

Naturally!

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Inland Towns

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Practical Info





Gernika



This small town is an icon recognized around the world thanks to Picasso's painting depicting the cruelty and senselessness of the Spanish civil war. The town is now a symbol of peace. It contains the **Assembly House** and its famous tree, a tribute to the rights and freedoms of the Basque people. The **People of Europe Park**, the **Peace Foundation Museum**, the **Basque Country Museum**, and **Santa María Church** are all worth visiting.

It is also home to famous peppers and beans. This town holds a market every Monday year-round and the large **"Last Monday in Gernika"** agricultural fair on the last Monday in October.



Durango



Durango is a town in an incredibly beautiful natural setting full of opportunities for anyone who loves the outdoors. At the centre of town, you can discover emblematic buildings and sites such as the **Cross of Kurutzia**, the **Basilica of Santa María de Uribarri**, a number of noble palaces, and the **"Memory Space"**, a monument erected in memory of the 1937 bombing of the town. Its **Basque Book and Music Fair**, which is held in December, is the Basque Country's most important cultural fair.



Elorrio

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The town's invaluable historic sites are simply remarkable: palaces and stone manors with exquisite masonry, the **Santa Ana Monastery**, the **Basilica of Purísima Concepción**, the **Don Tello gate**, the **Tola Palace**, and the ruins of the **Medieval Wall**. Nearby is **Argiñeta Cemetery** with its medieval steles and tombs.



Orduña

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Orduña is the only settlement in Bizkaia with the title of **city**. Once an important commercial and customs hub on the border with Castille, it has a rich civil and religious heritage. **Plaza de los Fueros** is a great starting point for walking and cycling routes through the **Sierra Salvada mountains**.



Orozko



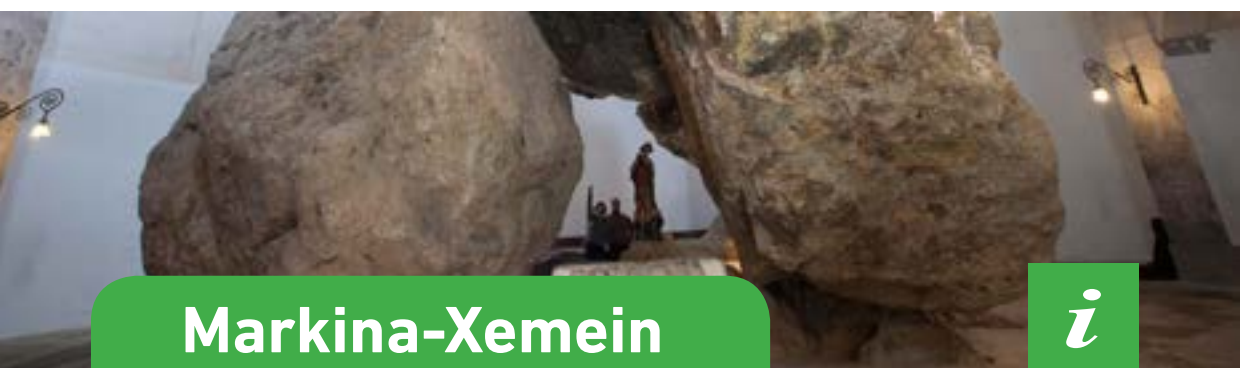
Orozko is the gateway to **Gorbeia Natural Park**. Wander its streets and discover the **church of San Bartolomé de Olarte**, **Anuntzibai Bridge**, and the **Legorburu Mansion**, home to the **Ethnography Museum**.



Balmaseda



This town has an incredibly beautiful **old quarter** presided over by the **Viejo Bridge**, the oldest testament to the town's wall. **Balmaseda's Easter celebration** is known for putting on a realistic Passion Play that attracts more than 50,000 people. The **Boinas La Encartada Museum**, a defunct factory that manufactured traditional "txapela" berets, will take you back to the end of the industrial revolution. You'll certainly want to see "**las Putxeras**", pots that the train operators of the Bilbao-La Robla line used to cook a traditional bean stew with the heat of the coal from their boilers. A number of toppings are offered with the dish (pork ribs, salt pork, chorizo, blood sausage, etc.).



