The Basque COAST

The beauty of the
Cantabrian Sea

A fantastic fusion of the
sea and mountains

Basque beaches
Popular among royalty, artists and poets

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

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The Basque COAST

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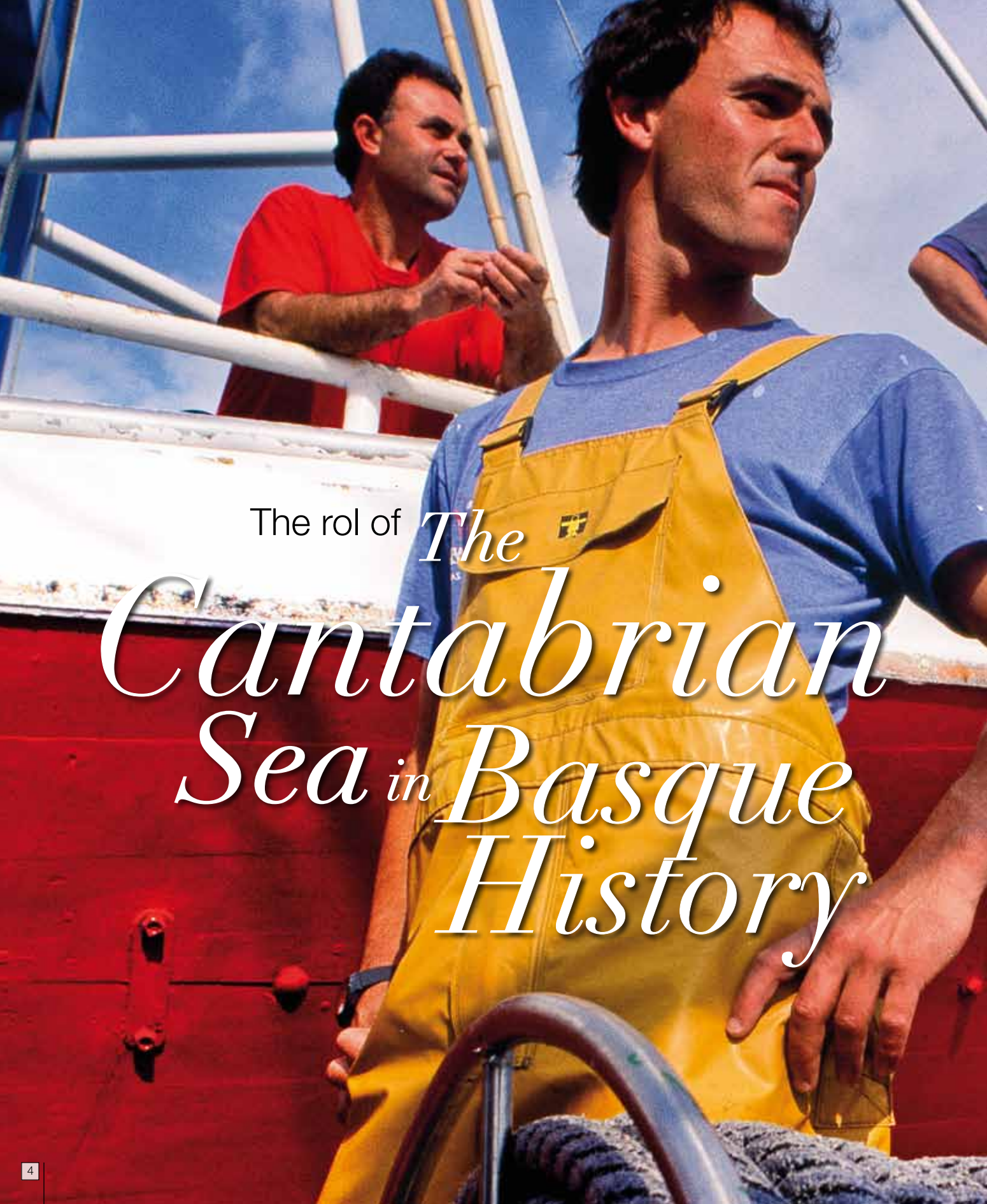
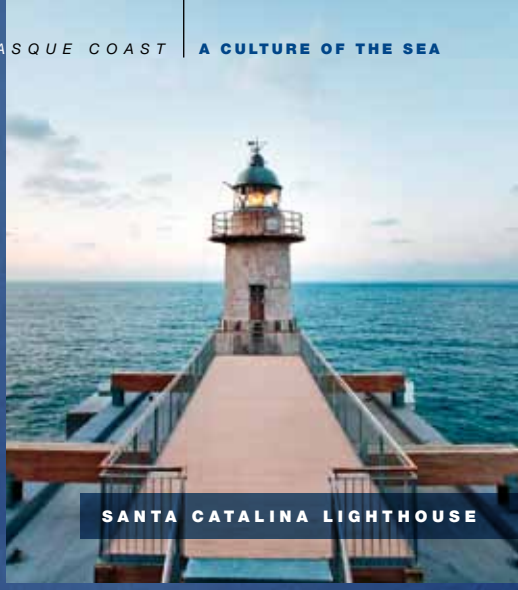


The rol of *The Cantabrian Sea in Basque History*

"Every village and town along the Basque Coast has been forged by the sea. Discover the multitude of factors that have played a defining role in this rich and varied land, where no two places are the same"



SANTA CATALINA LIGHTHOUSE

The Cantabrian Sea has shaped both the landscape and the people of these parts for thousands of years. Come and discover for yourself how much the locals that live on the coast differ from their inland neighbours, who are more focused on agriculture and raising livestock.

Once upon a time, the men of the family, young and old, set sail fishing while the women wove and repaired nets and acted as *neskatilas* (those in charge of unloading the haul), then sold the catch door to door and later in the marketplaces of the main towns. You can still see these age old traditions today in towns where things have hardly changed.

These coastal enclaves have been the home of some illustrious characters

The sea has always played a part in history. For example, **Juan Sebastián Elcano**, who grew up in Getaria went on to sail on the first vessel to circumnavigate the globe 500 years ago, completing Magellan's voyage. From 250 sailors that started the voyage, only 18 returned.

Other sailors have inherited Elcano's spirit of adventure, such as **Andrés Urdaneta**, who comes from Ordizia, who also circumnavigated the globe. Another example is **Cosme Damián de Churruca**, originally from Mutriku, who drew up the first maps of the Caribbean before he was killed in the Battle of Trafalgar.

This pioneering spirit has led to many Basques responding to the call of the sea.

The promise of great fortunes in the Americas also spurred many Basques to take to the seas. Thanks to them, you will see various colonial style mansions around the Basque Country.

The new plants discovered on these trips also made their way back to the local vegetable plantations, such as corn and beans. The latter soon went on to become one of the most emblematic dishes in Basque cuisine.

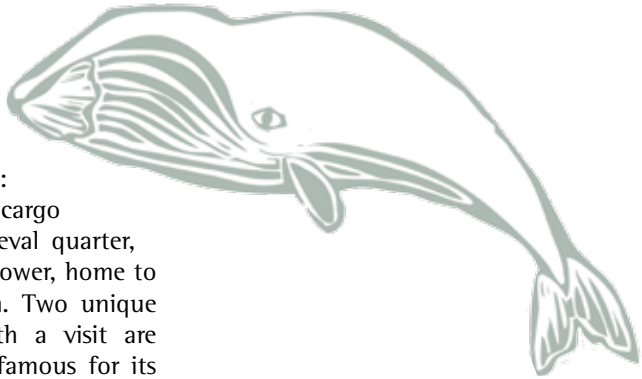
SANTURTZI

With the disappearance of whales from the waters of the Cantabrian Sea, harpoon fishing also became a thing of the past. Rod and net fishing of other species such as cod, bream and anchovy enabled numerous coastal villages to survive and flourish. As a result, the Basque Coast has firmly left its mark on the villages and the lives of the local people. If you enjoy watching experts at work, and maybe even feel like getting involved with some of the local fishing exploits yourself, head to any of the four main Basque fishing ports: Bermeo, Ondarroa, Hondarribia and Getaria.

Basque fishing ports are truly charming

The port that boasts the largest catch volume is **Ondarroa**. In **Bermeo**, there is a beautiful blend of history and art with its three ports: one each for fishing, cargo and leisure. In the medieval quarter, you can visit the Ercilla Tower, home to the Fishermen's Museum. Two unique fishing towns well worth a visit are **Lekeitio**, a marine town famous for its historic quarter and the Basilica of la Asunción and **Ea**, a port like no other with its buildings flanking the banks of the estuary like a Venetian canal.

Equally special is **Elantxobe**, a small fishing port with houses that resemble a Roman amphitheatre around the stage of the sea. **Armintza** is an ancient fishing neighbourhood around a beautiful cove. **Mundaka**, in the far north of the Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai, is a picture postcard with its port at the mouth of the Mundaka Estuary.



"In Pasai San Pedro, you can find the Ondartxo shipyard with its traditional vessels"

A GREAT IDEA!

In Gipuzkoa, **Hondarribia** is a shining example of a uniquely Basque marine way of life, as is **Getaria** with its Medieval Quarter. Another port of outstanding beauty is **Pasai Donibane**, an enclave in a pretty valley by the sea. And right opposite, in the Pasai San Pedro district, there is a shipyard where traditional craft are lovingly restored: Ondartxo. Another picturesque coastal spot is the fishing port of **San Sebastián**, next to La Concha Beach, the Naval Museum and the Aquarium, which is a must on any itinerary. In **Mutriku**, you can discover the town's ancestral relationship with the sea at the Bentalekua Museum, which shows how the old fish auctions used to take place.

Maritime ideas

Visit San Juan de Gaztelugatxe
A unique rocky island with a protected ecosystem and a chapel at its peak. Tradition dictates that if you ring the bell thirteen times, you can make a wish and banish bad spirits.

Dusk at San Sebastián, the Bella Easo
Stroll from La Concha Beach to 'El Peine del Viento' (The Comb of the Wind) sculptures.

Reap the harvest of the sea
The arrival of the *arrantzales* (fishermen) to port.

Cross the Ría Estuary
Either in the hanging gondola or along the walkway of the Vizcaya Bridge.

Cross the Pasaia Bay by boat
From Pasai San Pedro to Pasai Donibane.

Look around a fishing boat
Fishing vessels from the olden days, tell a tale of how a sailor's life was on the high seas. One great example is the Agurtza en Santurtzi, which has been converted into the Fishing Interpretation Centre, or alternatively the Ondarzabal Beach in Lekeitio. El Mater, in Pasaia, is a traditional tuna ship that has been converted into a diving school. And to see a recreation of a 17th century whaling vessel, head to Bermeo del Aita Guria, home of the Whaling Interpretation Centre.

SAN SEBASTIÁN

GETARIA

Plentzia, whose history in intertwined with whaling, was one of the first towns to exchange fishing for tourism. The **Old Port of Algorta** (Getxo), will let you experience the marine charm of the past. Another place well worth a visit is **Santurtzi**, famous for its delicious sardines. You may well hear the famous song 'Desde Santurce a Bilbao' as you

LEKEITIO

wander around the town. Nearby, you can find **Zierbena**, whose fishing port is sheltered by Bilbao's largest port.

The Basque Coast is full of unique enclaves

The boom of the fishery industry led to many Basque fishermen needing to group together in communities that over time became the first official trade unions. In the Middle Ages, this resulted in the appearance of **Fishermen's Guilds** in the coastal towns. This system of association, as well as regulating trade, also fostered relations between the sailors themselves. These unions still exist today.

If you are interested in finding out more, you can visit the Fishermen's Guild of Hondarribia and the 'Etxetxu' in the Old Port of Algorta (Getxo).

A GREAT IDEA!

Marine festivals

The Guild members were traditionally very involved in religion. The religious devotion of the sailors resulted in charming temples, such as **Santa Catalina** in Mundaka, **San Telmo** in Zumaia, **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe** in Hondarribia and **San Nicolás** in Orio and in the **Old Port of Algorta** (Getxo).

Their faith is equally visible on feast days such as the celebrations of 'los cármenes', 'las madalenas' or 'los san pedros' which take place in various coastal towns. The dance of the **Kaxarranka**, which is held in Lekeitio and the **Kutxa**, or Feast of the Ark, in Hondarribia, commemorate the Guild officials taking office. In the Festival of **Kilin Kala**, also in Lekeitio, they pray for a good haul of skipjack tuna. The **Day of the Whale** Festival held every five years in Orio celebrates the last time this enormous mammal was caught in the Basque Country in May 1901.

HONDARRIBIA

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

Heed the call of the sea

From Pasaia to Lekeitio you are invited to learn about the world of fishing. You can learn the maritime arts in both places, visiting the fish markets, associations, ports and lighthouses. Go to sea and get to know the Basque coast and the sailor's trade, and finally taste the favourite traditional recipes of these fishing ports steeped in history. This experience will allow you to soak up maritime culture and hearken to the sea... from the sea. And taste it!

