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Population

Approx. 27 300

Currency

Euro, € 1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops in Biarritz are usually open 09.00 - 12.30. After a long lunch break, they stay open 15.00 - 19.30.

Internet

www.biarritz.fr

Newspapers

Basque Country is available from the visitor information bureau, Le Monde, Le figaro

Emergency numbers

112, Fire brigade: 18, Medical: 15, Police: 17

Tourist information

Address: Square Ixelles 1

Tel. +33 559 223 710

BIARRITZ

PUBLISHING DATE: **2011-08-30** | COUNTRY CODE: **FR**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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They all used to come here – from Napoleon III to Frank Sinatra. Biarritz used to be the Monte Carlo of the Atlantic coast. The glamour has faded, but thanks to windsurfing and other water sports, the city has rejuvenated. It is now the perfect destination for a relaxing weekend break, complete with some of the best food.

THE CITY



© Van Hesselgesser

In medieval times Biarritz was an unassuming fishing and whaling community. Spotters would perch on the Atalaye plateau above the village and use smoke signals to tell the villagers when whales were nearby. Whaling was important to the village's existence into the 17th century. In the 18th century though, Biarritz took its first steps towards becoming a tourist destination when Comtesse de Montijo spent two lazy family holidays here. During the following century, the town's popularity grew. Kings and queens of nations and the silver screen were visitors. Bette Davis, Frank Sinatra and Rita Hayworth all came to explore the Monte Carlo of the Atlantic. Today, the city is primarily a tourist destination, but still manages to maintain its character and steer clear of tackiness. This is mainly because most visitors come from nearby Spain and from the rest of France. Biarritz is also a stop in the world of surfing. Grand Plage and Place du Port Vieux is where surf shops such as O'Neill and Quiksilver are located. There is no need to rush in Biarritz. The city is fairly small, and you can easily see everything there is to see even during a short visit. One thing worth setting aside time for is the morning market in Les Halles. Try the city's own mamia, fresh curd sheep's milk. Grand Plage is the classic beach, and Miramar Beach the most fashionable, on the entire Atlantic coast. Surfers congregate at several beaches, from Biarritz all the way up to Hossegor.



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DO & SEE



© Bertrand BARBET

Hôtel du Palais

This is one of the world's grand hotels. Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, created it at the end of the 19th century. It still towers over the northern end of Grand Plage. A visit is well worth the time, in fact, it is almost a must see – the interiors and the atmosphere are reminiscent of a bygone era. (See also the "Hotel" section.)

Address: 1 Avenue de l'Impératrice, 64200 Biarritz
Phone: +33 559 416 400

Plateau de l'Atalaye

The views of the Atlantic waves crashing over the cliffs below are dramatic. This is where the whale watchers (mentioned above) would have been on the lookout. A statue of the Virgin Mary, raised in 1865, perches on one of the cliffs. Nearby is the quaint Place Ste-Eugénie square and the old fishing port Port des Pêcheurs.

Address: Place Ste-Eugénie square, Biarritz

Eglise Alexandre Newsky

A Russian Orthodox church on the Atlantic may seem a bit out of place. But just before the Russian revolution in 1917, many aristocrats arrived here, bought a piece of land and built a church.

Address: 8 Avenue de L'Imperatrice

EATING



© Jaume Meneses

Two factors – the ocean and the proximity to Basque Country – influence the restaurants in Biarritz. This is a good thing, as Basque cooking has lately been praised as the best in Europe. It can be hard to find simpler, less pricy restaurants in Biarritz, but they do exist.

Les Platanes

The most creative cooking in Biarritz can be found in the kitchen of chef Locateli Bruno, at Les Platanes. He creates new dishes as often as most other restaurants change their tablecloths. It is up to his waiters to tell guests what is on the menu at the moment. Les Platanes, located in an idyllic house in a quieter part of town, is fairly expensive.

Address: 32, avenue Beausoleil
Phone: +33 559 231 368

Auberge de la Négresse

This restaurant is named after its first owner, a woman who managed to escape from a passing slave ship in the 19th century. Local specialities are served in its two dining areas and on the terrace. Auberge de la Négresse is a few miles south of Biarritz.

