

City & Experience



BILBAO
BIZKAIA
be basque

The art of living

Bilbao, urban
experiences

- A review of avant garde architecture
- Strolling and shopping in trend-setting streets
- Museums, galleries, landmarks... art wherever you look
- Nanogastronomy in the shape of pintxos

BILBAO BIZKAIA

City & Experience



When planning your stay in Bilbao Bizkaia, this card will save you time and money on public transport as well as tickets for museums, shows and discounts at restaurants, shops and other leisure activities. Get it at the Bilbao Tourist Information office or at:

www.bilbaobizkaia.com

Reserva **BILBAO
BIZKAIA** .eus

reservabilbaobizkaia.eus/es



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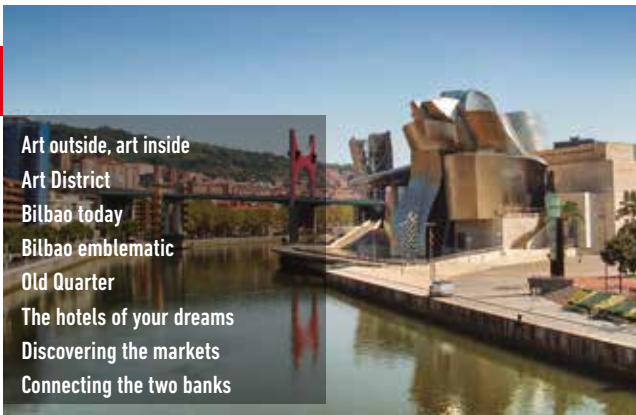
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You will be delighted

TO VISIT

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Art outside, art inside
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Bilbao today
Bilbao emblematic
Old Quarter
The hotels of your dreams
Discovering the markets
Connecting the two banks



You will be enchanted by

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Paseo de la Memoria
The Northern Pilgrim's Way
Walking in this city is a pleasure
A tour of the surroundings



You will be charmed

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Bilbao sounds good
Always on cue
Athletic!
Sport rooted in the Basque identity
The greatest week
Night and day
Trade fairs local and international



You will be thrilled

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One metre from the beach
Join in avant garde culture



You will love

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All design
Mmmm! Delicious



You will adore

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Signature cuisine, old style cooking,
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missing a thing

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be in the know



Bilbao looks up to the sky

4

Because it is so firmly rooted in tradition today's Bilbao can lift your eyes to the sky where you will discover a surprising contemporary air.

The city, that has discovered how to reinvent itself, combines enchanted nooks and crannies with a cosmopolitan atmosphere that you will love at first sight. Full of contrasts, you will find that **strolling** through its streets is a pleasure that extends to the numerous experiences it provides. It invites your friendship, **offering** emblematic sites and buildings that have forged its character and the key experiences behind its spectacular renovation. When it's time for something to **eat** you will discover why the numerous varieties of Basque cooking enjoy worldwide recognition. If you love sport or quality events put this on the agenda, because Bilbao has always been known for staging excellent events. The same goes for trade fairs: the important thing is to **be there**.



And if traditional experiences are your cup of tea, Bilbao provides the widest variety, to ensure that nobody **misses out** on its most authentic facets.

5

Finally, take something home with you apart from the wonderful memories. **Shopping** in Bilbao is a love affair with a range of shops from trendy international boutiques stores steeped in history, all reached by **convenient** pedestrian streets.

Pedro Arrupe footbridge and the Iberdrola Tower

ART
OUTSIDE

6

The “Guggenheim Bilbao” effect. That’s what they call the driving force that has brought the city to international prominence. Construction of the Museum has become the driving force behind the renovation to the point where is the symbol of this new reality. **Frank Gehry’s** masterpiece leaves nobody indifferent. Seen from the River, it resembles a ship offering homage to this great port city. Careful observation reveals that its panels reflect the changing patterns of light and shade. These are the keys to seeing it in a new light. Sitting in front of the museum, **Jeff Koons’** likeable Puppy has become the city’s pet.

www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus



Puppy

ART
INSIDE

It is said that there is not a single flat surface in the entire structure. The titanium cladding is so fine that it adapts perfectly to the curved lines of the composition.



Guggenheim Bilbao

A
GOOD
IDEA

The Bilbao collection shares its holdings with those of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The lack of a permanent collection represents a new concept of museum, one which presents us with a changing panorama encompassing numerous visions of art in the 20th century. The chance to share this rich heritage that embraces movements from the first avant garde movements to the present is a unique opportunity at a time when nobody dares to create a collection of modern masterpieces: Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, Vasily Kandinsky and Paul Klee among others of similar standing.

Guggenheim Bilbao

Fine Arts Museum

The quality of Bilbao's museums

Art matters in Bilbao and this fact is reflected in a series of world-class sites:

The **Fine Arts Museum** (Museo de Bellas Artes): a century-old institution with works by El Greco, Goya, Sorolla, Van Dyke, Cranach the Elder, Dürer, Gauguin and Picasso among others. This museum has one of the best collections in Spain with over 6,000 works of ancient, modern, contemporary and Basque art.

The **River of Bilbao Maritime Museum**, located on the site of the Euskalduna shipyards, disseminates the history, culture and identity of the men and women who lived and worked in the surrounding area and of the River itself, closely linked to the ancient maritime tradition. The Athletic Club barge, on which the team paraded its trophies along the River, is now a museum piece. It has been restored and donated to the Maritime Museum where it is on display.

Located on the premises of the old Euskalduna shipyards where it forms part of the museum over which it presides, **La Carola** is a gantry crane built in the 1950s and famous for being the most powerful hoisting device in Spain for many years (it could lift up to 60 tonnes). The name comes from a woman who crossed the River every day in a motor ferry to go to work and who was so beautiful that the workers downed tools to watch her every time she passed by.

River of Bilbao Maritime Museum



If you are interested in prehistory, the permanent displays of the **Archaeological Museum** takes you back to the beginnings of human occupation of these lands more than 100,000 years ago. The oldest remains are some small tools dated around 35,000 years ago found in a minor excavation in the **Arlampe Cave** in Lemoa.

A
GOOD
IDEA

Archaeological Museum

To explore the cultural identity of the Basque people there is nothing better than the **Basque Ethnological Museum**. It combines the intrinsic appeal of a building with a beautiful inner courtyard with a series of collections that take you through centuries of maritime and industrial history.

The **Museum of Art Reproductions** is also of great interest. It displays the masterpieces of classical art that served as models for students at the Trade School.

You can also visit the **Vintage and Classic Car Museum** at Galdames in the Torre Loizaga fortress, a magnificent range of 75 luxurious classic cars including forty-five Rolls Royces in what is the biggest private collection of the marque in the world.

The **Peace Museum** is inspired by the bombing of Gernika-Lumo and focusses on two themes: History and Peace, through questions that aim to provoke a reflection on human rights and the Basque conflict such as reference points from which to observe the world situation.

The Peace Museum (Gernika-Lumo)



Torre Loizaga (Galdames)



Athletic Club Museoa IN RED&WHITE

1400 square meters to show the history of a Club which is "more than a Club", the essence of our identity.

Hundred of objects, audiovisual productions and interactive systems to let you discover and know, whatever age you are, all the things that have filled the 100 years of history of the Athletic Club of Bilbao, and every corner, pitch, locker room...to feel like a real football player.

In Red&White, of course.

www.athletic-club.eus

ART DISTRICT

an international art explosion

Bilbao is a sanctuary of cultural pursuits. The initiative to make the city an indispensable stop on the international art circuit by harnessing its cultural and artistic appetite is apparent in the number sites and premises. Check it out. The cultural programmes of the galleries, shops, museums and art associations is wide and varied.

Windsor Kulturgintza Art Gallery

It comprises the area containing the most important art galleries, the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum, the Fine Arts Museum, the River of Bilbao Maritime Museum, the Azkuna Zentroa (Alhondiga Bilbao), the Contemporary Photography Centre, Sala Rekalde, Bilbao Arte, etc. Art and culture have made themselves at home in the Art District. Explore it. You're sure to find something that chimes in with your taste in art.

Michel Mejuto Art Gallery

Geographically, the golden mile runs from the Maritime Museum through the Albia Gardens, the Paseo Abandoibarra and Colón de Larreategui to Calle Ercilla. The **Bilbao Art District**, an initiative by the city's outstanding galleries, museums and agents to build upon the impetus provided by the advent of the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum. Art took over Bilbao at that moment and became the driving force behind the invasion of avant garde art that has placed Bilbao in the position it now occupies in international art circuits.

This approach originates in the idea that art in all its manifestations would be one of the main lines selected to lead the transformation of Bilbao into a benchmark 21st century city on the basis of its commitment to the creative arts and knowledge. Thus the city is in a strategic position to play a leading role in the sphere of international culture. The objective of strengthening the artistic identity of the Ensanche district through the promotion of art and culture has surpassed expectations. A complementary goal is to provide an outlet for current artistic activity, to attract prestigious domestic and international artists and to turn the streets into a showcase for promising young artists.

BILBAO TODAY

Cosmopolita: the term that describes the new city

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If the buildings from the early 20th century erected by the emerging middle classes provide the elegance, the new architecture makes **the Ensanche** district into an authentic showcase of avant garde architecture. The answer is self-evident: today's city is a compendium of the great names in contemporary world architecture, from bridges and metro stations to walkways and private and public buildings.



Fosterito

Did you know that the entrances to the Metro de Bilbao are called "fosteritos" as a tribute to their creator Sir Norman Foster?