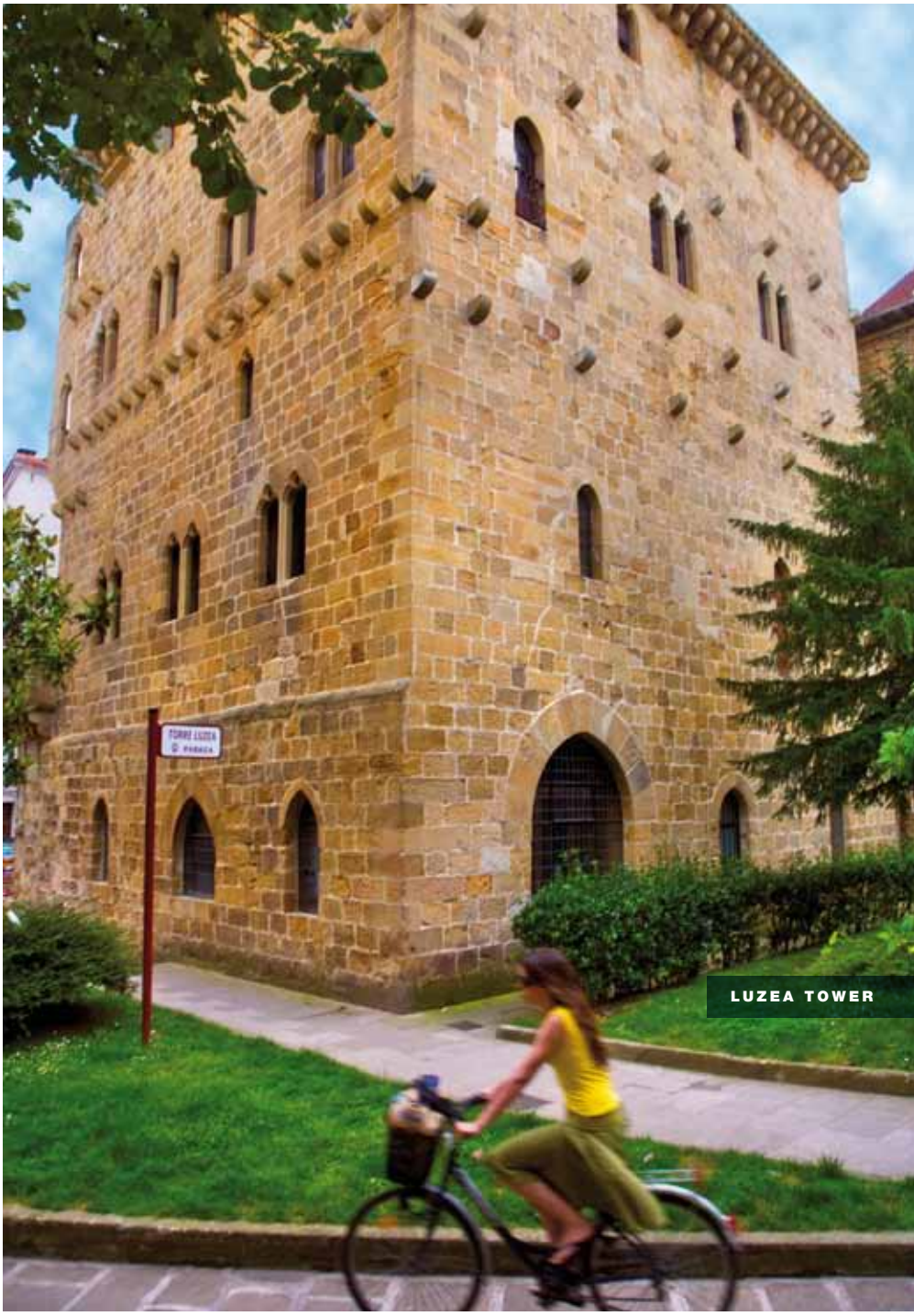
www.basquecountrytourism.net

The sea was not only for fishermen, merchants and sailors to ply their trades. The Basque Coast was also the scene of numerous attacks by invaders who wanted to conquer these lands. The coastline was therefore equipped with a network of forts that became progressively larger.

An example is the **La Galea Fort**, an interesting example of a seventeenth-century fortress and the only one extant in Biscay. Designed by Jayme Sycre, it was begun in 1742. It was built for defence of trade to Bilbao.

The civil war gave rise to buildings such as **Punta Lucero** in Zierbena, which still retains a ruined machine-gun bunker. From that height the views of the Cantabrian Sea are stunning.

"A visit to the San Marcos Fort offers spectacular views"



LUZEA TOWER

It is fascinating to follow the ridge to the Gorliz lighthouse where you will find the ruins of old batteries of cannons and bunkers from the war. The tunnels and passageways of the bunkers under the lighthouse are also worth a visit. Once you enter Gipuzkoa the well-preserved fifteenth century **Torre Luzea** in Zarautz is a must. The sixteenth century **San Telmo Castle** was built for defence against pirates. The **Castle-Palace of Charles V**, in Hondarribia, is famous for its illustrious guests: kings Philip II and Philip IV, the Emperor Charles V and Queen Isabella of Bourbon.

In Renteria you can see the **Fort of San Marcos** which defended the port of Pasajes and the route to the French border. Its location makes this a privileged balcony from which much of the Basque Coast is visible. The forts of Guadalupe and Txorikotieta, built after the Carlist Wars in the late nineteenth century, are also noteworthy.

To end on a curious note: the fear of a U.S. invasion as a result of the war in Cuba against the United States was the driving force behind construction of **Fort Mompás** in San Sebastian and **Fort Monte Serantes** in Santurce.

MATXITXAKO LIGHTHOUSE

In the Basque Country you will discover a network of primitive watchtowers that were developed for whale sightings, surveying the horizon for privateer ships and for monitoring changes in the weather. Later, as the fishing industry grew and hence with it the need to guide ships, the watchtowers were replaced by lighthouses, or 'faros' in Spanish.

Enjoy beautiful views of the landscape when you visit **Santa Catalina Lighthouse in Lekeitio,** one of the only lighthouses open to visitors. **Santa Catalina Lighthouse** is home to the Technology and Navigation Interpretation Centre where they recreate the conditions which our ancestors faced in the wild seas.

The Lekeitio lighthouse: your chance to discover the fundamentals of navigation

Another that resembles a medieval castle with its oval towers is the **La Plata Lighthouse** in **Pasaia** bay, protected by a crag of rock which shelters the seagulls when the seas get rough.

To get a photo of this peculiar place requires a beautiful walk that is well worth the effort.

A walk is also necessary to reach the **Gorliz Lighthouse,** in **Cabo Billano,** which with its avante-garde design is the tallest on the Basque Coast. Alternatively, the **Getaria Lighthouse,** is located on the Mount of San Antón.

SANTA CLARA LIGHTHOUSE

GORLIZ LIGHTHOUSE

Matxitxako Lighthouse, close to **Bermeo**, is over 100 years old. You can still spot whales from this old lighthouse from time to time... Come and see if you are lucky enough.

Also well known are the lighthouses on the Island of **Santa Clara** or the one in **Igueldo** in **San Sebastián** as well as **Higer** in Cape Higer with fabulous views over the french Basque Country.

Apart from the buoys, signals and fog-horns, another piece of naval equipment is the attractive **tide gauge** of **Portugalete,** located on the shores of the Ría Estuary. This clock-like instrument dates back to 1883 and it has measured the tides ever since. It was a vital tool as the area had a problematic sand bank that made navigation impossible at low tide.

Home to the great masters

The Ignacio Zuloaga Cultural Space, in Zumaia

In Zuloaga's house, located in the Zumaia dunes along the Camino de Santiago (Santiago Pilgrimage Route), this museum holds exhibitions of the work of this painter from Eibar as well as a few pieces by El Greco and Goya.

www.espaciozuloaga.com

Casa Víctor Hugo, in Pasai Donibane

The house where Victor Hugo stayed when he was writing about the people of Pasaia has been converted into a museum where you can see original texts and drawings by the artist as he captured his experiences in the town from this house in the 18th century.

www.victorhugopasaia.net

TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE _

Apropos of Balenciaga

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

Not only can you visit the museum as a TOP experience but you can also learn the secrets and techniques and, in the workshop under the guidance of professional experts, even make an article of clothing of your own.

www.basquecountrytourism.net
www.cristobalbalenciagamuseoa.com

BALENCIAGA MUSEUM

PEINE DEL VIENTO

Hub of engineering and industry

The Basque Country

MARITIME MUSEUM RÍA OF BILBAO

Museums and Maritime

The sea leaves treasures and legends on the shore which are collected and displayed in the numerous museums dedicated to maritime affairs.

The Archaeological and Monumental Site of Zarautz
www.menosca.com

The Ignacio Zuloaga Cultural Space
www.espaciozuloaga.com

The Cristobal Balenciaga Museum
www.cristobalbalenciagamuseoa.com

Bentalekua Museum
www.mutrikukoudala.net

The San Telmo Museum
www.santelmomuseoa.com

Fishermen's Museum
www.bermeo.org

Maritime Museum Ría of Bilbao
www.museomaritimobilbao.org

Naval Museum
um.gipuzkoakultura.net

Plasentia de Butrón Museum
www.museoplentzia.org

Oiasso Roman Museum
www.irun.org/oiasso

Photomuseum
www.photomuseum.es

Rialia Industry Museum
www.rialia.net

The mines that started operation in the 19th century were the trigger of industrialisation in the Basque Country and paved the way in the 20th century for a 'culture of iron' which was epitomised in the work of a number of sculptors. The Basque Coast is home to various examples of these works of art.

'El Peine del Viento' reflects the force and aggression of the waves

In the La Concha Bay in San Sebastián, at the far end from the fishing port, standing defiantly against the wild waves of the Cantabrian Sea, you will find the sculptures of 'El Peine del Viento' (Comb of the Wind). They are a group of three sculptures which are embedded into the rocks. From here you will have incredible views of the landscape, and can takes some time to marvel at the extraordinary fusion of this iron artwork. Wonder at the work of Eduardo Chillida from the terrace designed by Luis Peña Ganchegi, with whom the sculptor worked closely they built the terrace and sculpture simultaneously so that it would interact with the waves. Along the Paseo Nuevo, near to the Aquarium, you can find the sculpture by Oteiza entitled 'Construcción vacía' (Empty construction). Another artist worth mentioning is the sculptor Nestor Basterretxea from Bermeo, whose works such as 'La Ola' (The Wave) can be seen in his home town.

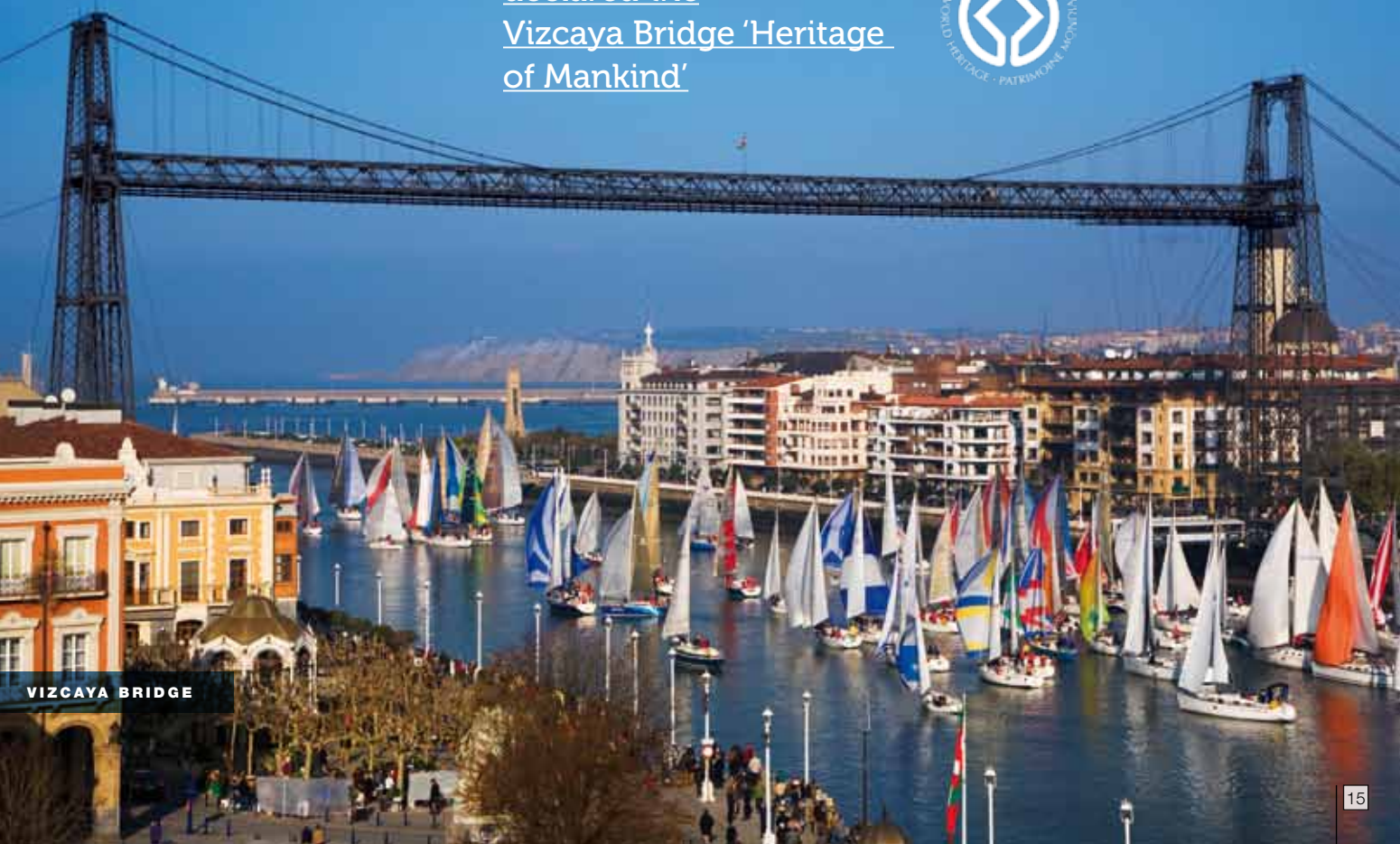
In 2006, UNESCO declared the Vizcaya Bridge 'Heritage of Mankind'

Designed with the aim of joining the two banks of the Nervión Estuary without hindering navigation, this iron construction is a true Basque icon.

