

galicia

Festivals of Tourist Interest



XUNTA DE GALICIA

Religious calendar

Easter Sundays	
2020	12 April
2021	04 April
2022	17 April
2023	09 April
2024	31 March
2025	20 April
2026	05 April
2027	28 March
2028	16 April
2029	1 April

This chart listing the Easter Sundays for the coming years allows for the other moveable dates to be calculated by subtracting or adding the days given below to the Easter Sunday date:

- **Ash Wednesday:** subtract 46 days
- **Whit Sunday:** add 49 days
- **Corpus Christi:** add 60 days

The dates of some of the events included in this publication may be subject to alteration, and it is therefore recommendable to check the exact date.

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THE REGION OF GALICIA LOVES ITS FESTIVALS, the perfect blend of pagan and religious traditions. It is difficult to find a single weekend during the summer months without a celebration in at least one of the villages, towns or cities, and several have been listed as international, national or Galician tourist attractions.

This publication offers a tour of the most noteworthy festivals, allowing you to choose the ones that most appeal to you. If you happen to visit Galicia in August, you are virtually assured of finding some sort of event wherever you go.

The many pilgrimage celebrations throughout Galicia represent the combination of beliefs of different origins. Many of them feature unusual rituals linked to the supposed curative properties of certain images, fountains or stones at shrines such as Santo André de Teixido and Nosa Señora da Barca. Many of these celebrations offer the perfect opportunity to sample traditional ring-shaped breads, savoury pies and cheeses, which taste that much better when eaten outdoors accompanied by the music of Galician bagpipes and tambourines.

Gastronomy is an inseparable part of Galician festivals. Almost every Galician town has a product which is celebrated through a variety of dishes served to huge crowds at affordable prices.

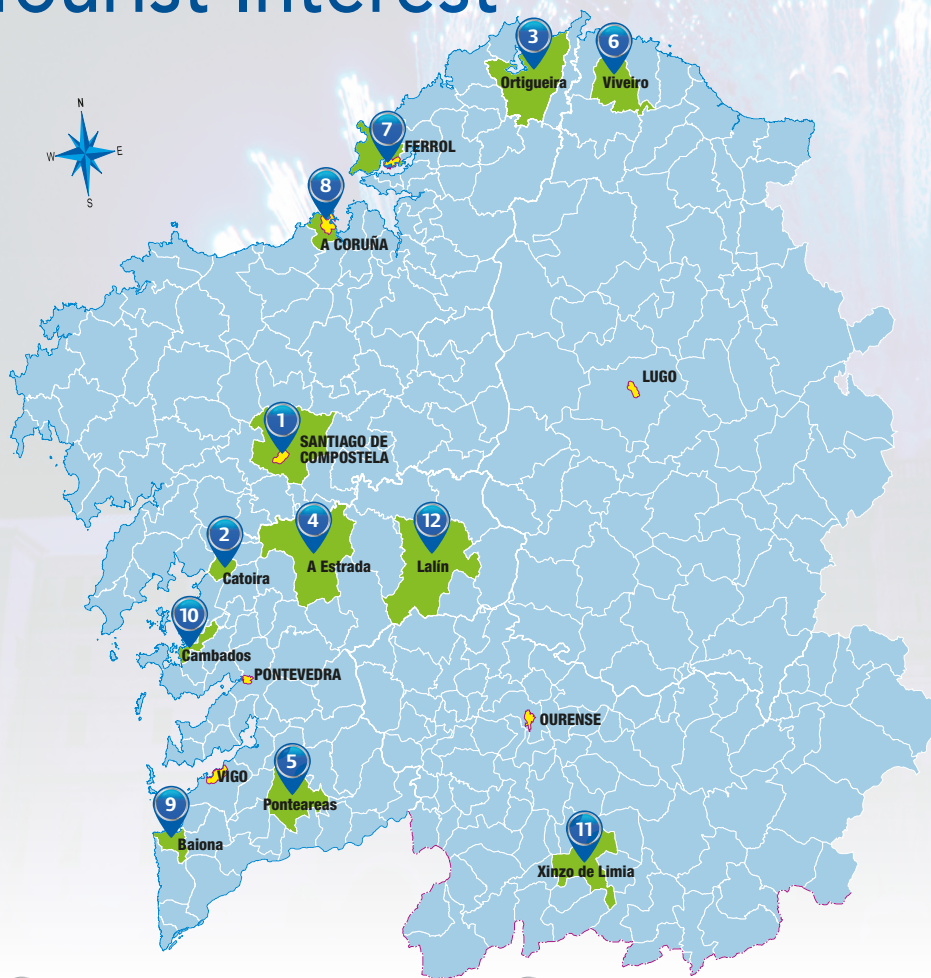
In recent years, historical re-enactments in the old quarters of cities and towns have become extremely popular. Participants travel back in time, primarily to the Middle Ages, dressed in period costume. The streets are also filled with stalls selling local handicrafts and culinary products. In addition, cities often take advantage of the celebrations of their patron saint to organize music or theatre festivals that round out a diverse selection of cultural offerings.