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A
GOOD
IDEA

You will see 43 columns imagined by Philippe Stark and materialised by Lorenzo Baraldi. Each one has a different leitmotif: Chinese, medieval, neoclassical... diverse materials: marble, stone, ceramics, brick, wood, bronze... They take you on an exploration of the history of Mankind.

www.azkunazentroa.eus

Azkuna Zentroa (Alhóndiga Bilbao)



Plaza Bizkaia

Take a look at the list of top contemporary architects. You will find that many are represented here: **Moneo and Siza** design and engineer the Bilbao Metro. **César Pelli** erects the 165 metres of his smart Iberdrola Towers, **Norman Foster** also left his mark on the cutting edge metro, **Frank Gehry** lets his imagination loose on the spectacular Guggenheim Bilbao, **Philippe Starck** reinvents the Azkuna Zentroa (Alhondiga Bilbao), **Javier Mariscal** shapes the Hotel Dómine, **Isozaki** erects his Twin Towers, **Robert Stern** and Pelli design the Abandoibarra mall, **Federico Soriano** and **Dolores Palacios** breathe life into the Euskalduna Conference Centre and the Plaza Bizkaia building, **Alvaro Siza** brings the Paraninfo of the University of Basque Country to life, **Robert Krier** and **Marc Breitman** surprise with the eclectic Artklass...



Artklass

BILBAO IN THE WORLD ARCHITECTURAL CATALOGUE

Azkuna Zentroa (Alhondiga Bilbao) by Ricardo Bastida
renovated by Philippe Starck

Guggenheim Bilbao Museum. Architect: Frank O. Gehry

Euskalduna Conference Centre and Plaza Bizkaia
Building by Federico Soriano and Dolores Palacios

Metro Bilbao by Norman Foster

"La Paloma" at the Bilbao International Airport and
Zubizuri Bridge by Santiago Calatrava

Artklass building by Robert Krier and Marc Breitman



Osakidetza

Torre Iberdrola by César Pelli

Torres Isozaki by Arata Isozaki

Plaza Euskadi by Diana Balmori

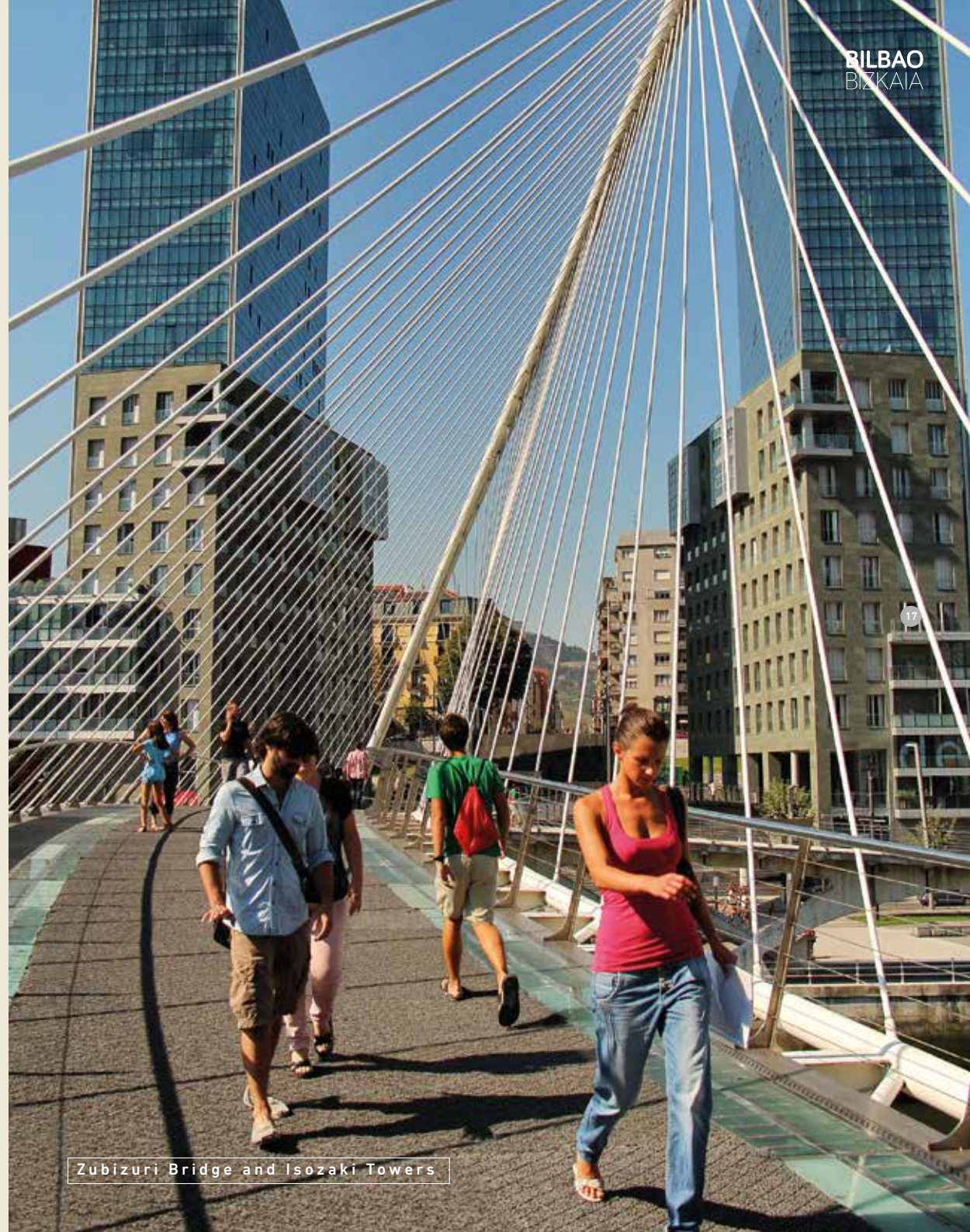
Deusto University Library
by Rafael Moneo

The University of the Basque Country
auditorium by Alvaro Siza

Edificio Osakidetza by
Coll - Barreu

The San Mamés stadium
by César Azkárte

The Vincci Consulado de Bilbao Hotel by Agvar Architects
and Axis Achitecture and Urban Planning.



Zubizuri Bridge and Isozaki Towers

BILBAO

emblematic

In the first stretch of the Gran Vía, the Provincial Council Building designed in the late nineteenth century is "one of the masterpieces of Alphonsine eclecticism" in Biscay.

It harnesses elements of various historical styles in which a concern for composition of the façades and their ornamentation predominates. This is evident on both the outside (stonework with diamond tipped tools) and in the interior.

The Throne Room with its twin canvases by José Echenagusia Errazquin "Swearing the Charter" and "Pacification of the Clans", deserves special mention.

Provincial Council Building

In the key of classical elegance

On close observation, the **Bilbao Ensanche** reveals its origins as the high class residential area for the rising middle classes with buildings such as the **Sota** or **Lezama-Leguizamón** mansions. The **Chávarri mansion** in the Plaza Moyúa, is another good example from the turn of the century boom to which **Casa Montero**, with its modernist lines adds diversity. The **Campos Eliseos Theatre**, with its richly ornamented façade by the French Basque architect Darroquy is the benchmark for this genre in the Basque Country.

The **Arriaga Theatre**, built towards the end of the 19th century, is also worth a visit during your wanderings. A little further on, the **Town Hall** shows its emblematic nature in the Council Chamber and the spectacular Arabian Room. And if you like football, the key building is the headquarters of Athletic Club of Bilbao, the neo-Basque **Ibaigane mansion**. If you prefer culture, the **Deusto University** located opposite the Guggenheim, represents the knowledge base that has contributed so much to Greater Bilbao.

The **Concordia Station** is an outstanding building in the modernist style designed in 1902. The façade, dominated by a large rose window, is considered to be one of the most authentic heritages of the Belle Epoque in Bilbao.

The name "la Concordia" (The Agreement") comes from the location, formerly occupied by warehouses where a multitudinous meeting ending in agreement was once held.

Concordia Station



Town Hall



University of Deusto



The tiger was commissioned from Lucarini by Miguel Mendizabal, owner of the El Tigre brand transmission belt factory. It is said that the captain of industry had a run-in with the Bilbao bourgeoisie and that is why his tiger snarls in the direction of Indautxu.



If there are two activities that breathe life into this district, these must be tasting the delicious "pintxos", an activity known as "txikiteo" (going from bar to bar drinking small glasses of wine) in the numerous bars and shopping in the more than 400 stores that pepper its streets. You will adore the charming shops and the atmosphere charged with the enjoyment of the local people who love to frequent these streets and plazas.