Whether you are coming from Portugalete or Getxo, take the famous hanging gondola, and cross to the other side. Don't miss the extraordinary panoramic views of the Ría Estuary and its mouth from the upper walkway that you reach by lift.

The engineering feats of this bridge have been the inspiration for the design of similar constructions around the world.

www.puente-colgante.com



VIZCAYA BRIDGE

GETARIA

A taste of the sea

The pleasure of tasting our seafood recipes

"The bustling activity that goes on in the fishing ports of the Basque Country allows restaurants in all of the towns across the county access to unbeatable ingredients, but it's always freshest when you taste them here on the Basque Coast"

There is nothing quite like ordering local produce recently caught and cooked with the care and passion that has brought Basque cuisine such renown. Depending on the season, you can try sea bream, mackerel, anchovies, hake, *txitxarro* (jack mackerel), sardines and skipjack or bluefin tuna. The last two on that list have their own Eusko Label seal of quality and provenance.

From all of the seafood on offer, one of the most in demand is *txangurro* (spider crab), or alternatively the brown crab, which is often eaten boiled but makes an even tastier surprise when cooked in the oven.

And what can we say about the queens of the sea, the eels and their spawn? A seasonal delight and a must for big feasts such as Christmas. They are one of the most highly valued foods in the Basque Country. Not forgetting the goose barnacles of course, with their unique flavour of the sea...

A delicious selection awaits you...

In Basque cuisine, the variety of fish and seafood recipes is huge. Be sure not to miss the delicious *kokotxas* (the part under the chin of a hake), one of the specialities of local chefs. You can't leave without trying it.

A food that seems to be to everybody's taste is *txipiron* (baby squid) which can be prepared in a multitude of ways - grilled, a lo Pelayo (with onion) or in their own black ink.

The technique for catching them is also curious: the line is submerged and moved up and down by movements of the entire arm.

...and various ways of cooking them

If the variety of seafood on offer is dizzying, when it comes to preparing them, simplicity is the hallmark of the local cuisine.

Cod, for example, is one of the most common ingredients in Basque cuisine and the one that is prepared in the biggest variety of ways: 'Pil Pil' with a garlic sauce, Biscay-style, battered... so many simple tasty options that the decision is never easy.

Gastronomic Feast Days

Along the Basque Coast, the towns pay culinary homage to their food, ingredients and the seafood that they use in their cuisine. The most important Fish Festival is held in Bermeo in May, followed by other more specific celebrations, one for *Besugo* (sea bream) in Orio in July, one for *Verdel* (mackerel) in Mutriku in April, another for *Anchoa* (anchovy) in Ondarroa in May, one for *Sardina* (sardine) in Santurtzi in July, another for *Pulpo* (octopus) in Zumaia in September, and the feast of the *txipiron* (baby squid) in Lekeitio in autumn, or the more general Seafood Fair in Zierbena in October.

A GREAT IDEA!

Experience the atmosphere of the markets

If you would like to get to know the variety of species from the sea better and the range of farm produce that goes into Basque cuisine, visit the Mercado de Abastos (Local Produce Market) in **Bermeo,** the **Zarautz** Municipal Market, La Bretxa Market in **San Sebastián** or the biggest covered municipal market in Europe, La Ribera in **Bilbao**. Every Monday throughout the year, the **Gernika-Lumo** market is held and is one of the most popular, with *baserritarras* (farmers) coming from all over the province to sell their goods. If you are here for the fish, remember that *arrantzales* don't work on Sundays, so on Mondays there is no fish to be had.

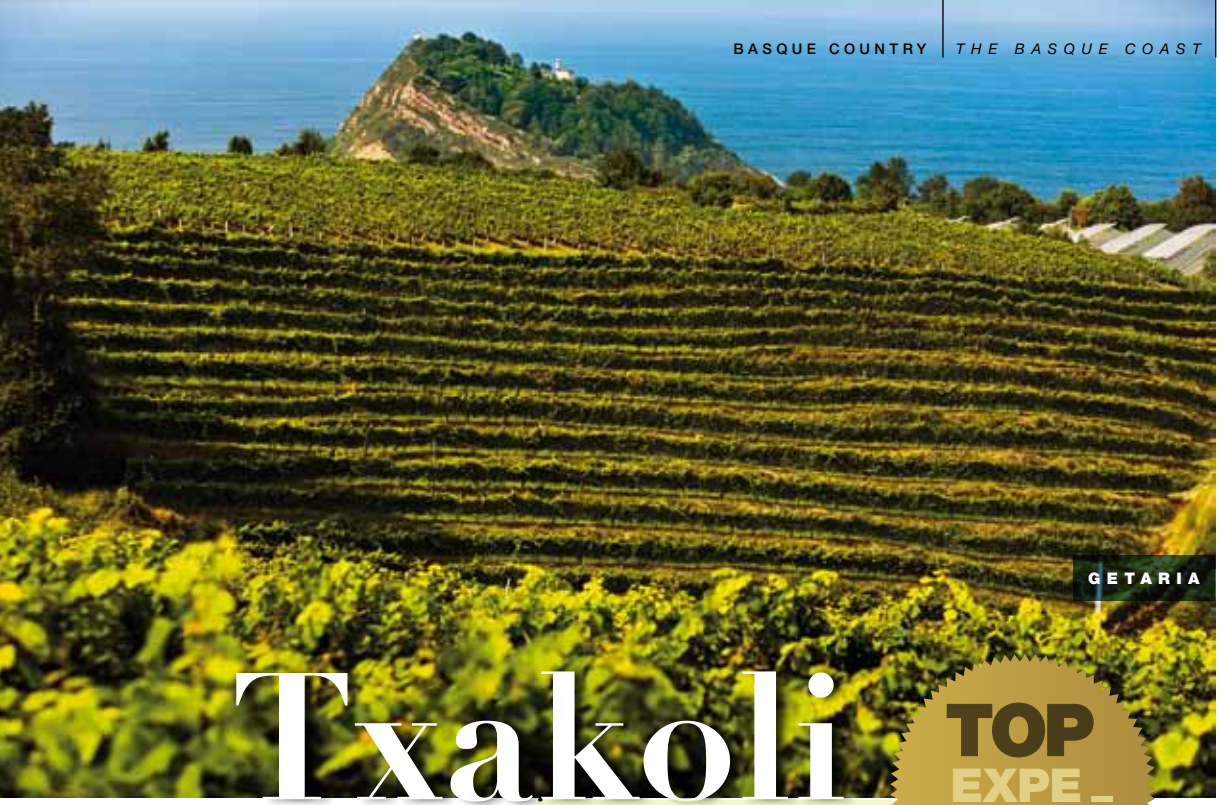
GRILLED SEA BREAM

txangurro
kokotxas
marmitako
arrain sopa
txipirones
bakalao
al pilpil
merluza
a la koxkera

One of your reasons for choosing to visit the Basque Country is sure to be the same reason that the area is so well known around the world... its cuisine. Along whit Paris, San Sebastián is the only European city that has 3 restaurants with 3 Michelin Stars.

The very highest quality ingredients and a certain intuitive *savoir faire* are the things that have helped the masters of Basque cuisine, such as **Martín Berasategui, Andoni Luis Aduriz, Juan Mari Arzak, Eneko Atxa** and **Pedro Subijana,** manage to create such a recognisable distinction.

> *"Sophisticated and simple cuisine, traditional and modern... but all with the very highest quality ingredients"*



Txakoli

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More accessible now than ever before, you can enjoy the fish specialities of the region.

A meal in any restaurant can be turned into an exceptional experience. Basque ports bring us cuisine of incomparable freshness and quality.

If you are looking for a drink to make the perfect marriage with your fish straight from the dock, try the Basque sparkling wine, *txakoli*, which boasts three different protected designations of origin.

Its grapes ripen in the sea air of the Cantabrian Sea, in sunkissed vineyards sheltered from the cold north winds, all of which comes together to produce a dynamic, fresh white wine.

To find out more about *txakoli*, you might be interested in visiting the **Lagar de Sosoaga** wine press in Lekeitio, that was used in the production of *txakoli* in the 17th century, the oldest preserved example in the Basque Country.

Txakoli in Bakio

Discover one of the Basque Country's best known coastal towns, famous for its *txakoli*, beach and surfing.

Visit the **vineyards**, the winery and the distillery of Doniene Gorrondona and pick up a few tips along the way of how best to accompany *txakoli* with other foods, such as Idiazabal Cheese, Bermeo anchovies and peppers from Gernika.

In spring 2012, the **Txakoligune** centre will be inaugurated to tell the story of this town's love affair with *txakoli.*

www.bizkaikotxakolina.org

Txakoli from Getaria

Taste and learn the secrets of this unique white wine from the producers themselves.

Go on a visit around the **wineries** along this stretch of coast including Aia, Orio, Zarautz, Getaria and Hondarribia stroll through the vineyards and experience the peace of these coastal towns.

www.getariakotxakolina.com
www.basquecountrytourism.net

and to take home with you...

Basque canned goods: northern skipjack tuna and anchovies are the stars of region's preserved products.
Easily transported and readily available from any quality Basque food store.

Snacks from the sea: all you need for a perfect lazy afternoon. Find a quiet spot to sit down on the dock and tuck into some *kiskillas* (prawns) or *karrakelas* (sea snails) which are eaten with a pin.

A chilled glass: whenever you want to surprise your friends or family with a nice glass of *txakoli*, don't forget to serve it really cold in a wide glass so that the wine can breathe freely, and you can fully enjoy its refreshing taste.

BASQUE BEACHES

the favourite destination of royalty, artists and poets

Over 250 kilometres of coastline means that, as well as impressive natural wonders like cliffs and spectacular geology, there are beaches of all shapes and sizes where you can enjoy an endless range of activities

ZARAUTZ

It was the European royalty, aristocracy and bourgeosie of the 19th century that converted the crescent of the **Bay of Biscay** between Getxo and Biarritz into a popular tourist destination. Places like **San Sebastián, Zarautz** and **Lekeitio** were the destination of choice for holidays due to the beauty of the coast and the therapeutic and medicinal qualities that the doctors of the time attributed to its natural characteristics: calm climate, mild summers, healthy waters rich in iodine and sodium and the restorative powers of a wave bath. Such were the curative qualities attributed to the cold sea waters that elaborate rituals were carried out in the hope of taking maximum advantage of their properties. Bathing had to be done in the morning, on an empty stomach, in odd numbered sequences: 3, 5, 7... and for a maximum duration of three waves.

La Concha Beach in San Sebastián, a favourite of Queen María Cristina

In 1887, Queen Maria Cristina ordered the construction of royal wooden huts to protect her modesty on the beaches of her favourite city, San Sebastián. In 1911, these huts were replaced by the Bath House which still stands there today.

The multitude of beaches that dot the Basque Coast are versatile as well as beautiful. And they all come with an assurance of the cleanest waters and best facilities, with innovative developments year after year. You can simply relax or combine a little rest with the numerous surfing and diving activities on offer.

These are some of the delights that await you whenever you visit the beaches of the Basque Country.

LAGA BEACH

The range of beaches in the Basque Country is so wide that the first thing that you will have to do is decide what you fancy doing most: sunbathing, swimming, surfing or relaxing in a protected and well preserved environment.

There are city beaches that are perfect for families, sheltered from the full force of the wild seas, like **La Concha** in San Sebastián, the beaches of **Gorliz** and **Plentzia** or **Isuntza** in Leketitio, if you are in Biscay. Equally diverse and well equipped are the beaches of **Hondarribia**, **Karraspio** in Mendexa, **Arrigunaga** and **Ereaga** in Getxo, **La Arena** in Muskiz and Zierbena, **Ea, Santiago** in Zumaia, **Malkorbe** in Getaria, **Deba** and **Arrigorri** in Ondarroa, to name just a few.

A huge variety of beaches, all equipped with a complete range of services

If you are looking for a more youthful, lively atmosphere, a good option would be **Zurriola** Beach in San Sebastián. Being open to the Cantabrian Sea and therefore perfect for surfing or kayaking are **Zarautz**, **Bakio** or **Laidatxu Beaches**, the last of which is in Mundaka. Or the beaches of **Gorrondatxe** in Getxo, **Arrietara** in Sopelana, **Antilla** in Orio and **Barinatxe**, also known as **La Salvaje** or **'The Wild One'** between Getxo and Sopelana.

One beach which grows to an impressive size at low tide is **Laida** Beach in Ibarrangelua, which is where the saltwater of the sea and the freshwater of the Mundaka Estuary meet. Its unique charm comes from the beauty of its setting in the Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai.

LEKEITIO

The Basque Coast also offers quiet corners that are not known to many people, with beaches with clear turquoise waters, such as **Ogeia** Beach in **Ispaster**, or **Armintza**, the picturesque shingle beach located in a unique enclave.

Want to find a beach that leaves you lost for words? **Itzurun** Beach in Zumaia is sure to astound you and what's more, it tells a tale of the geological history of the Basque Coast.

If you need a beach that is easily accessible for all, in the Basque Country there are 21 beaches that can be enjoyed by one and all without difficulty. **Laga, Karraspio and Toña** in Sukarrieta, **Ereaga** in Getxo, in Biscay or **La Concha, Zarautz and Ondarbeltz** in Gipuzkoa, are a few of the most popular.

