The BASQUE COAST

Seafaring
people

En route

Basque style

Activities on
land and sea

sun and beach
There are 150 experiences to choose. They are subject to change and may be updated. Therefore, before you choose an experience and to find out about prices, schedules and places available, we advise you check the web site: tourism.euskadi.eus/en/
few cultures have had a relationship as special, lasting and committed to the sea as the Basques. Towns with a seafaring soul that tell stories of brave and daring women and men. People with a special way of understanding life who transmit the unmistakable rhythm of living with the sea to everyone who visits the Basque coast.

That’s why we suggest ideas and reveal the secret passwords of each place in the following pages so you can enjoy genuine experiences.

The best of your Basque Coast visit begins here, after these words.

Ongi etorri!
Seafaring People
TEAMWORK: both on land and aboard the boat: while the men (arrantzales) put were at sea, women did... everything else. Some mended the nets; others unloaded, transported and sold the fish. And some were even pirates, explorers or shipowners.

SILENT: men figure in history (mainly written by them) as the only actors on maritime voyages. But little is known, for example, that Catalina de Erauso of San Sebastián escaped - disguised as a man - from the convent at the age of fifteen, enlisted as a soldier to fight in Chile, reached the rank of ensign and went down in history as the Ensign Nun.

HEROIC: to sell fresh fish in the hinterland they travelled on foot - often barefoot - up to 20 or 30 kilometres (from Santurce to Bilbao...). In the ports of Ondarroa, Bermeo, Lekeitio and Getaria you can still see women mending nets and selling fish as of old.

MAGICAL: sirens that dragged the sailors to the bottom of the sea, witches, storms... The fishermen’s women sewed religious images to the nets to bring good luck as the Virgin Mary is the patron saint and protector of seafarers. In 1607 María Zozaya and several other women from Rentería were accused by a court of the Inquisition of unleashing a storm that caused the death of 800 men.

INDOMITABLE: the women (known as sirgueras) dragged different types of boats from the shore by means of ropes fastened to the body with a strap to the neck. This practice was maintained in the port of Bilbao until the beginning of the 20th century despite having been denounced since the middle of the previous century.

HOSPITABLE: some of the daughters of those generations of women, who raised families while their husbands worked on the high seas, today welcome tourists to their lodgings or restaurants, teach them the arts of their trades or manage tourist offices to show that we are what we are because we ventured forth.

ENTREPRENEURS: tourist guides who share their history and that of their villages with passion, sailors who embark to show the corners of the coast that saw them grow, women who run a hotel and serve with the same affection they lavish on their own families.

Maritime experiences

In Bermeo and Getaria you can visit fish canning factories to learn about, and even take part in, this artisanal activity traditionally monopolised by women. The work was carried out during the fishing season when the men were at sea and above all, in spite of industrialisation of the processes, because the preparation of preserves such as anchovies requires a skilled, delicate touch.
Monuments to illustrious sailors in their native towns

**MUTRIKU**
There is a statue of Cosme Damián Churruca, sailor, cartographer and hero of the battle of Trafalgar, in the square named after him, and his home, the Palacio Arrietakua, still exists. The period rooms are exceptionally well-preserved and it can be visited by prior appointment.

**GETARIA**
A sculpture-lookout rises on a bulwark of the old wall, which acts as a plinth. The monument is crowned by a winged victory in the manner of a ship’s figurehead. In the lower part a bas-relief represents Juan Sebastián Elcano. Inside the building an inscription recalls the names of the rest of the crew members who, along with Elcano, survived the voyage. The town boasts two other statues of Elcano.

In 1522, after three years of an infernal voyage, Elcano managed to conclude the expedition - originally led by Magellan - to the Spice Islands. In command of the remaining carrack (nao), he became the first man to sail around the world. The voyage demonstrated the marine continuity of the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Only 18 of the 234 sailors who left Spain returned, and 4 of them were Basques. Of the initial 5 ships only one survived, the nao Vitoria, which was also of Basque origin: built for a shipowner from Ondarroa, it was commandeered by Charles V for the risky expedition.

Getaria, his hometown, enacts the arrival of Elcano every four years. 2019 will mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of this feat that changed the world.
One of the most fascinating stories about Basques and the sea concerns their adventurous nature and whale hunting. They were the pioneers of an occupation that would last for centuries and leave a powerful cultural legacy. Hoist the sails! We are off to the 15th century... on an expedition: 

**Pioneers.** Before Moby Dick. The Basque maritime industry was at its peak and its meat and oil were already a major source of wealth at a time when English or Danish whalers were venturing on their first whaling voyages.

**New Markets.** Whales are stranded on our shores from time to time and we learn to value their contributions to our diet. Moreover, our land is wet and unsuitable for growing cereals... but our forests are luxuriant and good shipbuilding wood abounds... This would more or less be the way the Basques developed their commitment to the whaling trade.

**Everything But The Sput of the Whale.** The meat was exported to France (the tongue was considered a true delicacy); the oil was used for lighting, cosmetics and medicines; the bones were used in furniture and for construction. The baleen were used in corsetry and even the spermaceti had its uses! It was coveted for making ointments.

**Lookouts.** The whalers put to sea grasping their harpoons at the cry from the watch on a high lookout. Speed was of the essence because the boat that arrived alongside the whale first would have certain privileges.

**Thirteen Oarsmen and a Helm.** Trainera regattas, one of the most demanding, visually beautiful and vibrant Basque sports, originated in that race to the whale or back to port.

**Cider and the Sea.** The voyages were long and hard but thanks to their cider - that keeps well in barrels compared to water - the Basque whalers got plenty of vitamin C and no storm could stop them.

An amazing spectacle of colours and festivity when there is a race and the oarsmen and women compete to win “the flag”. The prize is always an embroidered flag. The most coveted is La Concha in San Sebastián, a regatta held on the first two Sundays of September since 1879. At the Amurria centre in Oriñon you can even row on a competition boat. Groups can also opt for rowing a trainera in San Sebastián, Pasalía and Leketio.

**Beyond the Seas.** In Newfoundland (Canada) there are place-names in Basque such as Irutxulo (Three Holes), Baye-Ederra (Beautiful Bay) or Placentia (named after Plentzia, in Bizkaia), reminders of the Basques who fished in those waters.

**Coat of Arms Gymkana.** Notice the number of whales in the coats of arms of Basque coastal towns. Many of them were founded when whaling was at its height. Zarautz, Hondarribia, Mutriku, Bermeo, Leketio... keep looking!

**Nao San Juan.** Back to the 21st century, the Factoría Marítima Albaola shipyard is building a replica of the nao (carrack) San Juan, an emblematic project for UNESCO. The remains of the ocean-going vessel, lost in 1565 (two years after its construction in Pasai), were found in Red Bay (Canada) 400 years later and have been studied and documented. Albaola is a shipyard/museum that you can visit to learn about how they work with the same materials and methods used by their ancestors while respecting the historical construction process.

This is the Guggenheim of the sea, an indispensable visit.

