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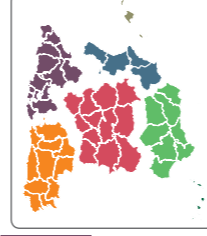
NATURE TRAIL ATXURIAGA TO GALLARTA



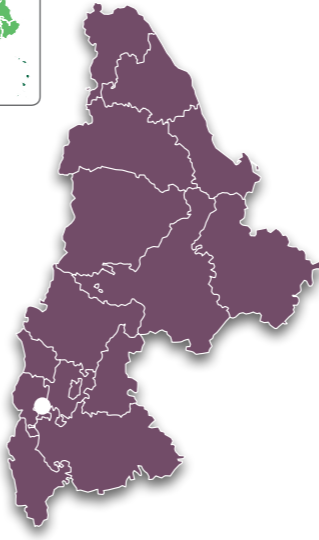
Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL ATXURIAGA TO GALLARTA

1. This route departs from the town of Galdames, going past the industrial estate of "La Aceña", at the old station next to the Villegas tunnel. In its first stretch, the route runs among oaks, hazels and willows through a gravel track, which crosses the Malpeña tunnel after 700 metres and continues towards a eucalyptus area near a house.
2. The path continues along this track for a few more metres until it reaches some houses, where there is an intersection with route GR-281. After turning right, the route joins the paved road and follows it by turning right again, then reaching a new intersection.
3. The route continues straight on, going back to the gravel track among pines, oaks, hazels and willows, leaving a large eucalyptus forest to the right. It follows this same track for over a kilometre until it reaches a forest trail, where it goes back to the gravel path again.
4. After travelling a couple of kilometres among pines and eucalypti, and a few metres before the path becomes a concrete road, a small drinking fountain is found to the right, from where the route continues until reaching the paved road towards Muskiz.
5. After going past a grill house and continuing straight under eucalypti, the path crosses the road through a paved track and, after one kilometre, it reaches the Sobaco tunnel, in whose exit there is a drinking fountain. Once this point has been passed, the route continues along



SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment. These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country. We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of Atxuriaga to Gallarta Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:

- Turismo Encartaciones – Enkartur : 0034 94 680 02 26

THROUGH THE CRADLE OF THE BASQUE MINING

The region of Las Encartaciones (Enkarterriak if pronounced in Basque), a land already quoted by Pliny two thousand years ago due to its wealth of iron and other minerals, is located in the southern edge of the province of Biscay, bordering Álava, Cantabria and Castile and León.



ATXURRIAGA PARK

It is located on the council area of Galdames, next to the Atxuriaga/La Aceña neighbourhood. This park is just a two-minute walk away from the starting point of the Nature Trail, so visitors are recommended to go there first before starting the trek.

The neighbourhood where it is located, as well as the park itself are named after a Middle Ages tower which existed in the vicinity until the beginning of last century, and disappeared when mining activities started.

This large leisure part is located on the land previously occupied by the reservoir and landfill of the Tardia and Berango mines. In the park, the visitor may enjoy a variety of plants and trees, including several specimens of northern oak, Norway maple, ash tree, pine and eucalyptus plantations, among others.

This park is provided with a parking area for motor vehicles and bikes, with a small café where visitors can grab a snack, public toilets and a children's playground. Besides, the area is provided with wooden benches and tables where visitors may hold their own barbecues in the park's own barbecue grills.

BASQUE COUNTRY'S MINING MUSEUM

The Basque Country's Mining Museum is located in Gallarta, the birthplace of Dolores Ibárruri, "La Pasionaria". This centre is dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge about mining culture and history in the Basque Country, especially in the mining area of Biscay, which has left a rich legacy of industrial buildings and other construction examples distributed throughout the zone. Next to Gallarta, the traveller can see the large open iron ore cut mine, which is the open-pit mine located at the lowest altitude in the Basque Country, 20 metres below sea level.

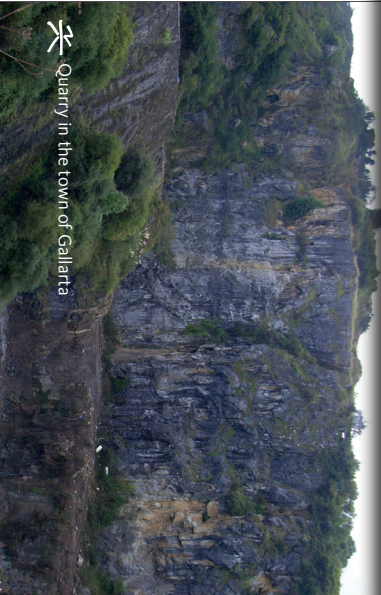
Drinking fountain on the route to the town of Muskiz



