

PRACTICAL GUIDE

VITORIA_The Basque Connection

From Vitoria Airport



Vitoria: 5 minutes



Rioja Alavesa: 35 minutes



Bilbao: 35 minutes



San Sebastián: 55 minutes

EUSKADI
BASQUE COUNTRY

visit
araba  **álava**

VITORIA
GASTEIZ
green capital

Ongi etorri

Welcome greeting in the Basque language

This guide is an invitation to you to come and explore the Basque Country and discover its cities, which are so close to each other and yet so different; its renowned cuisine and wines; and its diverse and spectacular landscapes.

The airport of Vitoria offers a very practical way to travel. This airport is very well located and from it you can access the main cities of the Basque Country, and the surrounding capital cities, via convenient motorways.

This guide tells you how to make use of Vitoria and its airport as a base of operations, given its excellent connectivity by car, bus and train.

Also, you'll find basic information, which you shouldn't miss, to help guide your discoveries.

Come and visit, you'll be pleasantly surprised.



Vitoria Airport



Vitoria International Airport stands out for its 3,500-metre-long runway, accommodating the largest planes in existence, such as the Antonov 225.

Even in adverse weather conditions, the airport is able to operate with wide safety margins due to electronic equipment which facilitates take-off and landing manoeuvres in very low visibility and the airport's location on a wide plain which avoids the formation of turbulences which could affect operation.

This large operational capacity, together with its strategic location, has allowed it to become the node connecting the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa with the rest of the world for DHL, one of the world's leading express parcel companies.

Vitoria airport is the fourth Spanish airport in terms of cargo volume and is an essential part of the logistics node developed around Vitoria that connects the Basque Country with the world.

An environment of 4 million people




► CONNECTIONS BY CAR


From the airport, by car, you can reach **Vitoria-Gasteiz** in 5 minutes, **Bilbao** in just over 30 minutes and **San Sebastián** in about an hour, on convenient motorways. These three cities are respectively the capitals of Álava, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, the three Historical Territories of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. Less than an hour away by car by motor-


way are **Pamplona** and **Logroño**, the capital cities of the Autonomous Communities of Navarra and La Rioja. Also, in just over an hour you can reach **Burgos**, the capital of the province of the same name belonging to the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León and in an hour and a half you can reach **Santander** and, in the French Basque Country, **Biarritz**.



► VITORIA AIRPORT BUS SERVICE


BUS
 Company:
Autobuses La Unión


+34 945 264 626


www.autobuseslaunion.com

Vitoria Airport is connected to the centre of Vitoria-Gasteiz by the **La Unión** transport company.

If you are travelling to the airport, the bus departs from the **bus stop on Cadena y Eleta Street** (opposite La Florida Park) and also stops **at the bus station**.

In the opposite direction, from the airport to the city centre, the route is in reverse order.

Please **check the bus timetables and purchase your ticket** at the following link:
<https://www.autobuseslaunion.com/A3700>

The bus fare is **€3**.

Please note that some buses only stop at the airport if tickets are purchased in advance or pre-booked.



► TAXI SERVICES - RENTAL CAR - PARKING



TAXI
 Company:
Radiotaxi


+34 945 273 500


www.rtaxigasteiz.com

If you are not in the Terminal, you can access this service by telephone. The price is **22 euros**.




RENTAL CAR

Various companies offer their services in Vitoria-Gasteiz: **Avis, Enterprise, Europcar, Hertz, Rentbycar, Just Drive**. You can make your reservation online or by phone.


FREE PARKING

555 PARKING SPACES

The airport has a free general car park with **555 parking spaces**, located a few metres from the Terminal exit.



BUS CONNECTIONS

Vitoria's Bus Station is located in **Plaza Euskaltzaindia**, opposite the headquarters of the Basque Government. It is connected to the airport by a special bus, and can be reached from elsewhere in city via **BEI (Intelligent Electric Bus) routes 2A and 2B**, alighting at **Euskal Herria**, as well as via **routes L1, L4 and L8**. By tram, you can choose from three stops very close to the station: **Honduras, Intermodal and Euskal Herria**.

From these modern facilities, you can easily travel to the different capital cities near Vitoria, as well as the main towns of Álava and Gipuzkoa provinces.

Below are the destinations for these ca-

pital cities and the main companies that provide the services. You can check the timetables on each company's website and buy tickets online.



