

## Setting Off From Zumaia

Zumaia boasts an exceptional setting, right in the heart of an extraordinary natural environment. It also has an outstanding geological heritage and the surrounding area is known for its varied geographical landscapes. The sparsely-populated coastline close to the town has barely been touched by man, and is made up of high cliffs which provide a geological record going back millions of years. These cliffs are a point of reference for geologists from around the world. The Urola river has been a focal point of activity in Zumaia since the town, which has grown up around the river, was first founded. The rural areas next to the town are still used for farming. All of these features make Zumaia and the surrounding area perfect for walking and hiking, and the region's mild winters and warm summers mean that visitors can enjoy walking around and getting to know the area at any time of year.

This guide provides details of the most interesting routes to follow, which give visitors the chance to find out about Zumaia's key natural and cultural attractions. The starting point for all of the walks described here is the footbridge over the Narrondo river. For each route, the walking direction with the most attractive views has been marked. Tarmac roads have been avoided in most cases. Although this has not always been possible, the sections of road included in the routes are relatively traffic-free. For each walk, there are a series of helpful pictograms which show any crossroads and the paths that you should take. Many of the walks will take you close to the cliffs, and it is vital to be careful in these areas. Finally, please remember that it is important to respect the natural environment in the places where you walk and the ways of life of each place you visit.

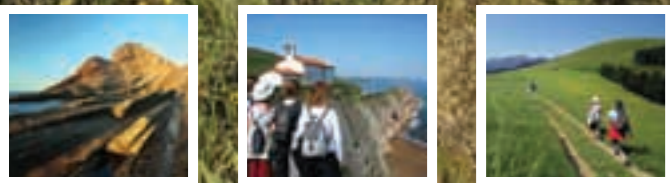
## Au départ de Zumaia

Zumaia est située dans un environnement privilégié, au milieu d'un cadre naturel extraordinaire. Elle se distingue par ailleurs par son patrimoine géologique exceptionnel et par la grande diversité des paysages qui l'entourent. Nous retrouvons aux abords de la localité un littoral peu altéré et peu habité, formé de hautes falaises qui renferment un passé géologique de plusieurs millions d'années et qui tiennent lieu de référence à l'échelle internationale. La rivière de l'Urola s'est par ailleurs constituée comme l'axe de l'activité de Zumaia dès sa naissance, en même temps que l'espace qui l'a vue grandir. L'environnement rural proche de la localité préserve en outre son caractère agricole, le tout créant un contexte exceptionnel pour la promenade et la randonnée. Grâce à un climat tempéré, avec des hivers cléments et des étés doux, n'importe quelle saison est bonne pour découvrir et visiter Zumaia.

Dans ce guide, vous trouverez les parcours les plus intéressants et ceux qui permettent de mettre en relief certaines des richesses les plus importantes de cet environnement naturel et culturel. Tous les itinéraires ici décrits débutent au pont piétonnier sur le Narrondo. Nous avons marqué dans chaque parcours la direction que nous avons considérée la plus attrayante. Les voies goudronnées ont été évitées dans la mesure du possible, bien que les sections qui apparaissent ici sont en réalité peu fréquentées. Chaque itinéraire joint une série de pictogrammes qui montrent schématiquement les croisements et les déviations à prendre. Plusieurs parcours donnent accès à des zones de falaises, nous vous demandons donc de redoubler de vigilance lorsque vous serez à proximité. Finalement, il n'est pas superflu de rappeler que lorsque nous nous promenons, nous devons respecter la nature que nous visitons et les modes de vie de chaque site.

# Zumaia

## Hikes Sentiers pédestres



## 1 Zumaia, Estuary and Sea

**6,8 km**  
**2 h**

The first inhabitants of Zumaia were farmers, but the town also grew up around its merchant port, and its shipbuilding and industrial sectors. Shipbuilding has been an important industry around the banks of the Urola throughout the town's history, probably since it was first founded. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Zumaia was one of the most important shipbuilding centres in Gipuzkoa. Up until a few decades ago, Zumaia was also one of the province's key trade ports. The iron and cement produced by forges and factories located upriver were particularly important for the town's trade.

