



 XUNTA  
DE GALICIA

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## A Coruña



*Pescadería District Route*  
a walk of  
history and life



# A Coruña



A CORUÑA LIES ON A PENINSULA BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE RÍAS ALTAS THAT MAKE UP THE ÁRTABRO GULF, WHICH IS WHY IT WAS CALLED, IN ROMAN TIMES, MAGNUS PORTUS ARTABRORUM, THE GREAT PORT OF THE ARTABRI.

IT IS ALSO KNOWN TODAY AS THE GLASS CITY DUE TO ITS IMPRESSIVE BUILDINGS WITH GLASS-ENCLOSED BALCONIES, OR AS THE HERCULEAN CITY BECAUSE OF THE LEGENDS LINKED TO THE OLDEST WORKING LIGHTHOUSE IN THE WORLD, THE TOWER OF HERCULES, WHICH WAS DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE BY UNESCO.

# Essentials

**A** Praza de María Pita and  
A Coruña City Council building



**B** Mercado de San Agustín



**C** Iglesia de Las Capuchinas and  
Museo de Belas Artes



**D** Casa Museo Picasso



**E** Praza de Lugo — market



**F** Jardines de Méndez Núñez





# The route



- 1 Praça de María Pita
- 2 Praça Marqués de San Martín
- 3 Praça do Humor
- 4 Praça de San Nicolás
- 5 Praça do Pintor Sotomayor
- 6 Rúa Panaderas
- 7 Estrecha de San Andrés
- 8 Rúa Torreiro
- 9 Rúa Riego de Agua
- 10 Rúa Real
- 11 Rúa Olmos
- 12 Praça de la Fuente de San Andrés
- 13 Rúa San Andrés
- 14 Praça de Pontevedra
- 15 Praça de Lugo
- 16 Cantón Pequeno
- 17 Cantón Grande
- 18 Avenida da Mariña





# A Coruña

## *Pescadería District Route*

The old sailors' quarter became, from the 18th century onwards, the place chosen by merchants to set up their stores and warehouses. Its location between the port and the beaches, on flat ground, a design of wider streets, and good modernist architecture made the Pescadería district the charming commercial centre of A Coruña.

We begin our tour next to the **Praza de María Pita 1** (María Pita Square) and the City Council building, in the adjacent **Praza del Marqués de San Martín 2** (Marquis of Saint Martin Square), where we find the 18th century IGLESIA DE SAN JORGE (church of San Jorge) which was declared a historical-artistic monument in 1975. It is the work of the brilliant architects Clemente Fernández Sarela and Fernando de Casas Novoa, who designed the O Obradoiro façade of the Cathedral of Santiago, which is why this façade takes inspiration from the Compostela Baroque or plaques style. Inside, the latticework reveals its monastic past, as it was first a Jesuit convent, then belonged to the order of St. Augustine, and finally became a parish church.

An unusual event occurred in 1901 with the wedding between two women, Marcela and Elisa, who at seven o'clock in the morning

got married in this church. Elisa disguised herself as a man, created a false identity, based on her cousin Mario who died in a shipwreck, and stated her father was an atheist to convince the parish priest to baptise her so she could marry her beloved, Marcela, daughter of an army captain. When they were discovered, they lost their jobs as teachers, a search and arrest warrant was issued for them, and they fled to Porto where their trail went cold on a ship bound for the Americas, possibly Argentina. Marcela and Elisa were last seen in Buenos Aires in 1904 and there are many questions surrounding them. One hundred years later, this story



**PREVIOUS PAGES** Orzán beach, Praza de Lugo

**FACING** Praza de María Pita

**BELOW** Iglesia de San Jorge





inspired film director Isabel Coixet to make a film about it.

Behind the church of San Jorge, we have the **MERCADO DE SAN AGUSTÍN** (Market of San Agustín) a rationalist building from 1932 by the architects Santiago Rey Pedreira and Antonio Tenreiro. The building, made of concrete, has a 32-metre parabolic roof that creates a clear, diaphanous interior with natural lighting through windows. It is the perfect place to view the range of fresh products such as fish, vegetables, cheese...

