



 XUNTA
DE GALICIA.

 Xacobeo 21-22

Tui



a walk of
history and life

TUI IS A SMALL FORTIFIED MEDIEVAL TOWN SHAPED, HISTORICALLY AND URBANISTICALLY, BY ITS CATHEDRAL-FORTRESS. TUI'S PRIVILEGED AND STRATEGIC LOCATION IS DUE TO ITS POSITION ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER MIÑO, A NATURAL BORDER WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY OF PORTUGAL. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE SEVEN PROVINCES OF THE OLD KINGDOM OF GALICIA UNTIL 1833. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IT OWES ITS NAME TO THE GREEK KING TYDEUS, FATHER OF DIOMEDES, ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE TROJAN WARS.



Essentials

A Catedral



B Capilla de la Misericordia



C Capilla de San Telmo



D Convento de las Madres Clarisas



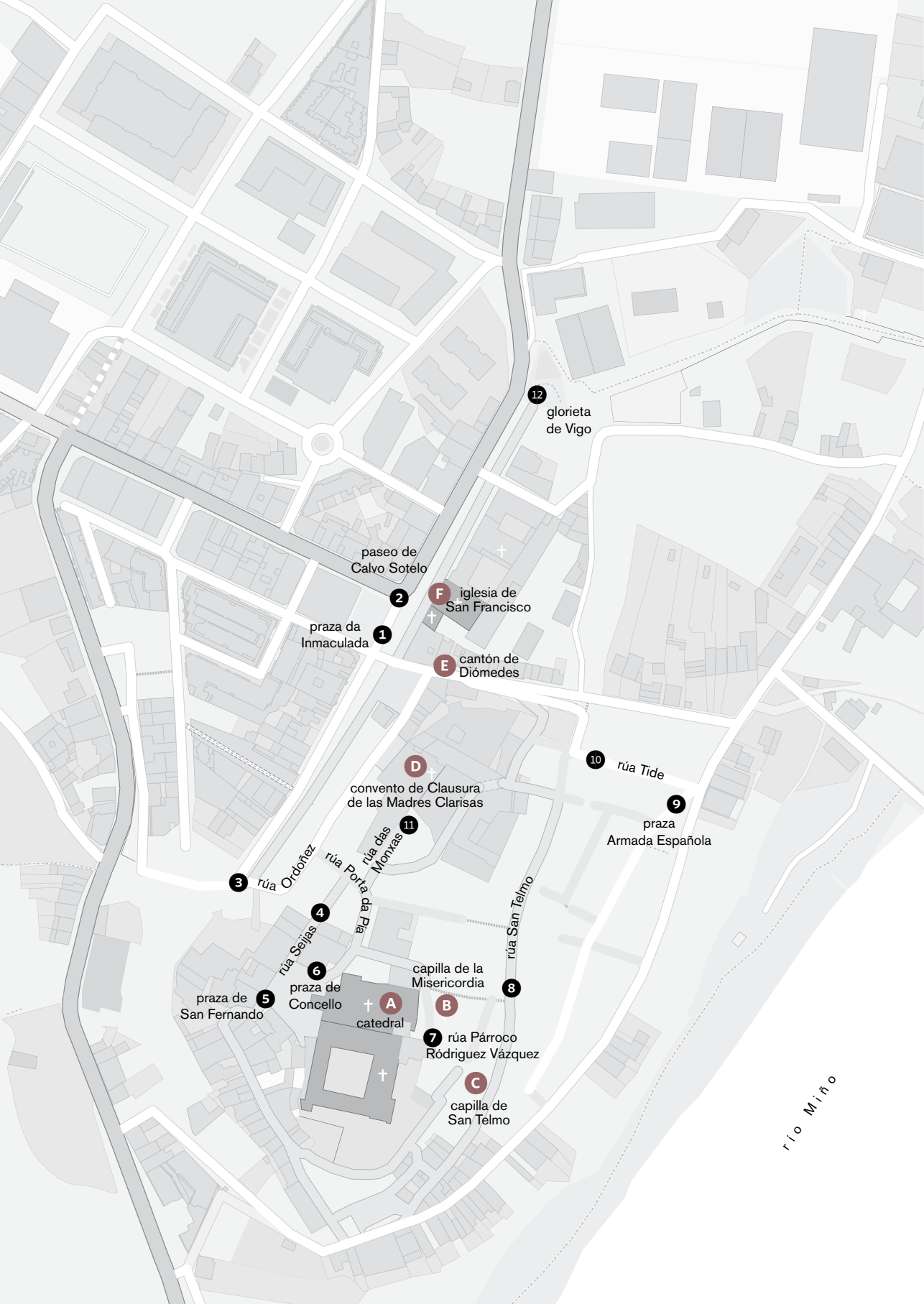
E Cantón de Diomedes



F Iglesia de San Francisco



The route



- 1 Plaza de la Inmaculada
- 2 Paseo de Calvo Sotelo
- 3 Rúa Ordoñez
- 4 Rúa Seijas
- 5 Praza de San Fernando
- 6 Praza do Concello
- 7 Rúa Párroco Rodríguez Vázquez
- 8 Rúa de San Telmo
- 8 Praza da Armada Española
- 10 Rúa Tide
- 11 Rúa das Monxas
- 12 Glorieta de Vigo



TUI IS A SMALL FORTIFIED MEDIEVAL TOWN SHAPED, HISTORICALLY AND URBANISTICALLY, BY ITS CATHEDRAL-FORTRESS. TUI'S PRIVILEGED AND STRATEGIC LOCATION IS DUE TO ITS POSITION ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER MIÑO, A NATURAL BORDER WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY OF PORTUGAL. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE SEVEN PROVINCES OF THE OLD KINGDOM OF GALICIA UNTIL 1833. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IT OWES ITS NAME TO THE GREEK KING TYDEUS, FATHER OF DIOMEDES, ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE TROJAN WARS.

