



 XUNTA
DE GALICIA

 Xacobeo 21-22

Santiago de Compostela



The French Way
a walk of
history and life



Santiago de Compostela

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WAS, AND IS, A MEETING POINT FOR MANY CULTURES AND PEOPLES AND A PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. SANTIAGO IS A CITY TAILORED TO THE WALKER. ITS STREETS AND SQUARES FORM AN INCOMPARABLE, HARMONIOUS AND HOMOGENEOUS COMPLEX, ACCENTUATED BY THE USE OF A SINGLE MATERIAL: GRANITE. A STONE THAT, SCULPTED BY DIFFERENT ARTISTIC TRENDS, HAS CREATED AN UNPARALLELED MONUMENTAL CITY WHICH WAS DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE CITY BY UNESCO IN 1985.

IT HAS BEEN A COSMOPOLITAN CITY SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF PILGRIMS FROM ALL OVER THE CHRISTIAN WORLD, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS FAMOUS UNIVERSITY, WHICH WAS FOUNDED OVER FIVE CENTURIES AGO. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF GALICIA.

Essentials

Praza de Cervantes

A



Capela de Ánimas

B



Pazo de Fondevila

C



Convento de San Domingos de Bonaval

D



Parque de Bonaval

E



Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea

F



The route



- 1 Praza de Cervantes
- 2 Rúa das Casas Reais
- 3 Rúa Travesa
- 4 Convento de San Domingos de Bonaval
- 5 Rúa de San Pedro



Santiago de Compostela

The French Way

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Taking as a reference point the **Praza de Cervantes 1** (Cervantes Square), where the French Way enters the historic city and where we will be able to see how groups of pilgrims, of all ages and from all walks of life, arrive at Compostela.

Continuing down **Rúa das Casas Reais 2**, at number 6, we come to *Arroupa*, a wonderful non-profit initiative of Cáritas Diocesana selling second-hand clothes and items from the inventories of shops and factories. The

shop employs people at risk of social exclusion, providing them with a job opportunity. The clothes are very reasonably priced, ranging from 20 cents to 9.95 euros.

The 18th-century CAPELA DE ÁNIMAS (Chapel of Souls) is very close by. It is striking for the classical cut of the reliefs on its façade, where souls appear amidst flames. Its interior is also quite striking, depicting almost life-size scenes from the Passion of Christ with impressive realism. The sculptor, Padro Mariño, took as models the parishioners of his day to portray the different characters, of which there are many, who took part in the crucifixion of Christ. He obviously did not like all of them; one only has to look at the faces of those pagans portrayed as mocking and ridiculing Our Lord. This temple is without doubt one of the city's hidden treasures. Almost opposite is the PAZO DE FONDEVILA, a stately baroque residence with a huge chamfered coat of arms and a large overhanging balcony.

All along the street, we'll find traditional and family-run businesses, such as *Droguería Otero Perfumería*, which sells perfume and OTC drugs, *Lencería Carol*, which sells lingerie, and *Calzados Carmo*, this last one, located at number 2, is an authentic shoe shop like the ones of yesteryear, of which, unfortunately, there are very few left.



At number 23, *Bodegón Casas Chico* (Casas Chico Tavern) preserves the sign and the structure of the old hardware store from 1858. Visitors are treated to the smell of the wooden shelves which once displayed hundreds of tools and other hardware items. The long counter bearing the marks of time, the Roman scales that were once used to weigh nails and wire and the safe that adorns one of the dining rooms are all a timeless pieces that bring great joy to visitors. All these elements are 19th-century originals.

Next to it, we will find *Orixé*, a restaurant and seafood tavern, whose menu is elaborated with Galician products, always indicating their point of origin: *cañiñas* (a traditional Galician dessert) from O Carballiño, fish from Celeiro, *ameixas* (clams) from Carril, *queixo* (cheese) from San Simón, beans from Lourenzá, *morcilla* (black pudding) from Mazaricos... They are supplied with fresh market produce, fish from Galician fish markets and organic vegetables, grown by small local farmers. In addition, at number 9, they have created their own *Orixé* grocery shop, where they sell part of the products used in their menu, using paper, cardboard or glass as packaging to ensure that there is zero plastic waste.

