

# City & Experience

**BILBAO**  
BIZKAIA  
be basque

## The art of living

Bilbao, urban  
experiences

A review of avant garde architecture  
Strolling and shopping in trend-setting streets  
Museums, galleries, landmarks... art wherever you look  
Nanogastronomy in the shape of pintxos

# BILBAO BIZKAIA



This card is your passport to savings when planning your stay in Bilbao; use it for public transport, museum and theatre tickets, restaurants, shops and other leisure activities.

Request it at any tourist information office or on:

[www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo](http://www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo)

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*You will be delighted*

**TO VISIT**

**6**

Art outside, art inside

Art District

Bilbao today

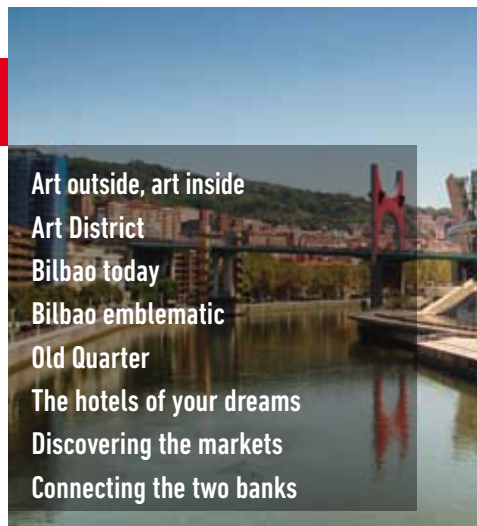
Bilbao emblematic

Old Quarter

The hotels of your dreams

Discovering the markets

Connecting the two banks



*You will be charmed*

**TO ATTEND**

**34**

Bilbao sounds good

Always on cue

Athletic!

Sport rooted in the Basque identity

The greatest week

Night and day

Trade fairs local and international



*You will adore*

**THE FOOD**

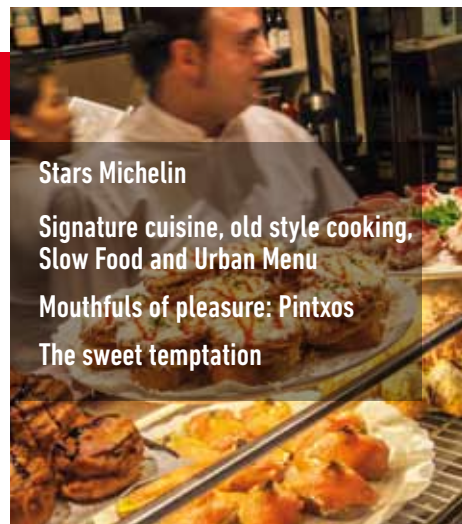
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Stars Michelin

Signature cuisine, old style cooking, Slow Food and Urban Menu

Mouthfuls of pleasure: Pintxos

The sweet temptation







You will be enchanted by

**WALKIING**

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A new colour for Bilbao  
Paseo de la Memoria  
The Northern Pilgrim's Way  
Walking in this city is a pleasure  
A tour of the surroundings



You will be thrilled

**TO TAKE PART**

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Boat trips on the River  
One metre from the beach  
Join in avant garde culture



You will love

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**52**

All design  
Mmmm! Delicious



**TOPBILBAO**

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Everything you can't miss in  
10 proposals

**BILBAO/BIZKAIA** from **A** to **Z**

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What we call some things  
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To keep track without  
missing a thing

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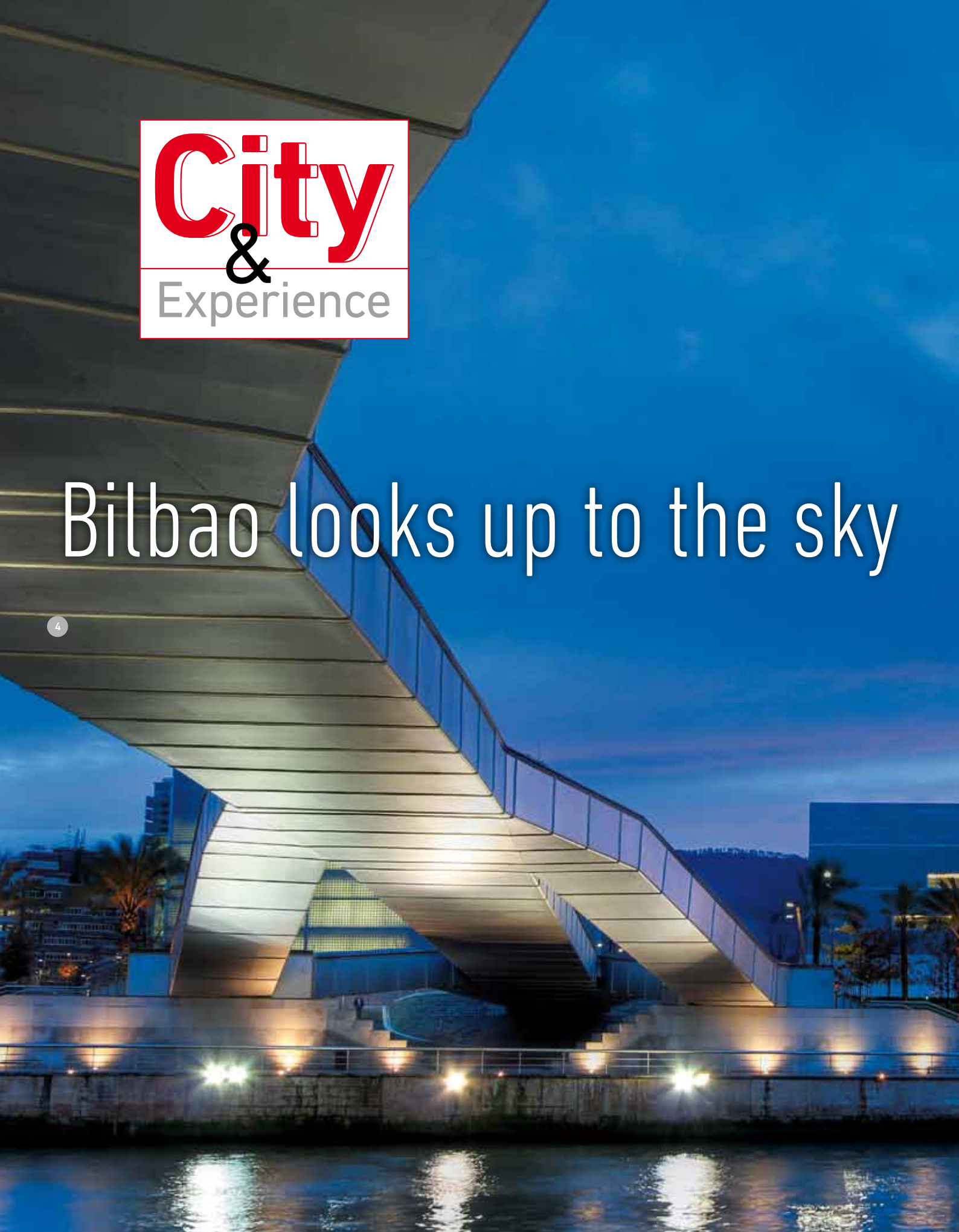
**70**

Addresses, telephones, links...  
be in the know



# Bilbao looks up to the sky

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**B**ecause it is so firmly rooted in tradition today's Bilbao can lift your eyes to the sky where you will discover a surprising contemporary air.

The city, that has discovered how to reinvent itself, combines enchanted nooks and crannies with a cosmopolitan atmosphere that you will love at first sight. Full of contrasts, you will find that strolling through its streets is a pleasure that extends to the numerous experiences it provides. It invites your friendship, **offering emblematic sites and buildings that have forged its character and the key experiences behind its spectacular renovation.**

When it's time for something to **eat** you will discover why the numerous varieties of Basque cooking enjoy worldwide recognition.

If you love sport or quality events put this on the agenda, because Bilbao has always been known for staging excellent events. The same goes for trade fairs: the important thing is to **be there.**

And if traditional experiences are your cup of tea, Bilbao provides the widest variety, to ensure that nobody **misses out** on its most authentic facets.

Finally, take something home with you apart from the wonderful memories. **Shopping** in Bilbao is a love affair with a range of shops from trendy international boutiques stores steeped in history, all reached by convenient pedestrian streets.



# ART OUTSIDE

**T**he “**Guggenheim Bilbao**” effect... that’s what they call the driving force that has brought the city to international prominence. Construction of the Museum has become the driving force behind the renovation to the point where is the symbol of this new reality. **Frank Gehry’s** masterpiece leaves nobody indifferent. Seen from the River, it resembles a ship offering homage to this great port city. Careful observation reveals that its panels reflect the changing patterns of light and shade. These are the keys to seeing it in a new light. Sitting in front of the museum, **Jeff Koons’** likeable **Puppy** has become the city’s pet.

[www.guggenheim-bilbao.es](http://www.guggenheim-bilbao.es)



Puppy

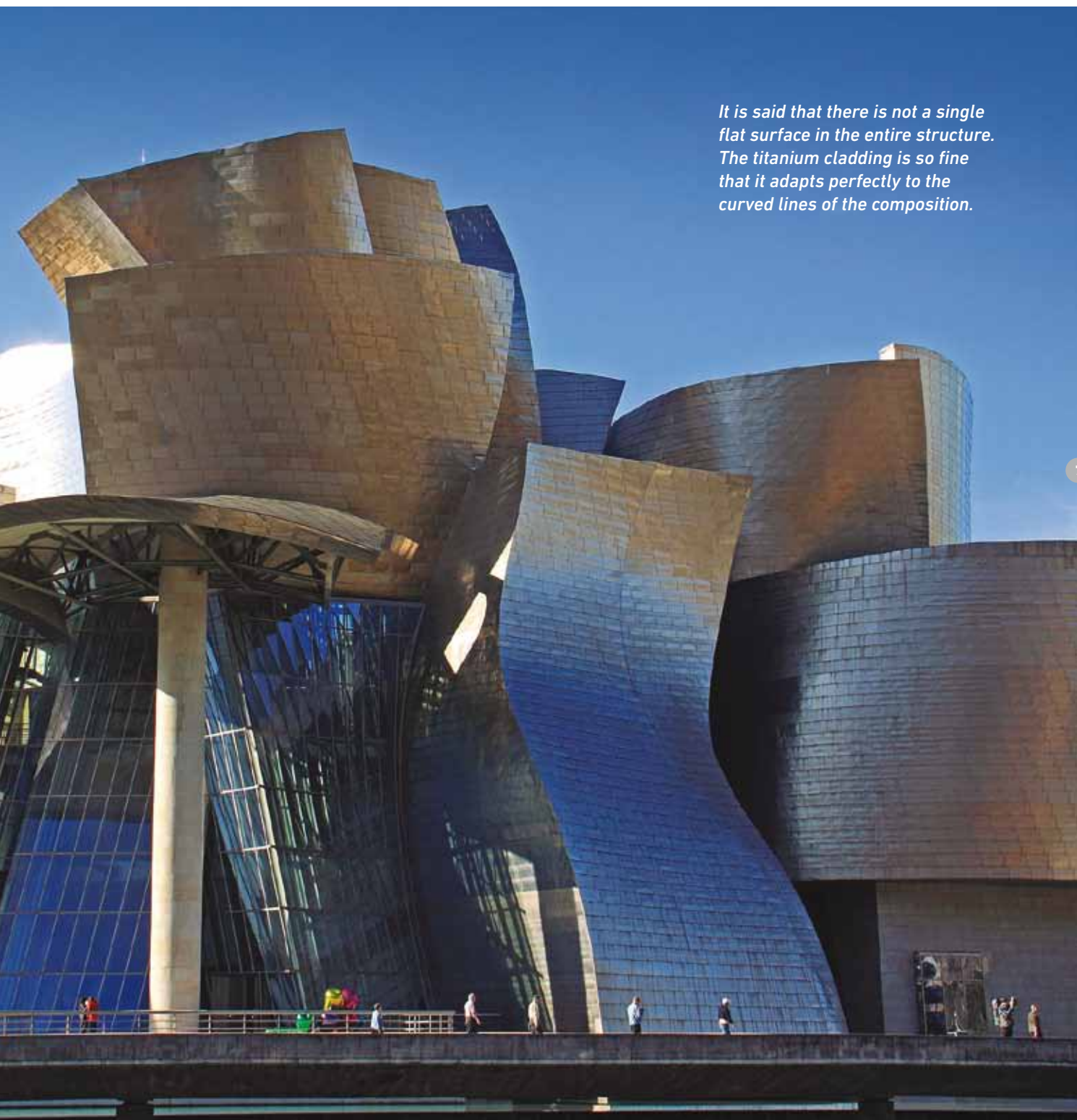
# ART INSIDE



Guggenheim Bilbao



*It is said that there is not a single flat surface in the entire structure. The titanium cladding is so fine that it adapts perfectly to the curved lines of the composition.*





**A  
GOOD  
IDEA !**

The Bilbao collection shares its holdings with those of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. The lack of a permanent collection represents a new concept of museum, one which presents us with a changing panorama encompassing numerous visions of art in the 20th century. The chance to share this rich heritage that embraces movements from the first avant garde movements to the present is a unique opportunity at a time when nobody dares to create a collection of modern masterpieces: Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, Vasily Kandinsky and Paul Klee among others of similar standing.

