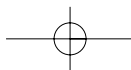
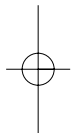
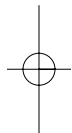
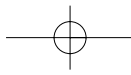


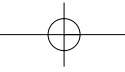
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Galicia has a wealth of heritage spread throughout the whole region: the historic centres of Galician towns, numerous as a result of the type of settlement the autonomous community has had throughout its history, but which are still little known. We refer to a population that is highly over a territory that required small local centres, market towns that provided the products which could not be obtained from agriculture alone, or which served as focal points for the sale of products obtained from the sea and farming. These small urban centres gradually became richer thanks to their position as centres for services and the administration, as well as being the place of residence of the wealthier classes and the most influential institutions such as the church and local government. And so, over the centuries, they gradually acquired a rich heritage of monuments and stately buildings, mainly built in the centres of population.

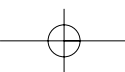
These are towns and cities that contain old quarters and noble districts with churches, monasteries, private homes, mansions and palaces, balconies and galleries; all places that take the visitor on a voyage through time back to their splendid past. Today they strive to come up to date with an attractive offer of cultural, coastal or rural tourism, depending on their location, blending their heritage and history with the great beauty of their surroundings. These are the finest locations for tourists to enjoy Galician culture, its art, and gain a firmer understanding of the history of a land deeply marked by the influence its cities have had on the territory.

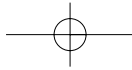


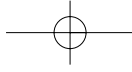
Furthermore, in recent years these towns and cities have improved their offer of hotels with attractive, unique accommodation, combined with rural tourism establishments, making them the perfect option for a stay that combines relaxation and sightseeing.

Art, culture and heritage are not the only appeal of Galicia's historic centres, as they also offer a lively social life and leisure activities, a rich, varied gastronomy and excellent nightlife, as they are usually the meeting point for young people from the surrounding areas. They are also essential reference points in terms of the festivals held throughout Galicia, as most offer events ranging from tastings of delicious regional products, to recreations of historic or legendary events that hark back to the founding or golden age of many of these small urban centres, as well as religious festivals or *romerías* when saints purported to perform miracles are carried in procession through the streets.

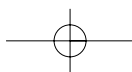
This publication includes old towns that have been declared as 'Historic and Artistic Centres' (spaces that include a closely knit series of important heritage elements that are also representative of a human community and its culture), or which have been declared as 'Integral Rehabilitation Areas', places where the public authorities have set their sights firmly on rehabilitating, recovering and presenting to the public all of their rich heritage, as well as recovering their customs and traditions.

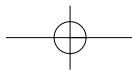






historic centres





6
historic
centres

ALLARIZ



Vilanova Bridge

DISCOVER

The Jewish Quarter: Founded in the thirteenth century outside the town walls in the Socastelo neighbourhood, which contained an important mediaeval Jewish quarter.

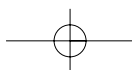
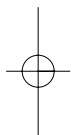
Campo da Barreira: a wide open space surrounded to the north by the town's mediaeval walls; in the centre there is a beautiful **Baroque fountain**, designed by Ferro Caaveiro, and on one side is the **Royal Convent of Santa. Clara**. This nunnery was founded in 1268 by Doña Violante, the wife of King Alfonso X 'The Wise'. The current building dates from the eighteenth century and contains an important museum of religious art, including a triptych of the Virgin Mary carved in ivory. It has the largest cloister in all of Spain. In this area, which is also used for the town's fortnightly fair, visitors may admire the **Church of San Bieito**, built in the eighteenth century with a fine slender tower and belfry.

'Aser Seara' Iconographic Museum: In Castelao Street. Contains an interesting collection of religious art with Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque images.

Vicente Risco House and Museum: in San Lourenzo Street. Contains the library and office of the renowned Galician writer, as well as documents, drawings and other objects related to his life.

Bridge and Church of Santa María de Vilanova: both built in the twelfth century, a beautiful group of Romanesque constructions reached at the end of the Paseo do Arnado promenade.

Penedo da Vela and castle: once the location of now-vanished castle overlooking the town, a perfect lookout point over the town and the banks of the river. It also offers an excellent panoramic view over the church of Santiago, one of the finest examples of Galician popular Romanesque style in the main square or *Praza Maior* and its surroundings, including the **palace of the Courts of Law** in Portelo Street (which today contains the Toy Museum, with pieces dating from the early twentieth century up to the 1960's), and the **Tower House of Castro Oxea** (with a sixteenth century tower and manor house or pazo dating from the eighteenth century). Further south is the **Church of San Pedro** (a Romanesque structure from the late twelfth century) and to the east the **Church of Santo Estevo** (built in the twelfth century with reforms from the sixteenth), which includes three mediaeval tombs.



ALLARIZ

ALLARIZ IS A MEDIAEVAL JEWEL SET IN A BEND OF THE RIVER ARNOIA WHICH HAS GRACEFULLY CONSERVED ALL OF THE LEGACY ENTRUSTED TO IT. THE TOWN HAS BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE POWER OF THE CROWN SINCE ITS ORIGINS, AS ITS NAME COMES FROM THE SUEVI KING ALARIC, WHO REPOPULATED THESE LANDS IN THE SIXTH CENTURY, AND WAS CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM OF GALICIA SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES, AS WELL AS A SEAT OF THE COURT OF CASTILE. ITS CENTRE ONCE PLAYED HOST TO THE 'LITERARY COURT', CREATED BY KING ALFONSO X THE WISE WHO WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE TOWN, WHICH COMPILED THE LITERARY WORK KNOWN AS THE "CANTIGAS DE SANTA MARÍA". UNDER KING SANCHO IV IT WAS AWARDED THE TITLE OF 'CHAVE DO REINO DE GALICIA' ('KEY TO THE KINGDOM OF GALICIA').

ITS SPLENDOUR WANED AS ROYAL POWER LEFT GALICIA AS THE RECONQUEST ADVANCED SOUTHWARDS. HOWEVER, THE LEGACY OF THAT TIME HAS NOW BEEN PASSED DOWN TO US TODAY VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED IN A TOWN THAT HAS THE SOUL OF A CITY, A PIONEER IN WORK TO PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE ITS HERITAGE, RECOGNISED BY RECEIVING THE EUROPEAN TOWN PLANNING AWARD, INCLUDED IN THE UNITED NATIONS' CATALOGUE OF GOOD WORKING PRACTICES AND DECLARED AS A BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN 2005 TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNCILS IN THE DISTRICT.

A WALK AROUND THE TOWN REVEALS ITS RICH PERSONALITY: A PERFECT BLEND OF RELIGIOUS, CIVIL AND MILITARY ARCHITECTURE, SURROUNDED BY THE DELIGHTFUL LANDSCAPE OF THE BANKS OF THE RIVER ARNOIA. THE LEISURE AND FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES ON OFFER IN THE TOWN WILL SHORTLY BE ADDED TO BY THE SENSORY PLEASURES PROVIDED BY THE 'THERMAL CIRCUITS' AVAILABLE AT THE SPA CURRENTLY BEING BUILT.



Church of Santiago. Main Square



Ethnographic Park



Aerial view

A UNIQUE TOWN

Visitors to Allariz should not miss the recuperated **banks of the River Arnoia**, which include the leafy walkway alongside the river, an excellent ethnographic park that brings back to life a series of arts and traditions from the world of crafts and agriculture. It comprises three main sections: the **Muíño do Burato** mill, the **'O Fiadeiro' Fabric Museum** and the **Leather Museum**, located in the former tannery of the Nogueira family, which includes a cafeteria and restaurant. A wooden footbridge connects both banks of the river and provides easy access to all of these different locations. The restoration project for the riverbank and its heritage led to the town receiving the **European Town Planning Award in 1994**.

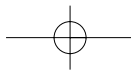
DON'T MISS

Festa do Boi (Ox Festival): held during **Corpus Christi** (usually in June, although without a fixed date as it falls sixty days after Easter). An ox is released in the town, tied with a rope and controlled by several men with a *guillada* (staff), in memory of the legendary attack made by Xoán de Arzúa, mounted on a bull, against Jews who were teasing the Christians during the Corpus procession. Declared an event of tourist interest.

Pastry, almond cake and melindre (fritter) Fair: celebrating the traditional pastries of Allariz during the **first fortnight in September**.

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TEL: 988 442 008
WWW.ALLARIZ.COM





8
historic
centres

BAIONA



Beach and view of Monterreal



DISCOVER

Collegiate Church of Santa María, dating from the thirteenth century. It is fortified and was built in the style of the transition between the Romanesque and Gothic period, with sombre, elegant lines befitting of the Cistercian order. The same square also features the **Church of Santa Liberata**, paid for by public subscription in the seventeenth century, with a simple Baroque façade as its main feature, with a niche containing a sculpture of the saint. Nearby is the **Casa da Cultura** (dating from the sixteenth century), **the former Hospital do Sancti Spiritu**, which once sheltered the areas poor and homeless.

The Convent of the Madres Dominicanas, built in the sixteenth century on the outskirts of the old town, simple and with a charming church that includes a beautiful altar in exuberant 'Plateresque' style.

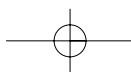
A walk through the historic centre reveals impressive *pazos* or manor houses, such as that of the **Correa** family (from the eighteenth century), now the town hall, with a tall tower, coats of arms and beautiful balconies; the **Casa Ceta (or Casa do Perdón)** from the fourteenth century; the **Casa Mendoza (or Casa do Deán)** with arched walkways beneath (from the eighteenth century) and a superb Baroque façade, or the **Casa de Salgado** (from the seventeenth century).

The fifteenth century **Gothic cruceiro da Trindade** (roadside cross) is built on a rocky outcrop in the high part of the town. It is one of the few examples in Galicia covered with a 'baldachin', or canopy, with a pyramid-shaped Renaissance cupola.

The fortress of Monte Real is highly evocative of times long past, with its walls (dating from the eleventh to seventeenth centuries) and its mediaeval towers: the Reloxo, the Tenaza and the Príncipe Cativo. The walls are ideal for a pleasant stroll around the area, known as the Monte Boi Promenade, offering perfect views over the whole of Galicia's southern coastline, and of course the town of Baiona. It also has a fantastic tourist complex, which includes a state-run *Parador* hotel, a shellfish restaurant and yacht club.

The Caravelle Pinta Museum: the quay situated along the Elduayen promenade plays host to an exact replica of the caravelle *Pinta* that made landfall at this point, making it the first town in Europe to receive news of the discovery of America. Its interior offers a reproduction of what daily life was like at the time, with displays of the crew who travelled aboard the vessel.

The Virxe da Rocha: a granite monument built on the rocks of Mount Sansón. A work by the Galician architect Antonio Palacios (1930), fifteen metres high and representing the Virgin Mary, who holds a boat in her right hand that serves as a lookout point, reached by an internal spiral staircase. The statue's face and hands are in white marble, and its crown is made of porcelain.



BAIONA

THIS BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS SET IN A QUIET BAY BETWEEN MONTE REAL AND MONTEFERRO. ITS IDEAL SITUATION AS A NATURAL PORT MEANT IT WAS A MUCH LARGER TOWN THAN VIGO UNTIL THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, WITH GREAT FREEDOM OF COMMERCE THANKS TO ROYAL CONCESSIONS AND ITS STATUS OF ROYAL PATRONAGE, SHOWN BY ITS FULL NAME, BAIONA A REAL, OR ROYAL BAIONA. THIS PRESTIGIOUS HISTORY EXPLAINS WHY IT WAS THE FIRST PLACE WHERE MARTÍN ALONSO PINZÓN MADE LANDFALL AFTER RETURNING FROM THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

THE ECHOES OF THIS GLORIOUS PERIOD ARE FOUND IN THE LAYOUT OF ITS HISTORIC CENTRE, WITH MANOR HOUSES AND FISHERMEN'S HOUSES WITH COVERED WALKWAYS OF GREAT AESTHETIC VALUE, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF CHURCHES AND THE FORTRESS OF MONTERREAL. THE MEDIAEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS WERE UNSETTLED TIMES FOR THE TOWN, OFTEN BESIEGED BY INVADERS SEEKING TO ROB IT OF ITS RICHES, ALTHOUGH LITTLE BY LITTLE IT TURNED TO FISHING AND THE GATHERING OF SHELLFISH, GIVING IT A THOROUGHLY MARITIME AIR.

TODAY THE TOWN HAS ENJOYED SEVERAL DECADES AS AN IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR QUALITY TOURISM IN THE SOUTH OF GALICIA, WITH RESOURCES AS ATTRACTIVE AS ITS MAGNIFICENT BEACH, ITS PRESTIGIOUS YACHT CLUB AND MARINA, THE WELL-PRESERVED OLD TOWN AND THE LUXURIOUS STATE-RUN PARADOR HOTEL OF MONTERREAL. THALASSOTHERAPY IS AN ATTRACTIVE LEISURE OPTION IN BAIONA, WITH A CENTRE OFFERING THE TREATMENT IN THE NEIGHBOURING COUNCIL OF OIA.



Pazo de Mendoza



Town Hall



Festa da Arribada

A UNIQUE TOWN

Baiona is the perfect place to enter into contact with nature in its purest state, and nearby are the **Cíes Islands**. The three islands, situated at the entrance to the Estuary of Vigo, and quite close to the town, for part of the **Illas Atlánticas National Park**. They have a campsite, and regular ferry service during the summer months taking tourists to the archipelago, with several crossings throughout the day, although it is important to bear in mind that a limited number of visitors are permitted each day, and reservations should be made well in advance. It is a perfect location to enjoy natural surroundings on glorious unspoilt beaches. **They offer a wonderful landscape**, and a wealth of fauna (especially sea birds) and flora.

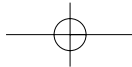
DON'T MISS

The Festa da Arribada ('Arrival' Festival): **The first of March** commemorates the arrival of the caravelle Pinta in the town. A festival and mediaeval fair are held in the old town, with local inhabitants wearing period costume. Theatrical representations of the event are performed on the beach. Declared a Festival of Tourist Interest.

Walnut and honey market: held on the **26 and 27 of September**, coinciding with the *romería* or festival of San Cosme and San Damián, in the Santa Liberata square, where other agricultural products are sold in a very typical setting.

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10
historic
centres

BETANZOS



Aerial view

DISCOVER

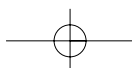
The **square of Irmáns García Naveira** is the perfect spot to begin a visit of Betanzos. Presided over by the splendid **fountain of Diana** in bronze, dating from the nineteenth century in Versailles style, it is surrounded by a series of monumental buildings constructed between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries: the **convent of San Domingos**, which includes the **Mariñas Museum**, with a fine collection of paintings, Roman and mediaeval tombs and a section dedicated to traditional Galician dress; the **Archive of the Kingdom of Galicia** and the **Municipal Library or Colexio de Orfás** (School for Orphans).

Entering the old town, we should then visit another two squares: the square of **A Constitución** and the square of **Fernán Pérez de Andrade, 'o Bo'**. The first includes the impressive **Town Hall** in Neo-Classic style and the **municipal clock tower**, next to one of the three apses of the Ogival-style **church of Santiago** (from the fourteenth century), close to which are the **Pazo de Lanzós** (eighteenth century), the Gothic **Pazo de Bendaña** (fifteenth century) and the **casa Núñez** in colonial style. In the second square we find the two most unique and important

buildings in Betanzos: the Gothic churches of **Santa María do Azougue** and **San Francisco**, at either end of the square, with a stone roadside cross between them. The most interesting feature of the Church of Santa María is the façade, with a beautiful rose window and a doorway with numerous archivolts and a tympanum with a representation of the Epiphany and the Annunciation. Inside it has three naves and a wooden ceiling; it features an excellent Flemish altarpiece with fourteen carvings of great artistic value. The church of San Francisco is recognised as the finest Galician example of the mendicant Gothic style (from the fourteenth century), with the **tomb** of its sponsor, **Fernán Pérez de Andrade**, resting on a bear and a boar, animals that symbolised the lineage of his family. The beautiful main chapel, polygonal in shape, has a representation of Judgement Day, with the peculiar feature of an angel playing the bagpipes instead of the usual horn.

Walls: these once surrounded the historic centre, and are mediaeval, dating from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. They still conserve several of the gateways leading in to the city.

Apart from visiting these monuments, a stroll around the streets of the old town of Betanzos is highly recommended, which offers a wealth of heritage thanks to the large number of stately buildings it contains.



BETANZOS

BETANZOS CONSERVES ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SPECTACULAR MONUMENTAL CENTRES IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY, FLANKED BY THE RIVERS MANDEO AND MENDO RIVERS, AT THE FOOT OF THE ESTUARY THAT BEARS THE CITY'S NAME. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE ANCIENT PROVINCES OF THE KINGDOM OF GALICIA, AND WAS EVEN THE REGION'S CAPITAL WHEN KING GARCÍA SET UP HIS COURT HERE BETWEEN 1065 AND 1071. IT ATTAINED GREAT SPLENDOUR IN THE MEDIAEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS, THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE AND ACTIVITY IN ITS PORT, LEADING TO MANY NOBLE GALICIAN FAMILIES MOVING TO THE CITY, A TITLE IT HAS HELD SINCE THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY AND EARNING IT THE EPITHET OF 'DOS CABALEIROS' (OF THE KNIGHTS). ITS ORIGINS DATE BACK TO A HILL-FORT KNOWN AS UNCTIA SITUATED AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE CITY, TODAY OCCUPIED BY THE SQUARE OF A CONSTITUCIÓN, AROUND WHICH THE WHOLE OF THE URBAN AREA IS ORGANISED, WITH A NETWORK OF NARROW STREETS RADIATING OUTWARDS AND DOWNHILL TOWARDS THE LOWEST PART OF THE CITY, WHERE THE GATEWAYS OF THE WALLS ONCE STOOD.

THE HISTORIC CENTRE INCLUDES QUIET STREETS FLANKED BY STATELY HOUSES WITH TRADITIONAL BALCONIES AND GALLERIES.

