



Lugo



a walk of
history and life

Lugo



LUGO IS, MOST CERTAINLY, THE CITY OF WALLS. AS SOON AS WE ARRIVE IN THIS CAPITAL OF JUST UNDER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS, WE START TO FEEL THE SPECIFIC INFLUENCE OF THIS MONUMENT ON EVERYTHING. FROM THE MID-3RD CENTURY CE EVERYTHING WOULD REVOLVE AROUND THE ROMAN CITY WALLS THAT COVER AN AREA OF 35 HECTARES. THEY ARE THE BASIS FOR THE SHAPE, SOUL, MOVEMENT, AND STRIKING, MAJESTIC APPEARANCE OF THE CITY.

THEY DEFENDED LUCUS AUGUSTI FROM DOZENS OF ATTACKS AND THAT IS WHY ROME WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT HERE. HOWEVER, DESPITE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION, LUGO IS NOT A ROMAN CITY WITH A GRID, RATIONAL LAYOUT TODAY. IT HAS A MEDIEVAL, INTENTIONALLY CONFUSING DESIGN: WITH SUCH DEFENCES, IF THE ENEMY OVERCAME THEM THEN WHAT BETTER TACTIC THAN TO DISORIENTATE THEM? THE TOUR WE SET OUT IS AS TORTUOUS AS THE CONCEPT OF A MEDIEVAL TOWN ITSELF AND IT WILL GIVE YOU A GLIMPSE INTO THE RICH ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL PAST OF A CITY THAT SEEKS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION WITHOUT LOSING TOUCH WITH ITS ROOTS.

Essentials

A Porta de San Pedro



B Praza Maior



C Pazo do Concello



D Porta Miñá



E Cathedral and Porta de Santiago



F Porta Falsa





Lugo

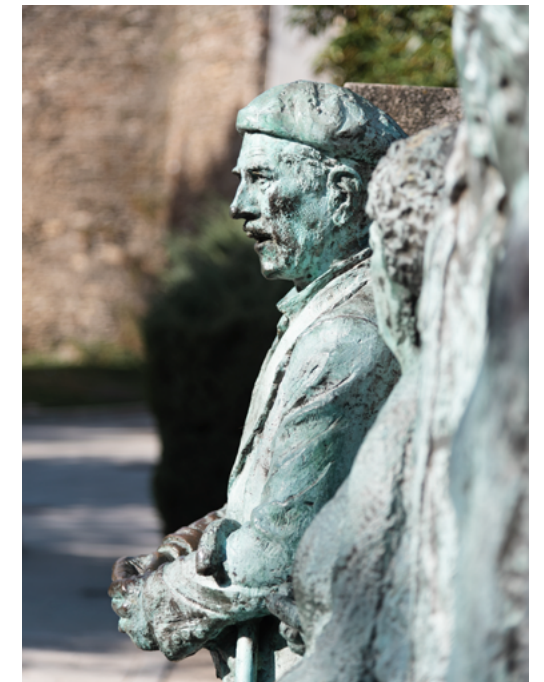
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We start our tour in the **Praza de Constitución** 1 (Constitution Square), in front of the

bus station and the so-called Model Prison, which has been made into the **CENTRO CULTURAL Y SOCIAL DO VELLO CÁRCERE** (Old Prison Social and Cultural Centre), which includes an underground car park. The area is very easy to get to, with good transport links and signs.

Opposite, **A MURALLA** (City Walls), declared a World Heritage Site 2000, come into view already. The use of slate, which is common across the whole of east Galicia, is striking, not only because it covers old and modern houses alike, but also because it is the main material used in the walls as it is readily available and easy to work. It led to a relati-



PREVIOUS PAGES Rúa da Maruca, Avenida Castelao
FACING La Muralla, a World Heritage Site
BELOW Pelúdez family



very quick pace of construction for the 2,117 metres of walls, which were completely coated in mortar, which made them solid, strong, and visually uniform. Only the most important or oldest gates and the towers are built with hard granite

At the **PORTA DA CASTELO** 2 (Castle gate), to the right, we can see one of the biggest contemporary modifications: the **REDUCTO CRISTINA** (Cristina Stronghold). During the Carlist Wars, in 1837, a decision was made to

strengthen the outer part of the original wall because it was falling down and in ruins.

This is the junction of la Ronda, the street that skirts the walls, with rúa Vigo (Vigo street), where we can find one of the most innovative and original restaurants to have opened in the city in recent times, *Pulpería Aurora do Carballiño*, with its star ingredient, octopus, the king of Galician cuisine. The interesting decoration inside uses barrels to rest the tables on.

