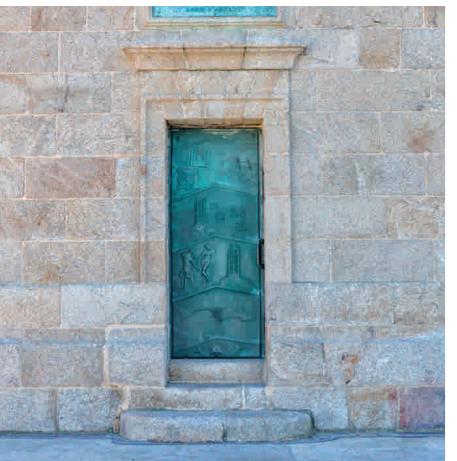


# Sculpture park of the Tower of Hercules



**1** The Doors of Hercules (1992)

Francisco Leiro  
(Cambados, 1957)

Francisco Leiro was entrusted with the construction of the bronze doors of entrance to the Tower and the sculpture, which is located in the interpretation centre of the tower. For the creation of the two doors he was inspired by the legends and myths surrounding the monument.



**2** Portrait of King Carlos III

Pablo Serrano Aguilar  
(Crivillén, 1908-1985)

The monarch under whose reign began the refurbishment of the tower. The painter was inspired by the series "amusements of the Prado" (1974).



**3** The battle between Hercules and Geryon (1994)

Xosé España  
(A Coruña, 1955)

This work is based on an abstract painting of the same title by Tim Behrens (London, 1937). After three days of fighting, Hercules beheaded Geryon and buried his head on site. Later he made a bonfire in honour of Zeus (Jupiter) and the location of the bonfire gave rise to the lighthouse.



Level of location of the proposed itineraries sculptures

14

**4** Ártabros (1994)

Arturo Andrade  
(Allariz, 1956)

Three figures each placed on a pedestal, represent the people of Ártabros: a woman, a sailor and a warrior. These are the elements that made up the society of the time. Each figure has attributes that identify its function. This group of sculptures made from white granite and bronze establishes a dialogue between the characters indicated by their position.



**5** Menhir pentacáfico (1994)

Ramón Miranda  
(A Coruña, 1957)

Done in bronze and located at the base of the Tower, this is a vertical totemic structure. The sculpture has a different treatment in each level, so they go up gradually noting some signs of figuration. This menhir could be a reference to the people from the sea. There is also a symbolism given by a series of inscriptions that traverse the work alluding to artistic manifestations of the primitive cultures. The totem is an element that connects all the races of the Earth but also is projected toward the sky, toward the unattainable.



**6** Guitar

Pablo Serrano  
(Teruel, 1908-1985)

This work offers a double homage as Pablo Serrano had designed between 1983 and 1985 a series entitled "guitars or amusements with Picasso, the guitar and cubism". The collection recreates various aspects of the spatial development of a guitar, with a three dimensional approach. Pablo Picasso lived part of his childhood in A Coruña where he began his artistic career and as a student in the School of Arts and Crafts painting and drawing the Tower. The engineer Toba Blanco, project manager of the sculpture garden wanted to relate these events honouring the two artists in this way. Pablo Serrano died in 1985. Guitar, made of corten steel are simple volumes and make clear reference to a cubist guitar.



**7** Rosa de los vientos (1994)

Javier Correa  
(A Coruña, 1952)

This is a circular mosaic of 25 meters in diameter on which you can walk. It is located at the base of the Tower and the materials used are granite, slate and vitraico. The work is colourful. It represents different icons around Celticism, setting up a great wind rose. This work refers to the seven Celtic peoples and to each is assigned an image from the emblems of the local tradition. The colours are used with full intent. The blue background of the mosaic seeks to melt the "pink" with the sea as an extension of the Indian Ocean thus creating an atmosphere of continuity.



**8** Moro cemetery

During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) together with members of the national army troops, fought Moroccans of the regular army. An enclosure was built in this place to bury the bodies of deceased combatants in the rearguard. Later these remains were transferred to the cemetery of San Amaro where you can still see a plaque that remembers them. In 1957 after the franco-spanish protectorate on Morocco expired and the country went independent, the bodies were repatriated.

