



Geoparkea

Basque Coast - Côte Basque




Flysch & Karst *experience*


Deba  
Mutriku  
Zumaia



The Basque Coast Geopark, a treasure trove of different chapters in the history of our planet and of humankind, offers its visitors the opportunity to journey through geological time and discover the culture and traditions of an ancient people. Since 2010, the Basque Coast Geopark has been a member of the European Geoparks Network and the Global Geoparks Network assisted by UNESCO, which together comprise more than 100 geoparks all over the world.



Le Géoparc de la Côte Basque, un territoire qui renferme différents chapitres de l'histoire de la planète et de l'être humain, nous offre un véritable voyage de découverte à travers le temps géologique, mais aussi la culture et la tradition d'un peuple millénaire. En 2010, le Géoparc de la Côte Basque a intégré le Réseau Européen et Mondial des Géoparc sous l'égide de l'UNESCO, qui compte actuellement plus de 100 territoires répartis dans le monde entier.

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are large, layered rock formations in shades of red, orange, and brown, with white waves crashing against their base. Behind these, there are white and grey cliffs. The background consists of rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. A small building is visible on a hilltop in the distance.

The geopark's cliffs are home to a unique natural treasure: over 60 million years of geological history written in layer upon layer of rock that have been exposed by the incessant action of the waves over time, revealing key clues to some of the most significant events in the recent history of our planet, including the mass extinction of the dinosaurs.

# Flysch



Les falaises du géoparc recèlent un trésor naturel unique: plus de 60 millions d'années d'histoire géologique écrites dans les strates rocheuses successives qui, à cause de l'érosion de la mer, sont aujourd'hui visibles et donnent les clés pour comprendre les événements majeurs de l'histoire récente de la Terre, comme la grande extinction des dinosaures.



# Karst

Moving further inland, visitors will discover the geopark's karst, a patchwork of stunning natural landscapes formed by the gradual erosion of limestone that formed in the very distant past under a tropical sea. Many of the caves of these mountains sheltered our early ancestors and contain evidence of the lives and culture of their prehistoric inhabitants.



Sur le territoire, nous avons le monde du Karst, une mosaïque de paysages ruraux de grande qualité causés par l'usure de la pierre calcaire, formée dans un passé lointain sous une mer tropicale. De nombreuses grottes dans ces montagnes ont été occupées par nos ancêtres les plus lointains, qui y ont laissé des vestiges de leur activité et leurs intérêts culturels.

The geopark also has a rich built heritage, present in both urban and rural areas in the form of palaces, churches and chapels, as well as a remarkable ethnographical and cultural heritage. Key sites of interest include Mutriku's Old Town and Bentalekua Museum, where visitors can explore the town's relationship with the sea, Deba's Church of Santa María, a veritable gem of Basque Gothic architecture, and the Church of San Pedro in Zumaia, whose altarpiece was declared a National Monument.


The image shows the interior of a Gothic church, likely the Church of Santa María in Deba. The architecture features a long nave with a high, ribbed vaulted ceiling. The walls are made of dark stone, and the floor is light-colored. Large, pointed-arch windows with intricate tracery and vertical bars are spaced along the side walls, allowing bright light to stream in and create long shadows on the floor. The perspective is from the side of the nave, looking down its length towards a darker, arched opening at the far end.

# Culture





Le Géoparc possède un immense patrimoine architectural dans ses villes et villages, comprenant palais, églises et chapelles, ainsi qu'un patrimoine ethnographique et culturel remarquable. Relevons entre autres la Vieille Ville et le Musée Bentalekua de Mutriku, qui évoque le lien de la ville avec la mer, ou encore l'église Santa María de Deba, un véritable joyau du gothique basque, et la Paroisse de San Pedro de Zumaia avec son retable déclaré Monument National.

A group of about ten people, mostly wearing blue and dark jackets, are standing on a dirt path overlooking a coastal landscape. Several people are holding umbrellas in shades of blue, yellow, and black, suggesting it is raining or has recently rained. The path is reddish-brown and runs along a rocky cliffside. To the right, the ocean is visible with white-capped waves crashing against dark, layered rock formations. To the left, a wide, flat, greyish-brown area, possibly a beach or a dry riverbed, stretches towards the sea. In the background, hazy mountains rise under an overcast sky. The overall scene is a scenic coastal view with a group of hikers or tourists.

Visitors can choose from a wide range of guided tours to explore the geopark year round, including the Flysch Tour, the Karst Experience and tours exploring the area's cultural heritage. The geopark also offers a number of other activities, including surfing, kayaking and a large network of hiking paths and mountain bike routes.

# Activities

activités



Un vaste programme de visites guidées permet de découvrir et d'apprécier le géoparc toute l'année. La Route du Flysch, Les Saveurs du Karst ou les visites culturelles sont quelques-unes des propositions offertes. Des activités comme le surf, le kayak ou la plongée sous-marine ainsi qu'un large choix de randonnées et de circuits VTT complètent l'offre.





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**TOURIST OFFICE OF ZUMAIA**  
**OFFICE DE TOURISME DE ZUMAIA**



Kantauri plaza, 13 - 20750 **ZUMAIA**  
☎ 943 14 33 96  
turismoa@zumaia.net  
[www.geozumaia.net](http://www.geozumaia.net)

**TOURIST OFFICE OF DEBA**  
**OFFICE DE TOURISME DE DEBA**



Ifar kalea, 4 - 20820 **DEBA**  
☎ 943 19 24 52  
turismoa@deba.net  
[www.deba.net](http://www.deba.net)

**TOURIST OFFICE OF MUTRIKU**  
**OFFICE DE TOURISME DE MUTRIKU**



Txurruka plaza, z/g - 20830 **MUTRIKU**  
☎ 943 60 33 78  
turismo@mutriku.net  
[www.mutriku.net](http://www.mutriku.net)

**INTERPRETATION CENTRES**  
**CENTRES D'INTERPRÉTATION**

**Algorri (Zumaia)**  
943 143 100 • info@algorri.eu  
[www.algorri.eu](http://www.algorri.eu)

**Nautilus (Mutriku)**  
943 603 259 • nautilus@mutriku.net  
[www.mutriku.net/nautilus](http://www.mutriku.net/nautilus)

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Photographies/Photos: Javier Cantallo, Luis Lizarri, Borja Zubeldia, David Añena, Alex Turullias, Jon Llorines, Vicen Manuel Pizarro.

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