

Irún - Donostia/San Sebastián

The first section of **the Northern Way** starts in Gipuzkoa, on the French border, at the international bridge of Santiago crossing the River Bidasoa and linking Basque towns of **Irún** and **Hendaya**. After you go past the church of Nuestra Señora del Juncal, you need to continue to the Town Hall and then follow the Calle Mayor, where there is a detour signposted for the Northern Road.

After the Paseo de Colón you have to cross the railway line and the N-638 until you find a diversion to the right of the Visitor's Centre (Centro de Interpretación) of the marshland of Jaitzubia. This is where the climb to the chapel of Guadalupe begins. This is a 16th-century church with wonderful views over the Txingudi Bay.

From here you start going around Mount Jaizkibel, some ten kilometres away from Pasaia until you reach **Pasai Donibane-Pasajes de San Juan**, a fishing village and historical enclave where the French writer Victor Hugo used to live*. This is the time to go down to the harbour and take a boat to the other side of the ria for a reasonable price.

While you go towards Faro de la Plata you can enjoy the wonderful views of **San Sebastian**. The capital of Gipuzkoa is world-renowned for its cultural life, its architecture and its esplanade all along the Playa de la Concha.

* You can travel from Pasajes de San Pedro-Pasai Donibane to San Sebastian through the city but the walk is a bit dull in comparison to the coastal route. This path is recommended for cyclists but not for those on foot.

El consejo del cartero

"Look for the old, as we say here, referring to the old town of Donostia, a perfect way to finish this day. You must not miss the pintxos and the delicacies you can enjoy in one mouthful in all the bars in the area. The fishing harbour and the Kursaal are close by, it is therefore quite easy to see all interesting spots in one go". **Jesús Antonio Velasco, Correos of San Sebastián-Donostia.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de IrúnLuis Mariano, 4520302 Irún, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 611 207

Oficina de Turismo de IrúnPlaza Luis Mariano20302 Irún, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 02 07 32

Centro de Salud – Ambulatorio de IrúnAv Gipuzkoa, 1520302 Irún Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa, +34 943 006 700

Policía Local de IrunSan Juan Arria Plaza 120304 Irún+34 943 505 555

Oficina de Correos de Donostia – San SebastiánC/ Urdaneta20006 Donostia-San Sebastián+34 943 463 417

Oficina de Turismo de DonostiaAlameda Boulevard, 820003 Donostia-San Sebastián+34 943 481 166

Hospital Universitario DonostiaPaseo Dr. Beguiristain, s/n20080 Donostia-San Sebastián+34 943 007

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Policía Local de Donostia-San Sebastián Easo Kalea, 4120006 San Sebastián-Donostia +34 943 481 320

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Donostia/San Sebastián - Zarautz

The renowned Paseo de la Concha is the starting point for this section before you climb Monte Igeldo. There are some spectacular views over the Bay of Biscay along this path, connecting several times with the road to Orio, where the Romanesque church of San Martín de Tours is located.

Orio is at the mouth of the River Oria and you can see the church of San Nicolás de Bari and the Information Centre (Centro de interpretación) on the Camino de Santiago in the old town. This place still preserves its medieval structure almost intact. You have to cross the bridge over the Orio and while pilgrims on bicycle follow the roads by the ria, those on foot have to follow the path to the hillock of Zarautz, where they start descending towards the village of the same name with some amazing views.

Zarautz is the preferred village for surfers in the area and is usually full of tourists in the summer. There you will find Santa María la Real, with its Gothic church, the Torre and several archaeological sites.

El consejo del cartero

“While in the English-speaking world chefs like Gordon Ramsey or Jamie Oliver have become the talk of the town, in Spain we have had Karlos Arguiñano for much longer. He has a hotel and a restaurant in Zarautz. There, or in any of the other food spots in the area, you can try the local wine, the txakoli de Getaria. This type of wine has become popular in recent years, especially as an aperitif. Some of the most important wine producers are in this town”. **Txema Fernandez, Correos of Zarautz.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Orio San Nicolás 2 20810 Orio, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa +34 943 832 563

Oficina de Correos de Zarautz Herrikobarra Kalea 1020800 Zarautz, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa +34 943 830 119

Oficina de Turismo de Zarautz Nafarroa kalea 320800 Zarautz, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa +34 943 830 990

Centro de Salud de Zarautz Lugar Salbide 1020800 Zarautz, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa +34 943 007 999

Policía Local de Zarautz Calle de Gipuzkoa 3220800 Zarautz, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa +34 943 005 115

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Zarautz - Deba

You can choose between leaving **Zarautz** through the traditional, interior route or reach **Getaria** by the seaside, a very nice walk. If you choose the official route, just follow the signs, you will go up to Santa María la Real, past the chapel of Santa Bárbara and on top of the mountain you must not take the short-cut, otherwise, you will miss Getaria.

This is a fishing village where you can find the church of San Salvador, erected in the 15th century, and the tomb of Juan Sebastián Elcano, the first seafarer to sail around the world. Fashion designer Balenciaga was also born here and there is a museum with some of his works.

