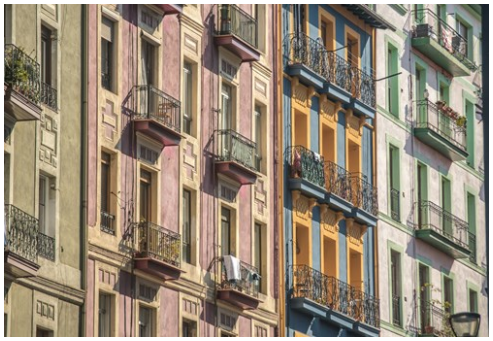


Bilbao

Photo: LucVi/Shutterstock.com



elCarito/Unsplash

One of the jewels of northern Spain, Bilbao is a city full of surprises and delights. It boasts a unique blend of tradition and modernity, which is reflected in its stunning architecture, rich cultural heritage, and outstanding cuisine. At its heart lies the magnificent Guggenheim Museum, one of the most impressive structures in the world. Its streets are alive with the sound of Euskara, Europe's oldest and most enigmatic language while the Casco Viejo (Old Town) is full of traditional bars for sampling pintxos.



Pixachi/Shutterstock.com



Belyay/Shutterstock.com

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THE CITY



Jon Chica/Shutterstock.com

Bilbao, the capital of the province of Biscay or Bizkaia, is also the largest city in the Basque Country. Once an industrial powerhouse, Bilbao has undergone a remarkable transformation.

The banks of the Nervión river are home to numerous businesses and factories, which during the Industrial Revolution brought heightened prosperity to the region.

The Nervión divides the city in two: the old city and the new. To the east lies the charming narrow streets of the Old Town, or Casco Viejo (or Zazpi Kaleak) district. Casco Viejo is packed with traditional restaurants, Basque cider houses or 'sagardotegis', and pintxo bars. The area is also home to historic landmarks like the St. James' Cathedral and the sprawling Mercado de la Ribera.

On the other side of the river lies the more modern half of the city. This section includes the late 19th-century bourgeois expansion of Bilbao, where you'll find iconic buildings like the cutting-edge Palacio Euskalduna and the world-renowned Guggenheim Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry. While the Guggenheim is an impressive attraction not to be missed, overlooking the rest of the city would be almost criminal.

DO & SEE



Belyay/Shutterstock.com

Bilbao has a plethora of interesting sites to visit, both historical and modern. Enjoy some contemporary art at the Guggenheim or go for a more traditional approach at the Museum of Fine Arts. Get lost amongst the streets of the lively Old Town, and be sure to stop by a pintxos bar or take a trip to the beautiful old fishing port of Algorta, or the seaside town of Plentzia.

A Walk Along the River



From the ultra-modern Conference Centre and Concert Hall Palacio Euskalduna Jauregia, walk east along the riverbank, which is filled with beautiful sculptures and some very impressive modern architecture. You will pass the Guggenheim Museum and Santiago Calatrava’s stunning Zubi Zuri Footbridge, which spans the Nervión river between the Guggenheim and the Ayuntamiento.

Photo: Jon Chica/Shutterstock.com

Basque Archaeological, Ethnographic & Historical Museum



The Museo Arqueológico, Etnográfico e Histórico Vasco, or simply The Basque Museum, is a cosy little museum in Plaza Unamuno, at the heart of the Old Town. This is a great place to visit on a rainy day before or after an aperitif of pintxos and drinks in the nearby bars of Casco Viejo. Learn about the ins and outs of Basque history, culture, and language in this three-storey museum and let yourself in for a journey from the Paleolithic to the present day. Most of the signs are in Basque and Spanish, although rooms have leaflets in English with translations of some of the signage.

Photo: Fernando Jiménez/Flickr(image cropped)
Address: Unamuno Miguel Plaza 4, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 15 54 23
Internet: www.euskalmuseoa.eus
Email: prentsa@bbmuseoak.eus

Old Port — Algortako Portu Zaharra



Effectively a tiny fishing village in the midst of a city, the Old Port of Algorta in Getxo is made up of a handful of houses by the shore. It is one of the main attractions in the area, only 20 minutes away from the centre of Bilbao by metro. The Old Port makes for a very pretty and charming setting on a summer's day. A stone's throw away from the beach, the charming white houses follow a downward path to the water. Come sunset, the locals gather outside in the gentle summer breeze to enjoy a beer or two, along with a plate of green olives or crispy fried calamari from the nearby bars.

Photo: MARTIN RAVELO / Shutterstock.com
Address: Portu Zaharra, Ereaga Kaia, Getxo

Climbing Pagasarri & Ganekogorta



Take a sneak peek at a day in the life of a local by going on one of the most typical and easily accessible hiking routes in the region. Reaching some 673 metres (2,208 feet) in height, Pagasarri is one of the smaller mountains that surround Bilbao and most locals will have tried this hike at least once before. There are buses from the city centre, with a few different routes starting from the area of Zabalburu or from Peñascal, on the outskirts of the city. At the top of the mountain, there is even a bar selling 'bokatas', the typical no-nonsense baguette rolls filled with your local delicacy of choice, from tortilla de patata to txistorra or chorizo. If you've reached the summit of Pagasarri, you're already halfway to Ganekogorta, a summit at 998 metres (3,274 feet) which is a little further away.

Photo: poliki / Shutterstock.com
Address: Zabalburu Plaza, Bilbao

Chillida-Leku



Located in the city of Hernani, at a one-hour distance from Bilbao, Chillida-Leku is an open-air museum exposing the works of Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida. More than 40 of his pieces are now on display across 27 acres of land, even material that was previously not available to the public. Plus, a restored farmhouse and an organic café.

Photo: Fresco Tours/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Jauregi Bailara 66, Hernani
Opening hours: Thu–Mon 10am–5pm
Phone: +34 943 33 59 63
Internet: www.museochillidaleku.com/en
Email: reservas@museochillidaleku.com

Gaztelugatxe (Bermeo)



Gaztelugatxe has become famous as a filming location for the TV series "Game of Thrones", where it is depicted as the castle of Dragonstone. The rough coast has shaped rocks, tunnels, and caves which now form fascinating scenery. On top of a rock, there is a small church, dating back to the 10th century, which can be reached via a narrow path. Gaztelugatxe belongs to the municipality of Bermeo and is only a 45-minute drive away from Bilbao.

Photo: Fotokon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gaztelugatxe, Bermeo

Guggenheim Museum



The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao only opened in 1997, but it has since become one of the most revered and celebrated buildings in the world. The museum's collection focuses primarily on 20th-century American and European art.

Just like the popular saying, it's not just the outside that counts, but it's pretty important for this museum. Architect Frank Gehry designed the building with the vision of ''letting the randomness of the curves catch the light". After the opening of the museum, the building was said to be one of the masterpieces of the 20th century.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Abandoibarra Etorbidea 2, Bilbao
Public Transport: Bus: Museo 1- Henao (Bus 1,10,13,18,A7), Alda. Recalde 31 y 11 y Alda. Recalde 12 (Bus 13,27,38,48)
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 10am–7pm
Phone: +34 944 35 90 80
Internet: www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus/en
Email: informacion@guggenheim-bilbao.eus

Museum of Fine Arts



The Museo de Bellas Artes has an exceptional collection of traditional works by well-known masters, such as El Greco, Goya, Gauguin, Francis Bacon, Picasso, and Velazquez. The era of the collection begins in the Middle Ages all the way to the contemporary art of today.

The museum has been around since 1908 and started as one of the first Fine Art museums in the world. The popularity of the museum caused the extension of the building with another part in which the rest of the art could be displayed.

Photo: rubiphoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Museo Plaza 2, Bilbao
Public Transport: Bilbobus 1, 10, 13, and 18
Opening hours: Mon & Wed–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 10am–3pm, Tue closed
Phone: +34 944 39 60 60
Internet: www.bilbaomuseoa.eus

Museum of Religious Art



This museum used to be a former convent, founded in 1515. It contains an intriguing selection of religious art and crafts dating back to the 12th century, including religious silverware,

sculptures, paintings, and ceramics by Basque artists. The permanent exhibition is divided into three large sections: sculptures and paintings, gold work, and garments and ornament.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Encarnacion Plaza 9B, Bilbao
Public Transport: Bus 11, 22, 40, 58, 75, 77, 85
Opening hours: Mon 10:30am–1:30pm; Tue–Sat 10:30am–1:30pm / 4pm–7pm; Sun 11am–2pm
Phone: +34 944 32 01 25
Internet: www.eleizmuseoa.com
Email: museo@eleizmuseoa.com

Itsasmuseum — Bilbao Maritime Museum



Itsasmuseum is the place to uncover Bilbao's past as a shipbuilding and seafaring hub. Outside there are striking floating exhibits with special exhibitions.

