

BAHIA DE LA CONCHA / THE CONCHA BAY: From Chillida to Oteiza

La Concha (The Shell) Bay is one of the most beautiful promenades of Spain. For many years it was the favourite place of the Spanish monarchy and the European aristocracy. The promenade crosses along two beaches: Ondarreta and La Concha (from left to right) separated by a rock formation called Pico del Loro (Parrot's Peak). The distance, over three Kilometres, can be made along the avenue or through the beach. Note that Pico del Loro cannot be crossed with high tide being dressed.



The Path starts in *El Peine de los Vientos (The Comb of the Winds)*, the most famous sculpture by local sculptor Eduardo Chillida. The civil works of the ensemble were made by Architect Luis Peña Ganchegui, Emeritus Professor of the School of Architecture of San Sebastián.

The sculptures change depending on the behaviour of sea. The platform over the sculpture has seven holes. The waves crashing over the wall enter through those holes producing the seven musical notes and expulsiing sea water violently.



Over Pico del Loro you will find the Miramar Palace. It is a Palace of British style, old residence of the Spanish Royal Family. The gardens are open to the public and deserve the best views of the bay.



In the avenue, near Miramar Palace, there is a beautiful sculpture by Eduardo Chillida named *Homenaje a Fleming (Homage to Fleming)*. Along the avenue you will find some of the most remarkable symbols of San Sebastián: the balustrade and the streetlamps.



The walk finishes in the beginning of the Paseo Nuevo, where you will find the impressive sculpture *Construcción Vacía (Empty Construction)*, by local sculptor Jorge Oteiza. He is also remarkable for his decision in 1959 to stop working as a sculptor after he had achieved his formal and conceptual goals. Only after his death many of his small sculptures were reproduced at higher scales, like this one. During their life, Chillida and Oteiza maintained bitter discussions, both in the personal and artistic plane.

