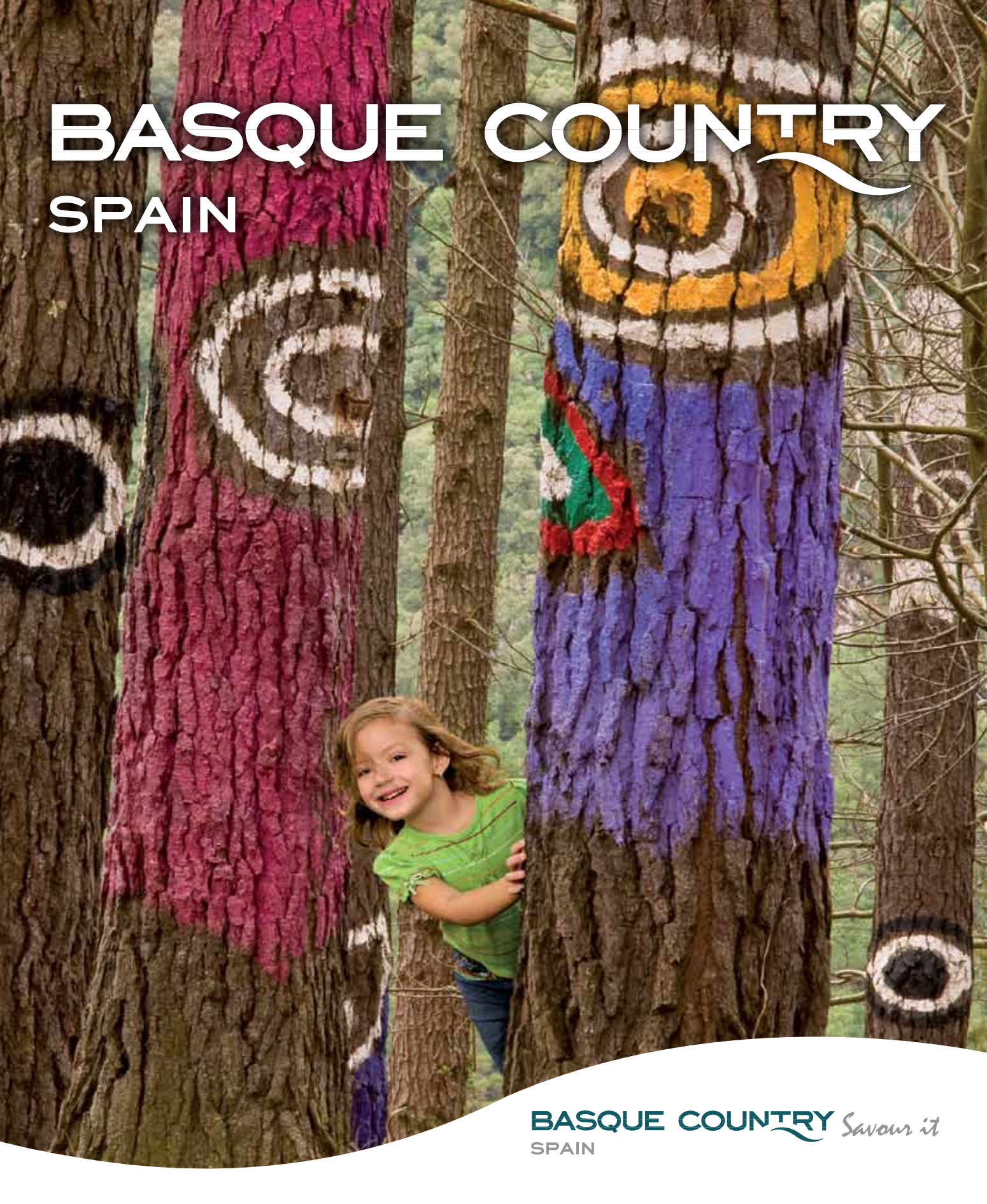


BASQUE COUNTRY

SPAIN



BASQUE COUNTRY *Savour it*
SPAIN

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BASQUE COUNTRY *Savour it*
 SPAIN



All of the TOP experiences detailed in this catalogue are subject to change and may be updated. Therefore, before you choose an experience and to find out about prices and schedules, we advise you check the website:

www.basquecountrytourism.net



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 SPAIN

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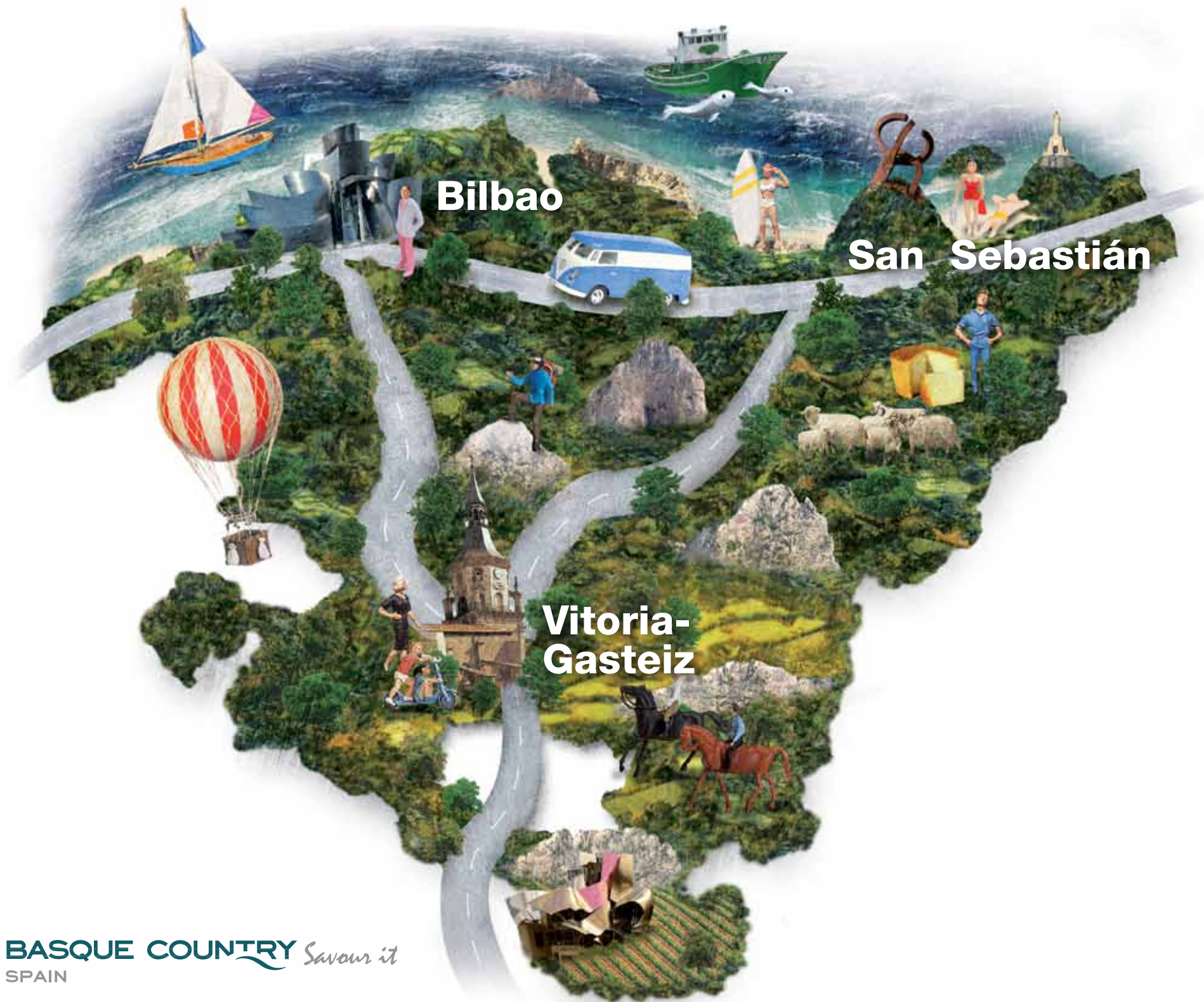
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BASQUE COUNTRY *Savour it*
SPAIN

THE BASQUE COUNTRY

a varied and
seductive mosaic

You are about to embark on an adventure with many attractions: a varied landscape, a mild climate, ancient culture, renowned gastronomy... These are the nuances that make the Basque Country a tourist destination you will be delighted to discover.

Two colours will accompany you on your journey through the Basque Country: the green of the incomparable setting of its mountains and valleys, and the blue of the sea.

You will discover that the Basque people maintain strong links with these natural resources: the land and the sea. The defining features of the Basque character were forged by both: deeply rooted customs, rich culture, local sports... See it all from the inside.

To better understand the nature of this people it is important that you immerse yourself in its traditions, exploring the fishing ports and the life of the countryside...

On the coast you will see how the Cantabrian Sea has marked the personality of the neighbouring villages. You will also notice the difference between their inhabitants and the inland people.

If you explore the history of the outstanding figures who have marked the personality of these communities you will discover how their maritime, industrial and agricultural character, always diverse and enterprising, has been bred.

And if you find the coastal and inland villages interesting, you will be no less fascinated by the three capitals. Bilbao will surprise you with its transformation from an industrial city to an avant garde metropolis bringing together the world's best architects. San Sebastian, exquisite and unique, will seduce you with its beautiful and stately setting. Vitoria-Gasteiz will show you its rich heritage and why it sets a worldwide benchmark in urban planning.

Eating and drinking well in the Basque Country is a luxury everyone can afford: local and seasonal products in the shape of *pintxos* (local tapas), with a fine wine from the Rioja Alavesa or a *txakoli* (sparkling wine). You are in the land of the good table.

Enjoyment a la carte. Now your job is to experiment and observe, then give way to the passion of taste.

BILBAO

a city of design centred on the

GUGGENHEIM

“

The leading lights of the new Bilbao are the internationally famous architects who have left their mark on its spectacular buildings

”

I

f any city is an benchmark for tourists it is unquestionably **Bilbao**. You will be surprised by its conversion from an industrial centre into a model city designed for living. Everything began with the **Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao**. Neither Frank Gehry's stunning architecture or the varied art gallery with its incomparable display of contemporary art will leave you indifferent. The international projection

of Bilbao provoked by the "Guggenheim effect" is unquestionable. Opposite the museum: **Puppy**, its mascot, Jeff Koons's floral dog. A snapshot with the faithful watchdog is a must.

But the change goes far beyond a landmark building. The result is a city that has reinvented itself, starting from the metro where Sir Norman Foster masterfully combined architecture and engineering. "**Fosteritos**", is the name affectionately given to the unique street level metro entrances. Take a trip on it. You will also be surprised at the creativity of Philippe Stark in **La Alhóndiga**: an old wine warehouse now converted into a multicultural centre.

Bilbao has opted for design as the basis of its renovation as a city



PUPPY AND IBERDROLA TOWER

Amongst these signature works you will also find the **Iberdrola Tower**, designed by César Pelli, the tallest building in the Basque Country, and the **Isozaki Towers**. Don't miss the chance to cross the Santiago Calatrava bridge opposite, the "**Zubi Zuri**". He also designed the airport terminal, **La Paloma (The Dove)**, that evokes a bird about to take flight.

Now you can take a break in a pleasant green zone surrounded by design... the **Avenida de Abandoibarra**, a lively place where tourists and the people of Bilbao share leisure moments. Take the opportunity to visit the **Bellas Artes Museum** (Fine Arts Museum), which houses works by El Greco, Sorolla, Gauguin and Zurbarán, amongst many others.

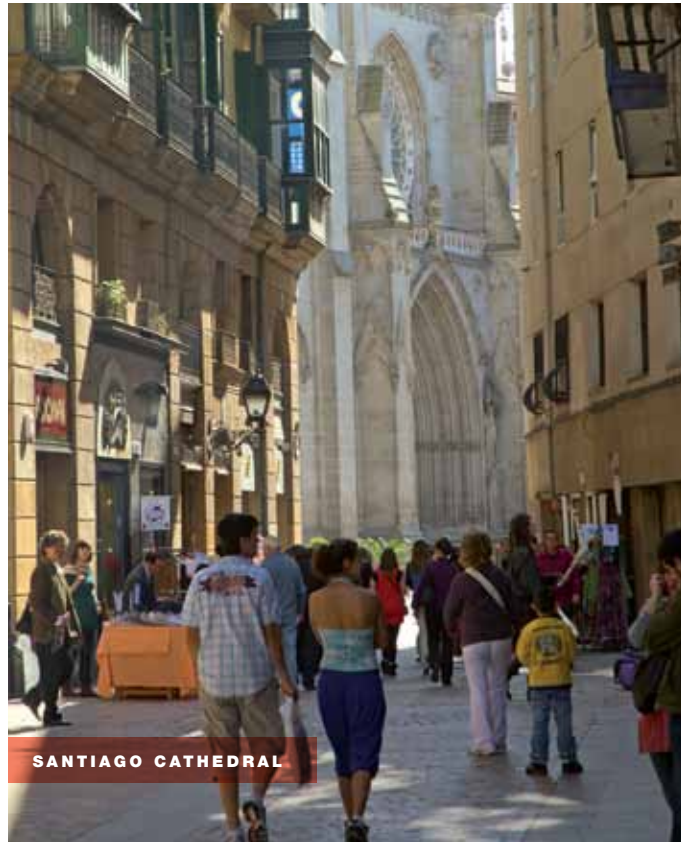
In **El Ensanche** avant garde buildings coexist with the elegance of those erected by the new bourgeoisie: the modernist **Concordia Station**, the **Palace of the Diputación** (Provincial Chambers) and the beautiful **Café Iruña** in the Gran Vía next to the **Albia Gardens**, or the **Campos Elíseos Theatre** amongst others.



