

Lea Artibai

Flow
of emotions





AULESTI

MOTROLLO

MUNITIBAR

BENGOLA

OIZ

ZIORTZA-BOLIBAR

ZIORTZAKO KOLEGIATA

URREGARAI

AMOROTO

GIZABURUAGA

LEKEITIO

KARRASPIO

GIUNTA

MARIERROTA

MENDEXA

ONDARROA

BERRIATUA

MARKINA-XEMEIN

ETXEABARRIA

ELGOIBAR

EIBAR

KALAMUA

SATURRARAN

ARRIGORRI

MUTRIKU

ZARAUZ

ZUMAIA

SAN SEBASTIAN

MUNDAKA

GERNIKA

BILBAO

ILUNZAR

ISPASTER

BILBAO

GERNIKA

DURANGO

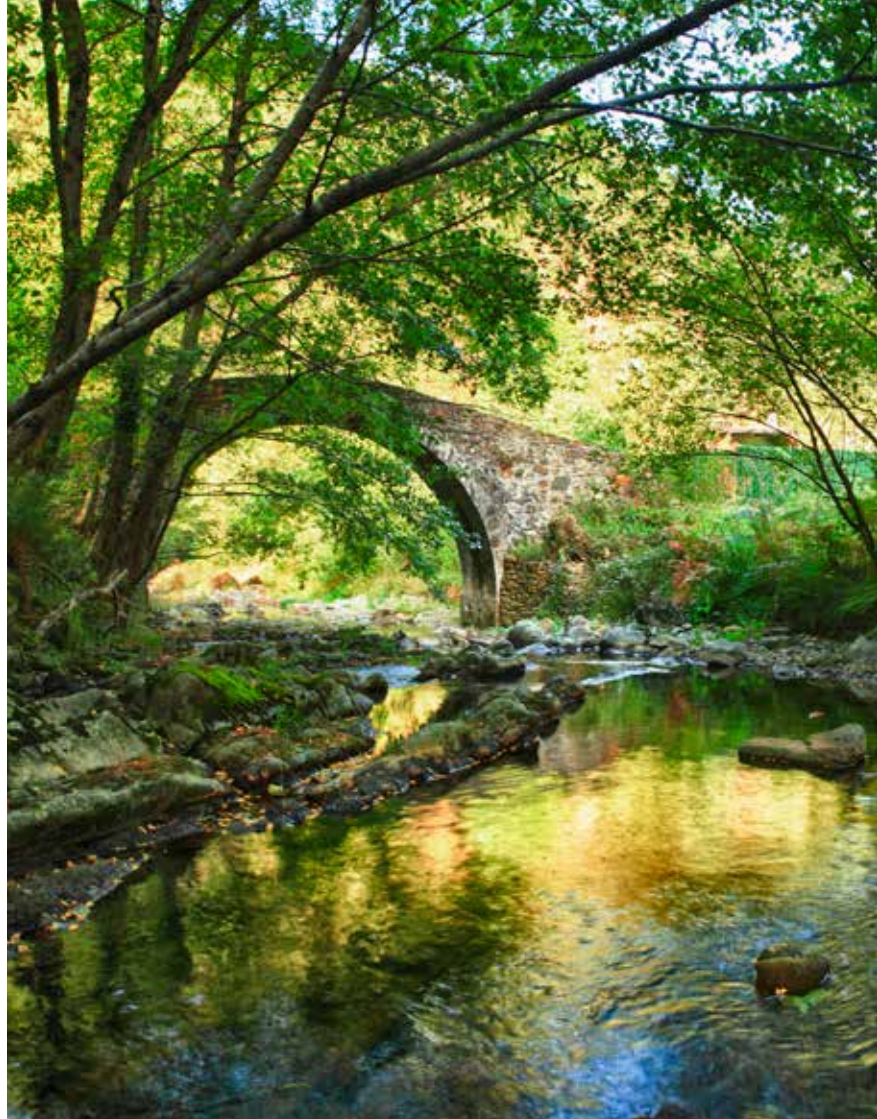
BILBAO

LEA ETXEREA

ARTIBAIERREKA

You are about to start a journey that will last through time. The experiences that you are going to have in Lea Artibai will, from now on, be travel companions that will never leave you. Every time you close your eyes, you will still be stretched out on the beaches where the waves of Cantabrian sea go to rest. You will never come down from the peaks that watch over the stunning countryside. You will still be there, so far away and so close. The link that is forged between the traveller and the region lasts forever. **Amoroto, Aulesti, Berriatua, Gizaburuaga, Etxebarria, Ispaster, Lekeitio, Markina-Xemein, Mendexa, Munitibar-Arbatzegi-Gerrikaitz, Ondarroa, Ziortza-Bolibar.** They will be part of you.

