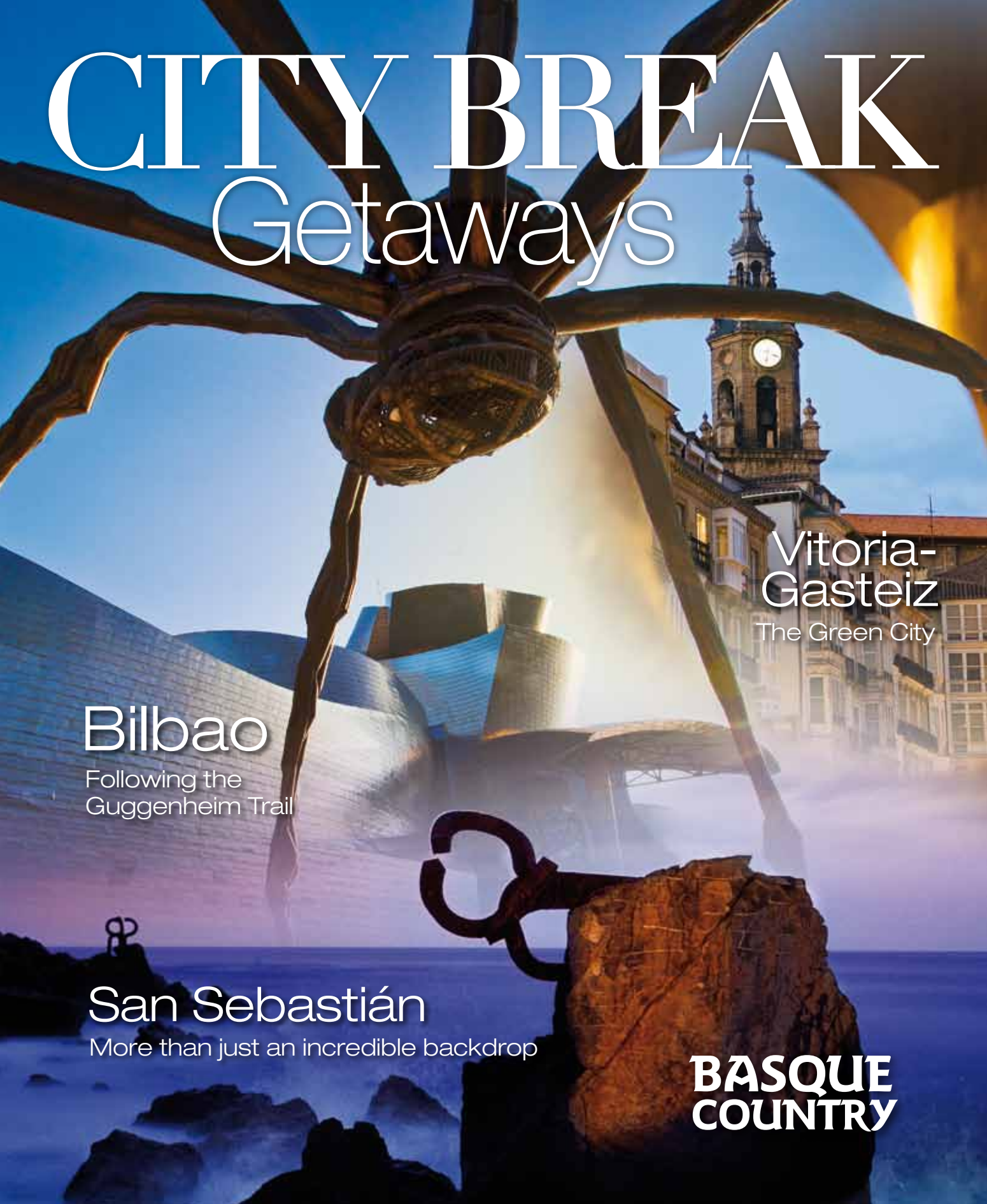
CITY BREAK
Getaways



Vitoria-Gasteiz
The Green City

Bilbao
Following the Guggenheim Trail

San Sebastián
More than just an incredible backdrop

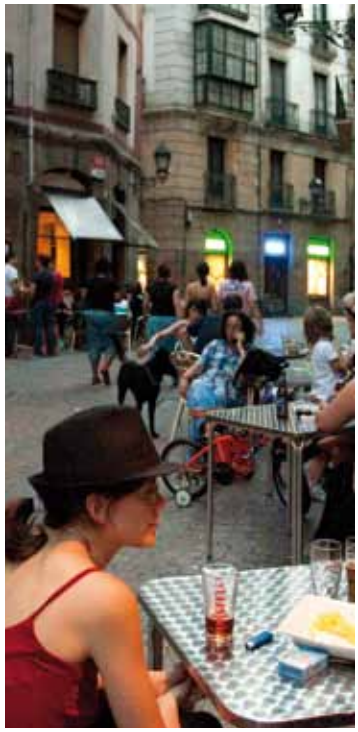
BASQUE COUNTRY

BASQUE COUNTRY

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

All of the TOP experiences detailed in in this catalogue are subject to change and may be updated. Therefore, we advise you to check the website for the most up to date prices before you book your trip.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



CITY BREAK Getaways

4 Bilbao
- The Guggenheim Trail
- The 7 Calles
- The Ría, the estuary, a living artery

24 San Sebastián
- A stroll around La Concha
- World capital of '*pintxos*'
- City of film and culture

42 Vitoria-Gasteiz
- European 'Green Capital'
- The Almendra Medieval Old Town
- A tour of the wine cellars

60 Events

BILBAO
Following the architectural trail of the
GUGGENHEIM

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

Guggenheim inside and out

The privilege of discovering unknown corners, seeing how they prepare the exhibitions, exploring the inside and outside of the museum as a fun activity and topping it off with avant garde gourmet cuisine is an experience that goes beyond a mere museum tour.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

Bilbao has a vibrant, avant-garde feel to it... You'll see for yourself straightaway that it exudes modernity. From its origins as an industrial hub, it has evolved into an international reference point for urban design and has set the standard as a model of urban regeneration. Prepare yourself... You are going to see a radical change.

It is worth noting that the transformation started with the construction of the underground metro system, vital to the daily routine of the city's inhabitants. But if there is one development that has secured Bilbao's place on the international stage, it has to be the 'Guggenheim effect'. It can't be denied that, since its construction, it has become an icon of the new urban reality. It's breathtaking architecture, the work of Frank Gehry, won't fail to leave you impressed. The same can be said of its art gallery, one of the world's most comprehensive collections of contemporary art.

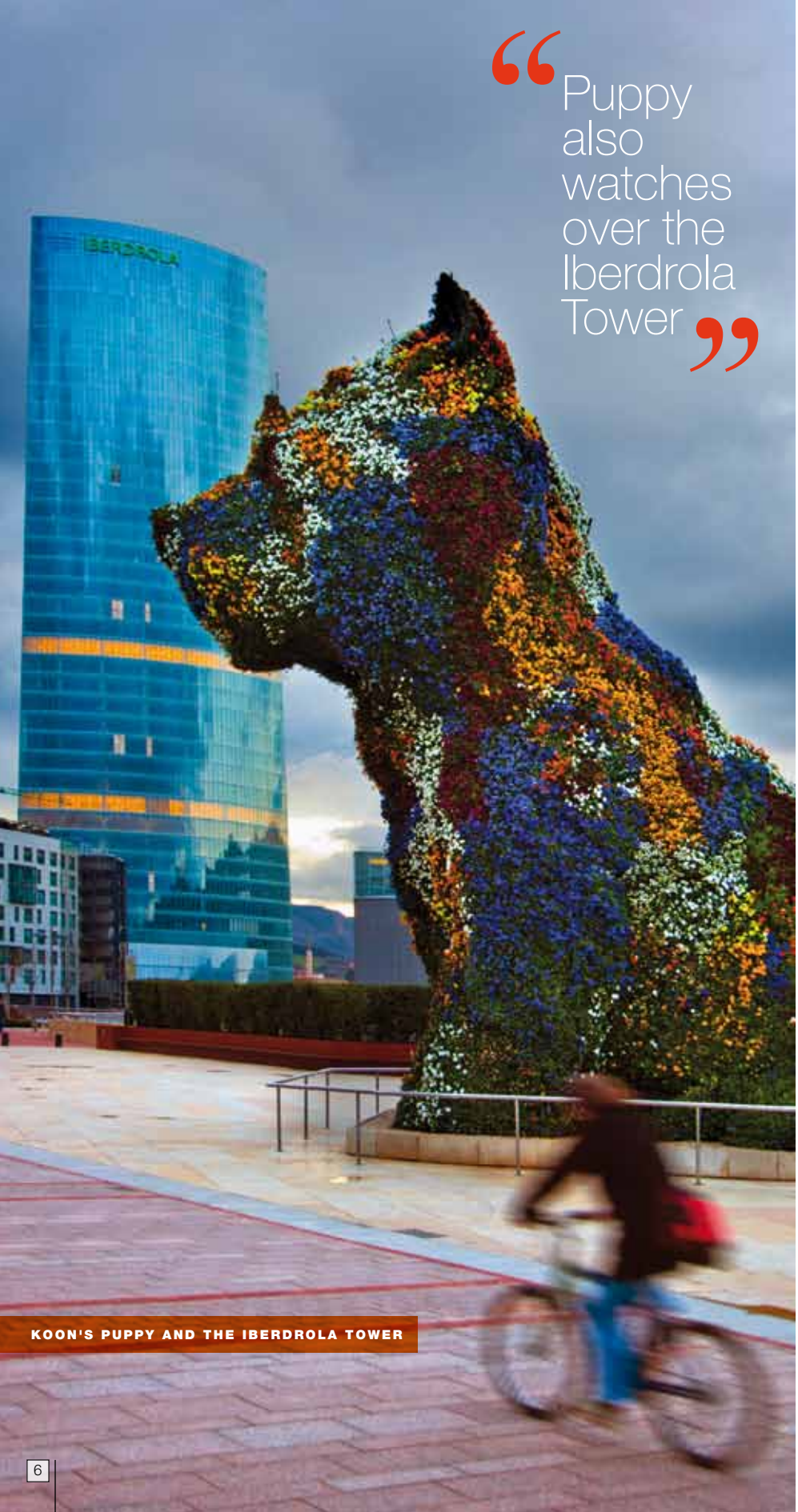
> *"Internationally renowned architects showcase the model regeneration of Bilbao. A city that has managed to find a different way to express itself with design firmly at its heart"*

"FOSTERITO"

There is an obligatory photo to be taken alongside the museum's mascot, Puppy, Jeff Koon's enormous floral dog. In fact, the sculpture was commissioned for the museum's inauguration but it proved to be so popular that it has remained as the museum's faithful protector.

Another of the great attractions of the **Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao** are the surrounding areas that attract tourists from all over the world. With good reason, right from its introduction, Bilbao has been considered as a great city that can market itself as a glamorous cosmopolitan centre. You'll sense it yourself, it has just got that feel to it. As soon as you get on to the metro, you will notice the hallmarks of **Sir Norman Foster** in a majestic fusion of architecture and engineering. **'Fosteritos'** is the name given around here to the attractive structures at the entrances to the metro. You will also be astounded by the unique creativity of **Phillipe Stark**, which can be seen in the Alhóndiga, a former wine warehouse that has been converted into a multicultural centre.

LA ALHÓNDIGA



KOON'S PUPPY AND THE IBERDROLA TOWER

"Puppy also watches over the Iberdrola Tower"

Now you can relax in attractive green surroundings against a backdrop of great design. We are referring, of course, to the **Avenida de Abandoibarra**, the vibrant thoroughfare where tourists and locals mingle and share good times together. This avenue, as well as being a pleasure to stroll along, gives you a clear idea of the scale of the regeneration of the Bilbao metropolitan area. The project designed by **Moneo y Siza**, has come to be one of the city's new cultural and business hubs. You'll see how much has been achieved. When people from Bilbao put their mind to something, they pull out all the stops. It has to be said that as far as renowned architects go, this is a focal point of both quality and quantity.

Amongst these signature pieces, you will find the **Isozaki Towers** and the **Iberdrola Tower**, masterminded by **César Pelli**, which at 165 metres is the tallest building in the Basque Country.

As you work your way around the city, don't forget to cross over the white bridge suspended over the river. You will be walking over the **Zubi Zuri**, the beautiful walkway by **Santiago Calatrava.** Another of his masterpieces is Bilbao's airport, known as La Paloma or the Dove, due to its resemblance to a bird about to take flight.

In the new-style Bilbao, the world's best architects come together

A recommendation? Visit the **Bellas Artes Museum** (Fine Arts Museum). Its renowned gallery features over 7,000 works of art, including pieces by El Greco, Sorolla, Gauguin, Zurbarán and many more. A collection of paintings and sculptures to rival any in the country.

CAMPOS ELÍSEOS THEATRE

In the Ensanche neighbourhood, you can see for yourself that Bilbao has managed to preserve much of its history. From the original hamlet that made up the Casco Viejo (Old Town), across the estuary, the city opened up and started to develop towards the end of the 19th century, to meet the demands of a newly emerging bourgeoisie. Buildings such as the art noveau **Concordia Train Station**, the **Palace of the Diputación**, the stunning **Iruña Café** and the **Campos Elíseos Theatre** stand harmoniously side by side with the most avant-guarde buildings of contemporary Bilbao.

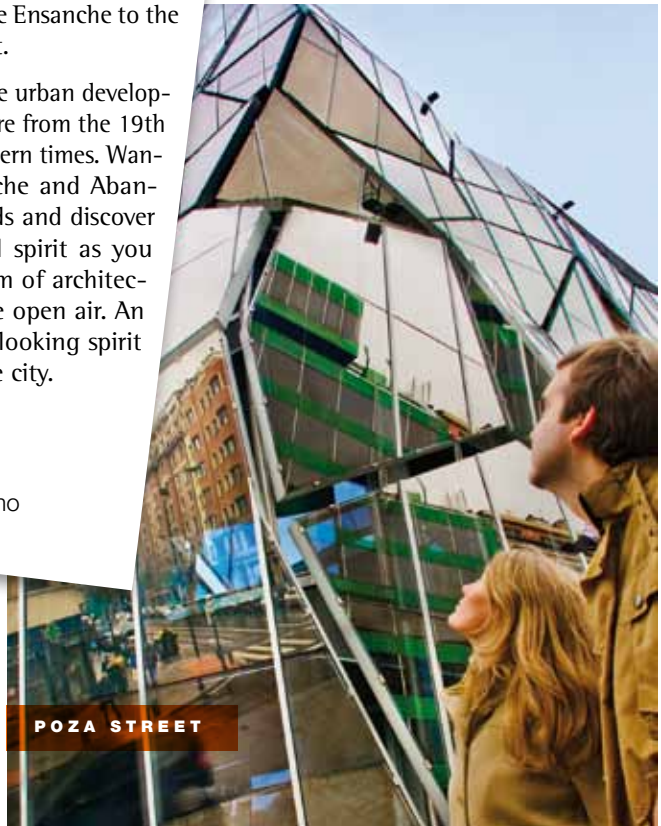
While the city looks to the future, it also faithfully blends the modern in with the traditional style of its elegant buildings

The Tourist Office recommends that you discover this part of Bilbao with the help of a professional guide and follow the absorbing itinerary from the Ensanche to the Abandoibarra district.

The route highlights the urban development and its architecture from the 19th century right up to modern times. Wander around the Ensanche and Abandoibarra neighbourhoods and discover Bilbao's entrepreneurial spirit as you enjoy a veritable museum of architecture and sculpture in the open air. An example of the forward-looking spirit that has always driven the city.

Walking routes:
Bilbao Walking Tours

www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo



POZA STREET

ERCILLA STREET

A GREAT IDEA!

