



 XUNTA
DE GALICIA

 Xacobeo 21-22

Santiago de Compostela



Fisterra Way
a walk
of history and life



Santiago de Compostela

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WAS AND IS A MEETING PLACE FOR MANY CULTURES AND PEOPLES AND A PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. SANTIAGO IS A CITY MADE FOR WALKERS, ITS STREETS AND SQUARES FORM AN INCOMPARABLE, HARMONIOUS, AND HOMOGENEOUS AREA, ACCENTUATED BY THE USE OF ONE SINGLE MATERIAL THROUGHOUT: GRANITE. STONES WHICH, SCULPTED BY DIFFERENT ARTISTIC TRENDS, HAVE CREATED AN UNPARALLELED CITY FULL OF MONUMENTS, WHICH WAS DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE CITY BY UNESCO IN 1985.

A COSMOPOLITAN CITY SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF PILGRIMS FROM ALL OVER THE CHRISTIAN WORLD, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS FAMOUS UNIVERSITY, WHICH IS OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF GALICIA..

Essentials

A Faculty of Medicine



B Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco



C Iglesia de San Froitoso



D Alameda



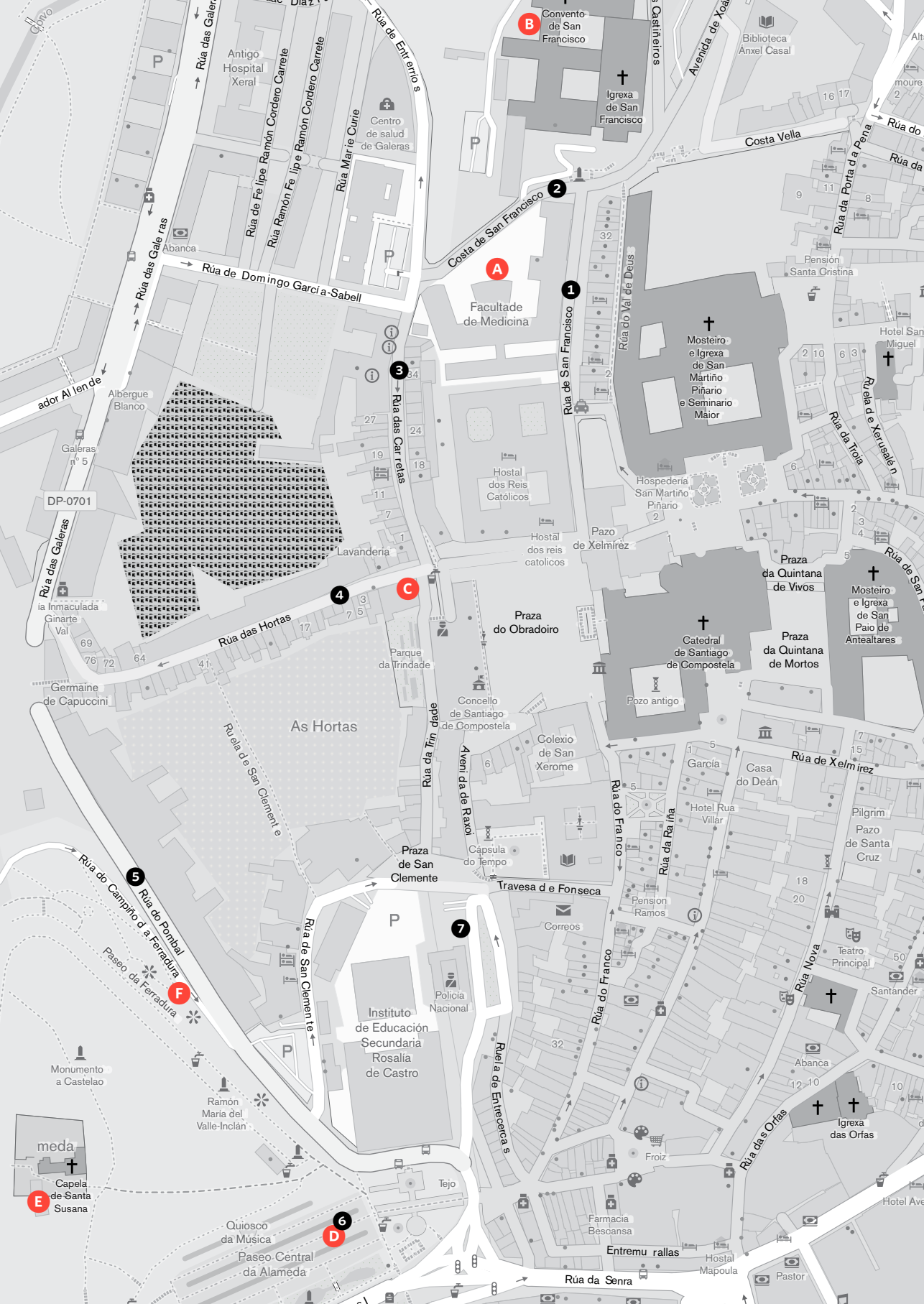
E Iglesia de Santa Susana



F Pavilion of the Regional Exhibition of 1909



The route



- 1 Rúa San Francisco
- 2 Costa de San Francisco
- 3 Rúa Carretas
- 4 Rúa das Hortas
- 5 Rúa do Pombal
- 6 Alameda de Santiago
- 7 Praza de Rodrigo de Padrón



Santiago de Compostela

Fisterra Way

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WAS AND IS A MEETING PLACE FOR MANY CULTURES AND PEOPLES AND A PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. SANTIAGO IS A CITY MADE FOR WALKERS, ITS STREETS AND SQUARES FORM AN INCOMPARABLE, HARMONIOUS, AND HOMOGENOUS AREA, ACCENTUATED BY THE USE OF ONE SINGLE MATERIAL THROUGHOUT: GRANITE. STONES WHICH, SCULPTED BY DIFFERENT ARTISTIC TRENDS, HAVE CREATED AN UNPARALLELED CITY FULL OF MONUMENTS, WHICH WAS DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE CITY BY UNESCO IN 1985.

A COSMOPOLITAN CITY SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF PILGRIMS FROM ALL OVER THE CHRISTIAN WORLD, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS FAMOUS UNIVERSITY, WHICH IS OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF GALICIA.

We start our tour by leaving the Praza do Obradoiro along **rúa san Francisco** ¹, where there are numerous souvenir shops, as thousands of visitors pass by here when they arrive by bus at the Xoán XXIII bus park. The Patisserie La Perla, at no. 30, has been making life sweeter for them for decades with the Pedras de Santiago chocolates, made with the finest chocolate and select almonds.

FACING Rúa San Francisco
BELOW Faculty of Medicine detail