BUS STATION

www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/estaciondeautobuses



945 161 666

Telephone Information hours:

- From 8:00 am to 8:00 pm from Monday to Saturday.
- From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

DESTINATION:

BILBAO



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact	
La Unión	2	www.autobuseslaunion.com	Tel: + 34 945 264 626

DESTINATION:

SAN SEBASTIÁN and CONEXIÓN with BIARRITZ



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact	
Alsa	8	www.alsa.es	Tel: + 34 902 422 242

DESTINATION:

SAN SEBASTIÁN and SURROUNDINGS of GIPUZKOA



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact	
Lurraldebus* Pesa	4	www.lurraldebus.eus/es www.pesa.net	Tel: + 34 900 121 400

DESTINATION:

LOGROÑO and SURROUNDINGS from ÁLAVA



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact	
Álavabus* Arriaga	7	www.alavabus.eus	Tel: + 34 945 182 060 (booking)

► DESTINATION:
PAMPLONA



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact
La Burundesa	2	www.laburundesa.com Tel: + 34 945 264 626

► DESTINATION:
BURGOS and SANTANDER



COMPANY	TICKET OFFICE	Contact
Alsa	8	www.alsa.es Tel: 902 422 242

* Lurraldebus and Álavabus are the names of the Gipuzkoa and Álava public transport network services - respectively - provided by concessionary companies.

Vitoria Railway Station

Vitoria is integrated into the European Atlantic Corridor: Paris-Madrid-Lisbon, making access possible to the rail networks of the corresponding countries.



► NEARBY CITIES BY TRAIN

Information	Telephone	DESTINATION	DURATION*
www.renfe.com	+ 34 902 320 320	Pamplona	55 min
		Burgos	73 min
		San Sebastián	90 min

* Depending on the type of train you choose, the journey time may vary. Check the timetables online.





Plaza de la Virgen Blanca, the city's nerve centre

Vitoria

«Vitoria is a hidden jewel» is a phrase repeated many times by those visiting the city for the first time. This surprise is perhaps because this is a discreet city, marked by the character of its inhabitants, in which there is no outstanding icon - what seduces is the city as a whole.

Today, Vitoria-Gasteiz is a city of 255,000 inhabitants - the second largest in the area - and is close to the ideal model of a medium-sized European city. It was founded in 1181, growing from the village of **Gasteiz** located at the top of the hill. The city descends to the plain by means of an architectural solution which is a global exemplar, **Los Arquillos**, a set of cascading arcades and squares. Further development during the Romantic period added its magnificent squares and parks. Sub-

The hidden jewel

sequently, the modern city has emerged, characterized by balanced development and high-quality infrastructure which is tailored to the well-being of its inhabitants. As a result, Vitoria has received numerous international recognitions endorsing its development path. The most recent of these are its designation as «**European Green Capital**», as well as the «**Global Green City Award**», reaffirming Vitoria-Gasteiz as a world-class model sustainable city.

The prestigious magazine *National Geo-*

graphic placed Vitoria **among the world's 25 best destinations** to visit in 2021 (**Best of the World 2021**).

Awards that bring to public attention the work which has quietly and continuously taken place over several decades, leading to a city which impressively combines the medieval and romantic, the modern and green. A friendly and comfortable capital city, designed for living.

Vitoria-Gasteiz: discreetly seductive.



The Medieval Quarter of Vitoria-Gasteiz has received three Europa Nostra awards (the highest European Cultural Heritage award) for its rehabilitation and recovery of iconic spaces and buildings



Externally, Santa María Cathedral shows its origin as a fortress and internally you can see its mystical architecture. It was this cathedral which inspired the writer Ken Follet to write «World without end», the second part of the global bestseller «The pillars of the earth»

Medieval Vitoria



To access the Medieval Quarter there are modern and comfortable mechanical ramps

You shouldn't miss the heart of the city: its medieval quarter. A unique layout in the form of an ogival (pointed) arc weaves a network of streets that retain the names of the guilds that, from early in the 13th century and for several centuries after, marked the daily rhythm of this beautiful and prosperous town. **Santa María Cathedral** (an essential visit), the 11th century **ramparts**, the **plaza del Machete**, various palaces and temples can all transport you in time to a remote and evocative era which is in great contrast with the bustling atmosphere that now, at certain times, floods the city's streets populated by charming small taverns, restaurants and shops. As a counterpoint, the **Artium Museum**, in front of the Medieval Quarter, invites you to immerse yourself, through art, in an avant-garde world.



