



Basque: Off the Beaten Path with Larry Kanfer

Stevie Jay
TRAVEL



Basque: Off the Beaten Path with Larry Kanfer

PRINTED MARCH 20, 2026 1:01 PM

We Welcome You!



Our tour hosts are Larry & Alaina Kanfer who want to make sure everyone is okay and having a great time. If you are looking for things to do, ask them for ideas.



Our tour manager is Gerard Venet. He is back from our 2023 Provence tour. He speaks eight languages and is well-versed on culture and history

Important Note

There are a lot of pages here. However, the key parts to read before departing are:

StevieTips—with useful passport, packing, money, electrical current and local travel tips. This follows the **Tour Membership List** and **Itinerary**.

Coach, Flight, Hotel—on the next page. We suggest that you always carry this and made this booklet compact. It is good idea to leave a copy, photo or scan page 3 for those at home!

Included in your Documents Package is: a **Bag Tag** for your checked bag, and an **E-Ticket** (if not noted as Own Air who bought a ticket elsewhere).

E-versions of these documents

You can download non-personalized e-versions of these documents and read them on a smart phone or tablet like an iPad: steviejaytravel.com/path.

Coach & Flight Schedule

Your bag tag shows which departure point you selected.



4413 TROSTSHIRE CIR, CHAMPAIGN IL 61820
217 840-9913 | 217 462-8661 WWW.STEVIEJAYTRAVEL.COM

Carrier	Flight#	Day	Date	From	To	Depart	Arrive
Windy City Limos		FRI	17APR	Champaign KANFER GALLERY*	Chicago O'Hare ORD	11:15 AM	
Iberia	IB 342	FRI	17APR	Chicago O'Hare ORD TERMINAL 3	Madrid TERMINAL 4S MAD - AIRBUS A330	4:55 PM	8:20 AM 18APR
Iberia/ AIR NOSTRUM	IB 1095	SAT	18APR	Madrid TERMINAL 4 MAD	Bilbao BIO - AIRBUS A319	11:40 AM	12:45 PM with Gerard Venet
Iberia Gerard Venet departs check in	IB 341	SUN	26APR	Madrid TERMINAL 4S MAD	Chicago O'Hare TERM. 5 ORD - AIRBUS A330	11:45 AM	2:25 PM
Windy City Limos		SUN	26APR	Chicago O'Hare ORD TERMINAL 5	Champaign KANFER GALLERY*		7:30 PM ESTIMATED

* Kanfer Gallery 2103 N Dunlap Avenue, Champaign.

Please call Larry and advise if you are leaving a car 217 369-1733. *Park at your own risk.*

Hotel

Spain

Bilbao (2) 4/18-20/2026

Hesperia Bilbao

Calle Campo Volantín, 28

48007, Bilbao, Spain

Phone: 34 944 05 11 00

Minutes to: 8 Guggenheim Museum,

12 old town, 12 Plaza Nueva

www.hesperia.com/en/hotel-hesperia-bilbao/

Madrid (2) 4/24-26/2026

VP Plaza Espana Design Hotel

Plaza de España, 5

28008, Madrid

Phone:

Close to Gran Vía and just a few

metres from the Royal Palace.

www.plazaespana-hotel.com/en/

San Sebastián (4) 4/20-24/2026

Barceló Costa Vasca

Avenida Pio Baroja 15

20008, San Sebastián Spain

Phone: 34 943 31 79 50

550 meters Ondarreta Beach,

connected centre via the promenade
along La Concha beach

www.barcelo.com/en-gb/barcelo-costa-vasca/

Larry Kanfer's cell 217-369-1733

*(In parenthesis are the number of nights we stay here
followed by dates of check in and check-out)*