---

**Clues to Know More About Them**

The first whalers
Those who grew up away from home battling the ocean waves know that their best reward is waiting after all the hard work. We have always longed to get back home, so being good hosts is in our hearts. When you visit a seaport you will see fish markets, fishing boats, the hustle and bustle, carts and trucks when the fish is unloaded... activity that marked the rhythm of most coastal towns until very recently. This rhythm is still transmitted to those who visit working ports on the Basque Coast such as Getaria, which has the most modern fish market in the country, Ondarroa, the main high-seas port of the Bay of Biscay, Bermeo with its tuna fleet, Hondarribia or Santurtzi.

Santa Catalina lighthouse in Lekeitio. The only lighthouse that can be visited on the Cantabrian coast, here Antolin, a seasoned fisherman, will tell you about the operation and importance of these infrastructures and even invite you to take a (virtual) sea voyage. It is also worth taking a trip to other lighthouses on the Basque Coast such as the La Plata lighthouse in Pasaia, Cabo Higuer in Hondarribia, Mxitxako in Bermeo with its bird observatory (the Gorliz observatory) or the Galea lighthouse in Getxo.

MATER museoa, in Pasaia, is a museum in a traditional fishing boat. People passionate about artisanal and sustainable fishing share their knowledge and stress how important it is for fishing to respect the environment. You can even taste a seafood appetiser on the deck with views of the frenetic activity of the port.

The Museo del Pescador (Fishing Museum) in Bermeo is located in the historic Torre Ercilla, a national heritage building. Since 1948 it has housed this museum devoted to the world of Basque fishing: the life and work of the fishermen, their customs, trade associations, the vessels and the methods they have employed over the years for fishing and marketing their catch.

In Santurtzi you can visit the tuna boat Agurtza, one of the last traditional wooden fishing boats remaining on our coast, to learn how the fishermen lived on board. The visit will make certain things clear about the character of the Basque people.
The best grilled fish in the world is found on the Basque Coast.

The tables always have a tablecloth. Except in cider houses.

Culinary societies, or ‘txokos’, are private meetings where the members gather to cook, eat and spend time with their friends. Enjoying a meal as a guest in a txoko is a true immersion in Basque gastronomic culture.

The perfect pairing with the fish of the Basque Coast is undoubtedly txakoli, the Basque Country’s characteristic white wine. The Sosoaga winery in Lekeitio conserves a working 18th century winepress, the oldest in the Basque Country. You can visit wineries in Bakio, the location of the txakoli interpretation centre. There are also great wineries in Getaria, Aia, Zarautz, Hondarribia, Muxika...

The grills were installed on the streets of Getaria and Orio because they were the sailors’ way of cooking their fish aboard the boats. As maître d’ Aitor Arregui puts it, this is a culinary landscape. It was in Getaria that he grilled the first hake nape cut and the first whole flat fish with skin and all. This technique enables the turbot to retain its gelatin moisture and cook to perfection. Quality raw material, Royal Oak charcoal, the exact distance between the embers and the fish and seasoning with pan-fried oil, salt, slight acidity and a magical touch that differentiates the top restaurants from the rest are the secrets of good grilled fish.

Many coastal towns have a special relationship with certain fish and products and this is reflected in their gastronomic festivals and indispensable dishes: octopus and Zumaia, mackerel and Mutriku, anchovy and Ondarroa, sardines and Santurtzi, sea bream and Orio, Pasai Donibane and cod, tuna and Hondarribia.

Getaria and Pasai Donibane hold entertaining workshops where you can clean and prepare our own canned anchovies in oil. The grills were installed on the streets of Getaria and Orio because they were the sailors’ way of cooking their fish aboard the boats. As maître d’ Aitor Arregui puts it, this is a culinary landscape. It was in Getaria that he grilled the first hake nape cut and the first whole flat fish with skin and all. This technique enables the turbot to retain its gelatin moisture and cook to perfection. Quality raw material, Royal Oak charcoal, the exact distance between the embers and the fish and seasoning with pan-fried oil, salt, slight acidity and a magical touch that differentiates the top restaurants from the rest are the secrets of good grilled fish.

In the 19th century a Bilbao merchant placed an order for “20 or 22” cod but received 20022 fish by mistake. Shortly after Bilbao was besieged by the Carlist troops and the only available food was the merchant’s codfish. That’s why we have so many recipes for this fish, among which bacalao al pil-pil takes pride of place.

And the txipirones “a lo Pelayo”? Around the year 1900 there was a restaurant in Getaria run by a certain Pelayxo Manterola. Given the abundance of baby squid and quite fed up with them, Pelayo and his partner Teresa innovated by sautéing them on a bed of onion and green peppers.

The market of Gernika-Lumo is a must, as are the market squares: The Bretxa in San Sebastián, the Ribera in Bilbao, Zarautz, Bermeo...

5 delicacies you are sure to find on the menu of the best restaurants: marmitako (tuna stew), txipirones (baby squid) in their own ink and cod al pil-pil (in garlic and pepper sauce) and a la Bizkaina (Biscay style). ‘Deconstructed’ or not, you have to try them.

COASTAL GASTRONOMY: an ancient heritage

- In the 19th century a Bilbao merchant placed an order for “20 or 22” cod but received 20022 fish by mistake. Shortly after Bilbao was besieged by the Carlist troops and the only available food was the merchant’s codfish. That’s why we have so many recipes for this fish, among which bacalao al pil-pil takes pride of place.

- And the txipirones “a lo Pelayo”? Around the year 1900 there was a restaurant in Getaria run by a certain Pelayxo Manterola. Given the abundance of baby squid and quite fed up with them, Pelayo and his partner Teresa innovated by sautéing them on a bed of onion and green peppers.

- The grills were installed on the streets of Getaria and Orio because they were the sailors’ way of cooking their fish aboard the boats. As maître d’ Aitor Arregui puts it, this is a culinary landscape. It was in Getaria that he grilled the first hake nape cut and the first whole flat fish with skin and all. This technique enables the turbot to retain its gelatin moisture and cook to perfection. Quality raw material, Royal Oak charcoal, the exact distance between the embers and the fish and seasoning with pan-fried oil, salt, slight acidity and a magical touch that differentiates the top restaurants from the rest are the secrets of good grilled fish.

- Many coastal towns have a special relationship with certain fish and products and this is reflected in their gastronomic festivals and indispensable dishes: octopus and Zumaia, mackerel and Mutriku, anchovy and Ondarroa, sardines and Santurtzi, sea bream and Orio, Pasai Donibane and cod, tuna and Hondarribia.

- Getaria and Pasai Donibane hold entertaining workshops where you can clean and prepare our own canned anchovies in oil.
It was European royalty, aristocracy and bourgeoisie who turned the coast from Getxo to Biarritz into a tourist destination in the nineteenth century. They chose places like San Sebastián, Zarautz or Lekeitio for their holidays because of the beauty of the coast and the therapeutic qualities attributed to them: the moderate climate, mild summers and waters rich in iodine and salt and warmer than on the rest of the Cantabrian coast.

