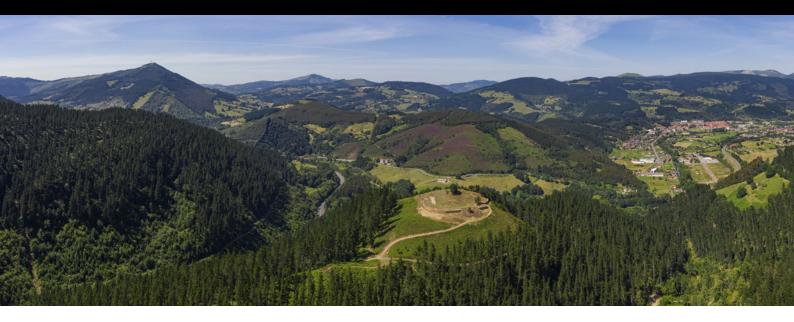
Bolunburu Hillfort







You are about to travel back to the 4th century BC, to a **hillfort** from the second **Iron Age** that has remained almost unchanged to this day. The hillfort is situated on a small elevation (320 metres; 1,050 ft) overlooking the **Salcedo Valley**, which is crossed by the Kadagua River.

The settlement occupies a **total area of 4,000 m**² (13,100 sq. ft) enclosed by a wall and an outer moat that runs along the entire southern front of the hill. The Bolunburu Crag provides a natural defence barrier on the north.

The wall is made of **masonry**, with an average width of 3 metres (10 ft) and a height that may have originally exceeded 5 metres (16.5 ft). The wall had a **single gate**, located at the southeast end. The houses consisted of **simple rectangular huts**, built with perishable materials. The few remains of their structure that are still standing belong to the foundations. In addition, other enclosures that served as sheds, **workshops and warehouses** have been identified.

The Bolunburu complex allows us to understand what the day-to-day life in the hillfort was like. Today we know that its inhabitants practiced a **diversified economy** based on **livestock farming**, **subsistence agriculture** (mainly cereal

and legume crops), the harvesting of wild products, and **iron metallurgy**. Many charred acorns have been found inside the houses. But perhaps the greatest peculiarity of the place is the discovery of abundant **hand mills** made of local sandstone.

Furthermore, the toponymy surrounding the hillfort is noteworthy, as it mentions witches and wizards—a colloquial demonym for the people of the municipality of Zalla. These witchcraft legends are perhaps linked to the inhabitants of the hillfort and find their greatest expression in the so-called Campa Las Brujas (The Witches' Field), where it is said that they used to meet and dance by the river.





Where to eat

Aretxaga

Tel.: 626 163 542

El Porron

Tel.: 946 390 754 www.restauranteelporron.com

Cervecera Zalla

Tel.: 946 39 06 21 www.cervecerazalla.com

Where to stay

Hotel Ibarra

Tel.: 618 789 720 www.hotelibarrazalla.com

Pensión Txikote Ostatua

Tel.: 946 390 178

Visit a txakoli winery

Virgen de Lorea

Tel.: 629 455 620 www.bodegasvirgendelorea.com

Txakoli Txabarri

Tel.: 658 728 865 www.txakolitxabarri.com

Buy the award-winning Zalla purple onion

Ana Mari Llaguno

Tel.: 619 471 700

Mertxe Vivanco

Tel.: 946 390 820

Guided tours to the hillfort

Alboan

Tel: 605 757 420 www.alboanenkarterri.com

Levkatur

Tel.: 616 498 621 www.leykatur.com

How to get

Bizkaibus (bus service)

A0651 Bilbao-Balmaseda



Feve (train service)

Bilbao - Balmaseda Station: **Ibarra**

Station: El Longar









