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ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY
Ecotourism is a journey to a natural area to learn about it, interpret it, enjoy it and travel through it, while simultaneously appreciating and contributing in a practical manner to its conservation, without impacting on the environment, and having positive repercussions on the local population.

Declaration of Daimiel 2016

If you were asked “What colour is the Basque Country?”, doubtless you’d answer, “Green”. The culture and dynamism of the cities of this territory captivate all visitors, but the Basque Country is, above all, NATURE. Above all, nature becomes clearly visible in the Basque Country’s landscapes and intense colours.

Possibilities to enjoy and interact with its green environments are manifold and varied, from the most active and exciting activities to more relaxed and family-based ones. A wide range of options, to be enjoyed alone or in company, which will submerge you into an unknown and captivating natural paradise.

The Basque Country has an extensive territory with a high environmental value. Natural parks, the Natura 2000 network, the Basque Coast Geopark and the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve make up 23% of the total surface area.

Strolling around and delighting in these surroundings, or birdwatching in exceptional places, are some of the most enticing proposals you can enjoy if you choose the Basque Country.

Here, you can get involved with nature and the local culture, participating in responsible tourism in natural spaces. Ecotourism is part of our identity.
Gujuli Waterfall (Araba/Alava)
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ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY
DON’T LEAVE ANY TRACE

In the Basque Country, we believe that our trip through nature should leave traces only in your memories. Here are a few recommendations:

• Plan and prepare. We have a network of Tourist Information Offices, visitors’ centres and ekoetxeas (ecology centres) at your disposition.

• Follow suitably equipped itineraries. Choose the path you like best and enjoy it.

• Deposit rubbish in bins and appropriate receptacles. Remember that you are in natural spaces and the task of conservation falls to everyone.

• Leave everything just as you found it. In nature, everything has its own function, so it’s best not to even touch anything.

• Minimise your environmental impact. Resources are limited and there are a lot of us.

• Treat wildlife with respect. Silence is the best ally for enjoying nature.

• Be considerate towards the local population and other visitors. We’ll welcome you with open arms.
The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve is a landscape of outstanding cultural and natural significance awarded biosphere reserve status by UNESCO in 1984. The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve has one of the greatest diversities of plants, animals and landscapes in the Basque Country, and a series of highly valuable natural systems and habitats including estuary, river, karst, coast, and holm oak forests. All of them are recognised under the Natura 2000 network, the European Union’s main instrument for nature conservation.

Salt marshes, sea cliffs, forests, beaches, history, culture and tradition are some of the many treasures awaiting visitors in this haven on the Bay of Biscay.

The most striking part of a visit to this area is the setting itself. Here visitors can enjoy some of the most captivating experiences the Basque Country has to offer. Ideas include birdwatching and learning about the rich variety of birdlife in the area, spotting dolphins as they play along the coast, walking alongside sand dunes at Laga beach, taking in the spectacular views from San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, trying your hand at a game of Basque pelota in one of the country’s most emblematic ball courts, and kayaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Scan this QR code or visit the website:
www.turismourdaibai.com
These are the **12 spots** along the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve not to be missed

| **1. Estuary** | Estuary Heart and soul of the reserve |
| **2. Matxitxako / Gaztelugatxe** | Cape Matxitxako and San Juan de Gaztelugatxe |
| **3. Izaro** | Izaro Island, fragile protected landscape |
| **4. Ogoño / Laga** | Ogoño and Laga beach |
| **5. Mundaka** | Mundaka and the left-hand wave |
| **6. Bermeo** | The Port and Old Town of Bermeo |
| **7. Elantxobe** | Old Town and fishing port |
| **8. Urdaibai Bird Center** | A living documentary |
| **9. Madariaga Tower** | Ekoetxea. The Basque Biodiversity Centre |
| **10. Oña / Santimamiñe** | Painted Forest of Oma and Santimamiñe cave |
| **11. Ereñozar** | Holm oak and mediaeval Ereñozar |
| **12. Gernika** | Assembly House and Tree of Gernika |
URDAIBAI AREAS OF GENERAL INTEREST

ROUTES ON FOOT

Scan this QR code for more information about the ROUTES.
The Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark is a small area wedged in between the Bay of Biscay and the Basque mountains, and comprising the municipalities of Zumaia, Deba and Mutriku. Since 2010 it has been a member of the European and Global Geopark network.

