

## **NEW MARITIME CRUISE STATION TO COME INTO SERVICE IN MARCH**

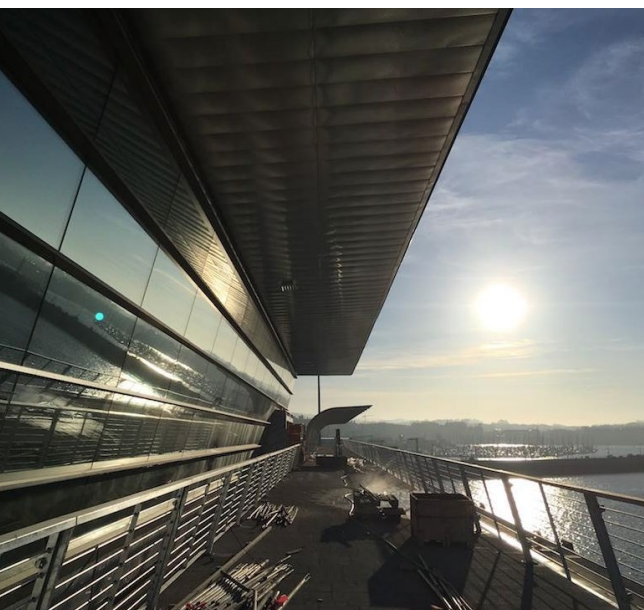
*It will be at the forefront of European terminals thanks to its quality, brightness,  
functionality and safety*

The new maritime cruise station being built by the Port Authority of Bilbao will become operative at the end of the coming month of March. It is located on the Port of Bilbao's third berth at Getxo's second cruise vessel pier, and will suppose a further boost towards increasing the number of tourists arriving in the Basque Country by sea.

4.60 million euros have been invested on the terminal, and in the building's design, special attention has been given to the data provided by the major cruise operating companies, to international vessel safety and security norms in addition to the characteristics of the best terminals in the world. This together with the high standards of quality and safety that have been applied, will place this station – 15 metres high and with 3,200m<sup>2</sup> of useable surfaces – at the forefront of those in Europe.

The station has been conceived as a great rectangular glass container that fits in naturally with its surroundings, bearing in mind the differentiation between passenger and luggage flows with independent lanes and stairways.

The building consists of two main floors with a mezzanine in between. The hall and tourist information desk will be on the lower floor where embarking passenger reception; there will also be ample space for disembarking passenger luggage collection and check-in will take place. The mezzanine will accommodate the VIP lounge and offices. The waiting area, embarking and disembarking passenger control area and disembarking area will be on the first floor.







## Direct vessel access

The station will open towards vessels, thus facilitating embarking and disembarking movements, and guaranteeing passenger comfort. Passengers will access the terminal and/or the vessel directly, and safely, without having to walk along the pier, thanks to a gangway finger similar to those used at airports. In addition, this infrastructure, will adapt to the height of the embarkation doors of any vessel, independently of size, and to persons with reduced mobility.

Luggage and ship supplies movements, will take place at ground level, next to the berthing area through a zone completely free of passenger movements.

The Port Authority will also provide 222 long-term parking spaces.

## American, British and German companies

This year, the British company, Cruise & Maritime Voyages, will be visiting the Port of Bilbao for the first time with four calls.

Furthermore, American luxury cruise companies, such as Azamara, Crystal, Oceania, Princess, Seabourn and

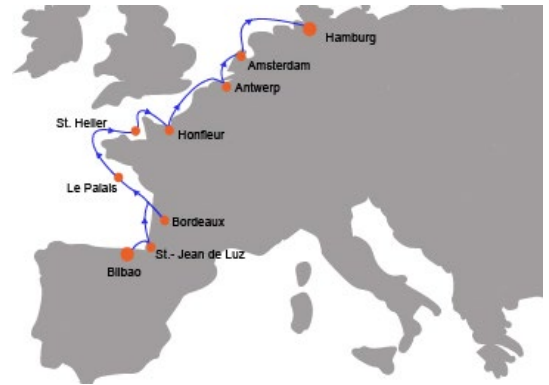
Silver Cruises will again deposit their trust in Bilbao. So too, of course, will the European companies, like the Germans, TUI and Hapag Lloyd, and the British P&O and Fred Olsen, in addition to Thomson Cruises, which had not called at Bilbao for some years.



## Three embarkations in a season bringing over 50 cruise vessel calls

Throughout 2017, 56 cruise vessels are expected to berth, but what stands out most is that it will be possible to embark on three of them:

Hapag Lloyd's **Europa 2**. From 1 to 12 August (11 days)



Oceania Cruises' **Sirena**. From 8 to 18 August (10 days)



Pullmantur's **Monarch**. From 16 to 19 September (3 days)



The latter offers the opportunity to go on a mini-cruise between two cities that have been reinvented: on the one hand, the Portuguese capital invites you to discover its gastronomy, architecture and show you how well it treats people, while on the other, Bilbao is one of the most relevant cities in Spain.

In addition, for two nights, passengers will have the occasion to sail through the waters of the Bay of Biscay and then catch a glimpse of the immense Atlantic Ocean.



# *A new Welcome to Bilbao*

*Enjoy the Basque Country from our new cruise terminal!*



*Visit us at Seatrade Cruise Global, Hall C, booth 1921.*

Bilbao  
PORT **B**

[www.bilbaoport.eus](http://www.bilbaoport.eus)

## Further information

[www.bilbao.net](http://www.bilbao.net) • [www.getxo.net/turismo](http://www.getxo.net/turismo) • [www.bizkaia.net](http://www.bizkaia.net) • [www.euskadi.net](http://www.euskadi.net) • [www.bilbaoair.com](http://www.bilbaoair.com)

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