Bilbao, Shopping around Abando, Indautxu, Gran Vía and the Casco Viejo

Time for a little shopping?
Shopping in Bilbao has always been renowned for its elegance and high quality. The city's regeneration coincided with the phenomenal effect that the Guggenheim had, when international firms set up in the city, many of the city's landmarks were modernised, large tracts were pedestrianised to make strolling and shopping more comfortable and pleasant along with other developments. **Abando, Indautxu** and **Gran Vía** make up the main axis of this area, which you can travel along with ease on the modern transport system that the city boasts: metro, trams, a great bus network and plenty of parking.

The commercial centre in the redeveloped **Casco Viejo** offers over **400 stores** of all shapes and sizes. Don't miss a visit to this area during your trip.

"Of course, Bilbao had a strong identity long before the Guggenheim was built, and you are going to love having a taste of it. The story starts on the banks of the estuary known as the Ría, where a very unique architecture can be seen in the buildings.
The lively Casco Viejo. Wandering around the traditional 'Siete Calles' (Seven Streets) involves stopping to try the 'pintxos', shopping and discovering the historical roots of the city"

The very essence of Bilbao

CASCO VIEJO

The delight of getting lost along the 7 CALLES

PLAZA NUEVA

One thing that defines the people of Bilbao is their pride of 'being from here' and the **Casco Viejo** is one of their most beloved treasures. It is the hamlet from which the city was born around the year 1300. The **Siete Calles** which historically make up the Casco Viejo are Somera, Artekale, Tendería, Belostikale, Carnicería Vieja, Barrenkale and Barrenkale Barrena. You will see as you wander around them that they weave a network of hidden corners, squares and buildings of various styles: baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau among others. The old heart of Bilbao is still very much full of life.

The traditional *'txikiteo'* is the most authentic in the Casco Viejo

In Bilbao's Casco Viejo, as in other parts of the city, two of the main activities are shopping and *txikiteo* (bar-hopping to taste the wines on offer). This is your chance to discover the colours and flavours of the bars serving *pintxos* (the delicious local tapas) and to dine in one of the area's many restaurants. If you choose one of the more typical places to eat, you may well still be serenaded by a group of singers at the end of your meal.

And Basques have great singing voices. In fact, it is said that the traditional *otxote*, (a choral group of at least eight male singers) originated here.

People's devotion to the **Virgin of Begoña** is shown by dedicating their songs to her. It is traditional for all organisations, sports clubs and businesses to go up to the basilica to take part in the celebrations in her honour.

You can pay her a visit by climbing the 311 steps of the **Calzadas de Mallona**. But don't worry, if you'd prefer not to walk, there is a lift to take you up there.

The *amatxu* de Begoña (mummy), patron saint of Biscay, was initially the patron of sailors

An interesting point to note: the city is affectionally known as *el botxo* (the hole) by its inhabitants, as it is located in a valley.

The **Artxanda funicular railway**, along its steep climb, gives you the chance to step outside and enjoy the extraordinary panoramic views of the city, where the green meets the skyscrapers.

TXIKITEO

A GREAT IDEA!

Bilbao at your feet

How do you fancy a *pintxo* tasting session and bar-hopping in true Bilbao style in the heart of the city?

And perhaps later a wander through the romantic and elegant gardens found along the Paseo del Arenal.

Perfect. And to finish off, why not take the funicular railway up to the top of Mount Artxanda to enjoy the views it offers and to feel the city at your feet?

www.basquecountrytourism.net

SANTA MARÍA STREET

Out for 'Pintxos'

SANTIAGO CATHEDRAL

If you like shopping, then the Casco Viejo is the place for you. It has traditionally been Bilbao's commercial hub since the city was founded. As well as the gastronomic delights of its bars and restaurants, the neighbourhood's streets also offer some of the city's best shopping. Especially since the area's redevelopment after the 1983 floods, shopping in the Casco Viejo is a true pleasure well worth discovering. You have to hand over **400 shops** of all kinds, with many of the older stores still full of charm from bygone eras, and a selection of the modern fashion boutiques. There are also **200 hotel establishments** and the "good old" **La Ribera Municipal Market**, a renovated space that still stands proud as a symbol of the city. Its reputation tells of its quality, history and tradition. It has always been strongly tied in with the city's traditional customs. Did you know that it is Europe's largest market by floorspace?

Saying that you have been to Bilbao and you haven't mingled with the locals to '*txikitear*' (do a little bar-hopping) is not to have lived the true experience of the city. So make sure you include it in your gastronomic tour of the city to taste the delicious *pintxos*. Day or night, whether in the Casco Viejo (Plaza Nueva, Jardines Street, Calle del Perro Street and Santa María Street) or in the Ensanche district in Indautxu (García Rivero Street or Poza Street amongst others), you can live the authentic experience, with a glass of something nice to wash it down.

Bilbao's Casco Viejo has been declared an Historical and Artistic Monument. When you visit it, you will walk into a town centre with over 700 years of vibrant history which it still retains, so much so, that it feels that time hasn't changed it at all. Look at its buildings and the culture they hold within... Within its streets, the city's most historic landmarks stand together: the **gothic Santiago Cathedral**, the **Plaza Nueva**, Bilbao's most important and characterful square, the emblematic **San Antón Church** and the ancient ruins on which it stands, **La Ribera Market**, the neo-baroque **Arriaga Theatre**, the gardens of the **Arenal** and many more. Take time to relax and make the most of the celebrated cafés to hand.

Then, if you would like the chance to wander through the Casco Viejo without missing a single detail, why not take a guided tour with Bilbao Walking Tours?

www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo/

A note for pilgrims: did you know that Cathedral is named after the patron saint of the town, the apostle Santiago, in connection with the The Northern Route of the **Camino de la Costa** (The Coastal Route), a well-trodden path since the beginning of pilgrimages?

CONCORDIA TRAIN STATION

THE ARRIAGA THEATRE

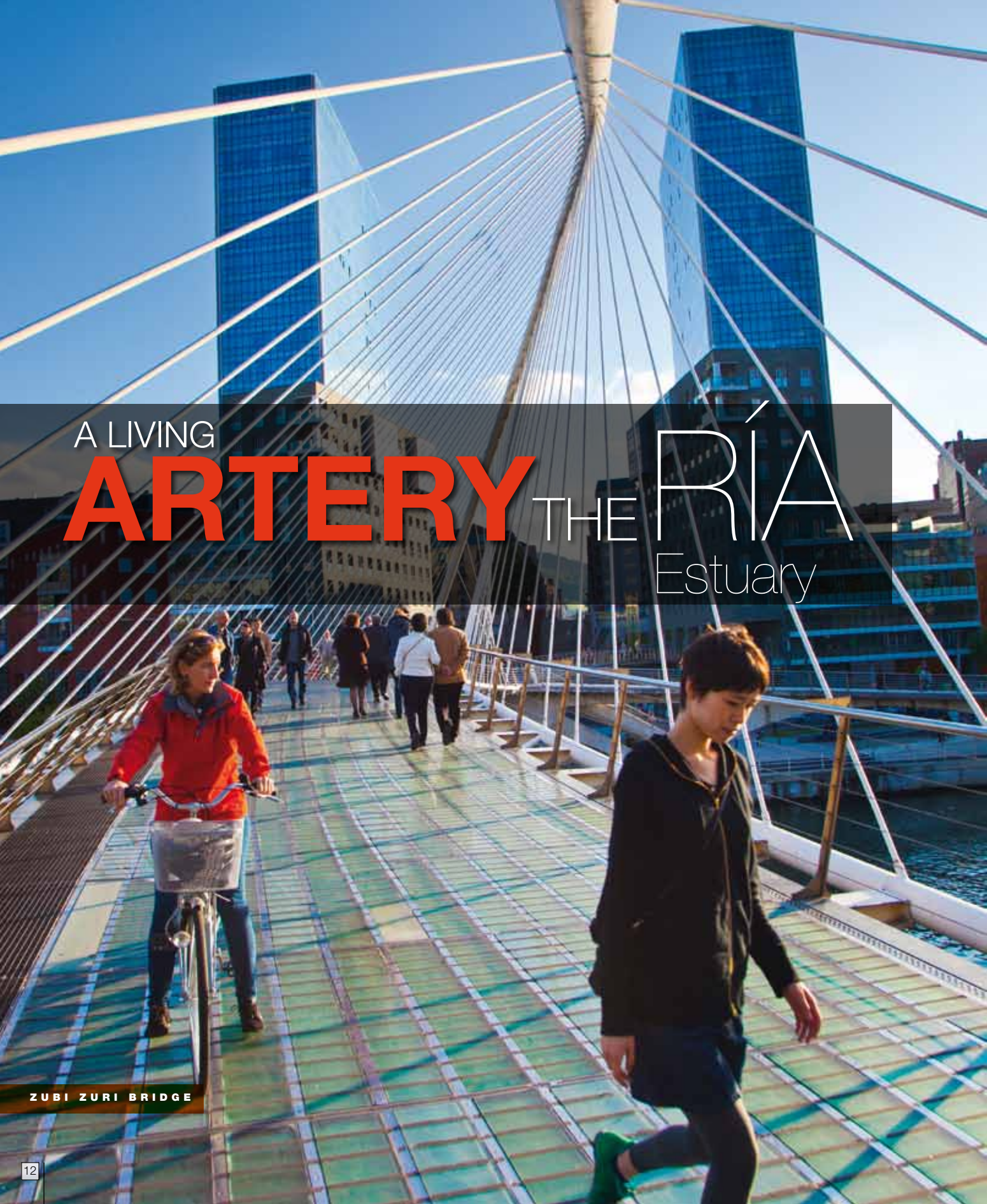
A GREAT IDEA!

Aste Nagusia

The people of Bilbao really know how to throw a party and enjoy themselves. The *Aste Nagusia* or Semana Grande (Great Week), is a good example of this. If you like your celebrations to be well organised, experience the delight of *Marijaia*, the 'Lady of the Celebrations'. Make a note in your diary that Semana Grande lasts for nine days in the second half of August and the majority of events on the schedule are free of charge.

www.astenagusia.com

A LIVING ARTERY THE RÍA Estuary



ZUBI ZURI BRIDGE

"Some say that the Ría Estuary does not belong to Bilbao, rather that Bilbao belongs to the Ría. The city's history is inextricably intertwined with it.
We recommend a walk along its shores to reach its mouth. This is the best way to get close to what has always been and still remains the life force of the city"

It is important to know what a vital role the Ría has played in Bilbao's development.
In fact, it is considered one of the economic driving forces in the Basque Country. Its marine history, its iron and steel industry, its commercial activity... All of these owe their origins to the strategic location and the navigability of the Ría.

To state it clearly, the founding of the city and port are one and the same thing. Boats and ships used to sail up it as far as the **San Antón Bridge**, which is exactly where the city walls stood. At that time, the **Arenal** was a key area, a place to wander around on your tour of the Casco Viejo. This is where the estuary deposited its sands, creating a large beach from which the fishermen launched their vessels.

SAN ANTÓN

The fact that it was navigable as far as **Portugalete** enabled the port of Bilbao to be located on one of its tributaries until the mid '80s. Important shipbuilders plied their trade along its quays.

By moving the main port activity to the mouth of the estuary, they have freed up lots of areas for urban regeneration

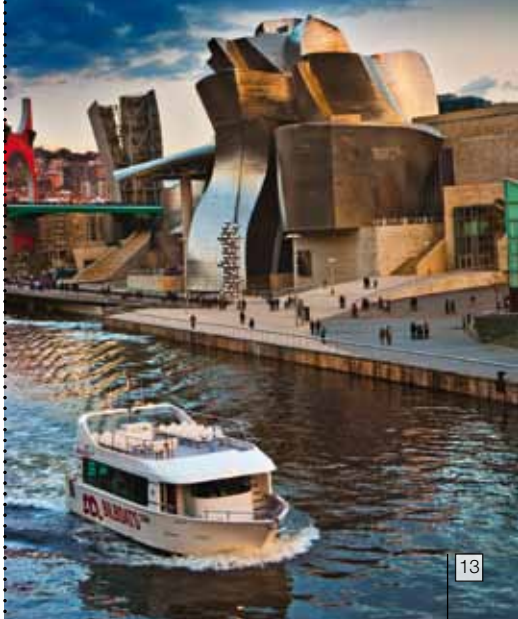
If you would like to see the port in action today, you have to go to Getxo, Zierbena and Santurtzi. However, the Ría still holds pride of place in the city, now offering leisure activities for everybody to enjoy.

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

Bilbao from the Ría

Would you like to see Bilbao from a unique perspective and travel up the Ría to the mouth of the estuary? You will discover a new way to appreciate the design of the city's buildings, its emblematic landmarks and the surrounding areas.

www.basquecountrytourism.net



EUSKALDUNA PALACE

From the Ría... its bridges

In Bilbao, the bridges tell a story... The **Zubi Zuri Bridge,** the **La Salve Bridge** which is integrated into the architecture of the Guggenheim and the **Pedro Arrupe** Walkway all tell of a new era which moves on from industrialisation.

EUSKALDUNA BRIDGE

VIZCAYA Bridge

Suspension Bridge

The importance of the Ría is also underlined by the numerous bridges that span it

The **Deusto Bridge** has been a key part of the transformation of the new city, passing the baton on to the **Euskalduna Bridge**. The famous Euskalduna shipyards were based in this area, which has gone on to give its name to the new **Congress and Music Centre**, declared one of the world's best conference centres in 2003. Moreover, you can experience one of the best operas on the European circuit here.

As a tribute to the former shipyards, one of its cranes has been preserved on one of the drydocks: 'Carola', which serves as a reminder to the people of the city of their origins as an industrial and naval city. Alongside, you'll see the **Maritime Museum**, which showcases the naval history of the Ría of Bilbao and its surroundings.

The **San Antón Bridge** forms part of the city's coat of arms and is believed to predate the founding of the city itself. **La Ribera** and **La Merced Bridge** belong to 'historic Bilbao'. Then came the **Arenal Bridge**, which marked the expansion of Bilbao to the Ensanche district. The industrial activity of the era made it necessary for some of the bridges to 'raise' for heavy cargo ships to pass. These drawbridges have now been sealed.

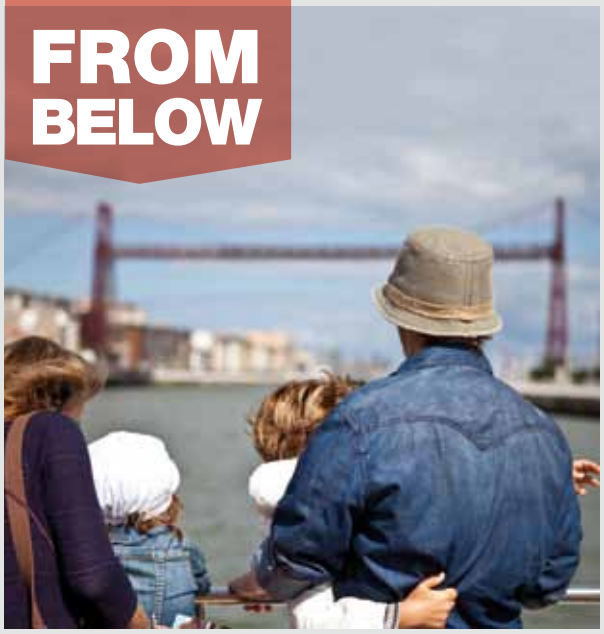
LA SALVE BRIDGE

FROM ABOVE

Its construction, which is an iron structure that takes the Eiffel Tower as its inspiration, links Portugalete and Las Arenas (Getxo). It marks the end of the Ría of Bilbao, a few metres from its mouth into the Cantabrian Sea.

One reason not to miss the **'Vizcaya Bridge'** is the reputation it holds, as well as being declared a UNESCO Momument of Humanity in 2006.

