

# STM

San Telmo Museoa

KALEJIRA 2  
CITY TOUR 2  
OUTSIDE THE OLD CITY WALLS  
TEACHER'S GUIDE  
THEMATIC TOUR

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**SAN TELMO MUSEOA**

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Donostiako Udala  
Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián

## CITY TOUR 2

### OUTSIDE THE OLD CITY WALLS

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

### THEMATIC TOUR

We propose a mixed format: in addition to the explanations given during the guided tour, students will also be given worksheets to complete using either their general knowledge or direct observations.

The itinerary suggested here, which is located outside the San Telmo Museum, is not meant to be strictly adhered to, and may be adapted to suit each group. Regardless of whether the guided tour is led by a member of the museum staff or by the teachers themselves, experience has taught us that it is much more dynamic when based on oral communication and interactive exchanges than when it focuses solely on finding all the answers to the questions on the worksheet. The workbook can therefore be used either during the tour itself or alternatively before, or better still, after the end of the visit. You should also encourage students to take photographs during the tour, providing that this does not interfere with the main aim of the whole experience, i.e. for them to understand (albeit in broad terms) the specific historical evolution which has resulted in the city as it stands today: housing, public and private services, traffic, etc.

The numbering system used in the worksheets for the buildings is meant as a guideline only, a means of making it easier to follow the established route. It is in no way intended to represent a strict order in which the buildings should be visited. You should feel free to skip any part of the tour, or simply point the building out in passing. You can even change the order of the route or stop to take a closer look at other elements and features which, for whatever reason, may prove of greater interest.

Also, if instead of opting for a guided tour you decide to organise an independent visit, it is totally up to the teacher to decide which of the references mentioned here to focus on. To this end, a series of explanatory notes have been added to the information provided. These notes give additional details which you can use to expand on and enhance the responses to the various questions. It is up to you to decide whether or not to make use of these notes, and if you do, to link them to the references you deem most appropriate. It is also up to you to decide whether or not to use them as complementary teaching material in the classroom.

Since the aim of the tour is more to foster and encourage general knowledge than to explore any particular subject in great detail, it can be adapted to suit students studying at very different levels. Our extensive experience, however, has taught us that it best adapts to the interests and capabilities of students from the last four years of primary school, as well as to adult groups and groups of students with learning difficulties. Obviously, in the second case the tone in which the questions are written and the drawing exercises will not be appropriate, but this is the beauty of the itinerary being so open and flexible – it can easily be adapted to an adult group who will no doubt find the content and nature of the visit just as interesting as students, since it offers them the opportunity to gain a better insight into the city in which they live, but which is often not their city of origin.



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We estimate that the whole tour will take two hours.

NOTE: In this teacher's guide, the answers to the exercises are highlighted in bold italics.

## 1.- Victoria Eugenia Theatre

The building was constructed over the space of two years, from 1910 to 1912, and was designed by the architect Francisco Urcola.

Why was the building constructed? What was its function?

*The same as it is today, a theatre.*

Why is it called the Victoria Eugenia?

*In honour of Queen Victoria Eugenia, the wife of King Alfonso XIII, who was on the throne at the time.*

What instrument is the first figure holding in her hand?

*A lyre.*

What is the second figure holding in her hand?

*A mask, the symbol of the theatre.*

Why do you think these figures are there?

*Because they symbolise the building's function: to host activities related to music and the theatre.*

Do you know who this is?

*Antonio de Oquendo. He was an admiral during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

Where was he born?

*In San Sebastián.*

What material is the statue made from?

*Bronze.*

## 2.- María Cristina Hotel

The hotel was designed by the French architect Charles Mewes. It opened in 1912.

What is this building?

*It's a hotel.*

The hotel is called María Cristina. In what other places does this same name appear?

*On the bridge opposite the train station and on the statue dedicated to this same woman on Ondarreta beach. María Cristina was the mother of King Alfonso XIII.*

If you look closely at the building you will see a highly original decorative element designed by Daniel Zuloaga.

Can you tell me what it is? *Dragons.*

Are dragons real or imaginary animals? *Imaginary animals, of course!*

Do you remember ever having seen them in other places in the city?

*On the María Cristina bridge and on some streetlamps.*

Draw whatever you like in this flowerpot.

## 3.- Kursaal Bridge

Designed in 1915, the bridge's most remarkable feature is its six large streetlamps. It was built by José Eugenio de Rivera.

Why do you think it is called Kursaal Bridge? *Because it is located next to the Kursaal building.*

Do you know if it has any other name? *Yes, it is also known as Zurriola Bridge.*

Do you like the streetlamps?

Do you think they are old or modern? Why?

The paint on this streetlamp has come off. Would you like to paint it? " " Colour it in using your favourite colour.

## 4.- Santa Catalina Bridge

Dating from the year 1872, it was designed by Antonio Cortázar. It was the first bridge built in the city.

For a long time it was made of wood, because whenever the city was in danger, the inhabitants used to destroy it in order to prevent the enemy from crossing the river. As you can see in these two photographs, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it was finally rebuilt using stone; but.....

Can you spot any differences?

*In one picture the bridge has five spans, whereas in the more modern one, it only has four.*

What do you think happened?

