

MUNICIPALITIES



Panoramic view of the Cathedral and city of Santiago de Compostela



Ponte Maceira (Negreira)



Cathedral's façade (Santiago de Compostela)



Santiago de Compostela



City of Culture of Galicia (Santiago de Compostela)

Ames	Boimorto	Cerceda	Melide	Ordes	Padrón	Rois	Santiago de Compostela	Sobrado	Toques	Touro	Vedra
<p>Its setting, where Roman and Medieval cultures left their mark, houses archaeological traces that go back more than 5,000 years. Those who love adventure sports can choose from a wide range of activities, such as horse riding and canoeing.</p>	<p>These lands, which are part of the North Way pilgrimage route, are very well known because this is where the Festival da Luz takes place in the parish of Andabao. It is celebrated in September and brings the most popular national bands.</p>	<p>Located in a rural environment, Cerceda has also a very important industrial development. In this area, we can find the pazo de Lavandeiras and the only aqua park in Galicia.</p>	<p>The land of Melide stands out for its "melindres" and traditional pastries, honoured with a very important festival which takes place on the second Sunday of May. A section of both the French Way and the Primitive Way pilgrimage routes cross these lands and the bridges of Leboreiro and Furelos are interesting spots not to be missed.</p>	<p>It is part of the English Way pilgrimage route. There are sites that are interesting to see, such as the Ramiro Recouso riverside walk, the natural lung in the centre of this town, pazo do Bidueiro and the church of Santa María de Beán., also popular for celebrating the DesOrdes Creativas, an international art exhibition in the street that takes place every year.</p>	<p>Bathed by the rivers Sar and Ulla, it is a gastronomic reference in Galicia for its famous peppers. Tradition links this town to the berth point of the Apostle's boat, known as Pedrón, which is kept at the altar of the church of Santiago. The town has a long literary tradition, as the birthplace of Rosalia de Castro and Camilo José Cela.</p>	<p>This municipality's economy is mainly based on agricultural activities and cattle farming, as well as, timber exploitation. It has charming small towns, such as Silvarredonda and Angueira de Castro and the 18 hole golf course of Val do Castro, the castro of Socastro and the Via Crucis in Sorribas are also places of interest.</p>	<p>Appointed World Heritage in 1985, the city of Santiago hides treasures in every corner. The historical centre is one of the most important in the world; its cathedral and the Pórtico da Gloria are not-to-be-missed by anyone who visits the town, as neither should the emblematic squares and the Museo do Pobo Galego (Museum of the Galician People).</p>	<p>At the source of the rivers Tambre and Mandeo, this area of rich landscape, with spots such as the lagoon or the oak grove of Casa do Gado. Its Cistercian monastery houses one of the gems of Galician Baroque architecture, the church of Santa María de Sobrado. The Roman settlement of Ciadella is also an interesting site to visit.</p>	<p>The village is part of the Primitive and the French Ways pilgrimage routes. As places of interest, we should point out the mámoa of Forno dos Mouros, a very well preserved megalithic monument; the castro da Graña and the Romanesque church of Santo Antolín de Toques.</p>	<p>It is located in the North West of Santiago, in this rural and cattle farming municipality, we should also point out the production of Arzúa-Ulloa's cheese. Visitors will find interesting river landscapes with paths along the river Ulla and the Route of the Dutch, an alternative Way of the Saint James pilgrimage route often used by cyclists.</p>	<p>The unique microclimate of this valley makes it a perfect place for agriculture, reflected in the existence of fields, vegetable gardens and vineyards, which produce the variety of wine with the certificate of origin Rías Baixas-Subzona Ribeira do Ulla. It is the second to last stage of the Camiño da Via da Prata, and is also famous for its pazos and camellias.</p>