Our route begins in the **Praza da Inmaculada** ① (Immaculada Square), an easily accessible spot with available parking nearby. The square is presided over by the sculpture of Fray Rosendo Salvado, one of Tui's most famous figures. This 19th-century Benedictine monk is credited with the introduction of the eucalyptus tree in Galicia, following his time in Australia evangelising the lands of New Norsia. The robust stone building, topped with three bells and a simple clock dating from 1857, is particularly noteworthy. Today it is the **PALACIO DE JUSTICIA** (Palace of Justice) and the headquarters of the Local Police.

PREVIOUS PAGES Cantón de Diomedes music kiosk and Catedral de Santa María

FACING Sculpture of Fray Rosendo Salvado

BELOW Courthouse bells

In the vicinity, on Rúa de Augusto G. Besada (Augusto G. Besada Street), we find the **Confitería Rogelio**, which has been offering, since 1967, its *roscas de yema* (doughnuts-shaped pastries filled with egg yolk cream) and its chocolate confectionery, which can be tasted in the same establishment, as it also has a cafeteria. The secret of its preparation has been passed down through three generations of confectioners and, in July 2018, it was presented on the Galician television programme *Larpeiros*.

This is the starting point of the **Paseo Calvo Sotelo** ② (Calvo Sotelo promenade), known by the people of Tui as *A Corredoira*, the main commercial artery of Tui. Since 1679, a weekly market had been held here every Thursday without interruption, although it is now located along the Rúa Casal Aboy.





Along the street, we have the opportunity to enjoy the stately stone buildings, some of them porticoed while others boast elegant iron galleries. Some of these buildings bear the mark of the Polish-born architect Pacewicz, such as the CASINO VELLO, built in 1908. Two years later, in 1910, the same architect gave us the Jesús Rivas Bugarín Building, where the Librería Iris, the oldest bookshop in Tui, is currently located. It is the ideal place to buy a book or a guide about Tui and its surroundings.