From the plaza del Ayuntamiento you climb to the village of Askizu and from there you descend to the harbour of **Zumaia**. You cross the River Urola and then the footbridge over the River Narrondo. In Zumaia, you can visit the Museo Zuloaga and the church of San Pedro. Once again, you leave this village through the Plaza del Ayuntamiento past the chapel of Arritokieta, then climb to Elorriaga, where you can take a rest.

You once again have to go up and down until you reach Itziar, already in the municipality of **Deba**. There are 3 kilometres between the two villages ending in a sharp descent leading to the wonderful shrine of Santa María la Real, a National Monument.

El consejo del cartero

“Strolling in this peaceful and charming coastal village is a good way to end this long stretch. There are two beaches: one of white sand and another of dark sand, both of them great for a swim. There is a small fishing harbour at the mouth of the ria where eels are fished. There are also small taverns with pintxos and the possibility of going to a sea-water spa to finish the day”. **Gema Antolín, Correos of Deba.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Deba farkale 15 20820 Deba, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 191 799

Oficina de Turismo de Deba far Kalea 420820 Deba, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 192 452

Centro de Salud de Deba Bastinuixa Kalea 20820 Deba, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 192 424

Policía Local de Deba Lersundi Kalea 1920820 Deba, Guipúzcoa/Gipuzkoa+34 943 608 04

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Deba -Markina/Xemein

The bridge crossing the ria is the departure point from **Deba**, with an initial climb leading to a forest up to the shrine of El Calvario, on top of Mount Galbaixogain. Following the road, first unpaved and later paved you will reach the Caserío de Olatz.

In Olatz, you have to continue climbing for 2 and a half kilometres until the hillock of Arno. There, the walk becomes lighter as you follow along level forest footpaths. Once you reach a secluded fountain on that forest footpath, you will know that there are 9 kilometres left to Markina.

Markina - Xemein is the first village in the province of Bizkaia and you will find the church of Santa María de Xemein as soon as you enter. The village also houses the towers of Antxia and Barroeta, as well as the palace of Solartekua, currently the town hall.

El consejo del cartero

"This is the first village in Bizkaia on the Northern Way and here you can visit the church of Miguel de Arretxinaga, a peculiar hexagonal-shaped temple with three large rocks forming a sort of chapel. After such a surprising building, you can relax enjoying our local sweets, the Kokotes de Markina". **Lourdes Juaristi, Correos of Markina.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Markina-Xemei Plaza San Bartolomé 2-4 48270 Markina-Xemei, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 943 611 207

Ayuntamiento de Markina-Xemei Goiko Portala 348270 Markina-Xemein, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 167 454

Centro de Salud de Markina-Xemei Plaza Karmengo 1948270 Markina-Xemein, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 167 437

Policía Local de Markina-Xemei Plaza San Bartolomé 2-4 48270 Markina-Xemei, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 169 200/656 791 144

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Markina/Xemein - Gernika/Lumo

If you take the BI-633 for over a kilometre, you will find a detour to your right until the bridge over the River Artibai. You have to follow it towards Iruzubieta and then cross the river again. The path continues through the forest into the valley, before you reach **Bolibar**.

This is the birthplace of the family of the military and political leader Simón Bolívar, who played an instrumental role in the independence of the Spanish colonies in the Americas. There is a museum dedicated to him in the house of his ancestors, as well as a monument. From Puebla de Bolívar you continue along a cobbled path to the monastery of Zenarruza, in **Ziortza**. It is still inhabited and can be visited. The community was founded in the 11th century and used to welcome pilgrims in need. If you follow towards Mount Oiz and the peak of Gauntzegarai, you will reach **Munitibar**, where you have to cross the River Lea. The path goes through villages and caseríos until you climb to Marmiz, from where you have two options to get to Gernika. The traditional route is the shortest and lightest, through Mendieta. The alternative route is longer and harder but the landscape surrounding Mount Burgogana is worth it.

Gernika is internationally remembered for the German air raid that destroyed most of the city in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War. Pablo Picasso devoted one of his most famous paintings to this massacre.

El consejo del cartero

"The Casa de Juntas houses the Árbol de Gernika. This oak tree is a symbol for all Basques and those who come to the town should not miss it. Apart from being historically remembered as one of the first places where civilians were bombed and massacred, this town offers a lot more. For example, food. You must not miss the beans and green peppers of Gernika." **Irene Zulueta, Correos of Gernika.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Gernika | parraguirre 26 A 48300 Gernika, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 250 387

Oficina de Turismo de Gernika | Artekalea Kalea 848300 Gernika-Lumo, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 255 892

Centro de Salud de Gernika | San Juan Kalea 148300 Gernika-Lumo, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 035 800

Policía Local de Gernika | Artekalea 1048300 Gernika, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 946 270 202

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Gernika/Lumo - Lezama

You have to go past the shrine of Santa Lucía after you leave **Gernika**, and climb a forest towards Mount Arteagagana to then descend towards **Alto de Morga**. This is a brief respite as the church of San Esteban marks another climb, this time to the Alto de Aretxabalgana.