Geology is the true protagonist of a landscape that preserves some of the most impressive episodes in the Earth’s recent history. The 13 km of cliffs in the Geopark have a spectacular formation of rock layers known as Flysch deposits, which in the manner of a large encyclopaedia show us over 60 million years of the history of the Earth.

Inland we come across the Karst world where time seems to have stopped for ever. Here you will be able to enjoy the roots of one of Europe’s most ancient peoples.

The Geopark on the Basque Coast is a lesson that leaves no one indifferent. The main players here are time, the earth, life and our own species.
**AREAS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Don’t miss these **12 spots** if you visit the Basque Coast Geopark:

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Biotopo Protegido del tramo litoral Deba - Zumaia
NATURAL PARKS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

In the Basque Country, each natural space has its own personality. Discover them all!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Scan this QR code or consult the website: www.euskaditurismo.eus/en/natural_parks

ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY
Euskadi’s Natural Parks are a fun way to discover the region’s heritage. They have become a key tourist attraction in Alava, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa as visitors get to experience nature and local culture all in one.

While the scenery in each park varies greatly, all the parks offer a full range of top quality recreational facilities and services.

The parks are located in remote parts of the Basque Country and provide a wide range of outdoor activities: guided nature trails, hiking, cycling and horse-riding, bird-watching, picnic areas etc.

The visitor centres (parketxes) offer comprehensive information for visitors to plan their visit. They are ideal to get an overview of a particular park’s layout and facilities.
Located in a region known as Las Encartaciones, in the extreme west of Bizkaia on its border with Cantabria, is the mountainous massif which is Armañon Natural Park. It is a primarily rural, hilly and mountainous area featuring four main mountains: Armañón, Ranero, Surbias and Los Jorrios.

There are over 200 subterranean caves and potholes in the park. Make sure to visit the Pozalagua Cave with its impressive rock formations and fascinating stalactites.

Further information about the Natural Park and the nearby Ordunte mountains is available at the Pozalagua Cave. Both the Ordunte mountains and the Armañon Natural Park belong to the Natura 2000 network.

Several native breeds of animal have survived in this very rural area. During your visit, you are likely to see red-faced or black-faced Carranzana sheep, the Villano de las Encartaciones working dog or the Monchina cattle, among others.
VISITOR CENTRE
Ranero, Karrantza (Bizkaia)
T. +34 688 884 330 • E. armanon.parke.naturala@bizkaia.eus

Area covered: 2.985 ha  Height: Armañón (854 m) · Los Jorrios (847 m)
If you’re into hiking, you’ve come to the right place. Valderejo is a broad valley surrounded by steep, rock-topped hillsides with nine trails running through it. The park’s scenic gem is the beautiful Purón river gorge.

Boasting a magnificent range of flora and fauna, Valderejo is home to the biggest colony of Griffon vultures in Euskadi and is a popular destination for bird-watching.

You will find information about the park’s trails and services at the visitor centre (parketxe) in Lalastra, in the heart of Valderejo. You will also find the Rural Interpretation Centre which explains the local history and customs of the valley.

For family outings, there is a recreational area with picnic facilities and a playground for children.

Closeby are the villages of Lahoz, Villamardones and Ribera, the latter two are uninhabited nowadays but still interesting to walk around. Other attractions in the area include the ruins of a Roman road, sundry megalithic monuments (the San Lorenzo burial mound, the Mount Lerón monolith) and churches from different periods.

1. Purón Path, Gorge
2. Panoramic from the top of Carrias (1.128m)
Area covered: 3,496 ha  Height: Recuenco (1,240 m)

VISITOR CENTRE
Lalastra (Araba/Álava)
T. +34 945 353 146  E. parquevalderejo@parques.araba.eus
Gorbeia Natural Park is well-known to Basque mountaineers. The Gorbeia cross sits aloft Mount Gorbeia (1,482 m) whose summit straddles the border between Bizkaia and Alava.

