  
**Victoria Eugenia Theatre and other locations**

The Human Rights Film Festival is back to raise the public awareness and promote the values of solidarity, justice and equality, among others.

[www.zinemaetagizaeskubideak.eus](http://www.zinemaetagizaeskubideak.eus)  
943 481 975

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DANCE**

**29 April**  
**Victoria Eugenia Theatre**

True to its philosophy, the XXIII International Day of Dance Gala will showcase a wide range of dance styles, thanks to the altruistic collaboration of dancers and companies, with a special focus on the local performers and companies.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)



## **TANGO FESTIVAL**

**1 to 3 may**  
**Victoria Eugenia Theatre, Kursaal  
Conference Centre**

Tango returns to San Sebastian with live demos and free courses.

[www.agatatango.es](http://www.agatatango.es)  
652 755 707

## SAINT JOHN'S EVE

**23 June**  
Citywide

The summer solstice is celebrated on Saint John's Eve.

Bonfires are lit across the city on this night to keep evil spirits at bay and bring good luck.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## WOMEN TRIATHLON

**27 June**  
Concha beach and city center

Swimming TM 300m, Cycling TM 8km,  
Running TM 2km

[www.triatlonatleticoss.com](http://www.triatlonatleticoss.com)  
652 754 558



## TXAKOLI EVENT

**27 June**  
Boulevard Donostia

Tasting of *txakoli* wine in the wineries registered for the Getariako Txakolina Designation of Origin.

[www.getariakotxakolina.com](http://www.getariakotxakolina.com)  
943 14 03 83



## ONDITZ OROITUZ TRIATHLON

**28 June**  
Concha beach and the city districts

Swimming 1500m, Cycling 38,5km, Running 10km

[www.triatlonatleticoss.com](http://www.triatlonatleticoss.com)  
652 754 558

## SUMMER COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

**June to September**  
Miramar Palace

The Summer Courses at the University of the Basque Country offer an outstanding and extensive range of classes, seminars, workshops and conferences. There will be a break during the second and third weeks of August.

[www.uik.eus](http://www.uik.eus)  
943 219 511



## HORSE RACES

**June to September**  
San Sebastian Racetrack

The summer horse-racing season kicks off in June with races on different dates through September.

[www.hipodromoa.com](http://www.hipodromoa.com)  
943 373 180





### FOOTBALL: DONOSTI CUP

**5 to 11 July**  
**Anoeta Mini-Stadium and 15 other locations**

Over 200 teams from around the world come together each year to play in one of the best youth football tournaments around. Six days of intense matches in which thousands of young players battle it out to reach the final in Anoeta Stadium.

[www.donosticup.com](http://www.donosticup.com)  
 943 467 954



### SAN SEBASTIAN - SAN SEBASTIAN CYCLING CLASSIC

**25 July**  
**Boulevard (start and finish)**

Cycling fans will have the chance to enjoy one of the city's most legendary races.

Classic enthusiasts won't want to miss this qualifying event on the international UCI World Tour calendar.

[www.gtxe.eus](http://www.gtxe.eus)  
 943 460 540



### SAN SEBASTIAN REGATTA

**11 and 12 July**  
**La Concha Bay**

This international regatta features two races. The first covers 32 miles and starts in Hendaye and ends in San Sebastian.

The second stays in the city and takes place entirely in La Concha Bay.

[www.regatamunilla.com](http://www.regatamunilla.com)  
 943 423 575

### 55 HEINEKEN JAZZALDIA: JAZZ FESTIVAL

**22 to 26 July**  
**Plaza de la Trinidad, Kursaal Conference Centre, La Zurriola Beach and other locations**

One of Europe's biggest jazz festivals takes over San Sebastian with massive concerts, bands playing in the streets and outdoor performances.

[www.heinekenjazzaldia.eus](http://www.heinekenjazzaldia.eus)  
 943 481 900





## 81 MUSICAL FORTNIGHT

**1 to 31 August**  
Kursaal Conference Centre,  
Victoria Eugenia Theatre and  
other locations

This is the oldest festival in Spain and  
one of the oldest in Europe.

[www.quincenamusical.eus](http://www.quincenamusical.eus)  
943 003 170



## GLAD IS THE DAY

**2 August**  
Cristina Enea Park

Concerts, DJ's and market. Cristina  
Enea park

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## SEMANA GRANDE (BIG WEEK)

**8 to 15 August**  
Citywide

San Sebastian's Semana Grande (Big Week) will pack the city with concerts, rides for kids and countless activities scheduled throughout the week.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168

## INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS COMPETITION

**8 to 15 August**  
La Concha Bay

This is one of the biggest events during  
Semana Grande (Big Week).