The city is well-known throughout Galicia as one of the best places to find octopus in the traditional o polbo á feira style. The most important celebrations in the city are those for San Froilán, which take place around 5 October. This also brings to mind an odd group



ABOVE Porta do Castelo

BELOW The octopus, king of Galician gastronomy

FACING Cárcere dos Bispos

of sculptures located very close to this gate in the wall, in the gardens, which depicts the fictitious Pelúdez family, who were used by local writer and journalist Trapero Pardo to describe how the less well-off took part in and enjoyed the San Froilán (Saint Froilan) celebrations.

The Porta da Castelo is new, from the 19th century, and is one of the ten in the walls today. It was constructed by opening up one of the towers at the widest point to allow for transport and communication between the old Prison inside the walls and the new Model Prison beyond the walls. This old prison, a miserable remnant for many, is now a cultural venue and meeting place (Centro Cultural y Social O Vello Cárcere) which houses exhibitions and artwork of all kinds. A caring and magnificent work of renovation has managed to transform the place into a light, open space. Returning to the walls, we can see small side doors, called fielatos, which were used to collect tolls.

Once we cross inside the walls, we head to the **Praza do Campo Castelo** 3 (Castle Field Square), which is dominated by the large 18th century Baroque mansion, called the **CÁRCERE DOS BISPOS** (Bishops' Prison). We should take a closer look at the upper finishings, in the form of impossible chimneys and threatening towers.



We continue our walk alongside the wall by skirting buildings and keeping their façades to our right. Here there are some of the buildings which have the honour of housing archaeological remains from Roman times. As we reach the inner side of the wall, we find an odd opening in the upper section. This is one of the original entry points from the 3rd century which were designed to be used by soldiers only, as they can only be reached using portable raisable ladders.

We next come to the **Porta de San Pedro** 4 (Saint Peter's gate), which is maybe the most splendid of the ten current gates and most likely one of the original five. Its imposing towers are built in solid granite where we can see the city's coat of arms from the 18th century between two lions. Since the Middle Ages, the Primitive Way pilgrimage route from Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela has entered the city through this gate.



We follow the bronze scallop shells on the ground along **rúa San Pedro 5** which are a guide for pilgrims.

There is an odd sign on a small door at no. 43 which reads: "Madrid en Lugo. Fundada en 1925" (Madrid in Lugo. Founded in 1925). This is one of the most delightful and prestigious bakeries in the area which sells rustic bread and tasty empanada pasties. [The Cordelería Pérez Carro](#) ropemaker's shop

is opposite, where you can find almost one hundred and fifty years of tradition. This shop sells every type of rope, corks, canes, straw hats, tack for horses, and much more.

A narrow street off to the right leads us to O Cantiño (The Corner), a narrow bend that forms a small side street that is easily missed. Down it we can find typical Spanish taverns, which serve traditional, simple food, such as [O Candil do Cantiño](#), opened in 1968.

In the next side street, on rúa das Noreas, is the [Albergue de Peregrinos](#) (Pilgrims' Hostel) and [Restaurante Paprica](#), which offers us

an innovative eating experience and fresh produce in this creative cuisine from Álvaro Vilasente, which is part of the select Grupo Nove group and bears the "Q for Quality" seal. The market dishes combine tradition and contemporary cooking, as do the beautiful decoration and interior terrace, which is wonderful in summer.

Rúa San Pedro was traditionally the place to find the city's finest shops, with a rich selection of jewellers, clothes and shoe shops, and some gourmet food shops, where old shop window advertising signs that are real works of art still survive. We find our eyes drawn to [Confecciones García](#) and, at the end of the street, the [Gran Farmacia Central](#), opened at the start of the 20th century and run by the third generation of the same family. This is one of those places that should never fall out of favour due to just how beautiful they are. There are many pharmacies but very few of them compare to those of yesteryear. This street also includes the [Heladería Bico](#)



[de Xeado](#) ice cream parlour, which makes its own ice cream with 100% Galician milk and is stylishly decorated. Almost next door, at no. 12, is [Mangata](#), a holistic beauty centre that stocks natural toxin-free products and treatments, including independent vegan cosmetics.

When we come to the Correos (post office), we should turn our gaze upwards to the surprising sight of a postman with a post horn and the distinctive uniform they wore in the past; this is an AUTOMATA which turns and plays its horn to tell the time in unison with the bell that serenades us with the tune of Negra Sombra (Black Shadow), a song which



FACING, ABOVE Rúa de San Pedro
FACING, BELOW O Cantiño
ABOVE Porta de San Pedro
BELOW Cordelería Pérez Carro



