



 XUNTA
DE GALICIA

 Xacobeo 21-22

Santiago de Compostela



The Market Route
a walk of
history and life

Santiago de Compostela



SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WAS AND IS A MEETING POINT FOR MANY CULTURES AND PEOPLES AS WELL AS A PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. SANTIAGO IS A CITY TAILORED TO THE WALKER. ITS STREETS AND SQUARES FORM AN INCOMPARABLE, HARMONIOUS AND HOMOGENEOUS COMPLEX, ACCENTUATED BY THE USE OF A SINGLE MATERIAL: GRANITE A STONE THAT, SCULPTED BY DIFFERENT ARTISTIC TRENDS, HAS CREATED AN UNPARALLELED MONUMENTAL CITY WHICH WAS DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE CITY BY UNESCO IN 1985.

IT HAS BEEN 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 WAS FOUNDED OVER FIVE CENTURIES AGO. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF GALICIA.

Essentials

A Convento das Orfas



B Iglesia de San Agostiño



C Mercado de Abastos



D Iglesia de San Fiz de Solovio



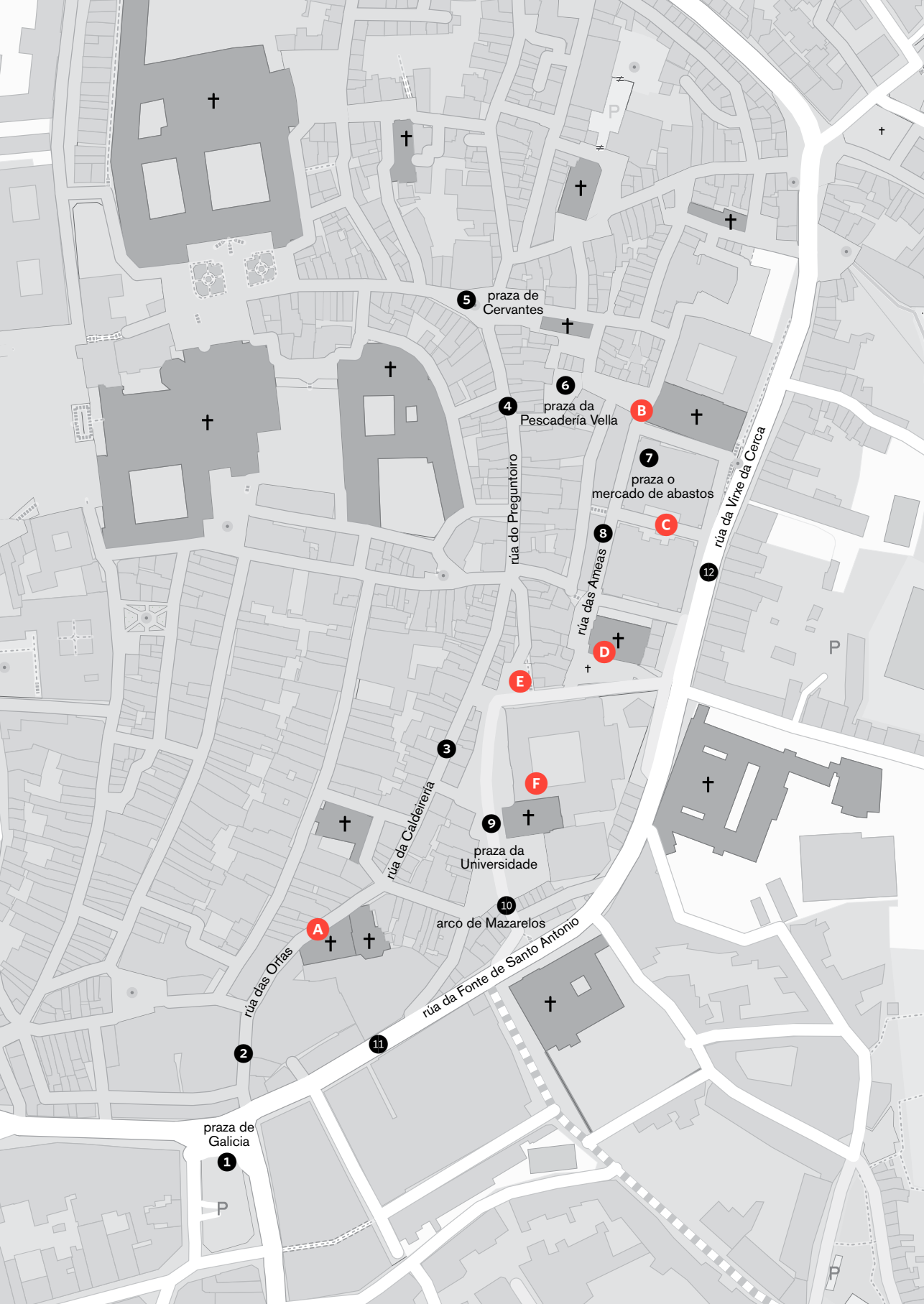
E Alfonso II el Casto sculpture



F Facultade de Xeografía e Historia and Iglesia de La Compañía



The route



- 1 Praza de Galicia
- 2 Rúa das Orfas
- 3 Rúa da Caldeirería
- 4 Rúa do Preguntoiro
- 5 Praza de Cervantes
- 6 Praza da Pescadería Vella
- 7 Mercado de Abastos
- 8 Rúa das Ameas
- 9 Praza da Universidade
- 10 Arco de Mazarelos
- 11 Fonte de Santo Antonio
- 12 Rúa Virxe da Cerca



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The Market Route

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The **Praza de Galicia (Galicia Square)** ¹ marks the boundary between the new city, better known as the Ensanche, and the old one. Not many years ago the bus station was located here. Although Santiago has not maintained its city walls, it still preserves the names of its ancient gates, so we will be

entering the medieval urban layout through the Porta da Mámoa.

On the corner is the *Café Derby*, a meeting place since 1929. With its artistic stained glass windows, its skirting board and its marble counter - catalogued pieces - it was one of those places that brought class and a bohemian flair to the city. It is currently being renovated to house a Morriña establishment, the new restaurant concept of the fifth generation of Hijos de Rivera, a family of brewers.

From here, we cross the city from south to north along **rúa das Orfas**, **rúa da Caldeireiría** and **rúa do Preguntoiro** streets, until we reach Praza de Cervantes. They are practically the same street, but the name changes as we walk along it. If there is a place where traditional trade and new shops coexist in harmony, this is it.