Guggenheim Bilbao



Museum of Fine Arts



## The quality of Bilbao's museums

Art matters in Bilbao and this fact is reflected in a series of world-class sites:

The **Fine Arts Museum** (Museo de Bellas Artes): a century-old institution with works by El Greco, Goya, Sorolla, Van Dyke, Cranach the Elder, Dürer, Gauguin and Picasso among others. This museum has one of the best collections in Spain with over 6,000 works of ancient, modern, contemporary and Basque art.

The **River of Bilbao Maritime Museum**, located on the site of the Euskalduna shipyards, disseminates the history, culture and identity of the men and women who lived and worked in the surrounding area and of the River itself, closely linked to the ancient maritime tradition. The Athletic Club barge, on which the team paraded its trophies along the River, is now a museum piece. It has been restored and donated to the Maritime Museum where it is on display.

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Located on the premises of the old Euskalduna shipyards where it forms part of the museum over which it presides, **La Carola** is a gantry crane built in the 1950s and famous for being the most powerful hoisting device in Spain for many years (it could lift up to 60 tonnes). The name comes from a woman who crossed the River every day in a motor ferry to go to work and who was so beautiful that the workers downed tools to watch her every time she passed by.

River of Bilbao Maritime Museum





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A  
GOOD  
IDEA !

If you are interested in prehistory, the permanent displays of the **Archaeological Museum** takes you back to the beginnings of human occupation of these lands more than 100,000 years ago. The oldest remains are some small tools dated around 35,000 years ago found in a minor excavation in the **Arlampe Cave** in Lemoa.

Archaeological Museum



# If museums are your thing...

## ... in Bilbao

To explore the cultural identity of the Basque people there is nothing better than the **Basque Ethnological Museum**. It combines the intrinsic appeal of a building with a beautiful inner courtyard with a series of collections that take you through centuries of maritime and industrial history.

The **Museum of Art Reproductions** is also of great interest. It displays the masterpieces of classical art that served as models for students at the Trade School.

You can also visit the **Vintage and Classic Car Museum** at Galdames in the Torre Loizaga fortress, a magnificent range of 75 luxurious classic cars including forty-five Rolls Royces in what is the biggest private collection of the marque in the world.



Torre Loizaga (Galdames)

The **Peace Museum** is inspired by the bombing of Gernika-Lumo and focusses on two themes: History and Peace, through questions that aim to provoke a reflection on human rights and the Basque conflict such as reference points from which to observe the world situation.

## ... and in Biscay

### ALONG THE COAST

PESQUERO AGURTZA C.I. FISHING MUSEUM, Santurtzi  
[www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com](http://www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com)  
 SANTURTZI ITSASOA (Santurtzi) INTERPRETATION CENTRE  
[www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com](http://www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com)  
 RIALIA MUSEO DE LA INDUSTRIA, (Industry Museum, Portugalete),  
[www.rialia.net](http://www.rialia.net)  
 PUENTE BIZKAIA (Las Arena-Getxo/Portugalete)  
[www.puente-colgante.com](http://www.puente-colgante.com)  
 FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM in Bermeo  
[www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.net](http://www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.net)

### INLAND

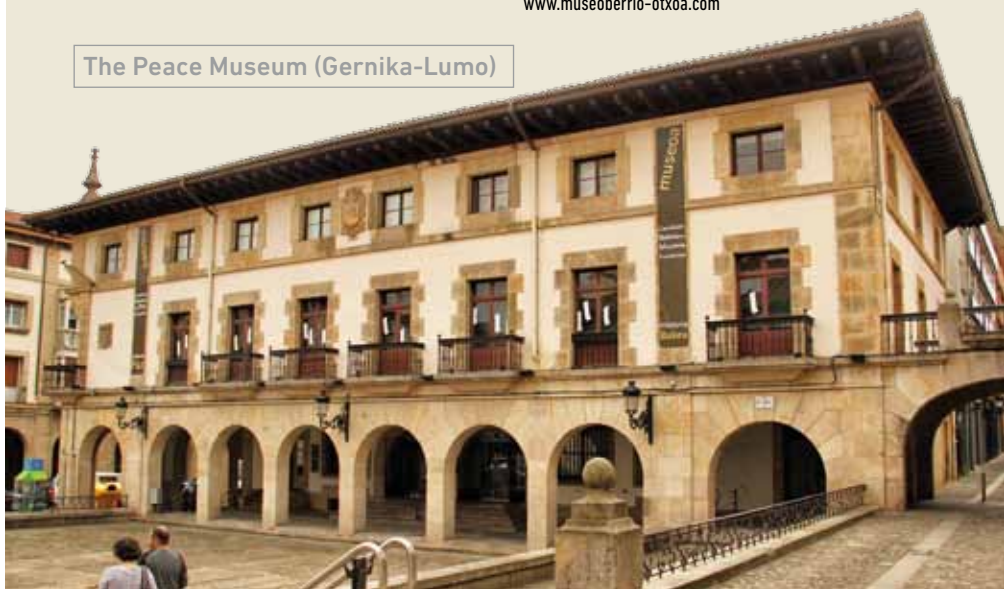
BALMASEDA MUSEUM (Balmaseda)  
[www.visitenkarterri.com](http://www.visitenkarterri.com)  
 BOINAS LA ENCARTADA MUSEUM (industrial museum, Balmaseda)  
[www.laencartadamuseoa.com](http://www.laencartadamuseoa.com)  
 BASQUE CHARTER MUSEUM (Sopuerta)  
[www.enkarterrimuseoa.net](http://www.enkarterrimuseoa.net)  
 EL POBAL SMITHY (Sopuerta)  
[www.bizkaia.net/elpobal](http://www.bizkaia.net/elpobal)  
 TORRE LOIZAGA. VINTAGE CAR MUSEUM (Galdames)  
[www.torreloizaga.com](http://www.torreloizaga.com)  
 BASQUE COUNTRY MINING MUSEUM (Gallarta)  
[www.museominero.net](http://www.museominero.net)  
 BASQUE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND DE LAS CIENCIAS "JOSÉ LUIS GOTI" (Leioa)  
[www.bizkaia.ehu.es](http://www.bizkaia.ehu.es)  
 OROZKO MUSEUM (Orozko)  
[www.orozkoudala.com](http://www.orozkoudala.com)  
 MUSEO EUSKAL HERRIA (Basque culture museum, Gernika-Lumo)  
[www.bizkaia.net/euskalherriamuseoa](http://www.bizkaia.net/euskalherriamuseoa)  
 GUERNICA PEACE MUSEUM FOUNDATION (Gernika-Lumo)  
[www.museodelapaz.org](http://www.museodelapaz.org)  
 GUERNICA MEETING HOUSE (Gernika-Lumo)  
[www.gernika-lumo.net](http://www.gernika-lumo.net)  
 MUSEO SIMON BOLIVAR (Ziortza-Bolibar)  
[www.simonbolibarmuseoa.com](http://www.simonbolibarmuseoa.com)  
 BASQUE FARMSTEAD ECOMUSEUM / EUSKAL BASERRIA (Artea)  
[www.euskalbaserria.com](http://www.euskalbaserria.com)  
 DURANGO ART AND HISTORY MUSEUM (Durango)  
[www.bizkaia.net](http://www.bizkaia.net)  
 VALENTÍN DE BERRIOTXOA MUSEUM (Elorrio)  
[www.museoberrio-otxoa.com](http://www.museoberrio-otxoa.com)

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### Diocesan Museum (Bilbao)



### The Peace Museum (Gernika-Lumo)



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# ART DISTRICT

an international art explosion

*Bilbao is a sanctuary of cultural pursuits. The initiative to make the city an indispensable stop on the international art circuit by harnessing its cultural and artistic appetite is apparent in the number sites and premises. Check it out. The cultural programmes of the galleries, shops, museums and art associations is wide and varied.*

Windsord Kulturgintza Art Gallery



*It comprises the area containing the most important art galleries, the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum, the Museo de Bellas Artes, the River of Bilbao Maritime Museum, the Alhóndiga Bilbao, the Contemporary Photography Centre, Sala Rekalde, Bilbao Arte, etc.*

*Art and culture have made themselves at home in the Art District.*

*Explore it. You're sure to find something that chimes in with your taste in art.*

**G**eographically, the golden mile runs from the Maritime Museum through the Albia Gardens, the Paseo Abandoibarra and Colón de Larreategui to Calle Ercilla. The **Bilbao Art District**, an initiative by the city's outstanding galleries, museums and agents to build upon the impetus provided by the advent of the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum. Art took over Bilbao at that moment and became the driving force behind the invasion of avant garde art that has placed Bilbao in the position it now occupies in international art circuits.

This approach originates in the idea that art in all its manifestations would be one of the main lines selected to lead the transformation of Bilbao into a benchmark 21st century city on the basis of its commitment to the creative arts and knowledge. Thus the city is in a strategic position to play a leading role in the sphere of international culture. The objective of strengthening the artistic identity of the Ensanche district through the promotion of art and culture has surpassed expectations. A complementary goal is to provide an outlet for current artistic activity, to attract prestigious domestic and international artists and to turn the streets into a showcase for promising young artists.





# BILBAO TODAY

## Cosmopolitan... the term that describes the new city

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If the buildings from the early 20th century erected by the emerging middle classes provide the elegance, the new architecture makes **the Ensanche** district into an authentic showcase of avant garde architecture. The answer is self-evident: today's city is a compendium of the great names in contemporary world architecture, from bridges and metro stations to walkways and private and public buildings.



Fosterito

*Did you know that the entrances to the Metro de Bilbao are called "fosteritos" as a tribute to their creator Sir Norman Foster?*



Alhóndiga Bilbao



A  
GOOD  
IDEA!

You will see 43 columns imagined by Philippe Stark and materialised by Lorenzo Baraldi. Each one has a different leitmotif: Chinese, medieval, neoclassical... diverse materials: marble, stone, ceramics, brick, wood, bronze... They take you on an exploration of the history of Mankind.

[www.alhondigabilbao.com](http://www.alhondigabilbao.com)





# BILBAO IN THE WORLD ARCHITECTURAL CATALOGUE

Alhóndiga Bilbao by Ricardo Bastida renovated by Philippe Starck

Guggenheim Bilbao Museum. Architect: Frank O. Gehry

Euskalduna Conference Centre and Plaza Bizkaia Building by Federico Soriano and Dolores Palacios

Metro Bilbao by Norman Foster

"La Paloma" at the Bilbao International Airport and Zubizuri Bridge by Santiago Calatrava

Artklass building by Robert Krier and Marc Breitman

**T**ake a look at the list of top contemporary architects. You will find that many are represented here: **Moneo and Siza** design and engineer the Bilbao Metro. **César Pelli** Cesar Pelli erects the 165 metres of his smart Iberdrola Towers, **Norman Foster** also left his mark on the cutting edge metro, **Frank Gehry** lets his imagination loose on the spectacular Guggenheim Bilbao, **Philippe Starck** reinvents the Alhóndiga Bilbao, **Javier Mariscal** shapes the Hotel Dómine, **Isozaki** erects his Twin Towers, **Robert Stern** and Pelli design the Abandoibarra mall, **Federico Soriano** and **Dolores Palacios** breathe life into the Euskalduna Conference Centre and the Plaza Bizkaia building, **Alvaro Siza** brings the auditorium of the University of Deusto to life, **Robert Krier** and **Marc Breitman** surprise with the eclectic Artklass...

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Torre Iberdrola by César Pelli

Torres Isozaki by Arata Isozaki

Plaza Euskadi by Diana Balmori

Deusto University Library by Rafael Moneo

The University of the Basque Country auditorium by Alvaro Siza

Edificio Osakidetza by Coll Barreu

The San Mamés stadium by César Azkárate



Zubizuri Bridge and Isozaki Towers





# BILBAO

**emblematic**

*In the first stretch of the Gran Vía, the Provincial Council Building designed in the late nineteenth century is "one of the masterpieces of Alphonsine eclecticism" in Biscay.*

*It harnesses elements of various historical styles in which a concern for composition of the façades and their ornamentation predominates. This is evident on both the outside (stonework with diamond tipped tools) and in the interior.*

*The Throne Room with its twin canvases by José Echenagusia Errazquin "Swearing the Charter" and "Pacification of the Clans", deserves special mention.*

Provincial Council Building



## In the key of classical elegance

On close observation, the **Bilbao Ensanche** reveals its origins as the high class residential area for the rising middle classes with buildings such as the **Sota** or **Lezama-Leguizamón** mansions. The **Chávarri mansion** in the Plaza Moyúa, is another good example from the turn of the century boom to which **Casa Montero**, with its modernist lines adds diversity. The **Campos Eliseos Theatre**, with its richly ornamented façade by the French Basque architect Darroquy is the benchmark for this genre in the Basque Country.

The **Arriaga Theatre**, built towards the end of the 19th century, is also worth a visit during your wanderings. A little further on, the **Town Hall** shows its emblematic nature in the Council Chamber and the spectacular Arabian Room. And if you like football, the key building is the headquarters of Athletic Club of Bilbao, the neo-Basque **Ibaigane mansion**. If you prefer culture, the **Deusto University** located opposite the Guggenheim, represents the knowledge base that has contributed so much to Greater Bilbao.

The **Concordia Station** is an outstanding building in the modernist style designed in 1902. The façade, dominated by a large rose window, is considered to be one of the most authentic heritages of the Belle Epoque in Bilbao.

The name "la Concordia" (The Agreement") comes from the location, formerly occupied by warehouses where a multitudinous meeting ending in agreement was once held.

