

Press kit



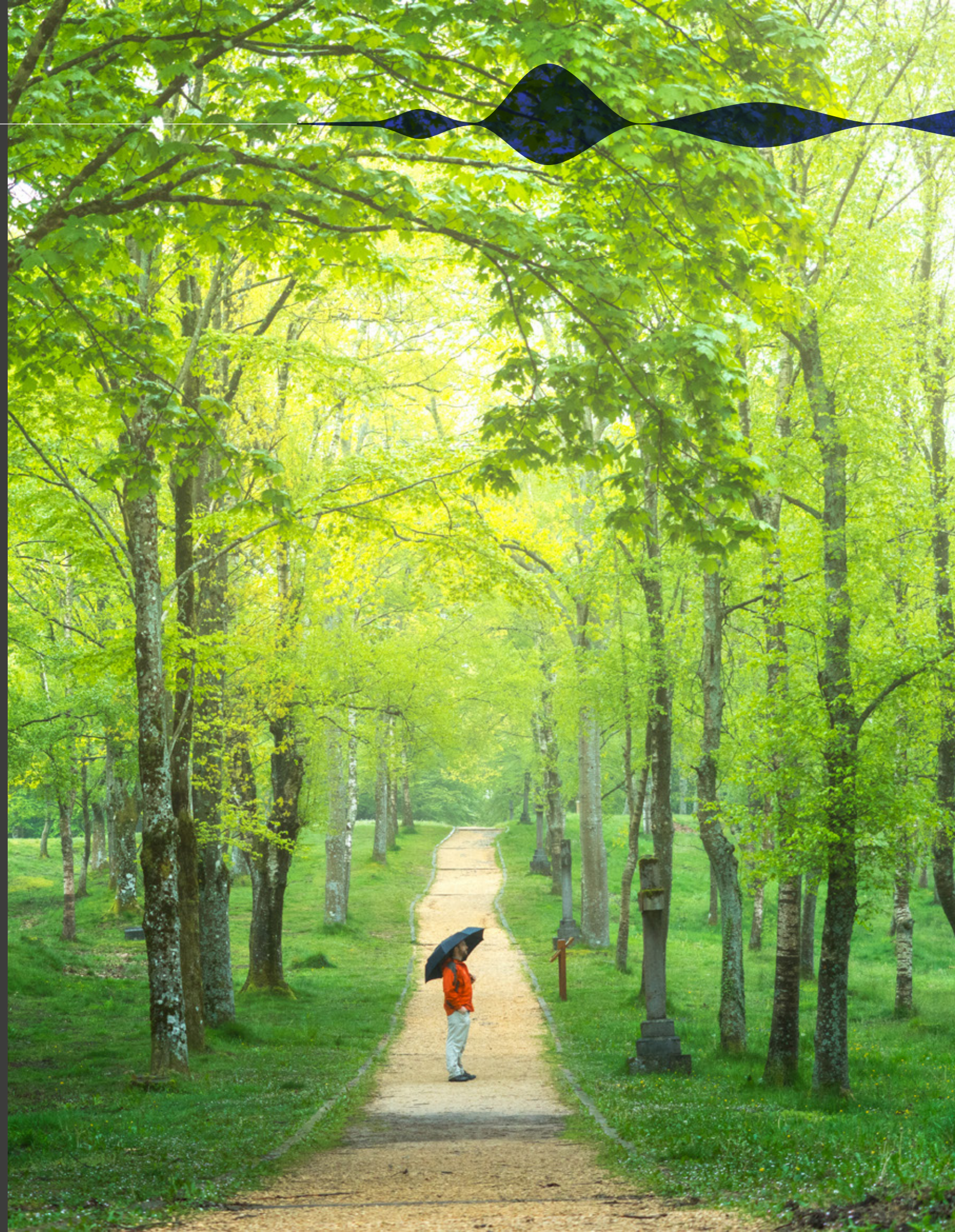
BASQUE COUNTRY


Welcome!

THE BASQUE COUNTRY

ideal to enjoy
in short stages.

There's no room for more. Because it's hard to find so many stunning places so close to one another. The Basque Country is the ideal place to enjoy numerous attractions in a short space of time: varied landscapes, pleasant climate, ancient culture, word-famous cuisine...





Experiment,
observe, then
give way to the
passion of taste.

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www.turismo.euskadi.eus



Two colours will accompany you on your journey through the Basque Country: the green of the incomparable setting of its mountains and valleys, and the blue of the sea. You will see that the Basque people have strong links with these natural environments: land and sea. Both have been determining factors in a lifestyle revealed by their idiosyncrasies: deeply rooted customs, a rich culture, traditional sports...

To better understand the nature of these people it is important that you immerse yourself in its traditions, exploring the fishing ports and the life of the countryside... On the coast you will see how the Cantabrian Sea has marked the personality of the neighbouring villages. You will also notice the difference between their inhabitants and the inland people. If you explore the history of the outstanding figures who have marked the personality of these communities you will discover how their maritime, industrial and agricultural character, always diverse and enterprising, has been bred.



And if you find the coastal and inland villages interesting, you will be no less fascinated by the three capitals. Bilbao will surprise you with its transformation from an industrial city to an avant garde metropolis bringing together the great contemporary international architects. San Sebastian, exquisite and unique, will seduce you with its beautiful and stately setting. Vitoria-Gasteiz will show you its rich heritage and why it sets a worldwide benchmark in urban planning.

Eating and drinking well is an affordable luxury in the Basque Country: local seasonal products in pintxo form with a good wine from the Rioja Alavesa, txakoli or cider. You will be in gourmet paradise! Enjoy!

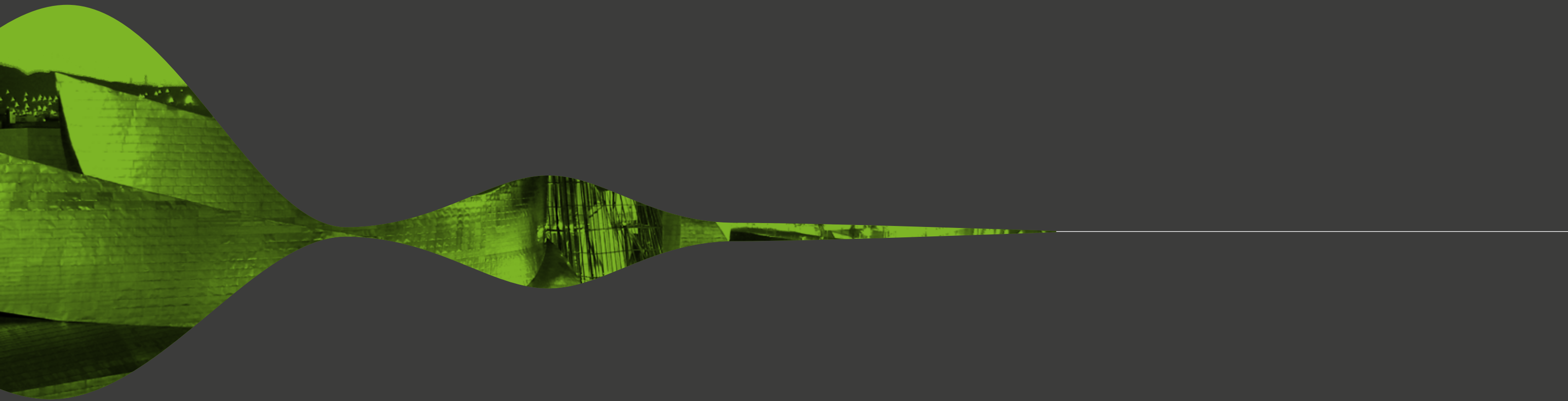
Experiment, observe, then give way to the passion of taste.

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The tourism brand which acts as an introduction to the tourism offer in the Basque Country: In the national market: EUSKADI. In the international market: BASQUE COUNTRY. Except in markets where the brand adapted to their language is considered more effective, as in the case of France, Germany and Italy. EUSKADI-PAYS BASQUE; BASKENLAND; PAESI BASCHI.

TOURISM BRANDS

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BILBAO

Bilbao is the capital of Bizkaia, as well as a metropolis and economic and financial centre of the Basque Country. It is the largest city in the Basque Country (1,000,000 inhabitants) and is a university town.

The Ría (estuary) of Bilbao, the backbone of the metropolis: from the Old Quarter to the Bizkaia Bridge. It is also a city surrounded by small mountains, such as Mount Artxanda, and infrastructures, as for example the cruise port and the main airport in the region and the north of Spain: the international gateway.

Internationally renowned for its urban regeneration, **Bilbao won the Nobel Prize for Cities in 2010: “Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize”**: “Lee Kuan Yew World city prize”.

IN BILBAO, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- Bizkaia Transporter Bridge, World Heritage Site.
- The City's Museums: Guggenheim and Fine Arts (now one of the leading paintings and sculpture museums in Spain). The Alhóndiga, The Ethnographic and Basque History Museum, The Reproductions Museum, Athletic Football Club, Bullfighting, etc.
- Its cutting-edge and signature architecture: works by the world's most famous contemporary

architects (Frank Gehry, Norman Foster, Isozaki, Zaha Hadid and Philippe Starck).

- Take a stroll: through the Old Quarter, and its famous 7 streets, through the Ensanche and up Mount Artxanda, which offers a panoramic view of the city and can be accessed by funicular (cable railway).
- Attend: conferences, trade fairs and meetings (BEC, Euskalduna, Guggenheim, etc.), festivals and cultural events, popular and traditional festivals such as bulls, Semana Grande (week of local festivities), Holy Week, etc.