You will feel at home. Throughout history our ports have welcomed great mariners and have been places of passage and exchange that explain the affable and strong character of our peoples, reflected in the love and pride with which they preserve the traditions of the region. The local people have always lived looking toward the sky and earth, at the mercy of the seasons of the year. The sailors have been captives of the waves and tides. Nature has moulded us and we have adapted to it, while always taking care of our environment. That is why there are so many colours and flavours here that dazzle both in spring and summer: the salty blue of the sea, the transparent clarity of the streams, warm yellow sands, clean green pastures, the fascinating force of the waves, the red leaves of the autumnal wood.



Footprints on the beach and in your memory

As along the entire Cantabrian coastline, **the lighthouses** illuminate the shores of Lea Artibai. They are night-time watchmen that guide the mariners that sail in the dark. Built on the coastal headlands, they are also vantage points that provide views of exceptional countryside, such as the impressive cliffs that rise facing the sea, between which beautiful **beaches** emerge next to tranquil **rocky coves**. And the summer sunsets give us one of the most beautiful coastal pictures, when the waters rest serenely and the horizon fills with boats returning to port.



Lekeitio



Santa Katalina Lighthouse

When considering the grandeur of the sea, many questions arise. How was the return home for the arrantzales (fishermen) who went out to hunt whales? What did they feel when their destination was at the mercy of the raging seas? The traveller will find many answers in the Santa Katalina lighthouse. What was once the home of the lighthouse keeper is today a modern Navigation Technology Interpretation Centre. It was the first lighthouse that could be visited. Getting on a virtual boat, the visitor will understand and learn about techniques used by the sailors for centuries for controlling the boat and overcoming various obstacles and unexpected events.



Karraspio (Mendexa)

Diversity and quality, beach flag

Every spot bathed by the waves of the Cantabrian sea is a special place for rest. Nevertheless, it is very difficult to find the diversity offered by the coast of Lea Artibai in such a short distance. The town beaches are equipped with all the infrastructures required and provide all the comforts to users. The sands of Lekeitio, Mendexa and Ondarroa are known for their clean waters and quality

certificates that they receive year after year. At the same level is Ispaster's Ogella beach, notable for its natural surroundings. And those who seek a little bit more tranquillity and solitude away from the town areas will find pretty coves along the length of the road that joins Lekeitio and Ondarroa, all framed by the stunning coastal landscape.





Karraspio promenade.

Promenades with a salt flavour

People from the coast miss the sea when they are away from it. That's not surprising. Who has not relaxed with music of waves breaking against the rocks? Who has not felt the caress of the soft sea breeze on their face? This pleasure will be experienced by those who go to the Lea Artibai coast: the section from **Ondarroa port to the Saturrarán beach** that borders one of the most beautiful spots on the coastline. Let yourself be drawn by the light from the **Santa Katalina lighthouse** that can be seen **from the road that winds along the cliffs**. Take a relaxing break on the broad **Karraspio beach** after walking along the promenade that **runs through the heart of Lekeitio**. The twenty kilometres of coast provide an unforgettable journey and an opportunity to discover its most beautiful places in a healthy way. Walk, rest, contemplate, enjoy and return once again to the road.



The promenade runs from Ondarroa to Saturrarán.



Azpigerri (Ondarroa)



Ogella (Ispaster).

Sometimes the savage sea gives us one of the most beautiful spectacles for your eyes and ears. Shudder at the sound of the waves as they bash against the rocks, swallowed over and again by the force of the sea. But the days of fury are few, and many are the days when

the Cantabrian sea offers the best conditions for enjoying surfing. For this, Karraspio beach is an incomparable setting, where even absolute beginners have the chance to **surf** their first waves by taking the courses that are given during the summer months. More experienced surfers greatly appreciate

Ogella, a natural beach of sand and rock that is hidden among **flysch** near Ispaster. This very close connection with nature makes Lea Artibai one of the most charming spots on the Basque coast, and one of the most suitable for sport and enjoying activities such as **diving, canoeing or stand-up paddling.**

Activities



LEAKTIBAI-Lekeitio
Tel. 688 826 797
Surf, Stand up paddle
leaktibai@gmail.com



UR Leketio Tel. 94 624 35 86
Canoeing, Rowing, SUP Stand up
paddle, Step Board, Coasteering
www.urlekeitio.com



Mendexa Aventura Park
Tel. 688 856 283
Adventure park with zip- lines on the trees
www. mendexapark.com



Koasta
Tel. 601 632 832
Kayak or Paddle Surf routes
info@koasta.eus



"Antiguako Ama" trainera (traditional rowing boat). Photography Iñaki Suarez.

