Santiago de Compostela

Spain

WORLD HERITAGE CITY
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Recently declared by UNESCO to be a World Heritage Site, and built on a hill encircled by the river Sar and its tributary the river Sarela, Santiago de Compostela is situated in the north-east of Spain in the province of A Coruña.

Santiago de Compostela was born from a legend: the discovery in 813 A.D. of the sepulchre of St. James the Apostle who was beheaded in 44 A.D. in Palestine. King Alfonso II visited the site and ordered a modest temple and monastery to be built, erecting the center around which the city later grew.

Alfonso III built the ancient basilica at the end of the 9th Century. It was destroyed during the Moorish invasion of Almanzor in the year 997 A.D. which completely devastated the city. Santiago was rebuilt and encircled by a wall. In 1075 A.D. Bishop Diego Peláez began the building-works on the cathedral, which continued under the efficient supervision of Bishop Diego Gelmírez, a key figure in the development of the city.

The 11th and 12th Centuries were the hey-days of the pilgrimages to Compostela. The Pilgrim’s road to Santiago de Compostela was an extremely efficient means of scientific, artistic and literary communication. Within the unmistakably rural region of Galicia, Santiago became an important centre
of economic and cultural activity, a melting pot of distant cultures and civilizations. At the end of the 12th Century the master-craftsman Mateo built the Pórtico de la Gloria (Gateway to Glory).

The end of the 14th Century witnessed the start of a turbulent period which lasted into the 15th Century. The arrival of Archbishop Fonseca, the founder of the University, marked the beginning of the Renaissance in Compostela. It was the Catholic Monarchs who brought the Court to the city in 1501. In 1534 the Royal Hospital and Colegio de Fonseca were built.

At the end of the 17th Century it was the archbishops and religious orders who promoted the Baroque building frenzy which created a school of its own in the 18th Century. This style pervades the historic center of Santiago –the cathedral, the monasteries and the churches– and gives it the unique character which persists today.

Apart from being famous for its university, monuments and religious and commercial activity, this city of 105,000 inhabitants is also a major centre of administration, having become the capital of the Autonomous Community of Galicia in 1982. It is the seat of the Xunta (regional government), the regional parliament and other regional administrative institutions. The city plays an important role in the timber industry. It is also extremely well connected to the outside, being centrally situated between the most important urban centres in Galicia. Two official languages exist side-by-side in Galicia: Spanish and Galician.
Getting there

By air
- The international airport of Santiago is situated in Lavacolla, 11 km from Santiago via the main N-547 road.

Airport Information:
☎ 981 54 75 00
SERVIBERIA
☎ 902 400 500
www.iberia.com
Passenger Terminal:
☎ 981 54 75 01
Freight Terminal:
☎ 981 59 99 44

By train
- Two trains daily from Madrid (the Talgo and the Express Rías Altas) and one from Bilbao. Fourteen daily trains from A Coruña, eleven from Vigo and eight from Ourense. Connections to Portugal via Vigo. (three trains daily connect this city with Oporto), and connections to France via the A Coruña-Vigo-Barcelona line.

REN FE railway station:
Calle Hórreo
REN FE information:
☎ 902 24 02 02
www.renfe.es

By road
- Take the A-9 motorway from Santiago going north to A Coruña and Ferrol; going south, the motorway goes along the Rías Bajas passing by Pontevedra and Vigo, reaching the Portuguese border at Tui.

- From Madrid to Santiago de Compostela, take the main N-VI road to A Coruña and from there the A-9 motorway.

Guardia Civil de Tráfico
(Road police)
☎ 981 58 22 66
Central Bus Station:
San Cayetano.
☎ 981 58 77 00

Distances by road from Santiago de Compostela to the main cities in Galicia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Coruña</td>
<td>65 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferrol</td>
<td>102 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lugo</td>
<td>105 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ourense</td>
<td>110 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pontevedra</td>
<td>56 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigo</td>
<td>90 km</td>
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Where to stay

- The choice of accommodation in Santiago de Compostela includes two 5-star hotels (381 rooms), three 4-star hotels (627 rooms) and four 3-star hotels (617 rooms), apart from numerous other cheaper options.
- One of the 5-star hotels, the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos, which is included in the list of «Paradores de Turismo» or State Hotels, occupies the beautiful 16th Century Royal Hospital building.

Paradores de Turismo. Reservation Centre
☎ 91 516 66 66. Fax 91 516 66 57
www.parador.es

Practical advice

- The climate of Santiago is typical of the Spanish Atlantic coast: wet winters with frequent rain which, in light or heavy bursts, lasts from September to June. The summers are slightly less rainy than the rest of the Cantabrian coast. Temperatures remain mild throughout the whole year with a yearly average of 19° C. They drop down to about an average of about 8° C in January, the coldest month. Umbrellas and water-proof clothing are, therefore, essential elements of the visitor’s luggage.

- Banks are open to the public from 8.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday. The 5-star, 4-star and 3-star hotels also have bureau de change facilities. Hotels, restaurants and most shops accept credit cards.
The lay-out of Santiago de Compostela is that of the typical walled medieval city. Born of and for the cathedral, the city radiates out from this building, running along a north-south axis, the only possible line along which it could develop because of the nature of the terrain. The main streets of the old quarter, the Rúa do Franco, the Rúa do Vilar and the Rúa Nova, are centered around this axis. The wall survived until the end of last century, and although it was later torn down, the city which it encircled remained. Narrow streets, alley-ways, squares and half-squares reveal stunning views such as the squares of La Quintana, La Inmaculada and San Martín. It is a city of stone, a city to be walked in and discovered. Santiago is still surrounded by orchards.
I. The Square of El Obradoiro

This impressive square opens out in an enormous, almost moving sweep, comprising magnificent buildings which represent a thousand years of history and architecture.

The College of San Jerónimo (1), which lies to the south, was founded in 1501 and its façade comes from the old hospital for pilgrims in the Square of La Inmaculada. On the west side, opposite the front of the cathedral, lies the Neoclassical building of Pazo Raxoi (2) which was built in 1766. The relief-work of the pediment, finished in white marble, depicts the Battle of Clavijo and is crowned by a representation of Santiago Matamoros (Santiago Killer of Moors). The rooms inside are decorated with 19th and 20th Century paintings.

Nowadays, this palace is the headquarters of the «Consello» or Town Hall of Santiago de Compostela and the «Presidencia de la Xunta» or regional government.

The Square of El Obradoiro is closed on the north side by the Antiguo Hospital Real (Royal Hospital) (3) which was built at the beginning of the 16th Century for the care of pilgrims and subsidised by the Catholic Monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand. The Plateresque façade mixes Classical motifs in its variegated ornamentation with Gothic pinnacles and baldachins, whilst the saints are depicted in the niches along with the symbols which have come to identify them in Christian tradition. The rest of...
the main front contrasts with this part of the façade because of its sober style, broken only by the gargoyles on the cornices, and by the balconies which were added in 1678. The chapel is used as an exhibition and concert hall. The building is presently a luxury hotel which forms part of the network of State Hotels or «Paradores de Turismo», the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos.

