

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, enjoying an irresistible tapa, which we call a pintxo here. A feeling, a corner, the snapshot of a moment...

Share your #Getxodeapie experience on social media.



Technical support and coordination: Reharq

Idea and technical supervision: Getxo Tourist Information Office

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deapie Self-guided tours of Getxo



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## The route

Getxo is linked to the sea both geographically and historically. Many local people, *Getxotarrak*, have made the sea their way of life, a source of pleasure... or a business. The fact is that Getxo was home to those families behind much of Spain's industrial and financial development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This route salutes the life of one of those businessmen, the industrialist and politician Horacio Echevarrieta, whose life is worthy of a film script. You will see, furthermore, that the Galleries at Punta Begoña, stop no. 6, embody the way in which Horacio sought to make his name on the international stage: a ground-breaking building that used cutting-edge technology at that time.

We will be walking down the promenade Marqués de Arriazu e Ybarra, where we will see some of the most famous stately homes from the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and then we will walk through the more built-up area until we come to the Atxekolanda lookout point, where Neguri once again greets the sea.



Shall we start?



deapie

Did you know...

Neolithic and the initial stages of the Chalcolithic. This was a time that coincided with the spread of open-air settlements, with the first steps being taken toward a more complex social structure than the one in place.

### The golden mile or the parrot's field?

Do you know what the grassy area on the seafloor beneath the mansions at Atxekolanda is called? Although the immense wealth around it suggests it should be called "the golden mile", it does in fact go by the name of the *Campa del Loro*, the parrot's field. There are two explanations for this name, so which one is true? a) there was a parrot living in this area that attracted the attention of passers-by with its whistles and screeches. b) A woman used to go down to the fields with a parrot, which she perched on a small pedestal and protected with a parasol...

### Street art: Titan Crane (1973)

Between 1896 and 1972, two huge cranes stood here for carrying the heavy blocks used on the pier. In due course, the one standing at this end close to the galleries (the other was beside the lighthouse at the other end), was used in Arriazu's little harbor to lift boats from the water. The local people, *Getxotarrak*, commissioned a ceramic mural (located on the wall on the pier's seaward side). In the words of Angel Cañada, its author, "[...] it symbolises the contrast between mechanical force (the crane) and human endeavour [...]".

## Interesting facts

### Horacio, from biscay to the world

Horacio Echevarrieta's home was in Neguri, but he also lived in other cities. In Cadiz, he was twice made an "Hijo Adoptivo", adopted son, thanks to his involvement in the shipyards. He also lived in Madrid, where during the Spanish Civil War he sheltered many refugees from the conflict. What's more, his activities were not just restricted to the home-front. Some of his bolder and more innovative projects were undertaken abroad, such as the building of an aerial cable car (The Niagara Whirlpool) over the Niagara Falls.

### Building innovation

The galleries *Galeries Punta Begoña* were a rarity in their day because they were made of reinforced concrete, a new material at that time. Horacio chose this building system upon his return from a trip to the United States. Although it had already been used on other buildings, this may well have been the first private residential building in Bizkaia to use it. This is another example of Horacio Echevarrieta's vision for the future, by choosing such an avant-garde and untested material for his own home.

### Prehistoric finds at Punta Begoña

In 2018, following an archaeological dig in the area where Horacio's palace once stood, a five-thousand-year-old prehistoric site was uncovered, corresponding to the end of the

## The dignitary

### Horacio Echevarrieta (1870-1963)

Born in Bilbao, he spent part of his life in Getxo, and his house stood on the cliffs over the Galleries at Punta Begoña. With great acumen and his father's inheritance, Cosme Echevarrieta saw his businesses extend across frontiers and become the kernel for some of today's most influential companies: Iberia, Iberduero (now Iberdrola) and Cemex.

In addition, he was responsible for some of the historical milestones of his time: the building of the Juan Sebastián Elcano training ship, the founding of *El Liberal* newspaper, and representing Bilbao in the republican-socialist coalition in the Spanish parliament, Las Cortes (1914-1917).










Despite his love for the ocean he could see from his galleries, he died inland at his Munoa estate (Barakaldo, Bizkaia). His remains were laid to rest in the family crypt at the cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Getxo.