FROM BELOW



SANTURTZI

BILBAO has the smell of the sea

To help you connect with the metropolitan side of Bilbao, it's worth taking a visit to the surrounding area to discover the marine side of the city's character, which is intricately linked to the place's history.

Bilbao exudes a maritime spirit that reaches right to the mouth of the Ría Estuary which you can reach by metro

Since the metro was established, Bilbao can proudly say it has a beach. With the sea just a stone's throw away. Before you set off, you should decide which of the banks of the Ría you want to see first. If you position yourself on the left bank, it helps to know that this was the very centre of the great industrial developments that took place over the last century.

The area's manufacturing history brings you along to towns such as **Barakaldo** and **Sestao**, until you get to **Portugalete**, a medieval town founded in 1322 with a valuable heritage site: the Casco Viejo. In addition, it boasts an icon recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. That's right, it's the **Vizcaya Bridge**. You are sure to enjoy climbing up the bridge or taking the lift that runs up its structure to see a breathtaking view of the Ría and its mouth from on high. It is also a pleasure to walk along the shore and see the small palaces that the bourgeoisie erected at the end of the 19th century.

OLD PORT OF ALGORTA (GETXO)

You can easily get to nearby **Santurtzi**. The sardines from these parts have gone beyond simple cuisine to become the stuff of legend.

In fact, the sardine sellers or 'las sardineras' as they are known, used to walk the 15 kilometres to Bilbao barefoot, carrying their basket of sardines wrapped in rough salt. Eating them baked on a barbecue is an authentic delight that you should be sure not to miss.

"Desde Santurce a Bilbao, vengo por toda la orilla..."

Cross the **Vizcaya Bridge** to discover the right bank, which you can also reach by metro. Over there you will find the districts **Las Arenas** and **Neguri**, where the Basque elite chose to locate their magnificent residences. If you would like to find out more about these residences, the **Las Arenas Dock**, that runs around the **Abra Bay,** lets you get close to the architectural beauty of these buildings, with helpful information points along the route.

At one point around the bay, you will come across the **Puerto Deportivo** (Leisure Port), with its many bars and restaurants. Nearby, you will see the beach known as Playa de Ereaga and, at the far end of the beach, another of the many places that the people of Bilbao come to enjoy themselves: the **Puerto Viejo de Algorta** (Old Port of Algorta, Getxo). The area is popular, with many locals coming to spend the summer months. In fact, as with many coastal towns, it is mainly a residential area. Be sure to capture the charm and beauty of the small fishermen's houses with your camera. And of course, you can stop here to taste a few of the *pintxos* on offer and then carry on to **Plentzia**, another of the places that the locals chose to come and stroll and enjoy a day at the beach. In this beautiful fishing town, you can wander along the banks of the Ría right up to its mouth and watch the small fishing boats used by the locals who set sail in search of *txipiron*.

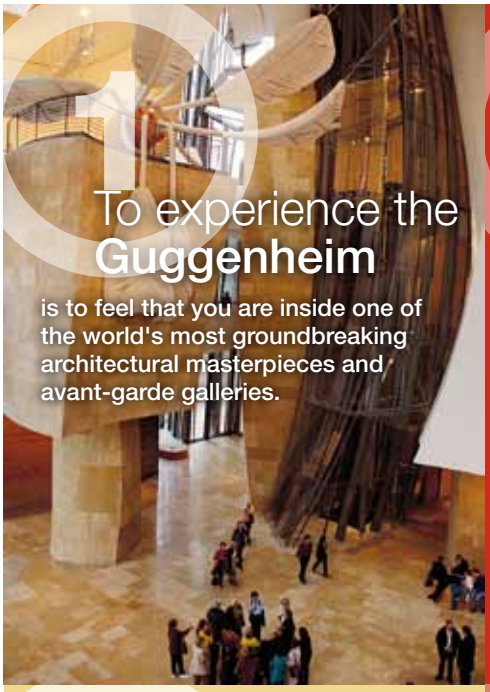
SOPELANA

The 10

Getting to know Bilbao is easy.

You'll find the hallmarks of tradition firmly rooted in the Casco Viejo, along with top class shops around the streets of the Ensanche neighbourhood and historic architecture that blends harmoniously with modern masterpieces. All this comes together to offer a destination that attracts visitors from around the world.

...we invite you to experience it all.



1 To experience the **Guggenheim**

is to feel that you are inside one of the world's most groundbreaking architectural masterpieces and avant-garde galleries.

2 A little ***txikiteo*** around the Casco Viejo

Wandering around the seven streets of 'Las Siete Calles' means enjoying a few *pintxos*, some *txikiteo* and the great atmosphere.

6 On the **funicular railway** up to Mount Artxanda

Come and see the breathtaking panorama of Bilbao. From up here, you get a much better view.

7 Sail along **the Ría**

Get onboard any of the vessels that sail along the course of the Ría. It is a journey through history.

Unmissable experiences *in Bilbao...*

3 Fashion on the streets of Bilbao

All the fashion you could wish for, right at your feet. You will never say that shopping is boring again.

4 Unrivalled avant-garde **architecture**

Wherever you look in Abandoibarra, you will see one of the many architectural developments that form such a part of the image of the 'New Bilbao'.

5 BBK Live **Festival**

It is one of the country's most popular musical events that attracts a huge crowd. A highlight in the calendar for Rock fans.

8 Watch an **Athletic Club** match

There is a feast for the senses and an unbeatable atmosphere around San Mamés and the Pozas area. They live Athletic Club matches with true passion.

9 Take the metro over to the **beach**

Just grab a towel, dig out your swimsuit, and if surfing is your thing, pick up your board. The sea is just a metro ticket and a few minutes ride away.

10 La Ribera **Market**

The produce from the land and the sea, fresh and of the highest quality, brought to you with a traditional, friendly service.

And if you extend your trip by a few days?

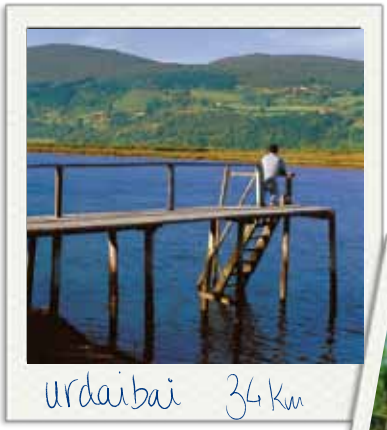
A wealth of activities and trips around the capital of Biscay

They say that Biscay is *'txiki eta polita'*: small and beautiful... And it's true. Biscay's coast is dotted with picturesque little fishing villages where you will find the true Basque spirit. According to how much time you have, you could start off in **Bakio** (just some twenty minutes from Bilbao), famous for its *txakoli* sparkling wine, and then continue along to **Bermeo**, with a stop in **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, a single rocky island crowned with the **San Juan Chapel**, which can be reached via its spectacular stairway of 231 steps. If you to look inside, you will find various offerings from sailors saved from shipwrecks. Tradition dictates that you have to chime the bell three times to make a wish and expel bad spirits. So get to it!

The Basque Coast offers a beautiful landscape of villages by the sea

In **Bermeo**, you will find a fishing port typical of this area of the Cantabrian Sea, though its traditions exist side by side with some of the most advanced coastal and deep sea fishing technology.

You can visit the nearby town of **Mundaka**, a world renowned surfing Mecca, with its 'ola izquierda' or 'left wave'. A few kilometres away, you can make an unforgettable visit in **Gernika-Lumo** to the Casa de Juntas (The Assembly Hall) with the oak tree where the Lord of



Biscay swore to respect the local statutes known as Los Fueros. It is a symbol of the defence of liberties that is revered by all Basques.

Geographically, Gernika-Lumo is located in a unique setting, with Euskadi's largest diversity of landscapes and ecology: including the **Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve** wich is protected by the cape known as **Cabo Matxitxako.** It is a unique and privileged landscape that is well worth checking out.

Twenty five minutes from Gernika-Lumo and equally representative of the area is **Lekeitio**, a beautiful area on the Basque coast, with a magnificent basilica and a lovely old quarter that tells of its history of sailors and craftsmen. About the same distance away, you will find **Elantxobe**, a small fishing port hanging to the slopes of **Cabo Ogoño.** From here (some 45 minutes away), you can visit **Ondarroa**, the most important deep sea fishing port on the coast of the Cantabrian Sea.

Inland (to the far west of Biscay), some twenty five kilometres from the capital, you can discover the area of **Las Encartaciones**, a magical place where you can visit the Pozalagua caves, the collection of classic cars at the **Loizaga Tower** or prepare your own *putxera* (bean stew) in Balmaseda.

Another option is to discover the landscapes of the lost paradise of the Basque Country, in the **Gorbeia National Park** and in particular its very own 'Central Park'. You can enjoy it's unrivalled cuisine and charming accommodation, themed walks, cultural activities and adventure sports as well as many other ways to make the most of your experience.

IDEAS for all the family

If this is a family trip to Bilbao, you will soon find that the city offers a complete and diverse range of activities suitable for all ages. One option sure to entertain is the city's museums. In the **Guggenheim**, they offer workshops full of fun and informative activities for young and old. These activities change according to the exhibitions currently running.

The educational programme at the **Maritime Museum** offers a wide range of workshops aimed at a young audience about heritage and maritime culture in an entertaining way.

The Bilbao Association of **Friends of the Opera** have also given a lot of thought to young children. So in opera season, in an attempt to bring classical music to a younger audience, they have created **Ópera Txiki** (little Opera), which shows kids all about the production of an opera and even lets them attend rehearsals.

Another interesting option for kids is the interactive media library, the **Mediateka Alhóndiga,** a space designed to captivate the senses, awaken curiosity and foster their hunger for knowledge. Even the very youngest have their own special place here:'**Txikiland**', a place that is full of fantasy invites you to read a story together at your leisure.

Bilbao offers a plentiful range of family activities

If you like football, you will love the **Athletic Club Museum.** You can also take a guided tour around the San Mamés Stadium. You will have the chance to explore unknown aspects of "the Cathedral", as the stadium is affectionately known, going into the changing rooms and sitting on the benches, just like one of the team.

For watersport lovers, there are two great options: exploring the **Ría** on an unbeatable mode of transport, the canoe... Or get initiated into the world of surfing.

Those looking for a little nature close to the city have various options: adventures in **Karpin Abentura**, in the area around of Karranza, you will find a park which boasts a wide range of animal species against a natural backdrop which blends leisure and fun with the most instructive aspects of the protection and reintroduction of animals.

And so that the kids learn to value biodiversity as a living thing, the **Madariaga Tower**, in Urdaibai, shows them the richness of life in the area in a fun and accessible way and Children can discover the marine world at the Getxo aquarium.

www.abao.org
www.athletic-club.net
www.karpinabentura.com
www.torremadariaga.net
www.alhondigabilbao.com
www.museomaritimobilbao.org
www.getxoaquarium.es

MUSEUMS

1. Guggenheim
2. Bellas Artes (Fine Arts)
3. Euskal Museoa Basque Museum of Bilbao
4. Maritime Museum Ría of Bilbao

PLACES OF INTEREST

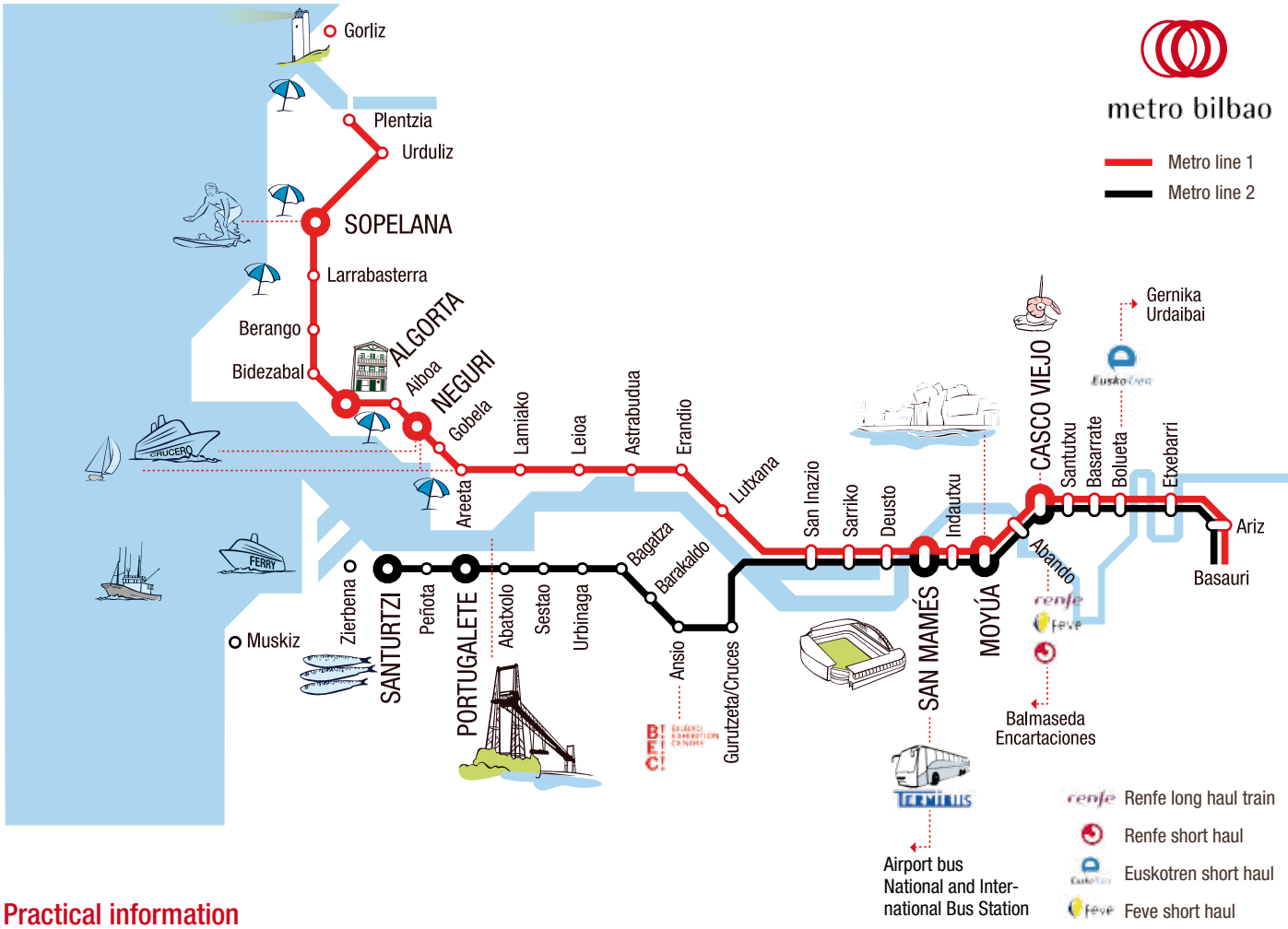
1. Arriaga Theatre
2. Campos Elíseos Theatre
3. Plaza Nueva
4. Isozaki Towers
5. La Alhóndiga
6. Iberdrola Tower
7. Euskalduna Palace
8. Santiago Cathedral
9. La Ribera Market
10. Artxanda
11. Doña Casilda Park
12. Town Hall
13. Council Offices
14. Basilica of Begoña
15. Arenal

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Bullring
2. Concordia Train Station
3. Atxuri Train Station
4. Termibus - Bus terminal
5. San Mamés (Football stadium)
6. Plaza del Funicular
7. Bilbao Arena (Basketball court)
8. Abando Train Station
- Tourist Offices

- Gastronomic area
- Commercial area
- Area with monuments
- Nightlife area
- Commercial area

Bilbao, just a metro ride from the beach



Practical information

Tourism

BILBAO TOURISM
www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo

TOURIST OFFICES

BILBAO TOURISM (main office)
Plaza Ensanche 11 · Telephone 944 795 760
(New office in Plaza Circular opening soon)

GUGGENHEIM TOURISM BILBAO
Alameda de Mazarredo 66

ARRIAGA TOURISM BILBAO
Plaza Arriaga s/n

AIRPORT
Telephone 944 031 444

BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM
www.basquecountrytourism.net

BISCAY TOURISM
www.mybilbaobizkaia.net

Transport

AIRPORT
Bilbao-Loiu · Telephone 902 404 704 (AENA)
944 031 444 · www.aena.es

CRUISES AND FERRIES
Telephone 944 871 200 · www.bilbaoport.es

TRAINS
Abando Indalecio Prieto Train Station (Renfe)
Short haul and long haul
Plaza Circular, 2 · Telephone 902 320 320
www.renfe.es

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

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

BUSES
Termibus (Bus terminal)
Gurtubai 1 · Telephone 944 395 077 · www.termibus.es
Medium and long haul and airport bus

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

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

METRO BILBAO
Telephone 944 254 000 · www.metrobilbao.net

TRAMS
Telephone 902 543 210 / 944 019 900
www.euskotren.es

General

HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES Telephone 112
GENERAL INFORMATION Telephone 010
(for calls from within Bilbao)
Telephone 944 204 847 (for calls from outside Bilbao)

More than just an incredible backdrop

SAN SEBASTIÁN

stroll along La Concha with the aroma of the sea

"A long stroll with scenery worthy of the movies, along relaxing beaches, restless wave breaks and an enchanted island…"

As soon as you arrive in San Sebastián, the famous **La Concha** Beach gives you a warm welcome and invites you to sunbathe, swim or just a stroll along the shore, even in wintertime... Afterwards, why not indulge yourself with a massage and a session of thalassotherapy in **La Perla**, with the soothing force of the waters of the Cantabrian Sea.

