

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 assistance and co-ordination: Reharq

Idea and technical management: Getxo Tourist Information Office

Please contact us for further information: 944 91 08 00 / [www.getxo.eus/info](http://www.getxo.eus/info)

**deapie** Self-guided tours of Getxo



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## The route

The trail takes you through the *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* [“Green Valleys, Red Hills”] trilogy and other novels by Ramiro Pinilla. Along the way you will see the reasons behind the name, with the green valleys washed by the sea and the landscape tinged with red.



You will visit the places where Pinilla set his literary world, such as Arrigunaga Beach and La Venta. And you will fall in love (or perhaps not) with the characters that inhabit his Getxo and give such life to his stories: the Baskardos of Sugarkoa, Don Manuel, Roque, the Marquess of Oiaindia, Ella, etc. These are characters who crop up in more than one novel and shape the world created by Pinilla.

If you are familiar with his books you will be struck by flashes of recognition along the trail. If not, then let Deapie give you a full-on introduction to his literary world.

**“The place where this tale takes place exists, and its name is Getxo.”**

*La tierra convulsa*



## Did you know...

**oh, recuerda.** Years later, Pinilla returned to them and expanded their back-story in *Andanzas de Txiki Baskardo*.

### The legend of the great log

The neighbourhood of San Baskardo is the setting for the legend of the great log. It was found by Etxe on Arrigunaga beach, dragged up to La Campa del Roble by Larreko's oxen and turned into a serving counter by Ermo when he had the idea of changing for his txakoli wine. Then Ermo himself built the La Venta inn around it. This inn features prominently in Pinilla's novels.

### The secret of the coastal cemeteries

Pinilla was cremated, but if he had been buried as he imagined in his books his body would not have remained in the Nuestra Señora del Carmen cemetery. He invented the legend that the graves opened up from below so that the bodies sank down to the waves, back to the sea that all life came from. (This legend appears in his short story *Recuerda, oh, recuerda* and in *El cementerio vacío*).

P.S. If you wish to explore this trail in more detail, Deapie recommends the book *Getxo, Territorio Pinilla* by Gustavo Idurraga.

## Interesting facts

### The Algorta Writers' Workshop (1978-)

For many years Pinilla published very little, but during that time he was involved in social projects aimed at passing on his passion for writing. In 1978 he set up a writers' workshop, which is still active today. For a time it met at the now defunct Antares bookshop, which appears in his novels as the Beltza, run by Sanchu, the protagonist of three detective novels.

### La higuera: a novel, a tree in tribute and a film

Pinilla used La Cadena as the setting for the home of the schoolteacher Miss Mercedes, the narrator of the introduction and epilogue of *La Higuera*. The action of the novel is set mainly at what is now the Julio Caro Baroja High School. This led the school to plant two fig trees in its grounds in tribute to the author and his work. Film director Ana Murrugarren filmed the novel under the title *La higuera de los Bastardos* (2017).

### Andra Mari, known as Sugarkoa in Pinilla's books

When Pinilla came to live in Getxo he moved into the neighbourhood of Andra Mari, which inspired him to imagine a territory called Sugarkoa whose inhabitants clung to the old ways of doing things. The Baskardos of Sugarkoa are a clan who have not evolved. They believe that inventions such as fire, technology and iron put constraints on freedom, and that religion and leaders do the same. The Baskardos first appear in *Recuerda,*

## The dignitary










### Ramiro Pinilla (1923 - 2014)



Although described as being from Getxo, Ramiro Pinilla was actually born in Bilbao. Up to the age of 13 he spent his summers in a farmhouse above Getxo's Arrigunaga Beach. He was so captivated by the area that in *Andanzas de Txiki Baskardo from these waves*, he moved to Getxo when he was 35. Shortly afterwards he obtained widespread recognition for the first time when his novel *Las ciegas hormigas* won the Premio Nadal award in 1960 and the Premio de la Crítica in 1961. It was not until 2004 that Tusquets published his renowned trilogy and literary testament *Verdes valles, colinas rojas*. Its three volumes were *La tierra convulsa*, *Los cuerpos desnudos* and *Las cenizas del hierro*. This monumental work earned him further literary awards such as the Crítica, the Euskadi and the National Award for Literature. In 2014, speaking from the hospital bed where he spent his last days, he said how happy he was that he had worked out a good ending for a tough chapter in the novel that he was currently writing. Ramiro Pinilla lived out his passion for writing until the very end.

There are as many Getxos as there are locals and visitors. The most fantastic of them is perhaps that which local author Ramiro Pinilla masterfully portrayed in his books. Deapie welcomes you to the Pinilla literary trail: a journey that hinges between imagination and reality and interconnects with various stops on other trails.


**OVERALL DISTANCE:** 6000 m.  
**WALKING TIME:** 75 min.  
**SELF-GUIDED WALKING TIME\*1:** 135 min.  
**DIFFICULTY:** Average.  
**ACCESSIBLE:** In part\*2.  
**CALORIES\*3:** 360.  
**START:** San Nicolás square.  
**END:** The Punta Begoña galleries.