FACING Capela das Ánimas

BELOW Detail of Palacio Viejo del Conde de Aranda



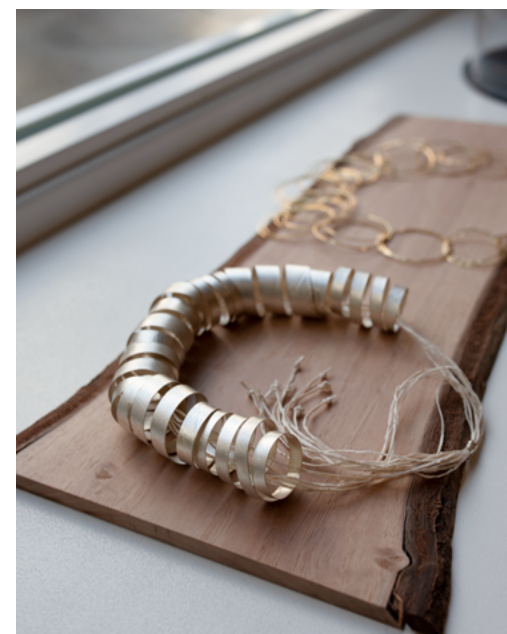


In the same spirit, located at number 38 on the same street, is *O Xardín dos Soños*, an eco-shop that promotes healthy habits, especially through its offer of medicinal plants and products related to natural remedies. As we are what we eat, it is also a specialist food shop, and has a space for tastings and activities such as courses, workshops and conferences.

By retracing our steps, we will take a small detour through **rúa Travesa 3**, where the first thing we will see is the **IGLESIA DE SANTA MARÍA DO CAMIÑO** (the church of Santa María do Camiño), which boasts a majestic rose window. The current building dates from the second half of the 18th century and inside we can admire the Renaissance tombs of the powerful Marquises of Camarasa.

FACING and **ABOVE** Noroeste Obradoiro

BELOW Iglesia de Santa María do Camiño



Located at number 5, **rúa Travesa, Noroeste Obradoiro** was founded in 1994 to manufacture and sell its very own contemporary jewellery. It also functions as an open space that exhibits the work of other artists and, as it is completely open-plan and accessible, it also serves as a learning space that teaches how a goldsmith's workshop operates. Its pieces, which won the Artesanía Galicia 2016 award, are small works of art worthy of any collector. Next door, *Lila de Lilith* is the suggestive name of a women's bookshop which, apart from offering specialised literature, plays an active role in the defence of feminist values and the struggle for equality.

We return to **rúa de Casas Reais** and exit through the Porta do Camiño, which is called Porta Francígena in the well-known *Codex Calixtinus*, whose book V is considered to be the first medieval guide to the Camino de Santiago and one of the first travel guides. It was written in the 12th century by the French monk and pilgrim Aymeric Picaud.



Opposite, the dimensions of the **Convento de San Domingos de Bonaval** ⁴ (Convent of San Domingos de Bonaval), founded at the beginning of the 13th century by the Dominicans and built outside the walls, will attract our attention. The church itself is of great importance as it is the best example of Gothic architecture in the city, given that both Romanesque and Baroque are the most abundant forms of architecture in Santiago de Compostela. Today, the complex can be visited and is home to one of the most important ethnographic museums in Galicia, the

FACING Convento de San Domingos de Bonaval
BELOW Parque de Bonaval

MUSEO DO POBO GALEGO (Museum of the Galician People). A must-see is the triple spiral staircase built by master Domingo de Andrade, who found an imaginative solution to the problem of how to distribute the monks through the different rooms from a single space. Taking advantage of the orchards and gardens of the Dominicans, the architects Isabel Aguirre and Álvaro Siza Vieira designed the PARQUE DE BONAVAL (Bonaval Park), and recovered the burial spaces of the old cemetery. From here we can also enjoy good panoramic views of the city. It is an ideal place to rest in the company of the Puerta de la Música, the sober and metallic sculpture by the master sculptor Chillida. THE CENTRO





GALEGO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEA (CGAC) (Galician Contemporary Art Centre) is a restrained venue that houses exhibitions of the most outstanding modern artists. Its play with light and volume makes a walk through its interior an artistic experience in itself.