The Obradoiro Façade, the main cathedral front, without any doubt dominates the square which derives its name from it. Built between 1738 and 1750 by the architect Fernando de Casas y Novoa, it rises between two twin towers which were originally Romanesque but were later converted to a Baroque style. The height of the façade gives it a personality of its own, whilst at the same time joining the towers to the whole, dominated by an image of Santiago over an urn. Large windows illuminate the interior of the building and on the sides, almost lost amongst the exuberant features of the façade, we can see various sculptures by different Galician Baroque artists depicting the disciples and family of Santiago.

The Gelmírez Palace (4), which extends to the left of the Obradoiro Façade, is the jewel in the crown of lay Romanesque architecture in Spain. It was constructed between the 12th and 13th Centuries on the initiative of the ambitious and enterprising bishop of the time. The austerity of the façade contrasts with the splendour of the interior with a pervading atmosphere reminiscent of the Middle Ages. The refectory stands out with its six series of domes supported by corbels, representing a veritable documentary in stone of daily life in the Middle Ages. To the right of the cathedral is the Renaissance-style cloister building (5) which grew up around the internal cloisters.
II. The Cathedral

The Cathedral (6) has been the key to the city’s identity for centuries. The city grew up around it. Although the exterior has undergone successive renovation works, the interior has basically been preserved intact. It is, in fact, the most valuable legacy of the Romanesque style.

Via the Obradoiro Façade we enter the Pórtico de la Gloria (Gateway to Glory) which was constructed by the master-craftsman Mateo in 1188. The stone increases intelligence, which is supposed to be a self-portrait of the master-craftsman Mateo. On the left arch appear various characters from the Old Testament, and on the jambs, the four prophets. The right-hand arch symbolizes the Final Judgment in which the sinners are devoured by fantastic monsters.

Through the Portico de la Gloria we gain access to the inside of the cathedral, the jewel in the crown of...
Romanesque architecture, embellished over the centuries. It was begun in 1075, based on a Latin cross layout of three naves. The left-hand nave contains the Chapel of Cristo de Burgos, based on a Greek cross layout, and upon reaching the transept we see the Chapel of La Comunión, built according to an unusual circular design. Turning left at the transept we find the Chapel of Santa Catalina which served as a royal pantheon until the 16th Century. On the other side of the Azabachería Gate, the first chapel we see is the Chapel of San Antonio which dates from 1102. A small stairway leads to La Corticela, a church which was founded in the 12th Century and later annexed to the cathedral. It preserves its 13th Century façade as well as a «small temple» intimacy which contrasts with the solemnity of the cathedral.

Near La Corticela transept is the 17th Century Chapel of San Andrés. The ambulatory runs round the Mayor Chapel and from there a series of chapels open out. The Chapel of San Juan Apóstol, of Romanesque origin, was restored in the 16th Century and again in the 17th Century. Then we see the Chapel of Nuestra Señora la Blanca which was built over the old gates to the cathedral and dates from the 13th Century. The Chapel of El Salvador is the most set back from the ambulatory; the construction of the cathedral began around this chapel which has an interesting Plateresque altar-piece. Between this chapel and the Chapel of La Azucena is the entrance to the Puerta Santa (Saint's Gate) which is where the pilgrims were issued the slips which allowed them to lodge free of charge at the Hospital Real (Royal Hospital). Continuing on, we see the 16th Century Chapel of Monfragón which was built in Late Gothic style. The beautiful Chapel of El Pilar, constructed at the end of the 17th Century, is the last chapel on the ambulatory, used as a vestry. Bishop Monroy later made it his pantheon.

The transept nave is undoubtedly the most solemn spot in the cathedral. The lantern is Gothic with Baroque detail. From this
point hangs the Botafumeiro, the enormous censer which swings spectacularly from one of the nave to the other during days of solemn celebration. The Baroque altar of the Main Chapel rises above the crypt which contains the remains of St. James the Apostle. The statue of the Apostle dates from 1211, and the vestments and jewels which adorn it date from the 17th Century. In the right-hand nave, a hall area provides access to the remaining two chapels. The Chapel of San Fernando, on the left, is the cathedral Treasury which has proudly guarded the 16th Century gold and silver which is deposited there. The Chapel of Las Reliquias (Chapel of the Relics), with its pointed dome, houses the tombs of monarchs from the 12th, 13th and 14th Century.

One of the doors along the right-hand branch of the transept leads to the cloisters. They were initially constructed in the 16th Century in a Gothic style which is reflected in the columns and the pinnacles of the buttresses, although the Plateresque decorations later came to dominate the cloisters. The Treasury and cloister routes are two paths which can be taken around the cathedral; the third leads to the crypt and Old Cathedral which can be reached via the Obradoiro steps. These were built by the master-craftsman Mateo to compensate for the difference in level of the terrain and to support the Pórtico de la Gloria.
III. The Squares of Platerías, La Quintana and La Azabachería

The strongly characteristic squares which surround the cathedral to the south, west and north play an important role in the medieval design of Santiago de Compostela.

From the foot of the Puerta de Platerías (Platerías Gate) belonging to the cathedral, the square of Platerías opens out, so-called because it was traditionally here that the silversmiths («plateros») guild was located. The Casa del Cabildo (Town Hall) (7), opposite the cathedral, has a strictly Compostela-style façade dating from the 18th Century. It inspired Valle-Inclán’s story Mi hermana Antonia (My sister Antonia) in the same way that the Fountain of Los Caballos inspired Lorca to write the poem Danza da Lúa en Santiago (Dance of the Moon in Santiago). The Platerías Façade is the only one of Romanesque style which the cathedral has preserved. It dates from 1103 although some of the elements which make up the doorway have been taken from other buildings. The façade is organized around the central figure of Christ. The right-hand tympanum portrays the flagellation of the Messiah and the left-hand tympanum Church of San Paio
represents temptation. The jambs, the corners of the arches and both sides of the façade contain a multitude of small figures in a magnificent display the imaginative and story-telling qualities of the Romanesque style. Finally, the Treasury Façade, built in full Renaissance style in 1540, is located on the outside of the cloisters.

