

Route 4. Gernika and Urdaibai

People who strive for Peace and harmony with the sea

Peppers, beans, marmitako (fish casserole), canned fish, tuna, bonito tuna and anchovies, products from and prepared with the essence of this eastern region of Bizkaia, charged with a history in which the echo of bombs is silenced with the striving for peace of its people. In which the history of shipwrecks and great storms has forged the reserved character of the seafaring folk, their traditions and passions.

For this trip, take the Euskotren Bilbao-Bermeo line from Bolueta station in Bilbao, towards **Bermeo**. 50 minutes takes you to **Gernika-Lumo**, the location of an essential visit for discovering the history and traditions of Bizkaia. Home to the famous peppers and beans, this Council town holds a market every Mondays and the great agricultural fair, the "Último lunes de Gernika" (on the last Monday in October).



Gernika-Lumo

Gernika is an icon recognised around the world for the senselessness and cruelty of the war. It was bombed in 1937 during the Civil War and thanks to the work of Picasso, today it is a city, the symbol of a desire for peace. It is also home to the Council House and its famous tree, a standard bearer for the rights and freedom of the Basque people. The Parque de los Pueblos de Europa (People of Europe park), the Paz Foundation Museum and the Euskal Herria Museum are

all worthy of a visit, together with the Pasealeku air raid shelters. A stroll through our history, our identity as a people and our extremely deeply-rooted tradition.

When you get off at **Itsasbegi-Busturia**, you can spend some time on the beach, which is highly recommended for families, in **Sukarrieta**. This is an open beach protected by the Isle of Sandindere on the left bank of the Gernika estuary, within the **Urdaibai** Biosphere Reserve. It offers fine sand and calm waters, a leisure area, a small shrine and a promenade.

Mundaka is a famous international surf spot which claims to have the longest left-breaking wave in Europe. The soul of the town is focussed around the fishing harbour, but from Santa Catalina chapel you can gaze at one of the best views along the Bizkaia coastline.



Mundaka

Immerse yourself in the culinary joys of the *marmitako* and the tinned tuna, bonito tuna and anchovies from **Bermeo**, a charming fishing port with a long tradition of whaling. A visit to the Fishing Museum and the Aita Guria boat will satisfy your curiosity about the way of life and difficulties faced by those who dedicated their lives to the sea.



Bermeo



Gernika Council House