

Deapie, with its numerous protagonists, is a journey from the past into the future of a town that you are now part of.

Have any of the landmarks on the route conjured up a memory? Or perhaps a building, a landscape, an image has caught your eye... That stop on the way to sit on one of the benches to rest and take in the views. A feeling, a corner, the snapshot of a moment...

Share your #Getxodeapie experience on social media.



Technical assistance and co-ordination: Reharq

Idea and technical management: Getxo Tourist Information Office

Please contact us for further information: 944 91 08 00 / www.getxo.eus/info

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Self-guided tours of Getxo



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The route

The local council architect Fidel Iturria is the one responsible for a large part of the spatial layout of the cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, as well as for the cemetery's finest chapel, which belongs to the Basagoiti Arteta family.

Enjoy the art, the peace and the beauty that emanate from this cemetery that contains some of the province's finest examples of funerary art. As you stroll around, you are likely to encounter people visiting the graves of their dear departed relatives.

Its spectacular location on the cliffs, one of a group of "coastal cemeteries" that includes others such as those in Bermeo and Lekeitio... *Spoiler:* if you are here when dusk falls, you will probably have a heavenly experience...



This route will show you how the cemetery was designed; you will learn about the forebears of some of Getxo's most influential families, and you will be enveloped by that aura of spirituality that surrounds burial sites.

Try becoming a "tombstone tourist", a trend that is gaining in popularity in places such as Bilbao, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Barcelona and Prague!



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Miguel Garcia de Salazar (1877-1959) was born in the Getxo neighbourhood of Algorta. He studied at the College of Arts and Crafts in Bilbao (1890-1896) and received a scholarship from the Provincial Council of Bizkaia to study in Rome. In this cemetery specifically, he was involved in five mausoleums, although his most outstanding piece was the Monument to Churrucaca beside the river in Las Arenas, which you can discover more about if you decide to take the deapie/onfoot route dedicated to Evaristo de Churrucaca.

A sculptor from Algorta trained in Rome

If we look around, we can see stelae on some of the graves. Basque stelae are a circular burial monument on a trapezoidal stand. Several symbols were engraved on the round surface, usually involving a *lauburu*. A *lauburu* (which means "four heads" in Basque) is the name given to a cross with curved arms. When it turns to the right, it is traditionally a sign of good fortune, and represents the sun banishing any evil influence.

About stelae and the lauburu

and they both died on the same day. The inscription "sed bene nos uamos a dios / os esperamos en el cielo" [be good, we are going to god/would wait you in heaven] represents their son and daughter, embracing with their backs to us, watching the ascent into heaven of a coffin that two women/muses are raising to an angel that is beckoning from on high.

Did you know...

Following the Great War, people were further punished by a virus referred to as "the Spanish flu", which in Getxo claimed the lives of 130 people. In relation to that pandemic, there is a mausoleum in the cemetery that belongs to the family of Emilio Basagoiti, who also passed the disease on to his wife.

"The Spanish flu (1918)"

There were no cemeteries in Bizkaia until the mid-19th century, and large towns and cities were the first to introduce them: Bilbao, Durango and Bermeo. These new burial grounds had to comply with a series of rules: be away from the city centre, on the leeward side of a high, open hillside, and far from watercourses... In other words, with health and hygiene in mind. In Getxo, the need for a new site of this kind arose at the beginning of the 20th century, as the cemetery in the neighbourhood of Algorta was completely full.

Cemeteries, symbols of modernity and hygiene

Our relationship with the end of life has not always been distant and enigmatic. Indeed, there are burial rites and customs that people of a certain age find meaningful and comforting, but which at the same time are seen as archaic and aesthetically morbid by younger generations. Indeed, in Basque tradition, life evolved entirely in the house/home (*etxea*) through to the 13th-14th centuries, which is when burials within churches became commonplace in the Basque Country.

Interesting facts

Can our view of death be beautiful?

Receiving an annual stipend of 3,000 pesetas (around €18), in 1901 he was appointed municipal architect in Getxo, although he was already working there on a temporary basis. As from 1900, he headed the project for the cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, which would eventually be completed in the spring of 1908. Furthermore, he designed two of the cemetery's most impressive chapels: one belonging to the Basagoiti Arteta family and the other to Serapia Múgica.