Tour Membership List

<i>Departing</i>			<i>Departing</i>		
1	Bosley Terry	Champaign	16	Micek Kathryn	Champaign
2	Bosley Carol	Champaign	17	Miller Judith	Champaign
3	Caprasse Jenny	On air	18	Sefcik Mike	Champaign
4	Vasaune Jean Pierre	On air	19	Palmer Maria	Champaign
5	Elder Miller Alice	Chicago/O'Hare	20	Palmer Steven	Champaign
6	Foley John	Champaign	21	Penny Susan	On air
7	Trimble Vicki	Champaign	22	Pound Kathie	Champaign
8	Kanfer Alaina	Champaign	23	Pound James	Champaign
9	Kanfer Lawrence	Champaign	24	Pruiett Gail	On air
10	Konicek Jeffrey	Champaign	25	Pruiett Steve	On air
11	Konicek Lori	Champaign	26	Sheldon Melanie	On air
12	Lesny Diana	Champaign	27	Sherrick Krisitine	Champaign
13	Lesny David	Champaign	28	Weisbaum Jon	On air
14	McAllister Jeana	Chicago/O'Hare*	29	Weisbaum Kathryn	On air
15	McAllister Rebecca	Chicago/O'Hare*			

*After Madrid staying to Barcelona
AA 041 29APR BCNORD 1030A 120P

Total 29 travelers. Let us know if the departure point above is incorrect.
Your **Seat Assignment** is shown on your E-Ticket.

*All return are flying home from Madrid on April 26,
except the two McAllisters who return April 29 from Barcelona.

On air- those on personal tickets; they may join the round-trip Windy City
Champaign-Chicago flight & flight and hotel transfers, if the schedule coincides.

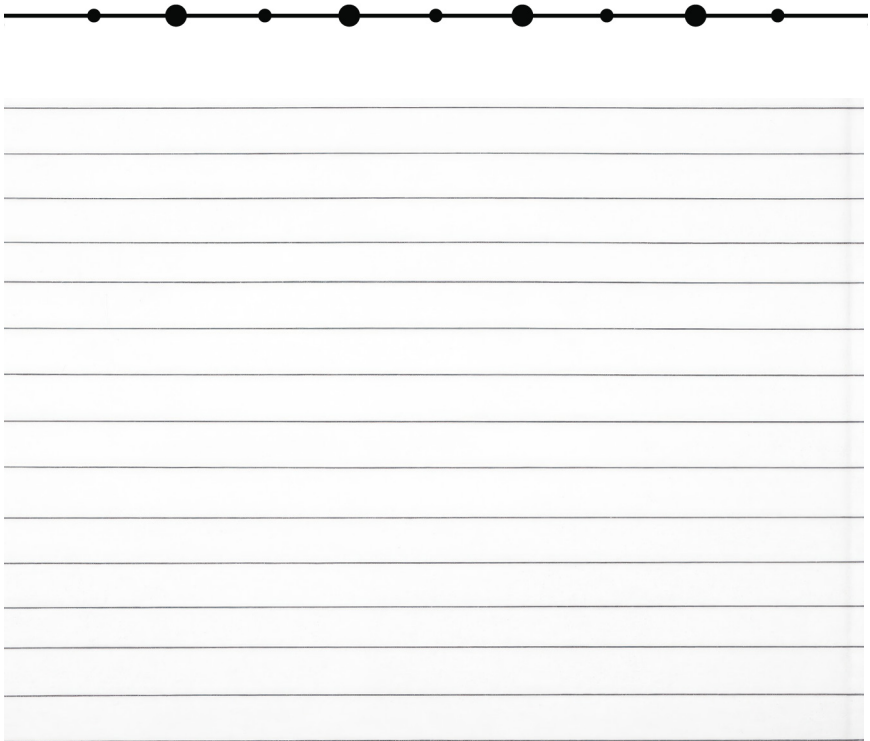


Day 3, 4/19/26, Sunday, Bilbao

Our city tour includes a visit with a local guide to the modern Guggenheim Museum, the Artxanda Funicular, and the Plaza Nueva Flea Market. This afternoon and evening are free at leisure to explore Bilbao and its restaurants on your own. (B,L)

Day 4, 4/20/26, Monday, Bilbao-Zumaia-Deba-San Sebastián

We head east to the octopus fishing village of Zumaia, where we will see the San Telmo church (shown at the top of the tour's webpage), the patron saint of sailors. We also visit the village of Deba. Continuing east, we check in for our first night of four at San Sebastián. On any of the next three days, you can have a day free if you do not wish to participate in the included features. Dinner is included. (B, D)





StevieTips



Passport, in hand? Make sure you get your Passport in hand right away. We have seen people think they know where it is and then go there on the morning of travel and cannot find it. Make sure it is good through July 26, 2026 (or later if you plan to stay on after our tour ends.)

