THE BASQUE ROUTE

En route around the Basque Country
THE BASQUE ROUTE,
EN ROUTE AROUND
THE BASQUE COUNTRY

The Basque Route is a series of suggested car or motorbike routes along many of the most seductive scenic roads in the Basque Country. It is designed to help the traveller enjoy Basque cities, nature, culture and gastronomy.

You’ll have to choose your favourite from among the many faces of the Basque Country: the beaches and fishing villages? the cities, which look like they were built yesterday? the forests wreathed in morning mist? the mountains carpeted with green meadows? the lonely roads whose curves lead you to the very heart of the Basque Country? the spectacular landscape of the vineyards? or why not all of them? To make it easy to choose, The Basque Route suggests 8 journeys through different settings in the Basque Country.

The Basque Country awaits you.

Disclaimer:
The Basque Route is a recommended route on the existing Basque road network. Driving on the route is at your own risk. The Basque Route and Basque Country Tourism do not assume any liability for structural changes, diversions, signposting, special events and safety regulations on the route.

Edition: 1st in this publishing house.
Print run: 6 000 copies.
Edited by Euskal Jaurlaritzaren Argitalpen Zerbitzu Nagusia/Servicio Central de Publicaciones del Gobierno Vasco.

Production: Digital Screen.
Cover photograph: Opakua Pass (Agurain/Salva- tierra); Basquetour, Basque Tourism Board.
Photographer: Markel Redondo.
Text: Gontzal Largo / Jordi Bastart.
Printed by: Gráficas Dobbi, S.L.

Full and/or partial reproduction of the texts, maps and images in this catalogue is strictly prohibited without the prior permission of the publisher and the authors.
From BILBAO to LEKEITIO

115.5 km  \(3\) h approx.

1. **BILBAO**  
11.5 km | 27 min.

2. **GETXO**  
7.5 km | 16 min

3. **SOPELA**  
7.5 km | 10 min.

4. **PLENTZIA**  
1.5 km | 5 min.

5. **GORLIZ**  
5.5 km | 9 min.

6. **LEMOIZ**  
15 km | 21 min.

7. **BAKIO**  
12.5 km | 20 min.

8. **BERMEO**  
3 km | 6 min.

9. **MUNDAKA**  
4 km | 5 min.

10. **BUSTURIA**  
7.5 km | 8 min.

11. **GERNIKA-LUMO**  
7 km | 11 min.

12. **KORTEZUBI**  
1 km | 2 min.

13. **GAUTEGIZ ARTEAGA**  
16 km | 23 min.

14. **ELANTXOBE**  
6 km | 10 min.

15. **EA**  
10 km | 14 min.

16. **LEKEITIO**

**ALWAYS BY THE CANTABRIAN SEA**

A route alongside the Cantabrian Sea along impressive cliffs, surf beaches, traditional fishing villages and restaurants where you can taste the delicacies of the sea.

The **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao** stands where there were once shipyards, warehouses and wharves. By following the BI-711, with the Nervión river on the left, we reach the **Bizkaia Bridge**, the transporter bridge linking **Portugalete** and **Getxo**.

The **BI-634** connects **Getxo** with **Sopela**, where we link up with the BI-2122, a pleasant road with the sea on the horizon. The beaches of Arriatera and Atxabarribil invite us to take a dip. Nudism is allowed on the small beaches of Meñakoz and Muriola in the neighbouring village of **Barrika**.

**Plentzia** looks peculiar because of the meandering **Butrón river** as it approaches the sea. From **Gorliz**, we head along the BI-3151 to the port of Armintza, a coastal neighbourhood of **Lemoiz**, with four little houses scattered among the sea, the rocks and the mountains.

