

visitbilbao.info/leisure/day

Walking/routes

Casco Viejo route

The walk starts in the Arenal, one of the main recreational and strolling areas in Bilbao. Here we will find its bandstand, renovated in 1988. Across the street is the church of San Nicolás, a simple building designed in the baroque period, with some neoclassical touches. On the right side of it, we enter the Casco Viejo through Calle Fueros. Just a few meters ahead is Plaza Nueva, a neoclassical porticoed square, and a traditional gathering place for bilbainos. This is an ideal place for trying pintxos or for dining in one of its traditional restaurants.

We leave the square through Calle Sombarrera, towards Plaza Unamuno, where we will find a bust in honour of Don Miguel Unamuno, Bilbao's most illustrious thinker and writer. On the left side of the square, the Calzada de Mallona steps can take us to the Virgen de Begoña basilica. On the other side is the entrance to the Museo Vasco. Continuing our walk through Calle Cruz, we find on

the left the church of Santos Juanes, built on the Zamudio Gate, which was one of the entrances to Bilbao at the time when the city was fortified.

Taking Calle Somera, we reach the gothic San Antón church and bridge, built in 1433. This is where Don Diego López de Haro read the foundation chart of the city in 1300. Next to the church is the beautiful Mercado de la Ribera food market, the largest indoor market in Europe.

The walk continues along the river until Calle Santa María, where we find the Palacio Yohn, a baroque building built in the XVIII century. A tile marked with a star at the front entrance marks the only spot in the Casco Viejo from where the Basílica de Begoña can be seen.

We then follow Calle Torre to the Santiago Cathedral, a gothic temple built in the XIV and XV centuries, and part of the Camino de Santiago. Notice the yellow and blue tiles depicting a shell in several streets of Bilbao La Vieja and Casco Viejo, which

indicate the route of the Camino. If we take Calle Bidebarrieta, we will pass the municipal library, which often holds exhibitions. Turning right at the end of Bidebarrieta, we find another symbol of Bilbao, the Café



Basílica de Begoña

Boulevard. The oldest in the city, it was built in 1870 in the art-decò style. Just to the left of it is the Teatro Arriaga, built in 1919. And right in front of it is the Arenal, where we started this walk.

Ensanche route

We start at the main entrance to the Euskalduna Centre, where we can see the "trees" (metalic lamposts) in the esplanade in front. Across the street is the Sagrado Corazón monument, which marks the beginning of Gran Vía, Bilbao's main avenue. On the left is the recently built Euskalduna bridge, which joins Bilbao with the Deusto district.

From here we walk along the river on the Evaristo Churruga quay towards the Guggenheim museum; on the other side of the river we find the Univeristy of Deusto (Eclecticist, F. de Cubas and J. M^a Basterra, 1886).

After spending some time in the Abandoibarra park and the Guggenheim (Frank Gehry, 1997), we walk to its upper level to join Alameda

Mazarredo and continue towards the Museo de Bellas Artes (Neoclassical, F. Urrutia and Estanislao Seguro, 1945). Taking Calle Elcano, we reach the Palacio de Chávarri (Eclecticist, Paul Hankar and Anastasio de Anduiza, 1894) in Plaza Moyúa. If we walk all the way around this building, we will find in Gran Vía, on the other side, the Casa Sota (Eclecticist, Manuel María de Smith, 1919).

Our walk ends in Palacio de la Diputación Foral (Eclecticist, Luis Aladrén, 1900), which is located in the Gran Vía, two blocks away from Plaza Moyúa in the opposite direction.

Bilbao "from above" route

The Artxanda cable car is a rather quaint but thoroughly enjoyable ride that will take us to Monte Artxanda. Here, the visitor will understand why the locals affectionately call Bilbao "el botxo" (the hole). Also we are able to see the Abra bay, as well as the airport on the next valley.

This area is a traditional leisure area for bilbainos, where everyone has a memory of a family picnic, a stroll with the first boy/girlfriend, of playing sports, or attend a wedding or first communion reception in one of its restaurants.

Shopping

Shopping areas

Casco Viejo
The traditional shopping

district of Bilbao, today the Casco Viejo can cater to the whole spectrum of shoppers, with alternative boutiques, chain stores, and traditional retailers.

Metro
Casco Viejo
Tram
Arriaga and Ribera



Artxanda cable car

Ensanche

It has grandly been called the "golden mille" for the high concentration of international designer shops, although it also has plenty of national and local retailers.

Metro
Moyua

Indautxu

Also a good shopping area, and well communicated with the rest of the city.

Metro
Indautxu

Shopping centres

Zubieta
It was designed by Robert

Stern, and provides the Bilbao mall experience, with shops, cinemas and restaurants.

Opening hours
10:00-22:00 h

Metro
Moyua
Tram
Abandoibarra

Tram
Arriaga

Arenal

Flowers and plants market.

Metro
Casco Viejo
Tram
Arriaga

Bolueta

For the bargain hunter in search of clothes, shoes, accessories and music. Held on Sunday morning.

Metro
Bolueta

Desembalaje

Back-of-the-lorry type antiquarian fair held twice a year at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre.

Metro
Ansio

El Corte Inglés

One of the best known department stores in the country, it is centrally located on Gran Vía, next to Plaza Circular.

Opening hours
10:00-21:00 h
Metro and Tram
Abando

Markets

Plaza Nueva

Sunday morning market with books, stamps, coins, memorabilia, birds and fish. An enjoyable activity complemented by the many bars and terrazas in the square.

Metro
Casco Viejo



San Antón bridge