During his childhood in his hometown of Tolosa (Gipuzkoa), Fidel Iturria Bizcarrondo showed great interest in building as he watched his father working as a bricklayer. His wish to put his ideas onto paper with pencil, protractor and ruler came true in 1887 when he graduated from the College of Architecture in Madrid.

Fidel Iturria (1860-1922)

The dignitary

Art can sometimes surprise you where you least expect it. Visit the cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen and you'll see... one of the most interesting collections of funerary art in the Basque Country. Fidel Iturria, its architect, will guide us around these jewels of our heritage linked to famous local families.

OVERALL DISTANCE: 350 m.
WALKING TIME: 5 min.
SELF-GUIDED*1 WALKING TIME: 80 min.
DIFFICULTY: Low.
ACCESSIBLE: Yes.
CALORIES*2: 24.
START/END: Cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen.
 (Bostgarrena, s/n)
TIMETABLE: WEEKDAYS 8 am to 6 pm, and WEEKENDS 9 am to 6 pm.

*1. Includes walking time, enough time to stop at each point on the way, and a 15-minutes break to sit on one of the benches to rest and take in the views.
 *2. Average amount burnt by an adult. Calculate your own calorie consumption: $0.029 \times \text{body weight in kg} \times 2.2 \times \text{overall walking time in minutes} = \text{approximate number of calories burnt}$.

 Car park  Bike Lane  Fountain

1 Cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen (1908)

The cemetery was built following the area's geographical expansion in the late 19th century. The different burial arrangements are distributed along a main avenue that allegorically links birth (the entrance) to death (the chapel) with two side avenues.

2 Galdiz And Hormaechea family chapel (1909)

Commissioned by Bernardino Hormaechea, this large funerary chapel was designed by Mario Camiña. The facades have Egyptian features, and the polychrome tiling from Valencia is the only one of its kind in the cemetery.

3 De La Sota family burial crypt (1919)

Buried beneath this gravel surface are the mortal remains of a family of considerable social and political influence, with its most famous member being Ramón de la Sota (founder of the shipping company "Sota Aznar").

4 Sangroniz family chapel (1912)

The Sangroniz family hails from the feudal estate, or Señorío, of the Torre de Sangroniz, in Sondika. The mausoleum consists of a rectangular-shaped Neogothic temple with three naves, and contains the tomb of a little girl.

5 Earle family mausoleum (1927)

It corresponds to Edward Kenneth Lutton (E.K.L), a leading entrepreneur in the metal industry. The whole group is the work of the architect Ángel Libano, and the sculptures are by Cossio-Molina.

6 Serapia Mujica chapel (1917)

Serapia Mujica Iturriaga married José Ramón Arecheta Barrenechea, an empresario and mayor of Getxo. Designed by Fidel Iturria, inside the crypt there is a marble sculpture of Pity.

7 Aldecoa Arias family mausoleum (1919)

The mausoleum is remarkable for its Roman temple consisting of a semi-circular pedestal that supports a colonnade consisting of five columns; the flowers symbolise eternal life...

8 Inchaurtieta family mausoleum (circa 1908)

Made of marble, it is the figure of an angel with wings outspread standing on a quadrangular pedestal that is decorated on each side with little curved pediments with laurel wreaths and small columns on the corners.

9 Emilio Basagoiti family mausoleum (1918)

This is a heart-wrenching example of funerary art, the most important one by the sculptor Miguel García Salazar, and one of most remarkable groups of funerary sculptures in the Basque Country.

10 Cemetery chapel (1904)

Located at the end of the main avenue (*cardo*), it has a rectangular layout and a Neogothic design. It is preceded by a stairway, and the

main façade plays on the chromatic juxtaposition of grey limestone and golden sandstone.

11 Astorqui Zavala family chapel (1923)

The architect Manuel Camarón was commissioned by Carolina Mandaluniz, Zavala's widow. It has a square layout and the roof is a truncated pyramid-shaped dome surmounted by the statue of an angel.

12 Salvadora Cortina mausoleum (1914)

A staged mausoleum consisting of a grotto that contains a gravestone. The entrance is guarded by an angel, to whom the three Marys are facing; it was designed by Miguel García de Salazar.