We retake the BI-3151 towards **Bakio** and we’re soon surprised by a fantastic view of the eastern coast of Bizkaia. In Bakio we first see the vines for the famous txakoli, a native white wine, very slightly sparkling, dry, with a hint of acidity, an ideal accompaniment for fish dishes. We leave the BI-2101 in the direction of **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe**, one of the most picturesque places on the Bas-

**Did you know?**

Santimamiñe, World Heritage Site, has 50 12,000-year-old charcoal-drawn figures. The pine tree trunks in the forest of Oma are works of art.
que coast. It is an islet connected to the mainland by a bridge with a solitary chapel at the top. This chapel is reached by means of 241 steps, rewarding us with a 360º panoramic view of the coast.

We can go as far as Matxitxako lighthouse, the westernmost point of the Basque Country. We head down to Bermeo, a town with a strong tradition of fishing. You absolutely must visit the port, try some fish, experience the boat races or visit one of its museums.

The BI-2235 will leave you in the neighbouring town, Mundaka, a small and welcoming place which is also a destination for surf lovers. The journey to the historic town of Gernika along the BI-2235 is dotted with scenic viewpoints. We follow the BI-2238 northwards and link up with the BI-4244 just before reaching Kortezubi, heading towards to magical spots: Santimamiñe cave, one of the cathedrals of Basque prehistory and the Forest of Oma, by the artist Agustín Ibarrola.

Along the BI-3234, next to Ogoño Cape, Laga beach has some of the most crystal-clear waters in the Basque Country. The road runs alongside it to reach Elantxobe, a small fishing village whose houses climb up the slopes of Ogoño. Finally, the BI-3238 leads us to Ea, another unusual town on the Bizkaia coast. From here, we’ll head to Lekeitio.

Gernika, symbol of peace
Gernika gained a place in the pages of World History following the bombardment by the German Condor Legion in 1937, as immortalised by Picasso in his famous painting. Two thirds of its buildings were destroyed but the Assembly House was left intact, together with the famous Gernika Tree, which it is located alongside. It is worth visiting the Museum of Peace or the weekly market on Mondays, selling the best Basque produce.

THE URDAIBAI ESTUARY WAS DECLARED A BIOSPHERE RESERVE BY UNESCO IN 1984. THE LANDSCAPE UNDERGOES RADICAL CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE TIDES
From LEKEITIO to ZARAUTZ

We set out inland, towards the green Basque Country of rivers and mountains, of lonely farmhouses hiding in the folds of the valleys.

Lekeitio begs to be discovered by starting out from the Santa Catalina lighthouse and walking along its narrow streets full of colourful fishermen’s houses. We follow the BI-3438 along a wild coastline until we reach Ondarroa, whose old quarter is protected by the monumental church of Santa María, and the port, which is very busy, is home to a curious piece of engineering: the Alfonso XIII swing bridge.

Having reached Gipuzkoa, we continue along the GI-638 to Mutriku, which made a living from whaling for hundreds of years; the old quarter is medieval, with many steep slopes. Heading east along the GI-638, we cross the Deba river and link up with the N-634. Following the river to its mouth we reach Deba, a town that played a very im-

Did you know?
The sailor Elcano and the fashion designer Cristóbal Balenciaga were born in Getaria. The latter has a very interesting museum.
important role in European trade. The church of Santa María has a multicoloured doorway and a Gothic cloister inside, the first one to be built in Gipuzkoa.

We retake the N-634 towards San Sebastián and visit the Gothic sanctuary in the rural neighbourhood of Itziar. The GI-3210 takes us south to the Lastur valley, a hidden spot where a native breed of bulls is bred (and fought), the ‘betizu’. Once past the Lastur quarry and Azkarate heights, we link up with the GI-2634 as far as Azkoitia, a picturesque noble town. On the way to Azpeitia, we’ll visit the chapel of San Martín, high on a hill with views of the crag of Izarraitz.

In Azpeitia, besides the basilica devoted to Saint Ignatius of Loyola, we can visit the interesting Basque Railway Museum. We follow the River Urola to Zestoa, a town with ties to tourism centred around thermal waters. The cave of Ekainberri (a reproduction, open to the public, of the cave of Ekain) is considered a European sanctuary of cave painting with animal figures oozing realism. In Zumaia we once again reach the sea. The landscape here is unique, recognised as the Basque Coast Geopark. The Algorri Visitor’s Centre will tell us all about the geological phenomenon, but the only way to really experience it is to walk along it.

