



Museums and Fortified Houses Route

Urduña/Orduña –
Amurrio – Laudio/Llodio



Euskadi, auzolana, bien común



The territories of Aiaraldea and Alto Nervión uniquely combine historical richness and natural beauty.

This route invites you to discover the area's cultural legacy, exploring its majestic fortified houses, authentic architectural gems that tell stories of power and defence in the Middle Ages, and a network of museums that preserve and explain traditions, art and unique flavours. From the everyday life of illustrious families to the development of artistic styles and the essence of the local liqueur, every stop is a window on the past to connect it with the present. Set out on this journey and let yourself be amazed by the heritage that makes the Alto Nervión area unique!



info+



-  Museum
-  Fortified House
-  Urduña/Orduña - Amurrio - Laudio/Llodio
-  Aiara/Ayala - Artziniega



Urduña/Orduña

1

Amurrio

6

5

Artziniega

2

3

4

5

Orozko

7

Laudio/Llodio

8

1 Orduña ethnographic museum



1 Andra Mari Square –URDUÑA/ORDUÑA–
www.ordunahiria.org



Guided tours



Accessible tours





The Orduña ethnographic museum is characterised by a focus on traditional trades and the history of the town, with a special emphasis on trade and the economic activities that marked its development. 12 rooms house its permanent collection on the guilds and trades typical of Orduña in recent centuries. It also offers a varied programme of temporary exhibitions and activities to enrich the town's cultural life. It consists of 3 floors with 1,200 m² of floor space, and while it is municipal-owned it is run by the Hamaika Kale voluntary association.



All the objects and pieces that make up the permanent collection were donated or loaned by people linked to Orduña, and the collection is managed and organised by volunteers. Hence the image of different generous hands cooperating to keep up the museum.



2 Zaldivar House



The first sure mention of the Zaldivar House dates from 1689, when a visit to the palace was organised during the process of induction of Juan Díaz Pimienta into the Order of Calatrava. This palace may have belonged to Don Juan de Zaldivar, who in 1619 purchased a chapel in the church in Orduña. The most striking part of the house today are its rounded dressed stone corners, a touch that has survived the major renovations it has undergone.

The palace was surrounded by a wall with an arched gate displaying the crest of the Zaldivar family, a detail that can still be seen on the outside wall of a nearby building.

Tertanga neighbourhood –AMURRIO–



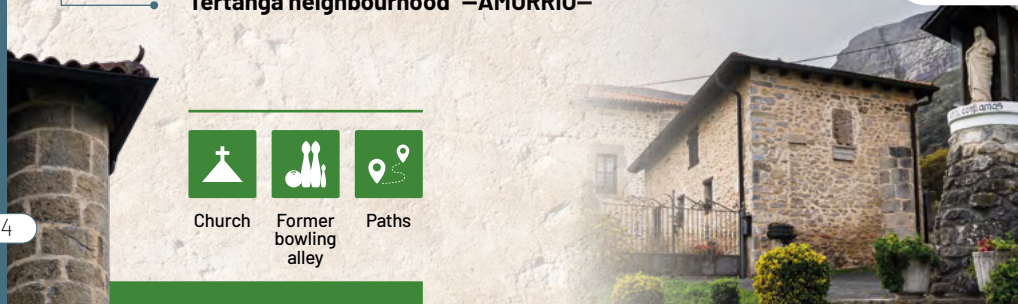
Church



Former
bowling
alley



Paths



Puente Fortified House 3



This fortified house, built around the year 1500 in a late Gothic and Renaissance style, combines both agricultural and residential functions. Its design echoes the fortified houses of the *Banderiza* period, a time marked by warring clans, but features much thinner walls and windows on all sides to allow natural light into the interior rooms. Originally constructed with three floors and a hipped roof, each floor had its own separate entrance, which was later replaced by an internal staircase. Renovation work carried out in 1781 added balconies and modernised the building's appearance. Although there is some speculation about earlier origins in the 14th century, the house is more likely a later construction, associated with a rural notable who had interests in Orduña.