The park covers an area of karst land with a total of nearly 500 catalogued sinkholes. The scenery in Gorbeia is very varied, ranging from bare rock face to gentle, rolling pastures and beech and oak forests.

Particularly noteworthy from a scenic point of view are the Itxina Protected Biotope and the Goiuri waterfall with its 100-metre cascade.

For the Basques, the quality of the park scenery and its cultural significance have made it a popular destination for many outdoor pursuits such as hiking, mountaineering, mountain-biking, horse riding, potholing, etc.

There are several fully-equipped recreational areas and two visitor centres: the Alava visitor centre is located in Sarria (Central de Bayas), the Bizkaia visitor centre is found in the village of Areatza.

1. Summit of Mount Gorbeia
2. Forest in the Gorbeia Natural Park
Area covered: 20,016 ha  Height: Gorbeia (1,482 m) · Ziorraga, Areatza (300 m aprox.)

VISITOR CENTRE
Sarria (Araba/Álava) · T. +34 945 430 709 · E. parquegorbeia@parques.araba.eus
Areatza (Bizkaia) · T. +34 946 739 279 · E. gorbeia.parke.naturala@bizkaia.eus
The Urkiola Natural Park covers the highest part of the Aramotz mountain range, forming a limestone barrier between the localities known as Arratia and Duranguesado (Bizkaia), and the Aramaio valley (Alava). These mountains also separate the Cantabrian Atlantic basin from the Mediterranean basin. If you like rugged landscapes, this is the place for you.

The park is mountainous, with limestone precipices, ravines and deep valleys. The mountains have made it a favourite with climbers and hikers.

Anboto, the highest mountain in the range, is very popular with the Basques, as is Mari’s cave. Mari is a well-known character in Basque mythology.

The Natural Park gets its name from the sanctuary built in honour of Saint Anthony the Abbot and Saint Anthony of Padua. Outside the sanctuary, there is a symbolic stone where people come in the hope of finding a husband or wife. According to legend, if you circle the stone three times, soon you will be wed.

The Urkiola Natural Park visitor centre (“Toki Eder”) is located at the Urkiola mountain pass.
ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Scan this QR code for more information.

Area covered: 5.955 ha  Height: Anboto (1,330 m)

VISITOR CENTRE
Toki Alai Visitors’ Centre. · Bº Urkiola, Abadiño (Bizkaia)
T. +34 946 814 155 · E. urkiola.parke.naturala@bizkaia.eus
IZKI
NATURAL PARK

Located 31 kms from Vitoria-Gasteiz, Izki Natural Park is a vast forest area surrounding the Izki river, flanked by mountains on either side. Standing at 1,176 m, Kapildui is the highest peak in the area.

Izki is an ideal park to do a spot of bird-watching, walking, cycling or horseriding.

Izki boasts the largest Pyrenean Oak (Quercus pyrenaica) reserve in Europe and is home to a unique rural culture well worth exploring.

Walkers can get from Korres to the Bujanda gorge by crossing the spectacular Izki ravine where there is a large recreational area.

Still in the same area, you can visit the interesting hermits’ caves of Laño, Faido and Marquínez. The town of Peñacerrada and the many gorges and crags around Arluzea are also worth seeing.

If you like mountain-biking or playing golf, Urturi has wonderful facilities for both.

Information about the park trails and facilities is available at the Korres visitor centre.
Area covered: 9.143 ha  Height: Kapildui (1,180 m)

VISITOR CENTRE
Korres (Araba/Álava)
T. +34 945 410 502 • E. parqueizki@parques.araba.eus
AIZKORRI-ARATZ
NATURAL PARK

Come and see the biggest Griffon vulture colony in Gipuzkoa! Or why not visit Arrikrutz cave? What about a walk through the impressive Iturrigorri beech forest? Or how about going to see some Latxa sheep in their natural habitat? All this and more awaits you in Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park. This park, with mountains that rise up like a rock wall between the provinces of Gipuzkoa and Alava, is a firm favourite with Basque mountaineers.