The N-634 runs very close to the sea, so close that heavy seas can lead to waves caressing it. Getaria is famous for its charcoal fish grills. Zarautz has no port to boast of, but it can be proud of its beach, with surfers taking part in the sport they are passionate about. A lively marine promenade, a fistful of small palaces, the photography museum and the Iñurritza dunes, which are a protected biotope.
From ZARAUTZ to SAN SEBASTIÁN

We’re in Gipuzkoa, land of charcoal-grilled fish, Roman mines, mountains by the sea and even a village with a touch of Venice. Let’s not forget San Sebastián, with its pintxos and its famous La Concha beach.

Orio will surprise us upriver, both for its fishing village appearance and its char-grilled sea bream restaurants. Before we leave, we’ll climb on foot (about 20 minutes) to the chapel of San Martín de Tours, of medieval origin. We return to the N-634 to once again follow the river among market gardens and eel fishing villages until we link up with the GI-2132 at Lasarte-Oria. After passing through Hernani, we reach Astigarraga, the cider house town, which even has a museum devoted to cider, Sagardoetxea.

We continue along the GI-2123 as far as the pleasant village of Oiartzun where we take the GI-3420. The road runs along a wide valley containing many farmsteads. On the left, after the Pagoaldea industrial estate, we’ll see a

Did you know?

In 1843, Victor Hugo spent a few days in Pasai Donibane. The town has a beautiful old quarter next to the river and a museum devoted to the French writer.
turn-off to the Arditurri Mines from which minerals were extracted as long ago as prehistoric times. There are guided tours available.

**Irun** is our next stop; the old quarter and the chapel of Santa Elena are worth a visit, as is the **Oiasso Roman Museum**, containing all you need to know about the Romans’ activities in this area. A brief journey along the N-638 brings us to **Hondarribia**. Txingudi Bay, the green mass of Mount Jaizkibel and the mouth of the Bidasoa, which marks the border with France, are elements to bear in mind. In Hondarribia, a lot of which is pedestrianised, the first thing we come across is the fishermen’s neighbourhood, **La Marina**, with its colourful houses with wooden cross-beams, and the best pintxo bar atmosphere.

The GI-3440 leads us to the **Sanctuary of Guadalupe**, the patron saint of Hondarribia, with a fort from the 19th century and fantastic views. We climb **Jaizkibel** along a route with fabulous views of the coast. After a descent we reach the beautiful village of **Pasai-Donibane**, with **Pasai San Pedro** across the river. It is reached by a small ferry. Both villages maintain a great tradition of boat races, while **Albaola, The Sea Factory of the Basques**, keeps traditional boat-building skills alive in Pasai San Pedro.

From Pasai Donibane we skirt the entire industrial port and take the old N-1 road to land in **San Sebastián**. To get a good idea of the city we have to climb Mount Igeldo. We’ll get a perfect view from there of La Concha bay, its promenade, Santa Clara island in the middle and, at the other end, Mount Urgull, a great pedestrianised park circled by Paseo Nuevo, the best place to gaze at the sea when it is rough.
From SAN SEBASTIÁN to VITORIA-GASTEIZ

We’ll move through a Basque Country of meadows, beech forests and cider houses. Sometimes we’ll drive beneath the gaze of Txindoki and other mountains, in the shadow of medieval towns and hundred-year-old markets.

We’ll leave San Sebastián by the GI-41 and then the A-15 and the A-1 as far as Tolosa, the leading town in this valley which lives between two worlds, the rural and the industrial. Tolosa, which was capital of Gipuzkoa in the mid-19th century, is a little big city with many possibilities to offer, such as attending a pelota match in the Beotibar pelota court or enjoying a visit to the Topic puppet museum. The Tinglado building, one of the epicentres of the traditional Saturday market, is found on a meander alongside the River Oria.