Replacing a lost passport in a hurry can be quite expensive. Keep your passport with you and only surrender it if an accommodations or government official requires you to. *Make a xerox copy of your passport* (or take a photo) and use that if anyone else wants to see it (like to exchange money).

Visa? No visa or ETIAS are required to visit Spain or France this year [travel.state.gov](#) (the European ETIAS travel authorization system is projected to start in the fourth quarter of 2026).

Do you wear a watch? If you count on your cell phone for the time, it may not work overseas if you have no data plan. We recommend that you get an inexpensive watch to wear and be on time. And get a small travel alarm clock. Being a few minutes late is multiplied by those who must wait for you. We will all appreciate getting to leave on time.

Last Minute News? If there is news that would affect our tour, please go to steviejaytravel.com/news-terms for the latest word.

Accident, illness, delay or interruptions? If you have issues, that you need help with or a claim to make, included in the **Vacation & Cruises Plan** from AIG Travel Guard, they have staff standing by to help, call toll free 1-866-401-8955 within the U.S. (or internationally by calling collect to this US phone +1-715-295-9365) and reference **Policy number:** 3981088 - IL, TX for Illinois & Texas (3981090 - GA, NC, NE).


Travel Guard staff provides Travel Medical Assistance, Worldwide Travel Assistance and LiveTravel® Emergency Assistance. For an *Insurance Description of Coverage* see: steviejaytravel.com/path. For other help, call Bill Owen at 217-619-0202.

Difficulties en route? If you have difficulties while on tour, don't suffer in silence—let us know. We want to do what we can to help. Ask your tour manager or tour host.

Weather will likely be mild each day, about 62° with plus or minus 5° temperatures. Rather than heavy clothing, we recommend that you *wear layers*. You might start the day with a light rain jacket, sweater and shirt then peel layers as the day warms up. The www.timeanddate.com/weather/ climate section gives the following *average* from low to high of 50-62° with 4.5" of rain in April.

These are statistics converted to Fahrenheit. Celsius temperatures are used in Europe and the math can be a challenge to figure out: • Deduct 10%, • Double that and • Add 32°. So for example, 20°C - 10% = 18 x 2 = 36 + 32 = 68°F. Or remember that for every 11 Celsius, increase by 20 Fahrenheit:

- Freezing 0°C = 32°F
- Chilly 11°C = 52°
- Mild 22°C = 72°
- Hot 33°C = 92°F and estimate *between* those!

There is a new moon on April 17 & first quarter moon April 24. 



Maximum Checked Bag Size: 62"

(158cm) total dimensions of Length + Width + Height & weight 50 pounds (23kg). Here's the link for Iberia: www.iberia.com/us/luggage/allowance-in-hold/#!/baggages-search

There is *no* fee for the first checked bag but Lufthansa does have a fee for a second checked bag. Because of vehicle storage limitations, we prefer most to not bring a second checked bag. If someone does, we will have to charge for the extra tips for portorage.

Maximum Carry-on Bags Size Maximum: Height 22", Width 15.5" & Length 9.5" (56x40x25cm) and 22 pounds (10kg). You can *also* bring one small personal item, e.g. small handbag, laptop, or duty free item with a maximum size Height 15", Width: 11" & Length 5" (30x40x15cm).

Note that **maximum-sized** carry-on bags will have to placed in the coach's luggage compartment. So a *smaller* carry-on bag with wheels *plus* a small to medium sized back pack could be a better combination.

What not to pack in your checked bag: passport, medications or valuable items. If you have medications, bring several days extra in case you are delayed on the return. *Carry these items with you.*



What to Pack We already suggested layering clothing, here are more suggestions, *but not a cat!*

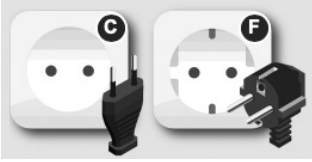
- Wrinkle free, drip-dry and comfortable. Getting laundry done on tour is impractical.
- No dressy clothes are required for this tour.
- Don't buy new shoes right before you go! It is much better that they be broken-in and see you through a lot of walking long before the tour.
- A wash cloth. (It's considered a personal item in Europe, like a toothbrush.) But a hairdryer is in each hotel.