As well as having highest mountain range in Euskadi, the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park is home to some of the region’s richest cultural heritage such as dolmens, ancient caves and Roman roads.

Popular locally, Saint Adrian’s tunnel is traversed by an ancient road (part of Camino Real and St. James’ Way), linking Gipuzkoa with Alava.

The area of Arantzazu has long been associated with culture and religion. The Sanctuary offers the visitor an opportunity to engage in spiritual reflection.

1. Aizkorri mountain range
2. Landscape near Oñati
Area covered: 15.919 ha  Height: Aketegi (1,551 m)

VISITOR CENTRES
Arantzazu, Oñati (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 782 894 • E. arantzazu@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net
Araia (Araba/Álava)
T. +34 646 478 812 • E. parketxe.aizkorriaratz@gmail.com
Zegama (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 802 187 • E. anduetza@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net

Scan this QR code for more information.
PAGOETA
NATURAL PARK

Not far from the seaside town of Zarautz, Mount Pagoeta stands amid a landscape of rural fields and farmhouses overlooking the localities of Aia and Laurgain (Gipuzkoa).

Pagoeta Natural Park is both recreational and educational. In fact, the park has a nature study school and a visitors’ centre housed in a magnificent 15th century farmhouse known as Iturrarán. The ethnographic exhibition on life in Basque farmhouses is well worth a visit as is the large botanical garden surrounding the centre.

Other attractions in the park include the Agorregi forge which dates back to the beginning of the 15th century and the “elurzuloak”, traditional underground cooler chambers used to conserve food in times gone by.

For those with a particular interest in history, there are also some important prehistoric ruins in the park: dolmens (Otagain, Olarteta, Zaingo), burial mounds (Muzin, Arreta) and prehistoric cave sites (Erratia and Amalda in the Alzoralas valley).

Herds of native breeds of animals such as the Betizu cow or the Pottoka miniature pony are also one of the area’s popular attractions.
ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

VISITOR CENTRE
Iturraran · Aia (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 835 389 · E. iturraran@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net

Area covered: 1.335 ha  Height: Cruz de Pagoeta (704 m)
The towns of Abaltzisketa and Ataun provide the two gateways into the park. The park is located in one of the Basque Country’s most important mountainous regions. Its considerable size, the height of the mountains and the varied and traditional use of the land makes it one of the most popular parks in the region. With the emblematic Mount Txindoki (Larrunarri) standing tall in the background and the Goierri and Tolosaldea localities down below, the scenery is quite breath-taking.

Tourists can choose from a wide range of activities: they can visit a traditional Basque farmhouse (caserío), sample some Idiazabal cheese, learn to pour cider in a family-run ciderhouse, go mountain-biking, horse-riding or visit megalithic monuments (there are some thirty dolmens, burial mounds, monoliths, cave and outdoor sites, and two cromlechs). The Barandiarán museum and interpretation centre in Ataun offers visitors extensive information on every aspect of the park.

Both GR and shorter walking routes are blazed with trailside markers and there are also footpaths which lead to the recreation areas with playgrounds. Visitors will find another information centre, hostel and restaurant at the Lizarrusti mountain pass.
Area covered: 10.971 ha  Height: Irumugarrieta (1,426 m), Gambo (1,417 m), Txindoki (1,340 m)

VISITOR CENTRES
Lizarrusi, Ataun (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 582 069 • E. lizarrusi@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net
Barandiaran Museum, Ataun (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 180 335 • E. barandiaran@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net

Scan this QR code for more information.
This unique and beautiful park is located in the Pyrenean foothills in the easternmost part of Gipuzkoa.

Irumugarrieta, Txurrumurru and Erroilbide are the three main mountains in the area and can be accessed via various well-blazed trails.

The park affords the visitor wonderful views of Txingudi Bay, the towns of Hondarribia, Irun and Hendaye, Mount Jaizkibel and the Oiartzun valley.

Aiztondo, a ravine with a 100-metre waterfall is another of the park’s major attractions.