Lastly, if you prefer to leave your clothes at home, the Basque Country has a range of small coves and long beaches that allow naturism enthusiasts. A few coves worth mentioning are **Lapatxa** in Ea, and **Barrika, Ulia** and **Igueldo** in San Sebastián. But if you prefer beaches to coves, head to **Zurriola** in San Sebastián, **Zarautz** or **Saturraran** in Mutriku, **Meñakoz** in Barrika-Sopelana, **Aizkorri** in Getxo or **Barinatxe** in Sopelana-Getxo.

ZARAUTZ

> *Enjoy beaches with a seal of quality that assures the standards of its waters and facilities*

It was the end of the '50s when **surfing** arrived to the Basque Coast, more precisely to Biarritz. Slowly but surely, the sport grew in popularity until the area became one of today's main players on the world stage. If you interested in getting started, there are numerous agencies that offer courses and classes for beginners or, if you have surfed before, to make you into a champion of the waves. From **San Sebastián** to **Getxo**, passing through **Zarautz, Sopelana, Bakio** and **Mundaka**, where the best waves in Europe form, the love of the sport is clear from the number of surfers that travel the world to come here. The imposing waves of the Cantabrian Sea are of World Class standard, which enables the region to hold important tournaments such as the Championships of San Sebastián, Zarautz and Sopelana, the latter two being part of the European and world circuits.

www.surfingeuskadi.net

the sandbanks of the Basque Country offer unique characteristics when it comes to the tides. The high and low tides shift hundreds of square metres of surface sand from the banks.

Based on the tides, you may see a radical change in the appearance of one place at different times. Where once there was sea, hours later you have the chance to take a stroll through unchartered landscapes of great natural interest such as **Ogeia Beach** in Ispaster, **Urdaibai**, or along the line of cliffs between Mutriku and Zumaia.

How amazing to be able to enjoy two incredibly different landscapes within such a short space of time.

A GREAT IDEA!

The Beach

Would you like to discover the seabed? Now you have the chance to do just that with diving options in **Mutriku, Getaria, Hondarribia, Bermeo** and **Portugalete**, where numerous companies offer beginners' courses and equipment hire.

If **canoeing** is more your thing, you can go for a relaxing paddle along the foot of the cliffs of **La Galea** in Getxo, around the **Txingudi Bay** or the **Pasaia Bay**, also in **Urdaibai**, and the renowned estuaries of **Oria, Barbadún, Butrón** and **Bidasoa.**

You can also take part in some **beach sports** like beach tennis or volleyball or have fun on the slides and diving boards on the floating platforms found off the beach, for example, in **San Sebastián,** in **Plentzia** and in **Hondarribia.**

www.aktiba.info

ZESTOA SPA

The Basque Coast

Spoil your body

The discovery of the curative properties of a salt marsh in the town of **Zestoa**, near Zumaia, around the year 1760, paved the way for this magnificent spa located on the banks of the Urola River. This spa and hotel has been running since the 19th century, an era in which Basque spas became very fashionable, triggering tourist development in the area.

You are sure to love a relaxing stay in this iconic saltwater spa, the oldest on the Basque Coast.

The summer visits by nobility and royalty like Queen María Cristina of Habsburgo-Lorena, who fell in love with **San Sebastián**, set the trend for other holidaymakers to choose the Basque Coast as a tourist destination.

The comprehensive thalassotherapy services on offer lets you enjoy a tranquil day in **San Sebastián, Zumaia, Zarautz, Lekeitio, Deba** or **Orio**, without having to move far from the beach.

NATURE *and* Sea

A fantastic fusion

With its diverse flora and fauna, charming beauty spots and geological treasures... The **Basque Coast** boasts a unique coastline landscape which combines raw nature with the wild sea, to offer spectacular views that will stay with you long after you leave.

The rivers also exert their influence of the coastal landscape. With their formations that carve the valleys and force the local villages to adapt and innovate around them, the coastline is broken up creating unique spots like **Ondarroa, Plentzia, Orio**...

The special character of the **Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai** will captivate you. It is considered one of the Basque Country's most important natural treasures.

The perfect environment for migrating birds

Hidden away in a haven along the Bay of Biscay, Urdaibai brings together the most diverse landscapes and ecosystems in the country. The exceptional qualities of this habitat, where migrating birds stop to rest and refuel on their long journeys, have led to the area being awarded the title of Biosphere Reserve by Unesco.

In the swamp and marshland area, you can see much of the protected area's biodiversity. You have the chance to observe an enormous variety of birdlife, which depending on the season, may run into hundreds of species.

Other environments of similar richness are the Txingudi Bay, the sand dunes of La Arena Beach in **Muskiz** and **Zierbena**, the Butrón Estuary in Plentzia and the mouths of the Urola River in Zumaia and the Oria River in Orio.

Temples with a seaview

The Santa Catalina Chapel in Mundaka is a 19th century temple located on the peninsula that shares its name. The walls that surround it reveal its defensive fort origins. It was also used at various times as a hospital and for guild meetings.

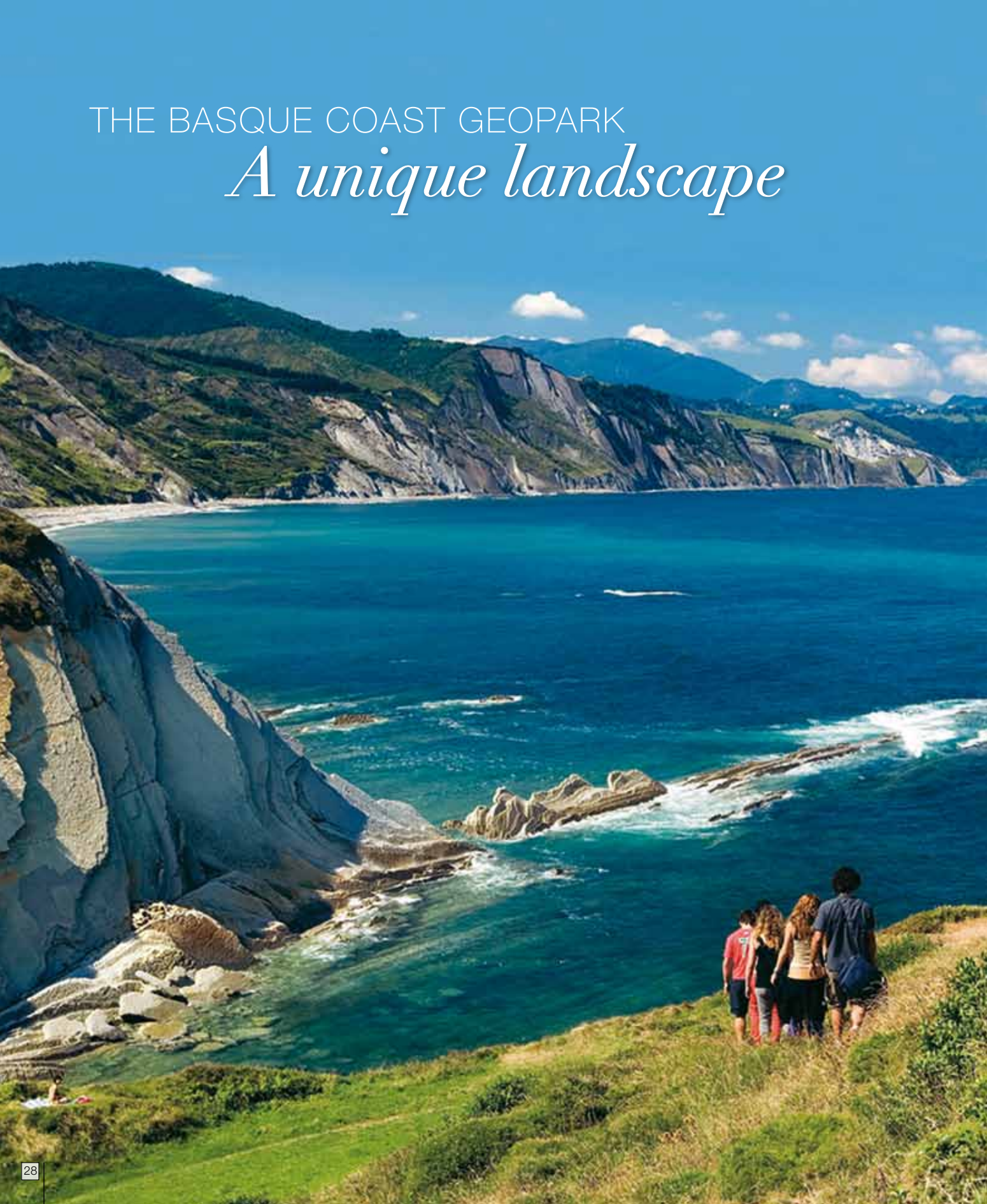
From any point in Hondarribia you can see the **Ermita de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, a chapel dedicated to the patron saint of the Town, located on the slopes of Mount Jaizkibel.

In Zumaia, **the San Telmo Chapel**, founded in the 16th century in honour of the patron saint of sailors, offers you magnificent panoramic views of the coastline with the Basque Coast Geopark as its crowning glory.

SAN TELMO

THE BASQUE COAST GEOPARK

A unique landscape



TOP EXPE_ RIEN_ CE_

> *The Basque Coast Geopark is a must. You can visit it with your family and arrange guided tours, workshops and courses to learn & play*

Welcome to a place where you will experience more intensely than any other spot along the coast, the amazing consequences of the battle between the wild seas and the rocks: the stretch between **Zumaia, Deba** and **Mutriku.**

A route along the coast is a must for any itinerary around these parts, to see the *flysch*, strange sedimentary rock formations that can be seen in Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia and that form part of the **Basque Coast Geopark**. Displaying its successive rocky strata, it shows us millions of years of the Earth's geological history. Its unique value results from a peculiarity: the sequence of the layers of the *flysch* formations reveals a continuous series that covers around 60 million years. In these layers, the great events that have taken place are recorded, including the most recent global extinction.

The Basque Geopark is well worth a visit and, if you are travelling with the family, in addition to the excursions you can all take part in courses and workshops to learn through play.

www.geoparkea.com

Geoparks

Flysch & Karst Experience

Cliffs that reveal the secrets of the ages

Your experience in the Geopark will take place between impressive cliffs where you will witness 60 million years of the Earth's history.

Start your journey through time in the **Nautilus Geological Interpretation Centre** in Mutriku, where you will see a variety of fossils before setting out towards the cliffs.

In Zumaia, moor the boat and set off on foot to the furthest point of Algorri, where the great geological events that have shaped the Earth are recorded. **The Algorri Interpretation Centre** helps you to understand the peculiar nature of the rocky formations in an interesting and informative way.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

This unique rock formation allows us to appreciate the black *flysch*, the spectacular cliffs of Deba and the fascinating strata of Zumaia. **Algorri,** the **Natural Resource Interpretation Centre** in **Zumaia,** lets you find out much more about this geological marvel.

www.algorri.eu

The other interpretation centre in the Basque Coast Geopark is the Nautilus which displays an impressive collection of fossils which span over a 100 million years of prehistory, all of which come from the layered cliffs of the black *flysch* near to the coastal town.

www.nautilus.es

Other cliffs sure to captivate you are those along the stretch that starts in **Punta Galea** in **Getxo** (avarded with the Clavo de Oro distinction) and continues through **Sopelana, Barrika, Plentzia** and **Gorliz** before coming to an end in **Armintza**.

"The route around the 'flysch' and 'karst' is the perfect opportunity to find out about the nature, culture, traditions and the cuisine of the local area"

A GREAT IDEA!

The islands

Look out at the horizon. From any point on the shore, you will spot a mysterious silhouette of a stretch of land. Those are the islands of the Basque Coast.

IZARO

SANTA CLARA

The Island of Santa Clara in San Sebastián adds a bit of character to the La Concha Bay. You can reach the island on one of the boats that leave the port in summer.

The Island of Los Faisanes in Irún straddles the border between Spain and France marked by the Bidasoa River, making it the world's smallest condominium. As such, the land is owned jointly by the two countries. You can see the island from the path that joins Hendaia, Irún and Hondarribia.

The Island of San Nicolás in Lekeitio protects the beaches of Lekeitio and Mendexa. There are no constructions on the island and it can only be reached by swimming or walking over at low tide.

The Island of Billano in Gorliz is located opposite the cape that shares its name and the waters that surround it are a dream for diving enthusiasts. However, the island itself is inaccesible.

The Island of Txatxarramendi in Sukarrieta is attached to the coast by a bridge. The island forms part of the Biosphere Reserve of Urdabai.

The Island of Izaro in Urdaibai, which is located in the mouth of the Mundaka Estuary, was razed to the ground by the UK explorer Sir Francis Drake. It is home to an extraordinary colony of seabirds whose fishing grounds are a haven for diving and sport fishing enthusiasts.

SAN NICOLÁS

A coast sculpted by the force of the sea

You will see its power and feel its wild emotion for yourself. You will discover that the various ranges of mountains, such as **Jaizkibel**, run parallel to the water and stop the sea in its tracks. Another example is Mount **Ogoño**, a rocky mass and spectacular lookout point, on the slopes of which the town of **Elantxobe** has clung for 500 years.

High points such as **Punta Lucero** in Zierbena or **San Pedro de Atxarre** in Ibarrangelua let you enjoy incredible panoramic views.

A truly appealing option is to discover the Basque Coast on foot. Enjoy a magnificent hike to the peaks of **Jaizkibel, Ulía and Mendizorrotz** passing through the towns of **Hondarribia, Pasaia, San Sebastián** and **Orio** along a spectacular path.

The coastal path provides an impressive route that you can walk in stages with views that will stay with you forever

The slopes along the coast of the Cantabrian Sea offer the unique beauty of the vineyards that produce the local sparkling wine, *txakoli*. A trip to the rocky headland of **Mollarri** is fascinating. This is where the iron ships were loaded up to sail their precious cargo from the quarries to places all over Europe.