The neighbourhood of **rúa de San Pedro**, which was and still is a place of passage for pilgrims, has always been welcoming and open. Today, it is one of the favourite places among young people and entrepreneurs to live or establish a business. Here, the meaning behind the true *obradoiros* or workshops, is recovered, in which the artisan can be seen dedicated to their craft, producing and selling their wares in the same premises. If one were looking for an original and unique gift, they would have come to the right place.

Goldsmith workshop-shops opened along **rúa de San Pedro** 5 where silver is the main material used, following the centuries-old tradition of the city but with a

modern twist. Such as *Brigantia Orfebres*, for example, located at number 79. Here we can buy handmade jewellery, accessories and decorative items made with traditional techniques. At number 83, *Kinga Haudek* is another craftswoman who specialises in silver. She offers artistic pieces of jewellery, where innovation in design is her trademark. And at number 57 is *Ratas con Faca*, where, in addition to silverware, we will also find pieces made from ceramics or wood, books, fabrics and graphic arts.

At number 89, in *Faino Ti*, Natalia Horyaans focuses on traditional fabrics and gives workshops on knitting and crochet. This is the revival of the old wool and button shops, but from a modern and contemporary perspective. At number 109, *El Taller de Fer works* with leather, it also offers courses to make leather objects ranging from bags, wallets and backpacks to mobile phone cases, adapting traditional techniques to the new market demand. These places have become centres where we can interact with one another and grow through shared experiences.

In *Mononoke*, at number 33, we will find accessories, small furniture and fittings, where the design and originality of graphic designer, Eva Díaz, are paramount. Those who wish to have a souvenir “imprinted” on their skin have come to the right place. At number 62, *Dr. Mortis Tattoo Clinic* offers body art in its purest form, being one

of the first tattoo studios to land in Santiago de Compostela to do so. They have been tattooing since 1993, offering also laser tattoo removal for those who regret getting theirs.

The gastronomic experience is important in the San Pedro neighbourhood, which is why there are so many inns and restaurants that have gradually made a place for themselves in our hearts and stomachs. Some establishments have recovered old outbuildings, such as stables, and converted them into extra dining spaces. Others have taken advantage of the gardens and orchards overlooking the PARQUE DE BELVÍS (Belvís Park) to set up wonderful open-air terraces and restaurants such as *O Dezaseis*, *Casal do Cabildo* or *A Moa*, to name but a few.

A beautiful contrast at number 120 is *A Maceta*, an old carpenter’s workshop which was converted into a restaurant, which opens onto a back patio with a terrace. It offers a very tasty and imaginative cuisine under the direction of chef Jorge Gago, winner of the 2017 Cociñeiro Novo Award. Just opposite, at number 121, is the *Churrería de San Pedro*, a place of “pilgrimage” for all those who, in the mornings, need a good cup of hot chocolate or a coffee and, of course, the best churros around. People come from far and wide to taste them!

FACING Rúa de San Pedro
ABOVE El Taller de Fer



Across the street, in **rúa da Cruz de San Pedro**, number 15, is *O Pan de Leis*, a shop that offers more than 20 different varieties of bread which they produce daily in their bakery, which was founded in 1954 by the grandfather of the current owner. In its third generation and also winners of the Estrella Ruta Española del Buen Pan (Spanish Route of Good Bread Star).