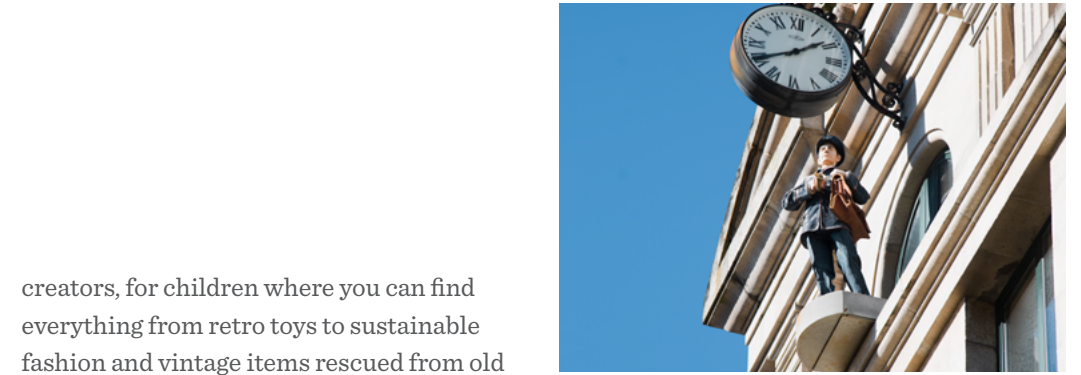
Galician musician Xoán Montes composed for the famous poet Rosalía de Castro.

Between rúa San Pedro and Praza Ángel Fernández Gómez (Ángel Fernández Gómez Square), the *Peletería Lucas* fur shop stands on an emblematic corner. This 40 year-old shop is an institution in the city, especially at Christmas for its creative window displays. Next, we come to the *Lecto-Cosmos* bookshop, where the interior design is very avant-garde. It is no surprise that it has won

the COAG (Official College of Architects of Galicia) prize for the refurbishment of this old warehouse. Books are the absolute star of the show here, to the extent that the traditional ceiling-hung shelves have been done away with.

A stone's throw away, *Creaciones Chica de Canela Vintage*, is a whole world thought up by Lucía Dorado, one of Lugo's most active

ABOVE Lecto-Cosmos
BELOW Farmacia Central
FACING, ABOVE Automata de Correos
FACING, BELOW Pazo do Concello
NEXT PAGES Circulo de las Artes, praza Maior



creators, for children where you can find everything from retro toys to sustainable fashion and vintage items rescued from old shops and forgotten warehouses.

Before stepping onto the **Praza Maior** (Main Square), we can see the *IGLESIA DE SANTIAGO* (church of Santiago), dating from the mid-18th century, which has a neoclassical façade with a huge number of Baroque details, and potentially stands on part of the site of the ancient basilica of the Roman Forum. At this point we should remember that basilicas were not places of worship in that period.

The *PAZO DO CONCELLO* (Council Manor House), from 1738, dominates the square. This building boasts one of the most beautiful and harmonious façades of all the civic Gothic buildings in Galicia, with two floors and a row of balconies that give it a horizontal feel that conveys a stately and solid air. It is crowned by a large central pilaster which culminates in a crest where a coat of







arms is carved into the masonry. The work was carried out by architect Ferro Caaveiro.

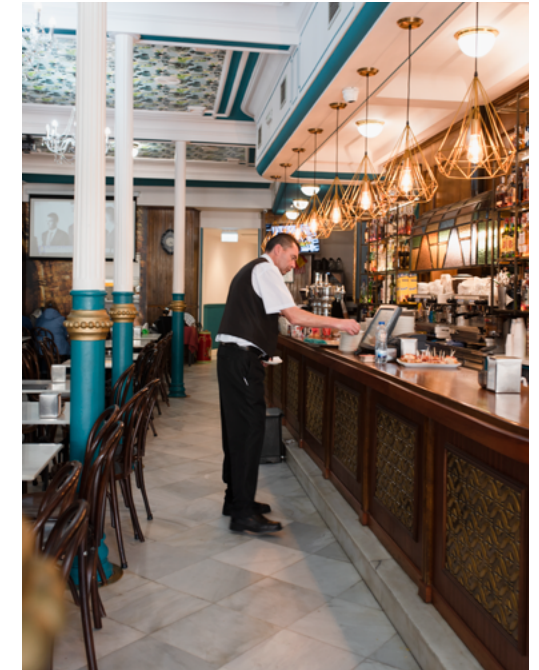
The PRAZA MAIOR features a varied and interesting collection of buildings where we can find different types and styles of architecture: Baroque, modernism, rationalism... A further series of features round off and decorate the area, such as the large marble chess board, flanked by two robust magnolias; the cast iron bandstand, designed

by Nemesio Cobreros in 1887 for the performances of the Municipal Band; and two groups of sculptures that evoke the Roman past of the area. One of these is by Ramón Conde, titled *Arco de Triunfo*, which depicts Augustus and Paullus Fabius Maximus with the order to settle the city and the city plans, and the other is more playful and depicts a Roman biga horse chariot, which was produced by the artist José Ortiz with the help of an Austrian blacksmith from Taramundi, Friedrich Brasmsteidl.