This route's protagonist, Horacio Echevarrieta, was a business visionary whose home (now demolished) on the cliffs above the galleries Galeries Punta Begoña provided an exceptional lookout point, a place to see and be seen... Are you ready for a walk that takes in Getxo's stately houses, the homes of the families whose business interests ranged from the steel industry through to the media?






**OVERALL DISTANCE:** 3000 m (seafront) + 1000 m (inland).  
**WALKING TIME:** 36 min + 12 min.  
**SELF-GUIDED WALKING TIME\*1:** 93 min + 66 min.  
**DIFFICULTY:** Low.  
**ACCESSIBLE\*2:** Partially.  
**CALORIES\*3:** 172 + 57.  
**START:** La Bola Beach.  
**END:** Mirador (lookout point) of Atxekolandeta.







- \*1. Includes walking time, enough time to stop at each point on the way, and a 15-minute break to enjoy the local food, shops, parks and recreational areas.
- \*2. The street down to the beach *Bajada de Ereaga* has some steep stretches. The streets Joaquín Arizaga and *Bajada de Ereaga* are an alternative to the steps that lead down from the Atxekolandeta lookout point to the beach.
- \*3. Average amount burnt by an adult. Calculate your own calorie consumption:  $0.029 \times \text{body weight in kg} \times 2.2 \times \text{overall walking time in minutes} = \text{approximate number of calories burnt}$ .

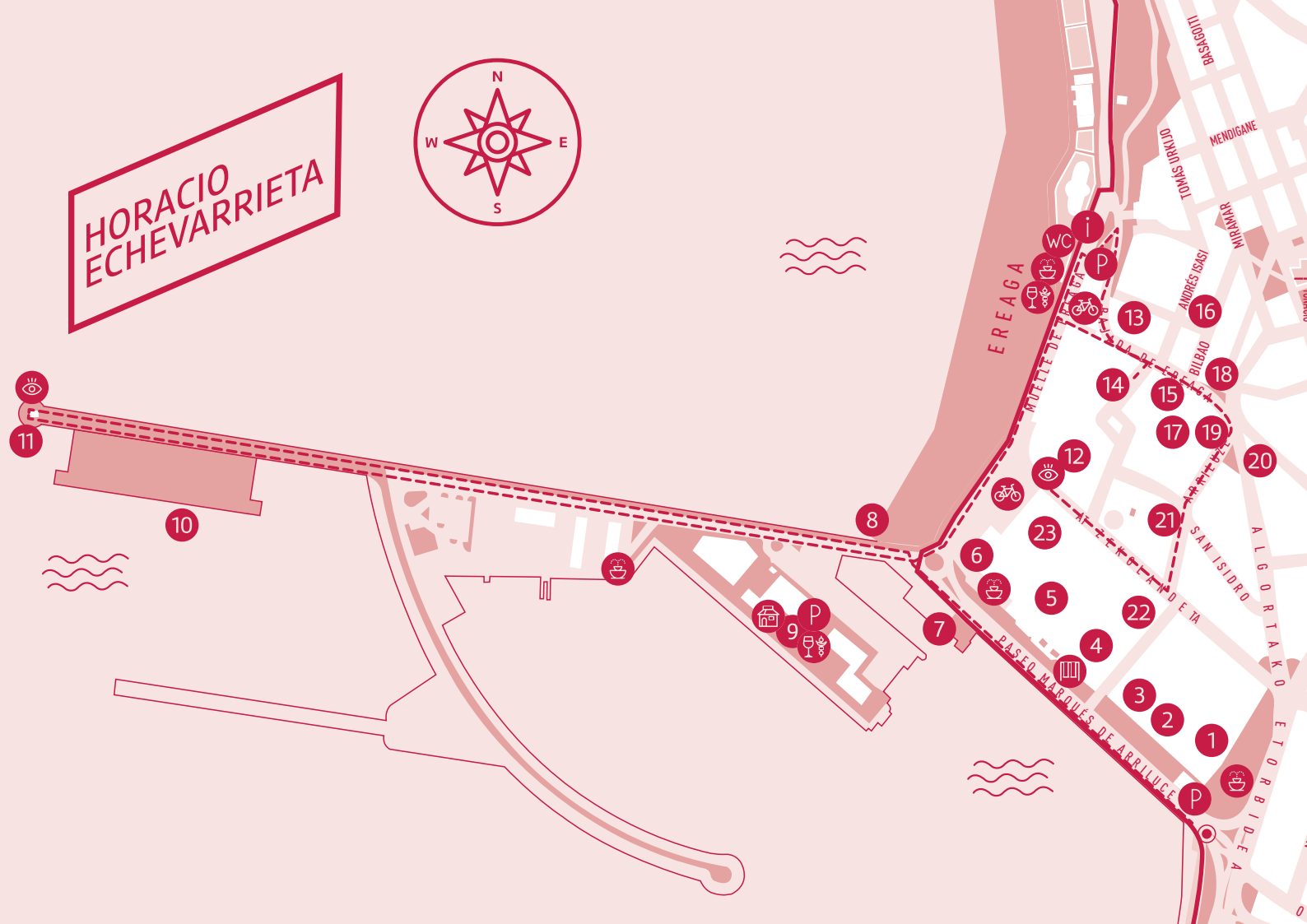
-  Car Park
-  Gastronomy
-  Viewpoint
-  Getxobizi
-  Tourist Office
-  Shopping
-  WC
-  Children's playground
-  Fountain








