

# Route 7: Durangaldea

## What the stones tell us

**Bilbao**   
(Termibus)

  
A3923 - Bizkaibus



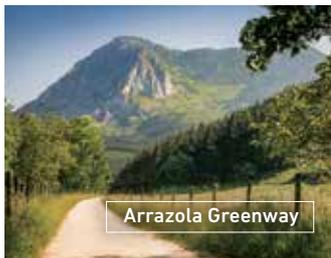
**Durango**

**Elorrio**

*The palaces and stately homes made of solid stone and carved masonry surround us in Elorrio, whispering the secrets of the Durangaldea nobility, before we turn our eyes to the marvellous sights offered by Urkiola Natural Park. Before reaching this stately town in the heart of the countryside, we can stop en route and take a family outing along the Arrazola Greenway, a walk beneath the impressive rocky walls of the Anboto.*

To take this route, catch the **Bizkaibus A3923 bus** from the Termibus station in Bilbao which leaves every hour and whose last stop is Elorrio.

But you can also stop on the way in Atxondo, an excellent location for a family outing. The former Durango-Arrazola railway line, between the impressive rocky walls of the Anboto, is now known as the **Arrazola Greenway**, a 10 km flat and easy route, which you can cover in two hours, there and back.



Arrazola Greenway

If you feel like walking a little further, an hour from El Tope, the end of the greenway, will take you to some beautiful views and an emblematic spot: the peak of **Betsaide**, the point at which Araba, Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia come together.

The same **A3923 bus** takes you back to **Elorrio**. This town is impressive due to the number and quality of the private and religious constructions, in particular the numerous palaces and stately houses from the 17th and 18th century including those of Urki-zu (Tola), Arabio, Altzerreka Mendiola, Arespakotxaga, Zearsolo (Casa Jara) and Olazabal (Modet). From the six gates of the medieval wall, the Portal del Campo and Portalón del Río still stand. The most important religious architecture includes the Purísima Concepción Basilica, the Monastery of Santa Ana and San Agustín church.

San Valentín de Berrio-Otxoa, the most popular character from the town, was born in Arriola palace. A missionary in Asia, he was killed for refusing to give up the Christian faith. His remains lie in the Purísima Concepción Basilica, the grandest in Bizkaia in terms of volume and quality of construction, the impressive fittings, the bell tower which is a replica of the Giralda of Seville and the altar, an oriental inspiration.

It is also interesting to visit the crazy fountain or Iturrizoro, the **frontón** court, pass by the 9 crosses and discover the numerous coats of arms on the walls. Not without reason is Elorrio the town in Bizkaia with the highest number of crosses (in particular the Kurutzia Cross) and coats of arms. Wandering along the streets you will come across Errebonbilloa, a bronze statue which represents the soldiers of the town who took part in the battle of Lepanto. An essential visit is to the Argiñeta Necropolis, one of the most important funeral monuments in Euskadi.



Puerta del Campo in Elorrio

To get back to Bilbao take the **A3923 Bizkaibus** where we got off.

