Crossroads of Culture

In Bilbao the local takes on universal significance

The maximum expression of art: Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and much more

• A distinctive, differentiated heritage that defines an identity
• Museums for all tastes
• The sound of music on every corner
• A universe of cultural events that look out on the world
You will be delighted to attend:

60. Opera, in the key of song
61. Renovated classics
62. The beat goes on
63. Film, all the genres
64. Theatre, the curtain raises
65. On special dates
66. A dramatised passion
67. Basque Fest
68. Going to the fair

You will be thrilled to join in:

46. Art District, showcase for the world
47. Spaces for creation
48. Idiomatic tourism
49. Basque Euskera dictionary

You will love shopping:

57. Design for the world
58. Made In Euskadi
59. Culture off the shelf
60. On the street and second hand

You will adore the food:

62. Dishes in the firmament
63. Creative cooking
64. From the real Bilbao
65. Slowfood
66. Urbanmenu
67. Cuisine of the world
68. Learn having fun
69. Pintxos and tastings

You will be enchanted by walking:

24. Paseo de la Memoria
25. Land Art, art surrounded by nature
26. Urban walks through greenery
27. Through the window
28. Bilbao's lookouts
29. Camino de Santiago, coastalizing

You will be delighted to visit:

6. Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
7. A museum that has become an icon
8. The fine arts
9. Get to know us through our museums
10. A 21st century heritage

History in stone and brick:

30. The Old Quarter, heritage that looks to the skies
31. Medieval villages and maritime villages
32. Taken together, a historical and artistic heritage
33. Each one unique in itself

This card is your passport to savings and convenience when planning your stay in Bilbao; use it for public transport, museum and theatre tickets, restaurants, shops and other leisure activities. Request one in any Tourism Office or at:

www.bilbaoturismo.net

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Everything you can’t miss in 10 ideas

USEFULINFO
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Addresses, telephone numbers, links... know it all
Bilbao and Bizkaia are committed to culture in all its faces. That both have become benchmarks is evident wherever you go. You will see for yourself when you stroll through the streets and plazas meeting works by great artists at every turn and when you visit the museums, art galleries and historical heritage sites anchored by the roots of history... You will have the chance to attend events with sophisticated mise-en-scène participate in the numerous activities that define this land endowing the character it so proudly displays with meaning. You know that the cult of the culinary arts also forms part of this rich culture... treat yourself to a taste of the thousand and one ways it is expressed. And since design displays all its glamour, here's your chance to let yourself go and buy culture that abounds wherever you look in the form of craft work, music, painting, etc.
You will be thrilled to visit

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

A museum that has become an ICON

Since it opened in 1997 the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao has aspired to be an international benchmark, collecting works from the most representative contemporary currents. The importance of the Museum is such that its construction marked a watershed in the life of the town. You are going to visit a cultural and artistic icon of Bilbao. Frank Gehry’s spectacular architecture encloses a collection of art works that in themselves define the quality of this magnificent centre. Sculptures by Serra, Chillida, Oteiza and Cristina Iglesias coexist with paintings by Saura, Kiefer, Barceló, Tápies, Schnabel and Warhol.

www.guggenheim-bilbao.es

Apart from the collections inside, the surroundings have their own particular interest. Check out Jeff Koons’ Puppy and Bourgeois’ impressive spider.

www.guggenheim-bilbao.es
The fine ARTS

Since it was opened 100 years ago the Bilbao Fine Arts Museum has constantly confirmed the excellence of its holdings, collecting a heritage of more than ten thousand works including paintings, sculpture, works on paper and the applied arts. Ancient, modern and contemporary art converge here along with paintings from the Spanish and Flemish schools and the largest collection by Basque artists.

A wander through its rooms is a chronological journey from the 13th century to the present day. You will be able to see outstanding works by Bermejo, Benson, De Vos, El Greco, Ribera, Rusiñol, Zurbarán, Van Dyck, Delaunay, Derain, Matisse, Picasso, Bacon, Barceló... among many other major artists.

The collection of Basque painters held by the Bilbao Fine Arts Museum, its documentary holdings and research achievements make it the world benchmark in the field.

www.museobilbao.com

The Basque ethnicity school was composed of artists who were able to capture the characteristic spirit of this people. Some examples are Ignacio Zuloaga, Aurelio Arteta, the Arrúe brothers (Alberto, José, Ramiro and Ricardo), the Zubiaurre brothers (Valentín and Ramón), Benito Barrueta and José María Ucelay, among many others. In sculpture the works of Jorge Oteiza, Eduardo Chillida and Agustín Ibarrola leave us the testimony of their relevance.

A GOOD IDEA!
If you are interested in prehistory, the permanent display of the Museum of Archaeology takes you back to the beginnings of human occupation of these lands more than 100,000 years ago.

The Basque Museum (archaeological, ethnographic, and historical) is located in the former San Andrés College and has an interesting cloister and a collection that traces the history of the Basque people.

The Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art contains hundreds of works of great artistic value from the Middle Ages to the present day.

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

The Ría de Bilbao Maritime Museum is closely linked to the maritime tradition of the village and disseminates the history, culture, and identity of the people who have lived in a close relationship with the Ría.

Naturally there are other emblematic museums such as the Athletic Club Museum, the Bullfighting Museum or the Pasos de Semana Santa (Stations of the Cross) Museum... Choose whichever coincides with your interests.

If you are interested in learning about the culture of this people, the best way is to visit the Basque Ethnographic Museum, which adds collections that trace the maritime, industrial, and agricultural past of the Basque Country to the intrinsic interest of the building in which they are housed.

You can also visit the Vintage and Classic Car Museum at Galdames where you can see a magnificent range of 75 luxurious classic cars of which forty-five are Rolls Royces in what is the biggest private collection of the marque in the world.

