

# MEDIEVAL CITY

**VITORIA  
GASTEIZ**   
turismo   
& convention bureau

*A city that  
lives in the present  
but looks after  
its past*

**A TOUR OF THE MEDIEVAL QUARTER**

A window into the history  
of the Green Capital

# VISIT THE MEDIEVAL 'ALMOND'



A cathedral that's "open for works", the remains of the city walls, Renaissance palaces... The Medieval Quarter of Vitoria-Gasteiz, with its original layout in the shape of an almond, brings the city's **history** to life in an area that also has **commercial and hostelry establishments** with their own personality. Lose yourself in the medieval city with this accessible tour.

## 1. SAN PEDRO CHURCH



The city has had three walls throughout its history. This temple was built in the **14th century** and was attached to the second one which came about with the expansion of the medieval city to the west of the hill. Of special mention are the sculptural complex of the **old portico** (calle Herrería), the tower from the beginning of the 18th century and, inside, the tombs and the heraldry decoration.

## 2. LANTERNS MUSEUM



Here, you'll find the **pieces of polychromatic glass** that have been on show at the **Rosary of the Lanterns** since 1895. The procession takes place every year on the night of the 4th of August, the day that the festivities to honour the Virgen Blanca begin.



## 3. MEDIEVAL WALL AND COLD STORE

This is one of the sections recovered from the **first wall, from the 11th century**. Historical accuracy was of utmost importance in the recreation, maintaining the masonry wall that remained and adding a **cedar wood structure to achieve the original height**. The result was a walkway-viewpoint which follows the old ring passage. The project received a special mention at the Europa Nostra awards. The **cold store** next to the wall was used **to supply ice to the city** in the 19th century.

## 4. MONTEHERMOSO PALACE



Built at the **beginning of the 16th century**, its name comes from the title of the Marchioness of Montehermoso that was granted to its owner. It was temporarily the headquarters of the court of José Bonaparte. It underwent profound renovations of a neo-Gothic style in 1887, but the towers on its four corners and its central patio still stand out. It is currently home to a **cultural centre**.



## 6. SANTA MARÍA CATHEDRAL

Built in the **13th century** on top of a former temple, its structural problems have given it an added interest. Its restoration works can be visited under the title "**Open for works**". The visit takes you through 800 years of history and allows you to move from the crypt to the tower, passing through the nave, the ring passage and the triforium. The cathedral has inspired authors like **Ken Follett** and was declared a **World Heritage Site in the context of the Northern Camino de Santiago (St. James' Way)**.

## 7. PLAZA DE LA BURULLERÍA



It gets its name from its origins: the burulleros (cloth weavers) used to trade in this space. It's home to the oldest civil construction in the city, the **Hurtado de Anda Tower** (15th century). Other buildings of note are **El Portalón** and the **Gobeo-Gebara-San Juan House Armoury**. The mural 'Al hilo del tiempo' (As time wears on) is part of the 'Painted city' tour.

## 8. BIBAT-ARCHAEOLOGY AND FURNIER PLAYING CARDS MUSEUM



It houses over 20,000 cards, including **decks from all five continents**, some of which were originally on show in the British Museum. It also has 1,500 archaeological pieces that range from Prehistory to the Middle Ages. The museum is housed in the **Bendaña Palace, from the 16th century**, and a contemporary annex building by Patxi Mangado.

## 9. CASA DEL CORDÓN



Built in the **15th century**, it owes its name to the Franciscan cord on one of its entrance archways. Inside, there is a **medieval tower from the 13th-14th centuries**, surrounded by a moat. It was in this building in 1522 that Adrian the 6th received the news of his election as Pope No. 218 of the Catholic Church.



## 10. PLAZA DEL MACHETE

The square was given this name in reference to the **Vitorian dagger** upon which the city's Attorney General Prosecutor was sworn into their position. The exterior apse of the Church of San Miguel houses a replica of the dagger while the original is kept in the Municipal Archive. From the square, you can admire the **Church of San Vicente** (from the end of the 15th century, with a tower from the 19th century) and the **Villa Suso Palace** (16th century).

## 11. LOS ARQUILLOS

One of the greatest architectural icons in Vitoria-Gasteiz



# VITORIA-GASTEIZ

## Enjoy the Green Capital!



Virgen Blanca Square

**V**itoria-Gasteiz is surprising by nature. It is one of the European cities with the largest surface area of green spaces to walk, run or cycle in, to birdwatch or go horse riding. The 'European Green Capital 2012' award, its status as a certified Sustainable Tourist Destination (2016) and the 'Global Green City 2019' award acknowledge it as one of the most environmentally-committed cities at international level. Discover it!