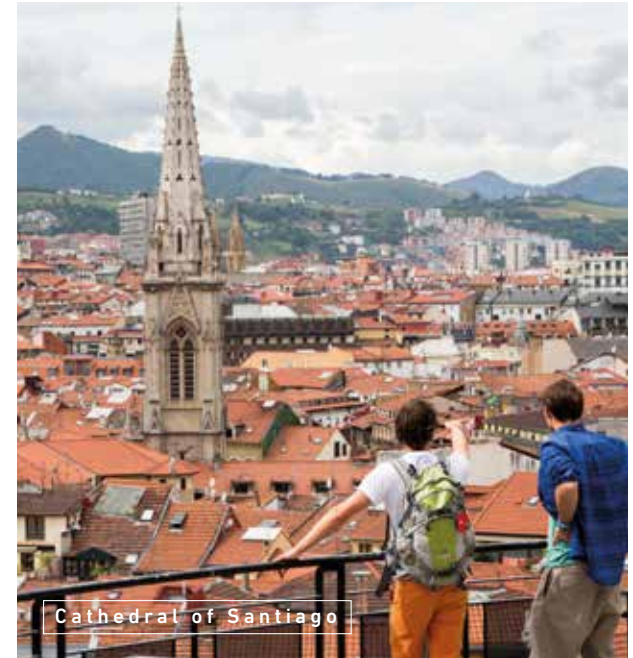
Old Quarter

MORE LIVELY THAN EVER

Plaza Nueva

The charm of roaming streets steeped in atmosphere

To wander through the **Old Quarter of Bilbao** a National Heritage site, is to enter a network of narrow streets where the history of the city began more than 700 years ago. The **Santiago Cathedral**, named after the local patron saint; the **Plaza Nueva** - the original main square and still the most charming - the **Calzadas of Mallona**, that lead to the **Basilica of Begoña**, the patron saint of Biscay, after climbing 311 steps; the **church of San Antón**, with its bridge decorated with the town's coat of arms; the **La Ribera Market**, a beauty symbol at the city; the **Arenal gardens**, so called because of the sand banks where the working boats used to be beached; the emblematic **Arriaga Theatre**...



Cathedral of Santiago



Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao

THE HOTELS of your dreams



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Hotel Carlton



Meliá Bilbao

**Art, innovation,
elegance, design...
everything you need
to relax**



Hotel Tayko Bilbao

The transformation of Bilbao foresaw the need for hotel services that could meet the demands of an elite tourism in line with the changes that were taking place. The **Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao** is a response to this need, an ultramodern five-star hotel with decoration by Javier Mariscal located opposite the Guggenheim Bilbao. There you can relax in a bathtub designed by Philippe Starck or take the sixth floor studio if you come with the family.

A little further down you will find the **Hotel Miró**, a charming four star establishment with a wellness area including gym and massage facilities. A little further, following the riverside, you will find the modern **Hotel Vincci Consulado** with a nautical design and the shape of a sailing boat.

The **Meliá Bilbao**, also strategically located opposite the Euskalduna Centre, Parque Doña Casilda and the River Nervión and inspired by the work of sculptor Eduardo Chillida, features outstanding modern architecture perfectly in tune with its surroundings.

And if you prefer traditional buildings the **Hotel Lopez de Haro** was Frank Ghery's choice while he was working on the Guggenheim. The renovated **Hotel Ercilla**, host to the bullfighting week, belongs to the same group.

The **Hotel Carlton** has always been the choice of famous show business personalities and artists.

And in the Old Quarter, the **Hotel Petit Palace Arana** is located in an emblematic situation surrounded by the Arriaga Theatre, the Arenal Gardens and the River itself. Not far from this, close to the River, we find the **Tayko Hotel**, with an excellent gastronomy choice by Martín Berasategui.

Guided visits, jazz concerts... some carry out activities that vary according to the time of year.

You'll find all the accomodations, ordered by categories, at the pratical information in the final index of this brochure.

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Vincci Consulado Bilbao

Discovering

THE MARKETS

The markets enable you to explore the products of the land, cultivated around the "caseríos" (farmsteads) with the expert touch of the "baserritarras" (farm workers). In addition to direct contact with the producers, they provide a guarantee of freshness and quality. Regardless of the season you choose for your visit, the markets of Bilbao are waiting to bring you the authentic flavour of the Basque Country.

A
GOOD
IDEA!

La Ribera



La Ribera

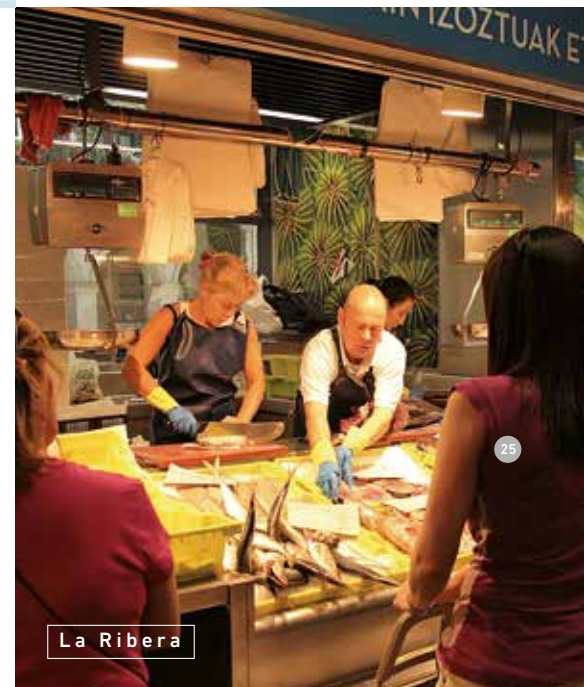
10,000 m²

The recently renovated **La Ribera Municipal Market** boasts one of the largest covered areas in Europe. The Market is also recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the most complete in the world, in order of variety and traders. It has been linked to the identity of Bilbao since ancient times, partly because it faces the confluence of the historic Seven Streets of the original heart of the town.

To visit it is to get to know the "real market", as the local people call it. Famous for the quality and variety of its produce, the La Ribera Market conserves all its unique atmosphere even after its renovation and is an authentic symbol of the city.

And of course, enjoy the gastrobars located on the second floor, where you'll find the typical pintxos and first class wines. And if you love cooking, try their cooking classes.

www.mercadodelaribera.biz



La Ribera

A trip to **Gernika-Lumo** to visit the famous market is well worth the trouble. But only on Mondays. If you come in September or October you will find the market crowded with life. This seasonal of fruitfulness makes for an even more colourful display of produce from the best crops of each farm and garden.

In winter, there are tasty seasonal fruit, legumes and other vegetables. A gift for your eyes and palate.



Gernika-Lumo

A
GOOD
IDEA!

A steel structure inspired by the Eiffel Tower, it still provokes admiration in addition to fulfilling its original function of uniting the two banks of the River between **Portugalete** and **Las Arenas (Getxo)** at the mouth. It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2006. Crossing it in the gondola or along the walkway is a marvellous experience.

The BIZKAIA bridge

CONNECTING THE TWO BANKS

www.puente-colgante.com

Portugalete

The left bank: from industrial to the renovation

In former times the banks of the River outside Bilbao diverged and all the heavy industry of the zone was concentrated on the left bank, especially in **Barakaldo** and **Sestao**.

The frenetic activity that seethed along the banks of the River in former times has given way to a completely renovated scenario that combines economic development with numerous amenities designed for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Places like **Portugalete** and **Santurtzi** are proof of this renovation.



The right bank, on the outskirts of Bilbao, has always been a residential district and so you will be able to admire the magnificent dwellings built by the emerging middle classes along the River.

Places like **Las Arenas**, **Neguri** or **Algorta** in Getxo, are excellent examples of this trend.

The aristocratic charm of the right bank

Areetako Kaia



A new colour for BILBAO

Bilbao is clad in green from top to bottom

When you are in Bilbao you will notice that you are always surrounded by forests and hills and - now more than ever before - by generous green zones.

Thanks to initiatives like **the Bilbao Green Belt**, the area per person of natural spaces has quadrupled in no time. The leisure options include both urban parks and the forest reserves that surround the town. Bilbao offers you delicious spots like the **Doña Casilda Park**, the **Albia gardens**, **Amezola** and **Etxebarria**... a leisure option with endless possibilities.

And speaking of green, the tram now joins the commitment the city has made to the environment. A convenient, clean way of getting about.



Views from ARTXANDA

A
GOOD
IDEA

Don't take the car. Take the cable car to get to one of the city's lungs. From here you can enjoy the extensive panorama of the "botxo", so called familiarly Bilbao because it is located in a valley.



Doña Casilda Park

THE NORTHERN PILGRIM'S WAY also passes through Bilbao

In fact, some of the world's greatest modern sculptors have decked the streets of Bilbao with open air works: Koons, Bourgeois, Kapoor, Novatt, Lopez Chollet, Valdés, Garraza... you will meet many great works gracing the corners, plazas and parades such as the **Paseo de la Memoria** (Memorial Walkway), Bilbao's new park created as part of the renovation. You will love wandering around with so much art for company.

"Bilbao Cathedral is dedicated to the town's patron saint, the apostle Santiago (St James the Greater) with reference to the coastal variant of the **Northern Pilgrim's Way**. As confirmation the Puerta del Ángel (Angel's Gate) also known as Puerta de los Peregrinos (Pilgrim's Gate) greets the wayfarer with its shell. As its foundation charter testifies, the links of this area with the tradition of St. James go back to before the town even existed.

But first, when you reach the town remember that a visit to the Basilica de la Virgen de Begoña (Our Lady of Begoña) is an essential part of the Northern Pilgrim's Way on its way through Bilbao. From there the Old Quarter is close at hand along the Calzadas de Mallona... your chance to explore a fascinating enclave a stone's throw from the Cathedral."