Address: 10, boulevard Marcel Dassault
Phone: +33 559 231 583

Chez Albert

The locals frequent bistro Chez Albert in the old fishing port. This seafood restaurant serves large portions of oysters, clams and crab. Large enough to fill anyone up. Nice views from the outdoor patio.

Address: Rue du Port Vieux
Phone: +33 559 244 384
Internet: www.chezalbert.fr

Bleu Cargo

Bleu Cargo is next to the beach in Ilbarritz, south of the city. It is one of the most charming places to eat dinner and watch the sun set over the ocean. Go for the terraces, and choose one of the fish dishes. There is also a bar with DJ music.

Address: Villa Itsasoan avenue Ilbarritz 64210 Bidart
Phone: +33 559 243 630

Le Clos Basque

A place for those who want to try traditional Basque cooking at its best. The locals eat large hearty meals on the shadowy terrace of Le Clos Basque. The waiters are pleasant, but not very fast, so it's a good idea to get some tapas to hold you over.

Address: 12, rue Louis Barthou
Phone: +33 559 243 630

Bistrot des Halles

The area around Biarritz's food market has many small, charming restaurants, many of them serving Basque cuisine. One of the most popular – with visitors and food hall workers alike – is Bistrot des Halles. The three-course evening menu is very good value for money.

Address: Les Halles, rue du Centre
Phone: +33 559 242 122

CAFES



© julien haler

Le Ventiló Caffé

Le Ventiló Caffé, with its kitsch art deco interior, attracts locals and trend conscious visitors alike. Good for an aperitif, or just to meet people. Come back here in the evening for some good DJs and dancing.

Address: 30 bis, rue Mazagran
Phone: +33 559 243 142

Bistro de la Mairie

Next door to Le Ventiló Caffé is Bar de la Marine, and just like its neighbour it attracts both locals and tourists. Good music, unpretentious decor and good drinks. At night this area transforms into a party central.

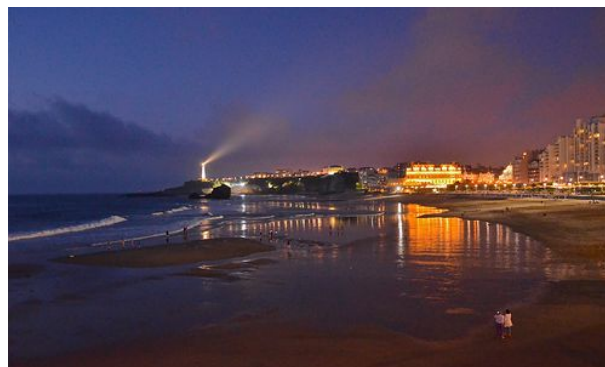
Address: 28, rue Mazagran
Phone: +33 559 248 771

Chai Ramina

Those in to minimalism might get a migraine here – the decor is very cluttered. Those who aren't bothered will have a better time. Chai Ramina is close to the food market.

Address: 11 rue Poissonnerie 64100 Bayonne
Phone: +33 459 593 301

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Aires Almeida

The area around Port Vieux, Biarritz's old port, is full of bars, as is place Clemenceau. Just outside the city near the casino, are a handful of large discos, with all their advantages and disadvantages. The relaxed surfer attire is worn by the wealthiest of visitors alike, who have discarded the tackier Riviera style.

Bar Jean

The proximity to Spain is apparent at crowded Bar Jean, close to the indoor food market. Bullfighting posters look down on guests drinking sangria and eating tapas. There are also a few dining tables for those who prefer proper meals.

Address: 5 rue des Halles
Phone: +33 559 248 038
Internet: www.barjean-biarritz.com

Côte 57

This luxurious bar du jour by Côte des Basques is mainly frequented during the day and the evening. Lounge on a divan, sip a drink, and watch the sun set over the ocean.

Address: Côtes des Basques
Phone: +33 559 222 783

Bar Impérial, Hôtel du Palais

Many of Biarritz's visitors want you to think they are staying at classic Hôtel du Palais, but few can afford it. One way to experience the luxury of a bygone era is to come in for a Dry Martini under the chandeliers at the hotel's Bar Impérial.