The medicine of the times recommended that the baths should be taken “in the morning, on an empty stomach, in odd-numbered series: 3, 5, 7... 3, 5, 7... and with a duration of no more than 3 waves per session.”

In 1887 Queen María Cristina had wooden royal sheds built to preserve her privacy on the beach of her favourite city, San Sebastián. In 1911 they were replaced by the Casa de Baños (bath house) that still stands to this day on the promenade.
WHAT TO SEE OR DO

- At La Perla, a renovated thalassotherapy centre in San Sebastián first opened in 1912, in addition to enjoying its own spa circuit you can go directly to La Concha beach for a swim in the sea before heading back to the jacuzzi. The Hotel Talasoterapia Zelai in Zumaia is located right on Itzurun beach, one of the most beautiful on the Basque Coast.

- Sheltered by the port’s docks, the seawater pools in Elantxobe and Mutriku are ideal for a family swim or to do swimming laps at your own pace and are definitely worth a visit.

- Urban beaches protected from the roughness of the sea such as La Concha in San Sebastián or those at Gorliz and Plentzia or Isuntza in Mutriku, are ideal for all the family. The beaches of Hondarribia, Karraspio in Mendexa, Arrigunaga and Erea in Getxo, La Arena in Muskiz and Zierbena, Ea beach of Santiago in Zumaia, Malkorbe in Getaria, Deba beach and Arrigorri in Ondarroa also fall into this category.

- Naturist: the bays of Lapatxa in Ea, Barrika, Ulla and Igeldo in San Sebastián, or the Zurriola beach in San Sebastián, Zarautz, Saturraran in Mutriku, Muriola (Barrika), Meñakoz (Barrika-Sopela), Aizkorri (Getxo) and Barinatxe in Sopela and Getxo.
THE COAST FROM THE SEA: nautical activities

The first nautical clubs in the ports of Bilbao, San Sebastián and Hondarribia date from the end of the 19th century. The first surfers appeared on their beaches in the 1950s and were the pioneers in Europe.

Along its 246 km of coastline 40 beaches, 50 surfing waves, 20 marinas and more than 100 maritime tourism companies provide the best nautical plans to round off the perfect visit to the Basque Country.

BOAT HIRE

You can rent a sailing or motor yacht or even a traditional tuna boat at most marinas along the Basque Coast. If you have a yachtmaster certificate you may rent a bare boat (without a skipper), but there is nothing like sailing with someone with local knowledge, who knows the coast, all its hidden bays and the most interesting ports.

The charter companies also provide full and half-day trips and even shorter excursions. There are outings to learn the basics of manning a sailing boat, to see the coast from the sea and docking in charming towns or round off your day on the Basque coast by watching a sunset from the high seas.
Regular Maritime Transport Lines

Using the normal maritime transport services in rias and bays is an easy fun option ideal for families to access towns and beaches and see the surroundings from a different viewpoint.

In Plentzia, take a boat trip and taste wine from an underwater winery! Sail from Bermeo around Iazo island and see San Juan de Gaztelugatxe from the sea.

Explore the Urdaibai reserve in Mundaka, hear the legends of the district and try the local products.

See the Basque Coast Geopark from the sea to learn more about the history of the earth as revealed in its amazing rock formations.

Sailing in the bays of San Sebastián and Hondarribia.

BOAT TRIPS

Between Getxo, Santurtzi, Portugalete and Bilbao: the landscape and architecture of the estuary or ria from a different viewpoint.

In Plentzia, take a boat trip and taste wine from an underwater winery! Sail from Bermeo around Iazo island and see San Juan de Gaztelugatxe from the sea.

Explore the Urdaibai reserve in Mundaka, hear the legends of the district and try the local products.

ROWING

In a canoe, on a stand-up paddle board, racing trainer or traditional boat. The range of rowing techniques enables all kinds of people to get some healthy exercise and enjoy the surroundings individually or as a group. Coast, rias and bays to enjoy stroke by stroke.

• Kayaking under the Guggenheim or on the Urdaibai estuary. A basic idea of how to paddle is sufficient to kayak under the Guggenheim Museum in Gorki, Urdaibai, Zumaia or La Concha Bay with or without a guide. For competent paddlers there are routes along the coast or advanced training in sea and surf kayaking in Plentzia, Ibararrangelu and Lekeitio.

• SUP, the in sport. A board, an oar and a modicum of balance. These are the ingredients to enjoy Stand Up Paddle. At Plentzia, Bakio, Urdaibai, Lekeitio, the Deba estuary or Hondarribia. For example.

• Traditional rowing. You can take part in group rowing in a racing trainer or replicas of historic craft. In addition to the paddling technique, the characteristics of the boat and its history are part of the experience. Where? In three places with strong sports rowing links: Orio, San Sebastián and Pasai.
Diving

The Basque Coast is an exceptional destination for scuba diving. Its more than 200 km of coastline encompasses many different ecosystems - rocky seabeds, sandbanks, cliffs... - that host a wide variety of marine fauna and flora that surprises even experienced divers.

The professional diving centres of the Basque Country will ensure that you enjoy really special dives, provided the sea - often a rough master in these parts - gives its consent. Their passion for the sport and knowledge of the most spectacular reefs with the greatest ecological diversity are your best guarantee.

A GOOD PLAN

**Baptism**

Baptism enables you to discover the underwater world and scuba diving in a quick, safe controlled manner. In Getxo, Pasaia, the seawater pools in Mutriku or the sandy seabeds of Hondarribia, for example. Prerequisites? Being able to swim and wanting to have fun.

**Dives off the coast of Gaztelugatxe or under the Jaizkibel cliffs.**

Punta Lucero, Cape Billano, Matsitsako, Izena, Argizox, Gaztelu, Punta Ratón, Los Frailes beach...

These are only a few of the places to which organised diving trips are available.

Other plans

COASTEERING

The in thing. A new form of trekking takes place along the shoreline and combines trekking, water jumping, swimming and diving, climbing, rappelling... In Gorliz, Lekeitio or Urdalibai adventure and fun are assured on practically unknown stretches of coast.

FLYBOARD

You will feel like a flying fish when you get a flyboard up and running for the first time. After a few minutes practice the device enables you to defy gravity as you zoom around several metres above the surface. Fun and games guaranteed. In Gorliz, Hondarribia and Zumaia.

FISHING

Rod fishing activities for beginners and advanced anglers to learn about the marine environment.

By boat from San Sebastián, Getxo, Santurtzi or Zierbena with expert instructors who know all the best fishing spots.

For further information on these activities, consult the tourist information offices in the towns mentioned (Page 60).
The Basque Country was the first surfing mecca in Spain. Its more than fifty surfing brakewaters and its experienced provision of surfing services ensure that the Basque Coast remains a benchmark among surfing destinations in Europe.