In front of it is the old Plaza de los Huevos (Egg Square), today transformed into the singular **Praza do Humor** ③ (Square of Humor) designed by Siro López in 1990 and dedicated to great authors such as Álvaro Cunqueiro, Castelao, Mark Twain, or well-known characters such as Mafalda, the Flintstones, Asterix and Obelix... Over the years, they have all made us laugh with their peculiar ways of looking at life or their ad-



ventures. In 1985, **Tasca A Cunqueña** opened here, a real landmark in the neighbourhood which retains its original decoration, clients, and old traditions such as serving Ribeiro wine in a mug or the design. The Saturday vermouth events with live music are famous, as are the special events held there, such as Galician Literature Day with readings from the works of the writer being honoured that year.

Some unique businesses have recently set up in this area, such as **Vintage & Coffee** (no. 2 Praza San Agustín), where you can find genuine 70s, 80s, and 90s fashion, accessories, and ornaments. **Tesouros** (no. 1 Pio

**FACING** Mercado de San Agustín

**ABOVE** Iglesia de San Nicolás

**BELOW** Cerería y Objetos Religiosos sign





XII), which displays the work of 12 artisan jewellers whose collections make use of every type of material: wire, ceramics, paper, porcelain, stone, brass, macramé, silver, glass, resin, leather, and silk. Located in the same building, [Varaston](#) is a shop selling household supplies, textiles, stationery, and personal care products, where the main focus is the style of the everyday objects on offer, which is why it was awarded one of the “Comercio con talento 2019” (2019 Business with talent) awards. Next door is [De Raíz](#), a sustainable Galician fashion and accessories brand whose products are made by local artisans. They use organic, natural materials, and water-dyed printed fabric, made with environmentally friendly techniques; essentially, slow fashion.

**ABOVE** Modernist building in Praza de San Nicolás  
**FACING** Museo de Belas Artes

A turn into **rúa Marqués de Ponteijos** to no. 5 is worthwhile to admire the shop window of [Casa Cuenca](#), “Ships provisions, Fine Overseas and Galician Products”, as its sign says in Spanish. Today it has been turned into a gourmet shop. Just in front is [La Teresiña](#), where you can find unique items, mid-century gems, mixed with furniture they have designed themselves.

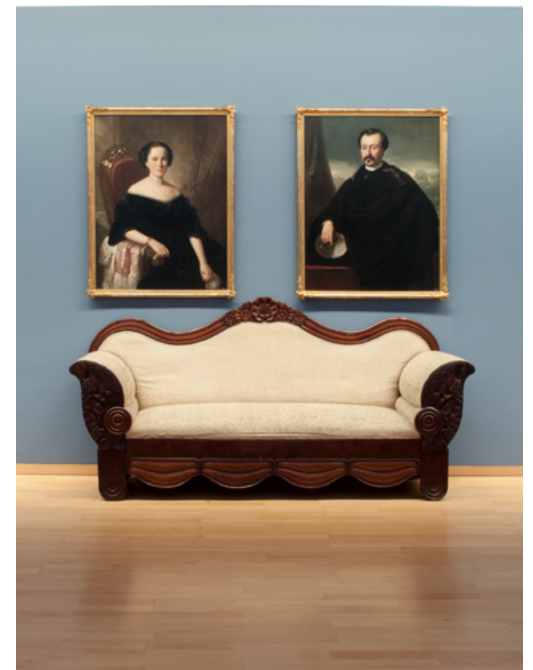
Our tour continues on to the nearby **Praza de San Nicolás** which is the site of the [IGLESIA DE SAN NICOLÁS](#) (Church of San Nicolás) an 18th century Baroque work which today, however, has a neo-classical façade dating from 1865. Only the chapel of Christ remains from the old building which was destroyed in 1598. In the chapel of Los Dolores, designed by Melchor de Prado, lie the remains of Teresa Herrera, founder of the Hospital de la Caridad and a great benefactor of A Coruña. Since 1946, every August a tournament bearing her name is held in A Coruña. The

trophy currently depicts the emblematic Torre de Hércules (Tower of Hercules) in silver and gold. The Teresa Herrera Trophy is still one of the most prestigious friendly football tournaments in the world.

In the plaza we come to the striking [MODERNIST BUILDING](#) by architect Ricardo Boán y Calleja, from 1913, located at numbers 11-13, which was built with new materials and elements, such as brick or horseshoe arches. It also introduced a peculiar take on glass-enclosed balconies, with an asymmetrical layout, which apparently was not allowed by the bylaws of the time.

