The Bizkaia coast

The mountains meet the sea

- Fishing, ports and maritime tradition
- 150 kilometres of coastline and 28 beaches to suit all tastes
- The left handed wave and lovers of surfing
- Urdaiabai, UNESCO World Heritage Site • Lighthouses and bird watching
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You will be delighted to visit

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Addresses, telephones, links... be in the know
The 150 kilometres of Bizkaia coast between Ondarroa and Muskiz offers an endless array of things to do: visit the picturesque fishing villages, travel through a coast shaped by the spectacular Cantabrian sea, join in the traditions that are still followed with such devotion, do all kinds of sports, buy and sample the delicious delicacies, traditional to this charming coast... A plethora of thrilling experiences that will mean you never forget your trip here.
You will be delighted TO VISIT its Soul

The FISHING VILLAGES

Charming villages with an authentic seafaring atmosphere

Start with Ondarroa, a port which lands some of the biggest catches of the Cantabrian region. Lekeitio stands out as an important tourist attraction as does Elantxobe for its dizzying drop down to the ocean. Mundaka, in the Biosphere Reserve of Urdaibai awaits, with its famous left handed wave. Nearby is Bermeo, the fishing village par excellence, with Cape Matxitxako and San Juan de Gaztelugatxe surprising all those who visit them. Armintza, Plentzia, Getxo, Santurtzi, Ziberea... will seduce you with their charms.
Rich heritage washed by the SEA

The seafaring atmosphere isn't the only attraction of the places you'll visit here, as well as strolling through beautiful, historic towns, you'll also find great historic treasures and monuments.

**Algorta old port.** A small area of Getxo which retains the feel of an authentic fishing village, with red, blue and green buildings and an unending atmosphere thanks to taverns and al fresco dining.

**Butrón Castle.** Near the town of Plentzia, looms this fortified structure, surrounded by forests, perfect for exploring.

**Portugalete old town.** Steep hills leading up from the quay and its famous hanging bridge. Brightly painted houses and an excellent market, here it’s all about “taste”.

**Bilbao.** Based around the River, the city has become emblematic for its avant-garde architecture, which coexists in perfect harmony with the traditional. Don’t miss.

**Bermeo.** If you want to get to know a real maritime population, Bermeo is the place for you. You’ll be surrounded by people speaking “Euskara”, the great linguistic heritage of the Basque people. Go on, why don’t you try a word or two?

**Santa María altarpiece in Lekeitio.** Dating from the beginning of the XVI century, this is the third biggest sculpted Gothic altarpiece in the peninsula, representing scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary, and based on an Andra Mari (Virgin Mary) from the XIV century.

**Ondarroa.** The old bridge, the old Fisherman’s Guild, and the Santa María Church, give a sense of history and elegance to the old river port. Today, its large catches make it one of the most important coastal fishing villages in the region.

**Gernika Assembly House.** With its legendary tree in front of the building, it represents the central plank of Basque identity. This neoclassical building is today the site for the Bizkaia General Assembly. Don’t miss the guided tour.

**Santurtzi.** The importance of the fishing industry can be seen in the town’s famous port and in a population which lives its life in tune with the sea.
Follow any of the delightful walks which run along its banks in both directions, visiting the emblematic buildings that you come across on your way. On the water, you can enjoy exciting sports like canoeing, rowing... or a boat trip down to the mouth of the river.

**THE River as it winds past the Guggenheim Bilbao**

O talk about Bilbao is to talk about the River... from its very beginnings, the town has been entwined with the River, it is even on the town’s shield, with the San Antón Bridge crossing its waters. On the banks of the River we find the old town founded over 700 years ago, with its Seven Streets, the Santiago Cathedral, as well as Plaza Nueva, and the Arenal... Thanks to its strategic position and navigability, the River can rightly claim to be one of Euskadi’s economic driving forces. The River maintains this importance in the city’s transformation, flowing freely through Bilbao’s totally regenerated zones and avant-garde architecture, fostering increased participation in sports, the enjoyment of open spaces... an artery bursting with life for everyone.
Every historical period represented through the city by a different bridge

The first is the bridge of San Antón, said to date from before Bilbao was founded. Still in the old town, we find the La Ribera Bridge, referred to in the song "No hay mundo lère, puente colgante lère..." (there is no more elegant bridge than the Hanging bridge) and the La Merced Bridge, also known as the bridge of good luck as it is believed that touching the sculptures of winged creatures on the lamp posts will bring good luck. Not forgetting the Arenal Bridge, which connected the two sides of the River, previously only linked by boat. We continue on to the two double leaf drawbridges: the Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) Bridge and the Deusto Bridge, which were opened to cope with increased industrial activity requiring the passage of large ships. Between these two bridges modern Bilbao is connected by the La Salve Bridge, where the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum has been built, along with two footbridges: Zubizuri and Pedro Arrupe. Finally we have the Euskalduna Bridge, whose name comes from the shipyards that previously occupied the site, now the home of the Concert Hall and Conference Centre.