Markina-Xemein



This town is on the Northern Way of St. James. Its Renaissance and Baroque palaces and monasteries demonstrate its glittering past. The hexagonally-shaped Hermitage of **San Miguel de Arretxinaga** curiously has a six-sided pyramidal roof. The **Church of Xemein** is probably the largest in Bizkaia.

Places of Interest

Your journey through inland Bizkaia is brimming with places of interest. Here we are only listing the must-sees that you might have a more difficult time finding as they are not in population centres. They are well worth the trip.



Pozalagua



The **Pozalagua Caves** in **Las Encartaciones** were recognized as the **Best Corner of Spain** in 2013, as they contain the largest concentration of eccentric stalactites in the world. The walk through the grotto takes a metal walkway that leads to “Versailles Hall”, after walking through a lake that was dried up by mining activity. At the back is an arch-shaped viewpoint shaped that allows you to contemplate the cave’s beauty in all its splendour.



Abellaneda



The **Abellaneda Assembly House**, which belongs to **Sopuerta**, was where the councils of the region would make decisions on shared issues from the 14th to the 19th century. Today, it is a symbol of the privileges and freedoms afforded to these towns as they were annexed by the Lordship of Bizkaia. It is also home to the **Encartaciones Museum**.



Loizaga Tower

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In **Galdames**, the medieval **Loizaga Tower** houses a world-renowned **antique and classic car museum**. It has a special private collection of mint condition **Rolls-Royces**.

Not far is **Sopuerta Abentura**, a forest adventure park for the entire family. There you'll find 10 courses – three of them including zip lines – with different activities done atop the trees ranging from 1 to 21 metres high and different levels of difficulty.



ARENATZarte

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In Arenatza Park in **Güeñes**, you'll find **ARENATZarte**. It is a **botanic garden** that combines nature and art and is home to unique trees and avant-garde sculptures. If you're visiting with your family, be sure to stop at **Bizkaia Park Abentura** (temporarily closed), which has obstacle courses, bouncy castles, and a rock climbing wall.



El Pobal Forge

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While exploring **Las Encartaciones**, be sure to check out the fascinating **El Pobal** complex. It is a hydraulic forge typical of the 13th-14th centuries. It was restored in the 18th century, when it took on its current look. You can tour the forge compound itself to see the manor where the forgers lived, a small bread oven, and a flour mill.

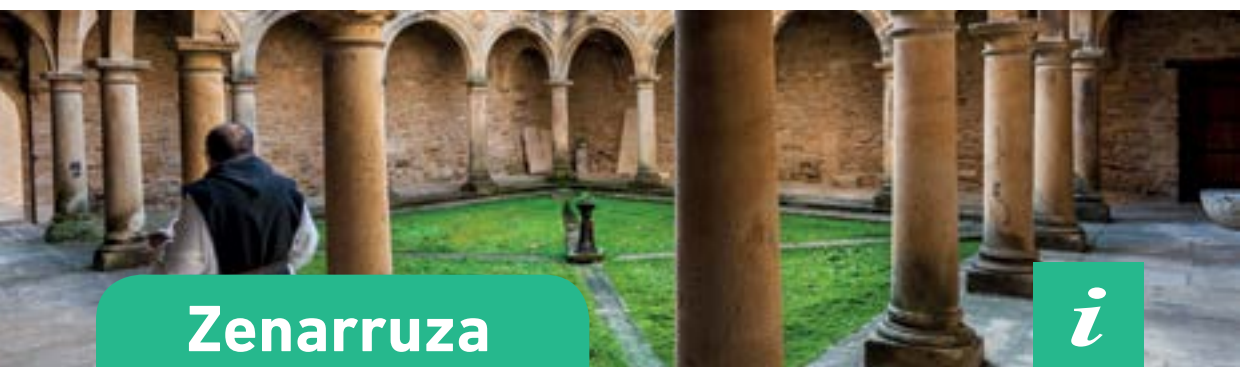


La Encartada

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Close to **Balmaseda**, this former factory turned museum allows visitors to see the entire industrial structure used to make berets (**txapelas** in Basque). It is a reflection of society at the time the factory was operating.