Entroido, or Carnival, is one of the festivals with the longest tradition in Galicia. Although it is celebrated throughout the region, some towns are noted for preserving ancient rituals and their traditional characters: *pantallas*, *peliqueiros* and *cigarróns*, among others.

Many celebrations have a religious origin and honour a saint or patron saint. It is well worth taking the opportunity to visit one of the villages to watch the processions where local residents walk from the church portico to the *cruceiro* (stone cross). When mass is over, people head to the fairground for appetizers accompanied by orchestra music. In each home, delicious delicacies await and after-lunch conversation is often a prolonged affair. In the evening, be sure to catch the street party, where you can dance well into the wee hours.



Festivals of International Tourist Interest



1 Festividade do Apóstolo Santiago

2 Romaría Viquinga de Catoira

3 Festival Internacional do Mundo Celta de Ortigueira

4 A Rapa das Bestas de Sabucedo (A Estrada)

5 Corpus Christi (Ponteareas)

6 Semana Santa de Viveiro

7 Semana Santa de Ferrol

8 Fogueiras de San Xoán (A Coruña)

9 Festa da Arribada da Carabela Pinta (Baiona)

10 Festa do Viño Albariño (Cambados)

11 Entroido de Xinzo de Limia

12 Festa do Cocido (Lalín)

1 Festividade do Apóstolo Santiago

Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña)

DATE(S)

July, Second half

HIGHLIGHT

Be sure to find a spot in Obradoiro Square to catch the fireworks celebrating the Apostle on the night of the 24th.

The Galician capital celebrates its biggest festival during the second half of July. The schedule of events includes Galician folklore and classical music festivals, with large-scale concerts and smaller performances, orchestras, street theatre, conventional theatre, street entertainers, children's programming, brass bands, comedy, dance and more.

The highest point of this extensive programme is the fireworks show in front of Santiago Cathedral on the night of 24 July, leading up to the celebration of the Feast Day of the Apostle, which is also the Day of Galicia. Obradoiro Square is taken over by more than 20,000 people, who come to see a spectacular audiovisual show with lights and images projected on the cathedral façade. Until recently, the event included the burning of a large fireworks castle in front of the building. The performance is also followed by thousands of people from the various viewpoints around the city.

The next day, there is a High Mass at the Cathedral, which includes the gigantic *botafumeiro* (censer). The king or a representative of the Royal House makes the traditional offering to St. James the Apostle at this mass. There are also a number of events celebrating The Day of Galicia, meaning that the Galician capital is bursting with visitors.



2 Romaría Viquinga de Catoira

Catoira (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

August. First Sunday

HIGHLIGHT

Re-enactment of the landing of Viking pirates

Since 1961, Catoira has celebrated a pagan festival that recalls the town's role as guardian of the treasure of Santiago Cathedral, when it was a strategic location in the defence against Viking invasions. The Torres de Oeste (ruins of two of the seven original towers of a fortress which stood up to various incursions by Norse pirates during the 9th and 10 centuries) is the natural historic setting for a re-enactment of a Viking invasion from that period.



Dozens of local youths arrive at the mouth of the Ulla River aboard a Norwegian drakkar, the *Úrsula*, making a great racket and sounding their horns. Armed to the teeth with axes and spears, taking cover behind shields, dressed in skins with helmets and swimming in red wine, the barbarians disembark amidst euphoric shouts and slugs of wine, sowing panic among the populace. When the onslaught is over, there is a traditional outdoor meal with a festive atmosphere. There is also a medieval market with stalls selling handicrafts and Galician culinary products. The celebrations continue with the Alameda street party, which takes place in town.



3 Festival Internacional do Mundo Celta de Ortigueira

Ortigueira (A Coruña)

DATE(S)

July, Third weekend

HIGHLIGHT

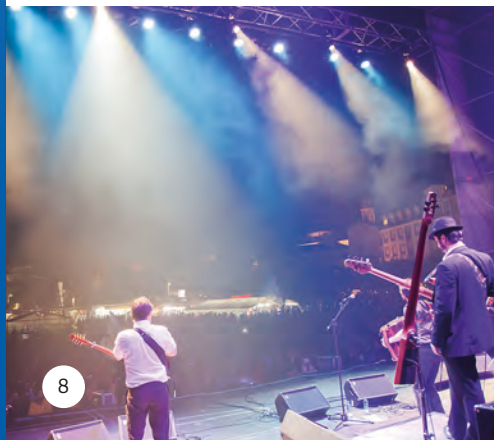
Parade of bagpipe bands from every Celtic region on Sunday morning



Thousands of people spend the night beside Morouzos Beach in Ortigueira, in a spacious free camping area under the pines. They have come to celebrate the Interceltic Festival of the Celtic World, which since 1978 has been the musical highlight of the summer in Galicia, a must-attend event for folk music lovers from all around the world. For four days and four nights, the town is enchanted by the music of groups and performers with common cultural roots. Classic Celtic music bands and a good number of Galician artists share the stage with emerging and new groups looking to make a name for themselves in the Iberian Peninsula folk scene.