Both of the riverbanks have their charms: the Campo Volantín with its mansions and residential areas and the bank with Paseo de la Memoria (the Memorial Walkway), from la Naja to Olabeaga, joined by the Zubizuri footbridge.
The sea here is "exhilarating"

As well as the natural richness and unquestionable value of the “flysch”, the Bizkaia coast offers other curious phenomena which demonstrate the area’s environmental diversity. One of those are the Astondo Dunes, in Gorliz, a huge sand dune created by the action of the sea and the winds blowing in from the north. The variety of fossilised dunes, 6,000 year old rocks made of petrified sand, have led to a revaluing of the importance of this area, now designated a Site of Community Importance (SCI). Hidden away and used in times gone by as a refuge and landing site for smugglers is the Smugglers Cove in Gorliz, accessible only by canoe.

Just off the coast of Bermeo is Izaro Island, a place with a cinematic past: a film production company was named after it and used its image.

For a glimpse of a spectacular landscape, there’s nothing like climbing up to the Atxarre Lookout in Ibarrangelu, where a magnificent panorama awaits of the Mundaka estuary and several hermitages.

Strategically important due to its position above Abra cove is Punta Lucero, a summit overlooking the sea from the Nervión estuary. This was an important defence in the area and we can still see the remains of cannons, trenches, barracks... an integral part of what formed Bilbao’s Iron Ring.

Grab your camera and wait for the tide to go out... if you’re in Barrika you’ll be amazed to see the natural treasures that appear at low tide in this geological formation you find an endless array of animal and plant species on the tidal plain.

A GOOD IDEA!

You will be delighted TO VISIT in its Soul
The estuary of Urdaibai is a natural area formed by the mouth of the river Oka. Its ecological variety has led to it being designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and it forms part of the Natura 2000 network. It is an important rest stop for the migrating birds that you can watch at the Urdaibai Bird Centre.

This diverse landscape is made up of the sea, the low mountains, the sand banks and marshes that appear at low tide, not forgetting the beautiful beaches such as Laga and Laida or the small coves like Antzoras, Lapatza or Aritxatxu. Climb up to the San Pedro de Atxarre Lookout and enjoy the view.

www.turismourdaibai.com

Inhabitants and custodians

This estuary, spanning 230 km² and 20 kilometres long, shows signs of having been inhabited since prehistory, as reflected in the spectacular Santimamiñe Cave and its rock paintings and evidenced by the necropolis at Forua.

The lifestyle of the inhabitants, mainly agricultural and in tune with their surroundings, has aided the excellent conservation of the area.

www.turismourdaibai.com

Sit at a window on the right hand side if you’re going towards Bermeo and don’t forget your binoculars if you want to enjoy the unique landscape between Gernika-Lumo and Mundaka: reed beds, marshes, the silt at low tide, the meandering river Oka... and flying overhead an endless array of birds, mallards, shovellers, grebes, grey herons, spoonbills, ospreys and even geese from Scandinavia on the hunt for warmer climes. You’ll see that paradise does exist.
Heart of our history

Gernika

I ever there was a village which were the symbol of all that is Bizkaia and all that is Basque, it would be Gernika-Lumo. Its history, deeply affected by the bombing the city suffered in April 1937 during the Spanish Civil War, has been the basis for the resurgence of a strong people, with their own identity, as a model of peace and Basque rights and freedoms.

The Assembly House, where the Bizkaia General Assemblies are held, the Peace Museum or the Euskal-Herría Museum, the Santa María Church or the Pueblos de Europa Park with sculptures by Chillida and Henry Moore, form part of a historic and artistic heritage that is hard to ignore.

The well known agricultural fair, which is held every Monday, with the last Monday of October being the most impressive. You can see first hand the agricultural products and livestock bred and grown in Euskadi with care and of course maximum quality. You won’t come away empty handed.

Another interesting idea is to visit Gernika-Lumo’s Jai Alai court, considered the largest operational “fronión” (the wall against which the game is played) of “cesta punt” or basket tip in the world. This type of Basque ball game consists of hitting a ball with a wicker and chestnut curved basket, reaching speeds of up to 300 km/h.
The sea can be experienced in many ways...from a boat or studying it in more depth by visiting one of the many museums, interpretation centres or aquariums dotted around the region.

**Aquariums, Lighthouses, Interpretation Centres... another way to experience the sea**

The Agurtza, in Santurtzi, is one of the few remaining traditional wooden fishing vessels, having previously been used for tuna fishing. Now converted into the Fishing Interpretation Centre, visitors can learn about how fishermen lived at sea and the different arts of fishing used in those days.

- Ercilla Tower (Fisherman’s Museum, Bermeo)
- Madariaga Tower (Euskadi Biodiversity Centre, Busturia)
- Urdaibai Bird Centre (Bird watching, Gautegiz-Arteaga)
- Fishing Interpretation Centre (Santurtzi)
- Santa Catalina Lighthouse (Technology and Navigation Interpretation Centre, Lekeitio)
- Getxo Aquarium (Getxo)
- 1883 Tide gauge (Portugalete)
- Rialia (Museum of Industry, Portugalete)
- Maritime Museum of the River of Bilbao (Bilbao)

The stunning natural landscape of Urdaibai is a must-see, so why not take a detour and also visit the Madariaga Tower in Busturia, and take a guided tour by boat or on foot, organised by the Euskadi Biodiversity Centre.