Between the back of the cathedral and the monastery of San Paio de Antealtares the Square of La Quintana opens out. This square, filled with the magical atmosphere of a multitude of legends, was previously a cemetery. Here stands the Clock Tower, also called the Tower of the Trinity, which was finished at the end of the 14th Century. Converted in the 18th Century into a Baroque filigree, the tower is famous for its bell, known as La Berenguela. At its base, the sumptuous Puerta Real (Royal Gate) once again conceals the Romanesque nature of the cathedral. The Puerta Santa (Holy Gate) is decorated with Romanesque sculptures which were taken from the old choir, the work of the master-craftsman Mateo. At the top of the square which is called «La Quintana de Vivos», the Casa de la Parra (8), built at the end of the 17th Century, displays its unusual decoration consisting of clusters of fruit. The Casa da Conga (9) (from «canónigo» or canon) occupies virtually the whole southern side of the square of La Quintana. This big beautiful building was finished at the beginning of the 18th Century.

The austere Convent of San Paio closes off the eastern approach to the square in a circular lay-out. Wooden grilles cover the windows of this sober façade. The Church of San Paio (10), which belongs to the monastery, looks onto the «Via Sacra» or Holy Way. Founded in 1707, the church contains some interesting altarpieces and a Roman altar-stone, used as such by the first disciples of the Apostle.

Formerly, the jetstone workers' guild gathered around the north entrance to the cathedral. The Puerta de la Azabachería (Azabachería Gate) stands here, occupying the place of the old Romanesque Gate of Paradise. Born of Baroque style, it was transformed into a Neoclassical construction, producing an uneven result and the least attractive view of the cathedral.
IV. The monasteries

Some superb buildings reveal the importance of the religious orders to the history of Santiago. Along with the Convents of San Paio and San Francisco and the impressive Monastery of San Martiño, this itinerary includes other more modest buildings which are, nevertheless, very rich in artistic terms.

The main façade of the **Monastery of San Paio de Antealtares** (11) looks onto the Square of Feixoó. Dating back to the 18th Century, the relief-work on the doorway depicts the escape to Egypt. The present building, dating from the 17th and 18th Centuries, was built on the site of a 12th Century convent. The monastery shares the Square of Feixoó with the **Casa del Canónigo Juan Somoza** (House of Canon Juan Somoza) (12).

At the top of the square stands the **Church of San Bento** (13) which was built on the site of a 10th Century temple and was modified in the times of Bishop Gelmírez. Its Gothic altar and the group of Romanesque sculptures depicting the Adoration of the Magi have been preserved.

From the corner of San Bento and via the street of Traversa we arrive in the small square of Casa Reais, a name which refers to the large number of palaces which were built there, of which two survive today: **Fondevila** (14) and the **Pazo Viejo del Conde de Aranda** (Old Palace of the Count of Aranda) (15).

The square is closed off at one end by the Neoclassical **Church of Las Ánimas** (16). The pediment, unusual in Catholic iconography, depicts the torments of hell and souls in agony. Inside the church, the group of sculptures depicting The Passion.

![Map of Santiago](image-url)
The Algalias de Arriba (higher) and Algalias de Abajo (lower) were the streets of the «chocolaterías» (cafes serving drinking chocolate); by crossing them we reach the Museo de las Perigrinaciones (Pilgrimage Museum) (17) which is situated virtually at the entrance to the Square of San Miguel, presided over by the Church of San Miguel dos Agros (18). This church, which dates back to the 9th Century, was destroyed by the Moors at the end of the 10th Century. Gelmírez ordered it to be rebuilt in the 12th Century, although the current appearance of the building owes more to the renovations carried out in the 15th, 18th and 19th Centuries. Although the church contains a magnificent Baroque altarpiece and the choir-stalls constitute a 17th Century masterpiece.

Via the streets of Abril Ares and Moeda Vella we reach the Square of La Inmaculada, the extension of the Square of La Azabachería. Opposite the cathedral stands the main façade of the Monastery of San Martín Pinario (20), an immense building which was constructed between the 17th and 18th Centuries on the site of a 10th Century monastery. A large ornamental comb crowns the sumptuous façade. The twenty thousand square feet of this building are connected by three long cloisters.

The street of Val de Dios runs along the façade, or rather, the western wall of San Martín, leading to the Monastery of San Francisco (21). Founded at the beginning of the 16th Century and rebuilt during the 17th and 18th Centuries, this monastery owes its beginning to the pilgrimage undertaken by San Francisco himself to Compostela. The temple, the work of Simón Rodríguez, is one of the most beautiful examples of Compostela Baroque. The street of San Francisco leads directly into the Square of El Obradoiro. This is where the Faculty of Medicine (20) building is located.
Although the buildings came later, the lay-out for the Rúas Franco, Vilar and Nova date back to the time of Bishop Gelmírez in the 12th Century. The streets were originally completely flanked by colonnades but, as a result of their vulnerability to fires, they were partially destroyed. Santiago displays the full force of its charm in these streets.

The Faxeira Gate was one of the seven gates in the wall which encircled Santiago; today this crossroads draws the border between the suburbs and old quarter of the city. By walking up the busy Rúa do Franco we reach the **Colegio Mayor de Fonseca** (23), a beautiful Renaissance building begun in 1532. The doorway of the façade, split into two parts, and the Plateresque cloister with its crenellations and curious gargoyles, are the most interesting elements of the building. Turning right at the end of the Rúa do Franco we reach the Square of Platerías whose southern end marks the...
beginning of the colonnaded Rúa do Vilar.

The first building on the left is the Casa del Deán (The Dean’s Residence) (24), a magnificent example of a Compostela Baroque palace. This area has lost its residential character, becoming rather an administrative centre. Near the end of the street, the Rúa do Vilar is interrupted by the Square of El Toral. One of the liveliest spots in the city, the square is dominated by the Palace of Bendaña (25), which was built at the end of the 17th Century. Gaps and balconies stand out from the stone façade; at the top we can see Atlas holding the world which, according to a popular joke, he will let drop under certain circumstances.

The narrow street of Entrerrúas which connects the Rúa del Vilar and Rúa Nova is also protected by colonnades. By walking up this street we reach the Colegio de los Irlandeses (26). The Church of Santa María de Salomé (27) dates from the 12th Century. It was renovated in the 18th Century although its 15th Century chapels have been preserved. The Annunciation on the doorway, dating from the 14th Century and the bell tower are worthy of note. This church is located on the corner with the street Tras de Salomé which splits into the streets of Orfas and Calderería. The street of Calderería is the shopping street par excellence of the old quarter.

The 16th Century building situated between the two thoroughfares is the Palace of Fonseca (28), one of the few examples of lay Renaissance architecture left in the city.

Returning to the Rúa Nova, we come to the Teatro Principal (Main Theatre) (29) hidden under the colonnades. This Elizabethan building dating from 1841, recently restored, is the centre of cultural life in Santiago. The Neoclassical building located near the end of the street is the Palace of Mondragón (30), also called the Palace of Santa Cruz. Opposite, the Casa de las Pomas, (House of the Apples) (31) Valle-Inclán’s favourite building, derives its name from the clusters of fruit and garland adornments on its façade. The Casa de la Balconada (32) stands on the corner of the Rúa de Gelmiérez.
VI. From Santa Clara to the University skirting the old quarter

Departing from the Convents of Santa Clara and Santo Domingo, this itinerary takes us deeper into the more popular areas of Compostela, where daily life runs its normal course - markets, the Geography and History Faculties and old taverns. We will see people going about their daily business in the midst of a city full of magnificent monuments.