Artium, the Basque Contemporary Art Museum, has one of the best collections of Basque and Spanish contemporary art in existence



The 16th century renaissance Palace of Bendaña houses the Fournier de Naipes Museum, considered one of the best in the world in its specialty. This palace coexists with the contemporary building of the Museum of Archeology, forming the museum space Bibat



The 19th century Florida Park has a set of gardens in Romantic style with species of trees from all around the world, most of which were acquired at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1855



The popular Calle Dato was initially called Calle de la Estación (Station Street) when it was planned in the mid-19th century as a connection to the railway station

Romantic Vitoria



The romantic extension of the city, with its pedestrian streets, shops, squares and gardens, invite you to take a stroll. A magnificent promenade, the most common one made by residents and visitors, coincides with part of the **Camino de Santiago** that crosses the city. It's just a **30 minute** walk from the **Plaza de la Virgen Blanca** to the **forest of Armentia**.



La expansión de Vitoria se inició a finales del s.XVIII con la construcción de la Plaza Nueva y Los Arquillos

In this brief journey, there are **three parks, three museums**, the seat of the Basque Parliament and the Ajuria Enea Palace, residence of the *lehendakari*, president of the Basque Government. It is worth walking along the **Paseo de la Senda**, with its mansions from the beginning of the 20th century, to the beautiful Romanesque temple of the **Basilica de San Prudencio de Armentia**, from the 12th century.



The Augustin-Zulueta Palace houses the Alava Museum of Fine Arts



The Ajuria Enea Palace is the residence of the lehendakari, president of the Basque Government



The Paseo de la Senda is very well-used by both residents and visitors. In its final section is found the 12th century Basilica of San Prudencio of Armentia



Vitoria

Since the middle of the 20th century, the growth of the modern city has been spectacular and has been carried out in an exemplary way. A model of urban planning characterized by its social cohesion criteria and environmental commitment. This expansion has been paralleled by the development of its economic potential at the

head of the territory of Álava, which is highly **industrialized** and capable of competing in the world, with **56.3%** of its production being **exported**. Important **multinational** production plants are based here and it has the **largest logistic node** in the north of Spain. This great development has been complemented in conjunction with sound

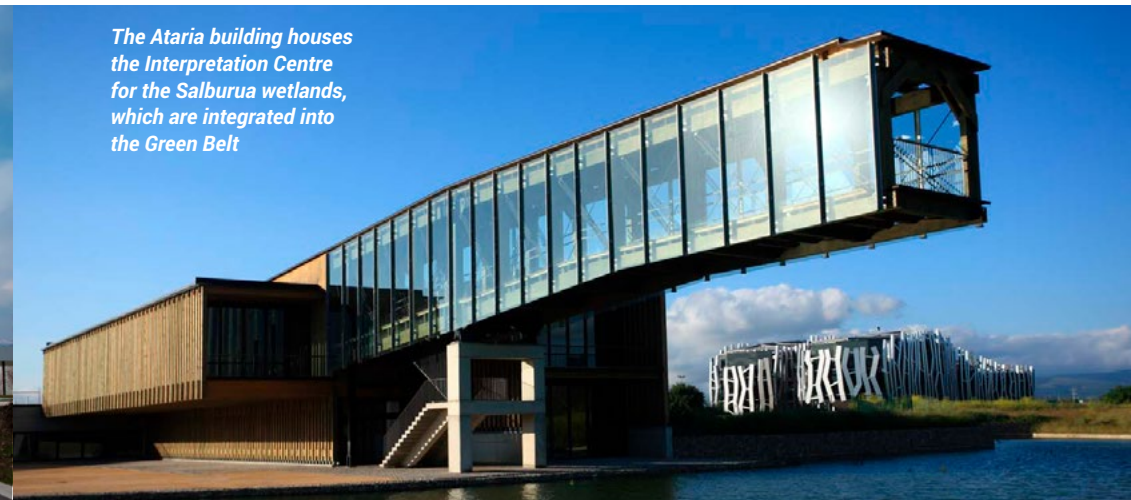
modern and green

environmental management and conservation of biodiversity and **protected areas**. Vitoria-Gasteiz, with **42 square meters** per inhabitant, is one of the European cities with the **largest area of green spaces** and landscaping per person. The **Green Belt** is an ambitious project of environmental recuperation of the city's periphery which

was initiated during the 1990s. It currently integrates **six peri-urban parks** strategically intertwined with the inhabited environment. This is a magnificent green environment for recreational use that surrounds the city offering a route of footpaths and cycle paths with a total length of **30.8 km**.