The exhibitions are structured around three main themes: the physical environment of the estuary, the evolution of trade in Bilbao, and the development of shipbuilding in the Bilbao estuary. One of the most striking features is the many mini-ships made entirely out of wood, with incredible attention to detail.

Photo: Ondacaracola/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ramón de la Sota Kaia 1, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 11am–7pm, Mon closed
Phone: +34 946 08 55 00
Internet: www.itsasmuseum.eus/en
Email: info@itsasmuseum.eus

Arriaga Theatre



The original theatre, created by Joaquin Rucoba (also known as the Spanish Mozart), burned down in 1914 and a second one was built, resembling the Opera House in Paris. Today, it remains the major cultural venue of Bilbao.

Beautifully located on the banks of the Nervión river, the theatre is host to world-class opera, classical music concerts, and ballet. Besides shows, you can also take a guided tour behind the scenes and see the opera costume collection and the stunning stalls.

Photo: Santiago Rubio Marcos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Arriaga Plaza 1, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 79 20 36
Internet: www.teatroarriaga.eus
Email: informacion@teatroarriaga.eus

The Vizcaya Bridge



Just outside Bilbao, in the province of Biscay is one of the city's main attractions: Puente de Vizcaya, also known as Puente Colgante or Hanging Bridge. There are two ways of crossing it, both with equally dramatic views: the first is by gondola cable car and the second by walking along the pedestrian path.

If you are still not convinced, the bridge has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for being the 'perfect combination of beauty and functionality'.

Photo: dvoevnore/Shutterstock.com
Address: Puente de Vizcaya Zubia, Getxo
Internet: www.puente-colgante.com/en

Plaza Nueva (Plaza Barria)



There are 64 arches around this enclosed square, which is the oldest surviving square in town. Built in 1849, it's a perfect place to stop and sip a cup of coffee while you watch the world go by. This plaza is home to some of the best and most up-market pintxos in the area. One of the cafés that you can try is the famous Café Bar Bilbao. Sure, the name is not very original, but it is known for its finger-licking pintxos. Look out for the squid pintxo, as well as the ham and onion one. These are the two specialities of the house.

Photo: Jarno Gonzalez Zarraonandia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Barria, Bilbao

Artxanda Viewpoint



If you want to escape the city streets, this is the right place for you to take in a breath of fresh air and look down at Bilbao from above. At the Artxanda viewpoint, you can enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the city and the beautiful mountains that surround it. There is a small funicular railway that functions as a fast mode of transportation to reach the top of the hill.

Photo: Barnes Ian/Shutterstock.com
Address: Enekuri Artxanda Errepidea 70, Bilbao
Public Transport: Bilbobus 72,26,11,22,71

Plentzia



Plentzia is a happening resort just outside Bilbao, in the province of Biscay. Located atop a hill, its streets pour down the hillside leading to lovely sandy beaches. Plentzia is a popular weekend destination from Bilbao, as it takes a short 30 minutes to get there on the overground metro service from the centre of Bilbao. In the town of Plentzia, there are plenty of bars and cafés which serve locally caught fresh seafood.

The town also has an indoor court for the sport of Basque pelota. Here you can watch this traditional game, which involves two teams of players who hurl a small hard white ball at a wall swinging at it with the full force of the palms of their bare hands.

Photo: Mimadeo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plentzia, Biscay

Day Trip to Donostia — San Sebastián



This is a city set between two hills around the beautiful bay of La Concha. San Sebastian, or Donosti as it is known by the locals, makes for an unforgettable day trip, where you can take in the glorious Belle Epoque balustrades and visit world-famous restaurants.

There are four areas that you should visit. The first one is Parte Vieja, the Old Town, where you can find the popular pintxo bars and eat til you drop. South of Parte Vieja, you'll find the shopping district and heading towards the coast you will come across three beaches: Zurriola, the

preferred spot for local surfers, La Concha, and Ondarreta, where the posh neighbourhood is.

Photo: Botond Horvath/Shutterstock.com
Address: Donostia, Gipuzkoa, Euskadi
More Info: Take the train from the central station of Abando in Bilbao. Alternatively, for a faster journey you can take the bus from Termibus Station to San Sebastián and arrive in 2 hours.

Doña Casilda Iturrizar Park



The Doña Casilda Iturrizar Park is the city's largest green space located by Paseo Don Jose Anselmo Clavé, next to the Museum of Fine Arts. The park was built in 1907 by an architect called Ricardo Bastida. Strolling through this park you will come across a water fountain, a basketball court, and a pavilion for live performances.

If the directions are unclear, you can always try asking a local for 'el parque de los patos', or the park with the ducks, as it is affectionately nicknamed.

Photo: Karol Kozlowski/Shutterstock.com
Public Transport: Metro stop: Indautxu / San Mamés
Opening hours: 24/7

Basilica of Begoña



You will find the Basilica of Begoña at Calle Virgen de Begoña on the top of a hill. The church construction started in 1511 and it is widely held that the Virgin Mary appeared at that exact spot. You can see that the church is still important to the sailors of Bilbao. There are still ships which are named after the church, Virgen de Begoña or just Begoña–the patron saint of Biscay.

Experience history first-hand when you walk through the doors of this basilica.

Photo: Karol Kozlowski/Shutterstock.com
Address: Begoñako Andra Maria Kalea 38, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8:30am–1:30pm / 5pm–8pm; Sun 9:30am–2pm / 5pm–8pm
Phone: +34 944 12 70 91

Zubizuri Bridge



The white structure of the impressive pedestrian bridge over the Nervion River can be seen from far away on a sunny summer's day in Bilbao. It's extra special since the bridge was designed to look like a sailboat, ten metres above the river.

Zubizuri connects Campo Volantín Boulevard with Uribitarte, and from the bridge, you have a stunning view of the Guggenheim Museum. There used to be a glass floor, but after complaints, the city decided to place a non-slip mat. So even on a rainy day, you can walk there safely.

Photo: Naoki Kakuta/Shutterstock.com

Santiago Cathedral



The Santiago Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church in Bilbao. The temple is consecrated in honour of the apostle Saint James the Great–Santiago in Spanish–the patron of Bilbao. The Gothic architecture dates back to the 15th century, which makes it the oldest church in Bilbao. It has been renewed several times throughout the years. There are several reasons why this is such

a peculiar church. For instance, it's not built in one style, but a combination of three. There is a Gothic cloister, a Renaissance portico, and a neo-Gothic spire.

Photo: Madrugada Verde/Shutterstock.com
Address: Done Jakue Plazatxoa 1, Bilbao
Public Transport: Metro Casco Viejo
Phone: +34 944 15 36 27
Internet: www.catedralbilbao.com

Azkuna Zentroa — Alhóndiga Bilbao



This old warehouse has been renovated to become one of Bilbao's most vibrant cultural venues. There are activities for everyone, from exhibitions to cinemas, kids' activities, concerts, lectures and a library–the 43,000 square meter space has it all. If you get hungry during your visit, it provides several opportunities for refreshments to your liking.

In 2015, the building, previously known as Alhóndiga Bilbao, was renamed Azkuna Zentroa in tribute to the late mayor of Bilbao, Iñaki Azkuna, who changed the industrial Bilbao into a cultural masterpiece.

Photo: Francisco Javier Gil/Shutterstock.com
Address: Arriquíbar Plaza 4, Bilbao
Opening hours: Daily 9am–9pm
Phone: +34 944 01 40 14
Internet: www.azkunazentroa.eus/en
Email: info@azkunazentroa.eus

Campos Elíseos Theatre



This stunning Art Nouveau theatre is worth a moment of your time. It was established in 1901 and reopened in 2010 after renovation. You can get a free guided tour through the highlights of the building, and the theatre's program is very interesting as well. Campos Elíseos hosts national and international artists and performers, which promise to provide a spectacular evening and will leave you breathless with amazement.