As well as joining in educational activities about Biodiversity, if you climb the tower you can enjoy spectacular views over Izaro Island, Laida beach and the marshes.

www.torremadariaga.net

The museums along the Basque coast have joined together to create a tourist card offering many benefits and discounts.

www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com

You will be delighted to visit in its soul
Whenever you come, the beaches of the Bizkaia Coast are always charming. Sunny in summer, relaxing in spring, gentle autumn sunsets and uniquely stormy in winter. Add to that unique beauty... and you begin to see why they are so popular.

In Bizkaia there are all kinds of beaches: urban beaches, which tend to be popular with families as they are more convenient, such as Gorliz and Plentzia, or Isuntza in Lekeitio and Karraspio in Mendexa. Other beaches popular with visitors for their wide, uncrowded stretches and good facilities include Ereaga and Arrigunaga in Getxo and La Arena in Muskiz, or the beaches of Ea and Arrigorri in Ondarroa. Impressing the visitor with its large expanse at low tide and the beauty of its surroundings (the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve) is Laida, in Ibarraengan. If you’re looking for a young vibe, maybe somewhere you can go surfing or kayaking, try Bakio and Laidatxu, which is in Mundaka, or Gorrondatxe (Getxo), Arrietara (Sopela) and Barinatxe, also known as La Salvaje (the Wild One), lying between Getxo and Sopela.

The Bizkaia Coast also has areas of spectacular natural beauty such as quiet Armintza or the beach at Ogeia, in Ispaster.

Even if you aren’t visiting the Bizkaia Coast in the summer season, don’t miss the opportunity to stroll through one of its villages and enjoy the beautiful sunsets, views and great atmosphere.

Crossing to San Nicolas Island is easy, but be careful because the incoming tide could mean you can’t get back on foot.

A thousand and one ways to enjoy the sea all year round
You will be enchanted by WALKING in its Soul

Water, sun and sand all glistening

The beaches which lap the Bizkaia coast can be enjoyed in a myriad of ways. You can be sure of clean water and top quality facilities, facilities which win awards every year, especially for their accessibility. Whether you want to sunbathe in peace as you enjoy the changing colours of the sea in our mild climate, or combine relaxation with some fun, you’re sure to find the beach you’re looking for.

...and they’re calling you to join in the fun

There are lots of companies ready to help you do the sport you’re interested in: if you like canoeing, you can use the beach at the foot of the cliffs of La Galea in Getxo, in Plentzia or through beautiful Urdaibai. If you’re more into surfing, there are perfect surfing beaches like Sopela, Bakio or Mundaka. And if the seabed is what interests you, try the spectacular dives from Bermeo to Portugalete.

If you’re looking for a nudist beach, you can choose from the Lapatxa coves in Ez, Barrika, or the beaches of Aizkorri (Getxo), Meñakoz (Barrika-Sopela) or Barinatxe, in Sopela-Getxo.

Here the beaches have the stamp of quality...

A GOOD IDEA!
The Hermitage of Santa Catalina in Mundaka or San Nicolás Island in Mendexa... are some of the spots which make the Bizkaia coast such a beautiful area.

When you see it from the road it’ll take your breath away. The rocky outcrop of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, which juts out into the sea between Bakio and Bermeo, is one of the most famous places in Bizkaia and also one of the most visited. A visit to the Hermitage of San Juan is a must. Find out why...

The Hermitage of Santa Catalina in Mundaka or San Nicolás Island in Mendexa...

Set in a beautiful bay at the end of its River, take a walk through the old town of Plentzia, which dates back to the XIII century, and combines its medieval origins with maritime architecture and palatial buildings. You will love the church of Santa María Magdalena and the old Town Hall, today a museum, which bring together different aspects of the town’s history.

La Arena Beach is a large beach, perfect for water sports.

Situated at the mouth of the river which gives it its name, Mundaka is a small and relaxed town, very popular with tourists. The area has gained in popularity since its ‘left hand wave’ began to be talked about amongst surfers around the world.

Between Muskiz and Zierbena, La Arena Beach is a large beach, perfect for water sports.

For a unique view of the mouth of the River, go up to the upper walkway of the Bizkaia bridge, 50 m above the water.

Ondarroa has the honour of being one of the most important fishing ports in the Basque Country and the Cantabrian coast due to the volume of fish caught there. Try a typical merluza a la ondarresa (ondarresa-style hake) and see why the local cuisine is so admired.

The COAST

Why not take a stroll past the mansion houses in Getxo or along the marina, before heading off to Punta Galea, to see the amazing views from the cliffs dominated by the Aixerrota mill.

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A GOOD IDEA!

Designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, Urdaibai is one of the most beautiful and ecologically most interesting sites on the Bizkaia coast. It is possible to take a guided tour of the area on foot or by boat, and see the enormous variety of birds which inhabit it. Depending on the time of year, it is possible to see more than 200 species of birds which pass through each year on their long migration.