You'll soon realise that every option on offer in San Sebastián is an invitation that promises the best taste. Fall in love with the city! Your stay here will be full of great experiences.

The promenade along **La Concha** or the terrace of the **Aquarium** are sure to leave you with memories of your stay in la Bella Easo, as the city was known.

LA CONCHA

A GREAT IDEA!

And if you feel like a run or a bike ride

Put your best *running* shoes on and head to El Peine del Viento and Sagües along the Paseo Nuevo (New Promenade) or try out the banks of the Urumea River. Running here allows you to enjoy a spectacularly beautiful route within easy reach.

San Sebastián is also great for cycling. The *bidegorri* (bicycle lanes) are found everywhere and let you travel to all parts of the city.

www.sansebastianturismo.com

A different viewpoint:

Chillida and Oteiza

San Sebastián has even more beauty on offer: if the natural scenery is astounding, the good taste of the locals has strived to make the squares, streets and buildings even more so. In the sculptures of **'El Peine del Viento'** (The Comb of the Wind), you can admire the artistic collaboration of Chillida and Peña Ganchegui.

The piece by Jorge de Oteiza, **'Construcción Vacía'** or 'Empty construction', withstands the winds and tides on the Paseo Nuevo and the 'Sagrado Corazón' or 'Sacred Heart', by Collaut, keeps watch over the city and the surrounding area from up on high on Mount Urgull.

EL PEINE DEL VIENTO

As you wander around the city, you will discover that San Sebastián has three city beaches: **Ondarreta, La Concha** and **Zurriola.** The first two of these are located around La Concha Bay and the third is in the **Gros** neighbourhood, across the Urumea River.

The beauty of the hills that surround the city is astounding: **Urgull**, with its castle, **Ulía** with its restaurants, paths and walking routes, and **Mount Igueldo**, which you can climb on foot, by car or on the funicular railway. From up high, you can appreciate the magnificent panoramic view of La Concha Bay and let your hair down in its century old amusement park after sampling some of its local restaurants.

The **Island of Santa Clara,** in the middle of the bay, with its café, lighthouse and small beach, makes for a great visit. In the summer you can get to it onboard one of the port's motor boats.

ZURRIOLA

AQUARIUM

> *Surfing just 50 metres away from the centre*

If you are a keen swimmer, you can get from **Ondarreta** to Santa Clara across the 300 metre stretch with a few energetic strokes. If you'd rather relax, there are special water terraces equipped with sunbeds and water slides.

Make the most of your time in the city of sport and wellbeing. The facilities at **La Perla** have sessions of thalassotherapy on offer as well as beauty and therapeutic treatments.

In the waters of **Zurriola** Beach, there are surfing courses available for you to learn to catch a few waves on a surfboard or bodyboard. Whatever time of the year, you can be sure to find great waves on this beach that has become a focal point in the Atlantic Championships.

THALASSOTHERAPY

No visit to the city is complete without a trip to the **Aquarium.** A pioneer of marine studies, its biggest attraction is the oceanarium which boasts a 360º transparent viewing tunnel as well as 37 separate aquariums, which all together give you the chance to get up close to 5,000 fish. Be sure not to miss the real whale skeleton, one of the last to be caught off the coast of Guipuzcoa.

San Sebastián is also renowned for its celebrations and sporting events. One of the most important to mention in August is the Semana Grande (Great Week), which promises a week of fireworks set against an unbeatable backdrop. Turning to sports, a few events that stand out are the cycling classic, **San Sebastián-San Sebastián,** the **Behobia-San Sebastián** marathon and fishing boat rowing race, the **Bandera de La Concha.**

PORT

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

The Pearl of the Cantabrian Sea

Take a relaxing stroll along the shore from La Concha Beach to Ondarreta, around the foot of Mount Igueldo. From there, take the original funicular railway that has been running since its launch in 1912.

Enjoy an unbeatable view from the top of Mount Igueldo: El Peine del Viento by Chillida and the views of the city and the Basque coastline.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

Any time of year, take a bicycle ride for a... Romantic outing

Just a short walk is enough to surprise you how beautiful this city can be. You will be able to enjoy the beauty of the sea and river from any of the city's bridges.

On the **Kursaal** Bridge, you can feel the spray from the waves! Nearby, on the banks of Urumea River, you can find the **Victoria Eugenia Theatre** and the **Boulevard** kiosk. Further along, in the **Alderdi Eder** gardens, the **Town Hall** stands proud. The building was previously a casino during the Belle Époque.

Across the Boulevard, you will find the **Kursaal Conference Centre** standing firm against the sea. It is the original work of Moneo, located at the mouth of the Urumea River.

Nearby, you will see a building that is world renowned as a jewel of the Rationalist architectural movement: the **Club Naútico** (Sailing Club), built at

ZURRIOLA AND KURSAAL BRIDGE

TOWN HALL

MARIA CRISTINA BRIDGE

BUEN PASTOR CATHEDRAL

Every corner of San Sebastián is full of culture and history

the start of the 20th century. It has the unique honour of having been declared a Heritage of Cultural Interest site as an Artistic Monument.

The **Buen Pastor Cathedral** is one of the landmarks of the city centre that helps you orientate yourself on the streets of **Hernani, Loiola, Prim** and **San Martín.** Enjoy a stroll along the **Avenida de la Libertad,** which connects the bay to the river, and then on to the **Plaza de Gipuzkoa,** with its lakes of swans and its arcades full of shops.

Did you know that the Camino de Santiago (Santiago Pligrimage Route) runs through the centre of the city? Mount Ulía, Zurriola, the promenade along La Concha Beach... just a few of the places you will pass along if you walk the Camino.

FROM THE PORT

A GREAT IDEA!

Shopping along the Boulevard

Why not check out bargains on offer in San Sebastián? You are sure to find something, this place is famous for its shopping. Specialist shops and delicatessens are a-plenty in the **Parte Vieja** (The Old Quarter) and along the **Boulevard**, shops offer a mix of the most traditional to the most cutting edge.

The area from the Boulevard to San Martín, along the streets of **Legazpi**, **Arrasate**, **Elkano**, **Hondarribia** and the **Avenida de la Libertad**, is the main commercial centre for clothes and shoes, with a range of stores full of character, from modern boutiques to international chains. In the area around the **Buen Pastor Cathedral**, you can pick up the latest literature, music or technology in the recently renovated **San Martín Market**. In San Sebastián, even the most modest of brands turns into something chic!
Come in and try it for yourself.

"Even the most modest brand turns into something chic"

NANO-
GAS-
TRO-
NOMY

San Sebastián, world capital of PINTXOS

the restaurants of San Sebastián offer some of the best gastronomic selections in the world. However, there is another way to get to know the culinary joys of the city: take a tour of the bars in the Parte Vieja, the Centre, Antiguo or Gros, and taste all the exquisite bitesize delicacies, washing them down with a glass or two of *txakoli* sparkling wine, cider or wines from la Rioja Alavesa region. This is where they create the delicious *pintxos*. This journey through haute cuisine is paradise for food lovers.

Why 'Gilda'? Well, in this city of movies, there had to be a homage to Rita Hayworth... The actress was spicy, tasty and fresh...

Make sure you try an authentic Basque tradition: the 'Gilda' (a *pintxo* made with a chilli pepper, olives and anchovy) in any of the bars that take your fancy.

TOP EXPERIENCE

The route of taste sensations of San Sebastián

Culture and gastronomy

Accompanied by a professional guide, this route takes you around the most unmissable places in San Sebastián and reveals its best guarded secrets and strangest urban tales. In various bars around the Parte Vieja, you can enjoy a *pintxo* and a drink specially selected to give you an authentic experience of the gastronomic richness of the city.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

A GREAT IDEA!

Find out where the greatest chefs do their shopping

Stepping into the ***La Bretxa*** Market in the Parte Vieja, you enter a world of stalls and shops which offer delicious produce from the local area. This is were the most highly-respected Michelin-starred chefs do their shopping... side by side with local housewives, barkeepers, restaurateurs and food lovers!
Another market in the centre well worth a visit is **San Martín.**

LA BRETXA MARKET

A GREAT IDEA!

The Michelin Stars*

and plenty of other star chefs.

San Sebastián and the surrounding area shines with the many stars that, year after year, the influential Michelin Guide awards the city's world class chefs. Only San Sebastián and Paris can boast three restaurants with three Michelin Stars. Martín Berasategui, Juan Mari Arzak, Pedro Subijana and Andoni Aduriz, along with their colleagues from other local towns, make up part of the stellar constellation which has made San Sebastián's cuisine one of the Basque's Country's main tourist attractions.

The chance to taste some of their culinary creations is an absolutely unforgettable experience.

* Gipuzkoa boasts a total of 16 Michelin stars (in April 2013)

SANTA MARÍA DEL CORO

Your stroll around the Parte Vieja of **San Sebastián** takes you into a maze of streets and squares which buzz with lively commerce, where the bars are a hive of activity. And if it is a carnival you want, dress up or sit back and watch! Throughout the year, there are many local celebrations, with their unique blend of the traditional and the innovative.

SAN SEBASTIÁN'S OLD QUARTER

...every bar hides a treasure in the PARTE VIEJA

The traditional limits of the Parte Vieja of San Sebastián are found on the Calle Mayor, with the **Basilica of Santa María del Coro** (where the *pintxo* route starts!), **Fermín Calbetón** Street, the non-stop street of **31 de Agosto** – with its souvenir shops – and the **Plaza de La Trinidad**, stage of traditional Basque rural sport, Basque pelota, along with musical extravanganzas and the International Jazz Festival, near to the **San Vicente Church.**

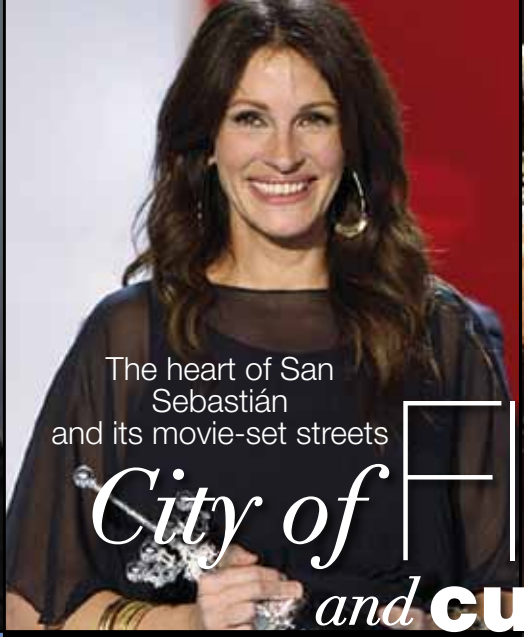
SAN TELMO MUSEUM

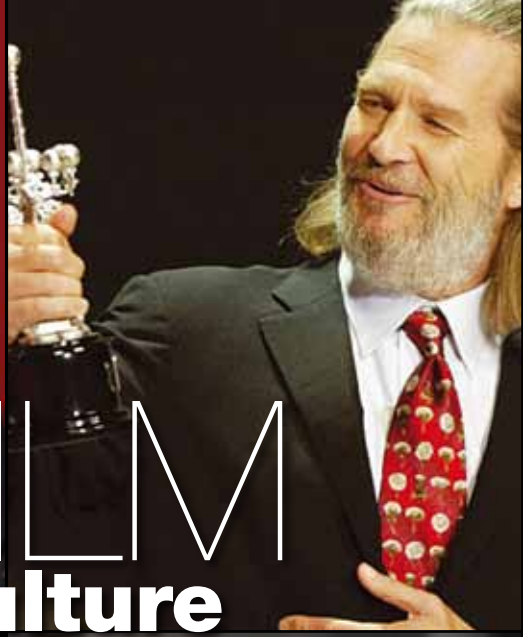
PLAZA DE LA CONSTITUCIÓN

In the **Plaza de la Constitución**, you can stop for a rest. With its many balconies, there are a number of comfortable terraces to choose from to watch life in the city go by. If you are interested in art and culture, don't miss the San Telmo Museum, located in the Parte Vieja. Its new pavillion, with its recent extension, is considered an architectural jewel, located between the city landscape and Mount Urgull. And for a great view of the coast and inland, be sure to go up to the **Castle of La Mota**, through the Cementerio de los Ingleses (The English Cemetery) and past the charming old bank of cannons, Las Cañones de las Damas, where a range of activities for kids take place.

When visiting the **port** it doesn't matter if it's raining. From the portside, next to the sea wall, you can admire the houses of the *arrantzales* (fishermen), the fish market, known affectionately as 'the aircraft carrier' by the locals. Try a cone of *karrakelas* (snails), *kiskillas* (small shrimps) and prawns, in the stalls along the sea wall.

FROM THE CASTLE OF LA MOTA





The heart of San Sebastián and its movie-set streets

City of FILM *and* **culture**

Culture, tradition, celebrations… From the hugely popular Tamborrada (Procession of drums), which is celebrated in style on the day of San Sebastián, to the processions of the Caldereros and the *Iñudes* and *Artzaiak* (nursemaids and shepherds), which herald the start of the Carnival. San Sebastián has it all. Events worth a special mention are the International Film Festival, which through its long history has brought world famous starts to the city, the original Fantasy and Horror Film Week and the Jazz Festival, with musicians and fans from around the world and the Quincena Musical (Musical Fortnight). Every day, there are various artistic expressions going on in which the whole city participates.

©Festival de Cine de San Sebastián.

A GREAT IDEA!

The route of the stars

Follow in the footsteps of Woody Allen and Sigourney Weaver. The Tourist Office organises a guided tour to discover San Sebastián through the magic of film. They will show you around the Boulevard, the Town Hall, La Concha Beach, the Buen Pastor Cathedral, the Plaza de Gipuzkoa, the Victoria Eugenia Theatre and the Kursaal Conference Centre. Along with a *pintxo* and drink to live it up like a true star!

www.sansebastianturismo.com

Enjoy a romantic getaway when you visit San Sebastián. As you wander around the city centre, you will understand why the world's most famous stars have fallen in love with the place and you will get a real feel for the Belle Époque.