And if we still have some time left for a little reading, we can visit the *Chan da Pólvora* bookshop, number 76-74, which as well as being a publishing house, has a creative space specialising in poetry books, something very commendable for the times we live in. While we are here, we can pop into number 52, *Os Mundos de Carlota*, another bookshop that has a lovely bright space where they organise cultural activities.

Nearby

Parque de Belvís and its convent

From the Santiago de Compostela's MERCADO DE ABASTOS (Abastos Market), we cross to **rúa da Ensinanza**, where we find the COLEGIO DE LA COMPAÑÍA DE MARÍA, a baroque convent from the 18th century founded by Archbishop Raxoi as a school for noble girls. Popularly known as La Enseñanza, the old school gives its name to the street. We then follow down the **rúa das Trompas**, so called because in the Middle Ages the heralds of the all-powerful Count of Altamira would announce his arrival to town by playing French horns (trompas). This route will bring us to the spacious and beautiful PARQUE DE BELVÍS.

Its urban vegetable gardens, its maze of camellias and its privileged viewpoints - whose wisteria-filled pergolas bloom in May - offer one of the most beautiful spectacles among the city's parks.

At the top of the hill stand the imposing towers of the SEMINARIO MENOR (Minor Seminary) and the la IGLESIA Y CONVENTO DE BELVÍS (Belvís church and convent), the latter still inhabited by a congregation of cloistered Dominican nuns, whose sweets and pastries are world-famous. Its foundation dates back to the 14th century, from which the image of the Virgen del Portal (Virgin of the Portal), to whom women in labour pray, is preserved.



Colegiata de Santa María La Mayor y Real de Sar and Cidade da Cultura

From the **Praza de Galicia** we continue along **rúa da Fonte de Santo Antonio** and arrive at the fountain that gives its name to the street; here young women of marriageable age would come to drink in order to find a future husband. Just opposite, we will find Auga e Sal, a restaurant recently awarded with 1 star Michelin 2022. Here we will be able to sample its tasting menus paired with a wide range of wines.

Continuing along our route, past the Convento de las Madres Mercedarias (Convent of the Mercedarian Mothers), we descend along the **rúa do Patio de Madres** and **rúa de Castrón Douro** towards the Sar district. We are retracing the last stretch of an important pilgrimage route, the *Vía de la Plata* or Silver Way.

Once we reach **rúa do Sar**, we enter one of the most important historic quarters of the city. If we are lucky to be there between the 15th and 17th of August, during the festivities dedicated to the patron saint, we will be able to discover what a true traditional Galician festival is. On these days, the festivities of the Virgin Mary, San Roque and Santa Mariña are celebrated successively.

FACING Convento de Belvís

ABOVE Colegiata de Santa María La Mayor y Real de Sar



Hello Cooking welcomes us at number 96, **rúa de Sar**, a gastronomic experience to be enjoyed, discovered and experimented with. In its specialised bookshop, we can find all kinds of gastronomic literature and recipe books; we can also buy kitchen utensils and equipment and take part in its courses, talks and gastronomic days. Their vouchers and gastronomic experiences are the perfect gift for both pros and the culinary awkward.

We continue down **rúa do Sar** where A Grileira, a shop and workshop of Galician folk instruments, opens its doors at number 16. Xosé Lois Mouriño combines his work as a musician with that of a luthier.

This is how, without even realising it, we reach the heart of the Sar district and one of the most important Romanesque monuments in Santiago de Compostela, COLEGIATA DE SANTA MARÍA LA MAYOR Y REAL DE SAR (Colegiate church of Santa María La Mayor y Real de Sar). Strategically located next to the Silver Way and on the banks of the river Sar, the frequent floods caused the building's foundations to give way so that in the 18th century, the structure had to be shored up with enormous external flying buttresses. On entering the church, the exaggerated inclination of the pillars and the sobriety and slen-



derness of the temple catch our attention. To the delight of Romanesque art enthusiasts, it conserves a part of the old cloister and its rooms house a small museum containing valuable pieces from the city's history.

