

Shhhhh



Visit Enkarterri

Next to Bilbao



Towns and villages

Tradition and modernity blend together in historic towns and villages.

Nature

From sea to mountain, stunning landscapes reign supreme in Enkarterri.

Treat yourself

Discover new flavours and treat yourself with our award-winning cuisine.

Culture and traditions

The course of history has gained Enkarterri a character of its own.





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Enkarterri is located in the westernmost part of the Basque Country, next to Bilbao. Here you will marvel at the exuberance of nature, walk along medieval streets and bridges, venture inside record-breaking caves and treat yourself with our time-honoured cuisine. What are you waiting for to visit us?

Area



500 km² (310 sq mi)

Public transport

Bizkaibus (bus service)
www.bizkaia.eus

Renfe (train service from Bilbao)
www.renfe.com/viajeros/cercanias/bilbao

Feve (train service from Bilbao and Santander)
www.renfe.com/viajeros/feve

How far?

Bilbao	10 km (6.5 mi)
Vitoria - Gasteiz	65 km (40 mi)
Santander	70 km (43 mi)
Donostia - San Sebastián	125 km (77 mi)
Madrid	425 km (256 mi)
Barcelona	640 km (397 mi)

Towns and villages

Abanto-Zierbena
Alonsotegi
Artzentales
Balmaseda
Galdames
Gordexola
Güeñes
Karrantza Harana
Lanestosa
Muskiz
Ortuella
Sopuerta
Trapagaran
Turtzioz
Valle de Villaverde (Cantabria)
Zalla
Zierbena



ENKARTUR

C/ Martín Mendia, 2
48800 Balmaseda (Bizkaia)
Tel. +34 / 946 80 29 76
www.visitenkarterri.com
info@visitenkarterri.com



KARRANTZA TOURIST OFFICE

B° Ambasaguas, 22
48891 Karrantza
Tel. 946 806 928
turismo@karrantza.org

SOPUERTA TOURIST OFFICE

Plaza Carmen Quintana, 6
48190 Sopuerta
Tel. 946 504 750
sopuertaturismo@sopuerta.biz



ZIERBENA TOURIST OFFICE

B° La Arena, s/n
48808 Zierbena
[Open only in summer]



Commitment to Tourism Quality



Commitment to Innovation

Shhhhh Enkarterri

Welcome to Enkarterri



Armañón Nature Park (Karrantza Valley)

Enkarterri



Cantabria



Burgos



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El Pobal Forge (Muskiz)



The Iron Route

The **Iron Route** is filled with the traces and memories of an old world that forged the **identity and industrious character** of Biscay. The stunning moonlike views that dominate this land attest to the rise and decline of open pit mining, which transformed entire towns and landscapes.



The route starts in **Trapagaran**, the mining heart of the Basque Country. The former open pit mines, now turned into lakes and trekking trails, are well visible from **La Reineta funicular**. A few steps from here, we will stumble across **La Arboleda** mining village, one of the best-kept in Europe, which affords unrivalled sweeping views of the surrounding valleys.

The exploitation of mineral riches brought great prosperity to Enkarterri in the 19th century, but also wiped out entire

towns and transformed the landscapes beyond recognition. The **Peñas Negras** (Black Hills) **Interpretation Centre**, located in the municipality of **Ortuella**, has documented these changes and makes a great vantage point to marvel at the stunning mining panoramas.

The route moves on to the neighbourhood of Gallarta, in **Abanto-Zierbena**, where the **Basque Country Mining Museum** lies. Looking over the impressive Concha II pit,

the museum boasts a great collection of mining artefacts and guides visitors through a turbulent past marked by strikes and social unrest, which gained the region and its dwellers a **subversive reputation**.

The area has undergone an impressive regeneration in recent years. **La Arena Beach**, running along the coastline of **Muskiz** and **Zierbena**, is regarded as a favourite surfing spot in the Basque Country. The retreat of the tides grants an exciting



Concha II Mine (Gallarta, Abanto Zierbena)



natural spectacle that can be seen on full display from **Itsaslur** (Muskiz), a promenade meandering gently through the rough cliffs of the Bay of Biscay along 2 kilometres (1.24 miles).

The nearby **port of Zierbena** still preserves its traditional charm, filled with fishing boats and pleasure crafts, not to mention top-quality restaurants where traditional **seafood and grilled fish recipes** are combined with the latest culinary trends – a deserved treat for discerning palates.

Iron has been ingrained in the

DNA of Enkarterri from time immemorial. The Romans were well aware of its mineral riches, and blacksmiths were admired and much sought-after in the Middle Ages. The town of **Muskiz** has kept the flame of **El Pobal Forge** burning since the 16th century. Every Saturday at noon the blacksmith delights visitors with a demonstration that engulfs the old building in flames to create all kinds of objects: ploughs, hammers, nails...

Hardship is replaced by luxury and glamour on the way to neighbouring **Galdames**, a municipality 30 kilometres (18 mi)

west of Bilbao. **Loizaga Tower**, a 14th-century stronghold nestled amid woods and vineyards, harbours Europe's largest Rolls-Royce collection. **A statue of local ship-owner Martínez de las Rivas** stands on a pedestal in **San Pedro** neighbourhood, not too far from the tower. It is considered one of the most outstanding honorary monuments in the Basque Country.

The town of **Sopuerta** was once the political centre of Enkarterri. The majestic former **Abellaneda House of Assembly**, now converted into **Las Encartaciones Museum**,

Shhhhh Enkarterri · The Iron Route

Abanto - Zierbena | Galdames | Muskiz | Ortuella | Sopuerta | Trapagaran | Zierbena





embodied for centuries the land's political rights and uniqueness. The museum is free and provides chronological insights into the history and life of the region and its people.

In Sopuerta's La Linde neighbourhood, once a booming mining community, we will find **old calcining kilns** listed as industrial heritage. Its surroundings are now dominated by walking trails and recreational areas – a fantastic spot to go on a picnic, enjoy a walk, ride a bike or just gaze at nature's exuberance at a former industrial site.

The route is crossed by the **Montes de Hierro (Iron Mountains) Greenway**, the longest in Biscay. Running over 40 kilometres (24 miles) along the old mine railways, it will take us on a journey marked by enthralling views, diverse wildlife – with large populations of European minks, salmon and white vultures – and outdoor activities for everyone.

Decades after the closing of the last pit, the echoes of the mines still resound through Enkarterri and beyond. According to legend, the shout uttered to celebrate

the victories of Athletic Club was coined here: **Alirón!** With a broken accent and undisguised joy, the miners communicated the extraction of pure iron – that is, “all iron” – to their English bosses, as it brought a generous bonus. The Iron Route keeps their memories alive throughout a journey filled with striking panoramas, unrivalled museums and charming corners.

Shhhhh Enkarterri · The Iron Route

Abanto - Zierbena | Galdames | Muskiz | Ortuella | Sopuerta | Trapagaran | Zierbena



Calcining kilns in Sopuerta



Loizaga Tower (Galdames)



Basque Country Mining Museum



B° Campodiego, 3. Gallarta (Abanto-Zierbena)
Tel: 946 363 682
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00.
Saturdays and holidays: 11:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00.
Sundays: 11:00 to 14:30. Open until 20:00 from 1 July to 31 August. Tours on request.
www.meatzaldea.eus

El Pobal Forge



B° El Pobal. Muskiz
Tel: 629 271 516
15 April to 15 October: Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00. Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00.
Rest of the year: Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 14:00. Guided tours. The foundry is fully operational on Saturdays at 12:00.
www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus/elpobal

Loizaga Tower Antique Car Museum

B° Concejuelo. Galdames
Tel: 946 802 976 / 649 412 001
Opening times: Sundays and national holidays from 10:00 to 15:00. Other days: tours on request for groups. Audio guides.
www.torreloizaga.com

Las Encartaciones Museum



B° Abellaneda. Sopuerta
Tel: 946 504 488
Summer opening times (July to September): Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 19:00. Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00.
Rest of the year: Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 14:00, and 16:00 to 18:00. Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00.
www.enkarterrimuseoa.eus

Muñatones Castle

B° San Martín 5. Muskiz
Tours for schools in May, June and October. General visitors: Sundays from 15 June to 14 September; tours on Sunday by calling 629 271 516 in advance.

La Arboleda Miners' House

B° La Arboleda. Trapagaran
Tel. 946 363 682
Guided tour through La Arboleda Mining Village and the restored miners' house. Tours on request only.
www.meatzaldea.eus



Peñas Negras Environmental Interpretation Centre

Carretera forestal La Arboleda - Muskiz, km. 1,6. Ortuella. Tel. 946 338 097
Opening times: Monday to Sunday and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 18:00.