Firework experts from around the world  
will compete each night to see who can  
offer the most spectacular show.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## SWIM AROUND THE ISLAND

**29 - 30 August, depending on the waves.**  
La Concha Bay

Adults 3km swimming. Children,  
600m. La Concha beach.

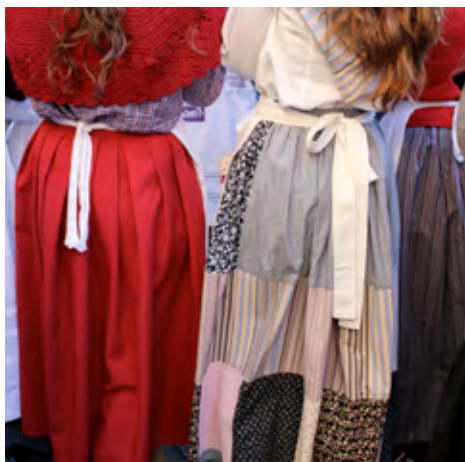
[www.atleticosansebastian.com](http://www.atleticosansebastian.com)  
Concha: 943 47 37 2  
Bera-Bera: 943 21 53 54

## DANTZ

**Last week in August**  
Citywide

The Dantz Festival is an international  
electronic and modern music event  
that showcases a wide range of  
cutting-edge music: from the most  
experimental music to the most  
danceable and contemporary music.

[dantz.eu](http://dantz.eu)



## EUSKAL JAIK – BASQUE CELEBRATIONS

**3 to 13 September**  
Old Town

Cider Day will kick off this celebration of Basque culture. Musical and sports activities and the best Basque cuisine are the main attractions.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## REGATTAS: BANDERA DE LA CONCHA

**6 and 13 September**  
La Concha Bay

La Concha Bay will host the final rounds of the Bandera de La Concha regatta over the last two Sundays in September. The qualifying rounds are celebrated on the Thursday before the first Sunday of the month.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## DONOSTIA FESTIBALA

**18 and 19 September**  
San Sebastian Racetrack

Donostia Festibala is a platform that showcases the work of young artists in the fields of music, film, comics and fashion.

## ZINEMALDIA - 68 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**18 to 26 September**  
Kursaal Congress Centre, Príncipe and Antiguo Berri Cinemas, Victoria Eugenia Theatre, Principal Theatre and Velodrome

San Sebastian turns into the world capital of glamour during its International Film Festival.

Outstanding films, exhibitions, and retrospectives share the spotlight with the famous film stars who visit the city for the event.

[www.sansebastianfestival.com](http://www.sansebastianfestival.com)  
943 481 212





# october

## SAN SEBASTIAN GASTRONOMIKA CONFERENCE

**5 to 7 October**  
Centro Kursaal Elkargunea

San Sebastian becomes the culinary centre of Europe over this three-day event, which brings together hundreds of chefs and culinary experts from across the world to present their culinary innovations.

The public will also be able to sample exquisite products at the 200+ booths set up for the event

[www.sansebastiangastronomika.com](http://www.sansebastiangastronomika.com)  
943 410 857



## THREE-BEACH RACE

**11 October**  
Ondarreta Royal Tennis Club (start and finish)

San Sebastian's three beaches are included in the course of this popular 10-km race that draws in almost 3,000 participating runners.

[www.gafatletismo.com](http://www.gafatletismo.com)  
943 451 757

## GDM SAN SEBASTIÁN FASHION FESTIVAL

**16 to 20 October**  
Tabakalera, San Telmo Museum

San Sebastián Fashion Festival.

[www.donostiamoda.eus](http://www.donostiamoda.eus)

## POPULAR ROAD RACE CLASSIC

**18 October**  
City centre

The streets of San Sebastian's city centre will turn into the course of the 15-km Popular Road Race Classic.

[www.15kdonostia.com](http://www.15kdonostia.com)  
943 451 757



## HORROR AND FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL WEEK

**31 October to 6 November**  
Principal Theatre, Victoria Eugenia Theatre and Kursaal Congress Centre

The Horror and Fantasy Film Festival Week will once again offer its unique perspective on cinema with movie marathons and parallel activities.

[www.sansebastianhorrorfestival.eus](http://www.sansebastianhorrorfestival.eus)  
943 48 11 53

# november

## 65ª CROSS INTERNACIONAL DE DONOSTIA

**1 November**  
San Sebastian Racetrack

The San Sebastian racecourse is switching activities for the day and welcoming the athletes who are competing in the Donostia International Cross. Gipuzkoa Athletics Federation

[www.krosdonostia.com](http://www.krosdonostia.com)

## LITERAKTUM

**12 to 23 November**  
Cultural centers, museums and theatres

Literaktum is a network festival. A combination of energies that spreads all over the city letters and languages.