The Convent of Santa Clara (33) is a cube-shaped stone...
building. The pointed pulpit came from the old convent of the same name which was located on a different site. The most unique aspect of the convent is the façade of the porter's lodge which was built by Simón Rodríguez in 1719. It gives off a feeling of instability enhanced by the cylinder which crowns the façade, whilst the paneled areas give a whimsical cubist touch to the whole, making the structure the most original example of Compostela Baroque.

At the other end of the Rúa de San Roque stands the Hospital of San Roque (34) which was founded in the 16th Century during when epidemics plagued the city. On the tympanum of the door, we see depictions of San Cosme and San Damián, the patron saints of health. The Rúa das Rodas or the curious and narrow street of Entremuros lead to the Porta do Camiño where the door of the wall stood and the French Pilgrim’s Way began.

At the top of a small hill (the Street of Santo Domingo), we find the Convent of Santo Domingo Bonaval (35). It houses the Museo do Pobo Galego (Museum of the Galician People) and the Panteón de Gallegos Ilustres (Pantheon of Famous Galicians), which contains, among others, Rosalía de Castro and Alfonso Rodríguez Castelao, the two leading figures of Galician literature. The beautiful church belonging to the convent is a rare example of Gothic architecture in Galicia. Next to the convent another impressive building has been recently erected, this time finished in cement rather than in stone, the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporáneo (Galician Contemporary Art Centre) (36) which was designed by the Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza, constituting the first modern influence in the old quarter.

In the Rúa del Santo Agostino stands the Convent of the Jesuites (37), founded in 1617, with its interesting Mannerist cloister. This building now serves as a student residence. The Church of San Agustín (38), attached
to the convent, is of Churrigueresque style. One of its towers was destroyed by lightening and the other was never finished. In the middle of the hustle and bustle of the Square of Abastos stand the Romanesque-inspired stone halls which today house the marketplace. Constructed after 1941, they respect their context and surroundings.

On the far side of the market is San Fiz de Solovio (39), the first temple built in the city. Legend tells us that the hermit Paio, who discovered the sepulchre of St. James, resided here. The Romanesque façade featuring the Epiphany on the tympanum is all that is left of the church founded by Bishop Sisnando in 900 A.D. The present façade is the result of drastic renovation works carried out in the 18th Century. A small garden with a crossway separates San Fiz from the Geography and History Faculty (40). This Neoclassical building dating from the end of the 18th Century was designed to be the headquarters of the University. The continual renovation works – at the turn of the century a new floor was added – have practically eradicated its original design. The library is worth visiting. Inside the Church of La Universidad, the most exuberant and scandalous altar-piece in Compostela, work of Simón Rodríguez in 1720, climbs the wall and metamorphoses into a ceiling.

The Arco de Mazarelos (Mazarelos Arch) (41) is the only vestige remaining of the walls which encircled the city for a thousand years. The building situated to the left is the Casa de Valderrama (42). From the other side of the arch we can see the Convent of Las Mercedarias Descalzas (43), which dates from the end of the 18th Century, and the church belonging to the convent whose Baroque façade and dome are worthy of note.
VII. Other places of interest

Other places of great interest to the visitor are situated somewhat further away from the old quarter of Santiago.

- **Belvís Convent** (44).
  Belvís, which lies to the west of the old quarter of the city, is one of the most typical neighbourhoods in Santiago. From the Church of San Fiz, the street of Las Trompas leads to the gates of the convent which was built at the

![Collegiate Church of Santa Maria del Sar](image)
end of the 17th Century. Preserved from the old 14th Century building, the picture of the Virgen del Portal is an object of great devotion in the city. The church stands out from the whole and contains an interesting altar-piece. During the local procession to San Pedro Mártir it is customary to call at the convent to ask for animals and people to be cured.

- **The Collegiate Church of Santa María del Sar (45).** At the corner of the Mercedarias Descalzas begins the street of Patio de Madres which later turns into the street of Castrón d'Ouro. The street of Sar leads into the Avenida de Lugo. It is a kilometre’s walk to the Collegiate Church of Santa María del Sar, built in the 12th Century. It was a Templar convent, leper colony, and collegiate church but is famous for its one defect, the leaning of its columns, which produces a fascinating optical effect. This is due to the unevenness of the land on which the structure is built, making necessary the addition of external buttresses in the 18th Century. The Romanesque cloister was built by the same architect responsible for the Pórtico de la Gloria, the master-craftsman Mateo. A small museum is located in the cloister and vestry.

- **The Convent of Santa María de Conxo (46).** Somewhat further away, on the outskirts of the city, lies the Convent of Santa María de Conxo. Founded in 1129 by Bishop Gelmírez, it was rebuilt in the 17th Century. Only a part of the original cloister remains. In the church, the sculpture of Santiago Peregrino (Santiago the Pilgrim) stands out. To the left of the transept one can enter the chapel of Cristo de Conxo; the effect of the ever-rising panels and the imperceptible casting of the pilasters and dome create a mobility which make the chapel a real masterwork of Baroque style.
**Museums and art centres**

**MUSEO Y TESORO DE LA CATEDRAL** (Cathedral Treasure and Museum)

It was founded as an Archaeological Museum after the discovery in the basement of the cathedral of the remains of tombs, relief-works and statues from the 11th and 16th Centuries. The library conserves manuscripts and incunabula as well as the enormous censer which is known as the «Botafumeiro». The visit includes the cloisters of the cathedral, the chapterhouse, the crypt, the chapel of Relics and the marvelous collection of Flemish tapestries, dating from the 16th and 17th Centuries, French tapestries from the 17th Century and Spanish tapestries from the 18th Century. Worth special notice are those elaborated from designs by Rubens, Van Thulden, Teniers, Bayeu and Goya.

**MUSEO DO POBO GALEGO** (Museum of the Galician People)

The convent which houses this museum was built between the 14th and 17th Centuries. The museum brings together materials related to Galician anthropology and ethnography, with other rooms dedicated to typical architecture and traditional arts.

The opening hours are for guideline purposes only. It is advisable to check at the Tourist Offices or at the monuments or museums.

**Museo y Tesoro de la Catedral**

Santiago Cathedral
Open: every day from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.; winter, from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
☎ 981 56 05 27

**Museo do Pobo Galego**

Convento de Santo Domingo de Bonaval
Open: Monday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Sundays and Public Holidays closed
☎ 981 58 36 20
trades, using displays of models, drawings and photographs. A surprisingly pleasant visit. The Pantheon of Famous Galicians is located in the convent church.