Sitios y Lugares (Ángel Garraza)



Bailarina (Dancer, Dalí)

Old Quarter



Paseo de la Memoria

to remember who we are

La Puerta de los Honorables (Casto Solano)



Nobody will look at you askance if you sprint or race-walk along the pathways that run along either side of the **River**. In Bilbao and the coastal towns you will see multitude of runners and walkers enjoying the combination of sport and pleasure provided by the numerous pathways, riverbanks and marine parades. Previously industrial areas are now devoted entirely to pleasure and the city offers walks like the **Abandoibarra**, a mixture of art and green belt, the **Ribera de Zorrozaurre**, in the old industrial zone and the elegant and aristocratic **Campo Volantín**, as well as numerous green zones such as the **Park of Doña Casilda**. In downtown Bilbao both the Ensanche and the Old Quarter make excellent walks. There are more and more pedestrian streets where you can stroll around in peace and safety.



Campo Volantín



Port of Getxo

Approaching the sea,
a tour of the surroundings

Beyond sport,
walking in this city is a pleasure

"Running" on the left bank



Abandoibarra

Outside the city you can get to **Santurtzi** from **Portugalete** and take the chance to try some delicious sardines. Then, crossing to the right bank by the **Bizkaia Bridge**, a walk along the **Las Arenas** dock to the **Ereaga Beach** is highly recommended. You can go even further and reach **Punta Galea**, from where you will get magnificent views of the **Abra**, now open to the Cantabrian sea. The beauty of this coast is quite overwhelming.



Punta Galea

BILBAO

sounds good

A
GOOD
IDEA!

Bilbao has always been known for good music so the number of events on the agenda should not surprise you. If you are a music lover you would do well to coordinate your visit with some of them. This is easy because there are a lot and they cater for all tastes. Just do it, and you will see that the experience was well worth the trouble.

www.bilbaoturismo.net

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Getxo Jazz Festival



Bilbao BBK Live

BILBAO
BIZKAIA

One of the events that the people of Bilbao cherish is the **Opera**, with its enthusiastic following.

While on the subject of jazz, the **Bilbaína Jazz Club** puts on live concerts that you can catch every Thursday from October to June.

The **Bilbao BBK Live** increases its audience every year thanks to the quality of the local, domestic and international bands that it lines up next to the **BIME** festival, held in the BEC. Another not to miss, is the Mundaka Festival,



renamed **Bay of Biscay Festival**, where international music and gastronomy are perfectly mixed.

The **Getxo Jazz Festival** is now a classic and can always count on the participation of top jazz performers.

The **Getxo Folk Festival** combines folk, blues and jazz and its multitude of supporters get to enjoy the music of outstanding figures in the field. These events are backed by an ever-increasing number of concerts in less ambitious formats that are gaining the favour of critics and public alike. You will love how they sound.

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BIME Festival



ALWAYS ON CUE

36

A
GOOD
IDEA

How about a dramatised tour of the secrets of the theatre?

If your visit coincides with the right dates you will be able to share them through the good offices of a fishwife, a Santurtzi sardine, a Basque "pelota" player, the urn in the foyer and a ticket seller. Then you can attend a superb show in the evening.

Discover the Arriaga Theatre through its guided tours

www.teatroarriaga.eus

Arriaga Theatre

The social life of the town seethes with activity at any time of year with so many shows that choosing one is an impossible task: opera, symphony orchestras, dance, theatre, cinema, pop... every kind of show you could want including urban culture... And whatever you choose will hit the nail on the head.

GUIDED TOURS

Tour hours: Saturday and Sunday, 11am-1pm

Tour duration: About 50 minutes



The people of Bilbao love the Opera and the vitality of **ABAO** (Bilbao Friends of the Opera Association), with more than 50 years of history, bears witness to this. One of the great operatic institutions of Spain and Europe is firmly established in Bilbao. The city, in the Euskalduna Palace, has the good fortune to be visited by the best operatic voices every year. Enjoy!

Euskalduna Palace



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Campos Elíseos Theatre



Quality is the word that defines the entertainment scene in Bilbao

The public of Bilbao is said to be extremely demanding when it comes to show business... people who look forward impatiently to a season packed with fascinating options and prove to a knowledgeable audience, able to distinguish and to award the laurel only to the deserving.

If you are a music lover, enjoy the **ABAO** opera season with the **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa**...

The **Contemporary Dance and Music Festival** brings you avant garde performing arts.

ZINEBI, the International Festival of Documentary and Short Film is now in its 61st edition.

Zinegoak, the Gay-Les-Trans International Film and Performing Arts Festival of Bilbao. **The FANT**, for the fantastic genre and the **Mendi Film Festival** for those who love adventure or enjoy staring at scenes in nature.

The **Bilboko Kalealdia** is a theatre and street arts Festival.

The **International Festival of Urban Performing Cultures -BreakOnStage-** now draws crowds of enthusiasts...

Musika-Música is a high-quality annual theme festival.



ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

Since 1898, the year it was founded, this has been the battle cry of a great football club. Did you know that one of its peculiarities is that it only signs players born and developed as football players in the Basque Country?. The famous club is also known and admired for its promotion of the local players in which it depends.

If you want to know more, go and visit the Athletic Club Museum, 1.400 square meters to discover the history of the Athletic Club.

And everybody knows that **Athletic Club de Bilbao** fans are intensely loyal. Few fan bases are as loyal to their team through thick and thin. If you go to a match get ready to sing the "alirón" to cheer on the team or celebrate a goal. If that happens **San Mamés** will erupt and you will be caught up in a spine-tingling rush of pure emotion.

And in the surroundings, feel the great atmosphere with all the restaurants and bars full of *pintxos*.

www.athletic-club.eus

& BILBAO BASKET!

If you prefer basketball you are in luck because the Men in Black, as the **Bilbao Basket**, team is known, brings the house down every time they play. It is currently one of the top clubs in the ACB, the national first division league. Returning the city's name to the top of the table means signing promising players, so the season promises to be enthralling. The whole city follows its team as one, and so can you.

www.bilbaobasket.biz



Harrijasotzaile



Sports rooted in the Basque identity



Trainera



The expression of character

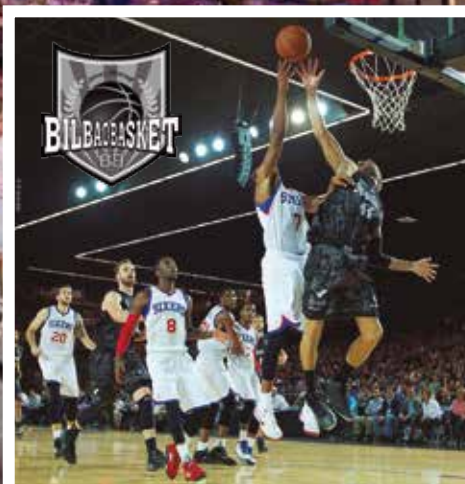


Cestapunta

Certain activities from the Basque countryside comprise "herri kirolak" Basque rural sport. All originate in farming tasks that became competitive events to demonstrate the strength and skill of the practitioners.

"Traineras" were fishing boats that raced to claim a prey and now take part in regattas followed by cheering crowds. "Pelota" and "cesta punta" are peculiarly Basque sports surrounded by a unique atmosphere.

A
GOOD
IDEA





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ASTE NAGUSIA the greatest week

Bilbao's Great Week, held annually from the first Saturday after 15 August, is an explosion of music, theatre, performance, opera, bulls, local customs, children's activities, fireworks and more. The signal to begin the great fiesta is a sky-rocket set off by the "txupinera." The "konpartsak" or street groups are the heart and soul of these fiestas. They are groups of revellers who create a festive atmosphere wherever they go with their music and good cheer. Mari Jaia, represented as a plump lady who always seems to be dancing, has been the official symbol of the festival since 1978. You are the only one missing... Join the fun.

Aste Nagusia



Basque Fest

San Blas, Santa Agueda, txikiteros... each fiesta is lived to the full

The festivity of **Saint Thomas Aquinas**, is one of the most important, and brings together thousands of people in Bilbao just before Christmas. The very best fruit, vegetables, cheese, turkeys, snails and "txakoli". Make sure you try "talo con chistorra" (chorizo in unleavened bread)

On the 4th of February, **Santa Agueda's** eve, the streets of Bilbao and other Basque towns are filled with groups of revellers singing traditional songs while striking the ground with sticks. Two days before San Blas there is a traditional pilgrimage or **romería**. The custom is to buy doughnuts in the Arenal and cords that are taken to the church of San Nicolás to be blessed to protect the throat.

The **Fiesta de los Txikiteros** is celebrated annually the 11th of October to pay tribute to the txikiteros and the patron saint of Bizkaia, the Virgin of Begoña

basque F^{EST}

The processions and parades of the Great Week are found in Bilbao alongside culture, sport and cuisine. They come hand in hand with the **Basque Fest**, a festival which, in its sixth edition, combines tradition and modernity along six lines **Culture, Music, Market, Sport, Gourmet** and **Cinema** -linked by the image of the "lauburu", a quintessential symbol of the Basque culture.



Fiesta de los txikiteros

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REAL PASSION

A good many of the processions that make their way through the streets of Bilbao at Easter originate in the original parish church of St John and St John (Santos Juanes) in the Old Quarter. Many of the floats in the processions, such as the Cristo de la Villa de Bilbao by Juan de Mesa or La Dolorosa by Quintín de la Torre, are of incalculable historical value. The procession of the Borriquito (donkey) on Palm Sunday is famous.



The procession of the Donkey

Night and day

Enjoy a carefully prepared cocktail, let the aroma of good coffee seduce you, try a variety of delicious "pintxos" or enjoy fantastic live music. Bilbao at night will enfold you in its glamorous ambience and whether your scene is traditional or trendy you will be enchanted by the atmosphere. You will find cafés and sophisticated bars that invite you to enjoy the night both in the Ensanche and the Old Quarter. Whether you want a party atmosphere or a quiet nook to have a long conversation, you will find the right spot in Bilbao. Just let your hair down and trust your intuition.