In the Aiako Harria rocky massif, there are dozens of mining shafts and galleries which originally belonged to the Arditurri mines (Oiartzun). The park’s Interpretation Centre, housed in the old mine’s laboratory, has a very interesting exhibition on the mining history of the area, which lasted from Roman times right up to 1984.

Its proximity to the French border led military engineers to build fortifications on this elevated terrain, some of which can still be visited in the park.

1. Stroll along a stream
2. Panoramic view of Aiako Harria
Area covered: 6.913 ha  Height: Txurrumurru (821m), Erroilbide (843m)

VISITOR CENTRE
Arditurri Mines · Oiartzun (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 495 069 · E. arditurri@gipuzkoamendizmendi.net
Birding Euskadi invites you to come and see the vast variety of birding opportunities in the Basque Country. Visit the 10 birdwatching areas, complete with visitor information offices and a total of 25 perfectly maintained birding routes.

The Basque Country may be small, but there are a number of interesting resources for birdwatchers. In a radius of less than 50 kilometres, there are three different bioclimatic zones: the Atlantic, the mediterranean, and a transition zone between the two. More than 60% of the species in the Iberian Peninsula can be seen in the skies over the Basque Country at some point during the year. The largest griffon and Egyptian vulture populations can also be found here.

Twenty percent of the Basque territory falls within the Natura 2000 European network, comprising special protection areas (Natural Parks, Protected Biotopes and Unique Trees), seven internationally recognised Ramsar Wetlands and a Biosphere Reserve, among other sites of environmental significance.
## BIRDWATCHING AREAS AND BIRDING ROUTES

1. **TXINGUDI**  
   See page 44  
   - Irún (Gipuzkoa)

   **BIRDING ROUTES**
   - **Jaitzubia wetland**  
     Jaitzubia Car park, Irún (Gipuzkoa)  
     5,2 Km.
   - **Plaiaundi**  
     Txingudi Ekoetxea Interpretation Centre, Irún (Gipuzkoa)  
     2,7 Km.

2. **URDAIBAI**  
   See page 44  
   - Gautegiz Arteaga (Bizkaia)

   **BIRDING ROUTES**
   - **San Kristobal**  
     San Kristobal Auzoa, Busturia (Bizkaia)  
     1,9 Km.
   - **Urdaibai Bird Center**  
     Orueta Auzoa, Zelaieta (Bizkaia)  
     3,3 Km.
   - **Urdaibai Upper Wetland**  
     Train Station, Forua (Bizkaia)  
     7,5 Km.
   - **Matxitxako**  
     Lurgorri Car park, Ctra. BI-3101 Bermeo-Bakio (Bizkaia)  
     3,1 Km.

3. **SIERRA SÁLVADA**  
   Orduña (Bizkaia)  
   Amurrio (Araba/Álava)

   **BIRDING ROUTES**
   - **Headwaters of the Nervión river**  
     Delika (Araba/Álava)  
     6,6 Km.
   - **El Txarlazo**  
     Orduña (Bizkaia)  
     8,8 Km.

4. **ARMAÑÓN**  
   See page 22  
   - Karrantza (Bizkaia)

   **BIRDING ROUTES**
   - **Holm-oak forest of Sopeña**  
     Área recreativa El Suceso (Bizkaia)  
     11,3 Km.
   - **Pozalagua surrounding area**  
     Armañón Visitor Centre (Bizkaia)  
     1,6 Km.

5. **VALDEREJO**  
   See page 24  
   - Lalastra (Araba/Álava)

   **BIRDING ROUTES**
   - **San Lorenzo route**  
     Lalastra (Araba/Álava)  
     7 Km.
   - **Purón gorge**  
     Lalastra (Araba/Álava)  
     5,9 Km.
## BIRDWATCHING AREAS AND BIRDING ROUTES

### 6. SALBURUA  
See ATARIA page 32  
Vitoria-Gasteiz (Araba/Álava)

**BIRDING ROUTES**

- Arkaute Pond  
  ATARIA, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Araba/Álava)  
  5,4 Km.
- Betoño Pond  
  ATARIA, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Araba/Álava)  
  3,1 Km.

