

Background Reading

Bilbao General (Day 1)

[General overview of Bilbao \(Wikipedia\)](#), [español](#), [français](#)

[Spanish Tourist Office Guides \(Spanish, English, French, German, ...\)](#)

[On Bilbao's weather](#) Bring weatherproof shoes, a waterproof jacket and an umbrella

[Access and Public Transport in Bilbao](#), [Bilbao Bizkaia \(tourist\) card](#)

[Self-guided walking tour of Bilbao](#)

[Pintxos y bebidas \(food and drink\)](#)

Arrival in Bilbao (September 4, 2023)

Flights

[Flights to Bilbao](#) Bilbao airport is connected to many West European Capitals

Bilbao Airport is about 12 kilometres from the city centre. Bus route A3247 goes to Bilbao Intermodal coach and bus terminal, with several stops in the city centre. Between 1 April and 1 November, it operates between 06:00 and 00:00 from the airport and between 05:20 and 22:00 from Bilbao.

The N-637 road connects the airport and the city centre. It's a 15-minute drive. A taxi costs €24-29.

Nearby airports

[Flights to Biarritz](#) Biarritz airport has direct flights to several French cities and to Dublin and London

Biarritz airport lies around 30km North of the Spanish border and is close to the towns of Bayonne and Biarritz in South Western France. There are daily flights to Paris, Lyon, London (Stansted), Dublin and less frequent direct flights to other French and European cities. A frequent bus service ([Bus connections](#)) runs between Bayonne (Biarritz airport) and the Spanish coastal towns of Irun, San Sebastián and Bilbao.

[Flights to San Sebastian](#) SanSebastián airport has direct flights to many Spanish cities and to the Canary Islands

San Sebastián airport is situated just South of the Bidasoa river which marks the border between Spain and France. It is close to the towns of Irun and Hondarrabia which are linked by bus and rail to Bilbao. The distance is 120—140 km (80 miles) from Bilbao and lies close to the Camino del Norte (one of the pilgrim routes of the ancient Caminos de Santiago).

Ferries

Brittany ferries operate ferries from the UK (Portsmouth) and Ireland (Rosslare) to Bilbao, and from the UK (Portsmouth and Plymouth) to Santander. The port of Santander is an hour and a half drive from central Bilbao and the port of Bilbao to the city centre 30 minutes.

[Ferry from the UK to Bilbao](#)

[Ferry from the UK to Santander](#)

Railways

Generally a slow option except for Spanish cities ([Train Connections](#)).

Walking to Bilbao

[Walking to Bilbao along the Camino del Norte](#)

Perhaps not for everyone but the stretch of the Camino del Norte between Irun and Bilbao is highly recommended and follows the hills overlooking the coast of the Bay of Biscay (allow 4 or 5 days 😊) .

Excursion to Santander (Days 2 and 3)

[Santander](#)

[Santillana del Mar](#)

[The cave of Altamira](#)

Excursion to La Rioja (Days 2 and 3)

[The Rioja wine region](#)

[Rioja Alta \(Haro\), Rioja Alavesa \(Laguardia\)](#)

Excursions close to Bilbao (Day 4)

[San Juan de Gaztelugatxe](#)

[Guernica](#)

Nearby cities and places to extend a stay

[Bayonne, Biarritz, St Jean de Luz, St Jean Pied de Port \(le Pays Basque Français\)](#)

[Burgos and León](#) (over the hills from Bilbao, in Castille et León)

[Pamplona](#)

[Picos de Europa National Park](#)



[San Sebastián](#)