- Shopping: at leading brand stores, as well as for original products in specialised shops. The Ribera Market is well worth a visit as is the traditional annual Santo Tomás market (21st December).
- Eating-Out: the whole range of Basque gastronomy: from pintxos (similar to Spanish tapas) to haute cuisine, not forgetting the traditional dishes.
- Stay: the best range of accommodation in the Basque Country.

Recommended for being closest to Bilbao are Donostia/San Sebastián, the Basque Coast, the Basque Mountains and Valleys and Rioja Alavesa.



DONOSTIA SAN SEBASTIÁN

Donostia/San Sebastián is the capital of Gipuzkoa and the major city of the Basque Coast (180,000 inhabitants). A city open to the sea, historically regarded the tourist capital of the Basque Country and is close to France.

It boasts one of the most beautiful bays in the world: La Concha, and three city beaches. San Sebastian is surrounded by mountains and viewpoints: Igeldo, Urgull, Ulia and the Isle of Santa Clara, lie on either side of the River Urumea.

IN SAN SEBASTIÁN, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- The Old Quarter, its streets and iconic buildings.
- The romantic area of the city and its buildings with French influences.
- San Telmo Museum and the Aquarium.
- Take a stroll: walks and nature-related activities on foot and/or by bicycle along the promenade from the “Peine de los Vientos” sculptures to the Kursaal, up the urban mountains, their parks and gardens and enjoy the delightful pace of life by the sea or go surfing at its beaches.



- Attend: conferences, trade fairs and meetings at the Kursaal Palace, festivals and popular events, such as the Tamborrada (drum procession), Santo Tomás agricultural and gastronomic fair, the International Film Festival, La Concha Pennant, the hippodrome and the casino.

- Shopping: in the Ensanche and the Old Quarter.
- Eating out: the city of gastronomy par excellence: with more Michelin stars per square metre than any other in the world. Go for pintxos in the Old Quarter and other neighbourhoods of the city. Likewise sidrerías or cider houses are also a good choice.
- Accommodation: the city offers a wide range of hotels and some of the most iconic hotels in the Basque Country.

Recommended for being closest to Donostia/ San Sebastián, are Bilbao, the Basque Coast, the Basque Mountains and Valleys.



VITORIA GASTEIZ

Vitoria-Gasteiz is the capital of Alava, Vitoria is the administrative capital of the Basque Country (250,000 inhabitants). It also boasts the most important logistics centre in the north of Spain and is surrounded by nature.

The historic centre and original almond medieval shape is noteworthy, particularly the cathedral (in this 3 cathedral city) which although undergoing restoration remains open, noteworthy is the modern, well-planned, user-friendly and accessible urban planning, as well as the surrounding green belt. In 2012, it was the “European Green Capital”.

IN VITORIA, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- Its old quarter and the so-called medieval “almond”, where the Cathedral of Santa Maria lies and its unique project called “Open for Work”, which inspired Ken Follett in his novel “World Without End”. Visit the 5 towers, the historic streets and the walls in this part of the city.
- Museums: Bibat, Artium, Fine Arts Ajuria Enea: Residence of the President of the Basque Country.
- The new, well-planned urban layout of Vitoria-Gasteiz.



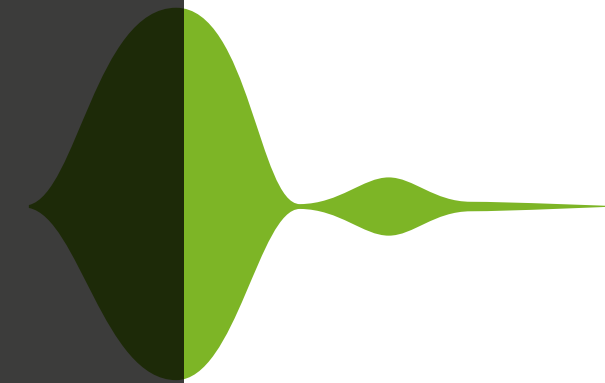
- Take a stroll: through the “green belt”, with pathways, lakes and reservoirs integrated into nature that is full of flora and fauna, through the towns and villages of Vitoria (Estibaliz, Armentia, Foronda, etc.)



- Attend: its renowned jazz festival and local festivities, among which San Prudencio (28th April) and La Blanca (August) are particularly noteworthy.
- Things to do: nature sports (green belt), bird watching (lakes and reservoirs) and visit Ataria, the Interpretation Centre of the Salburua Wetlands.
- Shopping: At its confectioners, mainly in the pedestrian and commercial area and at the medieval “almond” market.
- Eating-Out: its sweets are famous for their quality. The wines and gastronomy of the Rioja Alavesa.
- Accommodation: at its new, fully accessible hotels.

Recommended for being closest to Vitoria-Gasteiz are Rioja Alavesa and the Basque Mountains and Valleys.

THE BASQUE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS



The Basque Mountains and Valleys are our natural environment. The quiet Euskadi. They are a reflection of culture and traditions: Gernika and the General Assembly House, beacons, myths and legends of the Basque Country, the farmhouse and the way of life, rural sports.

The 9 natural parks and pilgrimage routes stand out: Camino de Santiago and Camino Ignaciano (St. James's Way and Ignatian way), and religious cultural heritage in Loiola (house of Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus) and in Arantzazu, La Antigua, Zenarruza, Estibaliz and Urkiola.

IN THE BASQUE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- Its villages, rural traditions, lifestyle (30,000 farmhouses), heritage, rural sports, processions, etc.
- Its landscape that has been shaped by man: coalmines, salt mines, mines, foundries, quarries, etc.
- Museums: ecological, industrial, interpretation centres, etc.
- Take a stroll: through the accessible natural environment, through the conservation areas, up the mythical mountains (Gorbea, Anboto, Txindoki, Aizgorri, Ernio), through its valleys and regions, through its forests and rivers.

- Attend: Basque Pelota competitions, rural sports, processions, fairs and markets.
- Things to do: ecotourism activities, such as bird watching and geotourism, or visits to places of high environmental and heritage value. And more active and sporting activities such as hiking and cycling.
- Shopping: traditional gastronomy products (Eusko label), Idiazabal, Cider, Txakoli, tinned produce. Basque artisan products and ceramics.

- Eating-Out: traditional food (authentic, local products).
- Where to sleep: in rural accommodation and charming hotels, some of them with the ECOLABEL.

From the Basque Mountains and Valleys, visit for example the Basque Coast, Rioja Alavesa, Bilbao, Donostia/ San Sebastián and Vitoria-Gasteiz.



THE BASQUE COAST

The Basque Coast is very diverse: there are fishing villages and seaside towns, with city beaches and other beaches that will blow you away. Marinas, marshes, estuaries lined by sea cliffs and an active sea.

Among its emblematic towns and areas, Hondarribia, Zarautz, Getxo and Lekeitio, La Concha bay in San Sebastian, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, the Getaria Mouse, Bilbao and the Bizkaia Bridge, the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve and the Geopark stand out. The Basque Coast also boasts a rich maritime culture and many illustrious seafarers: Elcano, Cosme Damián de Churrua or Víctor Hugo.

ON THE BASQUE COAST, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- Its fishing villages, medieval towns and cosmopolitan cities giving you an insight into the way of life by the sea, based around fishing and the fishing heritage (fish markets, festivities, gastronomy).
- SPAs.
- Its natural corners: conservation areas and wetlands, viewpoints and watchtowers.

- Its network of museums on the Basque Coast (among others: the Museo Balenciaga in Getaria, the Bilbao Maritime Museum, the Fishermen's Museum in Bermeo, the Oiasso Roman Museum in Irun, the Albaola Maritime Factory in Pasaia, and the Santa Catalina Lighthouse in Lekeitio, the Aquarium of Donostia,...).
- Walking: On the Basque coast nature's green sweeps down to the sea: Take a stroll through Urdaibai, the Flysch route, along cliffs, through the painted forest of Oma, visit the wetlands and wild beaches or routes, such as the Camino de Santiago along the coast.
- Attend: sports competitions, some of which are international, such as surfing, sailing and other

unique sports like traineras (rowing boat races). Attend local festivities and fish markets.

- Practice: water sports (surfing, sailing, diving), trekking and activities in nature, bird watching and whale watching.
- Shopping: tinned fish, txakoli.
- Eating-Out: fish paired with txakoli. Excellent gastronomy.
- Accommodation: in charming rural houses, small family run hotels and campsites.

Given how close it is from the Basque Coast visit Bilbao and the Basque Mountains and Valleys.



RIOJA ALAVESA

Rioja Alavesa is a land of ancient vineyards, producing unique wine from its tempranillo Grape. Watered by the river Ebro and surrounded by Sierra of Cantabria, this region boasts the most spectacular wineries: such as Ysios, Baigorri, Riscal, Viñarreal-CVNE, with wine villages and family run wineries as well as a product with structure: Rioja Alavesa Wine Route.

IN RIOJA ALAVESA, THE FOLLOWING ARE A MUST:

- Its villages: Laguardia, Labraza, Elciego, Samaniego, Labastida.
- Its state of the art wineries.
- Its traditional family run wineries.
- The Balcony of Rioja.
- Its thousand year old heritage: the historic town Poblado de La Hoya, dolmens.
- Take a stroll: through vineyards and historic villages.
- Attend: traditional wine events and festivities. Tastings and sampling.
- Activities: trekking, bird watching, cycling, wine therapy.