### 7. ULLIBARRI-GAMBOA RESERVOIR  
Garaio (Araba/Álava)

**BIRDING ROUTES**

- Mendixur Ornithological Park  
  Car park. Mendixur Ornithological Park (Araba/Álava)  
  3,5 Km.
- Ullibarri-Gamboa Reservoir Walk  
  Garaio County Park (Araba/Álava)  
  44 Km.

### 8. IZKI  
See page 30  
Korres (Araba/Álava)

**BIRDING ROUTES**

- Ravines of Izki  
  Korres (Araba/Álava)  
  5,5 Km.
- Route of the Pyrenean Oak  
  Korres (Araba/Álava)  
  14,1 Km.
- The Ponds of Izki  
  Urturi (Araba/Álava)  
  6,1 Km.

### 9. SOUTHERN SIERRAS OF ÁLAVA  
Korres (Araba/Álava)

**BIRDING ROUTES**

- Ravines of Kontrasta  
  Kontrasta (Araba/Álava)  
  8,8 Km.
- Ioar Trail  
  Sta. Cruz de Campezo (Araba/Álava)  
  13,4 Km.
- Toro Pass  
  Lagrán (Araba/Álava)  
  11,1 Km.
- Lobera Path  
  Salinillas de Buradón (Araba/Álava)  
  5 Km.

### 10. WETLANDS OF LAGUARDIA  
Laguardia (Araba/Álava)

**BIRDING ROUTES**

- Wetlands of Laguardia  
  Laguardia (Araba/Álava)  
  8,7 Km.
- Prao de la Paul Loop  
  Laguardia (Araba/Álava)  
  3,7 Km.
# SERVICE COMPANIES

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<td><a href="mailto:info@augur-nature.com">info@augur-nature.com</a></td>
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## SPECIALISED TRAVEL AGENCIES

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<th>Company</th>
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<td>Naturzoom</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naturzoom.co.uk/en">www.naturzoom.co.uk/en</a></td>
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</table>
The Basque Country has a network of facilities, managed by the Basque Government, called Ekoetxea, which are devoted to environmental interpretation and citizens’ awareness-raising regarding care and conservation of the environment and the abundant natural richness in our territory.

Environmental visitors’ centres in the Basque Country receive 100,000 visitors a year, and 25,000 school children have the opportunity to experience the environment and its value in their lives, thanks to the numerous activities organised throughout the year.

Discover and enjoy the natural richness of the Basque Country’s coasts, rivers, mountains and landscapes. Everything is very close at hand.

© Madariaga Tower (Ekoetxea Urdaibai)

OR FURTHER INFORMATION
Scan this QR code or visit the website:
www.ekoetxea.eus
**Meatzaldea·Peñas Negras**

Having existed for more than 30 years, it is located at the very heart of the Mining Area of Bizkaia in Ortuella and is an ideal space to appreciate the transformation of the environment due to human activity.

Forest Road. La Arboleda, Muskiz | 48530 Ortuella (Bizkaia)
T. +34 946 338 097 E. p-negras@euskadi.eus

**Urdaibai**

Madariaga Tower. It has a permanent exhibition area, a space for temporary exhibitions, as well as a marshland observatory. It receives 55,000 visitors a year, of whom 12,000 are schoolchildren. It also houses the Biosphere Reserve Visitors’ Centre.

Bermeo-Gernika Road. Bº San Bartolomé, 34 | 48350 Busturia (Bizkaia)
T. +34 946 870 402 E. info@torremadariaga.org

**Azpeitia**

Xaguxatar Parkea contains an area of 1,800 m² and 6 sections which inform, from a playful and interactive point of view, about the habits, characteristics and habitats of bats. It also offers an extensive exhibition to learn about and understand the value of the environment.

Loiola auzoa 1 | 20730 Azpeitia (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 812 448 E. museo@ingurugirotxe.org

**Txingudi**

It receives 15,000 visitors per year who participate in organised activities related to Txingudi Bay and the marshlands, and important resting area for numerous birds during their migration from northern Europe to Africa.