Mundaka is a dream left-hand barrel that ranks among the ten best waves in the world, but it is only one of a varied mix. Punta Galea, Orrua and Meñakoz have waves suitable for all levels, as have Zarautz, Sopela, Bakio and San Sebastián. Then there are quieter places with special charm such as Deba, Getaria, Laga or Zumaia.

There are also events of interest to everyone all year round that attract large crowds, generate significant economic activity along the entire coast and make the destination an international benchmark.
Surfing Basque Country is composed of almost a hundred companies and institutions involved in the sustainable and organised development of surf tourism in the Basque Country. Its offer, based on its unbeatable surfing conditions in combination with other tourist attractions, is supported by the professional expertise of the member companies, the number and variety of the waves and the surfing atmosphere that characterises the entire Basque coast.

**GOOD PLAN**

- **Surfing baptisms**
  After adjusting the wet suit it takes just a couple of hours to get started in the sport, learn the basic movements and try to catch at least one wave. Fun is guaranteed, as is a burning desire to do it again.

- **Courses**
  From La Arena in Muskiz at the western limit of the Basque Coast to Zumtola in San Sebastián, there is a wide range of activities to learn how to surf at the Basque Country’s surfing beaches: getting started, weekend, advanced, intensive courses... The variety of waves and the wide choice of schools ensure that you will find the course with the contents and duration that suits your level... Even for the whole family!

- **Watch surfers, beaches, waves and competitions**
  There’s no need to grab a board and take to the water to enjoy surfing. Watching people surf has a certain hypnotic touch. Any day at the beach from one of the impressive lookouts along the coast. Or even on a mythical day of giant waves like those shown on television news and internet videos.

All its members from schools with specialised professional teachers to surf-friendly accommodation, hotels, hostels and campsites with services adapted to the surf tourist are committed to surfing and meet the quality and legality standards required to display the Surfing Euskadi seal.

**Surfing Basque Country** is composed of almost a hundred companies and institutions involved in the sustainable and organised development of surf tourism in the Basque Country. Its offer, based on its unbeatable surfing conditions in combination with other tourist attractions, is supported by the professional expertise of the member companies, the number and variety of the waves and the surfing atmosphere that characterises the entire Basque coast.

**www.surfingeuskadi.eus**

**ARRIATERA**

**WAVES, PLANS, SCHOOLS, BEACHES... ALL THE INFORMATION AT**

www.surfingeuskadi.eus
ACTIVITIES WITH SEA VIEWS:

exceptional landscapes

1. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Urdaibai.

2. UNESCO Geopark, part of the Global Geopark Network.


5. Special reserve areas (ZEC) in the Natura 2000 network.

6. Special bird protection reserves (ZEPA) and designated wetlands of international importance (RAMSAR): Urdaibai and Txingudi Bay.

7. Points of interest for ornithological tourism (Txingudi, Urdaibai, Cape Matxitxako and the port of Bilbao) and a specialised centre: Urdaibai Bird Centre.
This is corroborated by the three gold nails, a distinction that marks exceptionally important geological areas (there are only 60 others in the world) and by the declaration of a 13-km stretch of coastline between Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia as a UNESCO Geopark.

They say that the geological formation called flysch is a book in stone in which the history of the Earth can be read. The geopark provides guided tours by sea to view the cliffs from a boat or walking on trails with spectacular views, all with guides who explain when and why dinosaurs disappeared and help you to discover the enormous variety of species that live there today.

But there are more examples on the Basque Coast: between Pasaia and Hondarribia, the sea has sculpted sinuous forms, caves and hollows in the multi-coloured walls of the cliffs below Mount Jaizkibel. Here, unusual rock formations, some considered the best-preserved in the world, can be found that will certainly reward a visit. The cliffs between Getxo and Barrika have also been awarded a golden nail. Only a stone’s throw from Bilbao you will find an area with walks on the heights, beaches and outdoor bars where you can take in the stunning landscapes and sunsets while sipping a cold drink.
TREKKING

- 5 stages of the Northern Camino de Santiago from Hondarribia to Muskiz.
- Excursions to the Peña de Aia nature reserves and Pagoeta.
- The Talai trail between Hondarribia and Mutriku.
- The Marine boulevard between Zarautz and Getaria.
- Geo-routes in Sopela, Gorliz, Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia.
- Network of trails in the Urdaibai biosphere reserve.
- Trails among the Bakio vineyards or to the Gorliz lighthouse.
- Cliffs from Getxo to Gorliz.
- The Itxaslu greenway in Muskiz.
- The Lea river route.

BIRD WATCHING

- A specialised centre, the Urdaibai Bird Centre in Gaugez-Arteaga in the heart of the biosphere reserve.
- Two observatories in exceptional environments: Ekoetxe Plaiaundi in Irun and the Cape Matxitxako lighthouse in the San Juan de Gaztelugatxe biotope.
- Other points of ornithological interest: the Iñurritza biotope in Zarautz and Mount Serantes above the port of Bilbao.

UP IN THE AIR

- Fly over beaches and cliffs by paragliding, hang gliding or ballooning in Sopela, Plentzia, San Sebastián or Txingudi.
- Unforgettable helicopter or small plane trips from the Sondika and Hondarribia airports.

BY BIKE, HORSE OR 4X4 ...

- Bike routes along the coastal route of the Camino de Santiago along paths, over the sea and coastal roads. You can also book customised itineraries and forget everything you need - transfers, accommodation, etc - in the hands of specialised companies.
- Horseback riding lessons and excursions in equestrian centres: Lemoiz, Mutriku, or Irun.
- Outings on quads and 4x4 vehicles from Bakio to visit San Juan de Gaztelugatxe and Urdaibai.

For further information on these activities, consult the tourist information offices in the towns mentioned (Page 60).
ROUTES on the Basque Coast
**From BILBAO to SAN JUAN DE GAZTELUGATXE**

**MUSKIZ AND ZIERBENA**
From the La Arena beach you can take the Itsaslur greenway (2 to 5 km), a spectacular track on the old mining railway runs along the coastline suitable for walking or biking. Don’t miss the seafood in Zierbena.

**SANTURTZI**
Trekking and mountain bike fans will love the routes to Mount Serantes with its spectacular views of the ría mouth and the port of Bilbao. The best part comes after the descent: the famous sardines of Santurtzi.

**PORTUGALETE**
Walk along the banks of the ria with views of the Bizkaia Bridge and the Torre Salazar in the old quarter where Lope de Salazar was poisoned along with his daughter... after being held prisoner by his own son for many years!

**GETXO**
After crossing the ría by the Bizkaia Bridge, take a stroll along the sea front flanked by neo-Basque and colonial style mansions and villas as far as the marina with its wide range of nautical activities, restaurants and even an aquarium.

A visit to the Old Port of Alporta is a must, to stroll among whitewashed fishermen’s houses and have an aperitif in its square or on the stairs.
THE whole family

- El Pobal ironworks in Muskiz. An exhibition of the most important components of the manufacturing process of an ironworks, it also includes a visit to the ironworks building, flour mill and manor house. Live demonstrations every weekend and on holidays.