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A GOOD IDEA!
As you can see... it is a large islet connected to the mainland by a land bridge supported by two large arches. Don’t let laziness get the better of you, because its amazing location makes it somewhere well worth a visit. The first thing to know about San Juan de Gaztelugatxe is that it has deep rooted connections to the arrantzales (fishermen), and that the eponymous hermitage is home to offerings from sailors saved from the sea, such as models of boats and paintings of crafts about to be shipwrecked. The legend is that on arriving at Bermeo, San Juan took three large steps before reaching the hermitage... with the third one on the stairs’ last step. Once you’re there you can enjoy one of the most unusual parts of the whole coast.

You will be enchanted by WALKING in its Soul

231 steps to the sky

It’s worth the effort. You’ll see one of the most impressive parts of this wild coast and when you ring the bell at the hermitage, make sure you ring three times to scare away evil spirits.

GOOD IDEA!
Folklore is the thing that most defines the identity of a people and as such, one of the best maritime dances is the Kaxarranka, which takes place in Lekeitio in honour of San Pedro at the changeover of the president of the guild. The celebration dates back to the XV century when two administrators were chosen by the guild to collect the year’s profits. These were kept in a chest which was carried from the outgoing administrator’s house to the house of the new administrator.

Dress in blue

Many coastal towns have festivals honouring their patron saint, which in turn probably originated from pagan festivals. One example is the madalenas which are celebrated in the towns of Bermeo, Elantxobe, Plentzia and Mundaka in different ways, although they all involve the sea. The fishermen of Bermeo travel to Izaro Island, where the mayor throws a roof tile into the sea to affirm their sovereignty. This is a commemoration of the dispute between Bermeo and Mundaka for the island and is held on the day Bermeo annexed the island. Other villages like Santurtzi, celebrate the festival of los cármenes. In this festival the arrantzales (fishermen) take the Virgin to the port where she is carried on a boat, accompanied by a flotilla of small ships, to Abra where an offering is made in honour of the sailors lost at sea. Lekeitio celebrates its San Pedro festivals with the Kaxarranka, starting with a dance at the port, which then extends through the streets until it reaches the house of the president of the Fishermen’s Guild, where the new president takes possession of the post.
With the help of the WIND

You will be charmed TO ATTEND in its Soul

The ambilamp Flag, Portugalete, in July
Getxoko estropaden ikurriña, Getxo, in July
The Portugalete noble Villa Flag, in August
Bermeo Hiriko ikurriña, in September
The El Corte inglés Flag, Portugalete, in September

There is a great deal of interest all across Bizkaia in water sports and sailing in general.

Sailing, in all its forms has seen an increase in its popularity and the numbers participating in it, with the horizon frequently dotted with brightly coloured sails battling against the winds.

Important marinas include Getxo, Bermeo, Lekeitio and Ondarroa.

The racing calendars change from year to year, so we recommend you check that you have the correct dates and times.

www.todoremo.com

Oar STROKES

The traineras regattas, a mix of raw power and excitement

On the Cantabrian coast, any town worth its salt has a fixed-seat rowing club. This type of rowing uses skiffs, 6 man boats (trainerillas) or 14 man boats, (traineras), depending on the size of the crew.

Summer is when most of the races are held and the quays are packed with fans dressed in their team’s colours. It inspires great passion and there’s always a big party after each regatta.

Traineras calendar:
The Ambilamp Flag, Portugalete, in July
Getxoko Estropaden Ikurriña, Getxo, in July
The Portugalete Noble Villa Flag, in August
Bermeo Hiriko Ikurriña, in September
The El Corte Inglés Flag, Portugalete, in September

Did you know that, according to legend the first ever trainera regatta was in 1617 between Bermeo and Mundaka as part of their dispute over Izaro Island?

Up to the minute information at: www.ligasanmiguel.com
You will be thrilled to take part in its soul.

A hobby that inspires passions.

Surf

Today a huge number of surfers come here from all over the world, but it was at the end of the 50s that surfing first appeared in Biarritz on the French side of the Basque coast. Surfers need beaches with the right waves and Bizkaia has them in abundance. Mundaka is a good example, with waves that are 4 m high and 400 m long and considered among the best waves in the world. Bakio is another beach with outstanding waves. The Cantabrian sea is a generous provider of waves and some are considered World Class, hence the number of surfing devotees filling the waters with their boards every year and making possible championships such as Sopela, part of the world circuit.

www.surfingeuskadi.eus

For other water sports like canoeing, kayaking, paddle surf... just check them out and go for it:

www.bilbobentura.com
www.aktiba.info
www.bwaters.org

The Mundaka wave is ridden by the best surfers and Mundaka is rightly proud of its famous wave, considered to be the best left handed wave in Europe, forming tubes as long as 400 m.
You will be thrilled to take part in its soul.

There are many surfable beaches in Bizkaia, although some require more experience than others depending on the location. It’s best to find out which beach most suits your particular level.