[www.literaktum.eus](http://www.literaktum.eus)  
943 48 11 52 / 943 48 28 18

## RUNNING: BEHOBIA - SAN SEBASTIAN

**8 November**  
Behobia (start) / Boulevard (finish)

The route between Behobia and San Sebastian is the location of Gipuzkoa's biggest running event of the year. This 20-km race drew over 25,000 participants last year.

[www.behobia-sansebastian.com](http://www.behobia-sansebastian.com)  
943 214 900



## UNDERWATER FILM SERIES

**19 to 21 November**  
Principal Theatre (Calle Mayor)

The Underwater Film Series offers a free film series that showcases life in the depths of the sea.

[www.ciclo.subacuaticasrealsociedad.com](http://www.ciclo.subacuaticasrealsociedad.com)  
943 395 476

## RUNNING: MARATHON

**29 November**  
Anoeta Mini-Stadium (start and finish)

This 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of this marathon is a classic race for running enthusiasts. The 42.195 kilometre course crosses the city.

[www.zurichmaratondonostia.com](http://www.zurichmaratondonostia.com)  
943 47 43 41

# december

## EUSKERA'S DAY: BASQUE LANGUAGE

**3 December**  
Citywide

Euskara, the Basque Language, is spoken everyday in Donostia, but December 3rd is a special day, it is The International Day of Basque Language, with a lot of different events are organized throughout the city.

[www.sansebastianturismoa.eus](http://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus)

## SAGARDO APURUA

**6 to 8 December**  
Boulevard (Next to the kiosk)

The freshly made cider is transported through the Urumea river to Donostia. Afterwards, a party is celebrated on the culture and customs of the cider.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)



## SAINT THOMAS FAIR

**21 December**  
Old Town, City Centre and Gros district

The smell of txistorra (Basque-style cured sausage) will once again waft through the streets of San Sebastian on 21 December.

This traditional fair will bring together thousands of locals and visitors alike in the city centre to taste txistorra and buy cheese, honey and vegetables. As always, a pig will be presented in Plaza de la Constitución.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168



## OLENTZERO

**24 December**  
City centre

Olentzero, a character in Basque Christmas tradition, will greet the children of San Sebastian before visiting each home to drop off presents.

[www.donostiakultura.eus](http://www.donostiakultura.eus)  
943 481 168

## SAN SILVESTRE RACE

**31 December**  
Plaza Easo (start and finish)

The last race of the year celebrates its 36 edition this year with an around 8 km race that will run through Old Town, the Gros district, the city centre and the Amara district.

[www.sansilvestredonostiarra.com](http://www.sansilvestredonostiarra.com)  
634 592 614

## FEMINISTALDIA

**December**  
Tabakalera

Feministaldia is a feminist culture festival that pretends to draw attention to all those creative and activist women who work to tell new stories.

[www.feministaldia.org](http://www.feministaldia.org)

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

**1 December to 7 January**  
The Buen Pastor Cathedral Square and the Urumea riverside walk

Inspired in Centraleurope Christmas Markets, this Gabonetako Azoka has a wide commercial offer, leisure space, its activities program...

[www.donostiagabonetakoazoka.eus](http://www.donostiagabonetakoazoka.eus)  
943 482 800

# and year round

## PINTXOPOTE

**Every Thursday**  
City's districts

As the name itself suggests, this is an initiative promoted by the city's restaurants and bars that offers a pintxo (tapa) and a pote (drink) at a discounted price for two or three hours on certain days of the week.

There are several Pintxopote locations across the city and the price depends on the area.



## GASTROPOTE

**Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m.**  
San Martín Market

The San Martín Market in San Sebastian has turned in a unique space for enjoying outstanding cuisine and live performances.

[www.gastropote.com](http://www.gastropote.com)

## ORCHESTRA SEASON IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

**Throughout the year**  
Kursaal

Over the course of the Season we will have the opportunity to attend 10 concerts performed by the Basque Symphony Orchestra, one of the country's leading musical groups. Each programme is performed twice.

[euskadikoorkestra.eus](http://euskadikoorkestra.eus)  
943 01 32 32

## DONOSTIKLUBA

**All year round**  
City's districts

Electronic Music Festival.

[www.dkluba.eus](http://www.dkluba.eus)  
943 482 818