Around the **Praza de San Nicolás** <sup>4</sup> are some of the oldest businesses in the city such as [Farmacia Osorio](#), which has been open since 1871; [Cerería y Objetos Religiosos](#), open since 1885, where hand-carved wooden wayside shrines can be purchased; and [Joyería Amor](#), located at number 7 and 8 on **rúa San Nicolás**, which started out in 1885 as an exchange bureau for currency, gold and silver, a much needed service in a port city.

And if you have your pets with you and want to take a break, there are two pet friendly stores in the square: [San Nicolás & Cia](#), which supports healthy habits by serving an apple with its coffees and [Valentín Café-Res-taurante](#), whose terrace was selected as one of the best in Spain in 2015. The carefully curated decoration retains the charm of a



bygone era with modern touches and its menu offers dishes from all over the world. All this has made it one of the coolest places in the city.

Continuing along **rúa San Nicolás** to no. 36, we find [Enxebre](#), a shop specialising in high-quality produce which is all from Galicia. Here we can buy Cea bread, Herbón pepper jam, Bica de Trives cake, Pedras de Hércules chocolate, “Coruñesas” biscuits, Quiroga oil, Bonilla a la Vista potatoes, Do Noso coffee, and coastal-aged Sandino vermouth.

We now come to **Praza do Pintor Sotomayor** <sup>5</sup> (Painter Sotomayor Square) and the [REAL ACADEMIA GALEGA DE BELAS ARTES](#) (Royal Galician Academy of Fine Arts) and the [BIBLIOTECA DO REAL CONSULADO](#) (Biblioteca del Real Consulado). The latter holds several pieces of interest such as an unpublished manuscript by Quevedo, documents relating to the refurbishment of the Torre de Hércu-



les, the first Dutch edition of *Don Quixote*, and *Picadillo's* recipes. One of the most famous events to take place in this building dates back to 1985, when two small Rubens' panels were stolen, which would be located three months later, one by the curator of the National Museum of Stockholm and the other in New York thanks to Interpol. This robbery led to the creation of the current [MUSEO DE BELAS ARTES](#) (Museum of Fine Art), which we will see later and which had, provisionally, occupied part of this building. The building dates from 1700 and was designed as the private home of a merchant from A Coruña based in Cadiz, who never took up residence there, which tells us of the economic strength of the time.

In the nearby [rúa Panaderas](#) **6** you will find the 18th century [IGLESIA DE LAS CAPUCHINAS](#)

**ABOVE** Wine bars, restaurants and tapas bars area  
**FACING** Elefantes house at no. 8 rúa Orzán

(Church of the Capuchins). This Baroque work by the architect Fernando de Casas Novoa shows the image of the Virgen de las Maravillas (Virgin of the Wonders) on the façade, with the coat of arms of the Franciscan order in a crest and a beautiful altarpiece inside. Behind it lies the [MUSEO DE BELAS ARTES](#) (rúa Zalaeta), the work of the architect from Ourense Manuel Gallego Jorroto, who restored part of the Convento de Las Capuchinas (Convent of the Capuchinas) in this project and was awarded the National Architecture Prize in 1997. It houses works from the Prado Museum, Spanish and European paintings from the 16th to 20th centuries, and Galician paintings from the 19th to 20th centuries. The most visited galleries include those housing collections of engravings by Goya and Sargadelos ceramics, as well as those containing temporary exhibitions.

Our journey leads back down to the Praza del Pintor Sotomayor and connects with the streets of Orzán, Cordonería, Torreiro, Galera, Real, and Riego de Agua, where we can take in the splendid architecture, such as the building at no. 8 on rúa Orzán, adorned with large elephant heads, or the house located at numbers 10-12 on rúa Galera, which boasts sophisticated decoration around the windows.

[rúa Orzán](#) is home to delicatessens such as [Macario Alta Charcutería](#) (no. 1), which has been operating in the sector for 50 years. It

has its own small scale production facility and sells essential products for a good Galician stew: Celtic pig, lard, and pig trotters, ears, and heads. At no. 22 we find [La Canalla Gourmet](#) and at 47-49 [El Riojano](#), a classic delicatessen, founded in 1896, where the star product is cod.

The [Cascanueces](#) bookstore, at no. 14, is one of the cultural hubs of the neighbourhood with workshops, exhibitions, book signings and presentations. They specialise in children's books and picture books.