Nearby, you will find the protected ecosystem of **Iñurritza**, a field of moving and fixed dunes that opens on to the sea at the **Zarautz** Beach. This landscape is home to native plant species and migrating birds.

The Basque Country boasts other sand dune landscapes that make its coastline even more unique. One of these well worth a visit is at **Astondo** Beach in Gorliz, which has dunes that are 6,000 years old. This formation is the result of the action of the wind and is unique along the Basque Coast.

AQUARIUM OF SAN SEBASTIÁN

A GREAT IDEA!

Aquariums

The Basque Country has a range of well equipped centres on offer for you to get all the information you need about the natural aspects of the coast. Your curiosity about Basque marine life is sure to be satisfied if you visit the aquariums of **San Sebastián** and **Getxo**, where you can also see live specimens from other seas and oceans.

San Sebastián: the aquarium was inaugurated in 1928 and extended and refurbished in 2009. A pioneer in marine studies, its main attraction is the oceanarium which boasts a 360º transparent tunnel, which, together with the other 37 tanks, gives you the chance to see over 5,000 fish. Be sure not to miss the 11 metre whale skeleton, the penultimate specimen to be caught off the Gipuzkoa Coast.

www.aquariumss.com

Getxo: located in the leisure port, the aquarium teaches us all about life in the seas and oceans around the world, faithfully recreating the diverse marine environments that are home to a huge variety of fish, coral, anemones, seaweed, invertebrates and crustaceans.

www.getxoaquarium.com

URDAIBAI BIRD CENTER

Whichever part of the Basque Coast you visit, it will be the cry of the **sea gulls** that will be the soundtrack to your stay.

When the Cantabrian Sea announces that a storm is on its way, it is a wonder to watch these birds fly together in large flocks in preparation for the approaching bad weather. The coast is also home to numerous other species. If you enjoy birdwatching, this is your chance to see the agility with which the osprey dives, the grace of the **herons** and **storks**, the amusing **ducks** and **geese**... A true pleasure.

It may seem hard to believe but whale sightings are not uncommon from the Basque Coast. At various points along the coast, boat trips are offered to see **dolphins**, **pilot whales** and, if you come in the coldest months, you can maybe even see **rorquals**, or to give it its more familiar name, none other than the blue whale.

The Ports of **Santurtzi, Bermeo, Zumaia** and **Pasaia** are a few of the places from where the whale watching cruises depart, following schedules set by the tour companies and Tourist Offices.

> *There are many great spots for birdwatching along the coast. Try it for yourself*

A GREAT IDEA!

Watching birds

In a land with such abundant fauna, birdwatching in these parts is within everyone's reach. Grab your binoculars and choose one of the many options on offer along the Basque Coast, whichever fits in best with your planned route along the coast.

The Madariaga Tower in Busturia: make the most of your visit to Urdaibai with a guided tour, on foot or by boat, organised by the Basque Biodiversity Centre. You will see a huge variety of birdlife and discover the ecology and species in the Urdaibai area.

www.torremadariaga.net

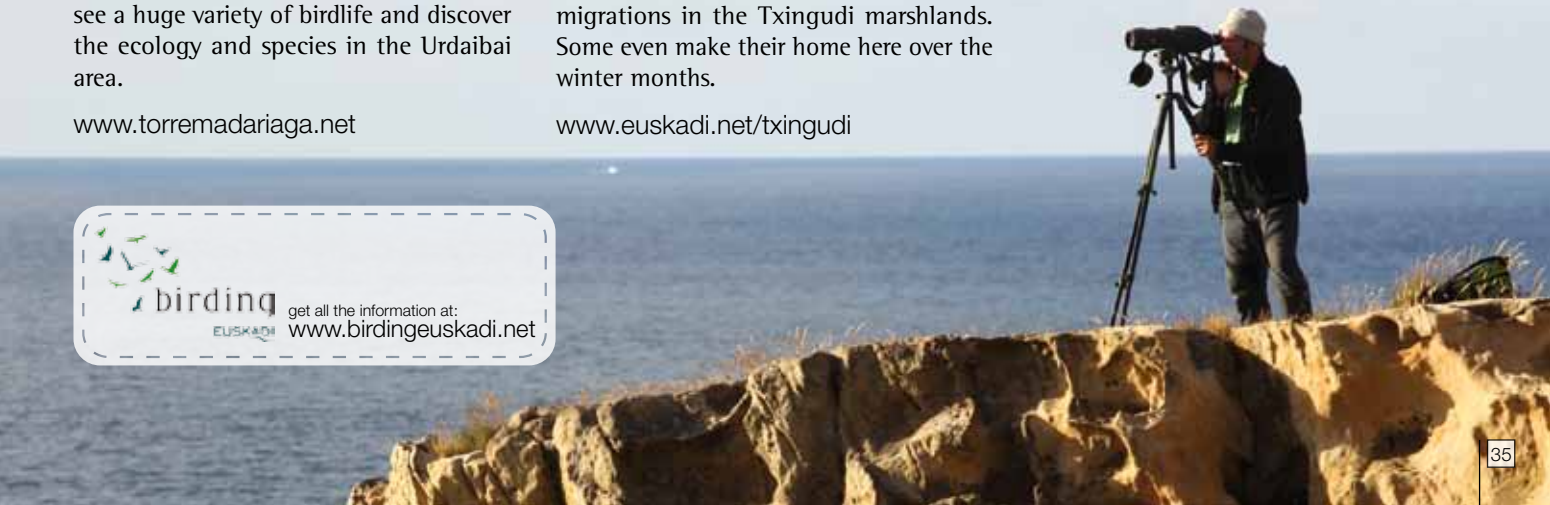
Urdaibai Bird Centre in Gautegiz-Arteaga: this research and information centre studies birds and their habitats to develop better management techniques that aim to protect the fauna and the environment. The centre is also an observatory which lets you follow the 200 species that pass through the Biosphere Reserve each year on their migration route.

www.birdcenter.org

The Plaiaundi Ecology Park in Irún: ducks, geese, herons and kites have found the perfect place to rest on their migrations in the Txingudi marshlands. Some even make their home here over the winter months.

www.euskadi.net/txingudi

The Island of Aketxe in Bermeo: the inaccessibility of the island means that the best spot for watching the yellow legged sea gulls, European storm petrels, common shags, or even species such as the peregrine falcon, is the 'Battle of Matxitxako' Monument, work of the artist from Bermeo, Nestor Basterretxea. Binoculars are an absolute must.



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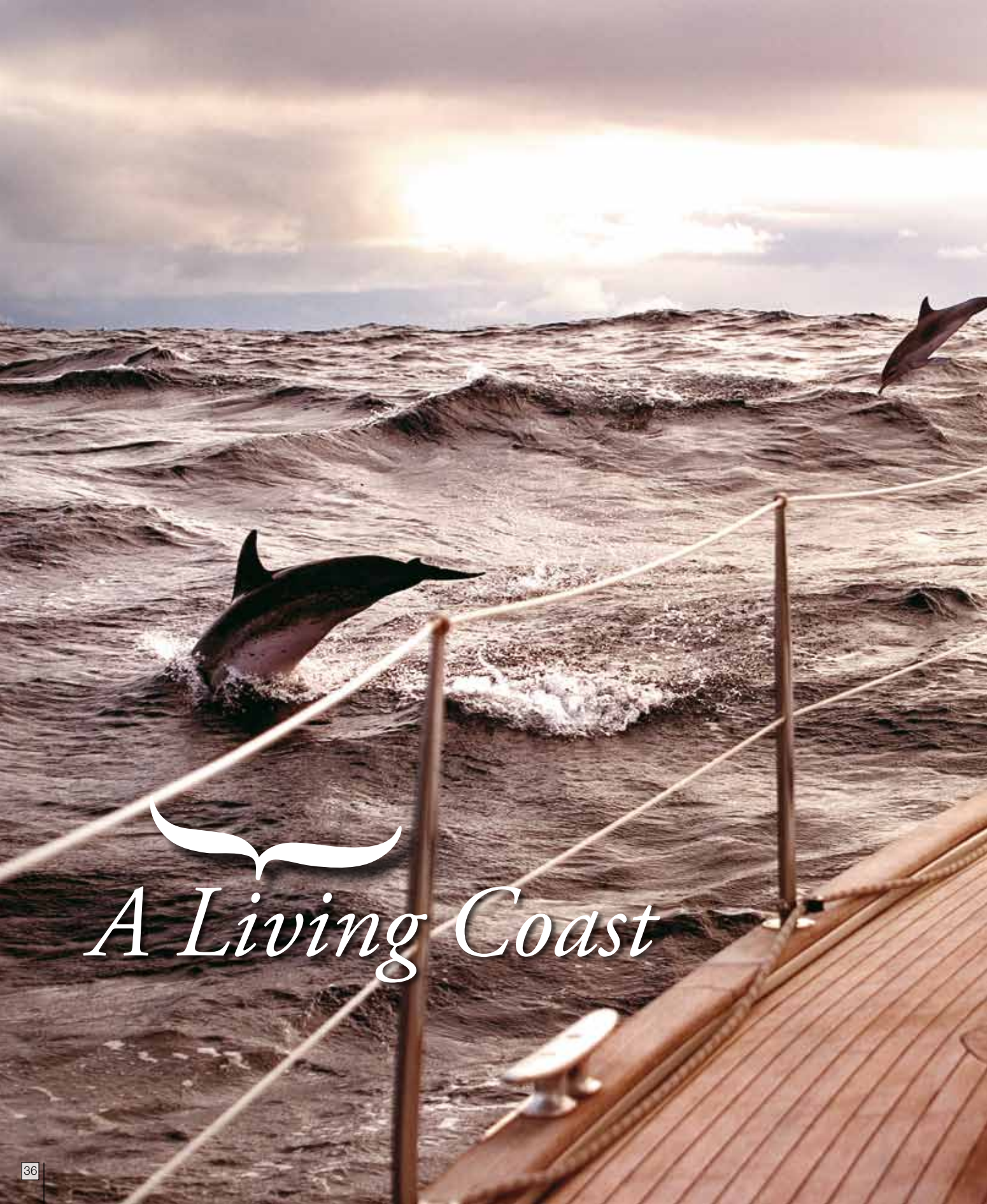


A Living Coast

"The variety of activities on offer along the Basque Coast is thanks to the existence of a significant number of companies that make the equipment you need easily available so that your dream becomes a reality"

If you are more attracted by the water, be it the sea or the coastal estuaries, there are numerous aquatic activities that are sure to appeal to you.

For activities such as hiking or cycling, the area boasts a network of trails that will lead you to some unforgettable spots.

There are even activities in the air that you can take part in, such as paragliding or a flight in a light aircraft, always with the sea as a backdrop.

Fun is assured, with the sea taking centre stage.

TOP EXPERIENCE

Trips on the high seas

How do you fancy the experience of becoming a real sailor and boarding a leisure cruiser to enjoy a day fishing skipjack tuna, sea bass or squid? You don't have to be an experienced fisherman to enjoy a fun day at sea. You just have to get up early! The tour company picks you up at whichever hotel you are staying at and takes you to the port where the skipper of the boat will welcome you aboard and explain the workings of the vessel. Everything you need for an authentic experience on the high seas.

www.basquecountrytourism.net

"The outstanding strength of the range of activities is focussed on the water sports"

The most popular water sports are surfing, windsurfing and bodyboarding, with crowds of enthusiasts consolidating the sports' status in the Basque Country. The villages along the coast have been influenced by the cosmopolitan atmosphere synonymous with these sports.

The crowds that surfing brings with it are significant. This is partly due to the world renowned tournaments that take place in towns along the Basque Coast, which attract numerous professional surfers. One example is the trial that forms part of the world circuit that is held in Mundaka. Other annual trials with an international reputation are held in Sopelana and Zarautz.

The spirit of surfing is prevalent, but the Basque Coast is much more...

The mainstays of the range of activities on offer are water sports such as scuba diving, sailing, canoeing, kayaking or stand-up paddle. All enjoy great popularity thanks to the plentiful opportunities available to practise them, whether on the high seas or in the estuaries and bays along the coast. There are many more activities for you to invest your time in along the Basque Coast. For example, you can go horse riding, take a hot air balloon ride, fly in a light aircraft... You can also take a scuba diving course or go on a multi-adventure experience. All you need to take part in of these activities is available to hire from numerous specialist companies. Whether you are an expert or a beginner, they will ensure that you have the right equipment and the technical training you require.

BAKIO AND GAZTELUGATXE

"The Basque Coast boasts a number of leisure ports equipped with the most modern facilities"

The passion that the locals have for sailing means that the Basque Country has a great network of ports in which to dock, all equipped with a complete infrastructure to help you on your way with your adventure.

Discovering the Basque Coast from the sea, you will encounter a diverse range of ecosystems...

There are about twenty ports along the Basque Coast, of which eight have the very latest facilities: **Hondarribia, San Sebastián, Orio, Getaria, Zumaia, Bermeo** and two in **Getxo.**

If you add the numerous fishing ports to that total, you have an extraordinary choice of places to moor up. The facilities are excellent all along the Basque Coast.

Whether you are an experienced sailor, dream of becoming one or you simply want to experience the joy of setting sail, there are over a dozen specialist companies along the coast, offering beginners' courses and hiring vessels and all the necessary equipment. Now there is no reason not to discover the Basque Country from the sea!

The trip will let you enjoy each of the towns you dock in

If there is one experience that is really going to let you get a feel for the sea, it is a boat trip with panoramic views. You can stop along the way in the docks and leisure ports and enjoy visits to the stunning towns that you will now have seen from the sea. Come and discover our coastline aboard your own boat or a hired vessel.