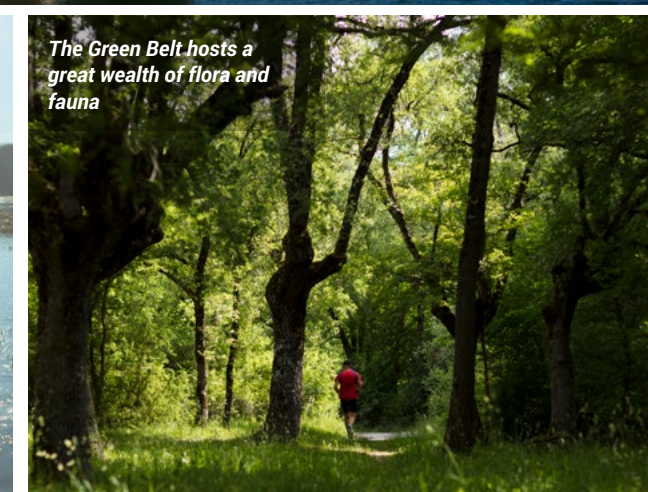
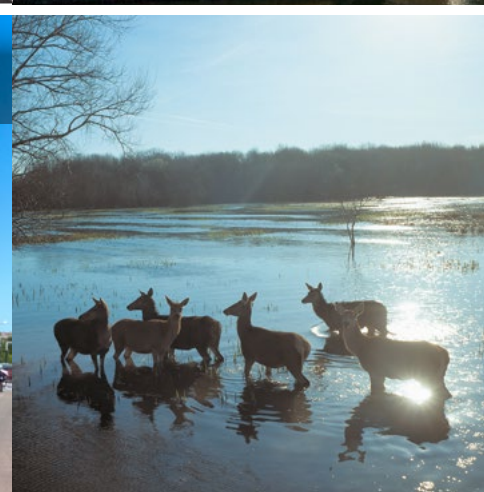
The Technology Park houses important companies and research centres



The Ataria building houses the Interpretation Centre for the Salburua wetlands, which are integrated into the Green Belt



The Europa Congress Palace is a benchmark of sustainable architecture



The Green Belt hosts a great wealth of flora and fauna



A trip to Rioja Alavesa is essential to see its landscape, history and heritage



The avant-garde architecture of some wineries creates unique landscapes in Rioja Alavesa

Álava

The cradle of one of the most highly regarded wines in the world

The wines of the Rioja Alavesa region, with Rioja Denomination of Origin, are present in the world's best restaurants.

Rioja Alavesa is located in the south of the province of Alava, about **35 minutes** from the airport of Vitoria. The capital of the region is the town of **Laguardia**.

Visiting Rioja Alavesa is a wonderful experience. An eloquent landscape with an undulating sea of vineyards stretching

down from the mountain range, dotted with small villas which are camouflaged against the colour of this land and exude its medieval past. You can visit wineries with **avant-garde architecture** and old wineries where you can hear the beating of time.

Its magnificent hospitality and service facilities are ready to accompany you in the discovery of a whole world of sensations.



One of the great pleasures of your visit to the Basque Country is the famous cuisine. The international success of Basque cuisine has its origin in the extraordinary quality of its native products. In addition

to tasting traditional or cutting-edge Basque cuisine, you must try the *pintxos*, which are the varied succulent appetizers offered in most bars.



