

ische
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
CHILDREN'S
HEALTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT



The Sanctuary at Arantzazu
August 25-29, 2026

Welcome

Ongi etorri 2026ko ISCHE Erretirora!
Welcome to the 2026 ISCHE Retreat!
¡Bienvenidos al Retiro de ISCHE 2026!

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Arantzazu, in the Basque Country of northern Spain, for this year's Retreat of the International Society for Children's Health and the Environment.

The ISCHE Retreat is a treasured tradition, a chance to step away from the demands of daily work and come together in a spirit of reflection, connection, and shared purpose, united in our commitment to protecting children's health and well-being across the globe. This year's theme, PLACE MATTERS: Building Healthy Environments for Children in a Changing World, speaks to something we know well: where children live, learn, and play shapes the whole course of their lives. It is fitting that we explore it here, in a place whose landscape and history have long held meaning for the communities around it.

We gather at a time of uncertainty, when many of the values that guide our scientific and advocacy work are continuously tested. Yet it is precisely in moments like these that our collective purpose shines brightest. When we come together, we remind one another that progress is possible, that hope is sustained through action, and that meaningful change is built collaboratively. Each of you brings not only knowledge and experience, but also creativity, perspective, and a deep commitment to a healthier future for all children.

Thank you for being here, for the expertise you contribute to this community, and for being part of the ISCHE tradition.

Warmest regards,

Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá, PhD, MS — ISCHE President
Ana Maria Mora, PhD, MD — ISCHE Vice President

The possibility of organizing the 2026 ISCHE Summer Retreat in the Basque Country was little more than a vague idea before last year's retreat in Lake Arrowhead (CA, USA). This idea crystalized swiftly once we were there and saw, felt, and shared the uniqueness of ISCHE retreats. In a landscape dominated by massive conferences, endless parallel sessions and programs that allow for minimal meaningful conversations, ISCHE retreats offer an unhurried opportunity to meet, discuss and learn from others while providing the sufficient space for building enriching personal relationships.

One of the first tasks we had to conduct was the selection of a venue worth the relevance of the meeting. After a first round visit to candidate places, we ended up in Arantzazu, a location of utmost symbolic value for the Basque people surrounded by astonishing nature and immediately felt it was the right place. We have prepared a program that reflects the collective values of ISCHE and its mission towards the promotion of children's health through impactful science, professional training and translation into policy and practice. It is through the selection of the location, venue, and accommodation; the design of the program; the conversations with food and transport providers; and all the many small details that our contribution comes to an end and yours begins. We sincerely hope that you enjoy your time here.

We want to give our most special thanks to the members of the organizing committee; Kasia Kordas, Mara Téllez, Youssef Oulhote, Grant Tore, and Cecilia Alcala for their effort, persistence, and commitment during every chapter of this adventure. Praise must be given as well to Aitana Lertxundi and Mikel Pinedo, at the University of the Basque Country, for their structural and administrative support to make this retreat happen.

Welcome to the Basque Country, welcome home.

Ongi etorri Euskal Herrira, ongi etorri gure etxera.

Jesús Ibarluzea — Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Mikel Subiza-Pérez — Co-Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Ane Arregi — Coordination, administration and logistics manager
on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee.

Daily Schedule - (R2A) Fellows Program

Fellows Only

All sessions are co-led by Amy Kuritzky, Olivia Halabicky, and Morgan Crotta.

Tuesday, August 25

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
18:30	Fellows Check-In	
19:00 – 20:15	Dinner	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel

Wednesday, August 26

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
7:45 – 8:20	Breakfast	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
8:30 – 9:00	Introductions of fellows and breakdown of day	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
9:00 – 10:00	Lightning talks/elevator pitch	
10:00– 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:45	Facilitated discussion on career development and next steps	
11:45 – 12:00	Break	
12:00 – 12:45	Find your people / networking	
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
13:45 – 14:45	Brainstorming session on the R2A fellowship for future years	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
15:00 – 18:00	Social excursion	
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner for all ISCHE Members	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel



ISCHE Research to Action

Daily Schedule - Main Retreat Program

All Participants

Wednesday, August 26

When	What	Where
16:00	ISCHE Retreat Check-In	
19:00 – 20:15	Dinner for all ISCHE Members	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
20:15 – 21:30	Social Event: icebreaking activity <i>Organizer: Cecilia Alcala</i>	

Thursday, August 27

When	What	Where
7:00 – 7:30	Early morning Yoga session <i>Nancy Lanphear</i>	TBD
7:45 – 8:20	Breakfast	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
8:30 – 9:00	Opening, logistics, presidential address <i>Jesús Ibarluzea, Lesliam Quiros Alcala & Ana Maria Mora</i>	
9:00 – 10:15	Session 1 – Keynote Presentation: Integrating Pediatric Environmental Health into Clinical Practice and Community Interventions: A Decade of Experience from a PEHSU in Europe <i>Speaker: Ferran Campillo</i>	
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
10:30 – 11:45	Session 2 - Environmental Health: From research to the pediatric practice and Environmental Policy <i>Organizers: Jesús Ibarluzea & Mikel Subiza-Perez</i> <i>Participants: Jesús Ibarluzea, Ferran Campillo & Marieta Fernandez</i>	
11:45 – 13:00	Session 3 - Communicating Science to Decision Makers: Turning Children's Environmental Health Research into Policy Action <i>Organizers: Rashmi Joglekar & Max Aung</i> <i>Participants: Rashmi Joglekar & Max Aung</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
14:00 – 14:15	Transition/break	
14:15 – 15:30	Session 4 – In short: Place, Risk, Discourse, Protection 1. When Place Becomes Risk: Early Childhood Environmental Exposure and Health System Responses in Rural and Urban Brazil (<i>Maira Mazoto, Nataly Damasceno de Figueiredo & Carmen Froes, 15-minute talk + 5-minute discussion</i>) 2. Auzolan: Building Social and Environmental Indigenous Ecologies of Kinship to Protect, Teach and Grow Healthy Future Generations (<i>Regina Idoate, Leslie Rubin, Aislinn Rookwood, Xabier Irujo Urdiroz, Arantza Irujo Urdiroz & Kali Ratigan 15-minute talk + 5-minute discussion</i>) 3. Do We Need a Better Way of Talking About CEH? Discursive Frames as Tools for Moving Toward Regulatory Systems that Center Children and Protect them from Harm (<i>Marianne Sullivan, 15-minute talk + 5-minute discussion</i>) 4. Toxic Landscapes: E-Waste Chemical Mixtures, Environmental Contamination, and Building Child-Protective Policy in the Global South (<i>Morgan Crotta, 5-minute presentation + 2-minute discussion</i>)	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue

15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Session 5 – Presentation of R2A Fellow Projects <i>Organizers: R2A Fellows</i>	
17:00 – 19:00	Free time <i>An optional guided visit to the Sanctuary of Arantzazu (in both English and Spanish) will be available, starting at 17:15</i>	
19:00 – 20:15	Dinner	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
Friday, August 28		
When	What	Where
7:00 – 7:30	Early morning Yoga session <i>Nancy Lanphear</i>	TBD
7:45 – 8:30	Breakfast // ISCHE Council Meeting	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
8:30 – 9:00	Free time	
9:00 – 10:15	Session 6 – Youth in Action: Collaborations for Environmental Health and Justice <i>Organizers: Jill Johnston & Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne</i> <i>Participants: Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne & Louise Xie</i>	
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:45	Session 7 - Food and eating in places and cultures – measuring exposure to heavy metals through dietary patterns, food intake and dietary culture <i>Organizers: Alejandra Cantoral, Sonia Collado & Kasia Kordas</i> <i>Speakers: Alejandra Cantoral, Sonia Collado & Kasia Kordas</i>	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
11:45 – 13:00	Session 8 - Causes of Effects and Effects of Causes: Strengthening Causal Reasoning in Observational Studies of Children's Environmental Health <i>Organizer: Youssef Oulhote</i> <i>Participants: Mikel Subiza-Perez, Tarik Benmarhnia, Walter Rogan & Youssef Oulhote</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
14:00 – 14:15	Transition/break	
14:20 – 15:30	Session 9 – Town Hall <i>Organizers: Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá & Ana Maria Mora</i>	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Session 10 – Poster session <i>Organizers: Timnit Kefela, Grant Tore, Harshitha Lingegowda & Sonia Collado</i>	
17:00 – 19:00	Free time <i>An optional guided visit to the Sanctuary of Arantzazu (in English) will be available, starting at 17:15</i>	
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
20:00 – 21:30	Social Event <i>Organizers: R2A Fellows</i>	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue

Saturday, August 28

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
7:45 – 8:30	Breakfast	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
8:30 – 9:45	Session 11 – Beyond the Usual Suspects: Bridging Novel Geospatial Exposures and Children's Health <i>Organizers: Pablo Knobel, Ivan Gutiérrez-Avila, Mike He</i> <i>Participants: Pablo Knobel, Ivan Gutiérrez-Avila, Mike He</i>	
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break	
10:00 – 10:30	Session 12 - Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Africa <i>Organizer: Leslie Rubin</i> <i>Participant: Leslie Rubin</i>	
10:35 – 11:20	Session 13 – Ignite talks <i>5-minute talks & general discussion at the end</i>	Gandiaga Topagunea - Conference Venue
	1. Life Next to AI Data Centers: A Nationwide Survey on Youth Perspectives, Perceived Risks, and Environmental Health (<i>Louise Xie</i>) 2. Linking Puberty and Behavior: The Role of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Child Development (<i>Jordana Leader</i>) 3. Making progress on lead exposure in sub-Saharan Africa: implementation of a new pediatric lead screening program in Nairobi (<i>Catherine Karr</i>) 4. From the Lab to the Crib: Toxicology for the Real World (<i>Andrea Lizette Caro Herbert</i>) 5. Learning more together: The case for comparative research across multiple birth cohorts (<i>Gabriela Kšíňanová</i>)	
11:20– 11:25	Closing remarks	
11:25 – 12:30	Check-out by 12:00 & Free time	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30	Depart <i>Bus for Bilbao International Airport and Bilbao intermodal Central Station will depart promptly from the main parking area in Arantzazu.</i>	Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel

Dr. Ferran Campillo – Keynote Speaker



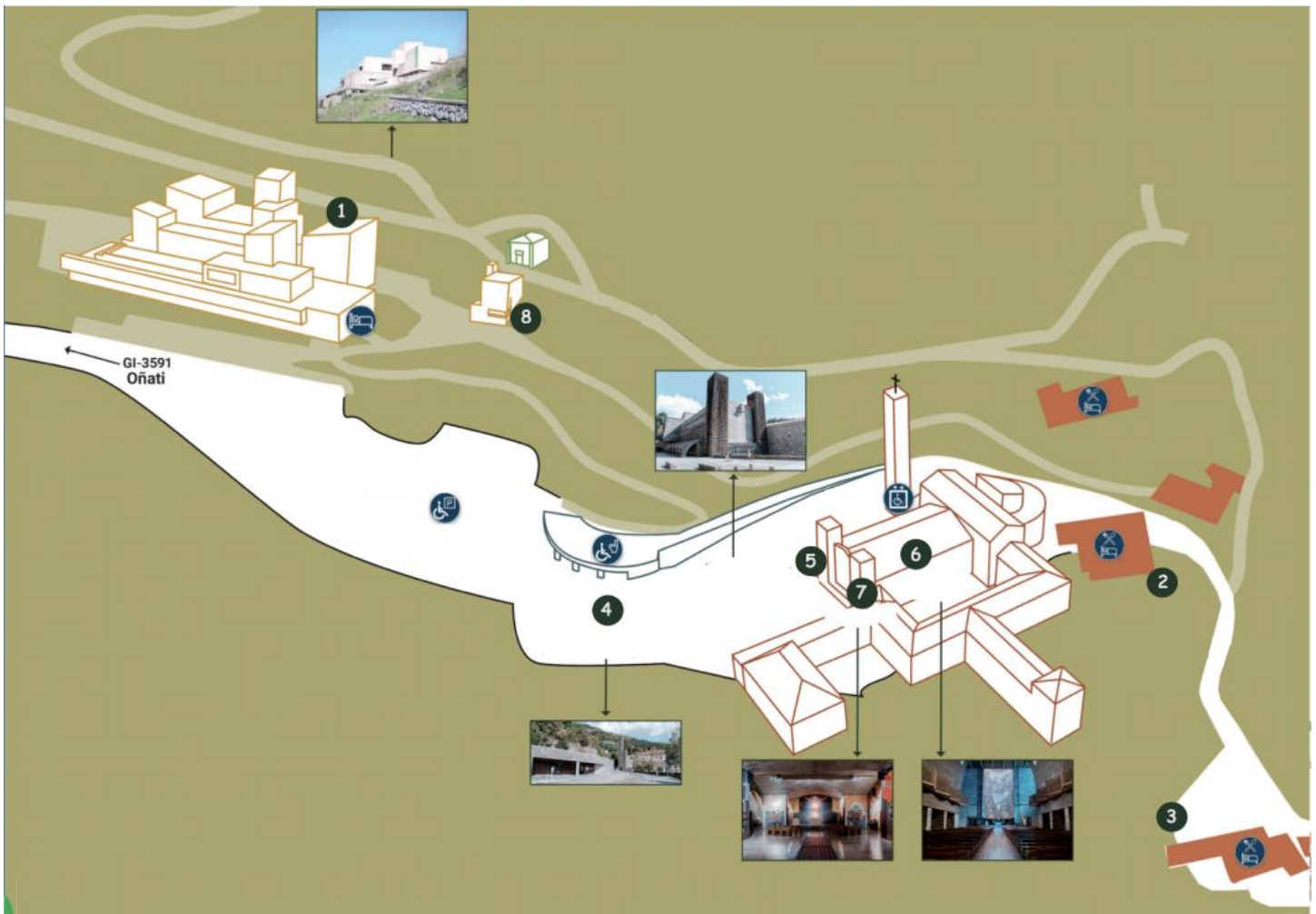
Ferran Campillo i López is a pediatrician specialized in Environmental Pediatrics. He leads the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU), a pioneer and reference unit in Catalonia (Spain), within the Garrotxa Territorial Pediatric Team of the Olot and Regional Hospital Foundation of La Garrotxa, in addition to supporting primary care and hospital tasks (hospitalization, pediatric emergencies and neonatal resuscitation). He participates in various lines of research related to environmental pediatric such as climate change, prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs, air pollution, birth defects, among others. At the community level he has carries projects of school environmental health and nature prescription. He has presented over 80 works in national and international journals, books and conferences. He is a member of the International Society of Children's Health and Environment, Spanish Association of Pediatrics, Catalan Society of Pediatrics and Catalan Society of Care and Treatment of Smoking. Since 2017 he has been a member of the Pediatric Environmental Health Committee of the Spanish Pediatric Association and since 2020 coordinator of the Environmental Health Working Group of the Catalan Pediatric Society. He collaborates in lead, smoking and alcohol and drugs exposure with the Public Health Agency of Catalonia. He has experience in teaching at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. He is a collaborating professor at the Planetary Health and the Sustainable and Healthy Nutrition masters at the Open University of Catalonia. He is currently a doctoral student of the thesis entitled "Validation of a prenatal screening tool for environmental factors: the Green Page of pregnancy" at the University of Girona.

