Stars of Vitoria

Marchioness of Montehermoso

María del Pilar Acedo y Sarriá, born in Tolosa, on 10 March 1784. Beautiful and very cultured, at 16 years old she married Ortuño Mª Aguirre, a highly educated landowner 17 years her senior. In 1801 their only daughter María Amalia was born, who was painted by the brilliant Goya in 1811.

On 22 September 1808, José I arrived in Vitoria and stayed at Montehermoso Palace. He fell in love with the Marchioness, who then became the monarch's favourite. Aguirre eventually sold the palace to the king for two million reales, a fortune at the time. At various times this palace was the venue for the court of the French king (1808, 1811 and 1813). Already in Madrid, the Marchioness openly acted as a favourite at all social events of the court. The people of Madrid made up a rhyme that roughly translated said:

'From Montehermoso the lady, has an inkwell, where José the first dips his feather'.

The Marchioness and José I left Vitoria definitively on the eve of the famous battle of 21 June 1813, and headed to France. Shortly after, they finally stopped seeing each other. Pilar Acedo died in Carrese, Bearn, on 27 February 1869.

General Álava

Miguel Ricardo de Álava y Esquível (Vitoria, 1772 - Barèges, France, 1843). After studying at the Real Seminario Patriótico de Bergara (Royal Patriotic Seminary of Bergara), he began his career as a sailor with his ancle Ignacio Mª de Álava. He participated in the battles of Toulon and Trafalgar. Back in Vitoria, he took part in the Assembly in Bayonne representing the Marina. Faced with the action of the French armed forces, he decided to leave for Madrid to fight against them. Throughout the War of Independence he did tremendous work as a link between the Courts of Cádiz and the allied forces led by Wellington. He participated in many of the great battles and his role in the battle of Vitoria was especially praiseworthy. Thanks to him, the city avoided being plundered, saving many lives and a lot of property.

After enduring persecution during the absolutist period, his friendship with Wellington led him to form part of his military staff in the decisive Battle of Waterloo in 1815. After this, Álava played the leading role in the unique achievement of recovering 284 pictures and 108 objects by the best artists that the French had looted and taken to Paris.

He later became an ambassador in France (1815, 1835), the Netherlands (1815-19), a councillor for Álava (1821), President of the Courts (1822), ambassador in the United Kingdom (1834, 1838), senator (1834, 1836), minister of the Marina (1835) and Chair of the Council of Ministers (1835).

European Cultural Route

In March 2015 the Council of Europe declared the different Napoleonic routes a European Cultural Route. This prestigious description distinguishes historical routes that help to identify the idea of Europe such as the Camino de Santiago (St. James' Way), the Ruta Flamígera or the Ruta de Carlos V. The European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, of which Vitoria-Gasteiz holds the vice-presidency, is responsible for this route. To help its dissemination the brand "Destination Napoleon" has been created, with a website, logo, a twice-yearly magazine, etc.

More information: www.destination-napoleon.eu www.napoleoncities.eu

FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES CITÉS NAPOLÉONIENNES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE — INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS

Calendar

Napoleonic Market

1, 2 and 3 April 2016. Arriaga Park. Lakua.

More than 130 stalls of crafts, gastronomy and local products take us back to the era of the French occupation. Parades, music and a recreation of a Napoleonic camp complete the weekend.

Napoleonic Week

21-27 May 2016. Europa Congress Palace.

A sequence of conferences, displays and concerts will go deeper into the historical transcendental era of the early XIX Century and its influence on the city.

Recreation of the Battle of Vitoria

27, 28 and 29 May 2016. Campas de Olárizu (Meadows of Olárizu).

Approximately 500 recreators from all over Europe will represent the everyday life in a camp during that time, as well as training and handling of weapons. There will be a parade to pay tribute to those who fell in the Battle of Vitoria and General Álava who was from Vitoria. The Meadows of Olárizu host the historical recreations of the combat between the French and allied armed forces. A captivating show you really mustn't miss.

Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz
Vitoria-Gasteizko Udala

Arabako Foru Aldundia
Diputación Foral de Álava

NAPOLEONIC ROUTE OF VITORIA-GASTEIZ

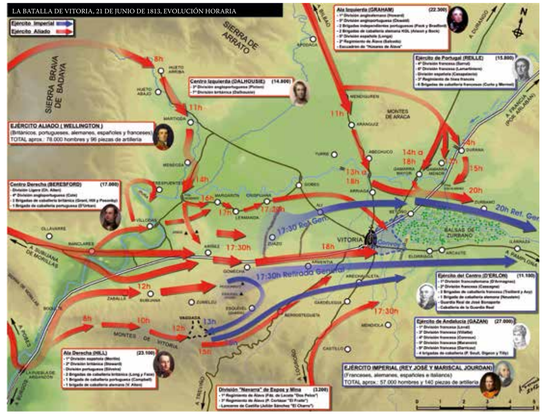
VITORIA GASTEIZ green capital

THE VICTORY OF WELLINGTON

The Battle of Vitoria, 21st June 1813

On 21 June 1813 one of the most decisive battles in the Peninsular War took place in Vitoria. The allied troops, led by the **Duke of Wellington** and **General Álava,** defeated the French troops led by **José Bonaparte** himself and **Marshal Jourdan** which led to his definitive expulsion from the Iberian Peninsula. In the turmoil of Europe at that time, the significance of the battle was such that **Beethoven** himself composed a symphony to commemorate, "the Victory of Wellington" (opus 91).

Listen to it


LA BATALLA DE VITORIA. 21 DE JUNIO DE 1813. EVOLUCIÓN HORARIA
Ejército Imperial francés
Ejército Aliado
SIERRA BRAÑA DE BALMAYA
SIERRA DE ARATAKO
MONTES DE ARACA
VITORIA
SALBAS DEL ZURBANO
Ala izquierda (GRAHAM) (22.300)
Ejército de Portugal (REILLE) (15.000)
Centro izquierda (DALHOUSIE) (14.800)
EJÉRCITO ALIADO (WELLINGTON)
Británicos, portugueses, alemanes, españoles y franceses
TOTAL aprox. 78.000 hombres y 96 piezas de artillería
Centro Derecho (BERESFORD) (17.000)
Ejército del Centro (ZERLON) (11.100)
Ala Derecha (HILL) (23.100)
Ejército de Andalucía (GAZAN) (27.000)
División "Navarra" de Espoz y Mina (3.200)
EJÉRCITO IMPERIAL (REY JOSÉ Y MARISCAL JOURDAN)
(Franceses, alemanes, españoles e italianos)
TOTAL aprox. 57.000 hombres y 140 piezas de artillería
Reforzado con 2 divisiones de infantería y 1 de caballería
Retirada hacia Pamplona
Retirada hacia Francia
Batalla de Vitoria
Retirada hacia Logroño
Retirada hacia Miranda de Ebro
Retirada hacia Burgos
Retirada hacia Aranda de Duero
Retirada hacia Madrid
Retirada hacia Valencia
Retirada hacia Andalucía
Retirada hacia Francia
Retirada hacia Portugal
Retirada hacia Extremadura
Retirada hacia Toledo
Retirada hacia Aranjuez
Retirada hacia Ocaña
Retirada hacia Tarancón
Retirada hacia Cuenca

FOLLOW NAPOLEON'S STEPS

We would like to invite you to discover the scenes and characters of Napoleonic Vitoria. A small city with barely 7000 inhabitants led by an enlightened elite that drove the leap from an old market town to a neoclassic city. The Peninsular War interrupted this physical and cultural expansion and it became known throughout Europe for the transcendental battle that was fought in its surroundings.

1 City Hall and Plaza de España

When the French occupied the city, the construction of the neoclassic Plaza Nueva by the architect Olaguibel had just ended. To the north there is the Casa Consistorial (city hall) where Fernando VII stayed in April 1808 on his way to Bayonne. Every day, at six in the evening, the clock chimes the notes of the symphony "The Victory of Wellington" composed by Beethoven in 1813.