The cinematographic rendez-vous in September brings together the very best directors and actors of the film world.

If you walk the few metres that separate the main door of the **Hotel María Cristina** to the **Victoria Eugenia Theatre**, you will soak up the glamour of Julia Roberts or Meryl Streep.

And if September brings with it the spirit of film, in July, it's the turn of Jazz to take the spotlight, with the **Jazzaldia** Festival, which attracts world-class musicians and fans from far and wide.

With festivals of this calibre, autograph hunting in San Sebastián is a real treat.

www.sansebastianfestival.com
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

SAN SEBASTIAN
DONOSTIA 2016

As the European Capital of Culture 2016, San Sebastián ticks all the right boxes to promote a new concept of cultural policy. Each neighbourhood has workshops and cultural centres that act as 'workshops' that foster creative exchange of ideas and social transformation.

All manner of celebrations, conventions, events and parties rooted firmly in the European Capital of Culture 2016 will be taking place over the coming years.

www.sansebastian2016.eu

The 10

The sea and San Sebastián share an unconditional love.

This explains why the majority of the experiences that you enjoy in the city are filled with the scent of the sea, such as its pleasant walks, the glamorous window displays and the exquisite gastronomic delights.

And as if that weren't enough, the city exudes culture all around, which is clear from a glance at the festival programme.

...we invite you to experience it all.

1 A walk from **La Concha** to **El Peine del Viento**

You will never forget the relaxed comings and goings of the locals and visitors in San Sebastián along this beautiful route. At the end of the walk, the iron sculptures of 'El Peine del Viento' (The Comb of the Wind) will show you first hand the power of the Cantabrian Sea.

2 Discover the world capital of ***pintxos***

Taste these local tapas in the Parte Vieja, Gros, Antiguo or in any of the countless bars ready to offer you these delights.

6 Going **shopping** with glamour

The city centre is well-equipped with exquisite fashion and accessory boutiques and delicatessens. Just come and have a look at the window displays. *C´est magnifique!*

7 The **Aquarium**

Press your nose against the glass but don't be surprised when you are approached by a speedy shark or a docile turtle.

Unmissable experiences *in San Sebastián...*

3 A range of great **festivals**

The Festival of Film, Jazz, or Classical Music to name but a few. A huge choice of options throughout the year. Your chance to experience the 'European Capital of Culture'.

4 Fun in **Igueldo**

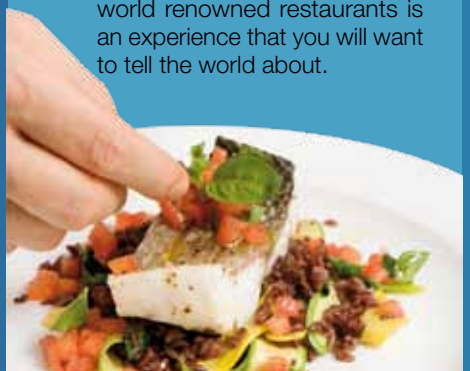
Travel through the villages along the sea on the road to Igueldo. Beautiful views and a fun amusement park await you there. You can also get there by funicular railway.

5 Head to the **beach**

La Concha, Ondarreta or Zurriola: three excellent city beaches await your visit.

8 **Food** with star quality

Eating and relaxing in any of the world renowned restaurants is an experience that you will want to tell the world about.



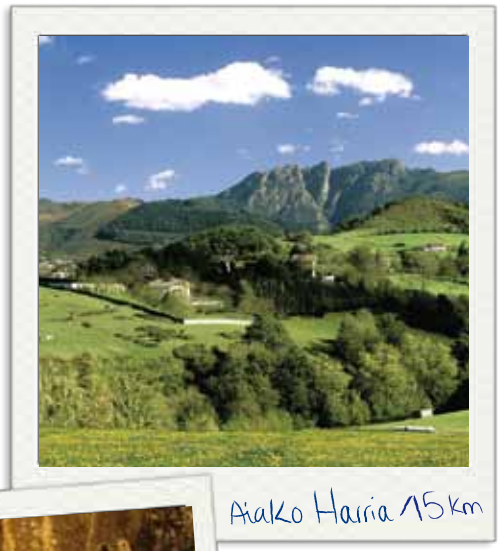
9 The **San Telmo** Museum

Redeveloped to house the most contemporary art and culture.

10 Run in the **Behobia-San Sebastián Race**

A popular race that attracts people from far and wide. Put on your running shoes and don't miss your chance to go for gold!

And if you extend
your trip by a few days?
A wealth of activities and trips
around the capital of the Guipuzcoa region



Adding a few more days to your trip will allow you to fit in some more fun trips. Why not immerse yourself in the customs of a culture that has managed to maintain its traditions with pride? You can really make the most of your time. It will be a real experience!

A visit to a **sidrería** (cider house) is a must: Astigarraga and Hernani are home to dozens of these establishments in which you can eat standing up and try the ciders, to the sound of the people shouting *Txotx!* (Cheers!). If you happen to know one of the locals, they may invite you to a **gastronomy club**, which are otherwise tricky to get into. The night time pulses to the beat of the clubs, bars and pubs in the town centre.

Those looking for greener scenery only have to travel a few kilometres to be able to enjoy the Natural Park of **Aiako Harria**, **Aralar** areas or the Natural Park of **Aitzkorri-Aratz**.

Cider producers, Gastronomy clubs... Traditions of a culture with a lot of character

Close to the capital, you can find picturesque places to walk and eat in its grill houses and restaurants. These villages offer an unbeatable blend of tradition and beauty. You can follow in the footsteps of Víctor Hugo and Lafayette and head to **Pasaia**, boarding one of the small passenger boats from **San Pedro** to **Donibane**. From the **Bonanza Church**, you can appreciate the huge fishing and commercial port and you can try some of the local delicacies.

Hondarribia, on the border with Hendaia, is another charming destination. There you can experience first hand the lively street life and try some of the best produce from the fish market or the *pintxos* available at any of the bars and taverns, taking in the views of the **Txingudi Bay.** The walled Casco Viejo is definitely worth a visit.

Following the coast, some fifteen kilometres outside San Sebastián, you will find **Zarautz**, and very nearby **Getaria** and **Orio**. They will all delight you with the smell of bream and monkfish on the grills in the restaurants, with their unique Old Towns and youthful atmosphere found in the ports and on the beaches.

In the **Goierri District**, a little inland, you can make your own cheese with a shepherd from Idiazabal, discover the Ordizia market, enjoy the Natural Parks and really get to know a village first hand and relish its gastronomic delights.

And in **Tolosa**, some twenty six kilometres from San Sebastián, be sure not to miss the local speciality: beans with the Eusko Label stamp of quality. If you come in December, *la Fiesta del Chuletón* (The Steak Festival) is a great opportunity for you to taste some exceptional meat. And if you are there at Carnival time, Tolosa is famous for holding one of the best in the Basque Country.

IDEAS for all the family

San Sebastián is an ideal city to visit with the family and the range of fun and diverse activities makes it the chosen destination for young and old alike.

Apart from the simple sporting activities that the beaches offer in the summer, you can also visit the ***Txuri-Urdin* Ice Palace** open from September to June.

The **Aquarium** is a must on any itinerary. All the family will love interacting with and learning about all things marine. A 360º glass tunnel lets you cross the oceanarium with sharks, manta rays and other inhabitants of the deep. The youngest kids shouldn't miss the chance to put their hands into the touch aquarium and stroke fish, starfish... maybe even an octopus! Another option is to head for the jetty of the Ciudad de San Sebastián catamaran and head out to sea.

There are many options for the family to learn while enjoying themselves

For those who fancy being scientists and researchers, the **Eureka! Zientzia Museum**, which aims to inform and educate, invites you to enjoy a range of experience, working with energy, liquids and sound. Don't miss the **Planetarium**, with its astronomical observatory and small botanic gardens.

Another delight awaiting you is **Igueldo**: an amusement park on top of the mountain that shares its name. As well as the fun to be had there, you will also find the best panoramic views of the Basque Coast.
Going up Mount **Urgull** gives you the chance to explore the passageways, twists and turns and cannons of the fort located there.

Walking around they city, you are sure to enjoy a ride on the merry-go-round in the Alderdi Eder gardens. And in the Plaza de Gipuzkoa, be sure to explore the pretty meteorological monument that reveals a thousand and one secrets about the skies.

In Tolosa, don't miss a visit to the **Topic**, International Puppetry Centre The town is well-known for holding the Puppetry Festival that attracts artists and an audience from around the world. In Ordizia, the **D´elikatuz** Centre shows you in an accesible way how to ensure that you have a healthy, balanced diet.

www.eurekamuseoa.es
www.aquariumss.com
www.donostia.org
www.eltxuri.com
www.cristinaenea.com
www.monteigueldo.es
www.topictolosa.com
www.delikatuz.com

BEACHES

1. La Concha
2. Zurriola
3. Ondarreta

MUSEUMS

1. San Telmo Museum
2. Aquarium
3. Naval Museum
4. Diocesan Museum
5. Cemento Rezola Museum
6. Eureka! Zientzia Museum

PLACES OF INTEREST

1. La Perla Thalossotherapy
2. El Peine del Viento
3. Paseo Nuevo
4. Town Hall
5. Conference Centre
6. Kursaal
7. La Bretxa Market
8. San Vicente Church
9. Buen Pastor Cathedral
10. Plaza de la Constitución
11. Victoria Eugenia Theatre
12. Castle of La Mota
13. Alderdi Eder Gardens
14. San Martín Market
15. Santa María Church

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

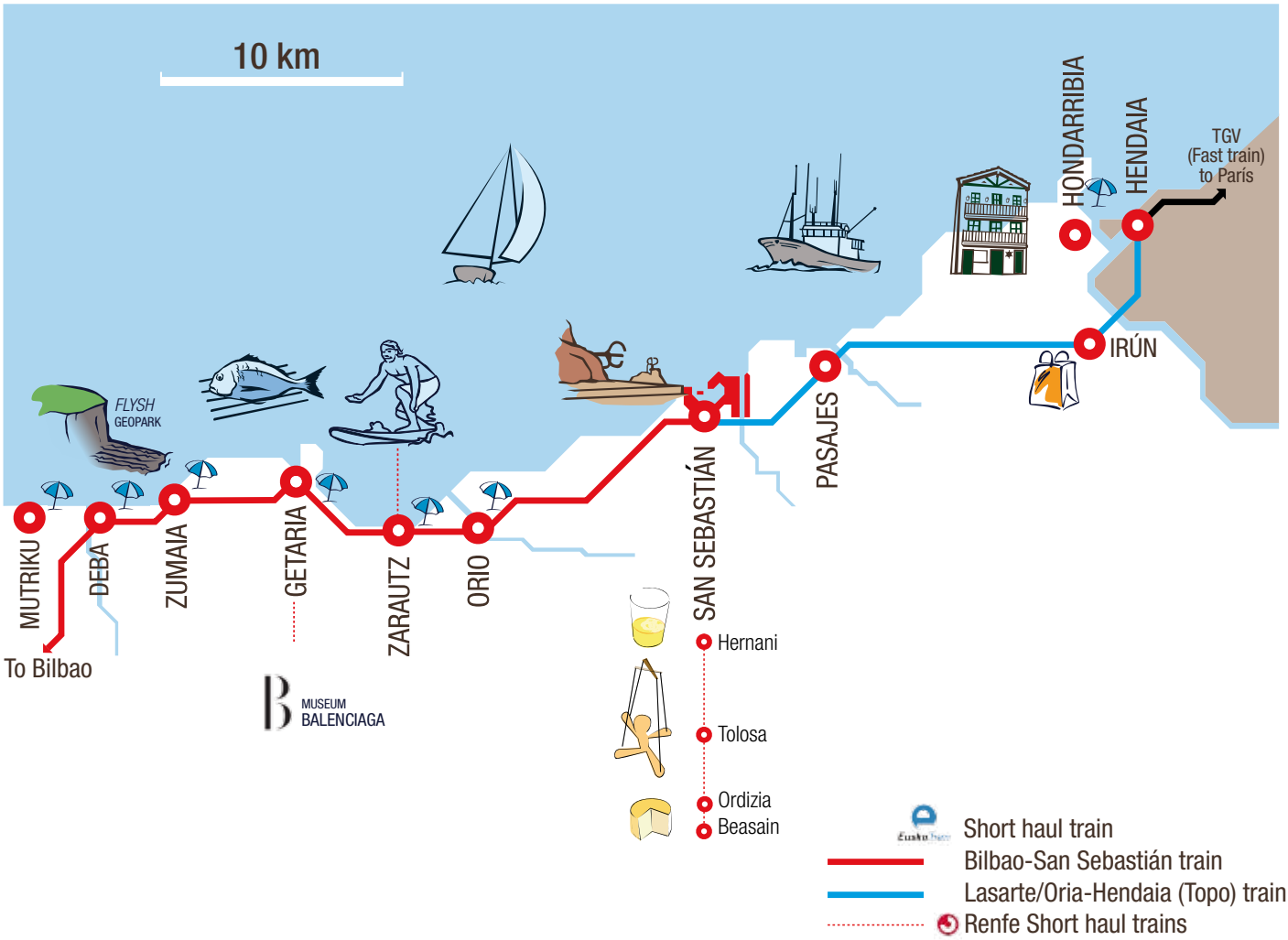
1. Bullring/ San Sebastián Arena 2016
2. Anoeta Stadium
3. Bus Station
4. Funicular Station
5. North Train Station (ADIF)
6. Amara Train Station (EUSKOTREN)

Tourist Office

Gastronomic area
Commercial area
Area with monuments

Commercial pedestrian area

Along the coastal track



Practical information

Tourism

SAN SEBASTIÁN TOURISM
www.sansebastianturismo.com

TOURIST OFFICE
Boulevard 8 · Telephone 943 481 166

BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM
www.basquecountrytourism.net

GIPUZKOA TOURISM
www.gipuzkoaturismo.net

Transport

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

BUSES
Donostia-San Sebastián Bus station
Plaza Pío XII

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

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

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

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

General

HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES Telephone 112

GENERAL INFORMATION: Telephone 010
(for calls from within San Sebastián)

Telephone 943 481 000
(for calls from outside San Sebastián)

VITORIA-GASTEIZ

EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

"Vitoria-Gasteiz brings together technology and industry with natural spaces, large parks and pedestrian and sporting areas. Its inhabitants are proud to live in one of Europe's most beautiful and green city. The 'European Green Capital 2012' is a city to enjoy"

Rediscover the pleasure of strolling around the city

Just two steps… or three pedals. Getting around Vitoria-Gasteiz on foot is easy, and even more so when a gentle bike ride can take you out to spaces like the **Anillo Verde** (Green Belt), the natural perimeter of the capital of Álava. You can get around on foot or by bicycle along 47 kilometres of smooth tracks and walkways in the parks of Alegría, Armentia, Olarizu, Salburua, Zabalgana, the banks of the Zadorra River, Berrostegieta, Errekaleor and Lasarte. A walk around woods, rivers and all manner of fauna and flora.

Vitoria-Gasteiz ranks highly in Europe for the largest number of square metres of green per inhabitant. And the locals make the most of it! One of the customs of the *gasteiztarras*, as the locals are known, is to walk along the Paseos de La Senda and Cervantes to the top of Armentia, where you can find the Basílica de San Prudencio, surrounded by beautiful fields.