Logistics

1. Address of the retreat venue
Gandiaga Topagunea, Arantzazu auzoa 1; 20567 Oñati (Gipuzkoa)
Phone: [+34] 943 716 575
2. Check-in date/time
R2A Fellows: August 25, 2026, starting at 18:30
Regular retreat attendees: August 26, 2026, starting at 16:00
3. Departure
 - a. Departure time: August 29, 2026, 13:30
 - b. A bus will be available for participants who have purchased a ticket on August 29, 2026, at 13:30, departing from the venue to Bilbao International Airport (arrival at 14:30), followed by transfer to Bilbao Intermodal Central Station (arrival at 15:00)
4. Main hotel: Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
 - a. **Check-out must be completed before 12:00.** The Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu hotel provides a room/storage area to leave your luggage
5. Second Hotel: Hotel Sindika
 - a. **Check-out must be completed before 12:00.** The Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu hotel provides a room/storage area to leave your luggage
6. Accommodation-related requests
 - a. Participants will stay in shared rooms; assignments will be given at the reception upon check-in
 - b. All requests related to the rooms should be communicated at the lodge reception
 - c. Additional charges resulting from accommodation requests must be covered by the individual at the time of check-out
7. Meals and dietary restrictions
 - a. Meals will take place in the Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
 - b. The daily menus can be found in the Menu section. Participants who indicated dietary restrictions during registration will be provided with appropriate alternative meals tailored to their needs
 - c. Alcoholic drinks can be purchased at the cafeteria (Cafeteria opening hours: Monday to Sunday, 08:00–22:00).
 - d. An area with drinks is available on the ground floor for use once the cafeteria is closed
8. Gandiaga Topagunea Conference Venue
 - a. All retreat sessions/meetings will be held in Auditorio Oteiza, which is in the Gandiaga Topagunea Conference Venue near Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
 - b. A podium with a laptop will be available for use by presenters
 - c. There will be two coffee breaks with snacks during the sessions, scheduled at 10:15 and 15:30
9. Posters
 - a. Posters will be printed and delivered to the venue by the local organizing committee
 - b. Posters should follow a vertical (portrait) format with the following dimensions:
70 cm (width) × 100 cm (height) (27.6 x 39.4 inches)
10. Use of common areas
 - a. Several shared areas are available to ISCHE retreat participants

- i. The Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel offers a spa, available at an additional cost of €15 per person. The spa opening hours are 10:00–13:00 and 15:00–18:00, and a reservation is required, which can be made at the hotel reception. Please note that flip-flops and a swimsuit are required to access the spa. /More information can be found here: <https://hsarantzazu.com/zona-bienestar-gym/>
- ii. The hotel also has a small gym, which is open for guest use. More information can be found here: <https://hsarantzazu.com/zona-bienestar-gym>
- iii. In Arantzazu, there is also a tourist information office, where participants and accompanying persons can obtain information about local walks and activities

Map of Aranzazu



1. Gandiaga Topagunea Conference Venue
2. Main Hotel: Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel
3. Second Hotel: Hotel Sindika
4. Debagoiena Tourist Information Office

5. Basilica of Arantzazu
6. Interior of the Basilica
7. Crypt
8. *El misterio* (Sculpture by Jorge Oteiza)

Menu

Breakfast and meals will be served at the dining hall in Iraipe Santuario de Arantzazu Hotel. **Breakfast will take place every morning from 7.45 to 8.30 (but on Thursday the 27th, when it will finish at 8.20)** and will contain pastries, cereal, yogurt, fruit, toast (butter, jam, tomato), scrambled eggs, txistorra (basque traditional sausage), bacon, coffee, tea, milk, and orange juice.

Lunch will be served from 13:00 to 14:00 and dinner from 19:00 to 20:00. Exceptionally, lunch on Saturday 29 will be served at 12.30 to help attendants catch the 13:30 coach to Bilbao International Airport. Please see below the menu for each of the meals during the retreat.

Please note that the menu is fixed, and **changes cannot be made for participants who did not indicate any dietary restrictions during the registration process**. Due to logistical constraints, it is unfortunately **not possible to accommodate last-minute requests** or modifications.

25th of August

Fellows' dinner

Spinach and goat cheese puff pastry
Txakoli-braised chicken thigh with potato wedges
Creamy yogurt dessert

26th of August

Fellows' lunch

Caesar salad
Roast pork loin with mixed vegetables
Seasonal fruit

Reception dinner

Zucchini soup with Idiazabal cheese and croutons
Breaded hake with tartar sauce over roasted potatoes
Rice pudding

27th of August

Lunch

Mixed vegetables stew with hard-boiled egg and crispy ham
Mustard-roasted pork ribs with potato wedges
Fruit salad

Dinner

Baby romaine salad with tuna and vegetable vinaigrette
Baked sea bream with sautéed vegetables
Homemade custard