<p>A Baña</p> <p>Located in the region of A Barcala, less than 30 km from Santiago. Its capital is San Vicente da Baña and its main tourist attraction is its wonderful natural environment of beautiful valleys with lush vegetation, Val da Barcala, Val Central and Val Portalaxe, traversed by the rivers Baña and Barcala, make this land richly fertile.</p>	<p>Boqueixón</p> <p>Formed by a line of valleys and mountains that flow down towards the river Ulla. Pico Sacro is one of the most typical and most visited mountains in Galicia.</p>	<p>Curtis</p> <p>Nature in its pure state; this land is part of the Biosphere Reserve "Mariñas Coruñesas e Terras do Mandeo". It is important to highlight places such as the Cova da Serpe, mount Enxameado and the stone crosses of Vilasantar and Laxe. There are also important traditional farmers markets with farm products and cattle.</p>	<p>Mesía</p> <p>It is part of the English Way pilgrimage route. The most interesting landmark we can see here is the castle dating back to the end of the 13th century or beginning of 14th century, and the natural setting of Brañas de Valga, an important place for the extraction of clay used in industrial pottery.</p>	<p>Oroso</p> <p>It is crossed by the English Way pilgrimage route from the North to South and it offers the tourist a rural landscape. It has one of the most important pitch & putt golf courses in Galicia and it is also popular for its trout, for which a festival is celebrated and is claimed to be of tourist interest.</p>	<p>O Pino</p> <p>It is located practically in the centre of Galicia. The French Way pilgrimage route (a six hour walk from O Pedrouzo) represents a very important, economic and tourist engine, being the Galician municipality with the longest pilgrimage route of the Way (18), and the last stage of this route before arriving in the city of the Apostle.</p>	<p>Santa Comba</p> <p>This village has important and very beautiful natural spots such as the waterfall of Castriz, the river Xallas is a reference point with peaceful paths and promenades that are perfect for hiking. We can point out the more than 50 stone crosses spread all over the landscape. We can also find the castros of Serantes, the pazo of Vilar de Ferreiros, famous for its magnificence and for its ornamental elements, and the Romanesque churches of San Estebo de Pezobrés and San Pedro de San Román.</p>	<p>Santiso</p> <p>Fishing and its rich landscape are the main interests you will find in this village, with the Visantoña pathway as the main recommendation. We can also find the castros of Serantes, the pazo of Vilar de Ferreiros, famous for its magnificence and for its ornamental elements, and the Romanesque churches of San Estebo de Pezobrés and San Pedro de San Román.</p>	<p>Teo</p> <p>Nature lovers will enjoy themselves at the recreational area of Xirimbao, with an attractive suspension bridge and an important fishing reserve in river Ulla. Among its patrimonial heritage, we can find the Romanesque church of Santa María de Lampai and the medieval bridge of Pontevea.</p>	<p>Tordoia</p> <p>The main interesting place of this municipality is the dolmen of Cabaleiros, appointed Historical-Artistic Monument in 1975. We can also see the waterfall of Portociños, the recreational area of Pedra Longa and Anxeriz's waterfall.</p>	<p>Trazo</p> <p>Located in a rural area in the North of Santiago, the beautiful landscapes of the river Tambre and its tributaries were included in Rede Natura 2000. Recommended for those who enjoy sport fishing.</p>	<p>Vilasantar</p> <p>It is part of the Northern Way pilgrimage route. The main tourist attractions of Vilasantar are the church of Santa María de Mezonzo, the sanctuary of Nosa Señora da Laxe and the pazo de Mende. The fountain of Laxe is a must for nature lovers.</p>
<p>Arzúa</p> <p>This municipality is popular for its cheese, which has a certificate of origin (Arzúa-Ulloa), but also for having the most popular pilgrimage route, best known as the French Way.</p>	<p>Brión</p> <p>13 km away from Santiago, its main sightseeing attractions are castro Lupario, the sanctuary, the oak grove of Santa Minia, one of the most popular places in this area, and the baths of Tremo. Many noble houses and pazos are also preserved in these lands, among which we can point out the Torres de Altamira.</p>	<p>Frades</p> <p>In this area, we can find the river area of Aiazó, the pazo de San Martín de Galegos, the hermitages of mount San Nicolás and San Roque and the church of Santa Mariña de Gafoi and San Xulián in Céltigos.</p>	<p>Negreira</p> <p>Rural region, with a very important cattle industry, that is part of the Way of Fisterra-Muxía pilgrimage route. There are many interesting sites, such as the pazo do Cotón and Maceira's bridge, a Romanesque bridge that crosses the river Tambre.</p>	<p>Botafumeiro</p>	<p>The Way of Saint James</p>	<p>Obradoiro square (Santiago de Compostela)</p>	<p>Val do Dubra</p> <p>Mainly a rural area, popular among hikers, this place offers three signposted routes to follow and an important religious heritage, as well as the megalithic monument of Pedra do Home.</p>	<p>A Quintana square (Santiago de Compostela)</p>			