The museum's gift shop sells berets of all colours. An essential sight to see.



Zenarruza

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On the way to **Bolivar**, you'll find the **Collegiate Church of Ziortza** also known as the **Zenarruza Monastery**. It's an important historic and artistic monument on the **Primitive Northern Way of St. James** with a notable plateresque cloister, the only one in Bizkaia. It is a Cultural Heritage Site of the Basque Country. It has an inn that is open year-round, except on Christmas Day.



Urkiola

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At **Urkiola Natural Park** you can hike, rock climb, rappel, or trek. On its slopes you'll find the **Sanctuary of Santos Antonios** (Abad and Padua). In front of it, there is a stone that, according to popular belief, is a meteorite with special powers; if walk around it three times, you'll soon find a partner. The area has a number of inns, hostels, and restaurants.



Armañón

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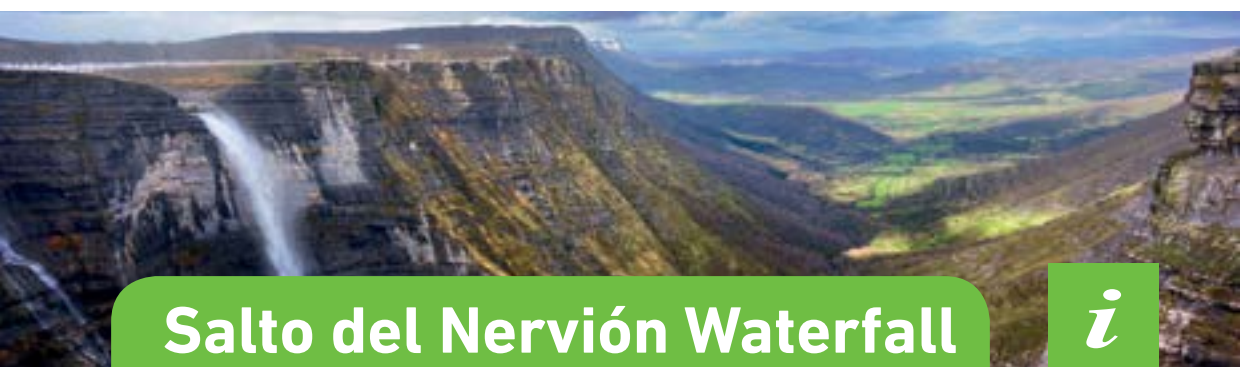
This mountain range serves as the border with neighbouring Cantabria. It notably contains 854-metre tall **Mount Armañón**. The area has over 200 caves and chasms, including the impressive **Pozalagua Cave**.



Gorbeia

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Gorbeia Natural Park is the largest nature reserve in the Basque Country. The park is home to a mountain of the same name, **Gorbeia**, which, at 1,842 m, is the tallest in Bizkaia. At the top, you'll find an 18-metre-tall cross, the symbol of the park.



Salto del Nervión Waterfall

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The horsetail waterfall is almost 300 metres tall. You'll need to climb the **Orduña pass**. Once at the top, you can park and walk along the forest trail. Follow the **Fuente Santiago-Salto del Nervión** route. Important: the best time to see the waterfall is during the rainy season or while the ice in the mountains is melting.