At number 30, **rúa das Orfas** ², the *Confitería Las Colonias* has sweetened our lives sin-



FACING Cake of Santiago

BELOW Las Colonias confectionery and El Sol bookshop



ce the end of the 19th century, having opened its doors in 1888. Next, the [Valdés C.B. pharmacy](#), founded in 1924, preserves architectural elements from the time of its opening as well as a Toledo Sale Company scale, which is over 80 years old, where one can still weigh oneself with absolute accuracy.

Across the street, in a little corner of number 19, the [Coralia Atelier](#) shop window almost goes unnoticed, catching our eye with the images of the "Dos Marías", two sisters who became well-known figures in Santiago in the 50s and 60s. It is a small atelier whe-

ABOVE Florentino shop is a three level baroque building
BELOW Soap of Maravalla
FACING, ABOVE Convento das Orfas
FACING, BELOW Joyería Marín y Durán jewelry sign

re the garments are custom made and can be altered to our liking.

Next to it, in an open space once occupied by the historic [Bermejo Pharmacy](#) (1879), Fábrica Fan was set up, which defines itself as a Galician design boutique, offering fashionable clothing, accessories, handcrafted goods, gadgets, cosmetics...

A few metres away is [Florentino](#), which occupies a three-storey baroque manor house; it is one of the big names in men's fashion in Galicia, as can be appreciated by its elegant shop windows. We can walk in and out dressed from head to toe, not only wearing clothes and suits, but also shoes, underwear, perfumes and a whole range of men's accessories.

We continue our route and pass by [Óptica Galerías](#), established more than half a century ago, and [Maravalla](#), an aromatic soaps and natural cosmetics shop, full of evocative



aromas and fragrances. As we may know, goldsmithing is one of the oldest crafts in Santiago. Located on this street we'll find some of the most important jewellers in the city, such as [Joyería de Paz](#), at number 7, or [Joyería Marín y Durán](#), at number 11.

Special mention should be made of [Estanco Garabal](#), at number 18, the first tobacco shop in the city which was founded in 1877 and is still going strong, although the times are not the best for tobacco lovers. It is well known for the decorations and little skits they put on in their shop window, full of wit and fine irony, on current affairs. [Misha Millinery](#), at number 12, also surprises us with its original and colourful window display; it still has the sign of the old Novedades Carmiña lingerie shop, once an institution in the city. Nowadays, the milliner Teresa González designs handmade hats and headdresses, some of which have even been seen at Ascot.