WHAT TO VISIT:

The artistic and cultural heritage of the Lands of Santiago is of incalculable value. Apart from all the churches connected to the Way, there are important religious ensembles, such as the monastery of Santa María de Sobrado, and civil buildings that take us to the magnificent times of noble families, such as the pazos of Faramello, in Rois, and Santa Cruz de Ribadulla, in Vedra.

These lands also offer many megalithic remains such as the castro of Socastro in Rois, with ancient legends of hidden treasures, and Pedra do Home, in Val do Dubra, an ancient cemetery following the Christian ritual. Regarding the funerary architecture, we should point out the popular dolmen of Cabaleiros, in Tordoia, which is preserved in excellent conditions, and the petroglyphs of San Xoán de Riba in A Baña.

Visitors who want to stroll around the charming small towns are in the right place, sprinkled all over with stone houses with the typical "hórreos" (raised granaries), such as Angueira de Castro in Rois or Furelos in Melide.

NATURE

River landscapes are the great treasure of the inlands in this region, where the rivers, Tambre and Ulla, produce unique ecosystems. These rivers are popular among anglers who enjoy fishing trout, salmon and escalos (very typical in the North of Spain and Portugal) and provide visitors with beautiful river beaches and recreational areas. Maceira bridge is one of the most impressive spots over the river Tambre, between Ames and Negreira. This big stone bridge, built in the 13th century, and the monumental ensemble formed by a primitive town, are surrounded by a thick vegetation and river waterfalls, where we can find one of the most photographed images of this region, both by tourists and pilgrims. As a landscape and natural reference point, we can also find the oak grove of A Mota, in Arzúa, where parents used to plant oak trees in the belief that their children would be free from having to do military service. In Touro, the cork oak grove of the river Ulla is a forest full of hundred-year-old trees that rivals in landscape diversity, with waterfalls such as the ones of Inferniño and Salto das Pombas, in the same town, as well as the ones in Hortas, in Arzúa and Ínsua, in Val do Dubra.

Hidden in the riverbank woodland, the waterfalls and the impressive viewpoints, myths and legends are preserved, such as the one of Pico Sacro, in Boqueixón. Here, Queen Lupa ordered to build a tomb for the Apostle, not realizing that the Cova do Inferno was the place, where a dragon lived. The viewpoint of A Pena or the Coto de San Sebastián, in Touro, and the O Picoto, in Val do Dubra, are other perfect vantage points to take in this magnificent landscape in the heart of Galicia.

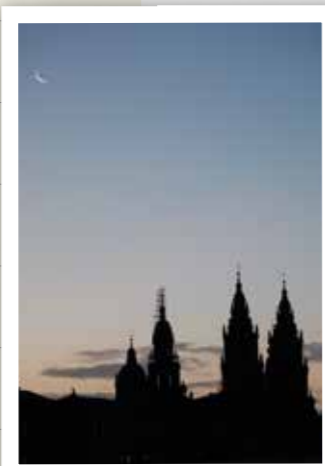
MUSEUMS

Historical, gastronomic, ethnographical, religious, artistic... In Compostela and its lands, we can find a wide range of museums, not only in the capital, but also in the surrounding areas.

The Cathedral museum and the Pilgrimage Museum are two essential museums in order to understand the importance of the Way and the history of one of the most visited temples in the world. The most erudite Galicians rest in the pantheon of the museum of Galician People, very close to one of the main examples of modern architecture, the Galician Centre of Contemporary Art, designed by Álvaro Siza, author of the beautiful outline of the park of Bonaval, also located in this area on an ancient cemetery. Another important place not to miss is the Galician City of Culture, an impressive work of contemporary architecture built on Mount Gaiás.

If we follow the jubilee route, we will find the Museo da Terra in Melide, an old pilgrims hospital, which collects the memorabilia of the history and culture of this region. Galician customs and traditions remain at the Costume Museum Juanjo Linares, in Ordes, or in the Fishing museum in Vedra. Gastronomy is very important in Arzúa, with two interesting proposals: the Live Honey Museum and the Cheese and Honey cultural promotion centre. There are other places dedicated to the interpretation of nature, such as the centre Pico Sacro, in Boqueixón, river Ulla and Terra do Xallas.

A tribute to Galician literature finds its greatest examples in Rosalía de Castro's House-Museum, in Padrón, and also in the Galician Public Foundation Camilo José Cela, dedicated to the author and to the work of this Galician Nobel prize winner.



