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Welcome to Bilbao

Welcome to Bilbao, home to the 8th International Conference on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics!

Situated in the heart of the Basque Country, the city was founded in the year 1300 and, ever since, it has been the mainstay of economic and social development and the driving force for modernisation in the Bay of Biscay area. Nowadays, Bilbao is a cosmopolitan hub in Spain with over 1,000,000 inhabitants. Dynamic and welcoming, with a unique blend of tradition and modernity, the city will captivate you with its impressive architecture, exquisite cuisine, and warm atmosphere.

Surrounded by green hills and bathed by the waters of the Nervión River, the city provides an incomparable setting for this event dedicated to the fascinating world of Big Data, where we will share knowledge, explore new trends, and discuss the challenges and opportunities offered by large-scale data analysis.

To help you make the most of your visit, we have prepared a brief guide that will lead you to discover the best of Bilbao, with some recommendations on transportation, travel times, accommodation options, and a selection of restaurants. You will also find extra info here. We hope it helps you enjoy everything this wonderful city has to offer.

¡Ongi etorri! Welcome, and enjoy the conference and our charming city!

Getting here

By plane: Bilbao International Airport is 12 km from the capital in the municipality of Loiu.

How to go from the airport to Bilbao city centre:

- **The bus Bizkaibus line 3247** links the city with the airport every 30 minutes and with several stops in Bilbao city centre: (Alda. Recalde, Plaza Moyua, Gran Vía and Intermodal). The journey to the last stop (Intermodal) is about 20 minutes. On the arrivals floor, there is a customer services desk and ticket office. A single ticket costs around 3 €.
- **Taxi to Bilbao**: Approximate fare 25–30 €.
● You can also rent a car at the airport—[car rental].
● **By bus:** All buses go to Bilbao's bus terminal on Garellano Street, 1. [Intermodal Bilbao].
● **By train:** Medium and long-distance trains arrive at the city centre's Abando Indalecio Prieto Station, Plaza Circular, 2.

### 2. VISA

A visa is not obligatory to enter Spain, although it might be needed depending on the place of origin. Citizens of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland only require a passport or identity document.

If you need a VISA this should be requested at the [Spanish Consulates or Embassies](#) in the country of origin. The cost of the procedure varies depending on the type of visa, number of visits or place where it should be dealt with.

If you require an **Official Letter of Invitation** to obtain a visa, please send an e-mail to the contact email address detailed below with all your data: full name (first, middle and last names) exactly as written in your passport, gender, passport number, nationality, your full affiliation (including the name of the institution), full postal address, and also please attach the Meeting Invitation from the 8th international conference on Big Data and data science for official statistics.

Please, make sure to allow sufficient time for the visa to be processed at your local Embassy, as it may take several weeks.

The conference organisers will not contact Embassies or Consulates on behalf of visa applicants. It is the sole responsibility of the attendees to manage their visa applications and directly contact their respective embassies.

Please note that the letter of invitation does not imply an obligation from the conference host to provide any financial contribution. Delegates are responsible for all costs related to their participation in the event and the visa application.

### 3. MEETING VENUE

The meetings will take place at Euskalduna Palace.
- **Address:** Abandoibarra Etorb., 4, Abando, 48011 Bilbo, Bizkaia
- **Google Maps Link:** [https://maps.app.goo.gl/B2NFfLzi9PBzCKc7](https://maps.app.goo.gl/B2NFfLzi9PBzCKc7)

There is a tram stop in front of the venue, where you can access the place easily and comfortably.
- **Google Maps Link:** [https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9tJdYDrsN1kJgqU7](https://maps.app.goo.gl/V9tJdYDrsN1kJgqU7)
4. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is the responsibility of the delegates. We kindly ask you to make your hotel bookings as soon as possible as there are different events in the city. We kindly remind you that the participants are responsible for paying their hotel bills.