The first suggested walk is the simplest and least strenuous of the hikes around Zumaia. The complete walk along the Urola estuary to the river mouth passes through what used to be Zumaia's main shipbuilding area. The first section of the walk takes you through the area that used to be Zumaia's old port, across the reclaimed land alongside the Urola and its estuary, and the new breakwater or seawall. The walk then continues along the other side of the river, around the shipyards, the marina, the remaining marshland next to the Zuloaga museum and the sandbank, until you reach the breakwater. You can do the whole walk there and back, but during the summer months you can also catch the motorboat service back from Txomin Aguirre pier to Santiago beach, which not only cuts out the walk back but also adds a bit of variety to the route.



Urola river mouth - Embouchure de l'Urola



Zumaia and its estuary - Zumaia et son estuaire

The first occupation of the village of Zumaia was that of agriculture, but the local area also grew up around its merchant port, and its shipbuilding and industrial sectors. Shipbuilding has been an important industry around the banks of the Urola throughout the town's history, probably since it was first founded. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Zumaia was one of the most important shipbuilding centres in Gipuzkoa. Up until a few decades ago, Zumaia was also one of the province's key trade ports. The iron and cement produced by forges and factories located upriver were particularly important for the town's trade.

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## COASTAL BIOTOPE - BIOTOPE LITTORAL



## 2 Geological walk / Sentier géologique

**4 km**  
**1 h 40'**



This walk takes you around the cliffs closest to Zumaia. Up until quite recently, these geological treasures, which reveal all sorts of intriguing secrets, were only known about by geology experts who travelled from far and wide to visit them. It is best to do this walk at low tide so that you can see the large abrasion platform that becomes visible when the tide is out. This walk sets off from Zumaia and goes up Talaimendi hill, the town's old lookout point which was used, like other lookout points along the Basque coastline, to spot whales and keep the town informed about what was going on along the coast since the Middle Ages. The walk then continues along beside the cliffs on Itzurun beach until it reaches Algorri point. One of the most eye-catching features of this walk is the structure of the rocks, a formation known as flysch, which consists of alternating hard and soft layers (strata of sandstone and shale) which were deposited on the sea bed millions of years ago. Since these layers had been buried and transformed into rock, they were shifted by the Earth's internal movements, which pushed them up until they were exposed to the erosive action of the sea. The waves act like a knife, cutting the rocky front, shaping a horizontal abrasion platform and creating a vertical cliff-face at the point where they can go no further. At Algorri point, amongst the layers of rock which come to the surface next to the sea, there is a layer which is 65 million years old containing particles belonging to an asteroid which collided with Earth during that period, and which probably caused the fifth mass extinction in the history of life on our planet. There are further two vertical layers next to Itzurun which are now officially recognised stratotypes used as an international point of reference due to the quality of the outcrops. To find out more about this area and its interesting geological features, the Algorri Interpretation Centre is well worth a visit. You can also take part in one of the guided walks and boat trips which are organised on a regular basis by the tourist office in Zumaia (look at [www.flysch.com](http://www.flysch.com)).



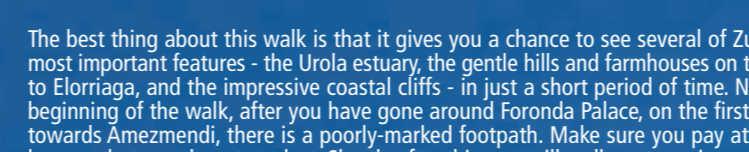
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## COASTAL BIOTOPE - BIOTOPE LITTORAL



## 3 Zumaia - Elorriaga - Pikote

**9,1 km**  
**2 h 30'**



The best thing about this walk is that it gives you a chance to see several of Zumaia's most important features - the Urola estuary, the gentle hills and farmhouses on the way to Elorriaga, and the impressive coastal cliffs - in just a short period of time. Near the beginning of the walk, after you have gone around Foronda Palace, on the first ascent towards Amezcendi, there is a poorly-marked footpath. Make sure you pay attention here so that you do not get lost. Shortly after this, you will walk up to various vantage points where you can enjoy good views of the estuary and imagine what Zumaia was like a few centuries ago: a small walled settlement of houses surrounded by an extensive estuary with marshland that flooded at high tide. The path continues through a very pleasant landscape dotted with farmhouses and hills, then climbs up a gentle slope to Elorriaga, a peaceful rural settlement next to a small San Sebastian hermitage. There is also a bar here which serves food and drinks. From here, the walk goes back down to the sea across a gently-contoured landscape until you reach the Pikote farmhouse, where you may be taken back by the sudden vertical drop down a cliff-face standing some 150 metres high. From Pikote, you can choose from two different options to finish the walk: the easiest of the two (option A) takes you along the path from the farmhouse to Zumaia, while the second route (option B) takes you along the cliff edge. Please take extra care here as the path is poorly-marked and runs along very close to the cliff edge, and there is a sheer drop on the other side. If you decide to take the second route, remember not to leave the path and do not walk into the surrounding fields or land.