Bodegas de Galdames Winery

B° Concejuelo. Galdames
Tel: 627 992 063
www.vinasulibarria.com



Sopuerta Abentura

B° San Cristóbal (behind San Viator School). Sopuerta
Tel: 663 80 56 09
www.sopuerta-abentura.com



Meaztegi Golf

Ctra. Triano - La Arboleda errepidea. Ortuella
Tel: 946 364 370
www.meaztegigolf.es



Mendian Zaldiz

B° El Castaño. Sopuerta
Tel: 649 988 473
www.mendianzaldiz.com



La Reineta Funicular

946 60 40 08
www.euskotren.eus/euskotren/funicular



La Arena Surf Center

B° La Arena 21, Lonja 6. Zierbena
Tel: 946 366 381 / 617 480 401
www.laarenasurfcenter.com



Arran Zerbitzu Kulturalak

B.º Buenos Aires, 1 (Edif. Preventorio, mód. 8)
Abanto-Zierbena
arranzk.wixsite.com/arran

Where to eat

Mugarri Restaurant

Plaza de Pobeña s/n. Muskiz
Tel: 946 707 799
www.apartamentosmugarri.com

Ortuella Hotel Restaurant

Avda. Bilbao s/n
(Polígono Granada, 1). Ortuella
Tel: 946 640 443
www.hotelortuella.com

Basilio Restaurant

B° El Crucero. Sopuerta
Tel: 946 50 4129

Mendiondo Restaurant

B° Revilla, 1
San Martín de Carral. Sopuerta
Tel: 946 504 452
www.mendiondo.com

Batzoki de Zierbena Restaurant

B° El Puerto, 19-21
Zierbena
Tel: 946 366 374
www.hotelkaiarural.com

Gloria Restaurant

El Puerto, 25
Zierbena
Tel: 946 365 013

Where to sleep

Las Palmeras Hotel

Avda. Fuente Vieja, 9
Muskiz
Tel: 946 706 392 - 647 852 800
www.laspalmerashotelrural.com

Ortuella Hotel

Avda. Bilbao s/n
Polígono Granada, 1. Ortuella
Tel: 946 353 204
www.hotelortuella.com

Mugarri Apartments

Plaza de Pobeña s/n
Muskiz
Tel: 946 707 799 - 617 038 292
www.apartamentosmugarri.com

Pikatzaneña Apartments

B° Cañedo, 8. Bezi
Sopuerta
Tel: 617 471 936
www.pikatzaneña.com

Kaia Hotel

B° El Puerto, 19
Zierbena
Tel: 946 366 374 - 636 204 423
www.hotelkaiarural.com



Medieval Bridge (Balmaseda)



The Kadagua Route

River Kadagua enters the town of Balmaseda impetuously and meanders eastwards through **lush landscapes** where nature reigns supreme.



San Severino Church (Balmaseda)

River Kadagua is deeply ingrained in **Enkarterri's** history and identity. Its waters greeted merchants and pilgrims, turned red during the bloody wars of the Middle Ages and oversaw the construction of majestic palaces and houses in the Renaissance. Today the river flows undisturbed eastwards into the Estuary of Bilbao through lush landscapes where nature reigns supreme.

The river enters **Balmaseda** – the first town founded in Biscay – so impetuously that its mighty

current triggered for decades the sophisticated machinery of **La Encartada Beret Factory**. The textile mill is the starting point of the Kadagua Route: a time travel experience to the dawn of the Basque Country's industrialization and the origins of our most distinctive garment: the *txapela* or beret.

The factory, now a museum, opened in the late 19th century and has reached our days as it was originally designed. The still-functioning pulleys, straps

and looms, along with its period decoration, transport the visitor to the roots of Enkarterri's **renowned textile tradition**.

The **old quarter** of Balmaseda awaits us on the other side of the **Medieval Bridge**, once a crossroads for merchants and artisans on their way to the hinterland or the not-too-distant ports. It was one of the gateways to the city and used to hold a customs post when such inner demarcations existed.



La Encartada Factory Museum (Balmaseda)

Balmaseda has preserved its medieval street structure, consisting of three long, narrow streets crossed by alleyways, all leading to ancient squares. Architectural landmarks spread throughout the town centre, such as Gothic **San Severino church**, Baroque Horcasitas and Urrutia **palaces** or the City Hall, known as **The Mosque** for its large columned portico, reminiscent of Muslim architecture in the Iberian Peninsula.

Two museums, devoted to

history and Balmaseda's well-known **Living Passion**, attest to centuries of local history and traditions. The town is proud of the Holy Week procession that year after year takes over its streets and culminates in a **breathtaking Crucifixion** represented by a neighbour.

The route moves on to the neighbouring town of **Zalla**. The Bolunburu recreational area, bathed by the river, is perfect to take a break and refuel while discovering its **monumental**

complex, comprising a tower-house, the Santa Ana Chapel, the ruins of an iron forge and the walls of a medieval fort.

Zalla, a town of tales and exorcisms, was for centuries a transit point for pilgrims and travellers of all sort. It was part of the Wool Route and the old **Mountain Way** to Santiago de Compostela. Legend has it that pilgrims found protection from evil spirits and consumption in **San Pedro de Zarikete** and **San Pantaleón churches**, not far from





where the Inquisition burned local Lucía de Aretxaga at the stake – her alleged crime: being a witch.

Enkarterri was the theatre of ferocious civil wars that ravaged the region in the late Middle Ages. Impregnable forts known as **tower-houses** populate the green valleys of the region, bearing witness to the brutality of such conflicts. The **Murga Palace**, now the Town Hall, was originally designed as a stronghold. Later on, as the end of the wars prompted great

prosperity, it was converted into a Baroque palace surrounded by a garden filled with exotic trees.

The municipality of **Güeñes** also benefited from the end of the wars. The splendid **Santa María Church**, embellished by a Gothic portal, presides over the elegant square named after it. It is one of the great architectural landmarks of Enkarterri, as well as **Villa Urrutia**, a 1910 sumptuous mansion turned into the Güeñes Town Hall. Its former gardens are home

to dozens of sculptures that make up **ARENATZarte**, an outdoor park where nature and art blend together.

Leandro Urrutia, an affluent textile merchant, had the house built for his family after amassing a fortune in Mexico. The gardens cover 1.5 hectares (3 acres) filled with majestic **trees and plants brought from all over the world**. A pergola and a small pond give the complex a romantic touch – an unbeatable setting to walk, read



and indulge in contemplation with the murmur of River Kadagua in the background.

Mr. Urrutia was an *indiano* – a local who had made a fortune in the Americas and then came back to Enkarterri to flaunt his wealth. The magnificence and extravagance of their houses, all boasting big gardens and a revolutionary architecture, preside over the valley of **Gordexola**. Attracted by the promise of affluence and success, many young people

followed their steps and crossed the pond, but very few of them had such a good luck.

Before winding to its end, River Kadagua enters the town of **Alonsotegi**, one of the steepest municipalities in the Basque Country and a must-see destination for **nature lovers**, as it is located at the feet of Mounts **Ganekogorta** and **Pagasarri**. The latter keeps 17th-century ice houses in its summit, a great food preservative at the time. Ice was so highly

valued that locals used to beg for snow in the temples and chapels that populate the town.

River Kadagua keeps meandering eastwards into the Estuary of Bilbao, leaving behind a land where **history intertwines with modernity** in the heart of nature, next to the city of Bilbao.



Ice houses in Mount Pagasarri (Alonsotegi)



Santa María Church (Güeñes)

Balmaseda | Zalla | Güeñes | Gordexola | Alonsotegi



La Encartada Factory Museum

B° El Peñueco 11. Balmaseda

Tel: 946 800 778

15 April to 15 October and Holy Week: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00.
Saturdays: 10:30 to 19:00 | Sundays: 11:00 to 15:00.
Rest of the year: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 to 14:00
Saturdays: 10:30 to 19:00 | Sundays: 11:00 to 15:00.
www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.es/laencartada

Balmaseda History Museum

Martin Mendia, 27. Balmaseda

Tel: 657 795 806

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00. 1 June - 30 September: also on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 17:00 to 19:30.

The Balmaseda Living Passion Interpretation Centre

Santa Clara Church and Convent
Campo de las Monjas. Balmaseda

Tel: 946 801 438

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday and holidays from 11:00 to 14:00. 1 June - 30 September: also on Friday from 17:00 to 19:30.

ARENATZarte

An outdoor sculpture park

Enkarterri, 5. Güeñes

Free access. Guided tours on request by calling 946 802 976.

www.arenartzarte.com



Bizkairoute

Urbanización Tepeyac, 11 Bajo.