Concordia Station



*The tiger was commissioned from Lucarin by Miguel Mendizabal, owner of the El Tigre brand transmission belt factory. It is said that the captain of industry had a run-in with the Bilbao bourgeoisie and that is why his tiger snarls in the direction of Indautxu.*





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**A  
GOOD  
IDEA !**

*If there are two activities that breathe life into this district, these must be tasting the delicious "pintxos", an activity known as "txikiteo" (going from bar to bar drinking small glasses of wine) in the numerous bars and shopping in the more than 400 stores that pepper its streets. You will adore the charming shops and the atmosphere charged with the enjoyment of the local people who love to frequent these streets and plazas.*

# Old Quarter

## MORE LIVELY THAN EVER



## The charm of roaming streets steeped in atmosphere

To wander through the **Old Quarter of Bilbao** a National Heritage site, is to enter a network of narrow streets where the history of the city began more than 700 years ago. The **Santiago Cathedral**, named after the local patron saint; the **Plaza Nueva** - the original main square and still the most charming - the **Calzadas de Mallona**, that lead to the **Basilica of Begoña**, the patron saint of Biscay, after climbing 311 steps; the **church of San Antón**, with its bridge decorated with the town's coat of arms; the **La Ribera Market**, which is the largest covered marketplace in Europe; the **Arenal gardens**, so called because of the sand banks where the working boats used to be beached; the emblematic **Arriaga Theatre**...



Cathedral of Santiago



# THE HOTELS

*of your dreams*

Silken GH Domine

22

Hotel Carlton

Meliá Bilbao



## Art, innovation, elegance, design... everything you need to relax

The transformation of Bilbao foresaw the need for hotel services that could meet the demands of an elite tourism in line with the changes that were taking place. The **Gran Hotel Domine** is a response to this need, an ultramodern five-star hotel with decoration by Javier Mariscal located opposite the Guggenheim Bilbao. There you can relax in a bathtub designed by Philippe Starck or take the sixth floor studio if you come with the family.

A little further down you will find the **Hotel Miró**, a charming four star establishment with a wellness area including gym and massage facilities.

The **Meliá Bilbao**, also strategically located opposite the Euskalduna Centre, Parque Doña Casilda and the River Nervión and inspired by the work of sculptor Eduardo Chillida, features outstanding modern architecture perfectly in tune with its surroundings.

And if you prefer traditional buildings the **Hotel Lopez de Haro** was Frank Ghery's choice while he was working on the Guggenheim. The renovated **Hotel Ercilla**, host to the bullfighting week, belongs to the same group.

The **Hotel Carlton** has always been the choice of famous show business personalities and artists.

And in the Old Quarter, the **Hotel Petit Palace Arana** is located in an emblematic situation surrounded by the Arriaga Theatre, the Arenal Gardens and the River itself.

Guided visits, jazz concerts... some carry out activities that vary according to the time of year.

## ACCOMODATION IN BILBAO

- Carlton \*\*\*\*\***  
944 162 200 · www.hotelcarlton.es
- López de Haro \*\*\*\*\***  
944 235 500 · www.hotellopezdeharo.com
- Meliá Bilbao \*\*\*\*\***  
944 280 000 · www.melia-bilbao.com
- Silken Gran Hotel Domine Bilbao \*\*\*\*\***  
944 253 300 · www.granhoteldominebilbao.com
- Abando \*\*\*\***  
944 236 200 · www.hotelabando.com
- Barceló Bilbao Nervión \*\*\*\***  
944 454 700 · www.barcelonervion.com
- Ercilla \*\*\*\***  
944 705 700 · www.hotelercilla.es
- Hesperia Bilbao \*\*\*\***  
944 051 100 · www.hesperia-bilbao.com
- Hesperia Zubialde \*\*\*\***  
944 008 100 · www.hesperia-zubialde.com
- Holiday Inn Bilbao \*\*\*\***  
944 124 300 · www.holidayinn.com/bilbao
- Hotel Gran Bilbao \*\*\*\***  
944 328 575 · www.hotelgranbilbao.com
- Hotel Spa Husa Jardines de Albia \*\*\*\***  
944 354 140 · www.hotelhusaspajardinesdealbia.com
- Miró \*\*\*\***  
946 611 880 · www.mirohotelbilbao.com
- NH-Villa de Bilbao \*\*\*\***  
944 416 000 · www.nh-hotels.com
- Sercotel Coliseo \*\*\*\***  
946 792 931 · www.hotelcoliseobilbao.com
- Silken Indautxu \*\*\*\***  
944 440 004 · www.hotelindautxu.com
- Zenit Bilbao \*\*\*\***  
944 108 108 · www.zenithoteles.com
- Abba Parque Hotel \*\*\***  
944 413 100 · www.abbaparquehotel.com
- BW Hotel Conde Duque \*\*\***  
944 456 000 · www.bestwesternhotelcondeduque.com
- NH Hotel de Deusto \*\*\***  
944 760 006 · www.nh-hotels.com
- Petit Palace Arana \*\*\***  
944 156 411 · www.hthotels.com
- Tryp Arenal \*\*\***  
944 153 100 · tryp.arenal@solmelia.com
- Hotel Artetxe \*\***  
944 747 780 · www.hotelartetxe.com
- Bilbao Jardines \*\***  
944 794 210 · www.hotelbilbaojardines.com
- Hotel Bilbi \*\***  
944 152 811 · www.hotelbilbi.com
- Hotel Estadio \*\***  
Tel.: 944 424 241 · hotelestadio@hotmail.com
- Photo Zabalburu \*\***  
944 437 100 · www.hotelzabalburu.com
- Hotel Sirimiri \*\***  
944 330 759 · www.hotelssirimiri.es
- Hotel Vista Alegre \*\***  
944 431 450 · www.hotelvistaalegre.com
- Arriaga \***  
944 790 001 · www.hotelarriaga.es
- Ibis Bilbao Centro \***  
944 433 937 · www.ibishotel.com
- Ripa \***  
944 239677 · www.hotel-ripa.com
- Apartamentos Edif. Santiago1\***  
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- Apartamentos Turísticos Atxuri**  
944 667 832 · www.apartamentossabxuri.com
- Pensión Aliciazzz \*\***  
946 792 198 · www.aliciazzz.com
- Pensión Arriaga's \*\***  
635 707 247 · 635 707 252 · www.arriagasuites.com
- Pensión Artetxe \*\***  
944 747 780 · earletxe@hotelartetxe.com



- Pensión Basque Boutique \*\***  
944 790 788 · www.basqueboutique.es
- Pensión Begoña \*\***  
944 230 134 · www.hostalbegona.com
- Pensión Bilbao \*\***  
944 246 943 · www.pensionbilbao.com
- Pensión Bilborooms \*\***  
944 793 591 · www.bilborooms.com
- Pensión Central \*\***  
944 106 339 · www.hostalcentral.com
- Pensión Gurea \*\***  
944 163 299 · www.hostalgurea.com
- Pensión Iturriena \*\***  
944 161 500 · www.iturrienaostatua.com
- Pensión la Estrella Ostatu \*\***  
944 164 066 · www.la-estrella-ostatu.com
- Pensión La Salve \*\***  
946 521 141 · www.lasalve.com
- Pensión Méndez II \*\***  
944 160 364 · www.pensionmendez.com
- Pensión Ría de Bilbao \*\***  
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- Pensión San Mamés \*\***  
944 417 900 · www.sanmames.net
- Pensión Zorroza \*\***  
677 865 261 · www.hostalrestauranteagarimo.com
- Pensión Albino\***  
944 120 040 · txusvane@hotmail.com
- Pensión Arias\***  
944 270 651 · www.hostalarias.es
- Pensión De la Fuente \***  
944 169 989 · www.pensiondela Fuente.com
- Pensión Don Claudio \***  
944 905 017 · hostaldonclaudio@hotmail.com
- Pensión Ladero \***  
944 150 932 · www.pensionladero.es
- Pensión Manoli \***  
944 155 636 · www.pensionmanoli.com
- Pensión Manoli \***  
626 135 595 / 944 216 638  
pension\_manoli@hotmail.com
- Pensión Mardones \***  
944 153 105 · www.hostalmardones.com
- Pensión Martínez \***  
944 239 178
- Pensión Méndez \***  
944 160 364 · www.pensionmendez.com
- Pensión Roquefer \***  
944 150 755 · www.pensionroquefer.com
- Pensión Santimami \***  
944 219 102 · www.pensionsanmames.com
- Pensión Serantes \***  
944 151 557 · pensionserantes@hotmail.com
- Pensión Vista Alegre \***  
944 216 038
- Pensión Zubia \***  
944 248 566
- Albergue BBK Bilbao Good Hostel**  
944 597 759 · www.bbkbilbaogoodhostel.com
- Albergue Bilbao Akelarre Hostel**  
944 057 713 · www.bilbaoakelarrehotel.com
- Albergue Bilbao Aterpetxea Hostel**  
944 270 054 · www.alberguebilbao.net
- Albergue Bilbao Central Hostel**  
946 526 057 · www.bilbaocentralhostel.com
- Albergue Blas de Otero**  
944 343 200 · blasdeotero@resa.es
- Albergue Botxo Gallery**  
944 134 849 · www.botxogallery.com
- Albergue Ganbara**  
944 053 930 · www.ganbarahotel.com
- Albergue Pil Pil Hostel**  
944 345 544 · 722 106 365



# THE MARKETS

The markets enable you to explore the products of the land, cultivated around the “caseríos” (farmsteads) with the expert touch of the “baserritarras” (farm workers). In addition to direct contact with the producers, they provide a guarantee of freshness and quality. Regardless of the season you choose for your visit, the markets of Bilbao are waiting to bring you the authentic flavour of the Basque Country.

A  
GOOD  
IDEA



## Every season they change colour

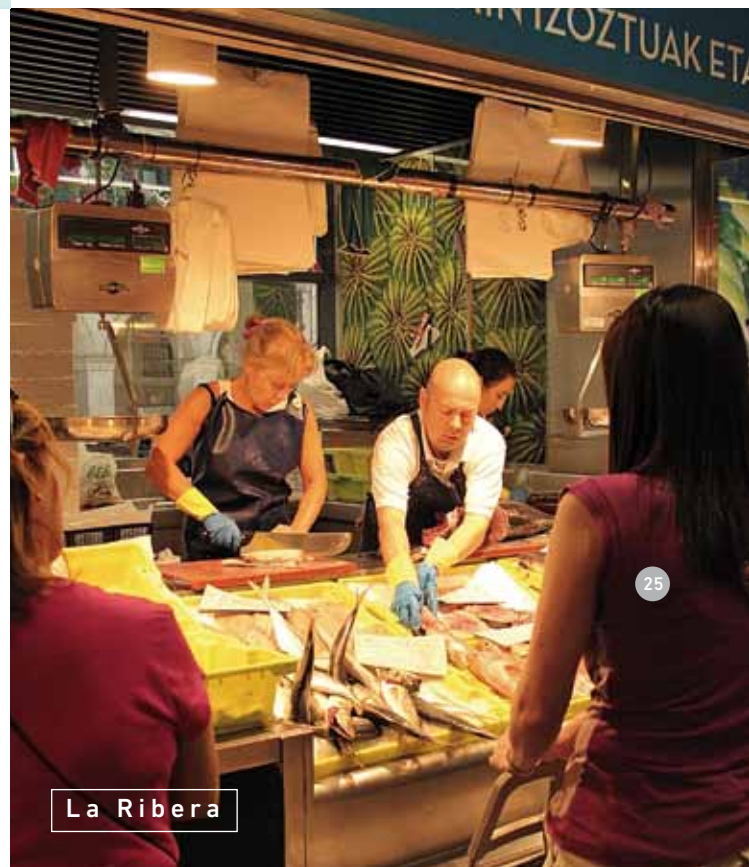
La Ribera

# 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>

According to the Guinness Book of Records, the recently renovated **La Ribera Municipal Market** boasts the largest covered area of any market in Europe. It has been linked to the identity of Bilbao since ancient times, partly because it faces the confluence of the historic 7 streets of the original heart of the town.

To visit it is to get to know the "real market", as the local people call it. Famous for the quality and variety of its produce, the La Ribera market conserves all its unique atmosphere even after its renovation and is an authentic symbol of the city.

[www.mercadodelaribera.net](http://www.mercadodelaribera.net)



La Ribera

25



Gernika-Lumo

A trip to **Gernika-Lumo** to visit the famous market is well worth the trouble. But only on Mondays. If you come in September or October you will find the market crowded with life. This seasonal of fruitfulness makes for an even more colourful display of produce from the best crops of each farm and garden.

In winter, there are tasty seasonal fruit, legumes and other vegetables. A gift for your eyes and palate.





**A  
GOOD  
IDEA**

*A steel structure inspired by the Eiffel Tower, it still provokes admiration in addition to fulfilling its original function of uniting the two banks of the River between **Portugalete** and **Las Arenas (Getxo)** at the mouth. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. Crossing it in the gondola or along the walkway is a marvellous experience.*



Portugalete

## The left bank: from industrial to the renovation

In former times the banks of the River outside Bilbao diverged and all the heavy industry of the zone was concentrated on the left bank, especially in **Barakaldo** and **Sestao**.

The frenetic activity that seethed along the banks of the River in former times has given way to a completely renovated scenario that combines economic development with numerous amenities designed for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Places like **Portugalete** and **Santurtzi** are proof of this renovation.