CENTRO GALEGO DE ARTE CONTEMPORANEO
(Galician Contemporary Art Museum)
Housed in a modern building designed by the Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza, this museum opened in 1993. The museum includes rooms for temporary exhibitions, conferences and video-viewing, with preference given to the exhibition of contemporary art.

MUSEO DE LAS PEREGRINACIONES
(Pilgrimage Museum)
This museum is housed in a Gothic tower and modern building. It contains a major collection of sculptures, paintings, gold and silver work and local handicrafts, all based on subjects related to the pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela. It also boasts a magnificent collection of jet trinkets.

MUSEO DE ARTE SACRO
(Museum of Religious Art)
The monastery which was built in the 17th and 18th
Centuries was raised on the site of another founded in the 9th Century. The museum is entered through the convent church which has a magnificent altarpiece dating from the beginning of the 18th Century. The museum collection is made up of various pieces of gold and silver work, sculpture, paintings and donations from noblemen and religious benefactors.

MUSEO DE LA COLEGIATA DE SANTA MARÍA DEL SAR
(Museum of the Collegiate Church of Santa María del Sar)

The church which houses the museum is of 12th Century Romanesque style, comprising three naves constructed on pillars, and is supported by several large buttresses which were added in the 18th Century. Its leaning columns are an impressive sight. The small museum brings together documents of great historical value, such as a parchment dating from 1136 A.D. sealed by Archbishop Diego Gelmírez and pieces from the old cloister which are attributed to the master-craftsman Mateo and his school. It also contains other liturgical articles which were made in local workshops in the 18th Century.

Museo de Arte Sacro
Monasterio de San Paio de Antealtares
Open: July, August and September from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.; closed during the rest of the year ☎ 981 58 31 27

Museo de la Colegiata de Santa María del Sar
Colegiata de Santa María del Sar. Barrio del Sar
Open: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. ☎ 981 56 28 91
Various public and private art exhibition centres periodically hold temporary exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, photography, etc. Those most worthy of note include:

**Auditorio de Galicia**
Avenida Burgo das Nacións
Open: from 12 a.m. to 7 p.m.
☎ 981 55 22 90
www.audigal.es

**Museo do Poblo Galego**
Convento de Santo Domingo de Bonaval. Open: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays closed
☎ 981 58 36 20

**Central-Hispano 20**
Calle Alférez Provisional, 3 and 5. Open: 15th June - 15th September from 9.30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; rest of the year from 9.30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
☎ 981 59 01 50

**Hostal de los Reyes Católicos**
Square of El Obradoiro
Open: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Guided visits
☎ 981 58 22 00

**Galería Sargadelos**
Rúa Nova, 16. Open: from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
☎ 981 58 19 05

**Sala Francisco Asorey**
Facultad de Filosofía, Ciencias de la Educación y Psicología. Campus Sur
Open: from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
☎ 981 56 31 00
Aula de la Cultura de Caixa Galicia
Calle Carreira do Conde, 18
Open: times depend on the exhibition
☎ 981 58 08 91

Casa da Parra
Square of La Quintana
Open: from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Mondays closed
☎ 981 54 58 09

Casa da Conga
Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Galicia
Square of La Quintana
Open: from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
☎ 981 58 01 00

Sala Fundación Araguaney
Hotel Araguaney
Calle Montero Ríos, 25
Open: times depend on the exhibition
☎ 981 55 96 00

Galería Trinta
Rúa do Hórreo, 30
Open: from 12.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Weekends arranged by appointment
☎ 981 58 46 23

Galería Citania
Abadía de Abaixo, 93.
- The Alameda, Ferradura and Carballeira de Santa Susana Promenades

Located between the old quarter of the city and the university campus, the promenades of Carballeira de Santa Susana, Alameda and Ferradura combine traditional oak forests and romantic gardens with exotic species of flora. In the Carballeira (oakwood), on the top of an ancient Celtic hill-fort, stands the Church of Santa Susana, the co-patron saint of Santiago. The Alameda walk dates from the beginning of last century. It is laid out around three promenades separated by beautiful iron-work benches and camellia beds. A flight of steps leads up to the Ferradura and the Letras Gallegas walk, a spectacular vantage point overlooking the university and one of the most pleasant views of the city.

- Parque de la Música

Laid out along the base of the Auditorio de Galicia building, its pleasant meadows border an artificial lake inhabited by swans and trouts.

- Parque de Belvís

Located on the stream-bed which crosses the street of Las Trompas, this park makes part of the ambitious project which began with the Bonaval gardens and was later expanded to include the parks of Almáciga, Vite, Paxonal and Campus.
Cultural Activities and Entertainment

Music

- The Auditorio de Galicia (Galician Auditorium), seat of the Galician Symphony orchestra, offers a wide-ranging programme of music and classical dance throughout the year. The opera season usually lasts from May to June, although some years it is brought forward to April.

- Xornadas de Música en Compostela (Music days in Compostela), are dedicated to contemporary music. They take place during the first three weeks of August. Concerts are held in the Capilla Real del Hostal de los Reyes Católicos (Hostal de los Reyes Católicos Royal Chapel) and at the Galician Auditorium.

Auditorio de Galicia. Palacio de la Ópera, Exposiciones y Congresos. Avenida do Burgo das Nacions. ☎ 981 55 22 90.
Hostal de los Reyes Católicos. Square of El Obradoiro. ☎ 981 58 22 00.

Theatre

- There is a large variety of theatrical entertainment at the Teatro Principal throughout the year. Every year between 22nd December and 5th January a special programme is organized for children which includes the Children’s Puppet Festival (Festival Infantil de Títeres).


- During the second fortnight in July, coinciding with the celebrations in honour of St. James the Apostle, the programme of musical and theatrical events becomes especially intense, taking over public areas such as the Squares of El Obradoiro and La Quintana. The Jornadas de Folklore Gallego (Galician Folklore Days) and Festival de Bandas Populares (Popular Music Bands Festival) also take place around this time. Cultural activity heats up again during the month of May for the week-long fiestas which commemorate Ascension Day.
Cinema
- There are 13 cinemas in Santiago. From the 1st to 30th November the Teatro Principal hosts the cinema festival, Cineuropa.

Art Galleries and Antique-shops
- Most of the antique-dealers are concentrated around the cathedral and the Square of San Martiño.

- The Galician Antique-Dealers’ Fair (Feria de Antiquarios de Galicia), the region’s most important event of its kind, is held during the first fortnight of October. Antícuarios de Galicia. Hotel Araguaney. Calle Montero Ríos, 25. ☎ 981 55 96 00.

- Art galleries can also be found in the old quarter of the city. Most of the bars and cafés in the old quarter hold exhibitions of contemporary Galician artists. Programmes are printed in the local newspapers.