Not far from these sculptures is the 19th century CÍRCULO DE LAS ARTES (Circle of Arts)



building, from 1898, which plays an important role in cultural life in the city. On the other side is the porticoed building known as the Cantón (Canton), where we can find a good handful of establishments of all types, such as opticians, banks, clothes shops, and, of course, bars and restaurants with lively terraces. These include the renowned Café del Centro (Centre Café), opened in 1903 under the name of Café Moderno (Modern Cafe), which has cast iron columns and what was a sophisticated lighting system at the time. The location led to the name being changed immediately. The modernist atmosphere of the time is captured for us by two of the regulars at the table next to the door reading *El Progreso*, the local newspaper. Apart from coffee and chocolates, as the board on the door states, they serve broth on colder days, a lunch menu, and the chance to certify the quiniela pools slip. Next door, at no. 13 Arabat offers us elegant bespoke shirts and magnificent silk ties, as worn by the intellectuals and thinkers who frequented the cafe.



From there, we head down the stairway to **rúa Luis Pimentel** ⁷ and on to the **Praza de Santa María** ⁸ (Saint Mary's Square). To our right we have the PAZO EPISCOPAL (Episcopal Manor House), which is Baroque in style and has a certain air of country house to it. The Catholic Kings stayed in this building from 10 to 12 October 1496 when they visited Lugo as the bishop was a relative of theirs.

In the same square we can also find a calvary and the archaeological remains of a 4th century bath house, which were part of a Roman mansion or perhaps an early Christian baptistery and are blessed with rich mosaics of an African style.

FACING, ABOVE Arco de Triunfo
FACING, BELOW Palco de la Música
ABOVE Café del Centro
BELOW Circulo de las Artes
NEXT PAGES Catedral





At no. 12 on the nearby *rúa Bispo Basulto*, which we can make out from the square, we come to a contemporary art gallery, *Galería La Catedral* (The Cathedral Gallery), which specialises in Galician art and is strongly engaged in the new values of the art scene and promotes the artists in it. A few steps further on, on ***rúa do Bo Xesús*** 9, we find ourselves in front of a highly unique house, as all the windows and balconies are teeming with very well-rendered witches, some of which are really quite large. It makes for a very striking sight. On the ground floor, there is a shop selling souvenirs and typical crafts, *Triskel*, which specialises specifically in the figures above; they are created by one of the store's own craftspeople.

The CATEDRAL (cathedral), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2015 as a singular part of the Primitive Way, has a 12th century Romanesque base, as evidenced by

a large part of the architecture and stone decoration. It was extended over time and completed in 1880 by the construction of the towers on the main façade. The Museo Diocesano y Catedralicio (Diocesan and Cathedral Museum) reopened in 2017 with various collections and a highly interesting programme of exhibitions.

We enter through the *Portada Norte* (North Door), the only remaining Romanesque façade. The tympanum bears an image of Christ in Majesty framed in a mystical mandorla whilst at his feet the tambour of a capital depicts the Last Supper. On the wooden doors, the iron fittings holding the panels are attributed to a group of travelling German blacksmiths, who were possibly pilgrims, from the early 13th century.

The nave, one of the Cathedral's finest areas, contains the *Capilla de la Virxe dos Ollos Grandes* (chapel of the Virgen of the Large Eyes), a patron saint of the city who takes



that name due to the highly expressive quality of her look. The carving, in multi-coloured alabaster by an anonymous artist, has looked out from the altar since the 15th century and is one of the few examples of the Nursing Madonna style in Galicia. In 1726, the architect Fernando de Casa Novoa, took charge of the stone architecture and the wooden baldachin with a vision of it as a single whole. The circular dome, which is clearly visible from outside, is almost free-standing.

At the North and South ends of the transept we can see pieces and engravings by the sculptor and architect Cornelis de Holanda, made in 1531, showing scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary, which were previously part of the high altar reredos. Today, at the high altar, we can see the neoclassical work which houses the monstrance whilst illuminating and making this Medieval church so important. The stained glass windows, of Carrara marble and polished jasper, grant an opu-



lent and fully renovated setting. One of the unique aspects of this cathedral is that it still maintains the original location of the choir, which includes 66 Baroque seats carved in walnut and chestnut in 1621 by Francisco de Moure.

Before we leave the cathedral, we next visit the CAPILLA DE SAN FROILÁN (chapel of Saint Froilán), the patron saint of Lugo, where we find what is probably the oldest piece in the whole basilica: a tomb that is said to be of Froila, his legendary mother, who is even also considered to be a saint.