# The **BIZKAIA** bridge

## CONNECTING THE TWO BANKS



The right bank, on the outskirts of Bilbao, has always been a residential district and so you will be able to admire the magnificent dwellings built by the emerging middle classes along the River.

Places like **Las Arenas**, **Neguri** or **Algorta** in Getxo, are excellent examples of this trend.

**The aristocratic charm  
of the right bank**



Aixerrota in Getxo



You will be enchanted by **WALKING**

# *A new colour for* **BILBAO**

28

**A  
GOOD  
IDEA !**

## **Views from ARTXANDA**

Don't take the car. Take the cable car to get to one of the city's lungs. From here you can enjoy the extensive panorama of the **botxo**, so called because it is located in a valley.





## Bilbao is clad in green from top to bottom

**W**hen you are in Bilbao you will notice that you are always surrounded by forests and hills and - now more than ever before - by generous green zones. Thanks to initiatives like **the Bilbao Green Belt**, the area per person of natural spaces has quadrupled in no time. The leisure options include both urban parks and the forest reserves that surround the town. Bilbao offers you delicious spots like the **Doña Casilda Park**, the **Albia gardens**, **Amezola** and **Etxebarria**... a leisure option with endless possibilities.

And speaking of green, the tram now joins the commitment the city has made to the environment. A convenient, clean way of getting about.



Doña Casilda Park



# Paseo de la Memoria

**to remember who we are**

The Lookout (Chillida)



# THE NORTHERN PILGRIM'S WAY

## also passes through Bilbao

In fact, some of the world's greatest modern sculptors have decked the streets of Bilbao with open air works: Koons, Bourgeois, Kapoor, Novatt, Lopez Chollet, Valdés, Garraza... you will meet many great works gracing the corners, plazas and parades such as the **Paseo de la Memoria** (Memorial Walkway), Bilbao's new park created as part of the renovation. You will love wandering around with so much art for company.

"Bilbao Cathedral is dedicated to the town's patron saint, the apostle Santiago (St James the Greater) with reference to the coastal variant of the **Northern Pilgrim's Way**. As confirmation the Puerta del Ángel (Angel's Gate) also known as Puerta de los Peregrinos (Pilgrim's Gate) greets the wayfarer with its shell. As its foundation charter testifies, the links of this area with the tradition of St. James go back to before the town even existed.

But first, when you reach the town remember that a visit to the Basilica de la Virgen de Begoña (Our Lady of Begoña) is an essential part of the Northern Pilgrim's Way on its way through Bilbao. From there the Old Quarter is close at hand along the Calzadas de Mallona... your chance to explore a fascinating enclave a stone's throw from the Cathedral. "



Sitios y Lugares (Ángel Garraza)



Bailarina (Dancer, Dalí)

Old Quarter





**N**obody will look at you askance if you sprint or race-walk along the pathways that run along either side of **the River**. In Bilbao and the coastal towns you will see multitude of runners and walkers enjoying the combination of sport and pleasure provided by the numerous pathways, riverbanks and marine parades. Previously industrial areas are now devoted entirely to pleasure and the city offers walks like the **Abandoibarra**, a mixture of art and green belt, the **Ribera de Zorrozaurre**, in the old industrial zone and the elegant and aristocratic **Campo Volantín**, as well as numerous green zones such as the **Park of Doña Casilda**. In downtown Bilbao both the Ensanche and the Old Quarter make excellent walks. There are more and more pedestrian streets where you can stroll around in peace and safety.



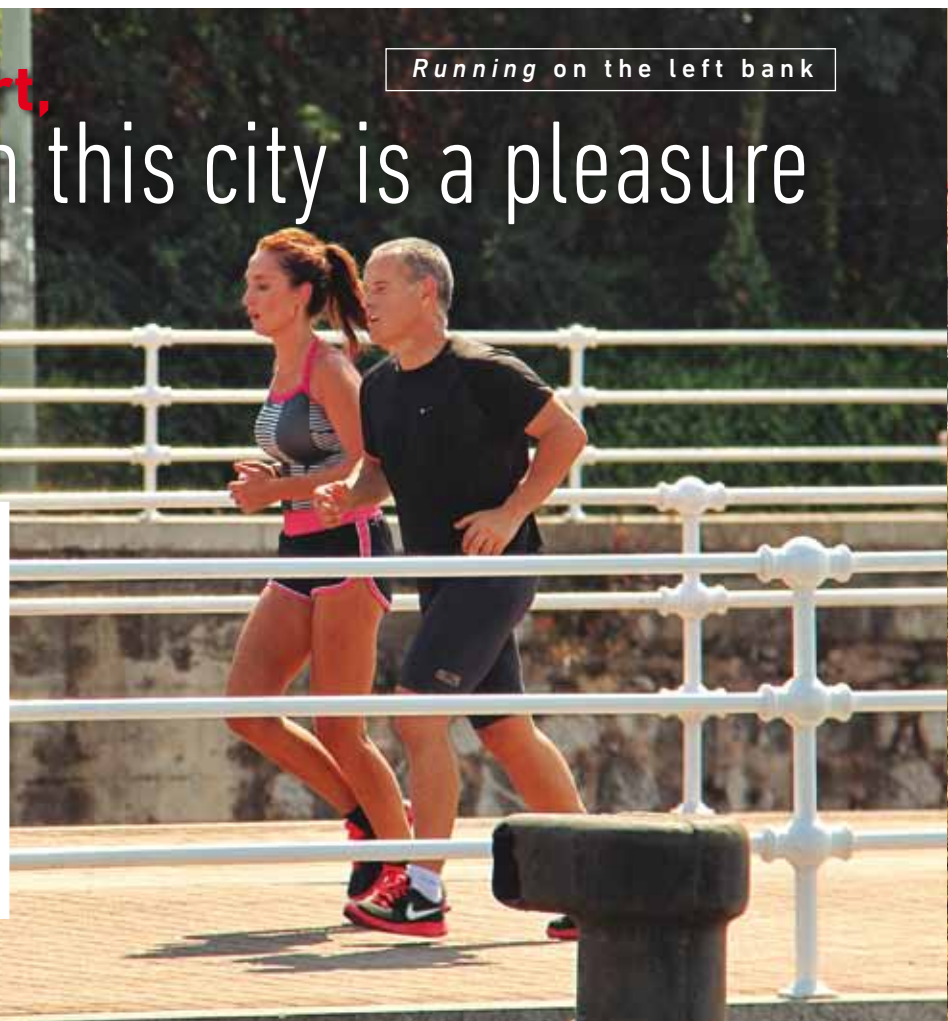
Campo Volantín

**Beyond sport,**  
walking in this city is a pleasure

Running on the left bank



Abandoibarra





Port of Getxo

# Approaching the sea, a tour of the surroundings

33

Outside the city you can get to **Santutzi** from **Portugalete** and take the chance to try some delicious sardines. Then, crossing to the right bank by the **Bizkaia Bridge**, a walk along the **Las Arenas** dock to the **Ereaga Beach** is highly recommended. You can go even further and reach **Punta Galea**, from where you will get magnificent views of the **Abra**, now open to the Cantabrian sea. The beauty of this coast is quite overwhelming.

Punta Galea



# BILBAO

sounds good

A  
GOOD  
IDEA

*Bilbao has always been known for good music so the number of events on the agenda should not surprise you. If you are a music lover you would do well to coordinate your visit with some of them. This is easy because there are a lot and they cater for all tastes. Just do it, and you will see that the experience was well worth the trouble.*

[www.bilbao.net/BilbaoTurismo](http://www.bilbao.net/BilbaoTurismo)





The Bilbao BBK Live

One of the events that the people of Bilbao cherish is the **Opera**, with its enthusiastic following.

But the musical scene is incredibly diverse, from the **365 Jazz Bilbao** with its programme designed to appeal to all those who approach the event with an open mind ready to listen to the best international and local musicians. While on the subject of jazz, the **Bilbaína Jazz Club** puts on live concerts that you can catch every Thursday from October to June.

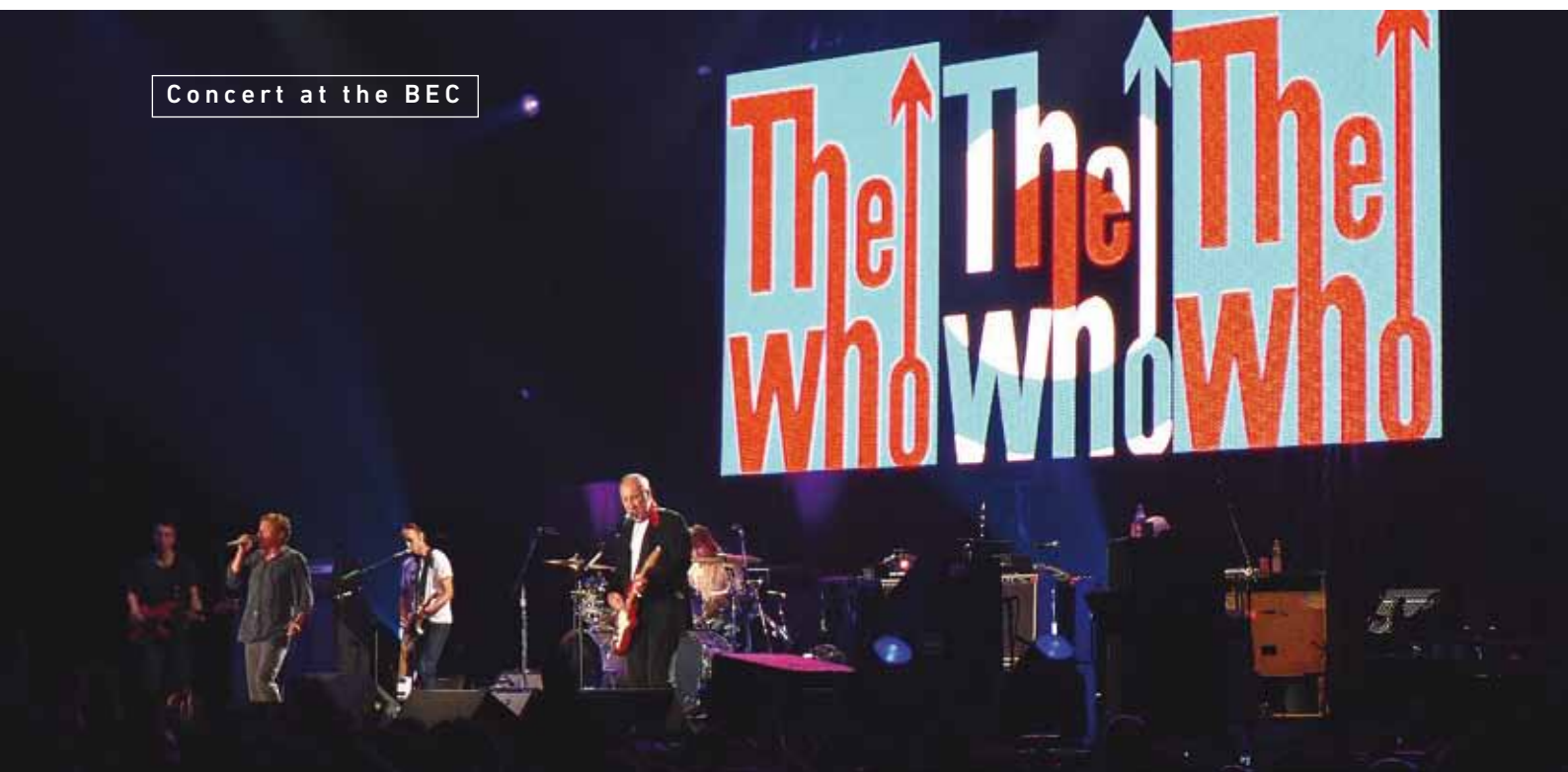


The **Bilbao BBK Live** increases its audience every year thanks to the quality of the local, domestic and international bands that it lines up. **The Getxo Jazz Festival** is now a classic and can always count on the participation of top jazz performers.

The **Getxo Folk Festival** combines folk, blues and jazz and its multitude of supporters get to enjoy the music of outstanding figures in the field. These events are backed by an ever-increasing number of concerts in less ambitious formats that are gaining the favour of critics and public alike. You will love how they sound.

35

Concert at the BEC





# ALWAYS ON CUE

36

A  
GOOD  
IDEA!

*How about a dramatised tour of the secrets of the theatre?*

*If your visit coincides with the right dates you will be able to share them through the good offices of a fishwife, a Santurtzi sardine, a Basque "pelota" player, the urn in the foyer and a ticket seller. Then you can attend a superb show in the evening.*

[www.teatroarriaga.com](http://www.teatroarriaga.com)



Arriaga Theatre



**T**he social life of the town seethes with activity at any time of year with so many shows that choosing one is an impossible task: opera, symphony orchestras, dance, theatre, cinema, pop... every kind of show you could want including urban culture... And whatever you choose will hit the nail on the head.





The people of Bilbao love the Opera and the vitality of **ABAO** (Bilbao Friends of the Opera Association), which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013, bears witness to this. One of the great operatic institutions of Spain and Europe is firmly established in Bilbao. The city has the good fortune to be visited by the best operatic voices every year. Enjoy!

**Euskalduna Palace**



37

**Campos Elíseos Theatre**



## Quality is the word that defines the entertainment scene in Bilbao

The public of Bilbao is said to be extremely demanding when it comes to show business... people who look forward impatiently to a season packed with fascinating options and prove to a knowledgeable audience, able to distinguish and to award the laurel only to the deserving.

