

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

Where a titanium museum transformed an industrial city into one of Europe's great cultural destinations — and the pintxos alone are worth the detour.

Docked (pier) Typical call: 8–10 hrs Euro (€) Spanish / Basque (Euskera) Shuttle to city center

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Berth at Santurtzi cruise terminal, ~14 km from city center

Walk to center: Not walkable — shuttle or taxi required

Best For: Art, Basque food, architecture, old town wandering

Don't Miss: Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and pintxos in the Casco Viejo

Getting around: Taxi €30–40 each way · Rideshare Uber · Hop-on hop-off Bilbao City View

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao** — Frank Gehry's 1997 titanium masterpiece is one of the most celebrated buildings on Earth.
- **Casco Viejo (Old Town) Walk** — The 'Siete Calles' (Seven Streets) are Bilbao's medieval core — tight lanes packed with pintxos bars, independent shops, and the neogothic Santiago...
- **Pintxos Bar Crawl** — Pintxos (Basque tapas) are taken seriously here.
- **Zubizuri & Riverfront Walk** — Santiago Calatrava's white arched footbridge (Zubizuri) is one of several striking bridges spanning the Ría de Bilbao.
- **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Day Trip** — A 45-minute drive from Bilbao brings you to this dramatic hermitage perched on a sea stack — the 'Dragonstone' filming location from Game of Thrones.

BEST WALKS

- **Guggenheim to Casco Viejo Riverside Walk** 2 km · 25 min · Flat — Start at the Guggenheim's Puppy sculpture and walk east along the Ría de Bilbao riverbank.
- **Casco Viejo Lanes & Cathedral** 1 km loop · 1 hr · Easy — Wander the Siete Calles from Plaza Nueva, peek into the Santiago Cathedral, browse the covered Mercado de la Ribera, and end back at the riverfront.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:29AM–8:54PM · Jun 6:31AM–9:53PM · Aug 7:17AM–9:14PM · Sep 7:51AM–8:21PM · Oct 8:25AM–7:28PM	
Apr	63°	49°	14d	Euro (€)	
Jun	73°	59°	12d		
Aug	77°	63°	10d		
Sep	75°	60°	11d		
Oct	70°	56°	13d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Take the Metro, not a taxi. The Line 2 Metro from Santurtzi station is ~€2 and drops you in the heart of Bilbao in 25 minutes. Faster than a taxi in traffic and a fraction of the price.
- Lunch is pintxos time. Pintxos bars are busiest from 1–3 PM. Don't eat a big sit-down meal — graze between four or five bars in the Casco Viejo instead. Expect €2–4 per pintxo.
- Book Guggenheim tickets in advance. The museum sells out on peak days. Reserve online at guggenheim-bilbao.eus before your cruise — tickets are timed entry.
- Give yourself time to get back. The port is 14 km from the city center. Allow at least 45 minutes for the Metro + walk, or 30 minutes by taxi, to reach the ship before all-aboard.
- Pack a light jacket. Bilbao is the Basque Country — it rains here, often. Summer is mild (20–25°C) but overcast. The locals say: 'If you can see the mountains, it's about to rain. If you can't, it's already raining.'
- Basque pride is real. Locals speak Euskera and Spanish; many signs are bilingual. A friendly 'eskerrik asko' (Basque for 'thank you') will earn you a smile.

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| <p>1 Guggenheim Museum Bilbao</p> <p>3 Funicular bottom station</p> <p>5 Artxanda Funicular</p> <p>P Cruise port / terminal</p> | <p>Iconic modern art museum with stunning architecture.</p> <p>Lower station for the scenic Artxanda mountain funicular.</p> <p>Scenic cable car to Mount Artxanda for city views.</p> | <p>2 Museum of Fine Arts of Bilbao</p> <p>4 Itsasmuseum Bilbao</p> <p>6 Church of San Vicente de Abando</p> | <p>Major art museum, classical to contemporary European works.</p> <p>Maritime museum exploring Bilbao's seafaring history.</p> <p>Historic 16th-century church in the city center.</p> |
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