TSA's 3-1-1 rule requires all carry-on liquids be in containers no larger than 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) and all of them placed in a quart-sized zip-lock bag, one zip bag per passenger. More or larger liquid containers can go in a *checked bag* without limitation. Here is the web address for this: www.tsa.gov/videos/travel-tips-3-1-1-liquids-rule.

Lost Luggage If luggage is lost or damaged, file a claim *immediately* with the airline. Show them the page of hotels so they know how to get the bag to you. If not found within 24 hours (depending on policy's terms) of arrival, travel insurance will reimburse for certain purchased items under its Baggage Delay coverage.

Electrical Devices Normal American electrical appliances (such as hair dryers and shavers) will not work in Spain without *both* a:

- *Power Converter* to reduce their "hotter" 230-volt power to your US 110-volt device.*
- *Plug Adapter* that allows you to fit your plug into their sockets. Types C & F Plug and socket photos from power-plugs-sockets.com/spain/.



Kits that include both Converters and Adapters (plus adapters for other countries) are sold at luggage departments of Wal Mart and similar.

Exceptions:* if your appliance has a switch to go from 110 volts to 240 volts, or your camera, phone, computer etc. has a power pack that automatically converts to 230 (you can tell because the range 100-240V is shown on its power pack), **you still need a plug adapter.

Travel Money Debit & Credit Cards are a great way to pay for



most larger expenses. Card companies have immense buying power to get a great “foreign exchange” (FX) rate, but best to use a card without a 1-3% fee (for example, Capital One has fee-free cards). Visa and Master

Card are the mostly commonly accepted.

A card without a “chip” will usually work but their card “swipers” require you enter a “PIN” number; if you don’t have that number, call your credit card issuer now. *Important: some businesses will not accept credit cards for smaller amounts, like under €20.*

To avoid having your card(s) shut down on first use, *call your card issuer* (some allow you to do this on line) telling them where and when you are going, and returning. Otherwise charges may appear to be fraudulent because the charge originates overseas. Getting the card working again may require international calls, time and trouble. If you have two cards, carry both to have a back-up. A debit card is also a great source of funds and may allow smaller minimum purchases. Because of the set fee amount, when getting Euro cash at an ATM machine, it’s better to get a larger amount rather than frequent, small amounts.

The symbol for the Euro is €. Currency is colorful and the smallest paper Euro is €5. There are 100 cents per Euro. Having Euro cash simplifies! So try to keep about 100-200 in Euro currency as a reserve supply. Then you’ll be ready to pay if they don’t take cards. **Cautions:** Avoid large

Bronze Euro cents



Gold Euro cents, tens



€1 & €2 Euro coins each in 2 colors



“FX” FOREIGN EXCHANGE

amounts of currency *in one place* as a pick pocket could clean you out. A neck or belt loop wallet, or money belt might be a good place to put **part** of your cash and card(s). **Men:** put wallet in a front pocket. **Ladies:** put your purse in front of you, across your body; don't just set it on the ground when eating.

For months a Euro (€) has been worth about \$1.16-1.20 in US dollars (see inside back cover for a chart). Even if this exchange rate changes, to convert prices on menus and in stores, simply add 10 or 20% for an *estimate* of the dollar equivalent.

Avoid carrying *just* US dollar cash. Changing dollars to Euros can be difficult, time-consuming or expensive because the typical hotel or “Bureau de Change” may show a good rate but then once you work your way up in line, you see that they charge a 9.9% fee! Sure, bring some dollars for your flight days' expenses at US airports. But best to get some Euros before departure (some US banks sell Euros) or soon after arrival.

Assuming you are carrying credit or debit cards, we suggest carrying about €200 in Euro currency for *some* incidental expenses or getting that from an ATM after arrival.

Travelers Cheques beyond being a “last ditch” supply of funds, travelers cheques are of limited value these days. Most businesses do not take them and they can be difficult to get cashed.

U.S. Customs Duty Free Allowance of \$800/person is what you can bring back without paying duty. A total of \$801-1800 is subject to a 3% duty. Over \$1800 is subject to varying percentage rates, so if you plan to buy a lot, keep your receipts.