The **Arriaga** and **Campos Eliseos** Theatres proudly present the best dance, music and drama available internationally.

If you are a music lover, enjoy the **ABAO** opera season with the **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa**...

The **Contemporary Dance and Music Festival** brings you avant garde performing arts.

**ZINEBI**, the International Festival of Documentary and Short Film is now in its 55th edition.

**Zinegoak**, the Gay-Les-Trans International Film and Performing Arts Festival of Bilbao

The **International Festival of Urban Performing Cultures -BreakOnStage-** now draws crowds of enthusiasts...

Musika-Música is a high-quality annual theme festival.



# ATHLEEEETIC!



Since 1898, the year it was founded, this has been the battle cry of a great football club. Did you know that one of its peculiarities is that it only signs players born and developed as football players in the Basque Country? The famous club is also known and admired for its promotion of the local players in which it depends.

And everybody knows that **Athletic Club de Bilbao** fans are intensely loyal. Few fan bases are as loyal to their team through thick and thin. If you go to a match get ready to sing the alirón to cheer on the team or celebrate a goal. If that happens **San Mamés** will erupt and you will be caught up in a spine-tingling rush of pure emotion.

[www.athletic-club.net](http://www.athletic-club.net)

# &

## BILBAO BASKET!

If you prefer basketball you are in luck because the Men in Black, as the **Bilbao Basket**, team is known, brings the house down every time they play. It is currently one of the top clubs in the ACB, the national first division league. Returning the city's name to the top of the table means signing promising players, so the season promises to be enthralling. The whole city follows its team as one, and so can you.

[www.bilbaobasket.biz](http://www.bilbaobasket.biz)







Harrijasotzaile

## Sports rooted in the Basque identity

39



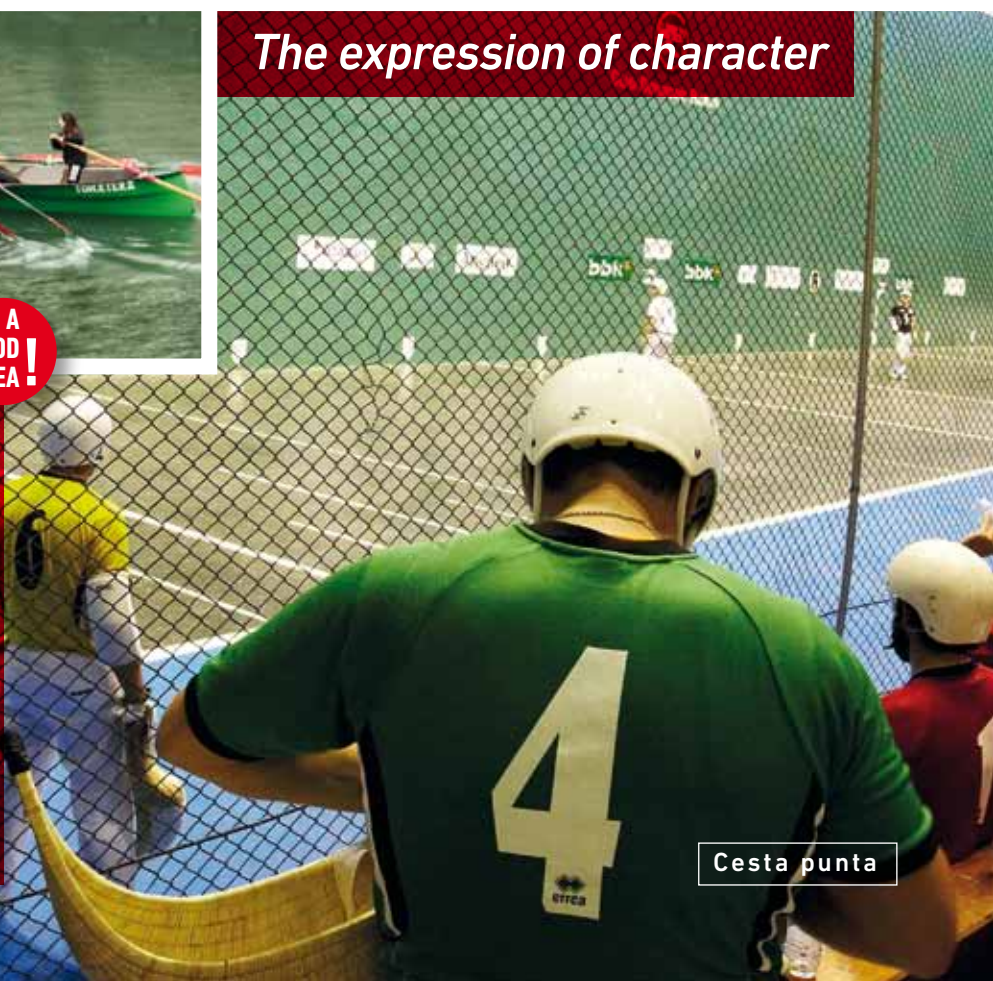
Trainera

A  
GOOD  
IDEA!

Certain activities from the Basque countryside comprise "herri kirolak" Basque rural sport. All originate in farming tasks that became competitive events to demonstrate the strength and skill of the practitioners.

"Traineras" were whaling boats that raced to claim a prey and now take part in regattas followed by cheering crowds. "Pelota" and "cesta punta" are peculiarly Basque sports surrounded by a unique atmosphere.

## The expression of character



Cesta punta



# ASTE NAGUSIA

## the greatest week

*Bilbao's Great Week, held annually from the first Saturday after 15 August, is an explosion of music, theatre, performance, opera, bulls, local customs, children's activities, fireworks and more. The signal to begin the great fiesta is a sky-rocket set off by the txupinera. The konpartsak or street groups are the heart and soul of these fiestas. They are groups of revellers who create a festive atmosphere wherever they go with their music and good cheer.*

*Mari Jaia, represented as a plump lady who always seems to be dancing, has been the official symbol of the festival since 1978. You are the only one missing... Join the fun.*



## Basque Fest, San Blas, Santa Agueda, txikiteros... each fiesta is lived to the full

The festivity of **Saint Thomas Aquinas**, is one of the most important, and brings together thousands of people in Bilbao just before Christmas. The very best fruit, vegetables, cheese, turkeys, snails and **txakoli**. Make sure you try **talo con chistorra** (chorizo in unleavened bread)

On the 4th of February, **Santa Agueda's** eve, the streets of Bilbao and other Basque towns are filled with groups of revellers singing traditional songs while striking the ground with sticks. Two days before San Blas there is a traditional pilgrimage or **romería**. The custom is to buy doughnuts in the Arenal and cords that are taken to the church of San Nicolás to be blessed to protect the throat. **The Basque Fest** is the first Basque avant garde cultural fiesta and mixes tradition, creativity and innovation in equal proportions.



Mari Jaia



The fiesta of the *txikiteros*

## REAL PASSION

*A good many of the processions that make their way through the streets of Bilbao at Easter originate in the original parish church of St John and St John (Santos Juanes) in the Old Quarter. Many of the floats in the processions, such as the Cristo de la Villa de Bilbao by Juan de Mesa or La Dolorosa by Quintín de la Torre, are of incalculable historical value. The procession of the Borriquito (donkey) on Palm Sunday is famous.*



The procession of the Donkey



# Night and day

*Enjoy a carefully prepared cocktail, let the aroma of good coffee seduce you, try a variety of delicious "pintxos" or enjoy fantastic live music. Bilbao at night will enfold you in its glamorous ambience and whether your scene is traditional or trendy you will be enchanted by the atmosphere. You will find cafés and sophisticated bars that invite you to enjoy the night both in the Ensanche and the Old Quarter. Whether you want a party atmosphere or a quiet nook to have a long conversation, you will find the right spot in Bilbao. Just let your hair down and trust your intuition.*



## Hit the nail on the head

**T**he **Café Iruña** with its charming decoration from the turn of the 20th century is a classic meeting place with a great atmosphere, listed as a "singular site". Close by, **La Granja** can provide you with a full meal or a cup of coffee in an old world ambience. As the day wears on the **Lamiak**, in the Old Quarter, changes its proposal from a morning coffee to tapas and cocktails. To have a long drink to remember to try the **Bernardo Café Bar** one of the 12 "gin tonic shrines" in the country. And having a drink on the terrace of **La Alhóndiga Bilbao** will give you an entirely different outlook on Bilbao. If you prefer a well-drawn beer, Bilbao offers you a wide variety of bars where you can enjoy a good brew, some with live music. The Old Quarter and Abando also have **gay-friendly** bars where you can relax in your chosen atmosphere. You could also try your luck at the **Gran Casino de Bilbao**. Your visit could turn out better than you expect.





## TRADE FAIRS

local  
and

## INTERNATIONAL

The second half of the 20th century witnessed an upsurge of Basque industry based on the factories that occupied the left bank. It was also the golden age of the trade fair, now renewed following the regeneration that the metropolitan area in recent years. This change has brought the **new, up-to-date facilities** demanded by the sector and which are one of the driving forces of modern Bilbao. A prime example is the **Euskalduna Concert Hall and Conference Centre**, winner of the 2003 Apex Award as the "World's best conference centre".

The City Council has a department, the **Bilbao Convention Bureau**, devoted to services for organisation of trade fairs, congresses and festivals and the infrastructures required to successfully hold all kinds of events.

[www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo](http://www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo)

Due to its industrial pre-eminence, Bilbao hosts many trade fairs in related sectors such as the international **Ferroforma**, held simultaneously with **Bricoforma**.

Other important fairs include the **International Machine Tool Biennial**, the 3rd most important in Europe.

The goal of the annual **Focus Bilbao** trade fair is to become the benchmark event for the food and gourmet sector in the Atlantic Arc,

While **Algusto** aims to become the leader in the artisan food.

**Expovacaciones**, the travel and tourism trade fair, focusses on activities for leisure and entertainment.

**Nagusi** is an event that aims to improve the quality of life of the elderly.

There are also numerous and very popular **urban fairs** such as the **Christmas and spring crafts fairs**.



The Bilbao Exhibition Centre -BEC-, in Barakaldo, is an excellent place to hold all kinds of event and replaces the old trade fair centre in Bilbao. There are 6 columnless pavilions totalling 150.000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, noteworthy for their flexibility and versatility. BEC Conventions, with its 18,000 m<sup>2</sup>, is one of them. It is a multifunctional convention centre with cutting-edge communication systems.



# Boat trips on the River

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A  
GOOD  
IDEA!

*There are boat rental services for events, school trips, etc., but the River provides more leisure options such as “traineras” and kayaks. No experience is required and the time you spend on the water will be unadulterated fun. Why not try paddle surf, the last word in water sports?*





## The River has always played a leading part in the history of Bilbao

**T**he history of the city is incomprehensible without **the River**. But the former industrial artery has become the focus point of the new leisure options provided by contemporary Bilbao. A boat trip on its waters will show you the new town in all its glory.

Here are some options:

**BILBOATS**, daily trips on the River. [www.bilboats.com](http://www.bilboats.com)

**TXINBITO**, boat trips on demand. [www.aupatours.com](http://www.aupatours.com)

**EUSKALHERRIA**, open in summer. [www.portugalete.org](http://www.portugalete.org)

If sport is more in your line you can choose between canoes, kayaks, paddle surf... you just need to feel the urge and get in touch:

[www.bilbobentura.com](http://www.bilbobentura.com)

[www.aktiba.info](http://www.aktiba.info)

[www.bwaters.org](http://www.bwaters.org)





# One **METRE** from the beach

48

Sopelana





Feeling the sea close by brings a feeling of freedom. Those who go down to the sea after a hard day's work know this as they immerse themselves in its beauty during a seaside stroll.

If you like to be active you can join in any of the beach sports taking place: pelota, paddle, windsurf, surfing, disk surf, etc. The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination, and... Enjoy!



You can reach a good many beaches in next to no time by metro. Ereaga, in Neguri, is little more than half an hour from downtown Bilbao.

[www.metrobilbao.net](http://www.metrobilbao.net)



# Join in **AVANT GARDE** CULTURE

50



**ZAWP Bilbao (Zorrotzaurre Art Work in Progress)** is a project under the auspices of the Asociación Hacería with the aim of bringing a creative, innovative artistic vision to the process of transforming the former industrial district in which it is located into a leisure services area. The Zwarp concept encompasses the entire future island with which it is integrated: "If this was once a port where merchandise once arrived and departed, today it should be a port of knowledge, interchange, art, culture and technological and social innovation."

[www.zawpbilbao.com](http://www.zawpbilbao.com)



Culture and avant garde are two terms that go hand in hand with Bilbao. This is ensured by centres such as the **Hacería Artemis Association** that has transformed an industrial site into a cultural center with various theme clubs: HACERIA jazz club, HACERIA flamenco club, HACERIA ekinez drama and English HACERIA club, generating educational and leisure activities that play a leading role in the city.

