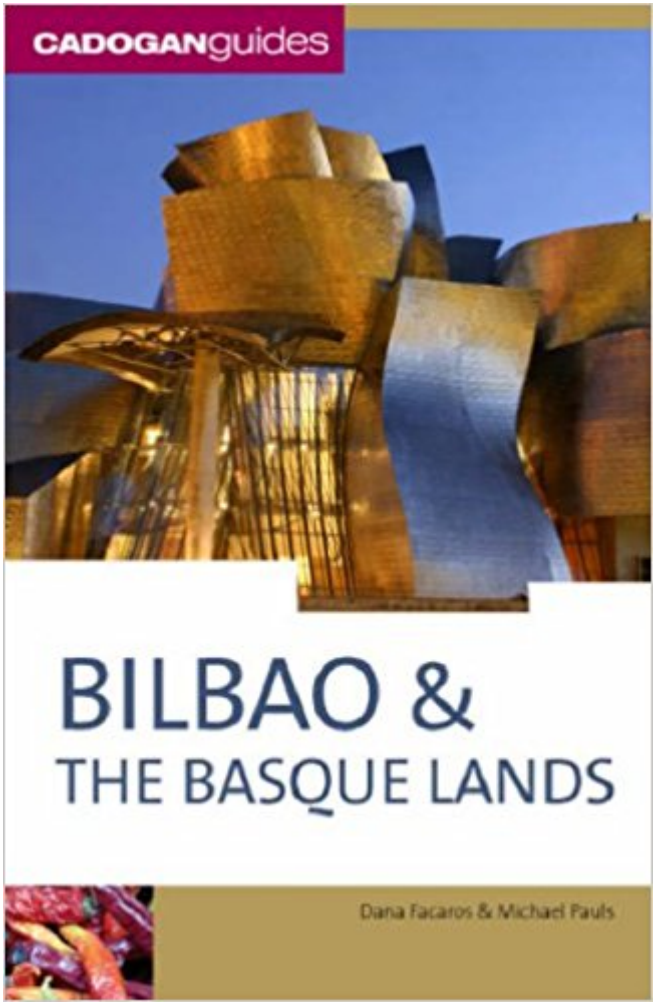
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Bilbao & The Basque Lands, 3rd (Country & Regional Guides - Cadogan)



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Synopsis

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 Goog', 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, much more to the Basques, Europe's oldest people. Cadogan takes you through their stunning habitat of velvet green mountains, immaculate villages, vineyards, and ancient holy places. This first ever guide to the entire Basque country (including both the Spanish and French sides of the border), gives you the lowdown on the Basques' history, culture, ancient language, festivals, and explores the dramatic vistas of the Pyrenees. With Cadogan's expert guidance, visit vibrant Vittoria and live it up in the glittering resort of Biarritz.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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

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 accomodation, restaurants, buses, things to do, etc).Contents:1) The Basque Lands: a photo essay2) Introduction3) History4) 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 Life5) 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 - Embassies and Consulates - Festivals - Health and Emergencies - Internet - Maps - Markets and Shopping - Money - Natural Parks - Opening Hours - Post Offices - Sports and Activities - Telephones - Toilets - Tourist Information - Where to Stay8) Bilbao - Getting there - Getting around - Tourist information - Shopping - Sports and Activities - Where to Stay - Eating Out - Tapas/Pintxos - Entertainment and Nightlife - The Casco Viejo - The Ensanche - Along the Nervion - The Guggenheim Museum - Around Bilbao9) Euskadi - Vitoria (Gasteiz) - Alava Province - Haro - 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 desparate 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, Guggenhiem 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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