Students can study many university degrees in Compostela, but Medicine is perhaps one of the most prestigious and important of them. It is not surprising, as these studies came about in connection with the old Pilgrims' Hospital, which is now the Parador Nacional dos Reis Católicos hotel. Just next to it is the Faculty of Medicine, in a classic and balanced 1910 building whose triangular façade represents medical practice.

Santiago de Compostela no longer has its city walls but it does still maintain the name of the old gates. We leave through the Porta de San Francisco gate and in front of us we have THE CHURCH AND THE CONVENT of the same name, founded by Francis of Assisi himself on his pilgrimage to Compostela in the early 13th century. The Franciscans have been here for more than 800 years and their presence is still very much felt, as they live in





a cloister of the convent. The other part was converted into a 4-star monument hotel, a good way of preserving and maintaining the historical heritage. As the Franciscan Order has an important presence in Jerusalem, we should visit the small, but very interesting MUSEO DE TIERRA SANTA (Museum of the Holy Land), which holds the pieces and objects collected by many brothers over time. In front of the convent stands an enormous calvary, with the image of the saint from Assisi with raised arms, looking towards the tomb of St. James. Its sculptor, Francisco Asorey, received the commission in 1914 to commemorate the 7th centenary of the establishment of the Order in the city.

walls of the convent and the Faculty of Medicine, until we get to no. 33 on **rúa Carretas** 3. This is the location of the International Pilgrim's Reception Office, in a fully renovated 18th century building where not only the Compostela, or certificate of pilgrimage, is issued, but also some areas are set up for walkers to rest and have some fun. Its small and functional chapel treasures the relics of two saints canonised by the current Pope Francis, John XXIII, and Amato Ronconi, who both have links to the Jacobean world,

We continue our walk and head down **Costa de San Francisco** 2 slope, between the

FACING Rúa das Hortas

ABOVE Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco

BELOW Rúa Carretas, with San Fructuoso in the background





as the former travelled as a cardinal to Santiago in 1954 and the latter helped pilgrims in the 13th century.

A little further ahead is where the Porta da Trindade gate used to stand, which saw vast numbers of pilgrims making their way to this Finis Terrae. We shouldn't forget that, until 1492, these coasts of Galicia were the westernmost edge of the known world at the time and that many pilgrims' curiosity was not satisfied until they reached Cape Finis-terre. Once they made it there, they would collect scallop shells on the beaches, which have become one of the best-known symbols of the pilgrimage to Santiago.

