

Publication: Marie Claire  
 Issue: August 2009



## TRAVEL

### BIARRITZ

**WHY GO?** Just 11 miles from the border with Spain, this lively French seaside resort is an enjoyable mix of sandy beaches, Basque culture and belle époque architecture. Attracting both jet-setters and surfers, Biarritz is a top spot for thalassotherapy (seawater-based) spa treatments and has good shopping and nightlife, not to mention amazing local oysters, fine wines and high quality chocolate.

**STAY AT...** The Hôtel du Palais, a grand seafront establishment built in 1903 on the site of the summer residence of Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie. With opulent rooms, decorous gardens, a Michelin-starred restaurant and an excellent spa, it's great for a treat. A double room costs from £391 in August. Book with Leading Hotels of the World (lhw.com).

**OUR TIPS** Hit the surf - Biarritz has world-class waves; go for an invigorating stroll along the two miles of seafront; browse the stalls in the market in rue des Halles to stock up on seafood, charcuterie and fruit for a beach picnic; enjoy a sunset cocktail at Côte 57 on the Plage de la Côte des Basques; bring home some delicious cheeses, espadrilles and brightly striped Basque linens.

**BOOK IT** EasyJet (easyjet.com) flies to Biarritz from Gatwick and Bristol, and Ryanair (ryanair.com) from Stansted and Birmingham.

**MORE INFO** Buy *City Spots: Biarritz* (£6.99, Thomas Cook) or visit [biarritz.fr](http://biarritz.fr) ■



#### BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Clockwise from above: Biarritz has two miles of sandy beaches; the Hôtel du Palais is a classic; sea views from the hotel's beachfront restaurant

WORDS BY ELISE FIELD. PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRAVEL LOUNGE IMAGES. STILL LIVES BY PSC PHOTOGRAPHY

## THE PERFECT CITY BREAK KIT

Keep it simple. A few well-chosen pieces are all you'll need



Summers in Europe are unpredictable so be sure to pack for blue skies and cloudy days