Sporting environment

At the foot of the Oiz mountain and bathed by the salty waters of the Cantabrian sea, Lea Artibai provides a stunning setting for sporting activity. For many years the region has welcomed numerous events that have increased in popularity, such as triathlon competitions or the spectacular **fishing boat regattas** on the open sea. At the same time, Mendexa beach has found a place on the select surf circuit, and today organises one of the main events for the Cantabrian Surf League, as well as various **bodyboard** exhibitions. All these ingredients result in many people from the neighbouring towns coming to watch the various events of the sporting calendar, or to participate in the **mountain races** or the **kayak** trips that are organised throughout the year.

To the enviable surroundings must be added the numerous sporting facilities available in the regions municipalities which offer various uninterrupted services.



Castaway on the island

The island known as Garraitz or San Nicolás makes the countryside that surrounds Lekeitio even more special. As the tide goes out and Karraspio beach gains land from the sea, among the fine sand an increasingly wide path opens that allows you to walk to the island. Don't miss the chance, although you will get wet feet in the puddles, as superb views await you at the top of Garraitz. But keep an eye on the tide times, because more than one person has become trapped on the island surrounded by the sea, like the castaway Robinson Crusoe.

Scenic postcards Mountain

From the Middle Ages, fires were started on the five highest peaks of the province so that everybody could see them and thus summon the General Assemblies of Bizkaia. **Oiz** is one of these summits, located to the south of Lea Artibai at 1026 metres in height. There is no better place for contemplating the mountains and valleys that make up the region. From its slopes spring **Lea** and **Artibai**, two of the cleanest **rivers** in the Basque Country, along the courses of which you can discover beautiful pastures and woods. **Iluntzar**, to the east, and **Kalamua**, to the west are the other two main vantage points in the region, guardians of the farmhouses and green fields that surround them.





Sta. Eufemia (Aulesti)



Markola River (Ziortza-Bolibar)



Barinaga (Markina-Xemein)

The arteries of the region (trips)

For mountain and trekking enthusiasts, there are endless paths that cross narrow and deep valleys. Steep, flat, short, long routes... All the paths have been set out according to the value of their historical, artistic and natural elements so that the traveller can enjoy a full experience.