LA ALHONDIGA

And if you go shopping... along the Abando, Gran Vía, Indautxu and the Casco Viejo (Old Town)

World famous fashion houses coexist in the commercial life of modern Bilbao alongside local businesses with a reputation for style and "quality". More and more pedestrian streets make a stroll and shopping easier and more enjoyable in these areas.



SANTIAGO CATHEDRAL

in the
CASCO
VIEJO
beats
a young heart

“

If the Guggenheim Bilbao surprised you, get ready for the special charm of the Casco Viejo. You will see how much it is loved by the local people. This is the Bilbao that was born around the Ría Estuary in 1300. Today, the ancient heart of Bilbao is still full of life

”



PLAZA NUEVA

The Casco Viejo (Old Town) originated in its famous **7 Calles (Seven Streets)**: Somera, Artecalle, Tendería, Belosticalle, Carnicería Vieja, Barrencalle and Barrencalle Barrena. *Trikitear* (having a few wines) in these streets is a must. You will encounter a universe imbued with a special atmosphere: that of the *pintxo* bars.



TXIKITEO

Day or night, in the Plaza Nueva, Jardines Street or in Santa Maria you will find a multitude of places to try them. If you decide to eat at one of the restaurants in the area you may find a group of diners singing over dessert. This is still a very common custom in these parts.

The Casco Viejo is full of life at any time, night or day

The commercial tradition of the Casco Viejo of Bilbao is legendary. Especially since the floods in 1983 the shops have undergone a spectacular transformation. Variety and quality awaits you in more than 400 shops of all kinds: shops full of the charm of past eras, street markets, a selection of fashion houses with the latest trends, 200 catering establishments... and



ARRIAGA THEATRE

the "good old" **La Ribera Municipal Market**, as the people of Bilbao would say, the one forever linked to the town's customs... Did you know that it is Europe's largest covered market?

The devotion of Bilbao's inhabitants to the **Virgen de Begoña** is the origin of a multitude of celebrations. You can visit her by ascending the 311 steps of the **Calzadas de Mallona**, beginning at the Plaza de Unamuno, or by taking the lift which will leave you nearby. By the way, the **La Salve Bridge** or Hail Mary Bridge is so called because it marks the point where sailors setting out to sea offered a "hail Mary" as the Basilica of Begoña disappeared from sight.

Another curiosity: the city is called *botxo* (the hole), by the inhabitants because it is located in a valley. If you take the **Artxanda funicular railway** you will get an extraordinary view of the *botxo*, where "greenery meets the skyscrapers."

You will find the genuine, bustling Bilbao in the medieval area of its Casco Viejo, a National Heritage Site. The gothic **Santiago Cathedral**, so named because it stands right on the Santiago Pilgrimage Coastal Route, the **Plaza Nueva**, the biggest and

oldest in Bilbao, the **San Antón Church**, with the ancient ruins forming its foundations, the neo-baroque **Arriaga Theatre**, and the **Arenal Gardens** are all outstanding... It is delightful to stroll around 700 years of uninterrupted vitality. And since a few moments rest is always welcome, take advantage of the nearby Café Boulevard to take a break. It is one of Bilbao's best loved establishments.

If you are here in the second week of August you will be able to take part in the Aste Nagusia (the Great Week), in which **Marijaia** (the Lady of the Celebrations) deploys all her gaité. Many of the functions are free.

**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**

Bilbao
at your feet...

Take a guided walk through the 7 Calles and the banks of the Ría and go up to Artxanda...

Bilbao is at your feet.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



From the town's foundation until the present day, the Ría estuary has played a key role in the development of Bilbao and as the driving force of the Basque economy.

The fact that it is navigable as far as Portugalete enabled the establishment of important shipyards on its banks until the mid 1980s. Today the Ría still plays a leading role, but now as a source of enjoyment for the people of Bilbao and for visitors.

The history of the Ría is the history of its bridges: the **San Antón Bridge** is part of the town's coat of arms. The **La Ribera Bridge** belongs to the old Bilbao that began to be modernised alongside the **La Merced Bridge**, as far as the **Arenal Bridge**, which gives onto El Ensanche. Industrial activity obliged some of them to "open up" for passage of heavy shipping.

Bridges and walkways unite the new and the old Bilbao

The **Zubi Zuri Bridge**, the **La Salve Bridge**, made up of the **Guggenheim**, the **Pedro Arrupe Walkway**, the **Euskalduna Bridge**... speak of the new Bilbao open to tourism. The latter is located over the old site of the famous Euskalduna shipyards, where today the **Congress and Music Centre** of the same name, winner of the world's best Conference Centre Award in 2003, is to be found. Alongside you will find the **Maritime Museum** and opposite, one of the cranes of the old shipyard: **Carola**.

Metropolitan Bilbao enables you to connect with the enterprising spirit that has always characterized the Basque people. A visit to the surrounding area will bring you closer to its maritime aspect.

THE RÍA

A living artery with a key role in the city



EUSKALDUNA PALACE

“The opening of the metro brought the beach close to Bilbao”



OLD PORT OF ALGORTA

Since the opening of the metro, it is said that the sea reaches Bilbao. First of all you must decide which of the two banks of the river you want to visit first. The left bank takes you through working districts such as **Barakaldo** or **Sestao**, where the famous **Altos Hornos** (blast furnaces) were found. From **Portugalete** you can cross the Ría by the **Vizcaya Bridge** or take in the views from the upper walkway. Beforehand, try some sardines in the port of **Santurtzi**.

On the right bank **Las Arenas** and **Neguri** await you, close to the Leisure Port with its bars and restaurants. Passing the Ereaga beach you arrive at the Puerto Viejo de **Algorta** (Old Port of Algorta), where the charm of the fishing people's houses will seduce you. If you take the metro you will get to the fishing village of **Pientzia**, with its small craft used for catching *txipiron* (baby squid).

Sailing on the Ría

Do you want to see Bilbao or reach the mouth of the Ría from a different perspective? You will see landmark buildings and the changing rhythm of the city, its left and right banks, discovering the past, present and future of Greater Bilbao... All this and more from a privileged viewpoint: a boat trip on the Nervión River.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



From Bilbao

...if you are staying two more days

2
days
+



If you have followed our suggestions you will have more than an inkling of the nature of this great capital city: the Ría and the Casco Viejo, the great urban renewal, the Guggenheim and the regeneration Bilbao is undergoing. But there's more.

A day at the beach - or at the seaside - is always a good idea. Take the metro to **Getxo**, get off at Las Arenas-Areeta and cross the Ría using the Vizcaya Bridge.

The sea calls us, and even more on the Coast of Biscay. The fourth day of your stay in Bilbao could be your chance to visit the **Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve**. On the way, don't miss the nearby **Gernika-Lumo**, where you will find the Casa de Juntas (Assembly House) or Biscay Parliament, in front of which stands the Gernika tree, symbol of Basque liberty. From there you have access to tiny valleys that open onto a delightful estuary with extensive wetlands that sustain a rich natural wildlife. Watching the change of tides from **Sukarrieta** is a worthwhile experience. Nearby, **Bermeo**, **Mundaka**, **Elantxobe** and **Ea** are some of the lovely villages where the cuisine is out to captivate you.

Very close to Bermeo, snuggling against Cabo Matxitxako, is **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, a precarious chapel erected on a coastal islet reached by a twisting footpath with 231 steps. Afterwards, only two kilometres away, you can try the *trakoli* (sparkling wine) of **Bakio**.

About twenty-five kilometres inland from Bilbao we find the district known as **Las Encartaciones**, a lovely spot with attractions like the Pozalagua caves, unique for their eccentric stalactites, the classic car museum in the Loizaga Tower and where you can taste the famous *putxera* (kidney bean stew) of Balmaseda.

... and if you have a week

7
days



At this point in the trip your passion for Bilbao and Biscay will require further objectives. If you can stay three more days, visit the **Oma Forest**, taking the **Kortezubi** road. There you will find a surprising land art composition of painted tree trunks by Agustin Ibarrola. The **Santimamiñe** Cave is close by.

Another day will allow you to visit, taking the same roads, the villages of **Lekeitio** - with its island and the Karraspio Beach - and **Ondarrao**. The fishing ports generate intense social activity. Stroll along their piers, beaches and streets and try the fare offered by the restaurants and bars, the delicious fish from the Cantabrian Sea.

We would like to suggest a mountain excursion for your seventh day. **Mount Gorbea**, 1,482 metres high, is one of the most popular peaks. You approach it through the Arratia valley from the village of **Zeanuri**. There is an iron cross almost eighteen metres high on the summit. You will always find *mendizales* (mountaineers) of all ages ascending and descending the slopes. The views are spectacular.

If you have young children we suggest another natural surrounding: the **Urkiola Natural Park** which is reached from **Durango**.

You can walk some of the trails and enjoy the scenery offered by the neighbouring **Mount Anboto**, or the traditions of the **Urkiola Sanctuary**, the scene of colourful pilgrimages.

LA CONCHA BAY

Beautiful, elegant and stately
SAN SEBASTIÁN
more than just an incredible backdrop

**TOP
 EXPE-
 RIEN-
 CE**

The Pearl
 of the
 Cantabrian Sea

Take a walk along La Concha to the base of Mount Igeldo. There you can take the funicular railway, opened by Queen Maria Cristina in 1912, to enjoy excellent views of the city and the Basque Coast.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

“
San Sebastián entralls. One look at the bay and its three beaches will make you want to discover all its secrets
 ”

When you visit the city it will be love at first sight: you will not be able to wait to get to know each other properly. But trying is a delicious task. On arrival you will want to take a stroll along **La Concha**. Walk on the sand at the water's edge from the **Alderdi Eder** Gardens to **El Peine del Viento** (The Comb of the Wind), by Chillida and Peña Ganchegui, leaving the **Ondarreta** beach to one side.

This first crush will show you the paradise that surrounds the bay: the peaks of **Igeldo**, **Urgull** and **Ulía**; **Santa Clara Island**, the **Urumea** river and its bridges, and the **Zurriola** beach with its powerful waves.

This urban beach is only a few metres from downtown San Sebastián, which makes it very popular for all kinds of water sports, especially surfing and body-board.



ZURRIOLA

In other spheres, a city offering a wide variety of activities is within your reach. Thus you will find that San Sebastian is the city of well-being. Among the lures it will cast are massages and thalassotherapy sessions, or walks through the romantic downtown area.

Scene of a multitude of suggestions

You may choose to practice running around the stunning circuit from El Peine del Viento to **Sagües**, by the **Paseo Nuevo**, or along the banks of the **Urumea**. San Sebastián is also perfect to enjoy by bike. The *bidegorris* (bike lanes) will take you to any part of the city.

Find the river: the **Urumea**. The bridges joining the **Gros** district and the city centre give it a unique personality.

There is a wide variety of theme tours that enable you to experience San Sebastián in an exclusive way. Just choose.

You'll find that San Sebastian is always charming, in sunshine or in rain... and when the rough sea is aroused.

www.sansebastianturismo.com



PORT



PEINE DEL VIENTO

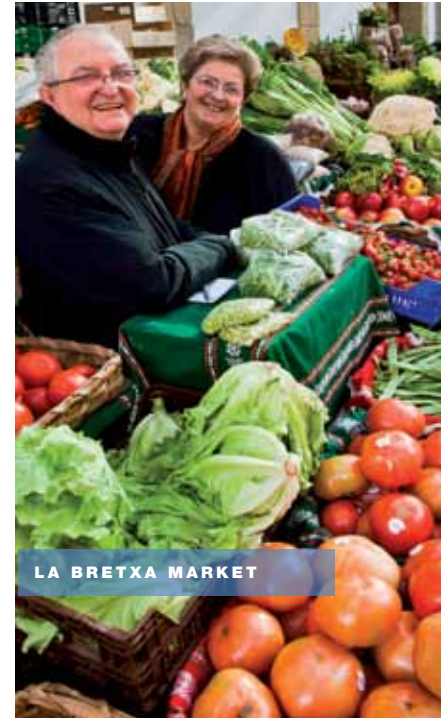
SAN SEBASTIÁN

world capital of the PINTXO

Learn the secrets and keys to success of San Sebastian's cuisine with a tour of the bars of the **Parte Vieja** (Old Quarter), the **Centro** (downtown), the **Antiguo** or **Gros**, tasting their suggestive *pintxos* or bite-size creations, between *txakolis*, ciders or wine from the Rioja Alavesa. This is the kind of small-scale cooking that captivates more and more people every day.