13 Diliz family mausoleum (1914)

Also designed by Miguel García Salazar, it portrays a woman supplicating, situated in the prow of a boat that has run onto the rocks, clasping a cross, facing the sea, and looking to heaven.

14 García de Salazar family mausoleum (1908)

Based on a design by the architect Manuel Camarón, Miguel García de Salazar sculpted his own mausoleum. It consists of a plinth upon which there are three columns with an attic base and fluted shafts, truncated at different heights.

15 Valle family mausoleum (1918)

This sculpture is very dynamic, and also by García de Salazar. It portrays a guardian angel upon a rock who is protecting a cinerary urn and brandishing a large hammer in a threatening way.

16 Venancio Echevarria mausoleum (1943)

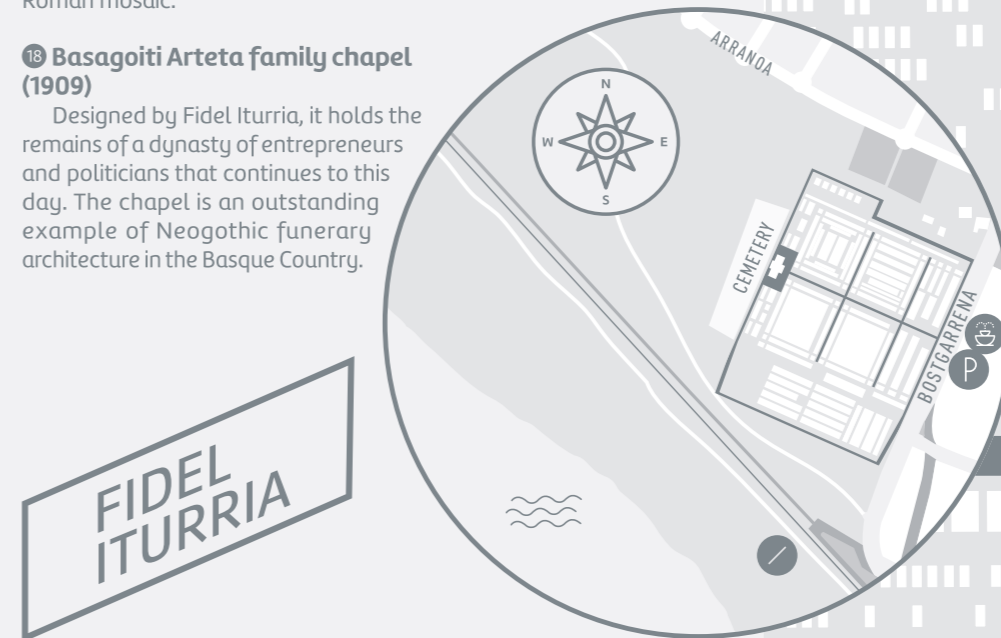
Venancio Echevarria was chairman of the board of Banco Vizcaya and councillor and deputy mayor of Getxo. The mausoleum's interest lies in a limestone relief by the sculptor Quintín de Torre.

17 Echevarrieta family crypt (1925)

With the help of the sculptor Francisco Durrio and the architect Ricardo Bastida, Horacio Echevarrieta (family with a political and business tradition) oversaw its design. The crypt contains a stunning Roman mosaic.

18 Basagoiti Arteta family chapel (1909)

Designed by Fidel Iturria, it holds the remains of a dynasty of entrepreneurs and politicians that continues to this day. The chapel is an outstanding example of Neogothic funerary architecture in the Basque Country.



Would you like to know more?

Deapie offers you the option of getting to know the history of Getxo accurately but while having fun, through cultural routes guided by some of the town's historic personages. You have a further 13 routes available. The nearest are:



Marina Ybarra

- Visit the neighbourhood of Andra Mari, discover Getxo's origins.
- The route starts right here.



Ramiro Pinilla

- Visit the places where this local author's novels are set.
- The route starts right here.



Amalurra

- Geological route on how the headland of La Galea and its beaches were formed.
- The start of the route is a two-minute walk away.

Continue discovering Getxo with deapie!