On the coast, the Museum of the Bermeo Fishermen displays the reality of the Basque fishing ports, the life and customs of the “arrantzales” and their guild associations, the vessels and the navigation techniques.

The Agurtza fishing boat is one of the last of the traditional wooden fishing vessels remaining on our coasts. Now used as the Fishing Interpretation Centre, it shows what life was like aboard and the way the fishing gear was used.

The rest of the province also has places where you can follow the traces of this people. The Museum of Peace in Gernika-Lumo will bring home the reality of the bombardment during the Civil War and aspires to be a symbol of peace.

La Encartada, in Balmaseda, is a former beret factory that dates back to 1892. Today it is a museum that immerses us in the era of the Industrial Revolution.

The Museum of Nationalism, a unique institution, tells of the life and times of Sabino Arana until the Statute of Gernika.

The Mining Museum of the Basque Country in Gallarta, the Museum of Art and History in Durango, the Simon Bolivar Museum in Zortzako Bolibar, among others, are part of a wide variety that will help you learn about the key aspects of this people.

You can also visit the Museum of Ironwork in El Pobal, in the interior, a traditional workshop where the bulk iron was converted into wrought metal to make all kinds of objects.

*All the museums are listed on page 70
Cutting edge, eclectic architecture, groundbreaking at all costs... the new image of Bilbao has been shaped by the deployment of new forms. This new reality has been shaped by proposals such as those of Moneo and Siza’s design for metropolitan Bilbao, César Pelli’s 165 metre-high, smart Torre Iberdrola, Norman Foster leaving its mark on the ultra-modern metro, Frank Gehry displaying all his imagination in the spectacular Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Javier Mariscal creating the Hotel Domine, Isozaki building his twin Towers, Pelli and Robert Stern designing the Abandoibarra shopping centre, Federico Soriano y Dolores Palacios giving life to the Euskalduna Palace and the Plaza Bizkaia building, Alvaro Siza building the auditorium of the University of the Basque Country, Rafael Moneo with the library of the University of Deusto, César Azkarate delineating the San Mamés Stadium... ...and counting from an industrial powerhouse to a surprising cosmopolitan urban development.

Everywhere you look you’ll find a signature architecture by the most renowned international figures. Follow the route and see for yourself the effort that has been made to transform the city into a centre of art and culture. You will be surprised to find such a concentration in such a small space.

You will be delighted to visit Crossroads of 21st century heritage a GOOD IDEA!
The impulse that marked the thriving economy shows its diversity in constructions such as the beautiful Montero mansion with its refined modernist aesthetics. The magnificent homes being built in areas such as the Gran Vía are another example of the wealth being generated by the ebullient industrial movement and include buildings such as the Sota and Lezama-Leguizamón buildings. The Concordia Station, a modernist construction considered one of the finest survivors of the Belle Époque in Bilbao, is a remarkable building located alongside the Ría.

The Artklass building, with its mixture of eclecticism and modernity, is part of Bilbao’s wave of transformation. It was designed by Robert Krier and Marc Breitman.

The Chávarri mansion in the Plaza Moyúa is a reliable indicator of the prosperity of the times.

Although it looks as if it were built in the 21st century, the Artklass building is part of Bilbao’s wave of transformation. It was designed by Robert Krier and Marc Breitman.

The new Bilbao has made shouldered its way among the buildings with a development that has always taken pride in architecture meant to cause an impact. Take the Artklaas Zentroa (Alhóndiga Bilbao) for example: behind a nineteenth century façade it actually houses one of the most modern venues in the city. This multi-purpose space devoted to culture, catering and leisure is the work of Philippe Starck and Lorenzo Baraldi. The Provincial Council building in the Gran Vía, the work of Luis Aladrén, is one of the best examples of late 19th century eclecticism. And opposite the Euskalduna Congress and Concert hall El Tigre (the tiger), by Lucarnini, seems to roar at the Bilbao bourgeoisie to get even for a clash between them and the owner of the company.
The charm of wandering around the old quarter where Bilbao was born.

The most typical parts of Bilbao are the 7 Calles, the core from which the city began to grow around the year 1300. This district contains the emblematic San Antón Church, which, accompanied by its bridge, figures on the City’s coat of arms. Next door, although now renovated, you will find the Ribera Municipal Market, the biggest in Europe by covered area, that still conserves an air of being the only “proper one”. Another building that marks the character of the old quarter is the beautiful Santiago Cathedral, named after the town’s patron saint. The Plaza Nueva, the oldest and most popular in the City is located nearby. If you approach the area called Calzadas de Mallona you will see the beginning of a climb that rises to the Basilica of Our Lady of Begoña, the “amatxu” as the patron saint of Bizkaia - first adopted by sailors - is fondly called.
The rich artistic and historical heritage of inland Bizkaia is complemented by surroundings of exceptional beauty. Places like Elorrio, a town crammed with stately houses, mansions emblazoned with coats of arms and funerary steles, among which the necropolis of Arrieta stands out.

Otxandio was founded by Diego López de Haro to protect the route that connected the meseta of Castile with the Basque coast. The Church of Santa Marina, the square with its baroque town hall declared a national heritage site, the Hermitage of San Antonio and the Cross of Urigoiena are all noteworthy.

The casco viejo of Durango retains its medieval structure and its architectural heritage includes the Puerta de Santa Ana, the Church of Santa María de Uribarri and the Cross of Kurutziaga from the late fifteenth that represents the tree of the cross.

Do not miss the town of Balmaseda, linked to the mining activity of the area, Las Encartaciones, where the magnificent Puente Viejo is a must. In the medieval old quarter or casco viejo there are two outstanding churches: San Severino and San Juan, without forgetting the convent of Santa Clara, today a hotel.

If you are interested in exploring one of the most admired fishing villages you can’t do better than Lekeitio. The spectacular Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption stands out in a casco viejo crammed with stately houses, tower mansions and the houses of the fishing community.