Malpeña Tunnel



Quarry in the town of Gallarta

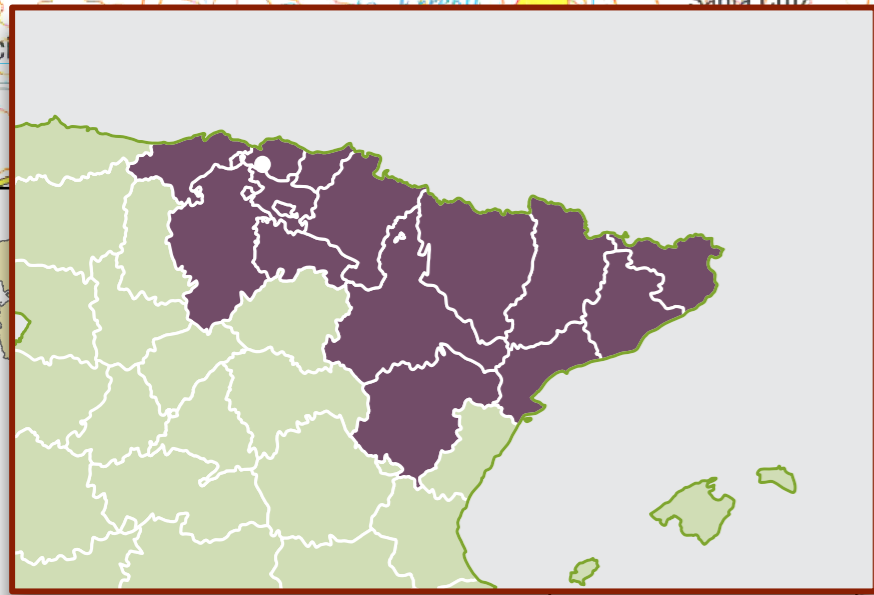
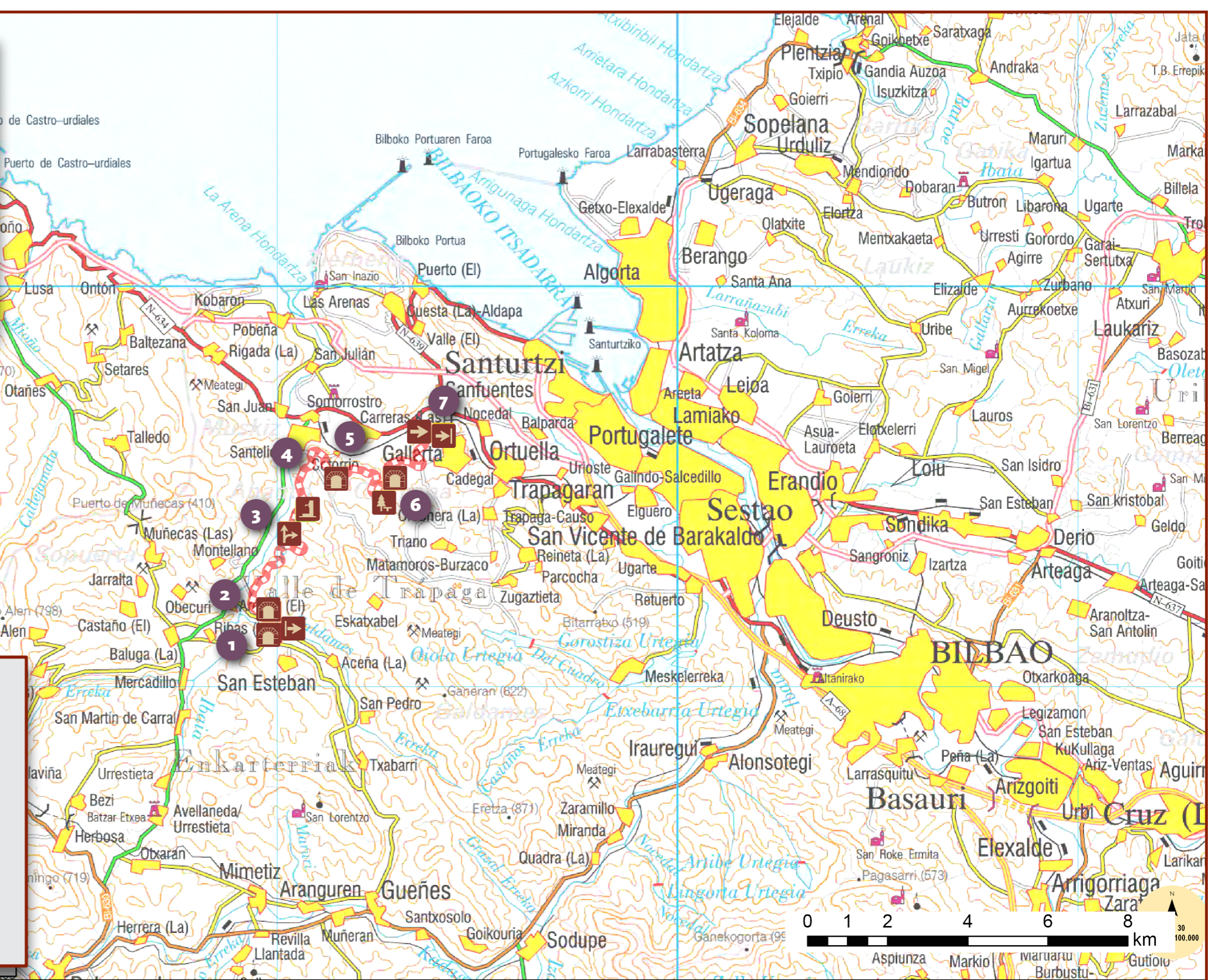


MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	60 m
Guidance along the route	1	▲ Downward gradient	70 m
Route difficulty	1	== ROUTE LENGHT	13,8 km
Amount of effort needed	2	⌚ TIME	2 h

◆ town ● point of interest

Atxuriaga → Gallarta



SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



**NATURE TRAIL
ATXURIAGA TO
GALLARTA**

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Fountain
- Rest area
- Underpass
- Tunnel
- Detour