There are many busy beaches where you can do this great sport and experience a surfing atmosphere which shapes a whole way of life. Arrietara beach in Sopela is great for a day’s bodyboarding. It’s the setting for the Ibatour World Championship and is ideal for beginners, as are the beaches of Sopela, Bakio, Arrigunaga and Laga. For experienced surfers, high waves and reef breaks are found at Barinatxe, known as La Salvaje (The Wild One), whose right handed wave with several peaks will have your adrenalin pumping; Punta Galea, which could see you riding waves of up to 6 m; Meñakoz, a world famous spot, and Izaro, whose 10 m wave is the biggest in Europe.

Whether you’re a beginner or you want to become more experienced, you can choose from several active tourism companies offering courses and classes for all levels.

The large waves of the Cantabrian create perfect conditions for international competitions: Sopela Pro Junior, part of the under 20 European Surf Circuit; Bilbao World Sup Challenge, part of the World Circuit Sup Race World Series; the Punta Galea Challenge, part of the Big Wave World Tour La Galea-Getxo. At local level there is the Basque Surf Circuit, Bodyboard, the Euskal Herriko Txapelketa, with the Haundi (including categories such as Open, Master, Senior, Longboard and Bodyboard) and Txiki competitions (including junior, cadet, children’s and novice categories). Last but not least is the Nesken Surf Blitzarra, the national women’s surf championship.

The Sea, a Soul

Riding the waves a way of life

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If you like seeing birds in their natural habitat, the Bizkaia coast offers a wide range of birdwatching sites. Don’t forget your telescope!

The fascination of watching free flight

To visit Urdabai is to discover a natural paradise where bird watching is a luxury within the reach of all types of binoculars. For in-depth knowledge of the area we recommend Urdaibai Bird Center, in Gautegiz Arteaga. The Research and Dissemination Centre studies birds and their habitats in detail to learn about the best ways to protect wildlife and nature in general. From the centre’s observatory you can follow the routes of the more than 200 species that pass through Urdabai every year.

Every autumn and winter the cove, in Getxo, becomes a refuge for migrating birds. From Santurtzi you can take a boat trip to watch the birds.

www.birdingeuskadi.net

A GOOD IDEA!
Whale watching is easier than you might think, with several suitable points along the coast. For example, there are trips from Santurtzi to see dolphins, pilot whales and other species such as blue whales. Bermeo is another important location, where it is common to see sperm whales, killer whales, and Cuvier beaked whales, as well as many different types of dolphins and the aforementioned pilot whales and finback or blue whales.

BOAT TRIPS TO SUIT ALL TASTES

SEASIDE TRIPS

HEGALUZE. Boat trips around the Basque Coast (Bermeo, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, Bilbao...)
www.hegaluze.com

OLATU. Boat trips to Izaro, Ogoño, Elantxobe, Lekeitio, Armintza, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, Akatx, Mataixako and River of Urdaibai.
www.olatu.net

ATUNTXO. Trips to Urdaibai and cruises on the Cantabrian Coast. www.atuntxo.com

KARRASPIO ITSAS TURISMOA. Maritime tourism: adventure and experiences www.karraspio.es

LEKETIO ITSAS BIDAIK. Sailing www.lekeltioitsasbidaiak.com

ALONG THE RIVER

BILBOATS. Daily trips.
www.bilboats.com

TXINBITO. Tailor-made trips.
www.aupatours.com

EUSKALHERRIA. Operates in summer.
www.portugalete.org

You will be thrilled to take part in its Soul

The whole of the sea from the deck of a boat

The BTT Centre network extends throughout Busturialdea-Urdaibai and the surrounding areas. Discover the coast by bike with the eleven routes for all different levels, as well as great routes for expert cyclists. Some of the most outstanding routes are those through the Oma Valley, from Bermeo to Zugastieta and the track that runs close to the beautiful Mundaka River.

www.bttuskadi.net

A GOOD IDEA!
Stop at any of the lookouts along the way and get your camera ready, every shot will be an unforgettable souvenir.

Hiking

the sea as a guide

Hiking is a great idea. If you go hiking through the Bizkaia coast, you’ll discover beautiful scenery at the edge of the sea as well as history, cultural heritage and the natural heritage that this region boasts.

Choose the Urdaibai enclave to enjoy a perfectly preserved ecosystem: oak forests, the river Oka, the Mundaka River and the coast with beaches and cliffs that Izaro Island looks out at.

You can also marvel at the agricultural production of the beautiful hamlets and small villages.

Another interesting route is that stretching from Oyón-Oion in the wine making region of Rioja Alavesa, to the port of Bermeo; its start and finish locations giving rise to its name The Wine and Fish Route as well as the GR 38. It’s 166 km of beautiful scenery whose features and colours vary depending on the time of the year you visit.

The Itsasur Vía Verde or walking trail (the derelict Cobarón train line) connects La Arena beach with Pobeña passing along spectacular cliffs.