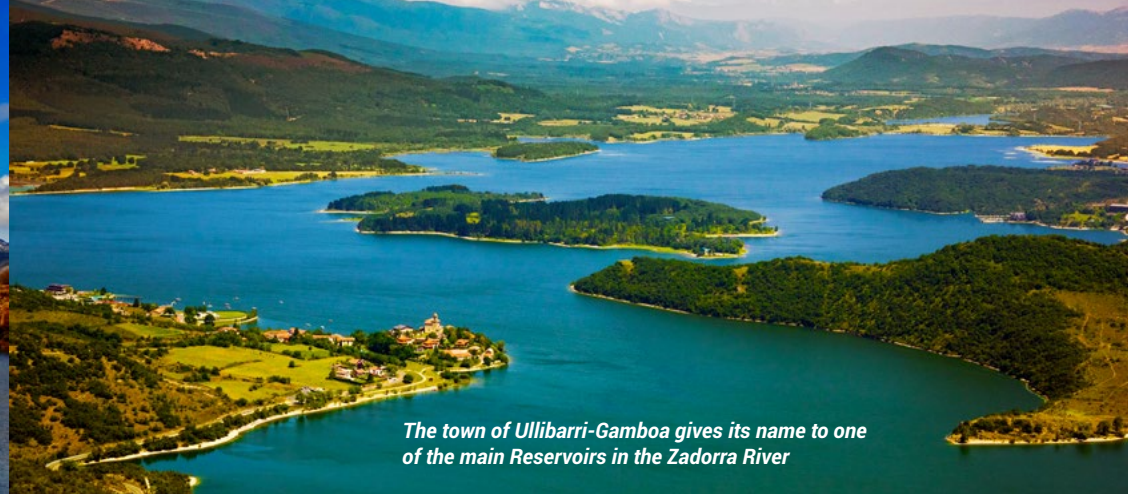
In Álava, you can visit recognized dairies that produce exquisite cheese with Idiazabal Denomination of Origin. Made from the milk of native breeds of sheep, this is one of the most highly-awarded cheeses in Europe and, since 1992, it has been granted the designation «European Culinary Heritage».



The medieval walled town of Laguardia has treasured wine cellars in the basements of its houses since at least the 16th century



The Ayala Valley combines an important historical legacy, the txakoli route (txakoli is a delicious wine produced in the Basque Cantabrian valleys), with magnificent scenery such as the Maroño reservoir and the Sierra Salvada



The town of Ullibarri-Gamboa gives its name to one of the main Reservoirs in the Zadorra River

Álava

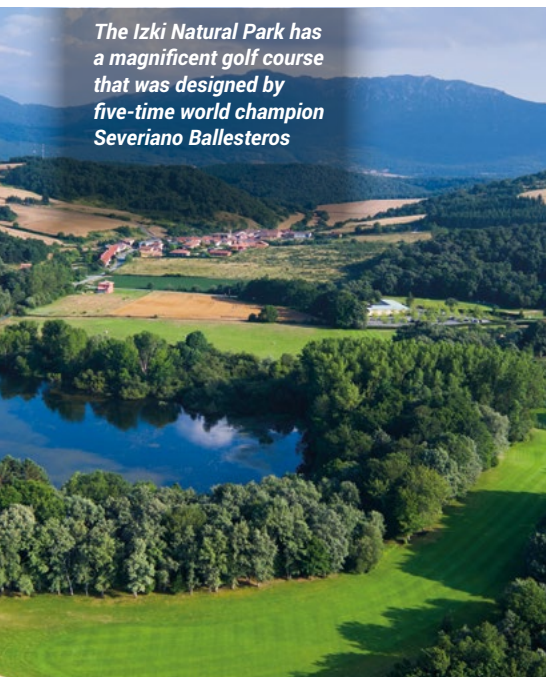
Over half of Álava is made up of **Singular and Outstanding Landscapes** and **28%** of the land forms part of the **European Natura 2000 Network**. Álava has **Five Natural Parks** where you can enjoy nature. It's the territory which contains the greatest diversity of habitats, and plant and ani-

mal species, in the Basque Country. An exceptional natural landscape that exhibits its beauty in majestic mountains and dreamlike forests with springs and rivers. The valleys of Álava show surprising contrasts. The **Valle Salado** (Salty Valley) has a salt landscape, unique in the world.