After a few kilometres going down, you reach Goikolexea, with its Gothic church of San Emeterio and San Celedonio. The Camino does not directly cross the next village, **Larrabetzu**, but you can take a detour there and find any services you may need before you continue with your walk. It also has a nice pedestrian area with old stone houses.

From there you finish the last stretch to **Lezama**, with its Romanesque church of Santa María, rebuilt at a later period.

El consejo del cartero

"The municipality of Lezama hosts the training grounds of the Athletic Club de Fútbol, where the younger generation of players is trained. This is something particular of our Basque football club, as it has always prioritised players from this area and despite competition with bigger clubs, it has never left the Primera. This may be an interesting place to visit, especially if the teams are training, as it still has the metallic arch of San Mamés, the Athletic's football stadium". **Maite Arribas, Correos of Zamudio.**

Teléfonos de interés

Ayuntamiento de Lezama Aretxalde auzoa 148196 Lezama, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia+34 944 556 007

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Lezama - Bilbao

After **Lezama**, the first village on the Camino is **Zamudio**. You will get there through the national road N-637, where you will walk past the church of San Martín and the 15th-century Torre Malpica. Once you reach the church, the path continues to your left on a detour going through an industrial park and then climbing Mount Avril.

From its Southern slope, you start descending towards **Bilbao**, with nice views over the city. Bilbao is the largest city in Euskadi, the Basque Country, and its economic capital. It is also the most important city on the Northern Way.

In recent decades, it has witnessed an important transformation both in terms of its citizen-friendliness and aesthetics, after the decline of the steelworks. Some examples of this transformation are the metro and the Guggenheim Museum, an architectural symbol of the new Bilbao.

El consejo del cartero

“Walking by the ria of the Nervión on any side until we reach the old town will help us see some of the most important tourist attractions in Bilbao. We can also travel by tram. The streets and squares of the old town will help us relax and join locals for a glass of wine on the street. There are plenty of terrazas (restaurant terraces) and we can either go for the traditional poteo (having a drink while standing) or have a comfortable seat”. **Mari Jose Otxoa, Correos of Bilbao.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Bilbao Alda. Urquijo 18 48008 Bilbao, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 709 338

Oficina de Turismo de Bilbao Plaza Biribila 148001 Bilbao, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 795 760

Hospital Universitario de Basurto Montevideo Etorb. 1848013 Bilbao, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 006 000

Policía Local de Bilbao Juan Carlos de Gortázar Kalea 348003 Bilbao, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 205 000

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Bilbao - Portugalete

The difference in distance is due to the fact that there are two options, a traditional one and a modern one that has become more popular. The historic route is marked by ups and downs and it is longer and more diverse. You leave **Bilbao** through the area of Castrexana past Cruces, **Barakaldo** and **Sestao** until you reach Portugalete. The path goes through slopes, forests and urban landscapes.

The alternative route follows the ria of the Nervión. You leave from the Guggenheim and the University of Deusto until you finish the Avenida Lehendakari Aguirre. From there you follow the ria, taking care during the last one kilometre as there is no road shoulder. You have to cross the hanging bridge on a ferry boat for a fair price and you will reach the centre of **Portugalete**.

This infrastructure was the first iron bridge working as a ferry in the world and has become the most famous image of the town. It was opened in the 19th century and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also the only bridge of its kind still working.

El consejo del cartero

An interesting activity for Portugalete is to climb the footbridge to the hanging bridge and enjoy the extraordinary views over the mouth of the River Nervión from up there, it is worth paying for. After you descend, you can walk around the old town of Portugalete, lively as ever!" **María Isabel Cosgaya, Correos of Portugalete.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Barakaldo Arana y Travesía de Ibarra 8 48901 Barakaldo, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 377 193

Oficina de Correos de Portugalete Guipuzcoa 14-16 48920 Portugalete, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 951 940

Oficina de Turismo de Portugalete La Canilla Ibilbidea 48920 Portugalete, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 724 602

Ambulatorio de Portugalete Barrengoitia Kalea 948920 Portugalete, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 729 200

Policía Local de Portugalete C/ del Almirante Cristóbal Mello 448920 Portugalete, Vizcaya/ Bizkaia +34 944 729 292

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Portugalete - Castro Urdiales

Following the Avenida Carlos VII, you leave **Portugalete** through the road to Ortuella, the first 10 kilometres are known as “Bidegorri”, which means the red path, and where cyclists have the right of way. It has rest areas. After leaving Nocedo and Gallarta behind, the path ends at La Arena, the beach of Zierbena.

You have to cross the footbridge over the River Barbadún and leave **Pobeña** to walk on a wonderful rail trail by the sea, a remnant of Bisciaia’s mining past. Euskadi bids farewell to pilgrims here and Cantabria welcomes them at Ontón.

From here you can take two different routes to **Castro Urdiales**. The modern route follows the road N-634, which is not very busy, for 8 and a half kilometres. You should not take any detours. You can find places to eat on the way. This option is very popular since the autovía A-6 diverted most of the traffic from this road.

The original Camino entails walking twice the distance; it is almost 16 kilometres through Baltezana, Otañes and Santullán. It avoids the main road though it still continues on a tar road.

