

visitbilbao.info/arte/route of art and architecture

Route 1

- Guggenheim Museum
- Plaza Moyua
- Elcano
- Euskalduna Centre
- San Mamés
- Paseo de Abandoibarra
- Campo Volantín (with Artxanda option)
- Paseo del Arenal
- Casco Viejo (with Begoña option)

Estimated time: 4 hours



"Puppy" by Jeff Koons

The tour commences at the upper area of the Guggenheim Museum (1997, Frank Gehry), next to "Puppy" (1992, Jeff Koons). We then walk to Plaza Moyua via Calle Iparraguirre, where we will find the following buildings:

1. Palacio de Chavarri (Eclecticism, 1894, Paul Hankar and Anastasio de Anduiza)
2. Casa de Sota (Eclecticism, 1919, Manuel María de Smith)
3. Hotel Carlton (Eclecticism, 1926, Manuel María de Smith)
4. Palacio de la Diputación Foral (Eclecticism, 1900, Luis Aladrén)

5. Casa Montero (Art Nouveau, 1901, Luis Aladrén)

Plaza Moyua is also an opportunity to visit the Bilbao Metro (1995, Norman Foster) and its iconic entrances, known as Fosteritos. Inside, the station gives an unusual sense of amplitude and luminosity. Afterwards, Calle Elcano will lead us to the Museo de Bellas Artes (Neoclassicism, 1945, F. Urrutia and Estanislao Seguro), which is one of the

most important art collections in Spain, and also holds excellent temporary exhibitions. Crossing the adjacent Doña Casilda Iturriza park (1907, R.



Bastida y J. Eguiraun), we reach the Palacio Euskalduna (1999, Federico Soriano and Dolores Palacio), an exhibition and concert hall, which was awarded Best

World Conference Centre in 2003.

Next to Euskalduna, we find the Bilbao maritime museum, underneath the Euskalduna bridge and round-about. It is also worth seeing the near-by Casa de la Misericordia (Eclecticism, 1871, Antonio de Goicoechea) and its gardens. The next stop is the "cathedral of football", the San Mamés stadium.

We return to Euskalduna, and take the Abandoibarra walk by the river – the nucleus of Bilbao's regeneration – to take a look at the sculptures on display, created by many international artists. This will lead us to the lower part of the Guggenheim, where we find "Mama", an spectacular spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois. Following the Paseo (walk), we will reach the Zubi-Zuri bridge (1997, Santiago Calatrava). After crossing it, we have two options: one is to take the cable railway to mount Artxanda, to enjoy a panoramic view of the city, the river, and of the airport, also by Calatrava.

The other option is to continue along the Campo Volantín towards the City Hall (Eclecticism, 1892, Joaquín Rucoba), and enjoy the excellent sculpture in front of it – "Variante ovoide de desocupación de esfera", by Jorge Oteiza.

We continue our walk along the river to Arenal, where we will find the San Nicolás church (Baroque, 1756, I. Ibero), the sailors' patron-saint. Here we turn left to enter the Caco Viejo (Old Town), reaching the Plaza Nueva (Neoclassicism, 1849;

S. Pérez, A. Echevarria and A. Goicoechea), a charming and enjoyable square. We leave Plaza Nueva through Calle Libertad towards Plaza Unamuno.

Here, the tour offers two new options:

1. Climb the 213 steps of the Calzadas de Mallona to visit the Begoña basilica (Late Gothic, 1620, Sancho Martínez de Arego).
2. Continue through Calle Cruz and visit the Museo Vasco and the church of Santos Juanes (Classical Baroque, XVII c.). From here we take the first of the Seven Streets, Calle Somera, to reach the San Antón church (Gothic, 1433), the Atxuri station (Regionalism, 1912, Manuel M^o de Smith), and the Mercado de la Ribera (Rationalism, 1930, Pedro Ispizua), the largest indoor food market in Europe.



We go back into the Seven Streets through Carnicería Vieja, towards the oldest church in town, the Santiago Cathedral. Nearby, it is also worth visiting the Palacio John. We continue through Calle del Perro to Calle de Bidebarrieta, to visit the municipal library of the same name. At the end of Bidebarrieta is the Teatro Arriaga, and if we look at the other river bank, we find the attractive façade of the Estación de Santander railway station (Eclecticism, 1902, Severino Achúcarro and Valentín Gorbeña), which marks the end of our tour.

For lunch

There are plenty of restaurants along the way, but the most typical (and interesting) would be a pintxo lunch along the Casco Viejo's many bars.



Route 2

- Guggenheim Museum
- Plaza Moyua
- Alameda Recalde
- Plaza de Toros
- Parque Ametzola
- Casco Viejo

Estimated time: 2 hours

In addition to the building itself, the Guggenheim Museum (1997, Frank Gehry) has two interesting pieces of its permanent collection displayed on its outside grounds: the "living" sculpture Puppy (1992, Jeff Koons), and the metal spider "Mamá" (1999, Louise Bourgeois).

2. Casa de Sota (Eclecticism, 1919, Manuel María de Smith)
3. Hotel Carlton (Eclecticism, 1926, Manuel María de Smith)
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5. Casa Montero (Art Nouveau, 1901, Luis Aladrén)

Plaza Moyua is also an opportunity to visit Bilbao Metro (1995, Norman Foster), first, its iconic entrances known as Fosteritos. Inside, the station gives an unusual sense of amplitude and luminosity. We continue along Alameda Recalde, towards La Alhóndiga (Eclecticism, 1909.



Santiago cathedral

We then walk to Plaza Moyua via Calle Iparraguirre, where we will find the following buildings:

1. Palacio de Chavarri (Eclecticism, 1894, Paul Hankar and Anastasio de Anduiza)

Ricardo Bastida), the old central wine warehouse, which is undergoing a major renovation by designer Philippe Starck, to become a leisure and cultural centre.

Alameda Recalde will also

take us to Bilbao's bull ring, the Plaza de Toros (on Neo-moorish influence, 1962, Luis M^o Gana), which holds the Museo Taurino. Those truly interested in Bilbao's new developments, can walk to Plaza Ametzola and visit its park and train station.