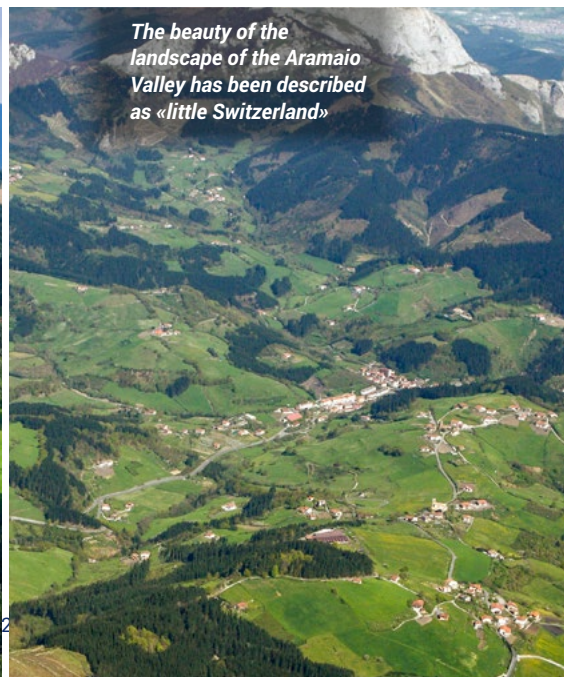
An exceptional natural landscape

On the Cantabrian side of Álava, the **Aramaio** valley has been compared to a «little Switzerland» and the Ayala valley offers magnificent landscapes such as the **Sierra Salvada**, the **Delika Canyon** and the **Salto del Nervión**, the highest waterfall in the Iberian Peninsula.

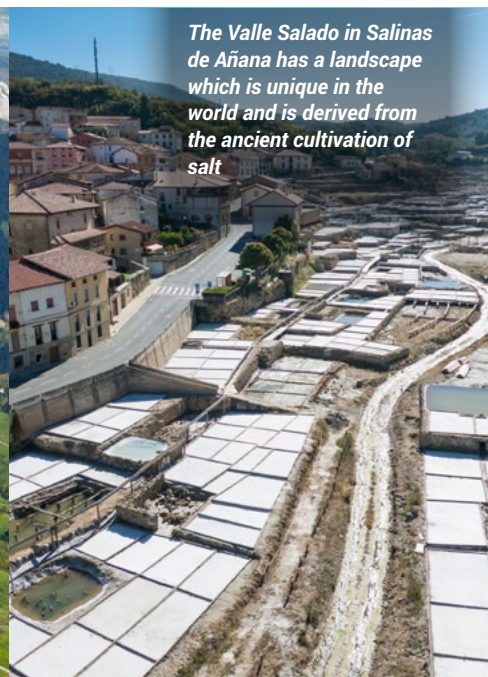
Just outside Vitoria, the **Zadorra Reservoirs** provide an ideal environment for water-sports and have beautiful routes for walking and bike riding. An excellent choice for lovers of active tourism and a place for families to enjoy nature.



The Izki Natural Park has a magnificent golf course that was designed by five-time world champion Severiano Ballesteros



The beauty of the landscape of the Aramaio Valley has been described as «little Switzerland»



The Valle Salado in Salinas de Añana has a landscape which is unique in the world and is derived from the ancient cultivation of salt