Photo: Santiago Rubio Marcos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kalea Bertendona 3 Bis, Bilbao
Public Transport: Metro Stop: Moyuna
Phone: +34 944 43 86 10

DINING



Olena Mykhaylova/Shutterstock.com

Bilbao is the home of Basque cuisine–considered the most inventive cuisine in both Spain and France. The city is famous for an array of dishes and for its delicious tapas-like appetizers called pintxos. Seafood forms the heart of Basque cooking, thanks to its strong 'arrantzale' fishing tradition, with cod-based dishes and hake being particularly popular.

Despite this, Bilbao offers many other types of traditional food too, making it equally delicious

for those who tend to favour meat-based dishes or even for vegetarians. The food here is so mouth-watering that many visitors return to Bilbao solely for the culinary experience.

El Viejo Zortzi



El Viejo Zortzi is the little brother of Zortziko. The difference between the restaurants is that El Viejo Zortzi is more informal and the prices are significantly lower than Zortziko. The quality remains, of course, the same.

El Viejo Zortzi has a modern take on traditional Basque food, such as fillet of cod in pil-pil sauce and fresh hake in garlic sauce. The choice of wine here is exceptional. While you're there, you can also take a quick peek at the bar. They have an infinite amount of wine and other alcoholic beverages.

Photo: TunedIn by Westend61/Shutterstock.com
Address: Poza Lizentziatuaren Kalea 54, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 1pm–11pm, Sun closed
Phone: +34 944 41 92 49
Internet: viejozortzi.es
Email: infoviejo@gmail.com

Etxanobe



This fine-dining restaurant has a great view of the Guggenheim, which beautifully complements the creative and artfully plated Basque dishes served here, such as chocolaty oxtail crépinettes and cold anchovy lasagna in tomato soup.

One of the most popular dishes was not created by the chef himself but is actually a recipe from his grandmother. He paid respects to her by giving the dish her name, 'Grandmother's Cake'.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Juan Ajuriaguerra Kalea 8, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 1pm–3:30pm / 7:30pm–10:30pm; Sun closed
Phone: +34 944 42 10 71
Internet: www.etxanobe.com
Email: etxanobe@etxanobe.com

Gaminiz



Located in Zamudio, slightly out of the centre of town is one of Bilbao’s most famous restaurants. It's about 10 km from the city centre and a bit tricky to find, but the trip is well worth it.

Cod is the main item on the menu, but don’t forget to try other dishes, like squab with peach puree. You can also have a three-course set menu, which allows you to share tapas before you dive into the main course.

Photo: Amarita/Shutterstock.com
Address: Parque Tecnológico de zamudio, Ibaizabal, Zamudio
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8am–5pm, Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–6pm
Phone: +34 944 31 70 25

Guggenheim Bilbao



For a slightly less expensive taste of Martin Berasategui’s new Basque cuisine, head to his restaurant at the Guggenheim Museum. The menu includes some real gems like tempura hake with sautéed mange-touts and Biscay cheese.

It's not possible to order one dish at the restaurant, but you'll pick a menu which consists of a traditional starter, a main dish and a dessert or pintxos.

Photo: wrangler/Shutterstock.com
Address: Abandoibarra Etorbidea 2, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Thu 1pm–3:30pm, Fri & Sat 1pm–3:30pm / 8pm–10pm; Sun 1pm–3:30pm
Phone: +34 94 423 93 33
Internet: www.bistroguggenheimbilbao.com
Email: info@bistroguggenheimbilbao.com

Gure Toki



At this small tapas bar, you can relish fantastic pintxos, which are wonderfully executed with a creative touch. Some dishes you can find on the menu are beef ribs with seaweed, crab tempura, and mushroom risotto. This is a popular place, so it might be crowded but definitely worth the wait.

Photo: Sergey Mironov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Nueva 12, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon & Tue 10am–11pm, Thu–Sat 10am–11pm, Sun 10am–4pm
Phone: +34 944 15 80 37
Email: info@guretoki.com

Mao



If you want to tickle your taste buds with Japanese food of the highest quality, you definitely have to visit Mao. The chefs use excellent raw products, and the food is prepared before guests' eyes. A few dishes served at the restaurant are the salmon tart, teppanyaki rice with lotus leaf and sushi sashimi moriaware. On the wine list, you will find more than 150 different labels.

Photo: Prajak Poonyawatpornkul/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ibáñez de Bilbao Kalea 11, Bilbao
Opening hours: Daily 1pm–4pm / 8:30pm–midnight
Phone: +34 944 23 68 18
Internet: www.restaurantemao.com
Email: restaurantemao168@gmail.com

Porrue



Enjoy well-prepared Spanish food at this cool and elegant restaurant. The fresh food is inventive and tasty and served by attentive staff. The ingredients are mostly from local farmers or fishermen, to support the local community. Try the 8-dish course with lots of different exciting flavours, accompanied by a glass of good Spanish wine, and afterwards–a strong cup of Spanish coffee.

Photo: andrecastro/Shutterstock.com
Address: Alameda de Recalde 4, BJ, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 1pm–midnight, Sun 1pm–5pm
Phone: +34 944 23 13 13
Internet: www.porrue.com
Email: reservas@porrue.com

Restaurante Mina



Located in the heart of Bilbao, Mina is a gastronomic restaurant with only 8 tables for 25-30 guests. The menu reflects each season, and the chefs use local produce from the market and nearest farms. You can also sit at the ''barra'', an oak counter in front of the chef, and take a peek to see how your food is being prepared. It's essential to make a reservation because of the

limited amount of seats.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: Martzana Kaia, Bilbao
Opening hours: Wed–Sun 2pm–3:30pm / 9pm–10:30pm; Mon & Tue closed
Phone: +34 944 79 59 38
Email: mina@restaurantemina.es

Irrintzi



Young and vibrant tapas bar offering a great variety of pintxos, plus beers and cocktails in one of the most tranquil streets of the Old Quarter of Bilbao.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com
Address: Andra Maria Kalea 8, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 9:30am–11pm, Fri 9:30am–1am, Sat noon–1am, Sun noon–5pm
Phone: +34 944 16 76 16
Email: irrintzi@irrintzi.es

Restaurante Lar



Restaurante Lar is a small family-run restaurant that serves traditional Spanish food. Their focus is on seafood and seasonal products, which are carefully prepared. This charming restaurant has a simple decor with family photos adorning the walls.

Photo: Anna Ewa Bieniek/Shutterstock.com
Address: Adiskidetasun Kalea 3, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon 9am–5pm, Tue–Fri 9am–midnight, Sat 11:30am–midnight
Phone: +34 944 24 48 02
Internet: www.restaurantelar.es

Kasko



At this restaurant, you can indulge in modern Basque cuisine. Kasko is located in the Old Quarter of Bilbao and offers a great mix of traditional and modern food. The atmosphere of the restaurant is special, with decor planned out by the famous Vicente and Fernando Roscubas.

The portions are huge, so make sure to come here on an empty stomach or bring a friend to share your dishes with. As a bonus, from Sunday to Tuesday, you'll get to enjoy a live piano session.

Photo: Jan Faukner/Shutterstock.com
Address: Andra Maria Kalea 16, Bilbao
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am–11:30pm
Phone: +34 944 16 03 11
Internet: restaurantekasko.com/en

Yandiola



Located at the top of Azkuna Zentroa, a historic building in the heart of Bilbao, Yandiola offers you one of the city's most beautiful views. It serves innovative basque cuisine based in local products, tradition and innovation.

Photo: archimede/Shutterstock.com
Address: Edificio Azkuna Zentroa, Arriquíbar Plaza 4, Bilbao
Opening hours: Daily 1pm–3pm
Phone: +34 944 13 36 36
Internet: www.yandiola.com/en

Restaurante Zortziko



At this classy restaurant, a meal is like a work of art. The chefs aim to reflect the flavour and culture of a country in their dishes and pay close attention to even the tiniest of details. At Zortziko, you get the best of Basque cuisine in an authentic setting.

The Menú Tradición is highly recommended, with specialities such as rabbit with rice and Idiazaba cheese cream, and wakame scallop salad with a teriyaki glaze.