The fishing village of Casto Urdiales has a lot of history. It was a Roman settlement and already in the Middle Ages it was one of the most important harbours of the Bay of Biscay. Today tourism is the town’s main activity.

El consejo del cartero

“In Castro Urdiales, you must come close to the pier and go for a walk enjoying the restaurant terraces and monuments. Very close to this area there are some picturesque streets with old taverns where poteo and delicious pinchos are in order. You can also take a walk along the cliffs near the cemetery”. **María Ángeles Frías, Correos of Castro Urdiales.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Castro Urdiales Silvestre Ochoa 3 39700 Castro Urdiales, Cantabria+34 942 861 000

Oficina de Turismo de Castro Urdiales Avda de la Constitución s/n 39700 Castro Urdiales, Cantabria+34 942 871 512

Centro de Salud de Castro Urdiales C/ República Argentina 3 39700 Castro Urdiales, Cantabria+34 942 86 91 61

Policía Local de Castro Urdiales C/ Leonardo Rucabado 3 39700 Castro Urdiales, Cantabria+34 942 861 294

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Castro Urdiales - Laredo

From the plaza de Toros (bullring) you go up to Campijo and under the A-8 through a forest path towards the village of Alledelagua, in order to walk parallel to the autovía until Cerdigo. Once you have walked past the village cemetery, another beautiful forest trail starts heading towards the cliffs.

You reach Islares and the beach of Arenillas to continue along the main road for over 2 kilometres. Once again, you go under the autovía A-8 and here you have two routes to **Laredo**:

The official one is 18 and a half kilometres long, going through Risoseco, La Magdalena and finally Hazas. This is longer and steeper than the alternative route which follows the main road for 12 and a half kilometres through El Pontarrón. In Hazas you can see the church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción; both routes meet here and then you can climb the mountain of La Vida.

You enter the coastal village of Laredo through the Puerta de Bilbao. The old town is built around the church of Santa María de la Asunción, and you can see several manors erected between the 15th and 18th centuries.

El consejo del cartero

“Laredo’s old town -known as Puebla Vieja- is worth a guided tour to get to know and understand its heritage. At the Tourist Office in Alameda Miramar, you can check the timings and dates of these tours. Apart from the charm of the old town, you can also go for a walk on its sandy beach, Playa de Los Niños”. **Raquel Lastra Cruz, Correos of Laredo.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Laredo Padre Ignacio Eyacuria, 14 39770 Laredo, Cantabria+34 942 606 192

Oficina de Turismo de Laredo Alameda Miramar s/n39770 Laredo, Cantabria+34 942 611 096

Centro de Salud de Laredo Calle de Fuente Fresnedo s/n39770 Laredo, Cantabria+34 942 604 102

Policía Local de Laredo Av. de España39770 Laredo, Cantabria+34 942 605 784

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Laredo - Güemes

The day starts with almost 4 kilometres along **Laredo's** esplanade, towards the marshlands of **Santonja** and **Noja**. From the sandbar of El Puntal, you take the boat to Santoña*, a fishing village famous for its anchovies. This village is on a bay and you can visit its Romanesque church of Santa María del Puerto. It is time now to head towards the beach of Berria, walking parallel to the wall of the prison of El Dueso. Those who go on foot must continue along the path that goes from the beach to Mount El Brusco while cyclists should follow the main road. You cross the marshland of Victoria and reach Noja.

After the beach, you go through the town centre, and if you follow the Camino signs, you will reach to the sanctuary of San Pantaleón and the Barrio del Castillo. Although the Camino does not directly cross San Miguel de Meruelo, you can stop there if you need to buy something.

You cross the River Campiezo through the medieval bridge of Solorga to reach **Bareyo**, where you should take a detour to see the Romanesque church of Santa María. If you continue walking, you will find the village of **Güemes**.

* If you do the Northern Way in the off season and this is not available, you have to take a detour through Colindres and Gama.

El consejo del cartero

In the village of Güemes, the priest D. Ernesto Bustio is in charge of the pilgrim's hostel. The hostel is managed by volunteers who care for pilgrims so much that many come back to Güemes as volunteers so that the fraternity of the place remains. Visiting the hostel, whether you stay there or not, is a good option in this small village". **Trinidad García, Correos of Güemes.**

Teléfonos de interés

Ayuntamiento de Bareyo Av. Benedicto Ruiz 39170 Ajo, Cantabria +34 942 621 041

Centro de Salud de Bareyo Barrio Ajo s/n 39170 Ajo, Cantabria +34 942 670 078

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Güemes - Santander

Following the C-443 until it reaches the C-141 will take you to **Galizano**, where you have to choose how you want to get to Somo, the next landmark on this section:

The official **Northern Way** goes around Galizano again onto the C-141 and it continues towards the church of Nuestra Señora de Latas, some 4 kilometres away from the starting point. You have to cross a residential area to reach the centre of Somo. An alternative route involves walking along the coast, towards the beach of Galizano and then by the sea through Loredo until you reach Somo. This is a beautiful spot with beaches and cliffs such as the one in Langre.