Azkuna Zentroa (Alhondiga Bilbao)

Hit the nail on the head

The **Café Iruña** with its charming decoration from the turn of the 20th century is a classic meeting place with a great atmosphere, listed as a "singular site". Depends on the hour of the day, and mixing music and food, you can go to **La Ribera**, inside the Market, in the Old Quarter, changes its proposal from a morning coffee to tapas and cocktails. To have a long drink to remember try the **Bernardo Café Bar**, one of the 12 "gin tonic shrines" in the country. There's nothing like enjoying the **Ercilla, Domine, Azkuna Zentroa** and **Guggenheim Museum** terraces for a different view of the City with a drink in your hand, to see and be seen. And having a drink on the terrace of **Azkuna Zentroa (Alhondiga Bilbao)** will give you an entirely different outlook on Bilbao. If you prefer a well-drawn beer, Bilbao offers you a wide variety of bars where you can enjoy a good brew, some with live music. The Old Quarter and Abando also have **gay-friendly** bars where you can relax in your chosen atmosphere. You could also try your luck at the **Luckia Casino Bilbao**. Your visit could turn out better than you expect.



Café Iruña

TRADE FAIRS

local
and INTERNATIONAL

The second half of the 20th century witnessed an upsurge of Basque industry based on the factories that occupied the left bank. It was also the golden age of the trade fair, now renewed following the regeneration that the metropolitan area in recent years. This change has brought the **new, up-to-date facilities** demanded by the sector and which are one of the driving forces of modern Bilbao. A prime example is the **Euskalduna Concert Hall and Conference Centre**, winner of the 2003 Apex Award as the "World's best conference centre".

The City Council has a department, the **Bilbao Convention Bureau**, devoted to services for organisation of trade fairs, congresses and festivals and the infrastructures required to successfully hold all kinds of events.

www.bilbaoturismo.net

Due to its industrial pre-eminence, Bilbao hosts many trade fairs in related sectors such as the international **Ferroforma**, held simultaneously with **Bricoforma**.

Other important fairs include the **International Machine Tool Biennial**, the 3rd most important in Europe.

In **Gustoko** is important the quality, the artisanal origin and the sustainable production.

Expovacaciones, the travel and tourism trade fair, focusses on activities for leisure and entertainment.

Nagusi is an event that aims to improve the quality of life of the elderly.

There are also numerous and very popular **urban fairs** such as the **Christmas and spring crafts fairs**.

The Bilbao Exhibition Centre -BEC-, in Barakaldo, is an excellent place to hold all kinds of event and replaces the old trade fair centre in Bilbao. There are 6 columnless pavilions totalling 150.000 m² of exhibition space, noteworthy for their flexibility and versatility. BEC Conventions, with its 18,000 m², is one of them. It is a multifunctional convention centre with cutting-edge communication systems.

Boat trips on the River

The Ría has always played a leading part in the history of Bilbao

The history of the city is incomprehensible without the Ría. But the former industrial artery has become the focus point of the new leisure options provided by contemporary Bilbao. A boat trip on its waters will show you the new town in all its glory.

Here are some options:

BILBOATS, daily trips on the Ría. www.bilboats.com

EUSKALHERRIA, open in summer. www.portugalete.org

If sport is more in your line you can choose between canoes, kayaks, paddle surf... you just need to feel the urge and get in touch:

BILBOBENTURA www.bilbobentura.com

AKTIBA www.aktiba.eus

NAUTIC GOURMET www.nauticgourmet.com,

RIVER CHEER www.rivercheer.com

EL BOTE TOURS www.elbotebilbao.com,

BILBAO AT SHIP www.bilbaoenbarco.es



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There are boat rental services for events, school trips, etc., but the River provides more leisure options such as "traineras" and kayaks. No experience is required and the time you spend on the water will be unadulterated fun. Why not try paddle surf, the last word in water sports?



Euskalduna Bridge

One
METRE
from the beach

Feeling the sea close by brings a feeling of freedom. Those who go down to the sea after a hard day's work know this as they immerse themselves in its beauty during a seaside stroll.

If you like to be active you can join in any of the beach sports taking place: pelota, paddle, windsurf, surfing, disk surf, etc. The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination, and... Enjoy!



You can reach a good many beaches in next to no time by metro. Ereaga, in Neguri, is little more than half an hour from downtown Bilbao.

www.metrobilbao.eus

Join in AVANT GARDE CULTURE

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Culture and avant garde are two terms that go hand in hand with Bilbao. This is ensured by centres such as the **Hacería Arteak Association** that has transformed an industrial site into a cultural center with various theme clubs: HACERIA Jazz Club, HACERIA Flamenco Club, HACERIA Ekinez Eszeniko and English HACERIA Club, integrated in ZAWP, generating educational and leisure activities that play a leading role in the city.

haceria.com

ZAWP



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The search for the creative identity of young artists is not forgotten: **Bilbao Arte** is an artistic production centre that offers the resources and infrastructure necessary for young artists to develop their projects: studio space, engraving and screen printing workshops, digital imaging, sculpture, photography, a film set, documentation centre and project room.

bilbaoarte.org

ZAWP Bilbao (Zorrotzaurre Art Work in Progress) is a project under the auspices of the Asociación Hacería with the aim of bringing a creative, innovative artistic vision to the process of transforming the former industrial district in which it is located into a leisure services area. The Zawp concept encompasses the entire future island with which it is integrated: "If this was once a port where merchandise once arrived and departed, today it should be a port of knowledge, interchange, art, culture and technological and social innovation."

www.zawp.org



ALL DESIGN

Bilbao has also been transformed from the point of view of fashion. Always chic, today design has invaded the clothing sector, a tendency that can be easily confirmed by simply paying attention to the shop windows in any part of Bilbao. A wander through Abando, Indautxu, Gran Vía or the Old Quarter will convince you of this.

Bilbao is at the forefront of international design.

The upsurge of fashion in Bilbao can also be seen in the number of young designers who are forging international reputations. These are names associated with innovation and independence to the point of setting up their own businesses where the name itself becomes a valuable brand.

Among the most well known designers we can find Ion Fiz, Mirian Ocáriz, Alicia Rueda, Mercedes de Miguel, Teresa Busto, Javier Barroeta or Ana Valladares.



Ercilla street



As you might expect from a trend-setting city like Bilbao you will find an endless variety of shops and premises with icons of Basque and international design.

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GOOD
IDEA!

MADE IN EUSKADI

Pieces linked to the natural environment and accessories designed here are the speciality of **Skunkfunk**. A leading brand in "street fashion", **Loreak Mendian**. **Zergatik** dresses women who like to have fun with fashion. **Belaza Gallery** is an «open» space that adds to art to the most varied of fashions. If you have a look around any of them, you're bound to something different that you like.



MMMM! DELICIOUS



Sea and land offer us their choicest products. They are joined by the expert hands of the people artisans who produce them so that you can enjoy select, high quality products prepared with the love and care. Take your choice from among **Idiazabal** and **Karrantza** cheeses, **Gorbea** honey, "**txakoli**" from **Bizkaia**, preserves from the **Cantabrian Sea**, peppers from **Gernika**, salted cod... even traditional wheaten or corn bread.

One thing you can be sure of: whatever you choose will be absolutely delicious.



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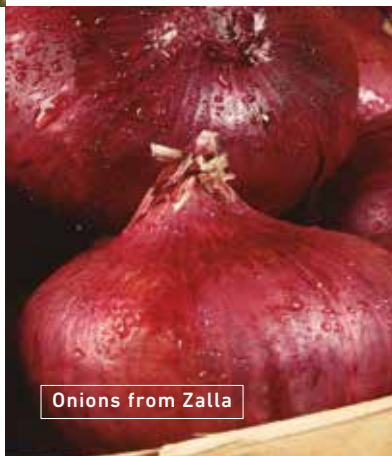


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Cod

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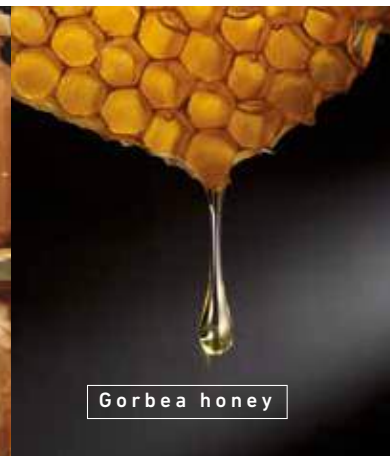
The choice of delicacies to gratify your palate is endless. The best souvenir of your trip is one you can share while you tell friends and family about your visit.



Onions from Zalla



Cantabrian Bonito



Gorbea honey



Idiazabal cheese (Certificate of Origin)

There are officially protected designations of origin (PDO) and products with quality seals to ensure that all processes from producer to end user are controlled to the smallest detail. Find out about the top quality foodstuffs under the Eusko Label certified and promoted by the Hazi Foundation, without forgetting Euskal Baserri products, all of which originate here.

www.hazi.eus



From heaven to
our kitchens

STARS

Michelin

Eneko Atxa (Azurmendi)

Maybe one of the reasons you are visiting Bilbao is gastronomic. If so, you have excellent taste. The Basque Country has one of the world's great culinary traditions. The number of Michelin stars is a tribute to the astonishing capacity to innovate within this tradition. When you enter one of these temples you will understand why they are venerated.