THE FOCAL POINT OF LIFE IN THE CITY IS THE SQUARE OF IRMÁNS GARCIA NAVEIRA, RICH BENEFACTORS RETURNED FROM THE WEST INDIES, WITH A LIVELY ATMOSPHERE THAT ALSO PERMEATES THE NARROW ALLEYS THAT LEAD INTO THE SQUARE (FERRADORES, FONTE DE UNTIA AND POZO CAÑOTA), FULL OF FINE EXAMPLES OF POPULAR MEDIAEVAL ARCHITECTURE WITH ARCHED WALKWAYS, DOTTED WITH NUMEROUS TYPICAL TAVERNS AND BARS THAT MERIT A VISIT, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAVE A LAUREL BRANCH OVER THEIR DOOR, INDICATING THAT THEY SELL THE RARE BUT RICH, FRUITY WINE OF BETANZOS.



Mediaeval Fair



The O Pasatempo Park



Square of Irmãos García Naveira

A UNIQUE TOWN

The O Pasatempo Park is a place of fantasy, which the García Naveira brothers began to build in 1893, and represents a world of legend and imagination, with the 'Encyclopaedic Garden' in its centre, with mazes, canals, lookout points, fountains and 256 sculptures of Popes, Roman Emperors and even a small 'zoo' of stone animals. It was built with a certain air of popular education, although very much in line with the philanthropic and romantic idea of displaying elements of glorious past history and distant lands and cultures. It was recently restored and returned to its former glory, after becoming famous throughout Europe in the 1920's.

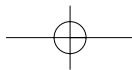
DON'T MISS

The Festas de San Roque and Santa María: held from the **14 to 25 of August**. They include the launch of the world's biggest paper balloon and the festival of the *Caneiros*, with boats travelling down the River Mandeo and then celebrating a huge outdoor picnic. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

Mediaeval Fair: held on the **second weekend in July**. The old town is transformed into a mediaeval city, with local residents and visitors dressed in period costume, with craftsmen, guilds and numerous theatrical presentations and music in the streets.

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12
historic
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CAMBADOS



The square and Pazo de Fefiñáns



DISCOVER

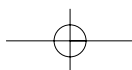
The best way of seeing the town is by walking through each of its original centres of population. Starting with Fefiñáns, here we find the different architectural elements dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that make up the **Pazo de Fefiñáns** or **Figueroa**, the Baroque **archway and bridge**, a lookout tower known as the **Torre da Homenaxe** or Homage Tower, and the **church of San Bieito**. The *pazo* or manor house is a beautiful structure inspired by Italian architecture. With coats of arms on all of its façades, it has two large circular balconies. The church has two Baroque bell towers and has a beautiful interior in Gothic style, with a splendid dome and several tombs. The same point also includes a structure rarely seen in Galicia: **the tidal mill of A Seca** (from the seventeenth century), today a museum with a display explaining how it worked.

In Cambados, reached through the tree-lined **Calzada promenade**, which includes the **monument dedicated to the poet Ramón Cabanillas**, we find the **Pazo dos Faxardo or dos Salgado** (dating from the seventeenth century), with coats of arms and fine proportions; the popular **casa das Cunchas**, decorated on the outside by scallop shells; or the **casa Fariña** (eighteenth century), as well as the **National Tourist Parador of Albariño**, which occupies the seventeenth-century **Pazo de Bazán**.

Finally we reach the fishermen's neighbourhood of San Tomé, with an equally rich variety of heritage elements. A walk down **Hospital Street** is necessary, the entry point from the centre of Cambados, which includes the **Pazo de Molto**, the former

Royal Hospital dating from the sixteenth century for plague victims. Here we also find the Baroque **Hospital chapels**, and the church of **Santa Margarita**, with a *cruceiro* or roadside cross alongside its façade. Towering above the rest of the monuments in this neighbourhood is the impressive eighteenth-century **Pazo de Montesacro**, together with the **chapel of A Valvanera**, situated on a small hill overlooking the sea. It has a stately stairway leading up to it, and a façade highly influenced by the Compostelan Baroque style. The chapel dates from the same time as the manor house. Also in San Tomé, on a small island, are the ruins of the **tower of San Sadurniño**, built in the High Middle Ages and reformed in the twelfth century, which once served as a lighthouse and lookout tower against invasions from the sea, and was finally abandoned in the eighteenth century.

A visit to the **Ethnographic Museum of Wine** is highly recommended. Located in the avenue of A Pastora, it offers visitors a tour of the history, art, geography and popular culture related to wine. The city has another museum related to wine, the **'Pazo Torrado' Wine Routes Museum**, in Príncipe Street. Nor should we overlook a visit to the **House and Museum of Ramón Cabanillas** in Fefiñáns, which includes items from the daily life and work of this illustrious writer, born in Cambados; or the **Fisherman's House and Museum** in the poplar-lined walkway or alameda of San Tomé, connected with the world of the sea and fishing. In the **Exposalnés Regional Centre**, in the *Casa da Calzada*, an old building now rebuilt with a modern annex, there is an exhibition of resources from the region.



CAMBADOS

THE TOWN OF CAMBADOS ENJOYS A PRIVILEGED LOCATION IN THE VALLEY OF O SALNÉS, AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER UMIA, ON THE SHORES OF THE ESTUARY OF AROUSA, WITH A LOW, SANDY COASTLINE PROTECTED FROM THE PREVAILING WINDS FROM THE SOUTH WEST. ITS TOWN CENTRE, WITH A WEALTH OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, IS THE RESULT OF THE CONTEMPORARY COMBINATION OF THREE FORMERLY INDEPENDENT HISTORIC TOWNS: SAN TOMÉ, THE OLDEST AREA, A FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE WITH A BEAUTIFUL PORT; CAMBADOS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, WHICH TODAY CONTAINS THE NATIONAL TOURISM PARADOR; AND FEIÑÁNS, ONCE AN ARISTOCRATIC DISTRICT AND CENTRE OF COMMERCE.

THE WEALTH AND BEAUTY OF THE CITY AS A WHOLE IS DEFINED IN A POPULAR SAYING, WHICH STATES THAT THE DEVIL APPEARED BEFORE JESUS AS HE FASTED IN THE WILDERNESS FOR FORTY DAYS, TEMPTING HIM BY SAYING 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE WHOLE WORLD, EXCEPT FEIÑÁNS, CAMBADOS AND SAN TOMÉ'. IN FACT, THESE THREE CENTRES OF POPULATION ARE A POINT OF REFERENCE IN THE REGION'S WINE PRODUCING SECTOR, AND THE CITY IS RECOGNISED AS THE CAPITAL OF ALBARIÑO WINE; IT ALSO HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF SHELLFISH GATHERERS WHO MAKE A HEALTHY PROFIT FROM THEIR CATCH.

A WALK THROUGH THE CITY, HOME TO GREAT WRITERS AND ARTISTS SUCH AS RAMÓN CABANILLAS, OR THE SCULPTORS ASOREY AND LEIRO, ALLOWS VISITORS TO ENJOY THE NOBLE, SEAFARING AIR IT STILL RETAINS, AT THE SAME TIME AS DISCOVERING A WIDE RANGE OF MANOR HOUSES AND PRIVATE HOMES WITH THE TYPICAL PATÍN (A PATIO WITH AN OUTSIDE STAIRCASE CONNECTED TO THE HOUSE), FOUND IN ITS STREETS AND SQUARES. SPA TOURISM IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED IN THE REGION OF O SALNÉS, WITH FIVE ESTABLISHMENTS NEAR CAMBADOS IN THE COUNCIL OF SANXENXO, AND THREE HEALTH RESORTS AND A SPA IN THE COUNCIL OF O GROVE, AN EXCELLENT OPTION FOR LEISURE AND RELAXATION FOR VISITORS.



Aerial view



Wine cellar

A UNIQUE TOWN

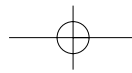
There is a tremendously evocative location in the city that should be visited by all those who love monuments with a romantic air; the ruins of the church of **Santa Mariña de Dozo**, built in the sixteenth century in late Ogival style, with its backbone of four semi-circular arches that stretch along the remains of the roofless nave. The carvings on its capitals foretell what awaits us if we lead a life free from vice and sin. The romantic atmosphere is further heightened by the graveyard built into the floor of the nave.

DON'T MISS

During the **first week of August**, Galicia's oldest gastronomic fair is held, one of the most important in all of Spain: the **Festa do Viño Albariño**, first held in 1953. On the day of the festival, a series of stands specially decked out for the occasion serve their wines at special prices, all from the 'Rías Baixas' Protected Geographical Indication, accompanied by traditional *empanadas* (a type of pie with different flavoured fillings), mussels, peppers, clams and other products from the sea and farm. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. PRAZA DO CONCELLO, s/n.
TEL.: 986 520 786.
WWW.CAMBADOS.ES





14
historic
centres

CANGAS



Marina

DISCOVER **The sixteenth-century collegiate church of Santiago de Cangas:**

with a well-proportioned Renaissance façade and interesting Baroque altarpieces inside. It contains the so-called *Cristo Vello* or Old Christ, an apparently miraculous carving that survived a fire in 1617, when Turkish pirates attacked the town.

The Arco Square, once the gateway into the town, is an interesting location thanks to the unique style of its buildings and its history, as it once contained a small Jewish quarter. Nearby is **Real Street**, an interesting area with a large number of noble houses with coats of arms dating from the eighteenth century, with other wealthy homes in granite with galleries on their façades dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The magnificent **town beach of Rodeira** is also well worth a visit, with a charming seafront promenade perfect for strolling.

The most characteristic and traditional feature of Cangas is the ancient heart of its historic centre, the **Eirado do Costal**, full of steep, winding streets that conceal numerous beautiful houses with patios, once fishermen's homes, alongside other types of village houses and others with overhanging attics or with shared walls. Once curious feature is the presence of a *hórreo* or granary, built on top of a wall. Also well worth a visit is the **Síngulis Square**, watched over by a majestic Baroque *cruceiro* or roadside cross, with a splendid group of houses with patios in well-preserved, traditional surroundings that seem to take us back to a bygone age.



CANGAS

SOME HAVE SAID THAT CANGAS FIRST APPEARED AS A GREEK COLONY: TRUE OR NOT, NOBODY DOUBTS ITS ANCIENT ORIGINS. ITS COASTAL POSITION AND RESOURCES MADE CANGAS A JEALOUSLY SOUGHT AFTER PRIZE, AND IT WAS PILLAGED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY THE MOORS (IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY) AND THE TURKS (IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY). THIS LAST ATTACK HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE TOWN, AS NEARLY ALL OF ITS MENFOLK WERE KILLED OR CAPTURED, WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF WOMEN WHO HAD LOST EVERYTHING BECOMING INSANE AS A RESULT.

RUMOURS THAT THEY HAD BECOME POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL SOON LED TO THE INQUISITION TAKING CHARGE, BURNING SEVERAL OF THEM AT THE STAKE AS WITCHES, AS WAS THE CASE WITH MARIA SOLIÑA, WHOSE PRAISES WERE SUNG IN A VERSE BY CELSO EMILIO FERREIRO: 'BAIXO OS TELLADOS DE CANGAS ANDA UN TERROR DE AUGA FRÍA: AI QUE SOLIÑA QUEDACHES, MARIA SOLIÑA' (BENEATH THE ROOFS OF CANGAS LURKS A TERROR FROM COLD WATERS: HOW LONELY YOU BECAME, MARIA SOLIÑA).

SINCE MEDIAEVAL TIMES, CANGAS HAS BEEN A LIVELY FISHING PORT, WHALING PORT (THE REASON FOR THE LASTING POPULARITY OF RACING *TRAINEIRAS* OR NARROW WHALING BOATS), AND A CENTRE OF COMMERCE IN SALTED AND SMOKED FISH, EXPORTED TO THE WHOLE OF EUROPE, A FUNCTION IT STILL RETAINS TO THIS DAY AND GIVE THE TOWN ITS JAUNTY CHARACTER, ADDED TO IN RECENT YEARS BY A CONSIDERABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ITS TOURIST SECTOR AS A RESULT OF ITS FINE RESOURCES, ITS SPLENDID BEACHES, AND ITS EXCELLENT GASTRONOMY, BASED ON PRODUCE FROM THE SEA.



Old Collegiate Church of Santiago



Barra Beach



A UNIQUE TOWN

For the best view of Cangas, the best option is to visit the parish church of **San Salvador de Coiro**, close to the town, from where we have an excellent panoramic view of the whole area, the town and the Estuary of Vigo. Set in a natural landscape of great beauty, the church also has an attractive eighteenth-century bell tower of considerable size, which does not appear to have any relation with the rest of the building.

DON'T MISS

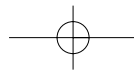
Holy Week in Cangas is one of the most famous in all Galicia. It has a series of traditional and very popular processions, including the 'Procession of Silence' on Good Friday. It has been declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

Two other highly popular festivals are held in the town, which combine religious and profane elements, sporting and gastronomic events, bringing it vibrantly to life. These are the **Festas de San Cristovo** at the **start of June**, and the **Festas do Cristo**, held on the **last Sunday in August**.

Ancestral Dances of Aldan, O Hío e Darbo: in the third week of January, an event is held to celebrate these dances, which date back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and which are of major cultural and ethnographic interest. Declared a Festival of Tourist Interest.

AUTONOMOUS TOURIST OFFICE. PASEO DE CASTELAO, s/n. TEL.: 986 392 023
O MUELLE MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. BUS STATION AND WATERFRONT STATION TEL.: 986 300 875.
WWW.CANGAS.ORG





CASTRO CALDELAS



The Castle

DISCOVER

The **fortress** is the most visible symbol of its history. Built in the fourteenth century, it is thought that a fortified structure from the hill-fort culture or late Roman period previously occupied the site. It was ruined in the Irmandiña Revolt in the fifteenth century, but then rebuilt. The layout of the fortress is adapted to the contours of the land, and it still conserves practically all of its walls, three square towers and the courtyard. The main gate has a semi-circular arch with two stone shields. To the right of the entrance is the **clock tower** with a semi-circular arch. The **Homage Tower** flanks the door on the opposite side, and is rectangular in shape. Inside the wall is the *Camiño de Ronda*, a walkway that connects with the governor's house and clock tower. Other interesting features include a well or circular cistern and a wooden corridor over the courtyard. The rooms around the courtyard include an interesting **museum of ethnography and popular culture** from Ourense, which also contains some archaeological remains.

The Church of A Virxe dos Remedios is a Renaissance church from the sixteenth century, but which underwent major reforms in the nineteenth century, with an exceptional lookout point in its vestibule. It has coats of arms next to the southern door, and is now used as the **Municipal Museum**.

The avenue of Ourense contains the **Terra de Caldelas Regional Centre**, which has a permanent exhibition of items of tourist interest, heritage and economic resources of the local council and the region, alongside temporary exhibitions on different themes (such as painting and photography).



CASTRO CALDELAS

CASTRO CALDELAS IS SITUATED IN THE RIBEIRA SACRA REGION, ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE BANKS OF THE RIVER EDO, WHICH HAS CARVED A DEEP VALLEY INTO THE LANDSCAPE. IT IS A TOWN OF SPLENDID WHITE GALLERIES AND FASCINATING STATELY HOMES EMBLAZONED WITH COATS OF ARMS, TESTIMONY TO ITS SPLENDOUR IN MEDIAEVAL TIMES. THE OLD QUARTER, TOWERING OVER THE REST OF THE TOWN AND CROWNED BY THE CASTLE OF THE COUNTS OF LEMOS, IS A COMPACT CLUSTER OF NARROW STREETS AND SQUARES WHERE THE HOUSES ARE OFTEN BUILT ON THE BARE ROCK. WHEN THE TOWN OUTGREW ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION, IT SPREAD OUT AROUND WHAT IS TODAY ITS MAIN SQUARE, KNOWN AS O PRADO.

SPECIAL MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF THE CARE THAT THE TOWN HAS TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLE IN ITS NEW HOUSES, WITH GLASS GALLERIES AND TYPICAL SLATE ROOFS. A VISIT TO O CASTRO DE CALDELAS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A TASTING OF THE RICH LOCAL GASTRONOMY, INCLUDING LOCALLY BRED VEAL, EXCELLENT BEEF, DRIED HAM FROM THE REGION, PRODUCED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES AND MUCH SOUGHT AFTER FOR ITS QUALITY, AS THE ANIMALS ARE FED ON CHESTNUTS, AND BICA, A TYPE OF SPONGE CAKE, AMONGST ITS PASTRIES.

THE TOWN SPRINGS INTO LIFE ON THE THIRD AND EIGHTEENTH OF EVERY MONTH, WHEN A CATTLE FAIR IS HELD, WITH TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS ALSO ON SALE TOGETHER WITH CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS, IN THE FAIRGROUND IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF O TOURAL.



Aerial view

Ethnographic museum

A UNIQUE TOWN

Castro Caldelas is an excellent starting point to explore the **Ribeira Sacra**, the valley of the River Sil that winds between granite outcrops offering spectacular views and shores lined with convents, local plant species and vines growing on carefully tended terraces that give a clear indication of how hard life is in these rural areas. The catamaran that navigates the River Sil as far as Santo Estevo can be boarded in Abeleda, close to the town, offering visitors the chance to enjoy one of Galicia's most attractive routes, with excellent views from the bottom of the valley over O Castro de Caldelas and its fortress.

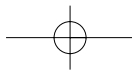
DON'T MISS

Festa dos Fachos: an ancient festival of pagan origin celebrated on **19 January** which features a procession with large torches made of burning straw, with the largest at the head of the procession measuring more than thirty metres in length. The torches are carried through the town by the menfolk to the castle of the Count of Lemos, and are then deposited in front of the parish church of Nosa Señora dos Remedios to form a large bonfire, around which they then dance and cavort. The local gastronomy is present as always, with revellers enjoying *chorizo* sausages roasted over the fire and wine from the Ribeira Sacra. A truly striking and very popular event.

Festa da Bica: During the **month of July** a festival is held in honour of this traditional sponge cake from the southern and eastern parts of Ourense.

TERRA DE CALDELAS REGIONAL CENTRE AVDA. DE OURENSE, S/N. TEL.: 988 204 603.
TOURIST INFORMATION POINT. RUA DO CASTELO, S/N. TEL.: 988 203 358.





