

Route 1. The banks of the Estuary

The bridge that connects us

Bizkaia Bridge closes the opening inflicted by the river Nervión on the Greater Bilbao area. The huge iron structure, a testimony from the past and the present of the importance of this metal in the history of Bizkaia, connects the two banks together, joining two worlds, giving meaning to everything before flowing into the sea.



This trip starts at **Abando** station in Bilbao, on the C1 line of the Renfe local rail network towards **Santurtzi**. It takes 22 minutes to reach the fishing village. The fishing port is just a few metres from the station exit. Here we can visit the fish market, Santurtzi Itsasoa Museoa maritime museum or the auction room where dramatised auctions regularly take place. But you have probably heard of Santurtzi because of its famous roast sardines, or maybe from the folk song "Desde Santurce a Bilbao" (From Santurce to Bilbao): "sardinas freskue..." (fresh sardines).



Portugalete

Once in Portugalete, it is worth visiting the medieval old quarter next to the **Ría de Bilbao** (the Basilica of Santa María, Salazar Tower and the Plaza del Solar) and of course "**Bizkaia Bridge**" or "The Hanging Bridge". This is the first transporter bridge in the world, an authentic wonder of industrial engineering opened in 1893 and declared a World Heritage Site in 2006.

It joins two river banks, two worlds, the former working zone of the left bank and the bourgeois zone of the right bank. Without disrupting navigation along the estuary, the iron giant is an essential part of Bizkaia history, and will take you to **Getxo**. Cross the estuary in the gondola or along the upper walkway, from where you have spectacular views of the Abra.



Getxo

You will disembark on **Las Arenas** Wharf (Getxo), an excellent area for wandering around the palatial architecture from the end of the 19th and early 20th century, a period of great social and economic splendour. Architects of renown integrated impressive constructions into the spectacular coastal landscape including Bidearte, Cisco House, Kai-Alde Palace, Cristina Etxea or the Church of Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes, and locations such as Churruga Wharf.



Santurtzi

The next town is **Portugalete**, reached in a short stroll. Just 10 minutes away is the **Agurtza Fishing Boat**, one of the last traditional wooden fishing vessels, open for visits all year round.

Bizkaia Bridge



Continuing along the promenade you will reach the Marina, fully equipped for recreational sailing and vessels in transit. It has a leisure-commercial zone and a technical area for water sports. Next to this is the cruise ship terminal and **Ereaga beach**.

Old Harbour of Algorta, reached by a walk along the edge of the beach. Let yourself be carried away and climb the steps, you will fall in love with the fishermen's huts which, irregular and colourful, stretch along the narrow lanes of this fishing quarter.

On looking up you will see the elegant stately homes looking down onto the sea and offering shelter to the

You can get back to Bilbao by Metro, from the stations of Algorta or Neguri, depending on where you are.