Zalla

Tel: 685 757 999

www.bizkairoute.es



Zalla Campervan Parking

B° Gallardi, 6

Tel: 946 39 00 01

www.zalla.org

Balmaseda Campervan Parking

B° Las Laceras

Tel: 946 80 29 76

www.balmaseda.eus



Virgen de Lorea Winery

B° Lorea. Otxaran - Zalla

Tel: 629 455 620

www.bodegasvirgendelorea.com

Txakoli Egia Enea

Castillo La Piedra, s/n. Balmaseda

Tlf.: 661 922 101

Txakoli Markoleta

B° Markoleta, 10. La Quadra - Güeñes

Tel: 609 018 820

Txakoli Ulibarri Artzaiak

B° Isuskiza Handia, 1. Gordexola

Tlf.: 665 725 735

Txakoli Txabarri

B° Muñeran Auzoa 17, Aranguren. Zalla

Tel: 658 728 865

www.txakolitxabarri.com



Bizkaia Abentura Park

C/ Arangoiti, 1. 1D-1H. Güeñes

946 859 761 / 688 603 814

Opening times: Thursday: 17:00 to 20:30
| Friday: 17:00 to 21:00 | Saturday: 11:30 to 15:30 and 17:00 to 21:00 | Sunday: 11:30 to 15:30 and 16:30 to 20:30.

www.bizkaiaparkabentura.com

Guided tours and hiking routes

Leykatur

Karrantza

Tel: 616 498 621

www.leykatur.com

Alboan

Balmaseda

Tel: 605 757 420

www.alboanserviciosturisticos.com

Karrantza Gastronomika Turistika

Karrantza

Tel: 627 340 218

Carrantia

Karrantza

Tel: 618 055 753

www.carrantia.com

Where to eat

Albokak Restaurant

Ctra. Bilbao-Balmaseda (Salida 10)
Arbuio 11. Alonsotegi
Tel: 944 982 370
www.albokakjatetxea.com

Convento San Roque Restaurant

Campo de las Monjas, 2
Balmaseda. Tel: 946 102 268
www.hotelsanroque.es

Pintxo i Blanco

Martín Mendia, 5
Balmaseda. Tel: 626 166 665
www.pintxoiblanco.com

Komentu Maitea Restaurant

Bº Sandamendi 41. Gordexola
Tel. 946 798 082
www.komentumaitea.com

Aretxaga Restaurant

Bº. Aretxaga 16
Zalla
Tel: 946 390 679

Arcos de Quejana Restaurant

Ctra. Beotegui s/n
Quejana - Araba
Tel: 945 399 320
www.arcosdequejana.com

Where to sleep

San Roque Convent Hotel

Campo de Las Monjas, 2
Balmaseda
Tel: 946 102 268
www.hotelsanroque.es

Isasi Hotel

Bº Zubiete, 53
Gordexola
Tel: 946 798 224
www.hotelisasi.com

Baserri Taboada Cottage

Bº Allende 4 - Iratzagorria
Gordexola
Tel: 944 499 231 - 675 715 298

Komentu Maitea Hotel

Bº Sandamendi 41
Gordexola
Tel: 946 798 082
www.komentumaitea.com

Arcos de Quejana Hotel

Ctra. Beotegui s/n. Quejana - Araba
Tel: 945 399 320
www.arcosdequejana.com

Ibarra Hotel

Bº Llantada, 11
Zalla
Tel: 618 789 720
www.hotelibarrazalla.com



Ventana del Relux (Karrantza)



Western Valleys

Nature reigns unspoiled in the westernmost valleys of Enkarterri. An impressive network of **caves** and **chasms** extends beneath their karstic mountains and green pastures. Welcome to a **record-breaking land** of immense scenic views and surprises everywhere.



Traslaviña (Artzentales)

The route starts in **Artzentales**, a picturesque valleys of scattered country houses surrounded by rocky hills. This quiet and untroubled town was once a bustling railway junction. The trains cut through the mountainous fields bound for the coastline, where the iron ore was loaded into boats and vessels. The railways were dismantled decades ago and turned into the **Montes de Hierro (Iron Mountains) Greenway**, a 42-kilometre (26 mi) trail that starts next to the **Traslaviña** neighbourhood train station.

Enkarterri is packed with endless paths and hiking trails. The **Tejea forest**, located in the Cantabrian enclave of Villaverde, will take us into a lush jungle of beech, oak and chestnut trees. The steep and rough nature of these valleys determined the daily life of locals for centuries. The Villaverde Valley **Ethnographic Centre** leads the traveller to those old days.

Neighbouring **Turtzioz** is a charming valley with a character of its own. It boasts a distinctive kind of country house that combines elements from Basque

and Cantabrian architecture, such as large flowery balconies. The houses were built along the course of **River Agüera** after the end of the medieval wars that ravaged Enkarterri, adding to the bucolic setting of the region.

Prosperity gave way to an era where leisure took on a new significance. **Small bullrings** were built alongside churches to cheer up summer festivals and entertain the faithful after mass. They can be seen in Artzentales, Karrantza, Sopuerta and Turtzioz. Although bullfights are rarely



San Roque Church and bullring

held today, the rings are perfect to take a break and enjoy the surroundings. The **San Antolín complex**, in Artzentales, stands out with its arena, an unfinished church and a picnic area.

Few places breathe as much tranquillity as the westernmost lands of Enkarterri, guarded by the karstic mountains of the **Armañón Nature Park**. Located between the towns of Karrantza and Turtzioz, the park enjoys a special microclimate that covers its green pastures

with lush Mediterranean oak and beechwoods.

An impressive network of more than two hundred **caves and chasms** extends beneath Armañón. **La Torca del Carlista**, Europe's largest sinkhole, is accessed from here – only if you are a professional speleologist, such are its depth and extension. But none of them is as well-known as the **Pozalagua Cave**, voted Repsol Guide's Best Spot in 2013.

Pozalagua is a natural wonder that harbours the greatest concentration of **eccentric stalactites** in the world. These glittering structures sprout at whim and seem to defy gravity, intertwining in every direction. They make up an impressive patchwork of shapes, a surreal **underground cathedral** that spreads out into the bowels of the Armañón Nature Park.

Right opposite the cave, sculpted in a former dolomite quarry, the Pozalagua **auditorium** makes a



great venue for concerts, operas and plays due to its perfect scale and acoustics. A few steps away, the **Armañón Interpretation Centre** unveils all the secrets the park has to hide – and offers us a terrace to relish the sweeping vistas of the **Ordunte Mountains**, a protected range that is home to **Mounts Zalama and Balgerri**, two of the best-known peaks in Enkarterri and Biscay.

The cave was accidentally discovered in 1957, when an explosion at the quarry opened

a hole in the mountain and uncovered a secret, dazzling world. The mineral extracted here was airlifted to the nearby **Dolomite Factory**. The factory is now a museum and has been listed as a protected site due to the huge pulleys that used to move the aerial tram, which cannot be seen anywhere else in the Basque Country.

Karrantza Valley, the largest in Biscay, makes a great family destination surrounded by nature. **Karpin Fauna** is a **wildlife**

refuge centre for animals that cannot be returned to the natural habitat. Many of them have been rescued from illegal trafficking or abandonment, and here they find a proper environment to make a difference in their lives.

Karrantza proudly claims a diverse heritage. Sumptuous villas, palaces and temples abound in the valley. San Andrés de Biáñez Church is worth a visit. For generations, it hid a 16th-century **Renaissance fresco** discovered by sheer chance



Armañón Nature Park



Karpin Fauna (Karrantza)



after an altarpiece was removed during some restoration works. Both the church and the painting can be visited on request.

Neighbouring **Lanestosa** is the smallest and least populated town in Enkarterri. It seems impervious to time, with its narrow, cobblestone alleys filled with large balconied houses. The streets of this village have preserved the same structure since its foundation in the 13th-century. A **medieval stone bridge** and the **old lime kilns** add to the allure of the place.

Lanestosa has been a privileged witness to history since time immemorial. It was for centuries a strategic crossroads on the way from Castile to the port of Laredo. Its surroundings were already **inhabited in the Old Stone Age**, as shown by the paintings found inside Los Judíos (The Jews) Cave. The cavern is now home to **Koben Koba**, the first Palaeolithic rock art interpretation centre in Europe. It is located very near the route **emperor Charles V** followed on his way to the Monastery of Yuste, where he retired and

died after his abdication.

Located halfway between the cities of Bilbao and Santander, the western valleys of Enkarterri preserve a distinctive character that has lived up to our days. **Nature, heritage and gastronomy** go hand in hand to offer us a matchless chance to discover a fascinating culture, take a break and refuel amid incredible views.