[asociacion.haceria.com](http://asociacion.haceria.com)

**BILBAO**  
BIZKAIA



The search for the creative identity of young artists is not forgotten: **Bilbao Arte is an artistic production centre that offers the resources and infrastructure necessary for young artists to develop their projects: studio space, engraving and screen printing workshops, digital imaging, sculpture, photography, a film set, documentation centre and project room.**

[bilbaoarte.org](http://bilbaoarte.org)

ZAWP





# ALL DESIGN

*Bilbao has also been transformed from the point of view of fashion. Always chic, today design has invaded the clothing sector, a tendency that can be easily confirmed by simply paying attention to the shop windows in any part of Bilbao. A wander through Abando, Indautxu, Gran Vía or the Old Quarter will convince you of this.*

*Bilbao is at the forefront of international design.*





Calle Ercilla



As you might expect from a trend-setting city like Bilbao you will find an endless variety of shops and premises with icons of Basque and international design.

A  
GOOD  
IDEA!

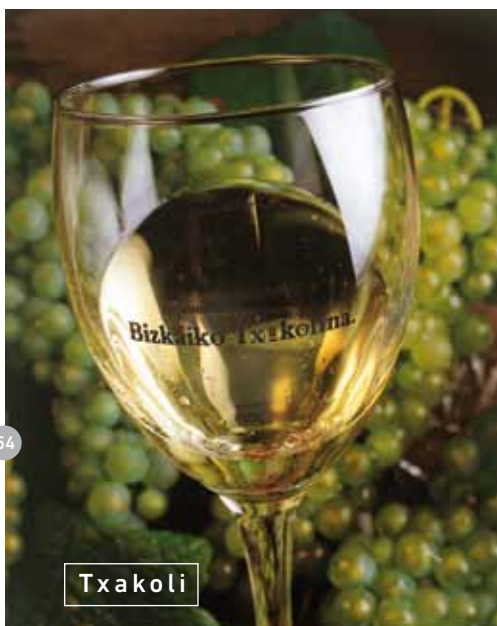
The upsurge of fashion in Bilbao can also be seen in the number of young designers who are forging international reputations. These are names associated with innovation and independence to the point of setting up their own businesses where the name itself becomes a valuable brand.

Ion Fiz, Marta Ortiz de Zárate and Alicia Rueda among the upcoming young designers and Mercedes de Miguel, J + G, Juan Bilbao and Echegoyen among the established figures are safe bets for your purchases.





# MMMM! DELICIOUS



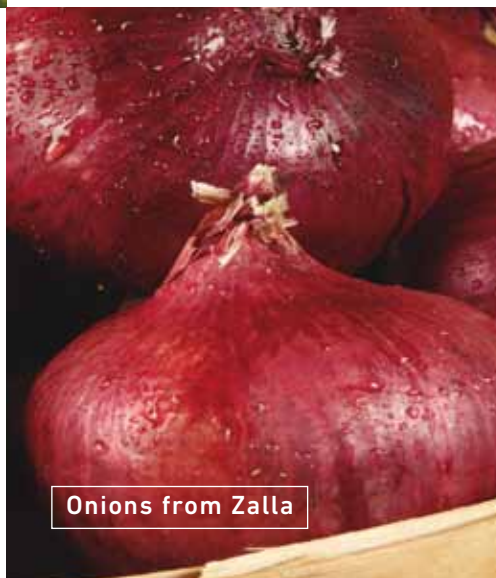
**Txakoli**

**S**ea and land offer us their choicest products. They are joined by the expert hands of the people artisans who produce them so that you can enjoy select, high quality products prepared with the love and care. Take your choice from among **Idiazabal** and **Karrantza** cheeses, **Gorbea** honey, *txakoli* from **Bizkaia**, preserves from the **Cantabrian Sea**, peppers from **Gernika**, salted cod... even traditional wheaten or corn bread.

One thing you can be sure of: whatever you choose will be absolutely delicious.



*The choice of delicacies to gratify your palate is endless. The best souvenir of your trip is one you can share while you tell friends and family about your visit.*



**Onions from Zalla**

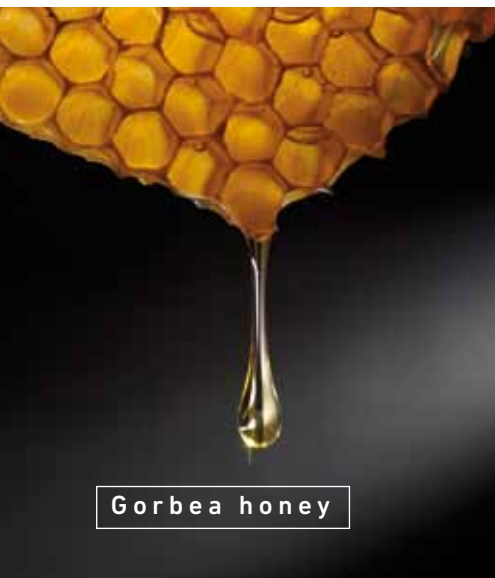


**Cantabrian Bonito**

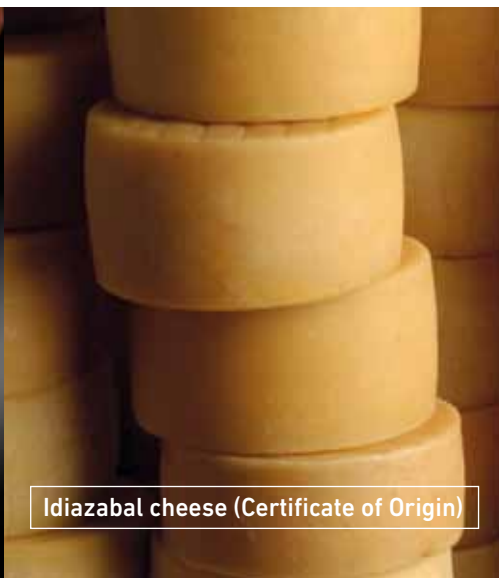




55



Gorbea honey



Idiazabal cheese (Certificate of Origin)

There are officially protected designations of origin (PDO) and products with quality seals to ensure that all processes from producer to end user are controlled to the smallest detail.

Find out about the top quality foodstuffs under the Eusko Label certified and promoted by the Hazi Foundation., without forgetting Euskal Baserri products, all of which originate here.

[www.hazi.es](http://www.hazi.es)



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*From heaven to our  
kitchens*

# STARS

## Michelin

*Maybe one of the reasons you are visiting Bilbao is gastronomic, if so, you have excellent taste. The Basque Country has one of the world's great culinary traditions. The number of Michelin stars is a tribute to the astonishing capacity to innovate within this tradition. When you enter one of these temples you will understand why they are venerated.*

Eneko Atxa (Azurmendi)



**T**hey are prophets in their own land and abroad. Basque chefs manage the kitchens of top restaurants in Spain and all over the world with They win prize after prize and critical acclaim wherever they work. Selecting a favourite is a difficult task... all of them are outstanding in some facet of the art. That's why they have been awarded so many **Michelin stars**, the greatest distinction in international cuisine. Their establishments are not only great places to eat. They will surprise you with their refinement, attention to detail and passion for the culinary arts.



Daniel García (Zortziko)

Confining ourselves to Bizkaia, we have **Azurmendi** run by **Eneko Atxa** and boasting three stars. One-star restaurants include **Andra Mari**, run by **Patxi Asua** in Galdakao, **Boroa** in Amorebieta-Etxano with **Javier Gartzia** in the kitchen and **Asador Etxebarri** en Atxondo, managed by **Victor Arginzoniz**.

One star restaurants in Bilbao include **Zortziko** run by **Daniel García**, **Nerua**, with **Josean Alija** in charge, **Etxanobe** managed by **Fernando Canales** and **Mina** with **Álvaro Garrido** and **Lara Martín** sharing the honours.



*Join a class in a gourmet pintxo or cooking workshop and discover the pleasure of cooking and sharing.*





In a region where the word gastronomy is sacred, it is easy to find places to enjoy high quality, imaginative food. The Guría in Gran Vía or the Viejo Zortzi in Calle Licenciado Poza are classics.

Do not overlook the Bistró Guggenheim Bilbao, Doma in the Hotel Silken Domine or Arbolagaña in Bilbao's Museo de Bellas Artes, among others.

# SIGNATURE CUISINE



## FROM **BILBAO** OLD STYLE COOKING

Their menus contain the dishes that have made traditional Bilbao cuisine - and that of the Basque Country in general - world famous.

Some examples:

Abando, Astillero Euskalduna, Casa Rufo, Egiluz, Getaria, Lasa, Marisquería Mazarredo, Nicolás, Porrue, Rimbombín, Serantes, Urbietta, Víctor...



An environment like this must inevitably be fertile ground for a **philosophy of culinary pleasure**. Many local chefs are convinced of the soundness of this criteria.

The accent is on fresh local produce to be savoured bite by bite, slowly. discover them in Aitor Elizegi's Bascook, in Barroeta Aldamar, Baita Gaminiz in Alameda de Mazarredo, Aizian in the Hotel Meliá Bilbao, Zárata in Calle Licenciado Poza, Ricardo Pérez's Yandiola in La Alhóndiga Bilbao, in Etxanobe with Mikel Población and Fernando Canales in the Euskalduna Conference Centre.

# SLOWFOOD



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# URBANMENU

Bilbao's new social and urban reality had to be reflected in the establishment of modern restaurants that respond to contemporary demand. Born into a context that values design, their proposals focus on excellent daily specials and simplified menus, on premises where the aesthetic appeal is another ingredient to be savoured. Examples include Bodega Urbana, Brass 27, Claudio La Feria del Jamón, El Globo, El Txoko de la Mary, Hola Bar Alhóndiga, Iruña, La Mary, Mugi, Un Señor de Bilbao... and taking a wander through the town you will discover many more..



Mouthfuls of pleasure:  
through the Basque

# PINTXOS

60

*The sight of a long bar packed with pintxos will whet your appetite even if you are not hungry.*

*A glass of txakoli is probably the best way to accompany them. Another tempting option is to combine them with wine from the Rioja Alavesa.*

*Either option will be an excellent choice.*



They started out as an answer to the need to eat something while going from bar to bar to enjoy a few glasses of wine. Those delicious **pintxos** still exist but many bars have transformed them into sophisticated creations known locally as "miniature cooking". Innovation is the key to this movement. A generation of young chefs is exploring new modes, flavours and textures that give rise to exciting recipes for the most demanding palates. Either of these two concepts of **pintxo** brings to mind a world of colour and taste. Love at first bite. Try them at any good bar and you will see how they awaken all your five senses.

## This magic realm of flavour and colour is a delight to the eyes

Try to see the **pintxo** experience as a magnificent alternative to a sit-down meal. We can assure you that you will not be hungry when you have finished. Begin slowly, maybe with a spicy Gilda, a combination of freshness and hotness that alludes to Rita Hayworth's famous role.

After this starter you will have to choose between the hundreds of varieties on offer. The traditional **pintxo** and its avant garde cousins share the scene in peaceful coexistence and you can often order a selection that combines the two philosophies. You will be surprised at the care taken in their preparation: bonito and salt cod delicacies and juicy *antxoas* (anchovies) all seasoned with the finest fruit of the *baserris* (vegetable gardens).

From the most sophisticated *kabratxo* cake to the humble croquette or potato tortilla they will all taste better with **txakoli**, Basque Country cider or a good glass of **Rioja Alavesa** wine.

And here's to the next time!



The word **pintxo** (spike) comes from the shape of the little mouthful secured by a toothpick.



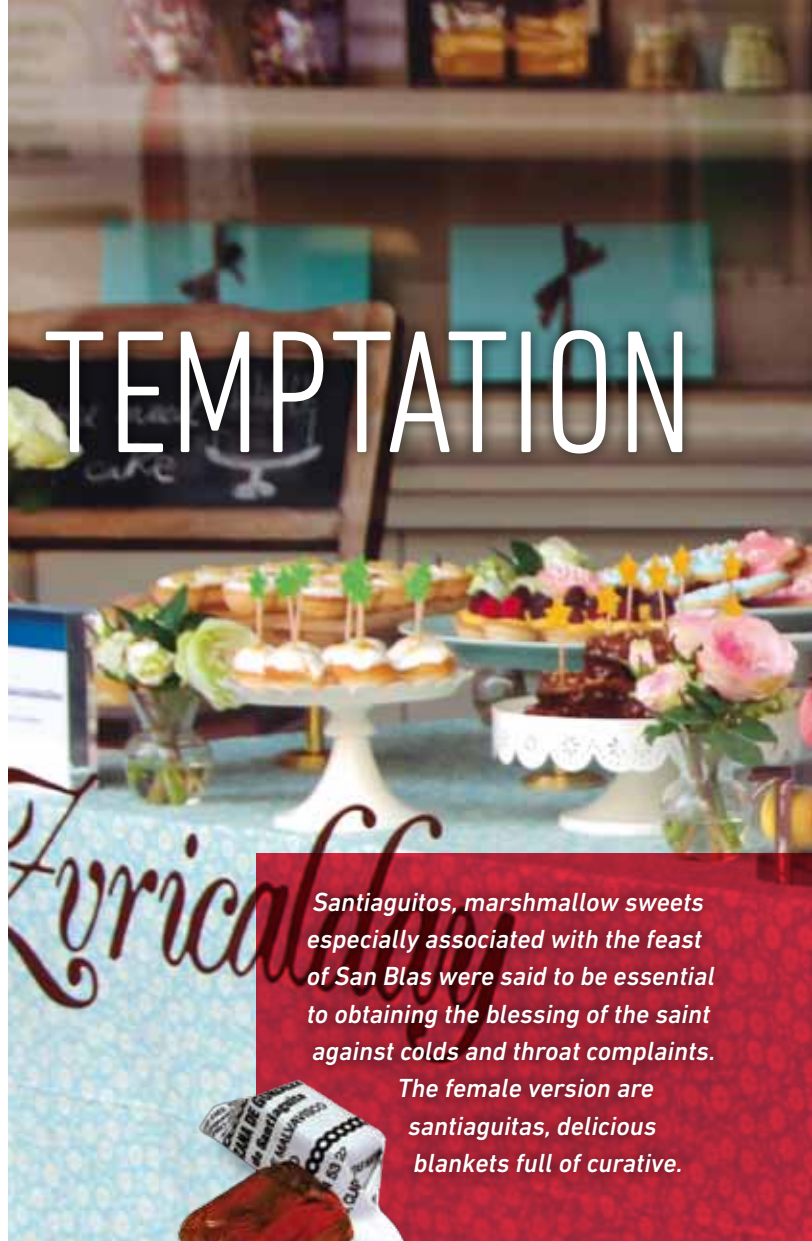


# The sweet

**T**he origin of the sweet tradition in Bilbao is lost in the mists of time. Some bakeries, like Martina de Zuricalday, were established more than two hundred years ago. The Arrese, New York and La Suiza are also old, well-established traditional establishments with delicious specialities.