For Golf enthusiasts
- Campo de Golf del Aeroclub Lavacolla.
  Carretera N-57, Santiago-Lugo road, 11 km. away, near the airport. ☎ 981 59 24 00.
Eating and Drinking

Galician cuisine has a well-deserved reputation for quality, and, scattered throughout the old quarter and suburbs of Santiago lie some of the best restaurants in Galicia. However, in Galicia, as in the rest of Spain, before sitting down at the table, it is still customary to have an aperitif. Unquestionably the best area for this practice is the old quarter, along the streets of Franco and Raíño. In the suburbs, the best streets are those surrounding the Square of Roxa. Most of the wine-bars are also restaurants.

Fish is grilled, prepared in the caldeirada or Galician-style-cooked and garnished with oil, garlic, and paprika the «empanada» (pie), featured in refectory depictions, as early as the 12th Century, is produced in endless varieties. The most typical dishes for the winter months include «lacón con grelos» (shoulder of pork with parsnip tops) and «cocido gallego» (Galician hot-pot).

But it is the fish and shellfish for which Galician cuisine is most famous. The markets offer hundreds of varieties of seafish, fresh-water fish and the excellent mollusks and crustaceans of the Galician coast. It would be a crime to forget to mention «pulpo» or octopus which forms part of every fiesta in the region. The cheeses are fresh and creamy.

For dessert, specialties include «filloas» (a type of crepes) and «tarta de almendras de Santiago» (Santiago almond torte) or any of the sweet-cakes which for centuries have been specially produced in the convents by the nuns.

Wine is made throughout Galicia. Usually they are white wines, young and fruity. The most outstanding whites include Ribeiro, Valdeorras and Albariño. Amandi is an excellent red wine. Also popular are the homemade coffee liqueurs and aguardientes (brandy), which form the basic ingredients of queimada (a bowl of strong spirits which is lit or queimada, literally «burnt», and then slowly drunk).
The squares of Azabacheria and Platerías owe their names to the two most traditional crafts of Santiago. Workshops making amulets and trinkets out of azabache or jetstone, a variety of lignite, date back to the 12th Century. The pieces crafted from plata, or silver, are also very different from those produced in Renaissance and Baroque times. Since the turn of this century jet and silver have been successfully combined, resulting in great variety and originality of designs. These beautifully crafted pieces can be found in any of the shops around the cathedral.

It is also possible to buy regional ceramic-ware in the old quarter. The factory of Sargadelos, situated in the municipality of Cervo, is particularly renowned for its characteristic ceramic-ware. Camariñas, another town in the Coruña region produces the famous «encajes de bolillos» (bobbin-lace), which can be bought everywhere in Santiago.

There are numerous places all around the city which sell fine food-products. There are some excellent cake-shops in the streets of Alfredo Brañas, Vilar and Doctor Teijeiro.

The widest range of shops is found in the suburbs where the shops are more modern. Most of the arcades along the street of Tras del Pilar feature the new fashions by the successful Galicán clothes designers. The new shopping areas of the city are located in the neighbourhood of Castiñeirinho and the Polígono de Fontiñas.

The cattle-market is attended by people from all over the region and is held every Wednesday in Salgueiríños, San Cayetano. Dealing takes place in this market, the most important in Galicia, from 5.30 a.m. to midday. Behind the market, the «pulpeiras» (octopus-sellers) set up their stands serving octopus a feira and Ribeiro wine as well as strong aguardiente liqueur. On Thursdays a street market visits the same place.
Night-Life

Nothing is more pleasant than slowly wandering around the old quarter of Santiago, perhaps stopping off for a drink along the way.

Santiago night-life is renowned throughout Galicia, especially Thursday evenings during term-time, as a result of the special atmosphere the university students bring to the city. The old quarter and suburbs offer two very different milieus.

- Most of the bars and cafés in the old quarter were established quite recently as part of an attempt to make the old part of the city more lively in the evenings. Each establishment has a distinct character and has been decorated with care, some having previously served as palace stables or coach houses. The music—psychedelic rock, jazz, folk—is played at volumes which allow conversation.

Along the streets of Algalias, Virxe da Cerca and San Paio de Antaletares are a large number of bars and taverns.

Things really start to get going at around midnight. Nearly all of these bars, cafés or taverns display works by modern Galician artists.

- The bars in the suburbs tend to be more impersonal and noisy. Although they are scattered all around the city, the majority are concentrated in the streets República Argentina, Santiago de Chile, Ramón Cabanillas, Fernando III el Santo and San Pedro de Mezonzo. During term-time, it is an impressive sight to see the waves of young people who flood into the area on Thursday and Friday evenings, and it is not surprising as most of the inhabitants of this part of the city are students at the university. Closing times are later here than in the old quarter.

- Nearly all of the discotheques are located along the roads leading out of the city.
- The most important fiestas in Santiago are undoubtedly those which take place around the 25th July, Día de la Patria Galega (Galicia Day) and Día del Apóstol Santiago (Day of St. James the Apostle). During the last fortnight of July, popular and religious celebrations and politics are mixed together. The City Council organizes an extensive cultural and entertainment programme which includes exhibitions, theatrical displays, street-shows and concerts featuring music of all kinds.

In the Squares of El Obradoiro and La Quintana stages are erected to host the majority of the events scheduled during fiesta time. In the evening of 24th July, the eve of the great day, there is an impressive fireworks display in the Square of El Obradoiro. The most solemn religious ceremony is the «Ofrenda del Rey al Apóstol» (offering of the King to the Apostle), on the 25th and during which the famous Botafumeiro is employed.

- The other important local fiesta is La Ascensión which is held in May or June (there is no fixed date) and lasts for a week. These festivities are extraordinarily lively thanks, primarily, to the students who take part. Concerts, open-air dances, and informal theatre productions take place along with the cattle fair and, of course, mass at the cathedral, featuring the Botafumeiro.

- At the end of February or the beginning of March the Antroído, or carnival, takes place throughout the whole of Galicia. These deeply rooted traditions in Santiago attract the participation of entire neighbourhoods.

- La Semana Santa, or Holy Week, in March or April, features some especially interesting processions such as the Do Encontro Procession (procession to the meeting-place) on Good Friday and the Os Caladiños Procession (the silent ones).

- Multitudinous gatherings of religious fervour are reserved for the romerías (processions to a local shrine) which are often accompanied by open-air dances and celebrations. The most popular ones in Santiago are those of San Lázaro on 17th and 18th March, and those of San Marcos and San Pedro Mártir on the 24th and 29th April, respectively.
The main regional fairs take place at A Coruña, Pontevedra and other places near Santiago de Compostela.

- **Artestrada.** Galician craft fair. La Estrada-Pontevedra. May.

- **Construgal.** Construction, stone and other related industries trade fair. Pontevedra. May.

- **Ferpalia.** Tourism fair. Pontevedra. October.

- **Feria del Mueble de Galicia.** Galicia furniture fair. La Estrada-Pontevedra. September.