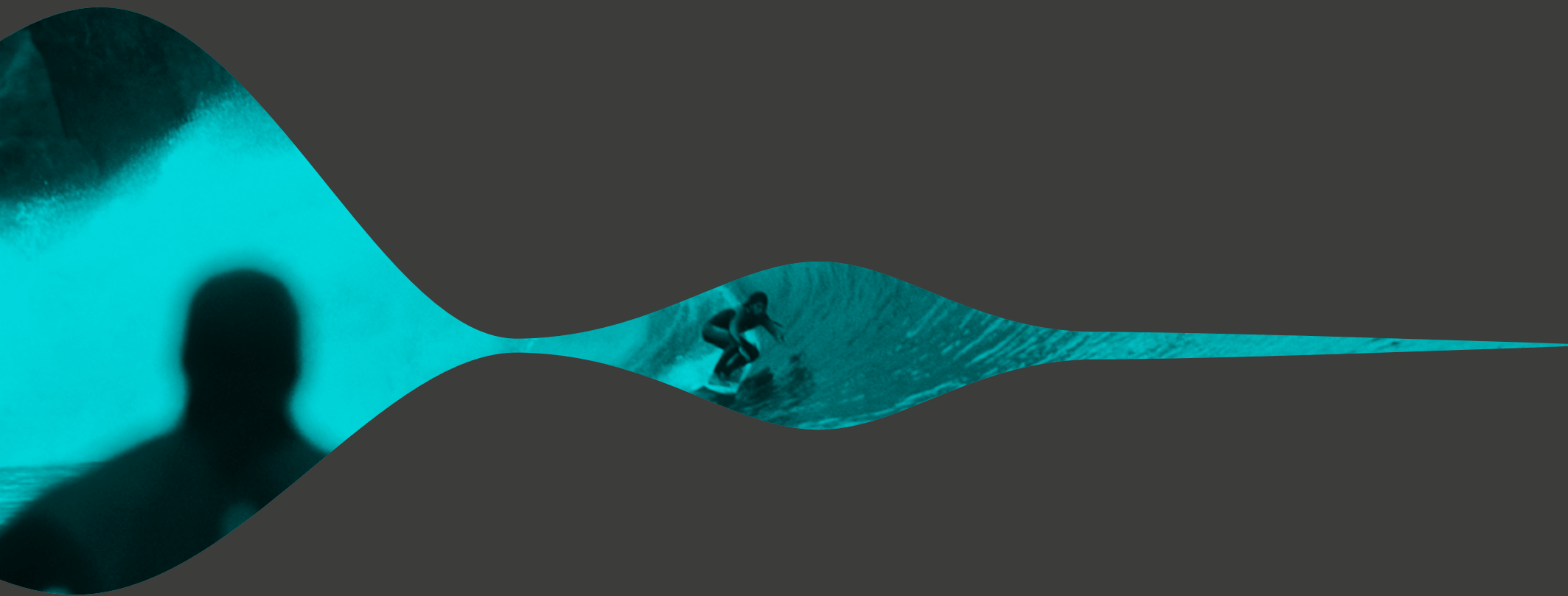
- Shopping: Rioja Alavesa wines.
- Eating-Out: gastronomy and wine.
- Accommodation: in rural accommodation and at new charming hotels such as Marqués de Riscal.

From Rioja Alavesa because of how close it is, visit the Basque Mountains and Valleys, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Bilbao and Donostia- San Sebastián.



TOURISM PRODUCTS

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The Basque Country boasts a variety of themed products which compete as a destination; it is a “multiproduct destination”. Priority Basque tourism products are: touring, Food and wine, culture and MICE.

Likewise city breaks, nature and coast are considered to be top priority. Products that complete the diversity of the offer, both in terms of the landscape and the experiences Euskadi provides.

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PRIORITY PRODUCTS

The main product line is Touring. This product aims to take the potential tourist through the region and is based on a series of three proposed routes through the Basque Country and its brands: one of 4 days for long weekends and short trips, and another two of 7 and 15 days for longer trips.

Gastronomy and Wine is an important product line in the Basque Country as it is one of the most identifying elements of its image and positioning, thanks to the quality of what is on offer and the power of its legendary product brands and authors. The main product is the Rioja Alavesa wine, but there are a number of other proposals in the form of routes, such as txakoli, cider houses, pintxos, signature restaurants, etc. The main brands in this offer are the Rioja Alavesa and San Sebastián brands, however because of the cross-reality throughout Euskadi other brands are also present.



The Club Euskadi Gastronomika, a network made up of restaurants, bars, shops, and other gastronomic establishments and committed to quality.



The Cultural Tourism line is therefore influenced heavily by the main reason for the visit, the cultural life of the Basque Country and is therefore a selection of the cultural products (heritage, museums, gastronomy and cultural events) of the 6 tourist brands described. General proposals are made on the culture of the Basque Country and customized proposals for groups of culture-orientated tourists with more specific interests.

The **Meetings** product line, which includes the set of products for Conferences, Meetings, Conventions and Incentives, is the most important product for business tourism. It is closely linked to major user facilities, such as conference centres and other unique spaces and to the specific offers of hotels and specialized organisations. It is therefore linked to the brands of the three cities, which already have specific development organisations, the Convention Bureaux, with programmes focused on this target public.

PRODUCTS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE



The City breaks product line focuses on the offer of the major capitals of the Basque Country and is structured on the basis of what we call the “four Cs” of city tourism: Culture, Shopping, Food and Character (associated values) of the Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria brands.

The Rural Tourism line is defined mainly by accommodation and carrying out relaxing or active activities in the rural natural area, which often represents a change from everyday city life to a different environment. The Basque Mountains and Valleys brand, by its own conception, is the main product, which is complemented with other rural accommodation options on the Basque Coast and in Rioja alavesa. It must be taken into account that tourists with an extremely focused and specialised level of activity, such as MTB, surfing, etc. are not included in this line, but in the group of niche markets, as the target population is much lower with highly specialised information and promotion channels.



The Coast Tourism product line focuses on summer tourism, proposing holidays on the Basque coast: from Bilbao to San Sebastian, more than 200 scenic kilometres to visit the most emblematic places in the Basque Country, and enjoy the classic sun and sea activities, as well as other complementary ones. Beaches, surf, estuaries, marshes, cliffs. Lighthouses. Villages with a seafaring soul, whalers and sailors, net menders and fishermen, rugged in character, with a brilliantly blue living sea. Given their proximity to this brand, visits to Bilbao and Basque Mountains and Valleys are also proposed.



The Club Surfing Euskadi brings together over 70 agents capable of creating a global and individualized product based on quality, experience, and professionalism: surf schools, surf camps, specialised accommodation, guides, receptions, shops...

Product categories adapted to specific niche interests: Religious tourism (linked to the Camino de Santiago and Camino Ignaciano), active nature tourism (mountain biking, hiking, following the “vías verdes” or “green ways”, either on foot or by bicycle, surfing), ecotourism (bird watching), and industrial tourism (mines, steelworks, forges, armouries, shipyards, beret and playing card factories, etc.).

Family tourism stands out as the second most important segment in Euskadi with activities and experiences for children both in the cities and on the coast and/or inland: educational activities, surf activities, staying in tree houses, bread workshops, talo (Basque arepa) workshops, chocolate workshops, being a beekeeper or a shepherd for a day...

TOURISM EXPERIENCES

The Basque Country also offers a wide range of TOP tourism experiences which are appealing to the tourist. These activities with complementary elements that add value and make them unforgettable. TOP 10 Euskadi experiences, those which must not be missed on your visit are:

1 - A pinch of salt in the Salado Valley: The landscape of the Valle Salado de Añana is one of a kind given its architectural uniqueness and its three thousand years of history. This experience will allow you to learn the secrets of the Salt from Añana from different aspects: historical-cultural, natural, productive, therapeutic and, of course, culinary. Gourmet salt from the Salado Valley has attracted the most renowned Basque chefs, who have added it to a very unique menu that awaits you. Enjoy!

2 - Shepherd for a day: In one of the most impressive mountain backdrops of the Basque Country, the Urkiola Natural Park, and the Alluitz Natura SL facilities can be found alongside the Atxarte cheese creamery, where Shepherd Patxi Solana invites us to share his daily chores.

3 - Cider and sea: The tradition of cider and the txotx! ritual have become a social phenomenon in the Basque Country, which attracts thousands of visitors. Cider houses have adapted their facilities to cater for large groups who enjoy this tradition together. There are however some farm houses who continue to elaborate cider and offer a more personal experience to small groups.

4 -The Flysch Route. Geopark on the Basque Coast: Pure and simple nature, are the towering cliffs of Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia, enigmatic rocks when contemplated from the sea. The geological formation known as flysch is an open book where millions of years are written in stone. In every village and at every point, both by boat and on foot, discover the secret history of the Earth at the edge of the sea.





5 - Aroma and Landscapes of Rioja Alavesa: Where medieval villages resemble islands in a sea of endless vineyards, where wine and culture are synonymous; only there you can taste wines that will captivate your palate. Rioja Alavesa awaits. At each winery, the winemakers will show you the secrets of winemaking. This is where the wine is born and grows, this is where they know best.

6 - The gripping tale of an ancient wine: Txakoli, the white wine par excellence from the Basque Country, acquiring a standard of excellence in the Azurmendi wine and gastronomy complex. Located in a beautiful corner of the province of Bizkaia, Larrabetzu, this space of architectural contrasts combines the best of the world in avant-garde cuisine with txakoli wine and culture. Led by Eneko Atxa, the renowned chef of Azurmendi the award winning Michelin 3-star Restaurant. Numerous options are available at this place and are open to you.

7 - Basque rural sports: The Basque people have made their free time, in many cases, an extension of their work. Traditional games in the farming villages and rural sports are good examples of this. The wealth of games is impressive, the best known being, probably, pelota, lifting stones, cutting logs and sokatira (pulling the rope). Learn about the world of Basque rural sports first hand, and have a go at playing one of them accompanied by athletes preparing for national and international champions in the various sports. Choose the sport that most appeals, have fun and play. An experience that will not leave you indifferent.

