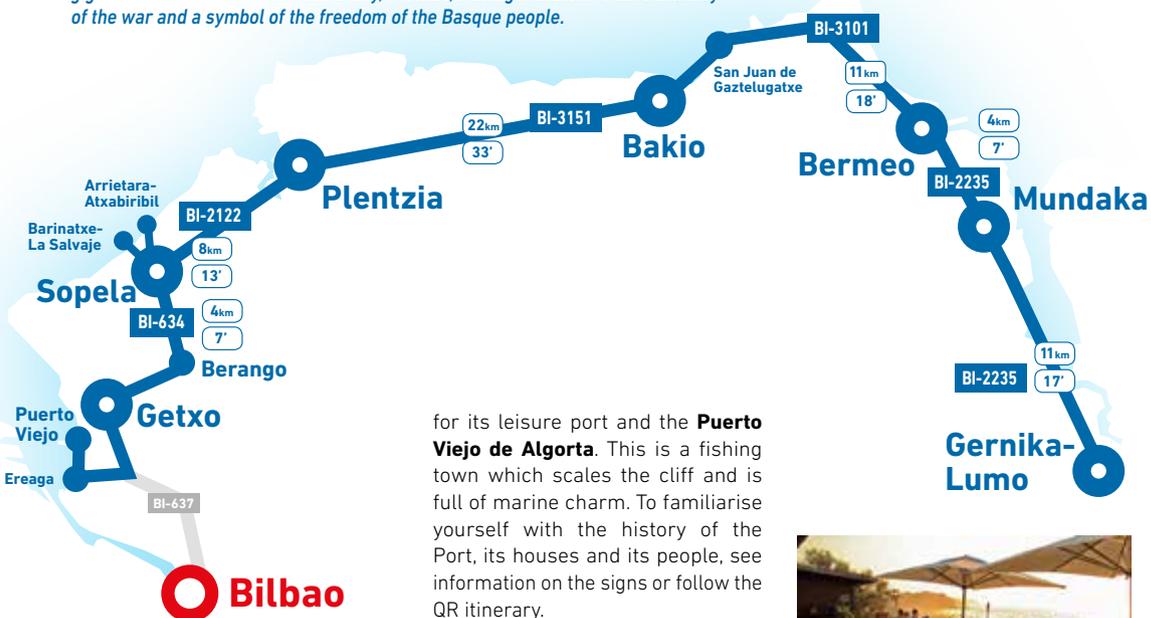


## Route 2. The central coast

### Waves, dragons and txakoli

*The cliffs reverberate with the lashings of a sea which is sometimes furious, and other times docile and always generous. Beaches of golden sand, sunsets and an island inhabited by dragons. Stories of privateers and whalers entwine with tales of gigantic waves to be ridden. And finally, Gernika, a living reminder of the barbarity of the war and a symbol of the freedom of the Basque people.*

San Juan de Gaztelugatxe



for its leisure port and the **Puerto Viejo de Algorta**. This is a fishing town which scales the cliff and is full of marine charm. To familiarise yourself with the history of the Port, its houses and its people, see information on the signs or follow the QR itinerary.



with Getxo) is a beach with its own dune system and a meeting point for fans of paragliding. On the **Arriatera-Atxabiribil** beach you will find several very lively bars from which you can admire spectacular sunsets.



We leave Bilbao in the direction of **Getxo** on the BI-637 and, having crossed Leioa, we go straight over the roundabout taking the Areeta/Las Arenas exit. At the next junction, follow the signs for Portu Zaharra/Puerto Viejo. This way takes us to **Ereaga beach**, where we can take in the beautiful scenery offered to us by its elegant noble mansions which overlook the sea and provide shelter

Next we retrace our steps and join the BI-634 heading for **Sopela**. Before arriving in **Berango**, you can visit the Museo Memorial del Cinturón de Hierro (The Ring of Steel Memorial Museum) which was built during the Civil War in order to defend Bilbao. Sopela is an ideal place for surfing. Its beaches are flanked by whimsical rock formations and vertiginous cliffs. **Barinatxe-La Salvaje** (shared



## Route 2. The central coast Waves, dragons and txakoli



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Mundaka



Taking the BI-3151, takes us directly to the most extensive beach in Biscay, **Bakio**, which is special due to the magnitude of sports that you can do there, in particular, surfing. Bakio is a summer town which has been able to maintain an important rural economy based around the farmhouse. Fruit of this is the production and commercialisation of txakoli, a young and fresh wine from Biscay itself, the history of which can be discovered at the Museum of Txakoli-Txakolingunea.



From Bakio, take the BI-3101 towards Bermeo. But, before reaching this coastal town, you simply must take a stop on your journey and discover the island of **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, one of the most spectacular scenes on the Basque Coast, and backdrop of the famous series Game of Thrones with its mythical dragons. After passing a bridge on two arches, gather strength in order to climb the 241 stairs to the small chapel of San Juan. When you reach the top, don't forget to ring the bell three times, make a wish and banish bad spirits.

In **Bermeo**, this route submerges us in the gastronomic pleasures of



the marmitako and the tuna, white tuna and anchovy preserves. This incredibly charming fishing town has a large whaling tradition. A visit to the Museo del Pescador (Fishermen's Museum) (located in the Ercilla Tower and declared a National Monument in 1944) and the Aita Guria boat will satisfy your curiosity regarding the life and the difficulties faced by the men and women of the sea. Going out for pintxos in the old part and visiting its cheerfully coloured houses is, for certain, a good plan. As well as taking in the views of the cliffs and the island of Izaro from La Tala.



The BI-2235 takes us to **Mundaka**, famous international surfing destination which boasts having the longest left-hand break wave in Europe. Mundaka centres its life around the fishing port, the most picturesque corner of the town and a point for meeting and enjoying life. The Santa Catalina chapel, thanks to its strategic location, looks over the comings and goings of the estuary

and has one of the best panoramic views that you can find on the coast of Biscay.

By following the same road, we reach **Gernika**. The town of the "fueros" is the internationally recognised icon of the absurdity and cruelty of the war. It was bombed during the Civil War and, thanks to Picasso's work of art, today stands as a symbol of the desire for peace. Gernika also houses the Meeting House and its famous tree, a flagship of the rights and liberty of the Basque people. The Pueblos de Europa Park, the Museo de la Paz (Peace Museum), the Euskal Herria Museum and the Santa María church are also worth a visit. A journey through our history, our identity as a people and our deep-rooted tradition.

To return to the point of departure of our route, we'll choose the quickest path. Take the BI-635 to Amorebieta and access the AP-8 motorway towards Bilbao.



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Gernika-Lumo