Some archbishops, apart from completing and enlarging the Cathedral of Santiago, also promoted social welfare works, such as the [CONVENTO DAS ORFAS](#), a complex consisting of a church, convent and school which was used in the 17th and 18th centuries to shelter, help and educate orphans in the region of Santiago. Inside is an interesting carving of the Immaculate Conception by José Gambino, one of the great Galician carvers of the 18th century. The artist's sweet, delicate and stylised figures are his own particular trademark.

From here, the street changes its name to [rúa da Caldereiría](#) ³, whose name comes from the guild of craftsmen who made pots and cauldrons, mainly out of copper and brass. From this point, if you look up slightly, you will be surprised by the wealth of signs, most of them made of wrought iron, adorning several businesses and shops. Almost all of them, especially the older ones, were



forged in a ferreiría, or forge, that until recently operated in the old town.

As soon as you enter this street, you'll notice that it is dominated by small shops and that a large part of them are dedicated to women. [Lencería y Corsetería Judyth](#), which sells lingerie, underwear and corsets at number 64, [La Princesa](#), at number 53, with its delicate bridal and bridesmaids' dresses, together with [La Bella Otero](#), at



number 57, are all establishments that have been in the city for decades.

If we fancy taking a little break, there's no better place than [Café Blu](#), which has recovered and renovated the back courtyard of an old shop, giving it a warm and informal touch. Here we discover their menu of "flexi-vegetarian" dishes and their delicious homemade cakes.

When it came to travelling and one had to buy suitcases, one didn't think twice about going to [Comercial Tojo](#), at number 43, which has been around for a century. A classic firm that has stood the test of time.

Not to be missed is the establishment that gives rise to the street's name. At numbers 46-48 of **rúa de Caldereiría** stands the [Casa Sole Loza y Cristal](#) -the cheapest-, as their sign claims. There, even today, you can still buy copper cauldrons, wooden plates on which to eat octopus or the earthenware pots used to prepare a good *queimada*, a traditional Galician drink. Entering the bazaar is like entering a treasure cave, surrounded by lamps, impossible kitchen utensils, stamps and milk churns. In short, there you'll find everything and anything you may need.

ABOVE Casa Sole Loza y Cristal, La Más Barata
BELOW Quesería Prestes

If you've walked around the city, you'll notice that we are well provided with shoe shops, all of which offer a very good selection of footwear. In the past, autumns and winters seemed longer and rainier than today. You had to have good shoes or boots to insulate you from the cold and wet granite, which is why leather, rubber soles and now "goretex" allied to achieve this. [Puri](#), [7 Días](#), [Zabba](#) and [Calzados Severino](#) provide our feet with immense comfort.

The counterpoint to the traditional fashion and clothing shops is provided by [Mercado Galego da Creatividade](#), located at number 36, a cooperative made up of 100 brands and women artisans from Galicia offering ceramics, basketry, handmade jewellery and ecological clothing. Those who miss their childhood and are already a few years past it should visit [Marilya](#), at number 32. It is an authentic doll boutique dedicated to Mariquita Pérez, a doll which was very popular between the 50s and 70s. A real journey through time that will delight grandmothers, mothers and granddaughters alike. There is a whole legion of collectors eager to buy, sell and trade dolls and accessories. It also features some amazing mechanical puzzles.

If by now we are getting a bit hungry, we'd do well to stop at [Quesería Prestes](#), at number 27. No one can match the variety, quantity and size of their cheeses. It dates back to 1991, when it started as a small family busi-

ness in San Simón-Vilalba (Lugo), producing 20 cheeses a day; today it produces as many as 2,000 cheeses a day. It is a traditional cheese, made with the creamy and excellent milk produced by local cows. They were also the first to make blue cheese in Galicia. Apart from being able to taste them here, they can vacuum pack them so that they can be transported all over the world.

For those who don't like cheese, they will find [Buenjamón](#) next door, at number 31, offering Iberian ham, quality cured meats and extra virgin olive oil, among other excellent products. In addition, we can order a ham sandwich or a cone full of small charcuterie to take away.

If corner shops are our thing, we will find [A Tenda](#) at number 7, selling traditional spices in bulk, such as saffron or paprika, or its famous prepared mixes for seasoning stews and roast meats, such as lamb, tripe or chicken. There is also a good variety of coffees from Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Carrying on, we'll see how watch and jewellery shops, such as [Jade](#), [Lado](#) and [Sandra](#), are peppered along the street, offering pieces for all tastes and, what is better, for all budgets. [Diana Galos Decoración y Regalo](#) presents, at number 14, colourful shop windows with beautiful objects such as sculptures, globes, Tiffany lamps, paintings, Art Deco



furniture and glassware. The perfect place to decorate your home.