Iron Belt

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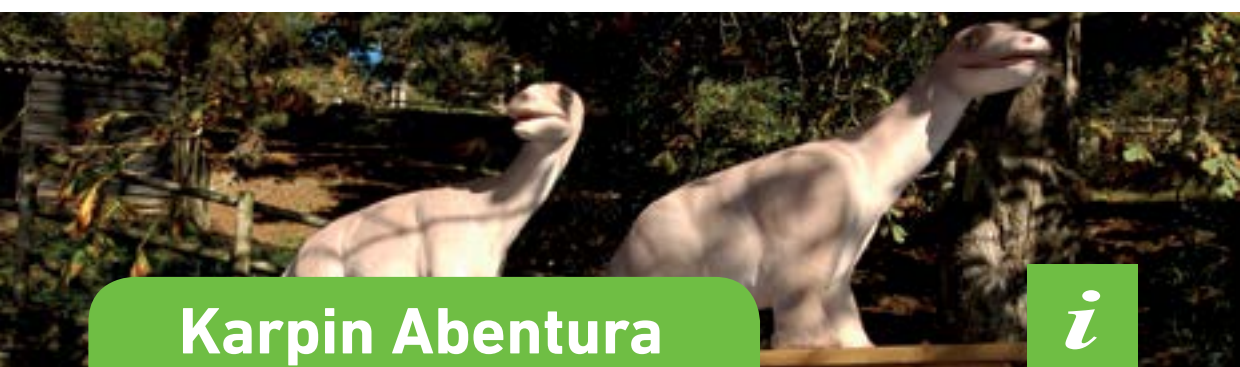
This route follows the remains of fortifications built to **defend Bilbao**, the industrial area, and the port during the Spanish Civil War. They are bunkers, guard posts, and machine gun nests.



Way of St. James

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Bizkaia and Bilbao are part of the **Coastal or Northern Way of St. James**. One of the longest-standing pilgrimage routes, the way passes through seaside towns and inland areas, and even passes through the centre of Bilbao.



Karpin Abentura

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This is a **wild animal shelter** whose tour will also take you back to the Jurassic, following the footsteps of dinosaurs. It is a family-oriented responsible tourism establishment where you can learn how to act in nature and make a commitment to sustainability.



Basondo

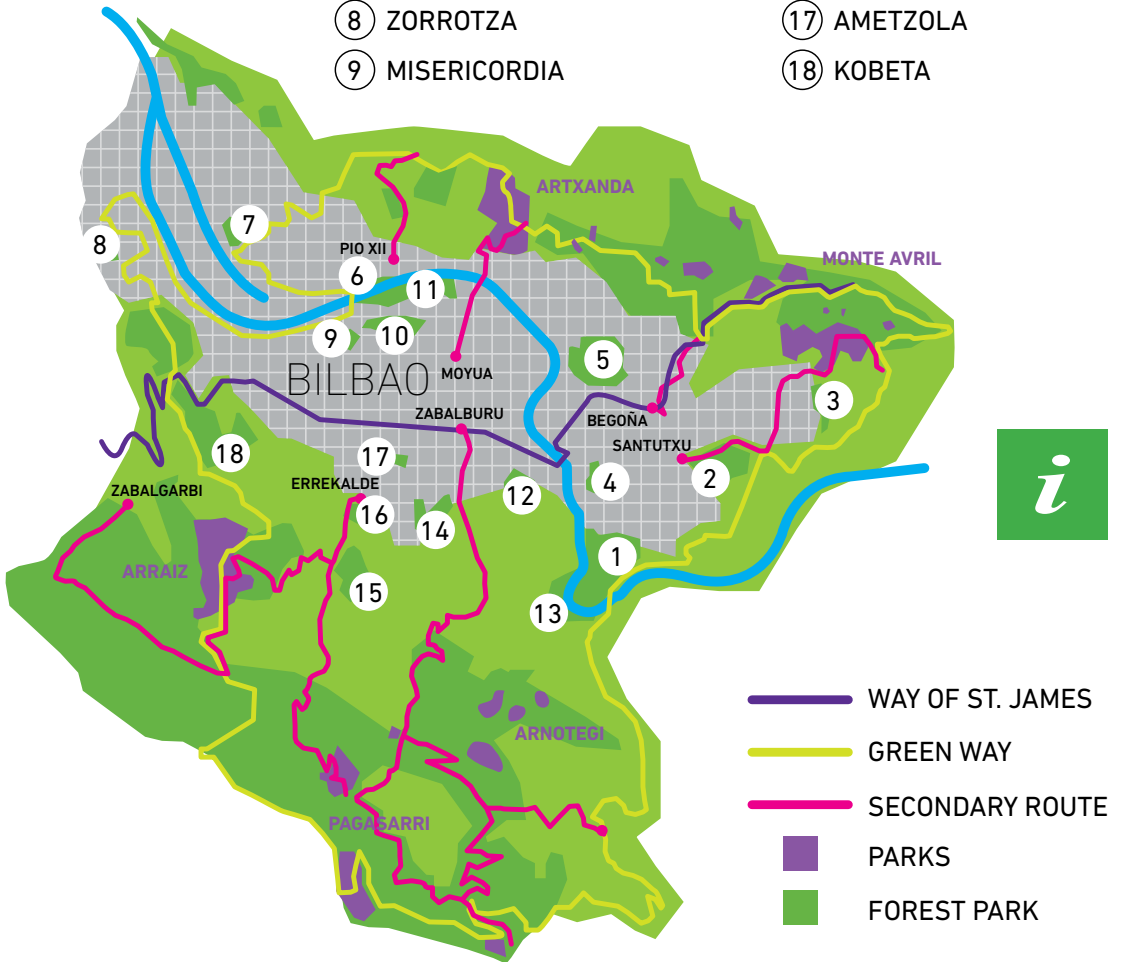
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Within Urdaibai lies this 60,000 m² park, which is a refuge for endangered wildlife. It offers an interesting experience for the whole family.