We exit through the ***Praza de Pío XII*** 10 (Pio XII Square) to view the more recent main façade of the cathedral, completed in

FACING Cathedral
ABOVE Praza de Pío XII
BELOW Capilla de San Froilán



ABOVE Pazo de Orbán e Sangro

FACING Porta Miñá

the 18th and 19th centuries, where there is another depiction of San Froilán with his traditional wolf at his side.

We come to the walls once again, opposite the cathedral, and the PORTA DE SANTIAGO (Santiago Gate), used by the canons of the chapter because it led to their vegetable gardens. The ramp up to the parapet walk takes us to the **Canónigos** area, one of the most beautiful and photographed sections of the wall. If we look at the ground, a plaque informs us of Lugo's three World Heritage Sites: the walls, the cathedral, and the Primitive Way. Next to it is the DOMUS DO MITREO (Domus of Mithras), which houses the remains of a place of worship of the Persian god Mithras, from the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

The building belongs to the University of Santiago de Compostela and is the seat of the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Campus of Lugo.

On one side of the square, we find El Alqui-mista, a shop specialising in craft items and food produce from the province of Lugo. It is also a space for meetings where courses and workshops are run.

Our tour continues along **rúa do Miño** ¹² and the upper class architecture is evident in the splendid blazons, as in the pazo das Pombas (Pombas manor house, no. 7), an example of civic Baroque architecture from 1771. On the same street is the Regional Government of Galicia Tourist Information Centre and the Camino de Santiago Interpretation Centre.

We now take a small detour down the travesía do Miño (Miño side street) to the refined Hotel Monumento Pazo de Orbán e Sangro, a Baroque mansion with the typical mouldings that were in style in Compostela in the 18th century. Very close at hand is the PORTA MIÑÁ (Miña Gate), one of the oldest in the walls, which was used by pilgrims to leave the city on their way to Santiago de Compostela.

We retrace our steps back along rúa do Miño and at no. 26 we come to the EnVinissi wine shop, where we can take in a unique experience as not only do they sell wine, they also

run tastings, courses, and events that provide a deeper understanding of the culture of winemaking. A short distance away at no. 22 **rúa Tinería**, we slip from the world of wine into the world of beer at Cervexa Artesá Aloumiña. This brewery-shop produces some 50,000 litres of craft beer a year. It makes for a special place where you can sample the different beers, some of which are really exotic such as those made with sea water or Brazilian Cerrado coffee. We can also get a first-hand look into the brewing process on factory visits, tastings, or courses.

Our tour now takes us along **rúa Nova** ¹³ to the PAZO DA MAZA (Maza Manor House), another Baroque palace displaying coats of arms, which was renovated in 1995. It is now the site of Dinoslandia, a children's play centre, which is designed to be a mini city full of attractions and activities that is an entire world of fun for kids and also has a cafeteria.

Rúa Nova is one of the classic wine and tapas streets. The bars and restaurants on it include Restaurante Campos, which holds the Q for Tourist Quality seal and has been open since 1952 in an 18th century mansion.

From here we can now reach the **Praza do Campo** ¹⁴ (Country Square), a former location of the agricultural market. Until really quite recently there were mid-sized farms within the city walls where corn and potatoes were grown. The economic links to the world



of farming are still vital to the city, which is home to milk, meat, and plant health factories, and vendors of farm produce.

A beautiful, robust, and solid FOUNTAIN from 1754 stands in the middle of the square which has a stone image of San Vicente Ferrer (Saint Vincent Ferrer), a preacher from Valencia and holy protector against plagues, on the upper part. Sometimes during the San Froilán celebrations, its pipes are filled with wine.

To keep on finding out about more aspects of Lugo and its city walls, a visit to the City Walls Interpretation Centre here is essential. Located in an 18th century mansion, it provides information on all aspects of the city, as the municipal tourist information centre is also here.

Some of the buildings make use of Roman archaeological remains, such as the terrace of



Restaurante Antas, where the only circular column in the whole square is found. There are theories that place one of the possible locations of the Roman Forum here.

We continue our walk along **rúa da Cruz** ¹⁵, which is also teeming with bars. Among them, oddly enough, is the *Joyería de Honorino Freire* jeweller, which specialises in reproductions of pre-Roman and imperial gold articles, such as the famous Burela Torcs, hoop earrings, and brooches, which are all of exceptional quality. At the end of the street, the *Joyería Calvo* jeweller, is located in an 18th century mansion that belonged to a councilman named Osorio. The main door, which is the work of Ferro Caaveiro, displays the official's coat of arms.

We now turn to the left along **rúa Conde de Pallares** ¹⁶ (Count of Pallares street) and spot a period shop, the *Sombreros da Costa Campos* hat shop, which sells all types of caps, headwear, hats, gloves, and other accessories. The decoration of the shop front displays their adherence to the tradition of the early 20th century shop.