The street widens at the end, giving rise to a crossroads known by the local Compostelanos as *Las Cinco Calles* (The Five Streets). The same name is given to one of the most traditional shops in the area: the *Cerería Cinco Calles*, which has been devoted to the world of candles for over 8 decades. In their own factory, they make handcrafted, personalised and hand-painted ceremonial candles and candlesticks, which coexist with more modern products such as colourful scented candles and essences. A real treat for the senses! A candle weighing 80 kg decorates the entrance of the shop. It was made 20 years ago by the father-in-law of the current owner, which he decorated by hand with stages of the French Way.

At the crossroads, the street changes its name to **rúa do Preguntoiro** 4, perhaps because at its northern end pilgrims would ask the locals for directions to the cathedral, alluding to the Spanish for the verb to ask, *preguntar*. Other scholars argue that it is so named because the long balconies of the old town hall were used to read, among other things, the city's proclamations, in Spanish *pregones*.

FACING Tejidos Katy

ABOVE A Tafona do Preguntoiro

Just at the beginning of *rúa do Preguntoiro*, we discover two establishments that share the ground floor of a stately building: the Pazo Feixóo. *La Bulanxerí*, at number 36, is an artisan bakery that uses Galician products and French inspiration to make its many varieties of bread and pastries; perhaps for this reason it has been awarded a "Bakery Dir-Informatics Star" (The award given by DIR, an IT solutions company for bakeries, pastry shops and related industries) and is part of "La Ruta Española del Buen Pan" (The Spanish Good Bread Route), which places it among the best in Spain. Next door is *Tejidos Katy*, it's one of those places where every visitor can't help but stop to take a photo; with its counter and wooden shelves full of rolls of fantastic colourful fabrics and original prints, all very popular sales, especially during Carnival.

At number 35, *Riquela Bar-Club* allows us to eat and drink, while enjoying a full schedule of national and international musical performances. *A Trastenda de Xabi*, in number 34, highlights Galician gastronomic products, especially those with Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications, which guarantee their quality. They



also sell original prints, some with Galician text or words, ready to be framed.

Establecimientos Álvarez is another one of those shops with several decades under its belt; there wasn't a house in Galicia that didn't have a set of tableware from this brand. In the shop, we will also find all kinds of household goods and a wide range of lamps, which add colour and brightness to the shop.

In the nearby **Praza de Feixóo**, at number 2, we come across one of the classics of Santiago's jewellers, *Ramón González Orfebres*, specialists in jet and ivory since 1951. Among their many achievements is having collaborated in the restoration of the Cathedral's

ABOVE Metate's chocolate

FACING, ABOVE Iglesia de Santo Agostiño

FACING, BELOW Praza da Pescadería Vella

botafumeiro (the name given to Santiago Cathedral's censer) in 2015 and having made the processional cross that was used during the opening of the Holy Year 2021.

Going back to **rúa do Preguntoiro**, at number 26, you will find *Nikis*, "t-shirters" since 1994. This is how they define themselves as they print their own designs on t-shirts and many other kinds of media, combining popular Galician imagery with current icons. To this end, they collaborate with a number of Galician illustrators, including Davila, whose cartoons in the press bring a smile to our faces on a daily basis.

The street is filled with the scrumptious aromas of the *A Tafona* do Preguntoiro bakery, at number 20, and the smell of exotic spices from *O Graneiro de Amelia*, at number 16, where they also sell all kinds of pulses, rice, nuts and gluten-free artisan flours. *Colmado Delicioso*, at number 28, offers cakes and sponge cakes as well as different types of bread, pies and homemade biscuits, either to take away or to be enjoyed on the premises.

It is safe to say that Santiago is a town of shoes and chocolates, we will find there shoe shops for all preferences, such as *Calzados Valiño*, *Calzados Milanette* or *Maná. Metate*, on San Paio de Antealtares number 2, is a recommended stop for a restorative cup of hot chocolate, as this is not just a simple café and chocolate shop, but a veritable choco-

late museum, which still preserves the old machinery as part of its decoration.