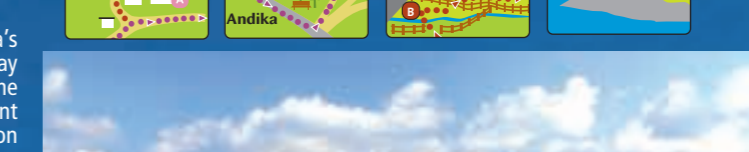
Algorri Point and cliffs - Pointe d'Algorri et falaises

The grand advantage of this promenade is that it allows you to discover, in a short time, the landscapes most representative of Zumaia, from the estuary of the Urola, the gentle hills and the farms towards Elorriaga, and finally the coast and its imposing cliffs. One of the main reasons for this is that the walk is very short and easy to do. A few minutes after you leave Artadi, the walk continues uphill. Soon afterwards, as you get closer to Garate Gaina hill, you can enjoy fantastic views of Oikia, the Urola valley, the Izarratza massif, Indamendi and other nearby hills. Shortly after this, the path leaves the Cantabrian holm oak wood, and you will start to see the txakoli vineyards, which are gradually covering more and more of the land in this area and other coastal areas near Getaria. If you do this walk in September or October you may see the vineyards at harvest time. Just a few weeks after the harvest this young wine, which up until recently was made exclusively in this area and is becoming increasingly popular, will be ready to drink. Keep walking and soon you will reach Askizu. The road to the coast used to pass through this small village, until the new road was built a little over a century ago. Here, the path joins up with the Coastal Route of the Way of St. James. Along the path back you will be able to enjoy fantastic views of Zumaia and appreciate its exceptional setting.



## 4 Zumaia - Artadi - Askizu

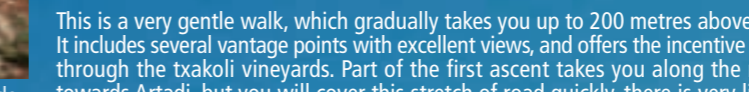
**9 km**  
**2 h 20'**



Pikotegaina

## 4 Zumaia - Artadi - Askizu

**9 km**  
**2 h 20'**



This is a very gentle walk, which gradually takes you up to 200 metres above sea level. It includes several vantage points with excellent views, and offers the incentive of walking through the txakoli vineyards. Part of the first ascent takes you along the main road towards Artadi, but you will cover this stretch of road quickly, there is very little traffic and it offers the incentive of being able to walk through a wonderful holm oak wood. A few minutes after you leave Artadi, the walk continues uphill. Soon afterwards, as you get closer to Garate Gaina hill, you can enjoy fantastic views of Oikia, the Urola valley, the Izarratza massif, Indamendi and other nearby hills. Shortly after this, the path leaves the Cantabrian holm oak wood, and you will start to see the txakoli vineyards, which are gradually covering more and more of the land in this area and other coastal areas near Getaria. If you do this walk in September or October you may see the vineyards at harvest time. Just a few weeks after the harvest this young wine, which up until recently was made exclusively in this area and is becoming increasingly popular, will be ready to drink. Keep walking and soon you will reach Askizu. The road to the coast used to pass through this small village, until the new road was built a little over a century ago. Here, the path joins up with the Coastal Route of the Way of St. James. Along the path back you will be able to enjoy fantastic views of Zumaia and appreciate its exceptional setting.