8 - Navigating up the Urdaibai estuary: The one and only Urdaibai estuary. Its natural wealth, its scenery, historical heritage, traditions, etc., have earned it universal recognition and UNESCO has declared the Urdaibai estuary a Biosphere Reserve. This experience gives you the opportunity to get to know this beautiful enclave right from its heart; from its inland waters aboard a comfortable boat. A unique way to enjoy the landscape beyond a mere boat ride. And the experience is accompanied by a guide / story teller to envelop you in a world of legends and knowledge. The trip includes docking time for a delicious local aperitif, accompanied by a traditional Basque music session for you to enjoy.



9 - The Basque pelota and the sea: To enjoy and play the ball game in the beautiful hundred-year old court in Bermeo, a fishing village on the Basque Coast. The Basque ball game par excellence, was the “safety valve” for arrantzaleak (fishermen in Basque) during their leisure time.

10 - A cooking course at the gastronomic society of San Sebastián: The recognition of the Basque cuisine relies heavily on the authenticity of the raw materials used to elaborate the different dishes that have made Basque cuisine world famous. Fresh, natural, seasonal and premium quality and quite often only found in very specific places. The La Bretxa market in Donostia/San Sebastián is one of those essential places to buy fresh and seasonal products. This experience invites you to visit different places, talk to the growers and buy the best products to create a complete traditional Basque menu. A menu, in the company of friends or family, you will learn to elaborate it under the orders of a chef in a very special place in the Old Town of Donostia/San Sebastián; in a real Gastronomic Club.

The mecca of San Sebastian cuisine open exclusively for you and yours. Pleasant, fun cooking and moreover, you get to enjoy the food later. Bon appetite!

Further information on tourist experiences in the Basque Country at: www.euskaditurismo.eus and at: www.viajesporeuskadi.es

CLASSIFICATION OF THE MAIN TOURIST RESOURCES

Euskadi TOP Resources.

A resource is considered to be TOP when its potential value is so high that it is able to attract a wider public. The greater the potential value, the greater the ability to attract. The TOP resources make up the main tourism offer in the Basque Country, and their appeal capacity will enable them to act as interest driving forces for an “experienced” public to discover the Basque Country.

1 - The Gernika Tree and the General Assembly House. The headquarters of the highest institutional body in Bizkaia, the Gernika General Assembly House is alongside the mythical Tree, the symbol of all the Basques and is the site where councillors of the dominion of Bizkaia have assembled since the Middle Ages. The Gernika Tree is the heart of the architecture of the General Assemblies of Bizkaia. In the past, the most important civil ceremonies were held under the shade of the tree and it is where the Lord of Bizkaia swore to respect the Basque fueros (set of rules of public and private law). A survivor of the Gernika bombing, this oak tree has become the symbol of the Basque People. The current tree

was planted in 2004 as a result of the death of the previous one, which dated back to 1860, at the hands of the *Armilaria mellea* fungus, which in turn had replaced the original “old tree” which was over 300 years old. Many shoots of this tree are found around the world in the different cities of the Basque Diaspora.



2 - The first World Heritage Site that UNESCO granted the Basque Country in 2006, is the transporter Bridge or Bizkaia Bridge, between Portugalete and Getxo. This work, representative of iron architecture which arose from the Industrial Revolution and which is 120 years old, was the first construction of these characteristics in the world and served as a model to many similar bridges in Europe, Africa and America. It is undoubtedly the most international work of its designer, Alberto de Palacio and Elissague and the UNESCO highlighted the innovative use of lightweight, twisted steel cables. Located at the mouth of the River Ibaizabal (or Bilbao River), it is a transporter bridge that was conceived, designed and built by private initiative between 1887 and 1893 to link Portugalete and Getxo.

3 - The Hermitage of San Juan of Gaztelugatze: is one of those special places that once you have seen it, you know it will be difficult to forget. Torn between the vastness of the Cantabrian Sea and the solemnity of the cliffs of the Basque Coast, Gaztelugatxe islet is surrounded by an atmosphere

of mysticism and magic that permeates all who visit. Although from the mainland it is possible to contemplate its unparalleled beauty, the view from the sea is unmatched. Joined to the mainland by a bridge and more than 200 steps, it is crowned by a hermitage dedicated to St. John, whom the local fishermen render deep devotion, and to which different rites and legends are also associated. In these waters, once navigated by corsairs and pirates the important naval battles in our history have taken place.

4 - Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve: a haven nestled in the Bay of Biscay, the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve (23,000 Ha) is located in the Busturialdea townland in Bizkaia. From the cliffs and beaches to the forests and rivers of the interior, including the marshes and river valleys, Urdaibai holds probably the greatest landscape and ecological diversity in the Basque Country.

5 - The estuary of Mundaka is the centre of this exceptional enclave declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984. The 12 km of extensive sandbanks forming the estuary at its mouth, where fresh and salt water mix, are the most important wetland in Euskadi. In addition, the environment is of great international interest as it is the resting and wintering place for many species of rare migratory birds in the Iberian Peninsula including herons, cormorants, terns, spoonbill and a large number of waders, which are birds that feed on animals that live buried or halfburied in the mud and sand.



6 - Balenciaga Museum: The selection of workshops offered by the Balenciaga Museum, located in the beautiful town of Getaria on the Basque Coast, shows the legacy of the most universal Basque fashion designer, defined by Coco Chanel as “the only one of us who is a true couturier”.

7 - Donostia/San Sebastián: is undoubtedly the tourist destination with the longest history in the Basque Country. It was frequented by the European aristocracy during the “Belle Epoque”, which the poet, Gabriel Celaya defined as an “open city and simply human. This city, which was always wanted without walls and which accepts all, and is beautiful for nothing”. For many, it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, with its balanced combination of small mountains, mansions and sea... and La Concha Bay, around which the city lies, a cosmopolitan city where the laid-back pace of living by the sea is savoured. Its gastronomy and intense cultural life are another of the attractions that make Donostia/ San Sebastian an essential place to visit for all travellers who enjoy fine dining and the cultural events of importance, including the International Film Festival.

8 - Geopark of the Basque Coast: The Basque Coast Geopark is a small area wedged between the Cantabrian Sea and the Basque mountains, comprising the municipalities of Zumaia, Deba and Mutriku. Coast Geopark is a small area wedged between the Cantabrian Sea and the Basque mountains, comprising the municipalities of Zumaia, Deba and Mutriku. The real interest of this place is in its 13 kilometres of cliffs of the Geopark whose spectacular rock formation called flysch layers which, like a great encyclopaedia, depict over 60 million years of the history of Earth. Geologists and visitors can walk along these cliffs or take a boat tour and travel through time to discover, for example, the thin black colour that highlights the impact of a large asteroid and the great dinosaur extinction approximately 65 Million years ago.



9 - Ignacianan Country (Loiola, Aranzazu, La Antigua): This cultural and historical route takes us into the heart of the Basque Country and allows us to travel to the XVI century to experience firsthand the pilgrimage of San Ignacio de Loyola. A unique opportunity to discover Basque sacred

art through its three landmark buildings, whose architectural uniqueness is admired worldwide, as well as to find villages full of history and heritage.



10 - Laguardia: Monumental site and wine capital, Laguardia is synonymous with good wine and its culture is present in the vineyards and at the wineries and restaurants in the area.. It is one of the compulsory stops of the famous wine route; most wineries are visited and explain step by step the development of their valued wines, plus offer tastings. This town is also widely regarded for its monumental historical ensemble. Located on a hill, its medieval layout remains intact. The walled nature of the village has enabled the wine capital of Laguardia-Rioja Alavesa to provide a pedestrian town where it is a delight to walk. It has two fortified churches, San Juan and Santa María de los Reyes, as well as numerous ancestral and palatial homes.

11 - Bilbao is proof that, as the film director, Stanley Kubrick, said “no dream is ever just a dream”. One day, the city of Bilbao decided that it needed to reinvent itself and rise from its ashes, and it was transformed into what it is today: a modern, cult

and stimulating city which competes with the leading European capitals in everything it puts its mind to. Bilbao is more than the Guggenheim, an icon which it does not renounce and which put it on the tourist map worldwide. Today, Bilbao is quality of life and culture, gastronomy and art, international quality shopping and accommodation, business and meetings, and an international airport into which airlines from all over the world operate. However, Bilbao is also friendly people, strolls along the river, fun and nightlife. In short, it is a city that is increasingly attractive to visitors.

12 - The name of Bilbao is already inextricably linked to the Guggenheim Museum. Now, 20 years after its opening, the building continues to be an unquestionable attraction and the city’s most famous icon. The boldness of Bilbao in becoming the first city in Spain to have a museum sponsored

by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, and the audacity of dreaming of a project by Frank O. Gehry, speak volumes of the strength and courage of the Basque people and their ability to transform the future of Bilbao. When the success of the museum is already a consolidated fact, its appeal capacity should also act as a call to show the potential tourist that the museum is no more than the tip of the iceberg of the city of Bilbao’s vast tourist and cultural offer.

13 - Vitoria-Gasteiz: Basque capital, seat of government and the Basque Parliament, is a city that combines natural areas with a rich architectural heritage. Its people proudly boast of living in one of the most comfortable cities with the best services in Europe. “The European Green Capital 2012” is a city to enjoy. It stands out in the European ranking of the highest number of square meters per inhabitant. Moreover, its “medieval



almond” so named for its oval contour, is one of the most emblematic historic centres in Euskadi. The Cathedral of Santa Maria, walls, palaces, coaching inns, etc. Novelists the like of Ken Follett are captivated by the activity generated here.