You will love the traditional **butter buns** that combine eggs and syrup in a special recipe. Or the **rice cakes**, an exquisite cream in a pastry cradle. The ones called **Jesuits** are also made of pastry but now covered with royal icing and stuffed with baker's cream or spaghetti squash preserve (cabello de ángel). A **carolina**, a tower of smooth meringue dipped in chocolate and egg yolk or **Russian cakes**, which in Bilbao have a special flavour of egg whites mixed with sugar to obtain meringue baked in the oven in layers filled with buttercream.

You think you've tried them? Try them again and you will taste the difference.



*Santiaguitos, marshmallow sweets especially associated with the feast of San Blas were said to be essential to obtaining the blessing of the saint against colds and throat complaints.*

*The female version are santiaguitas, delicious blankets full of curative.*



Butter buns



Russian cake





63

*Martina*



Rice cakes



Carolinas



# TOP **BILBAO**

## Wonder at the new **BILBAO**

See and feel the avant garde architecture around which the transformation of the city has been articulated. It is one aspect of the "Guggenheim Bilbao Effect".



## **THE FOOD** with stars

Many restaurants, some with Michelin stars, can introduce you to the authentic cuisine of the Basque Country.

## The **RIBERA** **MARKET**

Designated the most comprehensive and largest covered market in Europe by the Guinness Book of Records, it specialises in products from the land and sea.



## A stroll in the **CAMPO VOLANTÍN**

Viewing Bilbao from the other side of the River you can enjoy the spectacular new architecture .



## Views from **ARTXANDA**

Take a ride on the cable car and enjoy a spectacular view from Bilbao's favourite mountain.





They are called TOP because they are the best of the best, worth visiting, tasting, comparing, enjoying... a compendium of experiences that cannot be missed because without them you will have missed something indispensable. Put them on your agenda and you will have plenty to talk about when you get home.



## Become a fan of **ATHLETIC CLUB**

Few clubs have such loyal fans and the atmosphere they create around the Pozas district is worth seeing.



## **PINTXOS** in the Old Quarter

Immerse yourself in the seven streets enjoying *pintxos*, *txikitos* and the lively atmosphere is to get to know the authentic Bilbao.



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## Experience **LA ALHONDIGA** **BILBAO**

The new multifunctional multicultural centre is an icon of the new Bilbao. Its atrium and design are a must.



## **SHOPPING** the last word

Downtown and the Old Quarter. Bilbao today is a great showcase of design by the world's most famous architects.

## The City from **THE RIVER**

Get a different view of this new Bilbao from a boat trip on the River. There is a wide choice.





# DICTIONARY OF BILBAO\_BIZKAIA

from

to



**AGUR:** Post-modern people say “ciao”, but it’s still no more than “well, that’s it, I’m off”.. Comes from “augurium”, which is Latin for, “/ mean it!”.

**AGUA DE BILBAO:** It’s what we call champagne but watch out, we do not mean *cava*!

**ALIRON:** Miners from a British company in Ortuella, traditionally cried out “all iron” (yippee!, in other words) when they struck a vein of iron ore because it meant double pay. Today it is to cheer on the Athletic Club - whether it wins the league or not.

**AMATXU DE BEGOÑA:** An affectionate name for the patron saint of the town, used especially by the “txikiteros”, who share the fiesta with her.

**ANGULA:** Juvenile form of an eel that swims madly up the River with the sole aim of being eaten by the rich.

**APACHURRAR:** Synonym for a shaking hands with someone over-enthusiastic... like, they return it crushed and broken.

66

**ATHLETIC:** A singularly holy word. Don’t mess with it.

**AÚPA!** A good-natured greeting or a casual hello that pretends to be typically Basque. At San Mamés, to cheer the team.

**AZUL BILBAO:** The blue of the *botxo* sky that only exists on the palette of painters from Bilbao, obviously!.

**BACALAO AL PIL PIL:** Onomatopoeia that alludes to the way cod must be brought to the boil, which sounds like this: “pil-pil”

**BALDOZA:** Grandma’s ceramic tiles, the traditional ones that have now migrated from the floor to grace handkerchiefs, table-cloths, sweets, etc...

**BEGIAUNDIS:** Like the name says, “begiaundis” are big squids, because if they were little ones they’d be called “begitxikis”.

**BILBAINADA:** Often explained as the typical bluff and bluster that people from Bilbao are famous for, it also refers to the typical songs called *txikiteros* sung in bars or at parties, though if Athletic lose...

**BOLLO DE MANTEQUILLA:** Famous but so modest that it is afraid to speak its name, though since it is from Bilbao, it doesn’t need to.

**BOTXO:** “Hole”, a.k.a. Bilbao because it is located in a valley between two hills. Artxanda and Pagasarri.

**CAROLINA:** Multicolour meringue that you say you buy for your kids rather than admit that you’re going to scoff it all yourself, at your age... disgraceful!.

**CHOCHOLO:** as easy as babbling on and talking rubbish.

**COITAO:** Nothing to do with what you are thinking... it’s just a nice, harmless sort of guy. I promise.

**CHAPURREAR:** What we do when we murder a language we are trying to learn... with the best intentions, naturally.

**ENE:** Expression of surprise, incredulity, perplexity or joy, depending on who says it and when.

**FELIPADA:** Triangular sandwich to be eaten in the Alameda whether you are hungry or not. Delicious.

**FRESCO:** What softies call freezing.. Wimps!

**FUENTE DEL PERRO:** They are lions, actually... but it doesn’t matter, they date back to 1800 and it’s all the same if they bark or roar as long as they don’t bite.

**GABARRA:** A barge used to transport minerals along the River and Athletic Club when they win something (a rare occurrence nowadays).

**GANORABAKO:** A person without much gumption, to put it mildly.

**GASOLINO:** Strategically cheap way of crossing the River in a nice wee boat instead of crossing the bridge on foot, taking the metro or driving.



**GILDA:** Bilbao and San Sebastian dispute the origin of the *gilda*... Actually, the term honours Rita for being salty, fresh and hot. What's your story?

**GOOOOOL:** The divine word that sometimes eludes the Athletic Club but when the team does score not even strongest lozenge will restore your voice.

**GOITIBERA:** A three or four-wheeled billy-cart designed to break your bones (they can do up to 130 kph).

**HAMAIKETAKO:** The supreme gastronomic moment between breakfast and lunch to keep your stomach from complaining.

**IRRINTZI:** Battle-cry which today is no more than an ancient custom. However, some foreigners have tried to copy it but they never get further than a kind of squawk.

**ITURRI:** The bottle caps from Iturrigori soda water. Americans don't know this, but Coca Cola's bottle caps are also *iturri*.

**JATORRA:** Person with a good sense of humour, likeable and full of life, typical of Bilbao.

**KALIMOTXO:** Mixed drink mainly for parties when you can no longer taste what you are drinking. Not in vain was it invented by sheer chance when the organisers of a fiesta in Algorta mixed the wine with Coca Cola, when they discovered that it was even worse than they'd thought.

**KILI-KOLO:** The physical or emotional state known as *so-so* or *comme ci comme ça*.

**LARRI:** To be under the weather.

**MARMITAKO:** Bonito with spuds, peppers and so on... typical of competitions where you fill your stomach and keep on eating without stopping.

**OLENTZERO:** Father Christmas in Bilbao: has a beard too, but it's black.

**ORDAGO:** What a smarty-pants throws down when he wants to get something and hasn't even got a decent gauntlet.

**OTXOTE:** Eight guys from Bilbao singing at the top of their voices from bar to bar. Just what we need, right?

**PASTEL DE ARROZ:** Traditional Bilbao tart which despite its name, doesn't actually contain any rice.

**PASTOR DEL GORBEA:** Like the octopus from the World Cup but this one predicts the weather

**PISCOLABIS:** No big deal, a mere snack that we here in Bilbao start before lunch and are still at it at five in the evening.

**PORRUSALDA:** A simple meal made of leeks, potatoes and carrots... to feel "cleaned up" after the pisolabis.

**POTEO:** Basically a pub crawl where you go from bar to bar getting happier and happier until you start singing...

**POTXOLO:** A nice guy, a real sweetie. It always sounds good when you're stuck for words.

**PUES:** A word found in all kinds of sentence, it mainly serves to recognise a good old mate from Bilbao even though he or she is in Singapore.

**PUPPY:** Plunked down in Bilbao and there he sits, posing for more photos than the shack behind him.

**RABAS:** Squid with egg, elegantly clad in batter. Not in vain they originated in Bilbao.

**SAN MAMÉS:** Pagan cathedral that severely tests people with a weak heart. Good for going through the emotional wringer.

**SANTIAGUITOS:** Marshmallows made by Santiago Olabide, owner of the factory that used to produce them and a really diminutive person.

**SANTURTZI:** Historical place made famous by the song "sardinas freskue", known even in the back and beyond.

**SINSORGO:** Phrase or gesture that tries to be funny but fails miserably.

**SIRIMIRI:** Once meant a fine drizzle, but now also refers to an *eau de cologne* that you can spray on... and no need for the raincoat.

**SOKATIRA:** Tug 'o war, a typically refined Basque sport where two teams of grown men pull on a rope until one ends up in the mud.

**SORNA:** Talking with sarcasm... pretending you have a plan B when you haven't even got plan A yet.

**TRIPAUNDI:** Guy from Bilbao with a belly that flops over his belt and lives to eat and drink... an endangered species. Ahem.

**TXALA:** A nice little calf you'd better not grow too fond of in case you eat it later and all.

**TXAPELA:** Here, in Bilbao, it's a cap without a visor, round and flat, known elsewhere as a beret or boina.

**TXIPIS:** A nice way of addressing baby squid to avoid the guilt you feel because they taste so good.

**TXIKI:** Diminutive endearment used to butter someone up with the ulterior motive of asking for a favour... just a tiny one.

**TXIKITO:** A small glass of wine that you drink with your mates during the fiestas. Origin of the term *txikiteros*.

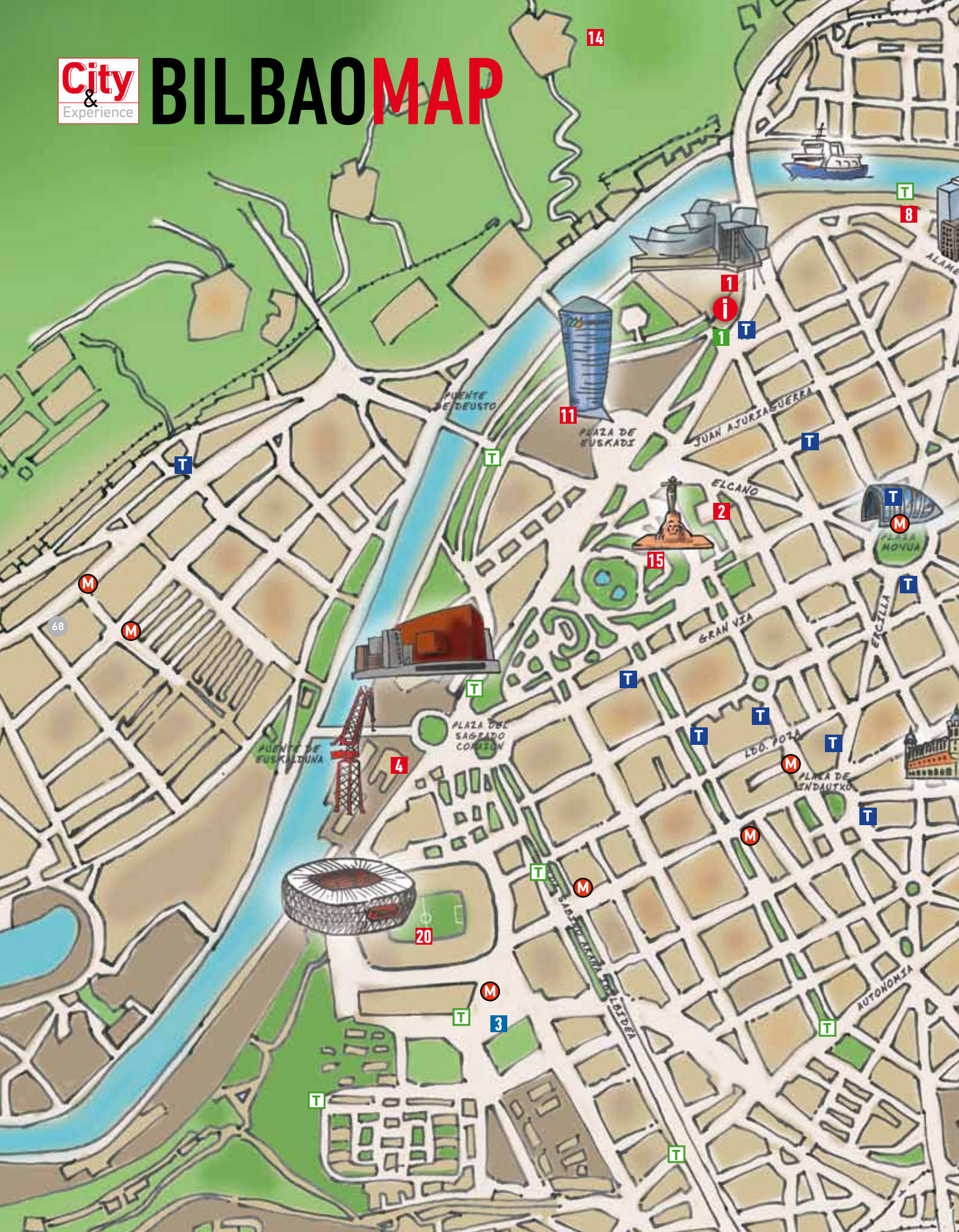
**TXIRENE:** Witty, humorous, eccentric prankster, like all self-respecting people from Bilbao.