- \*1. Includes walking time with optimal stopping time at each point of interest and a 15 minute break to sit on a bench by the graveside.
- \*2. Taking the lift as an alternative to walking up the steps at the Old Port. The Old Port area includes steps and steep slopes.
- \*3. Average for an adult. Personalise your calorie count:  $0,029 \times \text{body weight in kg} \times 2,2 \times \text{n}^\circ \text{ of minutes walking} = \text{approx. n}^\circ \text{ of calories burned}$ .


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


- 1 San Nicolás square** —  *San Nicolás square*  
The San Nicolás Library contains all Ramiro Pinilla's books and a complete, bound collection of *Galea*, the local newspaper which he set up and promoted, on which many journalists and essayists cut their teeth.
- 2 Avenida de Algorta, 69** —  *Name in books: Beltza*  
It was at this location, now occupied by a shop, that Pinilla set the Beltza bookshop, run by young book-lover Sancho Bordaberry in *Solo un muerto más*.
- 3 La Cadena** —  *Sarrikobaso, 1*  
There used to be a level crossing on this spot, known as La Cadena (which translates as "the chain"), which Pinilla featured in *Verdes valles, colinas rojas*: "Back in the day there was a chain to which countrywomen would hitch their donkeys by the main road through Algorta..."
- 4 Cruce de Venancios**  
—  *End of Calle Sarrikobaso. Name in books: Cruce de Laparkobaso*  
This crossroads is where *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* begins, at the stately home of the Marquess of Oiaindia.
- 5 Former Getxo station** —  *Maidagan, 30 - no longer standing*  
It was in a house on this spot that footballer Souto Menaya, the central character of *Aquella edad inolvidable*, was born. Pinilla dedicated


this book, which won the Premio Euskadi award in 2013, to football in general and to his beloved Athletic in particular.

**6 La Venta** —  *Avenida del Ángel, 49*  
"The legend says that Ermo's eyes shone brighter than ever (...) and he set to digging a trench around the counter to build walls. An inn, then". The *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* trilogy.


**7 Chapel of El Ángel de la Guarda** —  *Maidagan, s/n*  
"(...) That box-like chapel, little more than a shed, built at the foot of the great oak in whose boughs Totacoxe said she saw an angel when she was a girl, so that it was known ever after as the Chapel of the Angel". The *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* trilogy.

**8 Church of Andra Mari**  
—  *Maidagan, s/n. Name in books: Church of San Baskardo*  
The surrounding area is the territory of the Baskardos of Sugarkea in *La tierra convulsa* (part of the *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* trilogy) and other works by Pinilla.


**9 Cemetery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen** —  *Bostgarrena, s/n*  
"Did no-one ever tell you the tale of the coastal cemeteries that are emptied from below?" (See more in Curiosities), *El cementerio vacío*.

**10 Arrigunaga fields** —  *Altube*  
This area was the site of the Arrune farmstead, where Pinilla spent his summers as a child. All that remains of it now is a fig tree. This is the setting for the novel *Las ciegas hormigas*.

**11 Arrigunaga beach**  
"Almost all the stories that I have written have been inspired by this beach, which is the centre of both my real world and the world of my imagination." Arrigunaga Beach appears in all his novels.

**12 Cuatro Caminos** —  *The junction of Calle San Nicolás, Calle Andrés Cortina, Bajada de Arrigunaga and Calle San Martín*  
It was at this junction that Pinilla "felt the wind on his face" when he got to Getxo every summer. He set the home of Don Manuel here, and just up the road the school where he and Miss Mercedes taught. The tale of their relationship is told in his short novel *Quince Años*.

**13 The Old Port**  
Pinilla's books feature three characters who lived in the Old Port: Benito Muro and his wife Cipriana from *La higuera* and Koldobike from *Solo un muerto más*.




**14 The Punta Begoña galleries** —  *Muelle de Ereaga, 6. Name in books: Palacio Galeón*  
It was on these galleries that Pinilla based the Palacio Galeón mansion, to which Ella moves when she leaves the old house by the junction at Laparkobaso. In *Los cuerpos desnudos*, Aurelio Altube reveals some of the secrets of life there.



RAMIRO PINILLA

## Would you like to know more?

Deapie can tell you more about the history of Getxo in a fun but accurate way via its cultural tours centred on local personalities. There are 13 more trails available. The closest ones are:

-  **Pedro Bilbao**  
- A bracing route along the coastline from Ereaga to Arrigunaga.  
- Starting point just 5 minutes away.
-  **Horacio Echevarrieta**  
- Getxo from the viewpoint of a businessman and industrialist.  
- Starting point just 7 minutes away.
-  **Juana Bizcarra**  
- A trail focused on the people who breathed life into the garden city of Ondategi.  
- Starting point just 11 minutes away.

## Continue discovering Getxo with deapie!