A little further on is the Taller de Dulces Óscar Romero, where we can sit down, have a coffee and taste the delights of its artisan confectionery: turrónes (nougat), pastries,

ABOVE Confitería Rogelio
FACING, ABOVE Ideas Peregrinas
FACING, BELOW Paseo de Calvo Sotelo

chocolates, cakes... The premises itself is a unique space that invites us to immerse ourselves in Tui's past, as it has respected the archaeological remains of some ancient arcades, possibly belonging to the medieval city wall.

At number 6 we find Tui-té, offering a thousand and one infusions, spices, teas and medicinal plants. It also offers gourmet products, some as unique as *turrón* from albariño and others as traditional in Baixo Miño as coriander liqueur. The street's commercial offer is completed with shops of all kinds, selling fashion, accessories, sports footwear, haberdashery, OTC drugs, etc.

We walk along **Rúa Ordoñez** ³ following the medieval city wall, which was reinforced and extended in the 17th century, adapting it to the new defensive systems used during the wars against Portugal. We arrive at the old Plaza del Comestible (Comestible Square), today Porta da Pía, which in the past was the site of both butchers and fishmongers, always found outside the city walls.

There are two arts and crafts shops in the surrounding area. One of them, Cousiñas, has been in the business for 45 years and uses a huge clay pot of queimada (a traditional hot spiced liqueur) with 48 cups to bring in the crowds. This gives us an inkling of what we are going to find inside: handmade ceramics from Galicia -such as those from Buño or

Salvaterra de Miño-, costume jewellery, handmade soaps, cheeses and wines with designation of origin, etc. Opposite, Porta da Pía Artesanía sells local and sustainable products they call "zero kilometre", such as Irene Silva's engravings, Cabuxa's leather art, Silveira's jewellery, Elena Ferro's colourful clogs, Nacho Porto's ceramics and many other handicrafts. In addition, this shop contributes its grain of sand as a cultural promoter, organising and promoting concerts, poetry recitals and the sale of books and CD's, mostly by local artists.

Going up the street we can still see, on the right-hand side, the old stone anchorage brackets, which belong to the only surviving gateway to the walled enclosure. From here, between **Rúa Porta da Pía** and **Rúa Seijas** ⁴, there is a succession of restaurants, varying from the traditional to the more innovative. Among them, located in an emblazoned house with artistic wrought-iron balconies, is O Vello Cabalo Furado, which, having ope-



ned in 1942, is one of the oldest restaurants in Tui. The offer is completed with Le Crêpe Da Pía, Pizzería Di Marco, Taparía O Albergue, La Cocina de SantiAmén y O Alboio. It is not surprising that Rúa Seijas was known, in the 14th century, as Rúa das Adegas (Street of the Wine Cellars).

The uniqueness of Ideas Peregrinas Hostel & Pilgrim Store stands out, awarded with the Camino de Santiago 2017 award for innovation, it offers a comprehensive service to the pilgrim which include a hostel, an equipment shop for the Camino, the sale of guides and maps... It also has a cafeteria with a cosy terrace and sometimes offers cultural events related to the Camino de Santiago.

Rúa Seijas leads directly to the main façade of the CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA, which has the distinctive appearance of a medieval fortress. Its battlements, towers and thick walls bear witness to a turbulent past.



The façade, dating from the 13th century, presents scenes that, in the same narrative space, show the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Annunciation to the Shepherds and the Adoration of the Magi. As soon as we enter, we will be struck by the elements that support part of the building's structure, which houses a wide selection of works of art. Some of the treasures worth admiring are the polychrome baroque organs, with representations of corn cobs and faces of Native Americans; the choir stalls, with scenes from the life of Saint Telmo; La Capilla de las Reliquias (the Chapel of the Relics), with the incorrupt body of Saint Clement; the curious monument to Holy Week or the Retablo de la Expectación (Altarpiece of the Expectation), in which Mary appears in an advanced state of gestation.

