

Les

Historiques de Bidache

Un festival d'Histoire vivante



Quand les siècles se rencontrent

PRESS KIT | 2026 EDITION

Les Historiques de Bidache | October 3 & 4, 2026

A living history festival | Château de Gramont, Bidache

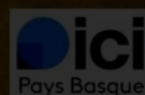
NOCTURNE

SAMEDI

10H - 22H30

DIMANCHE

10H - 17H



OPENING

A word from the president



Les Historiques de Bidache were born of a simple conviction: we protect best what we know, and we pass on best what we bring to life.

Since 2020, we have chosen **free access, high standards and sharing**. The festival has grown, and so has its audience, but our course has not changed.

In 2026, a new chapter begins: **more than 200 reenactors and contributors**, a line-up approaching twenty groups and associations, a night-time opening, new periods, and new ties with universities, media, tourism, heritage and public institutions.

This growth must serve one single ambition: to make the Château de Gramont a place where **History is encountered, questioned and shared**.

Axel Martinez

President of Clan Solskinnir

Organizer of Les Historiques de Bidache



Two days to bring nearly 2,000 years of History to life



A LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL AT THE FOOT OF THE CHÂTEAU DE GRAMONT

200+

REENACTORS
AND CONTRIBUTORS

17

TROUPES ALREADY
ANNOUNCED

7,185

VISITORS
IN 2024

FREE

FREE ENTRY
PAY WHAT YOU WISH

On October 3 and 4, 2026, Bidache will once again become a vast stage for living history: encampments, crafts, combat, interpretation, talks, civilian and military life will follow one another from Antiquity to the Second World War.

2 days

OF FESTIVAL AND INTERPRETATION

10,000 m²

OF CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2025

10:30 pm

SATURDAY NIGHT OPENING - NEW IN 2026

From a local idea to a regional event

The festival was built step by step. Born from free activities on the château esplanade, it has grown into a structured cultural event without losing its DNA: **accessibility, historical rigor, conviviality and heritage roots.**



RECOGNITION 2026

Departmental, then regional winner of the “La Fête Continue” competition.

A PIVOTAL EDITION

In 2025, attendance held up despite very poor weather, confirming the event's firm roots.

2026: a new chapter, without changing course.



“In Bidache, History is not detached from its setting: it speaks with a place.”

Bigger, but above all better supported

The change of scale is no longer measured only by the number of reenactors. It can also be seen in the partners who now choose to join the adventure.

170

contributors in 2025

200+

reenactors and contributors announced for 2026

1st

edition with a night-time opening until 10:30 pm

Region

Nouvelle-Aquitaine joins the edition's official supporters



Around the project: a wider and stronger network

KNOWLEDGE

UNIVERSITÉ DE PAU ET DES PAYS DE L'ADOUR

Talks, scientific input and links with research strengthen interpretation for the general public.

MEDIA

ICI PAYS BASQUE - RADIO FRANCE

The media partnership opens up new opportunities for interviews, reports and visibility ahead of the weekend.

TOURISM

OFFICE DE TOURISME PAYS BASQUE

Promotes Bidache and the château; its Adour office notably kept the monument open continuously in 2025.

HERITAGE

FONDATION DU PATRIMOINE

A partnership around promoting and preserving the château, putting the monument back at the heart of the story.

INSTITUTIONS

BIDACHE | CAPB | DEPARTMENT | REGION

Public partners and supporters at several levels are backing the event's growth.

ON THE GROUND

ASSOCIATIONS | ARTISANS | VOLUNTEERS | LOCAL PLAYERS

The festival also relies on a real network of reenactors, artisans, caterers, volunteers and local partners.

In 2026, the ambition is no longer just to do more: it is to do better, by bringing more expertise together around the project.

The 2026 highlights that set the tone



NIGHT OPENING

The festival runs until **10:30 pm** on Saturday, with a new atmosphere around the château and the food areas.