Koben Koba: Palaeolithic Rock Art Interpretation Centre

Lanestosa
Tours on request by
calling 616 498 621

San Andrés de Biáñez Paintings

B° Biañez - Karrantza Harana
Tours on request by
calling 946 806 928

Dolomite Old Factory Museum

B° Ambasaguas
Karrantza Harana
Saturdays: 11:00 to 14:00 and
16:00 to 18:00 | Sundays:
11:00 to 14:00. Other days on
request by calling 946 806 928

Villaverde Valley Ethnographic Centre

B° La Matanza, 4
Valle de Villaverde - Cantabria
Tours on request for groups of 10
or more by calling 946 809 005



Armañón Nature Park. Interpretation Centre

B° Ranero (opposite the
Pozalagua Cave). Karrantza
Harana | Tel: 946 560 079
Opening times: Tuesday
to Sunday from 10:00 to
14:00 and 16:00 to 18:00.

Armañón Nature Park. Interpretation Centre

Avda. Lehendakari
Agirre, 59. Turtzioz
Opening times: weekends
and holidays from 10:00
to 14:30. July and August:
Tuesday to Sunday and
holidays from 10:00 to 14:30.

Pozalagua Cave

2 km from Ranero.
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 928 / 649 811 673
www.cuevadepozalagua.eus

Opening days: Weekends
and holidays all year round.
Christmas week and New Year's
week: Tuesday to Sunday and
holidays. Holy: Tuesday to
Sunday and holidays. Summer
(15 June to 15 September):
Tuesday to Sunday and
holidays. Rest of the year:
tours on request for groups of
ten or more. **Opening times:**
from 1 April to 15 October:
11:00 to 20:00 (last admission
at 19:00). From 16 October to
31 March: 11:00 to 18:00 (last
admission at 17:00). Pozalagua
is closed on 1 and 6 January;
18 September; 24, 25 and
31 December; and Mondays
(except holiday Mondays).



Karpin Abentura

B° Biañez, 37 - Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 107 066

www.karpinabentura.com

Summer opening times (1
July to 15 September): Monday
to Sunday from 11:00 to
19:00. **Winter opening times:**
Weekends and holidays from
11:00 to 19:00 (at 17:00 from
17 October to 31 March). Other
days on request. Open on
school holidays: Holy Week,
Christmas (except 24, 25, 30
and 31 December, and 1 and 6
January) and other off days.



Casa Pallotti Spa

B° El Molinar, 17
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 002
www.casavicentepallotti.com

Amalurra Spa

B° La Reneja, 35
Artzentales
Tel: 946 109 540
www.amalurra.com



Lanestosa Campervan Parking

C/ Mirabueno, 6
Tel: 946 806 116 / 675 716 161
www.lanestosa.net

Guided tours and hiking routes

Leykatur

Karrantza
Tel: 616 498 621
www.leykatur.com

Alboan

Balmaseda
Tel: 605 757 420
www.alboanserviciosturisticos.com

Karrantza Gastronomika Turistika

Karrantza
Tel: 627 340 218

Carrantia

Karrantza
Tel: 618 055 753
www.carrantia.com

Where to eat

Amalurra Hotel

B° La Reneja, 35
Artzetales
Tel: 946 109 540
www.amalurra.com

Gailurretan Restaurant

B° Lanzasagudas, 17
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 667
www.gailurretan.com

Casa Garras Restaurant

B° Concha, 6. Karrantza
Tel: 946 806 280
www.casagarras.com

Pallottienea Restaurant

B° El Molinar, 17. Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 002
www.casavicentepallotti.com

Where to sleep

Amalurra Hotel

B° La Reneja, 35. Artzetales
Tel. 946 109 540
www.amalurra.com

Amalurra Hostel

B° La Reneja, 35. Artzetales
Tel: 946 109 540
www.amalurra.com

Aingeru Cottage

B° Los Lombanos
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 107 180 - 675 118 632
www.casaruralaingeru.com

Gailurretan Cottage

B° Lanzasagudas, 17
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 667
www.gailurretan.com

Mendi Alai Cottage

B° Cezura, 23
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 944 005 440 - 678 787 256
www.mendialai.net

Casa Pallotti Spa

B° El Molinar, 17.
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 806 002
www.casavicentepallotti.com

Surprising architecture



Indiano houses

These sumptuous mansions were built in the late 19th century by the so-called *indianos* or locals who had made a fortune in the Americas and then came back to **flaunt their wealth** – a competition of precious extravagance still on display.

These *indiano* houses populate the valleys of **Gordexola, Lanestosa** and **Karrantza** with their large gardens filled with exotic trees and a revolutionary architecture for the time. For years the buildings signalled the prosperity not only of the owners, but also of the place, as the enriched neighbours used to finance public and charitable works in their towns.



Turtzioz country houses

The Turtzioz country house **combines elements from Basque and Cantabrian country houses**, such as large flowery balconies. These **sober yet majestic** buildings emerged near the course of **River Agüera** in the mid-18th century, as trade prompted a new, widely-shared prosperity in the region. Construction came to an end by the early 20th century.

Adding to the **bucolic setting**, this distinctive kind of country house abounds in the towns of Turtzioz, Artzentales and Villaverde Valley (Cantabria), scattered all over the mountainous lands of the region.



Guided tours

Muñatones Castle

B° San Martín (Muskiz)

Sundays from 15 June to 14 September

Information and reservations:

629 271 516



Medieval tower houses

Enkarterri was the theatre of ferocious **wars that ravaged the region** in the late Middle Ages. Impregnable forts known as **tower houses** were erected between the 14th and 16th centuries to protect feudal overlords. These forts had a homogenous contour that allowed for **residency** and **defensive** purposes, and became in the end a symbol of social grandeur and prestige.

The feuding Gamboa and Oñaz factions confronted each other with extreme violence. For centuries Enkarterri endured prolonged **hardship and squalor**. On a brighter note, the end of the wars prompted an unknown prosperity.

Muñatones Castle

Muñatones Castle was the culmination of a long construction process lasting from the 14th to the 15th centuries, amid the ferocious factional wars that ravaged Enkarterri. It is without a doubt one of the finest examples of the region's **architectural heritage** and has been designated a **landmark**.

Mighty nobleman **Don Lope García de Salazar** was born in the castle, where he wrote the first **history book** on the Biscayan people, a first-hand testimony to the blessings and curses of life.

Did you know that...?



... it was a tradition in western Enkarterri to build small **bullrings alongside churches and chapels** to cheer up summer festivals and entertain the faithful after mass?

The end of the ferocious wars that ravaged the region in the Middle Ages gave way to prosperity and, for the first time, **leisure** took on a new significance. **This picturesque sample of religious architecture** can be found throughout the towns of Artzentales, Karrantza, Sopena and Turtzioz.



... for centuries, superstitious beliefs in **spirits, witchcraft** and the like were deeply ingrained in the town of **Zalla**? Legend has it that pilgrims and devotees walked to **San Pedro de Zarikete** Church to seek protection from evil spirits.

In the nearby **San Pantelón** Church, the faithful used to pull a hat down over their ears and pray to find relief from headaches and consumption. Not far from here the **Inquisition** burned Lucía de Aretxaga at the stake accused of being a witch.



... an invaluable **Renaissance fresco** was discovered by sheer chance during the renovation works of **San Andrés de Biáñez Church**, in **Karrantza**? The huge painting emerged after an 18th-century wooded altarpiece had to be removed.

The church can be visited on request. The guided tour will also explain the significance the **indianos** –locals who had made a fortune in the Americas and then came back to flaunt their wealth– had in supporting the arts and religion.

Two routes to Santiago

The Northern Way and the Old Mountain Route



Are you planning on walking the **Camino de Santiago**? Two routes of the legendary Saint James' Way go through Enkarterri: the popular Northern Way and the little-known Old Mountain Route.

The **Norther Route** starts in Portugalete and passes through the towns of **Ortuella**, **Abanto-Zierbena** and **Muskiz** along the coastline of the **Bay of Biscay**. Stopes are rarely steep, so it's absolutely bike friendly. The sweeping mining vistas and the proximity of the sea add to the appeal of this route marked by natural heritage. A **pilgrims' hostel**

located in the neighbourhood of **Pobeña** (Muskiz) will provide travellers with affordable accommodation from May to September.

The little-known **Old Mountain Route**, unjustly forgotten, is filled with outstanding landmarks – and many detours to take. It starts in **Bilbao** and heads westwards through **Alonsotegi**, **Güeñes**, **Zalla** and **Balmaseda**. This route used to be a bustling road followed by merchants and travellers. It is populated by stunning mansions, palaces and defensive tower houses from the Middle Ages.



Pobeña Pilgrims' Hostel (Muskiz)
From 1 May to 30 September



More information
www.elcaminooldivado.com
www.turismo.euskadi.net

Your best experience



Explore our **medieval streets**, discover **nature's genius**, marvel at unique spots and listen to the most exciting **tales and stories**. We invite you to travel through Enkarterri with the help of those who know it best.