Before leaving the temple, we should visit the cloister, the viewpoint of the Palace gardens and the rooftops to truly admire the mighty proportions of the cathedral, as well



as to enjoy the splendid views of the river Minho, the international bridge and the neighbouring Valença.

We leave the church at the **Praza de San Fernando** 5 and approach the old HOSPITAL DE POBRES Y PEREGRINOS (Hospital for the Poor and Pilgrims), dating from 1756. Today, the tourist office is located on the ground floor, occupying what used to be the Chapel and Episcopal Prison.

Skirting the building, we reach the **Praza do Concello** 6, from where we can admire the north façade of the cathedral with its defensive tower and the image of the first bishop of Tui, Saint Epitacio. The other large building in the square is the CONCELLO DE

ABOVE Interior of the cathedral
BELOW Cathedral door
FACING Catedral de Santa María



Tui, the Town Hall, a historicist architecture completed in 1956.

Two of the most traditional restaurants are also located in this square. One of them is Jaqueyvi, which has been open for more than 30 years, and the other is O Novo Cabalo Furado, which has been satisfying the most demanding palates since 1969. The latter has won the prize for the best pincho in 2018 during the III edition of Saborea Tui. This gastronomic festival is held during the month of March and many of the city's catering businesses take part in it, offering a free pincho, a small portion of food, with every drink.

Undoubtedly, the gastronomic event par excellence in Tui is the Festa do Meixón (Elver Festival), which takes place during the festivities in honour of the patron saint, St. Telmo. These festivities - which are held the week after Easter - have been declared of tourist interest in Galicia. Today, restaurants prepare and offer baby eels, or elvers, served in earthenware casseroles; many are the visitors who come to Tui to taste this delicacy. Another of the delicacies of the Minho is the lamprey, already appreciated by the Romans who once lived in these lands. Via XIX connected the three main cities of ancient Gallaecia: Braga (Portugal), Lugo and Astorga (León). For this reason, along this itinerary, we will see a number of signs that reference this Roman road.



We continue our route down **rúa Párroco Rodríguez Vázquez 7** to the CAPILLA DE LA MISERICORDIA (Chapel of Mercy), a work from 1575 by the local artist Melchor Alonso Feal, who depicted himself in one of the medallions found on the façade. Inside the chapel are preserved several of the images that are carried in procession during Holy Week. In the atrium, there is a stone cross on the granite block of the cathedral's chancel, perforated by a passage tunnel, so typical of Tudela's urban planning. From here we can observe the terraced urban configuration of the banks of the Miño and, in the background, Portugal.

We will pass in front of the current ALBERGUE DE PEREGRINOS (Pilgrims' Hostel) which, sin-

ABOVE Capilla de la Misericordia
FACING Western portal of the cathedral



ce 1999, has been the place where pilgrims on the Portuguese Way have spent the night. Tui was an important stop on the Camino de Santiago because, until the 19th century, there was no bridge over the mighty river Miño, which had to be crossed by boat. Today, the river is no longer as dangerous thanks to the various reservoirs that have tamed it throughout its course.

This brings us to the CAPILLA DE SAN TELMO, patron saint of the city and also of sailors, which is why he is depicted with a small boat in his hand. Inside, we can see this devotion through the votive offering displayed there: models of ships, lifebuoys and anchors. The 18th-century building has clear influences

ABOVE Capilla de San Telmo

FACING Convento de la Concepción Santa Clara

of Portuguese baroque architecture, combining exposed granite with whitewashed walls. This chapel was built over the house in which the saint died in the 13th century. Today it has been converted into a crypt, which can be visited next to the church. Just opposite, on the **Rúa de San Telmo** ⁸, is the COLEGIO Y CASA DE LOS NIÑOS DE LA DOCTRINA. Built in the 16th century, it is considered one of the first school-hospices in Spain.