2 Los Arquillos

Also by Olaguibel, they are a splendid example of town planning in the Enlightenment. Using platforms and public spaces, they connect the medieval city raised on the hill with the new expansion on the flat land. In this same scenario, on 19 April 1808, the residents of Vitoria cut the reins of the carriage which lead to Fernando VII to Bayonne. There, Napoleon would name his brother José King of Spain.

3 Monument to the Battle

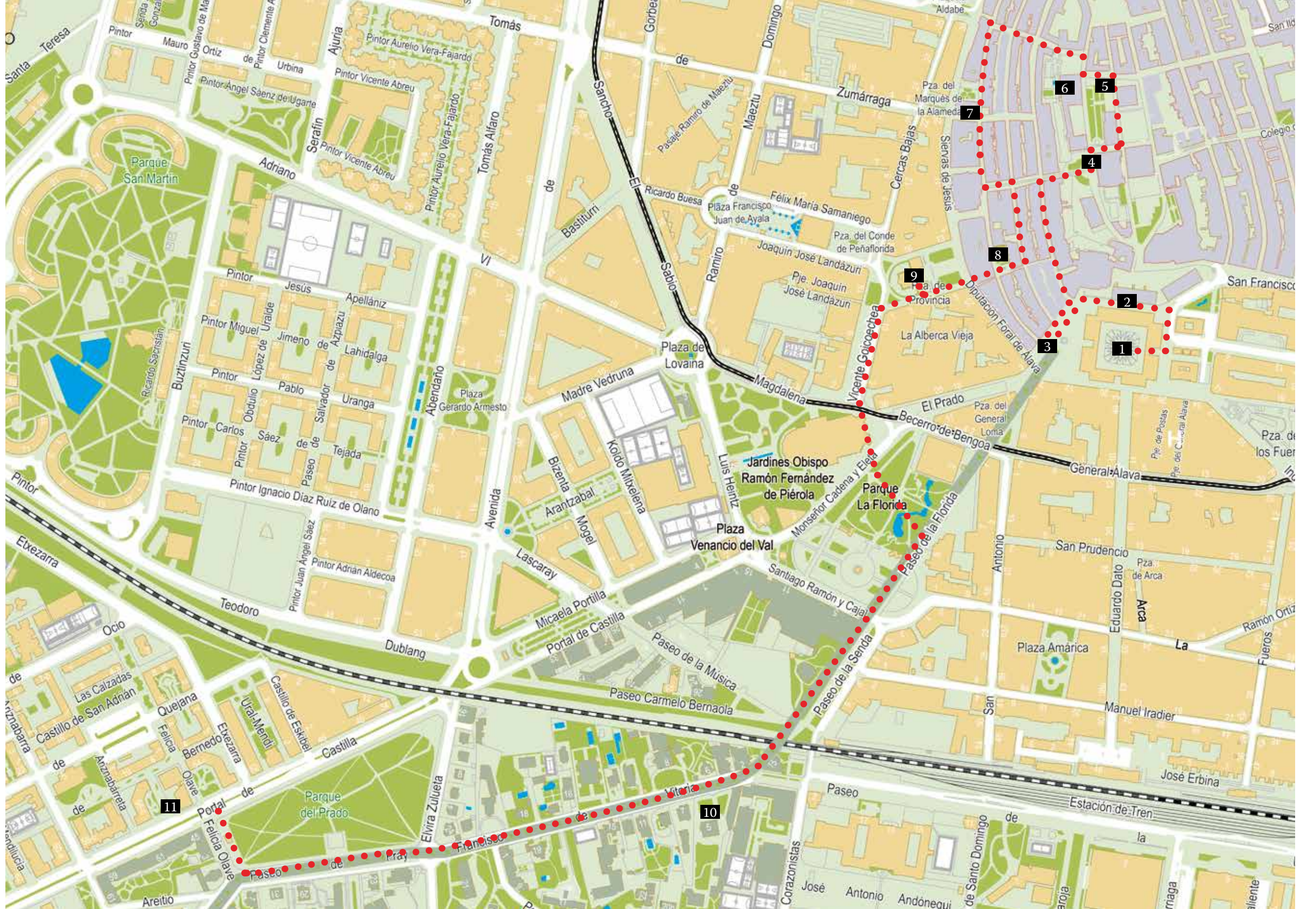
Located at the centre of the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca, it commemorates the Battle of Vitoria and represents the key people. The monument, made in stone and bronze, is by the Valencian sculptor Gabriel Borrás and was inaugurated in 1917 celebrating first centenary of the battle.