You can take a regular ferry from the pier at Somo to **Santander**. This is the capital of Cantabria, presided over by the beaches of the Sardinero, a beautiful esplanade leading to the Palacio de la Magdalena. In the city centre, you have the Cathedral of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

El consejo del cartero

The capital of Cantabria is a joy for walkers. You must go for a stroll around the Jardines de Pereda, the Paseo de Castelar, the Magdalena, and then continue either along the beaches or along the Paseo de la Reina Victoria if you prefer better views. You can even get to the lighthouse. The wonderful Bay of Santander will never cease to amaze us with its beauty. If you want to taste the delicacies of the sea, the restaurants in the fishing quarter are a cost-effective alternative. If you prefer to go for a drink and pinchos, you can go to Cañadio, Río de Pila or the Calle Ataulfo Argenta". **Manuel Francisco Poo, Correos of Santander.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Santander Plaza Alfonso XIII, 3 39002 Santander, Cantabria+34 942 365 519

Oficina de Turismo de Santander C/ Hernán Cortés 439003 Santander, Cantabria+34 942 310 708

Hospital Universitario de Valdecilla Av. de Valdecilla s/n39008 Santander, Cantabria+34 942 202 520

Policía Local de Santander Calle Castilla 3239009 Santander, Cantabria+34 942 299 615

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Santander - Santillana del Mar

Departing from the Plaza del Ayuntamiento in **Santander** towards the roundabout of Cuatro Caminos, you then have to walk straight ahead to leave the city through a road that will take you to Peñacastillo after 2 kilometres. Following the railway line and crossing several underpasses, you will get to Santa Cruz de Bezana, and after that to **Boo de Piélagos**.

There is a diversion to the left following the official route and crossing the River Pas across Arce bridge, while if you follow straight ahead you cross the river over the railway bridge, on which you must be especially careful. From Mogro to **Requejada** the route opens up to the ria of San Martín de la Arena. A gravel road takes you to Requejada, 4 kilometres away from the starting point.

After crossing the River Soja, the day's journey carries on towards Sauces and Camplengo, where you have to take a right to reach **Santillana del Mar**. This beautiful and historic town is nicknamed "of the three lies", as it is "neither a saint (Santi-), nor flat (-llana) nor by the sea (del Mar)", but it has many tourist attractions that make it one of the most popular destinations in the Bay of Biscay. Walking around its streets is like travelling in time, with its Romanesque church and its medieval coats-of-arms. ** 1 kilometre away from Santillana del Mar you will find the famous Cave of Altamira, home to the most important Palaeolithic paintings in the world. The cave itself is closed to the public though the Altamira Museum contains a replica of the cave and its paintings.

El consejo del cartero

"Getting to Santillana del Mar on foot is really time travel as it reminds us of the pilgrims of the past who walked on the same cobbled stones we walk on now. A visit to the Colegiata de Santa Juliana and its cloister is a must, these are Romanesque monuments of intense beauty. The whole town is car-free and this helps us let our imagination fly and enjoy the harmony of its buildings and patios with gardens behind thick walls". **Eusebio Abascal, Correos of Santillana del Mar.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Santillana del Mar Sánchez Tagle 4 39330 Santillana del Mar, Cantabria +34 942 840 225

Oficina de Turismo de Santillana del Mar C/ Jesús Otero 2039330 Santillana del Mar, Cantabria +34 942 818 812/942

Centro de Salud de Santillana del Mar C/ Revolgo 139330 Santillana del Mar, Cantabria +34 942 818 276

Policía Local de Santillana del Mar Plaza Mayor 139330 Santillana del Mar, Cantabria +34 645 922 151

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Santillana del Mar - Comillas

This section starts just by the Correos office in Calle de Los Hornos, crosses the road and goes down to the villages of El Arroyo and Oreña, with the church of San Pedro on a hillock. You go further down towards Caboredondo and from there to Cigüenza, where you can see the Baroque church of San Martín de Tours.

The path continues to **Cóbreces**, where all sorts of services are available. You exit it by surrounding the church of San Pedro Advíncula. Going into the forest, you then go towards La Iglesia and Pando, until you reach **Comillas**.

This is a beautiful coastal town with several Art Nouveau buildings, such as the Capricho de Gaudí, the impressive façade of the local cemetery and the Universidad Pontificia. It was towards the end of the 19th century that this town flourished, as it became the favourite summer retreat for members of the royal family and high society. It was the first place in Spain to have street lighting powered by electricity.