14 - The owners like to describe the facilities of the wineries of the heirs of the Marqués de Riscal like a “21st century chateau”. This Wine City consists of the former 19th century winery, the oldest in Rioja, and the new building designed by the Canadian architect, Frank O. Gehry, which houses a hotel, a winethery spa, an exclusive restaurant, as well as a conference and convention centre. Like the Guggenheim Museum, the building designed by Gehry is covered in titanium, although, in this case, the architect wanted to fill his work with the Marqués de Riscal colours: pink, like red wine, gold, like the mesh of the bottles of Riscal and silver, like the bottle capsule To get Gehry to accept, the proposal was presented accompanied by a wine from the year of his birth (1929), and he gladly accepted.

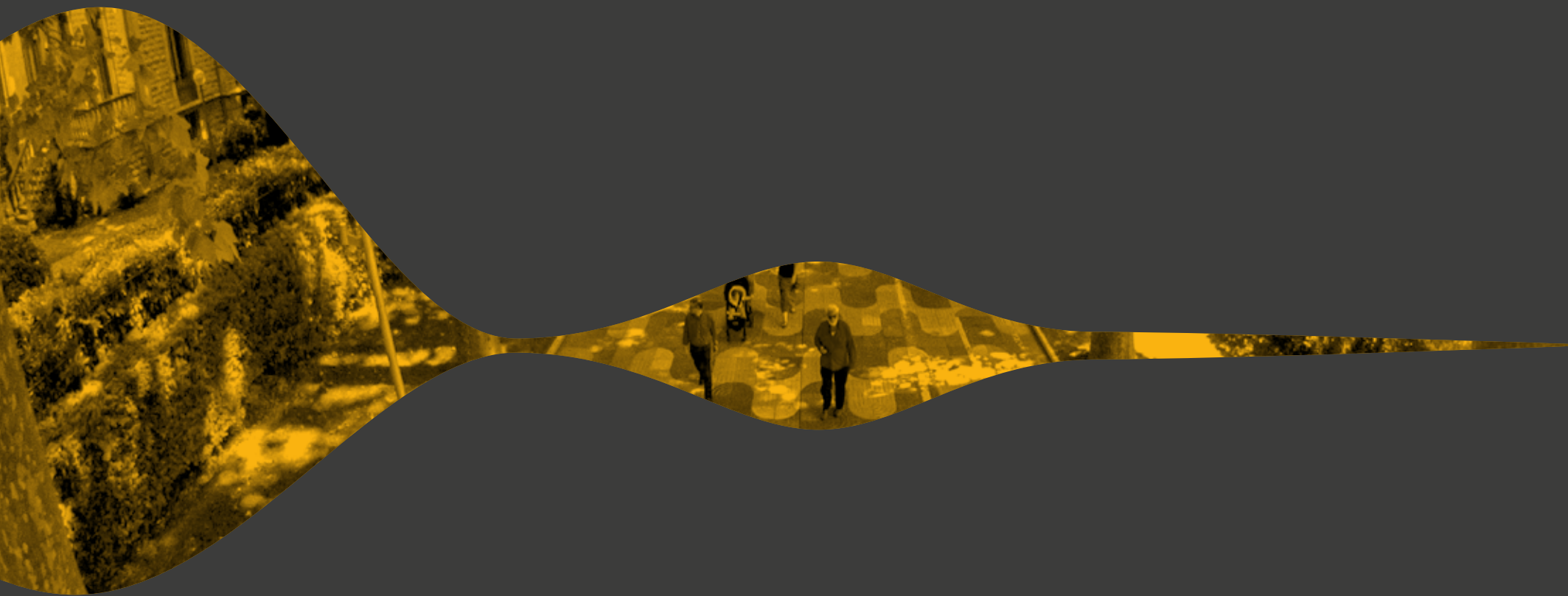
15 - Hondarribia: Hondarribia has historical treasures that give this town in the Basque Country a special charm. Its walled old town, its cobbled streets full of noble houses and unique buildings such as the Castle of Emperor Charles V, used today as a hotel, the picturesque village of La Marina with its colourful fishermen’s houses, restaurants and typical pintxos bars and terraces... All these features make Hondarribia an ideal destination for a holiday.

16 - Salado Valley- Añana salt flats: The landscape of the Valle Salado de Añana is one of a kind given its architectural uniqueness and its three thousand years of history. Here several types of high quality salt have been produced over centuries, using a system of terraced ponds and channels along a valley that has become one of the most spectacular landscapes in the Basque Country.



WHAT'S ON IN 2022...

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BILBAO

Basque Fest. 13-17 April.

In Holy Week Bilbao moves to the beat of “Basque FEST”, a festival that is a reference for culture and the avant-garde, filling the city with Basque cultural and artistic events. Bilbao becomes one big festive space with interesting proposals for leisure and a succulent gastronomic offer in different spots in the city.

A unique opportunity to discover Basque culture and enjoy an unbeatable atmosphere in all corners of the city.

www.bilbaoturismo.net

Final Four of the Basketball Champions League 2022.

6-8 May.

Bilbao will host the Final Four of the Basketball Champions League 2022. The tournament, which will bring the season to a close, will be organized from 6 to 8 May 2022.

The matches will take place in the Bilbao Arena, with a capacity of 10,000 spectators.

www.championsleague.basketball

Bilbao Blues Festival. 29-31 July.

The first ‘Bilbao Blues Festival’ will take place from 29 to 31 July, featuring more than twenty concerts and other free activities. One of the star performances, the All-Stars from Chicago, has already been



confirmed. Blues legends from this American city will be on stage together for the occasion. Artists as celebrated as Bob Stroger, Kim Johnson, Mike Avery, Kenny Smith, Billy Flynn, Piano Willie, and Joey Saye will be members of this temporary band.

www.visitbiscay.eus

Bilbao BBK LIVE. 7-9 July.

Bilbao BBK Live is an important rock and pop music festival that takes place annually in the city of Bilbao.

www.bilbaobbklive.com

Semana Grande. 20-28 August.

For over a week, the city becomes a meeting point, fun, shows and activities for all tastes. It takes place in the third week of August.

www.bilbaoturismo.net

Santo Tomás Fair. 21 December.

Popular agricultural market that showcases the best local products in a festival that brings thousands of people together for one day. A festive and shopping day. Takes place every 21st of December.

www.bilbaoturismo.net

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

This spectacular building with its pleasant surroundings is supplemented with 11,000 m² of interesting expositions.

www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus

Bilbao Fine Arts Museum.

The Museum's collection, inaugurated in 1914, includes over seven thousand prominent works from the 12th century to present. The most important collection of works from Basque artists.

www.museobilbao.com

...NEAR BILBAO

Getxo Jazz Festival. 29 June-3 July.

The Getxo International Jazz Festival, one of the first of the season, is held over the first days of July on different stages in the coastal town of Getxo.

www.getxo.eus/jazzgetxo/

DONOSTIA SAN SEBASTIÁN

Jazzaldia. Heineken Jazz Festival. 21-25 July.

One of the most important jazz festivals in Europe is held in July.

www.heinekenjazzaldia.eus

Bandera de La Concha. Local Rowing Championship Race. September.

Final competitions of the most important regattas (local rowing championship race) from Spain.

www.sansebastianturismo.com

www.donostiakultura.eus

Zinemaldia. International Film Festival.

16-24 September.

For a week in September, San Sebastian becomes the capital of glamour. Quality films, exhibitions, case studies share the limelight with the film stars.

www.sansebastianfestival.com

Behobia-San Sebastián Race. 13 November.

The Behobia-San Sebastián is more than just a race. Above all, the Behobia-San Sebastián is a feeling, which has been built up over more than 100 years thanks to the effort, sensations and enthusiasm of thousands of athletes like you and the hosting of a land that understands sport, that values it and knows how to enjoy it like few others.

www.sansebastianturismo.com

Santo Tomás Fair. 21 December.

Popular agricultural market that showcases the best local products in a festival that brings thousands of people together for one day. A festive and shopping day. Takes place every 21st of December.

www.donostiakultura.eus

www.sansebastianturismoa.eus

Semana Grande. 13-21 August.

For over a week, the city becomes a meeting point, fun, shows and activities for all tastes. It takes place in the third week of August.

www.donostiakultura.eus

www.sansebastianturismoa.eus

“Tamborrada”. 20 January.

Saint Sebastian’s Day. This is the city’s big festival, which begins at 12 midnight every January 19th and continues throughout the whole of the 20th. More than 100 “tamboradas” (groups of drummers) take to the streets to celebrate this day.

www.donostiakultura.eus

Chillida Leku Museum.

Comprised of an outdoor space with more than 40 sculptures and an exhibition area are located within the surroundings of the 16th century Zabalgana farmhouse.

www.museochillidaleku.com

VITORIA GASTEIZ

Azkena Rock Festival. 16-17-18 June.

The 20th anniversary of this festival promises to be one of the most especial. Confirmed acts include Patti Smith, The off Spring, Emmylou Harris, Social Distortion, Suzi Quatro, among others such as Drive-By Truckers, The Marcus King Band, Black Mountain, and many more.

www.azkenarockfestival.com

Jazz Festival. July.

It is held in July and attracts the stars and talents of the jazz world.

www.jazzvitoria.com

Semana Grande. 4-10 August.

For over a week, the city becomes a meeting point, fun, shows and activities for all tastes. It takes place in the first week of August.

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/turismo

Ardo Araba. December.