Next to Bilbao, the region is a safe bet to take a break from the city in a **countryside setting** of stunning landscapes, charming historic villages and ancient traditions. Here you will enjoy a great number of **experiences** related to **nature, culture** and **gastronomy** to make the most of your trip.

Enkarterri was for centuries a land of noblemen and a strategic settlement on the way from the

coast to the hinterland. Its unrivalled heritage and a distinctive character have lived up to our days, making it an **open-air museum**.

But above all, this westernmost region of the Basque Country is a **natural paradise**. Whether you want to relax or get your adrenaline pumping, Enkarterri has it for you. Discover us on foot, riding a bike or on a 4WD. Our routes and activities are suited to your preferences to make sure **you live a great experience**.

Catching waves



La Arena Beach runs along the coastline of **Muskiz and Zierbena** for over 2 kilometres (1 mi). It is a favourite surfing spot in the Basque Country, with **three main waves** that can provide epic sessions. Are you new to this sport? Then, choose one of our courses and get on the surfboard!

If you are well versed in surfing but didn't bring your **equipment**, **La Arena Surf Center** has everything you need to start catching waves.

La Arena Surf Center

B° La Arena, 21. Zierbena

Tel: 946 366 381 / 617 480 401

centroyescueladesurflaarena@gmail.com

www.laarenasurfcenter.com

Above the trees



Burn up stress above the trees: Tibetan bridges, zip-lines, balance beams and much more. **Sopuerta Abentura** is the first tree-to-tree adventure park in the Basque Country, located in the town of Sopuerta.

Sopuerta Abentura has ten circuits ranging from 1 to 24 metres (around 80 ft) in height. The park is suitable for everyone older than 4, and has a special safe circuit for children under that age.

Sopuerta Abentura

B° San Cristóbal (Behind San Viator School)

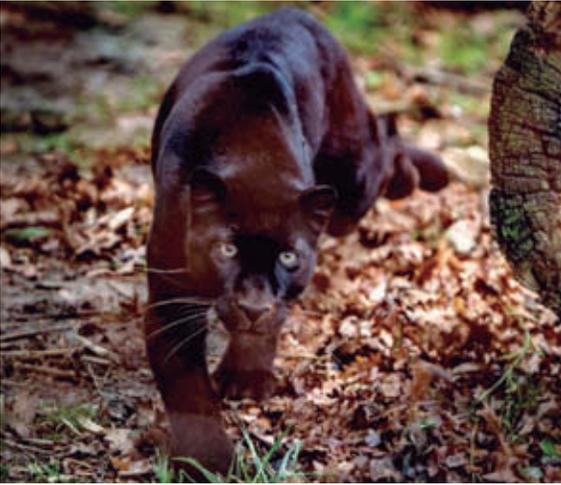
Sopuerta

Tel: 663 805 609

info@sopuerta-abentura.com

www.sopuerta-abentura.com

Karpin Fauna



Who would have guessed that the quiet and peaceful Karrantza Valley could be home to **panthers, kangaroos, guanacos** or **crocodiles**? They are the dwellers of **Karpin Fauna**, a wildlife refuge centre for animals that cannot be returned to their natural habitat.

The animals find here a **proper environment** to make a difference in their lives and help raise awareness against animal abuse.

Karpin Fauna

Biáñez, 37. Karrantza Arana

Tel: 946 107 066 / 626 622 245

karpinabentura@karpinabentura.com

www.karpinabentura.com

A world of pirates



Welcome to a world of pirates. Let the little ones climb up to the top of a lighthouse, **escape from the buccaneers** and go down a never-ending slide while you disconnect at the **corsairs' tavern**.

Bizkaia Park Abentura is just 15 minutes from Bilbao, in a **closed fairground** full of surprises and emotions. It is aimed at children between the ages of 1 and 13, and has different areas adapted to each age group.

Bizkaia Park Abentura

Arangoiti, 1 – Pabellón 1D - 1H. Güeñes

Tel: 946 859 761 / 688 603 814

info@bizkaiaparkabentura.com

www.bizkaiaparkabentura.com

Water is life

Thermal baths and spa



Immerse yourself in **your own essence**. More than 70% of our body is made of **water**. Drop by **El Molinar Thermal Baths** or **Amalurra Spa** and leave stress and worries behind. Health circuits, Turkish baths, saunas, massages and much more – an invigorating experience in the heart of nature.

El Molinar Thermal Baths

B° Molinar, 17. Karrantza

Tel: 946 806 002

inforeservas@casavicentepallotti.com

www.casavicentepallotti.com

Spa Amalurra

B° La Reneja, 35. Artzentales

Tel: 946 109 540

amalurra@amalurra.com

www.amalurra.com



Balmaseda

A medieval adventure



The echoes of history whisper through every corner of this **first town** in Biscay, founded in 1199. Our guides will take you through **Balmaseda's** medieval streets, unveiling the secrets of its past and present. Discover a Romanesque bridge bathed by River Kadagua, ancient plazas and majestic churches – not to mention an award-winning cuisine.

Alboan

Tel: 605 757 420 | alboanjgb@gmail.com

www.alboanserviciosturisticos.com

Leykatur

Tel: 616 498 621 | info@leykatur.com

www.leykatur.com

The Relux Window



Join us on this guided route to a magic spot in Karrantza. The Relux Window is a **natural arch** that affords incredible views of the surrounding valleys and even of the sea on sunny days. The route starts at the foot of Mount Mazo and moves on amid **green pastures** and the company of **vultures**.

Carrantia

Tel: 618 055 753

sergio@carrantia.com

www.carrantia.com

A dream of grandeur



Discover the life stories of the **indianos** – or locals who left Enkarterri bound for the Americas, where they made great sums of money. Many of them later came and showed their wealth building **impressive summer houses**.

We will tell you how they amassed a fortune, how their **luxurious daily life** was and why they used to finance public and charitable works in their hometowns. A guided tour full of secrets and surprises through **Karrantza's** main *indiano* houses.

Leykatur
Tel: 616 498 621
info@leykatur.com
www.leykatur.com

Prehistory and witchcraft



We invite you to join us on an incredible route, amid stunning views of River Kadagua and the surrounding mountains near the Bolunburu recreational area, in **Zalla**. We will walk to a **medieval settlement** made up of a tower-house, a temple, the ruins of an iron forge and a former fort – **nature, culture, myths** and **legends** in just one tour.

Alboan
Tel: 605 757 420
alboanjgb@gmail.com
www.alboanserviciosturisticos.com

Be a chocolatier for a day



Learn where **chocolate** comes from and the differences between its varieties. At Kaitxo's laboratory, located in Balmaseda, we will show you how liquid chocolate is manually tempered, as well as all the remaining steps of manufacturing this **exquisite delicacy**.

You will design **your own chocolate bar** and take it home. Sweeten your stay in Enkarterri with the most delicious and authentic squares!

Kaitxo

Avda. Encartaciones, 72. Balmaseda

Tel: 657 034 266 / 946 800 679

kaitxo2017@gmail.com

www.kaitxo.com

The coffee taster



Learn how to appreciate coffee as a professional taster does. We will show you where the **beans** come from, how the **roasting** process works and what makes **specialty coffee** so special.

You will have the chance to taste the best varieties of coffee **from around the world**, and will get a little surprise gift. A matchless experience for coffee lovers – a beverage that many consider the **real black gold**.

Kaitxo

Avda. Encartaciones, 72. Balmaseda

Tel: 657 034 266 / 946 800 679

kaitxo2017@gmail.com

www.kaitxo.com

Make your own railway stew



With the help of a local chef, we will cook a **bean stew** served with pieces of rib, black pudding, bacon and chorizo. While the beans simmer over a low heat of coal, you will have the chance to relish a **pintxo** and a glass of **txakoli**, the quintessential Basque white wine.

The Balmaseda railway stew has been honoured by **Slow Food**, an international movement aimed at preserving good taste and diversity from the threat of culinary impoverishment.

Pintxo i Blanco

Martín Mendia, 5. Balmaseda
Tel: 626 166 665 / 637 803 516
catering@pintxoiblanco.com
www.pintxoiblanco.com

Leather workshop



Make your own **leather goods** using genuine **vegetable-tanned leather** at Aretxederra workshop. You will get high quality and exclusive products; unique leather articles and accessories that cannot be found anywhere else.

The workshop is located in **Sopuerta**, a mountainous town that affords the tranquillity and beauty necessary for **inspiration**.

Aretxederra

B° Santa María, 16. Sopuerta
Tel: 607 761 059
aretxederra@aretxederra.com
www.aretxederra.com

Enkarterri Bike-Friendly



Enkarterri Road Experience

Feel the freedom of pedalling on **endless countryside roads** with tortuous curves, amid great vistas. Rediscover the joy of cycling in a natural setting of stunning panoramas, perfect for a two-wheel ride.