The medieval origin of Plentzia endows it with a delightful casco viejo of narrow streets in which the church of Santa María Magdalena stands out. The bridge designed by Santiago Calatrava crosses the river.

Getxo has an interesting artistic, historical and natural heritage such as the Paseo de las Grandes Villas with its stately homes and mansions. Be sure to visit the Bizkaia Bridge in Las Arenas. It is a World Heritage Site. If you would like postcards or photos with a maritime touch, you will find the old port charming.

The maritime atmosphere of Bermeo extends to its old quarter loaded with atmosphere, character and tradition. The Torre de Ercilla, a national heritage site now devoted to the Fishing Museum, towers over the old port. The neoclassical church of Santa María is also worth a visit.
AREATZA
Located on the lower slopes of Mount Gorbea, its old quarter leads us through narrow cobbled streets between houses with a typical Basque flavour due to their singularity.

MARKINA-XEMEIN
When strolling around the old quarter with its medieval layout, take note of the Carmelite convent and church (convente / iglesia del Carmen), the Sortalekua, Andoregi and Ansotegi mansions, the Antxu tower mansion and the old Town Hall. Don’t miss the unusual Chapel of San Miguel de Arretxina that houses three gigantic rocks that protect the image of the saint.

UGAO MIRAVELLES
Located in a narrow valley through which the Nervión flows, the points of historical interest are the Chapel of Our Lady of Udiarraga in the town centre and a group formed by the Church of San Bartolomé, the Town Hall and Jane mansion.

PORTUGALETE
The casco viejo of this maritime enclave is, along with the Bizkaia Bridge, the main point of interest. Of the historical buildings in this medieval quarter the Basilica of Santa María, a mixture of the Gothic and Renaissance styles, is the most notable. The Torre de los Salazar dating from 1379 stands next to it.

CASA DE JUNTAS FROM GERNIKA
It is the seat of the highest institutional body of Bizkaia and, along with the mythical oak, a symbol of the Basque people and meeting place of the Councils of the Fiefdom of Bizkaia since Medieval times. Today the sessions of the General Assemblies of Bizkaia are held here.

MONASTERY OF ZENARRUZA
An important point on the Camino de Santiago Coastal Route during the Middle Ages and especially during the Renaissance, this former abbey is one of the treasures of the region. The monastery includes a Gothic-Renaissance style 15th century church with a notable plateresque altarpiece on the main altar.

The Sala de la Vidriera (stained glass roof) is famous, and the roof makes reference to the ancient assemblies and the oak tree under the shade of which acts as significant as taking office and swearing in the Lehendakari (prime minister of the Government of the Basque Country) take place.

The ensemble is completed by a beautiful cloister dating from the mid 16th century and the premises devoted to communal life such as the abbot’s houses, those of the tenants and the frater house.

You will be delighted to visit Crossroads of 21 20

A HERITAGE taken together
The castle you see here is also known as the Castle of the Empress Eugenia de Montijo because she and her husband, Emperor Napoleon III of France, were responsible for reconstructing the tower as a gesture of gratitude to the General Assemblies of Bizkaia for naming their son Eugene “of Bizkaian origin”. Thus the Arteaga Castle, that now houses a hotel, was restored to its beautiful setting of the Ría de Urdaibai. Of less historical significance but equally stately is the Butrón Castle, originally a tower-mansion that ended up being converted into a castle in the 19th century in accordance with the criteria of the times.

The great caves of Bizkaia are second to none. When you see the Versailles Hall in the Pozalagua cave in Karrantza you will immediately understand the reason for the name. This unique scenario houses the largest concentration of eccentric stalactites in the world. They adopt capricious, intertwining shapes that crystallise in any direction. This cave won the “best Spel. 2013” distinction. The Santimamiñe Cave is considered the most important archaeological site in Bizkaia and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008. It bears the traces of human settlement dating back more than 14,000 years and contains numerous cave paintings of remarkable beauty portraying bison, horses, a deer and a bear.

The magnificent Spanish-Flemish Gothic altarpiece of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption in Lekeitio is an outstanding example of religious art. In Mundaka the church of Santa María, a superb example of Gothic-Renaissance transition, watches over the sea from the headland.

Considered the arc de triomphe of the new industrial civilization, the Bizkaia Bridge, the world’s first steel shuttle structure, was constructed to unite the two banks of the Nervión estuary without hindering navigation. The Bridge, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006, is one of the main symbols of the identity of Bizkaia. Crossing the river in its gondola or by the upper walkway is an unforgettable experience not to be missed.
Paseo de la Memoria

Open air creativity is also present in the new Bilbao. The *Paseo de la Memoria*, that forms part of the urban regeneration of the Abandoibarra, designed by López Chollet, is a perfect example. This innovative space, a museum garden that runs around the entire city from the La Naja pier though Ripa and Unibatarte to Olabetaga.

The most representative contemporary sculptors dot Abandoibarra with their open-air works: Dalí, Chillida, Koons, Bourgeois, Kapoor, Novatt, Vádés, Klein, Garraza, Larrea, Zugasti and Nakaya, among many others... you will see a plethora of stimulating works on your outing as they decorate corners, squares and promenades. Strolling through so much art is enticing.

Enchanted is the only word to describe the Bosque de Osma “Oma Forest” in Kortezubi. The 47 trunks painted by Agustín Ibarrola form images that change and combine as you walk. The botanic park of **Arenatzarte** combines art and nature with numerous sculptures by leading contemporary artists in a natural setting. Among others you can contemplate works by the Roscubas brothers, Angel Garraza, Koldobika Jauregi...