One of the routes of the Northern Pilgrim’s Way runs along the coast of Biscay. If you continue you’ll find yourself right in the Urdaibai Reserve, with a welcome from the Santiago Cathedral in Bilbao, you can climb the Bizkaia Bridge in Portugalete or cross the Múza Bridge in Balmaseda.

www.senderismoeuskadi.net

TO TAKE PART
You will love
SHOPPING

Preserving
the fruits of the sea

Bermeo has always stood out for the quality of its fish and fish preserves, especially tuna and anchovies. Still on the subject of fish preserves, Ondarroa is another important town on the Bizkaia coast. But don’t just try the product where it was made, why not take some home and enjoy it again and again? Don’t forget the other Bizkaia speciality - salted cod.

A GOOD IDEA!

Taking home a taste of the sea to enjoy with your family and friends is a great idea. Add to that a good txakoli and success is guaranteed.

Zallo is a company in Bermeo which has been producing preserves since 1926. It specialises in producing artisan fish preserves of longfinned tuna and Cantabrian anchovies, offering tastings and factory tours to sample the best in fresh fish and fish preserves.

A GOOD IDEA!

 Campos” preserves started life in 1920 when two pioneering families from Bermeo went into the preserves business, becoming one of the leading producers of fish preserves.

“Conservas Ortiz” is situated in Ondarroa and pioneered the production of artisan fish preserves, respecting the art of traditional fishing. Other well known brands are Garavilla, Serrats, Arroyabe, Gusmano, Urdaibai, Olasagasti…

BILBAO
BIZKAIA
TXAKOLI
A coastal white wine

It’s a very special wine that is at its most intense when enjoyed where it is made. Included in the denominations of origin, txakoli is well respected by the innovative international wine markets. The regions of Bakio, Gernika-Lumo and Ibarangelu among others offer interesting experiences which combine tourism with gastronomy and enology. A pleasure for the senses.

There’s no better wine to our cuisine

Txakoli wine is so versatile that it goes superbly with a wide range of foods. Idiazabal Cheese, Bermeo Anchovies, Gernika Peppers and the pintxos covering any Basque bar, all taste fantastic with this wine with a fresh palate, slightly acidic taste and moderate graduation. Which makes it a wine ideal for enjoying year round with all sorts of starters, local vegetables, seafood and fish. It is also often used as a base for the sauces that accompany the typical local dishes.

VISIT A WINERY AND BUY DIRECT

Visit a winery and enjoy an experience that will awaken your senses. Many wineries are open for visits and tastings, with some also serving delicious food. Here are some to remember: Itsasmendi in Gernika-Lumo, Berroja and Remenetxe in Muxika, Amunategi in Busturia, Doniene Gorrononda in Bakio, Lagar de Sosaga in Lekeitio, Telleri in Morga, Merrutxu in Ibarangelu, Axpe in Markina-Xemein.

If you’d like to visit an unusual urban winery in the city, ask in Bilbao for the Bodega Urbana.
You will adore THE FOOD

Real delicatessen on the shore

One of the best things to do in a seaside town is to sit by the sea and enjoy a menu based around grilled fish. In any port you’ll find an errentegi (grill restaurant), where the smell of sardines, bream and monkfish wafting up from the grill will have your mouth watering. The atmosphere at these gatherings adds to their charm. It’s the best way to enjoy great fish cooked to perfection and washed down with txakoli, a sure-fire success.

Culinary competitions, exhibitions and tastings... there’s a whole range of culinary events in the coastal towns of Bizkaia. The fields around Aixerrota in Algorta (Getxo) are packed in July with chefs competing to make the best paella. On the first day of its fiestas del Carmen Santurtzi holds its Day of the Sardine, sharing the sardines among the participants. Ondarroa waits until May to hold its Antxoa Eguna (Day of the Anchovy). In Gernika-Lumo August sees the Day of the Pepper. Lekeitio, celebrates in October with its Txipiron Gastronomic Day (Day of the small squid). Arrain Eguna is the Day of the Fish which Bermeo holds between May and June. There’s plenty to choose from.

Now go and have some fun.

Pintxos, maritime morsels

Interest in molecular gastronomy and a love of social interaction has given rise to Pintxos Routes throughout Bizkaia. Gorliz, Sopela, Gernika-Lumo, Portugalete, Santurtzi, and Bilbao all have interesting itineraries just waiting to be sampled. But be warned, you won’t be able to resist.

A GOOD IDEA!

Bacalao “cod” al Pil-Pil

Aixerrota

Arimune (Bakio)
The hustle and bustle of the many fishing ports in Euskadi keeps the kitchens supplied with a wide range of fish and seafood. If you've never tried freshly caught fish, don't miss out, because there's nothing like the real taste of the sea. The time of year you visit will determine what type of fish you eat, but don't worry, each type has its own taste and you'll be amazed at the different ways of cooking it. Don't hold back.

### Anchovies
There's a whole host of ways to cook fish, from simply battered and fried with oil and chilli pepper, to more elaborate recipes like stuffed peppers in papillote... either way, it's finger-licking good.

### Grilled Sardines
Fire up the grill, grab some sea salt and great produce... few recipes are as simple or as tasty as grilled sardines. A fishing port, a grill... you just need to be in the right place.

