

GRAND ASSEMBLY G.:L.:S.:E.: 2026

Or.: of Vitoria-Gasteiz

June 11-14



R.: L.: Europe No.

110

Or.: of Vitoria-Gasteiz



REGISTRATION FORM

S.G.R.

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WELCOME MESSAGE



The Grand Symbolic Lodge of Spain is convening the Grand Assembly 2026 in the esteemed city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, from June 11 to 14, 2026, to partake in several days of reflection, dialogue, and Masonic fraternity, within a setting rich in history and tranquility.

In keeping with the tradition of our Great Assemblies, we will conduct ritual works, institutional meetings, and cultural activities designed to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and reaffirm our commitment to the symbolic principles that underpin our organization.

During this period, Vitoria-Gasteiz will serve as the venue for the Obedience, a conducive environment for sharing, reinforcing unity, and collaboratively strategizing the future of our Order.

PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

In conjunction with the celebration of the Grand Assembly, and without detracting from the Masonic Works that the Permanent Grand Commission and the Symbolic Grand Council may wisely determine, a proposal for cultural and social activities has been developed for Brothers and their companions.

These activities will occur in the cities of Bilbao, San Sebastián, Pamplona, and Vitoria-Gasteiz, presenting a varied program that enables participants to explore the historical, cultural, and symbolic heritage of the region.

The activities outlined herein are integral to the official program of the Great Assembly and have been designed as venues for interaction, coexistence, and mutual enrichment.

In the Or.° of Vitoria-Gasteiz,
March 12, 2026 e.°v.°

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VITORIA-GASTEIZ: ORIGINS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The city of Vitoria was established in 1181 by King Sancho VI of Navarre on the hill that contained the original settlement of Gasteiz. From that point forward, it emerged as a strategic site and fortified urban center.

In the 13th century, it evolved into a fortified town characterized by notable commercial and defensive advancements. In 1431, King John II of Castile conferred upon it the designation of city, acknowledging its political and economic significance. Subsequently, it was bestowed with the title "very noble and very loyal," a phrase that encapsulates its historical contribution to the territorial equilibrium of the Crown.

On October 21, 2010, Vitoria-Gasteiz was designated by the European Commission as the European Green Capital for 2012, a distinction that acknowledges its sustainable urban planning model and commitment to environmental stewardship.



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GRAND ASSEMBLY G..L..S..E.. 2026

Or.. of Vitoria-Gasteiz June 11-14

GENERAL PROGRAM

Thursday, June 11

OPENING AND RECEPTION



- Arrival of the Sovereign Grand Master and the Very Respectable Grand General Commanders of the Grand Council of Princes
- Public lecture by our Sovereign Grand Master, Q.H. Brenno Ambrosini

Friday, June 12

WORKS AND MEETINGS

- Works of G.L.S.E.
- Cultural engagements
- Fraternal exchange
- Fraternal Agape

Saturday, June 13

GRAND ASSEMBLY

- Credentials check
- Ceremonial commencement
- Assessments and balloting
- Fraternal Cocktail Reception and Gala Dinner

Sunday, June 14

CLOSING

- Reception of Delegations
- Reading of Masonic papers
- Conclusions
- Closing ceremony



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ACTIVITIES

Thursday, June 11

FRATERNAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Arrival of the S.:G.:M.: and the esteemed RR.:GG.:CC.: members of the G.:C.:P.:

6:30 p.m. Public lecture by our our Sovereign Grand Master, R.:H.: Brenno Ambrosini at the Casa de Cultura Ignacio Aldecoa, P.O. de la Florida, 9 - Or.: de Vitoria-Gasteiz.



Friday, June 12

PROCEEDINGS OF THE G.:C.:P.: AND G.:C.:S.:



6:00 PM Grand Council of Sovereigns Meeting

8:00 PM Conference-Colloquium. (pending confirmation)

9:30 PM Fraternal Agape. Grand Hotel Lakua

Saturday, June 13

WORK OF THE GRAND ASSEMBLY



09:00 h Distribution of credentials in the lobby of the Gran Hotel Lakua.

10:00 h Opening of the Grand Assembly and commencement of proceedings

2:30 p.m. Fraternal Cocktail at the Gran Hotel Lakua.

16:30 h Resumption of proceedings

6:30 p.m. Masonic Awards Ceremony.

19:00 h B.:G.:O.:

9:30 p.m. Gala Dinner at the "El Portalón" Restaurant

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Sunday, June 14

CLOSING AND FAREWELL



10:00 h Presentation of medals for 20 and 30 years of Masonic service

11:00 h Reception of international delegations

13:00 h Plate Assessment.

2:00 PM Formal conclusion of the Great Assembly.



CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND EXCURSIONS

Friday, June 12

1. VITORIA-GASTEIZ

Historical tour of the Medieval Quarter and a visit to the Santa María Cathedral.

Time: 12:00 PM. Meeting location: Virgen Blanca, adjacent to the Battle of Vitoria monument.

Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Guided tour of the historic town, whose origins trace back to the 12th century and which retains much of its original medieval layout, emphasizing its distinctive almond shape.

The tour encompasses a visit to the interior of the Cathedral of Santa María and its tower, referred to as the Old Cathedral, a 13th-century edifice that is part of a complex of structures constructed during various historical periods, with the cathedral being the most ancient. Its architecture served as inspiration for the Welsh author Ken Follett in his novel **World Without End**; a statue of him is located in the Plaza de las Burullerías, adjacent to the church. During the visit, you will also encounter notable buildings such as the Escoriaza-Esquivel Palace, erected in the mid-16th century and exemplifying Renaissance civil architecture. It served as the residence of Charles V's physician, reflecting the period in 1524 when the city became the epicenter of imperial power for over two months.

Vitoria functioned as a residence and logistical hub for Joseph Bonaparte following his retreat from Madrid, prior to his defeat and subsequent flight to France. He took up residence in the Montehermoso Palace, a Gothic-Renaissance edifice constructed in 1524, situated in the heart of the historic center. This era holds particular significance for our Order, as it was during these years that the first Masonic Lodge in Vitoria, "Les Amis Réunis de St. Joseph," was established on May 22, 1810.

Price: Cathedral of Santa María admission for adults €11

Pintxos in the Historic Quarter



Cathedral of Saint Mary (Old Cathedral), 13th century.



Statue of Ken Follett. Twenty-First Century (2008)



Escoriaza-Esquivel Palace. 16th century.



Montehermoso Palace. A Gothic-Renaissance structure from the 16th century (1524).

REUNION AND TOURISM

Saturday, June 13

IN THE MORNING

Explore: The essence of Vitoria-Gasteiz: Heritage, cuisine, and tradition.

Time: 11:30 AM

Meeting location: Tourist Office (Plaza Nueva, 1) Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

The tour commences at the iconic Plaza de la Virgen Blanca and Plaza Nueva. We will proceed along the Cuesta de San Francisco and through the renowned archways. Subsequently, we will ascend the tower of the Parish Church of San Vicente (exclusive access on this guided tour; it is the only itinerary in the city that includes this feature). The breathtaking views of the medieval city center will enable you to appreciate a monumental ensemble lauded by esteemed writers such as Victor Hugo and Eva García Sáez de Urturi. The tour continues with a visit to Plaza de la Brullería, and following our exploration of Plaza del Machete, we will savor pintxos at one of the city's most celebrated bars.

Considerations to bear in mind:

This tour is complimentary for children under the age of six.

However, pintxo tasting is not included for this age group.

The pintxos will remain consistent for the entire group unless an individual has a food allergy. Drinks can be selected individually from a variety of options, including young red wine, white wine, Txakoli, beer, cider, water, or soft drinks. Access to the San Vicente tower is not available for individuals with reduced mobility, as it is accessible only by stairs.

Minimum number of participants: 4 individuals.

Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Rate:

Individual: 25 € per person.

Children under six years of age: complimentary.

Includes:

- 2 pintxos and 1 beverage.
- Privileged access to the tower of the Church of San Vicente.



Tower of San Vicente



Plaza de la Virgen Blanca



Pintxos: a legacy of Basque cuisine

REUNION AND TOURISM

Saturday, June 13
IN THE AFTERNOON

Explore the city's most esteemed museums: The Playing Card Museum and the Lantern Museum.

Time: 4:00 PM

Meeting Location: Tourist Office (Plaza Nueva, 1)

Maximum Capacity: 20 individuals.

The visit is expected to last approximately two hours, as it involves transitioning from one location to another.

Minimum number of participants: 5 individuals.

Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Rate:

€8 per person. Children under 12 accompanied by an adult: Free.

Includes:

The contribution of €2 per individual to the Lantern Museum.



Bibat Museum



Fournier Museum



Lantern Museum



REUNION AND TOURISM

Sunday, June 14
IN THE MORNING

Visit: The origins of the Vitoria bourgeoisie's wealth: gambling, slavery, and trade.

Time: 11:00 AM (2 hours) **Meeting location:** Sculpture "The Walker" (Plaza del Arca) **Maximum capacity:** 20 individuals.

An engaging exploration of 19th-century Vitoria-Gasteiz, where, in addition to examining the city's growth and its principal artistic landmarks, we will investigate the enterprises of the bourgeoisie. Some were innovative and forward-thinking, while others, viewed through a contemporary lens, appear dubious and objectionable. The urban legends and anecdotes that arose will enable you to appreciate this visit from the viewpoint of those who transformed Vitoria into the city it is today.