- **Days:** 6
- **Nights:** 5
- **Stages:** 5
- **Length:** 444 km
- **Elevation gain:** 6,470 m
- **Maximum group:** 12 people



Included

- Accommodation
- Briefing and welcome pack
- Luggage transportation between hotels
- Tracks and route description
- Bike-friendly hotels: bike stands, washing area and repair area with tools
- Basic accident insurance

* Check online for additional services



Enkarterri Bikefriendly

Tel: 685 757 999

info@enkarterribikefriendly.com

www.enkarterribikefriendly.com



Photos: ©Bizkairoute

Enkarterri MTB Experience

This circular route (available in three, four or five stages) runs across the **Armañón Nature Park**, ascends the **Ordunte** and **Triano Mountains** and looks over the rugged cliffs of the **Bay of Biscay**. A stunning MTB experience filled with rugged peaks, sprawling valleys, meandering brooks and endless forests.

- **Days:** 4, 5 or 6
- **Nights:** 3, 4 or 5
- **Stages:** 3, 4 or 5
- **Length:** 197, 226 or 239 km
- **Elevation gain:** 5,000, 5,700 or 6,200 m
- **Maximum group:** 12 people



Included

- Accommodation
- Luggage transportation between hotels
- Tracks and route description
- Bike-friendly hotels: bike stands, washing area and repair area with tools
- Basic accident insurance

* Check online for additional services



Enkarterri Bikefriendly

Tel: 685 757 999

info@enkarterribikefriendly.com

www.enkarterribikefriendly.com



Enkarterri Family Experience

Discover the **Iron Mountains Greenway** pedalling with your family. This route along Enkarterri's old mine railways is especially suited for kids, with reasonable stages and activities for all. The route is marked by diverse wildlife and great views of the surrounding mountains and the sea.

- **Days: 2 or 3**
- **Nights: 1 or 2**
- **Stages: 1 or 2**
- **Length: 21 or 49 km**
- **Elevation gain: 130 or 420 m**
- **Maximum group: 12 people**



Included

- Accommodation
- Briefing and welcome pack
- Luggage transportation between hotels
- Tracks and route description
- Bike-friendly hotels: bike stands, washing area and repair area with tools
- Basic accident insurance

* Check online for additional services

From the vine to the glass



Visit one of Enkarterri's wineries and discover the secrets of **txakoli**. Don't miss out on this chance to learn all about the history and making of this quintessential Basque wine. Be alert and **keep your senses sharp** (eyes, noses and taste) to experience all of its nuances.

You will discover how this much appreciated beverage is made and try a plurality of varieties. Relish your glass txakoli in one of Enkarterri's vineyards.

Bodegas de Galdames Winery

B° Concejuelo, s/n. Galdames

Tel: 627 992 063

info@vinasulibarria.com

www.vinasulibarria.com

Bodegas Virgen de Lorea Winery

B° Otxaran. Zalla

Tel: 629 445 620

virgendelorea@spankor.com

www.bodegasvirgendelorea.com

Txakoli Markoleta Winery

B° Markoleta, 10. La Quadra, Güeñes

Tel: 609 018 820

markoletabodega@gmail.com

Txakoli Txabarri Winery

B° Muñieran, 17. Aranguren, Zalla

Tel: 658 728 865

itxasa@gmail.com

www.txakolitxabarri.com

Armañón Nature Park



Armañón is one of Enkarterri's natural treasures. The **karst terrain** of the park, located between the municipalities of Karrantza and Turtzioz, is covered by fertile green pastures and rough stone hills that grant Armañón a special microclimate. This is why Mediterranean **oak and beech woods** grow lush here, so near the Bay of Biscay.

Armañón Nature Park affords immense scenic views of the surrounding valleys. An impressive network of more than **two hundred caves and chasms** extends beneath the ground, some of them open only to speleologists, such as **La Torca del Carlista**, Europe's largest sinkhole.

None is as well known, however, as the **Pozalagua Cave**, voted **Repsol Guide's** Best Spot in 2013.

Pozalagua offers a unique spectacle: the greatest concentration of eccentric stalactites in the world. These dazzling structures seem to defy gravity, intertwining in every direction with the strangest of shapes.

The underground chamber makes for an impressive sight. The gangway meanders through columns, flowstones and an almost dry lake above which thousands of **eccentric stalactites** grow lawlessly, depicting what seems to be an



Armañón (Turtzioz)

immense coral reef. The end of the tour offers an unrivalled view of the cave and its **grandeur**, marked by bizarre structures and shapes.

The **Armañón Interpretation Centre**, located next to the cave, disseminates the park's wildlife and geological features. Numerous endangered species live here, under the watch of **Mount Armañón**, the highest peak, at 859 metres (2,808 ft). Its round summit, often crowned with snow in the winter, conveys a sense of the serenity the place breathes.



Pozalagua Cave



B° Ranero
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 649 811 673

www.cuevadepozalagua.eus

**Armañón and Ordunte Mountains
Interpretation Centre**

B° Ranero (opposite the cave)
Karrantza Harana
Tel: 946 560 079

**Armañón Nature Park
Interpretation Centre**

Avda. Lehendakari Agirre, 59
Turtzioz

Ordunte Mountains



Mount Koltza (Balmaseda)

The **Ordunte mountain range** stretches over 20 kilometres (13 mi) along the south of Karrantza Valley, forming one of Enkarterri's natural borders. Its highest peak, **Mount Zalama**, stands at 1,366 metres (4,500 ft) above the sea level, although many other summits here also surpass the 1,000-metre mark.

Beech forests, mountain grasslands, heaths and bogs cover the terrain. The Ordunte Mountains are home to a variety of endemic plants, some of which are listed in **Natura 2000**, a network of nature protection areas in the European Union.

Wildlife is equally abundant and diverse within the range, including some **endangered species** such as Bonelli's eagle or a variety of vultures.

Although not the highest in the range, **Mount Koltza** (879 metres; 2,883 ft) is probably its best-known peak. For centuries horns were played and bonfires lighted on its summit to convene **communal meetings**.

Humans and mountains have intertwined in Enkarterri from the beginning. It is not a coincidence that **San Roque Church**, one of



The Sobrepeña Lookout (Karrantza)

the very few Romanesque-style temples in Biscay, stands on the summit, overlooking the impressive 360° panorama of the surrounding valleys the mountain affords.

Mount Koltza can be reached from a **signposted trail** starting right behind the Balmaseda Town Hall – a 6-kilometre (3.7 mi) route that ascends the mountain leaving behind picturesque country houses, *txakoli* vineyards and beech woods.



**Armañón and Ordunte Mountains
Interpretation Centre**

B° Ranero (opposite the cave)

Karrantza Harana

Tel: 946 560 079

Triano Mountains



La Arboleda (Trapagaran)

Iron has been ingrained in the DNA of Enkarterri from time immemorial. The **Romans** were well aware of the **vast mineral riches** the Triano Mountains harboured, although the exploitation of iron ore deposits did not begin until the 19th-century, forging breathtaking moonlike panoramas.

The open-pit mines brought great prosperity to Enkarterri, but also wiped out entire towns and transformed the landscapes **beyond recognition**. Some industrial facilities and a few miners' houses remain standing decades after the closing of the last mine, in 1993. An impressive **regeneration effort** began then and has continued to our days.

The **Peñas Negras** (Black Hills) **Interpretation Centre**, located in the municipality of **Ortuella**, has documented these changes and makes a great lookout to marvel at the stunning mining panoramas that dominate the Triano Mountains. Peñas Negras tries to convey the impact mining had on nature and the character of the people. Strikes and social unrest were indeed common in the first half of the 20th century, gaining the region a **subversive reputation**.

The regeneration can be seen following the path of the old mine railways, now turned into the **Montes de Hierro (Iron Mountains) Greenway**, the longest in Biscay. Running over 40 kilometres



(24 miles), it shows the heritage of a region dramatically transformed by human activity.

The route follows the River Barbadun basin, a journey listed in **Nature 2000** and marked by a **diverse wildlife** with large populations of European minks, salmon and white vultures. Itinerary: Traslaviña (Artzentales), Sopena, Galdames, Muskiz, Abanto-Zierbena and Zierbena.



Peñas Negras Environmental Interpretation Centre

Carretera forestal
La Arboleda - Muskiz, km. 1,6
Ortuella
Tel: 946 338 097

A land of flavours



Cuisine can be an art in Enkarterri. Here you will not only take delight in our **time-honoured cuisine**, but will do so in a tranquil countryside setting dominated by rivers, forests and hills. Whether in an ancient convent or a typical Basque country house, this gastronomic treat was long overdue.

Balmaseda's **railway stew** makes a spirited beginning. It dates to the 19th century, when engine drivers made use of the train's steam and clattering to cook a uniquely flavoured stew. The red beans are cooked with pieces of rib, black pudding, bacon

and chorizo over a low heat of coal that replicates the **original cooking technique** – a process that can take up to five hours.