Photo: nioloxs/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mazarredo Zumarkalea 17, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 1:30pm–3pm / 8:30pm–10:15pm; Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +34 944 23 97 43
Internet: www.zortziko.es
Email: zortziko@zortziko.es

Andra Mari Galdakao



Surrounded by nature, this charming restaurant is your place for a perfectly Basque experience. The wood building fuses elegance and comfort in a homey atmosphere, and the genuine local cuisine is made with some of the best ingredients in the region. Andra Mari is the kind of hidden gem you would recommend to good friends.

Photo: REDPIXEL.PL/Shutterstock.com
Address: Barrio Elexalde 22, Elexalde Auzoa
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 1:30pm–4pm; Fri & Sat 1:30pm–4pm / 8:30pm–11pm; Mon closed
Phone: +34 944 56 00 05

Arzak



Located in San Sebastian, this family-run business from 1897 is one of the most high-class restaurants in the area. It has been distinguished for its cuisine and ambience several times in the past. Arzak offers tasting menus specializing in modern Basque fare. The choice of wine is splendid, and you can combine your dinner with a visit to the great area of San Sebastian.

Photo: Endla/Shutterstock.com
Address: Alcalde José Elosegi Hiribidea 273, Donostia
Public Transport: Take the train from Bilbao's central Atxuri station and you will arrive in 2 hours. You can also take the bus to San Sebastián.
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 1:30pm–3:15pm / 8:45pm–10:45pm; Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +34 943 27 84 65
Internet: www.arzak.es/en

CAFES



Everything/Shutterstock.com

Bilbao has an enviable coffee culture where people take every chance they get to sit down, socialize, and catch up. After a long day of sightseeing, do as the locals do and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea at one of the many cafés this city has to offer.

Café del Arenal



For nearly 40 years, Café Del Arenal has been the benchmark café-restaurant in the Old Town of Bilbao. Always full of people, it specialises in paellas, pinchos, a carefully selected lunch and dinner menu, homemade desserts, and of course, its famous churros with chocolate sauce on the side.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Areatza Kalea 5, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu & Sun 7:30am–10pm; Fri & Sat 7:30am–11pm
Phone: +34 944 16 64 67
Internet: www.cafedelarenal.com

Café Iruña



Café Iruña is a classic tapas bar dating back to 1903, with Arabesque motifs, carved columns, and medieval ceramics serving regional food, grilled meats, sandwiches, and pintxos in a beautifully decorated setting.

Photo: kichigin/Shutterstock.com
Address: Colón de Larreátegui Kalea 13, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 9am–11pm, Fri 9am–midnight, Sat 11am–midnight, Sun 11am–11pm
Phone: +34 944 23 70 21
Internet: www.cafeirunabilbao.com
Email: cafeiruna@grupoiruna.net

Pastelería Don Manuel



A pasteleria is a Spanish pastry shop, and this one, in particular, has an excellent assortment of traditional croissants, chocolates, cookies, and pastries. Some of the most popular pastries are carolinitas, cubitos, and cream chuchitos. There is also a chocolate section, which provides you with a wide variety of bonbons. You can also find a hearty breakfast for a good price here.

Photo: Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Urkixo Zumarkalea 39, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–8:30pm, Sun 9am–2:30pm, Mon closed
Phone: +34 944 43 86 72
Email: contacto@pasteleriadonmanuel.com

Bistró at the Guggenheim



After a long visit to the Guggenheim Museum, why not rest your feet at their in-house bistro? Bistró believes that a freestyle of cuisine linked to the roots of the product is a respectful gesture to the part of the culture from which it originates. Bistró offers creative Basque dishes along with wine pairings in a trendy setting with a lively terrace.

Photo: Alexandra Lande/Shutterstock.com
Address: Abandoibarra Etorbidea 2, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu & Sun 1pm–3:30pm; Fri & Sat 1pm–3:30pm / 8pm–10pm
Phone: +34 944 23 93 33
Internet: www.bistroguggenheimbilbao.com/en
Email: info@bistroguggenheimbilbao.com

Café Lago



If you are in doubt about whether it is savoury or sweet treats you're yearning for, look no further. At Café Lago, you have the option to choose from a wide variety. They are known among the local community for making the best churros with chocolate, but they are also popular when it comes to traditional pintxos and the best wines of the Basque area.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Correo Posta Kalez 13, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Fri 8am–10pm, Sat 8am–11pm, Sun 9am–10pm, Mon closed
Phone: +34 944 79 22 39
Email: info@cafelagobilbao.com

Cafe Bar Las Torres



Cafe Bar Las Torres serves some of the best coffee in Bilbao. You can enjoy the cosy interior or catch some sunlight while sitting outside on the terrace. They specialise in serving the best traditional pintxos of Bilbao, with the freshest ingredients out there.

Photo: Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com
Address: Simón Bolívar Kalea 27, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 8am–10:30pm, Fri 8am–midnight, Sat 9am–midnight
Phone: +34 944 41 89 82
Internet: www.lastorresbilbao.com
Email: info@lastorresbilbao.com

Bihotz



Part craft beer bar, part coffee shop, part neighbourhood hangout, Bihotz has it all. As soon as you walk through the door, you will instantly feel at home in the cafe's casual interior. Besides coffee, at Bihotz, you'll find only the best of the best beers from local brewers.

Photo: BENCE BOROS/Unsplash
Address: Arechaga Kalea 6 Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Thu & Sun 4pm–10pm; Fri & Sat 4pm–11pm, Mon closed
Phone: +34 944 71 96 74
Email: bihotzcafebilbao@gmail.com

Cafe Obrador Okapi



Okapi is not only focused on Basque cuisine but also draws inspiration from the entire Mediterranean and the products it has to offer. There are many vegetarian options, falafel being a treat many seem to enjoy. They also have a wide variety of alcoholic beverages, such as the traditional piña colada and mojito. If you have a sweet tooth, try the chocolate mousse.

Photo: Diana Daley/Shutterstock.com
Address: Belostikalle 26, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 10:30am–10pm, Fri 10:30am–11pm, Sat 11am–11pm, Sun 11am–6pm
Phone: +34 944 16 44 49
Email: cafeokapi@gmail.com

Restaurante Cafetería Pentxo



In the centre of Bilbao's Old Town, Pentxo specialises in traditional dishes. Here you'll find an assortment of pintxos, hot sandwiches, homemade burgers and pastries, plus classic local fare and a set-price menu.

Photo: javifuentess/Shutterstock.com
Address: Belostikale 20, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7am–9pm
Phone: +34 944 16 94 72
Internet: www.restaurantepentxo.com

Baobab Bar Tetería



Located near the Old Town by the river, Baobab is a popular and charming teahouse offering some of the finest teas from around the world. The cosy vintage decor will make you want to stay for a little while longer. If you're looking to enjoy a cup of tea, it's best to visit in the afternoon, as the venue transforms into a bustling bar by night, offering one-euro beers on Thursdays.

Photo: Massimo Rinaldi/Unsplash
Address: Printzipe Kalea 1, Bilbao
Opening hours: Tue–Thu 5pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 5pm–1am, Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +34 946 53 41 15
Internet: www.instagram.com/baobabteteria

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Madrugada Verde/Shutterstock.com

The Basque Country is known for its abundance of bars, and Bilbao is no exception, boasting more than 3.15 bars per thousand inhabitants. The Casco Viejo (Old Town) is the go-to spot for bars, particularly around Plaza Nueva. In central Bilbao, Calle Ledesma and Licenciado Poza are the main areas for bar hopping and indulging in local favourites. While beer is the drink of choice for most young locals, traditional options include red Rioja wine, 'txakoli' (a very dry white wine), and 'kalimotxo' (a popular combination of cola and red wine). For a unique and unforgettable night out, try visiting a typically Basque cider tavern or 'sagardotegi', where you can feast on char-grilled meat and drink copious amounts of cider.

Bilborock



This interesting concert hall is a repurposed church dating back to the 17th century. Accommodating music concerts of all kinds, cinema screenings, poetry evenings, theatre plays, dance shows, workshops, and other cultural events, Bilborock is a space for creativity in the city. Check out the event calendar on their website to see what's on while you're in Bilbao.

Photo: Anthony DELANOIX/Unsplash
Address: Mesedeetako Kaia 1, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 15 13 06
Internet: www.bilbaogazte.bilbao.eus
Email: gazteria@bilbao.eus

Licenciado Poza



Licenciado Poza is a street commonly known by young locals simply as 'Pozas'. It is one of the most popular places for an evening out on the town. Located in the area of Indautxu, there isn't anything more central than Pozas. Bars and restaurants line this road from end to end, making it an incredibly popular spot for the local pastime of bar-hopping, especially on Thursdays and at the weekend. On match days, when the city's football team Athletic Club Bilbao is playing either home or away, the street fills up with passionate fans donned in red and white and known for their liveliness and friendly demeanour. They will very happily occupy the bars, terraces, and pavements, and even pour out into the middle of the road to pass the time before heading to the stadium at the end of the street to watch their beloved team play.

