

# Greenways



Kingdom of  
Navarra



Caminos  
Naturales

Gobierno  
de Navarra



Nafarroako  
Gobernua



AGENDA  
2030

## **VÍAS VERDES** WHAT ARE **GREENWAYS / "VÍAS VERDES"?**

They are former railway lines, now disused, recovered as non-motorized itineraries to be used primarily by walkers and cyclists. In Spain there are over 3,300 km of greenways spread over every autonomous region.

Greenways are designed to take advantage of easy to travel disused railway routes. Most of the routes offer universal accessibility; they are accessible to young children, seniors, and people with disabilities alike.

Greenways are magical itineraries, dotted with old stations, impressive tunnels, and spectacular viaducts where once trains used to run, in many cases mining trains, or even railway lines that were never completed and on which no train ever ran.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food has developed three such itineraries in Navarre: Tarazonica, Plazaola and Vasco Navarro Railway within the framework of the Nature Trails Programme.

Greenway Tarazonica ►





## IN NAVARRE

Today the Autonomous Community of Navarre has five greenways with a total length of over 120 km. By using these greenways tourists can discover the history, culture, and natural resources of Navarre and the story behind these narrow gauge railways. There are greenways in the Pyrenees, in Navarra Media, and in La Ribera (the north, centre, and south of the region); in the heart of the mountains, among vegetable farms and vineyards, or by cool rivers. Perhaps the best way to discover the Kingdom of Navarre at your own pace would be to visit all five greenways.

These greenways, such as Plazaola, Bidasoa or Irati, presage a promising future to these small railways of old. And if you are still hungry for more, you can follow these magical routes on through the Basque Country and Aragon.



Vasco-Navarro Railway ESP331 - 1957



Plazaola Greenway

## EUROVELO

**EuroVelo 1** is a cycling route linking North Cape (Norway) to Sagres (Portugal) with a large section of the Spanish part running through Navarre. Thanks to the Ederbidea cross-border project between Navarre, Gipuzkoa and the Atlantic Pyrenees, it has been possible to link up the Bidasoa and Plazaola Rail Trails in order to progress in the development of the EuroVelo 1 route in Navarre. 52 kms of this route run along local roads with little traffic, while a few sections cross mountain passes with steep slopes (between 6 to 22%), given that Navarre is a mountainous region and it is no easy task to connect the Pyrenean valleys.

The Atlantic On Bike project was another scheme in which Navarre took part. This cross-border scheme involved 18 partners from six countries: Norway, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal, while also counting on the support of the European Cyclists' Federation. This initiative was directed at promoting and developing the EuroVelo 1 route as a tourist destination.

The **EuroVelo 3** is another of the great routes in the European network that crosses through Navarre. This 5,000 km route runs through 6 countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France and Spain. Bicimugi is the cross-border project between the Atlantic Pyrenees and Navarre, to develop this 57 km route. It is also known as the pilgrims' route as it runs parallel to the French Way of St James, entering through the Pyrenees, passing through Orbaizeta and going as far as Aoiz/Agoitz. This route will carry on to Pamplona along the Natural Path of the Irati river and will link up with EuroVelo 1 to then become the **EuroVelo 1-3** route as far as Viana.

[www.eurovelospain.com](http://www.eurovelospain.com)



## #10 BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Respect the **environment**, the local people, the crops, and the livestock and wildlife.
2. Respect the **signage** and the rules for using the greenways.
3. Enjoy nature **quietly and unhurriedly**.
4. Travel **carefully where the route is shared** with vehicles.
5. Take **special care in tunnels and on viaducts**.
6. Don't forget to carry a **flashlight or have lights on your bike** on greenways where there are **tunnels**.
7. **Binoculars, water and comfortable footwear** will always be good basic equipment to take on your excursions.
8. If you are cycling, it is advisable to **wear a helmet**.
9. Check the rules regarding **taking cycles** on trains (at [www.renfe.com](http://www.renfe.com)) and on buses.
10. Go to [www.visitnavarra.es](http://www.visitnavarra.es) and [www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com) for more information about your route and **warnings of possible incidents** that may affect it.



DONOSTIA / SAN SEBASTIAN

EuroVelo 1

# OUR GREENWAYS



Zaragoza

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## 1. BIDASOA GREENWAY

**On the banks of the Bidasoa and next to the Señorío de Bertiz Natural Park**



This greenway makes use of a large part of the route of the old Txikito train which until 1956 ran between Elizondo and Irun. Today the route provides us with an unforgettable journey between lush Atlantic forests and beautiful villages along the Bidasoa, a small, bucolic Basque-Navarrese river, which gives its name to the rural district it runs through and forms the border between Spain and France at Irun. This greenway marks the entry point of Eurovelo 1 "Atlantic Coast Route" into Spain, a route which will continue along the Plazaola Greenway thanks to the Ederbidea project connecting the two routes.



**Location:** Between Oiategi (Navarre) and Irun-Behobia (Gipuzkoa).

Length: 42 km; 34 km in Navarre.

Type of surface: Concrete, asphalt and compacted earth, depending on the section.