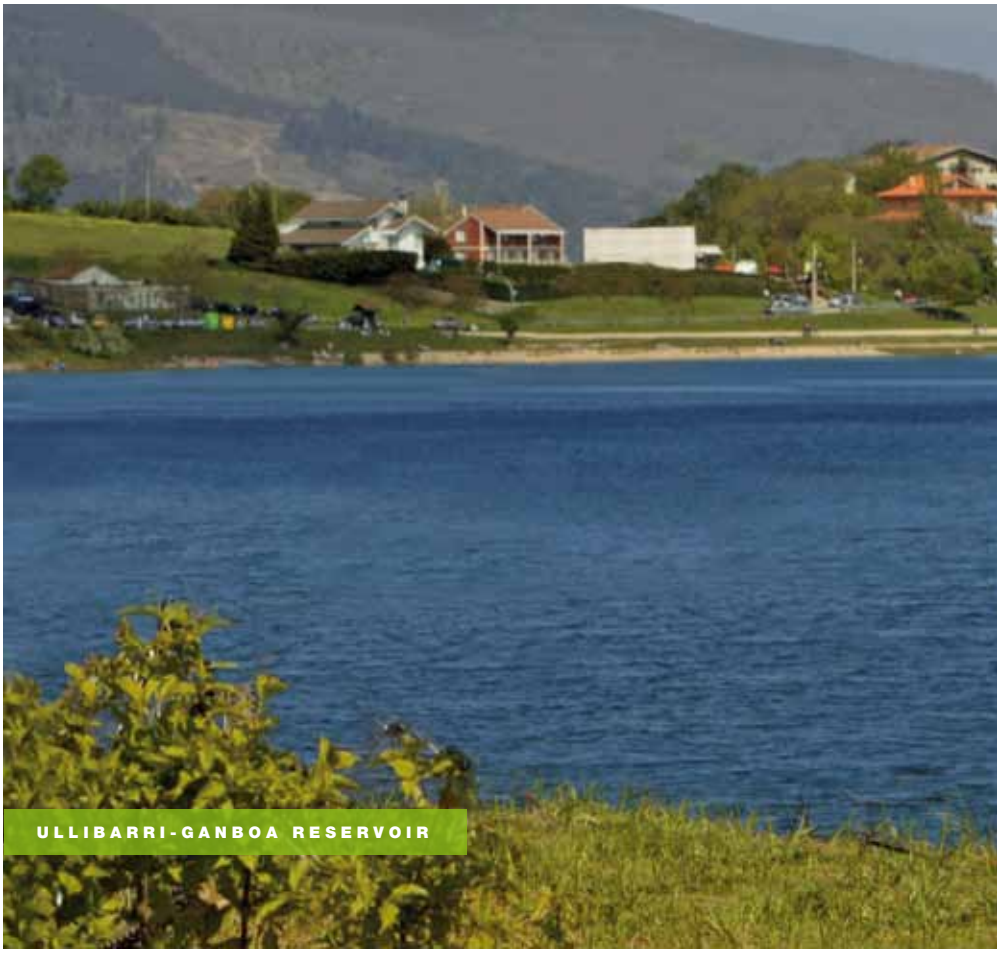
In the capital, the avenues also combine culture, such as the Paseo de Fray Francisco, which is home to the Museums of Fine Art and Weaponry. Just nearby, you will see the Ajuria Enea Palace, the residence of the *Lehendakari* (Basque president). Remember that Vitoria-Gasteiz is the political capital of the Basque Country and therefore the seat of the Basque Government.

THE MUSEUM OF BELLES ARTES

VITORIA-GASTEIZ winner 2012 EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

Vitoria-Gasteiz is always green. In the heat of summer and the snows of winter, you will enjoy a thousand beautiful images. The locals or *gasteiztarras* value and enjoy their parks: **Arriaga, San Martín** or **Judimendi**, to name a few. In **La Florida** Park, next to the Basque Parliament building, you will find a spectacular park. And in **El Prado** Park, you might bump into Olympic athlete Martín Fíz jogging.

> *In Vitoria-Gasteiz, nature is never far from any home.*



ULLIBARRI-GANBOA RESERVOIR

If you like cycling, then you can try the 100 kilometres of *bidegorris* (bike lanes) that cover the city, including routes out to the **Anillo Verde** (Green Belt). If you haven't brought your bicycle with you, the Town Hall offers a bike-hire service.

The Anillo Verde is Vitoria-Gasteiz's outdoor park, that covers almost a thousand hectares. When you visit it, they will explain to you why the UN includes it in the list of 'The world's 100 best initiatives in good practices', which evaluates contributions to the quality of life in cities.

In the capital, nature springs up within the city itself. The animals that inhabit the wetlands of Salburua can turn up anywhere in the park.

If you prefer hiking, you have many options to choose from: to the south of the city in the **Mounts of Vitoria,** through Mendizorroza and Berrostegieta to reach **Zaldiaran, Errogana** or **Arrieta.** To the north, you have the ranges of **Badaia, Arrato** and **Elgea.**

If you fancy beach and water, around the **Ullibarri-Ganboa** and **Santa Engracia Reservoirs**, you can enjoy beauty spots like **Landa, Erpidea, Garaio** and **Legutiano** to catch a few rays, go windsurfing, go for a dip or fly a kite along the banks.

El Camino de Santiago, hiking within easy reach

The 'Inland Route', as this part of the **Camino de Santiago** (Santiago Pilgrimage Route) is known as it cuts through Álava, crossing the territory through the **San Adrián Tunnel,** near Agurain, until it reaches the town of **Salinillas de Buradón,** in the Rioja Alavesa province, where the route leaves the province and heads to Santo Domingo de la Calzada. The route through Vitoria-Gasteiz is well signposted through the street and squares.

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

A magical display of birds

SALBURUA

The wetlands of Salburua are an attractive place to discover when you visit Vitoria-Gasteiz. Forming part of the Anillo Verde, (Green Belt) they are home to a huge diversity of birdlife, thanks to its privileged location on migration routes.

To be able to study the diverse flora and fauna that abounds in and around the lakes, the park offers two strategically placed observatories.

Ataria is the Interpretation Centre of the wetlands. Informative displays will help to introduce you to the biodiversity and natural heritage of the area.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

The Almendra Medieval, a world without end

'Experience history in a whole new way.'

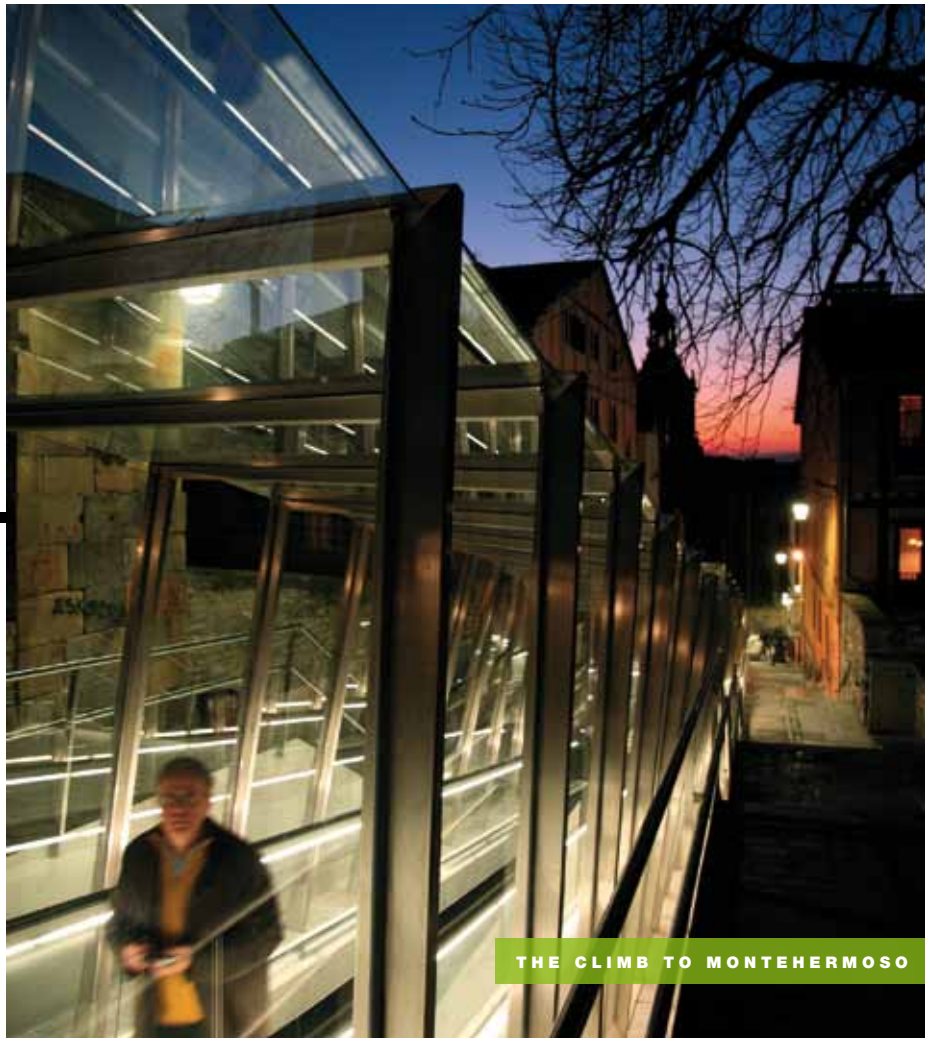
The Almendra Medieval (The Medieval 'Almond'), is one of the most emblematic historic quarters in the Basque Country. The **Santa Maria Cathedral,** open despite building work, should be your first port of call. City walls, palaces, sentry houses... Authors such as Ken Follett and Toti Martínez de Lezea, who have both been inspired by the cathedral when working on their books, were captivated by the life and activity that went on here.

Tourists and history buffs can appreciate how the gothic Santa María Cathedral was constructed by wandering around the nave, atrium, walls and clerestory.

CITY WALLS

Relive the 12th century through 21st century technology

In the same district, you can also visit the **City Walls**, the **Bibat** Museum, known as such as it houses the Museum of Archeology and the Museum of Playing Cards, or alternatively you can visit the **Escoriaza-Esquibel** and **Montehermoso** Palaces. Ramps will take you right to the top of the oldest part.



THE CLIMB TO MONTEHERMOSO

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

Santa Maria 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 unparallelled 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

As you wander around Vitoria-Gasteiz's Old Quarter, you will notice that it sits on the slope of the hill on which they traced out the city's streets that today are so full of life. Culture, shopping, bars and restaurants comfortably take their place in a town where people still chat from one balcony to another and where children still play in the streets, just as they have always done

A GREAT IDEA!

The mural route

The **Almendra Medieval**, or the Medieval 'Almond' as the Old Quarter is known, brings together history and social innovation, as can be seen by the **enormous murals** that artists have painted on the façades and walls. The many colours revitalise and decorate the image of the oldest face of Vitoria-Gasteiz. The work of artists, art students, teams equipped with paintbrushes and enthusiatic neighbours has turned this into a world renowned artistic tour!
Open your eyes wide and take in all the creative images that have breathed life into the old walls. They are a true reflection of the social and cultural commitment of the painted city of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

www.muralismopublico.com

PLAZA DE LA BRULLERÍA

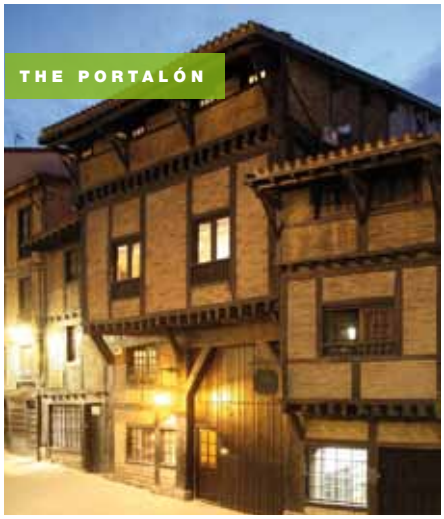
A good proportion of the buildings and streets of **Vitoria-Gasteiz's Historic Quarter** maintain its medieval ancestry. The names of its streets – Cuchillería, Herrería, Pintorería, Correría (Cutler, Ironmonger, Painter, Harnessmaker) and so on, are a clear reminder of the professionals that used to ply their trades in each street. On the first Saturday of each month, a market is held in which traders from the area display their wares along the street.

The old Gasteiz enjoys its reputation as an **Historic Heritage.** As well as the ancient homes that still conserve their wooden internal architecture, you will also come across palaces like those of **Bendaña**, the **Casa del Cordón, Escoriaza-Esquibel,** the **Portalón**, the squares **La Plaza de Brullería**, **Campillo** and **Matxete** and the restored **City Walls.**

Vitoria-Gasteiz still keeps the vestiges of the Renaissance alive. If you go up to the **Montehermoso** Palace, you will hear romantic tales of forbidden love. In the nearby Escoriaza Esquibel Palace, you are sure to marvel at the good taste of Fernán López de Escoriaza, doctor to King Henry VIII of England, and the doctor's wife, Victoria de Anda y Esquivel.

The Villasuso Palace, one of the many congressional seats in the city, is located in the Plaza del Matxete and dominates the centre of the new Vitoria-Gasteiz

VILLASUSO PALACE



THE PORTALÓN

Crossing the centuries

In amongst all the comings and goings in the Historic Quarter, you will come across the Plaza del Matxete. A relaxing place that takes its name from the traditional oath taken by the Procurator General, which was sworn on a machete, 'with which they would chop of the head' of anyone who did not fulfil their oath. The machete in question was kept in a niche, protected since 1840 by the very same railings that we see today.

A GREAT IDEA!

Routes through history

You may well be a fan of history and culture... If that is the case, Vitoria-Gasteiz won't let you down. Its main Tourist Office organises guided tours that last two or three hours and explain the past and the 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.
In summertime, these visits are brought to life in dramatic fashion.

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/turismo

THE ARTIUM MUSEUM

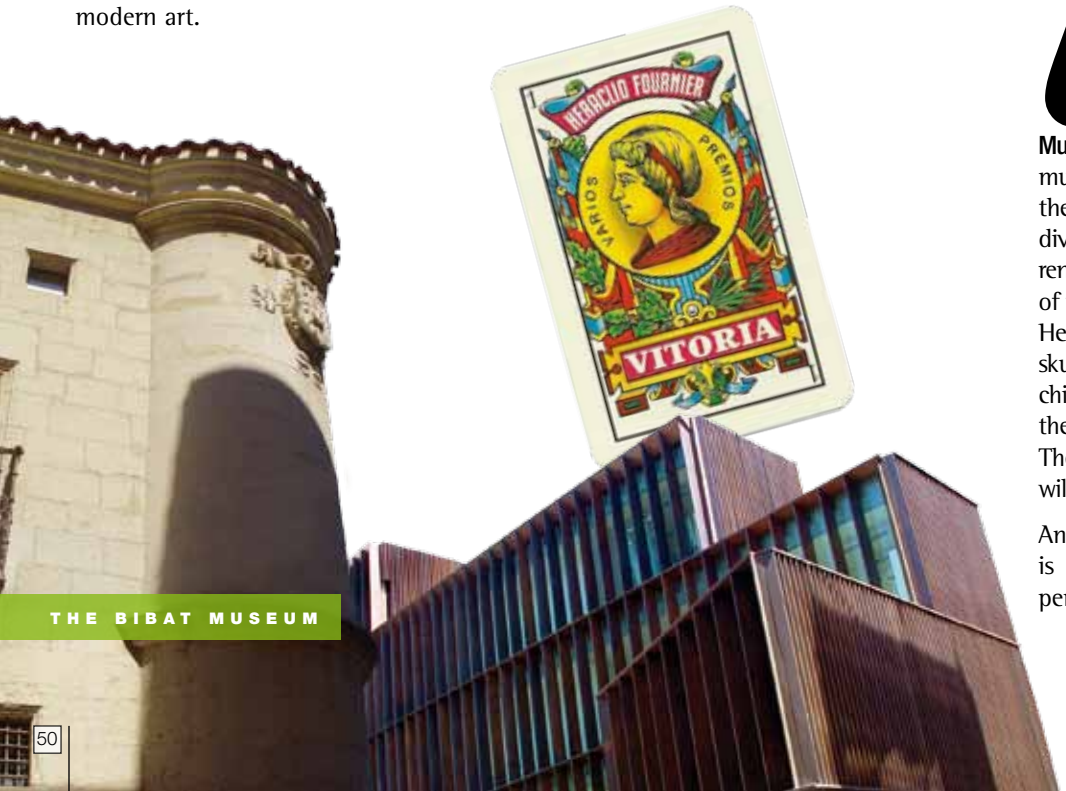
Your hunger for culture will be satisfied in a thousand different ways in Vitoria-Gasteiz. In the area around the Historic Quarter, you can discover the avant-garde of culture in the **Artium**, museum and cultural activity centre that collects, produces, disseminates and researches modern art.