Address: 1, avenue de l'Impératrice
Phone: +33 559 416 400

Café O

Café O is a bar and restaurant with a large outdoor patio and an ethnic interior decor. There are live bands playing everything from jazz to soul several nights a week. Café O stays open late during the summer.

Address: 7, Boulevard du Général de Gaulle
Phone: +33 559 220 432

SHOPPING



© keith ellwood

The range of shopping options in Biarritz covers everything from Basque handicraft to cool surf shorts and expensive designer labels. Surf brand Quiksilver has ties to the area and their wares can be found in many of the shops, as well as in their own store by Grand Plage Beach. Other brands, including O'Neill, have shops on the beach and around Place du Port Vieux. The most expensive shopping is along avenue Edouard VII, including Natacha at number 3 and Hermès at number 19, as well as along rue Mazagran and around place Clémenceau. Red Basque berets, fabrics and handicraft are available from the shops at Place du Port Vieux. More contemporary Basque craft, in the form of colourful clothes, can be bought from 64 rue Gambetta. Stock up on sausages, cheese, Serrano ham, and other delicatessen treats at the indoor food market. Paries on Place Bellevue sells delightful chocolate.

SLEEPING



© Rodrigo Giansesi

Hôtel du Palais

One of Europe's classic luxury hotels. The rooms have great views, and each is the size of any other hotels' lobbies. Antiques line up between the pillars, shimmering in the light from the chandeliers. Happily there are a few modern details, like air conditioning and a swimming pool.

Address: 1, avenue de l'Impératrice
Phone: +33 559 416 400
Internet: www.hotel-du-palais.com

Nere Chocoa

Chocoa is located just outside of Biarritz. This family-run hotel has only five rooms in a large white villa, surrounded by a plush garden. Breakfast can be taken on the veranda. Because the number of rooms, all spacious and tastefully decorated, is limited, it pays to book well in advance.

Address: 28, rue Larreguy
Phone: +33 608 338 435
Internet: www.nerechocoa.com

Hôtel Palym

The Lacoume family offers 28 clean rooms in the old part of the city. Some rooms are nicer than others, so ask when making your reservation. Some also face the street, which can get noisy at night. The Port Vieux beach is just over 100 yards away.

Address: 7, rue du Port Vieux

Phone: +33 559 242 583
Internet: www.le-palmarium.com

Biarritz Auberge de Jeunesse

This hostel is close to the water, about 1 km west of the railway station. Guests stay in dorms or smaller rooms. The hostel also hosts events, such as the popular surfing lessons.

Address: 8, rue Chiquito de Cambo
Phone: +33 559 417 600
Internet: www.fuaj.org

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

The airport in Biarritz is only a few miles from the city. It also serves nearby Anglet and Bayonne. The airport coach gets you in to the city, additional information available at:

Internet: www.biarritz.aeroport.fr

Public Transport

The STAB operates Biarritz's local transport system. Tickets are valid for one hour.

Internet: www.chronoplus.eu

Post

Biarritz's main post office

Address: 17 Rue de la poste
Phone: +33 559 224 112

Pharmacy

Pharmacies have alternating open hours during nights and weekends. Addresses are posted at the pharmacies, in the Sud-Ouest newspaper, and at the visitor information bureau.

Dentist

Please ask at your hotel or hostel for more information about local dentists.