CELANOVA



Monastery of San Salvador



DISCOVER

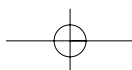
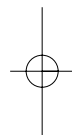
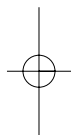
The Benedictine Monastery of San Salvador: dating from the tenth century, although much of what may be seen today is the result of reforms carried out in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The façade of the monastery takes up one side of the magnificent *Praza Maior* or town square, with a sixteenth-century **fountain** in its centre from the **Claustro das Procesiões** or Cloister of Processions, with popular legend telling that drinking from the spout that faces northwards will make you become insane. A curiosity is the alignment of the door to the monastery and the church, which normally form a right angle. For many, the church is the finest example of Galician Baroque architecture. Built in the seventeenth century by Melchor de Velasco, it is laid out in the shape of a Latin cross, with three naves in its longest section and one in the cross section. It features an exquisite **altarpiece** with four spiral columns carved by Castro Canseco, and two choirs: the higher of the two is late Ogival (from the sixteenth century), while the other dates from the eighteenth century, with an iconography that tells the life of San Bieito and San Rosendo. The monastery contains two cloisters: on one side, the seventeenth-century **Claustro Novo**, a cloister with sombre

lines and a curious balcony on wooden supports, known locally as o *poleiro*, while the other cloister, the sixteenth-century **Claustro das Procesiões** is more artistic, decorated with typical Renaissance medallions and corbels on the lower level, with gargoyles and filigree carvings above, dating from the eighteenth century. This cloister leads to one of the jewels of Spanish pre-Romanesque architecture, the **Oratory of San Miguel de Celanova**, a Mozarab structure from the tenth century, intact since the times of San Rosendo and dedicated to his brother Froila, according to an inscription on the outside of the building. It is small in size, but great harmony in its volumes.

Another unique element that should be visited in the town is the so-called **Casa dos Poetas** (House of the Poets), a museum dedicated to the great local writers, in the birthplace of Curros Enríquez.

Near the town is **Castromao**, a *castro* or hill-fort situated on a hillside with the remains of more than sixty circular and square dwellings, walls, terraces and part of a street paved with slate. It was inhabited until the second century AD, and was the capital of the tribe known as the Coelerniae.

The Sanctuary of A Virxe do Cristal: located half-way between Celanova and Vilanova dos Infantes, it is a Baroque building with a majestic Baroque 'baldachin' or canopy covering a curious image of the Virgin Mary, just five centimetres high and kept inside a glass cylinder.



CELANOVA

THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN – THE ROMAN COELIA NOVA – AND ALL OF THE SURROUNDING REGION IS CONNECTED TO THE FAMILY OF SAN ROSENDO AND THE CONVENT OF SAN SALVADOR, FOUNDED IN THE TENTH CENTURY BY THE SAINT, WHICH PRESIDES OVER THE TOWN AND IS ITS MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTION, AS WELL AS DEFINING THE TOWN'S DISTRIBUTION. SINCE ITS FOUNDATION, THE CONVENT RECEIVED NUMEROUS DONATIONS AND PRIVILEGES THAT MADE IT THE MOST IMPORTANT GALICIAN CONVENT IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY, WITH ITS AUTHORITY EXTENDING AS FAR AS THE REGIONS OF A LIMIA, MONTERREI AND O RIBEIRO.

THE TOWN HAS A COMPACT, WELL DISTRIBUTED OLD TOWN, WHERE VISITORS ARE RECOMMENDED TO STROLL THROUGH ITS QUIET STREETS (RÚA DE ARRIBA, DE ABAIXO, DA BOTICA), CONTAINING NUMEROUS HOUSES ADORNED WITH BALCONIES AND GALLERIES, AND ENJOY CORNERS WITH REAL LOCAL FLAVOUR, SUCH AS THE PRAZA DO MILLO OR DO MEDIODÍA, A SQUARE WITH COVERED WALKWAYS.

THE OLDEST HOUSES IN THE TOWN ARE VERY LOW, GIVING IT A CHARMING ATMOSPHERE; THE REASON FOR THIS LIES IN A PRIVILEGE GRANTED TO THE CONVENT THAT REMAINED VALID UNTIL 1920, WHEREBY NONE OF THE HOUSES IN THE TOWN COULD BE ANY HIGHER THAN THE CONVENT'S WINDOWS. CELANOVA IS ALSO RIGHTLY KNOWN AS THE 'TOWN OF THE POETS'; IT IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF LITERARY FIGURES OF THE STATURE OF CURROS ENRÍQUEZ, CELSO EMILIO FERREIRO AND XOSÉ LUIS MÉNDEZ FERRÍN.



Vilanova dos Infantes



The Alameda promenade



Church of the Monastery

A UNIQUE TOWN

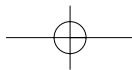
Celanova offers us the possibility of becoming submerged in the purest atmosphere of mediaeval times if we take a short walk of less than one kilometre to **Vilanova dos Infantes**, a beautiful neighbouring village that grew around the nunnery founded by the mother of San Rosendo. It conserves the mediaeval layout of its narrow streets that lead to the tower of the fourteenth century Castle, now transformed into a Regional Information Centre, which offers a sweeping view over the area. Legend tells that its name originates from eleven children who were all born in a single birth, although in reality the town was previously known as 'Vilanova das Infantas', as the nunnery received women from noble families and even a princess, or *Infanta*.

DON'T MISS

Festas da Encarnación. Festival held on the **first weekend in August**. Includes the *Ramallosa* or festival of the *Farois* or lanterns, a spectacular night-time procession that was originally a pagan celebration of Spring and Summer which was converted to a Christian festival. To heighten the effect, all of the town's street lights are turned off on the night of the first Saturday in August.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. MAIN SQUARE PRAZA MAIOR.1.
TEL: 988 432 201
WWW.TERRADECELANOVA.COM

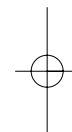




COMBARRO



View of the town



DISCOVER

The historic centre of Combarro stands out for its harmonious combination of popular Galician architecture, with traditional houses, granaries and roadside crosses. The present-day layout dates from the eighteenth century, and the houses are arranged in a neat series of lanes that branch out from the two main streets, the **Rúa** and street of **San Roque**, with their typical fishermen's cottages from the Rías Baixas, with single-storey arcades and patios, the best example of which is the house known as **A Xurunda**, with a fine design and excellent craftsmanship in its banisters that give it a stately appearance. Other beautiful examples of other styles are also found here, such as houses with passageways and curved ornamental supports or modillions, and working houses, with doors wide enough to allow carts to enter the ground floor. The houses have their façades facing inwards, with small allotments and fenced areas for chickens and other animals. These also contain most of the thirty stone granaries found in the town, known

here as *palleiras*, situated along the coast on low walls and lapped by waves at high tide. These granaries are still used to store corn, and are one of the most impressive groups of these structures in all Galicia. The village also includes a total of eight roadside crosses or *cruceiros*, some dating from the eighteenth century, such as the cross of San Roque, situated in the entrance of the Baroque parish church of the same name, and others located at crossroads or in the small squares found in the centre. Some include altars that are decorated for the traditional Corpus Christi procession.



COMBARRO (POIO)

SITUATED ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF THE ESTUARY OF PONTEVEDRA, THIS SMALL, HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE IS TRULY ORIGINAL, THANKS TO ITS PERFECT ADAPTATION TO THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS AND THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE OF ITS INHABITANTS, CREATING A UNIQUE SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND FISHING. COMBARRO IS ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL POPULAR ARCHITECTURE, WHICH COMBINED WITH ITS EXCELLENT STATE OF PRESERVATION HAS LED IT TO APPEAR IN NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS ABOUT GALICIA, AND TO BE ONE OF THE MOST VISITED AREAS IN ALL OF GALICIA, AIDED BY ITS CLOSENESS TO IMPORTANT TOURIST DESTINATIONS SUCH AS SANXENXO, O GROVE AND CAMBADOS.

THE TYPICAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE VILLAGE IS THE RESULT OF ITS COMBINATION OF OLD HOUSES, GRANARIES, ROADSIDE CROSSES AND FISHING BOATS, IN THE PERFECT SURROUNDINGS OF THE BEAUTIFUL BAY OF CAMPELO, WITH THE ISLAND OF TAMBO AND AN ESTUARY FULL OF BATEAS OR SHELLFISH PLATFORMS AS A BACKDROP.

ITS HOUSES, SITUATED NEXT TO THE SEA AND BUILT DIRECTLY ON TOP OF THE BARE GRANITE ROCK TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE NARROW STRIP OF ARABLE LAND AVAILABLE, ARE MADE OF EXQUISITELY CARVED STONE AND ARE REMINISCENT OF THE REGION'S MANOR HOUSES OR PAZOS, WITH VERANDAS AND BALCONIES ON THEIR FAÇADES, ON TWO FLOORS, WITH THE GROUND FLOORS USED AS BARNES AND STOREROOMS TO STORE DIFFERENT IMPLEMENTS FOR FARMING AND FISHING. THE HOUSES ARE COMBINED WITH ROADSIDE CROSSES DOTTED THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE AND GRANARIES, AND IT IS USUAL TO COME ACROSS WOMEN REPAIRING FISHING NETS, FISHERMEN WORKING IN THEIR BOATS, AND A CONSTANT TO AND FRO OF SMALL CRAFT ENTERING AND LEAVING THE PORT.



Hórreos (granaries)



Ría de Pontevedra (estuary)

A UNIQUE TOWN

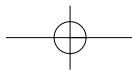
Strolling through Combarro at high tide as the evening falls, when the shadows lengthen over the stone that defines the architecture of the whole village and the sea seems to turn into a mantle of gold that fills the senses with its breeze and fragrance, or at low tide, enjoying the view over the village and women gathering shellfish along the beach, are some of the most memorable experiences that we can have in Galicia, taking us back to a time when life was lived at a different rhythm, imposed by fishing and tending the land.

DON'T MISS

Festa do Mar: the 'Festival of the Sea' is held during the **third week of August**. It pays homage to the sea, in a celebration of all of the different facets of its culture: there is a gastronomic display, offering all of the sea's finest produce at attractive prices, together with the excellent wines of the Rías Baixas or Low Estuaries; the Feira de Mostras Mare, with stands offering products related to the sea, arts and crafts, fishing implements and tourism; as well as other events such as displays of typical vessels, interactive workshops, sports and games.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. AVDA. DE ANDURIQUE, 43.
TEL.: 986 833 207.
WWW.CONCELLODEPOIO.ES





CORCUBIÓN



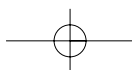
Ría de Corcubión (estuary)

DISCOVER

Civil Architecture: although Corcubión has a relatively compact historic centre, it includes a number of splendid buildings of great heritage importance, such as the fifteenth-century **Pazo de Altamira, Traba** (mediaeval manor house but reformed at a later date), **Teixeira, Diso e Pose, Castrexe** and **José Sendón**, all dating from the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century the town had a burgeoning middle class thanks to increased commerce and the services it provided to the area, proof of which are a number of houses in Modernist or 'Eclectic' style such as the **casa Miñones** (1894), the **casa do Antigo Xulgado** (Old Court House) or the fine homes of the wealthy along the **Avenida da Constitución**, as well as the **Antigo Cárcere** (Old Prison) building in the port. There are also a number of buildings constructed by wealthy emigrants who returned from South America, such as the **José Carrera building** (1924), today the town hall, designed by this philanthropist who decided to build a School of Arts and Trades in the town of his birth.

The Church of San Marcos: A splendid example of a Gothic church in 'maritime' style, although the façade was reconstructed in the nineteenth century after being damaged in a storm. The interior contains a seated statue of its patron, San Marcos da *Cadeira*, carved in Italy and brought by Venetian traders who regularly visited the coast. Another important religious building is the **chapel of Pilar**, built in 1931, today used as an auditorium and a space for cultural activities.

The Seo Maritime Museum of Corcubión: situated next to the beach of Quenxe, the museum occupies what was once a fish-salting factory. It has a collection of more than one thousand items related to fishing and the maritime way of life on the Costa da Morte.



CORCUBIÓN

CORCUBIÓN IS LOCATED AT THE FOOT OF ITS ESTUARY, WHICH IT SHARES WITH THE TOWN OF CEE, ON A PROTECTED PENINSULA WITH A SHELTERED PORT THAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THIS TOWN OF NOBLES AND FISHERMEN, ON THE FINAL SECTION OF THE WAY OF ST. JAMES LEADING TO FISTERRA. ITS POSITION MEANS IT ENJOYS AN ENVIABLE MICROCLIMATE WITH LONG HOURS OF SUNSHINE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND IS WELL PROTECTED FROM THE WINDS THAT BLOW IN FROM THE SEA, FACTORS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS ITS POPULARITY AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA AROUND THE BEACH OF QUENXE.

THE TOWN GREW OUT OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT AROUND THE PORT, STRETCHING ALONG THE CURVED COASTLINE WITH A LONG WALKWAY OF HOUSES WITH BEAUTIFUL GALLERIES AND FINE EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL FISHING VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE, THE HOMES OF EMIGRANTS RETURNED FROM SOUTH AMERICA, AND STATELY HOMES EMBLAZONED WITH SHIELDS AS A REMINDER OF ITS MEDIAEVAL PAST, AS THE CAPITAL OF THE FIEFDOM OF TRABA AND ALTAMIRA.

CORCUBIÓN IS A TRULY PICTURESQUE ENCLAVE, WORTHY OF A VISIT TO ENJOY ITS AUTHENTIC ATMOSPHERE OF A GALICIAN COASTAL TOWN. DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT TRYING PERENDENGUE, A DELICIOUS TYPE OF PLAITED BREAD WITH EGG, MADE WITH GREAT DEXTERITY.



Castelao Square



Aerial view

A UNIQUE TOWN

The tempestuous sea of the Costa da Morte also offers areas of calm, protected and sheltered from the waves with beautiful, evocative landscapes, such as those found in Corcubión approaching the **Castelo do Cardeal** in Punta Pión. Further ahead along the same road is the **lighthouse on Cape Cee**, a windswept location offering excellent views of the towns of Fisterra and Cee, as well as **Mount Pindo** and the craggy profile of this stretch of coastline. Nearby, continuing along the road, is the **church of Redonda**, a beautiful example of the Romanesque style (from the twelfth to thirteenth centuries), small but of great artistic value.

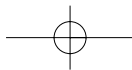
DON'T MISS

Festa de San Marcos: St. Mark's day, 25 April, is a local holiday, and the town's patron saint is brought out in procession through the streets. This is a very popular festival, and attracts large numbers of visitors.

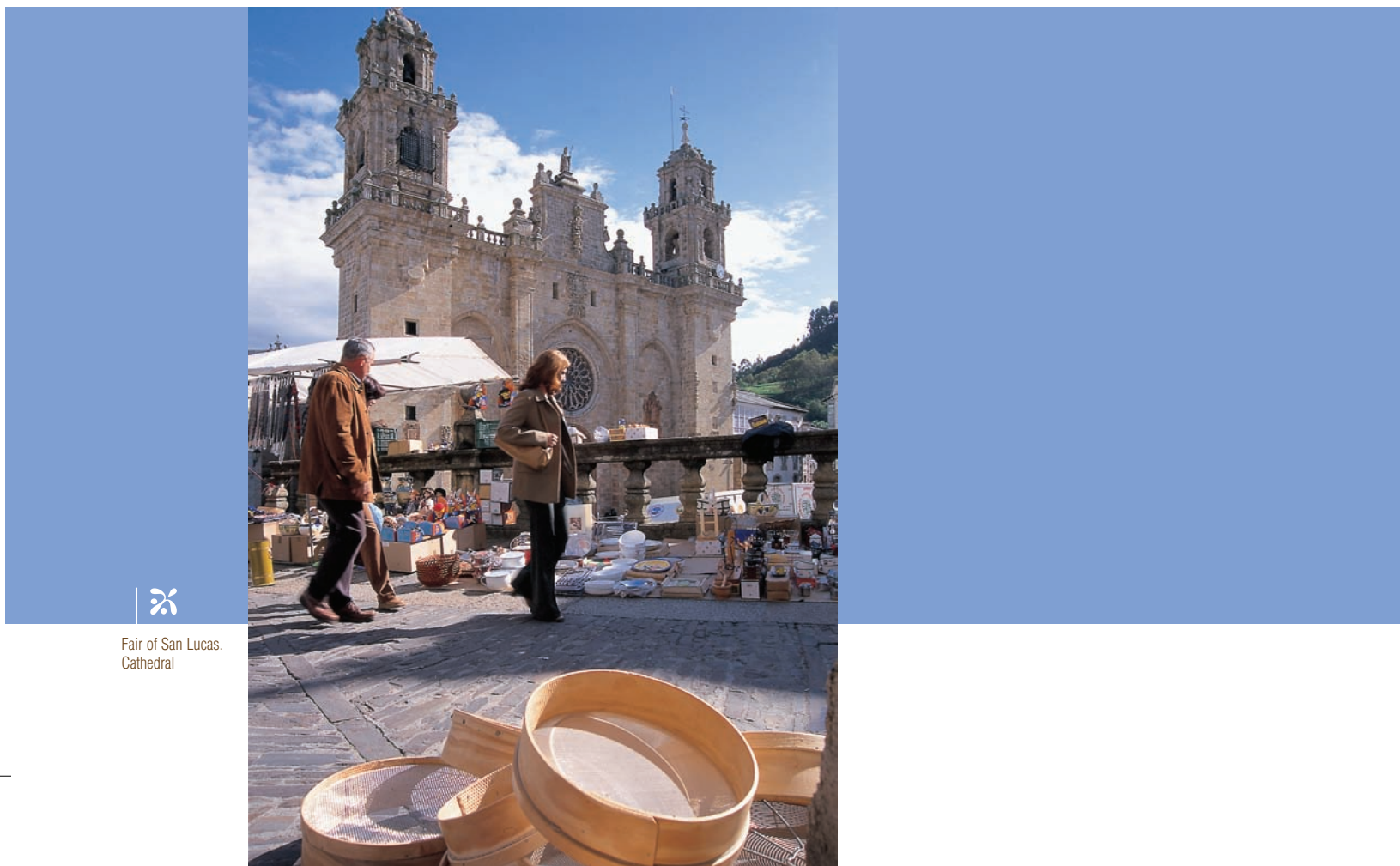
Mediaeval Fair: held on the **third weekend in July**, when the town is turned into a mediaeval marketplace, with locals dressing in period costume and offering hand-made products in leather, wood, gold and silver, as well as local delicacies sold on stands set up throughout its streets.