Diners are recommended to be patient and relish a glass of **txakoli** – the dry, sparkling quintessential Basque wine – or perhaps a **chilled** beer, for brewing is an art deeply ingrained in the region. A select vermouth adds up to the joyous beverage experience.

Enkarterri's cuisine has been mentioned by **Slow Food**, an international movement aimed at preserving good taste and tradition



from the threat of culinary impoverishment.

Zalla's purple onion – sweet, not very spicy and certainly juicy – makes a good example of the region's gastronomic diversity.

Enkarterri produces top-quality milk from which a wide range of **dairy products** is made. The exclusive Latxa native sheep breed gives cheese a creamy and tangy flavour. Our confectioners have preserved **pastry recipes** for generations, gaining our desserts and sweets a well-deserved fame. It is not a coincidence that Kaitxo's **chocolate** – the white variety, to be precise – has been awarded as one of the best in the world.

Enkarterri meets the sea through La Arena Beach. Taste and eyes come to good terms in Zierbena, where guests will enjoy superior **grilled fish and seafood recipes** at waterfront restaurants stroked by a gentle breeze.

We invite you to visit us in Enkarterri and discover our award-winning culinary tradition. Bon appétit!



Get our products online

www.visitenkarterri.com/productos/



Bread and pastries

Bread is the **cornerstone of our gastronomy**, an essential accompaniment to meals. Enjoy it with our freshly baked pastries – a delicious treat of great quality.

Galdamesko Ogia

B° Garai | Galdames
Tel: 665 405 361

Crosta

B° San Pantaleon, 2 bajo | Zalla
Tel: 946 390 447



Matxako

B° Concha, 19 | Karrantza
Tel: 946 806 110
www.matxako.com

Horno de Leña Saratxaga

B° Artxube, 7 | Güeñes
Tel: 660 696 511
www.pancaserosaratxaga.es



Specialty coffee and chocolate

Here we know how to **master the real black gold**: coffee and chocolate. We only choose the best coffee and cocoa beans to make real treats.

Kaitxo

Avda. Encartaciones, 72 | Balmaseda
Tel: 657 034 266 / 946 800 679
www.kaitxo.com



Meat

The cattle industry remains one of the foundations of our economy and is acclaimed for its excellence. Visit us and try our **beef, pork and lamb** – all of supreme quality.

Arte Carne

Carnicerías Fernández Terreros
B° San Juan, 17 | Muskiz
Tel: 946 706 227
www.artecarne.com



Honey

Enkarterri's varieties of honey – made from **heather and eucalyptus** – preserve the **scent and natural properties** of high mountain flora. Enjoy it on its own or with milk.

Herriko Eztia

B° La toba, 46
Arzentales
Tel: 608 318 059



The freshest flavours

Enkarterri boasts a huge range of **homegrown vegetables such as Zalla's purple onion**, which has been mentioned by Slow Food, the international movement that promotes local food.

Ana Mari Llaguno

Somavalle, 4 | Otxaran, Zalla
Tel: 619 471 700

ArzentalesEKO

B° Górgolas, 1 | Arzentales
Tel: 696 942 176
www.artzentaleseko.com



Free-range eggs

Our free-range eggs come from native hen breeds that impart a **distinctive and unmistakable flavour** to popular dishes such as traditional fried eggs.

Emusan

B° Goikuria, 5
Sodupe
Tel: 609 027 880



Craft beer

A selection of craft beers made with passion and honesty, choosing **top-quality** ingredients only.

Laugar Brewery

B° Zubiete, 42
Pol. Ind. Isasi nave 9 | Gordexola
Tel: 628 069 653 - 692 710 263
www.laugarbrewery.com

Maiken Brewery

Virgen de Gracia, 27 | Balmaseda
Tel: 637 803 295
www.maikenbrewery.com



Vermouth

Txurrut, or *little sip* in Basque, is the name of the first vermouth made from **grapes exclusively grown in Enkarterri**. Don't forget to try all of its varieties!

Vegame · Txurrut Vermout

B° Carral 55
Sopuerta
Tel: 946 104 869
www.txurrutvermut.com



Sheep milk cheese

Try Enkarterri's delicious **home-made cheese** in any of its varieties: soft, semi-hard and hard.

Quesería Isusi Anaiak

Caserío Buniete | Sodupe
Tel: 626 351 164

Ulibarri Artzaiak

B° Isuskiza Handia ,1 | Gordexola
Tel: 665 725 735



Charcuterie

Get a **selection of charcuterie** or, as locals call it, **embutidos**. Chorizo, bacon, dried beef, pork loin or a dish of our classic sticky casseroles.

Lombera de Carranza

B° Ambasaguas, 97 | Karrantza
Tel: 946 107 079
www.lomberadecarranza.com



Dairy

The cows that populate Enkarterri provide top-quality milk to make **yogurt, cheese, butter and junket** – or to relish a glass of milk.

Láctea de Balmaseda

Parque Industrial El Páramo
Parcela A, nº 8 | Balmaseda
Tel: 946 802 864
lactebal.wordpress.com

Bizkaia Esnea

B° Boiano s/n | Karrantza
Tel: 946 107 051
www.bizkaiaesnea.com

Wines steeped in history



Txakoli is the **quintessential Basque wine** – a dry, sparkling white variety known for its fruity and acidic flavour, and deeply steeped in history.

Enkarterri has been a wine region for centuries. The *txakolis* produced here are well-structured in comparison with those from other areas in the Basque Country. This happens because Enkarterri enjoys a favourable **microclimate** for grape growth. It is not a coincidence that the **largest *txakoli* vineyard** in the Basque Country is here, in Zalla.

Our wineries



Virgen de Lorea

Bº Lorea, s/n | Otxaran-Zalla

Tel: 629 455 620

www.bodegasvirgendelorea.com



Txakoli Txabarri

Muñeran Auzoa 17 | Aranguren-Zalla

Tel: 658 728 865

www.txakolitxabarri.com

Txakoli Egia Enea

Castillo La Piedra, s/n

Balmaseda

Tel: 661 922 101

Txakoli Ulibarri Artzaiak

Bº Isuskiza Handia, 1 | Gordexola

Tel: 665 725 735

Bodegas de Galdames

El Bentorro, 4 | Galdames

Tel: 627 992 063

www.vinasulibarría.com

Txakoli Markoleta

Bº Markoleta, 10 | La Quadra - Güeñes

Tel: 609 018 820

Txurruta Txakolina

Bº Carral, 55 | Sopuerta

Tel: 946 104 869

www.txurrutvermut.com

Campervan parking areas

Lanestosa, Zalla, Balmaseda



Lanestosa

C/ Mirabueno, 6
Tel: 946 806 116 / 675 716 161
www.lanestosa.net

Zalla

B° Gallardi
Tel: 946 390 001
www.zalla.eus

Balmaseda

B° Las Laceras
Tel: 946 802 976
www.lanestosa.eus

Facilities & Services:

Drinking water
Showers
Restroom
Hookups
Sewage dump station
Children's playground
Picnic area
Swimming pool (in the summer)
22 pitches

Facilities & Services:

Drinking water
Sewage dump station
4 pitches

Facilities & Services:

Drinking water
Hookups
Sewage dump station
14 pitches

Restaurants



Pintxos

A *pintxo*, or small bite, is the **Basque appetizer** par excellence, a little treat for those with a discerning palate. We have more ***pintxo* varieties** than you'll be able to try! Have them as an accompaniment to breakfast or a drink, and also for lunch. No matter what your choice is, our bars are bursting with them.

Time to eat

Traditional recipes and the **latest culinary trends** blend together harmoniously in Enkarterri. You'll discover new flavours, marvel at the variety of appetizers and **bring your taste buds to life** with our acclaimed *pintxos*, typical stews, T-bone steaks, fresh seafood and homegrown vegetables.

Poteo

Poteo is our word for **pub crawling**. Going out for a few drinks at the end of the day has become a ritual observed by many here. Drinkers, far from settling down in just one tavern, will go on a pub crawl that can **carry on for hours**. Our bars are well supplied with drinks and *pintxos* for that purpose.



Euskadi Gastronomika is a network of excellence comprising restaurants, bars and other food-related establishments that offer the **highest quality standards** and a deep commitment to their **customers**. It aims to promote tourism and reinforce gastronomy as one of the hallmarks of Basque identity.