The Park of the Peoples of Europe, next to the Assembly House in Gernika-Lumo, is another setting shared by art and nature. Sculptors by Eduardo Chillida and Henry Moore are dotted throughout the landscape amidst an extensive variety of trees.
You will be enchanted by WALKING Crossroads of 21 parks now comprise the green zones of Bilbao. The Paseo del Arenal is closely linked to the Casco Viejo by its proximity and by tradition. On the same side of the Ría you will find the Campo Volantín, a pleasant walk surrounded by elegant buildings to arrive at the Universidad de Deusto. The Doña Casilda park next to the Museum of Fine Arts is a favourite with the people of Bilbao. It is an ideal leisure site with a wide variety of wooded areas and places apt for bike riding, gymnastic exercise, etc.

Take the tram and enjoy a tour of the Casco Viejo and the new Bilbao. From the core of its origins to the metropolitan setting. The evolution of the city is a fascinating trip through history.

Through the WINDOW
Take a tram ride and you will see the change that has taken place in Bilbao through the windows. In Atxuri, your first stop, you will be near the church of San Antón, one of the most popular in the city. You will pass the Ribera Municipal Market and the bridge to arrive at the Arriaga Theatre next to the Arenal. Crossing the River at Plaza Circular with its statue of the founder of Bilbao Don Diego López de Haro, the tramway now runs through the heart of the renovation of the city, a setting dominated by the works of architects of worldwide prestige: the Zubizuri Bridge, the Torres Isozaki, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. You are in the part of the city known as the urban regeneration, Abandoibarra. Buildings such as the Iberdrola Tower, Deusto library, the auditorium of the UPV, the Euskalduna Conference and Concert Centre are concentrated in this area. Close by you can see the San Mames Stadium, EITB (the Basque broadcasting service), and the end of the route, in the Plaza de La Casilla.

A GOOD IDEA!
Urban walks full of GREEN
The site most popular with visitors and locals to get an excellent view of Bilbao is Monte Artxanda, a great place for a walk, accessible by car or by a funicular that will convey you to a peaceful environment with restaurants surrounded by nature.

A very interesting view is offered by La Salve bridge from the pillar on the other side of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. You can take the curious la Reineta funicular from the Trápaga Valley. Climb to the 1198 metres of the peak and you will enter an area that was once an active mining site. The lagoons you see are flooded excavations made during the extraction of iron ore. The funicular was originally a means of transporting supplies to the mining community.

In Bizkaia, the coastal route of the Camino de Santiago begins in Markina-Xemein, enters the gentle terrain of the Lea-Artibai and Busturialdea, runs through Gernika-Lumo and arrives in Bilbao by the route known as the Juradera.

From here it continues to Portugalete, through La Arena to Kobaron, where the Coastal Route ends before the Camino enters Cantabria.

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ÓPERA

Operas fans in Bilbao are in luck because the city is in the habit of welcoming the outstanding figures of “bell canto” on the world stage. The excellent programming of each season is proof of this. In this city, opera is a show for audiences from nine to ninety and for newcomers to the genre. The Opera Berri, (introductory) project offers well-known titles for new audiences with half-price tickets and performances at weekends.

The 62 years of the ABAO, Bilbao Association of Friends of the Opera

Known by its acronym, the ABAO is the product of the love of the public of Bilbao for cult music. More than 500 functions and programmes including the best voices of this century and the last have consolidated an association that aims to make Opera accessible to all. This spirit accessibility is reflected in ABAO’s slogan: “Opera for Everyone”. Enjoy it.
The Bilbao Symphony Orchestra (BOS) is the benchmark for classical music in the city. The love of the people of Bilbao for music is also evident in this sphere. The BOS was founded in 1922 and gave its first concert in the Arriaga Theatre. During 90 years it has been a dynamic force in the musical world of Bilbao, Bizkaia and in other parts of the world. In fact it often attends in international forums and tours. Spanish cities to such effect that it has earned the nickname of the 'Orchestra of the North'.

The soloists and conductors who have worked with the BOS are the measure of its musical accomplishment. These include Arthur Rubinstein, Mstislav Rostropovich, Joaquín Achúcarro, Nicanor Zabaleta, Narciso Yepes, Frank Peter Zimmermann and many more.

And as for voices: Victoria de los Angeles, Montserrat Caballé, Alfredo Kraus, Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Ainhoa Arteta, Waltraud Meier...

Musika-Música is a music festival and cultural event based on classical music that after 15 years has become an institution in Bilbao. It attracts all kinds of audience: new adepts, connoisseurs, the young and the elderly, and if your visit coincides with a performance you will understand why: the quality of its programmes, the works it selects, the artistic level of the performers and the affordable prices are sufficient explanation. Add to that the wonderful setting of the Euskalduna Concert Hall that enables up to 7 auditoriums to function simultaneously and you have the perfect combination for an enjoyable evening of the best music.
You can’t go wrong if you decide to take a stroll through the Oma Forest, Agustín Ibarrola’s masterpiece. And if you enjoy bike riding, take the 23 km route. A GOOD IDEA!

If you are more into spectacular concerts of rock and folk you are in luck because Bilbao gets its glad rags on in BBK Live, a multitudinous event that just gets better year after year. Next to the Casco Viejo, Bilborock holds youth events in the form of film, theatre, dance... Txapel Reggae in Armintza is a nation-wide phenomenon as is MAZ in Basauri, devoted to alternative music. BIME BEC enables Latin American and European industries to learn about the business opportunities that new technologies offer for the world of music. Inkestas Rock Festival, in Sopela, is one of the great venues of the Uribe-Kosta region. And of course in Bilbao’s fiestas, the Great Week brings nine days of great performances of all kinds. The choice is unlimited.

The live pop-rock scene in Bizkaia has festivals that attract massive audiences through a programme that just gets better every year. Put it on your agenda. A GOOD IDEA!