Green belt



Wall art

**Its historical heritage.** The Historic Quarter of Vitoria-Gasteiz, declared Monumental Complex in 1997, preserves its medieval layout intact and contains parts that take visitors back to bygone

**Its festivals and cultural manifestations.** The calendar offers top-class events. International Festivals such as the **Jazz Festival**, the **Azkena Rock Festival**, **Magialdia**, **Kaldearte** (street art), the **Theatre Festival** and **FesTVaI** (television). Sports competitions such as the **Martín Fiz Marathon** and the **Vitoria-Gasteiz Ironman**. And of course, chances to enjoy our culture: rural sports, folklore, without forgetting traditional celebrations such as **San Prudencio** and **Our Lady of Estibaliz**, patron saints of Álava, **Santiago** and the **La Blanca Festivities**.



eras. This is the case of **Santa María Cathedral** or the **Old Cathedral** (13th century) and the **Medieval Wall** (11th century), both essential visits. Not to forget its churches and Renaissance palaces such as Villa Suso, Montehermoso and Escoriaza-Esquivel.



Santa María Cathedral

The **Arquillos (Arcades)** of Olaguibel (18th century) bridge the difference in height between the medieval 'Almond' and the neoclassical Expansion. The squares **Plaza de la Virgen Blanca** and **Plaza de España** give way to pedestrian streets with a great shopping atmosphere.

**Its nature.** 150,000 trees on its streets and many parks, in addition to those in the Green Belt surrounding the city. In the city centre, the main park in La Florida, from the early 19th century. In the Green Belt, with an extensive network of pedestrian and cycling paths, the Salburua wetlands stand out. There we can see birds, deer and discover the European mink, a species in serious risk of extinction. There we can find the nature interpretation centre, **Ataria**.



Ataria



Virgen Blanca Festivities

**Its gastronomy and wine.** The National Capital of Gastronomy in 2014, in Vitoria-Gasteiz it is possible to try the most traditional dishes and the most innovative creations of Basque cuisine in restaurants and pintxo bars, with an extensive offering for all budgets. All washed down with wines from Rioja Alavesa and Txakoli from Alava. And for dessert the variety of sweet creations that are the result of the city's tradition of confectionery. The **Ardoaraba** eno-gastronomic fair, the **Big Pintxo Week** and the **Pintxo-pote (pintxo + drink offer in bars)** make it possible to enjoy the best flavours on the street.

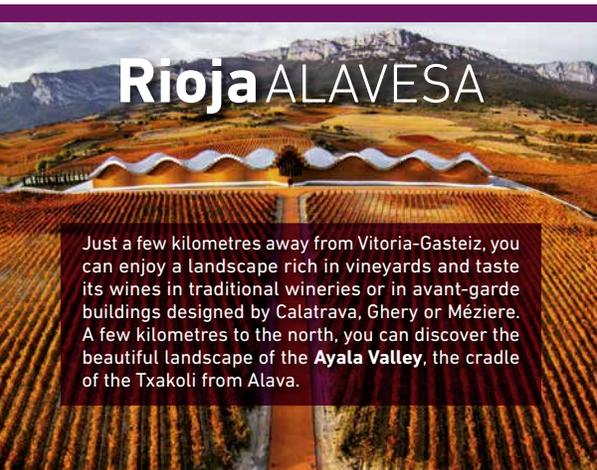


Pintxos

**Its museums.** With an important collection of contemporary art, the **Artium Museum** offers interesting temporary exhibitions. The **Fine Arts Museum** and the **BIBAT Museum**, which houses the **Archaeology Museum** and the **Fournier Cards Museum**, with the best collection of cards in the world. The **María Inmaculada Cathedral** or the **New Cathedral** is home to the **Museum of Sacred Art**. Without forgetting curious museums such as the **Arms Museum** or the **Lantern Museum**, unique in its genre.

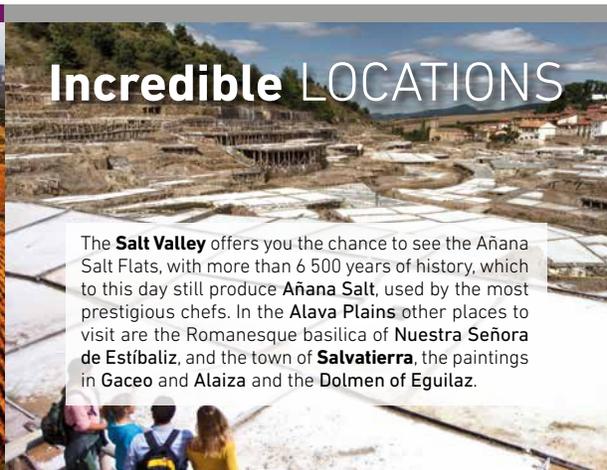


Artium



## Rioja ALAVESA

Just a few kilometres away from Vitoria-Gasteiz, you can enjoy a landscape rich in vineyards and taste its wines in traditional wineries or in avant-garde buildings designed by Calatrava, Ghery or Méziere. A few kilometres to the north, you can discover the beautiful landscape of the **Ayala Valley**, the cradle of the Txakoli from Alava.