As well as its unique architecture, it offers a diverse collection of contemporary art, running temporary exhibitions and performances as well as appealing to kids with its absorbing educational activities.

Cultural delights

The **Almendra Medieval Old Quarter** hides many treasures. One of them offers a double treat: in Cuchillería Street the **Bibat Museum** opens its doors, and offers two museums, one dedicated to **Archeology** and the other to **Playing cards.** Its sections are divided around a modern building and a renovated medieval palace. A great example of the new trends in museum management. Here you can see five thousand year old skulls, relics from the Iron Age or century old chinese playing cards or other decks used in the casinos of Monte Carlo or Baden-Baden. The artefacts brought to life in the museum will astound you.

Another contemporary cultural experience is the Jazz Festival held in July with performances by the world's greats.



THE BIBAT MUSEUM

When you wander through the Old Quarter to the newer parts of town, you'll understand why **Vitoria-Gasteiz** has a double-barreled name. Gasteiz was the name of the little town located on the small hill that today makes up the Almendra Medieval Old Quarter. In the 11th century, the King of Navarra, Sancho VI The Wise, granted the town the title of city and added the name Vitoria. So today it remains Vitoria-Gasteiz.

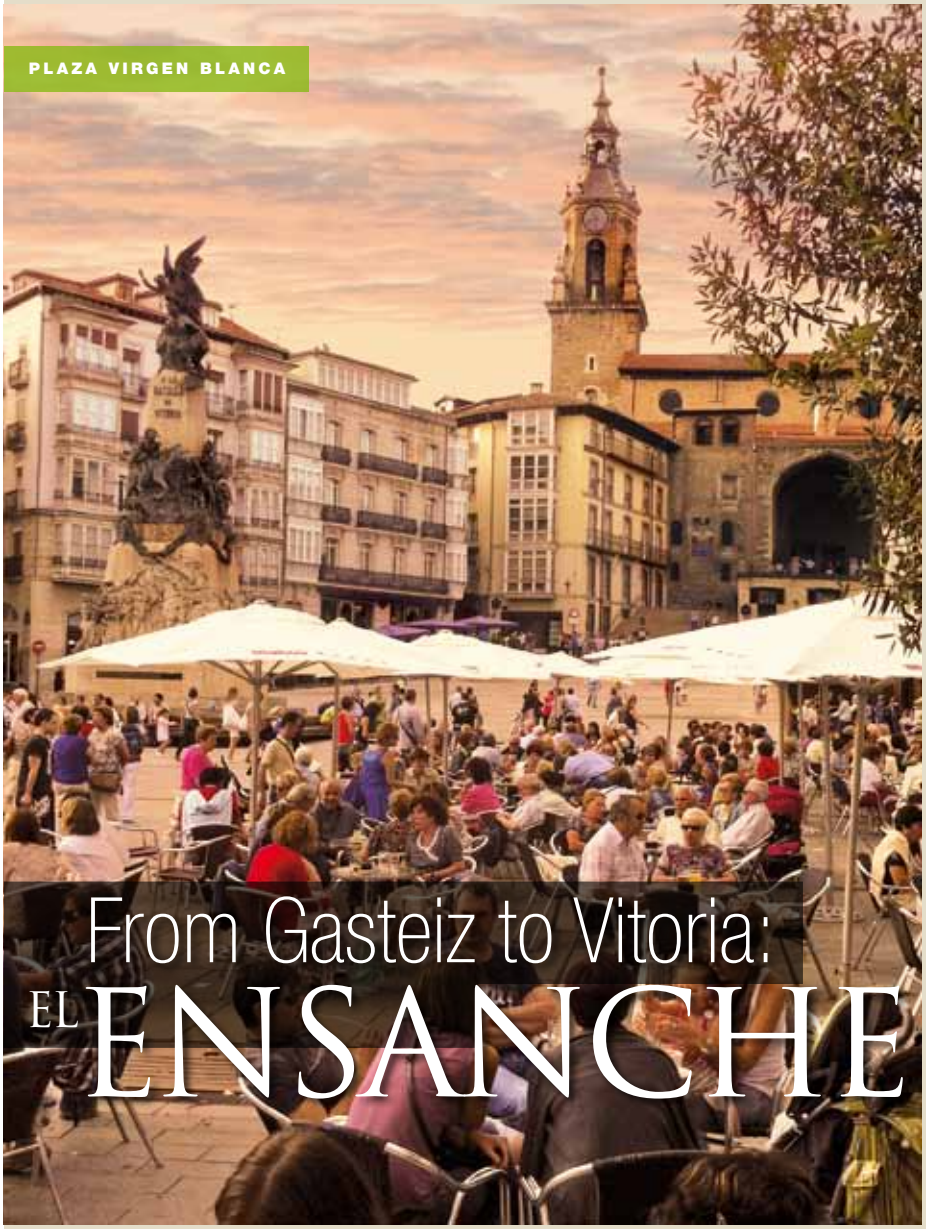
PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

From the **Plaza del Matxete**, a few steps bring you to **Los Arquillos**, arcades that allow entry from the medieval city into the newer part. This is where the area of the urban **Ensanche** district begins.

The great **Plaza de la Virgen Blanca** is the heart of the city. In the festival held on the 4th August, the local hero **Celedón** arrives in the square, decending from the highest tower of the **San Miguel Church**. On the railings around the church, you will find a bronze Celedón sculpture to pose for a photo with.

The **Plaza de España**, next to the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca, is looked over by the Casa Consistorial (Council Hall) and offers a superb space filled with terraces and arcades. This is where the **Dato Street** pedestrian precinct begins, home to the financial and commercial areas, which leads all the way to the train station. A walk along the streets of **General Álava, San Prudencio, Postas** and the **Plaza de los Fueros** – where Chillida and Peña Ganchegui have left their mark – will give you a vibrant overview of the Ensanche area of the capital of the Álava region.

It is an ideal route to a little relaxation with your shopping.

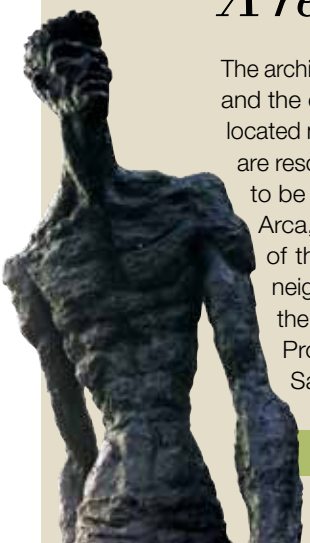


PLAZA VIRGEN BLANCA

From Gasteiz to Vitoria: EL ENSANCHE

A relaxing centre

The architectural and sculptural points of reference of the Ensanche district and the centre of Vitoria-Gasteiz are plentiful. The **Basque Parliament** is located next to **La Florida** Park. This is where the big issues of the country are resolved. In the vicinity, the **New Cathedral** is still waiting for its spires to be built. Something that may well never happen! In the Plaza del Arca, midpoint of **Dato Street**, you will see the enormous sculpture of the **Caminante** (The Walker), who marches seriously alongside neighbours and tourists. The multifaceted Plaza Iradier, the home of the French Basque-style Post Office, the Palace of the Autonomous Provincial Council, the Inland Revenue Offices and the Paseo de Sancho el Sabio, should figure on any itinerary.



EL CAMINANTE

A tour of the wine cellars

Taste the tradition

Vitoria-Gasteiz is just a step away from the **Rioja Alavesa** region. Two thousands hectares of well-tended vineyards where spectacular scenery changes from week to week. Visiting one cellar after another make for great entertainment. Avant-garde design has been incorpoarated into the wine, its bottles and its cellars. **Gehry, Mazières, Aspiazu and Calatrava** have left their mark on history, the countryside, the architecture and the palate.

Before visiting the Rioja Alavesa wine region, why not visit some of the wine cellars in **Vitoria-Gasteiz**? Learn about wines, be they signature wines, young wines, Crianza or Reserva wines. Some offer guided wine tasting sessions. They are found in the Casco Antiguo, the historic old centre. Mastering the world of wine will enable you to speak with authority about the world's greatest wines.

Sign up for a masterclass in enology

The traditional *txikiteo* (bar-hopping to taste wines) is an old Basque custom that involves visiting various bars to taste a wine from this year or a vintage drop. A *txikito* is a small glass of wine. Join in on one and take the recommendations of the

TOP EXPERIENCE

ROUTE *of pintxos and cakes*

> *If you are lucky enough for your stay to coincide with the Semana del Pintxo (Pintxo week) or the Semana de la Cazuelita y el Vino (Stew and Wine Week), you will be right on target*

The capital of the Álava region revels in gastronomy whatever shape it takes, be it haute cuisine or the reductionist and tasty form of *pintxo*. Both in the Casco Antiguo and in the centre and Lovaina neighbourhood, you can follow the **'pintxo routes'** along which you will taste these irresistible bitesize delights of haute cuisine, accompanied by the best wines from the Rioja Alavesa region.

Some days of the week, they run the **'pintxo-pote'**, an initiative that the bars in certain areas have set up in which, for a modest price, you can try a different *pintxo* with each drink you order.

Vitoria-Gasteiz also boasts a range of tearooms and cake shops. Many of them encapsulate the charm of decades of tradition and work. Discover the gorgeous delights, such as vasquitos and *neskitas*, the *espetxus*, the trenzas, the *txutxitos*, the Gasteiz tart or chocolate truffle in the establishments on the **Sweets Route**, a través del Casco Antiguo.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

tavern staff. Of course, it goes down better accompanied with a *pintxo*. The Tourist Office offers a reduced price ***pintxos-card*** that allows you to taste a *pintxo* and a glass of Rioja Alavesa in each of the five bars. In the fifth bar, they will offer you a coffee, a tea or a typical local pastry.

With this knowledge base at hand, you can delve into the world of wine. Every Saturday from May to October and in Easter week, a bus service known as **Enobús** goes between Vitoria-Gasteiz and Bilbao, and takes you through the various locations of the Rioja Alavesa region. Without having to worry about driving, you can stop in at various cellars and get back to the capital in comfort.

www.rutadelvinoderiojaalavesa.com
www.cuadrillariojaalavesa.com

The 10

Walking around Vitoria-Gasteiz means a stroll around a green and pleasant city.

It is green because of the wide leisure areas it offers and it's extremely pleasant because of the friendly locals, who are always willing to show you the city that they are so proud of.

History, nature, culture, food... your experience here will be full of exciting little adventures that are sure to leave their mark on you.

...we invite you to experience it all.

1 Stroll surrounded by **green**

Wander through a city where the green is its capital.

2 Put on your helmet in the **Old Cathedral**

And visit one of the most surprising restauration works in history.

6 From ***pintxo*** to *pintxo*

Accompanied by your '*pote*' (drink) of choice... An invitation to make new discoveries.

7 And all that ***Jazz***

With the Festival already in its 35th year, for a week in July, Vitoria-Gasteiz becomes the world capital of jazz.

Unmissable experiences

in Vitoria-Gasteiz...

3 The wines of the **Rioja Alavesa region**

Don't miss the chance to taste a world-renowned wine that you are sure to seek out again.

4 Nature seen from **Ataria**

Within the city itself, the Salburua wetlands offer you the chance to get close to fauna and flora that make for a perfect long walk, and to see the birds in their natural habitat from the Ataria observatory.

5 The medieval **City Walls**

Rediscovered and restored. The City Walls will take you back to the Middle Ages.

8 **Bibat:** Bones and jokers

Historic and avant-garde architecture that displays the world's best collection of playing cards alongside archeological relics.

9 The thrill of **basketball**

High emotions for all the audience... that is what Baskonia promise on the court. A sharpshooting team who shine in every match.

10 Experience the **Artium**

Immerse yourself in contemporary art and feel it first hand. A non-stop museum.

Stay a little longer...

around the capital of the Álava region

The region's capital is full of opportunities... A few extra days would allow you to enjoy all of the green, cultural and sporting activities on offer... For starters, the city offers a vibrant museum scene. The wide range of natural delights on offer around the wetlands of **Salburua** need no more than a pair of binoculars to observe the behaviour of the multitude of birdlife that stop here to rest on their long migrations across Europe.

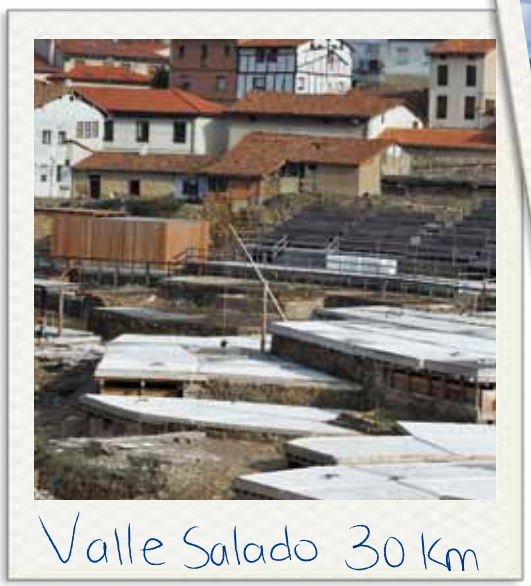
And if **music** is your thing, in Vitoria-Gasteiz you are spoilt for choice: the International Jazz Festival, the Classical Music Week and the Azkena Rock Festival are just a few examples.

The route around the **Anillo Verde** (Green Belt) that circles the capital is a great place to start to discover some of the immense **Natural Parks of Gorbeia, Valderejo, Izki** and **Urkiola.**

If you decide to scale **Gorbea** Mountain, you might like to know that the cross that marks its peak is one of the most visited places by the mountain's many fans. You can also follow one of the many **Vías Verdes** (Green Trails), specially prepared paths and horse trails through the geographical highlights of the Álava region. One unforgettable route is that of the now disused **Anglo-Vasco-Navarro railway,** which used to link Vitoria-Gasteiz with Estella and Oñati. You can follow the trail on a bicycle and it will take you to Antoñana. Nearby, next to the **Izki Natural Park**, you have access to **golf**, horse riding and fishing.

Something you won't find anywhere else is the wonder of the Salinas de Añana salt marshes. Take your shoes off to paddle in the waters from which salt has been extracted for centuries.

The Valle Salado has been declared a National Historic Monument



El Valle Salado (Salt Valley) is an impressive and beautiful salt valley.

Why not follow a route through history and visit the fort-houses and palaces such as **Quejana Palace** in Ayala, or the **Tower of the Varona,** in Villanañe.

The ancient walls will also astound you with their excellent conservation. A good example of this is **Peñacerrada**, and in the region of Rioja Alavesa, the towns of **Laguardia** and **Labraza**, the latter of which has been honoured with an award for the World's Best Walled City.

Did you know that Álava preserves over a hundred artificial caves that were used for prayer and shelter? The area that covers the towns of **Laño** and **Faido** is known as 'the other Capadocia' for its spectacular landscapes.

As well as more recent history, the **Rioja Alavesa** region has numerous megalithic monuments: the dolmens of la Hechicera and la Huesera or the village of La Hoya, whose origins date back to the Bronze Age.