El consejo del cartero

“The municipality of Comillas is the last destination in Cantabria on the Northern Way. This town combines architectural heritage with an amazing coastline of beautiful landscapes and nature. Art Nouveau palaces and villas stand side by side with folk mountain architecture that reminds us of rural life. When you go past Cobreces you can buy some of their famous cheeses, as relevant as the three types having a denomination of origin in the region: Queso Nata de Cantabria, Quesucos de Liébana and Queso Picón Bejes-Tresviso”. **Purificación Gómez, Correos of Comillas.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Comillas Marqués de Comillas 28 39520 Comillas, Cantabria+34 942 720 095

Oficina de Turismo de Comillas Bajos del Ayuntamiento.C/ Joaquín del Piélago, 1 Bajos Ayuntamiento 39520 Comillas, Cantabria+34 942 722 591

Centro de Salud de Comillas P.º Estrada s/n39520 Comillas, Cantabria+34 942 722 270

Policía Local de Comillas C/ Joaquín del Piélago 139520 Comillas, Cantabria+34 609 446 201

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Comillas - Colombres

From Marqués de Comillas street you carry on to the regional road 131 to cross the ria of La Rabia. After the chapel of Santa María de El Tejo, the nature park of Oyambre offers us amazing views over the Picos de Europa and the ria itself. It has over 6,000 hectares of dunes, forests and lots of flora and fauna, all the way to the ria of San Vicente.

Precisely, 80% of the municipality of **San Vicente de la Barquera** belongs to the natural park. When you get to the last town in the Northern Way in Cantabria, you understand its close relationship to the sea, traditionally the most important source of food and resources. You will see the Castillo and the church of Santa María de los Ángeles.

The road to Las Calzadas leads to La Acebosa and from there you go past the medieval tower of Estrada, towards Serdio. You go down the valley of the River Nansa until its mouth. The path continues to the town of **Unquera** where you have all types of services.

In order to go from Unquera to **Colombres**, an "indiana" village with its palace La Quinta Guadalupe, you have to cross the River Deva. Here the route in Cantabria ends and the Asturian sections start.

El consejo del cartero

"Go for a walk around Villa de Colombres, whose architecture has been declared a national monument. If you have time enough, go to "La Quinta Guadalupe", the most significant example of the so-called "indiano" architecture in Asturias (houses built by wealthy migrants returned from the Americas). Inside this villa you will find the Museo de la Emigración (Migration Museum) and the headquarters of the Fundación Archivo de Indianos". **Miguel A. Díaz, Correos of Llanes.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de San Vicente de la Barquera Paseo Barquera 1 39540 San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria +34 942 711 633

Oficina de Turismo de San Vicente de la Barquera Av. del Generalísimo 2039540 San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria +34 942 710 797

Centro de Salud de San Vicente de la Barquera C/ Arenal 239540 San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria +34 942 712 450

Policía Local de San Vicente de la Barquera C/ Padre Antonio 39540 San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria +34 942 710 000

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Colombres - Llanes

Just by the Correos office of **Colombres**, by the town hall, you need to take the Calle Pío Noriega and exit the village along the gravel road leading to the N-634. This stretch continues until **La Franca** and crosses the Cabra stream over a stone bridge.

Back on the road, you reach **Buelna** and **Pendueles**, where you can choose to follow the coastal road, signposted by red and white stripes, or go straight ahead and follow the official route, which will take you to Llanes along paths close to the road or along the road itself.

Meanwhile, the coastal road goes to the beach of Vidiago, crosses the River Novales and goes through the interesting Bufones de Arenillas, a site where the sea gushes through rocky chimneys. The route continues past Andrín towards Llanes, either on the road or taking a detour of almost one kilometre along a gravel road to the left.

Llanes once was a Palaeolithic settlement that currently shows the influence of migrants to the Americas, with the “indiano” houses all over. Here you can see the ruins of the medieval wall, the Torreón and the church of Santa María del Concejo. In the harbour, you will find the “Cubos de la memoria” (Memory Cubes), painted by Agustín Ibarrola.

Llanes preserves its pleasant 13th-century medieval old town, a promenade, the Paseo de San Pedro, with amazing views over the town, the coast and the mountains around it, the Faro (lighthouse) and the beach of Toró with its rocky pinnacles.

The entire coast of Asturias is characterised by spectacular beaches. When you go from Llanes to Celorio you will find the beach of Borizu, the beach of Torimbria with its cliffs, the peculiar beach of Gulpiyuri, in Naves, where the sea enters the beach through a tunnel, and the beach of La Huelga in Hontoria, all of them located in impressive surroundings.

El consejo del cartero

“At Puertas de Vidiago (Llanes) you should stop to see the Ídolo de Peña Tú, a rock with Neolithic paintings and carvings. You will also find the spectacular beaches of Cobijeru, in Buelna, a beach that is not open to the sea. In Llanes, you must drink cider at the “sidrerías” and taste the “borona” filled with chorizo, the “pantruque” of fresh bacon, or the “bollas”, a type of black pudding”. **Concepción Díaz, Correos of Llanes.**

“In Llanes, you can visit the Playa de El Sablón, the Paseo de San Pedro from where you can see the whole town and the coast and its cliffs, the Museo del Mar and the harbour. You can visit the weekly market on Tuesdays”. **Miguel Díaz, Correos of Llanes.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Llanes Cueto Bajo 1 33500 Llanes, Asturias+34 985 401 114

Oficina de Turismo de Llanes Antigua Lonja Marqués de Canillejas 133500 Llanes, Asturias+34 985 400 164

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Llanes - Ribadesella

The AS-263 leaves **Llanes** towards Poo and the beach of Celorio, going past the monastery of San Salvador. The Camino continues past the esplanade until Barro and the church of Los Dolores, going around the ria. You must climb up to Niembro and then descend towards the beach of San Antolín to continue until **Naves**.