One Basque custom consists in having a "Gilda" (*pintxo* made of chili pepper with olives and anchovy) to accompany pre-luncheon glass of wine. Starting with this, take a look around and it will be a rare bar that fails to offer an innovative suggestion for a *pintxo*, or a tasty "banderilla" (appetizer mounted on a toothpick) that will encourage you to eat standing up during the beguiling stroll. The Parte Vieja in the first place, then any part of the city will offer you its inimitable nanogastronomy...



LA BRETXA MARKET

One of the keys to the culinary success of San Sebastian is the excellent seafood and *caserío* (typical Basque farmhouse) products. Allow time in your plans to fit in a visit to the **La Bretxa Market** in the Parte Vieja, or the one of **San Martín** downtown. You will see professional and amateur cooks of all kinds discussing the qualities of some carrots or the origin of a sea bass with the vendors. It is not unusual to see three-star chefs like Arzak or Subijana in these markets... along with housewives and other lovers of top quality products!

Here in San Sebastián
our table is adorned
with a 16-star tablecloth

San Sebastian and its surroundings are strewn with the stars that, year after year, the influential Michelin Guide awards to the best cooks on the planet. Martin Berasategui, Juan Mari Arzak, Pedro Subijana, Andoni Aduriz and Ruben Trincado, along with their colleagues in other Basque regions, have made San Sebastian's cooking the main tourist attraction of the Basque Country.

But these culinary stars also belong, in a certain way, to every pintxo bar, restaurant, cider bar and grill house that enriches the capital and its surroundings. The gastronomic quality is total. Just think of what you would like. Mention it and immediately someone or other will suggest a place where you can try the speciality.

In the *erretegiak* (grill houses) they will offer you impressive T-bone steaks or charcoal-grilled fish. It's easy to say, but... try finishing everything! The doors of an impeccably attended restaurant are open to you in any corner of San Sebastián.

But to really appreciate the atmosphere of the city it is indispensable to explore the Parte Vieja. This is where you will find the streets and the bars scattered along them full of life and movement.

TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CERoute of
Pintxos

If you don't know anyone in the city who can show you this peculiar circuit, take a professional to guide you through the **Route of the *Pintxos***. They will show you the indispensable spots and tell you curious stories about the city. The gastronomic richness of San Sebastián is extraordinary.

www.basquecountrytourism.net





SAN SEBASTIÁN
The city of film
and
culture

It has all the values and arguments... There's a reason why San Sebastián has been designated "European Capital of Culture 2016"...! Cultural life is intense here... From its most popular and multitudinous expression –the **Tamborrada** (Procession of drums) on January 20– to the prestigious **International Film and Jazz Festivals**. This is what is called "waves of civic energy".



“ *Hundreds of artistic and cultural events follow one another in quick succession and involve the entire city* ”

Catherine Deneuve, Glenn Close, Woody Allen... and many more have experienced it in person. Beyond the cinematographic festival as such, San Sebastián itself is a huge film set.

Directors, actresses and actors, scholars and critics over the last sixty years have fostered an incredible love of the cinema that permeates the whole life and activity of San Sebastián. The Tourist Office also organizes a guided tour to learn about San Sebastián through the magic of the silver screen. It is worthwhile allowing yourself to be guided through the **Boulevard**, **La Concha Beach** and the **área romántica** (romantic zone)... The film city!

The seventh art impregnates the very air of San Sebastián: witness the **Hotel María Cristina**, the **Victoria Eugenia Theatre** or the **Kursaal Conference Centre and Auditorium**.

www.sansebastianreservas.com
www.sansebastianfestival.com

In the European Capital of Culture 2016 the cultural encounters and events follow one another in quick succession. One classic is the **International Jazz Festival** and another outstanding occasion the **Quincena Musical (Musical Fortnight)**. The cinema has other expressions in the **Mountain and Sea Diving Contests** and its **Fantasy Film Festival**.

And if you are a science and space enthusiast **Eureka! Zientzia Museoa** (the Science Museum) invites you to take part in novel experiences, with new technological proposals every week.



San Sebastián, European Capital of Culture 2016, has the necessary tools for a new concept of cultural policy. Its neighbourhoods have schools, workshops and cultural centres that foster the creative exchange of ideas and social transformation.

A succession of celebrations, conventions, events and festivals exclusively related to the European Capital of Culture 2016 will take place during the coming years.

www.sansebastian2016.eu



From San Sebastián

...if you are staying two more days



The agenda for enjoying two more days in San Sebastián contains several stunning items based on this part of the Basque Coast. Do you want to know what the earth is like under the crust?... come to **Zumaia**. There you will see a series of spectacular cliffs that extend three hundred metres above the waters showing rock strata known as *flysch*, which extend as far as **Deba**, running through **Mutriku**. You can learn more about them by taking a coastal trek, following the Camino de Santiago (Santiago Pilgrimage Route), or on a boat trip.

In **Getaria**, in addition to its highly appreciated *txakoli* (sparkling wine), you will find the original **Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum**. Close by, **Zarautz** is outstanding for its beach, one of the international sanctuaries of surfing.

A fourth day of your stay in this Basque capital could be spent at the **Aia Forest**, near **Orio**, or be used to relax in the **Zestoa spa**. Without leaving the locality, if you are travelling with children, **Ekainberri**, an interpreted replica of the Ekain caves and cave paintings, is an enjoyable way to learn about prehistoric times.

Very close to San Sebastián, the towns of Astigarraga and Hernani will introduce you, on the seventh day of your visit, to the world of *sagardoa* (cider). The best time to experience it is between January and May. **Sagardoetxea**, or the **Basque Cider Museum**, offers an intense programme of activities throughout the year.

If you have a free afternoon, visit **Hondarribia**, near **Irún**, to enjoy the scenery of the **Txingudi Bay**. This seaside town has a lively fishing district and beautiful beaches and walks in the surrounding hills.

... and if you have a week



At this point in your journey you have got to know San Sebastián and its surroundings fairly well, but if you're lucky enough to have a whole week why not enjoy yourself even more? To do so you can take the **Idiazabal Cheese Route**. This is an inland tour taking in the Natural Parks of the **Aralar** and **Aizkorri** mountain ranges and the homesteads and caseríos where cheese is made. But since it's a case of making the most of your time, concentrate on the **Idiazabal Cheese Museum**, the **Pasture Ecomuseum** in Legazpi, on the rural market at **Ordizia** or on the **D'elikatuz** Food and Gastronomy Interpretation Centre. Another Natural Park close to San Sebastián is that of **Peñas de Aia**, with its dozens of mine shafts and galleries.

Also, for the children, the Tolosa's **International Puppet Centre - Museo Topic** - recreates the great puppet tradition. Tolosa is one of the districts that best conserves the original essence of its *inauteriak* (carnivals) free of external commercial or media influences. When you visit the town try the delicious *babarrunak* (kidney beans) and the *tejas* and *cigarrillos* (almond waffles).

Close by in **Azpeitia**, is found the **Sanctuary of Saint Ignatius of Loyola** with its impressive basilica. You can also take the excursion to the **Basque Railway Museum**. In **Zumarraga** you will find the **Anitio Chapel**, and in **Oñati** the **Sanctuary of Arantzazu**, where the sculptor Jorge Oteiza left his mark. The tour through Ignatius country will lead you to the valley of the Urola river, the origin of some of the most beautiful pages in the history of Gipuzkoa in the sixteenth century on the life and works of the founder of the Society of Jesus.



SALBURUA

VITORIA-GASTEIZ

EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL,
"WHERE GREEN IS CAPITAL"

the harmony of a city designed for living

**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**

A bird's eye view

“
Vitoria-Gasteiz combines technological and industrial activity with wide open spaces and pedestrian and sports areas. The European Green Capital 2012 is a city to be lived



The Green Belt is the natural perimeter of the capital of Alava. There are 47 kilometres of tracks and trails through the parks surrounding the urban area, from Alegria, Armentia, Olarizu, Salburua, Zabalgana, the banks of the Zadorra, Berrostegieta, Errekaleor to Lasarte. A green landscape of forests, rivers and all sorts of fauna and flora.

Vitoria-Gasteiz has grown while respecting its surroundings and its rich natural heritage. The **Salburua wetlands**, huge lagoons a few kilometres from the center, are host to herds of deer and thousands of waterfowl. The **Ataria Interpretation Centre** will enable you to see them close up.

Motor vehicles are not necessary to travel around the basque capital or to visit these natural zones. Vitoria-Gasteiz is one of the European cities with the most green area per capita, and is designed for the pedestrian. This is illustrated by walks like El Batan, La Senda-Fray Francisco

Cervantes to the hill of the Basilica of San Prudencio de Armentia, parks such as La Florida, San Martin, Arriaga, Judimendi, the Green Belt... Routes that will enable you to enjoy a thousand beautiful natural views at any time of year.

Are you into trekking? Leaving the city to the south you will find the mountains of Vitoria-Gasteiz. Going through Berrostegieta and Mendizorroza you can reach the Zaldiaran, Errogana and Arrieta

summits. To the north, you can trek the Badaia, Arrato and Elgea ranges.

Beaches and waters are of the inland variety, but are not lacking. At the **Ullibarri-Ganboa** and **Santa Engracia** reservoirs you can enjoy the country around Landa, Erpidea, Garaio, Marieta and Legutiano for sunbathing, windsurfing, swimming or kite flying.



”
those who live here say that it is a convenient and agreeable city. On foot or by bicycle, **Vitoria-Gasteiz** is accessible to all. There are urban trails, or *bidegorris*, as they call the bike lanes. They travel throughout the city, linking together the **Green Belt**. More than a hundred kilometres of waymarked lanes. If you haven't brought your bike you can rent one from the municipal service.

If Vitoria-Gasteiz is considered a city in the key of "green" this is due, among other things, to its devotion to natural resources. We recommend a visit to Ataria, a facility in the Salburua Park, where you can see a multitude of birds in a silence only possible in such unique surroundings.

Another interesting option, although only practicable at certain times of year, is to take a bird's eye view of the city from altitude, by balloon.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



IN THE ALMENDRA MEDIEVAL OLD QUARTER

“you will experience History as never before”



SANTA MARÍA CATHEDRAL

The **Almendra Medieval** (Medieval Almond), so named for its oval shape, is found within the urban green belt. It is the oldest part of the capital, located on a hill called **Gasteiz** back in the year 1000. Probably the first recommendation any *gasteiztarra* (Vitorian) would give you would be to visit the **Santa María Cathedral**, always “open for restoration”. Authors such as Toti Martínez de Lezea and Ken Follett were inspired by this place and made it the setting of some of their books. The long restoration of the gothic cathedral has become a unique and highly sought-after activity for tourists and history lovers who appreciate how the building was constructed. Over a million visitors have toured its naves, atrium, walls and triforium.

www.catedralvitoria.com

**TOP
EXPERIENCE**

The secrets of a Cathedral

Put on your safety helmet and a professional guide will show you the history of the cathedral through its passageways and restoration work. If you climb up the tower, you will get unparalleled views of the Almendra Medieval Old Quarter. A set of lights in the Portico of the Light will take you through the evolution of the multicoloured wonder of the Paternina Chapel from the 16th century onwards.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



MURAL IN THE ALMENDRA MEDIEVAL

When you continue your tour of the Casco Antiguo (Old Quarter) you will visit the **City Walls**, the **Bibat** (Museum of Playing Cards and Archeology) and the **Escoriaza-Esquivel** and **Montehermoso** palaces without the slightest effort. Convenient escalators take you to the top of the Almendra Medieval Old Quarter, where you will be welcomed by a seething, innovative social and cultural life.

The vicinity of the Casco Antiguo is home to a restless cultural avant-garde. One of its latest ideas is the **mural itinerary** that covers old facades and walls with giant murals full of colour by young artists who are becoming influential in avant-garde European art.



ARTIUM

Notice that the names of the streets of the Casco Antiguo: **Cuchillería** (cutlers), **Herrería** (blacksmiths), **Pintorería** (painters), **Correría** (harnessmaker)... denote the guild

which exercised its trade there. By the way, the first Saturday of each month there is a street market in which local tradespeople exhibit their wares.

These are the surroundings of palaces such as **Bendaña**, the **Casa del Cordón**, post inns like the **Portalón**, or the lively squares of **Brullería**, **Campillo** and **Matxete**. The latter, now open to Vitoria's **Ensanche**, is a relaxing area that takes its name from the oath taken by the Procurator General, formerly performed over a machete with which his head would supposedly be cut off if he failed to do his duty.