We leave Tolosa, once again taking the A1 south towards Ordizia, near Alegia, we take the GI-2133 which will take us to villages such as Amezketa, Abaltzisketa and Zaldibia. We’ll get to know Txindoki on this road, one of the most emblematic mountains of Gipuzkoa, with some beautiful photo opportunities.

Ordizia is the doorway to the Goierri area. The old quarter is almond-shaped and it crowds around its covered main square, the Plaza Mayor (dated 1925), where the hundred-year-old market is held on Wednesdays. We reach Idiazabal along the A-1, home to the famous cheese of the same name.

Did you know?
The menu at a cider house consists of cod omelette, cod pintxo, T-bone steak and, for dessert, cheese and walnuts. The entire ritual is washed down with cider straight from the barrel.
By means of the GI-2637 we reach Segura. The Camino Real passed along the main street of this medieval jewel. Near Segura, Zerain is a small village with numerous points of interest. We continue south and in Zegama we can stop at the Aizkorri Aratza Visitor’s Centre in the Aizkorri-Aratz Nature Reserve. We’ll know we’ve reached Ormaiztegi (along the GI-3262 when we go under the striking iron and steel viaduct (1864) carrying the Madrid-Paris railway. We link up with the GI-2632 towards Zumarraga and then climb up Mount Irimo to the chapel of Santa María of Zumarraga, with its remarkable wooden structure. The GI-2630 will lead us through the Udana Pass to Oñati, a town with interesting monuments such as the Sancti Spiritus University (16th century). 9 km away along the GI-3591 we find the modern Sanctuary of Our Lady of Arantzazu, which marks an apparition of the Virgin Mary. On the way, alongside the Jaturabe reservoir, we’ll make a stop at the Arrikrutz caves, an impressive subterranean landscape.

We return to Oñati and take the GI-2630 to Arrasate-Mondragón and then take the GI-3310 to a charming spot, the village of Leintz Gatzaga. The Museum of Salt and the Sanctuary of Dorleta are its main tourist attractions. On the way back, the GI-3310 will take us to the GI-627 and the N-240 to Vitoria-Gasteiz, in the heart of the Alavan Plain.

DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, THE ORMAIZTEGI VIADUCT WAS CUT WITH BLOWTORCHES TO STOP THE ADVANCE OF THE NATIONAL TROOPS

**Idiazabal Cheese**

It is quite normal to come across latxa sheep grazing in the highlands of Gipuzkoa. They can be identified by their abundant curly wool and their dark face. Their milk is used to make Idiazabal cheese, which has Protected Destination of Origin. In September, during the Euskal Jaiak (Basque Festival) in Ordizia, a competition is held to find the best Idiazabal cheese of the year. Up to 13,000 euros has been paid for 500g of cheese at this event.
From VITORIA-GASTEIZ to LAGUARDIA

1. VITORIA-GASTEIZ 30 km. | 35 min.
2. AGURAIN / SALVATIERRA 31,5 km. | 33 min.
3. CAMPEZO 36,5 km. | 45 min.
4. ELVILLAR 18,5 km. | 22 min.
5. ELCIEGO 6 km. | 6 min.
6. LAGUARDIA 122,5 km 2h. 20 min. approx.

DOLMENS AND TITANIUM

Rioja Alavesa is an entirely different Basque Country on the banks of the River Ebro. We set out from Vitoria-Gasteiz on a route which will take us through a sea of vineyards full of walled towns.

We leave Vitoria-Gasteiz along the N-104 until we pass Ilarratza and take the A-3110 turn-off. We follow roads parallel to the Camino de Santiago with numerous monuments tied to this thousand-year-old pilgrim’s route such as the Romanic Sanctuary of Our Lady of Estíbaliz and, nearby, the Álava Romanesque Visitor’s Centre. In Elburgo we’ll be surprised by the Romanesque chapel of San Juan of Arrarain, while Alegría-Dulantzi offers us its tall slim church tower. After passing Adana and Guereñu we hook up with the A-4140 which, in a matter of seconds, takes us to the gates of Alaitza. Its church of La Asunció houses one of the few examples of Basque Gothic frescos. The story is repeated in nearby Gazeo, whose medieval temple has striking Gothic frescos, this time depicting biblical scenes.