- The Getxo Aquarium on the marina faithfully reproduces marine environments in which a wide variety of fish, corals, anemones, marine algae, invertebrates and crustaceans coexist.

From BILBAO to SAN JUAN DE GAZTELUGATXE

BAKIO
Wineries and the Txakoli museum and one of the longest beaches on the coast, ideal for surfing even for beginners.

To end this tour, now in the Bermeo district, take the most essential visit on the Basque Coast and one of the most emblematic of the entire peninsula: San Juan de Gaztelugatxe - with its small island, 261 stairs, 3 bell peals and 1 wish. The best time is at sunset. Or by boat from Bermeo.

- Maritime Museum (former Fishermen’s Association) and the Agurtza, a boat in open to the public in Santurtzi, or Riala, Portugalete’s industrial museum, are good options for exploring the close links of the Basque Coast with the sea and iron.

Remember: the Buskalduna Concert Hall and Conference Centre is next to the Ría de Bilbao Maritime Museum where you can explore the maritime history of the city and the secrets of its successful urban transformation.

IN CASE it rains

- Maritime Museum (former Fishermen’s Association) and the Agurtza, a boat in open to the public in Santurtzi, or Riala, Portugalete’s industrial museum, are good options for exploring the close links of the Basque Coast with the sea and iron.

PLIENTZIA BAY AND GORLIZ
Ría, protected bay and wide sandy beaches, a perfect environment for water sports from kayaking to the hilarious coasteering. There are also trekking trails - the one to the Gorliz lighthouse is especially recommended - the old quarter of Plentzia and even an underwater winery. A few kilometres away you can visit the fishing district of Armintza: a small hidden gem.

SOPELA AND BARRIKA
Lively and surfing beaches, outdoor cafes and walks on the cliffs that reach Getxo and Plentzia.

BAKIO
Wineries and the Txakoli museum and one of the longest beaches on the coast, ideal for surfing even for beginners.

SAN JUAN DE GAZTELUGATXE

San Juan de Gaztelugatxe is faith, nature and magic. A genuine haven of peace in the midst of the rough sea. It forms part of the history of Bermeo, of the fishermen... and of any traveller: once visited, never forgotten. The bell that today is said to bring good luck once sounded a warning if anyone crossed the threshold or if there was a storm at sea. It has witnessed or consoled countless tragedies, but has also seen the relationship of a people with the sea from the most beautiful viewpoint imaginable.

It is also a protected nature reserve due to its marine and terrestrial biodiversity and landscape value.

To end this tour, now in the Bermeo district, take the most essential visit on the Basque Coast and one of the most emblematic of the entire peninsula: San Juan de Gaztelugatxe - with its small island, 261 stairs, 3 bell peals and 1 wish. The best time is at sunset. Or by boat from Bermeo.

IN CASE it rains

- Maritime Museum (former Fishermen’s Association) and the Agurtza, a boat in open to the public in Santurtzi, or Riala, Portugalete’s industrial museum, are good options for exploring the close links of the Basque Coast with the sea and iron.

Remember: the Buskalduna Concert Hall and Conference Centre is next to the Ría de Bilbao Maritime Museum where you can explore the maritime history of the city and the secrets of its successful urban transformation.
**BERMEO**
One of the most emblematic fishing villages on the Basque Coast. Above its lively old port the Ercilla tower houses the Fisherman’s Museum, one of the few museums in the world exclusively devoted to the life and work of fishermen. Buying some preserves is essential.

**MUNDAKA**
A small, charming fishing village that is a benchmark in the surfing world for its left-hand barrel, one of the top ten waves worldwide. Izaro Island, the scene of stories of queens, friars and corsairs, is just off the coast. From Mundaka and Bermeo there are boat trips to the island and to the inside of the estuary.

**IBARRANGELU**
On the other side of the ría Laida beach provides extraordinary views. Located in a nature reserve, it can be accessed by the river transport service. Another must-see is the rock of Ogoño and Laga beach, practically unspoilt and boasting perhaps the most crystalline waters in the Basque Country.

**ELANTXOBE**
A singular fishing village that grew any way it could at the foot of Ogoño. Space is at such a premium that it has a rotating platform in the main square for the bus to turn around. ‘Beautiful villages must have great remedies’.

**URDAIBAI**
Has the greatest scenic and ecological diversity of the Basque Coast. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984. The Oka River, which becomes a ría after crossing Gernika and creating spectacular wetlands before emptying into the sea. There are many and varied plans for visitors to enjoy the natural environment: trekking, bird-watching, excursions by boat or SUP, mountain bike routes...

**TO LEKEITIO AND ONDARROA by URDAIBAI**
EA
A small, narrow town that hugs its estuary until it opens to the sea. The wild Ogeia beach is only a few kilometres away in Ispaster.

LEKEITIO
Maritime heritage and a storied past in a superb natural environment, island included. The panorama provided by the façades of the houses surrounding the port and the nearby Gothic basilica that hosts extensive artistic treasures are of exceptional interest. Family beach and nautical activities. And the only lighthouse on the Cantabrian coast that can be visited.

MENDEXA
Karraspio beach is on the right bank of the river Lea where you will also find the singular sixteenth-century Marierrot tidal mill and a pleasant walk known as 'the Lea route'.

ONDARROA
A fully active port with the biggest fleet of fishing boats on the Cantabrian coast. Further along you will find the old quarter that contained the original port. The best ending to the trip is hake 'a la Ondarresa'.

THE whole family
• Ekoetxea Urdaibai, in Busturia, displays the richness of the natural and cultural heritage of the biosphere reserve while fostering knowledge and the appreciation of biodiversity. It will exceed the expectations of the whole family with a broad activity schedule.

GERNIKA
• The Basilica de la Asunción de Santa María in Lekeitio has a formidable Spanish-Flemish altarpiece in gilded and polychromed wood, the third largest sculpted gothic altarpiece in Spain. It is open to the public in summer and guided tours are provided with prior booking.

GERNIKA-LUMO
Known for the bombing on 26 April 1937, the spirit of Gernika was immortalised in Picasso’s masterpiece, but it is also a living monument that evokes the ‘traditional freedoms of the Basque people’. Since the fifteenth century a succession of oaths to uphold the law were sworn under the tree next to the Assembly House. The Peace Museum is very close by.

OMA
OMA Forest and the painted forest of SANTIMAMINE CAVES
The painter Agustín Ibarrola devised an oasis of joy, nature and colour in a forest in Kortezubi near the Santimamiñe cave. This explains the numerous eyes painted on the tree trunks to symbolise the gaze of the first ‘artists’ who left their works in charcoal on the walls of the cave. The Santimamiñe caves are closed to the public but the atrium is open and visitors can see a 3D projection of the prehistoric art works.
From the **GEOPARK**
to **GETARIA and ZARAUTZ**

**MUTRIKU**
From the top of the town down to the port: a neoclassical church, a historical complex with stately houses (17th-18th century) and a tower house that was the scene of a passionate love story. And a unique collection of fossils at the Nautilus Geological Interpretation Centre.