Another good example of the Galician Baroque style is the PALACIO DEL CONDE DE PALLA-

FACING Fountain of San Vicente Ferrer
ABOVE Sombreros da Costa Campos



RES (Palace of the Count of Pallares), which is also the name of the street where it stands, displaying the coats of arms of the Ulloa and Montenegro families. Following careful restoration work it was taken over by Zara.

On the ground at the intersection with rúa Doutor Castro, we can look for a bronze plaque showing us the stretch inside the city walls of the Vía XIX (XIX Road), the road linking the three biggest cities of the Roman Gallaecia: Bracara Augusta (Braga-Portugal), Lucus Augusti (Lugo), and Asturica Augusta (Astorga-León). A wealthy mansion used to stand on this road, judging by the fine mosaics that can be seen on the archaeological windows in the Casa dos Mosaicos (House of Mosaics) at no. 22 on this street and at the Museo Provincial (Provincial Museum).

We carry on along rúa Conde Pallares and turn left on **rúa Armanyá** ¹⁷ and keep going until we come to a bronze monolith, placed in the middle of the street like a ROMAN MILESTONE. The monolith indicates, in Latin, the towns that could be visited in the



Gallaecia of the Roman Empire: A Coruña, Lugones, Braga, Bande...

The Roman imprint on the city is so large that since 2002 Arde Lucus has been held at the end of June and start of July. This is one of Lugo's best known and most well attended celebrations. Over three days the life and bustling spirit of the city in that period is brought back to life.

We now continue walking along this street to the **Praza da Soidade** ¹⁸ (Square of Loneliness) and stop in for a little bit of sugar to recharge our batteries. *Vanity Cakes* offers a good selection of sweets and tarts, such as pumpkin pie or carrot cake with mascarpone, which we can take away with us or eat inside or on the terrace.

A really unique shop captures our attention on one corner of this square: *Prestíño Equitación*. If you are keen on horse riding then you really must take a look given the variety of saddlery and leather items.

ABOVE Palacio del Conde de Pallares

BELOW Roman milestone

FACING, ABOVE Street stall

FACING, BELOW Praza da Soidade

From here we can view the Gothic church in the former Convento de San Francisco (convent of Saint Francis), which is now the IGLESIA DE SAN PEDRO (church of Saint Peter). The monastic facilities here were repurposed in 1957 into the MUSEO PROVINCIAL (Provincial Museum). Inside the cloister, a small and austere refectory, the kitchen, and some connected buildings from the 14th and 15th century have been preserved. A visit to the rooms on Castro gold pieces, the Roman Mosaics, the Pottery from the Royal Factory of Sargadelos, and pieces by Francisco Asorey, the finest Galician sculptor of the 20th century, are all well worth a visit.

At the back, alongside the apse of the old Franciscan church, is the MERCADO MUNICIPAL (municipal market) and opposite that is the PRAZA DE ABASTOS (food market), an example of rationalist architecture. Here we



can get our hands on the real spirit and quality of the main products in the cuisine of the region: ultra-fresh fish and seafood from the coast, excellent fresh meat and cured products, such as cold meats and cheeses. Bread and empanada pasties also have their own specific stalls. The food market was built on land that was expropriated from Dominican priests. The old CONVENTO E IGLESIA DE SAN DOMINGOS (convent and church of Saint Dominic) have been occupied by Augustinian nuns since 1840.

The **Praza de San Domingos** ¹⁹ (Saint Dominic's Square) is home to the striking



monument commemorating the Two-Thousandth Anniversary of the Founding of Lugo, from 1976, on which a BROZE EAGLE perches atop a granite column. The eagle was inspired by an original Roman piece which had semi-folded wings, which led to it being derisively called "O Pombo" (the pigeon) in the city. It was soon replaced the following





year with the eagle with fully outstretched wings we can see now.

Our tour carries on along **rúa San Marcos** ²⁰ where, at no. 2, we come to *La Sucursal*, a gourmet shop, which has been open and specialising in wine for almost 80 years, where highly knowledgeable staff attend to customers.

San Marcos is a byword for the PROVINCIAL COUNCIL in Lugo. The building from 1866 was initially built as a hospital, although it was never used for that purpose. The façade is decorated with the coats of arms of the province's judicial districts and main historic towns.

ABOVE La Sucursal
BELOW Águila de bronce de la praza de San Domingos

Continuing along the now pedestrianised street, we come to the **Praza de Ferrol** ²¹ (Ferrol Square), where we can see the CUARTEL DE SAN FERNANDO (Saint Ferdinand Barracks), with its austere military neoclassical style from the 18th century, which contrasts with the Baroque IGLESIA DE SAN FROILÁN (church of Saint Froilan). You may be surprised to learn that the façade depicts San Bartolomé (Saint Bartholomew) and not the patron saint of Lugo, but this is because the old hospital of San Bartolomé was located here.

