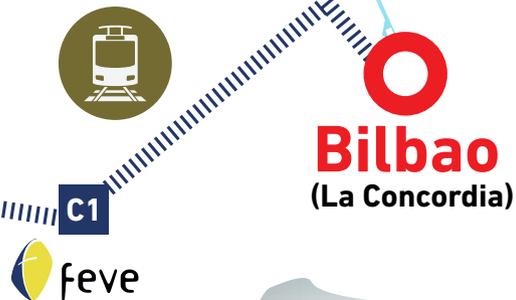


Route 7. The Kadagua route

Living Passion, *putxeras* (stews) and berets

Balmaseda is the nerve centre of Las Encartaciones or Enkarterri district, the westernmost part of the Lordship of Bizkaia and perhaps the least known. Thanks to its fertile valleys, natural environment, history and monumental heritage, this region is living testimony to the Middle Ages in Bizkaia, a period of special relevance for explaining the true essence of the territory.

Balmaseda
La Calzada



This route starts from La Concordia station in Bilbao. Here you should take the C1 Bilbao-Balmaseda FEVE line towards **La Calzada**.

The first stop is **Balmaseda**, a journey which takes approximately 50 minutes. This town, the largest in the region, has an important monumental heritage in its historic centre, in particular the Old Bridge, part of the old city wall.

Balmaseda is known for its spectacular celebrations during the Easter Week, when the population gives the Living Passion processions a touch of reality, attracting more than 50,000 people. It is also known for another tradition: the **Putxeras**. This is typical on the Feast Day of San Severino, the patron saint of Balmaseda, held on 23 October. It consists of a bean stew to which the "sacraments" (pork ribs, bacon, chorizo and black pudding) are added, preferably washed down by txakoli. The workers on the Bilbao-La Robla railway line used to cook it over the heat of the boilers in the trains in a *putxera* or railway cauldron.



Putxeras

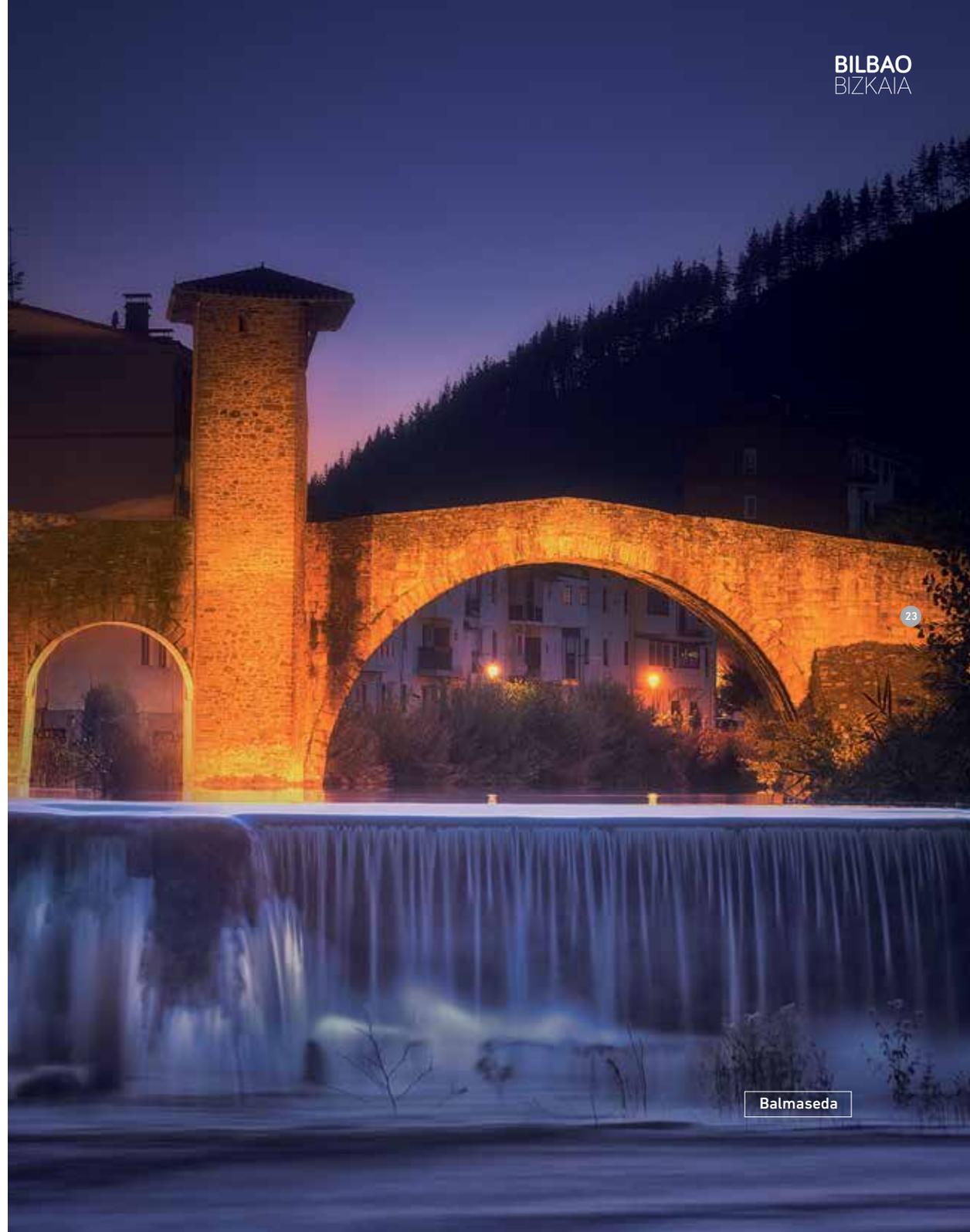
The next stop on this route is **La Calzada** station, just three minutes from Balmaseda. Here you can visit the Boinas **La Encartada** museum with a pleasant stroll of



La Encartada

approximately 1.2 kilometres. Visit the buildings of this ancient factory where the traditional *txapela* was made, and discover how the original machines from the latter years of the Industrial Revolution operated.

After walking back to La Calzada station, to get back to Bilbao, take the same train line in the opposite direction.



Balmaseda