WOMEN & HISTORY

An all-female 2026 poster and an exhibition dedicated to the **women of the Basque Country** with the Bask'Elles.

1914-1945 EXPANDED

1916 aviation, the Great War, Indochina, jeeps and the Second World War: the 20th-century area gains depth.



NEW FRANCE

Fort Rainbow, an Abenaki presence and the **Seven Years' War** open the festival to a rarely told transatlantic story.

MUSKETEERS & 17TH CENTURY

Two takes on the musketeer, civilian life and the military world strengthen the Grand Siècle.

19TH CENTURY

Wet collodion photography and the American Civil War add new skills, objects and stories to the tour.

Much more than encampments

In 2026, the scope of the project is not measured by the number of troupes alone. The program brings together living history, research, heritage, exhibitions, historical photography, crafts and an immersive experience.



TALKS & RESEARCH

The work undertaken with **UPPA** brings academics, reenactors and the general public together around talks and well-documented content.

BASQUE COUNTRY WOMEN

The exhibition created with the **Bask'Elles** puts center stage women's lives often left out of the great historical narratives.

COLLODION PHOTOGRAPHY

The 19th-century wet photographic process becomes a demonstration in its own right: technique, the history of the image and portraiture meet.

CRAFTS & KNOW-HOW

Materials, tools and gestures are shown in action. Interpretation comes as much through words as through hands-on experience and the senses.



THE CHÂTEAU AT THE CORE

Discovering the monument remains inseparable from the weekend, building on the openings and tours set up with the Office de Tourisme.

NIGHT OPENING & SITE LIFE

The first night opening, the immersive tavern and food service until 10:30 pm take the experience further without sacrificing historical consistency.

35

ONE-OFF ACTIVITIES IN 2025

13

HISTORICAL ENCAMPMENTS IN 2025

8

ARTISAN STALLS IN 2025

10,000 m²

OF ESPLANADE IN USE

2026 builds further on this base. Visitors no longer just watch demonstrations: they can move from a talk to a camp, from an exhibition to a workshop, then from a craft gesture to monumental heritage.

WHEN THE CENTURIES MEET

A journey from Antiquity to the 20th century

The tour is designed as a progression. Each camp, demonstration or scene of daily life helps visitors place an era, understand it and compare it with others.



ANTIQUITY | MIDDLE AGES | 16th-17th C. | 18th C. | EMPIRE | 19th C. | 1914-1918 | 1939-1945

HUMAN-SCALE CAMPS

The public steps into each world, observing equipment, meals, gestures and daily life.

SKILLS IN ACTION

Crafts, medicine, historical photography, weaponry and techniques become gateways to past societies.

HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

Combat, demonstrations and interpretation are not kept apart: the show always serves understanding.

Eight major periods. One common thread: understanding what you are looking at.



Bringing History to life, not dressing it up

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LES HISTORIQUES

The festival is organized by reenactors. That changes the way we invite, stage and pass on knowledge. Costumes, objects, gestures and camps are not there just to “look pretty”: they serve to explain an era.



RIGOR

Costumes, objects, installations and practices remain consistent with the period presented.



TRANSMISSION

The public asks questions, observes, compares and learns alongside the contributors.



IMMERSION

The modern world fades away as much as possible, making room for gestures, materials and meaning.



ACCESSIBILITY

Free entry keeps culture and heritage accessible to everyone.

What sets Bidache apart: a spectacular event, yet never disconnected from knowledge.

Talks, interpretation and the academic world reinforce these standards in 2026: living history becomes a tool for popular science, just like an exhibition or a lecture, but with the power of embodiment.

See

objects, materials and equipment placed back in their context.

Understand

the choices, constraints and gestures of a society through demonstration.

Ask

reenactors, artisans, teachers and historians directly.



The château is not a
backdrop.
It is one of the reasons the project exists.

HERITAGE, CULTURE, TOURISM

Les Historiques help people rediscover the **Château de Gramont** and, more broadly, showcase the Pays de Bidache. In 2025, thanks to the château opening over the weekend, **at least one festival visitor in two** also discovered the monument.

