

# FAMILY TOURISM



**VITORIA  
GASTEIZ**   
turismo  
& convention bureau

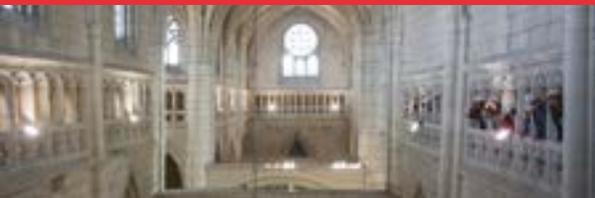


*Enjoy*  
**Vitoria-Gasteiz**  
*with your family*

**A SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION**

where you can learn about history and experience  
nature in unique surroundings full of contrasts

# A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY



Vitoria-Gasteiz, capital of the Basque Country, is a green, sustainable city with a high quality of life, but it's also a city with a medieval flavour and with plenty of family-friendly plans for you to enjoy.

With almost one thousand years of history, the **medieval quarter** of Vitoria-Gasteiz is practically intact and was declared a Monumental Site in 1997. Located on top of a hill right in the middle of the city, we can reach it by climbing the steep streets known as "cantones" but also via mechanical ramps or by using the lift. Its narrow streets retain the names of the trades that once took place there: Herrería (Ironwork), Zapatería (Shoemaking), Cuchillería (Knife making). Follow its layout and you'll discover medieval squares like **Las Burullerías** or **Machete**, the medieval wall, tower houses and a former roadhouse called **El Portalón** (15th century), Renaissance palaces like **Montehermoso** and **Villa Suso**, Gothic churches and the **Santa María Cathedral** (12th century). The renovation work on this temple has unveiled several secrets concerning the city's history. Would you like to know what they are? The guided tour, which is accessible for the most part, allows us to visit it from its foundations to its tower, where we are rewarded with the best panoramic view of the city. Information and bookings at: [www.catedralvitoria.eus/en](http://www.catedralvitoria.eus/en)

You'll also find façades painted with beautiful murals, unique museums like the **Fournier Cards Museum** with a large collection of cards from all countries and eras, charming shops and a wide gastronomic offer for all ages: pintxos and menus with traditional recipes but not neglecting hamburgers, sandwiches and pizzas. The Tourist Office organises children's guided tours around the Medieval Quarter for the whole family. [v-g.eus/childrenstour](http://v-g.eus/childrenstour)



We can leave the medieval quarter passing by **Los Arquillos**, Neoclassical buildings designed by Olaguibel, an architect from Vitoria, to compensate for the slope of the hill and connect the medieval city with the Neoclassical one. The **Plaza de España** and that of the **Virgen Blanca** are the main centres of the city and host its festive and cultural activities.

The pedestrian streets of the centre are full of terraces where you can have a bite to eat. **The Dato and San Prudencio streets and the Plaza de los Fueros** are emblematic places with high commercial activity. And who can resist something sweet? Bakeries in Vitoria enjoy a well-deserved reputation. Try specialities such as truffles and chocolates, pastries, nougats and sweets. They're simply delicious. [v-g.eus/sweets](http://v-g.eus/sweets)

## THE FLORIDA PARK AND THE LA SENDA ROUTE

# THE GREEN BELT, ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE



Declared European Green Capital (2012) and Green Global City (2019), and Sustainable Tourist Destination since 2016, it's the provincial capital with the most green areas per inhabitant: over 130,000 trees with 150 different species. But the pride of the city is the **Green Belt** that surrounds it, a belt of parks that stretches over 33 kilometres, with forests, streams, wetlands and mounts that have been recovered for leisure purposes and to enjoy the environment.

