

Route 6: The Nervión Route

Where the water learns how to fly



Biscay and Araba, sisters and neighbours. They share valleys, mountain ranges, rivers, history and dreams. They share beauty, traditions and wine. Medieval cobbles, doors, archways, echoes of past glories, of customs and merchants who brought wool from Castilla to the loading ports, headed towards Northern Europe. There, water becomes air, it flies from the heights in order to spill over Biscay the birth of a river, the Nervión, which arrives with vigour in Bilbao to make sense of the past, to reconstruct its infinite futures.

Leaving Bilbao on the BI-636, turn onto the BI-2604 and we arrive in **Gordexola**. The iron industry has been very present in this town, as up until the mid-20th century their old smithies were still in operation. It is also a land of palaces, villas and mansions as well as tower houses and the luxurious colonial mansions.

On this route, we suggest getting to know an area in the sibling-territory of Araba, the Ayala/Aiara Valley, to discover the towns of **Artziniega** and **Quejana**. Without leaving the BI-2604, we enter into the first of said towns, a small medieval village which is home to the Artziniega Tower, the Ethnological Museum and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of

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Artziniega

Encina. You can partake in many sports activities and get to know the surroundings via its many pathways and trails. On foot, horseback or by bicycle, whatever you prefer.

For more information regarding routes and hiking contact the Ayala Valley and Alto Nervión Tourist Office.



Quejana

From Artziniega, take the A-624 and in some 12 minutes you will arrive in **Quejana**, the centre of which is a monumental site made up of the fortified palace, the church, the Dominican Convent and the Tower Chapel of the Virgen del Cabello.

After continuing for a few kilometres along the A-624, we arrive at Aresketamendi, the Renewable



Orduña

Energy park which is located in Amurrio. This is an outdoor space where you can try and put to the test the operation of several devices related to different energy sources, therefore familiarising yourself with the energy principles upon which sustainable development relies. Ideal to visit with your family.



Salto del Nervión
(Nervión Waterfall)

In Amurrio we take the A-625 until we reach **Orduña**, the only locality in Biscay entitled to call itself a city. Formerly an important commercial and customs centre with Castilla, it offers noteworthy civil and religious history.

The Plaza de los Fueros is a good departure point for the routes on foot or bicycle through the Sierra Salvada. If you do not suffer from vertigo we recommend that you climb up to the Nervión Viewpoint from which you can look over one of the most extraordinary views of the Basque geography: **the Salto del Nervión** (Nervión Waterfall). It has a drop of almost 300 metres

in a waterfall in the shape of a horse's tail. To reach it, take the A-2625 road and ascend the Orduña port. Once you reach the top of the port, continue along the road until you reach the entrance to Mount Santiago, on the left, next to a small hut, you will see a cattle-grid and the first car park. As you continue you will come across up to 4 car parks (The third one is closest to the Salto) with a limited capacity and some of them requiring payment. Once you have parked, just follow the forest path and follow the Fuente Santiago-Salto del Nervión PR-BU 42 route. Important: to view the waterfall we recommend that you go during periods of heavy rain and thawing.

Leaving Orduña on the BI-625, we retrace our steps passing by Amurrio and continuing onto the A-624, there we take the BI-2522 which brings us directly to **Orozko**. We can stroll through its streets and discover the San Bartolomé de Olarte church, the Anunzibai bridge and the Legorburu Casa Palacio, now home to the Ethnological Museum.

To return to Bilbao, simply access the AP-68 and soon you will be back in the capital of Biscay.

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