4 Palace of Montehermoso

Constructed in the XVI Century, it was property of the Marquis and Marchioness of Montehermoso. José I stayed there for the first time in July 1808 and fell in love with its owner, Pilar Acedo. He acquired it in October 1808, for two million reales. The palace housed the Josephine Court at various moments of the occupation. Napoleon would be interviewed in this palace with his brother in November 1808.

5 Escoriaza Esquível Palace

Constructed in the XVI Century, is it one of the best examples of Basque Renaissance civil architecture. It hosted the Real Sociedad Bascongada de Amigos del País, which brought the ideas of the Enlightenment to the Basque Country. Its role was key in society at the time. During the French occupation, the palace was used as for various purposes including as a military hospital, a prison, stables and barracks for the gendarmerie.


Parque San Martín
Plaza de Lovaina
Plaza Venancio del Val
Jardines Obispo Ramón Fernández de Piérola
Parque La Florida
Parque del Prado
Plaza América
Plaza de Arca
Plaza Francisco Juan de Ayala
Pza. del Conde de Peñaflorida
Pje. Joaquín José Landázuri
Diputación Foral de Álava
La Alberca Vieja
Pza. del General Loma
Pza. de los Fueros
Pza. de Gerardo Armesto
Pza. de la Provincia
Pintor Ignacio Díaz Ruiz de Olano
Pintor Adrián Aldecoa
Pintor Juan Ángel Saez
Pintor Vicente Abreu
Pintor Aurelio Vera-Fajardo
Pintor Ángel Saenz de Ugarte
Pintor Gustavo de Maeztu
Pintor Clemente Arrue
Pintor Miguel López de Uraide
Pintor Carlos Pablo Uranga
Pintor Obdulio Saez de Tejada
Pintor Jesús Apellániz
Pintor Ricardo Sanchiz
Pintor Mauro Ortiz de Urbina
Jimeno de Aznazu
Salvador Lahidalga
Paseo de la Senda
Paseo de la Música
Paseo Carmelo Bernaola
Paseo de la Florida
Portal de Castilla
Micaela Portilla
Madre Vedruna
Magdalena
El Prado
Becerro de Bengoa
General Alava
Zumárraga
Maeztu
Cercas Bajas
Sierras de Jesús
Ramiro de Maeztu
Vicente Goicoechea
Luis Heintz
Monseñor Cadena y Eleta
Antonio Eduardo Dato
San Prudencio
Manuel Iradier
José Erbina
Estación de Tren
Ramón Ortiz de Fuenmayor
Fray Francisco de Vitoria
Elvira Zulueta
Portal de Felipa Olave
Castilla
Quelana
Bernedo
Etxezarra
Urdaneta
Castillo de Eskibel
Castillo de San Adrián
Las Calzadas
Oco
Teodoro
Dublang
Etxezarra
Lascaray
Aranzabal
Bizenta Mogel
Kondo Mixelena
Avenida
Abendaño
Buztinzuri
Adriano
Serafín
Auria
Tomás Alfaro
Basilio
Sancho el Sabio
Ricardo Buesa
Félix María Samaniego
Joaquín José Landázuri
Santa Teresa
Tomás
Aldabe
San Francisco
Colegio
Pje. de Postas
Pje. del Cuerpo de Alava
Pje. de Arca
Pje. de Fuenmayor
Pje. de la Florida
Pje. de Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Pje. de Ronda
Pje. de Ronda
Pje. de Ronda