Orroa - Zumaia

Cet itinéraire, très décontracté, monte peu à peu jusqu'à 200 m de hauteur, et depuis plusieurs endroits, nous offre de magnifiques vues, tout en nous rapprochant des vignobles de txakoli. Le premier bout de chemin passe en partie par la route d'Artadi mais cette petite section goudronnée est très courte et peu fréquentée par les voitures, et a l'avantage de traverser un magnifique bois de chênes. Quelques minutes après avoir passé Artadi, le sentier continue de monter. Bientôt, dès l'arrivée à Garate gaina, nous jouirons d'une splendide vue d'Oikia, de la vallée de l'Urola, du massif d'Izarratza, d'Indamendi et d'autres monts voisins. Nous quittons très rapidement la chaîne pour laisser la place aux vignobles de txakoli. Ceux-ci occupent de plus en plus d'extension dans cette zone et dans les zones côtières proches de Getaria. Si nous faisons la traversée en septembre ou en octobre, nous pourrions rencontrer les vendangeurs qui en peu de semaines auront conclu l'élaboration de ce vin jeune, jusqu'à il y a peu exclusif de cette contrée et actuellement en plein essor. En poursuivant le parcours, nous atteindrons bientôt le site d'Askizu, qui il y a un peu plus d'un siècle fut le passage obligé pour aller à la côte, jusqu'à ce qu'il fut relégué par la construction de la nouvelle route. D'ici, notre itinéraire converge avec le chemin côtier de Saint - Jacques. Ce trajet du retour nous permettra de profiter de vues splendides sur Zumaia et de constater, en le parcourant, son emplacement privilégié.





## 5 Round Trip of Zumaia Tour de Zumaia

**18,5 km**

**5 h** **%97**

This route takes its inspiration from the annual walk around Zumaia undertaken by the town's Indamendi mountain club. It is a very enjoyable walk which combines coastal and inland features, and most of the tracks are on cement or tarmac. The route will take you across the Urola river twice and through the small rural settlements of Artadi, Oikia, Ibañarrieta and Elorriaga, via a hilly landscape dotted with farmhouses. Because of the nature of the slopes that you have to go up and down along the route, we suggest that you follow the path in a clockwise direction. The tracks are also suitable for mountain bikes, although if you decide to cycle you may find it easier to come off the route suggested here for two short sections: halfway around the walk it is best to turn off towards Arroa and join up with the path a little later, and at the end of the track you can follow the last tarmac section which takes you directly to Zumaia.




Parcours inspiré du «Tour de Zumaia», réalisé chaque année par le club de montagne Indamendi de Zumaia. C'est une promenade très agréable qui combine à la perfection les atouts de la côte et ceux de l'intérieur, et qui emprunte généralement des pistes de ciment ou goudronnées. Tout au long de la promenade, on traverse deux fois la rivière de l'Urola ainsi que les petits hameaux de Artadi, Oikia, Ibañarrieta et Elorriaga, tout ceci à travers un environnement de monts et de fermes. En fonction des dénivellements que présente l'itinéraire, nous proposons de réaliser le parcours dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre. Cet itinéraire est aussi apte au VTT bien qu'il soit possible de le rendre plus aisé en prenant une déviation à deux endroits : à mi-parcours, prendre la direction d'Arroa et reprendre peu après l'itinéraire, et de même, à la fin du parcours, prendre la dernière piste goudronnée qui va directement jusqu'à Zumaia.

## 6 Deba - Zumaia The Coastal Flysch Route / La Route du Flysch

**15 km**

**5-6 h**

**GR 121**



This walk, which is becoming more and more popular by the day, takes you around some of the most beautiful and interesting parts of the whole Basque coast, and into the area recently declared a coastal biotope between Deba and Zumaia. In just a few hours, you can walk along the unbroken sequence of strata which, layer by layer, make up more than 50 million years of the history of our planet. There are a number of different routes between Deba and Zumaia, some of which even take you over the rocks. One of these routes, and the one that we recommend, is the GR-121, also known as the Round Trip of Gipuzkoa. This means that all you need to do to complete the walk is follow the red and white GR signs. You can follow the path in either direction, but we suggest travelling to Deba on the Euskotren train and then hiking back to Zumaia. From the Santa Catalina hermitage, the path takes you around a number of vantage points along the coast, giving you the chance to enjoy fantastic views of a wide variety of different landscapes. In the middle section of the walk, it is worth leaving the GR route for a moment to go to the edge of the impressive cliffs at Mendatagaina and Sakoneta. At low tide in the same area, you can also walk along the spectacular abrasion platform, where flysch outcrops have given rise to beautiful cliffs. Although it may seem unbelievable today, in the 1970s plans were being made to build a nuclear power station here. This whole coastline has a rich history of stories about smuggling, octopus fishing and many, many more. Remember, the tourist offices at Zumaia and Deba run regular guided walks here (look at [www.flysch.com](http://www.flysch.com)), and these are an excellent opportunity to find out about many of the area's secrets.