Activities

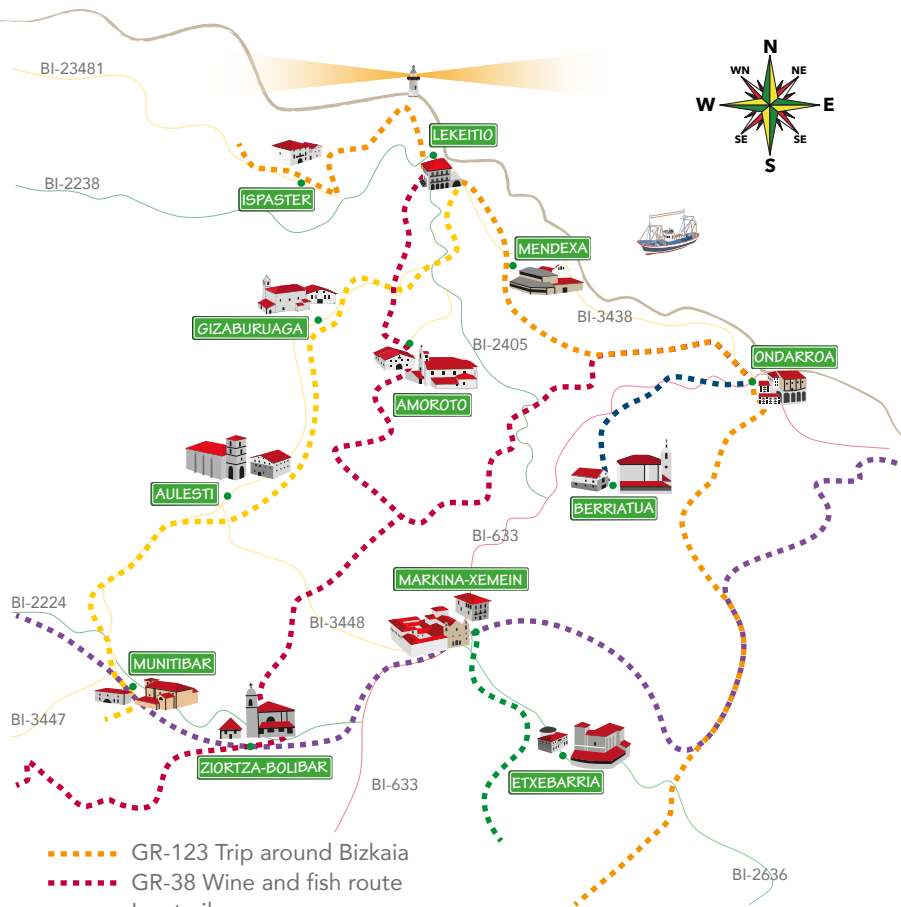


Mendexa Abentura Park

Tel. 688 856 283

Treetop Adventure park; 4 circuit, 17 zip-lines, tibetan bridge, balance bridge, liana, etc,

www.mendexapark.com



- GR-123 Trip around Bizkaia
- GR-38 Wine and fish route
- Lea trail
- Urepel
- Urko
- Road to Santiago



Activities

Great names in the pelota courts

For many years the pelota courts have been part of the urban landscape of Lea Artibai. Great pelota, pala and cesta-punta stars have been forged in them, and more than a few have come to wear the belt in some of the most famous courts, both in the Basque Country and in the United States. The Markina-Xemein pelota court is known as the "University of Pelota", and, together with that of Berriatua, is one of the most emblematic arenas in the summer cesta-punta calendar. Due to the great love of the sports, in all the region's municipalities there are pelota courts available to users throughout the year.

Guided visit to the Markina-Xemein pelota court Telf. 688 813 775



Hidden treasures

Anyone arriving at Lea Artibai for the first time will soon realise that culture and tradition are present in every part. We look after and love our customs like few other places: stories and legends are still passed on orally, dishes cooked by our forefathers are on the menus of today's restaurants, we dance the local dances such as the **Kaxarranka**, **Mahaigainekoa** and the **Ezpata-dantza of Xemein** and the festivals of **Arrantzales** (fishermen) held in the coastal areas are among the most special in the Basque Country. The traveller will soon feel that he is in a country bathed in history. **Basque** is breathed in Lea Artibai, its jovial tone arrives at the ears from the mouths of people of a vigorous nature and kind manner. It is the oldest language in Europe, the most valuable asset of the Basque culture, and nowhere is it held in higher regard than in the villages and farmhouses of Lea Artibai, where it is preserved like a treasure.

To find out about the traditions, the museums and interpretation centres in the region make all the information on the heritage preserved in these valleys available to the public, and provide the best way to discover and understand the way of life of our forefathers.



Museum and Interpretation Centres

1. SANTA CATALINA LIGHTHOUSE

First Center for Interpretation of Navigation Technology (Lekeitio)



2. MARIERROTA MILL INTERPRETATION CENTRE (Mendexa).

3. SIMÓN BOLÍVAR MUSEUM (Ziortza-Bolibar)

4. KONTSEJU ZAHARRA INTERPRETATION CENTRE

See up close and learn the rural lifestyle and the beginnings of the cooperative movement (Barinaga, Markina-Xemein)





Cloister of the Ziortza collegiate church

In the heart of the towns

To understand the character of the towns in the region, don't hesitate to venture into their historic streets, where you will find palace and tower walls that have much to tell. A clear example is **Etxe Pintxu** (Casa Pintada), the Berriatua 18th-century palace. Its main facade is decorated with paintings that represent scenes depicting the aristocracy of the age. Even today the sculptures on the cornice of the roof of the **Andra Mari** de Ondarroa church inspire stories and legends that amaze passers-by, and the basilica of **Andra Mariaren Zeruratzea** de Lekeitio hosts one of the most important altarpieces on the peninsula.



Over the centuries, the pilgrims on their way to Santiago have always found shelter in our region. Today the **road to Santiago** that runs along the Cantabrian coast enters Bizkaia through Lea Artibai. Visitors will be confronted with the spectacular **Chapel of San Miguel de Arretxinaga**, in Markina-Xemein. Before leaving towards Gernika, the journey takes a stop at Ziortza-Bolibar. Here is the **unique Bizkaia collegiate church**, the designated national monument of the Basque Country. If this municipality is known for anything it is Simón Bolívar, as it is considered the birth town of the ancestors of the American “Liberator”.