At the Tourist Office you'll find a map with three routes that you can follow on foot or by bicycle: the **Armentia Forest**, **Olárizu** and the most emblematic, the **Wetlands of Salburua**. That's where you'll find **Ataria**, the Nature Interpretation Centre that offers several activities. Ataria: [v-g.eus/atariaen](http://v-g.eus/atariaen)

In Salburua, there are observatories where you can view aquatic birds and get a closer look at a herd of deer in surroundings that are home to the European mink, an endangered species. If you like nature, check out the "Nature" menu on our website: [v-g.eus/tourism](http://v-g.eus/tourism)

## AN AREA FOR SPORT AND CULTURE

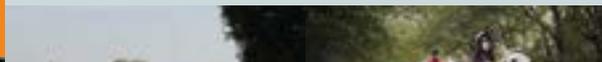


In this city, it's so easy to fully embrace sport. 150 km of cycle paths and sports facilities in every district, the Civic Centres, are other hallmarks of the city. They are equipped with covered swimming pools, climbing walls, paddle tennis courts, skating rinks, etc... most of them allow entry for non-members upon payment of an access fee.

In summer, you can have fun at the **open-air swimming pools** at the **Gamarra** sports complex. Another option is to strap on your skates and visit the **large ice rink** at the BAKH, very close to Ataria and the **Buesa Arena**, home to the great local basketball team, Baskonia.

Outside of the city, the area of Álava offers stunning natural surroundings. Just a few kilometres away, and connected by a cycling path, you can take part in water sports at the **Zadorra reservoirs** where you'll also find inland beaches for swimming in the **Garaio** and **Landa** parks, 3 of them blue flag **beaches**.

The natural parks of **Valderejo** with one of the largest colonies of griffon vultures, **Gorbea** and **Aizkorri-Aratz**, allow you to go hiking, horse riding, climbing and to discover the natural surroundings of the mountains, forests and **waterfalls** such as **Gujuli** and **El Salto del Nervión** (the highest one in the peninsula). They'll take your breath away!





Another obligatory visit is the **Florida Park**, a Romantic garden from 1820 which is like a forest with its rivers, hills and trails, under the branches of century-old trees of exotic species. Concerts are held in its Bandstand and, at Christmas, the park is the backdrop for the Monumental Nativity Scene, with life-sized figures. Just next to it, in the gardens of the "New Cathedral", we can enjoy the fountains and look at somewhat strange sculptures of a crocodile and a rhinoceros. Take a good look! The Tourist Office schedules guided tours to visit the park at different times of the year.

Starting from the Florida Park, the **Senda Route** includes several walks, flanked by rows of gigantic banana trees first and by horse chestnuts later. A 3 kilometer route that ends at the **Romanesque hermitage of Armentia**, from the 12th century. This path is a showcase of palatial houses, some of which are home to museums such as that of **Fine Arts** and the **Armoury Museum**, or **Ajuria Enea**, the house where the Lehendakari of the Basque Government lives. You'll see the Mendizorrotza Pavilion, the football ground of Deportivo Alavés.

To find out about Basque culture, gastronomy, craftsmanship and traditions the best thing to do is to visit the rural areas and discover the typical farmhouses in the north where they make cheese, cider or collect honey and the beautiful towns of the **Rioja Alavesa**, to take in the vineyards and learn about the wine-making process. There are several local festivals where there are markets and you can enjoy our music and traditions.

And, to round it all off, we return to history: **prehistoric dolmens** such as **Sorginetxe** in Salvatierra, or **La Hechicera** (The Sorceress) in Elvillar, **the site of La Hoya**, from the Bronze Age, in Laguardia, castles and walled towns await us.

## REFERENCES

- **The 'Family Tourism' section of the Tourism website:** [v-g.eus/familytourism](http://v-g.eus/familytourism)
- **TWebsite with the local offer of guided tours:** [v-g.eus/guidedtours](http://v-g.eus/guidedtours)
- **Map of Green Belt Green Routes:** [v-g.eus/rutasverdes](http://v-g.eus/rutasverdes)
- **Bicycle rental and alternatives for people with reduced mobility:** [v-g.eus/rent](http://v-g.eus/rent)

Latest information at [www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/tourism](http://www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/tourism)

## MUST-DOS

Reservations and information about guided tours and other activities  
Tourist Office. Tel: 945 161 598 / 99



### VITORIA-GASTEIZ FOR LITTLE ONES.

An entertaining and educational family stroll to discover the most beautiful corners of the Medieval Quarter. It's also a 'green' route that offers tips and suggestions for looking after our environment. Information and bookings at: [v-g.eus/childrenstour](http://v-g.eus/childrenstour)



### PIRATE BOAT IN LAKUA

Imagine a 33-metre-long ship, a park full of play areas so that the youngest members can have a whale of a time. It's in the Lakua district. Tram connection (Ibaiondo line. Lakuabizkarra). Other places with children's play areas: City centre: Vicente Goikoetxea next to the New Cathedral and the Plaza de Santa Bárbara, next to the Produce Market. There are also large play areas in the districts of Zabalzana and Salburua.