Photo: Ardfern/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Licenciado Poza, Bilbao

Café Bar Bilbao



Bustling retro bar off Plaza Nueva serving pintxos and snacks alongside coffee and beers.

Photo: Pamela R/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Nueva 6, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7am–11pm, Sat 8:30am–10:30pm, Sun 8:30am–3pm
Phone: +34 944 15 16 71
Email: info@bilbao-cafebar.com

Bihotz



Part craft beer bar, part coffee shop, part neighbourhood hangout, Bihotz has it all. As soon as you walk through the door, you will instantly feel at home in the cafe's casual interior. Besides coffee, at Bihotz, you'll find only the best of the best beers from local brewers.

Photo: BENCE BOROS/Unsplash
Address: Arechaga Kalea 6, Bilbao
Opening hours: Sun & Tue–Thu 4pm–10pm, Fri & Sat 4pm–11pm
Phone: +34 944 71 96 74
Email: bihotzcafebilbao@gmail.com

Bar El Globo



Cosy tapas bar for a wide variety of pintxos, good Spanish wines, and finding new friends among the locals of Bilbao. They also have an entire section of the menu dedicated to vegetarian dishes. El Globo is located right by the metro beside the Palacio de la Diputación, which makes it a short walk right to the bar.

Photo: JuanSalvador/Shutterstock.com
Address: Diputazio Kalea 8, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 9am–11pm, Fri 9am–midnight, Sat 11am–midnight
Internet: www.barelglobo.es

Kafe Antzokia



Kafe Antzokia used to be an old theatre, but got refurbished and turned into a multi-purpose venue. It is known as a live music stage with a vibrant atmosphere, where both local and international artists put on their performances.

Every weekend the place becomes a popular nightclub with DJs mixing their beats until late. If you want to feel what it's like to be on stage, every day of the week you can have lunch on the actual stage where the band or artist has performed. Who doesn't want to feel like a rock star?

Photo: kondrukhov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Done Bikendi Kalea 2, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 24 46 25
Internet: www.kafeantzokia.eus/en
Email: bulegoa@kafeantzokia.eus

Sala Santana 27 / Discoteca Fever



Bring your dancing shoes because Fever will make you move like you have never moved before. This nightclub is a local favourite and features well-known DJs and live acts on a regular basis. Look out for the Art After Dark Parties in the atrium of the Guggenheim Museum, also presented by Fever.

Photo: ben bryant/Shutterstock.com
Address: Polígono Industrial Santa Ana, Telleria Kalea 27, Bilbao
Opening hours: Fri–Sun midnight–6am
Phone: + 34 944 59 86 17

Molly Malone



If you're Irish, stopping at Molly Malone will give you the feeling of coming home. It's the most Irish bar you will find in Spain. From the beer to the food, even the music, it's all about Ireland. The rustic décor and the warm atmosphere welcome each guest, and the next Guinness is always within arm’s reach. If you are not in the mood for Irish dishes, you can, also enjoy traditional pintxos while you're there.

Photo: Nejron Photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Estraunza Kale Partikularra 8, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 39 51 63
Email: mollymalone@mollymalone.info

Bar Luzea



This tapas bar is perfect for a busy party crowd. While it’s not a bar for an extended dinner, the excellent pintxos selection provides an ideal quick refreshment. Just pop in and have a bite with your beer before you take off and walk off into the vibrating nightlife of Bilbao.

Photo: Evgeny Starkov/Shutterstock.com
Address: García Rivero Maisuaren Kalea 8, Bilbao
Opening hours: Daily noon–10:30pm
Phone: +34 944 05 34 79

Kubrick Bar Bilbao



As the name suggests, this place is dedicated to the great director Stanley Kubrick. Posters and screens recall memorable scenes from his movies, and you will find yourself in a very cinematic

setting. While the bar mainly serves evening guests, it also offers breakfast and meals at any time of day. Stop by to experience one of their shows, outdoor live music, cabarets, or parties.

Photo: Ivan Mateev/Shutterstock.com
Address: Villarías Kalea 2, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Thu & Sun 11am–12:30am; Fri & Sat 11am–2am
Phone: +34 669 54 72 30
Internet: www.kubrickbilbao.es
Email: hola@kubrickbilbao.es

Nerbion



A mix of café and bar, this upbeat location is popular with the young urban crowd. Vintage furniture meets the modern lifestyle here, and you can have a great time being in the artistic student neighbourhood. On top of that, Nerbion offers an amazing view of the river.

Photo: Uber Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Naxa Kalea 7, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9:45am–midnight, Sun 12:30pm–12:15am
Phone: +34 944 16 91 89

Karaoke Rendez Vous



Karaoke Rendez Vous offers you a stage instead of you just singing your heart out in the shower. Rendez Vous has been around for over 15 years and provides the ideal location for stepping out of your comfort zone. Take the microphone, choose your favourite classic 80s and 90s hits, such as Take On Me by A-ha, and show the audience what you've got!

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rodríguez Arias Kalea 69, Bilbao
Phone: +34 682 89 25 88

Bar Marzana



Besides a varied choice of tapas, snacks, and drinks (beer, wine, and cider), Marzana offers a great view of the river. The terrace is a favourite for tourists and locals alike and will showcase Bilbao at its best at night. Marzana has a cool and relaxing vibe, perfect after a warm day in sunny Spain.

Photo: Markevich Maria/Shutterstock.com
Address: Martzana Kalea 16, Bilbao
Opening hours: Wed & Thu 5pm–11pm, Fri 5pm–midnight, Sat noon–midnight, Sun noon–11pm
Phone: +34 946 75 30 36

SHOPPING



Ivanko80/Shutterstock.com

Bilbao's main street, Gran Vía, is where you will find most of the city's department stores, boutiques, and designer shops. For handicrafts and local wine, head over to markets like the Mercado de la Ribera. If you're looking for traditional Basque souvenirs like wood carvings and woven goods, make your way to Casco Viejo, which also boasts a plethora of independent shops and chain stores. Calle Askao, Artekale, Bidebarrieta, Somera, Correo, and La Cruz are

some of the top spots to hunt for souvenirs, but remember that most shops close on Sundays.

Mercado de la Ribera (Erribera merkatua)



Located in the centre of the Old Town are the impressive halls of Mercado de la Ribera. Dating back to the 1930s, this building is a meeting point for food lovers. The area is buzzing during the mornings, and you can get nearly any local product you can think of. It was distinguished by the Guinness Book of Records in 1990 as being the largest food market in all of Europe. It may not be the largest in Europe anymore, but it's still an extremely impressive building.

Photo: Karol Kozlowski/Shutterstock.com
Address: Erribera Kalea, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8am–midnight, Sun 11am–midnight
Phone: +34 944 23 10 19
Internet: bilbaozerbitzuak.bilbao.eus/inicio/mercado-de-la-ribera
Email: info@zbk.bilbao.eus

Zubiarte



This is an upmarket shopping mall where you will find exclusive designers such as Tommy Hilfiger, Massimo Dutti, and Antonio Miró. There are currently more than 50 shops, a cinema, a supermarket, and restaurants.

Zubiarte is located near the Guggenheim and the Iberdrola Tower, which is right in the city centre. Here you can shop for everything from clothing to accessories, electronics and interior design items.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Leizaola Lehendakariaren Kalea 2, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–10pm, Sun noon–12:30am
Phone: +34 944 27 73 80
Internet: www.instagram.com/zubiartebilbao

La Casa del Libro



La Casa del Libro is a bookshop with an extensive range of books and maps, including English language books. The shop has been celebrated for providing books that are otherwise difficult to obtain, and because of the enormous variety of genres they have in stock. So, if you are in need of a book which explains the gardening techniques of the 15th century during the Tudor period, look no further.