Telephone

Country code :+33, Area code: 559

Electricity

230V, 50Hz



A

B

C

D

1

Ocean Atlantique

2

Le Rocher de la Vierge

Musée Asiatique

Port des Pêcheurs

Pl. Sainte Eugénie

Grande Plage

Plage Miramar

Pointe St-Martin

Phare

Avenue Général Mac Croskey

3

Le Rocher de la Vierge

Cote des Basques

Musée Historique de Biarritz

Musée de la Mer

Boulevard du Général de Gaulle

Avenue de la Marne

Avenue de Verdun

Avenue de l'Impératrice

Avenue d'Etienne

4

R. des Falaises

Avenue de la Milady

Avenue de Miquon

Avenue du Président J.F. Kennedy

Avenue Grammont

B.I. Augusta

Boulevard de Cascais

Boulevard de Tamaris

Boulevard de la République

Boulevard de la République

0 250 m

Allée des Magnolias	C4	Avenue Louis Barthou	B2 B3	Rue de Parme	D3 D4
Allée Winston Churchill	B2 C2	Avenue Maréchal Joffre	B3 B4	Rue del la Reine Victoria	C2
Allées des Ormeaux	C4	Avenue Pasteur	C4	Rue des Falaises Beurivage	A4
Av. de la République	B3 B4	Avenue Reine Nathalie	C2 D2	Rue des Jardins	C2 D2
Av. Notre Dame	A4	Avenue Voltaire	C4	Rue du 8 Mai 1945	D2
Av. Reine du Lac	D2	Aveune Maurice Trubert	D2	Rue du Cimetière	C4
Av. Serrano	D2 D3	Bl. Augusta	D3	Rue du Reptou	C4
Avenue Alphonse XII	C1	Bl. du B.A.B	D2 D3	Rue d'Alcèdo	C2 D2
Avenue Beurivage	A3 A4	Boulevard de Cascais	D3	Rue d'Alsace	C2
Avenue Cam d'André	D4	Boulevard de Senillosa	D2	Rue d'Espagne	A3 A4 B4
Avenue Carnot	B3	Boulevard du Général de Gaulle	B2	Rue Gambetta	A3 B3
Avenue Charles Floquet	C3	Boulevard du Prince de Galles	A3	Rue Gardague	B2 B3
Avenue de la Marne	B2 C2 D2 D3	Boulevard Sainte Madeleine	D1 D2	Rue Guy Petit	B3 C3
Avenue de la Milady	A4	Bretelle Sabaou	C3 D4	Rue Harispe	A4 B4
Avenue de Londres	A3 B3	Perspective de la Côte des Basques	A3	Rue Henri IV	B4
Avenue de l'Impératrice	C1 C2	Porte de Biarritz	C3	Rue Hoche	C3 C4
Avenue de Migron	C4	R. Bordolo	C3	Rue J. Bert	B3
Avenue de Moulym	C3 D3	R. des Halles	B3	Rue Jean Jaures	B3
Avenue de Pioche	B4	R. Dugesclin	C1 C2	Rue Jeanne d'Arc	B3
Avenue de Surprise	C4 D4	R. Lasvignotte	C2	Rue Jules Ferry	C3
Avenue de Ségure	C3 C4	Rue A. Lamandé	C2 C3	Rue Labordotte	A4 B4
Avenue de Tamames	D3 D4	Rue Alcide Augey	A3 B3	Rue Lahontine	D3
Avenue de Verdun	B3 C3 D3	Rue Ambroise Paré	C3	Rue Lalanne	C2
Avenue du Golf	C2 D1	Rue Beauséjour	C3	Rue Larivière	C3
Avenue du Jardin Public	B3	Rue Bon Air	C3	Rue Larriou	B4
Avenue du Lac Marion	C4	Rue Constantine	C2 C3	Rue Lavigerie	C2
Avenue du Maréchal Foch	B3	Rue de Frias	C2 C3	Rue Loeb	D3
Avenue du Maréchal Juin	D4	Rue de Hautin	B3 C3	Rue Lousteau	A3 B3
Avenue du Président J.F. Kennedy	B4 C4	Rue de la Barthe	D4	Rue Manuel Jaudel	C3
Avenue du Sabaou	C4 D4	Rue de la Bergerie	C2	Rue Marie Duprat	B4
Avenue d'Anglet	D2	Rue de la Pioche	B4	Rue Paul Bert	A3 B3
Avenue d'Etienne	C2 D2	Rue de la Pioche	B3	Rue Pringle	C3
Avenue Edouard VII	B2 B3	Rue de la Poste	B4	Rue Pétricot	B4
Avenue Félix Moureu	D2	Rue de Larrepunte	D2	Rue Sarassate	C2
Avenue Grammont	C4	Rue de l'Estagnas	B4	Rue St-Martin	B4 C4
Avenue Général Mac Croskey	C1 D1	Rue de l'Océan	C2	Rue Tastoua	C2
Avenue Kléber	D3 D4	Rue de l'Université	A4	Rue Victor Hugo	B3
Avenue Lahouze	C3 D3	Rue de Madrid	A3 B3	Venelle des Frères	B3
		Rue de Mazagran	B4		
		Rue de Minjongo			