### Marmitako
The recipe comes from the meal that fishermen used to prepare on their boats and the name comes from the pot in which it was cooked. Based on potatoes and tuna, the most important thing is that it is juicy and a bit spicy. A guaranteed success.

### Bacalao a la Bizkaina
A typical dish in Basque cuisine, with the secret being its sauce made from chorizo and lots of bread for dipping... what more could you ask for?

### Merluza a la Ondarresa
If you don't like too many different ingredients and you want your fish to taste like fish, then the perfect dish for you is Ondarresa style hake. A good sized steak is called for, but the most important thing is that when cooked it is tender and juicy and almost melts in the mouth. Enjoy.

### Cod Stuffed Peppers
It's another classic recipe of cod, just slightly more elaborate. Some recipes also add prawns or leeks, any of them are a feast for the senses.

### Cod Al Pil Pil
Let's explain first of all that the name pil pil comes from the gradual mixing of the juices of the cod during the cooking process. Garlic, chilli and giving the pot a vigorous stir are the main ingredients of this famous dish.

The Club Ranero version of cod "al Pil Pil" adds a twist by including roasted vegetables.

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###Txipirones "Squids"
Another typical dish, a classic of Basque cuisine and coming in many different varieties: cooked in their ink with onions over the grill... you'll be tempted by at least one.
**THE RIVER along its bridges**
They connect old and new Bilbao... in their local colour, their elegance and new cosmopolitan twists... each one tells you something about the city.

**An evening at THE BEACH**
There are a total of 28 beaches along the coast to choose from: urban beaches, for families, young people, wild beaches, rocky or sandy ones... all with top quality in terms of cleanliness and facilities.

**San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**
A unique and spectacular landscape clinging to the Bizkaia coast between Bakio and Bermeo. Sitting at the summit, the hermitage of San Juan where you must not forget to ring the bell 3 times to scare away evil spirits.

**Visit a LIGHTHOUSE**
The Santa Catalina Lighthouse in Lekeitio is home to the Technology and Navigation Interpretation Centre, where you can see how the arrantzales (fishermen) lived on the high seas.

**Go SURFING**
If you’re a beginner, try the waves at Sopela or Bakio.
For more experienced surfers, there are great waves at La Salvaje, Meñakoz, Mundaka, Arribolas, Laga, Punta Galea and Izaro, some providing waves of between 6 and 10 m.

**A stroll through URDAIBAI**
And enjoy part of a Unesco Biosphere Reserve site. It is the most important natural reserve in the Basque Country.

**Our best FISH PRESERVES**
Delicious, easy to find and take home with you... our best preserves: longfinned tuna and Bermeo anchovies. Take some home.

**Sailor for a day**
As well as a stroll, you can also hire a sail boat. Whether you know about sailing or not, why not take a course and take to sea?

**Dress in blue ARRANTZALE**
Jumping right in and enjoying one of the many maritime festivals across Bizkaia means dressing as a arrantzale (fisherman) and lapping up the contagious fun. “The madalenas”, “the cármenes”, the “san pedros”... are just some of them.

**TXAKOLI a great combination**
Serve cold in a large glass to get the best out of it: refreshing and with a slight acidic note. Drink it with fish, cheese... your friends and family will be amazed.

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.
AGUR: Post-modern people say 'chias'; but it's still no more than 'well, that's it, I'm off'. Comes from 'augurium', which is Latin for 'I mean it'.

AGUA DE BILBAO: It's what we call champagne but watch out, we don't use any caravans.

ALJIRON: Miners from a British company in Urtuea, traditionally cried out 'all iron' (yippee, in other words!) when they struck a vein of iron ore because it meant double pay. Today it is to cheer on the Athletic Club - whether it wins the league or not.

AMATXEU DE BEGORA: An affectionate name for the patron saint of the town, used especially by the 'txikiteros' who share the fiesta with her.

ANGULA: Juvenile form of an eel that swims madly up the River with the sole aim of being eaten by the rich.

ANGURREAR: Synonym for a shaking hands with someone over-enthusiastic... like, they return it crushed and broken.

ATHLETIC: A singularly holy word. Don't mess with it.

AUPA!: A good-natured greeting or a casual hello that pretends to be typically Basque. At San Mamés, to cheer the team.

AZUL BILBAO: The blue of the boat sky that only exists on the palette of painters from Bilbao, obviously!

BALDOSA: Grandma's ceramic tiles, the traditional ones that have now migrated from the floor to grace handkerchiefs, table-cloths, sweets, etc...

BACALAO AL PIL PIL: Onomatopoeia that alludes to the way cod must be brought to the boil, which sounds like this: "pil-pil"

BALLOS: A sort of cabaret that houses the best txikiteros bands. Athletic Club when they win something (a rare occurrence nowadays).

BARBER: A nice little calf you'd better not grow too fond of in case you eat it later and all.

BEGIAUNDIS: Like the name says, 'begiaundis' are big squids, because if they were little ones they'd be called 'begitikis'.

BILBAINEARIA: Often explained as the typical bluff and bluster that people from Bilbao are famous for, it also refers to the typical songs called 'txikiteros' sung in bars or at parties, though if Athletic lose...

