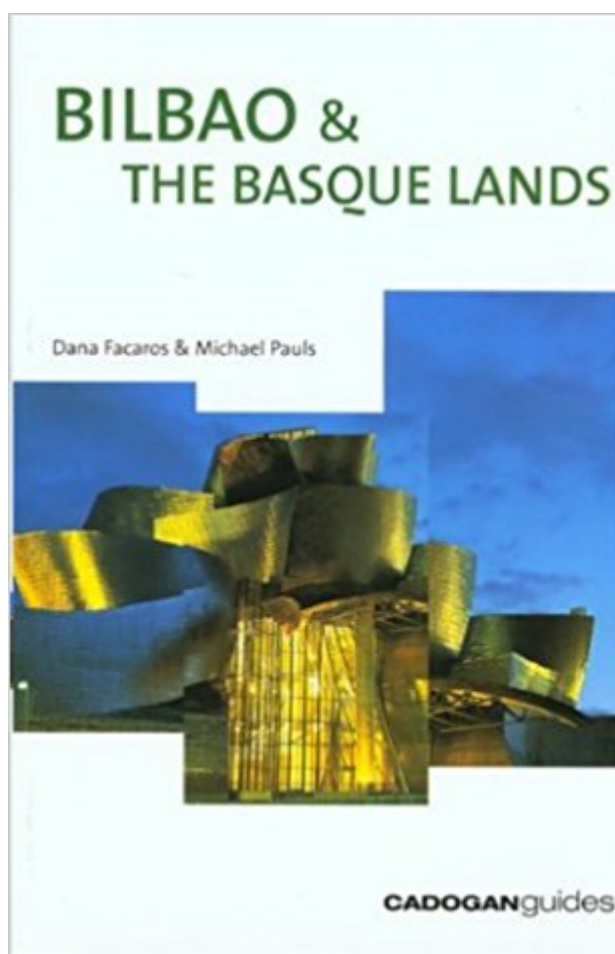




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Bilbao & The Basque Lands, 2nd (Country & Regional Guides - Cadogan)



Synopsis

Cadogan celebrates the city of the millennium! Bilbao has undergone an amazing rejuvenation in the past few years, becoming an international center of art and culture, and its tourist industry is booming. A new airport terminal and improved public transport have helped make the city and surrounding area a more appealing and convenient destination for travelers. "El Gugg", as the Basques call Frank Gehry's titanium wonder, was meant to attract attention, and it has succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams. But there's more to Bilbao than the Guggenheim Museum, and there's much more to the Basques, Europe's oldest people. Cadogan takes visitors through their stunning habitat of velvet green mountains, immaculate villages, vineyards, and ancient holy places. Now in its second edition, this first-ever guide to the entire Basque country (including both the Spanish and French sides of the border), gives readers the lowdown on the Basques' history, culture, ancient language and festivals, and explores the dramatic vistas of the Pyrenees. With Cadogan's expert guidance, experience vibrant Vittoria and live it up in the glittering resort of Biarritz. In this guide... *Find a detailed section on the Guggenheim Museum and its collection, with floor plans, full practical information, and the story behind this remarkable structure *Indulge in some of the world's finest cuisine at Cadogan's choice of restaurants and cafÃ©s--over 300 personally selected places to eat *Experience the best of Bilbao's energetic nightlife and surge of new bars, nightclubs, and hotels

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"You won't find a better guide to the region."--The Observer (UK)"Amazingly well updated and

researched." --The Times (UK)"The very best series of travel books is the Cadogan Guides, miniature encyclopedias of not only practical information...but a treasure chest of information on the places you'll be visiting." --The Tennessean (US)

Europe's oldest people, speaking Europe's oldest language, are anything but fuddy-duddies. Bilbao's titanium miracle, the Guggenheim Museum, was the final breathtaking touch to the facelift of a city that now inspires envy around the world. This modern architectural wonder is also the threshold to the verdant delights of the Basque Country, a land of lush green mountains, sleek seaside resorts, Rioja vineyards, prehistoric holy places and old whaling villages. The Basques put on some of Europe's most exciting festivals, too, beginning with the famous bull-running in Pamplona. Cadogan's newly updated guide fills you in on Basque history, culture, and the delights of Basque cuisine, pinpointing the liveliest bars and tastiest pintxos, so you will miss none of the fun. This guide includes: practical travel advice; over 250 hand-picked places to stay; over 300 restaurants, bars & cafes; 22 maps & site plans; color touring map section; stunning color photography; covers both the Spanish and French sides of the border.