In recent years, Galicia has become a leading city in design, fashion and style, and obviously interior design stores with their own tastes and products have sprung up. These include [Albino](#) (no. 49 rúa Panaderas), which has featured in AD, the prestigious decoration magazine, as one of the best in Spain. [Montegrappa](#), at no. 30, is known for its contemporary pieces and works from emerging artists. [Amelie Vintage](#) (no. 39) is a shop and restoration workshop where we can dip our toes into the art of giving old furniture a new lease of life. And lastly, [Orzán 76](#), which also stocks fashion and accessories from international labels.

We continue on our route on the travesía Cordonería (Rope side street) that leads onto one of the most picturesque streets in the whole city, the vine-covered [Estrecha de San Andrés](#) **7**, which is home to seve-



ral leisure establishments [rúa Torreiro](#) **8** brings us to rúa Galera, which, together with the Franja, Olmos, and Estrella streets, make up the area of wine bars, restaurants, and tapas bars. This may be a good time to try an *Estrella Galicia*, a beer that the Rivera family has been brewing in A Coruña since 1906. Today the fourth generation of the family heads up the company, which is present in over 35 countries and produces more than 350 million litres per year. This brings us to the centrally located rúas Riego de Agua and Real, two stately streets full of history and traditional shops.

If we turn left, we enter [rúa Riego de Agua](#) **9**, where there is the [ROSALÍA DE CASTRO THEATRE](#), which boasts the late neoclassical architecture of the 19th century. It was the first building to have electric lighting in the city. Prior to that, tallow candles were used, which often set actresses' costumes on fire and caused numerous accidents. This





theatre became one of the most important in Spain and many companies finished their tour in A Coruña and took the opportunity to stage their plays before embarking for the Americas. The building is stunningly beautiful and the programme is of a very high quality.

We can still find the popular *cascarilla* husks in the city. In the early 20th century, when cocoa began to arrive at the port of A Coruña, cocoa husks mixed with milk and sugar were used by the less wealthy classes as a substitute for coffee. This product is still sold today in some gourmet shops. Coffee is now the star of the show in places like [La Boutique del Café](#) (no. 22) or in the [La Asociación de Artistas](#) (no. 32), where we can soak up the bohemian atmosphere over a coffee as we admire the temporary exhibitions of local artists. [Elena Ferro](#), one of the most prestigious craftswomen in Galicia, has her workshop at Riego de Agua no. 4, leading onto the Praza de María Pita. As the



third generation of her family to follow the *zoqueira* tradition of her ancestors, she has been able to reinvent the popular footwear of Galician grandparents. Wood and tanned leather are the same materials as used in the past, but the design and the colour of her pieces turn her space into a small art gallery.

All along the street, goldsmithing has a prominent place as in [Joyería Obradoiro](#) with unique pieces in striking designs or in [Joyería Díaz](#), a family business founded in 1962, where we can find traditional Galician jewellery as well as Spanish and international pieces.

Before leaving **rúa Riego de Agua** behind we cannot miss the chance to visit [El Baúl de los Recuerdos](#) (The Chest of Memories)

**ABOVE** Villar pharmacy scale  
**BELOW** Galerías Centro Real  
**FACING** Obelisco

at no. 16, especially if you studied under the old primary education system in Spain, as its items and collections take us back to the 70s, 80s, and 90s. In short, a treasure chest full of those little things that move us the most.

We come to **rúa Real** <sup>10</sup> and begin with a view, at no. 8, of the first commercial cinema in Spain. [CINE PARÍS](#) opened its doors in 1909. A few steps from there, at no. 20, a plaque marks the first exhibition held by Pablo Picasso when he was a teenager and, next to it, we can see another good example of modernist architecture, at no. 22, where Antonio de Mesa and Julio Galán created a unique space by pulling together a foundry, glass-enclosed balconies, and carefully selected decoration.

All along **rúa Real**, there are, on both sides, numerous fashion shops where we can admire the creations of outstanding Galician designers, such as [Kina Fernández](#), [Bimba y Lola](#) and [Roberto Verino](#). They stand alongside exclusive shops such as [Guante Varadé](#) (no. 28), which has been open for a century, or [Félix Ramiro](#) (no. 35), a firm specialising in making suits for men which won a Golden Thimble award in 2015.

If you are looking to take a little break, then there is nowhere better than the [Churrería Bonilla a la vista](#) (no. 54) churro shop. This is a treasure for anyone who loves chocolate or olive oil-fried crisps, which are exported

all over the world, from Korea to the United States.

