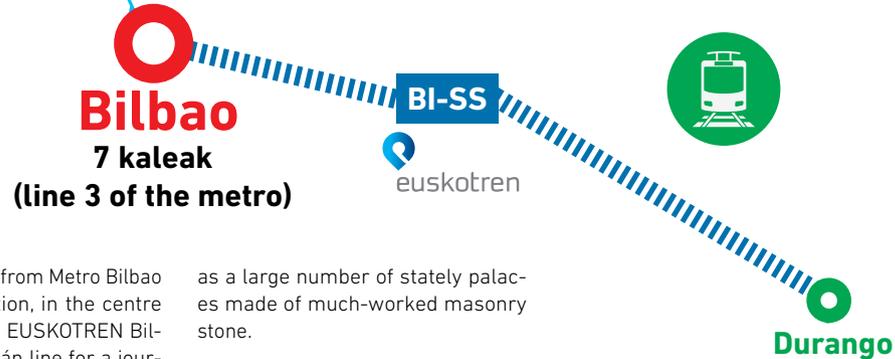


# Route 5. Durango as a destination

## The spectacle of nature

*The silence of the high peaks awaits us in Durango. Urkiola Natural Park and Anboto Mountain, the huge limestone crags, the beech forests, ravines, valleys, woods and meadows... a spectacular natural environment to be enjoyed from its streets overflowing with history and the stately palaces carefully carved from stone.*



To get to **Durango**, from Metro Bilbao **Zazpi Kaleak** station, in the centre of Bilbao, take the EUSKOTREN Bilbao-San Sebastián line for a journey of 36 minutes.

In the city centre you can discover emblematic buildings and sights such as the Kurutzasantu Museum, home to the imposing **Kurutziaga Cross**, and which houses the Tourist Office, the Santa María de Uribarri Basilica, the church of Santa Ana and its archway, San Pedro de Tabira church, Lariz Tower (where Isabel I, the Catholic Queen, is said to have spent the night when she visited the city to pledge her charter and that of Merindad de Durango) as well



as a large number of stately palaces made of much-worked masonry stone.

Incidentally, in Mikeldi street you can see a copy of the "Idolo de Mikeldi", a sculpture from the Iron Age discovered in Durango, the original of which is in the Basque Museum of Bilbao. This is a unique piece in the Basque Country and outlines an animal with a disc clasped between its legs and under its belly.

Wander aimlessly around the streets and discover, house by house, the shrapnel marks and dents left from the bombings of 1937, at the height of the Civil War, and imagine the atmosphere in the town on market day and at mass. The most interesting stops on this trip include Kurutzziaga street, Santa María Basilica, Ezkurdi square, the Sanagustinalde zone where you can find Durango Museum of Art and History and San Agustín Theatre, Bruno Mauricio Zabala street and, lastly, the "Espacio para la memoria", (A space to remember), a monument erected in memory of the terrible event.



On looking up you will encounter spectacular views as Durango is located in an incomparable natural setting, dominated by the mountains and huge limestones crags, ravines and deep valleys, dense forests and gentle meadows of **Urkiola Natural Park**...A spectacular framework which offers the opportunity to go mountaineering, climbing, abseiling and hiking among other activities. Find out more about all of these at the Durango Tourist Office.



This town also has a wide cultural agenda including activities such as Durangoko Azoka, the Basque book and music fair (held in December and which is the most important cultural fair in Euskadi), Ardo Saltsan (the wine and delicatessen fair), the Passion and Holy Week processions and the *Vintage car rally*.