I was never happier to have a guide book with me than when I brought Bilbao & The Basque Lands, which I bought through .com, to San Sebastian & Bilbao when I went there with my family. The tips on what to see and do, what to eat, and descriptions and prices of the various restaurants were invaluable. My family was always borrowing it. The guide book gave great insights into the history of Spain and the part the various sections of the Basque lands played in it. The book informed me that Henry IV of Navarre became King Henry IV of France in 1589 (he was one of France's greatest kings and in 1664 completed Pont Neuf, the most famous bridge in Paris), that a majority of the crews of the Spanish Armada were Basques, and that Columbus has some Basques to guide him when he explored the New World. Bilbao & The Basque Lands is great reading. I will keep it in my library to read for entertainment or to refer to from time to time now that my family no longer hogs it.

This book offers an overview of the Basque lands and culture, a general travel guide for the region, followed by more detailed guides for specific towns and areas (listings of accommodation, restaurants, buses, things to do, etc). Contents: 1) The Basque Lands: a photo essay 2) Introduction 3) History 4) Culture - The Language that Defeated the Devil Himself - Giants, Shaggy Men and a Not-So-Virgin Mary - Basque Accessories - Music, Dance and the Basque Yodel - Surviving the Pilgrimage to Sanitiago - The Sporting Life 5) Food and Drink - Traditional Basque

Cuisine - New Basque Cuisine - Learning to eat like a Basque6) Travel - Getting there - Entry
 Formalities - Getting Around - Self-catering and Special Interest Holidays7) Practical A-Z - Before
 you go - Climate and When to Go - Crime and the Police - Disabled Travellers - Eating Out -
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 Telephones - Toilets - Tourist Information - Where to Stay8) Bilbao - Getting there - Getting around -
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 Around Haro - Inland: Bilbao to San Sebastian - San Sebastian (Donostia) - Inland from San
 Sebastian - Along the Coast - San Sebastian to France10) Navarra - History - Pamplona (Iruna) -
 West of Pamplona: Aralar and San Miguel in Excelsis - West of Pamplona: The Camino de Santiago
 - Estella - South of Pamplona to Tudela - Sanguesa, Javier and Leyre - Routes into France: Up the
 Valleys of the Pyrenees11) The Pays Basque - The Cote Basque - St-Jean-de-Luz - Ciboure -
 Biarritz - Bayonne - The Labourd Interior: Around La Rhune - Sare - Saint-Pee-sur-Nivelle and
 Ainhoa - The Valley of the Nive - St-Jean-Pied-de-Port - The Haute SouleReference - Chronology -
 Language - Menu reader - Glossary - Further Reading - Index

The only drawback with this book is that it is slightly out-dated, but I knew that when I ordered a
 used book. The book itself was in excellent condition. The information is easy to read and
 well-organized. Something that would help even more would be to add more detailed maps.

Another smart and informative volume from Cadogan, my favorite travel guides. Will use thoroughly
 as we explore another great chunk of Europe!

A very interesting guidebook to Bilbao and surrounding areas including the French Basque region.
 Great and lengthy historical and cultural introduction, many sidenotes that have been
 well-researched. Probably an excellent guide if you plan to drive the region with descriptions of
 several routes and geographical organization. (You would still want some excellent highway maps.)
 However, if you plan to use public transit, specific helpful data are lacking. Reviews of lodging,
 restaurants, attractions are out-of-date despite 2003 copywrite. Some attractions are closed and
 many prices are way off.

I had planned a 1 week trip to Bilbao for business (with a companion) and was desperate to find a guidebook on the city. I was just lucky enough to have the 4th edition of Bilbao and the Basque Lands (BBL) published days before departure (with no stock in the 3rd edition??). Although this book is the only real thorough guidebook I found that focuses on Bilbao and the Basque region, it is certainly a first rate guide. Although I didn't explore every corner of the city, I was able to use the many maps, restaurant recommendations, Guggenheim info, language guide, as well as understand the history and customs of the region. For those who have time to explore more surrounding areas (the north Coast, Vittoria, San Sebastian, etc), I think this book is your best resource. I'm not a guidebook person, but this one is highly recommended.

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