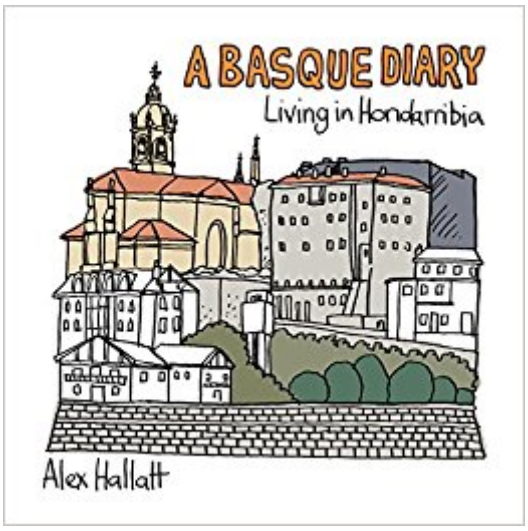
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A Basque Diary: Living In Hondarribia



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Synopsis

When cartoonist Alex Hallatt wanted to learn Spanish, she moved to the Basque Country. She thought she might stay a few months and ended up there for over two years, living in a small town near San Sebastian.This is the illustrated account of her years in Hondarribia. It is a useful resource for anyone planning on spending time in the Basque Country, detailing what to expect in each month and how to make the most of the geographical, culinary and cultural attractions on offer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alex Hallatt was born and brought up in the West Country in England. She emigrated to New Zealand, where she met her partner, Duncan and his dog, Billie. They spent a few years living in Australia, England & Spain and, at time of writing, are heading back to New Zealand, where Alex hopes to plant a garden, Duncan plans to do a lot more fishing and Billie plans to avoid having to go in the cargo hold of a plane ever again.

Just finished Alex Hallatt’s A BASQUE DIARY. I thoroughly enjoyed her tour through Hondarribia. A useful and thoughtful book, with gorgeous and charming illustrations!

A fascinating insight into life in this distinctive, characterful part of Europe. The illustrations are smashing and complement the text which takes the form of a diary from month to month giving interesting details about the festivals (there seem to be a lot!) and the culture, wine and foods of The Basque Country. The Basque language seems to be impenetrable but Alex and her boyfriend

Duncan had a good crack at learning enough to get by. Billie, their little Jack Russell certainly seems to have learned enough to ask for a sausage from the local butcher in their small town of Hondarribia. The book is a nice, square format with a chunky feel to it and high quality glossy cover. I imagine that travel books relating to this fairly unvisited part of Europe are few and far between so anyone visiting would benefit from reading it before they go for tips on the towns, villages, events and what to see - as well as it being beautifully illustrated and produced. Highly recommended.

Basque Diary is an enchanting journal of a two year cultural sabbatical in Northern Spain. It exquisitely chronicles the adventures of Alex, Billie and Duncan, as they immerse themselves in this rustic, unique regional gem. The Spanish northern provinces remain one of the most wild and pristine places in Europe, dramatically descending from snow-capped Alps, through meandering, gently rolling farmland hills, to the seaside, with immaculate sandy beaches accented by rocky coastal cliffs.Basque Diary focuses on food, wine, festivals, historic architecture, almost daily walking treks, punctuated with charming illustrations by Alex. Having personally explored southern France and Spain several times in the 1980s, Basque Diary revived my wonderful memories. Basque Diary is a must read for past and future visitors to Northern Spain.

Having just experienced my second holiday in Hondarribia, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was lovely to read about the familiar places and events I had experienced, but also gave me a greater understanding of the unique nature of the Basque people and countryside. AlexÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wonderful illustrations enhance her relaxed and honest storytelling style. It would be a wonderful resource for first time visitors to the region, and especially to those planning an extended stay.

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