The CHURCH OF SAN FRUCTUOSO welcomed or bid farewell to these pilgrims as they arrived or departed, on their journey between Compostela and Fisterra. The church has sleek Baroque architecture with most of the decorative sculptures contained in the upper

area as it was designed to be visible from the Praza do Obradoiro. The four cardinal virtues, Fortitude, Temperance, Justice, and Prudence are depicted, which students from the university referred to as the four suits of Spanish playing cards: clubs, gold, swords, and cups due to the similarity between the symbols.

Pilgrims used to set out from **rúa das Hortas** 4 (Orchard street) towards Fisterra. It is known by this name because of the orchards that are still preserved there today; others, however, have been made into beautiful gardens. Well worth highlighting are *Casa Marcelo*, at no. 1, and *A Horta' D'Obradoiro*, at no. 16, as two restaurants that are perfectly able to combine the best of traditional fresh Galician produce with the latest techniques and trends in modern cuisine. Casa Marcelo, the first restaurant in Santiago de Compostela to earn a Michelin Star, was the first restaurant in Spain to use the innovative concept of a restaurant without a menu, with solely a



tasting menu as the only option, alongside an open kitchen.

From there we head to **rúa do Pombal** 5 and head up to no. 32, where we can see a 1917 modernist building, whose façade bears the name and trade of its owner, "López Pedre Escultor" (López Pedre Sculptor). It was designed by the then municipal architect López de Rego and its façade is adorned by curious, strange sculptures that gave rise to numerous rumours and whispers of secret societies.

Two doorways further along, at no. 34, is the *Librería Tirana* bookstore which has a wealth of used, old and new, ancient and modern, discontinued and rare books and sometimes

even puts on small concerts or book presentations.

Along this road we reach one of the entrances to the **Alameda de Santiago** 6, a 19th century park that is the true green lungs of the city and is part of the Ruta de la Camelia (Route of the Camellia) and the Jardines de Invierno (Winter Gardens). It is a pleasure to be able to take in the spectacular rhododendrons or the imposing eucalyptus trees in the flowering season of the camellias or the



FACING, ABOVE Modernist building in Rúa do Pombal
FACING, BELOW Santa Susana oak grove
ABOVE Pavilion of the Regional Exhibition of 1909
BELOW Iglesia de Santa Susana





magnolias. There is a striking stately sequoia and the famous "Perona", which is a Caucasian fir tree planted by Evita Perón back in the 1940s when she travelled to Spain. The oak forest, which lines the Paseo da Ferradura, was used as a cattle market until well into the 20th century. The CHURCHES OF SANTA SUSANA AND DEL PILAR are noticeable examples of Romanesque and Baroque architecture, and we should not overlook the modernist PAVILION OF THE REGIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1909, which is now a nursery. The views of the southern campus of the university and the skyline of the old city are unbeatable. So much so that we can see the bronze sculpture of Ramón María del Valle-Inclán sitting there on one of its benches, who was one of the greatest playwrights in the country, known for his fine, sharp irony. Very close at hand, we find the marble Rosalía de Castro, the great protagonist of the *Rexurdimento* (Resurgence) of Galician Literature, full of longing and melancholy, who seems to want to rise from her daydreaming. The colourful Two Mariás wave goodbye to us. These are

two endearing sisters who always went out for a walk at two o'clock and were courted by student musicians and who encourage us to return to the "sea of stone" that is Santiago.

The building founded by archbishop San Clemente as a school for clerks is now over four centuries old and is today the site of the ROSALÍA DE CASTRO SCHOOL, which holds a prestigious literary gala every year. Students from this school and others around the world choose their favourite writers in Galician, Spanish, and other languages. The prize is highly valued by the most illustrious writers as it is young readers who give their verdict. Past winners include Paul Auster, Mario Vargas Llosa, Javier Marías, Suso de Toro, Carlos Fuentes, Haruki Murakami, Antonio Tabucchi, Vicente Molina Fox, José Saramago, Manolo Rivas, Henning Mankell, and Javier Cercas. The list is long.

In the nearby **Praza de Rodrigo de Padrón** **7** several terraces open up, like flowers to the sun. This is an ideal place to take a break with a well-deserved snack before taking a look at no. 5 in the square, *Mimolett*, a boutique store with Parisian airs and international brands and, especially, clothes for very special occasions.



FACING Playing with Two Mariás
BELOW Rosalía de Castro School

Nearby

Parque de Belvís and its Convent

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

FACING Convent of Belvis

ABOVE Collegiate church of Santa María A Real de Sar



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

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

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



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

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

ABOVE Cidade da Cultura

FACING Santa María de Conxo

The Iglesia de Conxo and its monastery

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

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



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

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

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

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

Other related guides



THE FRENCH WAY



THE ENGLISH WAY



CATHEDRAL ROUTE



THE MARKET ROUTE



გზიციბ