**TXOKO:** Place where people from Bilbao meet to pay homage to a series of dishes until six or seven in the evening.

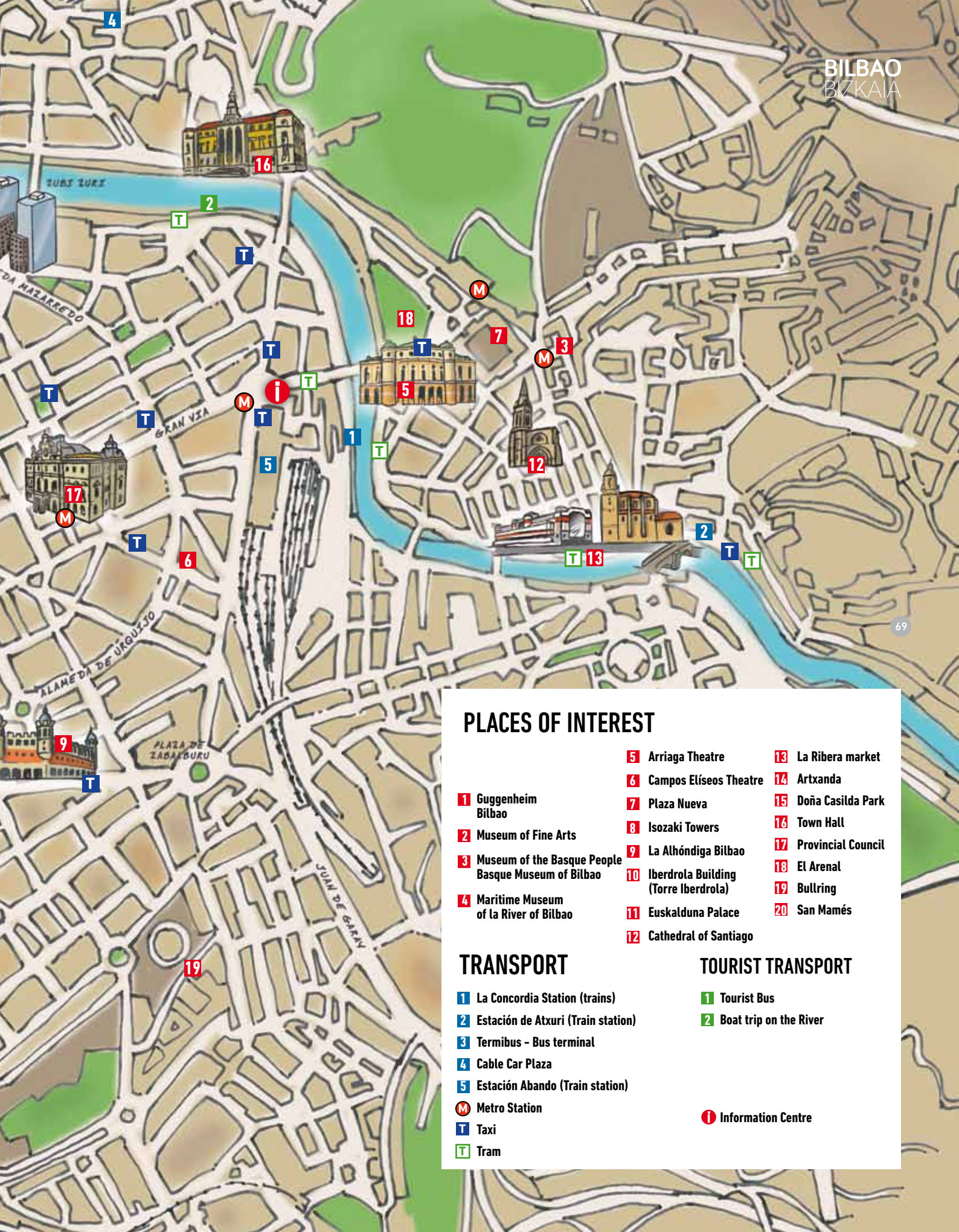
**TXAMARRA:** A garment used to keep warm when the temperature more or less drops below zero.

**ZURITO:** A small glass of beer to lighten up the poteo.









## PLACES OF INTEREST

- |   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Guggenheim Bilbao                                      | <b>5</b> Arriaga Theatre                       | <b>13</b> La Ribera market   |
| <b>2</b> Museum of Fine Arts                                    | <b>6</b> Campos Elíseos Theatre                | <b>14</b> Artxanda           |
| <b>3</b> Museum of the Basque People<br>Basque Museum of Bilbao | <b>7</b> Plaza Nueva                           | <b>15</b> Doña Casilda Park  |
| <b>4</b> Maritime Museum of the River of Bilbao                 | <b>8</b> Isozaki Towers                        | <b>16</b> Town Hall          |
|   | <b>9</b> La Alhóndiga Bilbao                   | <b>17</b> Provincial Council |
|   | <b>10</b> Iberdrola Building (Torre Iberdrola) | <b>18</b> El Arenal          |
|   | <b>11</b> Euskalduna Palace                    | <b>19</b> Bullring           |
|   | <b>12</b> Cathedral of Santiago                | <b>20</b> San Mamés          |

## TRANSPORT

- 1** La Concordia Station (trains)
- 2** Estación de Atxuri (Train station)
- 3** Termibus - Bus terminal
- 4** Cable Car Plaza
- 5** Estación Abando (Train station)
- M** Metro Station
- T** Taxi
- T** Tram

## TOURIST TRANSPORT

- 1** Tourist Bus
- 2** Boat trip on the River
- i** Information Centre



**BILBAO TURISMO**  
www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo  
**TURISMO BIZKAIA**  
www.mybilbaobizkaia.net  
**EUSKADI TURISMO**  
www.euskaditurismo.net  
**NEKATUR/AGROTURISMOS**  
902 130 031 · www.nekatur.net

## TOURIST OFFICES

### BILBAO

**BILBAO TOURISM**  
Q Plaza Circular, 1 Edificio Terminus · 944 795 760  
Q Alameda de Mazarredo 66 (next to the Guggenheim Bilbao)  
AIRPORT 944 031 444

### BIZKAIA

**BAKIO**  
946 193 395 · www.bakio.org  
**BALMASEDA**  
946 801 356 · www.enkartur.net  
**BARAKALDO BEC (Bilbao Exhibition Centre)**  
944 995 821 · www.bilbaosexhibitioncentre.com  
**BERMEO**  
946 179 154 · www.bermeo.org  
**DIMA**  
944 046 097 · www.gorbeialdea.com  
**DURANGO**  
946 033 938 · www.durango-udala.net  
Q **GERNIKA-LUMO**  
946 255 892 · www.gernika-lumo.net  
Q **GETXO**  
944 910 800 · www.getxo.net  
**GORDEXOLA**  
946 799 715 · www.gordexola.net  
Q **GORLIZ**  
946 774 348 · www.gorliz.net  
**KARRANTZA-HARANA**  
946 806 928 · www.karrantza.org  
**LEKEITIO**  
946 844 017 · www.lekeitio.com  
**MENDATA**  
946 257 402 · www.mendata.es  
**MUNDAKA**  
946 177 201 · www.mundaka.org  
**MUXIKA**  
946 257 609 · www.urremendi.org

**ONDARROA**  
946 831 951 · www.ondarroa.net  
**ORDUÑA**  
945 384 384 · www.urduna.com  
**PLENTZIA**  
946 774 199 · www.plentzia.org  
**PORTUGALETE**  
944 729 314 · www.portugalete.com  
**SANTURTZI**  
944 839 494 · www.santurtzi.net  
Q **SOPELANA**  
944 065 519 · www.sopelana.es  
**SOPUERTA**  
946 104 028 · www.sopuerta.biz  
**TRUCIOS-TURTZIOZ**  
946 109 604 · www.turtzioz.org  
**ZIERBENA**  
946 404 974 · www.zierbena.net

## TRANSPORT

**AIRPORT**  
Bilbao-Loiu · 902 404 704 (AENA)  
944 869 660 944 869 663  
www.aena.es

**CRUISE AND FERRY**  
Ferry Bilbao-Portsmouth 944 234 477 · www.poferries.com

**TRAINS**  
Abando Indalecio Prieto Station (Renfe)  
Plaza Circular, 2 · 902 320 320 · www.renfe.es  
Atxuri Station (EUSKOTREN)  
Atxuri 8 · 902 543 210/ 944 019 900  
www.euskotren.es  
La Concordia Station; FEVE Bilbao  
Calle de Bailén 2 · 944 250 615 · www.feve.es

**BUSES**  
Termibus (Bus station)  
Gurtubai 1 · 944 395 077 · www.termibus.es

Bilbobus (city buses)  
944 484 070 · 944 790 981  
www.bilbao.net/bilbobus  
Bizkaibus (inter-provincial and airport buses)  
902 222 265 · www.bizkaia.net

**METRO BILBAO**  
944 254 025 · www.metrobilbao.net

**TRAM**  
902 543 210 · 944 019 900 · www.euskotran.es

**TAXIS**  
Radio Taxi Bilbao  
944 448 888

Tele Taxi  
944 102 121  
Radio Taxi Nervión  
944 269 026

**BICYCLE RENTAL**  
Bilbon Bizi  
944 205 193  
944 203 113

## GENERAL

**OUTPATIENTS 112**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION 010**  
(for calls from within Bilbao)  
944 010 010 (for calls from outside of Bilbao)

**CONSULAR OFFICE**  
Gran Vía 13-6º 944 706 426

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
010 6 944 241 700

**GENERAL ROAD INFORMATION**  
900 123 505 or 112

**CITY COUNCIL CONSUMER INFORMATION**  
944 204 969

**METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE**  
807 170 348

**LOST AND FOUND**  
944 204 981

**CUSTOMS**  
Barroeta Aldámar, 1 944 234 700

**PASSPORTS, VISAS, I.D.**  
Alcalde Uhagón, 6  
944 210 000 Ext. 215

**DOCUMENTATION (GEN. INFORMATION)**  
900 150 000

**BILBAO DENDAK**  
944 706 500





# BILBAO, PORT ENTRY TO “BASQUE WORLD”

From Bilbao you can visit numerous recognised places of interest on a round trip of less than two hours.

**BILBAO**  
**BIZKAIA**  
be basque



## DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN

Bilbao is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, a mixture of tradition and elegant modernity. Add to that the fact that it will be 2016 European Cultural Capital and you will see that it is a must. International Jazz Festival, Film Festival... but there is plenty more. The food here is world famous: 16 Michelin stars are eloquent witness to the merits of Basque cuisine. Make sure you do not miss the Balenciaga Museum a few miles away in Getaria, the home town of one of the worlds great fashion designers.



## VITORIA-GASTEIZ

Rich in the historical heritage that inspired Ken Follet's historical novels, the city is endowed with an Old Quarter of great beauty and with the Cathedral of Santa María.

The Montehermoso and Bendaña manor houses, among others, imbue this beautiful city with its own personality.

## THE RIOJA ALAVESA

The wines of the Rioja Alavesa have won international renown due to the passion of the winemakers for their work and the kindness of the climate and soils. The historical wine growing legacy and the latest enological technologies do the rest.



## BIARRITZ, CÔTE BASQUE

Its coat of arms reveals its origin as a whaling port that became a watering place for the upper classes in the 19th Century. Its fame was assured when the Empress Eugenia, wife of Napoleon III, ordered the palace which is now the Palais Hotel.

## PAMPLONA

The places of interest, streets and plazas of Pamplona bear mute witness to the many cultures that have contributed to its present day reality. Its many parks that invite you to relax in peace complement this urban wealth. And in the middle of all this the fiesta immortalised by Ernest Hemingway continues to fascinate people from all over the world







## BILBAO TOURISM

Plaza Circular, 1 Edificio Terminus  
944 795 760

[www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo](http://www.bilbao.net/bilbaoturismo)



**BILBAO**  
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**BASQUE**  
**COUNTRY**

