



# Way of St James – Coastal Route

Donostia San Sebastián → Orio → **STAGE** Zarautz → Getaria → Zumaia → Deba



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Stage profile

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Tourist office



**STAGE**  
**Zarautz → Getaria**



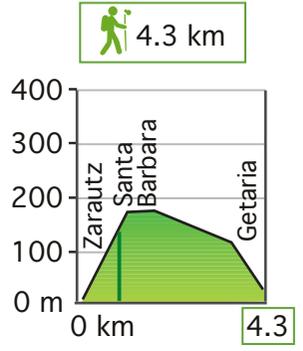
**BEGINNING**

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# STAGE Zarautz → Getaria



→ This stage offers a choice of two different routes. The first one follows the original inland route which steered clear from the sea cliffs, and connected farmhouses and chapels in the hills nearby; the second option follows the recently built oceanside walkway that skirts the N-634 coastal road, a true engineering feat of the 19th century.

## Via Santa Barbara

The route begins in the historic quarter of Zarautz next to Kanpantorre and the parish church. The road that used to link Zarautz and Getaria leads out of town from this point along a track



Zarautz



Zarautz - Getaria

called Aldapeta. The first part of the route climbs steeply uphill heading west toward Santa Barbara. This is one of the best-preserved sections of the route on the entire coast of Gipuzkoa. The track soon leaves the town behind, wends its way past Vista Alegre Park and through the oldest *txakoli* vines in Zarautz. *Txakoli* is one of the main agricultural products raised on the land stretching from Zarautz to Getaria. The earliest references to its production date to the Middle Ages, when *txakoli* vines could be seen up and down the coast of Gipuzkoa. In addition to making wine for local consumption, in the 16th century surplus *txakoli* went to supply the fishing boats that sailed to Newfoundland and the Arctic in search of whales and cod. Among the many properties of this beverage was its ability to ward off scurvy on long voyages. However, with the passing of time, production gradually declined until the 20th century, when *txakoli* vines and wine-making were restricted to this small piece of the coast. Fortunately, *txakoli* is now experiencing a new boom, with wine growers concentrating their efforts on producing high quality wines.



Santa Barbara



Santa Barbara



As you reach the highest point a short detour will take you up to the small farmhouse and chapel of Santa Barbara. Dramatically perched high above Zarautz, the setting offers fantastic views of the Basque coast stretching as far east as Baiona. Saint Barbara was thought to protect sailors and fishermen from lightning and storms, and was very popular in the area. For centuries seafarers from Zarautz would make offerings to Saint Barbara for every whale that was captured. The chapel itself was built by fishermen from Zarautz at the beginning of the 18th century.



Getaria



Getaria

Retrace your steps back to the main track and continue gradually uphill along the ancient route. After a gentle gradient and around a small bend you'll be rewarded with another panoramic view. To the west is the town of Getaria punctuated by what once was the tiny island of San Anton, connected to the mainland in the 15th century when the port was built. The path flattens out as you walk



Getaria



Getaria

past age-old farmhouses, some, such as the Garro farmhouse, still reveal interesting medieval architectural elements. The entire route affords fantastic views of the sea, *txakoli* vineyards and the wineries where the beverage is made. Soon the track changes to tarmac and then to a paved road as it drops down to Getaria.

The old town of Getaria is nestled into the cliffs overlooking the sea and protected from the open sea by San Anton. Recent archaeological excavations at the Zarauz mansion and adjoining church of San Salvador show that Getaria dates back to the Roman period. Thus, a community was founded during Roman times which for centuries would be dependent on the sea for its livelihood. In the High Middle Ages the people of Getaria turned to the art of whale hunting, an activity that would become an economic mainstay and the driving force behind Getaria's economic and social development.







GETARIA

All accommodation

Restaurants



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