



# ITINERARY

## ① THE LIBRARY

It was an ancient hospital for pilgrims on the St. James' Way or "Camino de Santiago", and used by those who got off the boat in Bermeo. It was used for patients with contagious diseases and pilgrims. The opening year is not exactly known but proof exists that in 1632 it was closed by order of the lordship of Biscay. It is a popular neoclassical building. It was used by the fishermen's guild and as a slaughterhouse, "matadero", the name by which it is also known.

## ② HERMITAGE OF ST. CATHERINE

It is located close to a ruined fortress which was used by the town in times of war and from which there are only some ancient remains of the walls surrounding the shrine. We don't exactly know when the ancient hermitage, which existed before this one, was built, but it seems that it was narrower and more elongated and located more towards the east than the current hermitage. There was also a little house attached to its walls which was used for sheltering homeless people and infectious patients.

In 1879, the hermitage tumbled down because of its rundown state. Immediately people showed interest in building a new one. The new hermitage was inaugurated in 1885, on the 25th of November. The building is a transition from Gothic to Renaissance. It was often used as a meeting place for the fishermen's guild and a place for quarantining the victims of epidemics.

## ③ THE CALVARY CROSS AND THE PALACE OF THE CROSS

**CALVARY CROSS:** It is dated 1611 and is in the late Roman Renaissance style. It has a crucifix on one side of the cross and the Virgin and child on the other side. Although the letters are faint, the following inscription can be read in the sandstone. "Rodrigo Abad de Mendecano had this cross made and you, the reader, pray to the sovereign".

**THE PALACE OF THE CROSS:** This building, also known as "Simitur House", belonged to this family until it disappeared from Mundaka in 1648. One hundred years later, in 1783 it was restored by a member of the Arteaga clan, whose shield is displayed on its facade, taking the name of "Kurutzia" Palace or the Palace of the Cross. Nowadays it has been completely restored and it has turned to a hotel. We can see four polychrome shields on the top of the wall.



## ④ LARRINAGA PALACE

A PALACE BUILT BY THE Larrinaga family, owners of a shipping company located in Liverpool (England) since XIXth century. The palace has an influence of the Neo-Baroque French hotels of the Paris at the time of the Second Empire. We can see a great number of attics and chimneys on the roofs, cushioning corners and strong railings round the house, typical characteristics of French architecture.

## ⑤ CHALET AMAIA ENEA

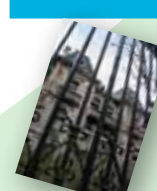
This building has been made in an eclectic style. This style mixes different architectural styles of different periods. In any way, this house has its own style close to the local architecture.

## ⑥ TXORROKOPUNTA QUI

From here, we can enjoy some beautiful views of Laida and Laidatxu beaches. In summer, surfing courses start here. From Txorrokopunta quay, and always with low tide, surfers cross, rowing on their boards, to the Laida beach where they learn to go on a board.

## ⑦ CHALET DE TXORROKOPUNTA

It is a house in a neo-Basque style, with a direct access to the sea. The entrance of the house is a big portal with a cut arch in the same style of the Basque farms "Caserios".



### ⑧ IBAIALDE PALACE

In this palace we can find several characteristics of the neo-highlander's style. It has been made in a similar style to Amaia-Enea house (tower on the corner). We have to pay attention to the railings around the house and in balconies.

### ⑨ TRIBISARROSPE

Nowadays, this building has become the cultural center of the town after its renovation. It has taken the name of the person who donated the money in 1923 to build a new school for the children had been studying in the San Luis School, located since 1907 in the premises of the fishermen's guild. Its façade has been kept after its renovation.

### ⑩ THE SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

This parish church already existed in the 11th century as a document still exists in the monastery of San Juan de la Peña (Aragon), recording the donation in the year 1071. The church was destroyed during the family wars, and rebuilt and enlarged in the 16th century. The church has a gothic-Renaissance style. The roof is made up of a groined vaulting. It was built during a big period of time, in different parts. At the end of the 19th century a great building work changed definitely the appearance of the inside and the outside of the church.

### ⑪ ATALAYA VIEWPOINT

It is the best place in the village which affords a superb view of the famous left wave. Mundaka proudly boasts about its left wave, with good reason, as it is considered the best wave in Europe in this category. This famous left wave attracts many surfers from around the world every year. It rises in the shape of a tube extending from the sandbank of Mundaka to Laida beach; formed by the south-southwest winds, it can grow to 4 meters high and 400 meters long. The barrel shaped wave provides a magnificent view from inside, giving it an extra dimension. The Mundaka waters host several international events every year. Some great surfers have marked their legacy on this wave.

### ⑫ THE "CASINO" AND THE FISHERMEN'S GUILD

This building, called "The Casino" houses on its second floor the "Sociedad Fraternidad Mundaquesa" it is used as a restaurant but the memberships have some rights of way. It was built in 1818, at first as a fish market or a fishermen's guild, which was located in the old hospital (the current library). The top floor was built later, in 1890, when the fishermen's guild authorized the "Sociedad Fraternidad Mundaquesa" to raise one floor and use it as its seat.

### ⑬ THE TOWN HALL

We finish our visit in the square of the village where we can admire the building which houses the Town Hall and the state school. It was built in 1895 thanks to donation of two important men from Mundaka, Juan Bautista Longa and Florentino Larrinaga, both of them were brother-in-law and owners of an important shipping company in Liverpool (England). Since its construction, it houses the Town Hall and the school. In the past, in one side of the building there was the school for girls and in the other side the school for boys. At present, both are linked behind its back, and in the middle the front is the Town Hall.

Artistically, it has an eclectic style, that is, we can see different influences from Flemish art until Mozarabic art on its façade. We can also see the arcs on the ground floor, that are very typical in most of the Town Halls in the Basque Country. Just in the center on the top of the building there is a little bell tower and under it a clock.



# MUNDAKA

## LOCATION - FOUNDING

Mundaka forms part of the Busturiialdea-Urdaibai district, which is located in the Urdaibai Reserve, designated a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984.

The origins of the village are unknown, which has given rise to many fables and legends about its founding, for example, the presence of Tubal, Noe's grandchild, in Bizkaia.

Some even talk about the arrival of Viking people in this village, which could justify the presence of faire-haired people with blue eyes in this area unlike Basque inhabitants of the inside of the region. Because of this, one of the theory about the name Mundaka is that it has a Nordic origin, so in Danish "mund" means "mouth or entrance" and Mundaka is just located in the inlet of the river Oka.

There is also a legend that attributes teh name of Mundaka to the Latin expression "munda aqua" (clear water). According to this legend a ship arrives at Mundaka from Scotland carrying a princess who had been exiled from her country. These Scottish people gave a Latin name "Munda aqua" to this place, because they found clear waters in contrast to muddy waters of the Urdaibai tidal inlet. Towards the end of the 11th century, this princess lived in the Altamira Palace and had a son called "Jaun Zuria" who became the first Lord of Biscay, according to this legend.



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