

Bidart Bliss: A Week of Sun, Surf, and Basque Charm

Bonjour from the other side of an incredible vacation in Bidart, a charming coastal town nestled in the heart of France's Basque Country! Let me tell you, this place stole a piece of my heart.

If you're looking for a beach escape with a touch of French flair, Bidart ticks all the boxes. Imagine: golden sands lapped by turquoise waves, charming cafes serving up steaming bowls of coffee and buttery croissants, and a laid-back atmosphere that melts away stress faster than a scoop of gelato on a hot day.

But Bidart is more than just a pretty beach (although, let's be honest, the beach is pretty spectacular). This week-long adventure was a delicious blend of relaxation, exploration, and a healthy dose of delicious Basque cuisine. So, grab a cup of tea (or a glass of local Txakoli wine!), and let me share my Bidart experiences with you:

Finding My Home Away From Home: A Bidart Accommodation Adventure

Finding the perfect place to stay is crucial for any vacation. For Bidart, I opted for a charming little apartment nestled a stone's throw from Plage Uhabia, the main beach. Waking up to the sound of crashing waves and stepping out onto a balcony overflowing with colorful flowers was the perfect way to start each day.

But Bidart offers a variety of accommodation options. Fancy a luxurious hotel experience with ocean views and spa treatments? You got it. Craving a cozy beachfront apartment with a kitchen for whipping up fresh seafood meals? Easy peasy. There are even adorable little cottages tucked away in the village center, perfect for a romantic getaway.

Hitting the Beach: Sun, Sand, and Surfing in Bidart

Plage Uhabia was my go-to spot for some serious relaxation. The sand is soft and golden, the water a refreshing turquoise, and the views of the rolling Basque hills are simply breathtaking. Hours were spent lounging on the beach, soaking up the sun with a good book, and taking refreshing dips in the ocean.

Now, Bidart is also a surfer's paradise. The waves here are legendary, attracting surfers of all levels. Even if you're a complete beginner like me, there are plenty of surf schools offering lessons. I took a beginner's course and managed to catch a few wobbly waves – the feeling of riding a wave, even for a few seconds, was pure exhilaration!

Exploring Beyond the Beach: Bidart's Hidden Gems

While the beach is undoubtedly the star attraction, Bidart has so much more to offer. Here are a few highlights from my exploration adventures:

- **Charming Village Center:** The heart of Bidart is a maze of cobbled streets lined with traditional Basque houses. I spent afternoons wandering around, popping into cute shops selling locally-made crafts and indulging in pain au chocolat (because, well, France!). Don't miss the Halle de Bidart, a covered market where you can find fresh produce, local cheeses, and all sorts of Basque delicacies.

- **Eglise Saint-Joseph:** This beautiful 19th-century church is a must-see for architecture lovers. The stained glass windows are particularly stunning, and the views from the church tower are amazing.
- **Coastal Walk to Guéthary:** A scenic coastal walk from Bidart to the neighboring village of Guéthary is a great way to spend a sunny afternoon. The path takes you along dramatic cliffs, offering picture-perfect views of the coastline. Guéthary is another charming seaside town with a small harbor and some great seafood restaurants.

Rainy Day Delights: When the Skies Turn Grey

Let's be honest, even the sunniest destinations can experience a rainy day or two. Luckily, Bidart has plenty to offer even when the skies turn grey. Here's what I did to keep myself entertained:

- **Musée de la Mer:** This maritime museum is a great place to learn about the Basque Country's rich maritime history. Exhibits showcase traditional fishing boats, nautical instruments, and fascinating stories of Basque sailors.
- **Ona Pilota:** Immerse yourself in Basque culture at Ona Pilota, a workshop dedicated to the traditional Basque sport of pelota. Watch craftsmen create pelota balls and learn about the history and rules of the game.
- **Basque Culinary Delights:** Rainy weather is the perfect excuse to indulge in a long, leisurely lunch at one of Bidart's many restaurants. Basque cuisine is a delicious blend of French and Spanish influences, with fresh seafood, hearty stews, and decadent desserts taking center stage. I highly recommend trying specialties like Txakoli wine, piperade (a spicy pepper stew), and gâteau basque (a