Nature Walks Bilbao Green Way

URBAN PARKS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ① LARREAGOBURU | ⑩ CASILDA ITURRIZAR |
| ② EUROPA | ⑪ ABANDOIBARRA |
| ③ IRUMINETA | ⑫ MIRIBILLA |
| ④ BEHARTSUEN SENIDETXOEN | ⑬ ABUSU |
| ⑤ ETXEBARRIA | ⑭ IRALA ESKURTZE |
| ⑥ BOTIKAZAR | ⑮ ERREKALDE |
| ⑦ SARRIKO | ⑯ ERREKALDE PLAZA |
| ⑧ ZORROTZA | ⑰ AMETZOLA |
| ⑨ MISERICORDIA | ⑱ KOBETA |





Basque Pelota

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A well-known Basque sport that has been exported around the world. There are a number of modes including **pelota mano (hand pelota)**, **cesta punta (jai alai)**, **remonte (played with a shallower basket than the one used in jai alai)**, **pala (played with a paddle)**, etc. Most towns in the Basque country have a frontón where the game is played and there are exciting competitions year-round. If you're so bold, you can even try your hand at a match.



Rural Sports

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These sports, known in Basque as **herri kirolak**, are referred to as "rural" because of their origins in the work done in the country. The most well-known are **aizkolariak** (wood chopping), **harrijasotzaileak** (stone lifting), **segalariak** (scything), and **sokatira** (tug-of-war).



Folklore and Identity

Basque identity is defined by folklore, music, and musical instruments including the **txistu**, the **alboka**, the **dultzaina**, the **txirula**, and the **trikitixa** (diatonic accordion). Players of the traditional percussion instrument the **txalaparta** create sound by striking sticks against wooden blocks.

See cultural events calendar.



Festivals and Markets



There are festivals and markets in Bizkaia towns year round. Ensure your stay coincides with one of them and immerse yourself in the authentic festive ambience oozing cultural heritage. They say markets are the best way to get to know a people.



Inland Products

Idiazabal D.O. or carranzana sheep's cheese, Gorbeia honey, txakoli from Bizkaia, gourmet canned goods from the Cantabrian Sea, Zall red onions, peppers and beans from Gernika, sweets including cocotes from Markina, ori-baltzak from Gernika, mantecada cakes from Orduña, carolinas, marshmallow hard candy are all on the endless list with something to please all tastes.



Pintxos



These miniature delicacies are one of the specialities you absolutely must try. Many bars throughout the province and the capital city dazzle with majestic traditional and creative pintxos ready to be paired with an excellent txakoli from Bizkaia. Irresistible.