It is a great pleasure to travel without hurrying, stopping whenever or wherever takes your fancy. It will give you the chance to wander around charming beauty spots, meet the locals in the towns and taste the great food on offer in restaurants, with their world renowned Basque cuisine. Take advantage of the trip to attend some of the local festivals in the coastal towns, such as the Festivals of 'Madalenas' and 'los Cármenes'. Are you ready to set sail?

The Basque Country on foot...

Mountains are the great passion of the Basque people. That is why hiking is a sport with so many enthusiasts around here. If you would like to discover the varied ecosystems of the Basque Coast close up, it is good to know that there is an extensive network of well signposted tracks. A route that is very representative of trekking along the coast of Gipuzkoa is the GR-121, which joins **Hondarribia** and **Mutriku** and stands out for its great natural and cultural wealth.

This itinerary boasts some exquisitely beautiful tracks, such as the one from **Pasaia** to **San Sebastián**, or the path between the towns of **Zumaia** and **Deba.**

Once you are in Biscay, one of the most popular routes is the track that joins **Plentzia** and **Getxo**, which winds along the clifftops and beaches, or alternatively the Paseo Itsaslur from Pobeña to Cobarón in **Muskiz.**

www.senderismoeuskadi.net

...on two wheels...

If you like cycling, the Basque Country is a paradise for short distance routes. The 127 kilometres of 'Vías Verdes' (Green Trails) developed for the enjoyment of cycling enthusiasts have restored the trails along the old railway tracks that are no longer in use. In the city, the number of lanes reserved only for cyclists is also growing steadily. The extensive network of *'bidegorris'* (cycle lanes) will let you enjoy this sport in comfort, even in the city centres.

The **Mountain Biking Centres** located nearest to the Basque Coast, one in **Debabarrena** and another in the region of **Busturialdea**, will give you all the information you need about trails and hiring a GPS device, let you use their showers and even wash your bike.

www.btteuskadi.net

...on the Camino de Santiago...

The Northern or **Coastal route of the Camino de Santiago** (Santiago Pilgrimage Route) is another of the joys of hiking in the Basque Country. The beautiful trail winds its way through mountains and along the coast of the Cantabrian Sea, with views that contrast the deep blue of the sea with the intense green of the mountain, speckled with countless *caseríos* (traditional Basque farmhouses). Along this route, you will discover how the marine and agricultural cultures coexist and interact as well as the urban and the rural environments. You will get the chance to taste the cuisine and enjoy the hospitality of the locals. If you choose to take this route, a well developed network of pilgrim hostels will help you on your way along the Basque Coast as you experience an unforgettable journey.

www.euskadi.net/caminosantiago

A note to remember: in **Orio**, the **Camino de Santiago Interpretation Centre** explains the history of this and other Jacobean pilgrimage routes.

www.oriodonejakue.net

...or from the skies

Can you imagine it? If the Basque Country is beautiful when seen from ground level, seeing it from the air must be a stunning experience.

On the Basque Coast, aerial sports are increasingly common and there are various activity tour companies that offer you the chance to take part. In **Hondarribia,** you can take a flight in a light aircraft or go paragliding, as you can in **Sopelana** or **Gorliz.**

A GREAT IDEA!

Rowing in traineras

Traineras (traditional fishing boats) are not just a part of Basque culture and heritage. They are also the foundation of a sport that moves masses.

Along the Basque Coast, there are countless rowing clubs, so it is no surprise to find young and old partaking in the sport in the seas around the coastal towns. It is a full time job following all of the various tournaments that take place. The origin of the trainera boat is the ancient Basque whaling culture and the vessel's success was due to its agility, which was so necessary in the fishing of centuries past.

The 10

Picking just ten unmissable experiences on the Basque Coast isn't easy. It is full of surprises. Its natural riches, its traditions, its tourist attractions, full of history and uniqueness, are all well worth experiencing...

Start by getting lost in the lively crowds in any of the ports. Try to get a feel for the area's marine culture. It is a pleasure to have a glass of 'txakoli' sparkling wine looking out to sea from a restaurant, tasting the delicious local cuisine. Here you've got it all. Just let yourself go.

...we invite you to experience it all.

1 Cross the **Bridge**

Also known as the 'hanging bridge', the Vizcaya Bridge is an architectural jewel that reflects the Basque Country's marine and industrial roots.

2 Go out to sea along a spectacular **track**

Head up to the Chapel of San Juan Gaztelugatxe, filled with sailor's offerings of thanks for escaping unharmed from shipwrecks. If you ring the bell 13 times, you will cast out evil spirits.

6 Experience the **Geopark**

Spectacular cliffs along the coast of Gipuzkoa hide million year old geological treasures written in its successive rocky strata.

7 Home to **Elcano** and **Balenciaga**

This is Getaria, birthplace of the explorer Elcano and fashion designer Balenciaga. You can wander around his museum full of fashion from a different era.

Unmissable experiences *on the Basque Coast...*

3 Taste the **fish...**

Anywhere around the Basque Country is a good place to try the area's exquisite cuisine. On the coast, there is nothing quite like a good plate of fish washed down with a glass of ***txakoli***.

4 Discover **Urdaibai**

Since it was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1983, the grandeur and magic of this beautiful place has been on display. It is the most important natural reserve in the Basque Country.

5 **Eyes** that look out to sea

They are the watch towers of the Cantabrian Sea, always with spectacular views. The Santa Catalina Lighthouse in Lekeitio is open to visitors and is home to the Technology and Navigation Interpretation Centre.

8 Be captivated by the **Bella Easo**

San Sebastián is the European Capital of Culture 2016, as well as being a city in an unrivalled setting and holding the world record for the most Michelin Stars.

9 A visit to the shipyard of **Ondartxo**

It will let you get a real feel for a traditional shipyard through its exhibition of vessels and a display of how the craftsmen work.

10 An evening in the **Txingudi** Bay

Discover one of the most important swamplands of the Cantabrian Sea with Hondarribia in the background.
A true birdwatcher's paradise.

1 From **Muskiz** to Bermeo

OLD PORT OF ALGORTA (GETXO)

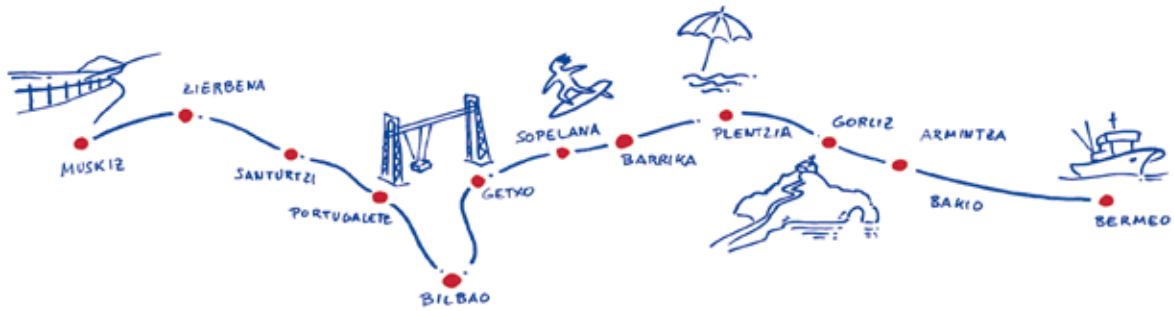
We set off from La Arena Beach, the last along the Basque Coast shared between **Muskiz** and **Zierbena**, in the west of Biscay. Along the sea promenade of Itsaslur, you can still find traces of the mining activity that took place here at the end of the 19th century. La Arena is a unique beach, with sand banks, dunes and an island linked to the mainlaind on which laurel trees and holm oaks hide the pretty Nuestra Señora del Socorro Chapel. In **Zierbena**, it is well worth climbing up to the highest point of Punta Lucero, where you can find remains from various conflicts, from the War of Succession to the Civil War. Here you can marvel at El Abra and the beauty of the coastal mountains. The town's port is a perfect spot to grab something to eat. You could stop for food in **Santurtzi**, where the grilled sardines are a must. While you are there, don't miss the Agurtza, an old fishing vessel converted into the Fishing Interpretation Centre. Our route then takes us to **Portugalete** on the mouth of the Nervión Estuary. You are now in what was the industrial jungle of the left bank of the Ría from the end of the 19th century and throughout the 20th. The Rialia Museum brings that whole era back to life for us.

Crossing the walkway of the Vizcaya Bridge is always exciting

One thing that was vital for the smooth running of the port activity was to leave the Ría clear for large cargo ships to pass through which eventually led to the construction of the Vizcaya Bridge, the enormous metal structure that stretches over to Getxo. Portugalete is a town with two distinct faces: the Old Town – medieval sloping streets, divided into small districts presided over by the Basilica of Santa María and the Salazar Tower – and the bankside district, with its English style houses looking out to the coast.

Crossing the walkway on the Vizcaya Bridge is always exciting. Gustave Eiffel worked as an advisor during its construction. Get on board one of the bridge's hanging gondolas, suitable for pedestrians and vehicles, and be transported over to Las Arenas, one of the neighbourhoods that make up **Getxo**. It was in this town that the prosperity of the industrial era was concentrated, as can be seen by the opulent palaces of **Neguri** along the promenade that goes all the way to the secluded old port neighbourhood of Puerto Viejo de Algorta. Along the route, you will see attractions like the Aquarium, the leisure port and various fully equipped town beaches, such as Ereaga Beach, with all the facilities for a range of aquatic sports. Getxo, to the north, is the gateway to the territories of Punta Galea, a huge natural space carpeted in green that ends abruptly when it reaches the sea. This is where spectacular cliffs dominate the landscape, broken only occasionally by the most unspoilt beaches such as Arrigunaga and Gorrondatxe-Aizkorri. A path lets you discover this stretch of the coast on foot or by bicycle.

PLENTZIA



San Juan de Gaztelugatxe: one of the Basque Country's most photographed spots

As you leave Getxo, the road curves slightly away from the coast and heads into the centre of **Sopelana** and **Barrika**, with their great sands and wide range of tourist activities on offer.

The town of **Plentzia** with its meandering streams of the estuary, is the perfect place for water sports. The town has preserved its typical coastal architecture, existing harmoniously with the tourist boom of the early 20th century. The town's beach, which merges with that of Gorliz, is sheltered by the bay and is very popular with families from the area and people from Bilbao, who can reach the beach by metro. This is also where you will find the Plasentia de Butrón Museum, which explore maritime history. Before heading east, it is well worth seeing a wilder side of the Cantabrian Sea from the Lighthouse in **Gorliz**, a modern monolithic construction that adds a touch of sophistication to the horizon. A footpath will let you wind your way up to it. The Port of **Armintza** resembles a seawall constructed to fend off the waves.

The appearance of vineyards on the slopes around the coastal road lets us know that we are getting close to **Bakio**, a town famous for producing the lion's share of the *txakoli* sparkling wine with its own designation of origin.

Txakoligune is the museum where you will be able to learn all about this treasured local drop. Bakio also boasts Biscay's largest beach, popular with surfers and other watersport enthusiasts. On route to **Bermeo**, you will come across of two of the most iconic sights of the Basque Coast. Firstly, the Island of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe linked to the mainland and its inseparable sister, the Island of Aketxe. Secondly, the Cape of Matxitxako, the tongue of land that penetrates the sea, the most northerly point of the Basque Country. Both belong to the same municipality of Bermeo, one of the most emblematic fishing towns of the Basque Country, where the Aita Guria is docked, a recreation of a 17th century whaling ship. The medieval stone Ercilla Tower with its ochre hues, is home to the Fisherman Museum which shows all there is to know about the secular art of reaping the harvest of the sea.

NEARBY

A titanium phoenix

Modern Bilbao rose from the ashes of its old port. Where once there were shipbuilders, docks and industrial warehouses, today you will find the Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao and a series of avant-garde masterpieces such as the Euskalduna Palace and the Isozaki Towers. The building by Frank O. Gehry is not only a global point of reference in terms of architecture and modern art, but also a benchmark of urban regeneration. The capital of the Biscay province is a fantastic, modern city with vibrant commercial activity, especially in the areas of Gran Vía and the Casco Viejo (Old Town).

www.bilbao.net
www.guggenheim-bilbao.es

2 From **Bermeo** to Mutriku

BERMEO

the Basque Coast shows you another face as you leave **Bermeo** and a new aroma fills the air. It is the scent of the freshwater of the **Mundaka** Estuary which is heading out to sea. We have arrived at the very heart of the Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai. At the far western point of the mouth of the estuary, you can find the coastal town of Mundaka, with the Santa María Church and a world famous 'left wave' that has made the town synonymous with great surfing.

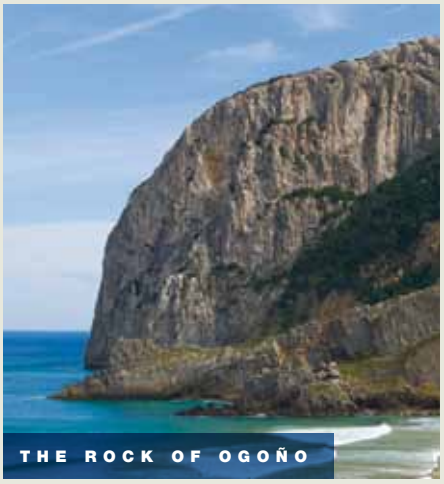
The peaceful, summer town of **Sukarrieta** overlooks another Island, Txatxarramendi, so small and overgrown with greenery that it seems like a toy. You can reach the island on foot. The Urdaibai Estuary forces you to take a detour around it, passing through illustrious and historical towns such as **Gernika-Lumo**. Don't miss your chance to stop here and visit the Casa de Juntas (Assembly Hall) and the Peace Museum.