The festival builds a real bridge between memory, heritage, tourism and transmission.

I / 2

AT LEAST
ALSO VISIT
THE CHÂTEAU

AN OUTSIDE VIEW THAT MATTERS

Les Historiques are now cited in materials promoting the château, notably in connection with the Fondation du patrimoine and the Fondation AXA. A recognition of their role in the monument's visibility and visitor numbers.

1,850

CHÂTEAU ADMISSIONS ON SUNDAY 2025

I / 2

AT LEAST HALF OF FESTIVAL VISITORS
ALSO DISCOVER THE MONUMENT

A territory

BIDACHE, THE CHÂTEAU, SHOPS,
ACCOMMODATION AND TOURISM PLAYERS
SET IN MOTION

A loyal audience, already largely regional

2,000

VISITORS IN 2023

7,185

VISITORS IN 2024

4,111

IN 2025 DESPITE
THE WEATHER



30%

LANDES

25%

PAYS DE BIDACHE

19%

BAB - BASQUE COAST

16%

INLAND BASQUE COUNTRY &
BÉARN

Geographic origin based on the 192 questionnaires from 2025; visitors from outside the department add to these areas.

99.5%

SAY THEY WILL COME BACK

9.57/10

SETTING & WELCOME

9.15/10

SERVICES & FACILITIES

9.11/10

MAP & PROGRAM

The 2025 weather served as a real-life test: before it deteriorated, Saturday attendance was on a par with 2024. Despite the rain, the festival maintained strong attendance and an **exceptional level of satisfaction**.

Six angles, six stories to tell



01

A CHANGE OF SCALE

200+ contributors, a new night opening and new partners: how a volunteer project becomes a regional cultural event.

02

WOMEN IN HISTORY

The 2026 poster, female figures and an exhibition dedicated to the women of the Basque Country.

03

THE CHÂTEAU REVIVED

The festival as a gateway to the heritage of Gramont and the appeal of Bidache.

04

LIVING HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

Objects, costumes, know-how and gestures to share knowledge beyond the display case.

05

FROM LOCAL TO TRANSATLANTIC

New France, the Abenaki, the Seven Years' War and the American Civil War: Bidache opens the story to other horizons.

06

UNIVERSITY + REENACTMENT

UPPA and the talks bring together research, science outreach and the general public.

PRESS AVAILABILITY

Interviews available with the organizers, reenactors, heads of the historical areas and, subject to availability, university, tourism, heritage and institutional partners. Media can also request HD photographs and time slots suited to filming.

Ready-to-use formats

TV / VIDEO

Combat, smoke, vehicles, craft skills, camps and the château: highly recognizable visual sequences.

RADIO / PODCAST

Organizers, academics and reenactors available to talk about the project, the periods and what's new.

PRESS / WEB

Figures, heritage, women in history, free access, partnerships and local development.

Les Historiques de Bidache

October 3 & 4, 2026

Château de Gramont
64520 Bidache

OPENING HOURS

Saturday: 10 am - 10:30 pm

Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: free | pay what you wish

IN BRIEF

More than 200 reenactors and contributors | 17 troupes already announced and a program nearing twenty groups | Antiquity to the 20th century | Saturday night opening.

PRESS CONTACT

Axel Martinez

President of Clan Solskirnir

Organizer of Les Historiques de Bidache

solskirnir@gmail.com

VISUALS & INTERVIEWS

HD photographs available for the media. Interviews and filming possible on request.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook / Instagram: **Les Historiques de Bidache**



AROUND THE 2026 EDITION

A network across several levels

Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour
talks, research and science outreach

ICI Pays Basque - Radio France
media partner

Office de Tourisme Pays Basque
promotion of Bidache and showcasing of the château

Fondation du patrimoine
promotion and preservation of the monument

Bidache | CAPB | Department | Region
institutional supporters and partners

When the centuries meet.