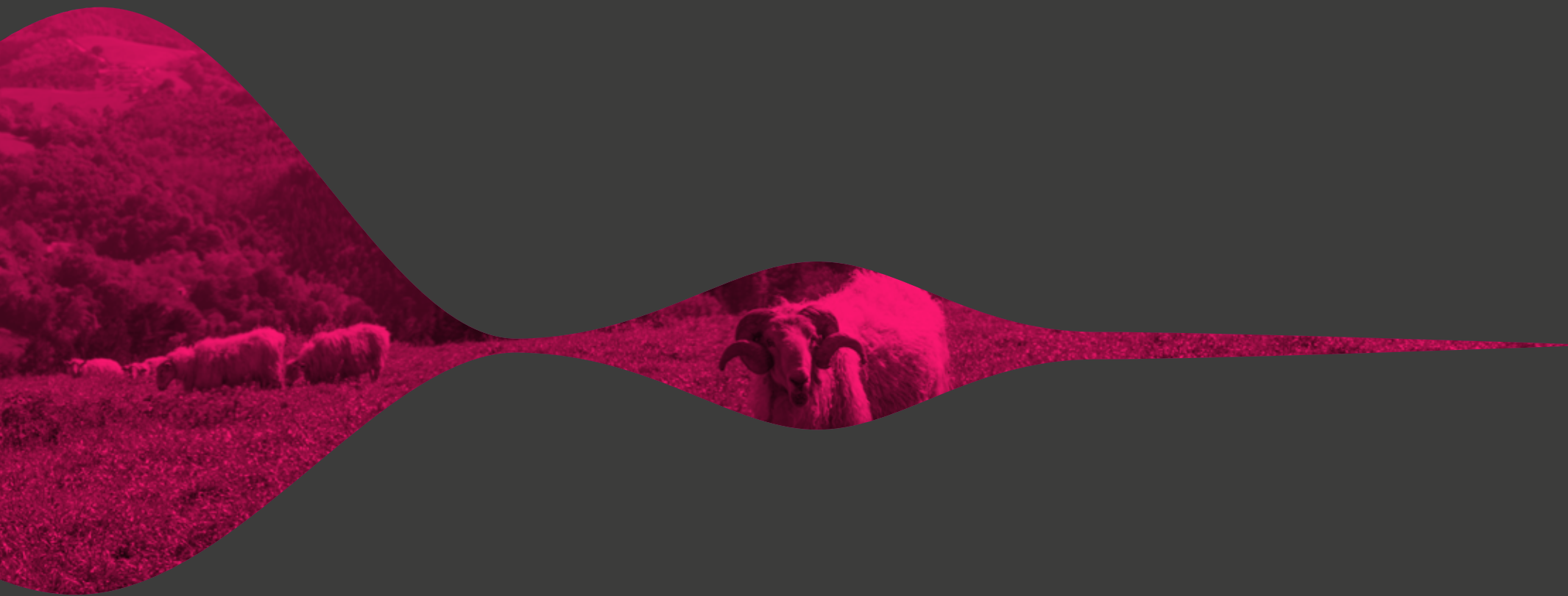
Wine festival of Rioja Alavesa and txakoli of Álava.

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org



BASQUE HILLS AND VALLEYS

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HILLS AND VALLEYS

Bird watching.

Discover all the Basque Country (Euskadi) bird watching centres.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus

MTB Centres.

Free access areas where MTB can be practised peacefully whilst discovering the landscape, gastronomic and cultural richness of Basque Country.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus

Trekking and routes.

The abundance of existing footpaths in Basque Country has enabled the setting up of a network of signposted and marked trails, allowing us to explore the territory and admire its diverse landscapes and valuable cultural heritage.

One of the most important route is The Way of Saint James. Several roads lead to Santiago and two roads through the Basque Country: coast and interior.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus

CULTURAL EVENTS

Ignatian Year: 2021-2022. Ignatian Way.

This recreates the journey made by Ignatius of Loyola from his birthplace in 1552. It offers the chance of an experience involving not only travel but also personal development and introspection. The full trail covers 675 km, and the part of the route that runs through the Basque Country comes to 150 km.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus

Compostela's Holy Year: 2021-2022.

The Way of Saint James along the coast and the Way of Saint James inland.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus

Holy Week. Balmaseda.

During Holy Week, a representation of the last days in the life of Jesus Christ.

www.viacrucisbalmaseda.com



FESTIVE EVENTS

Tolosa Carnivals. February.

The most popular carnivals in Euskadi are, without a doubt, those that take place in Tolosa.

www.tolosaldea.eus

SPORTS EVENTS

Mountain Marathon. 27-29 May.

Zegama Aizkorri. Half mountain trail through the Massif of Aratz and the Aizkorri Mountain Range, including four of the highest peaks in the Basque Region.

www.zegama-aizkorri.com

“Ehunmilak” in Beasain. 8-10 July.

Ultra- Mountain Trail® spanning 168 km and 22,000 meters of accumulated incline through the hills across 5 districts.

www.ehunmilak.com

GASTRONOMIC EVENTS

Basque Cheese Fair. 7-8 May.

In Idiazabal shepherds, sheep and cheese are the main characters of this weekend fair.

www.goierriturismo.com

Last Monday of Gernika. 31 October.

It takes place on the last Monday of October and it is the most important agricultural fair in the Basque Country. It is also a very festive day with thousands of people attending each year.

www.bbkazoka.eus

Bean Festivity. 19-20 November.

For several days, Tolosa pays tribute to one of their most characteristic products: beans.

www.tolosakoazoka.eu

Fair of Santa Lucía. 13 December.

The festivities of Santa Lucía take place on 13 December and this day is when the towns of Zumarraga and Urretxu organize one of the most important fairs of Gipuzkoa.

www.goierriturismo.com

“Haragi”.

International Meat and Grill event in Tolosa.

www.haragi.eus

Medieval Markets.

In Artziniega, Balmaseda and Ordizia: where typical Middle Age markets are recreated once a year with exhibits dressed to look like the ones used during that period. In Artziniega, in September. In Balmaseda and in Ordizia, in May.

www.alavaturismo.eus

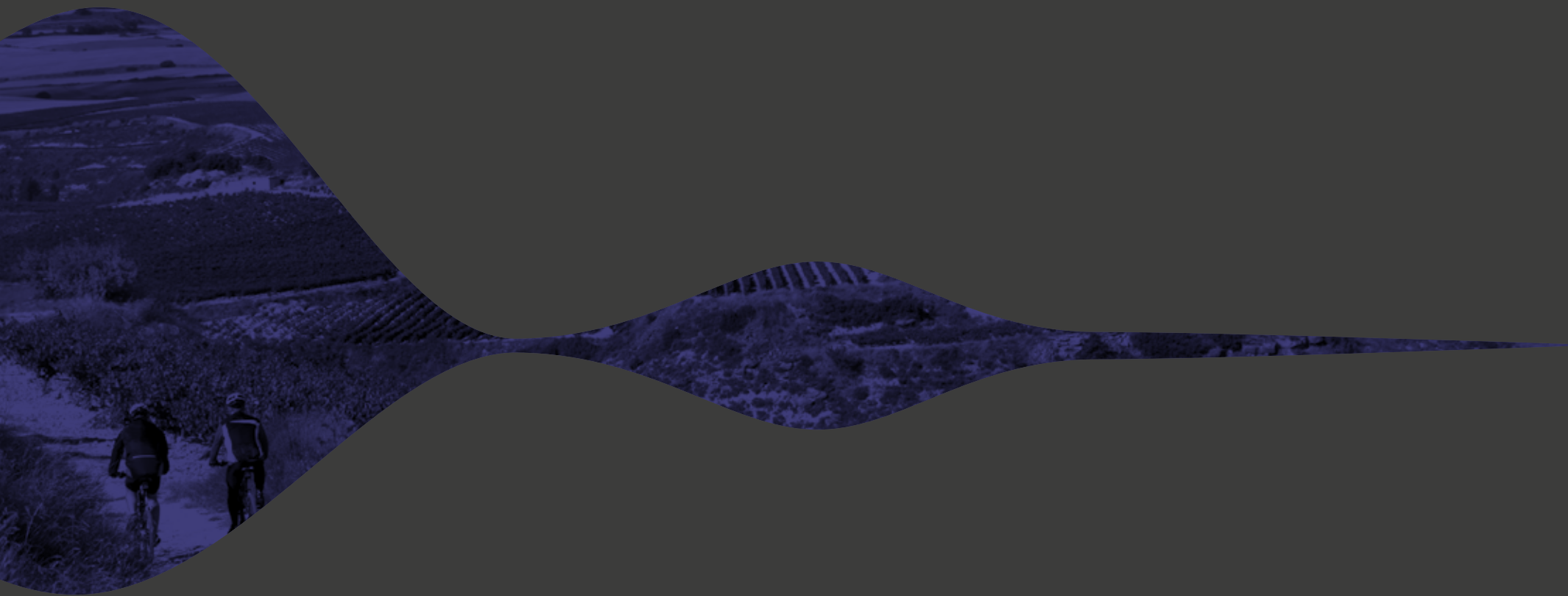
www.balmaseda.eus

www.goierriturismo.com



RIOJA ALAVESA

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RIOJA ALAVESA

EVENTOS GASTRONÓMICOS

1.- Grape Harvest Festival. September.

The Grape Harvest Festival takes place days before the grape harvest begins in Rioja Alavesa. This masscelebration, of an itinerant nature, began in 1994 in the town of Laguardia and since then, has spread to the entire district to promote its towns, way of life and wine as an economic engine and a cultural asset.

www.fiestadelavendimiariojaalavesa.com

www.rutadelvinoderiojaalavesa.com

The oenobus.