The tour encompasses a visit to the Álava Museum of Fine Arts to view a portion of its collection. The excursion will conclude in the city center.

Minimum number of participants: 5 individuals.

Maximum number of participants: 24 individuals.

Rate:

Individual: 6 € per person.

Children under 12 years of age accompanied by an adult: complimentary.

Includes:

- Admission to the Museum of Fine Arts of Álava.



The Wanderer (Juan José Eguizabal)



Museum of Fine Arts of Álava



REUNION AND TOURISM

2. PAMPLONA

Friday, June 12

11:00 h Vitoria-Gasteiz Bus Terminal

Transport cost: €20

Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Pamplona: boundary, remembrance, and contemporary relevance

Tour of the Historic Quarter of Pamplona, a city of Roman origin—ancient Pompaelo—whose present configuration is the result of a complex interplay of medieval and modern influences. The visit will trace the path known as the “Hemingway Pamplona,” associated with the American author Ernest Hemingway's time in the city during the 1920s. His novel *The Sun Also Rises* (Fiesta) showcased Pamplona and its San Fermín festivities on a global scale, transforming the city into a literary backdrop for contemplation on identity, tradition, and modernity.

Café Iruña (1888)

A renowned gathering spot for intellectuals and dialogue, where the legacy of Hemingway endures. A venue for urban sociability and cultural discourse.

Castle Square

The city's historic nerve center has been intertwined with political, commercial, and social life since the Middle Ages. It has served as the backdrop for proclamations, celebrations, and significant events in Navarre's history.

Route of the San Fermín Running of the Bulls

Urban layout that every July hosts one of the most renowned traditions in Europe.

Food: Pintxos in the Historic Quarter. Conclusion of the day.

Return to Vitoria-Gasteiz at 6:30 p.m. by regular bus



Statue of Hemingway at Café Iruña.



Castle Square



Statue of Saint Fermín



A journey through Hemingway's Pamplona

REUNION AND TOURISM

Friday, June 12

3. SAN SEBASTIAN / DONOSTIA

11:15 a.m. Vitoria-Gasteiz Bus Terminal

Transport cost: €25 Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Memory, artistry, and historical awareness

Visit to the Aiete Palace (late 19th century), the summer residence of the monarchy and subsequently the site of notable political events in the 20th century. Within its walls, the Law for the Repression of Freemasonry and Communism, a pivotal legal instrument of the Franco regime's repressive apparatus, was enacted in 1940.

Aiete Gardens – Remembrance of Illumination

In the gardens of the Palace stands the sculpture “Memory of a Light,” created by José Miguel Utande. This work pays tribute to the Freemasons who faced persecution during the Franco dictatorship, with particular emphasis on the members of the Respectable Lodge Altuna n° 15.

Perspective of the Town Hall

Constructed in 1887, the former Grand Casino exemplifies the era of bourgeois splendor in the city.

The Comb of the Wind

Sculptural ensemble by Eduardo Chillida (1977), situated at the western end of La Concha Bay. This piece interacts with the sea, the wind, and the stone, inviting a symbolic interpretation of boundaries, substance, and time.

Food: Pintxos in the Historic Quarter. Conclusion of the day. Return journey to Vitoria-Gasteiz at 8:30 p.m. by regular bus



Aiete Palace



Memory of Light



View of the Town Hall, San Sebastián



The Comb of the Wind, Eduardo Chillida

REUNION AND TOURISM

4. BILBAO

Friday, June 12

11:30 a.m. Vitoria-Gasteiz Bus Terminal

Transport cost: €25 Maximum capacity: 20 individuals.

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (1997)

Visit the Guggenheim Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry, which opened in 1997 and has emerged as a symbol of the city's cultural and economic revitalization. The building, enveloped in titanium and envisioned as a dynamic and organic form, signifies Bilbao's transformation from its industrial heritage to a contemporary global cultural identity.

The Seven Streets - Historic District

A tour of the original settlement of the town, founded in 1300 by Diego López de Haro. The "Seven Streets" represent the historical core of Bilbao and maintain the medieval layout that catalyzed the city's commercial growth.

The estuary and industrialization.

A route along the Bilbao Estuary to comprehend the significant role that the steel and shipbuilding industries played between the 19th and 20th centuries. The estuary served as a focal point for trade, economic expansion, and social progress, establishing Bilbao as one of the principal industrial centers of the Iberian Peninsula.

Suspension Bridge (Bizkaia Bridge, 1893)

Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2006, the Bizkaia Bridge stands as the world's first all-metal transporter bridge. A testament to engineering and modernity, it embodies the industrial heritage and technical prowess that have defined the character of the region.