Here we will start a walk that will take us through the lesser-known side of Tui: Rúa de San Telmo, Praza do Pracer, Rúa Bispo Castañón, Praza da Estrela, Rúa Lorenzo Cuenca and Praza da Armada Española. This itinerary invites us to discover emblematized houses, the remains of a Romanesque chapel, passageways and arcades, secluded small squares, nineteenth-century mansions with small gardens, crossroads and splendid viewpoints.

If we wish to experience it more intensely, what better way to do so than at the end of August or the beginning of September, when the Festival da Historia Arraiana (Arraiana's History Festival) takes place. This is the perfect setting to enjoy everything from dramatised visits, tournaments and jousting to medieval markets and feasts as well as music and popular folklore. And for those who want to delve deeper into the history of Tui, what better than to attend the series of conferences on the matter. Sports lovers might wish

to take part in the Conquest of the Miño in which, surrounded by a festive atmosphere, kayaks and canoes take to the river, the only condition being that the paddlers must be dressed as if they were in the Middle Ages.

The great relationship between Tui and the Navy is evident here in the **Praza da Armada Española** ⁹, it is where we will find the headquarters of the Miño Naval Command and where the anchor of the frigate Andalucía is displayed.

Before leaving the square, we will approach the CASA DA VARA (Vara House), which boasts ogee arches and a unique column which measured a Spanish vara, which measured between 0.8359 m. and 0.768 m. depending on the region. The column was used as a measure for commercial transactions. This old apothecary's shop was located next to one of the city gates, through which pilgrims set off on their way to Santiago de Compostela, as is attested by the official signposting inserted in the wall of the house.

Walking up **Rúa Tide** ¹⁰, we will be welcomed by the charming hotel A Torre do Xudeu, a large 18th-century mansion bearing the coats of arms of the Cicerón and Centeno families. The hotel was built using an ancient medieval bastion on the city wall and is enclosed by a large stone fence that hides a garden containing a magnolia tree that is over 200 years old. Almost opposite



is the Panadería San Telmo, the oldest in Tui, which has been baking bread in the traditional way for over a hundred years.

We continue ascending the Canella de Tide, which leads us to the Túnel de las Encerradas (Tunnel of the Enclosed), a clear allusion to the CONVENTO DE CLAUSURA DE LAS MADRES CLARISAS (Cloistered convent of the Poor Clare Mothers) located there. This is undoubtedly one of the most charming places in Tui, where the stone sobriety of the walls contrasts with the decorative wrought-iron latticework. The building is Baroque in style and has a clear Portuguese influence, although the design of the church, whose façade depicts the Immaculate Conception, is attributed to the great Galician architect Domingo de Andrade. Behind its walls, for over five centuries, the nuns have been making their famous fish-shaped almond pastries, a jealously guarded recipe, which some believe to be of Jewish tradition but whose



shape reveals a clear Christian symbolism. They also offer filled sponge cakes as well as star-shaped almond pastries and other almond-based confectionery.

Continuing along **Rúa das Monxas** 11, at number 3, we find the *Café Lounge & Bar Central*, which offers a unique history: it began as a wooden carpenter's shop where brushes and clogs were made; later it became a ceramic tile workshop; it was also a furniture shop, and since the 1990s it has been a reference point in Tudela's nightlife. From its terrace, we will be able to enjoy a pleasant atmosphere, surrounded by the typical stone houses with outer stairs, which facilitate access to the upper floor of the building.

A little further on, in an old 16th-century apothecary's shop at Rúa Porta da Pía number 2, today we find the *Café Amadeus*, with more than twenty years of experience offering a lively leisure programme. The perfect

place to have the first coffee of the afternoon or the first drink of the evening.

Leaving the Porta da Pía again and turning right onto **Rúa Ordóñez**, we discover some railings, behind which hides a small courtyard that has been identified as being part of the synagogue. Some historians relate the name Porta da Pia to the ancient *micvé*, a Jewish ritual bath.