Manolo Paz  
(Cambados, 1957)

This book is also called Family of Menhirs. It is a sculptural group of twelve pieces that represent family by their size; the tallest being the figures of father and the mother, and the other smaller and more varied ones represent the children. The project is situated away from the Tower near the coast and the Moro Cemetery. The twelve menhirs have a strategic location. Each menhir has an opening through which you can see the sea, the Tower and the sunset. You can enter on the tour and feel the energy. The menhir is an unpolished stone erected vertically. It is the symbol of the male, the destination. It also recreates the rite of the wheel of time that rotates forever. This work can be seen from the Tower and the geometric shape that is observed is elliptical, although physically forming a circle.

**9** Guardians (1994)

Soledad Penalta  
(Noia, 1943)

This work is located on the hillside on which sits the Tower. It is a conceptual work. It is a great synthesis in that it represents the three heads of Geryon. Three sculptures opened to the ups and downs of the time that will be transformed as time goes by. Thick cut steel plates, each with a wide variety of facets allude to the guardian of the history. In this context the Tower is a representation of the past, and at the same time a vocation of the future. These guardians seem to be silent travellers that have not stood still a moment.

**10** Ara Solis (1994)

Silverio Rivas  
(Ponteareas, 1942)

The Sun, at the end of the day sank into the sea in Fisterra, where he has an altar: the Ara Solis. There came many pilgrims, even Decimo Juno "the Galaco" in 150 B.C. Many did not want to return to Rome without seeing this spectacle.

**11** Latter Day Hydra (1998)

Fidel Goás Mendes  
(Ourense, 1946)

For killing their children, the Delphi oracle demanded Hercules to enter in the service of his half brother King Eurystheus, who entrusted him with twelve labors. The first was to kill the lion of Nemea and the second to kill the ancient Hydra; an animal of nine heads, which was perhaps an immortal. The executioner, his nephew Yolao, burnt the heads so that they did not reproduce and put the last under a large stone.

**12** Breogán (1995)

José Cid  
(Ourense, 1946)

It is situated at the beginning of the access ramp to climb the tower. It is a unique piece in which only the fundamental features of the face are marked. In addition to the shield as a symbol there is also the sword in the hand. This is a monumental sculpture of a warrior in white granite. Breogán is a mythical Celtic warrior to whom is credited the founding of A Coruña. He is also one of the heroes of Ireland.

**13** Charon (1988-1992)

Ramón Conde  
(Ourense, 1951)

Another task of Hercules was to go to Hades (the underworld) and bring back the Cerebus from the entry, effectively preventing the departure of those who were there. But to go to that place, one had to cross the lagoon with the help of the boatman called Charon, who charged a mite to all who wanted to pass.

**14** Caracola (1994)

Moncho Amigo  
(A Coruña, 1952)

This is a fantastic recreation of the shell of a huge mollusc, a gigantic horn of abundance, guardian of the sounds of the sea. The work is made in corten steel and is located very close to the sea in the most advanced Punta Herminia, in order to capture all the vibrations of the sea. It has freedom of movement so it turns and moves with the wind. In this case the artist wanted to give the work a special sense, the valuation of the lucid compared to the intellectual and reflexive, rather than seeking a mythological subject. From the base of the lighthouse the sculpture can be seen perfectly.

**15** Copa do Sol (1994)

Pepe Galán  
(A Coruña, 1955)

Another job given to Hercules, was the capture of the oxen of the king Geryon, so he had to move "beyond the human universe". For that, he required the golden cup of the Sun, in which the Sun travelled at night from west to east.

**16** The ship of stone (1994)

Gonzalo Viana  
(Bilbao, 1920-2011)

This represents Hercules on the ship of the Argonauts. Hercules accompanied Jason on his trip to Colquide to acquire the Golden Fleece, although he did not finish the journey because he was left on an island looking for his friend Hylas, while Jason continued his path.

**17** Monument to the shot (2001)

Isaac Diaz Pardo (Santiago de Compostela, 1920-2011)

This work is located in the Campo da Rata and commemorates the shooting during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. In some plates there is recorded, a poem by Federico García Lorca and the names of those who were executed in this place. This work can be seen from the Tower and the geometric shape that is observed is elliptical, although physically forming a circle.