Pierre Loti Ibilbidea | 20304 Irun (Gipuzkoa)
T. +34 943 619 389 E. txingudi@euskadi.eus
Ataria is a space open to the public which, backed by a large quantity of resources and services (exhibition space, classrooms, observatory, etc.) plays host to all kinds of activities: leisure and entertainment, interpretation, dissemination and communication, study and research centred around biodiversity.

The objective of these facilities is to boost knowledge of the marshland and to show its values and, by extension, the importance of biodiversity and natural heritage. Dependent upon the Environmental Studies Centre of Vitoria-Gasteiz (CEA in Spanish).
The Leitzaran Visitors’ Area comprises the Water Studies Centre and a range of activities in its natural surroundings. The Water Studies Centre aims to show visitors the natural and cultural values of the River Leitzaran Valley, with the help of an exhibition area and a video room, among other facilities.

Interpretative guided tours of nature and the cultural heritage (on foot or by bicycle), mountain bike hire service (children and adults), trailers, child seats and other complements, guided fishing activities (death-free), experiences for companies, groups, schoolchildren, etc., are just a few of the activities offered by the Leitzaran Visitors’ Centre in Andoain.
Come to the Valle Salado at Salinas de Añana in Álava (Basque Country), and you’ll enjoy an unforgettable experience: visit and learn about an architectural, landscape, archaeological, geological and historical site, which is unique in the world.

The Valle Salado comprises thousands of salt-production platforms. In this singular landscape, you’ll be able to take part in the restoration project, which is open to the public. This is being carried out to return the salt operation, which has more than 7,000 years’ history, to its former glories.

During the guided tour of the Valle Salado, you’ll have the opportunity to:

- Discover its history and the restoration process of its remarkable architecture of stone, clay and wood evaporation basin terraces built in Roman times.
- Understand why there is salt in the place.
- Stroll along its paths and follow the traces of the hundreds of wooden channels distributing the salt water from the springs, covering a distance of more than 120,000 m2.
- Discover the trade of salt maker and learn to produce and taste the different varieties of one of the best salts in the world.
- Put your hands and feet into the hyper-salinated waters of the Spa Salino and enjoy its health benefits.
- Appreciate the remarkable flora and fauna of this thousand-year-old cultural and industrial landscape.
- Discovering the Valle Salado is an incredible virtual reality experience.
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AÑANA VALLE SALADO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Scan this QR code or visit the website:
www.vallesalado.eus

ECOTOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY
The EU Ecolabel is a certificate granted by the European Commission to products and services which comply with a series of requirements in environmental matters.

There is a specific regulation, the **DECISION (EU) 2017/175 OF THE COMMISSION of 25 January 2017, regarding the establishment of the criteria of the EU Ecolabel for tourist accommodation.**

This Regulation requires legal environmental compliance and establishes criteria regarding Energy Efficiency, management of water supply and control of sewage treatment, waste management, purchase of green and sustainable products - in short, control of all environmental aspects for the prevention of contamination and climate change.
## CERTIFIED ACCOMMODATION

Below is a list of accommodation establishments in the Basque Country which have been certified with the EU Ecolabel.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Code</th>
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The BASQUE COUNTRY BY BICYCLE guide compiles a series of attractive itineraries to discover the Basque Country by means of pedal power. Itineraries around the three Basque capital cities and their surroundings, some of the longest green ways, the Basque Country MTB Centres, or the long-distance cycle tour of the Álavan Plain are just a few of the proposals you can find in this new guide.

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The BASQUE COUNTRY ON FOOT guide gathers a collection of signposted paths of great interest and beauty. They will enable you to enjoy some of the least well-known and green spots in the Basque Country. Short walks to be enjoyed by families, signposted paths through the new natural parks, through the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve or through the Basque Coast Geopark are just some of the options. For lovers of walks lasting several days, it also features some of the longest and best-known paths, such as the Camino de Santiago, the Ignatian Way, the GR-283 and the GR-38.

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www.aktiba.info
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*Association of Ecotourism of Spain.