*The span on the side nearest Gros was filled in when the river was channelled and land was reclaimed from the water. A small square marks the spot where it used to be.*

If you don't know the answer, ask your teacher.

There are two coats of arms on this streetlamp on Santa Catalina bridge. Which ones are they?

*The coat of arms of the province of Gipuzkoa and that of the city of San Sebastián.*

## 5.- María Cristina Bridge

This bridge is located opposite the railway station, and was built over the space of just 9 months, in 1904. It was designed by José Eugenio de Rivera.

This is the María Cristina Bridge. It is 88 metres long and 20 metres wide. It is ornately decorated. What can you see on the piers?

*Decorative elements that look like the figureheads you sometimes see on the prows of old ships.*

What material are the dragons in the second photo made from? What coat of arms is set between them?

*They are made from cast iron. The San Sebastián city coat of arms.*

Where are these horses?

*At the top of the bridge's towers.*

One of these streetlamps does not belong to any bridge. Which one is it?

*Number 3.*

Where can you find this streetlamp?

*On La Concha beach.*

Can you match each streetlamp to its bridge?

*1: Santa Catalina; 2: Kursaal; 4: M<sup>a</sup> Cristina*



## 6.- Buen Pastor Cathedral

Designed by the architect Manuel de Echave, it was inaugurated in 1897.

It was built with stone from the Igeldo quarries. The steeple is 75 metres high.

The tower has been lost to the wind, but some other things are also missing here. What are they?

***The rose windows: The large round stained glass windows that illuminate the inside of the cathedral and fill it with colour.***

Draw in the missing elements.

## 7.- Post Office Building

This building was constructed in 1906 by the architect Domingo Aguirrebengoa.

Originally, this building was a school, although it later became the headquarters of the Municipal Museum.

Do you know what this building is used for nowadays?

*It is the city's general post office building.*

Do you like its decorative elements?

What can you see?

*Mainly vegetable motifs: garlands, flowers, leaves, etc.*

Is there a church nearby?

*Yes.*

Which one?

*Buen Pastor Cathedral*

Use your colouring pencils to finish off the roof of the post office building in any way you like.

## 8.- Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre

Designed by Ramón Cortázar and Luis Elizalde and finished in the year 1900.

What is this building used for?

*It is a cultural centre: It contains a library, exhibition rooms, an auditorium and offices for the staff of the Provincial Council's Department of Culture.*

Why is it called the Koldo Mitxelena Centre?

*As a tribute to the great Basque linguist and staunch defender of the unified, standard Basque language, **euskara batua**.*

Why do you think that banner is hanging there?

*Because there is always some kind of exhibition or cultural event happening.*

These columns form part of the building's main façade; the first are more ornately decorated than the others.

Design two of your own columns in the box provided.

## 9.- The City Hall and Alderdi Eder Gardens

The City Hall was built in 1882 by the architects Luis Aladrén and Adolfo Morales.

The building was originally constructed as a casino; nowadays it is the City Hall.

Do you know what goes on inside a city hall?

***A city hall is the seat of the Mayor's office and the various political groups which make up the city council. It is where the plenary council meetings are held and resolutions made. It is also where many other municipal business is conducted.***

Let's look now at the beautiful Alderdi Eder Gardens. Why do you think they are called this?

***"Alderdi eder" means "beautiful place". They were the first gardens built after the walls were demolished. Before, there were no gardens or pleasant places to walk within the walled precinct.***

This is what the gardens looked like before. There are more things in them now. Can you name some?

***The merry-go-round, the cycle track, more ornamental gardens with flowers, the tamarisk trees (often mistakenly referred to as tamarinds), sculptures, etc.***

Design your own dream garden here.

## 10.- Provincial council building and Gipuzkoa Square

Designed by the architect José de Goicoa, it was finished in 1879.

This large, imposing building contains effigies of Oquendo, Urdaneta, Legazpi, Lezo and Elcano. Do you know who these men were?

*The greatest Gipuzkoan sailors of the 16<sup>t</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Antonio de Oquendo was an admiral from San Sebastián; Andrés de Urdaneta was from Ordizia and discovered new sea routes in the Pacific; Miguel López de Legazpi was born in Zumárraga and founded Manila in the Philippines; Blas de Lezo, from Pasajes, lost a leg, an arm and an eye in various battles; and Juan Sebastián de Elcano, from Getaria, was the first man to sail round the world.*

The Provincial Council building is located in Gipuzkoa Square, which contains a beautiful garden filled with trees, flowers, benches, statues and animals.

Which famous musician is the statue of? *The musician from San Sebastián, José María Usandizaga.*

What type of table can you see in the second photograph? *A sundial table.*

What's missing from the pond? *The swans.*

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1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Santa Catalina Bridge (5)  
Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre (8)  
Post Office Building (7)  
María Cristina Hotel (2)  
Victoria Eugenia Theatre (1)  
Alderdi Eder Gardens and the City Hall (9)  
Kursaal Bridge (3)  
María Cristina Bridge (4)  
Buen Pastor Cathedral (6)  
Provincial Council Building and Gipuzkoa Square (10)

Use the map to work out where you are.

Write the names from the list in their correct boxes.

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