

Route 1: Uribe

The coastal charm of the rural world

Bakio is not your typical coastal town. It is a town open to the sea with the biggest beach in Bizkaia, defined by stately mansions and summer villas intermingled with the traditional rural interior. An exceptional and perfect combination offered by a quiet, friendly town, with a variety of landscapes and extraordinary natural beauty. San Juan de Gaztelugatxe awaits us to tell us about corsairs and sailors.



To reach **Bakio** take the **A3518 bus run by Bizkaibus** from Plaza Moyúa in Bilbao. It runs at hourly intervals on weekdays and two-hourly intervals on holidays. In the summer season, between June and September, buses run more frequently, leaving every 30 minutes. This is where the longest beach in Bizkaia is, stretching along one kilometre. Open to the sea, it is particularly suitable for water sports such as surfing, wave-skiing or kayak-surfing, and numerous major national and international championships are held there.

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Bakio

Bakio's economy has always revolved around the farmstead. As a result, its dairy products, poultry and meat, fruit and vegetables and traditional flowers are of note. The cultivation of asparagus and lemons is also returning. But the town is a reference in the preparation of Txakoli, a young, fruity and

smooth wine, dating back to the end of the 14th century. A visit to the Txakoli Museum (Txakolingunea) offers an explication of the character of the town, whose micro climate, vicinity to the sea and the quality of the land have combined to enhance the production of this wine. At the museum you can find out about the traditional means of preparation and the modern wine-making methods that have been incorporated.

From Bakio you can reach **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, a real spectacle of nature. The taxi-bus line which links the town with Bermeo every



Txakolingunea

two hours during the week leaves you at **Gaztelu Begi**, a 30-40 minute walk from this extraordinary spot. If you are travelling on a Saturday or holiday, the trip can be made in a taxi with capacity for 8 passengers. Between June and September, the **Bilbao-Bakio-Gaztelu Begi** trip can be made in the **A-3517** bus.

A pleasant stroll will take you to the chapel, but suitable shoes are recommended. You cross over a double-arch bridge and climb 241 steps. When you get there, do not forget the tradition: ring the bell three times and make a wish to keep the bad spirits away. Witness to attacks from buccaneers such as Francis Drake, she is said to bring luck to the fishermen who approach in their boats turning to the right and the left. Some even say that the saint may help to solve problems of fertility... An open sea before your eyes and steep cliffs behind you, a delightful spot which will transport you back to other eras.

From Bakio take the same line to return to Bilbao.

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San Juan de Gaztelugatxe