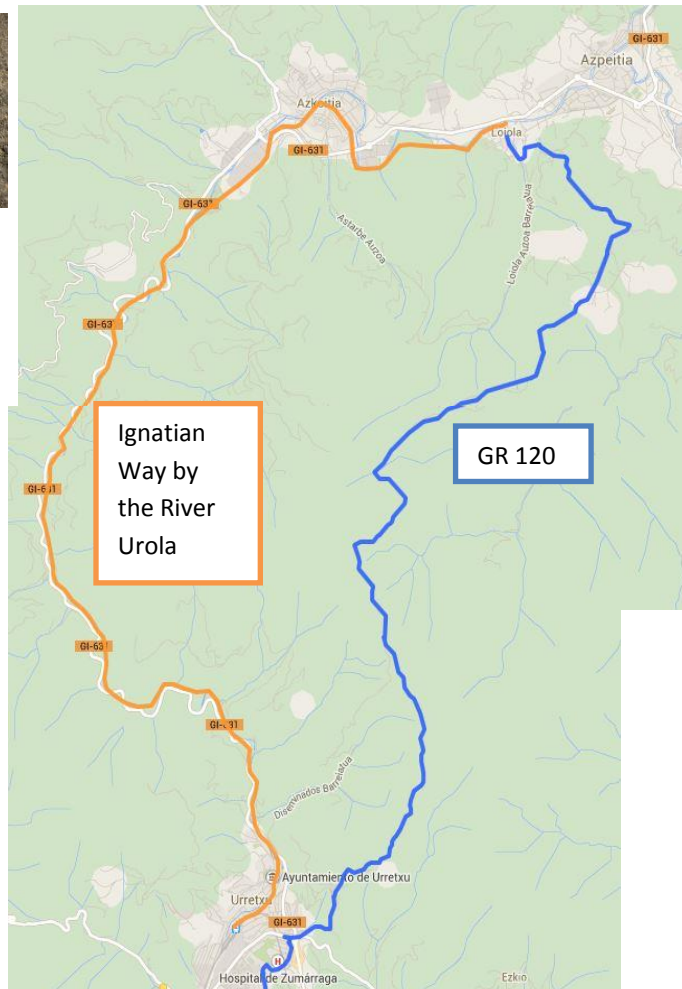


Following the GR 120.

The Ignatian Way in Euskadi (the Basque Country) coincides in some sections with the *Gran Ruta* (Big Route) or route of *Gran Recorrido 120* (Long Route). In concrete in Guipuzcoa we find the GR 120 in Loiola, facing in the same direction that leads us to Arantzazu. Pilgrims have to choose their preferred route: the path along the Urola River; or the mountain path, following the GR 120. If one chooses to follow the GR 120 from here until Zumárraga, one should be aware of the 700 m climb ahead, followed by a descent of 300 m towards Zumárraga. As compensation this path is shorter, a stage 15.5 km long, passing the precious hermitage of Saint Mary of Zumárraga, also known as *La Antigua* (the Ancient One). (Should one follow the path of the Urola River they would have to take a taxi up to *La Antigua*, should they desire to visit it).

To walk the GR 120 one has to follow the typical red + white signs marked on street lamps, trees and stones.



<http://tourism.euskadi.net/en/cultural-heritage/santa-maria-de-zumarraga-la-antigua/x65-12375/en/>



The hermitage of *Santa María (La Antigua)* (Saint Mary the Ancient) is considered the cathedral among Basque hermitages. It is thought to have been built over a defensive fortress dating back to the 12th century. The first document of the church appears in 1366 and it was Zumarraga's parish church until 1576. In contrast with its austere outer appearance, its interior surprises with an extraordinary oak-wood coffered ceiling, a complex structure of beam, strut, parapet and stiffenings.

Tour hours: From May 1st to October 31st: Every day: 11:30am - 1:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. Mondays closed. From November 1st to April 30th: Friday: 3:30pm - 5:30pm. Weekends and public holiday: 11:30am - 1:30pm and 4pm - 6pm.