

## Irún - Donostia/San Sebastián

The first section of **the Northern Way** starts in Gipuzkoa, on the French border, at the international bridge of Santiago crossing the River Bidasoa and linking Basque towns of **Irún** and **Hendaya**. After you go past the church of Nuestra Señora del Juncal, you need to continue to the Town Hall and then follow the Calle Mayor, where there is a detour signposted for the Northern Road.

After the Paseo de Colón you have to cross the railway line and the N-638 until you find a diversion to the right of the Visitor's Centre (Centro de Interpretación) of the marshland of Jaitzubia. This is where the climb to the chapel of Guadalupe begins. This is a 16th-century church with wonderful views over the Txingudi Bay.

From here you start going around Mount Jaizkibel, some ten kilometres away from Pasaia until you reach **Pasai Donibane-Pasajes de San Juan**, a fishing village and historical enclave where the French writer Victor Hugo used to live\*. This is the time to go down to the harbour and take a boat to the other side of the ria for a reasonable price.

While you go towards Faro de la Plata you can enjoy the wonderful views of **San Sebastian**. The capital of Gipuzkoa is world-renowned for its cultural life, its architecture and its esplanade all along the Playa de la Concha.

\* You can travel from Pasajes de San Pedro-Pasai Donibane to San Sebastian through the city but the walk is a bit dull in comparison to the coastal route. This path is recommended for cyclists but not for those on foot.

### El consejo del cartero

"Look for the old, as we say here, referring to the old town of Donostia, a perfect way to finish this day. You must not miss the pintxos and the delicacies you can enjoy in one mouthful in all the bars in the area. The fishing harbour and the Kursaal are close by, it is therefore quite easy to see all interesting spots in one go". **Jesús Antonio Velasco, Correos of San Sebastián-Donostia.**

### Teléfonos de interés

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