NERIA. INFORMATION CENTRE. TR.: 981 706 028.
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. PEIRAO MUNICIPAL. TEL.: 981 745 400
WWW.CORCUBION.INFO





MONDOÑEDO



Fair of San Lucas.
Cathedral

DISCOVER

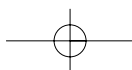
The **Cathedral of San Martín** (*Basilica da Asunción*), first constructed in the thirteenth century, is a magnificent combination of different styles, seen in its façade with a Romanesque porch, a rose window in Gothic style, and its Baroque central section and towers. The interior also reveals an interplay of different artistic styles, with a ribbed vault supported by pointed Gothic arches and fine Hispano-Flemish murals dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The cathedral is home to the **Cathedral and Diocese Museum**, with fascinating sculptures and an exceptional collection of religious robes and footwear. Next to the cathedral in the *Praza Maior* or main square is the **Episcopal Palace**, emblazoned with coats of arms, the **Old Town Hall** from the sixteenth century, today the town library; a beautiful collection of traditional houses with galleries and arched walkways, and the **monument to Álvaro Cunqueiro**. Close to the square with the coat of arms of Carlos I is the sixteenth century fountain known as the **Fonte Vella**. behind the cathedral is the eighteenth century

Seminary of Santa Catalina, with an impressive library containing more than 25,000 books, some of which date back earlier than the sixteenth century.

Visitors to the old town will also discover the Baroque architecture of the **convent and church of A Concepción** and the **convent of San Pedro de Alcántara**.

Close to the poplar-lined walkway or *alameda* is the **Sanctuary of Nosa Señora dos Remedios**, patron saint of the city, dating from the sixteenth century but with a decidedly Baroque appearance. It has a number of interesting altarpieces and the tomb of Bishop Sarmiento from the eighteenth century. Also nearby is the **Hospital de San Pablo** built in 1755, for pilgrims and the poor and needy.

The neighbourhood known as the **barrio dos Muíños** is very typical, with its traditional architecture and buildings, some of which are unused but have been restored, including the **fountain of Os Pelamios**, with four spouts.



MONDOÑEDO

A TOWN SET IN A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY DOTTED WITH FARMLAND, 'RICH IN BREAD, WATERS AND LATIN' ACCORDING TO THE RENOWNED GALICIAN WRITER FROM THE AREA, ÁLVARO CUNQUEIRO. LYING BETWEEN ANCIENT, GENTLY WORN MOUNTAINS, WITH THE WATERS OF THE RIVER MASMA AND A LANDSCAPE OF FIELDS SURROUNDED BY HEDGEROWS, THE CITY WAS ONCE ONE OF THE SEVEN CAPITALS OF THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF GALICIA, WHICH GREW ALONGSIDE ITS BISHOP'S PALACE AND CATHEDRAL, AS WELL AS THE SEMINARY, WHICH DEVELOPED FROM THE FIRST TO EXIST IN GALICIA.

ITS ORIGINS DATE BACK TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF MONDOÑEDO BY A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS WHO ARRIVED FROM THE BRITISH ISLES IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN THE AREA KNOWN AS BRETOÑA (BRITONNIA). TRANSCENDENTAL MOMENTS OF GALICIAN HISTORY OCCURRED IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE BEHEADING OF MARSHAL PARDO DE CELA, ONE OF THE LAST DEFENDERS OF THE POWER OF GALICIAN NOBILITY AND THE AUTONOMY OF THE KINGDOM OF GALICIA, AGAINST THE EXPANSIONIST AIMS OF THE CATHOLIC KINGS.

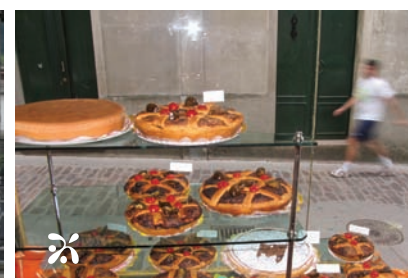
ITS OLD TOWN IS VERY ATTRACTIVE, ARRANGED AROUND THE CATHEDRAL AND MAIN SQUARE, A TYPICALLY MEDIAEVAL LAYOUT WITH A MAZE OF NARROW STREETS WINDING PAST CHURCHES, CONVENTS AND SPLENDID EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE. MONDOÑEDO IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR THE PASTRIES THAT BEAR ITS NAME, AND PARTICULARLY FOR SOME OF GALICIA'S MOST IMPORTANT ARTISTIC AND LITERARY FIGURES OF RECENT TIMES, INCLUDING ÁLVARO CUNQUEIRO, LEIRAS PULPEIRO, NORIEGA VARELA AND THE AUTHOR OF GALICIA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM, PASCUAL VEIGA.



The Cathedral Square



Bandstand



Mondoñedo pastries

A UNIQUE TOWN

One of the finest views in Mondoñedo is from the **Pasatempo Bridge**, a place of ancient legends that tell of how Leonor de Castro, wife of the Marshal Pardo de Cela, was detained by a number of Canons sent by the Bishop, when she was returning from Castile with a pardon for her husband signed by the Catholic Kings, as a result of which she did not arrive in time to prevent the execution of the Marshal and her son. It is a beautiful mediaeval bridge with a single arch, spanning the **River Masma** in delightful natural surroundings.

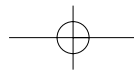
DON'T MISS

The Feira de San Lucas: held on **18 October**, in the past it was a renowned horse and mule fair in the community. Today it continues, but as one of the numerous events (dances, octopus stalls, displays, popular markets etc.) that are held during the city's main festival, which lasts five days. Declared as a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

Mediaeval Market: held on the **second weekend in August**, as a reminder of the city's mediaeval past, with locals dressing in the typical attire of the times of the Marshal Pardo de Cela. Craftsmen, musicians, jugglers and an excellent mediaeval dinner are just some of its features.

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TEL.: 982 507 177
WWW.MONDONEDO.ORG





MONFORTE DE LEMOS



Colexio da Compañía

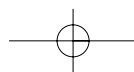
DISCOVER

Hill-fort and acropolis of San Vicente: reached walking down O Cardeal Street, crossing the old mediaeval town centre with its buildings emblazoned with coats of arms and typical houses with galleries being renovated alongside the *monte forte*. In mediaeval times, the town was a fortified settlement built around a convent and a castle. Long sections of the **walls** dating from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries still remain, entering the walled section through the **Alcazaba gate**, flanked by two towers. Only the **Homage Tower** of the castle remains, thirty metres high and rebuilt in the sixteenth century after the Irmandiña revolts. Open to the public and free of charge, it contains furniture and utensils from the period, as well as weapons and armour. The manor house known as the **Pazo dos Condes**, built during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, has just been restored as a state-run *Parador* hotel, together with the **Benedictine Convent of San Vicente do Pino**, first built in the sixteenth century. The tranquil square of the convent

building is Neo-Classical, as well as its façade and cloister. Its impressive church has a Renaissance porch, while the interior is in transitional Gothic style, with finely vaulted domes.

Alongside the fortified group of buildings is the **convent of San Xacinto, with the parish church of Santa Maria de Régoa**, built in the eighteenth century. It contains a beautifully carved altar and an organ considered to be one of Galicia's finest, both in Baroque style.

The convent of Santa Clara, built in the seventeenth century, is simple and functional in style, with a beautiful classic cloister. It contains the **Arte Sacra Museum**, with a collection of gold and silver items and some of the finest religious sculptures found in all of Spain, including the *Inmaculada* and the seventeenth century Reclining Christ by Gregorio Fernández.



MONFORTE

DE LEMOS

THE CITY WAS FOUNDED IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY AS A CONCESSION FROM THE COUNT OF GALICIA, REIMUNDO DE BORGONA TO THE FIRST LORD OF LEMOS, FROILA DIAZ, TO CREATE A STABLE CENTRE OF POPULATION WHERE FAIRS AND MARKETS COULD BE HELD AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT PINO, NEXT TO THE RIVER CABE, AT A NATURAL AND HISTORIC CROSSROADS OF PLAINS AND FOOTHILLS IN CENTRAL-EASTERN GALICIA.

THE TOWN DOMINATED THE TERRITORY FROM ITS 'MONTE FORTE', THE FORTIFIED HILL THAT GAVE IT ITS NAME, PRESIDED BY THE HOMAGE TOWER AND THE CONVENT AND PARADOR OF SAN VICENTE, IN A PLACE WITH DEEPLY HISTORICAL ORIGINS, AS IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED SINCE PRE-ROMAN TIMES, WHEN THE HILL-FORT OF DACTONIO OCCUPIED THE SITE. THE TOWN SOON DEVELOPED AS A MAJOR CENTRE OF CRAFTS AND COMMERCE, AND HAD A BUSTLING JEWISH QUARTER.

ITS POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT CROSSROADS CONTINUES TO THIS DAY ON THE COUNTRY'S RAIL NETWORK, AND ITS EXTENSIVE TERTIARY SECTOR HAS MADE IT THE MAIN TOWN IN THE SOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF LUGO. IT HAS A RICH AND VARIED HERITAGE, CLOSELY RELATED TO THE LORDSHIP OF THE CITY UNDER THE CASTRO FAMILY, COUNTS OF LEMOS, GRANDEES OF SPAIN, WHO HELD GREAT POWER DURING THE MODERN ERA, AS A SERIES OF COUNTS WERE MINISTERS, STATESMEN, VICEROYS AND THE SPONSORS OF PAINTERS AND WRITERS. NEAR THE TOWN, IN THE NEIGHBOURING TOWN OF PANTÓN, IS THE RECOVERED SPA OF AUGAS SANTAS, WHICH OFFERS VISITORS A MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY ITS THERMAL WATERS.



Town Centre and Homage Tower



Cloister. Parador Hotel

A UNIQUE TOWN

One of the most important heritage sites to visit in Monforte is the **Colexio do Cardeal, da Compañía or of Nosa Señora A Antiga**, dating from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries, situated in a large open space in the lower part of the city that contributes towards its upkeep; a major Renaissance work in *Herrera* style, considered as the Galician version of the El Escorial palace. The church, with its monumental proportions, includes a magnificent altarpiece by Francisco de Moure, and a bronze statue of the Cardinal who founded the College, Rodrigo de Castro. It has one of the most important collections of paintings in Galicia, which should not be missed, with two pieces by El Greco.

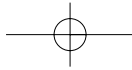
DON'T MISS

The **Festas Patronais** or Patron Saint's Festivals **held in mid-August** dedicated to the Virgin Mary, are famous throughout the area; a series of events take place, dominated by the local gastronomy and *verbenas* or open-air dances.

The **Semana Micolóxica Galega** (Galician Mycology Week) or **Festa dos Cogomelos** is held in **November**, with exhibitions of the finest examples and tastings.

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28

historic
centres

MUROS



Aerial view

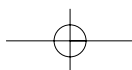
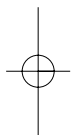
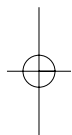
DISCOVER

Popular architecture: the town offers fine examples of popular architecture, particularly its fountains, such as in the square of the Peixería Vella, with the effigy of a winged reptile, or in Axesta Street, Real Street (known as the Fonte Vella) or the neighbourhood of O Carme. Another interesting feature is the *cruceiro* or roadside cross that presides over the square of A Rosa or O Cristo.

Fishermen's cottages and stately homes: these are the city's most characteristic buildings. They feature walkways covered by pointed or semi-circular archways, which once covered slabs for salting fish. The houses are built on one or two floors, with balconies adorned with forged iron railings supported by large stone pillars. These buildings are interspersed with Gothic and Baroque manor houses (particularly in Real, Peixería Vella and Mariña Streets), together with more recent buildings, some of which are Modernist in style, which include glass galleries that are so typical of the Galician coast. At the point where Axesta Street and Real Street meet, there is an impressive four-storey building that contains the **Municipal Market**, which includes a monumental twin staircase with a stone balustrade.

The upper part of the historic centre: climbing the slopes of the hill on which the city is built, we arrive at **San Pedro de Muros**, the old collegiate church of Santa Maria do Campo. It has a beautiful cobbled vestibule with a *cruceiro* or cross, used in the Middle Ages as the town hall and the guild of seafarers. Dating from the fifteenth century, it is a magnificent example of 'Maritime' Gothic, with a single nave, built over a previously-existing Romanesque structure. Visitors should see the Gothic Cristo da Agonía in its interior, as well as the Modernist **Rectory** that stands nearby, as well as the **hermitage of San Roque** at the highest point of the city, offering splendid views over the whole area.

At the entrance to the city from Noia is the **Sanctuary of A Virxe do Camiño**, a monumental fifteenth-century Gothic structure with some Romanesque remains from a previous building. Its interior includes a sculpture of the Virgin Mary, which according to tradition arrived by sea and was washed up on a nearby beach.



MUROS

AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL FISHING TOWN, WITH A HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN FIRMLY LINKED SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN THE TENTH CENTURY WITH FISHING, SHELLFISH GATHERING AND SALTING SARDINES AND MACKEREL IN ITS FACTORIES, WITH MORE THAN THIRTY IN THE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY. IN THE MIDDLE AGES IT WAS ONE OF GALICIA'S MOST IMPORTANT PORTS, HAD A LARGE FISHING FLEET AND BUSY COMMERCE, AND WAS THE HOME OF RENOWNED SEAFARERS.

THIS SPLENDOUR MAY STILL BE FELT WALKING THROUGH ITS ORIGINAL LAYOUT, WITH NARROW, WINDING STREETS, WITH A HISTORIC ATMOSPHERE THAT IS BOTH RUSTIC AND NOBLE, WITH EVOCATIVE NAMES (SUCH AS SOIDADE, AMARGURA, SUFRIMENTO, ESPERANZA, PACIENCIA, SAÚDE, TRONO OR AURORA), AS WELL AS THEIR WELCOMING ARCHED WALKWAYS, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE SEA FRONT. IT HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF MONUMENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST, SUCH AS NOBLE HOUSES, CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, FOUNTAINS AND ROADSIDE CROSSES. MUROS IS LIKE A BALCONY, A CONTINUOUS, CURVED GALLERY FACING TOWARDS THE EASTERN SUN, HANGING ABOVE A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SHELTER FORMED BY THE ESTUARY OF MUROS AND NOIA.

THE WINE BAR DISTRICT, NEAR THE PORT, IS VERY PICTURESQUE AND THE FOCAL POINT OF THE CITY, WITH THE NEIGHBOURING AREAS OF THE PEIXERÍA VELLA (OLD FISH MARKET SQUARE) FULL OF LIFE, PARTICULARLY IN THE MORNING AND EVENING, AFTER THE EYE-CATCHING FISH AUCTION HELD ON THE QUAYSIDE.



Arched walkways



Church of San Pedro



A UNIQUE TOWN

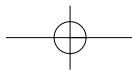
No visit to Muros is complete without a trip to the *Muíño de Maré do Pozo do Chacón*, a mill that stands at the entrance to the town. It was built in the first third of the nineteenth century, and made use of the energy produced by the changing tides. Its interest lies in its curious appearance and monumental stature, as it is one of the few that exist in Galicia and one of the largest in Spain. It is long and rectangular in shape, with a separate mill and storeroom. The latter used to contain the 'Baths of Santa Rita' in the early twentieth century, offering warm therapeutic baths in seaweed and salt water. Today it contains an ethnographic museum, a large room for temporary exhibitions, and another with a display on how it worked and its historical importance.

DON'T MISS

Festas de San Pedro (29 June): a very popular festival, including a pie-making competition, open-air dances and fireworks.

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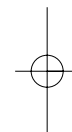
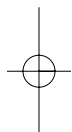




NOIA



Church of Santa María A Nova



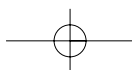
DISCOVER

The Gothic town: The numerous **Gothic houses** are outstanding, with their high, elegant arcades that give their façades a very vertical appearance. Visitors should not miss the fifteenth-century Casa da Xouva, the Pazo Dacosta (1339), the fifteenth-century Pazo da Rúa do Forno do Rato, the fourteenth-century Casa da Rosa, the remains of the Fortaleza do Tapal and the Hospital de Adentro or the fifteenth-century Casa de Gramática. All of them are situated close to each other, in the streets bordering the Praza do Tapal square, which also contains the magnificent fifteenth-century **Church of San Martiño**, in 'maritime' Gothic style with a single nave. Its façade contains a large rose window and a superb portico that follows the model of the Pórtico da Gloria in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The northern façade has another portico with a tympanum representing the Holy Family.

Convent church of San Francisco (sixteenth century): a Renaissance church with late Gothic elements. It has austere decoration, with several knights' tombs in the side chapels.

Casa do Senra (eighteenth century): a splendid Baroque urban mansion with a large shield, gargoyles and an arcade along its façade.

Fishermen's houses (eighteenth century): especially in Curro Street, characterised by their different types of arcades.



NOIA

IN THE WORDS OF THE RENOWNED GALICIAN GEOGRAPHER AND WRITER OTERO PEDRAYO, NOIA IS THE FINEST GALICIAN 'OGIVAL' TOWN (IN REFERENCE TO THE TYPICAL POINTED GOTHIC ARCHES SEEN IN ITS ARCHITECTURE). YET IT IS ALSO A PLACE OF CALM SEAS WITHIN AN AREA OF SINGULAR BEAUTY AT THE END OF THE ESTUARY OF MUROS AND NOIA. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IT WAS FOUNDED BY THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF JAFET, THE SON OF NOAH, A TRADITION REFLECTED IN THE CITY'S COAT OF ARMS, WHICH SHOWS A BOAT, A DOVE WITH AN OLIVE BRANCH AND A RAINBOW, ALL SYMBOLS OF THE CHRISTIAN PATRIARCH. THE COAT OF ARMS ALSO CONTAINS A CHAIN WITH BROKEN LINKS, A SYMBOL OF THE SHIP 'NOIA' THAT BROKE THROUGH THE DEFENCES OF THE RIVER GUADALQUIVIR IN THE RECONQUEST OF SEVILLE.

ITS MEDIAEVAL SPLENDOUR, SEEN IN THE WEALTH OF HERITAGE IT CONTAINS, IS EXPLAINED BY THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ITS PORT AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE FIEFDOM OF SANTIAGO UNTIL 1811. IT REACHED THE HEIGHT OF ITS ACTIVITY THANKS TO ITS SHIPYARDS AND SARDINE INDUSTRY BETWEEN THE FOURTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES.

FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE PORT OF SANTIAGO, TOGETHER WITH PADRÓN, AND KNOWN AS THE 'LITTLE COMPOSTELA'. IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL OLD TOWN FULL OF GOTHIC HOUSES AND CHURCHES, GIVING IT A VERY PARTICULAR STRUCTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE FRAGRANCE OF MAGNOLIAS IN THE SPRINGTIME AND THE TYPICAL FISHERMEN'S HOUSES IN THE CURRO NEIGHBOURHOOD. IT IS BEST EXPLORED AT LEISURE, ADMIRING EVERY CORNER, ENJOYING THE SURPRISES IT HOLDS AT EVERY TURN. IT IS A LIVELY TOWN WITH BUSTLING SHOPS AND BUSINESSES, BUT ABOVE ALL IT IS THE PERFECT LOCATION TO ENJOY ITS SMALL TAVERNS AND TAPAS BARS, RECOGNISED BY ALL AS THE BEST PLACE IN GALICIA TO ENJOY CORN 'EMPANADAS' (PIES) WITH BABY SARDINES AND COCKLES.



Church of San Martiño. Praza do Tapal



The Noela Theatre



Aerial view

A UNIQUE TOWN

A visit to the **Church of Santa María A Nova**, its museum with tombs of members of its guilds, cemetery and roadside crosses or *cruceiros* is an experience that fills the imagination and takes us back to ancient times. The church's main features are its 'maritime' Gothic style with a single nave, wooden ceiling and beautiful rose window in the façade. The five hundred tombs it contains date from the tenth to nineteenth centuries, from the great sarcophagi of nobles and wealthy merchants, to the simple tombs of craftsmen, all with curious symbols interpreted by some as mysterious hidden messages, but which actually identify the guild to which the person belonged. Tradition states that the earth in the cemetery was brought by sea from the Holy Land. Its other important features include a Gothic *cruceiro* from the thirteenth century, one of the oldest in Galicia, and an exceptional Renaissance 'baldachin' or canopy, the *Cristo do Humilladoiro*, with iconography representing the phases of the moon and a hunting scene, as well as a *cruceiro* from the eighteenth century.

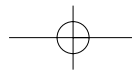
DON'T MISS

Festas de San Bartolomeu: from 23 to 28 August, the festival is held in honour of San Roque and San Luis; a longstanding tradition, it features numerous musical events.

San Marcos Horse Fair: every 25 April this traditional fair attracts visitors from a wide area.

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TEL: 981 824 169 (CASA DA CULTURA).
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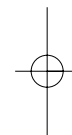
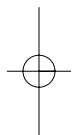


32
historic
centres

ORTIGUEIRA



Town Centre



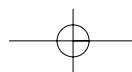
DISCOVER **Barrio do Ponto:** a neighbourhood that should be viewed as a whole, with its narrow streets and traditional buildings, including those that face on to the **Praciña dos Anxos**. This square is the location of the **Town Hall**, an interesting sixteenth century building, the **Alameda do Ponto**, a pleasant park, and nearby the **old hospital of San Roque**, built at the end of the nineteenth century. A stroll through O Ponto may end at the Punta da Península do Requeixo, a lookout point offering extensive panoramas over the estuary.

Other attractive architecture may be seen in the **market**, which was the site of the town jail until 1857, with an interesting construction combining stone and forged iron; the **School Buildings** built in 1909 which now house a series of cultural societies and the Bagpipe School of Ortigueira; and the **Beneficiencia Theatre**, a Romantic masterpiece with interesting frescos dating from 1892.

The most interesting monumental structure is the **Convent of San Domingos**, built in the fourteenth century, which underwent major reforms in the eighteenth century. It contains the **parish church of Santa Marta**, a former convent church, built in 1776 and which includes a series of magnificent Baroque altarpieces, as well as a marble tomb from the sixteenth century.

Any visit to the town would not be complete without a walk around the **marina**, which offers excellent views over the estuary and the bay of Santa Marta.

The Paseo da Calzada includes the Regional Centre of Ortegá, which contains an exhibition of heritage, cultural and economic elements from the region which has Ortigueira as its capital.



ORTIGUEIRA

ORTIGUEIRA IS SITUATED IN AN EXCEPTIONAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENT IN AN EXCELLENT STATE OF PRESERVATION, FAVOURED BY ITS RELATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION FAR FROM THE COUNTRY'S MAIN CENTRES OF ECONOMIC POWER. THE TOWN IS LOCATED AT THE END OF THE ESTUARY OF THE SAME NAME, PROTECTED FROM THE TEMPESTUOUS WEATHER OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, AN OCEAN THAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE PORT AND A SOURCE OF WEALTH FOR ITS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

FACING THE TOWN IS AN IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM OF SAND DUNES AND THE TIDAL WETLANDS OF LADRIDO, LISTED IN THE RAMSAR AGREEMENT AS AN AREA OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, AND PART OF THE 'NATURA' NETWORK AS AN AREA OF SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR WILDFOWL, WITH A MULTITUDE OF SEABIRDS AND SPECIES THAT LIVE ALONG THE SHORE, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF UNIQUE PLANT SPECIES.

ORTIGUEIRA HAS A VERY ATTRACTIVE MARITIME ATMOSPHERE, WITH ITS HOUSES WITH WHITE GALLERIES, BALCONIES IN FORGED IRON AND GARDENS FACING THE PORT, AS WELL AS HOUSES BUILT BY EMIGRANTS TO THE AMERICAS FROM THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, AND IN PARTICULAR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF O PONTO, ITS OLDEST DISTRICT, WITH NARROW STREETS AND SMALL WHITE HOUSES WITH GRANITE DETAILS TYPICAL OF THE REGION. ORTIGUEIRA IS ALSO THE PERFECT LOCATION TO ENJOY THE FINEST GASTRONOMY THE SEA CAN PROVIDE, ESPECIALLY SHELLFISH FROM THE ESTUARY, AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF FISH AND SEAFOOD, AS WELL AS ITS FAMOUS PASTRIES, INCLUDING THE ORTIGUEIRA CAKE.



International Festival of the Celtic World



The Beneficencia Theatre



Marina

A UNIQUE TOWN

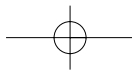
The **International Festival of the Celtic World** has been held in Ortigueira since 1978. It is without doubt the most important folk event in Galicia, and one of the leading festivals of its kind in the world, with the most important international groups of Celtic music playing to an audience of more than 50,000 visitors who arrive in July to enjoy the three days of concerts. A series of other events take place at the same time as the festival, including an exhibition of Celtic instruments, crafts fairs, documentaries, workshops and conferences. It has been declared as a Festival of International Tourist Interest.

DON'T MISS

The festival of the patron **Santa Marta** (from 28 July to 1 August) with a wide range of entertainment, from land and sea processions to traditional folk dances, outdoor dances, fireworks and gastronomic events.

REGIONAL CENTRE OF ORTEGAL. RUA REAL, 12.
TEL.: 981 422 207.
WWW.CONCELLODEORTIGUEIRA.COM





PADRÓN



Statue of Macías o Namorado

DISCOVER

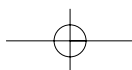
The Church of Santiago, Neo-Classic in style, built over the remains of an earlier temple, of which some elements remain, such as a pulpit from the fifteenth century with an image of St. James the Pilgrim. It contains the *Pedrón*, from which the town takes its name, kept under the main altar, nothing less than a Roman votive altar dedicated to Neptune. Close to the church, crossing the bridge over the River Sar, is the **Fonte do Carme**, a fountain with a niche with an image of the baptism of Queen Lupa, a pagan converted to Christianity in the time when the remains of the Apostle were transported to Compostela, shown on a relief carved into the fountain itself. Behind the fountain, on a rocky outcrop, is the **Convent of O Carme**, dating from the eighteenth century, with an excellent lookout point offering views over the town and the region of O Sar.

The town contains the romantic **Paseo do Espolón**, a tree-lined walkway along the banks of the River Sar, which includes a **monument to Rosalía de Castro**. The writer is

remembered in the **Casa Museo da Matanza**, the house where she lived and died, now transformed into a museum with mementos of her life and work.

Botanical Gardens – Park: built in the mid-nineteenth century, it contains several exotic tree species. With a French design, it is the largest of its kind in Galicia.

In the neighbouring village of **Iria Flavia** it is possible to visit the **Camilo José Cela Foundation**, in the birthplace of the famous writer; the **Casa dos Coengos** (Canons' House) dating from the seventeenth century, which conserves documentation about his life and work, as well as an excellent collection of paintings. Facing the Foundation is the **Collegiate Church of Santa María Adina**, paleo-Christian in origin, with a fourteenth-century Gothic portal, although most of the building is Baroque in style.



PADRÓN

A TOWN WITH TRANSCENDENTAL LINKS TO THE LEGEND OF ST. JAMES THE ELDER, WHERE LEGEND TELLS THAT THE APOSTLE PREACHED AND WAS THEN RETURNED AFTER HIS DEATH IN A BOAT MADE OF STONE THAT MOORED TO THE *PEDRÓN*, KEPT UNDER THE ALTAR IN THE CHURCH OF SANTIAGO.

THE SETTLEMENT WAS CREATED IN ROMAN TIMES WITH THE NAME OF IRIA FLAVIA. THE TOWN BECAME THE SEAT OF EPISCOPAL POWER, WHICH TRANSFERRED TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AFTER THE APOSTLE'S REMAINS WERE DISCOVERED THERE. THE ANCIENT IRIA FLAVIA IS TODAY SITUATED ALONGSIDE THE TOWN OF PADRÓN, AND PRESERVES A NUMBER OF INTERESTING CULTURAL AND MONUMENTAL ELEMENTS. PADRÓN IS LOCATED IN A STRATEGIC POSITION, THE SO-CALLED MERIDIAN DEPRESSION, WHICH WAS THE TRADITIONAL AREA OF THE MAIN COMMUNICATION ROUTES, IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING WITH A GENTLE CLIMATE AT THE POINT WHERE THE COURSES OF THE RIVERS SAR AND ULLA MEET, CLOSE TO THEIR MOUTH.

THIS IS AN AREA SURROUNDED BY FARMLAND, WHICH PRODUCES THE FAMOUS PADRÓN PEPPER, AND THE HOME OF FAMOUS WRITERS SUCH AS THE POETESS ROSALÍA DE CASTRO, WITH HER PERFECT ABILITY TO PORTRAY THE GALICIAN SPIRIT, AND THE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER CAMILO JOSÉ CELA.



Collegiate Church of Iria Flavia



Paseo do Espolón



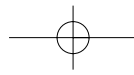
A UNIQUE TOWN

Every Sunday a popular market is held in Padrón, full of typical products, selling clothing, footwear, local produce, crafts, leather goods and domestic animals, where visitors may also enjoy open-air stands or *pulperías* selling boiled octopus, although the most characteristic stands are those selling vegetables from the farmland around Padrón, and the fish sold in the market next to the area where the fair is held (Campo do Souto and Paseo do Espolón).

DON'T MISS

The *Festas de Pascua* (Easter Festival) and *Pascuíña* (at the end of Holy Week), festivals with a great tradition in Padrón, which attract visitors from all over the region.

Festa do pemento: held in Herbón, close to Padrón, this important gastronomic event is celebrated on the **first weekend in August** and has been declared a Festival of Tourist Interest, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy the famous tiny local peppers.



PAZOS DE ARENTEIRO

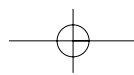


Ponte dos Franceses

DISCOVER

Parish Church of San Salvador: situated in the centre of the village is the Romanesque church of the old monastery. It has a single nave, a main portal with semi-circular archivolt with capitals decorated with plants and birds, and a beautiful semi-circular apse. Next to the church, alongside the apse, is the **Pazo da Encomenda**, one of the most attractive mansions in the area.

Mansions and stately homes: These were built during the area's period of greatest affluence, between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These include the *Casa de Arriba*, *Casa Granxa do Mato*, *Casa do Ouro*, *Pazo de Cervela*, *Pazo de Feixóo*, *Pazo do Currelo*, *Pazo dos Tizón* and the *Pazo de Laxas*. Most of them have beautiful verandas, towers, dovecotes or stone granaries. The concentration of these unique buildings make the area an excellent choice for a visit.



PAZOS DE ARENTEIRO

VISITORS WITH A LOVE OF TRADITIONAL AND STately ARCHITECTURE IN GALICIA CAN DO NO BETTER THAN TO VISIT THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF PAZOS DE ARENTEIRO, IN THE HEART OF OURENSE'S RIBEIRO REGION, WITH A WELL-PRESERVED AND COMPACT CENTRE OF COBBLED STREETS WITH PRETTY HOUSES AND MANSIONS, COVERED IN MAJESTIC COATS OF ARMS AND BUILT OUT OF IMPRESSIVE GRANITE BLOCKS TAKEN FROM THE QUARRY SITUATED NEXT TO THE FORMER CONVENT OF THE ORDER OF MALTA, ALTHOUGH OTHER RELIGIOUS MILITARY ORDERS ALSO SETTLED IN THE AREA, SUCH AS THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

THE PRESENCE OF THESE RELIGIOUS ORDERS AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF STately HOMES IN PAZOS DE ARENTEIRO IS RELATED TO THE TRIBUTES AND LEASES THAT THE SMALL WINE PRODUCERS FROM THE RIBEIRO REGION HAD TO PAY. THE CHARM OF THE REGION IS A RESULT OF ITS SITUATION AT THE POINT WHERE THE RIVERS AVIA AND ARENTEIRO MEET, WITH THE REMAINS OF A MEDIAEVAL BRIDGE, IN A LANDSCAPE DOMINATED BY TYPICAL RIVERSIDE PLANTS AND TREES, AND VINES, WHICH GROW ALONG THE SOUTH-FACING SLOPES.

PAZOS WILL SOON BE OFFERING EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY RURAL TOURISM, AS A NUMBER OF HOUSES IN THE VILLAGE AND SOME OF ITS STately HOMES ARE BEING RENOVATED AS HOTELS AND TOURIST APARTMENTS, TOGETHER WITH A RESTAURANT WHICH WILL OFFER TRADITIONAL DISHES, WITHOUT OVERLOOKING THE LATEST INNOVATIONS IN THE FIELD OF GASTRONOMY.



Old Rectory



General view



Mediaeval bridge

A UNIQUE TOWN

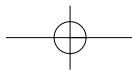
In Pazos de Arenteiro we have the opportunity to enjoy an attractive route that starts near to the church of San Salvador and continues along a signposted track to the romantic **Mediaeval bridge** over the River Arenteiro . From here we continue upstream, without crossing the bridge, until reaching Pozo dos Fumes, where the River Arenteiro seems to turn to mist in a pretty waterfall. The route then continues along a wooden walkway that winds through forests of typical plant species. Returning along the track, we cross the bridge and then continue along the riverbank downstream until reaching the **Ponte dos Franceses** (Bridge of the French), named after the skirmishes that took place here against the French army during the War of Independence, and which marks the end of our walk.

DON'T MISS

The **grape harvest** in Pazos de Arenteiro, as in the rest of the Ribeiro region, is an obligatory event, almost a ritual, that takes place at the **end of September or early October**, giving visitors the chance to witness the loving care with which the wine producers harvest the bunches of red and white grapes that are then used to make the region's famous wines.

RIBADAVIA MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. PRAZA MAIOR, 7.
TEL: 988 471275





38

historic
centres

A POBRA DE TRIVES



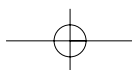
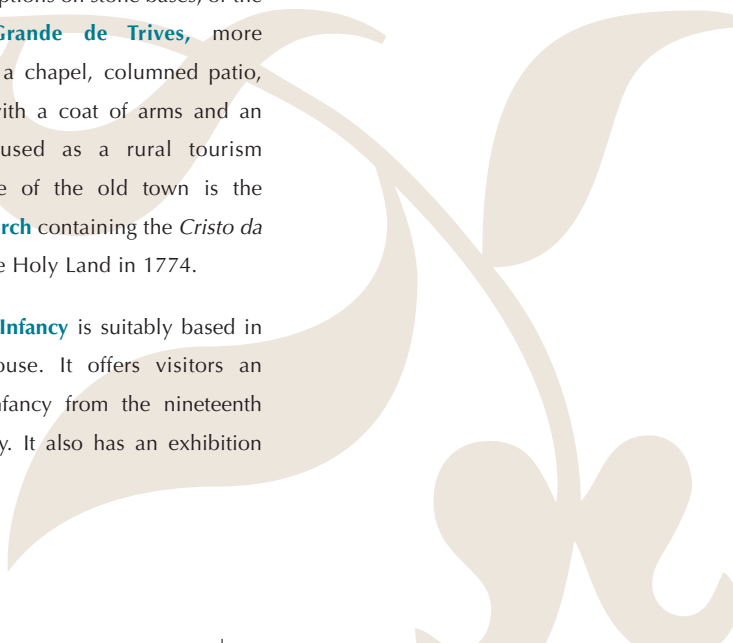
Praza do Pilón

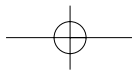
DISCOVER

A Pobra de Trives, as the centre of an extensive region, was chosen by a number of noble families to build their homes, the result of which are buildings such as the nineteenth-century **Casa dos Marqueses** with a coat of arms on the main façade, and interesting gardens containing Roman remains, such as milestones from the Via Nova and numerous inscriptions on stone bases; or the eighteenth-century **Casa Grande de Trives**, more monumental in stature, with a chapel, columned patio, fountain, gardens, a tower with a coat of arms and an original bell-tower, today used as a rural tourism establishment. In the middle of the old town is the nineteenth-century **Parish Church** containing the *Cristo da Misericordia*, brought from the Holy Land in 1774.

The Museum of Schools and Infancy is suitably based in what was once a schoolhouse. It offers visitors an exhibition of schools and infancy from the nineteenth century up to the present day. It also has an exhibition

using the latest technology to show the route and features of the Roman road that once passed through the area, which is currently undergoing an archaeological study and recuperation.