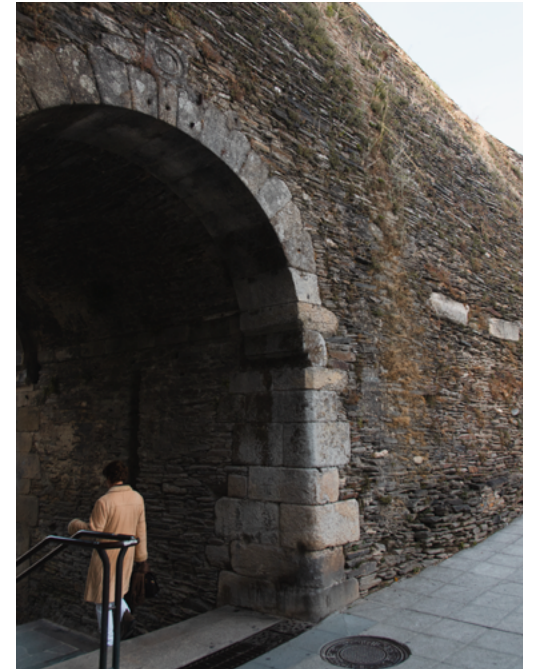
In the gardens we can see the walls and the **Porta Falsa** ²² (False Gate), which is most likely one of the original five. This whole area is an important archaeological site. Following the wall, just a short distance further on, we find the only lift from street level up to the top of the ramparts, which makes the city walls an accessible monument.



The gardens, featuring beautiful magnolias, give us a pleasant feeling of rest and peacefulness. The whole area is wonderfully green, including the ever-present wall, which is covered by longstanding growths of moss and lichens to form a sort of naturally-occurring vertical garden whilst the trees make a small botanical garden-collection. They are the rear side of the Palacio of San Marcos (Palace of Saint Mark), the central office of the Provincial Council.

We leave the wall at the **Porta da Estación** ²³ (Station Gate), which was built more recently and is also known as the Porta del Principe Alfonso (Prince Alfonso Gate), as it was inaugurated by the son of Isabel II in 1875 to mark the city's first railway line.

We now continue up **rúa do Teatro** ²⁴ and find *Restaurante España* at no. 10. This restaurant has been open and run by the



López brothers for more than 50 years, who are members of the prestigious and innovative Grupo Nove, and hold the Q for Tourist Quality seal. They have an exceptionally good selection of produce from local farms and even raise their own oxen. At no. 14 on this street is the *Gloria Sanz* interior design and decoration shop, which is at the head of a large team of architects and interior designers and presents their expertise across the four exhibition floors in this listed and refurbished building.

On the corner with **rúa do Progreso** ²⁷ we can spot a shop that defined a whole era in Galician culture, *Galería Sargadelos*. Not only does it sell the highly-prized porcelain pieces that it is famous for, but it also has a bookshop, art gallery, and conference room. The style can be seen in the design of not

ABOVE Porta Falsa
BELOW Diputación Provincial



only the pottery, but also the whole look of the shop. We can also find major jewellery stores on this street such as [Modesto](#) and [Joya Lugo](#). Other businesses with a long and storied past are [Paragüería Lucense](#) and [Fontao](#), at no. 21, which has been selling children's fashion since 1940.

We now continue along [rúa da Raiña](#) ²⁵, which was inaugurated by Queen Isabel II and is an important shopping street in the city. We can stop in at [Confitería Madararro](#), a cafe and patisserie which has been a trendsetter since 1891 due to the flavour and quality of its products. They have held a Royal Warrant of Appointment from the Spanish Royal Family since 1904. Their

ABOVE Confitería Madararro
FACING Jardines de la Diputación

exquisite cañitas de hojaldre (puff pastries), tea biscuits, and range of traditional tarts are their speciality.

We can cross [rúa de Xoán Montes](#) ²⁶ to reach [rúa do Progreso](#) (Progress street), which takes its name from being the location of the original office of the city's leading paper, [El Progreso](#), which was established in 1908 by Purificación de Cora. A statue of him with a newspaper under his arm mulling over the day's news stands next to the building.

A very short distance away is the [Librería Balmes](#) bookshop, which has played a key role in the culture scene of the city since 1870, with an extensive list of published titles.

Moving further along [rúa do Progreso](#) we come to [rúa San Pedro](#), which we have already visited, and turn left to reach the back of the [PAZO DO CONCELLO](#) (Council Manor House). Here we find a monument to another illustrious and much loved resident of Lugo, [ÁNSEL FOLE](#), a writer of stories such as [Á lus do Candil](#) (By candlelight) and traditional tales of a very rural nature.