And last but not least, the wine and gastronomic culture of the Rioja Alavesa region makes the area an unmissable destination.

IDEAS for all the family

You'll still be able to relax even if you have the children with you. The choice of leisure activities on offer is plentiful and free of charge in many cases.

The **Natural Science Museum** displays a magnificent collection of amber, presented in an accessible way for young and old to learn while having fun. You'll be amazed by the valuable zoological and geological collections as well as the herbarium, one of the peninsular's best collections.

If you come in June, the **International Festival of Games** is not to be missed. You will have a great time with 4,000 games to play in the open air that take over most of the city.

The heat is fine, even in the height of summer in Vitoria-Gasteiz, and even more so at the **AquaMendi** water park at the **Mendizorrotza** municipal swimming pool. Its water slides are great fun for young kids. If you are also a fan of barbecues, the **Gamarra Park** has swimming pools and wide green spaces equipped for you to set up your own grill.

In the Anillo Verde you can see European bison in Salburua and boar in Armentia

Nature is another of the big attractions that the city offers. Visiting the **Anillo Verde** (Green Belt), with its parks, woods, rivers and wetlands, you can see a huge variety of flora and fauna just a few kilometres outside of the city, and you can get there easily by bicycle or on foot.

The **Bird Observatory** in the wetlands, with the **Ataria Interpretation Centre** in Salburua, and the wooded islands in a sea of crops at Zabalgana, are some of the highlights.

Another option is visiting the salt marshes at Salinas de Añana, in the **Valle Salado**. Dip your hands and feet in the salty waters and marvel at the way in which salt has been extracted for 1,200 years.

The ideal city to enjoy with the whole family.

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
www.festivaldejuegos-jolasjaialdia.com
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/anilloWeb
www.ataria.com
www.vallesalado.com

VITORIA-GASTEIZ

MUSEUMS

1. Artium
2. Bellas Artes (Fine Arts)
3. Bibat
4. Weaponry Museum
5. Arte Sacro (Religious Art Museum)
6. Natural Science Museum
7. Los Faroles Museum

PLACES OF INTEREST

1. City Wall
2. Santa Maria Cathedral
3. Plaza del Matxete/Villasuso
4. Plaza de la Virgen Blanca
5. Plaza de los Fueros
6. New Cathedral
7. Los Arquillos (The Arcades)
8. Plaza de España
9. Montehermoso
10. El Portalón
11. Escoriaza Esquibel Palace
12. La Florida Park
13. Basque Parliament Building
14. Ajuria Enea Palace
15. Palacio Europa

- The Mural Route
- Medieval City Wall

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Bullring
2. Train Station
3. Bus Station
- Tourist Office

Casco Medieval
Gastronomic area
Area with monuments
Commercial area
Nightlife area

Ensanche - 19th Century
Shopping area
Gastronomic area
Nightlife area

Green Belt

Practical information

Tourism

VITORIA-GASTEIZ TOURISM
Telephone 945 161 598
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/turismo

TOURIST OFFICE
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Plaza de España 1
Telephone 945 161 598

BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM
www.basquecountrytourism.net

ÁLAVA TOURISM
www.alavaturismo.com

Transport

AIRPORT
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Carretera N-622 Km 3
Telephone 945 163 500 / 945 163 591
www.aena.es

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

BUSES
Vitoria-Gasteiz Bus Station
01002 Vitoria-Gasteiz · Telephone 945 258 400

City buses of Vitoria-Gasteiz - TUVISA
Telephone 945 161 054 www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/transporte

TRAMS
Euskotran Vitoria
Tram Information Office
General Alava 2
Telephone 945 135 554 / 902 543 210
www.euskotren.es

General

HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES Telephone 112

GENERAL INFORMATION Telephone 010
(for calls within Vitoria-Gasteiz)

Telephone 945 161 100
(for call from outside Vitoria-Gasteiz)

events

BILBAO

www.bilbao.net
www.bilbaointernational.com

February:

Santa Agueda (Choirs sing throughout the city)
365 Jazz Bilbao - performances from February to May and October to December
Carnival (dates vary)

March:

Musika-Música Festival (Classical) Euskalduna Palace · www.bilbao700.com
B. Awards, Bilbao Concept Design Festival (to promote conceptual design)
Bilbao Triathlon (swimming, cycling, marathon) www.bilbaotriathlon.com

April:

Gutunzuria- International Festival of Letters (Authors meet with their readers) www.alhondigabilbao.com

May:

The Bilbao Duatlon (Running and Cycling) www.bilbao.net/duatlon
FANT, Bilbao Fantasy Film Festival www.fantbilbao.net
Bilbao Gardens (May-June The Urban Garden Exhibition) · www.bilbaojardin.org

June:

Noche Blanca ('White Night') with music, theatre, poetry and much more live in the streets www.bilbaointernational.com
BB Race (The Burdeos-Bilbao Regatta) www.bilbaointernational.com

July:

Bilboko Kalealdia (Street Festival of Theatre and Art) · www.bilbokokalealdia.com
Encounter Festival (Symposium for IT professionals and fans) · www.euskal.org
BBK Live (Pop/Rock Macrofestival) www.bilbaobbklive.com

August:

Semana Grande/*Aste Nagusia* (Great Week - Bilbao's local celebrations)
The Procession of Marijaia
www.astenagusia.com

MARIJAIA (BILBAO)

September:
Jet Lag BIO (Festival of Young Urban Expression)
www.bilbaojetlag.net
Hó Play International Videogame Festival
www.alhondigabilbao.com
October:
On the11th, **Día de Begoña** (Festival of the Virgin)
***Txikitero* Day** (Bar-hopping and wine tasting with friends)
Bad. Contemporary Theatre and Dance Festival
November:
Zinebi, International Festival of Documentary and Short Films · www.zinebi.com
Night Marathon
December:
On the 21st, the **Santo Tomás Fair** (Farming and livestock fair)
PIN. Christmas Park for kids in the BEC
www.bilbao.net

SAN SEBASTIÁN

www.donostiasansebastian.com
www.sansebastianturismo.com

January:
On the 20th: **Tamborrada Donostiarra** (Procession of drums) · www.donostiasansebastian.com
Dock of the bay (Documentary film exhibition)
February:
On the 4th: The Feast of **Santa Águeda**
Caldereros (Procession to mark the start of Carnival)
www.donostiasansebastian.com
Carnival (dates vary) · www.donostiasansebastian.com

TAMBORRADA (SAN SEBASTIÁN)

March:
Stage Art Fair (Theatre festival) · www.antzerki.com
April:
Festival of Film and Human Rights
www.cineyderechoshumanos.com
Season of underwater film
May:
Half marathon (Popular race, open to all)
June:
Surfilm Festival (Festival of surf film)
www.surfilmfestibal.com
July:
From the 3rd-9th: **DonostiaCup** (Youth Football Tournament) · www.donosticup.com
International Regatta of the City of San Sebastián
www.regatamunilla.com
Heineken Jazzaldia (Music festival)
www.heinekenjazzaldia.com

August:
Quincena Musical ('Musical Fortnight')
www.quincenamusical.com
From the14-21: **Aste Nagusia** (Great Week - the local San Sebastián celebrations)
www.donostiasansebastian.com
International Firework Contest
www.donostia.org
September:
Zinemaldia, International Film Festival
www.sansebastianfestival.com
La Bandera de La Concha (Fishing boat rowing race) · www.donostiasansebastian.com
October:
Festival of Fantasy and Horror Films
www.sansebastianhorrorfestival.com
November:
San Sebastián Gastronomika (International Congress of Gastronomy)
www.sansebastiangastronomika.com
The Behobia-San Sebastián Race (open to all)
www.behobia-sansebastian.com
DKV Marathon · www.maratondonostia.com
December:
On the 21st: The **Santo Tomás Fair** (Farming and livestock fair) www.donostia.org
Cook&fashion (International fashion and cuisine contest) · www.cookandfashion.com)

VITORIA-GASTEIZ

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org

January:
PIN. Children's Christmas Park in the Hegoalde Civic Centre
On the 17th: **The San Antón Raffle** (Top prize-a pig!) and **the San Antón Txiki Raffle**
February:
On the 4th: **The Feast of Santa Águeda**
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
Carnival (dates vary)
March:
Carnival of Vitoria-Gasteiz
April:
Tamborrada de San Prudencio (Procession of drums)
Procession in the Armentia Basilica
June:
Kaldearte (International Street Art Exhibition)
Dibertikale (Street shows for kids)
Azkena (Rock Music Festival)
www.azkenarockfestival.com
International Festival of Games (in the streets)
July:
Jazz Festival · www.jazzvitoria.com
On the 25th: **Día de Santiago/Día del Blusa** (Popular celebration to warm up for the local fiestas)
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
August:
From the 4th-9th**: Fiestas de La Virgen Blanca** (The Feast of the White Virgin); Celedón's descent (Local celebrations of the city's patron saint)
September:
The Olarizu procession (Popular celebration)
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
Magialdia (International Magic Festival)
www.magialdia.org
Medieval Market · www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
International Theatre Festival
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
FesTVal (Festival of Television and Radio of Vitoria-Gasteiz) · www.festivaltelevisiónyradio.com
October:
International Kite Festival (in Garaio Park)
www.lau-haizetara.org
Periscopio (Documentary photography festival, from October to December)
www.periscopiovitoria.com
November:
The Carmelo Bernaola International Music Festival · www.bernaolafestival.com
December:
On the 19th: **The Vitoria-Gasteiz Half Marathon**
www.vitoria-gasteiz.org
Mendi Film Festival. International Mountain Film Festival · www.mendifilmfestival.com
On the 31st: **The San Silvestre Run** (Popular race - open to all) www.lazterketak.com
PIN. Children's Christmas Park in the Hegoalde Civic Centre

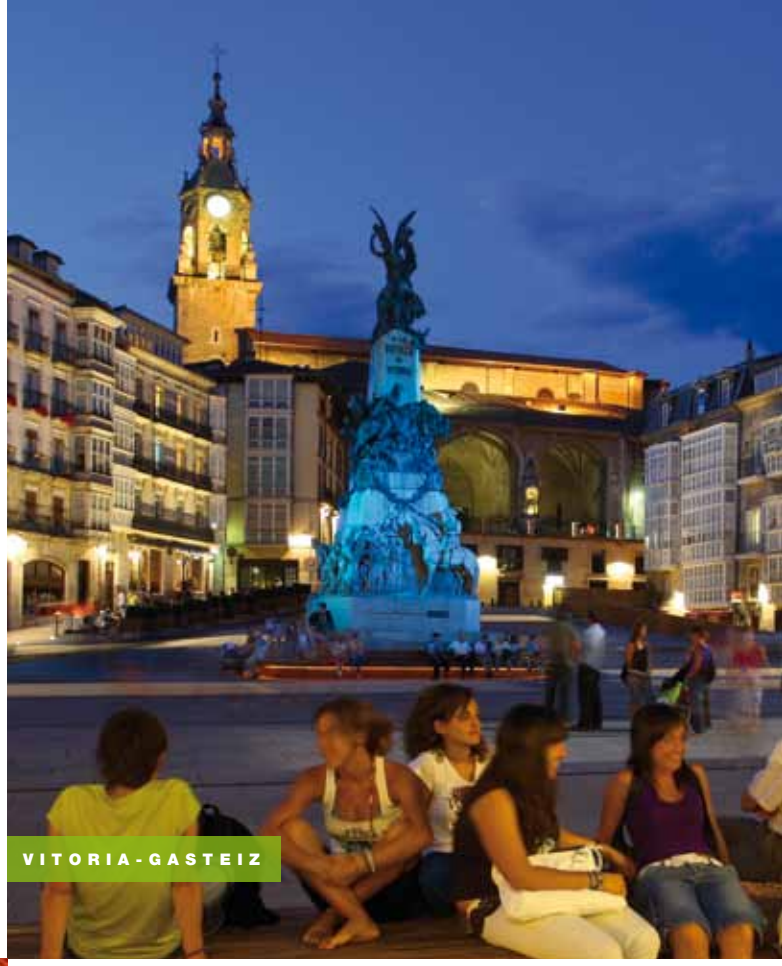
CELEDÓN'S DESCENT (VITORIA-GASTEIZ)

A small paradise where everything is within easy reach

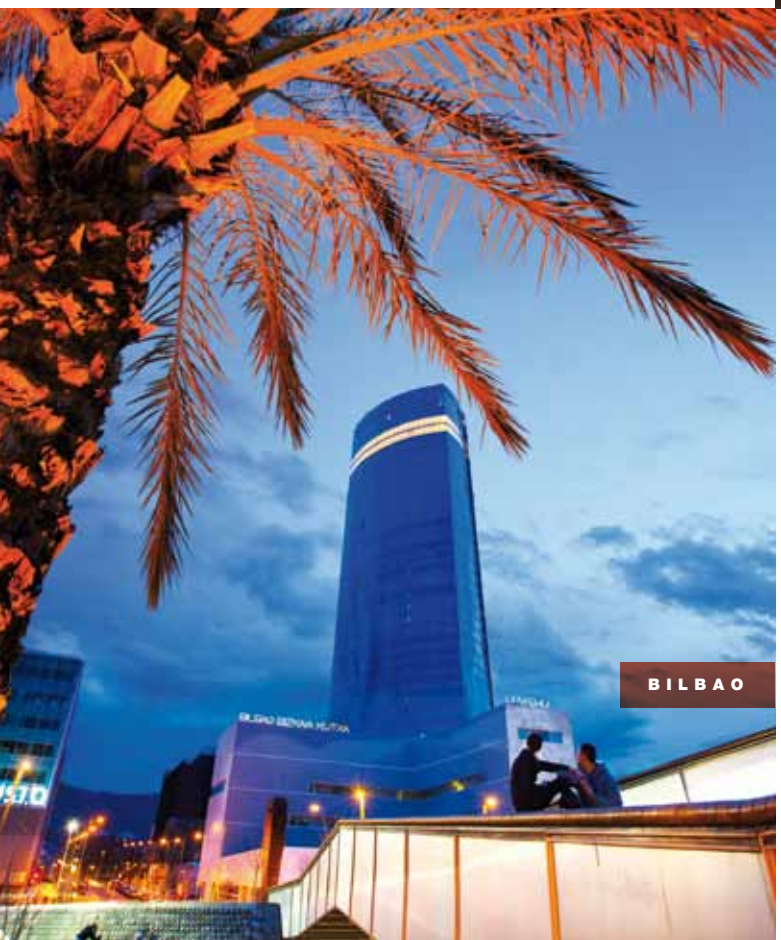
SAN SEBASTIÁN

Bilbao, **San Sebastián** and **Vitoria-Gasteiz** are the ideal bases from which to discover the Basque Country. As you wander around Bilbao, you will discover avant-garde design and modernity. Elegant and noble, San Sebastián awaits you with superb food. Along with Paris, San Sebastian is the only European city that has 3 restaurants with 3 Michelin stars.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, European Green Capital 2012 and capital of the Basque Country, will show you an urban model alongside jewels like its Almendra Medieval Old Quarter. Beyond the capitals, **Natural Heritage** awaits you with all its beauty in its Natural Parks, a province rich in biodiversity, such as the Biosphere Reserve in Urdaibai, a unique coastline, like the Geopark of the **Basque Coast** or the beautiful **Rioja Alavesa** region, and much, much more. Enjoy having it all close at hand.



VITORIA-GASTEIZ



BILBAO

BASQUE COUNTRY

CALIDAD TURISTICA

www.basquecountrytourism.net

BASQUE
COUNTRY

EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO

BASQUE GOVERNMENT
Ministry for Economic Development
and Competitiveness

Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Argitalpen Zerbitzu Nagusia
Servicio Central de Publicaciones del Gobierno Vasco