Did you know?

The Vitoria-Gasteiz Green Ring is a flat 30-kilometre circuit which passes through all the parks surrounding the city.
Agurain/Salvatierra is the most monumental town on the Álava Plain and the town with the best-preserved remains of the city walls that used to protect it. Seen on the map, the shape of Agurain/Salvatierra is reminiscent of Vitoria-Gasteiz: a medieval almond with just three parallel streets and numerous stately houses emblazoned with coats of arms. At either end is a church that looks like a fort: Santa María and San Juan, both built into the old town walls.

Along the A-2128, towards Opakua and then along the A-4112 heading towards Arriza we reach the Sorginetxe dolmen, one of the Basque Country’s great megalithic monuments. Now we’ll set course for Opakua and climb one of the highest mountain passes in the Basque Country, with its enviable views. We descend to the valley of Arana and, by means of a leafy canyon, we reach Santa Cruz de Campezo and Antoñana, two markedly medieval towns.

Along the A-3136 towards Bernedo, accompanied by the rocky walls of the Cantabria sierra, Izki Nature Reserve is a little paradise worthy of a weekend’s stay. Kripan, Elvi-llar with its famous dolmen La Chabola de la Hechicera (The Witch’s Hut), El Campillar and Lapuebla de Labarca with its Baroque and Renaissance façades, are all towns we’ll pass through on the way to Elciego, where we’ll be surprised by an imposing titanium building which is situated alongside a Baroque church. We have reached Rioja Alavesa, with its sea of vineyards spreading out at the foot of the Cantabria sierra. Laguardia is its capital city.

Green city

Years ago, Vitoria-Gasteiz gambled on a green future, by means of pedestrianised streets, cycle lanes and urban parks. It gambled, and it won, managing to become a city with an enviable quality of life and an ideal size to explore on foot. The medieval Cathedral of Santa María is its most emblematic monument. It is located in the heart of the old quarter, a short distance from the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca and the Artium Museum.
Laguardia’s greatest treasure is hidden in the high part of the town. The multi-coloured doorway of the church of Santa María de los Reyes is unique. Strolling through the old quarter is a must. You’ll discover the network of subterranean wine cellars dug in the 16th century. The N-232a takes us to Leza in a straight line, but we recommend a small diversion along the A-4207 to Navaridas and, from there, northwards along the A-3212, with a perfect panoramic view of Laguardia, the vineyards and, in the background, the Cantabria sierra, which looks like a giant wave trying to swallow itself. We climb the Herrera Pass along the A-2124 and from the Balcony of La Rioja gaze upon a landscape of vineyards and cultivated fields spreading along the Ebro valley. As we descend, the landscape changes and beech forest take on the starring role. We continue along the A-2124 and

Did you know?

At the Centro Temático del Vino Villa Lucía (Wine Visitor’s Centre) in Laguardia we’ll learn all there is to know about fermented grape juice.
soon discover that the tree cover disappears and gives way to the green meadows of the mountains of Álava. We’ll soon reach Peñacerrada-Urizaharra, a well-looked after town which still maintains part of its defensive walls and towers. Then we head along the A-2124 and the A-4129 to Faido to visit the pre-Romanesque chapel of Nuestra Señora de la Peña, carved into the rock.