If you are interested in contemporary art you will find the **Artium**, the **Basque Museum-Centre of Contemporary Art**, a cultural activity centre near the Almendra Medieval Old Quarter that collects, produces, disseminates and researches contemporary art. In addition to its unique architecture, it has a large collection of works.



MEDIEVAL CITY WALLS

AN *Ensanche* that unites centuries



PLAZA DE LA VIRGEN BLANCA

The **Plaza de la Virgen Blanca** is the heart of Vitoria-Gasteiz. The **Celedón**, protagonist of the fiestas, arrives here every 4th of August, dropping down from the Tower of San Miguel. On the railings around this church, a bronze Celedón sculpture waits for a photo. To one side is the **Plaza de España**, seat of the Casa Consistorial (Council Hall), which provides a popular area of terraces and columned porches.

The main artery of the city, the **Dato Street**, starts in this square, a pedestrian area and financial centre watched over by the figure of “**El Caminante**” (The Walker). From here you can explore the most relevant parts of the Ensanche, now renovated with sculptural constructions such as the **Plaza de los Fueros**, by Eduardo Chillida.

Close by, you can also see the 19th century **New Cathedral**, the **Basque Parliament**, next

to the **La Florida** park, the French Basque-style **Post Office** and the **Palace of the Autonomous Provincial Council**. With the aid of the Tourist Office, located in the Plaza de España, you can take pleasant



PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

guided walks to learn about the past and present of the city: the era of Carlos V, the art of the altarpieces, the neoclassicism of Olaguibel and the milestones of the contemporary city.

Now is the time to do some shopping: you are in the right place.

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/turismo

The Camino de Santiago crosses the city

The **Camino de Santiago** runs through the heart of Vitoria-Gasteiz. From the **Estibaliz Sanctuary**, through the Casco Viejo and the **San Pedro Church**, to the **Armentia Basilica**, modern pilgrims can get to know the medieval village. The streets and squares are signposted to show the way.



VINEYARD IN LAGUARDIA

Vineyards at your doorstep

Vitoria-Gasteiz is very close to the **Rioja Alavesa**, an area with twelve thousand hectares of vineyard. Visting a winery is a fascinating experience. You can see avant garde examples by architects like Gehry, Mazieres, Aspiazu, or Calatrava... or traditional ones that we call “*cuevas*” (caves).

Before visiting the Rioja Alavesa, spend some time in a wine shop in Vitoria-Gasteiz to become familiar with the wines. Don't miss the opportunity to take part in a tasting if you can.

Wine is an integral part of the life and culture of the area. The *trikiteo* is the custom of visiting various bars, as a group of friends, having some wines. Very important: accompany the liquid with a *pintxo*! The Tourist Office will provide you with a “*pintxo card*” at reduced price that allows you to have a *pintxo* and a wine from the Rioja Alavesa at each of four bars.

And if your visit coincides with the Week of the *Pintxo* and the *Cazuelita* (stew) or the *Gourmet Wine Week*, you will have hit the jackpot.

A sweet temptation

Bakery is another specialty of the capital with decades of tradition. Succumb to the *goxua* (layered cream cake), *txurritos* (puff cakes), “*Gasteiz tart*”, chocolate truffles or *vasquitos* and *neskitas* (*bonbons*).



VITORIA-GASTEIZ with children

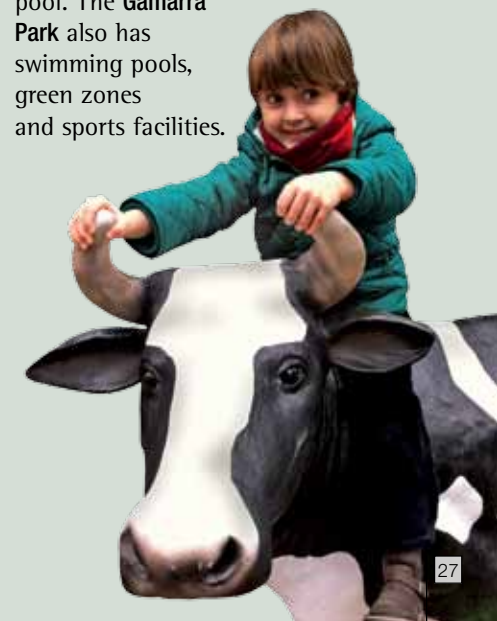
If you are accompanied by children on your trip to Vitoria-Gasteiz relax, because they will not be bored. There is an abundant and mostly free offer of leisure activities.

One option is to visit the **Green Belt**, with its parks, forests, wetlands, a variety of flora and fauna, the **Ataria** bird observatory en Salburua, all just a few kilometres from the city centre. You can get there by bicycle or on foot.

Now in the city, the **Natural Science Museum** displays a priceless collection of amber and one of the most complete herbariums in Spain.

And if you are here in June, the **International Festival of Games in Vitoria-Gasteiz** is unique in the world for its size and volume. 4,000 different games in the open spaces that occupy much of the city.

The heat of summer is very bearable in Vitoria-Gasteiz, and even more so at the **AquaMendi** water park at the **Mendizorrotza** municipal swimming pool. The **Gamarra Park** also has swimming pools, green zones and sports facilities.



From Vitoria-Gasteiz

...if you are staying two more days



SAMANIEGO



LAGUARDIA



LABRAZA



SALINAS DE AÑANA

After your stay in the basque capital, you will probably have fallen in love with the lifestyle of this “Green Capital”. But Vitoria-Gasteiz has much more to tell you in the couple of days you devote to exploring the surroundings.

The **Rioja Alavesa** is an attractive area in southern Álava. Only 52 km from Vitoria-Gasteiz, the landscape is covered by orderly vineyards, wineries and villages. That's because wine is the driving force of the economy in these parts, producing Crianza and Reserva wines that win awards from all over the world. Rioja was promoted from Designation of Origin (DO) to Qualified Designation of Origin (DOCa) in 1991. A convenient way to explore the region is on board the **Enobús**, a wine tour bus service with departure from the capital of Alava. It takes you to visit a variety of wineries from traditional stone constructions to the latest design in titanium.

You will also stroll through medieval walled villages like **Labraza**, **Salinillas** and **Laguardia**. In addition to the culture of wine, this region situated on the Ebro river offers relaxing spas and wine therapy centres, cycling trails and natural attractions of the **Cantabria Mountain Range** and the **Laguardia Lagoons**.

If you want to have a good time with the children, **Valle Salado de Salinas de Añana** offers you an attractive active tourism plan for one day. It consists of traditional salt extraction from the water of saline springs, and is formed by more than 5,000 threshing pits arranged in handcrafted terraces made of stone, clay and wood. There are paths alongside the hundreds of wooden troughs that distribute the salt water from the springs over the more than 120,000 square metres of the saltern. The visit includes the open-air Spa Salino. You can bathe your hands and feet in the hyper-salty waters.

... and if you have a week



QUEJANA



GORBEIA NATURAL PARK



OUR LADY OF ESTIBALIZ



ULLIBARRI GANBOA



IZKI

If you have conceded yourself seven days of vacations in Vitoria-Gasteiz, you will be granted many more than seven wishes. The lands of **Ayala-Aiara** and **Montaña Alavesa** will grant them...

Laudio-Llodio is home to the **Basque Museum of Gastronomy**. Its neighbour **Amurrio** is the birthplace of *Txakoli* de Araba with various wineries producing this variety. The medieval town of **Artziniega** has spectacular green landscapes, and **Quejana**, a monumental construction containing a monastery and the Ayala Palace, is located nearby.

Not far away, close to **Delika**, you can see the 270 metre high **Nervión Falls**, source of the river of the same name and accessed through the Mount Santiago Natural Park in Burgos. **The Gorbea Natural Park** in **Murgia**, the **Legutiano** reservoirs and **Ullibarri Ganboa**, the **romanesque Sanctuary of Estibaliz** or the historic quarter of **Salvatierra-Agurain** are places to be enjoyed by young and old alike.

The objective of your seventh day in Vitoria-Gasteiz could be **Montaña Alavesa**. Go up the Opakua pass from Salvatierra-Agurain until you reach the **Valley of Arana**, with its large **Idiazabal Cheese** factories, in **San Vicente**. **Korres** is the gateway to the **Izki Natural Park**, one of the best preserved forest areas on the Peninsula.

Urturi and **Lagrán** have golf links, **Antoñana** has an equestrian centre and mountain bikes; **Santa Cruz de Campezo** has a trout-fishing lake... **Urizaharra-Peñacerrada** may be the culmination of your journey with its imposing walls and museum.



THE BASQUE COUNTRY experiences

for all tastes



at this point you will know what the Basque Country has to offer. Bilbao, avant-garde design and an admirable capacity for transformation. San Sebastián, an elegant beauty that adds an unequalled gastronomic offer. Vitoria-Gasteiz, a planning model enhanced by the fact that it was declared European Green Capital and is proud of its Almendra Medieval Old Quarter.

But this is only a small portion of the delicious cake you will have the

opportunity to savor. The fact is that the Basque Country, in its small package, keeps some big surprises in store for you in a huge variety of ways.

Food and wine tourism is one of them, because even though you know that it is recognized around the world, it is only through experience that you can appreciate the reason for its fame.

You will discover why the coast gives meaning to the existence of this people, which in large part has been forged by the sea.

If you love nature, you can enjoy it in a thousand varied ways: trekking, climbing, surfing, mountain-bike...

And if traditions and getting to know the cultural wealth of a people is your thing, the Basque Country keeps alive an ancient past that gives it its particular idiosyncrasy.

When **sitting down**
to dinner is
a real pleasure

A star-spangled gastronomic firmament



“
It may just be that one of the reasons you are visiting the Basque Country is the cuisine... Through each house, gastronomy club, bar or restaurant, Gastronomy and Cuisine are written in capital letters
”



That anonymous men and women become masters and mistresses of the kitchen, with recipes that contain their own little secret, is the norm in the Basque Country. When you meet the great figures of Basque cuisine, you will find that they have earned their reputation the hard way. Many stand out on their own and receive the acclaim of gourmet critics. Their 26 Michelin stars prove it. Each award for Basque cuisine follows hard on the heels of another. San Sebastián is the city with the highest number of culinary stars per capita in the world!

In the Basque Country there is an artist behind every dish

You will find that every small restaurant offers an attractive culinary panorama. The *erretegiak* (grill houses) propose menus based on charcoal-grilled fish or meat. Some outstanding establishments are located in Getaria, Orio, Tolosa, Sukarrieta, Larrabetzu or Armentia.

The *sagardotegiak* (cider houses) offer this same fare with the added attraction of the picturesque setting among barrels or *kupelas*. The wineries of the Rioja Alavesa offer another fine and differentiated manner of dining.



**TOP
EXPERIENCE**

Your introduction to gourmet cooking

But you can go home from the Basque Country not only having tasted these delights in the form of pintxos or in a fine restaurant, but having learned to make them. To do so, we would like to suggest one of the many culinary innovation courses. They will allow you to enjoy an unforgettable meal in a restaurant with Michelin stars.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

NANOASTRONOMY

PINTXOS

haute cuisine in miniature



TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE

Beginners' course in *pintxos*

If tasting them is fantastic, learning to make them is absolutely thrilling. We suggest that you attend any of the introductory courses to pintxos or their association with the best wines under the guidance of experts and creative cooks.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

- www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
- www.bilbao.net
- www.donostia.org
- www.sansebastianturismo.com
- www.basquecountrytourism.net
- www.campeonatodepintxos.com
- www.ondoloinapartments.wordpress.com
- www.pintxosdebilbao-patricia.blogspot.com

a

s if it were a late geographically discovery,

the Basque Country has created a new way of dining:

pintxos. They began as unassuming Gildas made with chilli pepper and anchovy and as Péles, or boiled eggs. The idea was to eat something between glasses of wine... Now the tiny snacks exhibited in bars and elaborated with great care by their creators are universally admired. This is the sophisticated science of nanogastronomy.

You will not be able to resist them: fish pudding from the Plaza de la Constitución in San Sebastián, or a sophisticated bite of roast pork marinated in spiced oil at the Guggenheim Bilbao, or a curl of scrambled eggs with *perretxikos* (wild mushrooms) from Calle Prado in Vitoria-Gasteiz. You will discover the delicious world of the pintxo in the Basque Country...!

In Vitoria-Gasteiz and San Sebastián you can get the "pintxo card" and guide services to discover this new culinary expression.





the markets

...your table is prepared here

ORDIZIA MARKET

Seasonal fairs

Extraordinary markets are organised throughout the year, like those of **Santo Thomas**, in the three Basque capitals, the Livestock Fair in **Agurain**, the Potato Fair at **Valdegovía-Gaubea**, the **Santiago** Fair in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the Day of the **Pepper from Gernika**, the Farmer's Market in **Balmaseda** and the Grape Harvest Festival in the **Rioja Alavesa**.