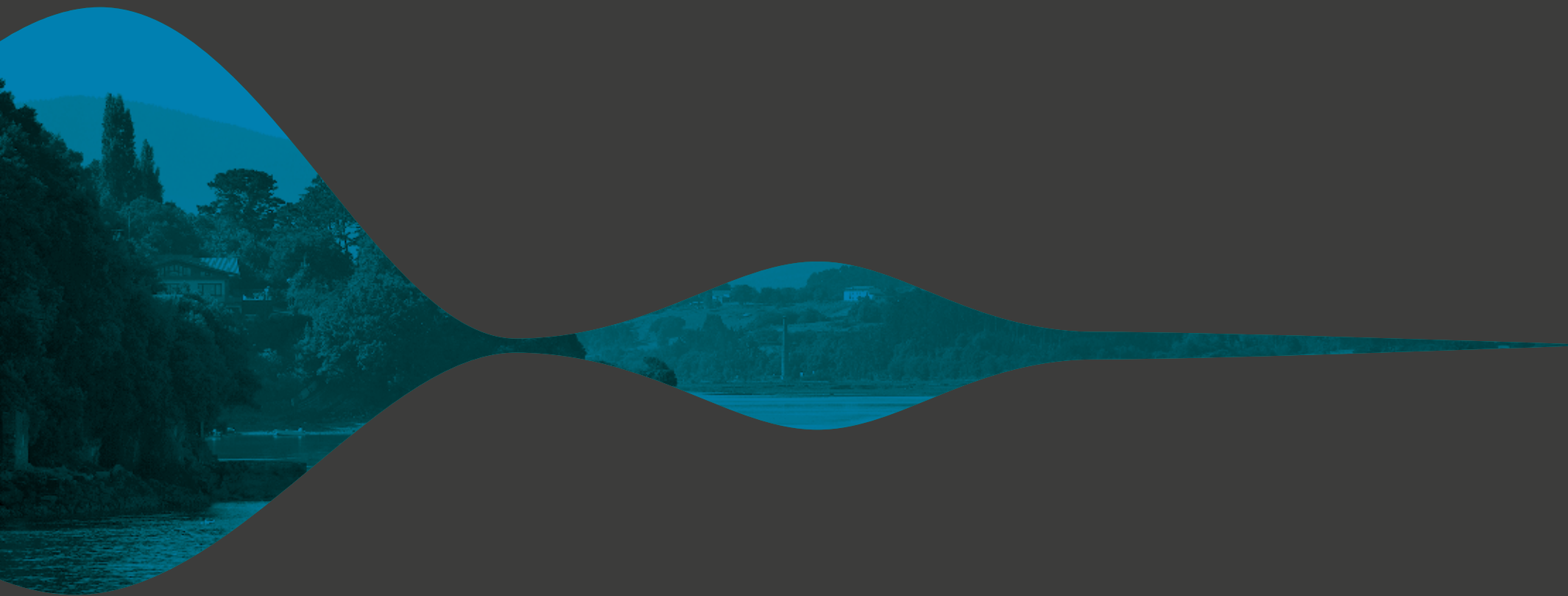
Forget about the car and entrust yourself to the guides of this tourist bus that will allow you to visit in the best possible way two of the districts with the strongest grape and wine-growing tradition in the Basque Country: Rioja Alavesa in the province of Álava and Uribe in Bizkaia. Two districts and two completely different wines: the extraordinary Rioja Alavesa reds and the white wine of the Basque Country par excellence, the txakoli from the district of Uribe near Bilbao. These two districts and two options to choose from will doubtless help you enjoy an unforgettable day.

www.turismo.euskadi.eus



THE BASQUE COAST

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THE BASQUE COAST

Network of Museums on the Basque Coast.

It brings together museums, interpretation centres and other facilities with different focuses but a central argument: the coast.

www.losmuseosdelacostavasca.com

Surfing Euskadi.

Network of certified surf schools; ideal for first time surfers.

www.surfingeuskadi.eus

500th Anniversary of the Elcano-Magellan Expedition: Round the World Voyage.

Acts and events in 2021 and 2022.

www.elkanofundazioa.eus

The Flysch Mutriku-Deba-Zumaia Trail.

Designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark. In the towns of Mutriku, Deba and Zumaia, you can discover the hard and soft rock stratas that comprise the “flysch” (a multitude of natural layers of rock).

www.geoparkea.com

Local Rowing Championship Race.

Fishing rivalries have evolved into a hard and spectacular sport. Rowing regatta races take place every weekend in July, August and September.

www.euskolabelliga.com

FESTIVAL EVENTS

Some popular festivals worth mentioning are San Pedro (29 July), Geese Day in Lekeitio (September), Cármenes in Santurtzi (16 July) or Madalenas in Bermeo-Mundaka-Elantxobe (22 July). Parades known as “Alardes” in Irun (30 June) and Hondarribia (8 September).

GASTRONOMIC EVENTS

Orio Bream Festival. 15-17 July.

www.turismo.orio.eus

Octopus Day in Zumaia. September.

www.zumaia.eus

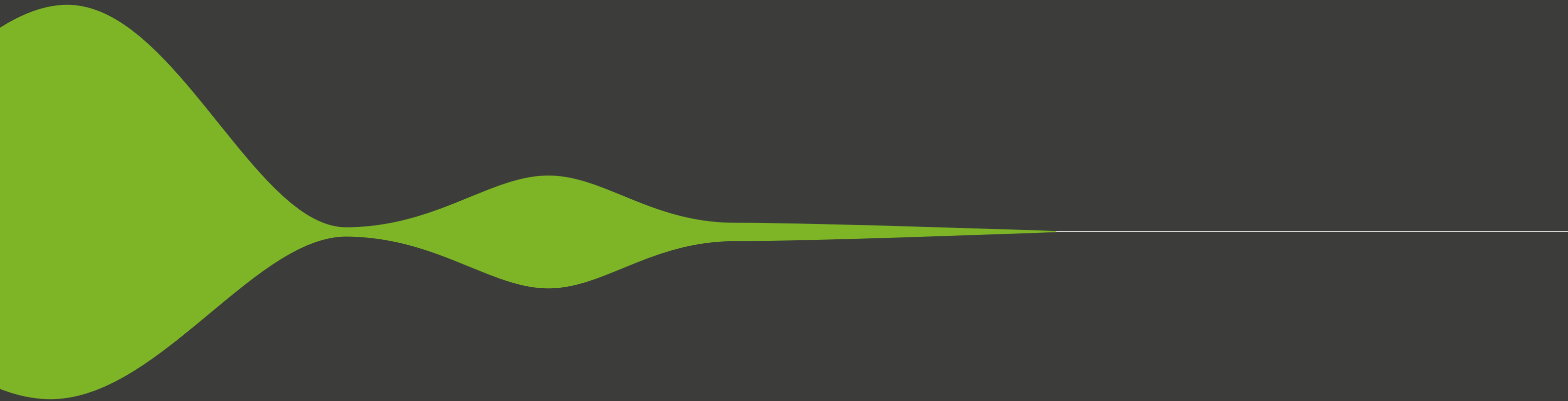
Day of mackerel. Mutriku. 26 March.

www.mutriku.eus



INTERESTING FACTS

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DATA OF INTEREST

CLIMATE.

Although the Basque Country is not a homogeneous territory, it generally has a fairly mild climate.

- Average annual temperature: 14.35°C.
- Minimum average temperature: 9.96°C.
- Maximum average temperature: 19.23°C.

POPULATION (1 JANUARY 2021).

- Basque Country: 2,193,199 inhabitants.
- Vitoria-Gasteiz: 247,833 inhabitants.
- Bilbao: 342,662 inhabitants.
- Donostia-San Sebastián: 182,088 inhabitants.

Information source: Municipal statistics on inhabitants and Population and Housing Censuses as of 01/01/2021, Eustat.

SECURITY RATE.

- **Crime rate** (number of crimes and misdemeanours per 1,000 inhabitants) (2020): 35.3, lower than the average rate in Spain, 37.3.

Source: Crime Statistics Portal. Home Office, National Statistics Institute [INE].

ECONOMIC STRENGTH.

- **GDP per capita (2020):** €32,504.
- **GDP per capita in PPP** (Purchasing Power Parity) (2020): 112 (EU27=100), 12% higher than the EU27 average.

Information source: Data for 2020 are provisional. Economic accounts, Eustat and Eurostat.

· **Distribution of GDP by sector of economic activity (2020).**

- Agriculture, livestock and fishing: 0.8%.
- Construction: 6.0%.
- Industry and energy: 23.1%.
- Services: 70.2%.
- Tourism: 4.0%.

Information source: Economic Accounts and Tourism Satellite Account, Eustat.

- **Expenditure on R&D (% of GDP) (2020):** 2.08 %.

For the comparison, the latest available data is for 2019; 2.15 % average for the EU28 and 1.25 % average for Spain.

Information source: Statistics on Scientific Research and Technological Development Activities, Eustat.



· **Human Development Index (2019):**

The Basque Country is among the top 12 countries globally in this indicator.

POSITION	COUNTRIES	%
1	Norway	0.957
2	Ireland	0.955
2	Switzerland	0.955
4	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.949
4	Iceland	0.949
6	Germany	0.947
7	Sweden	0.945
8	Australia	0.944
8	The Netherlands	0.944
10	Denmark	0.940
11	Finland	0.938
11	Singapore	0.938
12	Basque Country	0.937
13	United Kingdom	0.932
14	Belgium	0.931
14	New Zealand	0.931
16	Canada	0.929
17	United States	0.926
18	Austria	0.922
19	Israel	0.919
19	Japan	0.919
19	Liechtenstein	0.919

Source: Eustat. Human Development Index. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2020. Data for the Basque Country are provisional.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary indicator of average achievements in the fundamental dimensions of human development: having a long and healthy life, acquiring knowledge and enjoying a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of the standardised indices for each of the three dimensions. It is prepared for the Basque Autonomous Community, following the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) methodology.

TOURIST DATA.