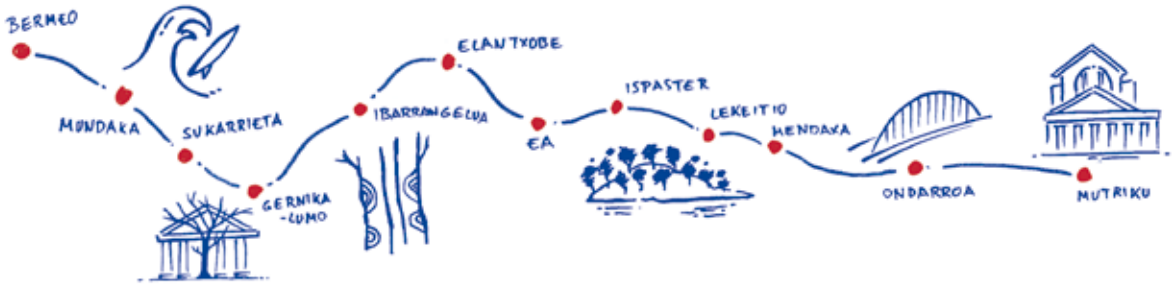
Whoever wants to discover the forest of Oma, located in **Kortezubi**, can do just that... It is just a short walk away.

In the area of Urdaibai, be sure not to miss the **Gauteguiz de Arteaga** Castle, linked to the Montijo family, now a lovely hotel. We are now heading in to the lands of **Ibarrangelua**. Here, the Laida Beach offers the chance to take some excellent photographs of Mundaka. The Urdaibai Bird Centre is a research and information centre that studies birds and their habitats with the aim of improving the management, protection and conservation of the fauna and environment in general. Another memorable landscape is the rock of Ogoño, a craggy outcrop that braces itself against the sea. To one side, you will find Laga Beach, lonely and proud. This area remains largely undeveloped and as such has become a unique little haven. To the other side of Ogoño, a fishing town has grown up on its steep slopes. This is **Elantxobe** which seems to have been conceived purely to put on the front of postcards. This beautiful town is so small that the buses could not even turn around here and they had to install a revolving platform.

The road now passes through a landscape of gentle grasslands and caseríos trapped between the sea and the mountains. The Beach of Ogeia in **Ispaster** is perfect for anyone who loves sandy shores that have been left untouched by man. Next we arrive at **Ea**, an interesting and cute little town which sits right at the mouth of the estuary that shares its name. Its small, pleasant beach is great for family fun. Continuing on to **Lekeitio**, another well known town which works hard to preserve and restore maritime heritage through projects such as the recently inaugurated Navigation Interpretation Centre in the Santa Catalina Lighthouse. Well worth a visit, next to the port is the gothic basilica which is home to a monumental Baroque altarpiece. In neighbouring **Mendexa**, where you can visit the Marierrota tide mill, a

The Laida Beach offers the chance to take some excellent photographs of Mundaka


THE ROCK OF OGOÑO



LEKEITIO

NEARBY

footpath starts that follows the course of the Lea River, a great walk through a river ecosystem.

There is no distance at all between this town and its neighbour **Ondarroa**, with its old bridge that dates back to 1795. This is the last village in Biscay, right on the border with Gipuzkoa. This port town has made its name from the busy fishing industry. Its Old Town is neatly organised behind the Santa María Church.

Mutriku clings on to a slopes that fall dizzingly into the salty waters, so much so that its streets, squares and public spaces could only be from here and nowhere else: everything here has been made to measure. In the higher part of town, the neoclassical Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church stands tall. If you go down through the perfectly preserved Historic Quarter along its steep narrow lanes until you arrive at the port, you will find the Bentalekua Museum that displays the marine history of Mutriku. Another option is the Nautilus Museum, which informs us about what has been hidden under the seas for millions of years: an extensive collection of fossils unearthed from the seas of the Cantabrian Sea.

Local attractions

Infamous for the aerial bombardment of 26th April 1937 and its spirit immortalised in the work by Pablo Picasso, Gernika-Lumo is also a living monument to Basque traditions and freedom. The Peace Museum, the Casa de Juntas and the oak tree beneath where the 'most just decisions' were taken, to quote French philosopher Rousseau, are some of the main attractions in this town located at the heart of Urdaibai.

www.bizkaia.net

Art in the pine forests

In the Oma Valley, belonging to Kortezubi, there is a forest decked out in the brightest colours. It is the work of the painter and sculptor Agustín Ibarrola who conceived dozens of figures and then brought them to life, rather than on a canvas, on the trunks of pine trees, for the pleasure of daytrippers and hikers. Nearby, you can find the Santimamiñe Cave, with the most important example of paleolithic art in Biscay, with graceful renderings of bison and deer. A visitors' programme allows you to enter inside to discover how the painters at the dawn of time lived and felt. To see animals that are still alive and kicking, the best option is to head to the Basondo Park, which is a haven for threatened wildlife, inhabited by beautiful specimens of boar, roe deer, foxes, mountain cats and civets, to name a few.

OMA FOREST

3 From **Mutriku** to Orio

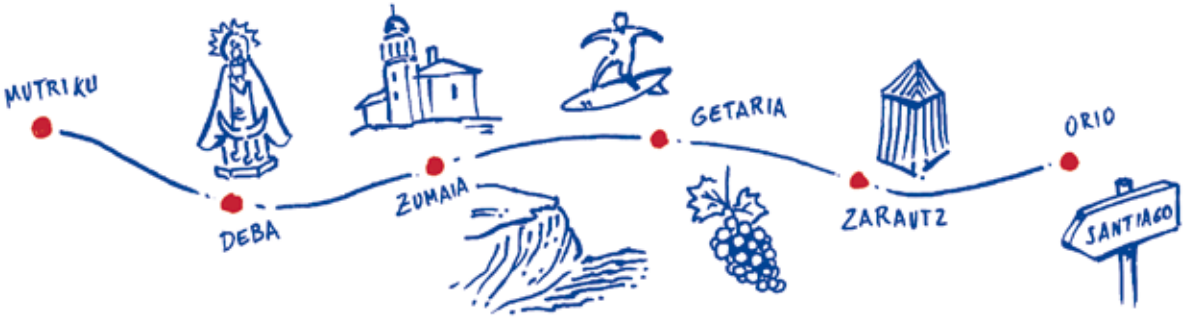
TXAKOLI VINEYARDS

An enviable and coveted stretch of coastal road makes its first stop in **Deba**, the town that nestles between the river of the same name, the sea and the neighbouring mountains. The Santa María la Real Church boasts a gothic doorway with sculptures that still preserve the original colours of the early Middle Ages. The road that carries on to **Zumaia** has a surprise in store with a natural site of the highest order: the Basque Coast Geopark. This haven offers visitors an authentic voyage of discovery through natural wonders such as the *flysch*: millions of years of geological history written in successive rocky strata that have been uncovered by the ceaseless action of the sea. From here onwards, the N-634 road will take us almost the rest of the way until it leaves us at the gateway to the Urola Valley. The town of **Zestoa** is home to Ekainberri, a faithful recreation of the Ekain Caves. Zumaia owes its unique layout to the Urola and Narrondo Rivers and the surrounding slopes that shelter it. Nobody should miss a wander around the Old Part here, watched over by the San Pedro Church, there are various points of interest all the way from the lighthouse to Santiago Beach which is a landscape of sand dunes which are home to the former house and now museum of the painter Ignacio Zuloaga. The Algorri Centre, also in Zumaia, explains all about the peculiar *flysch* that characterise this part of the coast. From here until we arrive in **Zarautz**, the road becomes a privileged viewing platform over the Cantabrian Sea, running just a few metres alongside the sea. On stormy days with wild seas, it is not uncommon to see waves crashing over the sea walls.

The flysch: millions of years of geological history written in the successive rocky strata

In the distance, you can see **Getaria's** principal natural landmark, Mount San Antón, known affectionately as 'the mouse' due to its rodent-like shape. On its head, there is a beautiful lighthouse. The landscapes and vineyards we saw

MUTRIKU



around Bakio are also found here. In the countryside that bakes under the sun, the hondarribi zuri and hondarribi beltza grapes ripen on the vines, which go on to produce the famous *txakoli* sparkling wine. Getaria was home to the illustrious explorer, Juan Sebastián Elcano and various dedicated monuments can be seen around the town. There is also a museum here dedicated to another of the town's famous sons, Cristóbal Balenciaga, once known as the 'prince of fashion'. A wander around the town centre will take us along the Calle Mayor (Main Street) to another of the town's main treasures, the San Salvador Church. Next to the church, you will find a concentration of some of the province's most renowned fish restaurants.

Another noteworthy stretch of the N-634 road is the section which leads us to one of Gipuzkoa's quintessential tourist villages, **Zarautz**, home to the largest beach in the Basque Country. You can stroll along the pleasant sea promenade, catch some waves so perfect that they hold the World Championships here, discover the impressively restored Mollarri loading bay, play in the sand dunes of Iñurritza, touching the slopes of Mount Talai Mendi, and of course, visit the Photomuseum. As well as all this, the town boasts an interesting range of medieval buildings, most notably the Santa María la Real Church with its attractive belltower, and other defensive buildings such as the Luzea Tower.

The road hides in the folds of Mount Talai Mendi until it arrives to the mouth of the Oria River and the family beach of La Antilla. The village of **Orio**, where rowing is the great passion, is located a kilometre inland so that its fishermen sleep soundly, sheltered from the storms. The Old Part of town – the Goiko Kale – rises up from the San Nicolás de Bari Temple, built as if it were part of the town walls, with a clear defensive role. At the highest point, you can find the San Martín de Tours Chapel with slightly Romanesque features and a largely Jacobean tradition, which still receives pilgrims to this day. The Camino de Santiago Interpretation Centre, located in the Iturriaga Palace, reveals all of the magical route's secrets.

NEARBY

Replica of the the past

In the Paleolithic era, around the mouth of the Urola River, prehistoric artists immortalised their drawings on the cave walls: figures of bears and horses provide one of the most beautiful examples of prehistoric artwork. With the aim of protecting this legacy for future generations, Ekainberri was built in 2008, a faithful recreation with imitation rocky creases, niches and primitive drawings.

www.ekainberri.com

4 From **Orio** to Hondarribia

SAN SEBASTIÁN

A small chain of mountains that runs parallel to the coast rises up between **Orio** and **San Sebastián.** The chain is made up of the mountains Kukuarri, Mendizorrotz and Igueldo, which force the N–634 road to follow the course of the Oria River, letting us enjoy the meandering streams down to the estuary. The road takes us all the way to San Sebastián, the quintessential spa town on the coast of the Cantabrian Sea. The destiny of this modest military town, which lived off its fishing exploits, changed dramatically one day when it was chosen by Queen María Cristina as the place where the royal household would spend its summers. So at the start of the 20th century, the town became the tourist destination and cosmopolitan city that it remains to this day. A multitude of buildings and pleasant avenues were built to provide a fitting backdrop to the bay and the sea which brought the city such fame, tourism and wealth. The fishing port with its excellent fish grills, the Old Part filled with bars and restaurants and the modern Ensanche district which centres around the slender spired Buen Pastor Cathedral, are the main hubs of a city surrounded by water – the Cantabrian Sea and the Urumea River – and low mountains. Its maritime essence is most evident around the docks from which a small fishing fleet still ply their trade and the wives of the fishermen can sometimes be seen repairing the nets. You will also find the Aquarium and the Naval Museum here. However, the attractions of the Bella Easo, as the city is affectionately known, are spread around the city: along the promenades that follow the coastline, on the Island of Santa Clara, in sculptures such as Chillida's Peine del Viento, or resting on one of the three beaches which are wonderful in summer or winter.

Mount Ulía is the eastern limit of San Sebastián, the slope that leads spectacularly down to the mouth of the region's other estuary, that of **Pasaia.** It forms a great bay around which Gipuzkoa's main port area is based which can be accessed only via a single opening out to sea. The best way to arrive to Pasai Donibane is on the motor boat that leaves from Pasai San Pedro, though not before you check out the La Plata Lighthouse and the Ondartxo shipbuilders, where vessels are still built using the traditional methods. This mode of transport lets the locals from both neighbourhoods avoid a round trip of half a dozen kilometres around the bay. Both the villages illustrate the essence of a simple fishing village to perfection. Pasai Donibane only has one street, cobbled from start to end and closed to traffic. Víctor Hugo spent a few days there in a

PASAI DONIBANE

In Pasai Donibane, the house of Victor Hugo is now a museum that you can visit

house that overlooked the sea and was spellbound by the village and and its ancient boats that transported the locals from one stream to another. In nearby **Lezo**, there is a beautiful Old Town centred around the Santo Cristo Church. Inside, you will find a Byzantine image of Christ, which shows Christ without a beard.

The most spectacular way to get to **Hondarribia** is to take the Mount Jaizkibel road – although you could take the N-I up to the peak, surrounded by seaviews of the Cantabrian Sea and the French Coast, and then work your way down to Hondarribia. But before we get there, take a worthwhile stop in the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Sanctuary, sitting in a shaded hollow with great panoramic views over the Txingudi Bay, the end of the line for the Rivers of Bidasoa and Aiako Harria. Cape Híguer is the last cape on the Cantabrian Coast. In its waters, fascinating remains of the Roman occupation were discovered, which you can learn more about in Irún.