- **Mostart.** Popular arts and crafts, art workshops, new handicrafts. A Coruña. First fortnight in August.


- **Salón de la Energía y Desarrollo.** Energy and Development Fair. Silleda-Pontevedra. October.

- **Semana Verde de Galicia.** Galicia Environmental Week. Silleda-Pontevedra. May-June.

- **Tuirsporh.** Tourism, sports and rural development fair. Silleda-Pontevedra. March.

The old quarter of the city is a pedestrian area. Since the city is quite small and there are many places to visit, it is best to see it on foot. The sidewalks in the suburbs have ramps for wheelchairs. There are no sidewalks in the old quarter and the monuments do not offer many difficulties to the disabled.

• **Buses.** There are 10 local bus routes which connect the centre to the suburbs. Local buses. Information: ☎ 981 58 18 15

• **Taxis.** There are numerous taxi ranks around the city. Those located on the streets Montero Ríos, ☎ 981 56 10 28 and the Square of Roxa, ☎ 981 59 59 64 offer 24-hour service.

• **Car-parks.** For those who come by car, there are car-parks distributed throughout the city. It is easier to park in the new part of the city than in the old quarter.

### Postal and Telephone Services

- **Post Offices**
  - Central Post Office (Oficina Central de Correos y Telégrafos). Travesía de Fonseca ☎ 981 58 12 52
  - Branch Post Office (RENFE station): ☎ 981 59 66 18
  - Telegram messages by phone: ☎ 902 19 71 97

- **Telephone Services**
  - Local, national and international calls can be made from phone-boxes all around the city. It is advisable to buy phone cards at the «tabac» shops (where you can also buy tobacco, stamps and stationary) or at the centres belonging to Telefónica (Spanish Telecom Operator).
  - Telefónica telephone centre: Calle Senra, 5
- There are numerous other establishments around the city which offer telephone and fax services.
  Information about telephoning: 1003.
  International code when calling from Spain: 00.

**Emergency Services**

- **Emergency Medical Attention**
  - General Hospital. ☎ 981 54 00 00
  - National Health Clinic. Calle Santiago León de Caracas, 12
    ☎ 981 52 70 00
  - Emergencies. (SOS Galicia) San Marcos
    ☎ 900 44 42 22 and 981 54 14 00
  - Red Cross. Avenida de Lugo. ☎ 981 58 69 69
  - Galician Confederation for the Handicapped and Disabled
    Modesto Brocos, 7
    ☎ 981 57 46 98

- **Police**
  - National Police. Rúa de Rodrigo de Padrón. ☎ 091 and 981 58 19 44
  - Local Police
    Calle Pazo Raxoi. ☎ 092 and 981 54 23 23
  - Guardia Civil
    ☎ 981 58 16 11

- **Fire Department**
  ☎ 080 and 981 58 10 10

- **Lost Property Office and Local Police**
  ☎ 981 54 23 23
Excursions from Santiago

- From Noia to the Costa de la Muerte (Coast of Death). The C-543 road connects Santiago to Noia, 30 km away. In the beautiful old quarter of this town you can see numerous houses built by noblemen with series of Gothic arches. The Romanesque Church of Santa María a Nova has a fascinating trade-guild cemetery. From Noia the C-550 runs along the river until it reaches Muros. Streets with the most romantic names form what is perhaps the best preserved and most beautiful town on the Galician coast, comprising noblemen and sailor’s houses, all encircled by beaches. Leaving the beach of Ézaro behind and having passing through Cee and Corcubión, we reach Finisterre (Fisterra). Between Corcubión and Finisterre there are also some excellent beaches. Beyond this charming fishing village is the Cape of Finisterre (Fisterra), the western-most point in Europe. For centuries it was believed to mark the end of
the world and it became a place of worship for Celts, Romans and Christians. From Finisterre to Malpica near A Coruña runs the Costa da Morte (Coast of Death): sheer cliffs and fiercely beautiful wild seas make up this coastline which is only broken periodically by unexpected sandy beaches. The well-known pedra da abalar (abalar stone) which is linked to prehistoric worshipping practices and has also been integrated into the St. James tradition, can be seen at Muxía. Camariñas, situated on the other side of the estuary, complements its local fishing industry with the bobbin-lace which is worked by the women of the village. Daily buses from Santiago to Noia, Muros, Corcubión, Fisterra and Vímanzo. Information at Turgalicia on the Santiago-Noia road, 3 km. ☎ 981 53 54 25

• From Padrón to La Toja. According to legend, the boat which brought the remains of St. James called into port at Iria Flavia, today known as Padrón. The town is also the birthplace of the Nobel Prizewinner for Literature, Camilo José Cela. At the mouth of the Ulla, at Catoira, the Towers of the West stand, the only remains of the fortress built by Alfonso V. The avenue of Rosalía de Castro joins the fishing village of Carril with Vilagarcía de Arousa, the main town on the estuary and important business centre. The Lobeira vantage point provides an outstanding view of the area. The Deiro turn-off on the C-550 road leads, across a spectacular bridge, to the Island of Arousa and its eighty beaches. Continuing along the C-550, we soon reach Cambados, the principal Albariño wine-making centre and location of a «Parador de Turismo» or State Hotel. The sophisticated Square of Fefiñáns comprises the Galician country house of Figueroa and the Church of San Bieito. The ruins of Santa María D’Ozo contain a sailors’ cemetery, and the small island of Figueira preserves two 10th Century towers. O Grove was an island until the 16th Century; the isthmus which joins it to the mainland forms the famous beach of A Lanzada. A bridge connects O Grove to
the island of La Toja, one of the most important tourist sites in Galicia.
Tourist Information: Vilagarcía de Arousa.
☎ 986 51 01 44
Tourist Information: O Grove.
☎ 986 73 15 54

- Barbanza. This is the name of the peninsula which comprises the Muros and Arousa estuaries, between Noia and Padrón. Along the coastline which is broken up by the mountain range which shapes it, the rough cliffs are alternately broken up by ports and sandy beaches. From Noia we can reach Portosín and Porto do Son with the beach of Aguieira in-between. In Baroña there are some important remains of a Pre-Roman settlement. From Oleiros, via the dolmen of Axeitos, we reach the cape and beach of Corrubedo and the lagoons of Carregal and Vixán. The natural surroundings are extremely rich throughout this whole area. Aguiño, Ribeira, Pobra do Caramiñal and Boiro face the estuary of Arousa. The Curota vantage point, which can be reached from Pobra do Caramiñal, affords some of the best views in Galicia.

- The French Road to Santiago. Among the seven...
routes which led to Santiago, the French route was the one taken by most of the pilgrims. The European Council has recognized it as the first cultural itinerary in Europe. From Villafranca del Bierzo to Santiago the road is not marked by any great monuments except for Samos and Portomarín, but the route runs through some extraordinary scenery. The main stages of the journey within Galicia, departing from Santiago, are: Lavacolla, Arzúa, Melide, Palas de Rei, Monterroso, Portomarín, Sarria, Samos, Tricastela, Cebreiro and Pedrafita do Cebreiro.