At [Sargadelos](#) (no. 56), the most prestigious pottery in Galicia is on display in the house where Juana de Vega lived. The writer lived here until her last days with her husband's heart kept in an ebony and silver urn, as testament to the love she had for him. [Enxebre Artesanía Galega](#) (no. 43) offers us the chance to snap up some very affordably priced artisan gifts and souvenirs. Watch and jewellery shops such as [Romeu](#) and [Salamanca](#), which has more than 50 years of history, line this street.



Football fans can also find a place for them on rúa Real at [Deportienda](#), where you find official tops and merchandise from the city's team: Real Club Deportivo de La Coruña, a real institution in the city with over 20,000 members and thousands of fans.

Further on, at no. 80, we come to [Farmacia Villar](#), one of the oldest pharmacies in Galicia which is today run by the sixth generation of the same family. Its shop window-museum displays pieces from the first shop to open its doors in 1827. Almost next door you can find [Galerías Centro Real](#) (no. 86), which was opened at the start of the 20th century as El Gran Café Moder-



no, whose façade signs, which are typically modernist, are a spectacular sight. It became a shopping centre in 1985 and it still houses shops such as [Recanto do Libro Vello](#), specialists in books and old paper and [Lume da Luma](#), an art and antiques shop where you can purchase hand-painted Coruña Sublime limited edition umbrellas.

At the end of our stroll along **rúa Real**, we come across the [OBELISCO](#) (Obelisk), a unique meeting point for the people of A Coruña which gives its name to the surrounding shopping area. The tower, which dates back to 1894, was so innovative in its day that other cities such as London, Rome, and Tokyo imitated the idea. It is a column with four clock faces, a thermometer, and barometer, which was built in honour of Aureliano Linares Rivas, a journalist, member of the Spanish Parliament for A Coruña, and minister during the reigns of Alfonso XII and María Cristina.

Our tour passes by shops onto **rúa dos Olmos** <sup>11</sup> where we soon realise we are in the

**ABOVE** Casa Solla

**BELOW** Capilla castrense de San Andrés

**FACING** Fuente de la Fama





OR [FUENTE DEL ÁNGEL](#) (Fountain of Fame or Fountain of the Angel), which is now purely ornamental. In the past, municipal by-laws had to be put in place to regulate how it was utilised as it was misused to water livestock, wash clothes or clean fish.

tapas area with the many tapas bars in sight. There are two places that perfectly embody the past and the future, [Droguería Villar](#) (no. 5) with its original shop window, counters, and shelves from 1936, where you can buy everything from a shaving brush, Myrurgia or Varon Dandy cologne to seeds for planting. Next door is [Almacén Concept Store](#) (no. 7), which was the old Droguería Villar warehouse and is now a multifunctional space. It is worth visiting its different areas offering cosmetics, books, flowers, fashion and accessories, household textiles, gastronomy, and bar products. A real place for art and to meet up.

Turning down rúa Arco there is a treat for those nostalgic for vinyl records, cassettes, and CDs at [Discovery Music](#). Searching among the illustrated covers of these of LPs is a real delight and if they don't have what the client is looking for, they will search for it and get it.

Next, we reach the **Praza de San Andrés** <sup>12</sup> (San Andrés Square), in the centre of which is the fountain called [FUENTE DE LA FAMA](#)

Continuing on with Villar family tradition, in the square we find [J. Villar](#), an eco-friendly pharmacy, where we can find products and items for personal hygiene and the home, which have been manufactured using sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

Before leaving the square, make sure to stop at no. 1 to admire the [BUILDING BY THE ARCHITECT JULIO GALÁN](#), which comprises a completely geometric composition inspired by Austrian and Belgian Modernism. It was commissioned in 1911 by its owner, Antonio Cabanelas, to set up his grocery business on the ground floor and use the rest of the building for housing.

**Rúa San Andrés** <sup>13</sup> is the commercial artery of the Pescadería neighbourhood and on this street there is a wide range of shops to see, such as shoe shops, haberdasheries, clothes

**ABOVE** Fuente de Neptuno  
**FACING, ABOVE** Casa Museo Picasso  
**FACING, BELOW** Casa de los Cisnes

shops, bazaars, sweetshops, perfumeries, decoration shops, craft workshops, etc. We walk along it towards the Praza de Pontevedra (Pontevedra Square).

The [CAPILLA CASTRENSE DE SAN ANDRÉS](#) (Saint Andrew military chapel) is one of the first monuments we come to. It was sponsored by the philanthropist Eusebio da Guarda from A Coruña, who commissioned the architect Faustino Domínguez Coumes-Gay, at the end of the 19th century, to build this neo-Romanesque temple so he could be buried there with his wife, which was not without controversy.



