

# Bilbao — Day Plan




2 nights · Casco Viejo apt · 72°F + 26% rain (pack jacket) · pintxos and Guggenheim

## LAST TRAIN HOME

- **Metro L1/L2:** Sun-Thu 6 AM-11 PM · **Fri 6 AM-2 AM** · **SAT 24h continuous.**
- **Bilbobus:** ~5:15 AM-11 PM.
- **Gautxori night buses:** Fri 22:00-02:00, Sat 22:00-07:00 continuous. **Barik card mandatory** — no cash single fare.
- Our 2 nights are Thu Jun 25 (metro dies 11 PM, walk or cab) + Fri Jun 26 (metro 2 AM, Gautxori after).

## ★ KNOWN FOR

*Basque industrial-turned-architectural icon + pintxos warm-up*

-  Guggenheim Bilbao — Frank Gehry's titanium curves that put the city on the map
-  Pintxos on Calle Ledesma + Plaza Nueva — the warm-up for San Sebastián
-  Mercado de la Ribera — Europe's largest covered market, riverside

12:00 PM

**Bus A3247 or cab to Casco Viejo** ↗Bus €3 / cab €25. Walk 5 min to Erronda Kalea. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

1:00 PM

**Check in apartment**

⚠️ Host confirmed 1 PM — Eddie asked for noon-1 PM window.

**WhatsApp +34 635 732 931 morning-of**to flag possible noon arrival. Erronda Kalea, 5 min walk from bus. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

1:30 PM

**🐟 Mercado de la Ribera — Dani-mode stall map** (\$) **Open Mon-Thu 8-2:30, Fri 8-2:30 + 5-8, Sat 8-3 — Thu arrival fits.** 3 min walk from apt. 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Europe's largest covered food market. Two floors: ground floor = fish + butchers (the show), 1st floor = veg + pintxos gastrobar counters.📍 [Open in Maps](#) **MORE +**

3:30 PM

**Casco Viejo wander** ↗Historic old town & pintxos bars. Your neighborhood. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

5:30 PM

**Funicular de Artxanda** ↗Hilltop panoramic views. 15 min walk to base. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

8:00 PM

**Pintxos crawl — Plaza Nueva + Casco Viejo** (\$) **Specific bar order:**Bar Gatz (mushroom pintxo cult fave, C. del Santo 10) → Sorginzulo (kresala, fried bread + crab/hake mousse, Plaza Nueva 12) → Café Bar Bilbao (morunos pork skewers, 1911 tile, Plaza Nueva 6) → Calle Ledesma if energy stays. €3-5 per pintxo. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

11:00 PM

**Txiriboga** (\$\$) Bilbao cocktail stop in Casco Viejo area. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

1:00 AM

**Gin Fizz** (\$\$\$) Bilbao's best cocktail bar. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

## Fri Jun 26 · Guggenheim day

Museum + tour + late night

8:30 AM

### Early breakfast + walk to Guggenheim ↗

Hotel coffee + something fast. June peak = 1hr line at noon, so we go at open. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

10:00 AM

### Guggenheim Museum ⚠️ BOOK ONLINE WEEK-OF ↗

Titanium icon. Jeff Koons "Puppy" outside. 2 hrs.

### **Move from old 12 PM slot — June peak hits 1-hr line by 11:30.**

Book the 10 AM slot at [guggenheim-bilbao.eus](http://guggenheim-bilbao.eus). 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

2:30 PM

### Lunch — Mercado del Ensanche (locals' market in Abando) (\$) (📍)

**C. Colón de Larreátegui 8, 10 min walk from Guggenheim. Open Mon-Fri 9-2:30 + 5-8, Sat 9-2:30 — Fri lunch fits.** Smaller, way more local than Ribera — this is where Bilbao office workers actually buy lunch.

📍 [Open in Maps](#) (MORE +)

5:00 PM

### Bilbao Food Tour & Wine Pairing (\$\$) (📍)

3.5 hrs Viator (Basque Local). High-volume = book this week. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

9:30 PM

### Late dinner

If tour didn't cover. Or just keep drinking pintxos. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

Midnight

### Late drinks — Sumerian Club OR Bihotz (\$\$) (📍)

Sumerian Club (Lersundi 8, 30 sec from Gin Fizz — close the Lersundi loop). OR Bihotz (Indautxu, sophisticated lounge, real-locals late move). Bilbao truly has no 4 AM scene — that's SS's job.