Photo: michaeljung/Shutterstock.com
Address: Urkixo Zumarkalea 9, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9:30am–9pm, Sun closed
Phone: +34 911 79 34 63
Internet: latam.casadellibro.com/nosotros/tienda/alameda-de-urquijo-9/6

Sombreros Gorostiaga



Many visitors like to return from Bilbao with a chic beret, which locals call txapelas. The txapelas look a bit like a mix of a fedora and a cowboy hat. But it's probably best to check it out yourself!

Sombreros Gorostiaga is a family-owned business est. 1857, which makes it one of the oldest businesses of Bilbao, and has an extensive selection. The shop is so popular and known for its quality that even TV shows and film directors have requested hats from the shop.

Photo: Blend Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: VIktor Kalea 9, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 10am–1:30pm / 4pm–8pm; Sat 10am–1:30pm
Phone: +34 944 16 12 76
Email: info@sombrerosgorostiaga.com

El Corte Inglés



You are guaranteed to find what you're looking for at this Spanish institution, as it's the biggest department store group in Europe. From luxury to everyday items, El Corte Inglés is likely to have it. A couple of the many designers that display their collections at El Corte Inglés are Calvin Klein, Dior, and Ralph Lauren.

Photo: CandyBox Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gran Vía de Don Diego López de Haro 7–9, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9:30am–9pm, Sun closed
Phone: +34 944 25 35 00

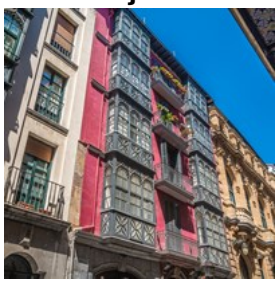
Gran Via



Framed by modernist buildings and lime trees, the main street and the adjoining streets of the El Ensanche neighbourhood hold a great variety of classy boutiques. There are three main areas of this neighbourhood: the lower area surrounding Plaza Circular, the mid-zone between Plaza Circular and Plaza Moyúa, and the upper zone between Plaza Moyúa and Plaza del Sagrado Corazón.

Photo: ESB Professional/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gran Via, Bilbao

Casco Viejo



In the vibrant neighbourhood of Plaza Nueva, you'll find everything from souvenir shops or traditional Basque stores to high-class shopping plazas. Stroll through the Old Town, or Casco Viejo, and take in impressive buildings while you buy yourself something nice. The cherry on top of your shopping tour might be a pintxo and a hot or cold drink in one of the many small cafés around.

Photo: Pocholo Calapre/Shutterstock.com
Address: Casco Viejo, Bilbao

Sunday Markets



While the Old Town is a magnet for tourists, on the weekend, you have yet another reason to come to Plaza Nueva. Sundays, the area turns into a lively marketplace where numerous vendors offer almost everything.

Browse through books, get some organic fruit and maybe take home a txistorras, one of the local sausage specialities. Lovers of street music and local handcraft are advised to come early as there are always some performers and artists around.

Photo: Avatar_023/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Nueva, Bilbao

Indautxu



If you are looking for speciality shops and international brand stores, make sure to visit Indautxu. This young neighbourhood boasts a large offer of custom-made clothing, exclusive handcraft and, of course, high-class shoes. Next to Plaza Indautxu, Rodríguez Arias and Alameda de Urquijo are the most important streets for fashion hunters.

Photo: bikeriderlondon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Indautxu, Bilbao

Pastelerías Martina de Zuricalday



Glazed truffle pralines, soft butter buns, and fruity cakes. That and much more is what you get at Martina de Zuricalday Pastry Shops. The family business looks back on a long tradition of confectionery and offers delights for every occasion. With only the best products and freshest ingredients, the taste of this pastry shop will satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

Photo: matka_Wariatka/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ercilla Kalea 43, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 43 57 96
Internet: www.martinazuricalday.com
Email: martinazuricalday@gmail.com

Around Guggenheim Museum



As a tourist hot spot, the area around Guggenheim Museum is also an upbeat shopping district. Streets leading to Plaza Euskadi are filled with designer shoes, fashion, antique shops, and bookstores. Moreover, if you're interested in local art or want to take home some regional wine, this is the place for you to shop. In the area, there is also a park, Paseo de la Memoria, which is filled with beautiful pieces of art.

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida Abandoibarra 2, Bilbao

Euro-Sport



You are an adventurous traveller and want to enjoy some sports during the holidays? Then, Euro-Sport is the place for you. From winter sports to in-line skating, water sports or golf, the well-equipped store has got everything you could wish for. Stop by for a new pair of sports socks or get a whole new snowboarding set, Euro-Sport is always worth a visit.

Photo: Izf/Shutterstock.com
Address: Estrauntza Kallea 2, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10:30am–8pm, Sun closed
Phone: +34 944 41 93 12
Internet: www.euro-sport.net

Mil Rosas Bilbao



Mil Rosas has one of the best choices of fresh flowers in the city and you will find something for every occasion. They are decoration specialists and if you need something last minute you can even place your order in their online store.

Photo: ND700/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ercilla Kalea 26, Bilbao
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am–2pm
Phone: +34 944 15 27 91

Internet: www.milrosasbilbao.com
Email: milrosas@milrosasbilbao.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Jon Chica/Shutterstock.com

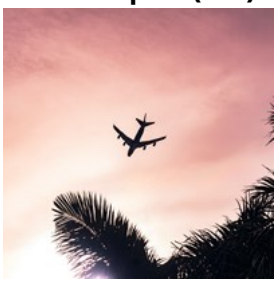
Passport/Visa



Spain can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travellers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

Bilbao Airport (BIO)



Bilbao Airport (BIO) is located 6 miles (9,6 kilometres) northwest of the city. BizkaiBus A3247 departs outside the main terminal to Plaza Moyua and Gran Vía (central Bilbao) every 30 minutes from 6:15am–midnight. The journey takes around 30 minutes. Taxis from the airport to and from the centre of town can be hired easily.

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/Unsplash
Address: Aeropuerto de Bilbao/Bilboko aireportua, Loiu, Biscay, Spain
Phone: +34 913 21 10 00
Internet: www.aena.es/en/bilbao.html

Best Time to Visit



The Basque Country can get chilly and rainy during the winter, so the best time for visiting Bilbao is during the summer months. To avoid the bulk of tourist masses, plan your trip for late April / May or from September to early October, when temperatures are still pleasant and outdoor activities can still be enjoyed.

Photo: David Vives/Pexels

Public Transport



Bus Bilbobus covers all the districts in the city. Each line has its own timetable, but the service starts between 6 am and 7 am. The last service departs between 10 pm and 11 pm. The buses leave every 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the lines.

Tram

The tram is an efficient means of transport in Bilbao. The company Euskotren offers services between 16 stations from Bolueta to La Casilla, passing through Guggenheim.

Metro

Bilbao has an excellent underground train network. The city's reputation for cutting-edge design even extends to its means of transport. The sleek entrances to Bilbao's metro stations were designed by acclaimed architect Norman Foster.

Photo: Ant Rozetsky/Unsplash
Internet: www.bilbao.eus/cs/Satellite/bilbobus/es/inicio

Taxi



Radio Taxi Bilbao +34 944 44 88 88 www.taxibilbao.com Radio Taxi Nervión +34 944 26 90 26 https://radiotaxinervion.com

Photo: Nijwam Swargiary/Unsplash

Post



The Main Post Office is open Monday to Friday 8:30am to 8:30pm. There is also a post office at Paseo de Arenal.

Photo: Simona Sergi/Unsplash
Address: Urkixo Zumarkalea 19, Bilbao
Phone: +34 944 70 93 38
Internet: www.correos.es/es/es/particulares

Pharmacy



Pharmacies can be identified by the lit-up green crosses outside of them. A pharmacy on each side of the river: Farmacia Ortopedia Garmendia Purroy
Fika Kalea, 65, Bilbao
+34 944 33 10 38
Daily 9am–10pm

Farmacia Indautxu
Alda Urquijo, 60, Bilbao
+34 944 41 14 47
Daily 9am–10pm

Photo: Mariano Baraldi/Unsplash

Telephone



Country code: +34 Area code for landlines: 94

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

Electricity



220V/50Hz

Photo: Neven Krcmarek/Unsplash

Population
Metro area: 348,000 (2022)

Currency
Euro (EUR), €1 = 100 cents

Opening hours
Most shops are open from 9am–1:30pm and 4pm–8pm Monday to Friday.
Banks are open 8:30am–2pm, Monday to Friday and 9am–1pm on Saturday.