TOURISM BILBAO www.bilbaoturismo.net

BIZKAIA (BISCAY) TOURISM www.visitbiscay.eus

BASQUE COUNTRY TOURISM www.turismo.euskadi.eus/en

NEKATUR/AGROTOURISM 943 327 090 · www.nekatur.net

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· Plaza Circular, 1 Edificio Terminus

· Alameda de Mazarredo 66

AIRPORT 944 031 444

BIZKAIA

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BALMASEDA – ENKARTUR

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BARAKALDO BEC (Bilbao Exhibition Centre)

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BERMEO

946 179 154 · www.bizibermeo.eus

DURANGO

946 033 938 · www.turismodurango.net

ELORRIO

946 820 164 · www.visitelorrio.com

GERNIKA-LUMO

946 255 892 · www.gernika-lumo.net

GETXO

944 910 800 · www.getxo.eus

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946 774 348 · www.gorliz.eu

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SANTURTZI

944 839 494 · www.turismo.santurtzi.net

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944 065 519 · www.turismo.sopelaudala.org

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946 504 750 · www.sopuerta.biz

TRUCIOS-TURTZIOZ

946 109 604 · www.turtzioz.org

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INFORMATION 010

(for calls within the Bilbao area)

944 010 010 (for calls outside of the Bilbao area)

CONSULAR OFFICE

944 706 426

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www.aena.es

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Ferry Bilbao-Portsmouth 902 108 147

www.brittanyferries.es

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Abando Indalecio Prieto Station (Renfe)

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Metro line 3 (EUSKOTREN)

Zazpikaleak · 944 333 333

www.euskotren.eus

Concordia Station; FEVE Bilbao

Calle de Bailén 2 · 912 320 320

www.renfe.com/viajeros/feve

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www.bilbao.eus/bilbobus

Bizkaibus (Coaches and buses, province and airport)

946 125 555 · www.bizkaia.eus

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944 269 026 · www.radiotaxinervion.com

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MUSEUMS IN BILBAO

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO MUSEUM

www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus

FINE ARTS MUSEUM

www.museobilbao.com

DIOCESAN SACRED ART MUSEUM

www.eleizmuseoa.com

ITSASMUSEUM BILBAO

www.itsasmuseum.eus

EASTER PROCESSION MUSEUM

www.museodepasosbilbao.com

BILBAO BULLFIGHTING MUSEUM

www.plazatorosbilbao.com

BASQUE MUSEUM

www.euskalmuseoa.eus

REPRODUCTIONS MUSEUM

www.bilbokoberreginenmuseoa.eus

ATHLETIC CLUB MUSEUM

www.athletic-club.eus

BASQUE LANGUAGE INFORMATION CENTRE

www.azkuefundazioa.eus

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus/arkeologimuseoa

NATURAL SPACES

URDAIBAI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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946 870 402 (Ihobe) · www.ekoetxea.eus

GORBEIA NATURAL PARK

Information Centre

946 739 279

www.areatza.net

www.gorbeiaeuskadi.com

URKIOLA NATURAL PARK

946 814 155 · www.urkiola.net

ARMAÑÓN NATURAL PARK

946 806 257 688 884 330

www.visitenkarterri.com

MUSEUMS IN BIZKAIA

ON THE COAST

FISHING MUSEUM Bermeo

www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus/arrantzaleenmuseoa

ITSASMUSEUM BILBAO Bilbao

www.itsasmuseum.eus

PLASENTIA DE BUTRÓN MUSEUM Plentzia

www.museoplentzia.org

RIALIA MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY Portugalete

www.portugalete.org/ES-ES/RIALIA

SANTURTZI INFORMATION CENTRE

ITSASOA / AGURTZA FISHING BOAT

INFORMATION CENTRE Santurtzi

www.turismo.santurtzi.net

BIZKAIA BRIDGE Las Arenas (Getxo) /Portugalete

www.puente-colgante.com

LEKEITIO MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

www.faro-lekeitio.org

TXAKOLINGUNEA - TXAKOLI WINEMAKING

EXHIBITION Bakio

www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus/txakolingunea

URDAIBAI BIRD CENTRE

www.birdcenter.org

EKOETXEA URDAIBAI

www.ekoetxea.eus

INLAND

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www.enkartermuseoa.eus

EL POBAL FORGE Sopuerta

www.visitenkarterri.com

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www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus/euskalherriamuseoa

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Gernika-Lumo · www.museodelapaz.org

GERNIKA ASSEMBLY HOUSE

Gernika-Lumo · www.gernika-lumo.net

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www.berango.net