If we wish to continue our walk, we can cross the river Sar and go to the Cidade da Cultura (City of Culture), an ambitious project which the American architect Peter Eisenman began in 1999. On Monte Gaiás (Mount Gaiás) stand its imposing buildings, their undulating stone roofs and glass walls house, among other institutions, the museum, the library and the archive of Galicia, the architecture of which will leave no one indifferent. The visit also offers the opportunity to stroll through the Forest of Galicia, which provides 5 kilometres of paths, several magnificent viewpoints and some of the best views of Compostela.

ABOVE Cidade da Cultura

FACING Santa María de Conxo

The Iglesia de Conxo and its monastery

To reach the Conxo neighbourhood, we start from **Praza de Galicia**, where the *Sargadelos Gallery* is located (on the corner of **rúa Doutor Teixeiro**). A visit here means stepping into a unique exhibition space. As well as a shop, it is a true centre of modern art. With a glance at its shelves, we will travel back in time to the 18th century, when Sargadelos was founded in Cervo (Lugo) as the first Galician iron and steel company. It is remarkable that decades later, it would devote itself to something as delicate as Galicia's porcelain par excellence, which has a characteristic cobalt blue colour, the brand's distinctive trademark. Today, in addition to kitchenware, offering modern designs inspired by the deep roots of Galician culture, the company has expanded its artistic creations to include figurines, jewellery, bags, scarves and fragrances.

We continue along Rúa de Montero Ríos, Praza Roxa, Rúa Frei Rosendo Salvado,



Avenida de Vilagarcía, rúa García Prieto and rúa Sanchez Freire. The **neighbourhood of Conxo** is located at the southern exit of the city, which is also the entrance point for pilgrims coming along the Portuguese Way. Conxo had its own Town Hall until 1925, when it was annexed to Santiago de Compostela. Its local festivities are held in September and attract thousands of locals and tourists, who show their popular devotion to Nuestra Señora de la Merced (Our Lady of Mercy) and San Serapio.

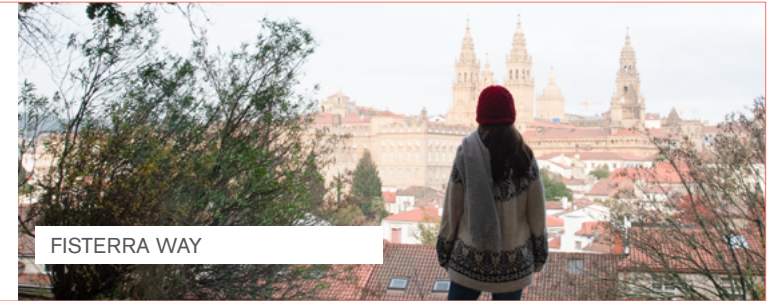
The oldest locals still recall how, in the past, when the procession of San Serapio left the Cathedral for Conxo, the faithful would leave it to enter a tavern and have a quick refreshing cup of Ribeiro wine; they would carry their pockets full of small coins so as to quickly pay for their drinks and not waste too much time before rejoining the procession again. One can easily imagine in what state the statue of the saint arrived

at the Iglesia de Santa María de Conxo (the church of Santa María de Conxo).

The IGLESIA AND CONVENTO DE SANTA MARÍA DE CONXO is a 12th-century complex linked to a lady called Rosuida, who had built, in memory of her lover who was murdered during her pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, a small hermitage that would later become a Benedictine church and monastery. At the end of the 15th century, the Orden de la Merced (Order of Mercy) settled here. This monastic complex offers us, as its most exquisite jewels, part of a Romanesque cloister and an exceptional carving of a Crucified Christ, the work of the great master of 17th-century Castilian Baroque imagery, Gregorio Hernández.



Other related guides



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THE ENGLISH WAY



CATHEDRAL ROUTE



THE MARKET ROUTE



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