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You will be charmed to attend Crossroads of Culture.
As is proven year after year by the success of this festival, this land has a deep love of blues and jazz. The Getxo Jazz Festival and the Getxo Blues Festival are major musical events. The Bizkaia Blues-Jazz Circuit, a younger event, is consolidating its place on the scene with the participation of local and international groups.

And in Bilbao you have the Bilbaina Jazz Club, the initiative of a group of fans who aim to create a stable scenario on the international jazz circuit. Their goal is bringing top level proposals to the public without waiting for the summer festivals is achieved with weekly performances all year round. Here the music is enjoyed in an intimate atmosphere, as the highest quality jazz demands.

Plan your trip to coincide with any of the festivals held in the province. The lively atmosphere and excellent performers will leave you with some great memories.

You will be charmed TO ATTEND

Azkuna Zentroa (Alhóndiga Bilbao)

Multicultural

This original building, a former wine warehouse, declared of Cultural Interest, hides behind its classical façade an innovative and versatile space devoted to leisure and culture in a variety of forms. Refurbishing the Alhóndiga Bilbao, now known as the Azkuna Zentroa, was entrusted to the designer Philippe Starck, who has interpreted to perfection the modernist style of the building with the austerity of the new spaces. Stage designer Lorenzo Baraldi worked with Stark on the design of the atrium, one of the project’s outstanding features. The 41 columns symbolise ‘the infinity of cultures, architectures, wars and religions through which humanity has passed’. We guarantee that it will not leave you indifferent.
In summer, Getxo is filled with music, with three international festivals that gather fans to the beat of jazz, blues and folk. Make a note in your agenda if you will be here at the time.

In addition to the events already highlighted, Bizkaia is notable for its cultural richness and diversity. Bilbao Flamenco is held in September and presents features singers, guitarists and dancers. the Christmas Choral Music Festival provides practically all Bilbao’s choirs with the chance to perform for an appreciative public.

The Contemporary Theatre and Dance Festival -BAD- is held in Bilbao every autumn. It is held in various venues throughout the city and provides an excellent sample of avant garde scenic arts.

The International Music Week is held in Bermeo and includes concerts, chamber music, fado, orchestras... The Zenarruza Festival of Ancient Music, is another important event held annually that focuses on celebrated composers such as Bach, Monteverdi... The Portugalete Folklore Festival is centred on dance. Held in July, it brings dancers from all over the world to perform in the very centre of the town.

In tune with your tastes

You will be charmed to attend
FILM
ALL THE GENRES

ZINEBI, the well-established Bilbao International Short and Documentary Film Festival, is one of the most important and includes a host of special cycles, projections, workshops, debates, tributes, seminars...

Bilbao's festivals are noted for their variety and quality. The year begins with the Zinagoak, the Bilbao International Gay-Lesbo-Trans Film and Performing Arts Festival. FANT, the Bilbao Fantasy Film Festival, takes place in spring and features an international bill of fare. The International Invisible Film Festival "Film Sozialak", so called because it aims to show audiovisual productions usually excluded from the conventional screen due to censorship, fringe nature, etc., is held in autumn. Mendifilm, held in December, is the International Mountain Film Festival.

A GOOD IDEA!

You will be charmed TO ATTEND Crossroads of...
The performing arts scene in Bizkaia has a long and varied tradition. Year after year, local and international theatre companies bring a wide variety of shows for all kinds of audience. Whether you prefer classic or alternative theatre, dance, choral concerts, lyrical music, folklore in all its forms, clowns, puppets... everything has a place on the continuous programme offered by the Arriaga Theatre, the Campos Elíseos Theatre, La Fundición, Hacetsa, Bilborock and Aretoa and the Euskalduna Concert Hall in Bilbao. The Bilboko Kalealdia (Festival of Theatre and the Performing Arts) takes possession of the streets of the city. This diversity ensures that, no matter what time of year you come, you will always find a show to suit your tastes.

Bilbao in rich in cultural activities and artistic events expressed in a wide variety of forms. Here are a few examples:
- International Festival of Street Theatre in Lekeitio
- International Festival of Theatre in Santurtzi
- World Film, Street Art and Fair in Leioa
- International Festival of Clowns in Arrigorriaga

And although not all the theatres have continuous programmes; you can always find a performance of notable quality:
- Ermua Antzokia: film, music, theatre... continuous programme
- Serantzi Kultur Artea (Santurtzi): film, music, theatre... continuous programme
- Social Antzokia Baserri: film, music, theatre... continuous programme
- Biskaldi Antzokia Theatric: music, theatre... continuous programme
- Zalea-Zire Antzokia: music, theatre... not continuous programme
- Ibar Antzokia (Gernika-Lumo): film, music, theatre... not continuous programme
- Ibar Artea (Arrigorriaga): theatre, music... not continuous programme
- Merantzi Artea (Kuskotz): film... not continuous programme
- Heriker Basterentak Artea (Herriko): film... not continuous programme
- Zinebide Antzokia (Amorebieta): music, theatre, dance... not continuous programme
- Zorrotza Artea (Amandielalo): music, theatre, dance... not continuous programme
Celebrating The Great Week in Bilbao provides the opportunity to attend numerous high quality performances both in the streets and in the theatres. Don’t miss out!

A GOOD IDEA!

Aste Nagusia (Bilbao)

On special dates

Mari Jaia

If you would like to take part in an emblematic festivity in Bilbao you cannot do better than Santo Tomás, in December, where the best of the horticultural production and farm animals are on show, accompanied by thousands of people. San Blas celebrates his pilgrimage in the Arenal where the people buy rosquillas (sugar-coated cakes) and laces that are blessed in the church of San Nicolás with the aim of warding off sore throats. Two days later the festival of Santa Agueda, fills the streets of the Basque Country with choirs that accompany their songs by striking the ground with the poles they carry.

