



Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Basque: Innovation by Culture



Visitors to the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival can explore the Basque Country's unique language and distinct cultural heritage.

This year the Folklife Festival celebrates resilient communities around the world. Discover how the [Basque Country](#) sustains culture, drawing on traditions to innovate in a rapidly changing world. Learn renowned cooking techniques and phrases in the Euskara language. Experience *bertsolaritza* poetry competitions and stone-lifting matches. Drink a refreshing glass of cider or rioja wine and meet master artisans.

The Basque Country is a region that spans borders. Located in northern Spain and southwestern France, straddling the Pyrenees Mountains, its spirit can be felt on the sheep-grazed mountains of Idaho, in fishing communities from Scotland to Newfoundland, and in towns across Mexico and Argentina. From an early period, Basques looked beyond their borders for resources and inspiration, a trait that keeps them on the cutting edge of global economic and sustainability movements. However, their commitment to language and cultural preservation may be the key to their success. To present this intricate tension, musicians, dancers, boat makers, cooks, and other experts from the Basque Country and diaspora communities will share their unique traditions and perspectives as part of the *Basque: Innovation by Culture* program.

HERITAGE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wed, June 29–
Sun, July 10, 2016

Venue

The National Mall, between Fourth and Seventh streets, adjacent to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Air and Space

[View map](#)

Admission

Free. From Wednesday, June 29, through Monday, July 4, and Thursday, July 7, through Sunday, July 10. Hours are from 11 am to 5 pm each day, with special evening events beginning at 6:30 pm.

More information

[Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#)

Credits

The Folklife Festival is produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, presented in partnership with the National Park Service. Photo courtesy of Basquetour.