Evolution of tourist arrivals and overnight stays over the last 10 years:

- 2% increase in tourist arrivals from 2011 to 2021, 2021 with 2,756,093 in all regulated tourist accommodations in the Basque Country (hotel establishments, rural accommodation, hostels, campsites and tourist flats).
- 11% increase in overnight stays by tourists from 2011 to 2021, when 5,921,052 overnight stays were achieved in all regulated tourist accommodations in the Basque Country (hotel establishments, rural accommodation, hostels, campsites and tourist flats).

Due to the impact of mobility restrictions during the COVID-19 health emergency period in 2020, we refer to 2019 data. Although indicators recovered in 2021, they are still far from those obtained in 2019, a year in which an all-time high in tourist movements was recorded. Therefore, with the data from Eustat and INE, it is confirmed that 2019 broke a record for tourist arrivals in the Basque Country, with 3,808,514 arrivals and 8,018,474 overnight stays.

Information source: Eustat Tourist Establishment Receiving Establishments Survey (ETR) and Tourist Apartments Survey (ETRap), and Extra-hotel Establishment Occupancy Survey, INE.

Distribution of markets by source (2021).

· Ranking of issuing markets to the Basque Country, 2021:

Basque Country	24.94%
Madrid:	20.59%
Catalonia	15.55%
Andalusia	6.15%
Valencian Community	5.67%
Castile and Leon	5.08%
France	30.46%
Germany	7.96%
The Netherlands	6.89%
United States	5.83%
Portugal	5.56%
United Kingdom	5.24%
Italy	4.79%

Information source: Eustat Tourist Establishment Receiving Establishments Survey (ETR) and Tourist Apartments Survey (ETRap), and Extra-hotel Establishment Occupancy Survey, INE.

Arrival in the Basque Country (2019).

MAIN MODE OF TRANSPORT TO THE BASQUE COUNTRY	INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS (%)	FRANCE (%)	UNITED KINGDOM (%)	GERMANY (%)	ITALY (%)	USA (%)	BENELUX (%)
 Private vehicle	44.1	82.0	26.7	38.1	30.6	1.4	66.0
 Aircraft	37.8	4.9	59.6	47.3	56.9	55.5	26.0
 Bus	6.2	4.1	4.5	2.8	2.1	24.5	3.8
 Train	2.5	1.2	1.4	2.3	0.5	4.4	0.5
 Hired vehicle	6.0	1.5	1.2	7.6	6.9	13.7	1.4
 Motorbike	1.8	4.4	0.3	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.1
 Ship	0.8	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0

IBILTUR LEISURE 2019. Basquetour (COVID-19 pre-pandemic).

Satisfaction and repetition rate (2019).

- 55% of tourists who visit the Basque Country intend to return.
- 99% of tourists who travel to the Basque Country will recommend it as a tourist destination to their family and friends.

Information source: Pre-pandemic data from COVID-19. Study “Ibiltur Ocio 2019, profile and behaviour of tourists staying overnight in regulated accommodation in the Basque Country for leisure purposes”. Basquetour.

Residents’ perception of tourism activity in the Basque Country (2021).

- 68% say the tourism sector is an important element of economic development and employment for the Basque Country.
- 81% say that tourist activity in the Basque Country is positive in their daily lives.

Information source: Study “Basque society’s perception of tourism”. Basquetour.

ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY
IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY.

7,862 tourist establishments.

357,036 beds/day.

Hotels and hostels (2021).

- Total number of establishments offered: 6044.
- Five stars: 68.
 - Four stars: 732.
 - Three stars: 559.
 - Two stars: 952.
 - One star: 875.
 - Hostels: 2,858.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 175,487.

- Five stars: 8,655.
- Four stars: 68,152.
- Three stars: 28,185.
- Two stars: 20,849.
- One star: 17,616.
- Hostels: 32,030.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 334113.

- Five stars: 16,943.
- Four stars: 131,843.
- Three stars: 53,711.
- Two stars: 41,072.
- One star: 32,527.
- Hostels: 58,017.

Source: Eustat Survey of Tourist Establishments (ETR)..

Rural accommodation (2021).

Total number of rural establishments offered: 405.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 1,849.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 4,142.

Source: Eustat Survey of Tourist Establishments (ETR).

Tourist apartments (2021).

Total number of tourist apartments offered: 1,303.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 3,506.

Source: Eustat Survey of tourist apartments (ETRap).

Hostels (2021).

Total number of hostels offered: 77.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 763.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 4106.

Source: Basque Tourism Companies and Activities Register [Registro de Empresas y Actividades Turísticas de Euskadi (REATE)] of the Basque Government's Department of Tourism, Trade and Consumer Affairs.

Camping (2021).

Total number of campsites offered: 33.

Total number of camping pitches offered per day: 2,067.

Total number of rooms offered per day: 11,169.

Source: Basque Tourism Companies and Activities (REATE) of the Basque Government's Department of Tourism, Trade and Consumer Affairs.

Latest openings in the last 4 years (2018-2021).

In rural accommodation, 101 new accommodations in the last 4 years.

In hotels and apartment hotels 48 in the last 4 years in the Basque Country.

Donostia - San Sebastián:

Major hotel chains:

- Abba San Sebastián: 44 rooms. 4 stars.
- Catalonia Donosti: 128 rooms. 4 stars.
- Axel San Sebastián: 100 rooms. 4 stars.
- Room Mate Gorka: 33 rooms. 4 stars.
- Zenit Convento San Martín: 79 rooms. 4 stars.

Boutique Hotels:

- Akelarre: 22 rooms. 5 stars.
- Hotel boutique Arbaso: 50 rooms. 4 stars.
- Heredad de Unanue: 12 rooms. 4 stars.
- Villa Favorita: 23 rooms. 4 stars.
- Villa Eugenia: 21 rooms. 3 stars.

Other featured hotels:

- Anima hotel: 69 rooms. 4 stars.
- Hotel Lasala pizza: 58 rooms. 4 stars.
- Cine Shot Tabakalera House: 43 rooms. 4 stars.

Bilbao:

Major hotel chains:

- Abba Suites Bilbao City Center: 35 apart. 4 stars
- Nyx Bilbao by Leonardo: 108 rooms. 4 stars.
- Sercotel Ayala Bilbao: 61 rooms. 4 stars.
- Vincci Consulado Bilbao: 93 rooms. 4 stars.
- Ibis Budget Bilbao City: 149 rooms. 1 star.

Other featured hotels:

- Tayko Bilbao. 54 rooms. 4 stars.
- New Bilbao Airport (Derio). 55 rooms. 3 stars.

Vitoria – Gasteiz:

- Apartahotel Libere Vitoria. 120 rooms. 3 stars.

Basque Coast:

- Silken Palacio Urribarren (Lekeitio). 42 rooms. 4 stars.
- Villa Magalean hotel & spa (Hondarribia). 8 rooms. 4 stars.
- Bahia de Plentzia (Plentzia). 12 rooms. 3 stars.

Inland:

- Balneario Orduña Plaza (Orduña). 42 rooms. 4 stars.
- Silken Hotel (Durango). 68 rooms. 4 stars.
- Hotel Saiaritz (Amurrio). 7 rooms. Country hotel.
- Hotel bide bide (Tolosa). 19 rooms. 2 stars.

Rioja Alavesa:

- Palacio de Samaniego (Samiego). 9 rooms. 3 stars.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST



POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The Basque Country is divided into three historical territories: Álava, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, with their capitals: Vitoria- Gasteiz, the capital of Álava; Bilbao, the capital of Bizkaia and Donostia-San Sebastian, the capital of Gipuzkoa.

This Autonomous Community has two official languages: Basque and Spanish.

The Basque Country enjoys a high level of self-government in such important areas as health, education, security, housing or tax. This autonomy to decide its own organisation derives from the Statute of Gernika which was passed by referendum on 25th October 1979, recognising the existence of a Government with executive powers and a Parliament with general legislative capacity.

Furthermore, the Basque Country has two territorial bodies inherited from Basque foral tradition, the General Assemblies, with regulatory and functional powers similar to those of parliaments; and the Provincial Councils, their executive institutions. Their existence makes the Autonomous Community extremely decentralised, almost a confederation.

The method of harmonising the powers of the state administrations with the provincial ones is regulated by the Statute of Autonomy and by the Law on Historical Territories, which adjusts the existence of a general organisation with respect to the historical legal systems of the three territories.

Another fundamental pillar of Basque self-government is the ‘Economic Agreement’, the financial regulation of the Autonomous Community which allows Basque institutions to collect and manage taxes from citizens in accordance with its own budgets and agreements entered into with the Spanish State Administration.

All of these measures have enabled the creation of its own organisations, such as Euskal Irrati Telebista-ETB, the Basque public media group; the Ertzaintza, the autonomous police force with over 7,000 agents, and it has full powers in road and hydraulic infrastructures, economic and industrial development and in regional planning.

Nowadays, powers in terms of work and employment, industry, infrastructures, finance and research are pending transfer from the State Administration.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

There are two official languages in Euskadi: Basque and Spanish.

Basque or “the Basque language” is the oldest living language in Europe and it is spoken on both sides of the Pyrenees.

CONNECTIONS

International Airport of Bilbao:

- 13 km from the centre of Bilbao.
- 76 km from Vitoria-Gasteiz.
- 101 km from Donostia/San Sebastian.

Airport of Donostia/San Sebastián:

Just 20 minutes from the centre of the city, this airport connects with the major Spanish cities of Madrid and Barcelona.

Airport of Vitoria-Gasteiz:

9 km from the city.



**Connections advertised for 2022 at 21.03.2022, including routes which are operational all year round and seasonal routes. Subject to modifications.*

BASQUE COUNTRY

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