\* User-friendly with some limitations (potholes) in the Sunbilla-Lesaka section and slopes between Legasa and Señorío de Bertiz.

**Services:** Bike rental, transfer on public transport (consult)

Recommendations:

- Carry lighting. Although the longest tunnels have lighting it is always advisable!
- Respect the passage of livestock and be careful when the route is shared by light motorized traffic (Sunbilla section). The greenway is the access to a number of country houses bordering on the greenway.



OIT Bertiz. 948 592 386 [oit.bertiz@navarra.es](mailto:oit.bertiz@navarra.es)

## 2. PLAZAOLA NATURE TRAIL/GREENWAY

**From Navarre to Gipuzkoa through the most unspoiled areas of Leitzaran**



The Larraun and Leitzaran valleys are a veritable natural sanctuary dotted with country houses. Between their leafy hillsides of beech and oak, a small narrow gauge railway "La Plazaola" used to snake tirelessly between Pamplona and San Sebastián-Donostia until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Today its spectacular route features rehabilitated stations and numerous tunnels, among which is the Uitzu Tunnel, at 2.7 km the longest tunnel on all the greenways in Europe. Projects to extend it as far as Pamplona and its future connection with the Bidasoa Greenway makes it an essential greenway.



**Location:** Between Latasa (Kaxarna picnic area) and Andoain (Gipuzkoa). And between Irurtzun and Sarasa.

Length: 63 km; 41 km in Navarre.

**Type of surface:** Mostly compacted earth.

\*User-friendly with some limitations (occasional slopes) on part of the itinerary.

Recommendations:

- Carry lighting and warm clothing. In the Navarre section alone there are 19 tunnels! Many have lighting but it pays to be prepared.

-Find out about the state of the greenway at [www.plazaola.org](http://www.plazaola.org) or [www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)



OIT Lekunberri. 948 507 204 [oit.lekunberri@navarra.es](mailto:oit.lekunberri@navarra.es)

### 3. IRATI GREENWAY

#### *A surprising route through the Foz de Lumbier Nature Reserve*



This trail follows the path of an old narrow gauge railway which used to run between Pamplona and Sangüesa. Today it is a delightful trail through one of the most beautiful places in Navarre, the Foz de Lumbier Nature Reserve. To enjoy it at leisure, unhurriedly, is a gift for the senses. And its future is promising, since work has already begun on the recovery of another 50 km of the original route.



**Location:** Between Liédena and Lumbier.

**Length:** 6.4 km

**Type of surface:** Compacted earth.

\*User-friendly with some limitations (gravel).

Recommendations: Carry binoculars to enjoy the Foz de Lumbier Nature Reserve to the full.



Sangüesa Tourist Information Office. 948 871 411 [oit.sanguesa@navarra.es](mailto:oit.sanguesa@navarra.es)

#### 4. VASCO-NAVARRO RAILWAY NATURE TRAIL/GREENWAY

Following the trail of the "Trenico" from the monumental city of Estella-Lizarra



The Vasco Navarro Railway Nature Trail/Greenway follows the route of the *Trenico*, which between 1927 and 1967 ran between Estella-Lizarra and Mekolalde (Gipuzkoa), passing through Vitoria-Gasteiz. The 29 kilometre long Navarre section starts at the old railway station, now a bus station, and runs through the municipalities of La Ribera del Río Ega before heading out into Álava-Araba and Gipuzkoa. The route features a rich cultural and railway heritage, such as the Arquijas Viaduct and the Acedo Tunnel (1.4 km long!) and gives us a surprising insight into the Tierra Estella area of Navarre.



**Location:** Between Estella-Lizarra, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Bergara (Gipuzkoa).

**Length:** 123.5 km; 29 km in Navarre.

Type of surface: Mostly compacted earth. Asphalt surface between Estella-Lizarra and Zubielqui.

\*User-friendly with some limitations (occasional slopes) in the Zubielqui – Murieta section.

**Services:** Bike rental, transfer on public transport (consult)

Recommendations:

- Carry lighting. Although the Acedo tunnel (1.4 km) has lighting it is always advisable!



Estella-Lizarra Tourist Information Office 848 420 485 [oit.estella@navarra.es](mailto:oit.estella@navarra.es).

## 5. TARAZONICA NATURE TRAIL/GREENWAY

### *From the Ebro to the Moncayo through La Ribera de Navarra*



The modest "Trenico" train, which was nicknamed *Escachamatas* (*Scrub-buster*) ran from the monumental city of Tudela, the capital of La Ribera, and climbed from the Ebro to Somontano. Today, this old railway line takes us through a landscape dominated by the meadowlands of the River Queiles, where the excellent vegetables for which Navarre is famous are grown.



**Location:** Between Tudela (Navarre) and Tarazona (Aragon).

**Length:** 22 km; 13 km in Navarre.

**Type of surface:** mixed surface: asphalt and compacted gravel.

\*User-friendly with ramps on the footbridge over the Ablitas road.

**Services:** Bike rental, transfer on public transport (consult).



Tudela Tourist Information Office. 948 848 058 [oittudela@navarra.es](mailto:oittudela@navarra.es)



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