Albokak Restaurant  
Ctra. Bilbao - Balmaseda
(Salida 10) Arbuio 11, Local 14
Alonsotegi
944 982 370
www.albokakjatetxea.com

Amalurra Restaurant   
B° La Reneja, 35
Artzetales
946 109 540
www.amalurra.com

Aretxaga Restaurant 
B° Aretxaga, 16
Zalla
946 390 679

Basilio Restaurant
B° El Crucero | Sopuerta
946 504 129

Batzoki Zierbena Restaurant 
B° El Puerto, 19-21
Zierbena
946 366 374
www.hotelkaiarural.com

Gailurretan Restaurant  
B° Lanzasagudas, 17
Karrantza
946 806 667
www.gailurretan.com

Garras Restaurant 
B° Concha, 6 | Karrantza
946 806 280
www.casagarras.com

Gloria Restaurant 
B° El Puerto, 25 | Zierbena
946 365 013
www.restaurantegloria.net

Komentu Maitea Restaurant 
B° Sandamendi, 41
Gordexola
946 798 082
www.komentumaitea.com

Mendiondo Restaurant 
B° Revilla, 1 | Sopuerta
946 504 452
www.mendiondo.com

Mugarri Restaurant
Plaza de Pobeña, s/n | Muskiz
617 038 292
www.restaurantemugarri.com

Pintxo i Blanco Restaurant 
Martín Mendia, 5 | Balmaseda
626 166 665
www.pintxoiblanco.com

Pallottienea Restaurant 
B° El Molinar, 17 | Karrantza
946 806 002
www.casavicentepallotti.com

San Roque Restaurant 
Campo de las Monjas, 2
Balmaseda
946 102 268
www.hotelsanroque.es

Arcos de Quejana Restaurant  
Ctra. Beotegui, s/n
Quejana - Araba
945 399 320
www.arcosdequejana.com

Where to sleep



Amalurra Hotel * & Hostel  

B° La Reneja, 35

Artzetales

946 109 540

www.amalurra.com

Registry number: HBI01146



Komentu Maitea Hotel **** 

B° Sandamendi, 41

Gordexola

946 798 082

www.komentumaitea.com

Registry number: HBI01231



San Roque Convent Hotel **

Campo de Las Monjas, 2.

Balmaseda

946 102 268

www.puntuanhoteles.com

Registry number: HBI01073



Ibarra Hotel**

B° Llantada, 11.

Zalla

618 789 720

www.hotelibarrazalla.com

Registry number: HBI01134



Wi-Fi



TV in room



Parking



Bar



Garden



Disabled access



Living room



Pets allowed



Restaurant



Hotel Isasi*

B° Zubiete, 53
Gordexola
946 798 224

www.hotelisasi.com

Registry number: HBI01207



Kaia Hotel**

B° El Puerto
Zierbena
946 366 374

www.hotelkaiarural.com

Registry number: HBI01177



Ortuella Hotel**

Polígono Granada, 1
Entre Trapagarán y Ortuella, N634. Ortuella
946 353 204

www.hotelortuella.com

Registry number: HBI01212



Las Palmeras Hotel*

Avda. Fuente Vieja, 9
Muskiz
946 706 392 - 647 852 800

www.laspalmerashotelrural.com

Registry number: HBI01215



Porch with
bar top



Playground
area



Whole house
rental



Spa



Swimming
pool



Tourism
quality



Commitment to
tourism quality



Eco-label



Arcos de Quejana Hotel* 

Ctra. Beotegi, s/n · 01477

Quejana (Araba)

945 399 320

www.arcosdequejana.com

Registry number: HVI0035



Pikatzaenea Rural Apartments  

B° Cañedo, 8-Bezi

Sopuerta

617 471 936

www.pikatzaenea.com

Registry number: TBI00007



Mugarri Apartments  

Plaza de Pobeña, s/n.

Muskiz

946 707 799 - 617 038 292

www.apartamentosmugarri.com

Registry number: TBI00004



Casa Pallotti Spa*

B° El Molinar, 17

Karrantza Harana

946 806 002

www.casavicentepallotti.com

Registry number: HBI01076



Wi-Fi



TV in room



Parking



Bar



Garden



Disabled access



Living room



Pets allowed



Restaurant



Aingeru Cottage

B° Los Lombanos.
Karrantza Harana
946 107 180 - 675 118 632
www.casaruralaingeru.com

Registry number: KBI00095



Gailurretan Cottage

B° Lanzasagudas, 17
Karrantza Harana
946 806 667
www.gailurretan.com

Registry number: XBI00046



Mendi Alai Cottage

B° Cezura, 23
Karrantza Harana
944 005 440 - 678 787 256
www.mendialai.net

Registry number: XBI00099



Baserri Taboada Cottage

B° Allende 4 - Iratzagorria
Gordexola
944 499 231 - 675 715 298
Registry number: XBI00014



Porch with
bar top



Playground
area



Whole house
rental



Spa



Swimming
pool



Tourism
quality



Commitment to
tourism quality



Eco-label



Discount coupons

Stay in Enkarterri and enjoy our best plans at a very special price

:Ask for yours at our hotels

Ready for a Great Trip?



visit enkarterri

Bizkaia | Euskadi



Festivals & Events



A Living Passion in Balmaseda

The town of Balmaseda becomes a living stage for the **Holy Week**, when hundreds of neighbours take to the streets to perform the last hours of Christ's life. Religious or not, the **sheer joy of theatrical performance** has positioned Balmaseda's Living Passion as a major cultural event in the Basque Country, drawing in thousands of people from around the world.

It all begins on **Good Thursday**. Jesus, having been betrayed by one of his disciples,

warns them his end is near. Later, after the **Last Supper**, he will be arrested on the **Mount of Olives** and taken to Caiaphas.

On **Good Friday**, before **Pilate's Court**, Christ is condemned to death. A repentant Judas Iscariot hangs himself as the Messiah makes his way to the cross. On **Calvary** Jesus **dies crucified**.



More information

www.viacrucisbalmaseda.com

FEBRUARY

Canicross Challenge (Zierbena)

Ascent to Mount Apuko (Zaramillo, Güeñes)

MARCH

The Pork Fair (Sopuerta)

San José Fair (Güeñes)

APRIL

Balmaseda's Living Passion

"The Good Life" Artistic Sessions (Karrantza)

Dani Football Tournament (Sodupe)

Enkarterri Extreme Trails (Zaramillo, Güeñes)

Flower Market (Güeñes)

Ortuella Agricultural Show (Ortuella)

Ascent to Mount Mello (Muskiz)

MAY

1st of May Fair (Turtzioz)

Medieval Market (Balmaseda)

Ascent to Mount Kolitza (Balmaseda)

Eguzki Fest (Muskiz)

Wine Day (Zalla)

Retrobike Enkarterri (Balmaseda)

JUNE

Tour of Galdames

Andra Mari Fair (Alonsotegi)

Enkarterri Fest (Zalla)

San Isidro Running Race (Karrantza)

Ortuella Green Series – Las Balsas XC (Ortuella)

Galipa Mountain Tour (Zierbena)

JULY

Surf Film Festival (Zierbena)

Gordexola Xtreme (Gordexola)

Pobeña 1890 (Muskiz)

Pozalagua Festival (Karrantza)

Tour of Biscay (Balmaseda)

La Hoya Fair (Valle de Villaverde, Cantabria)

AUGUST

Flowery Arches Dance (Lanestosa)

Petronor Rowing Competition (Zierbena)

SEPTEMBER

Romería de El Socorro Festival (Pobeña, Muskiz)

Ortuella Off Road (Ortuella)

International Dog Contest (Muskiz)

International Paper Dress Contest (Güeñes)

Agricultural Show (Muskiz)

Romería de El Suceso Festival (Karrantza)

Hunting, Fishing & Environmental Show (Muskiz)

San Cosme (Gordexola)

High Motors & Luxury Show

OCTOBER

Gangas Day (Zalla)

Kantauri Fest (Zierbena)

Iron Fest (Abanto-Zierbena)

Harley Day (Sodupe, Güeñes)

Cider Day (Abanto Zierbena)

Agricultural Show (Karrantza)

Grape Harvest Fest (Balmaseda)

San Severino: Railway Stew Contest (Balmaseda)

Ascent to Pico La Cruz (Galdames)

Chestnut Day (Galdames)

NOVEMBER

Cheese Day (Turtzioz)

Enkartzine Cinema Festival (Zalla)

DECEMBER

Agricultural Show (Gordexola)

Balmaseda - Zalla Cross Country Competition

Expoaves: Bird & Poultry Fair

Bread Day (Galdames)





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twitter.com/enkarterribio

instagram.com/enkarterribio

visit enkarterri

Bizkaia | Euskadi

www.visitenkarterri.com



ENKARTUR

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48800 Balmaseda (Bizkaia)
(+34) 946 80 29 76
www.visitenkarterri.com
info@visitenkarterri.com

Winter opening times

Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00
Weekend and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00

Summer opening times

Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00
Weekend and holidays from 9:00 to 14:00



EUSKADI
BASQUE COUNTRY