PASSION DRAMATISING THE EASTER

Easter can also be a fascinating occasion if it is as impressive as the Dramatised Passion of Balmaseda that the townspeople perform with spectacular realism. Easter is also special in Durango, the only dramatisation that takes place over three days in a performance that has its roots in the 17th century.

Easter in Bilbao involves more than 3,000 members of brotherhoods that commemorate the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus with processions through the streets of the city. The procession of the little donkey and the saetas that the people sing in the Calle de la Cortes are the key moments.

You will be charmed TO ATTEND

Crossroads of Culture
An identity as strong as that of the Basque people inevitably expresses itself in all cultural events, and does not neglect the avant garde. Put it on your agenda and see for yourself.

The Basque FEST is a meeting place for all the events that keep this ancient culture alive, in a dynamic, inclusive scenario that represents the spirit of the city today.

The festival programme draws on art, exhibitions, dance, street theatre, children’s entertainment, crafts, concerts, bertsolaria (improvised sung verses) the display and sale of Basque design, gastronomy and sports such as rowing and Basque pelota.

Basque FEST is a festival that unites traditional and avant garde culture in a pioneering event full of personality and talent. It takes place at Easter with a unique combination of tradition, creativity and innovation. It represents the image and lifestyle that Bilbao projects as a modern, cosmopolitan city that at the same time is proud of its special identity.

So if you want to experience a different Easter, Basque FEST is an excellent way to do it, a unique opportunity to enjoy an atmosphere and combines fiesta and culture with alternative events for all tastes and all ages.

To make it more accessible to all, the events organised by the City Council are free.
The local produce fairs, both horticultural and livestock, are common occurrences on the calendar in Bizkaia. They put the local market garden products and well-cared-for animals on show. Strolling among the multicoloured stalls while meeting the vendors who come to market their wares is an authentic pleasure. The atmosphere is so much more lively than a conventional commercial transaction due to the traditional festive air that is the living image of the popular culture.

The Durango Fair in December is the forum where the new editorial and recording works by Bizkaian recording and literary authors are presented. The wide cultural proposal for all types of public represented has made Durango into the meeting place for Basque speakers and aficionados, and also enables cultural associations and other social agents to present their new projects.

- Bizkaiko Dantzari Eguna (Basque dance day)
- Biskaiako Trikitixa Eguna (traditional accordion day)
- Bilbao Crafts Fair
- Getxo Comic and Manga Salon
- Bizkaia Choral day
- Spring concert season
- Children’s Christmas concerts...
- Breakonstage, International Urban Culture Festival
The city as it exists today is proud of its transformation and cosmopolitan appeal. From the Ría the perspective changes, adding a maritime touch to its urban character.

This fluvial artery, so much part of the history of the city, provides another perspective on the modern reality. A pleasant trip that can take you as far as the sea.

If you like water sports you might like to do some kayaking, paddle surf or rowing.

Touring Bilbao from the Ría is a chance to discover the past, present and future of a city in continuous metamorphosis. Bilboats can offer you several alternatives.

www.bilboats.com
Bilbao is determined to participate in everything the international art circuit can provide. The initiative to support artistic movements is evident in numerous spaces and events in the Bilbao Art District. You will see that the cultural agenda of galleries, establishments, museums and artistic associations is wide and varied. If you love culture, this is the place for you.

The Bilbao Art District is bounded by the Maritime Museum, the Albia gardens, the Paseo Abandoibarra and Colón de Larreategui as far as Calle Ercilla. This initiative is part of the urban approach that began with the opening of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, when art was institutionalised in the city, driving an avant-garde current that has positioned the city at the forefront of the international art scene.

This is a result of two concepts selected by Bilbao to guide its transformation into a benchmark for the international city of the 21st century: creativity and knowledge. The goal of driving the artistic identity of the Ensanche district by means of a quality cultural proposal has been reached.

www.bilbaoartdistrict.com

Get hold of the galleries and exhibitions catalogue and let yourself be captivated by the latest trends... you are sure to find something that suits your style.

www.zawp.org

Hacería Is a criterion that provides landmarks as diverse as: HACERIA jazz club, HACERIA flamenco club, HACERIA performing arts and English HAC.

www.bilbaoarte.org

In this context of culture and experimentation, Bilbao shines as a focus in which activities of all kinds take place. The Asociación Hacería Arteak is an initiative that provides landmarks as diverse as: HACERIA jazz club, HACERIA flamenco club, HACERIA performing arts and English HAC.

www.haceria.com

Young creators also have their space here: the Bilbao Arte artistic production centre places the means and infrastructure required to carry on their activity at their disposal.

www.bilbaooarte.org

ZAWP Bilbao (Zorrotzaurre Art Work in Progress) is an initiative of the Asociación Hacería and provides an innovative artistic focus for the transformation process of the neighbourhood where it is located, from industrial to leisure-oriented. It is a project that fosters interchange of ideas and provides new innovative, artistic, social and technological visions.

www.zawp.org

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www.bilbaooarte.org
BASIC DICTIONARY OF EUSKERA of the

TOURISM

Idiomatic

There is nothing better than speaking a few words of the language to approach the culture of a people. Learn terms like egun on: good morning, eskerrik asko: thank you, ez horregatik: you’re welcome... is a way of interacting with the people you will meet on your trip. Can you think of a better way to learn about the character of a people?