Sunset in Santiago

A CORUÑA

LUGO

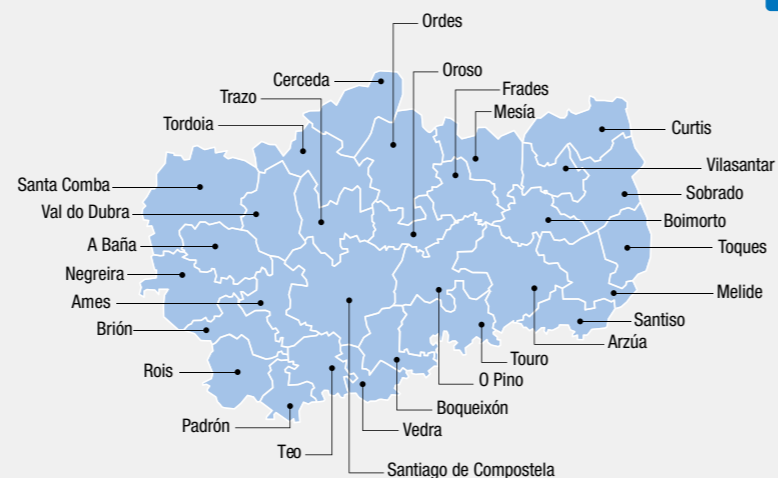
PONTEVEDRA

OURENSE



LANDS OF SANTIAGO

tourist area



LANDS OF SANTIAGO sea and land MAGIC destinations



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LANDS OF SANTIAGO
TOURIST AREA



When travelers are heading to Galicia, Santiago is one of the destinations they cannot miss. The city of Compostela, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, has one of the most important historical centres in the world. You cannot miss visiting the Cathedral and the Pórtico da Gloria (Portico of Glory), as well as the emblematic Obradoiro, a Quintana and o Toural squares. Furthermore, visitors have dozens of churches, convents and palaces of all styles, from Romanesque to baroque and gothic.

Walking around Compostela, getting lost through its alleys and suddenly finding a majestic square, a monastery or even the solemn faculty, is a unique experience that invites us to travel throughout time and to blend in with the pilgrims. Sharing the emotion of arriving at the praza do Obradoiro for the first time and letting our sight and spirit fly free in one of the most important temples in the history of humanity.

One of the shows that cannot be missed is the bird eye's view of Compostela from the rooftops of the Cathedral, already recommended by the Codex Calixtinus nine centuries ago.

WHAT TO DO:

THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES

For ten centuries, the best way to get to Compostela has been to take the Way of Saint James, one of the most popular and traveled routes in the whole world. More than 300,000 people use the most ancient route in Europe every year to give the apostle the traditional embrace.

The most popular route is the one starting in Roncesvalles, Navarra, which is the French Way. The Galician section starts in O Cebreiro, a beautiful prehistoric town, and reaches Santiago by Mount do Gozo, culminating point from which we can observe the Cathedral for the first time.

Among the Jubilee itineraries, ancient Ways are becoming more and more popular, such as the Portuguese Way and the South-West way-Vía da Prata, which connects Portugal and Andalusia with Galicia. The Primitive Way has also been recovered, often used in the Middle Ages, together with the North Way, through which travelers from all over Europe come, except for the English, who have their own English Way, which starts in A Coruña or Ferrol. The aquatic itineraries also appear in the route of

the sea of Arousa and the river Ulla. Visitors can also choose the only route with Santiago as the starting point and an excellent final point for the journey: the Way to Fisterra-Muxía.

FESTIVITIES AND FAIRS

Compostela is a city that holds many festivals, with religious processions such as the one of Ascensión, which covers streets and squares with craftworks, music, gastronomy and leisure. However, the best dates are, with no doubt, the festivities of the day of the Apostle, on the 25th of July. During this month, Compostela beats attendance records, which culminate with the traditional fireworks of the Apostle, in front of the Cathedral façade, especially impressive during the Holy year.

In Lands of Santiago, there are other festivities that stand out due to their uniqueness, such as the Entroido dos Xenerais da Ulla. This festival, declared of Tourist Interest in Galicia in 2013, dramatizes the combats between the generals of the Independence War through poetic songs. (coplas).

GASTRONOMY

If cultural heritage is vast, gastronomy in the lands of Santiago is even vaster. Lovers of good food can try many typical products, such as the popular cake from Santiago, octopus from Melide, Arzúa-Ulloa cheese, Vedra liquor, filloas from Lestedo, trouts from Oroso, mushrooms from Ordes, peppers from Herbón, "galo piñeiro" from O Pino... Almost all these delights have their own gastronomic fair, some of them of tourist interest, together with other important ones such as the Exaltación do Viño da Ulla (Exaltation of Wine from Ulla), in Vedra., Festa do Melindre (fried sweet bread) in Melide, the Carneiro ao Espeto (spit-roast mutton) in San Xulián de Sales (Vedra) and the suckling pig in Cerceda.



Alameda (Santiago de Compostela)