It sets out to imitate *Banderiza*-style fortified houses, but this period of conflict was long over, and it is not as high as them and therefore does not need their thicker walls - nearer two metres than one metre thick at the bottom.

Delika neighbourhood –AMURRIO–



Parking Paths Church Children's play area Bar

4 Artomaña Fortified House



This fortified house stands out for its solid, uniform appearance, which has survived the passing of the years almost intact. It is a fine example of the old fortified houses in the area, with a structure recalling the military past of the families who lived there. Its robustness and lack of windows indicate its defensive function in days gone by.

Little is known for sure about the origins and historical development of this fortified house, though archaeological work has shown that it was built in the second half of the 15th century. The building was sold in 1859 and in the document of sale it is specified that the interior was then empty.

Artomaña neighbourhood –AMURRIO–



Parking



Children's play area



Bar



Church



Paths



Mariaka Tower 5

Today the Mariaka Tower is the oldest civil building in Amurrio. It is believed to have been built on the site of a fortified house dating from the 13th century, but what we see today is more in the style of a late mediaeval palace of the 15th and 16th centuries than that of a defensive tower. The first documented reference to Mariaka dates from the year 1095, when the bishop of Nájera signed an agreement with the Tierra de Ayala, giving some idea of its historical importance.



The Mariaka Tower is part of several local legends, among them that of the Giant of Ayala. According to the legend, this giant of immense size and strength protected the lands of the area around the house, guarding the valleys and defending the villagers from invaders and threats. It is said that the tower, one of the most prominent buildings in the area, was built with the help of the giant, who used his strength to help build such large structures. This link between the house and the giant remains part of local folklore, highlighting the connection between history, architecture and the legends surrounding the Ayala family.

Orue street —AMURRIO—



Get there
on foot

6 Acha Liquor Museum



4 Maskuribai –AMURRIO–
www.destileriasacha.com



Private parking



Guided tours





The liqueur museum is housed in the Acha distillery itself. In the museum you can find out about the different processes involved, as well as discovering interesting facts about the firm, which dates back nearly two centuries. A unique chance to take a journey through the history of liqueur production, the different natural methods involved in making them (fermentation, distilling, maceration, ageing and so on), see the barrels used in the early 20th century, explore old books of accounts, advertising and lots more.



Founded in 1831, five generations on this is one of the oldest family firms in Europe, and the oldest in Spain.

7 Orozko ethnographic museum



Zubiatur square –OROZKO–
www.orozkomuseoa.eus



Free



Guided
tours



Accessible



Parking



The Orozko ethnographic museum is housed in the Legorburu Palace, and has three floors, each of them used to explain one theme: the historical heritage of the valley, traditional life in Orozko and the inhabitants of the

mountains of Gorbeia. The “Emakumeok” (Women) topic runs across all three floors, explaining the presence and role of women in history, focusing on how they were made invisible and the roles assigned to them.



The last time a bear was recorded in Gorbeia was in 1818. The museum exhibits the almost complete skeleton of an adult male, which died from a hard blow to the head, probably after falling into a ravine in the area of Atxerre, on the Itxina massif. The body was found at a depth of 60 metres by GAES, a caving group from Sestao.

8 Ugarte Tower



Ugarte street –LAUDIO/LLODIO–

The Ugarte Tower is not only a valuable example of mediaeval architecture, but is also of considerable historical importance. It was the seat of the Ugartes, one of the most powerful, important families in the Alto Nervión area in the late Middle Ages. Over the centuries, this house was home to illustrious figures who made their mark on the history of the region. The Ugartes of Astobiza, Ziorraga, Berganza, Amurrio, Orozko and Urkabustaiz recognised this house as the origin of their lineage, which means many descendants bearing this surname have their roots in this emblematic place.

The Ugarte Tower preserves its original structure on the north and south sides, but on the other two sides it is surrounded by houses built onto it that conceal part of its appearance. The top two floors, the third and the attic were added after the house was damaged during clashes between the Ugarte and Anuncibai families. The attic floor, built in wood and brick, is a good example of the latest construction techniques at the time, similar to those that can be seen in many farmhouses in the area.



Parking

Train

Centre

Bar