Throughout this tour, we will notice traces of the Jewish presence all across Tui. After the decree which expelled them in 1492, many Jews decided to convert to Christianity without abandoning their rituals and customs, giving rise to a significant crypto-Jewish community. The importance of this group can be seen, among other places, in stone inscriptions such as the menorah or seven-armed candelabrum found in the cloister of the Cathedral; the *sambenitos*, a penitential garment seen in the Diocesan Museum that the Holy Office would force the condemned to wear so as to publicly shame them; the ogee arches, topped with a cross, like those of the Casa de la Vara and even a prison of their own in the Rúa Entrefornos.

Continuing along Rúa Ordoñez, at number 3, we find the oldest food shop in Galicia: *Estanco y Alimentación Alonso*. Now in its fourth generation of the same family, this business has been open since 1890. Passing through its doors is a journey back in time, as



it reminds us of the old colmados or grocers. Its shelves are filled with countless bottles of wines and liquors that adorn its walls like a museum. Among its most popular products are cod fillets and spice blends for tripe, lamb, *filloas* (a traditional Galician crepe) and black pudding.

If we look down the street, we will see how the city walls are clearly visible, but we can imagine what it might have looked like before the end of the 20th century, when the merchants' stalls would have been directly placed against them. And so we reach what was once the **Praza de la Verdura**, where today stands the monument to one of Tui's illustrious sons: Don Manuel Lago González was bishop of this diocese, archbishop of Santiago de Compostela, member of the Royal Galician Academy and to whom the "Día

das Letras Galegas" (Day of Galician Letters) was dedicated in 1973.

Our itinerary leads us to the well-known CANTÓN DE DIOMEDES, a large space organised around the recently restored Palco de la Música of 1897. This is the setting for the concert series Música en el Palco, organised by some of the venues that open their terraces in this area, such as *Bar Bobby*, *Cervecería El Cielo* and *Cafetería-Heladería la Gran Manzana*. Other businesses that brighten up the area are *Volvoreta Outlet*, the *Tapería SantiAmén*, serving divine tapas and an extensive wine list, or the *Esteban Areses Pharmacy*, the oldest in Tui, having opened its doors in 1900. Mr Areses commissioned the Polish architect Pacewicz to design the building and establish an apothecary's shop on the ground floor. Today, the business is run by the fourth generation of the same family.

ABOVE Iglesia de San Francisco
FACING Casa da Vara



Nearby, on the **Rúa Paseo de Calvo Sotelo**, we find the IGLESIA DE SAN FRANCISCO (Church of San Francisco), on whose simple façade we can contemplate the image of Saint Anthony of Padua with the infant Jesus. The building presents architectural elements from the 17th and 18th centuries. The crucified Christ of the main altarpiece stands out within the church, as it has the peculiarity of being an articulated sculpture which, until recently, would be brought out to take part in the procession of the Holy Burial. Today, in order to prevent its deterioration, another more modern image is carried in procession. The Minor Seminary has been attached to the church since 1852.

Along this promenade, there are different commercial establishments such as bake-

ries, tobacconists, ice cream parlours, cafés, tapas bars and restaurants, some of which have terraces and others which offer excellent views. Among them is the *Tapería la de Manu*, run by Manu Garrido, world canoeing runner-up in South Africa in 2017. He has been competing with the Kayak Tudense club since he was 15 years old, thus combining his two great passions: gastronomy and canoeing.

This brings us to the **Glorieta de Vigo** ¹², where we may finish our route by admiring the SCULPTURAL GROUP BY JUAN OLIVEIRA, an internationally renowned artist with works in New York, Toronto, Ostend, London, Madrid and several Galician cities. This sculpture is a tribute to wild horses, reminding us of the Rapa das Bestas, a festival of ancestral origin where wild horses are tamed and their manes trimmed.