On our walk we can take in several modernist buildings, such as the one at numbers 69-71 with its intricate floral decoration, especially in the cornice, in the interior of the balcony, and on the columns that support the galleries. [Boüret](#) is on the ground floor of the building. This shop focuses on vintage women's fashion and specialises in dressing brides in original, timeless wedding dresses.







The designs have drawn praise in fashion magazines since the day it opened.

The [CASA SOLLÁ](#) (Solla House, no. 100) was the work of the architect of Cuban origin Ricardo Boán y Callejas, who is credited with introducing Modernism to A Coruña together with Antonio López Hernández, who constructed the [La Llave building](#) (no. 118 **rúa San Andrés**), in 1911, which has a decoration of garlands and medallions around the central viewpoints. It takes its name from the old hardware store that occupied the ground floor.

The [Casa Claudio](#) (Claudio House) was a business that started out in 1889 as a grocery store and grew into a large supermarket chain in Galicia over time. At the end of the nineties, it was taken over by a large chain, although some establishments were kept, such as this one, which specialises in high quality products.

The [Café de Macondo](#) (no. 106 **rúa San Andrés**) is a classic of A Coruña that serves up a good coffee while we visit one of its exhibitions or take in a lively discussion. We can also go there with our best friends: dogs. We also pass by the **Praza de Santa Catalina** on our way, where the aguaderas (water carriers) of A Coruña used to take their sellas (tanks) to fill them up with water from the [FUENTE DE NEPTUNO](#) (Fountain of Neptune). This is the oldest fountain in the city and is presided over by the God of the Sea, who displays the Torre de Hércules (Tower of Hercules) in his shield. The so-called "catalinas" were housed nearby. These were rural women who came to swim in the sea in the summer months on orders from their doctors.

At the end of the **rúa San Andrés**, we come to the **Praza de Pontevedra** <sup>14</sup>, which is home to the [ESCUELAS E INSTITUTO EUSEBIO DA GUARDA SCHOOL](#) (Eusebio da Guarda Schools and College). Scientists such as María Wonenburguer, writers such as Gonzalo Torrente Ballester and painting geniuses such as Pablo Picasso were students at the School. To find out more about the latter and his links to A Coruña it is more than advisable to visit the [CASA MUSEO PICASSO](#) (Picasso



**BELOW** Kiosco Alfonso  
**FACING** Praza de Lugo market





Museum House), which is located on the adjoining **rúa Paio Gómez**, at no. 14, where you can learn about the beginnings of the creator of Cubism.

In recent times, the shopping area of A Coruña has gradually moved to the nearby **Praza de Lugo** <sup>15</sup> (Lugo Square). Shopping there is a treat for those interested in architecture, as they can enjoy seeing real icons of Modernism in A Coruña.

Of all the buildings in the square we like to draw special attention to the CASA DE LOS CISNES (Swans' house, no. 11), which was designed by the architect Manuel Reboredo and boasts striking fine decoration of oriental inspiration, perhaps due to the importance of the port of A Coruña which received influences and articles from all over the world which shaped the architecture of the time.

Another valuable building is the CASA ARAMBILLET (Arambillet house, no. 13), which was commissioned in 1912 by the widow of a match manufacturer and designed by the architect Antonio López, drawing inspiration from English pre-Raphaelite painting. The faces on the façade depict the face of Elizabeth Siddal, lover of the painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who had died of an overdose of a



mixture of opium, laudanum, and alcohol, and had become an icon of this artistic movement.

At no. 22 there is another work of art to be found, a building designed by Julio Galán, which has curious, detailed decoration based on the leaves of indigenous trees, such as chestnut and oak, while the top floor stores a surprise in the countless eyes observing us. The MERCADO EUSEBIO DA GUARDA (Eusebio Da Guarda Market) in the Praza de Lugo has the appearance of a modern shopping centre, but under this exterior is one of the best-supplied food markets in Galicia, with a wide range of fresh fish and seafood. There is an extensive selection of shops in the surrounding area, although most are textile businesses, led by firms associated with the Inditex group, most notably Zara, which has almost 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> in one of those magnificent buildings with

**FACING** Pre-Raphaelite inspired caryatid  
**ARRIBA** Jardines de Méndez Núñez





glass-enclosed balconies that are so typical of A Coruña.

