

# THE SANCTUARY OF LOIOLA



- Introduction.
- History.
- Description.

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By: Ainhoa, Maria and Maitane.

- Introduction:

The Sanctuary of Loiola is situated in Azpeitia (Gipuzkoa). It is in an area surrounded by mountains. San Ignacio de Loiola was born here. More than five centuries later, the sanctuary is one of the essential visits in Gipuzkoa.



- History:

This Sanctuary is a baroque building. They started building it in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, in honour of San Ignacio of Loiola. San Ignacio was the founder of “Jesusen Lagundia”. When he was named saint, his house became a very visited building and it was given to the “Jesuitas”. Then these people built the Sanctuary around his house.



The building was designed by the Roman architect Carlo Fontana and some architects from Guipuzkoa, like Ignacio Ibero, transformed and built this basilica.

Carlo Fontana



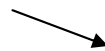
- Description:

It is surrounded by a wonderful park with a lot of trees and fields, which is full of flowers in spring.

From the outside it is a huge building and inside it has got a quiet atmosphere. The pillars are towering but not as gigantic and impressive as the dome. The windows are beautiful and fascinating and some of them are colourful too. There are a lot of old paintings on the walls, that were painted more than three hundred years ago.



The dome



- These days:

These days, lots of tourists from all over the world visit this wonderful historical place, especially in



summer holidays. However we can see a lot of local people there at weekends, like children playing in the park, grown-ups spending the time chatting, people walking, cycling or playing with their dog... It is a great place to spend the time. Moreover, we can find a church art museum where we are able to see items belonging to the Shrine. Next to the basilica, there is a big library with a lot of books and music archives, which was constructed when the Jesuits began living in the Tower-House. This library is still very visited and a lot of people go there to read books.



The  
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The church  
art museum