**DEBA**
The portico with its original medieval polychrome and the cloister of the **Gothic church of Santa María** can be found in the old quarter. The idyllic **Lastur valley** and the white cliffs of **Sakoneta**, one of the most spectacular areas of the coast, are not far from the town.

**ZUMAIA**
Visit the **Algorri interpretation centre** to learn about the peculiarities of **flysch**, and take a short boat trip to view it from the sea. On land, the **church of San Pedro**, the **Ignacio Zuloaga cultural centre**, the painter’s home-studio and the **San Telmo hermitage**. From there, the cliffs and Itzurun beach beckon. Landscapes of a calibre that remains in the mind’s eye forever. The stretch of road between **Zumaia** and **Zarautz** has wonderful views of the sea and txakoli vineyards and makes a great outing by car, motorcycle or caravan (especially for the passengers).

**ZARAUTZ**
...
The whole family

Surfing in Zarautz
A beginners’ surfing course with all the equipment included, specially designed for the whole family to learn how to catch waves together. A weekend to enjoy surfing and the cultural and culinary delights that Zarautz and its surroundings have to offer.

Traditional games
Discover the old mill in the Lursur Valley (Deba), take part in an entertaining talos (cornflour flatbread) workshop with tasting included and play traditional Basque games with the family: txingar races, sokatira, gathering corncobs, sack races...

Gastronomic activities
Zumaia, Getaria, Zarautz and Orio are the ideal places to make plans to discover and enjoy gastronomic products and their production facilities. Anchovy preserve workshops, visits to txakoli wineries, the secrets of a good grilled seabream or the mixed farming methods that produce gourmet products.

Ekainberrri
Visit the Ekainberrri cave (a replica of the original Ekain cave) in Zestoa, a few kilometres from Zumaia. A magnificent chance for the whole family to learn the keys to interpreting cave paintings. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008 along with 16 other rock art sanctuaries on the Cantabrian coast including Santimamiñe and Altzerrri.

In case it rains
Gastronomic activities
Zumaia, Getaria, Zarautz and Orio are the ideal places to make plans to discover and enjoy gastronomic products and their production facilities. Anchovy preserve workshops, visits to txakoli wineries, the secrets of a good grilled seabream or the mixed farming methods that produce gourmet products.

Dig out that raincoat from the bottom of the suitcase and take a walk along the cliffs that line the coast. We are all for going for a walk, or a run or whatever, no matter what the weather. And the angrier the sea gets, the more photogenic it becomes.
SAN SEBASTIÁN

Take a stroll through one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Walking, running or cycling on a route that ends at Chillida’s Wind Comb. Or bordering Mount Urgull along Paseo Nuevo, stopping off at landmarks such as Lo Viejo and its pintxo bars and churches, the port, the Aquarium (not to be missed if children are with you) or the San Telmo Museum, formerly a 16th-century Dominican convent.

Or take a boat to Santa Clara Island or even better, a canoe or SUP board from La Concha beach. Zurriola beach, on the other hand, is a great place to learn or practice surfing.

Taking the funicular up Mount Igeido is an indispensable plan to get panoramic views over the bay and visit an amusement park that is also a 1980s period piece.

Pasai Donibane has only one street, a cobbled thoroughfare closed to traffic that runs through several tunnels. Here you can visit the Víctor Hugo house-museum that also houses the tourist information office. The novelist spent some time here enthralled by the beauty of the village.

PASAI DONIBANE

A superb way to get to Pasai Donibane is to take the motorboat that departs from Pasai San Pedro and is used by the local people and pilgrims to avoid a twelve-kilometre detour around the bay. Pasai Donibane has only one street, a cobbled thoroughfare closed to traffic that runs through several tunnels. Here you can visit the Victor Hugo house-museum that also houses the tourist information office. The novelist spent some time here enthralled by the beauty of the village.

THE WIND COMB

The Wind Comb (Peine del Viento) is a group of three sculptures by Eduardo Chillida arranged as an architectural work by the Basque architect Luis Peña Ganchegui. Its three steel pieces, embedded in natural rocks rising from the sea, weigh 10 tons each. Holes connected to a cavity under the square spray jets of seawater into the air on windy days, but if you listen carefully you can always hear the murmur of the waves.
LEZO
A singular work of art in the church of Santo Cristo, a Byzantine image of a beardless Christ famous for working miracles. And lookout along the coast: the Jaizkibel Towers.

HONDARRIBIA
Two differentiated parts. The medieval town, where the most outstanding features are the Plaza de Armas with Charles V’s castle and the Gothic church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. The other is the La Marina district, a bustling area of bars and outdoor cafes with a genuine fishing village atmosphere. And looking towards the bay, a wide beach, the marina and the fishing ports.

HONDARRIBIA
The walls of the historical centre of Hondarribia are evidence of its medieval origin. After several reconstructions, these high, massive walls made of limestone from Mount Jaizkibel enclosed the city until the end of the 18th century. We recommend taking an easy stroll around the entire walled enclosure to appreciate the sheer size and sobriety of the fortification.

SAN SEBASTIÁN
The road overlooking the sea across the summit of Mount Jaizkibel is a good optional route to Hondarribia and enables you to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

THE wholE family
- San Sebastián Aquarium
  Its main attraction is the oceanarium, a transparent 360° tunnel, in addition to its 37 aquariums. Although the two bull sharks are the main attraction, more than 5,000 fish live here in addition to the real eleven metre-long skeleton of the second-last whale captured on the Basque Coast.
- Hunting whales in Albaola
  A special plan: Come to the museum by boat. Children will receive a treasure map that they fill it in as they go through the museum, helped with hints from the cartoon character Txo. A visit made by and for children. You can round it off with a “whaler menu” at the restaurants in the area.

LA CÔTE BASQUE
La Côte Basque is a series of towns and sandy beaches that were lent a veneer of glamour and French ‘charme’ by 20th-century royalty and bourgeoisie. Peaceful Guéthary, charming St. Jean de Luz, ultra-famous Biarritz and lively Bayonne.

IN CASE it rains
- Storms - beware, caution - storms on the Basque Coast are fantastic to watch, but can be scary.
- Maritime Museum
  This small centre located in an old building in the port of San Sebastián programmes interesting exhibitions on various aspects of the relationship of the Basque people with the sea.
- In the footsteps of the Romans
  The Oiasso Roman Museum in Irun is devoted to the archaeological remains of the old port of the same name and tells the story of Roman conquest of the Basque Coast.

LA CÔTE BASQUE
Hunting whales in Albaola
A special plan: Come to the museum by boat. Children will receive a treasure map that they fill it in as they go through the museum, helped with hints from the cartoon character Txo. A visit made by and for children. You can round it off with a “whaler menu” at the restaurants in the area.

Watersports
In both San Sebastián and Hondarribia you can rent canoes for several people, stand up paddle boards and surfing courses. A couple of quick tips on the basic movements... and fun for the whole family in calm conditions. You can also book guided outings.