Bread: Ogi
Water: Ur
Coffee: Kafe
Wine: Ardo
Dessert: Pastre
The bill, please: Kontua, mesedez
Beach: Hondartzta
River: Ibai
Sun: Eguzki
Drizzle: Zirimiri
Museum: Museum
Street: Kale
Plaza: Eparantza
School: Ikastola
Police: Polizia, Ertzaina
No smoking: Ez erre
Casino: Baserri
Fiesta: Jaia
Beret: Txapel
Congratulations!: Zorionak!
Mother: Ama
Father: Aita
Grandfather: Aitona, aiitze
Grandmother: Amona, amama
Money: Diru
City: Hiru
Mount: Mendi
Week: Asto
Month: Hilabete
Spring: Udaberri
Summer: Uda
Autumn: Udazken
Winter: Negu

www.elhuyar.org
The change of course that Bilbao has undergone has brought with it an influx of businesses for which design is a key factor. These include: Tokio Story, a benchmark in interior design and decoration. Urbana 15, with the latest tendencies in its impressive showroom. Boffi Studio provides luxury kitchen and bathroom furnishings. Kartell works with international designers to create innovative objects. Global Bilbao has equipped the most emblematic buildings in the new Bilbao. Imatra specialises in the renovation of artistic production structures. Mobilarte carries out integrated projects: exterior and interior architecture. Atico 90 contributes a design concept in line with the contemporary world. Mosel supplies furnishings, kitchens and accessories from world-class international designers. Almoneda Campos combines decorative objects with party dresses in the purest Parisian style. Persuaide is a temple to avant-garde fashion. Martiz provides British fashion for the Bilbao of today.

In Skunkfunk, a shop specialising in garments oriented to the natural environment and sustainability, you will find locally designed and produced clothes and accessories. Loreak Mendian offers a different option as a benchmark brand on Fashion street. Zergatik dresses women who have fun with fashion and seek their own look. Traka Barraka provides fashion and accessories for the modern woman. Belaza Gallery is an «open» space that in addition to varied fashion items provides art, video and music. You will be sure to find something different that you love if you take a moment to visit them.

Taking something exclusive home has never been easier. You will find numerous shops to discover real gems in which design has had a hand.
In a city where culture is in the street it is logical that is also on the shelves of good bookshops and stores, some specialising in works by Basque authors, where you can also buy books of the world in superb editions. If you love losing yourself among books, take note of the following establishments that may interest you: Elkar, Cámara, Joker, Astarloa, Santos Ochoa, Anti, Kai, Boulanger, Binario, among others dotted around Bilbao. Power Records is a fine music shop.

Museums are also a good place to find unusual books. The shops of the Fine Arts Museum, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao or the Azkuna Zentroa (Alhóndiga Bilbao), are proof of this. These shops enable you to acquire exclusive cultural items and objects of design with that special touch of difference. Check it out.
Open your Ganbara (house), a street market based on collaborative consumption, takes place in the old Artiach factory on the last Sunday of each month. You can browse through its 2,000 m² and find all sorts of curiosities from the box rooms that are the source of the merchandise. It has space for amateurs and professionals in addition to an ambigu-relax zone with the free daily press and WiFi. It is a place where alternative life styles, young and old alike seek the magic of cultural connections that they can share.

A stroll along the Calle Dos de Mayo is a delightful experience on the first Saturday of each month. There is a very popular alternative market where the stalls alternate with live music performances.

Look around and rummage until you find that unusual and unexpected object that appeals to you. This country is very fond of open-air markets and second-hand shops that provide the opportunity of spending a pleasant moment in multifarious surroundings in search of a surprise. In Bilbao the Plaza Nueva, makes a classic street market where you can find stalls devoted to second-hand stamps, coins, pets, gems, books, records, and comics... Try it on a Sunday morning while you have a delicious glass of txakoli and a pintxo or two. The Bolueta market is held on Sunday mornings and there you can find second-hand articles, objects and clothes that are in good condition but are no longer used.
You will adore THE FOOD

DISHES the FIRMAMENT

A restaurant with a Michelin Star is distinguished by the care with which the menu is selected, the atmosphere, the excellent service and a superb setting. Give yourself a treat and find out what dining in heaven is like.

The devotion of this people to gastronomy is more than a legend. It is natural that this passion has resulted in the appearance of great culinary figures that enjoy international recognition, with establishments within and outside our frontiers. Their refinement, innovative capacity and love of detail have won them a unique distinction: Michelin Stars. With so many who are so good, it will be difficult to decide for the one that will take you to heaven.

One star restaurants in Bilbao include: Zortziko run by Daniel García; the Nerua with Josean Alija in the kitchen; the Etxanobe with Fernando Canales; the Mina with Álvaro Garrido and Lara Martín sharing the duties and the Zarate where Sergio Ortiz de Zarate rules.

Josean Alija (Nerua)

Alvaro Garrido (Mina)

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Josean Alija (Nerua)

Alvaro Garrido (Mina)

Michelin Stars are also found outside the urban area in selected settings where the natural beauty of Bizkaia enhances the atmosphere.

If you want to try a three-star restaurant in a captivating green setting, go to Larrabetzu where the Azurmendi restaurant under Eneko Atxa awaits you; with one star you have the Andra Mari in Galdakao run by Patxi Asúa; in Amorebieta you will find the Borao with Jabier Gartzia and in the spectacular Atxondo Valley the Asador Etxebarri, where Victor Arginzoniz does the honours.

In any of them you will have an unforgettable gastronomic experience.
The dishes that have brought fame to the traditional cooking of Bilbao—and by extension to typical Basque cuisine—are a sure-fire success. You will find them on the menus of countless restaurants: Abando, Apikale, Arandia de Julen, Artagan, Astillero Euskalduna, Baita Gaminiz in Alameda de Mazarredo, the Etxanobe under Mikel Población and Fernando Canales in the Euskalduna Conference Centre, the Yandiola with Ricardo Pérez in La Alhóndiga Bilbao and the Zárate in Licenciado Poza street.

The urban and social change occurring in Bilbao has fostered the appearance of modern restaurants that cater to this new reality. You will find good establishments with set menus and simple a la carte selections where the aesthetic aspects of the setting are an added ingredient.