BOLO DE MANTEQUILLA: Famous but so modest that it is afraid to speak its name, though since it is from Bilbao, it doesn't need to.

BOTXO: 'Hole', a.k.a. Bilbao because it is located in a valley between two hills. Artxanda and Pagasarr.

CAROLINA: Multicoulor meringue that you say you buy for your kids rather than admit that you're going to scoff it all yourself, at your age... disgraceful!

CHOCOLO: Some person with a good sense of humour, likeable and full of life, typical of Bilbao.

CILINDRICO: A three or four-wheeled billy-cart designed to break your bones (they can do up to 130 kph).

DAVIDE: The supreme gastronomic moment between breakfast and lunch to keep your stomach from complaining. Origin of the term 'txikiteros'.

DELTA: A simple meal made of leeks, potatoes and carrots... to feel 'cleaned up' after the piscolabis.

DISEGUALMENTE: Person with a good sense of humour, likeable and full of life, typical of Bilbao.

DULCES: Mixed drink mainly for parties when you can no longer taste what you are drinking. Not in vain it was invented by sheer chance when the organisers of a fiesta in Algorta mixed the wine with Coca Cola, when they discovered that it was even worse than they'd thought.

ENELINTZAKO: Father Christmas in Bilbao: has a beard too, but it's black.

ESKUALDUNA: Battle-cry which today is no more than an ancient custom. However, some foreigners have tried to copy it but they never get further than a kind of squawk.

FRESNO: What softies call freezing. Wimps!

FRIANGU: A barge used to transport minerals along the River and Athletic Club when they win something (a rare occurrence nowadays).

GANORABAKO: A person without much gumption, to put it mildly.

GASOLINO: Strategically cheap way of crossing the River in a nice wee boat instead of crossing the bridge on foot, taking the metro or driving.

GILDIA: Bilbao and San Sebastian dispute the origin of the gilda... Actually, the term honours Rita for being salty, fresh and hot. What's your story?

GOOOGOOGOO: The divine word that sometimes eludes the Athletic Club but when the team does score not even strongest lozenge will restore your voice.

GOITIBERIA: A three or four-wheeled billy-cart designed to break your bones (they can do up to 130 kph).

HAMAITEKAKO: The supreme gastronomic moment between breakfast and lunch to keep your stomach from complaining.

HARRINTZAKO: Battle-cry which today is no more than an ancient custom. However, some foreigners have tried to copy it but they never get further than a kind of squawk.

ITURRI: The bottle caps from Iturrigori soda water. Americans don't know this, but Coca Cola's bottle caps are also iturri.

JATORRA: Person with a good sense of humour, likeable and full of life, typical of Bilbao.

KALIMOTXIKO: Mixed drink mainly for parties when you can no longer taste what you are drinking. Not in vain it was invented by sheer chance when the organisers of a fiesta in Algorta mixed the wine with Coca Cola, when they discovered that it was even worse than they'd thought.

KILI-KOLO: The physical or emotional state known as so-so or comme ci comme ça.

LABRI: To be under the weather.

MARMITAKO: Bonito with spuds, peppers and so on... typical of competitions where you fill your stomach and keep on eating without stopping.

OLEN'TZEO: Father Christmas in Bilbao: has a beard too, but it's black.

ORDAGO: What a Smarty-pants throws down when he wants to get something and hasn't even got a decent gentilett.

OXOTE: Eight guys from Bilbao singing at the top of their voices from bar to bar. Just what we need, right?

PASTEL DE ARROZ: A simple meal made of leeks, potatoes and carrots... to feel 'cleaned up' after the piscolabis.

PETOE: Basically a pub crawl where you go from bra to bar getting happier and happier until you start singing...

POTXO: A nice guy, a real sweetie. It always sounds good when you say something good for someone.

PUES: A word found in all kinds of sentence, it mainly serves to recognise a good old mate from Bilbao even though he or she is in Singapore.

PUPPEN: Plunked down in Bilbao and there he sits, posing for more photos than the shack behind him.

RABAS: Squid with egg, elegantly clad in batter. Not in vain they originated in Bilbao.

SAN MAMEZ: Pagan cathedral that severely tests people with a weak heart. Good for going through the emotional wringer.

SANTUARIKOS: Marshmallows made by Santiago Olabide, owner of the factory that used to produce them and a really diminutive person.

SANTURTE: Multicolour meringue that you say you buy for your kids rather than admit that you're going to scoff it all yourself, at your age... disgraceful!

SOKATIRA: A nice little calf you'd better not grow too fond of in case you eat it later and all.

STANDS: Multicolour meringue that you say you buy for your kids rather than admit that you're going to scoff it all yourself, at your age... disgraceful!

TXAMARRA: A garment used to keep warm when the temperature more or less drops below zero.

TXAPLA: Place where people from Bilbao meet to pay homage to a series of dishes until six or seven in the evening.

TXAMARRA: A garment used to keep warm when the temperature more or less drops below zero.

ZURITO: A good-natured greeting or a casual hello that pretends to be typically Basque. At San Mamés, to cheer the team.