Along **rúa do Preguntoiro**, we reach the **Praza de Cervantes** 5, where the gallows and the town hall were once located. It was also known as Praza do Campo, after the market that used to be held there. A fountain with a bust of Cervantes presides over the square and gives its name to it. Every Thursday morning, under the arcades, there is a picturesque antiques market. The *Librería Couceiro* has become one of the most important bookshops in Galicia. It was founded in 1969 and today has become a centre of cultural dynamism in the area. Its current location is a narrow four-storey building restored by the architect Iago Seara. The bookshop specialises in Galician books and has a beautiful restoration and bookbinding workshop on the top floor. When the weather allows it, they bring the books out into the square, just by the fountain, to bring literature closer to the passers-by.



If we see queues outside a narrow door, it means that we have arrived at *Ultramarinos Cepeda*, open since 1888 and known to all the grandmothers and great-grandmothers of Compostela, as this is where they used to buy the spices to marinate their meat, fish and hearty tripe. We also find ground almonds, candied fruit and products from other eras that fortunately still survive in family-run establishments like this one.

Inside the nearby *IGLESIA DE SAN BIEITO DO CAMPO* (church of San Bieito do Campo), we discover an ancient tympanum with the Epiphany or Adoration of the Magi, something very typical of Galician Romanesque architecture. The present-day church is the result of the numerous works and transformations it has undergone since its foundation in the 10th century.

Entering the nearby Praza da Pescadería Vella, at number 7, is the *Marusía* shop,



an outlet for clothes and accessories, both vintage and unique.

As we can easily deduce, the **Praza da Pescadería Vella** 6, meaning Old Fish Market, owes its name to the open-air fish market that was held there until the 19th century. The different squares within the walls of the medieval walled cities were named after the type of products that were sold there. When the sun comes out, the square looks magnificent, coming alive thanks to the many terraces where you can have an apéritif. Moreover, the fact that it is very close to the market makes it one of the most attractive spaces in the historic centre.

The IGLESIA DE SANTO AGOSTINO, which presides over the square, is a baroque temple from the 17th century whose construction was promoted by the Count of Altamira. Its façade is notable for the image of the Virgen de la Cerca and the towers, one of which is



unfinished and the other destroyed by lightning in the 18th century.

Doña Juana, at number 5 Santo Agostiño square, is a shop that has been open since 1946, selling household textile products. Their table linen, curtains and embroidery may be eye-catching, but above all, they have made the most of selling funny and beautiful personalised aprons.

The bustle of people coming and going, laden with bags, signals our arrival at the square or **Mercado de Abastos** 7. It is a place that has undergone a profound transformation in the last decade, not so much in its architectural historicism - which remains unchanged - but in the activities and culinary offerings that



FACING Small stall outside the market
ABOVE Restaurants around the market
BELOW Market clock tower



now exist and which have made its surroundings a fashionable area of Santiago. The eight different aisles of the market building specialise in fish and seafood, fruit and vegetables, meat and poultry, cheeses, breads and pies, and some even have a bit of everything. Outside the market, in small stalls set up by the town hall, farmers and smallholders sell natural, organic and healthy products from their gardens and small farms.

The new hospitality industry, led by renowned chefs such as Marcos Cerqueiro, Iago Pazos, Lucía Freitas and Pepe Solla, has settled around the Praza de Abastos, with restaurants such as *Café de Altamira*, *Abastos 2.0*, *Lume*, *A Lonxa do Mercado* and *La Radio*, which take advantage of the tourist attraction, offering a very fresh product, bought daily at the market.

In the past, there were in **rúa das Ameas** ⁸ small shops that supplied the farmers with textiles, household goods, tools or clogs. Some of them have been preserved, coexisting with other little shops that have been adapted to the new times, with very innovative ideas. Like *Breca*, where the aim is to give visibility to Galician leather and silver

craftswomen; to *teceleiras*, or weavers, with handmade fabrics; and *redeiras*, or net weavers, with creations such as bags and braids.

Noroeste Mini is a showcase of signature jewellery, where design is at the core of its creations; all the pieces are made with noble materials and natural gems. At *Pilgrim Bag*, you can create your own personalised bag, which is made right here. You can choose the colour of the fabric or leather, the size and the colours of the cords, you can even put your own name inside.

In *Zoclos* Eva y Luis, they have revived the tradition of making handmade wooden clogs; in the same space where they repair shoes, you can order personalised and unique clogs, which are made to measure for each customer.