Chapel of San Miguel de Arretxinaga, Markina-Xemein.



Festivites



January

San Anton, Barinaga, Markina-Xemein
San Bizente, Munitibar
Cavalcade of the Magi

February/March

San Blas
Santa Ageda
Carnivals

May

San Gregorio, Berriatua

June

Oleta, Amoroto
San Juan, Lea Artibai
San Pedro, Lea Artibai (Lekeitio Kaxarranka, kilin-kala)
Zapato Azula, Ondarroa

July

San Martin, Amoroto
Karmen jaiak, Markina-Xemein
San Juan, Aulestin
Santiago, Etxebarria, Ispaster

August

San Pedro, Mendexa
Andra Mari, Ondarroa, Ziortza-Bolibar

September

San Antolin, Lekeitio
Andra Mari, Gizaburuaga
Santa Eufemia, Aulesti
San Migel, (Arretxinaga) Markina-Xemein, Ispaster

October

San Andres, Etxebarria

December

Olentzero, Lea Artibai



Carnivals

Other festivals that are most deep-rooted in the customs of the region are the carnivals. In the rituals that are held in Markina, the Carnival Sundays demonstrate many elements linked to the rural world and identity, mythology and the wild side of the human being. During the morning, while the dantzaris of Zerutxu dance the zara-gi-dantza, a giant hairy bear frightens the people.



Cultural agenda

February/March

Santa Ageda Singing the songs of Santa Ageda is a tradition in the Basque Country

Plant and flower fair, Markina-Xemein

Horses Trial, Ispaster

Carnivals: Saturday and tuesday in different villages. Sunday in Markina Xemein, The Bear and the Zaragi Dance along the streets

March/April

Theater meeting (Artedrama), Aulesti

Horses and mules Trials, Aulesti

Ox Competitions, Etxebarria

May

Rowing Championship, Ondarroa

June

Concert at the Cenarruza Collegiate Church, Ziortza-Bolibar

St. John's Eve, Akelarre and bonfires in all villages

San Pedro, Lekeitio. After mass, a procession bearing a statue of the saint winds its way to the port, where the ritual Kilin-Kala ceremony takes place.

San Pedro, Ox Competitions, Markina-Xemein

Zapato Azule, Ondarroa

Livestock fair, horses, cows, Etxebarria

July

Basque Wedding, Lekeitio

International Street Theatre Festival, Lekeitio

August

SAN PEDRO festivals, Mendexa

October

European Heritage Days (guided visits, conferences...), Lea Artibai

Horses Trials, Ispaster

Euskal Zine bilera, (Basque film festival), Lekeitio

Marabilli Festival ((Artists: writers, musicians, filmmakers, actors, artists, designers ..), Ondarroa

Agricultural fair(Markina-Xemein)

Horses and mules Trials (Aulesti)

November

Literatur Amuak Theater, verses, concerts, storytelling, literary contest), Ondarroa

Santa Cecilia (Performance of the musicians)

Horses Trials, Etxebarria

December

Saint Thomas Market



Postcard experiences Gastronomy



Don't be frightened by the siren noise that is heard near the port of Ondarroa first thing in the morning. It is the *turrune*, a sound that reaches all the houses of the town to let people know that the boats are entering the port loaded with fish. Soon the early seagulls will take their first flight of the day, attracted by the smell of **fresh fish**.

Locked in a picture postcard setting, **the terraces of the bars** are a call to tourists and locals who wish to enjoy a peaceful afternoon. The long bars are full of succulent **pintxos** prepared with the best quality home-grown products. A good way of capturing all these essences is

to lose yourself in the narrow streets, and follow the traditions of the local people of going from bar to bar. And for

a full culinary experience, make sure you accompany

your food with **txakoli** or **cider**,

drinks full of flavours and

aromas that are made in the region.



The restaurants are supplied with the raw material offered by the Cantabrian sea, so they can serve the diner with the best quality regional dishes: txipirones (cuttlefish), octopus, bass, sea bream, turbot, cod, hake. But the gastronomy of the region cannot be understood without seeing the activity and labour of the *baserritarra*s (farmers). **The agricultural fairs** that each week exhibit the best products from the gardens and farms are a good example of this. Customers find the perfect occasion in these markets to taste **home-grown products** and chat directly with the producers.