Just in front we have the [Modesto Santa Eularia](#) shop, which specialises in luxury items and accessories where we can snap up one of their well-known Lugo Bracelets, which depicts scenes from the history of the



city and some of its monuments. Next door is the [Kina Fernández](#) boutique, who is one of the biggest designers in Galician fashion and won the Castelao Medal in 1998 and the Galician Women's Prize in 2004.

And to round off our tour, we head to the start of [rúa da Raiña](#) to take a look at [Hotel Méndez Núñez](#), the oldest hotel in the city. Opened in 1861 and run by the same family ever since, the owners have an endless supply of anecdotes about the guests who have stayed there, from spies to figures from the world of culture and entertainment. These include Alfonso Daniel Castelao, an intellectual, politician, and artist who took part in the I Asamblea Nacionalista de Lugo (1st Nationalist Assembly of Lugo) in 1918, for which he is commemorated at the entrance to the building.

On the sixth floor, in the cafeteria-restaurant, we are treated to the excellent panora-

mic view of the old town. This is also a good place to read the novel [Hotel Almirante](#), by the Lugo writer Marta Rivera de la Cruz, which lets us in on the ins and outs of the city of Lugo in the previous century.

A TRIP UP TO THE TOP OF THE CITY WALLS IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO GET A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE OF THIS TWO THOUSAND YEAR OLD CITY AND TAKE A STROLL AROUND THE FULL LENGTH OF THE WALLS AND THE EXTERIOR ROAD.

Porta San Pedro, San Roque Archaeological Centre and River Chanca

Crossing through the Porta de San Pedro (Saint Peter's Gate) and going down rúa San Roque, we come to the CAPILLA DE SAN ROQUE (chapel of Saint Roche) and, just behind it, the SAN ROQUE ARCHEOLOGICAL CENTRE, where the archaeological digs that started in 1989 have revealed an ancient necropolis that lay beyond the city walls. This interpretation centre gives us a greater insight into the burial of the dead in Roman times.

We continue on next to Vladimir Alvaroff at no. 49, who is known as “the genius of lamps”. This Lugo artist allows his imagination to run wild creating lamps and mirrors with recycled material. His pieces sit on the boundary between the pop art of Warhol and the surrealism of Magritte.

Following the Primitive Way towards Oviedo we reach the River Chanca, a tributary of the Miño, a natural space which was reclaimed as an area for people to relax and go for walks, as well as play a wide range of outdoor

sports. On our walk we are joined by waterfalls, riverside plants, and a lot of plant life, which also surrounds the railway viaduct, a magnificent work of engineering which brought progress to Lugo in 1874.

Porta Miñá, Baths and Roman Bridge

A short distance after crossing the walls at the PORTA MIÑÁ (Miñá Gate), also known as the Porta do Carme (Carme Gate), we can see the capilla de la Cofradía de la Virgen del Carmen (chapel of the Confraternity of the Virgin of Carmel) and the Sala Porta Miñá (Porta Miñá Gallery), which has a permanent exhibition that uses archaeological pieces to tell us how the city developed from the arrival of Paullus Fabius Maximus in the 1st century BCE to the collapse of the Empire.

A place that Paullus Fabius was not familiar with is the Taberna Pajón, on rúa do Carme, which is a typical bar that has resisted the passage of time and serves traditional home-made food.

We follow in the footsteps of the pilgrims and head down to the banks of the River Miño, where we find the Barrio da Ponte (Bridge Neighbourhood), which is where the Roman bridge is located, which was vital in the movement of troops and transport of goods and travellers. Roads and bridges were the backbone of the Empire.



This is where the city was founded, on the banks of the river, as a military camp with a civilian area, in *Lucus*, which means Sacred Forest in Latin. Others view the name of the city as a reference to the deity known as *Lug*, the god of forests. At such an important site, it is no surprise to find baths, dating from the 1st century CE, which make use of the thermal springs and the sulphur and sodium-rich waters that can reach 43.8 °C and are highly recommended for rheumatism, respiratory conditions, skin problems, to mention just a few.

The [*Hotel-Balneario de Lugo*](#) hotel spa, which has archaeological remains in the foundations and surrounding land, still makes use of the qualities of the water today. It is a vital part of spa and health tourism in the city. There are several kilometres of riverside walks to explore on both sides of the hotel-spa.

MIHL - Interactive Museum of the History of Lugo

Located in the **Parque de la Milagrosa** (Park of the Miraculous Lady), this underground museum makes an impression with its bright interior spaces and the prominence of natural light, which takes on a physical form.

The wavy, curved lines evoke the profile of the city walls; it is no surprise this museum has been used as a location for fashion catalogue photoshoots. Inside, the advanced technology allows us to take in the history of Lugo, see temporary exhibitions on a wide variety of subjects, and take part in educational activities. The building is the work of the award-winning, internationally renowned Nieto y Sobejano architectural firm.



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