- Melià
- Radisson
- NH Villa de Bilbao****
- Ercilla
- Occidental
- Catalonia
- Hotel llunión ***
- Vincci
- Poshtel Premium hostel
- Bilbao city rooms
- PIL PIL HOSTEL

You may find all kinds of accommodations on the website: BILBAO TURISMO and HOSTELS.

5. OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Weather information
Bilbao has a humid oceanic climate, with predominantly West winds, that make temperatures milder and favour temperate weather throughout the year. Given its proximity to the sea, the climate is mild and without extreme temperature changes between the seasons: with an average temperature 8°C in winter and 20°C in summer.

Time Zone
Bilbao is situated in the Central European Time Zone (CET), which is GMT +1.

Currency
The official currency is the Euro. The majority of retail establishments accept credit cards and will ask the customer to show proof of identity.

Business timetables
- Meals: The usual times for meals are:
  - Breakfast: from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.
  - Lunch: from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.
Dinner: from 8:30 to 10:30 PM. (The average cost of a daily menu in Bilbao is €14).

- **Banks**: Monday to Friday from 08:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- **Shops**: Shops open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:30/2:00 PM and from 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Shopping centres, large department stores and some shops do not close at midday and are open until 9:00 PM. Shops do not open on Sundays.
- **Museums**: Open from Tuesday to Sunday. Closed on Mondays.

### Type of electrical sockets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 PINS</th>
<th>16 A</th>
<th>220-240 V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

![2 PINS socket](image1)
![16 A socket](image2)
![220-240 V socket](image3)

### Useful telephones

Public information help-line: 010. (Full information about Bilbao).
- **Airport**: 944 869 300
- **Abando railway station**: 912 432 343
- **Intermodal, coach station**: 944 395 077
- **Tele Taxi**: 94 410 21 21
- **Radio Taxi**: 94 444 88 88

### Security

- **Municipal Police**: 092 and 944 205 000 (if calling from outside Bilbao).
- **Ertzaintza (Basque Police), S.O.S.- DEIAK**: 112 and 944 441 444
- **National Police**: 091 and 944 709 000
- **Civil Protection**: 944 232 134
- **Firemen**: 080 / 944 233 000
Public Transportation

From the airport to Bilbao:
A 20-minute journey through the Artxanda tunnels or along the BI-631 road separate the airport from the centre of Bilbao. The traveller has different options of ways of making the journey by taxi or by bus. Information on the bus:

Bus A3247 BILBAO-Airport: operates every day of the year, with services every 20 minutes in Summer, and 30 minutes in Winter, connecting with INTERMODAL, the Bilbao bus and coach terminus. Before reaching the end of the route, this bus makes three stops in the city centre, 14 Alameda Rekalde, Plaza Moyua and 74 Gran Vida. For prices and frequency of services, click here (Contact 00 3494 612 55 55).

Bus and coach station (Intermodal): All regional, national and international bus and coach lines depart from the Intermodal bus station (Gurtubay Street no. 1), which is perfectly connected with Metro Bilbao, the tram and commuter trains (lines C1 and C2). Further information: INTERMODAL.

Bizkaia by bus: Bizkaibus services connect virtually all the municipalities in Bizkaia/Biscay, forming an extensive, efficient public transport network that enables you to comfortably discover the Historical Territory from Bilbao.

Bizkaibus also runs services that connect with Bilbao Airport, the Leida campus of the University of the Basque Country and the INTERMODAL in Bilbao.

Most of its units are adapted for use by people with reduced mobility. Further information: BIZKAIBUS.
The Metro Bilbao underground railway has 2 lines. Trains run from 06.00 to 23.00 from Sunday to Thursday. There is an all-night service on Fridays and Saturdays.

Designed by architect Norman Foster, it has become a symbol of the city because of its accessibility, effectiveness, impeccable design and its characteristic 'fosteritos', the glass canopies over station entrances.

Its two lines represent the fastest way of moving around the city.