Along the A-3126, following the Inglares river, we reach Berganzo, where the valley widens and the forests retreat. We can see the castle of Ocio high on a hill in the distance. We take the N-124 towards the north as far as the A-1 in the direction of Burgos. It’s just a kilometre to Rivabellosa, where the A-3312 begins. This road will take us as far as the A-2122 through Zubillaga, Lantaron, Fontetxa and Larrazubi. The Ebro river accompanies us on the left and also acts as a natural border between the Basque Country and Castile-Leon. We’ll pass Bergonda along the A-2625, and the A-2622 will take us to Añana and its salt pans. The A-2622 leads us out of the valley to the east, as far as the A-3314, which runs alongside the motorway for a few kilometres. Once past Izarra, we reach the A-2521, which we take heading east towards Goiuri-Ondona, in Urkabustaiz. From the dryland and the salty valley, we move on to a green landscape of meadows and pine forests. Before reaching Goiuri-Ondona, a signpost indicates a short walk to the 100 metre-high Gujuli waterfall. Along the A-2521, after Orduña, we climb the pass of the same name along the A-2625, where we can enjoy fantastic views before taking a turn-off to the Nervión Waterfall. The river falls from the top of the cliff. A spectacular sight!
In the foothills of the Salvada sierra, Orduña is a town with a protected old quarter. The A-625 and the A-624 lead us to Artziniega, another town named Historic Monumental Site which looks like film set. We retake the same A-624 towards Balmaseda to discover the Encartaciones or Enkarterri area, a little-known part of Bizkaia.

Its capital is Balmaseda. This is the location for the beret factory La Encartada, which is now an industrial museum with its own beret shop. The old part of the town is reached by means of a medieval bridge. After visiting the church of San Severino, with its asymmetric façade and beautiful Gothic windows, we take the BI-630 to head into the Karrantza Valley. The tourist office is located in Ambasaguas. A couple of kilometres later we take the BI-4679 on the right, which climbs up to the town of Ranero. We’re heading to a special place, the cave of Pozalagua, the soul of the Armañón Nature Reserve, discovered by coincidence and housing a large number of eccentric stalactites which make it a unique phenomenon.

We head back towards Balmaseda and turn off at the neighbourhood of Traslaviña, in Artzentales, in the direction of Sopuerta. There are many neighbourhoods spread out

Did you know?
The Balmaseda beret factory La Encartada supplied head coverings for half the Basque Country for a century using wool imported from Australia. Australasian sheep had softer wool.
among the greenery. Just before reaching the town of Mercadillo, we take the small road that leads to the neighbourhood of Arce and then to Concejuelo-Loizaga, where there is a 16th century tower which has been turned into a vintage car museum where the Rolls Royces are the highlight.

Now we’re heading towards the sea. Travelling from Sopuerta along the BI-2701 we pass through El Pobal, a 16th century ironworks, and reach La Arena beach shared by Zierbena and Muskiz, unique in the Basque Country for its collection of dunes, salt marshes and its waves, which are big favourites with surfers. The Pobeña neighbourhood is very popular with people out for a stroll, to enjoy a snack or to follow the Itsasur Green Way.

The N-634 and then the BI-3791 lead us first to Santurtzi (trying the sardines in such a seafaring place is a must) and then to Portugalete. There we’ll take a good look at the Bizkaia Bridge and the bars in the old quarter. We re-take the A-8 motorway towards Bilbao as far as exit 124, where we link up with the N-634 which will take us to the Aguinaga Museum, a treasure trove for car lovers and Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts. It’s only a dozen kilometres along the N-634 from there to Bilbao.

**Wandering the streets in Bilbao**

The best panoramic view of Bilbao is from the Artxanda viewpoint, the ideal place to plan your visit. Below your feet you’ll see the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, that beautiful mass of titanium plates, the Euskalduna Conference Centre, recognisable by its corten steel façade, and the Museo Marítimo Ría de Bilbao (Bilbao River Maritime Museum). Going for pintxos in the old part is a must, as is a visit to the Ribera Market and the Azkuna Zentroa arts complex, where a busy cultural programme is always in full swing.
TRAVELLING AROUND MAGIC EUSKADI

On today’s menu: magic Euskadi. We’ll leave the rugged coast of Bizkaia and head inland to discover a land of contrasts. One of immense inland seas, dryland farms and legendary enclaves.

We leave Lekeitio along the BI-2405 towards Berriatua until we join the BI-633. This road will take us to Markina-Xemein, a town known for its love of the cesta-punta form of Basque pelota. It’s a very beautiful town with a medieval past which is still present in its streets and tower houses.