Two projects were born with a strong cultural character: *Flor de Santiago*, for the recovery and study of this exotic and symbolic flower, intrinsically linked to the city. In this space, Ruth Varela's book *Flor de Santiago* and a selection of the author's handicrafts are sold, all of which help to finance the project. For its part, *Cuarto Pexigo* exhibits the artistic creations, mainly photographs, of authors who are in search of a retreat and a place to draw inspiration from Compostela.

A little further on, in ruela Altamira, we find *Boles*, which provide useful craftwork with

FACING Inside view of market



a Galician flavour, particularly their pottery and basketwork, which can be used for almost all our household needs.

A small Romanesque masterpiece can be seen before leaving the market area: the IGLESIA DE SAN FIZ DE SOLVIO (the Church of San Fiz de Solovio), which is, according to historians, one of the first sites that later gave rise to Santiago de Compostela. Although it was transformed in different periods, it retains a polychrome façade with the scene of the Epiphany, in which the Magi appear, slightly inclined towards the divine images of Mary with the Child and Saint Joseph. Next to them is the figure of a bearded figure, Xoán Debe, who, as a patron of the arts, was given the privilege of appearing on the tympanum.

ABOVE Catrineta canned fish and seafood
BELOW Church of San Fiz de Solovio

Opposite is Carantoña, a multi-brand shop offering designer T-shirts, bags and accessories such as fans, brooches and earrings. They specialise in handmade products, some of which are made from recycled materials.

On one side of the building of the FACULDADE DE XEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA (Faculty of Geography and History), we can admire a beautiful sculpture of King Alfonso II the Chaste, whose plaque reminds us that he was the first king to make a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This city owes its present-day status to him and to Teodomiro, Bishop of Iria Flavia. They brought together both the royal power and the power of the Church to certify the authenticity of the remains of the Apostle St. James (Santiago) and to protect them.

The **Praza da Universidade** ⁹ occupies what was once the site where the Jesuit Order was going to build a seminary, but, with



their expulsion in 1767, this property passed into the hands of the University of Santiago de Compostela. The IGREXA DA UNIVERSIDADE (the University's Church), also known as De La Compañía, had on its façade the images of two very important Jesuits, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Francis Xavier, but both sculptures were decapitated in order to place the heads of the Apostles Peter and Paul on them. Its baroque altarpieces are exceptional works of art, which were restored in 1995 to mark the celebration of the fifth centenary of the founding of the University. This enables us to appreciate all its subtleties, from the rich polychromy to the small figures dressed in black and pierced by spears, who are no more and no less than the first Jesuits who evangelised Japan and suffered martyrdom and death for it.

The **Mazarelos Arch** ¹⁰ serves as the Silver Route's entrance to the city and is the only one of the seven gates of the city wall still standing. It was also the gateway for wagons



loaded with large barrels of Ribeiro wine, which was then served in the taverns. Magnificent large magnolias and a sculpture by Montero Ríos adorn the square.

On leaving the old walled enclosure through the Arch of Mazarelos, we find the CONVENTO AND IGLESIA DE LAS MADRES MERCEDARIAS (convent and church of the Mercedarian Mothers), founded in 1671, whose façade displays the scene of the Annunciation, the work of Mateo de Prado, one of the great baroque sculptors of the 18th century.

The **Fonte de Santo Antonio** ¹¹, **Ensinanza** and **Virxe da Cerca** ¹² streets encircle the old city, following the outer perimeter of what would have been the medieval wall. Here we find three public fountains from the 19th century, which in the past would have been the springs that supplied water to the moat that once defended the city. And so we arrive, once again, at the **Praza de Galicia** ¹, where we began our route.

BELOW San Ignacio de Loyola with San Pedro's head

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.



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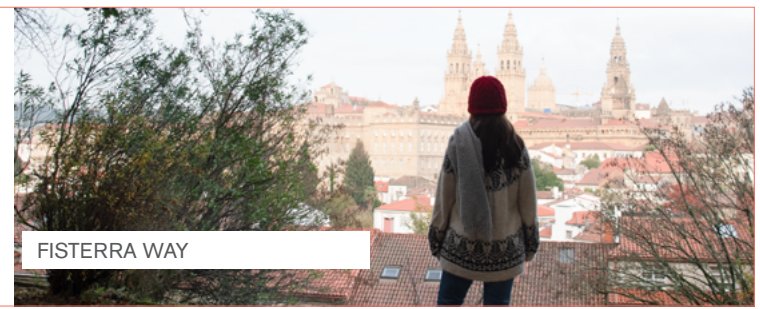
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