Cider, cheese, tuna, anchovies and mackerel, as well as *txakoli* (sparkling wines), have their fairs and market days in **Astigarraga**, **Ordizia**, **Orio**, **Hondarribia** and **Zarautz**. Basques like to buy seasonal products: the first Idiazabal Cheese, summer vegetables and fruit, autumn mushrooms and white beans for the winter.

- www.gipuzkoa.net
- www.bilbao.net
- www.gernika-lumo.net
- www.mercadolaplaza.com
- www.nekanet.net
- www.gastronomiavasca.eu
- www.biolur.net

Market days

You will love to get to know the municipal and produce markets where professional chefs and housewives alike buy their top quality products, basic to basque cuisine. And best of all, they add special attraction: a unique opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about one product or another.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



SPRING

At whatever time of year you visit to the Basque Country, you will observe an authentic natural display of seasonal produce.

The Basque spring is the time for curds, or *mamiak*, of the first peas and broad beans, anchovies and mackerel. The new cider is also at the ideal stage for drinking. Beef and mutton -especially the lamb- offer a tempting reason for a fiesta or banquet. Don't miss it.



AUTUMN

Autumn is the time for *babarrunak* (kidney beans), truffle y potatoes from Alava. The hunting season adds pigeons, partridges, woodcock and wild boar to the table. And pay attention to the delicious mushrooms and other fungi that reach the kitchen -zizaoris (*Edulis amanita*), *onttobeltzas* (*Boletus aereus*) and *onttozuris* (*Amanita caesarea*)- and also chestnuts, walnuts and caserío apples. It's vintage time.



A dish for every

SUMMER

SEASON



WINTER

Summer has the air of the sea: skipjack tuna, sardines from Biscay, *txipirones* (baby squid) from San Sebastián and Mutriku, red mullet, *txitxarros* (horse mackerel), *txangurros* (crab), sea bass, monkfish... You will enjoy the establishments in ports and coastal towns! The same goes for meat: go to a grill house and check it out.

Basque market gardeners also join the summer party: red and green peppers, meaty tomatoes, spicy Tolosa peppers, green beans and superb lettuce...

Perhaps the best time to show off Basque cuisine is the winter. Edible thistles, beans, cauliflowers and leeks come from the gardens... Meat, bacon and black pudding from the fields and barns. The sea provides exquisite bream, elvers... The table is ready.



A gourmet goes shopping...

You will want it all: un voluptuous duck **foie gras**, **salt flower** from Añana, **cod** from the northern seas or **extra virgin oil** from the Rioja Alavesa.

The products offered by the Basque delicatessen is interminable: suggestive *txistorras* (pork sausage) local vegetables, tasty preserves, the delicious **Peppers from Gernika**, *perrebixikos* (wild mushrooms) from Araba/Álava, **skipjack tuna** from Lekeitio, **truffles** from Santa Cruz de Campezo, **Crianza and Reserva wines** from the Rioja Alavesa or *txakoli*.



Sweets such as *cocotes* of Markina (tarts), *cigarrillos* and *tejas* (almond waffles) of Tolosa, *txutxitos* (puff cakes) or the *goxua* (layered cream cake) from Vitoria-

Gasteiz, *ignacios* (tarts filled with cream of almonds) of Azpeitia or the *pantxineta* (custard slice) of San Sebastián. One of the most typical is the Basque tart.



Gastronomic contests and fiestas

gastronomy is fiesta



On squares, in gastronomy clubs, shopping centres, on saints' days or popular pilgrimages, hundreds of cooking fans get involved in the most varied **culinary contests** that take place all over the Basque Country. Their proposals embrace the usual culinary fields: bean stews, paellas, *putxeras* (stew), potatoes, snails, tortillas, cod and *marmitako* (fish and potato stew). Entire families and groups of friends take part.

If you take a stroll beside the La Concha beach in summer you will see housewives, young cooking fans and professional chefs from the bars and taverns taking part in a "*tortilla de patatas*" (Spanish omelette) contest.

The competition in Bilbao's Arenal during the Aste Nagusia (August fiestas) focuses on casseroles, on the best paella in the meadows of Aixerrota de Algorta, stews in the Rioja Alavesa and rabbit goulash in Laudio-Llodio. But undoubtedly the *marmitako* is the favourite dish for culinary championships along the Basque Coast.

Then, at a more exalted level, there are the components of the numerous **Basque gastronomy clubs** competing in regional competitions. The rivalries are fierce, but it's the fun that counts.

“*Cuisine is present in every expression of Basque life in the shape of well attended celebrations, gastronomic contests or culinary exhibitions*”



In Balmaseda, given its mining tradition, they still make the famous *putxeras* the traditional way: kidney beans, vegetables, ribs and chorizo. You too can take part.

Whether for amateurs or professionals, culinary contests cover the entire calendar

And if you really want to learn to cook, the **San Sebastián Gastronomika** and the **European Week of Cuisine** contests held at the Zaldiaran Restaurant in Vitoria-Gasteiz bring together the best chefs and food critics every year. And that's not all: events like **Algusto**, **Saber y Sabor** in Bilbao, the Championship of **Pintxos 'Euskadi Saboréala'** in Hondarribia, the **Week of the Pintxo and the Cazuelita** (stew) in Vitoria-Gasteiz will give you new ideas and appetising moments.

TOP
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Pintxo route

You can do a guided pintxo tour to try these miniature delights in one of the three Basque capitals.

Main course: Putxera

In Balmaseda, given its mining tradition, they still make the famous *putxeras* the traditional way: kidney beans, vegetables, ribs and chorizo. Go ahead and take part.

And now dessert

Vitoria-Gasteiz offers the option of a guided tour of bakeries and pastry shops. Can you think of a sweeter walk?

www.basquecountrytourism.net



Museums, interpretation centres and the university

Cooking with cap and gown...

In the Basque Country cooking has attained the rank of a science, and the University has even devoted a faculty to it with the recently opened **Basque Culinary Centre**. Several interpretation centres and gastronomic museums such as the **Basque Museum of Gastronomy** in Llodio operate in the Basque Country, where you can investigate the various domestic and professional culinary fields, cuisine from different eras or machines to improve food preparation, as well as an extensive culinary bibliography.

In Tolosa the **Gorrotxategi Museum of Cakes and Pastries** exhibits the working techniques of confectioners from the 14th to the 19th centuries. The **Honey Museum** in Murgia has a collection of production techniques from the Gorbeia district.



El Rincón del Pan (Bread Museum) shows the milling and baking tradition of the Urola district. In Ordizia you will find the **D'elikatz Food and Gastronomy Interpretation Centre**, and the **Idiazabal Cheese Interpretation Centre**, located in nearby Idiazabal, explains the secrets of the designation of origin and offers tasting.

Wine science

Wine and cider also have their school. The "**Villa Lucía**" **Wine Centre** in Laguardia will show you how wine is made and includes virtual tastings and games. Another nearby museum is that of the Bodegas Valdelana winery of Elciego, which has a cellar dating from 1583 and a **Wine Museum** endowed with wine-making exhibits from the neolithic to last century.

The town of Astigarraga is home to the **Sagardoetxea Apple and Cider Interpretation Centre**. An attractive museum area offers the latest technologies with computer panels, interactive material, photos and games.

www.euskolabel.net
www.basquecountrytourism.net
www.sagardoetxea.com
www.gipuzkoakomuseoak.net
www.bculinary.com



RIOJA

ALAVESA

A VOYAGE
THROUGH *of wine*
THE WORLD

LAGUARDIA

“

Devotion to good food has given rise to an appealing wine tourism offer in the Basque Country, and new resources and proposals are added every day. If you are looking for a fun-filled getaway to mix your love of cooking with landscapes and a variety of activities: This is your trip!

”

W

ithin its diminutive area, Rioja Alavesa

combines a range of attractions that will enable you to learn all about grapes, vineyards and wineries.

The fame of Rioja Alavesa wines has a long history. Membership of the Rioja Qualified Designation of Origin is an expression of the high quality you'll find in both small and huge futuristic wineries. Tourist Offices in Laguardia, Labastida and Elciego will suggest entertaining travel plans suited to the time you have available. One option is to visit villages, vineyards and wineries enjoying the culture of wine. You may want to explore the area on a relaxing bicycle tour. There are also wine-related spas and numerous renowned restaurants throughout the region... Here, things are done very well indeed.

The tranquility of the vineyards



VINTAGE

The Rioja Alavesa, located between the left bank of the Ebro River and the Cantabria Mountain Range, possesses a rich historical and cultural footprint. Megalithic remains such as **Chabola de la Hechicera**, **los Llanos**, and **El Sotillo**... Vineyards, olive

groves, dolmens, outstanding architecture, necropolises, wineries, cave wine presses, chapels, bridges, trails and cellars. All this will contribute to making your journey both intense and relaxing.

www.turismoriojaalavesa.com
www.riojalavesa.com
www.olivo-adora.org
www.alavaturismo.com
www.rutadelvinoderiojaalavesa.com
www.abra.com

Visit a traditional winery...

In your visit to the Rioja Alavesa you will learn to appreciate both the small family winery with its long history and inexplicable underground cellars, hidden under a street or in the foundations of some home, and the spectacular design that modern architects create for the great wineries. Wine-related architecture is impressive.

...or the most avant garde

You will marvel at the Santiago Calatrava-designed Ysios winery at Laguardia with its outstanding undulating roof against the backdrop of the Cantabria Mountain Range. Iñaki Azpiazu is the author of the Bodegas Baigorri winery in Samaniego. The French architect Philippe Mazières designed Villa Real in Laguardia. Both the Campillo winery in



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ELCIEGO

Laguardia and Faustino in Oion constitute landmarks on your trip to the Rioja Alavesa, and the Gehry-designed titanium facility at the Bodega Vinos de los Herederos del Marques de Riscal winery in Elciego is a delight to the eye. In a few moments you will pass from 19th century underground cellars to the cutting edge of wine-related architecture.

But to explore the Rioja Alavesa in the most relaxing way we suggest you forget your car and use the **Enobus** (Wine Bus) that departs from Bilbao or Vitoria-Gasteiz and takes you on a guided tour to every corner of this fascinating region.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

TXAKOLI

Distribution assured. With three different designations of origin – Getaria, Bizkaia and Araba – *txakoli* is in demand on the sophisticated and innovative international wine market. The taste is different from anything else. Some say it gets on well with fish because of its dry, attractive nature... But that's up to you.

a wine that ignores borders

The warm, humid air from the Bay of Biscay drove the cultivation of attractive vineyards for production of the *txakoli* (sparkling wine), next to the hundreds of caserios along the coasts of Gipuzkoa and Biscay, or in the valley of Aiara-Ayala in Araba/Álava. Commendable progress in growth and quality of this wine began with inclusion in the designations of origin twenty years ago.

With the breeze from the Cantabrian Sea

The districts of **Getaria, Zarautz and Bakio** (on the coast) and **Amurrio and Orduña** (inland), have entertaining routes that combine culture with gastronomy and wine tasting.



TOP
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With the taste of *txakoli*

You can visit one of the wineries that produces this local delicacy, do a nighttime tasting perhaps, to discover the secrets of this unique wine.

While you are here, you can also discover coastal and inland villages full of character and tradition. Along your way, you'll see vineyards of the grape that goes on to work its magic and become *txakoli*.

When they teach you how best to accompany the wine with other local products such as Idiazabal Cheese, Anchovies from Bermeo or Peppers from Gernika, you'll start to feel like a true *sommelier*.

And remember that *txakoli* from the Basque Country boasts 3 designations of origin:

- for Araba/Álava (Aiara-Ayala and Alto Nervión) '*Arabako txakolina*' www.txakolidealava.com
- for Getaria (Aia, Orio, Zarautz and Getaria) '*Getariako txakolina*' www.getariakotxakolina.com
- for Biscay (Bakio and Gernika) '*Bizkaiko txakolina*' www.bizkaikotxakolina.org

If you would like to experience a winery tour: www.basquecountrytourism.net

TOP
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Dining in a cider house

A robust menu

Cider from the *kupela* (barrel), cod or pepper omelette, a magnificent T-bone ox steak, cheese, nuts and quince jelly... that's what any basque cider house will place before you!

The cider season starts on the Feast of San Sebastián in January and ends in May, but virtually all establishments keep their doors open throughout the year. In many of them spontaneous *otxotes*, or choruses, to enliven encounter. Sometimes entertaining *bertsolaris* contests are organized, in which improvised verses are composed on the spot.

www.basquecountrytourism.net





Culture forged

BY THE FORCE OF THE *Sea*

“

The sea plays a leading role in the Basque Country.

Not only because it sculpts the varied landscape where gentle beaches with towering cliffs coexist, but due to the wealth it provides for the towns and cities bathed by its waters.

To understand it is to understand the history, culture and traditions of the basque people

”

the link between the sea and the Basque Country is nothing new. **The Cantabrian sea** has always played an essential role in the landscape, economy and life of the people close to it, giving rise to customs still rooted in the maritime tradition. When you visit places with economies closely linked to the sea you will be better placed to understand something of the nature of this people, and to assimilate experiences that carry the unique signature of an ancient culture.