Just after leaving Markina-Xemein, we take the BI-2224 towards Ziortza-Bolibar, the prologue to a story of mysteries and legends. To discover them we must reach the monastery of the ancient collegiate church of Zenarruza, either by car along the BI-4401, or on foot along the stone path which starts from the town. Its location is connected to a strange legend. Inside the Gothic temple with a Renaissance cloister, it is worth stopping before the high altarpiece, a sculptural wonder full of lively colours and gold.

We return to the BI-633 and continue towards Durango, prior to Trabakua Pass. Durango possesses a unique treasure: the gigantic wooden door in one of the flanks of the church of Santa María de Uribarri. The giant limestone walls enclosing Durango to the south are the Anboto mountain range. Tradition has it that Mari, the female divinity of Basque mythology, lives in one of the caves there.

Did you know?

The ancestors of Simón Bolívar were born in Ziortza-Bolibar and nowadays the town houses a museum about Bolívar and Basque life during the era his family lived here.
We head to the heart of the mountains via Urkiola Pass, with inclines reaching 14%. The BI-623 will take us to the heart of Urkiola Nature Reserve, a wild space that is worth taking the time to discover. After parking the car next to the Sanctuary of Urkiola, we’ll devote some time to discovering the church and the Baroque tower, walking around the mysterious stone and strolling through the beech and ash trees as far as the Three Crosses viewpoint.

We continue south, once again on the BI-623. Otxandio is a noble town surprising for the size of its Baroque church, its large pelota court and its very fine petanque court (petanque is deeply rooted in the Basque Country). The town was very important historically as an agricultural and cattle centre.

We carry on along the BI-623 until we find the Urrunaga reservoir which will guide us to the gates of the Alavan Plain. The Ullibarri-Gamboa reservoir lies close to the former. It is so immense it even has beaches flying the blue flag. You can also go birdwatching at the Mendixur Ornithological Park or simply go for a stroll or take a bicycle ride along the paths surrounding it.

Vitoria-Gasteiz is just a stone’s throw away and we’ll reach it by the A-3002 which takes us more or less as far as the doors of the Cathedral of Santa María.
Starting out from the ancient ruins of the 14th century Loizaga tower house, the businessman and collector Miguel de la Vía created this majestic fortress, the ideal place to house a unique collection of Rolls Royce cars, alongside other prestigious makes, among mountains, forests and vineyards.

The exhibition of 45 models of Rolls Royce offers a dynamic and evocative vision of the evolution of these cars, and that of the concept of luxury itself in the 20th century, covering almost 100 years of history from the oldest model to the most recent ones.

Highlights include the Silver Ghost and Phantom series from the 20s and 30s, and other models such as the Silver Wraith, Silver Dawn and Silver Cloud, as well as the most exclusive model ever built by the company, a Phantom IV for the Emir of Kuwait, with bodywork by H.J. Mulliner in 1956.

The Miguel de la Vía collection is complemented by around thirty cars from other prestigious makes, all kept in perfect condition.

In short, a must-visit collection for car lovers, art lovers and nature lovers.
**THE VALUES OF MERCEDES-BENZ**

**Aguinaga Museum** arises from the constant need to promote the Mercedes-Benz brand through the creation of a unique experience which transports the visitor to the past by means of the history of the brand and perceives it evolution as an exciting milestone.

The museum has 30 cars, to which further models will be added over time. In addition, it will seek alliances with collectors who allow the temporary exhibition of other items of great interest.

Alongside the vehicles which cover a time period from 1926 to the 1980s, you can also enjoy the exhibition as an educational entity which covers, through other means, the 140 years of pre-merger and post-merger history of the brand.

The size of the space, with more than 2000m2, makes Aguinaga Museum a place to lose yourself in the history of Mercedes-Benz. From the oldest model dating from 1926 to the most modern ones, you can breathe in the values of one of the most important brands in world motoring.