- 1 Lezama-Leguizamón Palace (1903, 1919, 1960)**  
 –  Atxekolandeta, 1  
 Designed by J. M<sup>a</sup> Basterra and refurbished by M. M<sup>a</sup> Smith, it is one of the most significant stately homes of the time. It was originally a single-family home belonging to the businessman, politician and bibliophile Luis Lezama-Leguizamón. The right-wing housed the finest private library in the whole of Spain until it was destroyed in a fire in 1933.
- 2 Mudela Palace (1948)** –  Atxekolandeta, 3  
 Built by Manuel I. Galíndez on a commission from José M<sup>a</sup> Martínez de las Rivas, whose coat of arms appears on the main facade.
- 3 Ampuero Palace (1928, 1999)** –  Atxekolandeta, 9  
 Commissioned by the businessman and politician José Joaquín Ampuero, M. M<sup>a</sup> Smith designed this building in the *Montañés* style.
- 4 Aitzgoyen House (1909, 1917, 1929)** –  Atxekolandeta, 13  
 Designed by Manuel M<sup>a</sup> Smith for Emilio Ybarra, the building is remarkable for its Neo-Basque regionalist architecture, imitating the appearance of a farmhouse, or *caserío*.
- 5 Arriluze Palace (1910, 1940)** –  Atxekolandeta, 15  
 Designed for Fernando M<sup>a</sup> Ybarra by his architect brother-in-law José Luis Oriol Urigüen, with remodelling by R. Garamendi. Its highlights are

two towers, one stepped and the other crenelated, with a combination of medieval, English and Neo-Gothic features.

- 6 Galleries at Punta Begoña (1921)** –  Muelle de Ereaga, 6  
 Horacio Echevarrieta commissioned their building to R. Bastida with two purposes in mind: to add a certain grandeur to the retaining seafront wall and to create a private recreational area. This is the place from where Horacio observed the hustle and bustle of his iron-ore mines on the left bank of the estuary, the *Ría de Bilbao*, or watched the vessels in his shipping company as they headed out to sea.
- 7 Lifeboat station (1920)** –  Muelle Arriluze, s/n  
 Designed by Ignacio M<sup>a</sup> Smith, it is reminiscent of a traditional Basque farmhouse, the *caserío*. It has a lighthouse that began operating in 1939.
- 8 Arriluze pier (1873–1903)** –  Muelle Arriluze, s/n  
 Designed by E. de Churruga, the pier is 1090 m long and took 30 years to build. It signalled the beginning of the transformation of a hitherto untamed landscape.
- 9 El Abra-Getxo Marina (1997)** –  Muelle de Arriluze, 1  
 The first and largest marina in Euskadi-The Basque Country. A focal point for recreational sailing, with numerous attractions in terms of seagoing activities, leisure, and food and drink.
- 10 Olatua Cruise Liner Terminal (2017)** –  Muelle de cruceros, 3  
 Designed by the Ajuriaguerra Tres (AJ3) architect studio, it is the cruise liner terminal for the Port of Bilbao.