ABOVE Glorieta de Vigo
FACING Cantón de Diomedes

Alameda de Santo Domingo - San Bartolomeu de Rebordáns - Roman bridge

From the Vigo roundabout, we start a beautiful and relaxing walk which descends towards the IGLESIA DE SANTO DOMINGO to reach the alameda or boulevard. As soon as we start walking along the Paseo da Familia Álvarez Blázquez, our attention is drawn to a sculpture dedicated to the Greek philosopher Socrates, made in granite, by the sculptor Rosendo González in collaboration with the students of the IES San Paio de Tui, following the initiative of the Levada Libre association. This work recovers the memory of the ancient monument to the Greek philosopher, whose bust was decapitated, covered in tar and thrown into the river Minho during the summer of 1936.

This wonderful green space features ponds, pergolas and, above all, a splendid viewpoint. From here we can glimpse Tui's skyline, the river Miño with its jetties and, on the opposite bank, in Portugal, the also fortified city of Valença. From an architectural point of view, the Church of Santo Domingo stands out, with its Gothic apses that give the complex a certain romantic aura. Today it is used occasionally for cultural events.

BELOW Iglesia de Santo Domingo
FACING International bridge

After approximately 800 metres and following the streets of Antero Rubín, Canónigo Valiño and San Bartolomeu, we arrive at SAN BARTOLOMEU DE REBORDÁNS, a harmonious ensemble formed by the bandstand, the cross, its solid ashlar dwellings and a Romanesque church. This temple is today an unmissable place of passage for all those who make the pilgrimage to Compostela and many are the signs that indicate that we are on the Portuguese Way. History records that here, in the 12th century, archbishop Diego Xelmírez rested on his way to Braga, where he committed a *pío latrocinio* (pious theft), by transferring relics from the see of Braga to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

Perfectly signposted, we will follow the Roman road XIX, which ran from Braga to Lugo and along which the Camino de Santiago runs, and after about 600 metres we will



reach the old medieval bridge of A Veiga. From here, for those who love hiking, we can take a walk of about ten kilometres called the Senda da Pedra, or Stone Path.

River promenade and international bridge

From the old Porto de San Xoán, today Baixada o Embarcadoiro street, we can begin a pleasant walk along the banks of the river Miño. It is an ideal place to enjoy a natural environment that will take us to the famous 19th-century INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE, which follows Eiffel's designs, although it is the work of the Spanish engineer, Pelayo Mancebo. We will be able to see several piers, some of which will have traditional boats used for fishing in the Miño and others for recreation; above all, we will see many athletes paddling in their kayaks and canoes. Tui is a world reference in these sports. This is what the plaque located in the Rúa Olímpicos Tudenses commemorates, honouring the seven local athletes who have participated in the Olympics, from Los Angeles 1984 to Rio de Janeiro 2016.

In August, the Descenso Internacional del Miño (International Descent of the Miño) is held, which includes, along with the sporting event, a popular descent and an extensive festive programme. It has been declared a festival of tourist interest in Galicia.

Since we have come this far, there is nothing better than taking a well-deserved rest in the Parador de Turismo de San Telmo, which, with 50 years of history, reminds us of the architecture of our pazos. From its terraces, gardens and swimming pool there is a wide panoramic view of the Miño valley and Portugal.

Monte Aloia

About five kilometres from Tui stands MOUNT ALOIA, which was declared the first natural park in Galicia in 1978. Nature and hiking lovers have ten kilometres of routes where they can enjoy magnificent views, exotic tree species -some of which are hundreds of years old-, Galician-Roman archaeological remains such as the CASTRO DEL ALTO DOS CUBOS (Alto dos Cubos hill fort) or the impressive cyclopean wall on the summit as well as religious buildings such as the 18th-century CAPILLA DE SAN XIÁN. It is essential to start the visit at the CENTRO DE INTERPRETACIÓN Y DE RECEPCIÓN DE VISITANTES (Interpretation and Visitor Reception Centre) to find out about all the options that this natural oasis has to offer. The jubilee is celebrated on the first Sunday in July, a large pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgen de las Angustias (Our Lady of Sorrows), and on 27 January the festivity of San Xián takes place.

FACING Kayak from the river walk





galicia