Hondarribia looks out on the neighbouring French town of Hendaya, which is separated by only a narrow stretch of water. The town has two distinct parts: one a medieval walled town raised on a small hill, where we can find the Plaza de Armas with the Castle of Carlos V and the gothic Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church. The other part, the neighbourhood of La Marina, is where everything comes together to create the atmosphere of an authentic old fishing part. Hondarribia also has a beach, sea promenade and leisure port which makes for a great end to the trip.

A pedestrain route that goes around the bay allows you to cross over to the neighbouring town of **Irún** and discover the Plaiaundi Ecological Park. The Romans settled here, on land that is now the home to the interesting Oiasso Museum, that boasts various relics from the era.

HONDARRIBIA

NEARBY

Further than the Bidasoa River

Start off in Hendaya, with its kilometre long beach, craggy cliffs and pillars and take the beautiful coast road northwards. In the French Basque Coast you'll find a collection of villages and sand banks that the royalty and bourgeosie of the 20th century filled with glamour and dazzling Gallic flair: the tranquil Guéthary, the charming San Juan de Luz, the world famous Biarritz, that became so fashionable in the Belle Epoque, and the lively Bayonne.

BIARRITZ

events

FESTIVAL OF BERMEO

Numerous events and activities bring the quiet traditional villages of the Basque Coast to life and attract large crowds.

CULTURE

June International Blues Festival, in Getxo
June CineGourland Festival, in Getxo
July Jazzaldia, Jazz Festival of San Sebastián
July International Folklore Festival of Portugalete
July International Jazz Festival, in Getxo
July International Street Theatre Festival, in Lekeitio
July Hondarribia Blues Festival, in Hondarribia
July Armintza Reggae Festival
August Musical Summer Season, in Deba
August International Folk Festival, in Irun-Hondarribia
August International Folklore Festival in Bermeo
August International Music Week in Bermeo
September Zinemaldi, San Sebastián Film Festival
September International Folk Festival, in Getxo
October Horror and Fantasy Film Week, in San Sebastián
November International Theatre Festival, in Santurtzi
November International Archaeological Film Festival of the Bidasoa in Irun

GASTRONOMY

January Presentation of the *Txakoli* Sparkling Wine, in Getaria
March/April Mackerel Festival, in Mutriku
March Presentacion of the *Txakoli* Harvest, in Bakio
May Anchovy Festival, in Ondarroa
May Bermeo Fish Fair
July Santurzi Sardine Festival
July Sea Bream Festival, in Orio
September Feast of *Txakoli*, in Zarautz
September Octopus Festival, in Zumaia
October Seafood Festival, in Zierbena
October Gastronomic Symposium of *Squid,* in Lekeitio

FESTIVALS

20th January *Tamborrada* Drum Procession in San Sebastián
February, Burying the Sardine Festival, in Portugalete
29th June Dance of *Kaxarranka* and *Kilin-Kala*, in Lekeitio
29th June Feast of "San Pedros", in Orio, Mundaka, Zumaia and Pasaia.
30th June San Marcial Show in Irun.
1st July Feast of the Virgen de la Guía in Portugalete
16th July Feast of the Virgen del Carmen, in Santurtzi, Pasaia and Hondarribia.
16th July Maritime Procession and *Kaxarranka* Dance, in Plentzia
22nd July Feast of "Madalenas", in Plentzia, Mutriku, Bermeo, Mundaka and Elantxobe.
22nd July Maritime Procession of the Island of Izaro, in Bermeo
25th July Feast of Kutxa Entrega, in Hondarribia
August Semana Grande/ *Aste Nagusia,* (Great Week) in Bilbao and San Sebastián
15th August Feast of the Virgen del Puerto and Maritime Procession in Zierbena
16th August Feast of San Roke, in Deba
17th August Day of *Arrantzale (*Fishermen*),* in Ondarroa
5th September Goose Festival, in Lekeitio
8th September Hondarribia Show and Feast of the Virgen de Guadalupe
9th September *Arrantzale* Eguna (The Day of the Fishermen), in Bermeo
9th September Euskal Jaia Festival, in Zarautz
December Feast of San Nicolases in Orio
Coming in 2013 Elcano disembarks in Getaria, 7th August, every four years.

SPORTS

ROWING
April International Olympic Rowing Regatta in Orio
August The Teink Trophy, Bilbao-San Juan de Luz
September Bandera de La Concha Regatta in San Sebastián
Throughout the year in various fishing ports Trainera fishing boat regattas of the ACT League

SAILING
June Bilbao-Bordeaux Regatta
July Basque Coast Regatta, Getxo-Hondarribia

ATHLETICS
June Kosta Trail Getxo-Gorliz
June/September The Nudist Run, in Barinatxe, Sopelana
July *Flysch Rock* Trail, in Zumaia
November The Behobia-San Sebastián Race, The Irún-San Sebastián Race
November The Santurce to Bilbao Race
November The San Sebastián Marathon

TRIATHLON
June Triathlon-Sprint, in Lekeitio
June International Olympic Double Triathlon in Zarautz
June Triathlon, in Ondarroa

SWIMMING
July Getaria to Zarautz Race
July Race across Plentzia Bay

EQUESTRIAN
July International Jump Contest
July to September Summer season (Summer Season of Events)
December Beach Horse Derby, in Gorliz
15th August Gold Cup in the Lasarte Hippodrome

SURF
July Sopelana Pro Junior
August Vans Pro Junior in San Sebastián
September Billabong Pro Mundaka
September San Miguel Pro Zarautz WQS*****

BODYBOARD
August Sopelana BBK Pro

CANOEING
July The Ría Canoeing Regatta in Plentzia

Sailors' Tales

Island of Film: in the '70s and '80s there was an influential film producer and distributor who made the little Island of Izaro in Bermeo famous by using it as her production logo at the start of all her films.

The mouse of Getaria: the old Island of San Antón is known affectionately by this name because of its shape, the result of erosion by the sea. It is located off the coast of the town of Getaria and is joined to the mainland by an artifical breakwater.

'Three Holes': Hirutxulo is the former name of San Sebastián, due to the fact that from the Cantabrian Sea, three pronounced cavities can be seen, one between Igueldo and Santa Clara, the second between Santa Clara and Mount Urgull and the last between Mount Urgull and Ulía.

Roads that spin: For public transport to be able to reach the centre of Elantxobe, a revolving platform was built to turn the bus around.

Aquatic bicycle: in 1893, Ramón Barea from San Sebastián revealed his revolutionary invention, the velomar, pedalo or aquatic bicycle. He presented it on La Concha Beach and it was exhibited in the Universal Exhibition of Paris in 1900.

Icy pleasures: Basque beaches are not completely empty during the winter months. It is common to see swimmers take a quick dip even when there is snow on the sand.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Tourist Offices

MUSKIZ
946 802 976 · www.enkartur.net

ZIERBENA
946 404 974 · www.zierbena.net

SANTURTZI
944 839 494 ·turismo.santurtzi.org

PORTUGALETE
944 729 314 · www.portugalete.com

BILBAO TOURISM
944 795 760 · www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo

BILBAO AIRPORT (LOIU)
944 031 444 · www.euskaditurismo.net

GETXO
944 910 800 · www.getxo.net/turismo

SOPELANA
944 065 519 · www.sopelana.net

PLENTZIA
946 774 199 · www.plentzia.org

GORLIZ
946 774 348 · www.gorliz.net

BAKIO
946 193 395 · www.bakio.org

BERMEO
946 179 154 · www.bermeokoudala.net

MUNDAKA
946 177 201 · www.mundaka.org

GERNIKA - LUMO
946 255 892 · www.gernika-lumo.net

LEKEITIO
946 844 017 · www.lekeitio.com

ONDARROA
946 831 951 · www.ondarroa.eu

MUTRIKU
943 603 378 · www.mutriku.net

DEBA
943 192 452 · www.deba.net

ZUMAIA
943 143 396 · www.zumaia.net/turismo

GETARIA
943 140 957 · www.getaria.net

ZARAUTZ
943 830 990 · www.turismozarautz.com

ORIO
943 835 565 · www.oriora.com

SAN SEBASTIÁN TOURISM
943 481 166 · www.sansebastianturismo.com

PASAIA-OARSOALDEA
943 341 556 · www.oarsoaldea-turismo.net

HONDARRIBIA
943 643 677 · www.bidasoaturismo.com

HONDARRIBIA AIRPORT
943 668 518

IRÚN
943 020 732 · www.irun.org

Beaches

La Arena P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
MUSKIZ-ZIERBENA

Zierbena P ISO 14001 ISO 9001
ZIERBENA

Las Arenas P WC
GETXO

Ereaga P WC
GETXO

Arrigunaga P WC
GETXO

Gorrondatxe - Aizkorri P WC
GETXO

Barinatxe - La Salvaje P WC
GETXO – SOPELANA

Arrietara - Atxabiribil P WC
SOPELANA

Barrika P
BARRIKA

Plentzia P WC
PLENTZIA

Gorliz P WC
GORLIZ

Armintza P
LEMOIZ

Bakio P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
BAKIO

Aritxatxu WC
BERMEO

Laidatxu P WC
MUNDAKA

Toña P WC
SUKARRIETA

San Antonio P WC
SUKARRIETA

Kanala P WC
GAUTEGIZ - ARTEAGA

Laida P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
IBARRANGELUA

Laga P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
IBARRANGELUA

Ea P WC
EA

Ogeia P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
ISPASTER

Isuntza P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
LEKEITIO

Karraspio P WC ISO 14001 ISO 9001
MENDEXA

Arrigorri P WC
ONDARROA

Saturraran P WC
MUTRIKU

Puerto P WC
MUTRIKU

Arbe P
MUTRIKU

Ondarbeltz P WC
MUTRIKU

Deba P WC ISO 14001
DEBA

Itzurun WC
ZUMAIA

Santiago P WC
ZUMAIA

Gaztetape P
GETARIA

Malkorbe P WC
GETARIA

Zarautz P WC ISO 14001
ZARAUTZ

Antilla P WC
ORIO

La Isla WC EMAS
DONOSTIA – SAN SEBASTIÁN

Ondarreta P WC EMAS
DONOSTIA – SAN SEBASTIÁN

La Concha P WC EMAS
DONOSTIA – SAN SEBASTIÁN

Zurriola P WC EMAS
DONOSTIA – SAN SEBASTIÁN

Hondarribia P WC
HONDARRIBIA

Leisure Ports

GETXO
El Abra Fishing Port-Getxo S.A.
944 911 354 · www.getxokaia.com · pd.getxo@euskanet.net

Real Club Marítimo del Abra
944 637 600 · www.rcmarsc.es

BERMEO
946 880 289 · www.ekpsa.com

ZUMAIA
943 860 938 · www.marinaurola.com

GETARIA
943 896 129 · www.ekpsa.com

ORIO
943 249 400 · www.ekpsa.com

SAN SEBASTIÁN
943 000 464 · www.ekpsa.com

HONDARRIBIA
943 641 711 · www.ekpsa.com

Museums

The Archaeological and Monumental Site of Santa María la Real
Zarautz · 943 835 281 · www.menosca.com

The Ignacio Zuloaga Cultural Space
Zumaia · 943 862 341 · www.espaciozuloaga.com

Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum
Getaria · 943 008 840 · www.cristobalbalenciagamuseoa.com

Bentalekua Museum
Mutriku · 943 603 378 · www.mutrikukoudala.net

San Telmo Museum
San Sebastián · 943 481 580 · www.santelmomuseoa.com

Fishermen's Museum
Bermeo · 946 881 171 · www.bermeo.org

Maritime Museum Ría of Bilbao
Bilbao · 946 085 500 · www.museomaritimobilbao.org

Naval Museum
San Sebastián · 943 430 051 · um.gipuzkoakultura.net

Plasentia de Butrón Museum
Plentzia · 946 773 725 · www.museoplentzia.org

Oiasso Roman Museum
Irún · 943 639 353 · www.irun.org/oiasso

Photomuseum
Zarautz · 943 130 906 · www.photomuseum.es

Rialia Industrial Museum
Portugalete · 944 724 384 · www.rialia.net

Other Tourist Centres of Interest

San Sebastián Aquarium
San Sebastián · 943 440 099 · www.aquariumss.com

Agurtza Santurtzi Fishing Boat
Santurtzi · 944 839 494 www.turismo.santurtzi.org

Aita Guria Whaling Boat
Bermeo Whaling Interpretation Centre
Bermeo · 946 880 367 · www.aitaguria.bermeo.org

Mater Pasaia Floating Museum
Pasaia · 619 814 225 · www.itsasgela.org

Ondarzabal Beach Fishing Boat, Lekeitio
Lekeitio · 946 844 017 · www.faro-lekeitio.com

Casa Victor Hugo
Pasai Donibane · 943 341 556 · www.victorhugopasaia.net

Arma Plaza History Interpretation Centre
Hondarribia · 943 643 677 · www.hondarribia.org

Technology and Navigation Interpretation Centre
Lekeitio · 946 844 017 · www.faro-lekeitio.com

Natural Resources Interpretation Centre, Zumaia Algorri Zumaia
Zumaia · 943 143 100 · www.algorri.eu

Camino de Santiago Interpretation Centre
Orio · 943 835 565 · www.oriodonejakue.net

Sea Interpretation Centre
Santurtzi · 944 839 494 · turismo.santurtzi.org

Geological Interpretation Centre, Mutriku Nautilus
Mutriku · 943 603 378 · www.mutriku.net

Getxo Aquarium
Getxo · 944 914 661 · www.getxoaquarium.com

Molino Marierrota (Windmill)
Mendexa · 946 844 017 · www.faro-lekeitio.com

Ondartxo, Maritime Cultural Centre
Pasai San Pedro · 943 392 426 · www.albaola.com

www.basquecountrytourism.net

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