📍 [Open in Maps](#)

## Sat Jun 27 · Train to San Sebastián

Out by noon

9:00 AM

### Café Bar Bilbao coffee — Plaza Nueva 6 (\$) (📍)

1911 tile interior, opens 7:30 AM, real locals not tourists at that hour. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

9:30 AM

### Cathedral of Santiago + Siete Calles loop ↗

5 min from Café Bar Bilbao. €5 entry, 20 min. Then loop Tendería → Belostikale → Sombrerería streets back to apt. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

11:00 AM

### Walk to Bilbao Abando station ↗

10 min from apartment. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

12:00 PM

### Euskotren / Renfe to Donostia ↗

~1.5 hrs.

1:30 PM

### Arrive San Sebastián

See SS day plan. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

## BEFORE YOU GO

- **Sleep-in logic:** after late nights, start mornings later; no full day blocks. Plane sleep counts as recovery credit.
- **Azurmendi (3 stars, both maybe):** 20 min taxi outside Bilbao. Need to commit + book NOW. Probably skip given timing.
- **Spa:** if rainy: Hotel Carlton spa or local hammam.
- No real "strip clubs" in Bilbao — Basque culture is more bars/pintxos focused.
- Skipped: Chef-led pintxos tour, Puppy sculpture (Eddie no — but you'll see it walking past Guggenheim anyway).
- **🔍 Dani hidden gems (slot in Fri PM around Guggenheim / Sat AM before train):**
  - **Azkuna Zentroa (Alhóndiga) — the see-through swimming pool ↗** — Pl. Arriquirar 4, Indautxu. Philippe Starck redesigned a 1909 wine warehouse into a culture center with 43 wildly different columns + a rooftop pool with a GLASS FLOOR you can stare up at from the atrium below. Free to wander the atrium, €5 to swim. 8 min walk from Guggenheim. Sat 9-10. **The photo nobody on cruise day shoots.**
  - **Museo Vasco / Museo Arqueológico ↗** — Plaza Miguel de Unamuno 4, Casco Viejo, 5 min from apartment. Ground-floor cloister with the carved "Mikeldi" stone idol (Iron Age zoomorph), free entry first Sat of month. Tiny one-floor museum, all Basque ethnographic — txalapartas, fishing nets, txapelas. €3, Tue-Sat 10-7, Sun 10-2. Skip the new bigger Euskal Museoa — this is the original.
  - **Lurrak vintage + Persuade vintage ↗** — Lurrak (C/ Lersundi 14, Indautxu) = small curated vintage Levi's + Lee + 70s leather, run by a former stylist. Persuade (C/ Bidebarrieta 14, Casco Viejo) = 80s/90s couture rack. Both Tue-Sat 11-2 + 5-8:30. Lurrak is literally on the bar-crawl Lersundi block.
  - **Pasealekua de Etxebarria + Mirador Etxebarria ↗** — 8 min uphill walk from Casco Viejo. Park with an old steel-mill chimney left standing on a hilltop + a wood-deck viewpoint of the whole Casco Viejo + Bilbao river bend. Free, 24/7. Sunset photo of all of Bilbao laid out — not the Artxanda funicular crowd. Pair with the Sat morning Cathedral loop.
  - **Casa Quintana / Bilboko Kafe Antzokia tile-tour ↗** — C/ San Vicente 2, Indautxu. The 1853 Quintana hardware store still has its original wood drawers + brass weighing scales + tile floor; it's now a frozen-in-time architectural shop. Then Bilboko Kafe Antzokia is the locals' Basque-language theater-café with concerts most nights — check the bulletin board for Thu/Fri shows ~€10-15. Free walk-in.
- **🕒 Time Out Bilbao — Where to Eat + Drink:** <https://www.timeout.com/bilbao> — bookmark for late-night "where should we eat" decisions.