**Tramway:** Monday to Friday: From 06:30 until 23:45

This means of transport, which connects Atxuri station with La Casilla, is much more than just a sustainable and punctual travel option. It also provides a pleasant journey that borders the mediaeval streets of the Old Quarter, briefly glances at the Ensanche (expansion area) of the city and flows parallel to the river estuary while discovering some of its most representative buildings: Isozaki Atea, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Library of the University of Deusto-CRAI, Auditorium of the University of the Basque Country (UPV).

**Languages**

In the Basque Country there are 2 official languages: Basque (called Euskera) and Spanish. Signs on roads, streets, airports and official institutions will be in both languages.

Basque is the ancestral language of the Basques, whose origin is unknown, as researchers have shown that there is no known relationship with the families of European languages. It is thought in all likelihood to be the oldest language of Europe.

**Basque Gastronomy**

Basque gastronomy, and therefore Biscayan cuisine, is universally famous and is the result of the quality of the ingredients and the skill of its master chefs. Many of the best Basque restaurants and restaurateurs can be found in Bilbao. They range from select Michelin-star restaurants to more traditional and less sophisticated steakhouses, cider houses and taverns. All of them are...
sure to serve Txakoli de Bizkaia, our best-known wine internationally. There is something to suit every taste and budget but with the common denominator of always being of the highest quality. There are also delightful spots offering pintxos, tapas and banderillas (bar snacks) in the traditional "poteo" (wine drinking) areas of Casco Viejo, “Pozas” and Deusto.

The following list of bars and restaurants are located within one kilometre of the Euskalduna Palace and have a 4.5+ star rating on Google.

- RESTAURANTE ENOL
- MIO BASQUE URBAN FOOD
- MAL DITAS
- BAR RESTAURANTE GABIÑA
- RESTAURANTE GEORGIANO
- TXIRENE 100% BILBAO
- ASADOR BILBAO BRASAN
- RESTAURANTE ZAPIRA
- SWANSEA CAFETERÍA RESTAURANTE
- EL PUERTITO
- MARTXO BGC BAR RESTAURANTE
- EL RINCÓN DE POZAS
- BUDDHA PALACE INDIO-NEPALÍ RESTAURANTE

Bilbao Museum Routes

Museum routes The City of Bilbao is a huge treasure chest of surprises, filled with small and large gems that when set together turn this city into the most precious crown of the Basque Country. Its museums are gems that range from the most local to the most international; from the earliest times of the human being to cutting-edge modernity.

The oldest of the European cultures is home to the symbol of the Contemporary Era. The city is home to two major museums that make it a milestone in the world of culture: the Bilbao Fine Arts Museum and the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

Two ways of understanding art and conceiving a museum complement each other and make this city a goal for many visitors with artistic interests. Art is not only inside these museums; it spills beyond their walls to reach the streets, bridges and gardens. Close to them and huddled under the Euskalduna bridge is the third major museum in the Ensanche, and also the least known: the Ría de Bilbao Maritime Museum.
Walking routes

Walking routes: There is just not one city and you need to immerse yourself in its way of life to discover all its facets. Stroll past the shops and bars in its Casco Viejo [Old Town], its Siete Calles, wander through the business district of the Ensanche, eat in its many restaurants, visit its churches, enjoy the river from the new Bilbao that overlooks that path that takes you to the sea, to Abra.

Cycling and jogging through Bilbao

Cycling and jogging: We are prepared to discover waterfront Bilbao while doing sport. Sportswear, trainers or bikes help us to mingle with so many Bilbao people who are taking advantage of working out in this unique space where the most modern architecture is interspersed with outdoor art. The estuary will accompany us throughout the entire itinerary, either on its way towards the sea or, when we come back, looking for the city centre. A red ‘bidegorri’, a bicycle lane, makes our time spent on sport in Bilbao both easier and more comfortable.

6. Contact

Should you have any inquiries regarding the logistics of the meeting, do not hesitate to contact the meeting host institution (BC3, Basque Centre for Climate Change).

Local Contact: bigdata2024@bc3research.org