Promenade de plus en plus populaire qui nous permettra de découvrir l'une des zones les plus belles et les plus intéressantes de toute la Côte Basque, en pénétrant dans la zone récemment déclarée biotope littoral de Deba-Zumaia. L'itinéraire nous permet de parcourir en quelques heures une succession ininterrompue de strates qui, couche après couche, représentent plus de 50 millions d'années de l'histoire de la planète. La traversée entre Deba et Zumaia peut se réaliser par différents parcours – même par les rochers. L'un d'entre eux coïncide avec le tracé du GR 121 ou Tour de Gipuzkoa, qui est celui que nous vous recommandons. Pour ceci, il suffit de suivre les marques rouge et blanche du GR pour réaliser l'excursion. Le parcours peut se réaliser dans les deux sens mais nous vous proposons de faire d'abord l'aller à Deba en train « Euskotren » et de revenir à pied jusqu'à Zumaia. Depuis le premier ermitage de Santa Catalina, cette traversée nous charme avec les vues depuis les nombreux miradors naturels situés sur la côte et la grande diversité de paysages. A mi-parcours, nous vous encourageons à abandonner momentanément le GR et à vous approcher du bord des falaises de Mendatagaina et Sakoneta. A marée basse, on peut aussi parcourir une spectaculaire plateforme d'abrasion, d'où émerge le flysch, qui crée de magnifiques falaises. Bien que de nos jours cela nous paraisse incroyable, dans les années 70, il était prévu d'y construire une centrale nucléaire. Toute cette côte est riche aussi en histoires de contrebandiers, de pêche au poulpe, et beaucoup d'autres. A mentionner également que les Offices de Tourisme de Zumaia et de Deba réalisent périodiquement cette excursion guidée, une opportunité unique de découvrir bon nombre des secrets de ce littoral (accéder à [www.flysch.com](http://www.flysch.com)).

## 7 Zumaia - Zarautz

**9 km**

**3 h**

**GR 121**

You can take a gentle, enjoyable walk between these two coastal towns on the GR-121 trail, which runs parallel to the coast a few kilometres inland. If you combine your walk with the Euskotren train service or the local buses, you can get back to your starting point in no time. This walk takes you alongside some of the most notable cultural landscapes of Gipuzkoa: the txakoli vineyards that have made the area famous, some of which can even be found on the coast.

From the footbridge over the Narrondo river in Zumaia, go along the estuary until you approach the Zuloaga museum. From here, you will start your ascent towards Askizu. The route is already marked, so just follow the GR signs. Once you have walked uphill for a while, the path goes through the coastal range, a relief which dominates Gipuzkoa's coastline from the Bidasoa river. Walk up gradually and soon you will see Getaria below, with its characteristic San Antonio hill. On the summit of Garatemendi, the highest point of the route, you can see the ruins of a fort dating from the Third Carlist War (1871-1876) which was built by Carlist troops with a view to attacking Getaria, a Liberal stronghold. You can see Mediterranean cork oaks here, in small copses or standing alone, even though they are a very rare species at this latitude. Their presence here bears testimony to a past with a very different climate from the one enjoyed by the area today. In the final sections of the walk you will come across some stretches of cobblestone track and before you reach the final descent towards Zarautz the path passes alongside the Santa Barbara hermitage. It is worth leaving the route for a moment here to take in the spectacular views of Zarautz, located by a coastal inlet, and other features of the nearby coastline.



Les deux localités côtières peuvent être reliées et traversées grâce à un itinéraire facile et agréable, le tronçon littoral du GR-121. En utilisant en parallèle le service ferroviaire d'Euskotren ou l'autobus, nous pouvons aussi revenir à notre point de départ en peu de temps. Durant ce parcours, nous serons accompagnés d'un des paysages culturels les plus intéressants de Gipuzkoa, les vignobles de txakoli, parfois situés en bordure même de la mer, et qui ont donné une grande renommée à la région.