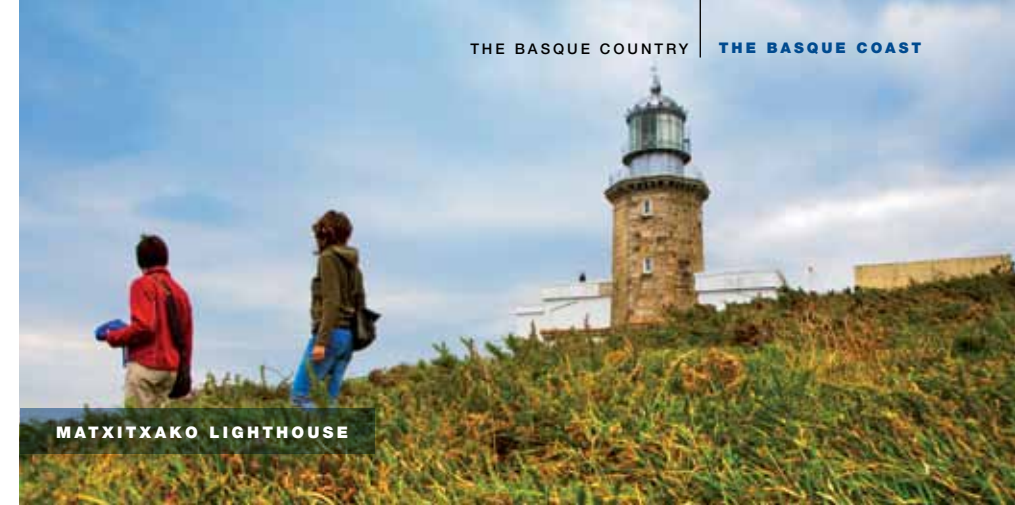
The soul of the fisher

This maritime spirit has its origins in the whaling. Thus fishing offered a stable and worthy way of life: the men going down to the sea to fish, and the women mending the nets or selling the catch. Even today in many ports you can see how they keep

to the same roles. The need to protect their interests led the sailors to unite in **guilds**, an arrangement that still survives. You can visit the guilds of Hondarribia or the Etxetxu of the Puerto Viejo de Algorta today.

The need for protection from the ferocity of the Cantabrian sea had something to do with the religious leanings of the sailors. This devotion is reflected in the numerous patron saint festivals, such as the “cármenes”, “madalenas” or “san pedros” (festivals consecrated to Our Lady of Carmen, Mary Magdalene and St Pedro respectively) taking place in many coastal towns. The churches they built also bear witness to this devotion: the Sanctuary of the **Virgen de Guadalupe** in Hondarribia, **Santa Catalina** in Mundaka and **San Telmo** in Zumaia are good examples.

To comprehend the legacy of this maritime culture and explore its heritage to help you to understand the relationship of the basque people with the sea, nothing better than to visit the many museums scattered along the coast. You could start with the San Sebastián **Aquarium**, a pioneering institution in maritime studies. You will love the Oceanarium, with its transparent tunnel giving 360° views of the marine world. Also in San Sebastián you can see the **Naval Museum**, with dedicated exhibitions chosen for their historical and cultural relevance. The **Oiasso Roman Museum** in Irún takes its name from the city built here by the romans, and displays daily life in ancient times.



Explore the depths of the sea. They are full of treasure

If you would like to see a working shipbuilder’s shop, a coastal carpentry from the old days, the **Ondarxo Maritime Cultural Centre** restores seacraft by hand and exhibits a wide range of historical vessels. The **Bentalekua Museum**, in Mutriku, conserves a wooden apparatus that used to aid organisation of the Dutch auction for selling fish.

In Biscay there is the **Fishermen's Museum** in Bermeo showing the basque maritime legacy from whaling to the life and customs of the fishing communities. The **Plasentia de Butrón Museum** in Plentzia, tells the town’s maritime history through navigational instruments, models, etc. The **Maritime Museum Ría of Bilbao**, located in the old shipyards, shows vessels related to the port. The **Rialia Industry Museum** in Portugalete recovers the history of mining and ironworks in Biscay. The **Navigation Technology Interpretation Centre** in Lekeitio explores the world of lighthouses and navigational techniques. The **Sea Interpretation Centre** in Santurtzi documents port life at the beginning of last century. And you can see the **Marierrota** tidal mill in Mendexa, Lekeitio.



The houses of the masters

Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum, in Getaria

Considered the most influential designer of the twentieth century his hometown, Getaria, pays tribute to the great tailor and visionary.

www.cristobalbalenciagamuseoa.com

Ignacio Zuloaga Museum, in Zumaia

In Zuloaga's house, located in the dunes of Zumaia verging on the Camino de Santiago, you will find works by the painter born in Eibar in addition to others including El Greco and Goya.

www.ignaciozuloaga.com

Casa Víctor Hugo, in Pasaia Donibane

The inn where Victor Hugo wrote about the people of Pasaia is now a museum where you can see writings and drawings of the period when the artist lived in this seventeenth century building.

www.victorhugopasaia.net





BASQUE BEACHES

*chosen by
queens,
painters
and poets*

“
*The Basque Coast stretches
through 250 kilometres of
natural wonders in the form
of beaches, estuaries, cliffs
and spectacular geological
structures*
”

The seaside tradition of the **Bay of Biscay** between Getxo and Biarritz has a long history. Already in 1887 Queen Maria Cristina ordered erection of the wooden Royal Huts to preserve her modesty on the beach of her favourite city, **San Sebastián**. It could be said that the area became the tourist destination par excellence when royalty, aristocracy and the European bourgeoisie chose this stretch of coastline for their holidays.

All the beaches guarantee the quality of their waters and services with certifications renewed year after year.

The Basque Country has 21 accessible beaches

There are urban beaches ideal for families amongst which **La Concha**, in San Sebastián, **Astondo** in Gorniz and **Isuntza**, in Leketitio stand out.

The best for a young, fun-loving atmosphere are **Zurriola** beach in San Sebastián, or the beaches of **Gorniz** and **Plentzia** in Biscay. The surfboard and sea kayak are most at home at **Zarautz**, **Bakio** or **Laidatxu**, the latter in Mundaka.

Laida in Ibarangelua is a very special beach. Its charm derives from the beauty of the natural setting where it is located, in the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, one of the Basque Country's most important natural treasures.

Another jaw-dropping beach is **Itzurun** in Zumaia, and it can also teach you the geological history of the Basque Coast.

And if you need an accessible place, **Laga**, **Karraspio** and **Toña** (Sukarrieta), in Biscay or **La Concha**, **Zarautz** and **Ondarbeltz**, in Gipuzkoa are a few.



And finally, if you are into naturism, the Basque Country has a wide variety of small coves and several beaches where you can feel free. A sample of bays: **Lapatxa** in Ea, **Barrika**, **Ulia** and **Igueldo** in San Sebastián. If you prefer beaches, try **Zurriola** in San Sebastián, **Zarautz**, or **Saturraran** in Mutriku. In Biscay **Meñakoiz**, in Barrika-Sopelana, **Aizkorri**, in Getxo, or **Barinatxe** in Sopelana-Getxo are outstanding.

It was at the end of the 50s when surf arrived on the Basque Coast, specifically to Biarritz. Slowly but surely the sport attracted followers, and today it is a benchmark surfing area. If you are interested, you can choose from numerous active tourism companies that offer courses and classes to get started or for those who are already experts. From **San Sebastián** to **Getxo**, including **Zarautz**, **Sopelana**, **Bakio** and **Mundaka**, which has the best waves in Europe, love of surfing is reflected in the endless number of surfers from around the world who come here. The towering waves provided by the Cantabrian sea (some ranked World Class) makes it possible to hold major championships such as those of San Sebastian, Zarautz and Sopelana, the latter two included in the European and world circuits.

www.surfigeuskadi.net

BASQUE COAST GEOPARK



FLYSCH AT ZUMAIA

You will feel the
60 *passing of
millions of years*

a must for your trip is a route along the coast taking in the *flysch*, a stratified stone complex showing 60 million years of the history of our planet and which makes up the **Basque Coast Geopark**. As if it were the leaves of an open book, contemplating the *flysch* you will appreciate the evolution of the earth through the formation of the rocks in this area of the coastline. This enclave also stores other natural and cultural features of the region.

The rock layers that you will see have been uncovered due to constant wave action.

This complex is an authentic passion for geologists from around the world and a major attraction for visitors. You can access the enclave from the towns of **Zumaia, Deba** and **Mutriku**. For a better look there are various alternatives: boat trips, *trekking the flysch*, horseback routes and a visit to **Algorri**, the **Natural Resources Interpretation Centre of Zumaia**, that will enable you to explore this geological structure of the Basque Coast in an easy and entertaining way.

Other areas of geological interest are the petrified dunes of **Astondo**, in Gorniz and the stretch of cliffs beginning at **Punta Galea** in Getxo and taking in **Sopelana, Barrika, Plentzia** and **Gorniz** before ending at **Armintza**.

www.algorri.eu
www.geoparkea.com

“
The Basque Coast Geopark has been a member of the European Network of Geoparks recognized by UNESCO since 2010
”



and looking upwards, bird watching can be extremely interesting. The **Txingudi wetlands** in Irún, **Cabo Higer** in Hondarribia or the inaccessible **Aketxe Island** in Bermeo are some great natural observatories. The **Urdaibai Bird Center** in Gautegiz-Arteaga is a bird banding and study centre. In fact the Basque Country has a tourist product giving full information on bird watching:

www.birdingeuskadi.net



**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**

Flysch & Karst Experience

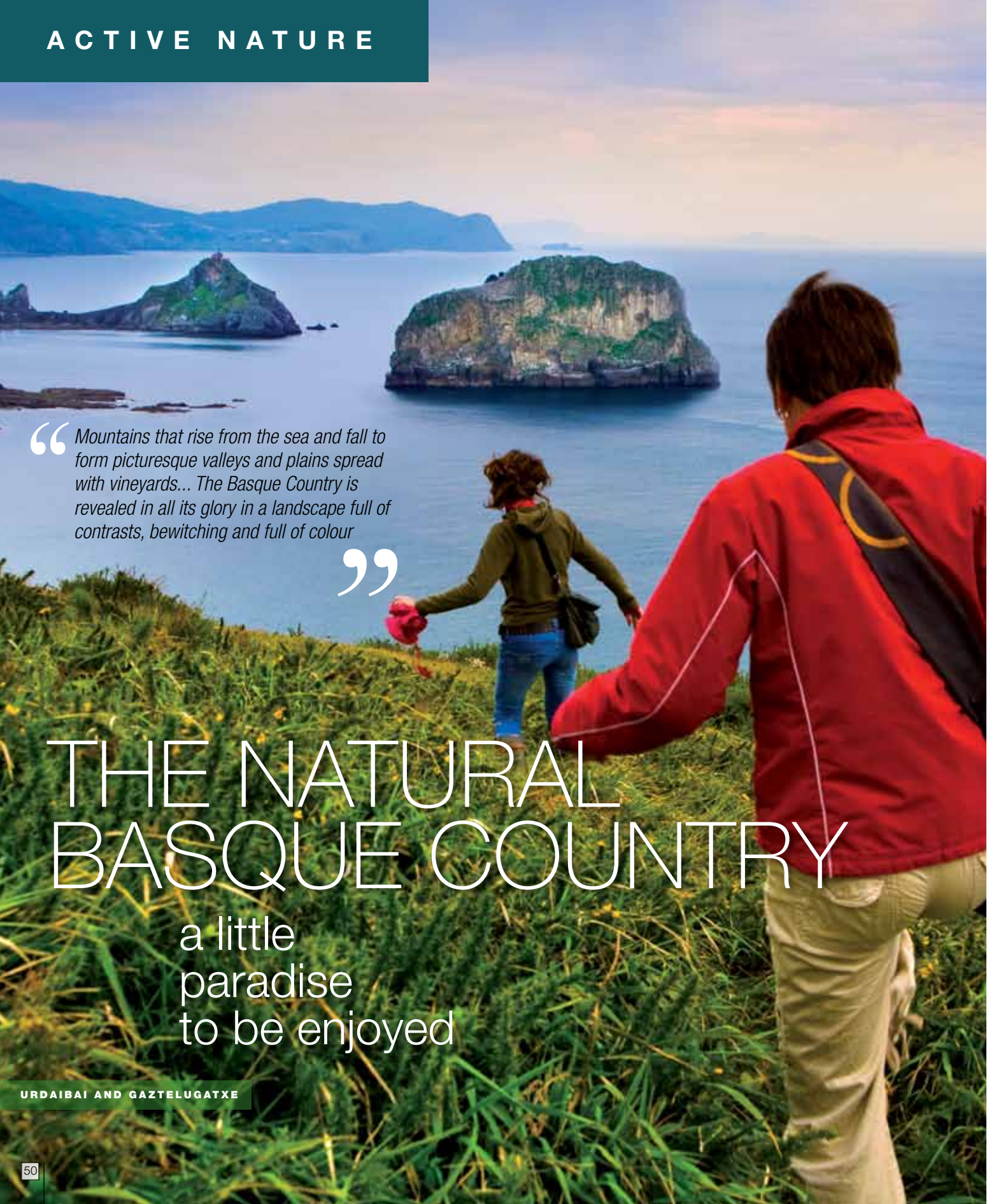
Thanks to the Nautilus Geological Interpretation Centre in Mutriku you can take a boat trip to see the cliffs from the sea. We then dock at Zumaia at the Algorri Natural Resources Interpretation Centre where you will be able to satisfy your curiosity about the rock formations.