A POBRA DE TRIVES

THE HISTORIC TOWN OF POBRA DE TRIVES, FOUNDED IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY, IS SITUATED IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS OF OURENSE, IN A SETTING OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY, DOMINATED BY THE PEAKS OF MANZANEDA. IT HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT REFERENCE POINT SINCE PREHISTORIC TIMES, AS ROMAN CHRONICLERS NOTED THAT IT WAS INHABITED BY THE TRIBE OF THE TIBURI. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT POINT ON THE ROMAN VIA XVIII ON THE ANTONINE ITINERARY, OF WHICH SEVERAL TRACES REMAIN IN THE SHAPE OF MILESTONES AND THE BRIDGES OF BIBEI AND CABALAR.

TODAY TRIVES IS AN ATTRACTIVE, WELL-PRESERVED TOWN WITH IMPORTANT MONUMENTS, HIGHLY ACTIVE COMMERCE AS A RESULT OF ITS POSITION AS THE MAIN TOWN IN THE REGION, AND A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TOURISM SECTOR, A RESULT OF RURAL TOURISM, AND PARTICULARLY THE INSTALLATION IN THE REGION OF THE SKI RESORT OF CABEZA DE MANZANEDA, THE ONLY RESORT OF ITS KIND IN GALICIA FOR ENJOYING SNOW SPORTS.

ITS TYPICAL MOUNTAIN GASTRONOMY, WITH CURED MEATS AND SPECIAL PASTRIES SUCH AS THE BICA DE MANTEIGA, ARE OTHER FIRST-RATE ATTRACTIONS FOR TOURISTS. THE TOWN AND SURROUNDING AREA OFFER VISITORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY RURAL TOURISM IN STATELY HOMES, WITH A TOTAL OF FOUR PAZOS OR MANSIONS DEDICATED TO THIS ACTIVITY.



Jacinto Alvarado Street



Marqués de Trives Street



Paseo de San Roque

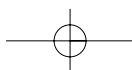
A UNIQUE TOWN

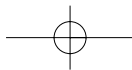
The past may be seen in all its splendour close to the town, with the beautiful **Roman bridges of the Via Nova; the bridge of Bibei**, built in the second century AD, it is 75 metres long and more than 22 metres high, and is still used for road traffic, and is one of the best preserved with its original structure in all Galicia; and the Navea bridge, also Roman in origin, with a single arch, but which was extensively rebuilt in the Middle Ages.

DON'T MISS

Festa da bica, held on the last Sunday in July. This pastry has gained sufficient notoriety to pass beyond the frontiers of the region to the whole of the peninsula. During the festival, a picnic is held based on cured pork, with *chorizo* sausages and dried ham, with the *bica de manteiga* (butter sponge cake) for dessert, washed down with the excellent wines of Bibei. The previous day, the National Bagpipe Meeting is held, with a famous competition between pipers helping to warm up for the gastronomic event.

TOURIST OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY OF TERRA DE TRIVES. PRAZA DO RELOXO, 11.
TEL.: 988 330 010





A POBRA DO CARAMIÑAL



Aerial view

DISCOVER

The Church of Santiago do Deán: built in 'maritime' Gothic style, with a single nave and an airy interior. A total of seven side chapels have been added, particularly the Alba chapel in exuberant 'Plataresque' style, as a concession from the noble families in the area. The monumental stature of the church is completed by the neighbouring eighteenth-century **Pazo do Couto**, a mansion decorated with a balustrade leading to a large stone balcony, and the **Casa Grande de Aguiar**, a beautiful example of a typical *pazo* or mansion with its origins in a tower or fortress dating from the sixteenth century. The current building is the result of extension work carried out in the eighteenth century, including the coats of arms on the façade. The majestic appearance of the group of buildings is heightened by the presence of other service buildings with feudal origins, renovated between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.

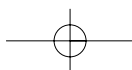
Bermúdez Tower – Valle Inclán Museum: this is one of the finest examples of civil Renaissance architecture in Galicia,

with gargoyles and mythological figures, masks, medallions, mermaids and tritons. Formerly the property of the parents of the Galician writer Valle-Inclán, today it is the home of the 'House of Culture' and a municipal museum dedicated to the writer.

Casa Mariñeira: it preserves the façade of a popular seafront house from the mid-nineteenth century, with a curious wooden corridor mounted over corbels. The interior has been converted into a museum, with temporary fine art exhibitions by both new and renowned artists.

Santa María a Antiga de Caramiñal: with a sixteenth-century apse and eighteenth-century main chapel, and a rose window in the main façade beneath a coat of arms.

Pazo Torre de Xunqueiras: this fine example of stately and military architecture is situated close to the town, dating from the fifteenth century with a monumental and clearly defensive appearance.



A POBRA DO CARAMIÑAL

THE TOWN WAS CREATED BY THE FUSION OF TWO VILLAGES: THE NOBLE POBRA DO DEÁN AND THE SEAFARING CARAMIÑAL, WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE PRESENT DAY TOWN IN 1822. IT IS A SPECIAL CHARM THANKS TO THE CONCENTRATION OF MANSIONS AND STATELY HOMES, TOGETHER WITH A WELL-PRESERVED HISTORIC CENTRE WITHOUT ANY OTHER TYPES OF CONSTRUCTIONS BREAKING THE SENSE OF HARMONY.

ITS NAME APPEARS TO ORIGINATE IN THE NAME OF PLANT THAT ONCE GREW IN THE AREA, THE CARAMIÑA OR CARAMIÑEIRA (COREMA ALBUM). THE TOWN HAS CLOSE LITERARY CONNECTIONS, AS IT IS WHERE THE WRITER VALLE-INCLÁN, WHOSE FAMILY LIVED HERE, USED IT AS THE SETTING FOR THE ADVENTURES OF THE MARQUIS OF BRADOMÍN.

AN ECONOMICALLY DYNAMIC TOWN THANKS TO THE NUMEROUS CANNERIES WHOSE ORIGINS LIE IN THE ARRIVAL OF CATALAN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TO SET UP SARDINE SALTING FACTORIES, AND THE DESTINATION FOR TOURISTS IN THE SUMMER MONTHS HEADING TO THE MAGNIFICENT BEACHES IN THE AREA, WITH A LANDSCAPE COMBINING MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA, EXCELLENT GASTRONOMY BASED ON SHELLFISH FROM THE ESTUARY OF AROUSA, AND AN ATTRACTIVE MARINA.



Marina



Church of Santa María a Antiga



Torre Xunqueiras mansion

A UNIQUE TOWN

An interesting excursion in A Pobra do Caramiñal is the ascent to the **lookout point of A Curotiña**, at a height of 368 metres. It offers excellent views over the town and its surrounding area in all its majesty, as well as an exceptional panorama of the Estuary of Arousa. It is also known as the lookout point of Valle-Inclán, where a bust of the writer has been erected to remind visitors of his walks through the Barbanza hills he so admired.

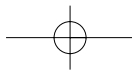
DON'T MISS

O Nazareno (or procession of shrouds): held during the four days after the **third Sunday in September**. A long procession of coffins winds through the main streets of the town, behind which walk the *ofrecidos* wearing purple shrouds, people who have been rescued on the brink of death after calling upon Jesus to save them. Declared as a Festival of Tourist Interest.

O Carme dos Pincheiros is celebrated in the **third week of August**. This procession of the Virgin Mary is particularly unusual as the band are accompanied by a parade of giants or *papamoscas* and others wearing giant papier-mache heads. Small paper balloons are released, and the festival ends with a famous castle made of fireworks.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE CASA MARIÑEIRA. PARQUE DO CASTELO, s/n.
TEL: 687 482 835
WWW.DICORUNA.ES/MUNICIPIOS/POBRADOCARAMINAL





PONTEDEUME



View of the town



DISCOVER

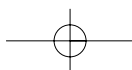
Parish Church of Santiago: built in the eighteenth century over a previously existing church from the sixteenth century on the orders of the Archbishop of Santiago, Bartolomé Raxoi e Losada, who was born in the town. The interior includes the sixteenth-century tomb of Fernando de Andrade, from the same time when the main altar was built. The Archbishop also ordered the construction of the **Raxoi Palace** in the town, more modest than its counterpart in Compostela, but of greater artistic merit. These monuments are located in the higher part of the town, from which a series of lanes descend to the *Praza do Conde* square, which contains the pazo or mansion of the Count and the Castle of the Andrade Family, of which today only the **Torre dos Andrade** remains, a beautiful tower of Gothic origin.

Convent of Santo Agostiño: situated at the other end of the town, it was founded in the sixteenth century by Fernando de Andrade. After the repossession of church lands in 1835 it ceased to belong to the church, and today is the home of the 'House of Culture'.

Church of As Virtudes or O Souto: situated at the end of the Alameda park. Built over a previous seventeenth-century church, it has an austere façade but contains an altarpiece in exuberant 'Churrigueresco' style.

Other buildings of interest are the **Cátedra da Latinidade**, the legacy of a studies professorship founded in the sixteenth century, a restrained, elegant building. The **Edifício das Lonxas** (Fish Market) is neo-Classic in style, with a markedly horizontal design, and the **Edifício do Mercado** (Market Building), constructed in colonial style in 1944.

Bridge over the River Eume : The town takes its name from the stone bridge, which for many years was the longest in Spain, spanning some 850 metres. Its origins date back to the fourteenth century, although the current version was completed in the nineteenth century. At the entrance to the bridge are a boar and bear, emblems of the House of Andrade.



PONTEDEUME

SITUATED IN THE ESTUARY OF THE RIVER EUME AND PROTECTED FROM THE SEA, THE TOWN IS SET IN A BACKDROP OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY WHICH WAS GOVERNED FROM THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY BY THE LORDS OF ANDRADE, AN IMPORTANT NOBLE GALICIAN FAMILY THAT WAS A GREAT BENEFACTOR FOR THE TOWN AND TO WHICH IT OWES ITS NAME, AS FERNÁN PÉREZ DE ANDRADE 'THE GOOD' ORDERED A BRIDGE OF 79 ARCHES TO BE BUILT OVER THE RIVER, THE LONGEST IN GALICIA UNTIL MODERN TIMES.

THE TOWN CONSERVES ITS MAGNIFICENT HISTORIC CENTRE, WITH NARROW LANES DOTTED WITH MANSIONS, CHURCHES AND THE TOWER OF THE ANDRADE FAMILY, AS WELL AS TYPICAL STONE OR WOODEN ARCHED WALKWAYS SUPPORTING BALCONIES AND WHITE GALLERIES. THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE STREETS, PARTICULARLY REAL STREET, IS VERY LIVELY, ESPECIALLY DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, WHEN BARS, TAVERNS AND SHOPS ARE ALL KEPT BUSY THANKS TO THE LARGE NUMBERS OF TOURISTS WHO VISIT THE TOWN.

THE SEAFRONT PROMENADE IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR A LEISURELY STROLL, OFFERING MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OVER THE ESTUARY, FROM WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE THE BEACHES, BOATS AND IMPRESSIVE IRON RAILWAY BRIDGE.



Town centre



Torre dos Andrade



The 'Fragas do Eume' Natural Park

A UNIQUE TOWN

Pontevedra serves as the gateway to the **Fragas do Eume Natural Park**, one of the last Atlantic forests remaining in Europe, whose origins lie in the Tertiary Age, with a dense covering of oaks, chestnut, laurel, strawberry trees and firs. It is also the home to an extensive range of fauna. The Romanesque-Baroque Monastery of Caaveiro in the heart of the forest offers excellent views over the area, giving visitors an idea of its grandiose nature.

The park area and the vicinity of Pontevedra play host to the pioneering project known as the Eume Cantina Network, with a series of typical restaurants offering local and regional dishes based on the strictest quality criteria, to the delight of visitors to the area.

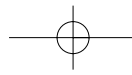
DON'T MISS

The **feirón**, an attractive weekly market held every **Saturday** where it is possible to buy nearly everything, although the emphasis is on small stands selling local foodstuffs, and it is the ideal location to buy the local specialities known as *costradas* (pies made using puff pastry), or local pastries such as the *proia mantecada* (a flat, sweet butter cake), fritters, almond cakes or sponge cakes.

The **Festa das Peras** (Pear Festival) is held on the **first Sunday in September** in honour of the Virgin of *As Virtudes* and San Nicolás de Tolentino, where it is possible to enjoy the fruit prepared in a multitude of different ways. The festival is accompanied by the sound of bagpipes and drums, as well as sporting events that include climbing a greased pole over the water, fireworks and a large barbeque.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE TORRE DOS ANDRADE. AVDA. DO TORREÓN, S/N.
TEL.: 981 430 270.
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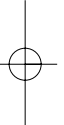
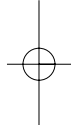


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centres

PORTOMARÍN



Aerial view

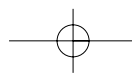
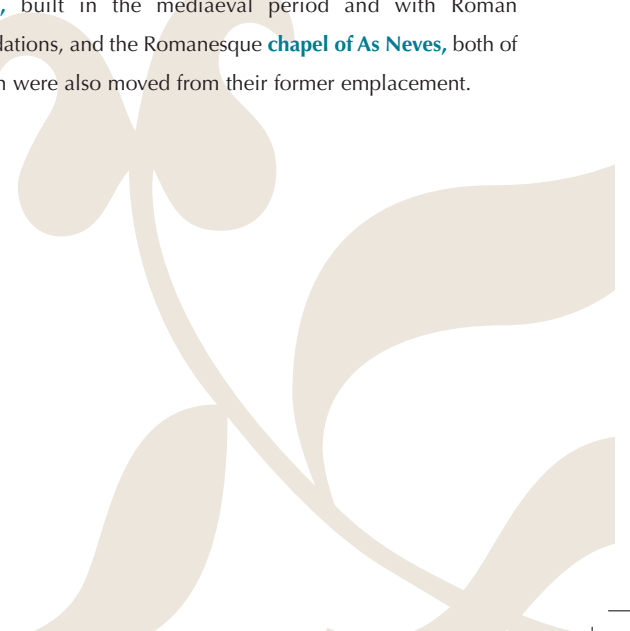


DISCOVER

The Church of San Nicolao: formerly known as the church of San Xoán, as it was a fortified temple protected by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which remained here until the nineteenth century, charging tolls to cross the bridge. It is one of the most singular Romanesque monuments along the whole of the Way of St. James, built in the thirteenth century and with an imposing appearance, distributed in different volumes and with a magnificent chancel. Other interesting elements are the rose window in the façade and the decoration of its doors, especially at its southern end, with natural motifs and a representation of the twenty-four ancients of the Apocalypse, surrounding the Saviour. In front of the church in the same square is the **Pazo do Xeneral Paredes or the Casa do Conde da Maza**, a splendid sixteenth century mansion and a fine example of civil architecture, today the Town Hall. To the south of the square is the **Church of San Pedro**, with a beautiful twelfth century Romanesque portal, and next to it the **Pazo da Marquesa de**

Bóveda and Limia, or the Pazo de Berbetouros, dating from the eighteenth century and emblazoned with coats of arms, both of which were transferred stone by stone to the historic quarter of San Pedro from the old Portomarín.

At the entrance to the town, alongside the viaduct that crosses the reservoir, is an **arch from the old bridge over the River Miño**, built in the mediaeval period and with Roman foundations, and the Romanesque **chapel of As Neves**, both of which were also moved from their former emplacement.



PORTOMARÍN

THE TOWN OF PORTOMARÍN, THE ANCIENT PONS MINEA MENTIONED IN THE CALIXTINE CODEX, HAS A CURIOUS AND LENGTHY HISTORY LINKED WITH ITS POSITION ON THE 'FRENCH ROUTE' OF THE WAY OF ST. JAMES, AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN, POSTED IN THE TOWN TO PROTECT MEDIAEVAL PILGRIMS AND GIVE THEM SHELTER.

THE OLD TOWN DISAPPEARED IN THE 1960'S AFTER IT WAS FLOODED BY THE WATERS OF THE BELESAR RESERVOIR, AND A RELATIVELY WELL-PLANNED NEW TOWN WAS BUILT ON THE TOP OF A NEARBY HILL, THE MONTE DO CRISTO, WITH A LAYOUT OF STRAIGHT STREETS LEADING TO THE LARGE CENTRAL SQUARE OF THE CONDES DE FENOSA, WITH HOUSES WITH COVERED ARCADES AND WHERE A NUMBER OF THE MAIN MONUMENTS FROM OLD PORTOMARÍN WERE TRANSFERRED STONE BY STONE, SUCH AS THE CHURCH OF SAN NICOLAO OR THE PAZO OR MANSION OF THE CONDE DA MAZA. THE TOWN ALSO HAS NUMEROUS PARKS AND BEAUTIFUL PROMENADES OFFERING FINE VIEWS OVER THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE AND RESERVOIR, WITH A MARINA OFFERING WATER SPORTS SUCH AS SAILING AND WATER-SKIING.

ONE OF PORTOMARÍN'S MOST TRADITIONAL DISHES IS ELVERS, EITHER FRIED OR BAKED IN PIES, PREFERABLY ENJOYED WITH SOME OF THE FINE LOCAL WINES PRODUCED FROM THE VINEYARDS THAT COVER THE BANKS OF THE RESERVOIR, AS WELL AS ITS RENOWNED AUGARDENTE OR GRAPE SPIRIT, WITH EXCELLENT DIGESTIVE PROPERTIES FOR AFTER MEALS, ACCOMPANIED BY ITS FAMOUS ALMOND CAKE.



Pilgrim. Church of San Nicolao



Church of San Pedro



Church of San Nicolao

A UNIQUE TOWN

The **reservoir** gives the town a mythical air, which in this case is authentic, as the legend of drowned villages that is so frequently told in Galicia is true in Portomarín, when during the summer months it is possible to see the remains of the old village that existed before the transfer to the summit of Monte do Cristo, with many of its houses, bridges, streets, mills and promenades almost intact, a moment when a walk along the banks of the reservoir becomes a highly evocative moment, tinged with a romantic atmosphere.

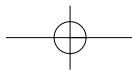
DON'T MISS

Festa da Augardente (Grape Spirit Festival): one of the most traditional gastronomic festivals in Galicia, both for its origins, dating back to the 1970's, and its nature. It is held on **Easter Sunday**, when the fiery spirit is distilled in the main town square, with prizes awarded to the best entry, after a tasting by the *Cabaleiros da Serenísima Orde da Alquitara* and the numerous festival-goers that flock to the town.

TOWN COUNCIL TOURISM DEPARTMENT.
TEL.: 982 545 303.