Depuis le pont piétonnier sur le Narrondo à Zumaia, longer l'estuaire jusqu'aux abords du musée Zuloaga, point de départ de l'ascension vers Askizu. L'itinéraire étant balisé, il nous suffira de faire simplement attention aux marques propres au GR. Le chemin, lorsqu'on a gagné en hauteur, suit la chaîne côtière, un relief qui depuis la Bidasoa domine le littoral de Gipuzkoa. En montant doucement, nous observerons bientôt le relief de Getaria avec son caractéristique mont San Antonio. Au point le plus élevé du parcours, la cime de Garatemendi, nous verrons les ruines conservées d'un fort de la IIIème Guerre Carliste (1871-1876), qui fut construit par les troupes carlistes pour bombarder Getaria, aux mains des libéraux. Les bosquets de chênes-lièges ou les exemplaires isolés, caractéristiques de l'Europe Méditerranéenne, sont une espèce très rare sous cette latitude. Leur présence témoigne d'un passé où les conditions climatiques différaient totalement des actuelles. Dans la dernière section du parcours, nous retrouverons des tronçons de chaussée, et avant la descente finale vers Zarautz, le chemin passe à côté de l'ermitage de Santa Barbara, qui mérite un détour pour admirer les vues imprenables sur la baie de Zarautz et la côte.



### WALKING TIPS

- Take extra care when walking close to cliffs, especially if you are walking with children or in a group. Also, remember that the cliff edges can be unstable, and loose rocks often fall down underneath them.
- Public transport can be a very useful and practical way to follow the suggested routes.
- Respect the rural and natural environment in which you are walking. This includes the area's fields, crops, farmland and livestock. Close any gates after you walk through them. If walking with dogs, make sure that they are kept under control. Put them on a lead if necessary.
- Do not leave anything behind. This includes rubbish, containers, cigarette butts, etc...
- Respect the area's plants and trees. Do not write or paint on, or carve anything out of, trees, rocks or stones. Do not make any unnecessary noise. Enjoy the sounds of nature.
- Wear suitable clothes and shoes, and take some food and spare water with you. For longer walks, it is a good idea to take a first aid kit.
- If you are going on a long hike, plan in advance and check the weather forecast before you go.
- Look after the natural environment as much as possible so that others can enjoy it too.

### RECOMMENDATIONS A SUIVRE

- Lorsque nous longeons les falaises, nous devons redoubler de vigilance, surtout si nous sommes accompagnés d'enfants ou si nous nous déplaçons en groupe. Ne pas oublier non plus que les bords des falaises peuvent être instables et que de fréquents éboulements s'y produisent.
- Le transport public peut s'avérer très utile et pratique pour réaliser les parcours proposés.
- Respectons l'environnement rural ou le cadre naturel que nous traversons, les prés, les cultures, les vergers et le bétail de la région. Fermons les portillons et les barrières que nous trouvons en chemin. Si nous amenons notre chien, nous ferons attention à ce qu'il ne dérange pas et si nécessaire, nous le tiendrons en laisse.
- Tout ce que nous avons apporté doit revenir avec nous : déchets, récipients, mégots, etc.
- Respectons la végétation naturelle. N'écrivons pas, ne peignons pas ou ne gravons pas sur les arbres, les rochers ou les pierres. Ne provoquons pas de bruits inutiles et profitions des sons naturels.
- Il est recommandé de porter des vêtements et des chaussures adéquats, une petite réserve de nourriture et d'eau et, pour les longues excursions, une trousse de secours sera la bienvenue.
- En cas d'excursion de longue durée, il est recommandé de planifier et de consulter les services météorologiques.
- Contribuons dans la mesure du possible à préserver la nature pour que d'autres puissent continuer à en profiter.

Hiking in Gipuzkoa / Randonnée dans Gipuzkoa: [www.gipuzkoaoinez.net](http://www.gipuzkoaoinez.net)  
 Tourism in Gipuzkoa / Tourisme à Gipuzkoa: [www.gipuzkoaturismo.net](http://www.gipuzkoaturismo.net) - [www.urolaturismo.net](http://www.urolaturismo.net) - [www.costavasca.com](http://www.costavasca.com)  
 Tourism in the Basque Country / Tourisme au Pays Basque: [www.paisvascoturismo.net](http://www.paisvascoturismo.net)  
 Public Transportation / Transport publique: [www.euskotren.es](http://www.euskotren.es)  
 Rural guesthouses and farmhouses / Hébergements en milieu rural: [www.nekartur.net](http://www.nekartur.net)  
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**LOWSEASON BASSE SAISON**  
 (16/09 - 14/06) 10:00-14:00 / 16:00-19:00  
 From sunday afternoon to tuesday morning CLOSED  
 De dimanche après-midi à mardi matin FERMÉ

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