From SAN SEBASTIÁN to "LA CÔTE BASQUE"
SHOPPING ON THE COAST

SHOPPING

Game of Thrones
San Juan de Gaztelugatxe is transformed into Dragonstone, the Targaryen castle, in the series. Game of Thrones has used the Basque country throughout its production, setting scenes on Muriola Beach in Barrika and Itzurun Beach in Zumáia as the Westeros coast.

Approach the Game of Thrones locations from the sea: boat trips from Bermeo to San Juan and from Zumaia and even by jet ski to Itzurun and in by sea kayak or SUP to Muriola. Arteaga and Butrón castles, the fortress of Charles V and the walls of Hondarribia or the defensive tower of Muñatones in Muskiz are some of the other fortifications that deserve a film - or at least a visit.

Spanish Affair
The wedding scene in the film takes place in the hermitage of San Telmo, in Zumáia, on the flysch cliffs. From there you can walk along the GR G121 coastal trail and enjoy the unforgettable scenery. Other scenes were filmed in the town’s old quarter and in the port of Getaria.

FILM SCENES

GOURMET PRESERVES
Sustainable fishing, excellent raw material and a long tradition of craftsmanship. Northern albacore (bonito del norte) - the belly is the best part - tuna, fresh and preserved anchovies, sardines... In gourmet shops, especially in Hondarribia, San Sebastián, Getaria, Mutriku, Zumáia, Bermeo and Getxo and also at the canneries themselves such as Maisor in Getaria and Zallo in Bermeo.

SURF AND MARINE FASHION
There are innumerable specialised stores and several globally famous Basque brands. Surfboards, clothes and all kinds of accessories that can be found in the more surf-oriented towns and cities: Sopela, Bakio, Donostia and of course Mundaka and Zarautz.

TXAKOLI AND CIDER
Txakoli is another absolute must. This white wine that combines especially well with seafood, fish or preserves is not found anywhere else in the world. The denomination of origin Getariako Txakolina is usually ever so slightly sparkling, unlike the other two denominations: Bizkaia and Araba.

Cider was already a widespread drink at the time of the first whaling expeditions since it kept better than water on long sea voyages. Look for the DO Euskal Sagardoa and Eusko Label marks that certify local raw materials and superior quality.

FOR THE HOME
Ceramics with nautical motifs, linen tablecloths, paintings, photos of spectacular waves, scale models of boats or sun loungers and poufs made with reused boat sails.

GOURMET
Sustainable fishing, excellent raw material and a long tradition of craftsmanship. Northern albacore (bonito del norte) - the belly is the best part - tuna, fresh and preserved anchovies, sardines... In gourmet shops, especially in Hondarribia, San Sebastián, Getaria, Mutriku, Zumáia, Bermeo and Getxo and also at the canneries themselves such as Maisor in Getaria and Zallo in Bermeo.

PRESERVES

Sustainable fishing, excellent raw material and a long tradition of craftsmanship. Northern albacore (bonito del norte) - the belly is the best part - tuna, fresh and preserved anchovies, sardines... In gourmet shops, especially in Hondarribia, San Sebastián, Getaria, Mutriku, Zumáia, Bermeo and Getxo and also at the canneries themselves such as Maisor in Getaria and Zallo in Bermeo.
JANUARY

FESTIVITIES • Tamborrada (drum festival) San Sebastián. 20th
GASTRONOMY • San Anton Fair: Presentation of the basque vintage in Getaria 17th

FEBRUARY

FESTIVITIES • Carnival Sunday, Atronas and Laminas in Mundaka

MARCH

GASTRONOMY • San Pedro Fair: Presentation of the basque vintage in Bakio 10th
SPORTS • SAIL in Festival in Bilbao

APRIL

FESTIVITIES • Pilgrimage of Comites in Sanurtzi Easter Monday
GASTRONOMY • Mackaleur Day in Mutriku
SPORTS • Pro Zarautz. World Surf League event

MAY

FESTIVITIES • Debarren eguna in Deba, 3rd weekend of the month
GASTRONOMY • Anchovy Day in Ondarroa
ANCHOVY Day in Getaria
ARRAINTALE Day in Ondarroa
17th
16th
15th
Our Lady of the Port and maritime procession in San Bartolomé in Mundaka
15th

JUNE

FESTIVITIES • Corpas Christi, Algoia old port (Getxo)
Feast of San Pelayo in Zarautz 26th
Kasamra dance and Killin-Kala in Lekeitio 25th
San Pedro in Orio, Mundaka, Zumaia, Pasai... 25th
San Marcelo challenge in Irun 30th
GASTRONOMY • Day of the Santurtzi Sardine
SPORTS • Bilbao World SLP Challenge
FISH Trail in Zumaia
North Trail between Getxo and Gorliz
Zarautz International Triathlon
La Sardina open water swimming race in Kosta Trail between Getxo and Gorliz
FESTIVITIES • Deo Olasaikoa Rasonn Festival in Irun
Armintza Reggae Festival
Mundaka Fest. Basque Music&Cook festival
CULTURE • Teixeira training regattas
Train rowing trophy Bilbao - Saint Jean de Luz
San Sebastian cycling classic - UCI World Tour

JULY

CULTURE • Getxo International Jazz and Blues Festivals
Jazzaldia, San Sebastian Jazz Festival
Portugalete International Folklore Festival
International Street Theatre Festival in Lekeitio and Zarautz
Hondarribia Blues Festival in Hondarribia
Deo Olasaikoa Rasonn Festival in Irun
Armintza Reggae Festival
Mundaka Fest. Basque Music&Cook festival
SPORTS • Vigen de la Guia in Portugalete 1st
Day of the Sardine in Santurtzi the Friday before the 16th
Vigen del Carmen in Santurtzi, Plentzia, Pasai and Hondarribia 16th
Maritime procession and Kavananka dance in Plentzia 16th
Madeleine festas in Pentsa, Mutriku, Bermeo, Mundaka, Eresnobe... 22nd
Maritime pilgrimage to Izaro Island in Bermeo 22nd
Kultura Festival in Hondarribia 25th
Festivals of San Ignacio in Algora (Getxo)
San Isidro, a holiday in Bilbao and Gipuzkoa 31st

GASTRONOMY • Dastatu sessions in Garliz
Parlak in Alerueta (Getxo)
Sea bream festival in Orio 1st weekend
SPORTS • Junior Pro Sopela, World Surf League event
ACT League training regattas
Getxo-Hondarribia Basque Coast youth regatta
Getaria-Zarautz open water swimming race
Plentzia Bay open water swimming race

AUGUST

CULTURE • Donezta / San Sebastian Musical Fortnight
Deba Summer Music Series
International Folk Festival in Iran-Hondarribia
Bermeo International Folklore Festival
Bermeo International Music Week
FESTIVITIES • Our Lady of the Port and maritime procession in Ziberea 15th
Festivals of the Virgin in Zarautz. 15th
Festivals of San Roque in Deba and Portugalete 16th
Arrantzale Day in Ondarroa 17th
Grand Week / Asti Nagusia in San Sebastian and Bilbao
Agricultural fairs in Ondarroa, 1st Saturday and Lekeitio 2nd Saturday

