



OPENING TIMES



May-September



September-December
March-May

Monday to Friday	11.00am - 3.00pm	11.00am - 3.00pm
Saturday, Sunday and holidays	11.00am - 8.00pm	11.00am - 3.00pm

The Botanic Garden will be closed from* 30th november to march/april (*consult web)

Eng.
Cover photo: Basotxerri



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STORIES FROM A GARDEN

Lift your gaze, then stop for a moment. Contemplate how nature embraces history and envelops the ruins in this unique space where you now stand. Mother Nature knows this ancient palace-convent – a place that has witnessed more than 700 years of history – better than anyone.

Its tale began in the 13th century when the descendants of the Iruña family set their sights on these lands. They built a tower house, which was later owned by the hieronymites, who founded the convent. It was later placed in the hands of the augustinians, who abandoned it at the time of the State confiscations of church property. It was burned down during the First Carlist War (1833-1840). Though it's now a ruin, it has a unique energy about it.

Look around you to appreciate how time has worked with architecture to preserve features from the past, including water tanks, pointed-arch windows, arrowslits and embrasures, the moat, the passage, the cloister and the church. All of this inspired the Town hall of Iruña de Oca to launch an ambitious architectural restoration project, which included a fascinating botanic garden with more than 1,000 species from the five continents living in harmony.

Come and enjoy this special place where history, nature and architecture magically come together to create a new relationship between humans and our surroundings.

Welcome to Santa Catalina Botanic Garden.

Step inside and see for yourself what we're talking about >>



...Touching the stars

The Botanic Garden is an open window to the heavens and the first dark sky park in the world to be accredited by the Starlight Foundation. After the sun goes down, you'll be treated to the twinkling of the stars and the sounds of the night. The garden makes a truly unique venue for starlit concerts, fulldome 360° planetarium sessions and night time guided tours.



...Become part of the garden's story

Wherever you look after crossing the entrance arch, you'll be awed by the gentle fusion between architecture and nature. Stroll among the terraces, hills and staircases and let yourself be pulled in by the colours, smells and sounds. Afterwards, why not write a blog piece or post a photo on Instagram to become part of the garden's story.



...Discovering, learning and enjoying

Santa Catalina Botanic Garden organises conferences, concerts and an attractive programme of cultural events as well as workshops on bird identification, medicinal plants and more. Some events, such as the Moon Party on August 10th, have become annual favourites.

Ready to sign up?

ZONES AND ROUTES

CHURCH

When the Iruña house fell out of use as a defensive structure, the wall stumps of the original tower were used to raise a church next to the new residence.

BUTTERFLY OASIS

Butterflies have had their own special space in the park since 2017. The plants here provide habitat for different species during all phases of their life cycle.

BELL GABLE

In the 16th century, the old defence tower became an impressive bell tower which is now a prominent feature of the ruins and a symbol of the garden.

VIEWPOINT

A modern spiral staircase takes you to a viewpoint at the height of the bell gable. From here, you can see over the Sierra de Badaia and the wide valley known as the Llanada Alavesa.

BONSAI ZONE

There are a dozen different native and non-native bonsai species in this permanent exhibition.

CLOISTER

Large-scale construction works took place when the augustinians came in the late 15th century, including a robust central cloister with two floors.



The 4-hectare Botanic Garden is nestled in the Sierra de Badaia. It's divided into three climate zones:

- Shade
- Valley floor
- Sunny Spot

THE GARDEN

Set within natural holm oak forest, the Santa Catalina Botanic Garden brings together history, nature and architecture to create a truly unique space.

MAIN FACADE

An L-shaped convent was built in the 15th century to house the hieronymites, closing the space between the palace and the church. Its main facade remains standing today.

ROSES

The Garden's main square is named after a particular family of plants which are abundant in this area. It's a meeting place and venue.

WATER AND EARTH CLEARING

These two essential elements of the Universe are the stars of this living space where water tanks, wells and ponds stand alongside lilies, water lilies and Montpellier maples.

FIRE AND AIR CLEARING

These two climate zones of the Garden are separated by a stone arch. The red plants in one zone represent fire, and the spiralling willow and white flowers in the other evoke the movement of the air.

FACILITIES

- i Reception
- 🏠 Multi-purpose hall
- 🚰 Water fountains
- ♿ WC
- 🪜 Stairs

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Water tanks
- 2 Olive tree
- 3 Aromatic and medicinal plants
- 4 Cacti and other succulent plants
- 5 Native forest
- 6 Walkway
- 7 Clearing