On the high seas

Place yourself at the orders of an expert skipper who will teach you some of the secrets of sailing on the high seas as, with a bit of luck, you sight dolphins that greet you as they leap from the waves.

www.basquecountrytourism.net





“Mountains that rise from the sea and fall to form picturesque valleys and plains spread with vineyards... The Basque Country is revealed in all its glory in a landscape full of contrasts, bewitching and full of colour”

THE NATURAL BASQUE COUNTRY

a little
paradise
to be enjoyed

URDAIBAI AND GAZTELUGATXE



AIZKORRI-ARATZ

Protected sites, natural parks and rich ecosystems comprise the diverse scope in which Nature shows herself in this small country.

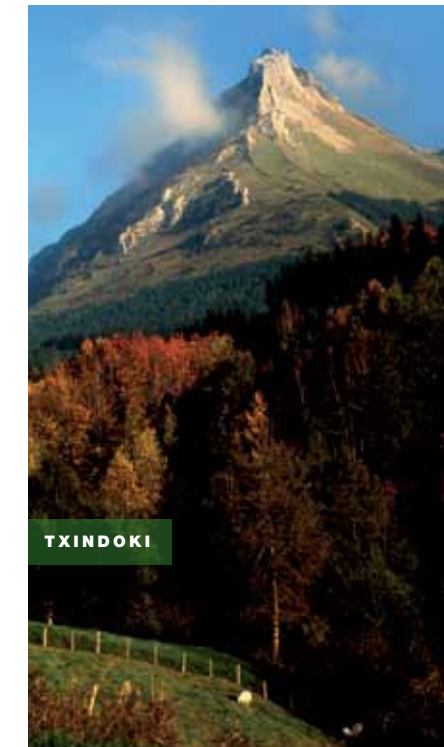
This is the case of the **Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve**. This unique enclave, located in the territory comprising the estuary of Mundaka, enables you to enjoy walks along the **Laida and Laga Beaches**, or to enjoy the views of the sea from the **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Chapel**. You can also immerse yourself in trails to arrive at the **Oma Forest**, a truly enchanted place.

Here culture, heritage and nature combine to offer you a **network of natural parks** that spreads throughout the territory.

Near Vitoria-Gasteiz you have the **Gorbeia Natural Park**, the traditional benchmark for Basque mountaineering. On both its Alava and Biscay faces you can enjoy wonders such as the **Goiuru falls**, or historical references like the **Cross of Gorbea**, which crowns the summit. If you prefer, you can visit the **Sanctuary of Arantzazu** or walk the mountain pass of the **San Adrián Tunnel**, in the **Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park**, in the very heart of Gipuzkoa.

In the **Aralar Natural Park** you will find megalithic monuments, and in the **Armañón Natural Park** caves such as

Pozalagua, unique for its eccentric stalactites, await you. In the **Urkiola Natural Park** you can visit the Sanctuary of San Antonio Abad and San Antonio de Padua, a magical enclave with a popular legend about the stone at its entrance: anyone who turns it around three times will find their love.



TXINDOKI

Culture, heritage and nature come together in a network of natural parks spread throughout the territory

Erosion of the limestone that abounds in the Basque Country shows the imprint of time in the **Valderejo Natural Park**. A natural route that will leave you speechless. Although if what you want is to immerse yourself in silence, the **Izki Natural Park** will be your destination. And before leaving the area visit Peñacerrada. It's walled village is a sight to see.

In the foothills of the Pyrenees and only 10 kilometres from the Basque Coast, the **Peñas de Aia** rise up. Their three main peaks, of great scenic beauty, are known as the **Tres Coronas (Three Crowns)**. You can enjoy walks in the **Pagoeta Natural Park**, also in Gipuzkoa and endowed with rich flora concentrated in the Iturraran Botanic Gardens.



ACTIVE NATURE
walking at your own pace...

BETWEEN ORIO AND ZUMAIA



IZKI

...or doing it by bike

Greenways,
growing by leaps
and bounds

The Basque Country has several **Greenways**, old railway lines converted into bicycle paths crossing landscapes reserved, until now, for the few.

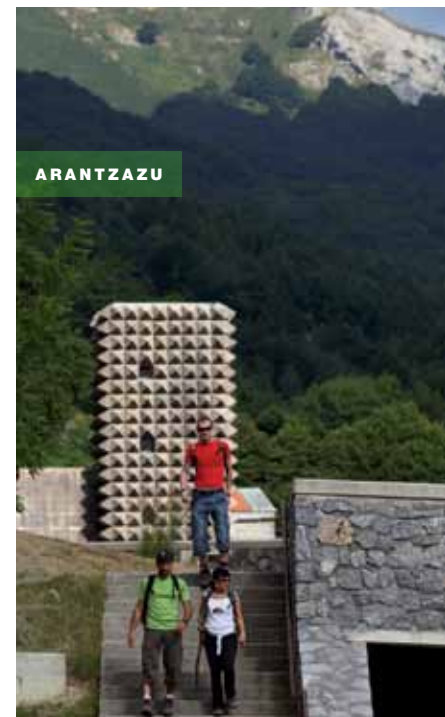
hikers and mountain enthusiasts have a perfect opportunity to enjoy walking in the Basque Country. Seeing the **Cultural Landscape Legacy** of the Basque Country allows you, in a route of just 40 kilometres, to experience a wide variety of different landscapes: from ordered vineyards to unspoiled mountains, from the coast to the inland plains.

Taking the GR-38 trail you can witness an ancient heritage: the mule-driving tradition of the **Wine and Fish Route**. The route takes you from the Rioja Alavesa to Lekeitio, Bermeo and Ondarroa, on the Basque Coast.

This is a vivid example of the Cultural Landscape Legacy that defines basque culture.

Likewise, by taking the GR-120 you can follow the footsteps of San Ignatius of Loyola on the **Route of the Three Temples**, that includes the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Loyola, the Sanctuary of Arantzazu and the Chapel of La Antigua, while you explore the interior of Gipuzkoa.

www.tierraignaciana.com
www.senderismoeuskadi.net



ARANTZAZU

the commitment to cycling has issued in the creation of four **BTT Centres** (mountain bike centres) in Basque territory. Whether you choose the Basque Coast, the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve or the Mountains of Alava, climb on your bike and enjoy the beauty to be found along the routes.

www.btteuskadi.net



OMA FOREST



There are hundreds of kilometres of routes, trails and tracks at your disposal for your favourite sport while you enjoy new scenery. Can you imagine anything better?

www.viasverdes.com

The charm of the *rural world*

“

In the Basque country more than anywhere else you perceive the differences between the urban and rural environments.

”

**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**



Of mountains and cheeses

Aizkorri, Txindoki and Gorbea are three of the Basque Country's hallmark peaks. Come on, let's climb them!

But another of the interesting activities you can take part in on your routes through the basque mountains is learning to make cheese and sharing the ancestral culture of the shepherds.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

W

hen you go to the country you will see that the character and traditions of the basque people remain unchanged. Thus you will love getting to know what life is really like in these areas. There are numerous hotels and cottages where you will find its essence. Authenticity is the keynote of the Basque countryside.

But if you are interested in the activities of day-to-day life in the country you will be fascinated by a stay in a caserío (traditional basque farmhouse), sharing a few days with a basque family. This idea has the appeal of a direct contact with a nature that will stimulate your senses as you participate in everyday activities: cheese production, cider making, preparing meat, honey, jam, milking cows... in short, all kinds of activities that will immerse you in the reality of basque rural life.

You will become familiar with their customs, enjoy the local cuisine especially related to the area you choose, learn words in the basque language... to put it in a nutshell you will be just another member of the family. And if you are lucky your stay may coincide with one of the festivals, markets and popular celebrations that occur throughout the year in the surrounding area.



**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**

The Basque Country in original version

If you want to go beyond a mere visit to the Basque Country we recommend that you immerse yourself in the experience of a different life, living with a family in a caserío and discovering everything involved in the basque countryside.

You will take part in the daily tasks of the caserío alongside the baserritarras (farmers), in their love of quality natural products, their cultivation, life in the open air, unsurpassed landscapes, contact with local traditions... and feel the peace and quiet of the countryside.

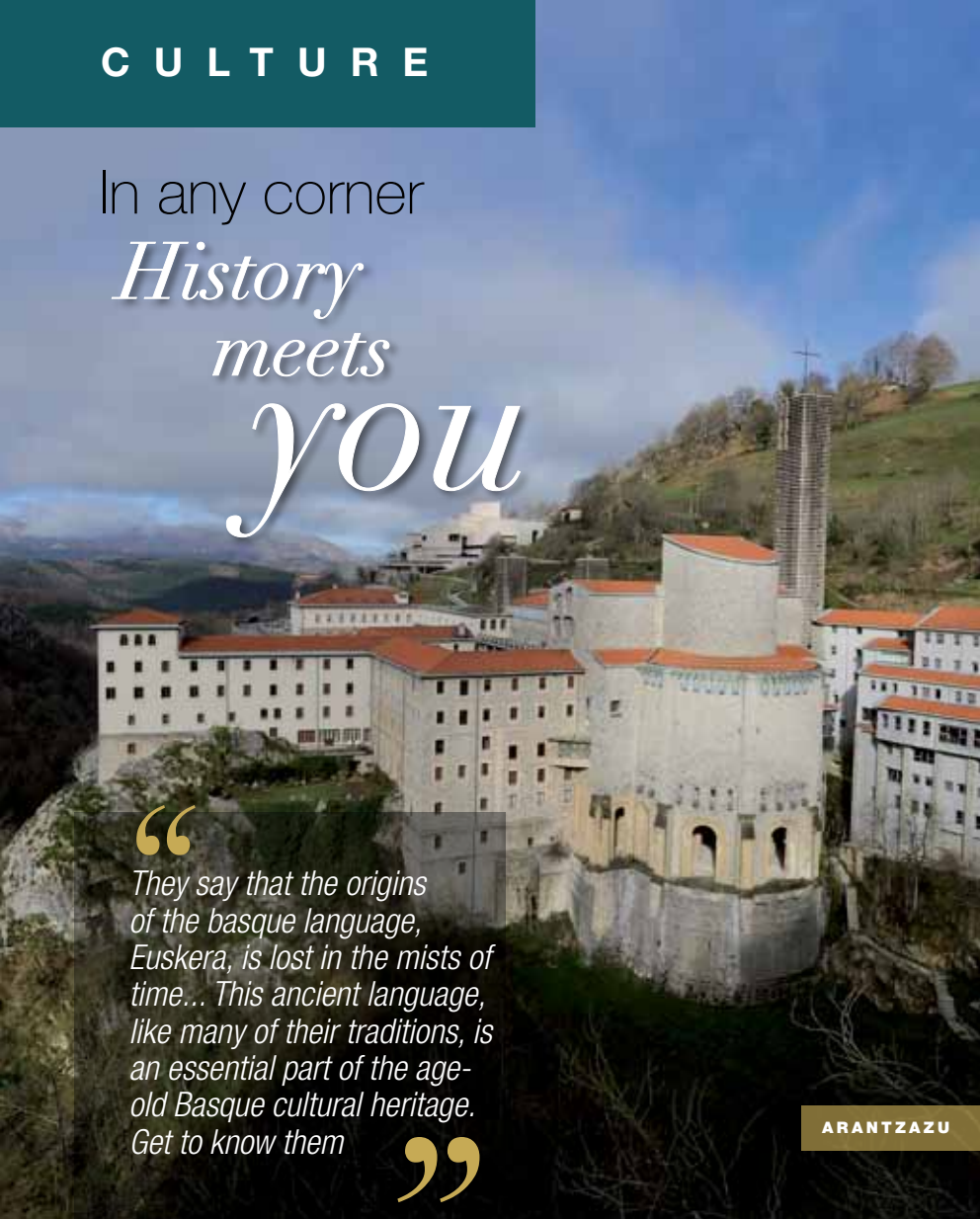
Choose the agrotourism option that most appeals to you and give free rein to your baserriterra side.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



In any corner
History
meets
you

“They say that the origins of the basque language, Euskera, is lost in the mists of time... This ancient language, like many of their traditions, is an essential part of the age-old Basque cultural heritage. Get to know them”



ARANTZAZU

When you are planning your route remember

that this corner of the Cantabrian sea was inhabited by various peoples such as the vascones and has an ancestral language, Euskera, the origin of which is still unknown. It was an indomitable people and fought against the romans, arabs and visigoths. It was part of the Kingdom of Navarre, conquered by Castile in the 16th century.