- La Ribeira Sagrada del Miño. The river Miño and its tributary the Sil are the two main rivers in Galicia. The expression «Ribeira Sagrada» (Sacred Bank) refers to the large number of monasteries (mosteiros in Galician) situated on the upper Sil basin. It was later extended to include the banks of the Miño where the number of mostly Romanesque monasteries is even larger. The countryside ranges from the vineyard terraces of Chantada to the indigenous oak woods. From Santiago, the N-525 leads to Lalín and from there continues on to Taboada. In
the surrounding area we can find the Romanesque Churches of San Pedro de Bembibre, Taboada dos Freires and, on the other side of the Belesar reservoir, the Church of San Vitorio de Ribas de Miño. Chantada, squeezed between the Miño canyon and the O Faro mountain range, has a lovely town centre of colonnaded narrow streets. From this point the visitor will discover many fascinating monasteries. Near the Belesar dam is the Monastery of Santa María de Pesqueiras; to the south are the Monastery of San Salvador de Asma and the Sanguñedo oakwood. Along a meandering stretch of the Miño river we find the Monastery of Santa María de Nogueira, on the road which leads to Os Peares and where the Sil flows into the Miño. On the other side of the Sil, travelling in the direction of Monforte, the Monastery of San Vicenzo de Pombeiro is situated in a beautiful spot. San Estevo de Atán, a monastery founded in the 8th Century, is difficult to get to. Following the road to Monforte we arrive at Ferreira de Pantón. Near here, the Castle of Maside and the Monasteries of Santa María and San Fiz de Cangas are worth visiting. On the road to Fión, behind the 18th Century Galician country house of Ferreiroá, we find the Temple of San Miguel de Eiré which is called «El mosteiro» because it is so ancient. From Fión it is possible to go down to the Temple of San Martiño da Cova. To finish, two outstanding monasteries are San Paio de Diomondi and San Estevo de Ribas de Miño. For this excursion it is best to go by car.
• El Pico Sacro (Sacred Peak) and the Galician country palaces. Going from Lestedo, 12 km along the Santiago-Orense road, there is a turn-off which leads to Pico Sacro, a spot which is shrouded in legend and whose summit affords a vast panoramic view which stretches from the valley of Ulla to Arosa. Returning again to the main road we soon reach the Ribadulla turn-off, which is where the pazos (palaces) route begins. Here we find the 16th Century Pazo de Santa Cruz and Pazo de Gimarãns in the neighbouring parish of San Mamede. Across the river Ulla at Valboa is the famous Pazo de Oca, where the visitor can walk around the gardens which have given the palace the nickname, somewhat exaggerated perhaps, of the Galician Versailles. The visit is free.

• A Coruña. Located at 65 km from Santiago and capital of the province, A Coruña has a population of 250,000 inhabitants and is a key political, economic and cultural centre in Galicia. It has some magnificent beaches in the centre of the town and is an important port. The most characteristic monument is the Torre de Pontevedra. Gardens of the Pazo de Oca
Hércules (Hercules Tower), a Roman lighthouse which was partially restored in the 18th Century and still works today. There are many corners of the old quarter which are especially interesting, such as the series of monuments which include the Pazo de Cornide, the Gothic Transept and the Collegiate Church of Santa María do Campo. The avenue of La Marina features a beautiful collection of gallery-windowed houses. On the way to the Castle of San Antón, which houses the Archaeological Museum, the new Paseo Marítimo (Sea Promenade) stretches out. Recently inaugurated and designed by the Japanese architect Isozaki, Domus is the Museum of Mankind. It is located on a stretch of the Paseo Marítimo, before reaching the Torre de Hércules. The Casa de las Ciencias (Science Museum) is in the park of Santa Margarita. Just 65 km away from Santiago, La Coruña is renowned as a lively town at any time of the year.

You can get there via the A-9 motorway or the main N-550 road. Numerous trains and buses link the two cities.

A Coruña Tourist Office: Calle Dársena de la Marina. ☎ 981 22 18 22.
Tourist Information

International dialling code: 34
Tourist Information Telephone
Turespaña: 901 300 600
www.tourspain.es

Municipal Tourist Office
Plaza de Galicia
☎ 981 58 44 00 and
☎ 981 57 39 90

Xunta de Galicia Tourist Office
Rúa del Vilar, 43
☎ 981 58 40 81

Municipal Citizens' Information Office
Plaza de la Trinidad. ☎ 010

SPANISH TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES ABROAD

2 Bloor Street West suite 3402. TORONTO, Ontario M4W 3E2.
☎ 1416/ 961 31 31, fax 1416/ 961 19 92. E-Mail: tttoro@tourspain.es

Manchester Square, 22-23. LONDON W1M 5AP.
☎ 44207/ 486 80 77, fax 44207/ 486 80 34. E-Mail: londres@tourspain.es

Daini Toranomon Denki Bldg.4F. 3-1-10 Toranomon. Minat-Ku. TOKIO-105.
☎ 813/ 34 32 61 41, fax 813/ 34 32 61 44. E-Mail: tokyo@tourspain.es

Russia. Moscow. Spanish Tourist Office.
Tverskaya – 16/2 Business Center “Galería Aktor” 6th floor Moscow 103009.
☎ 7095/ 935 83 99, fax 7095/ 935 83 96. E-Mail: moscu@tourspain.es

541 Orchard Road. Uat Tower # 09-04. 238881 Singapore.
☎ 657/ 37 30 08, fax 657/ 37 31 73. E-Mail: singapore@tourspain.es

United States of America.

Los Angeles. Tourist Office of Spain.
8383 W Ilshire Blvd, Suite 960. BEVERLY HILLS, CAL 90211.
☎ 1323/ 658 71 95, fax 1323/ 658 10 61. E-Mail: losangeles@tourspain.es

Chicago. Tourist Office of Spain.
Water Tower Place, suite 915 East. 845, North Michigan Avenue.
CHICAGO, IL 60611. ☎ 1312/ 642 19 92, fax 1312/ 642 98 17.
E-Mail: chicago@tourspain.es

Miami. Tourist Office of Spain.
1221 Brickell Avenue. MIAMI, Florida 33131. ☎ 1305/ 358 19 92,
fax 1305/ 358 82 23. E-Mail: miami@tourspain.es

666 Fifth Avenue 35 th floor. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103.
☎ 1212/ 265 88 22, fax 1212/ 265 88 64. E-Mail: nuyork@tourspain.es

EMBASSIES IN MADRID

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Great Britain: Fernando El Santo, 16. ☎ 91 319 02 00, fax 91 308 10 33

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