28th of August

Lunch

Seafood bisque
Roast turkey roulade with mashed potatoes and mushrooms
Crème caramel (egg flan)

Dinner

Basque-style ratatouille
Baked cod with roasted potatoes
Seasonal fruit

29th of August

Farewell lunch

Scrambled eggs with wild mushrooms
Braised pork cheeks with sweet potato purée
Creamy yogurt dessert

Examples of substitute dishes for vegans, vegetarians
and people with dietary restrictions:

Stuffed eggplant
Stuffed zucchini
Tofu burgers
Various types of pasta (lasagna, spaghetti, etc.) with vegetable sauces

Walking route options from Arantzazu

There are several walking routes starting from Arantzazu. Below are a few suggested options. If you would like more information, please visit the Tourist Information Office in Arantzazu.

1. Accessible circular route: Arantzazu – Gomistegi – Arantzazu :

This route is adapted for wheelchairs, strollers, and visually impaired visitors, and offers beautiful panoramic views. The Gomistegi farmhouse is located just 3 km from the Sanctuary of Arantzazu (or approximately 1,200 meters via a direct pedestrian path). It is an area of great natural value within the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park, well known for hosting the prestigious Artzain Eskola (Shepherd School).

- Distance: 4.8 km
- Elevation gain: 122 m
- Elevation loss: 122 m
- Estimated duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

More information (in Spanish): <https://www.gipuzkoanatura.eus/es/red/-/ibilbide/PA-02>

2. Artasoroko Zuhaitz Motzen Ibilbidea

This route takes you through a unique landscape characterized by pollarded trees (“zuhaitz motzak”), offering an excellent example of traditional land use and forest management in the Basque Country. The trail combines natural and cultural elements, making it a very interesting option for those who want to explore the local environment in depth.

- Distance: 5.6 km
- Elevation gain: 415 m
- Elevation loss: 415 m
- Estimated duration: 2 hours 15 minutes

More information (in Spanish): https://www.gipuzkoanatura.eus/eu/sarea/-/ibilbide/PR-Gi_210

3. Urbia Route

This route leads to the Urbia meadows, one of the most iconic and scenic areas in the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park. Known for its open landscapes, grazing livestock, and spectacular mountain views, it is a classic excursion in the area.

- Distance: 11.1 km
- Elevation gain: 564 m
- Elevation loss: 585 m
- Estimated duration: 4 hours

More information (in Spanish): https://www.gipuzkoanatura.eus/es/red/-/ibilbide/PR-Gi_3006

Acknowledgements

Retreat Committee: Jesús María Ibarluzea, Mikel Subiza-Pérez, Aitana Lertxundi, Ane Arregi, Cecilia Alcalá, Grant Tore, Kasia Kordas, Mara Téllez-Rojo, Youssef Oulhote

Communications & Web Design: Cecilia Alcalá, Bob Lanphear (Little Things Matter), Ane Arregi

Computer Support: Telesonic.

Fellow Day Activities: Kristina Brandveen, C  zar Luquine, Olivia Halabicky, Amy Kuritzky, Morgan Crotta, P.A. Echague, Lara Kowalczyk, Siti (Shida) Nazli

Funding for Fellows: Southern California Center for Children’s Environmental Health Research Translation Center; NIEHS Grant # P2C ES033433 (PI: Rob McConnell)

Application for R13 Conference Grant: Cecilia Alcal   & Megan Horton

Poster Session: Timnit Kefela, Grant Tore, Harshitha Lingegowda, Sonia Collado

Program: Jes  s Mar  a Ibarluzea, Mikel Subiza-P  rez, Aitana Lertxundi, Ane Arregi, Cecilia Alcal  , Grant Tore, Kasia Kordas, Mara T  llez-Rojo, Youssef Oulhote

Registration: Mikel Subiza, Ane Arregi

Transportation: Jes  s Mar  a Ibarluzea, Mikel Subiza-P  rez, Ane Arregi

Travel Advisory: Jes  s Mar  a Ibarluzea, Mikel Subiza-P  rez, Ane Arregi

Visa Issues & Invitations: Jes  s Mar  a Ibarluzea, Mikel Subiza-P  rez, Ane Arregi