Once you have finished shopping, we recommend you to make your way back to the start along **Cantón Pequeño** <sup>16</sup> and **Cantón Grande** <sup>17</sup>, the latter was also known as the "Cantón da Sardiña" (Sardine Canton) until the middle of the 19th century. Here we can visit three of the best exhibition spaces in the city which are all located in the area.

First, the FUNDACIÓN PEDRO BARRIÉ DE LA MAZA

(Pedro Barrié de la Maza Foundation), which is housed in a magnificent building with classic lines and galleries. Second, the AFUNDACIÓN exhibition, in the building known as "La Ola de Cristal" (The Wave of Glass), which was built by the British architect Nicholas Grimshaw and recreates a wave breaking over the city. Third, the KIOSKO ALFONSO, a jewel of Modernism, designed by architect Rafael Gómez Villar, which is located in the JARDINES DE CASTO MÉNDEZ NÚÑEZ, a fantastic botanical garden in the heart of the city which we can stroll through to return to the Praza de María Pita after crossing **Avenida Mariña** <sup>18</sup>.

**BELOW AND FACING** Avenida da Mariña







## Torre de Hércules

The most emblematic monument in the city is, unquestionably, the [TORRE DE HÉRCULES](#) (Tower of Hercules). It is the oldest working lighthouse in the world, with history spanning 2000 years, and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2009. Built by the architect Cayo Servio Lupo in the first century CE, although its appearance on the outside has changed over time, the interior is for the most part unchanged. The Roman lighthouse had a ramp that surrounded its outer perimeter. Today it has neoclassical cladding, made in the 18th century by Eustaquio Giannini and stands 59 metres tall. In its surroundings an outdoor sculpture park was created with works by internationally renowned artists such as the [MENHIRES](#) by Manolo Paz, the [CARONTE](#) by Ramón Conde, the [CARACOLA](#) by Moncho Amigo, the [ROSA DE LOS VIENTOS](#) by Correa Corredoira. There are more than fifteen sculptures adorning this unique site, where the sea remains the main attraction and a walk around the location is a real treat for the senses.

To reach the Torre de Hércules, we recommend a walk along the [PASEO MARÍTIMO](#) (Maritime Promenade), which is more than 13 km long and the longest in Europe. On the walk we can take in the detail of the lampposts with over 1,200 enamels from artist Julia Ares. Next to the promenade is the [CEMENTERIO DE SAN AMARO](#) (San Amaro Ce-

metery), which was added to the European Cemeteries Route in 2013. This cemetery, facing the sea, can be explored following four routes: Route of the creators, historians and scientists (taking in the graves of Pondal, Curros Enríquez and Wenceslao Fernández Flórez), Route of the politicians, soldiers, and dreams of A Coruña, Route of the secrets of San Amaro, and the Artistic Route.

Beyond the Torre de Hércules, we find the [AQUARIUM FINISTERRAE](#), which the people of A Coruña call La Casa de los Peces (The House of Fish), which has a Maremagnum room

**FACING** Torre de Hércules  
**BELOW** Millenium







where we can discover almost everything about the sea here. Further along is the Domus, a work by Japanese architect Arata Isozaki and the world's first interactive museum on the workings of the human body. Next, we come to the [BEACHES OF RIAZOR AND ORZÁN](#), where every year the magical night of San Juan, a festival that was declared an International Tourist Attraction, is lit up by countless bonfires. At the end of the promenade lies the Palacio de los Deportes de Riazor (Sports Palace of Riazor), the work of Santiago Rey Pedreira, and the municipal football stadium, where [REAL CLUB DEPORTIVO DE LA CORUÑA](#) play. Following on with

the walk we reach the [MUNCYT](#) (National Museum of Science and Technology), a semi-transparent cube which won the Young National Architecture Award. A short while later we come to the glass obelisk named [MILLENIUM](#).

To round off our tour, there is nothing better than a climb up [MONTE DE SAN PEDRO](#), (Saint Peter's Mount) where the old military facilities were transformed into a place for leisure, which has the best views of the city (the estuary of A Coruña, the Gulf of Ártabro and the Atlantic Ocean). If you feel like pairing these splendid views with the finest Galician cuisine, visit the [Árbore da Veira](#) restaurant, which was awarded a Michelin star in 2021.

**ABOVE** Domus museum

**BELOW** Learn playing at Aquarium Finisterrae



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