SPORTS • Festivals of the Old Port of Algora (Getxo)

SEPTEMBER

CULTURE • International Folk Festival in Getxo
Atlanticak Festival in Errería
Zinemaldia, San Sebastián Film Festival
FESTIVITIES • Goote in Lekeitio 5th
Sardanera Day in Santurtzi
Challenge and feast of the Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hondarribia 4th
Arrantzale Eguna (Fishermen’s Day) in Bermeo 14th
Euskal Jaia (Basque Festival) in Zarautz 19th
Kalboaxa in Mutriku 15th-16th
Euskal Jaia in Deba Last weekend
GASTRONOMY • Octopus Day in Zumia
SPORTS • La Concha Flag Regatta in San Sebastian First and second Sunday
Donezta / San Sebastian Triathlon
Open water swimming race in La Concha Bay
Lekeitio-Ondarroa Coast Race
Sopela Kota Fest, surf and music festival

OCTOBER

CULTURE • Fantasy and Horror Film Week in San Sebastian
GASTRONOMY • Kasturi Fest in Ziberea
Zapirio Gastronomy Days in Lekeitio

NOVEMBER

CULTURE • International Theatre Festival in San Sebastian
International Bidasoa Archaeological Film Festival in Irun
SPORTS • Behobia-San Sebastian Half marathon
San Bartolomé in Mutriku
Eusko Bihotze Challenge. Big wave surf event. Getxo, Nov-Dec

DECEMBER

FESTIVITIES • Saint Thomas Fair in Donezta / San Sebastian and Lekeitio 1st
Festival of Saint Nicholas in Orio

The Basque coast does not empty completely in the coldest months. It is common to see bathers having a dip even when the shore is covered in snow. Bravery and willpower for a healthy practice available to anyone.
**Practical INFO**

**Tourist Information Offices**

- **BAKIO** 946 193 396 - www.bakio.eus
- **BERMEO** 946 179 154 - www.visitbermio.eus
- **BILBAO AIRPORT (LOIU)** 944 065 519 - www.visitbermeo.eus
- **BERMEO** 943 193 395 - www.bakio.eus
- **BILBAO TURISMO** 944 031 444 - www.bilbaoturismo.net
- **BERNIA-IBARRA** 943 89 61 29
- **SANTURZI** 943 481 166 - www.sansebastianturismo.com
- **BIZKAIA BRIDGE**
- **REAL CLUB NÁUTICO DE SAN SEBASTIÁN**
  - **SAN SEBASTIÁN LA CONCHA BAY**
  - **SANTURZI** 943 00 04 64 - www.ekpsa.eus
  - **ORIO** 943 60 33 26 - www.ekpsa.eus
  - **MUTRIKU** 943 64 17 11
  - **BILBAO**
  - **ZUMAIA** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net
  - **ZIERBENA** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net
  - **ZUMAIA** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net
  - **ZIERBENA** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net

**Ports with transit services**

- **BERMEO** 94 688 023 2 - www.ekpsa.eus
- **GETARIA** 943 89 61 29
- **GETXO EL ABRA-GETXO MARINA** 94 91 23 67 - www.pdgetxo.eus
- **HONDARRIBIA** 946 63 76 00 - www.rcmarsc.es
- **MUTRIKU** 94 688 09 38
- **ZUMAIA** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net
- **MUTRIKU** 946 801 356 - www.zierbena.net

**Basque Coast museum network**

- **www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.eus**
- **ASTIGARRAGA**
  - Sagardoetxea, Cider Museum
- **ZARRASKALUZ**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BERMECIO**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BERNIA-IBARRA**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BILBAO**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BILBAO TURISMO**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BERMEO**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **BERMEO**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **ZUMAIA**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **ZUMAIA**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza
- **ZUMAIA**
  - Tuna boat Agurtza

**THE BASQUE COAST MUSEUM GUIDE**

Get one and enjoy discounts and advantages in 42 heritage centres and sites of the Basque Coast’s museum network.

Request and activate it at any of the network’s centres.
The 10 musts of the Basque Coast

1. Bizkaia Bridge
   Also known as the "Hanging Bridge", this World Heritage Site is an architectural jewel that still operates commercially after 125 years of history. It has an impressive panoramic walkway.

2. Plentzia Bay and Gorriz
   Places to rest, a medieval village and a great active tourism offer for all ages: trekking paths on cliffs, beaches and even an underwater winery! Also accessible by underground train from Bilbao.

3. San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Chapel
   The most emblematic place on the Basque Coast. Number 1 on the list of natural wonders of Spain. The sailors climbed to the chapel to ask for protection before setting sail, a tradition that is still maintained today. The bell also has its own history...

4. Urdaibai Nature Reserve
   Biosphere Reserve since 1984. The area with the greatest landscape and ecological diversity of the Basque Coast and which brings together some of the most visited places in the Basque Country.

5. Santa Catalina Lighthouse
   It is one of the coastal "sentinels" with the best views. It houses an interpretation centre where you can make an exciting (virtual) boat voyage and learn the secrets of navigation.

6. Basque Coast Geopark
   A spectacular landscape marked by the flysch (rock formations millions of years old) in the cliffs of Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia, which can be visited on foot or by boat. This kind of formation can also be seen in Getxo, Sopela and Barrika.

7. Getaria: Elcano and Balenciaga
   The beautiful birthplace of Elcano, the first seaman to sail around the world and Balenciaga, the great couturier, is also known for its grilled fish, txakoli and a "mouse".

8. San Sebastián
   A dynamic, cultured city beside the sea. It combines its incomparable setting with the highest density of Michelin stars per inhabitant in the world. It shares a great maritime history with Bilbao, at the other end of the Basque coastline.

9. Pasaia and Alabaola Sea Factory
   Pasaia, a shipyard converted into a living museum, is building a 16th-century whaling ship in a unique bay where you can also visit a tuna boat-museum and enjoy some of the world’s best seafood.

10. Txingudi Bay and Hondarribia
    An ornithological paradise and an ideal environment for water sports and activities between Hendaye and Hondarribia, a medieval city that pampering preserves its maritime, gastronomic and scenic heritage.
There are many reasons why Basque Country is an essential destination. You are going to find this out when you get to know its people, its history, the heritage that its cities breathe and even better when you talk about it over a great meal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The essentials</th>
<th>Bilbao</th>
<th>San Sebastián</th>
<th>Vitoria-Gasteiz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly House of Gernika</td>
<td>Bizkaia Bridge</td>
<td>San Juan de Gaztelugatxe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdaiabai</td>
<td>Cristobal Balenciaga Museoa</td>
<td>Sanctuary of Loyola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguardia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

tourism.euskadi.eus/en/

EUSKADI
BASQUE COUNTRY