They are prophets in their own land and abroad. Basque chefs manage the kitchens of top restaurants in Spain and all over the world with. They win prize after prize and critical acclaim wherever they work. Selecting a favourite is a difficult task... all of them are outstanding in some facet of the art. That's why they have been awarded so many **Michelin stars**, the greatest distinction in international cuisine. Their establishments are not only great places to eat. They will surprise you with their refinement, attention to detail and passion for the culinary arts.

Daniel García (Zortziko)

Confining ourselves to Bizkaia we have Azurmendi run by **Eneko Atxa** and boasting three stars, and recently opened one-star **Eneko**. With one star also **Andra Mari**, run by **Zuriñe García** en Galdakao, **Boróa** in Amorebieta-Etxano with **Jabier Gartzia** in the kitchen and **Asador Etxebarri** in Atxondo, managed by **Victor Arginzoniz**.

One star restaurants in Bilbao include **Zortziko** run by **Daniel García**, **Nerua**, with **Josean Alija** in charge, **Mina** with **Álvaro Garrido** and **Lara Martín**, **Eneko Bilbao** by **Eneko Atxa**, **Atelier Etxanobe** with **Fernando Canales** sharing the honours and **Zárate**, with **Sergio Ortiz de Zárate**.



Join a class in a gourmet pintxo or cooking workshop and discover the pleasure of cooking and sharing.

Josean Alija (Nerua)

The love for cooking has well and truly reached places that pay tribute to good cuisine, with quality and imagination. You can choose between El Viejo Zortzi, in Licenciado Poza or Ola Martín Berasategui in the Old Quarter, The Bistró Guggeneheim Bilbao, among others.

SIGNATURE CUISINE

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Old STYLE

They stand out because their menus offer the most typical dishes of traditional Bizkaia cuisine and, it seems fair to say, are the most genuine examples of Basque cuisine.

In the capital there are numerous establishments, in the Old Quarter, Abando, Basurto...

Abando, Amboto, Astillero Euskalduna, Casa Rufo, Egiluz, Getaria, Lasa, Marisquería Mazarredo, Nicolás, Porrue, Rimbombín, Serantes, Urbietta, Víctor, Rogelio...

And in general, in all the villages of the province, on the coast and inland, you will find these dishes that identify the local cuisine so well.

The very name suggest a meal with no hurry that is all about the pleasure of savouring the flavour. It is only logical that this philosophy would have an impact here. There are numerous restaurants that practice this new way to appreciate cuisine, with local, seasonal foods, enjoying every bite... Take note of these:

You will enjoy slow food in Bilbao: at Bascook, Baita Gaminiz, Mina, Aizian, at the Hotel Meliá Bilbao, Zárata, Yandiola, at Azkuna Zentroa (Alhóndiga Bilbao) and Adur, San Mames Restaurant, among others.

In the area you have Gaminiz (Zamudio), Ibaia (Gordexola), Zallobarri (Gernika-Lumo), Jauregibarria (Amorebieta-Etxano) and Pablo Urzay (Getxo).

SLOWFOOD



URBANMENU

The times of urban and social change that Bilbao is experiencing has led to the establishment of modern restaurants in keeping with this new situation. You will find good "daily set menus" and simple menus in settings where good taste in aesthetics is just another ingredient.

There are many, good quality restaurants to choose from, all in the capital: Brass, Claudio La Feria del Jamón, El Globo, El Txoko Berria, Hola Bar Alhóndiga, Iruña, La Mary, Mugi...



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Mouthfuls of pleasure: through the Basque **PINTXOS**

60

The sight of a long bar packed with "pintxos" will whet your appetite even if you are not hungry.

A glass of "txakoli" is probably the best way to accompany them. Another tempting option is to combine them with wine from Rioja Alavesa.

Either option will be an excellent choice.

They started out as an answer to the need to eat something while going from bar to bar to enjoy a few glasses of wine. Those delicious "pintxos" still exist but many bars have transformed them into sophisticated creations known locally as "miniature cooking". Innovation is the key to this movement. A generation of young chefs is exploring new modes, flavours and textures that give rise to exciting recipes for the most demanding palates. Either of these two concepts of "pintxo" brings to mind a world of colour and taste. Love at first bite. Try them at any good bar and you will see how they awaken all your five senses.

**This magic realm
of flavour and colour
is a delight to the eyes**

Try to see the "pintxo" experience as a magnificent alternative to a sit-down meal. We can assure you that you will not be hungry when you have finished. Begin slowly, maybe with a spicy Gilda, a combination of freshness and hotness that alludes to Rita Hayworth's famous role.

After this starter you will have to choose between the hundreds of varieties on offer. The traditional "pintxo" and its avant garde cousins share the scene in peaceful coexistence and you can often order a selection that combines the two philosophies. You will be surprised at the care taken in their preparation: bonito and salt cod delicacies and juicy *anxoas* (anchovies) all seasoned with the finest fruit of the *baserris* (vegetable gardens).

From the most sophisticated "kabratoxo" cake to the humble croquette or potato tortilla they will all taste better with **txakoli**, Basque Country cider or a good glass of **Rioja Alavesa** wine.

And here's to the next time!



The word "pintxo" (spike) comes from the shape of the little mouthful secured by a toothpick.



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The sweet

The origin of the sweet tradition in Bilbao is lost in the mists of time. Some bakeries, like Martina de Zuricalday, were established more than two hundred years ago. The Arrese, New York and La Suiza are also old, well-established traditional establishments with delicious specialities.

You will love the traditional **butter buns** that combine eggs and syrup in a special recipe. Or the **rice cakes**, an exquisite cream in a pastry cradle. The ones called "**jesuits**" are also made of pastry but now covered with royal icing and stuffed with baker's cream or spaghetti squash preserve (cabello de ángel). A "**carolina**", a tower of smooth meringue dipped in chocolate and egg yolk or "**Russian cakes**", which in Bilbao have a special flavour of egg whites mixed with sugar to obtain meringue baked in the oven in layers filled with buttercream.

You think you've tried them? Try them again and you will taste the difference.

TEMPTATION

Santiaguitos, marshmallow sweets especially associated with the feast of San Blas were said to be essential to obtaining the blessing of the saint against colds and throat complaints.

The female version are santiaguitas, delicious blankets full of curative.



Butter buns



Russian cake



Rice cakes



Carolinas



TOPBILBAO

They are called TOP because they are the best of the best, worth visiting, tasting, comparing, enjoying... a compendium of experiences that cannot be missed because without them you will have missed something indispensable. Put them on your agenda and you will have plenty to talk about when you get home.

Wonder at the new BILBAO

See and feel the avant garde architecture around which the transformation of the city has been articulated. It is one aspect of the "Guggenheim Bilbao Effect".



THE FOOD with stars

Many restaurants, some with Michelin stars, can introduce you to the authentic cuisine of the Basque Country.



Enjoy with ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

Few clubs have such loyal fans and the atmosphere they create around the Pozas district is worth seeing.



The RIBERA MARKET

Designated the most comprehensive and one of the largest covered market in Europe, the Guinness Book of Records, considered it the most complete specialises in products from the land and sea.



PINTXOS in the Old Quarter

Immerse yourself in the seven streets enjoying "pintxos", "txiki-tos" and the lively atmosphere is to get to know the authentic Bilbao.



A stroll in the CAMPO VOLANTIN

Viewing Bilbao from the other side of the River you can enjoy the spectacular new architecture .



Experience AZKUNA ZENTROA (ALHONDIGA BILBAO)

The new multifunctional multicultural centre is an icon of the new Bilbao. Its atrium and design are a must.



SHOPPING the last word

Downtown and the Old Quarter. Bilbao today is a great showcase of design by the world's most famous architects.

Views from ARTXANDA

Take a ride on the cable car and enjoy a spectacular view from Bilbao's favourite mountain.



The City from THE RIVER

Get a different view of this new Bilbao from a boat trip on the River. There is a wide choice.



DICTIONARY OF BILBAO_BIZKAIA



66

AGUR: Post-modern people say "ciao", but it's still no more than "well, that's it, I'm off".. Comes from "augurium", which is Latin for, "I mean it!".

AGUA DE BILBAO: It's what we call champagne but watch out, we do not mean *cava*!

ALIRON: Miners from a British company in Ortuella, traditionally cried out "all iron" (yippee!, in other words) when they struck a vein of iron ore because it meant double pay. Today it is to cheer on the Athletic Club - whether it wins the league or not.

AMATXU DE BEGOÑA: An affectionate name for the patron saint of the town, used especially by the "txikiteros", who share the fiesta with her.

ANGULA: Juvenile form of an eel that swims madly up the River with the sole aim of being eaten by the rich.

APACHURRAR: Synonym for a shaking hands with someone over-enthusiastic... like, they return it crushed and broken.

ATHLETIC: A singularly holy word. Don't mess with it.

AÚPA!: A good-natured greeting or a casual hello that pretends to be typically Basque. At San Mamés, to cheer the team.

AZUL BILBAO: The blue of the *botxo* sky that only exists on the palette of painters from Bilbao, obviously!.

BACALAO AL PIL PIL: Onomatopoeia that alludes to the way cod must be brought to the boil, which sounds like this: "pil-pil"

BALDOSA: Grandma's ceramic tiles, the traditional ones that have now migrated from the floor to grace handkerchiefs, table-cloths, sweets, etc...