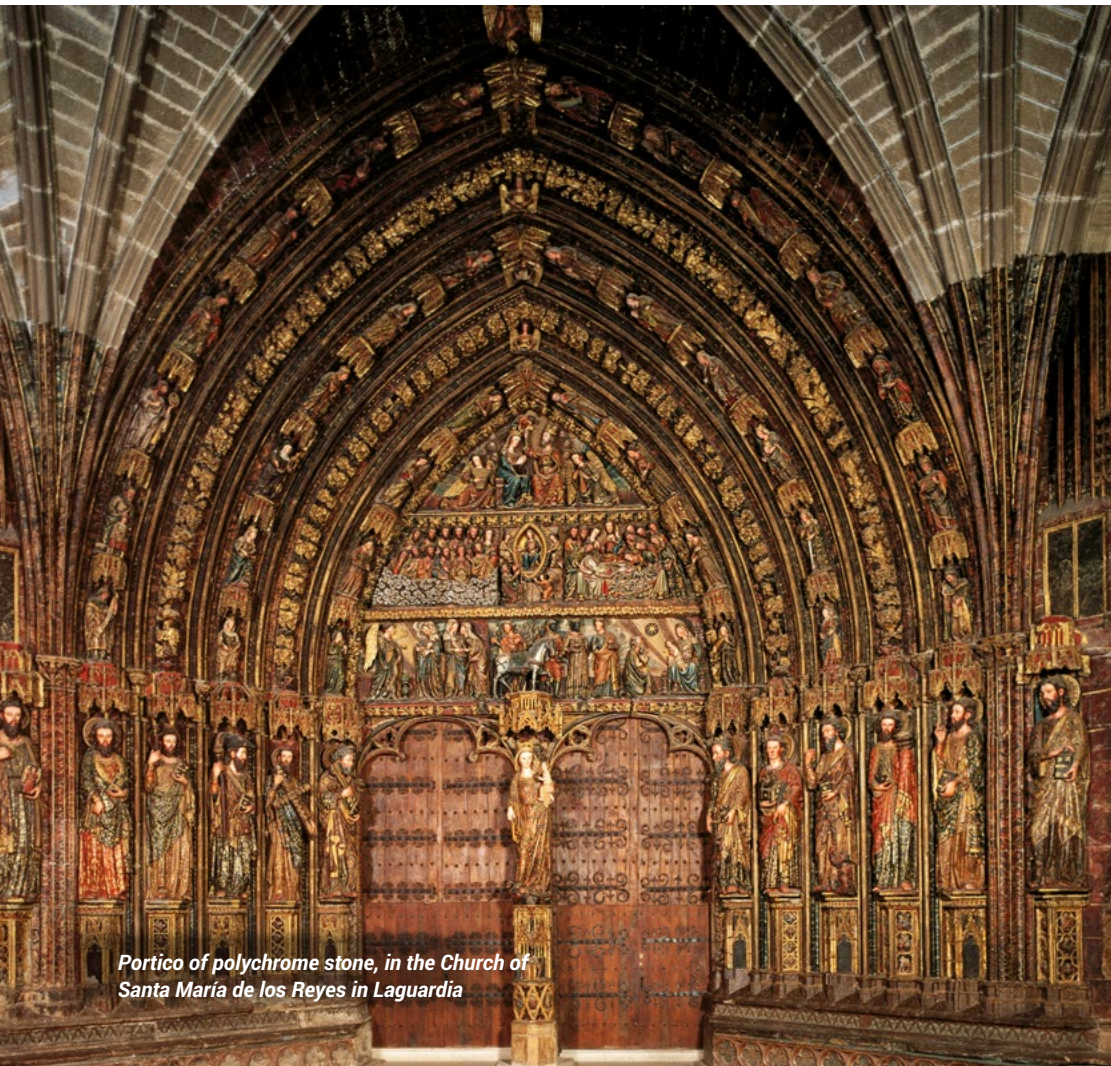


The Salto del Nervión is the highest waterfall on the Iberian Peninsula, with a fall of 222 m

Álava Historical Territory

Álava's strategic setting has allowed it to witness, and participant in, the unfolding of history from the times of the Roman empire. In the Middle Ages, Álava acquired an important role because of its privileged location at the crossroads of commercial routes and in the border territory between kingdoms. For this reason, many of the

province's towns treasure a valuable historical heritage and also display defensive constructions. As a result of its strategic location, Álava acquired a privileged legal status, the *fueros*, which allowed it an autonomy of government that is still in operation today and which has endowed it with the status of a Historical Territory.



Portico of polychrome stone, in the Church of Santa María de los Reyes in Laguardia



San Martín de Tours Church in Gazeo



The 12th century Monastery of Estíbaliz is located about 8 km from Vitoria. It's considered to be one of the Basque Country's most important Romanesque monuments from the Middle Ages



Between the Salado Valley and the Valderejo Natural Park, the Varona Tower-Mansion in Villanañe is an impressive example of the fortified buildings of the Middle Ages

The Top 10 Basque Country

very close from **Vitoria**

Bilbao



San Sebastián



Cristóbal Balenciaga Museoa



San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Hermitage



Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve



Vitoria



Laguardia - Rioja Alavesa



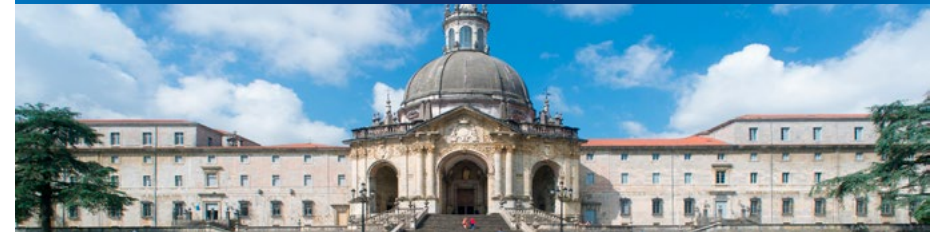
Gernika Assembly House



Bizkaia Suspension Bridge



Loiola Sanctuary



VITORIA_The Basque Connection



More information is available at:



www.turismo.euskadi.eus



www.alavaturismo.eus



www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/turismo



VITORIA International Airport
Promotion Agency **BASQUE COUNTRY**

