

Route 2. Searching for waves

Iron giants and surfboards

The iron giant is witness to a period in which the mining of iron and other minerals was indisputably the main player in the huge economic and social leap taken by Bizkaia at the end of the 19th and early 20th century. This part of the coast is replete with major constructions and promenades, evidence of the huge fortunes on the shores of its urban beaches. Wander along the quiet beaches, or the beaches dominated by waves and surfboards, or the first underground winery and artificial reef in the world.

The journey starts at any station in Bilbao on line 1 towards **Plentzia**, and makes its first stop in Areeta. You will be met by **Bizkaia Bridge**, an impressive iron structure, a world-famous symbol of the Industrial Revolution, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Born out of the need to connect both banks of the mouth of the river Nervión, it is a tangible example of a golden era for the Bizkaia economy and society derived from iron ore mining. It is possible to cross to the other side in the lower gondola or along the upper walkway.

After visiting **Las Arenas Wharf**, a short stroll takes you to the Marina. This was the first one to be built in Euskadi, and it is fully equipped for recreational sailing and the water sports, as well as having a area for shops, restaurants and bars, hotels, cinemas and an aquarium.

Continuing along the urban beach of Ereaga to the end, you reach the Old Harbour of **Algorta**, a charming fishing quarter where, after climbing the steps and wandering along the lanes, you will find San Nicolás chapel, the *arrantzale* and la *sardinera* sculptures, the plaza de Etxetxu, the Riberamune parapet and on the pier, the Sireno de Getxo, a work of art which interacts with the sea.

Take the metro from Algorta station and get off at Bidezabal. After a two-kilometre walk you will reach **La Galea**, in the highest part of **Getxo**, where you can enjoy spectacular views of the Abra. You can find beautiful spots to visit: Aixerrota windmill, La Galea lighthouse and fort, Andra Mari church and the cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen.



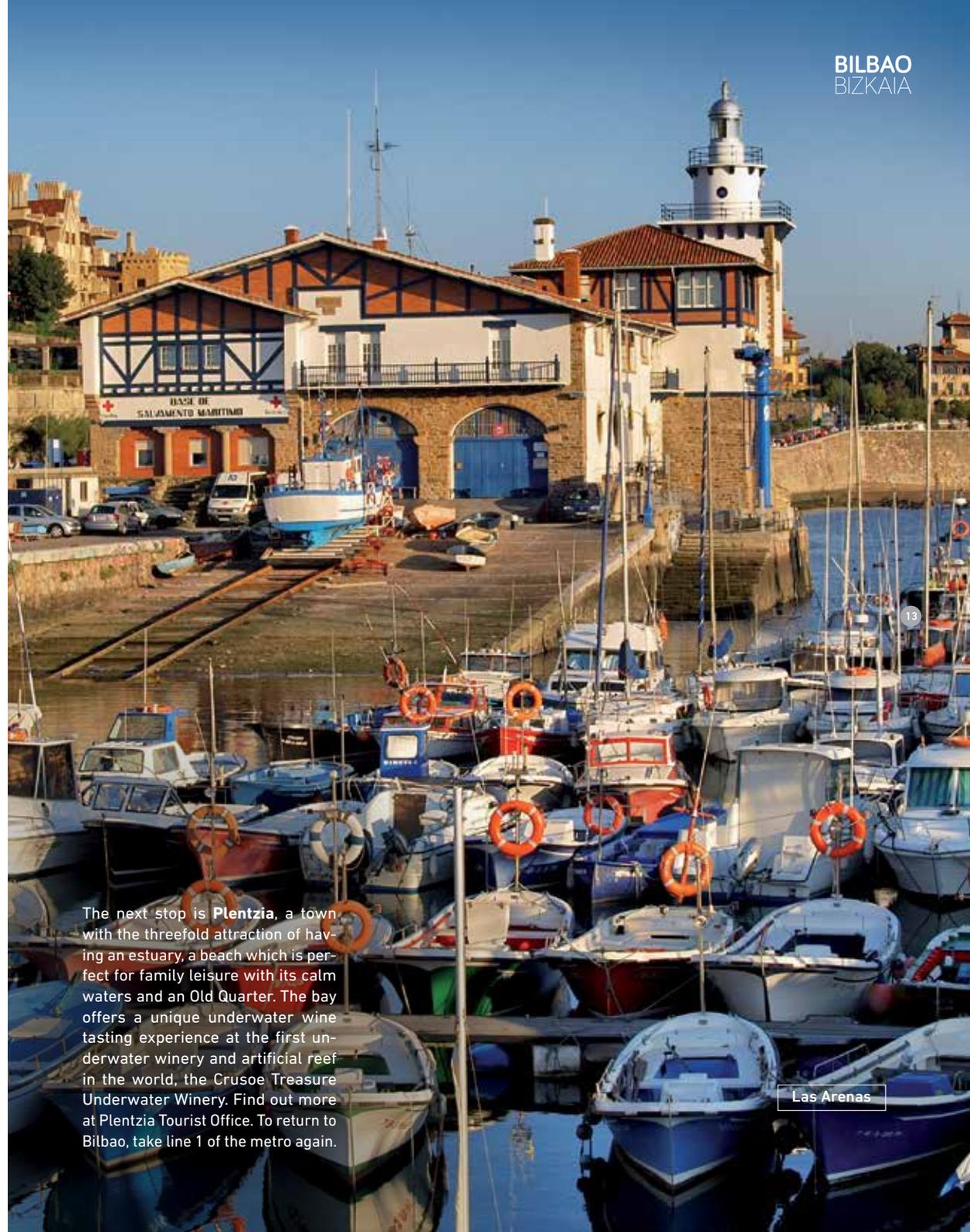
Arriatera-Atxabiribil

The metro takes you to **Sopela**, the perfect spot for surfing and bodyboarding. The beaches are flanked by whimsical rocky formations and breathtaking cliffs.



Plentzia

Barinatxe-La Salvaje beach has its own dune system, and is a meeting point for lovers of paragliding. Close to Arriatera-Atxabiribil beach there are several lively bars from where you can watch spectacular sunsets.



Las Arenas

The next stop is **Plentzia**, a town with the threefold attraction of having an estuary, a beach which is perfect for family leisure with its calm waters and an Old Quarter. The bay offers a unique underwater wine tasting experience at the first underwater winery and artificial reef in the world, the Crusoe Treasure Underwater Winery. Find out more at Plentzia Tourist Office. To return to Bilbao, take line 1 of the metro again.