After you get some provisions, the walk continues through the forest and leads to **Nueva**. If you cross the river of the same name, you will be in Piñares de Pría and you can climb the hill to the church of San Pedro. The next river to cross is the Guadama before you reach Cuerres.

Ribadesella, famous for whaling in the past, is reached by the railway station. The highlights are the old town, with its church of Santa María de Junco and the Palacio de Pietro Cutre, whose façade is the only part of the palace still extant. It currently houses the town hall. The newer part of town includes Art Nouveau buildings and the historic Route through the Harbour with murals explaining the history of the town. The murals were designed by Spanish cartoonist Mingote.

Fishing is still very important here, and there is a very interesting auctioning system called “la rula”. Fish is, of course, the king in Llanes: you can try the marmitas, the calderetas or the fideos con besugos, all of which are dishes that fishermen used to cook on board in the ships' galleys.

The most important festival in Asturias is held in August in Ribadesella, the Fiesta de Les Piragües or Descenso Internacional del Sella, this is listed as one of Spain's Festivals of International Tourist Interest.

El consejo del cartero

“Towards Ribadesella you come to Nueva, where you can visit the beach of Cuevas del Mar, one of the most photographed beaches. In order to reach the beach you have to go into Pueblo de Nueva and watch out for the detour to the right, leading to the beach. When you leave Naves towards the autopista you will find the access to one of the most visited inland beaches in the Principado de Asturias, the Playa de Gulpiyuri”. **Miguel Díaz, Correos of Llanes.**

“In the village of Cuerres there is a park by the church where pilgrims may stop to rest and grab a bite and drink some water from the fountain, and if the weather is not fair, pilgrims may always take shelter inside the church portico”. **Maripi Remis, Correos of Ribeseya.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Ribadesella Manuel Fernández Juncos 21 33560 Ribadesella, Asturias+34 985 860 830

Oficina de Turismo de Ribadesella Paseo Princesa Letizia s/n 33560 Ribadesella, Asturias+34 985 860 038

Centro de Salud de Ribadesella Paseo Vencedores del Sella s/n 33560 Ribadesella, Asturias+34 985 857 446

Policía Local de Ribadesella Av. Palacio Valdés 33560 Ribadesella, Asturias+34 985 858 022 / 619 769

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Ribadesella - Sebrayo

Leaving **Ribadesella** across the river and towards the Playa de Santa Marina and the village of San Pedro you will get to the crossroads leading to the hostel of **San Esteban de Leces**. You continue straight ahead, up the valley and then down to La Vega.

From the beach, you continue walking past Berbes and approaching Arenal de Morís. The Camino runs parallel to the coast, crossing the Romedos stream up to **La Espasa**, which you cross along the esplanade. To continue towards **Colunga**, you must take a detour at La Isla. Colunga has a nice church, San Cristóbal el Real, and the palace Álvarez de Colunga.

The route follows the N-632 towards Puente Anguera, and after several detours, it reaches the villages of Pernús, La Llera and Priesca, with the church of San Salvador, consecrated in the 10th century. The section comes to an end in **Sebrayo**, a village of only 40 inhabitants.

El consejo del cartero

“When you leave Ribeseya, on the beach of Santa Marina de Ribeseya, you can see the footprints of dinosaurs, at La Punta del Pozo, on the west end of the beach; they are millions of years old”. **Flor Blanco, Correos of Ribesella.**

“You must stop at the mailbox of the Pueblu de Abéu, where they collect the signatures of all pilgrims”s” . **Belén Fernández, Correos of Ribesella.**

“When you reach the beach of Vega, you can see its wonderful dunes and the village of Llastres in the background”. **Ana Peón, Correos of Ribesella.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Colunga Reconquista 3 33520 Colunga, Asturias+34 985 856 291

Oficina de Turismo de Colunga Plaza de la Iglesia s/n33520 Colunga, Asturias+34 985 852 200

Guardia Civil de Colunga Camino del Cuetín33320 Colunga, Asturias+34 985 856 007

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Sebrayo - Gijón

You leave **Sebrayo** through the main road used to get there, and then by going under the autovía A-8 and continuing at its side. The Camino merges into the N-632 and reaches the town of **Villaviciosa**, where there is a place to take some rest at El Fresnu, before arriving at Villaviciosa proper, with tables, benches and food and drink vending machines. In Villaviciosa, you may visit the manors and go to a sidrería (cider bar), or even visit a producer of their famous cider. The route goes past the church of Santa María de la Oliva and leaves the town towards Grases.

The village of **Casquita** gives you several options: you can go straight ahead towards Gijón, or to the left towards Oviedo, where you will join the Camino Primitivo or Original Way / Primitive Way. If you go towards Gijón, you will continue on the Northern Way next to the River Valdediós and you will start climbing towards the Alto de la Cruz, to, later on, descend to Peón.