**Waiter,
hake a la ondarresa,
please!**

In Lea Artibai, the fish comes directly from the hands of the arrantzales to the diner's plate. Quality and freshness are its main qualities, as well as its variety. Recipes that have been prepared from time immemorial are served today in the best restaurants, among which hake a la ondarresa stands out. Do not get up from the table without tasting one of the most appreciated delicacies from the Cantabrian sea.



Nearby and good quality

The old town centres of the municipalities in the region are places that are full of life, thanks in good part to the wide pavements for pedestrians. The windows of the small businesses and clothes shops light the cobbled streets. The commercial network of Lea Artibai is characterised by its dynamism, with traditional shops that coexist with the most modern. Also, the deep-rooted impulse to local business allows customers to find the best brands and high quality products together with a warm and welcoming service of the sales people.



Gastronomic agenda

February

Plants and Farm Tools Fair,
Markina-Xemein

March

Udabirra Fest, Amoroto

April

Craft fair, Ondarroa

Vegetable and Fish Preserves Fair, Berriatua

May

Iparraldeko Haizeak, Lekeitio

Anchovy Day, Ondarroa

Meat Day, Markina-Xemein

July

Hegaluzealdia, (tuna) Lekeitio

August

First saturday: Agricultural Fair, (Feria) Ondarroa

Second saturday: Agricultural Fair, (Feria) Lekeitio

September

Agricultural Fair, (Feria) Ispaster0,5 mm

October

Agricultural Fair, Markina-Xemein

December

Basque food fair, Amoroto

Saint Thomas Fair, Lekeitio



Local products

CHEESE

Baskaran (Markina-Xemein) 94 616 62 31
Supergold nomination in the World Cheese Awards 2016

Larruz (Markina-Xemein) 657 794 529

TXAKOLI (white wine)

Axpe 94 616 82 85

Gurrutxaga 94 684 49 37

Laneko 94 684 20 26

Talaiazpia 637 578 776

CIDER

Axpe 94 616 82 85

Laneko 94 684 20 26

VEGETABLE PRESERVES

Barrenetxe 94 616 81 43

Laneko 94 684 20 26

READY MEALS

Elikatu 946841359

PRESERVED FISH

Aguirreoa Pol. Gardotza (Berriatua)

Dentici (Markina-Xemein)

Guenaga (Berriatua)

Heisa Pol. Gardotza (Berriatua)

Matithor Pol. Gardotza (Berriatua)

Marmar Pol. Gardotza (Berriatua)

Ortiz (Ondarroa)

FARMHOUSE BREAD AND BASQUE CAKE COCOTES

(Markina-Xemein) 94 616 60 69

BASQUE CAKE Labegur (Berriatua)
94 613 90 85

BREAD

Tahona Bikiak (Lekeitio) 94 624 32 80
Meabe (Markina-Xemein) 94 616 63 65

ICE CREAMS

Helados Ruiz-Pole (Ondarroa)

Helados Lopez (Lekeitio)

ENOTOURISM

 (visits)

Axpe Cider, txakoli
946 16 82 85

Talaiazpia Txakoli winery 637 578 776





COMPANIES THAT OFFER GUIDED VISITS AND ACTIVITIES:

Lekeitio´s Tourist Office: 94 684 40 17

Ondarroa´s Tourist Office: 946 831 951

Uhagon kulturgunea (Markina-Xemein): 695 935 560

Frontón-Universidad de la Pelota (Markina-Xemein): 688 813 775

Suspergintza (Lekeitio): 946 844 175

In Ondarroa, the women are net- makers (neskatilak): 635 738 910

WINE TOURS:

Axpe Sagardotegi/Txakolindegia 946 16 82 85

Talaiazpia Txakolindegia: 637 578 776

CULTURAL CENTRES (theatre, concert performances, conferences, and so on):

Uhagon Kulturgunea (Markina-Xemein) www.uhagon.com

Beikozini (Ondarroa) www.beikozini.com

Zinemazaleak (Lekeitio) www.zinemazaleak.eus

MORE INFORMATION:

Lekeitio´s Tourist Office

Tel: 94 684 40 17



Ondarroa´s Tourist Office

Tel: 94 683 19 51



All information on the region, accommodation, restaurants, taverns, points of interest, how to get there.

www.leaartibaiturismo.com

Edit: Lea Artibai Fundazioa

Produced by: KIÑUKA

Photographs: Kiñuka & Lea Artibai Turismo

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