Internet
www.bilbaoturismo.net

Newspapers
El Correo (regional) – www.elcorreo.com/bizkaia
Deia (regional) – www.deia.eus
El País (national) – elpais.com

Emergency numbers
Police: 092
Fire brigade: 080
Emergencies: 112

Tourist information
Oficina de Turismo de Bilbao — Vizcaya
Plaza Biribila, 1, Bilbao
Open daily 9am–5:30pm
+34 944 79 57 60


Golfo de Vizcaya
Costa Vasca
Cantabria
Pais Vasco
Euskadi
Sierra de la Demanda
Santander
Villaverde de Pontones
Galinza
Noja
Santona
San Miguel de Meruelo
Gama
Laredo
Tares
Solares
Solorzano
Colindres
Castro-Urdiales
Sámano
La Cavada
La Herrán
Ampuero
El Puente
Somorrostro
Riva
Arredondo
Ramales de la Victoria
Ortuella
Barakaldo
Bilbo/ Bilbao
Getxo
Portugalete
Sestao
Plentzia
Bakio
Bermeo
Mungia
Gernika-Lumo
Lekeitio
Ondarroa
Zarautz
Aulesti
Markina-Xemein
Arbacegui
Amorebieta
Elgoibar
Soraluze
Azpeitia
Villabona
Eibar
Durango
Plac.
Irura
Tolosa
Bergara
Lanestosa
Villaverde de T.
Zella
Sodupe
Ugao-Miraballes
Gordexola
Igorre
Areta
Laudio/ Llodio
Balmaseda
Hornedillo
Vega de Pas
Puerto de Tornos
Artziniega
Bercedo
Espinosa de los Monteros
Puerto del Escudo
El Ribero
Amurrio
Arrasate/ Mondragon
Zumarraga
Legazpi
Onati
Beasain
Idiazabal
Arantzazu
Legutiano
Gopegui
Quincoces de Yuso
Orduna
La Cerca
Soncillo
Villarcayo
Medina de Pomar
Quintanilla de la Ojada
Villanueva Carrales
Incinillas
Lalastra
Acebedo
Berberana
Foronda
Urbina
Durana
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Iruna
Subijana
Salvatierra
Opacua
Arruazu
Altsasu
Valdenoceda
Escalada
Trespaderne
Quintana Martin Galindez
Espejo
Annez
Eguileta
Algeria-Dulantzi
Zudaire
Pesadas de Burgos
Frias
La Puebla de Arganzon
Puentelarra
Trevino
Arraia Maeztu
Arlucea
Galbarra
Abarzuza
Lizarra/Estella
Sedano
Terminon
Ona
La Aldea del Portillo de Busto
Berantevilla
Albaina
Santa Cruz de Campezo
Ancin
Murieta
Portillo del Fresno
Salas de Bureba
Cornudilla
Miranda de Ebro
Bajauri
Acedo
Oco
Busto de Bureba
Cubo de Bureba
Oron
Penacerrada
Bernedo
Villatuerta
Masa
Brinas
Lagrán
Lapoblacion
Los Arcos
Rublacedo de Abajo
Haro
Samaniego
Elvillar
Sansol
Allo
Briviesca
Treviana
Casalarreina
San Vicente de la Sonsierra
Tirgo
Briones
Viana
Zarraton
Cenicero
Lazagurria
Sesma
Lerin
Temino
Monasterio de Rodilla
Logrono
Lodosa
Sotopalacios
Villaescusa La Sombria
Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Belorado
Nájera
Navarrete
Murillo de Rio Leza
Carcar
Quintanapalla
Entrena
Ribafrecha
Andosilla
Rubena
Villafranca Montes de Oca
Ventas Blancas
Corera
Berceo
Ezcaray
El Royo
Castroviejo
Pradoluengo
Burgos
Arlarzon
Ibeas de Juarros
Bobadilla
Calahorra
El Villar de Arnedo
Azagra
Robres del Castillo
Torrecilla en Cameros
Arnedo
Quel
Aldeanueva de Ebro
Autol
Brieva de Cameros
Villanueva de Cameros
Prejano
Tinieblas
Barbadillo de Herreros
Riocavado de la Sierra
Cuevas de San Clemente
Barbadillo del Pez
Quintanilla de las Vinas
Vizcainos
Huerta de Arriba
Montenegro de Cameros
San Andres
Grávalos
0
30 km


A
B
C
D
1
2
3
4
CIUDAD JARDIN
LA RIBERA
ABANDOIBARRA
MATIKO
INDAUTXU
AMETZOLA
ITURRIALDE
CASCO VIEJO
SOLOKOETXE
ATXURI
BILBAO LA VIEJA
ZABALA
Avenida de Madariaga
C Araba
C Burgos
Calle Poeta Blas de Otero
C Gipuzkoa
C Logroño
C Santander
C Jon Arrospide
Ribera de Botica
Ribera de Deusto
Ría de Bilbao
Avenida de Abandoibarra
P de Deusto
C Hermanos Aguirre
Avenida de las Universidades
Avenida Maurice Ravel
Museo Guggenheim
Museo Marítimo
Palacio de la Musica Euskalduna
Alameda de Manzarredo
Calle Lersundi
Calle Barraincua
Calle Juan de Ajuriaguerra
Parque de Doña Casilda de Iturrizar
Museo de Bellas Artes
Museo de Arte Moderno
Palacio de Ibaigane
Calle Heros
Calle Henao
Calle Ercilla
Calle Uribitarte
Paseo de Uribitarte
Puente Zubi-zuri
C Mandobide
Calle Castaños
Calle Huertas de la Villa
Paseo Campo de Volantin
C Mugica y Butrón
Calle Tibidabo
Travesia Ciudad Jardin
Travesia Montano
Via Vieja de Lezama
C Monte Aldamiz
Calle Bakio
C Gorliz
C San Roque
Calle Matiko
Monte Izaro
Calle Trauko
Estrada San Agustin
C Zumaia
Avenida del Zumalacárregui
Parque de Etxeberria
Av de Zumalacárregui
Ayuntamiento
Casa de Misericordia
Plaza Pedro Basterrechea
Campo de San Mamés
Plaza Torres Quevedo
Paseo José Anselmo Clavé
Gran Vía de Don Diego López de Haro
Calle Rodríguez Arias
Calle Estraunza
Calle Licenciado Poza
Alameda de Urquijo
Calle Maximo Aguirre
Calle Elcano
C Iparraguirre
Alameda de Recalde
Plaza de Campuzano
Plaza de Federico Moyúa
Calle Colón de Larreátegui
Plaza Ensanche
Calle Ibañez de Bilbao
Jardines de Albia
C B Aldamar
Calle Buenos Aires
C Villarias
C Amistadias
Calle Ledesma
C Arbieto
C Ayala
Calle Rodríguez Arias
Calle Ercilla
Calle Licenciado Poza
Alameda de Urquijo
Plaza de Indautxu
Plaza de Arriquibar
Avenida de Sabino Arana
Alameda Doctor Areilza
Calle Simón Bolivar
Calle Pérez Caldós
Calle General Egua
Calle Luis Briñas
Terminal de Autobuses
Alameda San Mames
Calle Fernández del Campo
Calle Egaña
C Iparraguirre
C Alcalde Uragoiti
Calle Gregorio de la Revilla
Calle Manuel Allende
Plaza del Bombero Echániz
Plaza San Francisco Javier
Calle Autonomia
Plaza de la Casilla
Plaza Guardia Civil
Calle Labayru
Plaza de Zabálburu
Calle General Concha
Calle Hurtado de Amezaga
Estacion de Abando
Teatro Arriaga
Plaza de San Nicolas
Plaza Nueva
Calle Esperanza
Muelle del Arenal
P del Arenal
C Navarra
C Viuda de Epalza
Ca del Polvorín
Calle Virgen de Begoña
Calle Amadeo Deprit
Calle Prim
Calle Iturribide
Plaza de Miguel de Unamuno
C Jardines
C Victor Sombrería
C St Maria
Calle Perro
Calle Bailen
C Dos de Mayo
C Hernani
Muelle de la Merced
La Ribera
Catedral de Santiago
Museo de Reproducciones Artisticas
Calle San Francisco
Calle Cortes
C Artekalea
Calle Somera
Calle La Ronda
Mercado de la Ribera
Calle Solokoetxe
C Sorkunde
Calle Zabalbide
Calle Fika
C Atxurri
Calle Santutxu
Museo Diocesano de Arte Sacro
Plaza Reverendo Hno Santiago Lasalle
Calle Ollerias Altas
C Marcelino
Avenida Miraflores
Río Nervión
Calle Miribilla
C V Gasteiz
Calle Olano
Calle Mina San Luis
Calle Agarre
Calle Bruno Mauricio de Zabala
Parque Miribilla
C Don Claudio Galiasteguí
Avenida Askatasuna et Orbidea
C Juan Carlos de Gortazar
C Donostia - San Sebastián
C S de Compostela
Jardines Gernika
Calle Juan de Garay
C Xenpelar
C Pablo Picasso
C Machín
Plaza del Ametzola
Calle General Salazar
Calle Ugalde
C S Broquard
Calle Irala
Avenida Kirikiño
Avenida Zuberoa
C Balona
Calle Urizar
Parque Ametzolo
C Padre Larramendi
Calle Andrés de Isasi
C Emilio Arrieta
Calle Doctor Diaz Emparanza
Calle Eskurtze
Avenida de Begoña
Calle Gordóniz
Calle Biarritz
Villabaso Urkiola
C Goya
Calle Jaen
C Ciudadela
Calle Moncada
Carretera de Errekalde a Larrasketu
C Severo Unzúe
Autopista Solucion Sur
Calle Anboto
Calle Camilo
Calle Mendipe
C Gordóniz
C Medina de Pomar
Av Kirikiño
Calle Arane
C Novia
C Telagorri
C P
Lecuona
Plaza General Latorre
C Pablo
Avenida del Ferrocarril
de Salcedo
de Aizola
Calle
0
250 m