BEGIAUNDIS: Like the name says, "begiaundis" are big squids, because if they were little ones they'd be called "begitxikis".

BILBAINADA: Often explained as the typical bluff and bluster that people from Bilbao are famous for, it also refers to the typical songs called *txikiteros* sung in bars or at parties, though if Athletic lose...

BOLLO DE MANTEQUILLA: Famous but so modest that it is afraid to speak its name, though since it is from Bilbao, it doesn't need to.

BOTXO: "Hole", a.k.a. Bilbao because it is located in a valley between two hills. Artxanda and Pagasarri.

CAROLINA: Multicolour meringue that you say you buy for your kids rather than admit that you're going to scoff it all yourself, at your age... disgracefull.

CHOCHOLO: as easy as babbling on and talking rubbish.

COITAO: Nothing to do with what you are thinking... it's just a nice, harmless sort of guy. I promise.

CHAPURREAR: What we do when we murder a language we are trying to learn... with the best intentions, naturally.

ENE: Expression of surprise, incredulity, perplexity or joy, depending on who says it and when.

FELIPADA: Triangular sandwich to be eaten in the Alameda whether you are hungry or not. Delicious.

FRESCO: What softies call freezing.. Wimps!

FUENTE DEL PERRO: They are lions, actually... but it doesn't matter, they date back to 1800 and it's all the same if they bark or roar as long as they don't bite.

GABARRA: A barge used to transport minerals along the River and Athletic Club when they win something (a rare occurrence nowadays).

GANORABAKO: A person without much gumption, to put it mildly.

GASOLINO: Strategically cheap way of crossing the River in a nice wee boat instead of crossing the bridge on foot, taking the metro or driving.

GILDA: Bilbao and San Sebastian dispute the origin of the *gilda*... Actually, the term honours Rita for being salty, fresh and hot. What's your story?

GOOOOOL: The divine word that sometimes eludes the Athletic Club but when the team does score not even strongest lozenge will restore your voice.

GOITIBERA: A three or four-wheeled billy-cart designed to break your bones (they can do up to 130 kph).

HAMAIKETAKO: The supreme gastronomic moment between breakfast and lunch to keep your stomach from complaining.

IRRINTZI: Battle-cry which today is no more than an ancient custom. However, some foreigners have tried to copy it but they never get further than a kind of squawk.

ITURRI: The bottle caps from Iturrigori soda water. Americans don't know this, but Coca Cola's bottle caps are also *iturri*.

JATORRA: Person with a good sense of humour, likeable and full of life, typical of Bilbao.

KALIMOTXO: Mixed drink mainly for parties when you can no longer taste what you are drinking. Not in vain was it invented by sheer chance when the organisers of a fiesta in Algorta mixed the wine with Coca Cola, when they discovered that it was even worse than they'd thought.

KILI-KOLO: The physical or emotional state known as *so-so* or *comme ci comme ça*.

LARRI: To be under the weather.

MARMITAKO: Bonito with spuds, peppers and so on... typical of competitions where you fill your stomach and keep on eating without stopping.

OLENTZERO: Father Christmas in Bilbao: has a beard too, but it's black.

ORDAGO: What a smarty-pants throws down when he wants to get something and hasn't even got a decent gauntlet.

OTXOTE: Eight guys from Bilbao singing at the top of their voices from bar to bar. Just what we need, right?

PASTEL DE ARROZ: Traditional Bilbao tart which despite its name, doesn't actually contain any rice.

PASTOR DEL GORBEA: Like the octopus from the World Cup but this one predicts the weather

PISCOLABIS: No big deal, a mere snack that we here in Bilbao start before lunch and are still at it at five in the evening.

PORRUSALDA: A simple meal made of leeks, potatoes and carrots... to feel "cleaned up" after the pisolabis.

POTEO: Basically a pub crawl where you go from bar to bar getting happier and happier until you start singing...

POTXOLO: A nice guy, a real sweetie. It always sounds good when you're stuck for words.

PUES: A word found in all kinds of sentence, it mainly serves to recognise a good old mate from Bilbao even though he or she is in Singapore.

PUPPY: Plunked down in Bilbao and there he sits, posing for more photos than the shack behind him.

RABAS: Squid with egg, elegantly clad in batter. Not in vain they originated in Bilbao.

SAN MAMÉS: Pagan cathedral that severely tests people with a weak heart. Good for going through the emotional wringer.

SANTIAGUITOS: Marshmallows made by Santiago Olabide, owner of the factory that used to produce them and a really diminutive person.

SANTURTZI: Historical place made famous by the song "sardinas freskue", known even in the back and beyond.

SINSORGO: Phrase or gesture that tries to be funny but fails miserably.

SIRIMIRI: Once meant a fine drizzle, but now also refers to an *eau de cologne* that you can spray on... and no need for the raincoat.

SOKATIRA: Tug 'o war, a typically refined Basque sport where two teams of grown men pull on a rope until one ends up in the mud.

SORNA: Talking with sarcasm... pretending you have a plan B when you haven't even got plan A yet.

TRIPAUNDI: Guy from Bilbao with a belly that flops over his belt and lives to eat and drink... an endangered species. Ahem.

TXALA: A nice little calf you'd better not grow too fond of in case you eat it later and all.

TXAPELA: Here, in Bilbao, it's a cap without a visor, round and flat, known elsewhere as a beret or boina.

TXIPIS: A nice way of addressing baby squid to avoid the guilt you feel because they taste so good.

TXIKI: Diminutive endearment used to butter someone up with the ulterior motive of asking for a favour... just a tiny one.

TXIKITO: A small glass of wine that you drink with your mates during the fiestas. Origin of the term *txikiteros*.

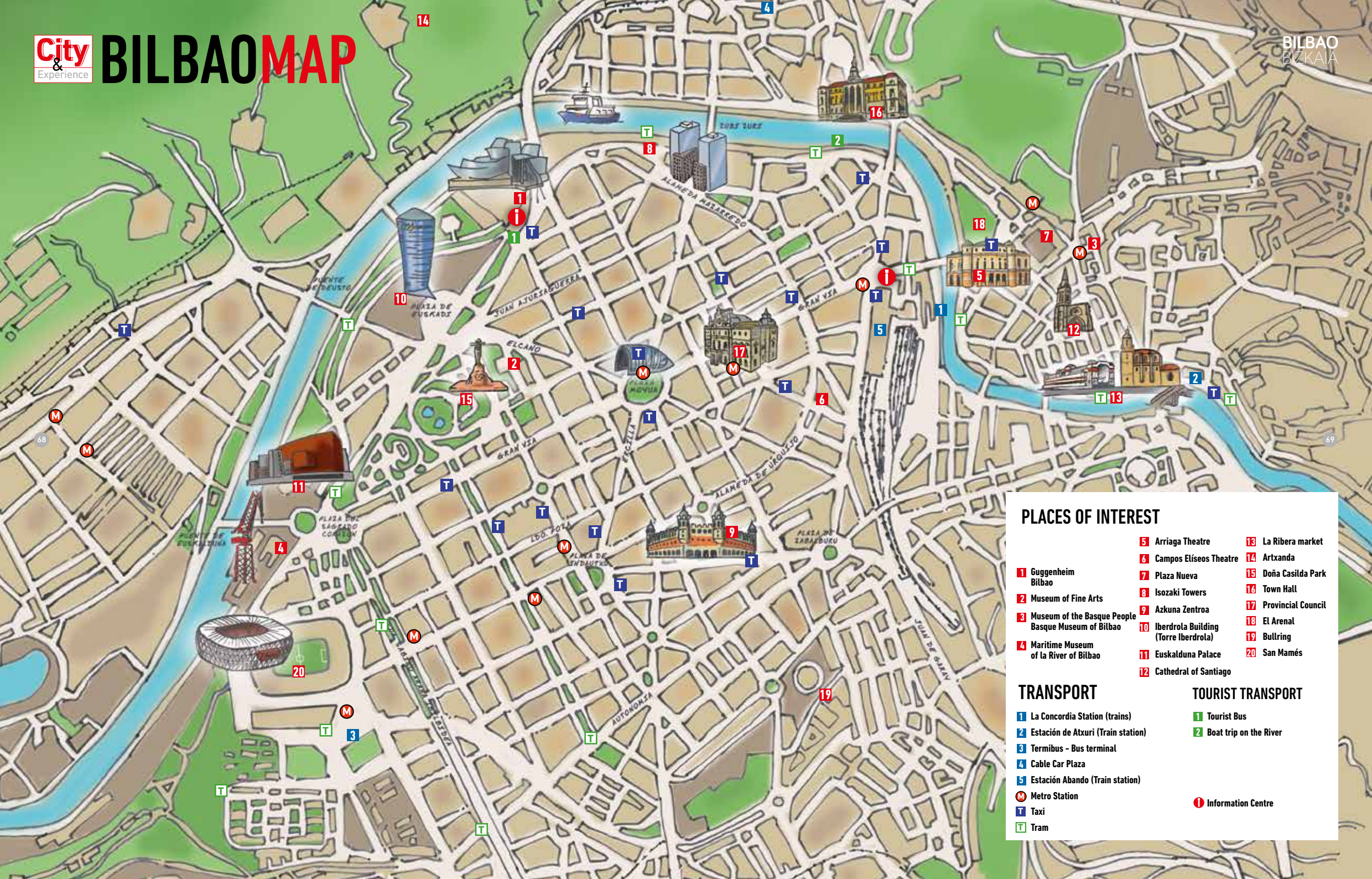
TXIRENE: Witty, humorous, eccentric prankster, like all self-respecting people from Bilbao.

