

Bilbao and proximity

Bilbao is the biggest city in the Basque Country (with Vitoria being the capital city). Its principal part consists of Abando, Moyua and Indautxu. This section contains the Guggenheim Museum (architect: Frank Gehry, also being the architect of the very similarly designed Opera House in Sydney and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles) and the Zubizuri bridge, designed by the famous Basque architect Calatrava (who has also designed the Loiu airport) (In Basque language, Zubi: Bridge, Zuri: White, as a further example, the common name Edurne means “girl of/related snow” and therefore Edurnezuri stands for “Snow White”).

Even though Plaza Moyua is the most famous “square” of the city, I believe that Plaza Nueva (New Plaza) in Casco Viejo (Old City) is finer (on Sundays, a flea market is set there where you can find many books (99% being in Spanish) and other antiques (most of them actually being just old). If you happen to go there, there are two shops of interest: the first one is the tea shop, which is very important for me since we (the Turks) can not survive without tea. This shop accordingly named as the “Tea Shop”, and even though it is a bit expensive, there are only two or three tea shops in all Bilbao (address: Correo Street, No: 7). The second shop is a bar/restaurant called “Rio Oja” and it is also located close to the Plaza Nueva (Perro Street (“Txakurra” street in Basque since txaurra means dog (which is “perro” in Spanish) , No:6). Here, you can find various dishes, including the famous “chipirones en su tinta” (little squids in their own ink). They are as the name implies, little calamari cooked in their own ink, not very civilized maybe but absolutely very delicious! This bar is closed during the siesta hours and please note that it can be really crowded. If that's the case indeed, then you can eat in the bars around the Plaza Nueva, for example (fried squids are referred as 'rabas').

Before your visit to Casco Viejo, you can go to Teatro Arriaga, the main place for opera and other performances. You can take the tram from Abando or better, you can walk from there. Before the bridge, you'll come upon a churreria and I recommend to try the churros with hot chocolate. From Abando you can walk to the east direction, following the Nervion River to Zubizuri or until Guggenheim. In Abando, there is the grand and quiet train station. In the vicinity, there is a nice cafe called “New York” where you can have coffee with ice (cafe con hielo) (not the same as iced coffee, and not that delicious but surely interesting where they serve you hot coffee and a glass of ice which you pour your coffee in. Other forms of coffee: cafe corto/cafe solo (only coffee, similar to espresso), cafe cortado (coffee with some milk) and cafe con leche (coffee with milk).

Other places of interest (but only a little bit of interest :P) in vicinity:

Lift of Begonia

Pelota playground (Pelota being a typical Basque sport. It is similar to squash but played against an L shaped wall (two sides) and in general without any rackets).

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Translated from : “Bilbao para principiantes”

http://www.emresururi.com/file.php?file=Bilbao_para_principiantes_I

Algunas fotos de lugares:



Guggenheim Museo



*Walt Disney Aula de Concierto
Proyectos de Frank Gehry el arquitecto*



Casa de Opera en Sydney



Zubizuri



Loiu



Plaza Moyua



Plaza Nueva



Cafe con hielo



Exterior de Rio Oja



Interior de Rio Oja



Chipirones en su tinta



Pelota



Ascensor de Begoña



Ascensor de Begoña



Teatro Arriaga

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Bilbao for beginners

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