- 11 Arriluze Lighthouse (1903)** –  End of the pier  
 Built by E. Churruga, it consists of two sections, one on top of the other. The upper one houses the lantern, with a red beacon that flashes every five seconds.
- 12 Belrespiro House (1905)** –  Atxekolandeta, 20  
 It is noteworthy for being one the best-preserved houses by the architect Fidel Iturria.
- 13 Palace of the Marquis of Barambio (1886)**  
 –  Atxekolandeta, 20  
 Built by Ángel Galíndez, with a clearly English influence (its owner had business interests in Liverpool). In fact, the bricks used to build this house were brought from England.
- 14 House (1901)** –  Joaquín Arizaga, 1  
 By an unknown architect, it was the first summer house to be built in this area. Its original owner was the grandfather of the musician Andrés Isasi.
- 15 Alde Etxea (1918)** –  Bajada de Ereaga, 7  
 Known as the Casa Madariaga, it was designed by R. Bastida. Highlights are the galleries on the facade, and its decorative features, which remind us of a traditional Basque farmhouse, the *caserío*.
- 16 Old Andersch House (1926)** –  Bilbao, 8  
 In a Neo-Basque style, it is the work of the architect J. M<sup>a</sup> Basterra. A highlight is its terraces with a wooden balustrade.



- 17 Ondartziri House (1929)** –  Bajada de Ereaga, 5  
 Designed by Ignacio M<sup>a</sup> Smith, it takes its name from a combination of two Basque words (*hondartza* meaning ‘beach’ and *hiri*, meaning ‘city’).
- 18 Ukondo House (1915)** –  Avenida Basagolti, 1  
 Designed by Manuel M<sup>a</sup> Smith, it is a semi-detached villa, with each part having very different stylistic features, while the whole is framed within Neo-Basque regionalism.
- 19 Tangora House (1863, 1877, 1924, 1950, 2017)** –  Arriluze, 2  
 A summer house for its first owner: José Jorge Goya. The current building, now divided into a series of single dwellings, is the outcome of a remodelling process undertaken over the years by R. de Garamendi, Beascoa, and Foraster architects.
- 20 Lecanda House (1908, 1945)** –  Avenida. Neguri, 19  
 R. Garamendi’s first project. Its decorative features are simple, with its highlights being its square tower and unusual distribution, with terraces.
- 21 Nire Echea – Our House (1915)** –  Particular de Ibarra, 2  
 A building that is highly characteristic of Manuel M<sup>a</sup> Smith: an English style with some Neo-Basque touches.
- 22 Group of 40 homes (1975)** –  Atxekolandeta, 11  
 Group of flats, designed by E. Aguinaga and Iñigo Eulate, arranged into three separate blocks. The chimneys help the deployment to blend into its setting.
- 23 Punta Begoña Urbanisation (1991)** –  Atxekolandeta, 17  
 A development by Pubesa – Punta Begoña S.A., consisting of four blocks of flats, standing on part of the land once occupied by Horacio Echevarrieta’s stately home (designed by Gregorio de Ibarreche).

## Would you like to know more?

Would you like to know more? Deapie/onfoot invites you to discover Getxo’s history in an enjoyable and informed manner through a series of cultural routes dedicated to famous local people. You still have another 13 routes, with the following being the closest:



**Manuel M.<sup>a</sup> Smith**  
 – How Getxo went from summer resort to people’s favourite place to live.  
 – The start of the route is an eight-minute walk away.



**Juana Bizcarra**  
 – About the people that breathed life into the Ondategi garden city.  
 – The start of the route is an eight-minute walk away.



**Pedro Bilbao**  
 – A wholesome route along the seafront, from Ereaga to Arrigunaga.  
 – The start of the route is an eight-minute walk away, or five minutes if you go down the steps to Ereaga Beach.

## Continue discovering Getxo with deapie!