WWW.DIPUTACIONLUGO.ORG/HTML/MUNICIPIOS/PORTOMARIN.HTM





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historic
centres

RIBADAVIA



Praza Maior

DISCOVER

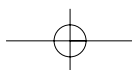
Castelo dos Sarmiento: a fifteenth-century castle situated in the high part of the town. It served as the main bastion of the town walls, and still bears the coat of arms of its owners over the main door. Inside are the remains of a necropolis and the fireplace used to heat the inside of the castle. Nearby, outside of the walls, is the **Church of the convent of San Domingos**, dating from the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, and one of the finest Galician 'Ogival' Churches, containing mediaeval sarcophagi and curious carvings of angels playing bagpipes. Inside the walls, next to the castle, is the *Praza Maior* or main square, with a harmonious collection of traditional buildings from the nineteenth century, which include the Renaissance **Torre do Concello** and the **Pazo dos Condes**, a seventeenth-century mansion with the coat of arms of the Sarmiento family on its façade, which contains the Sephardic information centre and tourist office.

Church of Santiago: the twelfth-century building is a beautiful example of popular Romanesque architecture, with several doors with semi-circular arches, a rose window in the façade and a semi-circular apse with splendid modillions. It is now a small religious museum, with its most important works

including a seated statue of St. James from the fourteenth century, and the *Cristo da Humildade* from the sixteenth century. The neighbouring Casa do Marqués de Bahamonde contains the **Ethnological Museum (or Casa da Fundación)** which includes a large library that contains music, documents and a wide range of ethnographic material. Close to the building, in the García Boente square, is the splendid **Casa da Inquisición** from the sixteenth century, with a late Gothic façade and five coats of arms carved over the monumental door. Also nearby are the **church of San Xoán**, a Romanesque building from the twelfth century, and the old **Hospital de Peregrinos**, both of which were under the former custody of the Order of Malta.

Church and convent of San Francisco: a beautiful Baroque building outside the town's walls, on the left bank of the River Avia.

San Xes de Francelos: near the town, in the wine-growing valley of Valparaiso. From the late ninth to tenth centuries it contained a nunnery, of which some pre-Romanesque elements are included in the present-day church, such as a horseshoe arch with two carvings on the side, representing scenes from the life of Christ, and a beautiful lattice window.



RIBADAVIA

RIBADAVIA, THE FLORAVIA OF THE WRITER OTERO PEDRAYO, THE RESPECTED 'FATHER OF GALICIAN LITERATURE', IS SET IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS, BETWEEN SMALL HILLS DOTTED WITH VINEYARDS, ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER AVIA AT THE POINT WHERE IT MEETS THE RIVER MIÑO. THE TOWN IS A POINT OF REFERENCE IN GALICIAN HISTORY, AS IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY THE KING, DON GARCIA, ESTABLISHED HIS COURT HERE, AS WELL AS BEING THE HISTORICAL CAPITAL OF THE REGION OF O RIBEIRO AND THE SITE OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT JEWISH QUARTERS IN ALL OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA.

ITS SPLENDOUR WAS THE RESULT OF THE WINE TRADE, EXPORTED TO EUROPE FOR CENTURIES. ITS OLD QUARTER IS A WORK OF ART CARVED IN STONE, WITH LARGE, BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS FROM DIFFERENT PERIODS, A REMINDER OF ITS GLORIOUS PAST AND ITS ECONOMIC POWER. IT HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF ROMANESQUE, GOTHIC AND BAROQUE CHURCHES AND CONVENTS, MEDIAEVAL BRIDGES THAT CROSS THE AVIA RIVER, SQUARES WITH ARCADES THAT OPEN ONTO THE RIVER VALLEY, THE REMAINS OF THE FORTRESS OF THE SARMIENTO FAMILY AND THE OUTLINE OF ITS OLD WALLS, ALL SET IN A JUMBLED NETWORK OF STREETS AND LANES, TYPICAL OF MEDIAEVAL TOWN CENTRES, WITH GENTLE SLOPES DESCENDING TOWARDS THE RIVER.

FESTIVALS AND ENTERTAINMENT ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIFE OF THE TOWN, WITH A SERIES OF WELL RENOWNED CULTURAL EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND FAIRS TAKING PLACE, IN WHICH THE LOCAL GASTRONOMY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE, PARTICULARLY THE RIBEIRO WINES, AND TYPICAL PASTRIES SUCH AS ROSCAS OR SPONGE CAKES, ALMOND CAKES AND FRITTERS, AS WELL AS TYPICAL JEWISH PASTRIES. THERE ARE ALSO FOUR SPAS IN THE AREA, IN ARNOIA, LAIAS (CENLLE), BERÁN (LEIRO) AND CORTEGADA, OFFERING VISITORS EXCELLENT INSTALLATIONS IN WHICH TO RELAX AND MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR THERMAL TREATMENTS. THIS OFFER IS COMPLEMENTED BY RURAL TOURISM ESTABLISHMENTS, AS APART FROM THE NUMEROUS TRADITIONAL HOUSES DEDICATED TO THIS ACTIVITY, THERE ARE ALSO EIGHT MANSIONS AND MANOR HOUSES CLOSE TO RIBADAVIA WHERE GUESTS MAY STAY AND ENJOY THE REGION'S TRADITIONAL GASTRONOMY.



Arcades



Convent of San Domingos



Festa da Istoria

A UNIQUE TOWN

If there is one thing that gives Ribadavia its character, it is its **mediaeval Jewish quarter**. The historic centre of the Alxama (as the neighbourhood is known) is formed by the Praza da Magdalena square and the streets that lead off from it, with houses with archways and the old Synagogue, around which all of the centres of Jewish social life existed: the Talmud school, the oven for baking unleavened bread, the pool for ritual bathing purposes, the butcher's and the town hall. Walking through these winding streets, especially Fornos Street, one of the most picturesque, and through the Praza do Buxón square, with magnificent views over the River Avia, allows us to evoke a past that is very present in the life of the town.

DON'T MISS

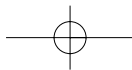
Festa da Istoria (History Festival): held on the **last Saturday of August or the first in September**, when locals dress in typical Christian or Jewish mediaeval attire. The times of the guilds and Jewish quarter are recreated in the old town, with the streets filled with entertainers, knights, craftsmen and jugglers. The whole town is turned into a great theatre, and on the day of the festival the only coin in circulation is the ancient *Maravedí*. The festival has been declared of National Tourist Interest.

Ribeiro Wine Exhibition: a festival held in celebration of the Ribeiro wine, over four days at the **end of April or early May**. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

International Theatre Festival: one of the most important in Galicia, with the twenty-second edition celebrated in 2006. For one week in **mid-July**, the town is turned into a theatre, with numerous plays staged in the streets and in the auditorium of the Castle, with companies from all over the world presenting performances of all kinds for every type of public.

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. PRAZA MAIOR, 7.
TEL: 988 471275
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historic
centres

RIBADEO



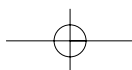
View of Ribadeo



DISCOVER

The **Praza do Campo** square features an outstanding collection of buildings, as facing on to this green space are a series of monumental structures such as the **Pazo Ibáñez**, a mansion currently used as the Town Hall, Neo-Classic in style and dating from the late eighteenth century, and the former residence of the Marquis of Sargadelos; and the **Casa dos Moreno**, a magnificent example of one of the homes built by emigrants returning from the Americas, built in the early twentieth century, with a fantastic circular tower that serves as a lookout point on one of its corners. The same square also includes the **Convent of Santa Clara**, founded in the eleventh century but reconstructed in the fourteenth, and the **Church of Santa María do Campo**, once the convent of San Francisco. Of its original thirteenth-century Gothic layout, two portals, the arch of triumph and part of the cloister remain. Its main altarpiece, an excellent piece of work, is Baroque. Another interesting building is the **Aduana Vella** or old Customs House, Neo-Classic and dating from the eighteenth century. Nearby is the **Casa das Letras**, a private foundation with exhibitions of works by local writers, documents and other items.

Port of Porcillán, on the shore of the estuary at the lower end of Ribadeo is an evocative place of past maritime glory, which today contains a well-proportioned marina. Nearby is the **Atalaia** or lookout post over the Estuary of Eo, and the **Chapel of A Trindade**, with a fourteenth century portal, Baroque altarpiece and a Holy Trinity from the sixteenth century in its interior.



RIBADEO

A TOWN WHOSE ECONOMIC SPLENDOUR IN THE PAST MAY BE SEEN IN ITS URBAN LANDSCAPE, WITH NUMEROUS CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONS OF GREAT INTEREST. RIBADEO LIES NEXT TO THE RIVER EO, ALREADY CONVERTED INTO AN ESTUARY, PROTECTED FROM THE TEMPESTUOUS WEATHER OF THE CANTABRIAN SEA. THIS PRIVILEGED SITUATION LED TO IT HAVING A BUSY PORT IN MEDIAEVAL TIMES AND THE MODERN PERIOD, BASED ON THE ATLANTIC WOOD TRADE AND PARTICULARLY ON LINEN, WHICH ARRIVED FROM THE BALTIC.

THIS WAS THE RAW MATERIAL USED TO MAKE TAPESTRIES THAT WERE SOLD IN SPAIN AND THE REST OF EUROPE, AN INDUSTRY THAT MADE THE MARQUIS OF SARGADELOS (A GREAT BENEFACTOR OF THE TOWN) HIS FORTUNE. EMIGRATION TO THE AMERICAS AND THE SUBSEQUENT RETURN OF THESE EMIGRANTS GENERATED GREAT WEALTH, THE RESULTS OF WHICH MAY BE SEEN IN THE NUMEROUS 'CASAS DE INDIANOS' IN THE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS.

TODAY, RIBADEO IS AN IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR SERVICES AND TOURISM, FAVOURED BY ITS GENTLE CLIMATE, THE ABSENCE OF ANY BUILT UP AREAS AND A WELL-PRESERVED NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, AND AN INTENSE AND LIVELY SOCIAL LIFE DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TRAVELLING TO THE TOWN FROM NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS IN GALICIA AND ASTURIAS. A REFERENCE POINT FOR TOURISM IS THE TOWN'S STATE-RUN PARADOR HOTEL (IN AMADOR FERNÁNDEZ STREET), WITH EXCELLENT VIEWS OVER THE ESTUARY.



Statue of the Marquis of Sargadelos



Aerial view

A UNIQUE TOWN

The maritime atmosphere of Ribadeo can be enjoyed thanks to the **coastal walkway** that runs from the banks of the Porcillán all the way to a former mineral quay, after a park, and from the Fortress of San Damián, a reminder of the times when pirates scoured the coast, from where we have magnificent views over the beautiful landscape of the estuary, both the Galician and Asturian side on the other shore.

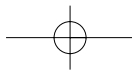
DON'T MISS

Xira de Santa Cruz and the Día da Gaita Galega (Galician Bagpipe day) held on the **first Sunday in August**. This hugely popular *romería* or festival is a picturesque compilation of religious celebrations combined with folk music, competitions to make the best *queimadas* (a drink made with flambéed grape spirit) and tastings of local produce. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

Festa da Virxe do Campo, 8 September although spread over several days. Giants, characters with giant painted heads and puppets all spill out on to the streets, with the main events including plays, concerts and the Galician Book Fair.

TOURIST OFFICE. PRAZA DE ESPAÑA, S/N.
TEL: 982 128 689.
WWW.RIBADEO.ORG

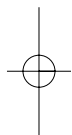




SARRIA



Convent of the Mercedarios



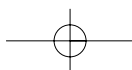
DISCOVER

Church of San Salvador, whose current structure dates from the fourteenth century, but which was built over a previously existing church. It contains Gothic and Romanesque elements, particularly the semi-cylindrical apse and doorway in the northern side. Its tympanum contains an image of Christ the Pantocrator, with his left hand held open and the right giving his blessing. The metalwork on the door all dates from the mediaeval period, and the main door is in pointed 'Ogival' Gothic style. In front of the church is the **Antigo Hospital de Santo Antonio**, today used as the city's court house. The building was constructed in the mid-sixteenth century, although it underwent several subsequent alterations. It was once used as shelter for the many pilgrims returning from Compostela if they presented their certificate of having made their pilgrimage, known as the *Compostelá*, and were also given eight *Maravedies* to pay for their upkeep on the way home.

Convent of the Mercedarios or A Madalena, built between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, later rebuilt in the sixteenth century. For this reason it combines several styles, including a façade in 'Plateresque' style, a Gothic cloister, and the Baroque door known as the 'Porta dos Carros' and bell-tower.

Also worth a visit is the simple but beautiful **church of the old Hospital de San Lázaro**, from the eighteenth century.

The high part of the town is charming and evocative, and still contains the **tower of the old fortress of Sarria**. The fortress was built in the thirteenth century, destroyed by the *Irmandiños* in the fifteenth century, and then rebuilt. The magnificent remaining tower is 14 metres high, and is reached by a staircase situated in a section of the town's walls. At its base are two old coats of arms, of the Lemos and Castro families.



SARRIA

SET IN A FERTILE VALLEY IRRIGATED BY THE WATERS OF THE RIVER SARRIA, IN THE CENTRE OF AN EXTENSIVE FARMING REGION. SARRIA IS THE LARGEST TOWN ALONG THE PILGRIMS' WAY IN THE PROVINCE OF LUGO (WITH A POPULATION OF 7,800 IN 2005), WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE FURNITURE SECTOR, CEMENT, MEAT PACKAGING AND MINERAL WATERS. IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CENTRE WITH EXCELLENT FACILITIES FOR TOURISM, A TRADITION THAT DATES BACK TO THE HOSPITALITY OFFERED TO PILGRIMS TRAVELLING TO COMPOSTELA BY THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS BASED IN THE TOWN.

ONE OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PILGRIMS WHO PASSED THROUGH THE TOWN, THE KING ALFONSO IX, DIED HERE IN 1230, WHEN HE WAS TRAVELLING TO SANTIAGO TO GIVE THANKS AFTER THE CONQUEST OF MERIDA. THE TOWN WAS FOUNDED IN ROMAN TIMES, AS A RESULT OF ITS EXCELLENT EMPLACEMENT AT THE POINT WHERE SEVERAL NATURAL COMMUNICATIONS ROUTES MET. IT WAS SETTLED BY NUMEROUS NOBLE FAMILIES IN MEDIAEVAL TIMES, WHO WERE GRANTED THE TITLES OF THE COUNTS AND MARQUIS OF SARRIA BY ROYAL ASSENT.

THE TOWN HAS A NOTABLE MONUMENTAL HERITAGE, CENTRED IN THE HIGH, OLD QUARTER. IT HAS A LIVELY NIGHTLIFE, CATERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE REGION.



Mediaeval Bridge. Way of St. James



Church of San Salvador



The tower

A UNIQUE TOWN

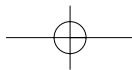
Sarria is a town with close links to the tradition of St. James, and lies along the **pilgrims' way**, being the most populated town on the 'French Way' in Galicia. At a distance of 111 kilometres from Santiago, it is a valid point to start a pilgrimage on foot and receive the *Compostelá* certificate, given for having travelled more than 100 kilometres along the Way. Visitors cannot miss the opportunity to walk a section of Europe's leading cultural itinerary.

DON'T MISS

The Festas de San Xoán, a festival lasting five days in the town with numerous activities including music, outdoor dances, bullfights and religious and sporting events. They begin on **21 June**, 'Young People's Day', and continue through the region's holy festivals, *da Fogueira* and *do Padrón*, ending on the day of the *Desfeita* (**25 June**).

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE. VIGO DE SARRIA, 15.
TEL.: 982 530 099.
WWW.CONCELLODESARRIA.NET





Aerial view

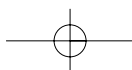
DISCOVER

The Cathedral dates from the twelfth to thirteenth centuries, at the point of transition between the Romanesque and Gothic styles, both found in the temple, which frequent wars between Spain and Portugal led to it being transformed into a fortified structure. It has three naves that were reinforced with flying buttresses after the Lisbon earthquake of 1775. Special mention should be made of its chapels, the cloister and all of its western façade, which has the finest iconographic composition of Galician Gothic 'Ogival' style, representing prophets, apostles, saints and kings, with a tympanum divided into three sections with scenes from the Annunciation, Nativity, Epiphany or Heavenly Jerusalem. The carvings of the Choir, by Canseco, are one of the finest examples of late Galician Baroque style. A climb to the tower is recommended, offering excellent views over the cathedral, the River Miño and the town. The **Cathedral Museum** contains a fine collection of religious gold and silver items. In turn, the **Diocese Museum** has excellent examples of Spanish and Hispano-American silverwork,

together with other valuable archaeological remains. Without leaving the old quarter, a visit to the remaining segments of the **town walls** is recommended, as well as the Renaissance chapels known as the **chapels of A Misericordia** and the chapel of the **Corpo Santo or San Telmo**, with a beautiful façade of Portuguese influence, based over a crypt that formed part of the house of the saint from Tui; and **San Francisco, the convent of the Monjas Clarisas Encerradas (Order of St. Clare)**, dating from the seventeenth century.

The Mendicant Church of San Domingos still conserves the abutments, cross and Gothic tombs from the fourteenth century, although the rest of the building is the result of subsequent reforms in Baroque and Neo-Classic style.

One of the essential points in the daily life of Tui's inhabitants is the stone promenade known as the **Paseo da Corredoira**, a pedestrian walkway with green zones. It includes a lookout point at one end of the promenade, offering views over farmland in the valley and the River Miño.

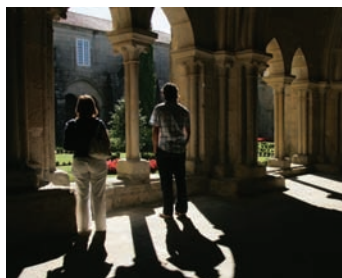


TUI

CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE SEVEN ANCIENT PROVINCES OF THE KINGDOM OF GALICIA, TUI IS BUILT ON A HILL CROWNED BY ITS CATHEDRAL, THE CENTRE OF A NETWORK OF MEDIAEVAL LANES AND ALLEYWAYS THAT LEAD DOWN TO THE RIVER MIÑO .