What remains today is the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, which shares much of its culture with neighbouring Navarre.

If your interest in history leads you to seek the origins of everything you could begin your journey in the paleolithic caves at Ekain or Santimamiñe, or observe the flysch of Zumaia or visit the dolmens and cromlechs of the Peñas de Aia, Mount Adarra, Aralar, Rioja Alavesa and Valdegovía.



SANTA MARÍA DE LOS REYES (LAGUARDIA)

When you travel the lands of Araba/Álava you will see the walled towns of Antoñana, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Peñacerrada, Laguardia and Labraza, which defended the interests of the Kingdom of Navarre. The towers and strongholds of Quejana in the Valley of Ayala, Mendoza and Villanañe will take you back to past ages... In the religious field, the Santa María Cathedral in Vitoria-Gasteiz, in permanent restoration, invites you to visit its premises through scaffolds and ladders, wearing a helmet.

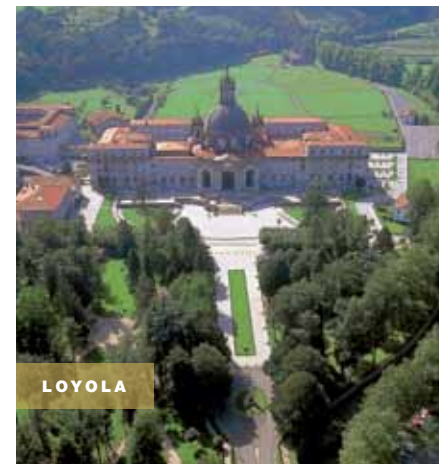


FINE ARTS (BILBAO)

In Biscay, the cultural heritage is generous. You could start with the island city of Orduña, the Haizko megalithic itinerary, the Casa de Juntas (Assembly House) of Gernika-Lumo and, in Avellaneda, the docks and metalwork museums on the left bank of the Nervion. Do not omit the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Archeology and the Bellas Artes Museum in Bilbao, the Zenarrutza Monastery, the Chapel of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe or the Vizcaya Bridge in Portugalete.

In Gipuzkoa, you can follow roman footsteps in the mines of Arditurri or the old port of Irun. If you are an art lover -or religious- the Basilicas of San Ignatius de Loyola and Santa Maria del Coro will attract your attention, as will the modernist Sanctuary of Arantzazu in Oñati, where the University is another must.

The San Telmo Museum in San Sebastián offers you an ethnographic study of the territory. The City Council, Library and Plaza de la Constitucion in San Sebastián display the history of the capital of Gipuzkoa in a most agreeable light.



LOYOLA



UNIVERSITY (OÑATI)



SAN TELMO (SAN SEBASTIÁN)

the 2 Basque beaches to Santiago

The Coastal Route, also known as the Northern Route, is one of the oldest routes and was used by pilgrims from the Nordic Countries. From Hondarribia to Zarautz you will keep to the highroads overlooking the Cantabrian sea on a delightful trail, experiencing the lively atmosphere of sea and fishing communities, not forgetting the ever-present world of the farmhouses and their green pastures.

From Markina-Xemein the route becomes easier through the hinterland of Lea-Artibai and Busturialdea to reach the tranquility of Las Encartaciones and the border with Cantabria.

The Inland Route, which joins the French Route, and allows the traveller to explore territory with a variety of colours, forms and spaces... from the borders of Gipuzkoa and Araba/Álava. For the romans this route was the European freeway.



LA ARENA (MUSKIZ)

Coastal stages: Hondarribia - San Sebastián - Zarautz - Deba - Markina/Xemein - Gernika-Lumo - Bilbao - Balmaseda or Portugalete - Kobaron

Inland stages: Irún - Hernani - Tolosa - Zerain - Salvatierra - Vitoria-Gasteiz - La Puebla de Arganzón - Salinillas de Buradón.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

**TOP
EXPE-
RIEN-
CE**

Mystic nature

Learn about the fantasy of Basque mythology at first hand, and thrill to the characters that fill the literature of a legendary country.

Your stroll will certainly be most entertaining if someone describes some of the characters in Basque mythology! **Mari**, a woman of fire who combs her hair in her cave before crossing the heavens; **Lamiak**, beautiful women with webbed feet who haunt the river banks; **Basajaun**, the lord of the forests with his brutal looks; **Jentilak**, the gentiles with their supernatural strength, and the **Sorginak**, witches with magic powers...

www.basquecountrytourism.net



LAMIA

BASAJAUN

ALBOKA



Well conserved traditions

If you have never visited the Basque Country before you will probably be curious about a lively dance that opens many celebrations: the **auresku**, a welcoming dance full of energy in which the **dantzari** (dancer) shows incredible flexibility. This is just one of the many examples of a rich heritage which in addition to folklore also includes legends, mythology, language, customs, traditions, rural sports, history, and all the expressions of art. Music has an idiosyncratic nature achieved by the use of traditional instruments such as the **alboka** (woodwind), the **tristu** (flute), the **trikitixa** (accordion) and the **dultzaina** (oboe).



CASERIO



BASQUE DANCING

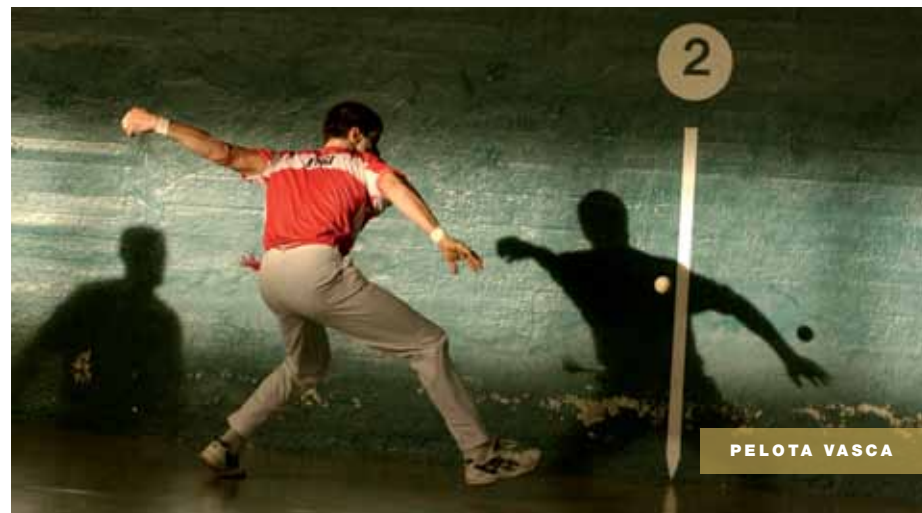


AIZKOLARIAK

The **herri kirolak** (rural sports) are a reflection of work in the countryside

Sport is also part of basque traditions. It is only necessary to see how the **pelota mano** (handball), **pala** (bat) and **cesta punta** (basket tip) stadiums fill up. Bets are placed and the courts are a thrilling spectacle.

Regattas of **traineras** (traditional fishing boats) and championships of **aizkolaris** (axes), **tronzalaris** (trunk sawing), **harrijasotzailes** (stone lifters) and **idi-demak** take place in many basque localities.



PELOTA VASCA



TRAINERAS

INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

The Basque Country on the world scene

Key basque cultural events in the world of music, dance or theatre such as the Vitoria-Gasteiz and San Sebastian International Jazz Festivals know no borders.

In Getxo there are Folk, Blues and Jazz Festivals. The Basque Symphony Orchestra's Euskalduna opera season and the BBK Live Macro-Festival take place in Bilbao.

In San Sebastián you have Zinemaldi, the Film Festival, the Musical Fortnight, the Fantasy and Horror Film Week, the festivals of **bertsolaris**...

In Araba/Álava the Early Music Week, the Dantzan Maiatza Festival (dance), Magialdia (magic), the International Festival of Games, the Television and Radio Contest and the Azkena Rock Festival stand out...

For these reasons, whether you come with your family or with friends, your visit to the Basque Country can combine all the attractions this country has to offer in an endless succession of cultural ideas: music, sports, film and many more.



JAZZ FESTIVAL

The **10** Unmissable experiences to savour the Basque Country...

Ten, a hundred, a thousand... there are so many reasons that make the Basque Country an indispensable destination. You will experience this at first hand when you meet this friendly hospitable people, learn its history, customs and traditions, when you admire the art and architecture of the cities... all this will appeal to you as will, naturally, dining supremely well! Not in vain is this one of the world's most prolific award-winning cuisines.


1 **Restaurant with stars**

A genuinely unforgettable luxury that you will put down in the agenda of your memory forever.



2 **In San Sebastián and along La Concha in style**

One of the most romantic strolls possible along the esplanade of La Concha Bay. San Sebastián has always set the style.




3 **Top class festivals**

Film, Jazz, Rock, Folk, ancient or classical music, magic... a cultural offer that will delight you.




4 **A pintxo route**

To enjoy a meal in miniature while you share conversation and laughter.



5 **A stroll through Urdaibai**

Recognised as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, it will make you even closer friends with nature.



6 **Bilbao, Guggenheim and much more**

Treat yourself to immersion in the most avant garde art and architecture surroundings of the present day.



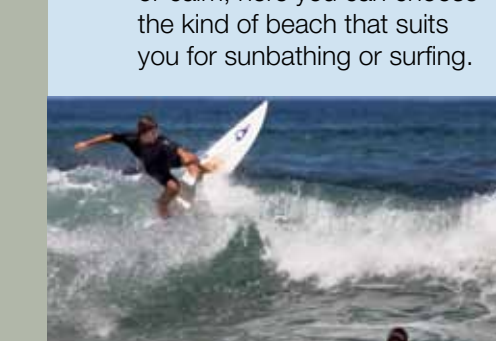
7 **Traditional and avant garde wineries**

And you can taste an Alavan Rioja in any of them. Txakoli is another interesting wine. If you want to spend a lovely evening you can share a "txotx" in any basque cider house.




8 **Going to the beach, sun and waves**

Urban, natural, elegant, rough or calm, here you can choose the kind of beach that suits you for sunbathing or surfing.



9 **The Old Cathedral of Vitoria-Gasteiz, open for restoration**

Explore one of the most surprising restoration processes in history.



10 **A gourmet purchase**

To take home a memento of any of the high quality products made here.



...we invite you to try them.

Active Tourism

AKTIBA
944 38 98 68 · 637 770 033 · www.aktiba.info

Transport**Araba/Álava**

AIRPORT
945 163 500 · 945 163 591
www.aena.es

TRAINS Renfe
Eduardo Dato 46, Vitoria-Gasteiz
902 240 202 · www.renfe.es

BUSES
Vitoria-Gasteiz Central Station · 945 258 400
Vitoria-Gasteiz Urban Buses TUVISA
945 161 054 · www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/transporte

TRAM Euskotran
945 135 554 · 902 543 210
www.euskotren.es

Biscay

AIRPORT
Bilbao-Loiu · 902 404 704 (AENA) · 944 869 663/64
www.aena.es

CRUISES AND FERRIES
944 87 12 00 · www.bilbaoport.es

TRAINS
Abando Indalecio Prieto Train Station (Renfe)
Plaza Circular, 2 · 902 240 202 · www.renfe.es

Atxuri Train Station (EUSKOTREN)
Calle Atxuri 68 · 902 543 210/ 944 019 900
www.euskotren.es

Concordia Train Station (FEVE) Bilbao
Calle de Bailén 2 · 944 250 615 · www.feve.es

BUSES
Termibus (Bus terminal) Gurtubai 1 · 944 395 077
www.termibus.es

Bilbobus (City buses)
944 484 070 · 944 790 981
www.bilbao.net/bilbobus

Bizkaibus (Provincial and airport buses)
902 222 265 · www.bizkaia.net

METRO BILBAO
944 254 000 · www.metrobilbao.net

TRAMS
902 543 210 · 944 019 900 · www.euskotren.es

Gipuzkoa

AIRPORT
Gabarri 22 · 20280 Hondarribia
943 668 500 · www.aena.es

BUSES
Donostia-San Sebastián Bus Station
Plaza Pío XII

Dbus (City buses)
943 000 200
www.dbus.es

Lurralde Bus (Intercity buses)
943 000 117
www.lurraldebus.net

TRAINS
North Train Station of Donostia-San Sebastián
Paseo de Francia · 902 240 202
www.renfe.es/cercanias

Amara Train Station (Euskotren)
Paseo de Easo 9 · 902 543 210 · 943 013 500
www.euskotren.es

BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM
www.basquecountrytourism.net

THE AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OF ÁLAVA
www.alava.net

THE AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OF BISCAY
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