The term itself suggests dining in an unhurried atmosphere where the pleasure of eating comes first. It is only logical that criteria like that would find fertile soil here. There are numerous restaurants that apply this new way of appreciating cuisine using local, seasonal ingredients to be enjoyed at each bite. Here are a few of them:

the Aizian in the Hotel Meliá Bilbao, Bascook run by Aitor Elizegi in Barroeta Aldamar, the Baita Gaminiz in Alameda de Mazarredo, the Etxanobe under Mikel Población and Fernando Canales in the Euskalduna Conference Centre, the Yandiola with Ricardo Pérez in La Alhóndiga Bilbao and the Zárate in Licenciado Poza street.

If your taste runs to international cuisine, you can enjoy a gastronomic tour of various countries in Bilbao. Shibui provides gourmet Japanese cuisine and you also have the Miu and the Mao, among others. The Hola Sushi&Pizza combines Italian and Japanese themes; La Fontana (Itrartorial), La Tagliatella, El Trastevebre, La Nicoletta, L’ancora... are all good examples of genuine Italian cooking. German cooking has its representative in the Paulaner Ein Prosit and Lúpulo. Latin America offers you its cuisine in the Asador Garuña Parrilla Argentina, El Café Leblón (Brazilian), Aji Colorado (Peruvian); El Placer de Guadalupe, De Boca Madre and la Cantina Tapachula offer Mexican food. If you are fond of Greek cooking, try Algo Diferente, and for great spicy Indian cooking the Gandhi is a good bet.

If you will adore THE FOOD Crossroads of CUISINE OF THE WORLD

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You will adore THE FOOD Crossroads of while having fun

If your passion for gastronomy goes beyond eating and you want to know the secrets of a chef with a Michelin Star, Daniel García, who runs the Zortziko, offers you the chance to take part in a cooking workshop where you can enrich your culinary skills. You will talk directly to the chef while you prepare plates that you can try later. You can join master classes, show cookings, tastings, wine matchings... as you like it.

Enjoy a Lyrical Dinner in the Ibaigane restaurant in the Bilbao Casino where you will partake of an exquisite meal while listening to live performances by great lyrical singers.

A GOOD IDEA!

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In this country, gastronomy and friendship are inseparable as you will find out when you do a pintxo route, going from bar to bar.

Establishments in the Casco Viejo, Ledesma, Diputación, Poza, Espacio Guggenheim, Deusto and García Rivero districts compete to seduce you with a bar full of delicious morsels.

And since you are in Bilbao, take the opportunity to drink txakoli. The only txakoli made in the city is Munetabarri. Among the wineries, Berroja, Itsasmendi and the tavern-type Urbana stand out.
They are called TOP because they are the best of the best, worth visiting, tasting, comparing, enjoying... a compendium of experiences that cannot be missed because without them you will have missed something indispensable. Put them on your agenda and you will have plenty to talk about when you get home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art comes from within, GUGGENHEIM BILBAO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In addition to being an icon of the city, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is a place where you will find the ideal atmosphere to enjoy the best contemporary works of art in the world.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LAND ART</th>
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<tr>
<td>Walk around and breathe pure art</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Oma Forest, in Kortezubi, or Arenatzarte in Güeñes, are two good examples of this movement that connects art with nature. Breathe art.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ART DISTRICT</th>
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<tr>
<td>You will become familiar with prestigious artists in a district that has become an international benchmark for the 21st century metropolis.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CLASSICS for all tastes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The variety of shows in the city means that deciding will be the most difficult task. You have the ABAO opera programme, the symphony orchestras, dance, theatre... Let the show begin!</td>
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<tr>
<th>EUSKERA</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Basque language is a separate, ancient and peculiar tongue, the mystery of which is not confined to its unknown origin but extends to its survival in the heritage of the people. Learn a few words and feel like just another Basque.</td>
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<tr>
<th>BASQUE FEST, total identity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilbao organises a festival total identity unique in the Basque Country every spring. Immersing yourself in popular Basque culture in all its events is an authentic experience.</td>
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<tr>
<th>The FIESTA according to tradition</th>
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<tr>
<td>If you want to enjoy a city full of music, customs, folklore and great atmosphere, reserve time in August: The Great Week in Bilbao, “Aste Nagusia”, is waiting.</td>
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<tr>
<th>On your feet with BILBAO BBK LIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t miss a festival that attracts around 20,000 people per day every year. You mustn’t miss it if going to a concert is synonymous with enjoyment in your books.</td>
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<th>Dishes with STARS</th>
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<tr>
<td>The embodiment of the values and personality of a country is also recognised in the cuisine. Be a devil: dine at a signature restaurant or one with a Michelin star. The good table is ready!</td>
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BILBAO, GATEWAY TO THE BASQUE WORLD

From Bilbao you can visit numerous recognised places of interest on a round trip of less than two hours.

VITORIA–GASTEIZ
Rich in the historical heritage that inspired Van Gogh’s ‘the potato eaters’, the city is endowed with an Old Quarter of great beauty and with the Cathedral of Santa María. The Monasterio de San Millán and Bendaña manor houses, among others, imbue this beautiful city with its own personality.

ROJAS ALAVESAS
The wines of Rioja Alavesa have won international renown due to the passion of the winemakers for their work and the kindliness of the climate and soils. The historical wine growing legacy and the latest enological technologies do the rest.

BIARRITZ, CÔTE BASQUE
Its coat of arms shows its whaling origins, and in the 19th century it became the seaside resort par excellence. There it reached its peak when the Empress Eugenia, wife of Napoleon III, built the palace that is now the Hotel du Palais.

PAMPLONA
Pamplona shows traces of different cultures that have inhabited it in its monuments, squares and unique corners. To this artistic and historical heritage must be added its many pleasant parks that invite you to take a stroll. And the fiesta immortalised by Ernest Hemingway takes place in the midst of all this.
BILBAO TOURISM
Plaza Circular, 1 Edificio Terminus
944 795 760
www.bilbaoturismo.net