**18** Menhirs (1994)

Monument to the shot (2001)

This is an unpolished stone erected vertically. It is the symbol of the male, the destination. It also recreates the rite of the wheel of time that rotates forever. This work can be seen from the Tower and the geometric shape that is observed is elliptical, although physically forming a circle.

## The Petroglyphs Of Pedra Do Altar/

The petroglyphs located in the Monte dos Bicos (Punta Herminia) were discovered and published by Santiago de la Iglesia in 1985. There are two outcrops: the Pedra do Altar and the Compass Stone or Pedra do Compás. Due to being located in the outside military zone, the Pedra do Altar is in poor condition from the impact of bullets.

They represent cruciform signs, in many cases by more or less circular figures, that at the beginning of the twentieth century were considered as representations of prehistoric stylized human figures. Since the middle of the 20th century these cruciform symbols were valued as jurisdictional boundaries of hunting and perhaps medieval grounds.



## Former Strongholds And Defensive Systems/

From the 9th century, Arab and Norman invasions caused a change of functionality of the Tower of Hercules which became a Watchtower of vigilance and strength. In the 16th century during the invasion of Sir Francis Drake , the tower was used as a defense. Starting from the 17th century the first works were performed to return it to its original purpose. In 1938 two cannons were mounted at the base of the tower. There were also military batteries at Punta Herminia, Praderas and Adormideras.

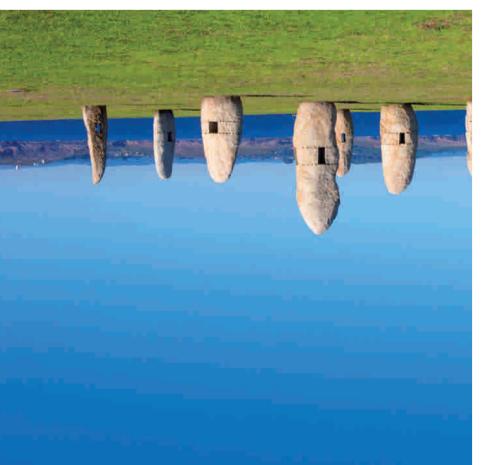
For the first of them, it was projected a set of four monolithic parts in 1931 though only one was received. It had in addition, an underground gallery and a covered gallery. At the end of the 1980's it was handed over to the City Council and in 1992 it proceeded to demolition.



The fauna in the area is composed mainly of seabirds, specifically the yellow-legged gull, the murre and the laughing gull. The first is sedentary and the other two largely travelling, here only in autumn and winter. You can also observe the presence of the European cormorant, which remains here year round and dives to the bottom of the sea to catch fish. As well, there is the Atlantic Gannet which predominates in October and November, and the auks and scoters that go flying in flocks off the westward tip.

Less easy to observe are the dolphins which swim in front of the mouth of the estuary at any time of the day. Basically we will find common dolphin and bottlenose dolphin. And with respect to the terrestrial birds, the local flora is a haven for some migratory species, such as the common buzzard and black redstart and common starling.

of many animals. The heath-to-gal galligo is a habitat that enjoys one of the highest levels of protection within the European legislation. You can also find alders in one of the few samples of river-side woodland remaining in the interior of A Coruña, and another typical flower of March or April, which is the yellow lily. Two other plants are at home here, the "herba of namorar" and the "pixiel of mar." The latter was used by sailors to combat scurvy.



# /recks In The Marine Environment f The Tower Of Hercules/

In May 1976, an oil tanker from the Persian Gulf, Urquiola ran aground in the Bay of Biscay near the Spanish coast at the mouth of the Nervion River. The ship was carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil. There was a fire that caused a great cloud of smoke. The captain died and it took 10 days to clean up the spill.

In December 1992, The Aegean Sea, a Greek merchant ship loaded with crude oil ran aground during the approach to the port and during the manoeuvre it shed 80,000 tons.

There are also remains of other shipwrecks. Noteworthy is the Rytterholm, a Norwegian merchant ship loaded with fertilizer, which also sank in 1976. The cook of the ship died by refusing to climb into the life boats.