Hotels may request a credit card imprint or your passport on check in to set up an account for incidental charges. The hotel staff makes room assignments; location, view and size may vary accordingly. Inspect your hotel room before checking out. Hotels may not forward forgotten items, or may charge extra to do so.

Smoking Rooms are non-smoking, so the hotel may charge a penalty if they find that you smoked in a room. .

Safety & Security notes: check for emergency exits. Put your room key on the bedside table while you are in the room. Don't leave valuables in your room when you go out. Keep your room locked. Some European hotel doors do not lock automatically on leaving the room, try the door. You may have to lock the door manually with the key. Tap water should be safe, most drink bottled water.

Motor coaches in Europe have strict rules about the length the driver

may be on duty and drive during that time. It is checked via tamper-proof digital system. So he will not be allowed to be on duty after a certain point each evening.

If seat belts are provided you must wear them or risk a fine. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Don't put heavy or dangerous items in the overhead racks. Do not leave *valuables* on the coach. Ordinary items are generally safe though; the tour manager and driver will advise you about this. Remain seated when the coach is moving. Check the traffic before exiting the coach.

On arrival make sure you take everything on Madrid, as you are likely to have a different coach.

Telephone Your family or friends calling you in Europe will require (for most carriers) 011 then the country code, *34, for Spain* and leave out the actual phone number's initial zero (sometimes shown in parenthesis). If you call the USA from Europe, dial 00 then one (1) plus the area code and phone number.



Calling from a pay phone is best done with a prepaid calling card. First, call the access number shown on the card. You can buy calling cards in the US or in Europe.



We do not recommend charging an international call to your hotel room; it can be very expensive.

Getting your own phone set up for overseas use can be expensive or not surefire. Renting a phone usable overseas is more surefire but can be expensive. Unless if you need constant, immediate contact, we suggest an internet phone service app like Google, WhatsApp (popular for free), Viber, Zoom if you have a smart phone or computer. You could use that app when you connect to the **free Wifi at the hotel**.

Sign up now for an account with a family or friend member who is familiar on how to work with then test it several times to see that it works.

Instead, in an **emergency, dial from the hotel room's phone: 112.**



Remember the time difference! Spain is 7 hours ahead of the Central US time zone. If calling home, be careful about when you call! And if your family or friends might call, tell them about the time difference.

Shopping Hours are not "24/7" as some are in the U.S., they vary from store to store and from place to place. Generally open from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. then close for a siesta, reopen 5:00-8:00 P.M. On Sunday, some shops are closed all day. Here are suggestions of things to buy: spain-guide.info/opening_hours_spain/

Value Added Taxes, V.A.T. You may be paying as much as 21% in Spain in VAT that you do not owe, as a non-resident you do not owe all the taxes included in the purchase price of merchandise. If you make larger purchase, ask for a vat refund form when making a purchase and show your passport. For details see: myspainvisa.com/vat-iva-spain/

Tipping Here are serve we provided in the package:

- The US coach drivers are tipped by our tour host
- Hotel Porters tips are prepaid
- Tour manager, Driver & Local Experts, are tipped by our tour host
- Tipping is *not* expected for the staff from Central Illinois

Following ad-hoc items at optional cost:

Taxi drivers: round up to the nearest Euro

Beyond owe 3 Local Experts: an optional tour guide 10-15%.

Restaurants (beyond what's included in the tour package): 5 to 10% (a tip is called *propina*). Note: you *must request your bill* at a restaurant. It will not be brought to you without you asking for it first.

Before you offer a tip in any restaurant, look at the bill first to see if a tip has already been applied. If a *service charge* (“servicio incluido”) then case, tipping is entirely up to you, but most locals do not add extra.

Where You Do *Not* Need to Tip

- Fast food restaurants: No tip needed unless staff bring food to your table
- Self-service establishments: Buffets, cafeterias, and counter service
- Public transport: Buses, metro, and trains
- Petrol stations: Even if an attendant helps you
- Shops and supermarkets: Never expected

Lost? Carry your hotel address when leaving the premises—found on page 3 of this booklet. You can show it to a taxi driver to get you back. The bag tag and hotel page has Larry Kanfer’s cell phone number.





Stevie Jay
TRAVEL