### BIRDING BY BICYCLE. ITINERARY THROUGH SALBURUA

Pedal along this route and you'll be captivated by the European Green Capital and Green Global City. Visits to Ataria by bicycle: [v-g.eus/atariaen](http://v-g.eus/atariaen)



### ADVENTURE PARKS IN SOBRÓN AND OLAETA

Located in stunning natural surroundings, the **Sobron Adventure Centre** organises activities for children and families: zip-lines, kayaking or canoeing, paintball, climbing and archery. It's located in Sobron. [aventurasobron.com](http://aventurasobron.com)

**The Hontza Extrem Adventure Centre** offers archery and adventures in the trees: hanging bridges, net bridges, zip-lines, vines, oscillating logs and tree climbing. It's located in Olaeta. [bit.ly/hontzaen](http://bit.ly/hontzaen)



### THE ZADORRA RESERVOIRS

The marshes of Ullibarra-Gamboa and Urrunaga are unique areas of ecological value, a refuge for several aquatic birds. You can reach them and discover them by bicycle, and even go for a swim in the summer period. The beaches of Garaio and Landa are blue flag beaches. [bit.ly/inlandbeaches](http://bit.ly/inlandbeaches)

# 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



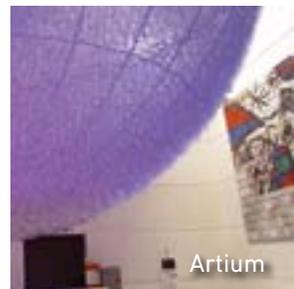
Virgen Blanca Festivities

**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 Egulaz**.

## 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 / Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre / 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

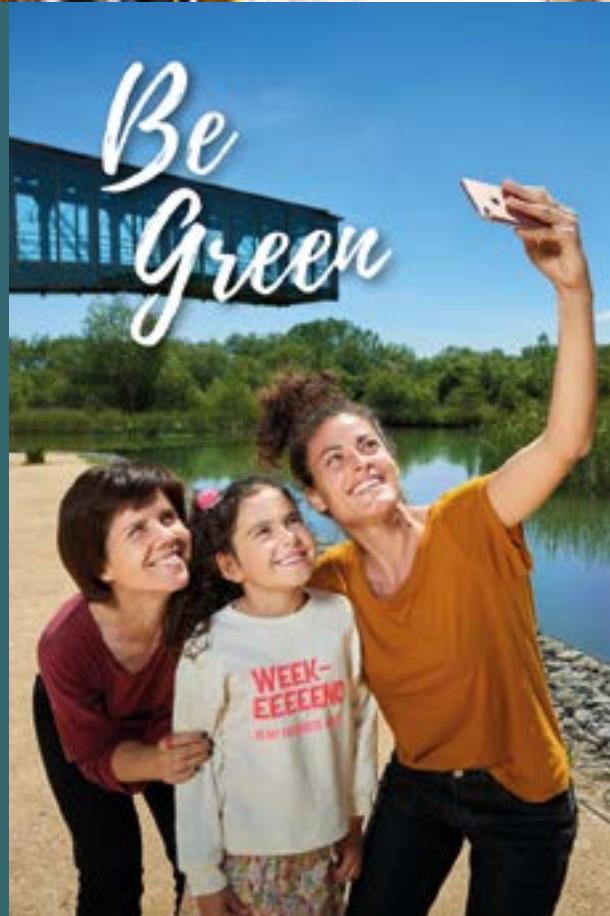
Municipal vehicle pound. Aguirrelanda, 8.

945 161 100 / 945 158 000

Renfe. 912 320 320

Airport. 945 163 500 / 902 404 704

Bus station. 945 161 66



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**EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY



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 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.

Sundays and public holidays: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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



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