## Geographic Locations That Can Be Seen From The Tower Of Hercules And Its Environment/

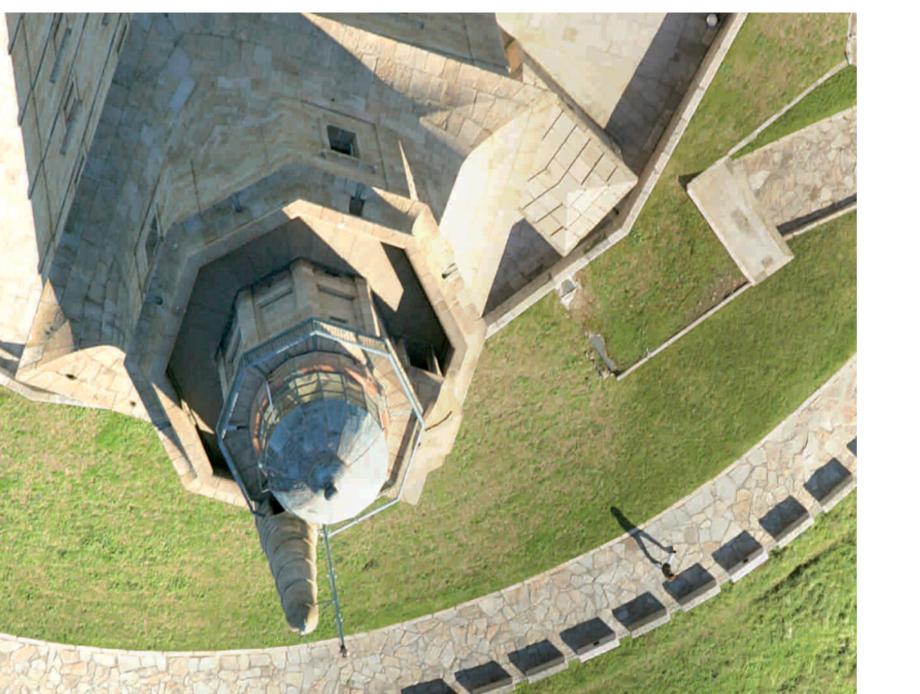
From the top of the Tower, which is 60 meters high, legend says that the coast of Ireland can be seen. Unfortunately, the curvature of the Earth makes it impossible, although it is facing exactly north.

This area of the city is very exposed to the fresh north and northeast winds and both are quite common and with moderate intensity. The experience of the rise to the lighthouse is splendid though.

The eastbound view between the lighthouse of Mera and the peninsula of the Tower shows the inflow channel to the estuary of A Coruña and the anchorage of Ares in the estuary of Betanzos. More to the northeast, is the outer port of Ferrol which is just at the entrance of the estuary.

On the other side looking to the West, one will see in the Southwest direction, the Aquarium of A Coruña and the Limpets Beach (Playa de las Lapas). Further on is Riazor Cove - the beach of the city.

More to the west is the Monte de San Pedro, a former military site.



## Historical Aspects Of The Environment Of The Tower Of Hercules

A Coruña

#corunarocks



Sculpture park of the  
Tower of Hercules/  
Eduardo Chillida Art Museum, San Sebastián

## 3 Experiences: Art, History & Nature/

In 1992 was the bicentennial celebration of the reconstruction of the Tower of Hercules, associating it with its most exceptional trait: the old operating lighthouse in the world. From 1992 onwards, The Tower of Hercules was transformed into a museum of the remains. At the time that project was the recovery of the environment. The main idea was construction of a real open-air museum with the creation of a protection area, with a suburban park, preserving the natural vegetation of the peninsula of the Tower, Punta Hermita, and a significant improvement of the infrastructure. Out of this venture arose the sculpture park demonstrated symbols of the mythology and legends associated with the Tower, as well as the rehabilitation of the Miro Cemetery.

It is a space where history, legend, art, nature and landscape go hand in hand allowing the citizens and tourists to observe not only the majestic Tower but the ocean and its impressive cliffs, while enjoying local fauna and flora.

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