

Route 3. Rail tracks

When minerals forged our character

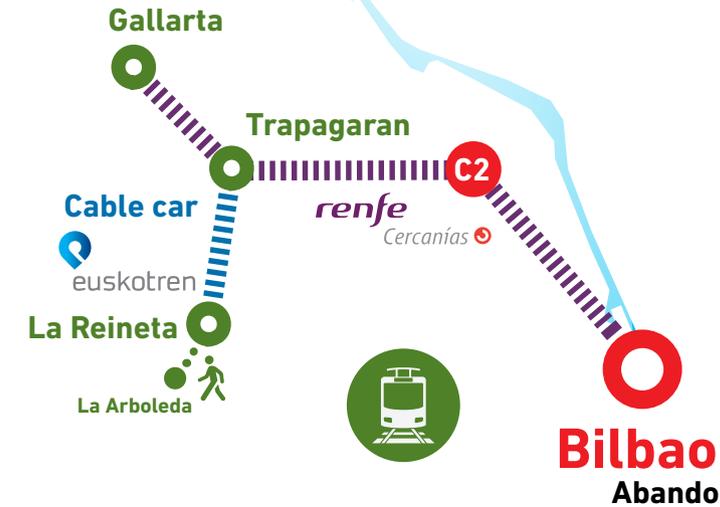
Nature has once again taken over the land that mining once snatched away. It works on itself leaving a moon-like landscape open to the imagination of new worlds filled with deep lakes, small hills and pleasant strolls alongside the remains of mining towns in which it is still possible, if you listen carefully, to hear the steady rhythm of the mining equipment and the tired panting of the miners going about their daily work.

This route allows you to discover the importance of the mining industry for the development of Bizkaia (and for forging the character of its inhabitants) and how the iron ore was mined during the 19th and 20th centuries. To get to **Trapagaran**, take the Renfe C2 line (towards Muskiz) from Abando station in Bilbao. In barely a quarter of an hour, the train will leave you in the town which is divided into two zones. Visit Aiestarán farm, Olaso palace and a number of religious buildings.

To reach the upper zone, you will need to take **La Reineta Cable Car** run by Euskotren, and declared of Cultural Interest in 2014. This cable car is unlike others in Spain and even in Europe, as it is the only one whose cars are mounted horizontally.



La Reineta



Once up the top, in the town of **La Reineta**, you will have an extraordinary view of the Abra del Nervión, from Mount Serantes (on the left, above Santurtzi) to Punta Galea (Getxo), with its cliffs overlooking the sea. The public wash house in Barrionuevo, built in 1898, was once a meeting point for the town's womenfolk.

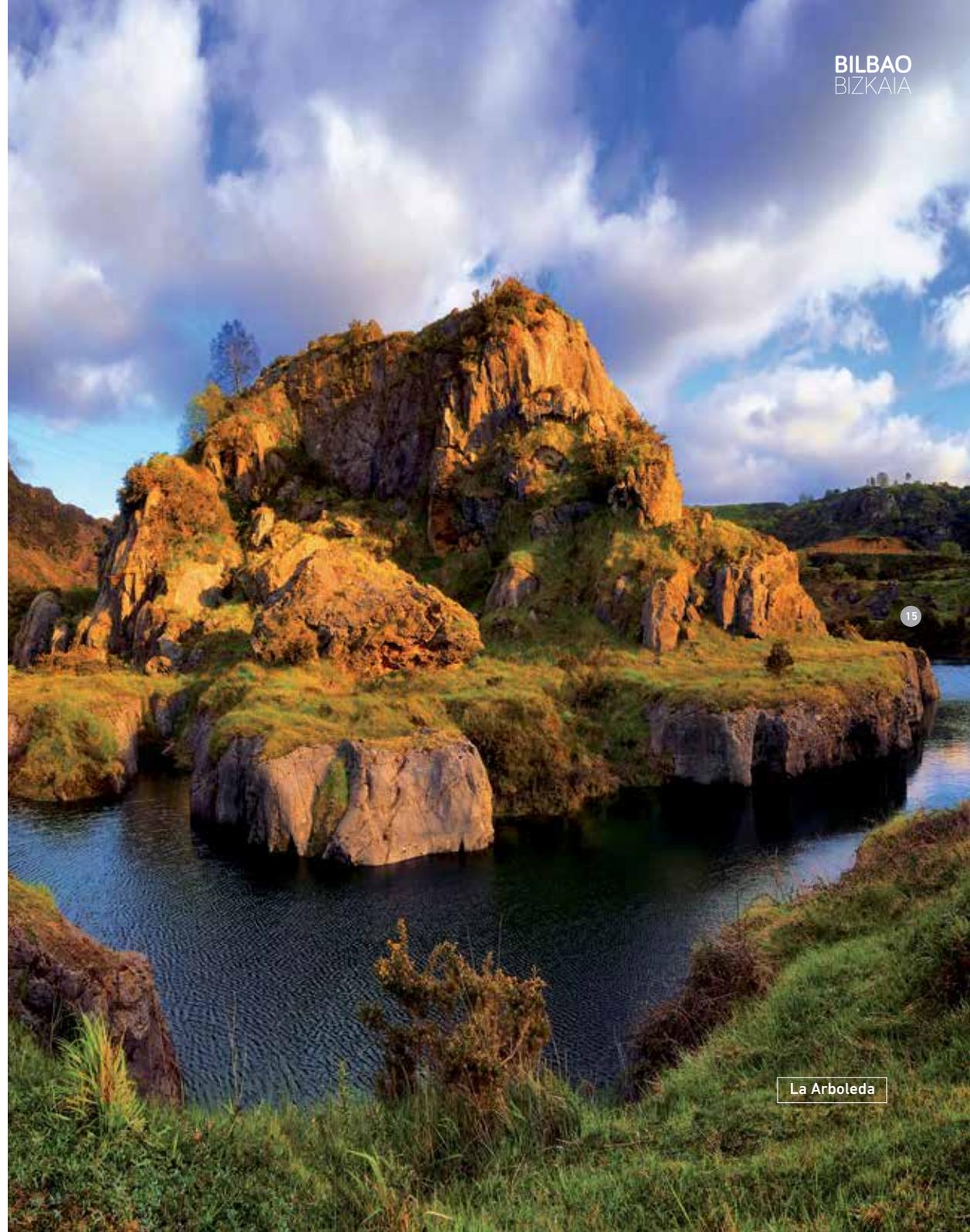
The former mining town of **La Arboleda** has a very special landscape where nature has created several lakes (such as el Negro and el Ostitio) out of the former mining shafts from the open cast iron ore mines. This zone, which stretches across the mountains of Triano, is perfectly suited for quiet walks with the family, such as the one which takes you to the Peñas Negras Environmental Interpretation Centre.



Gallarta Mining Museum

The "alubiadas" (bean stews) which you can try in any of the picturesque restaurants which remain frozen in time are typical of the region.

Back in Trapagaran, the same line takes you to **Gallarta**, where a visit to the Gallarta Mining Museum is a must. The main objective of the museum is to protect and make known the industrial heritage of mining. What is more, you will be at the lowest geographical point in the open air (20 metres below sea level) in Euskadi.



La Arboleda