Food: pintxos in the Ledesma and Diputación districts.

Conclusion of the day.

I will return to Vitoria-Gasteiz at 7:55 PM via a regular bus.



Guggenheim Museum



7 Streets, Bilbao



Suspension bridge



LOGISTICS



Main Hall

Friday 12: afternoon session

G.:C.:S.:



Saturday, the 13th: full day

Sunday, the 14th: half day until 2:00 PM

Grand Assembly G.:L.:S.:E.:

The Grand Assembly convenes in a main hall specifically designed for this purpose,
under the following conditions:

Capacity: Capacity: 160–175 attendees

Presidential table designated for the members and speakers.

Audiovisual media:

Three microphones are positioned on the presidential table.

Two or three wireless microphones strategically placed throughout the room for the presentations.

CONFERENCE ROOMS

MAIN ROOM (FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 1/2 DAY) MAIN ROOM (SATURDAY, FULL DAY + SUNDAY,
1/2 DAY)

The room is equipped with a screen and a video projector.

ACCOMMODATION



Location



www.granhotelakua.com/



EVENT DATES

The Great Assembly will take place on June 12, 13, and



Accommodation arrangements

Eighty rooms have been secured at the hotel, with check-in scheduled for Thursday, June 11th, and check-out on Sunday, June 14th, to accommodate participants and delegations attending the Grand Assembly.

Unconfirmed room reservations will be released on 10 May

BUDGET (VAT INCLUDED) ACCOMMODATIONS

Price per room per night Double room for single occupancy, bed and breakfast ... €99.00
Double room, bed and breakfast €110.00

FRATERNAL BANQUET

Friday, June 12

21:30 h

Fraternal Agape at the Gran Hotel Lakua

Appetizers for sharing:

Selection of Iberian cured meats from Guijuelo and Cecina de León.

Croquette tasting:

(pork chop, squid in its ink, Iberian ham, scarlet prawns)

Main dish:

Cod confit at a low temperature.

Dessert:

Chocolate cake accompanied by vanilla ice cream.

Drinks:

Mineral water, red wine (D.O. Rioja Alavesa), coffee

Price: €42.00 · VAT included



FRATERNAL BANQUET

Saturday, June 13

14:30 h

Fraternal Cocktail at the Gran Hotel Lakua

COLD APPETIZERS:

Cantabrian anchovy pintxo with roasted peppers

Roquefort and walnut canapés

Smoked salmon canapés

Foie gras canapés

HOT APPETIZERS:

Pintxo of Potato Omelette Tacos, Tasting of Mini Croquettes, Orly Fish Fillets, Cod Fritters,
Selection of miniature pastries from our bakery. Price: €35.00 (VAT included)



Maximum capacity: 150 individuals.

Saturday, June 13

21:30 h

GALA DINNER AT THE "EL PORTALÓN" RESTAURANT
GASTEIZ MENU

STARTERS

Iberian ham served with crystal bread, Portalón croquettes, puff pastry filled with prawns and crispy cod, and a tomato salad featuring a base of pickled northern bonito tataki.

SECOND COURSE

Select from:

Squid in its ink accompanied by white rice. Grilled entrecôte served with baby potatoes and piquillo peppers.

DESSERT

Ramonísimo (natural vanilla ice cream infused with coffee, liqueur, cream, and ground almonds) Rioja Alavesa Verdejo R.O. Rueda aged wine Coffee or herbal infusions

Price: €55.00 · VAT included

El Portalón
+SIGLO XV+



Cancellation Policy

The following outlines the cancellation policy for the various events and activities scheduled for the annual General Assembly of the Grand Symbolic Lodge of Spain, to be held in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

TOURISM AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENTS

Tourist and cultural activities may be canceled until May 10, 2026. Following this date, no refunds will be provided, as all slots will be closed and the activities will be allocated to the respective suppliers.

ASSEMBLY HOTEL

Reservations at the Assembly's official hotel may be cancelled until May 4, 2026. After this date, the reservation fee will be non-refundable.

MEALS, RECEPTIONS, AND DINNERS OF THE PROGRAM

Meals, fraternal gatherings, and dinners included in the program may be canceled until May 15, 2026. After this date, refunds will no longer be available, as the catering services have already been secured.

IN THE EVENT OF NO ACTIVITIES BEING CONDUCTED

Certain activities, particularly cultural visits or excursions, will require a minimum number of participants. Should any of these activities be canceled due to inadequate participation, a full refund will be provided to those who registered for that activity.

REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS

In instances where a refund is owed by the G.:L.:S.:E.:, it will be processed during the week following the conclusion of the Assembly, upon request from the concerned parties and subsequent verification of adherence to the aforementioned conditions.