## Incredible LOCATIONS

The **Salt Valley** offers you the chance to see the **Añana Salt Flats**, with more than 6 500 years of history, which to this day still produce **Añana Salt**, used by the most prestigious chefs. In the **Alava Plains** other places to visit are the Romanesque basilica of **Nuestra Señora de Estíbaliz**, and the town of **Salvatierra**, the paintings in **Gaceo** and **Alaiza** and the **Dolmen of Eguilaz**.

## ROUTES AND GUIDED TOURS

There is a large offering of routes and guided tours that show you the city from all perspectives.

Visits to discover the Medieval Quarter, to learn about the city following the trail of love stories, the settings for literary works, legendary characters, or singular places such as the Santa Isabel Cemetery of the Mural Route. There are also other proposals to see the city while running or cycling.

## ENO-GASTRONOMY

In addition to visiting the Plaza de Abastos Market, we cannot forget the gastronomic routes and the guided tastings to enjoy the best products and the best atmosphere in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

If you want to know where to eat, have a rest with a coffee, buy a nice souvenir or enjoy the nightlife, ask for the GUÍA ESTRELLA (Star Guide) at the Tourist Office, an initiative by the Gasteiz On Retailers Association.

## MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTRES

Artium Museum of Contemporary Art / Bibat Archaeology Museum and Fournier Card Museum / Fine Arts Museum / Natural Science Museum / Arms Museum / Museum of Sacred Art / Lantern Museum / Montehermoso Cultural Centre / ATARIA Interpretation Centre of the Salburua Wetlands

## RESOURCES GUIDE

Emergencies, Ertzaintza (police). 112

Paediatric emergencies: 945 00 70 00

Radiotaxi. 945 27 35 00

Radio-taxi Celedón 945 27 20 00

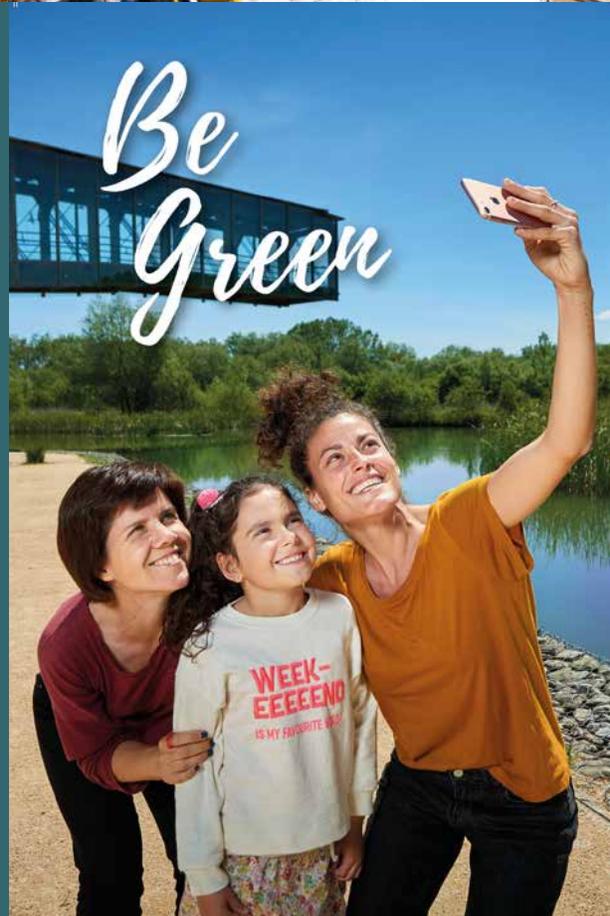
Municipal vehicle pound. Aguirrelanda, 8.

945 161 100 / 945 158 000

Renfe. 912 320 320

Airport. 945 163 500 / 902 404 704

Bus station. 945 161 66



**VITORIA  
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**EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY



**BIOSPHERE**  
certified destination

Awarded the **European Green Capital in 2012**, since 2016 **Vitoria-Gasteiz** has held the **Biosphere Responsible Tourism certificate** that accredits its status as a sustainable tourist destination.

**ALL THE INFORMATION AT:**  
**Tourist Office**, Plaza de España 1

945 16 15 98 / 945 161 599

turismo@vitoria-gasteiz.org

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10 am to 7 pm.

Sundays and public holidays: 11 am to 2 pm

[www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/tourisme](http://www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/tourisme)



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