TXOKO: Place where people from Bilbao meet to pay homage to a series of dishes until six or seven in the evening.

TXAMARRA: A garment used to keep warm when the temperature more or less drops below zero.

ZURITO: A small glass of beer to lighten up the poteo.

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PLACES OF INTEREST

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1 Guggenheim Bilbao | 5 Arriaga Theatre | 13 La Ribera market |
| 2 Museum of Fine Arts | 6 Campos Elíseos Theatre | 14 Artxanda |
| 3 Museum of the Basque People | 7 Plaza Nueva | 15 Doña Casilda Park |
| 4 Maritime Museum of the River of Bilbao | 8 Isozaki Towers | 16 Town Hall |
| | 9 Azkuna Zentroa | 17 Provincial Council |
| | 10 Iberdrola Building (Torre Iberdrola) | 18 El Arenal |
| | 11 Euskalduna Palace | 19 Bullring |
| | 12 Cathedral of Santiago | 20 San Mamés |

TRANSPORT

- 1** La Concordia Station (trains)
- 2** Estación de Atxuri (Train station)
- 3** Termibus - Bus terminal
- 4** Cable Car Plaza
- 5** Estación Abando (Train station)
- M** Metro Station
- T** Taxi
- T** Tram

TOURIST TRANSPORT

- 1** Tourist Bus
- 2** Boat trip on the River

I Information Centre

BILBAO TOURISM
www.bilbaoturismo.net
BISCAY TOURISM
www.visitbiscay.es
BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM
www.turismo.euskadi.eus/es
NEKATUR / AGRICULTURAL TOURISM
943 327 090 - www.nekatur.net

TOURIST OFFICES BILBAO

BILBAO TOURISM
[Q] - Plaza Circular, 1 Edificio Terminus - 944 795 760
[Q] - Alameda de Mazarredo 66 (Next to the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum)
AIRPORT 944 031 444

BIZKAIA

BAKIO
946 193 395 - www.bakio.org
BALMADEDA - ENKARTUR
94 680 29 76 - www.visitenkarterri.com
BARAKALDO BEC (Bilbao Exhibition Centre)
944 995 821 - www.barakaldo.org
BERMEO
946 179 154 - www.bizibermeo.eus
DURANGO
946 033 938 - www.turismodurango.net
ELORRIO
946 820 164 - www.visitelorrio.com
[Q] **GERNIKA-LUMO**
946 255 892 - www.gernika-lumo.net
[Q] **GETXO**
944 910 800 - www.gebo.eus
[Q] **GORLIZ**
946 774 348 - www.gorlis.eu
KARRANTZA-HARANA
946 806 928 - www.karrantza.org
LEKEITIO
946 844 017 - www.lekeitio.org
MENDATA
946 257 204 - www.mendata.eus
MUNDAKA
946 177 201 - www.mundakaturismo.com
ONDARROA
946 831 951 - www.ondarroa.eus
ORDUÑA
945 384 384 - www.ordunaturismo.com
OROZKO
946 122 695 - www.orozkoudala.com
PLENTZIA
946 774 199 - www.plentzia.org
PORTUGALETE
944 729 314 - www.portugalete.org
[Q] **SANTURTZI**
944 839 494 - www.turismo.santurtzi.net
[Q] **SOPELA**
944 065 519 - www.sopeladala.org

SOPUERTA
946 504 750 - www.sopuerta.biz
TRUCIOS-TURTZIOZ
946 109 604 - www.turtzioz.org

TRANSPORT

AIRPORT
Bilbao-Lolui - 913 211 000 (AENA)
944 869 663
www.aena.es
CRUISE AND FERRY
Bilbao-Portsmouth Ferry 902 108 147
www.brittanyferries.es
TRAINS
Abando Indalecio Prieto Station (Renfe)
Plaza Circular, 2 - 902 320 320 - www.renfe.com
Metro line 3 (EUSKOTREN)
Zazpikaleak - 944 333 333
www.euskotren.eus
Concordia Station; FEVE Bilbao
Calle de Bailén 2 - 944 250 615
www.renfe.com/viajeros/feve
BUS SERVICES
Terminibus (Bus station)
Gurtubai 1 - 944 395 077 - www.termibus.es
Bilbobus (Municipal buses)
944 790 981
www.bilbao.eus/bilbobus
Bizkaibus (Coaches and buses, province and airport)
946 125 555 - www.bizkaia.eus
METRO BILBAO
946 855 000 - www.metrobilbao.eus
TRAM
944 333 333 - www.euskotren.eus
TAXIS
Radio Taxi Bilbao
944 448 888 - www.taxibilbao.com
Tele Taxi
944 102 121 - www.teletaxibilbao.com
Radio Taxi Nervión
944 269 026 - www.radiotaxinervion.com
BICYCLE HIRE
Bilbaobizi
946 564 905

GENERAL

EMERGENCIES 112
GENERAL INFORMATION 010
(For calls within the Bilbao area)
944 010 010 (for calls outside of the Bilbao area)
CONSULAR OFFICE
944 706 426
CITIZENS ADVICE
944 241 700
GENERAL ROAD TRAFFIC INFORMATION
011
LOST PROPERTY OFFICE
944 204 981

MUSEUMS IN BILBAO

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO MUSEUM
www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus
FINE ARTS MUSEUM
www.museobilbao.com
DIOCESAN SACRED ART MUSEUM
www.eleizmuseoa.com
RIA DE BILBAO MARITIME MUSEUM
www.museumaritimobilbao.eus
EASTER PROCESSION MUSEUM
www.museodepasosbilbao.com
BILBAO BULLFIGHTING MUSEUM
www.plazatorosbilbao.com
BASQUE COUNTRY MUSEUM
www.euskal-museoa.eus
ARTISTIC REPRODUCTION MUSEUM
www.bilbokoberreginenmuseoa.eus
ATHLETIC CLUB MUSEUM
www.athletic-club.eus

AZKUE FOUNDATION
www.azkuefundazioa.eus
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
www.bizkaioa.bizkaia.eus

MUSEUMS IN BISCAY ON THE COAST

FISHING MUSEUM
Bermeo - www.bizkaioa.bizkaia.eus
RIA DE BILBAO MARITIME MUSEUM
Bilbao - www.museumaritimobilbao.eus
PLASENTIA DE BUTRÓN MUSEUM
Plentzia - www.museoplentzia.org
RIALIA MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
Portugalete - www.portugalete.org/ES-ES/RIALIA
SANTURTZI ITSASOA INTERPRETATION CENTRE
PESQUERO AGURTZA
Santurtzi - www.turismo.santurtzi.net
BIZKAIA BRIDGE
Las Arenas (Getxo) /Portugalete
www.puente-colgante.com
URDAIBAI BIRD CENTER
www.birdcenter.org
EKOETXEA URDAIBAI
www.ekoetxea.eus
AITA GURIA / WHALE HUNTING INTERPRETATION CENTRE
Bermeo - www.aitaguria.bermeo.org
TXAKOLINGUNEA - TXAKOLI WINE MAKING EXHIBITION
Bakio - www.bizkaioa.bizkaia.eus/txakolingunea

INLAND

SIMÓN BOLÍVAR MUSEUM
Ziortza-Bolibar - www.simonbolivarmuseoa.com
DURANGO ART AND HISTORY MUSEUM
Durango - www.turismodurango.net
ENCARTACIONES MUSEUM
Sopuerta - www.enkartermuseoa.eus
EL POBAL BLACKSMITH
Sopuerta - www.visitenkarterri.com
EUSKAL IRON WORKS MUSEUM
Gernika-Lumo - www.Bizkaioa.Bizkaia.eus
LA PAZ DE GERNIKA FOUNDATION MUSEUM
Gernika-Lumo - www.museodelapaz.org
GERNIKA COUNCIL HOUSE
Gernika-Lumo - www.gernika-lumo.net
"JOSÉ LUIS GOTI" BASQUE MUSEUM ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCES
Leioa - www.ehu.eus
OROZKO MUSEO
Orozko - www.orozkomuseoa.eus
BASQUE COUNTRY MINING MUSEUM
Gallarta - www.meatzaldea.eus
BALMADEDA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Balmaseda - www.visitenkarterri.com
BOINAS LA ENCARTADA MUSEUM
Balmaseda - www.bizkaioa.bizkaia.eus/laencartada
BERRIOTXOA VALENTÍN MUSEUM
Elorrio - www.museoberrio-otboa.com
LOIZAGA TOWER ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC CAR MUSEUM
Galdames - www.torreloizaga.com
BASQUE COUNTRY ENVIRONMENTAL MUSEUM
Artea - www.euskalbaseria.com
IRON BELT INTERPRETATION CENTRE
Berango - www.berango.net

NATURAL SPACES

URDAIBAI BIOSPHERE RESERVE
946 257 609 - www.turismourdaibai.com
946 870 402 (Ihobe) - www.ekoetxea.eus
GORBEIA NATURAL PARK
946 739 279 Interpretation Centre, Parketxe de Areatza
www.areatza.net
www.gorbeiaeuskadi.com
URKIOLA NATURAL PARK
946 814 155 - www.urkiola.net
ARMAÑÓN NATURAL PARK
946 806 257 688 884 330 - www.visitenkarterri.com

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