THE TOWN, WHICH WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE TIME OF THE SUEVI AND VISIGOTHS, WAS ONCE A ROYAL RESIDENCE, AND A PLACE OF NOTABLE MEDIAEVAL SPLENDOUR, IS TODAY ONE OF THE BEST-PRESERVED HISTORIC CENTRES IN GALICIA, AND IS WORTH EXPLORING AT LEISURE, ADMIRING ITS QUIET STREETS AND LANES, FULL OF NOBLE HOUSES, INTERESTING CORNERS, SQUARES AND STAIRCASES, REMINDERS OF ITS SPLENDID PAST THAT TAKE US BACK TO THE TIMES OF FRONTIER DISPUTES WITH NEIGHBOURING PORTUGAL. THIS FRONTIER POSITION LED TO THE TOWN BECOMING A FLOURISHING CENTRE OF POPULATION THANKS TO COMMERCE DERIVED FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, AND IS TODAY A LIVELY CENTRE FOR TOURISM AND SERVICES IN AN ACTIVE URBAN CENTRE, PARTICULARLY EACH THURSDAY WHEN A POPULAR MARKET HAS BEEN HELD SINCE 1679.

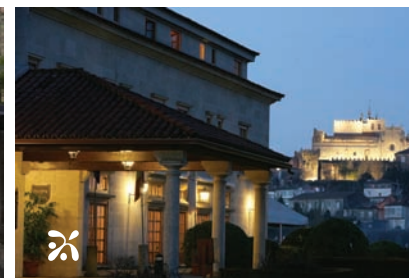
VISITING TUI MEANS AN OBLIGATORY HALT TO ENJOY ITS CUISINE, DOMINATED BY PRODUCTS FROM THE RIVER MIÑO SUCH AS ELMERS, EELS AND LAMPREYS. THE LAMPREY IS PREPARED IN NUMEROUS WAYS, ALTHOUGH THE MOST TRADITIONAL IS STEWING IT IN ITS OWN BLOOD. THE TOWN IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR THE PASTRIES MADE BY THE NUNS OF THE ORDER OF ST. CLARE, ESPECIALLY THE PEIXIÑOS DE AMENDOA (LITTLE ALMOND FISH). ITS ACCOMMODATION INCLUDES THE STATE-RUN PARADOR OF SAN TELMO, IN A BUILDING CLOSE TO THE ROAD LEADING TO PORTUGAL AND WHICH FAITHFULLY REPRODUCES THE TYPICAL ARCHITECTURE OF GALICIAN MANSIONS OR PAZOS.



Cathedral cloister



The River Miño



Parador Hotel and Cathedral

A UNIQUE TOWN

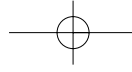
Close to the town is the first Natural Park to be declared in Galicia, **Monte Aloia**. Visitors may enjoy sweeping views over the River Miño and its estuary, with five special lookout points set up for this purpose; its flora and fauna, with fine examples of typical Galician tree species, and interesting archaeological remains from the hill-fort period.

DON'T MISS

The Festas de San Telmo, patron saint of the town and of sailors in general, held on **24 April**, with a procession of the relics and image of the saint, with a floral offering. Declared as a Festival of Tourist Interest. During the festival a large number of cultural and religious events take place, including the **Festa da Angula**, one of the most singular gastronomic events in Galicia, held since 1968 with visitors enjoying eels from the River Miño in individual portions, served with garlic.

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historic
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VILAGARCÍA DE AROUSA



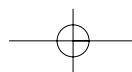
Marina

DISCOVER

The mansion and convent of **Vista Alegre**, situated to the south of the small River Cea or Con. The *pazo* or mansion is composed of a long, stylised building flanked by towers with battlements and a curious cylindrical chimney, as well as a superb Baroque coat of arms jutting out from the façade. Its origins date back to the sixteenth century, although it underwent reforms in the seventeenth century. A covered walkway, over the road, communicates it with the **church and convent of the Agostiñas Recolectas de Vista Alegre**, a seventeenth century building with a façade bearing the coats of arms of the family of its founder, the Archbishop Fernando de Andrade.

The town centre includes the **church of Santa Baia de Arealonga**, a Baroque construction from the seventeenth century, designed by the architect Pedro Monteagudo. Next to the church is the start of the attractive Castela Street, part of the extension made to the town in the early twentieth century, with fine examples of buildings in eclectic and modernist style, including the **Fantasio Cinema**, an example of Art Deco.

Also recommended is a stroll along the seafront promenade around the town's beaches of Compostela and A Concha, awarded a blue flag, which communicates Vilagarcía with the fishing village of Carril. Nearby there is also a famous marina, which also has a blue flag.



VILAGARCÍA

DE AROUSA

VILAGARCIA IS SITUATED ON THE PENINSULA OF O SALNÉS, GALICIA'S LEADING TOURIST DESTINATION, AND LIKE THE REST OF THE *RÍAS BAIXAS* OR LOWER ESTUARIES, HAS A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND GENTLE CLIMATE, COMBINED WITH ATTRACTIVE BEACHES, EXCELLENT CUISINE, AND A WIDE VARIETY OF DELICIOUS LOCAL WINES. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOWN IN ALL OF THE ESTUARY OF AROUSA, THE EIGHTH LARGEST IN GALICIA AFTER THE SEVEN LARGE CITIES. ITS NAME IS TAKEN FROM THE SURNAME OF THE CARDINAL AND BISHOP OF SANTIAGO, GARCÍA CAAMAÑO 'O FERMOSE', WHO GRANTED A LETTER OF INHABITATION IN 1461 FOR A TOWN TO BE BUILT THERE.

IT HAD THE FIRST RAILWAY LINE IN GALICIA, WHICH JOINED SANTIAGO AND CARRIL IN 1873, LEADING TO THE ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH OF VILAGARCIA, AND INCREASED TOURISM, AS BY THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY WEALTHY FAMILIES WERE ALREADY ENJOYING ITS WATERS IN THE TYPICAL STYLE OF NORTHERN SPAIN.

THE TOWN HAS GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY IN RECENT DECADES, THANKS TO THE INCREASED TRAFFIC IN GOODS THROUGH ITS PORT AND ITS IMPORTANT INDUSTRY. THIS GROWTH LED TO THE TOWN SPREADING OUTWARDS AND ABSORBING THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES OF CARRIL AND VILAXOÁN. HOWEVER, IT CONSERVES AN INTERESTING OLD QUARTER WITH FINE BUILDINGS IN STONE WITH BEAUTIFUL GALLERIES. VILAGARCIA IS A VERY LIVELY CITY, WITH AN ENERGETIC SOCIAL LIFE DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT, WHICH MULTIPLIES ITS POPULATION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.



Water festival



Town Hall



Auditorium

A UNIQUE TOWN

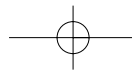
A visit to Vilagarcía is not complete without exploring the **lookout point of Monte Lobeira**, situated 290 metres above sea level to the south of the town. From here it is possible to see the whole town and enjoy spectacular views over the Estuary of Arousa, the Isle of Ons, the isthmus of O Grove, and even the Barbanza Mountain Range and the Salnés Vally, when weather conditions permit. Next to the lookout point is a monument dedicated to those who die at sea, and a plaque from the British Admiralty in memory of the sailors who died as a result of the shipwreck of the training vessel, 'Serpent'.

DON'T MISS

Festas Patronais de San Roque, a festival held in honour of the town's patron saint on **16 August**, with a wide range of events including flower battles, naval battles, outdoor dances, sports, religious celebrations and the curious Water Festival that attracts large numbers of young people who after following the procession of the saint to its hermitage, are then showered with thousands of litres of water from the balconies of the houses along the way. Declared as a Festival of Tourist Interest.

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VILALBA



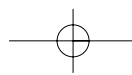
Church of Santa María

DISCOVER

When visiting Vilalba, the best starting point is the square of Suso Gallego, where **A Pravia**, an old, symbolic maple tree, welcomes us to the town. Here we also find the **Fonte da Carretera**, a fountain much loved by local inhabitants, and the House of Culture, which contains the **Museum of Archaeology and Prehistory**, containing remains from several archaeological sites throughout the region, and with an exhibition of the different cultures that settled in Galicia from Paleolithic times until the Roman invasion. Near the square is the old **Homage Tower** of the castle of the Andrade family, first built in the eleventh century but rebuilt after the Irmandiña revolt in the fourteenth century. Octagonal in shape and 40 metres high, it is divided into four floors and has battlements. It has several arrow slits, an arched door on the second floor, and a large stone boar on the fourth floor, emblem of the Andrade family. Today it is used as part of the state-run *Parador* hotel.

Parish church of Santa María, dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a beautifully constructed building.

The Carmen Estévez Municipal Auditorium is a fine example of contemporary architecture, which also adds to the dynamic nature of life in the town with numerous cultural events.



VILALBA

VILALBA IS THE CAPITAL OF THE REGION KNOWN AS TERRA CHÁ IN THE CENTRE OF THE PROVINCE OF LUGO. THE FIRST MENTION OF THE TOWN DATE FROM THE SIXTH CENTURY, WHEN IT WAS KNOWN AS SANTA MARÍA DE MONTENEGRO, A NAME THAT LIVES ON IN ITS PARISH CHURCH. ITS CURRENT NAME DATES FROM THE ELEVENTH CENTURY, AND DURING THE MIDDLE AGES IT WAS UNDER THE FEUDAL CONTROL OF THE ANDRADE FAMILY, WHO LIVED IN A CASTLE IN THE TOWN, FROM WHERE THEY CONTROLLED THE TERRITORY IN THE CENTRE OF LUGO, AND OF WHICH TODAY ONLY THE HOMAGE TOWER REMAINS.

VILALBA HAS A SMALL, CHARMING OLD QUARTER, WITH THE BEST SECTION STRETCHING FROM THE PORTA DA CIMA (WHICH CONTAINS ONE OF THE GATEWAYS IN THE OLD TOWN WALL) TO THE RÚA DO SOL, WHICH CONTAINS THE OLDEST BUILDINGS WITH TYPICAL FAÇADES. PART OF ITS HISTORY FROM FEUDAL TIMES IS STILL VISIBLE, AS ONE OF THE MOST VALUED TRIBUTES PAID TO THE LORDS OF THE AREA FOR CENTURIES, CAPONS, ARE STILL BRED LONG AFTER THESE FEUDAL OBLIGATIONS CAME TO AN END, TO BRING IN EXTRA FAMILY INCOME DURING THE CHRISTMAS FAIR.

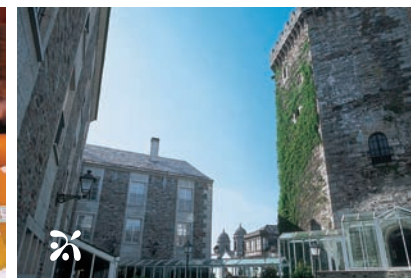
VILALBA IS ALSO A LAND OF OTHER FAMOUS GASTRONOMIC PRODUCTS THAT SHOULD BE ENJOYED DURING A VISIT, SUCH AS SAN SIMÓN DA COSTA CHEESE, SMOKED OVER BEECH WOOD AND WITH AN EXQUISITE FLAVOUR; HAMS AND SAUSAGES, POTATOES, BREAD AND HONEY. TODAY IT IS THE MARKET TOWN OF AN EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL REGION, AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE, WITH A LIVELY SOCIAL LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM NEIGHBOURING AREAS. RECENTLY VILALBA HAS EXTENDED ITS OFFER FOR TOURISM, WITH OPENING OF A MODERN SPA CLOSE TO THE TOWN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE THERMAL WATERS OF THE SPRING OF A CHARCA DO ALIGAL.



Town Centre



San Simón da Costa Cheese



Homage Tower. Parador Hotel

A UNIQUE TOWN

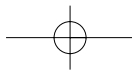
Vilalba has a natural paradise around the town, which is well worth a visit. Here we find the **River Madalena**, with beautiful riverside landscapes. Walking from Vilalba to the mill known as the *Muíño do Rañego* at a distance of some 500 metres, we find a track that passes dams and mills, a place of singular beauty at sunset, when herons and ducks may be seen. This part of the river also forms an island covered with local and ornamental trees, which may be reached by a small bridge. There is also a well-equipped recreation area with a riverside beach and picnic areas, a perfect spot to relax and enjoy the surrounding nature.

DON'T MISS

Feira do Capón, held on **21 December**. Local farmers sell capons (castrated cockerels), generally in pairs, in an attractive, specially conditioned area for the fair. From 12 o'clock there is a tasting of capon, prepared in different ways at low prices. The event is so popular that in the afternoon it is possible to see pairs of capons packed in special crates, to be then sent to other parts of Galicia and Spain.

Monthly Fair: held on the **first Sunday of the month**, providing it does not fall on the first, this fair is for producers from all over the region, with local products such as eggs, rabbits, cheeses, hams and sausages, as well as a cattle fair and vegetable market, and stalls selling clothing, footwear and fruit. The whole event is further animated by the presence of open-air stands selling octopus, known as *pulpeiras*.





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historic
centres

VIVEIRO



Gateway of Carlos V



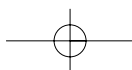
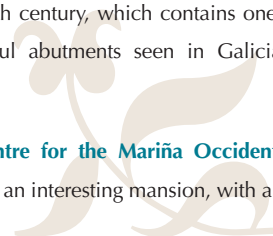
DISCOVER

Access to the town is through the **Ponte Maior** or **Ponte da Misericórdia**, a bridge built over the estuary in the fifteenth century over a previously existing structure, and the main monument in the town, the **Gateway of Carlos V**, popularly known as the **Porta Maior** or **Porta do Castelo** (Castle Gateway), built as a triumphal arch during the Renaissance (1548), decorated with coats of arms, emblems and symbols of the Emperor. Another two gateways of the old city wall are still preserved, the **Porta da Vila** or **Porta do Santo Cristo do Amparo**, the traditional main entrance to the town, with an inscription dating from the thirteenth century and built at the same time as the **Porta do Valado**, simpler in construction but with a beautiful Romanesque semi-circular arch. This gateway is next to the **Convent das Concepcionistas**, a simple Baroque construction from the seventeenth century, next to which is the evocative **Calexa das Monxas** and the **Grotto of Lourdes**, a reproduction of the French original, built in 1925. Also nearby is the **church of Santa María do Campo**, in the mediaeval centre of the old town, the oldest in the area. It is a beautiful example of Romanesque architecture that has not undergone significant reforms, dating from the twelfth century with three

wide naves, a wooden ceiling, a rose window and a perfect semi-circular apse. Inside the town we should visit the **Praza Maior** or main square, the heart of the town, with a monument to the local nineteenth-century poet Nicomedes Pastor Díaz, surrounded by buildings in granite with glass galleries from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which may also be admired in the squares of the **Praciña da Herba** or **As Catro Liñaxes** and in the **Praza da Fontenova**. There are also interesting mansions or pazos in the town, such as the **Casa dos Leóns**, built in the seventeenth century, so-called for the two lions that support the coat of arms on the façade, or the **Casa da Natividade de Nosa Señora** from the sixteenth century, built to contain a Grammar School.

Outside the town walls is the **convent church of San Francisco** from the fourteenth century, which contains one of the largest and most beautiful abutments seen in Galician Mendicant architecture.

The **Regional Centre for the Mariña Occidental** in Lodeiro Street is housed in an interesting mansion, with an exhibition of local resources.



VIVEIRO

THIS SEAFARING TOWN, WHICH HAS CARRIED THE TITLE OF 'CITY' SINCE THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, HAS THE MOST IMPORTANT HISTORIC CENTRE IN ALL OF GALICIA'S NORTHERN COAST. ITS MONUMENTAL NATURE IS CLOSELY RELATED TO ITS POSITION AS A COMMERCIAL PORT, WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE MIDDLE AGES. FOR THIS REASON IT WAS A WALLED AND FORTIFIED TOWN, WHICH CONDITIONED THE LAYOUT OF THE CENTRE, AND STILL PRESERVES THREE MAJESTIC GATEWAYS THAT LEAD IN TO THE OLD QUARTER, WITH MANSIONS FROM THE MODERN PERIOD, NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL POPULAR ARCHITECTURE, AND NOTABLE RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS, ALL OF WHICH APPEARED AS A RESULT OF VIVEIRO'S GREATEST MOMENT OF HISTORICAL EXPANSION, FROM THE MIDDLE AGES UNTIL THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

A STROLL AROUND THE OLD TOWN ALLOWS VISITORS TO DISCOVER THAT MOST OF ITS STREETS BELONGED TO DIFFERENT GUILDS, AND STILL PRESERVE THE NAMES OF THE TRADES THAT TOOK PLACE IN THEM. SOME INCLUDE THE SO-CALLED 'OAR HOUSES', TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS WHOSE ORIGIN IS BASED ON A LAW PASSED BY THE FISHERMEN'S GUILDS, WHICH OBLIGED THEIR FAMILIES TO BUILD HOUSES TO THE WIDTH OF AN OAR.

TODAY, VIVEIRO IS A LIVELY CENTRE OF COMMERCE, SERVICES, TOURISM AND FISHING, AS IT HAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PORTS ALONG LUGO'S NORTHERN COAST, CELEIRO. ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PRESENCE OF AN ACTIVE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE.



Monument to Nicomedes Pastor Díaz



Easter processions



Area Beach

A UNIQUE TOWN

A visit to a coastal town of this kind is not complete without visiting the coastline, particularly if the town itself contains one of the finest beaches found along all of Galicia's northern coast, the beach of Covas, at the end of the estuary of the River Landro, reached from the old town along a short, pleasant promenade that leaves from the **Gateway of Carlos V**, crosses through the gardens of Noriega Varela, with its beautiful views over the estuary, and then crosses the Ponte Maior. Covas is the residential area of Viveiro with many summer houses, and has an excellent beach more than 2 kilometres long, and between 150 and 300 metres wide. The beach includes a pleasant seafront promenade with gardens and leisure areas, from which visitors may enjoy the splendid landscape.

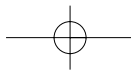
DON'T MISS

Easter in Viveiro is the most interesting in Galicia, together with Ferrol, thanks to the sumptuousness of its images and processions, and its history. Its most interesting features include processions with articulated figures representing different scenes from the Passion and Death of Christ. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

The **Romería do Naseiro** is held on the **fourth Sunday in August**, with a festival and picnic held along the banks of the River Naseiro, close to the forest of enormous eucalyptus trees in Chavín. The whole event is entertained by folk groups. Declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

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