Alameda de Manzarredo	B1 C1 C2	Calle Dos de Mayo	C3	Calle Maximo Aguirre	B2
Alameda de Recalde	B2	Calle Egaña	B3	Calle Medina de Pomar	B4
Alameda de Urquijo	A2 B2 B3 C3	Calle Elcano	B2 B3	Calle Mendipe	A4
Alameda Doctor Areliza	A2 A3	Calle Emilio Arrieta	B4	Calle Mina San Luis	C4
Alameda San Mames	B3	Calle Ercilla	B2 C2	Calle Miribilla	C4
Autopista Solución Sur	A4	Calle Eskurtze	B4	Calle Moncada	A4
Avenida Askatasuna et Orbidea	B4 C4 D4	Calle Esperanza	D2 D3	Calle Monte Aldamiz	D1
Avenida de Abandoibarra	A1 B1	Calle Estraunza	B2	Calle Monte Izaro	D1
Avenida de Bergara	B4	Calle Fernández del Campo	B3	Calle Mugica y Butron	C1
Avenida de las Universidades	B1 C1	Calle Fika	D3 D4	Calle Novia de Salcedo	A3
Avenida de Madariaga	A1	Calle General Concha	B3	Calle Olano	C4
Avenida de Sabino Arana	A2	Calle General Eguía	A3	Calle Ollerías Altas	D4
Avenida de Zumalacárregui	D2	Calle General Salazar	A3 B3	Calle Pablo de Alzola	A3
Avenida del Ferrocarril	A3	Calle Gipuzkoa	A1	Calle Pablo Picasso	B3
Avenida del Zumalacarregui	D2	Calle Gordóniz	A3 A4	Calle Padre Larramendi	A4 B4
Avenida Kirikiño	B3 B4	Calle Gorliz	D1	Calle Perro	C3 D3
Avenida Maurice Ravel	C1 D1	Calle Goya	A4	Calle Pintor Lecuona	A3
Avenida Miraflores	D4	Calle Gregorio de la Revilla	B3	Calle Poeta Blas de Otero	A1
Avenida Zuberoa	B3 B4	Calle Henao	B2 C2	Calle Prim	D3
Calle Agarre	C4	Calle Hermanos Aguirre	A1 B1	Calle Pérez Galdós	A3
Calle Alcalde Uragón	B3	Calle Hernani	C3	Calle Rodríguez Arias	A2 B2
Calle Amadeo Deprit	D3	Calle Heros	C1 C2	Calle San Francisco	C3
Calle Amistad	C2	Calle Huertas de la Villa	C1	Calle San Roque	C1 D1
Calle Anboto	A4	Calle Hurtado de Amezaga	C2 C3	Calle Santa Maria	C3
Calle Andrés de Isasi	B4	Calle Ibañez de Bilbao	C2	Calle Santander	A1
Calle Araba	A1	Calle Iparaguerri	B2 B3	Calle Santiago Brouard	B3 B4
Calle Arane	B4	Calle Irala	B4	Calle Santiago de Compostela	C4
Calle Arbieto	B2 C2	Calle Isteta	C2	Calle Santutxu	D4
Calle Artekale	D3	Calle Iturribide	D3	Calle Severo Unzúe	A4 B4
Calle Atxurri	D3 D4	Calle Jardines	C3	Calle Simón Bolivar	A2 A3
Calle Autonomia	A3 B3	Calle Jaén	A4	Calle Solokoetxe	D3
Calle Ayala	C2	Calle Jon Arrospide	A1	Calle Sombrería	D3
Calle Bailén	C3	Calle José Maria Escuza	A2 A3	Calle Somera	D3
Calle Bakio	D1	Calle Juan Carlos de Gortazar	C4	Calle Sorkunde	D3
Calle Balona	B4	Calle Juan de Ajuriaguerra	B1 B2	Calle Tellagorri	A3
Calle Barraincúa	B1 C2	Calle Juan de Garay	B3 B4	Calle Tiboli	C1 C2
Calle Barroela Aldamar	C2	Calle La Ronda	D3	Calle Trauko	D1
Calle Biarritz	A4	Calle Labayru	B3	Calle Ugalde	B4
Calle Bruno Mauricio de Zabala	C3 C4	Calle Ledesma	C2	Calle Uribitarte	C1 C2
Calle Buenos Aires	C2 D2	Calle Lersundi	B1 C1	Calle Urizar	B3 B4
Calle Burgos	A1	Calle Licenciado Poza	A2 B2	Calle Victor	C3 D3
Calle Camilo Villabaso Urkiola	A4	Calle Logroño	A1	Calle Villarías	C2
Calle Castaños	C1	Calle Luis Briñas	A3	Calle Virgen de Begoña	D3
Calle Ciudadela	A4	Calle Machin	B3	Calle Vitoria Gasteiz	C4
Calle Colón de Larreátegui	B2 C2	Calle Mandobide	C1	Calle Viuda de Epalza	D2 D3
Calle Cortes	C3	Calle Manuel Allende	A2 A3	Calle Xenpelar	B4 C4
Calle Doctor Diaz Emparanza	A4 B4	Calle Marcelino	D4	Calle Zabalbide	D3
Calle Don Claudio Gallastegui	C4 D4	Calle Maria Diaz de Haro	A2 A3	Calle Zumaia	D2
Calle Donostia - San Sebastián	C4	Calle Matiko	D1	Camino del Polvorín	D2 D3

Carretera de Errekalde a Larraskitu A4 B4	Plaza de Campuzano B2	Plaza Pedro Basterrechea A2
Estrada San Agustin D1 D2	Plaza de Federico Moyúa B2	Plaza Reverendo Hno Santiago Lasalle D4
Gran Vía de Don Diego López de Haro A2 B2 C2	Plaza de Indautxu B3	Plaza San Francisco Javier A3 B3
Jardines de Albia C2	Plaza de la Casilla A3	Plaza Torres Quevedo A2
La Ribera C3	Plaza de Miguel de Unamuno D3	Puente de Deustro B1
Muelle de la Merced C3	Plaza de San Nicolas D3	Puente del Arenal C3
Muelle del Arenal C3 D2	Plaza de Zabálburu B3	Ribera de Botica A1
Navarra C2 C3	Plaza del Ametzola B3	Ribera de Deusto A1
Paseo Campo de Volantin C1 C2	Plaza del Bombero Echániz B3	Travesia Ciudad Jardin D1
Paseo de Uribitarte C1 C2	Plaza Ensanche C2	Travesia Montano D1
Paseo José Anselmo Clavé A2 B2	Plaza General Latorre A3	Via Vieja de Lezama D1
Plaza de Arriquibar B3	Plaza Guardia Civil A3 B3	