As the well-known Mercedes-Benz slogan, backed by Gottlieb Daimler, puts it, ‘The best or nothing’.
Just motorcycles. Just BMW. Just for you. NordKapp: official BMW motorcycle and maxi scooter dealership in Biscay. With the latest BMW models from the launch date. With the world’s best motorcycles and maxi scooters on tarmac and dirt. With the most innovative technology, 100% BMW. And with the classic personalised attention of those who know motorcycles and share your passion. That’s why we’re a team of professional experts boasting long careers in the world of motorcycles. With more than 25 years’ experience. No one will give you better BMW service in Biscay. Because NordKapp is the only official BMW motorcycle and maxi scooter dealership in Biscay. Exclusively devoted to BMW motorcycles and maxi scooters. Live your BMW passion with NordKapp.

Harley-Davidson Bilbao (Voodoo Factory Motorcycles) and Harley Davidson Gipuzkoa (Cheyenne Radikal Bikes) are the official dealerships in the Basque Country. They are devoted to the maintenance, repair and boosting of motors, in addition to the construction and transformation of the motorcycle brand that has even graced the covers of magazines. The members of these dealerships are not just salespeople or mechanics, they love these motorcycles, making these places meeting spots to share your enthusiasm. Now you can hire a Harley-Davidson motorcycle at either of the dealerships, put your jacket on and feel free as you travel around The Basque Route.

NordKapp BMW Motorrad
Gernika Kalea, 48
48960 Galdakao, Bizkaia
www.nordkapp-bmw.com
nordkapp@nordkapp.net.bmw.es
+34 944 36 38 71

Harley-Davidson Bilbao (Voodoo)
Licenciado Poza, 56-58
48013 Bilbao, Bizkaia
www.harleydavidsonbilbao.com
voodoo@harleydavidsonbilbao.com
+34 944 26 24 82

Harley-Davidson Gipuzkoa (Cheyenne)
Polígono Ubegun, s/n
20150 Billabona, Gipuzkoa
www.cheyennet.com
cheyenne@cheyennet.com
+34 943 69 00 79
AND WHAT’S MORE...

TOP and PREMIUM experiences

You’re in the land of a thousand incentives, a mouthful full of nuances which are sure to surprise you. You can start by discovering the secrets of haute cuisine, blend in with nature through its beautiful green paradises, go surfing or study the history of the earth by visiting the flysch... Combine the coast with inland and urban atmospheres, the singularity of the three Basque capital cities will allow you to take a deep dive into a wide range of experiences: the heritage hidden in its beautiful medieval castles, the glamour of the architectural avant-garde, the excellent gastronomy... A rich culture blessed with deeply-rooted traditions which will enable you to discover Basque history more deeply, a people proud to show off their distinguishing features.

Euskadi Gastronomika

How can you fail to lose yourself? How to move, how to get your bearings when there’s so much on offer? The Euskadi Gastronomika brand will help you during your stay to spot the most interesting establishments, those in which local produce is treated with the respect it deserves, those in which tradition and typical recipes are respected and offered regularly, those in which the staff are trained to attend to and receive the tourist and traveller. If you’re looking for quality, look for the Club Euskadi Gastronomika badge!

euskadigastronomika.eus

Activities on the sea or with a sea view

The Basque coast is the perfect complement to a journey through the Basque Country living by the sea: 246 km of coast, 40 beaches, 20 marinas, 50 surfable waves, and 100 nautical and activity tourism companies. Surfing is the star product, but there is also boat hire, diving and coasteering. Sail a yacht as the sun goes down. Go kayaking in a biosphere reserve or on the “most beautiful bay in the world”. Take up surfing with any of the companies belonging to the Surfing Euskadi network. Discover unmissable places, such as San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, Lekeitio or the Basque Coast Geopark; by sea, by canoe, stand up paddleboard, boat... or on foot via walks and pathways by the sea.

basquecountrytourism.eus/basque-coast

trip2basquecountry.com
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.

www.basquecountrytourism.eus

EUSKADI
BASQUE COUNTRY