The last climb of the day is El Corbiellu, which indicates that **Gijón** is near and that you need to pay special attention to the signposting in order not to get lost. Gijón is the largest city in Asturias, with a beautiful esplanade and urban beaches. The area of Cimadevilla includes the church of San Pedro, the palace of Revillagigedo and the Plaza Mayor amongst other attractions.

Gijón is famous for its Universidad Laboral, an architectural ensemble built in the mid-20th century which used to be the largest university of its kind in Spain. The grandeur of its architecture and history are well worth a visit, and so are the theatre, the church, as well as going to the top of the tower to see Gijón in all its splendour, the coast and the nearby mountains.

Close to the Universidad Laboral, you will find the Jardín Botánico Atlántico, a botanical garden specialising in the flora of the Atlantic coast. It is a unique museum and a very large park with over 30000 plants and 2000 different species.

The Aquarium is quite modern and remarkable too. It is by the sea and it has over 60 tanks of both sea and freshwater animals. There are around 250 species including fish, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Sharks are quite a sight - everyday divers go inside their tanks to feed them. Besides, you can also have dinner under water.

El consejo del cartero

"I would recommend taking a detour and visiting the Conventín de Valdediós, a pre-Romanesque 9th-century church in-between the Northern Way and the Original Way towards Oviedo. Before Casquita, the Camino goes past the church of Amandi, a beautiful Romanesque 12th or 13th-century chapel. I would take a break at the recreation area of Cordal de Peón, on the hilltop, before descending towards the village of the same name. In that area, you will find a Neolithic necropolis, and you can also enjoy the view". **Roberto Izquierdo, Correos of San Justo.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Villaviciosa Manuel Álvarez Miranda 3 33300 Villaviciosa, Asturias +34 985 890 520

Oficina de Turismo de Villaviciosa C/ del Agua 2933300 Villaviciosa, Asturias +34 985 891 759

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Policía Local de VillaviciosaPlaza del Ayuntamiento s/n 33300 Villaviciosa, Asturias+34 985 893 328

Oficina de Correos de GijónPlaza Seis de Agosto s/n 33206 Gijón, Asturias+34 985 176 806

Oficina de Turismo de GijónC/ Rodríguez San Pedro33201 Gijón, Asturias+34 985 341 177

Hospital de Cabueñes de GijónC/ Los Prados 39533394 Gijón, Asturias+34 985 185 000

Policía Local de GijónC/ San José 233209 Gijón, Asturias+34 985 181 100

Tiendas Amigas

La Tiendina de Gis

Tienda de alimentos

Plaza de Abastos

33300 Villaviciosa, Asturias

+34 649 560 701

Café de Vicente Pastelería

Balbín Busto 9

33300 Villaviciosa, Asturias

Confitería Colón

Plaza del Ayuntamiento 20

33300 Villaviciosa, Asturias

+34 985 890 453

Confitería Collada

Plaza Marqués 10

33201 Gijón, Asturias

+34 985 340 522

La Rebotica

Tienda de artesanía

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Gijón - Avilés

This section links the two most important coastal cities in Asturias. You leave **Gijón** through the esplanade towards the Plaza Padre Máximo. If you follow the signs, you will leave an industrial park behind, through a path that runs parallel to the road.

The village of **Veriña** marks the beginning of the climb towards Monte Areo, moving from a rural landscape into an industrial one. You have to climb for 3 kilometres, but the hardest bit is at the beginning. Many Palaeolithic findings were made here, such as burial mounds and dolmens. From there you descend towards **Santa Eulalia**, in the valley of Carreño, with its 10th-century church.

Going through an industrial area again, the route continues towards Tabaza, where you will find many cafeterias and restaurants. **Avilés** is a city linked to the development and decline of steelworks - it has gone through an amazing environmental and aesthetic regeneration process. Apart from its maritime neighbourhood, it has the best preserved old town in Asturias. The city has been renamed as “the medieval city of Asturias” and you can get lost in its narrow streets, visit the church of Santo Tomás de Canterbury, the Plaza Mayor or the palace of Camposagrado, to name a few monuments and interesting buildings.

The Calle Galiana is the street in Avilés with the longest arcade. It also used to have houses with stables on the ground floor and the flooring is still of two types: cobbled for the cattle and those wearing “madreñas” (wooden clogs) and flat for the rest.

El consejo del cartero

“I’d recommend the old town, Barrio Sabugo, Calle Rivero, Galiana, Plaza de España, Calle Ferrería, Parque de Ferrera and nowadays the “Centro Cultural Oscar Niemeyer”, a unique cultural centre. After Santiago de Compostela, Avilés is the Spanish city with most arcades in its streets”. **José Luís Pérez, Correos of Avilés.**

Teléfonos de interés

Oficina de Correos de Avilés Ferrería 14 33402 Avilés, Asturias+34 985 546 360

Oficina de Turismo de Avilés C/ de Ruiz Gómez 2133402 Avilés, Asturias+34 985 544 325

Hospital San Agustín de Avilés Camino de Heros 633401 Avilés, Asturias+34 985 123 000

Policía Local de Avilés C/ José Cueto 2333401 Avilés, Asturias+34 985 525 410

Tiendas Amigas

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Tienda Mercado de Abastos

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