The Ortigueira coast bustles with young people moving between the camping area – which offers a full range of services, with cleaning and maintenance provided by the town council – and the festival stages. There is also free transport from the parking areas to the campgrounds.

In addition to the musical programming, there are other cultural activities, from exhibitions, theatre performances and puppet shows to a craft fair on the promenade. There is also the traditional parade of bagpipe bands from all the Celtic lands, including Scotland, Galicia and Asturias, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Cornwall, Wales and Brittany.



DATE(S)

July, First weekend

HIGHLIGHT

Saturday expedition to the woodland with parish residents to gather the horses



Of all the *curros* or *rapas das bestas* (wild horse mane-cutting festivals) that take place in Galicia each summer, Sabucedo is noteworthy for having preserved the purity of the tradition. It is the only *curro* in which the *aloitadores* face the horses on their own, without ropes or sticks, holding them still while their manes are cut. Each year, young people from the parish take part in an ancient tradition they are born into, a way of understanding life in communion with the wild horses. They learn the code from an early age, based on the action and collaboration of three *aloitadores*, enabling them to undertake the noble and hazardous struggle with the animals and overcome their resistance.

In Sabucedo, the mane cutting always took place in a stone enclosure (the *curro*) in the centre of town. Several years ago, it was moved to a new masonry *curro*, where it is followed by a large crowd. The fame of the Rapa de Sabucedo, an ancient tradition with a strong ritual element, has attracted the attention of anthropologists and scholars from all around the world. The festival is held under the protection of St. Lawrence – some of the wild horses belong to the saint, in other words, to the parish, and it is these horses whose manes are cut at the festival – to whom the town commends itself at the dawn mass on Saturday. Locals and visitors then go out into the woodland areas, with provisions to restore their strength, to look for the horses and lead them to the *curro*. This is truly a unique tourist and ethnographic experience.



Pontearreas (Pontevedra)

DATE(S):

May/June. Weekend following
the Day of Corpus

HIGHLIGHT

The making of the carpets on the eve
of the procession, involving hundreds
of local volunteers



The streets of the centre of Pontearreas awaken on the Sunday of Corpus Christi covered with spectacular carpets of flowers over which the procession of the Holy Sacrament will pass. The tradition, which dates back more than 150 years, has survived thanks to the perseverance of local residents, who work to prepare them the night before. Although some are figurative, the majority of the designs are geometric drawings. In all cases, their size and colourfulness are sure to amaze. The meaning of the carpets, which usually number more than one dozen, is deeply religious: they are created as offerings to the Holy Sacrament.

Many visitors come out the night before to watch them being made. A wide variety of plants are used, including hydrangeas, myrtle, sensitive plant, fennel, roses and more. The work is a true demonstration of people's desire to participate, with both young and old doing their part, all striving to finish before nine in the morning on Sunday.

During the solemn procession – municipal authorities at the head, followed by women adorned with a white mantilla, a marching band, boys and girls who have just taken their First Communion and others – the monstrance stops in front of various altars and is bathed in a shower of petals thrown from the balconies, an extravagantly colourful display that deeply moves the audience watching from the pavements. When the event is over, the beauty and artistic value of the carpets fades, with the only remaining proof being the photographs compulsively snapped by thousands of spectators.



6

Semana Santa de Viveiro

Viveiro (Lugo)

DATE(S)

March/April. Holy Week

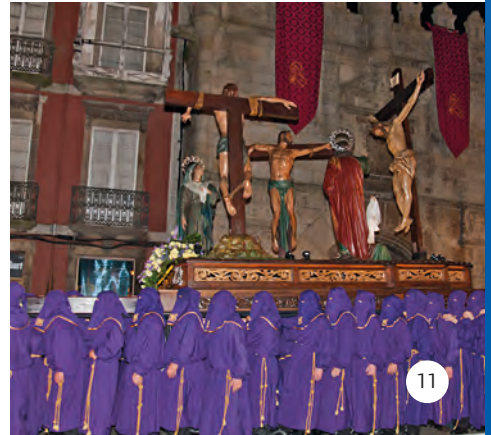
HIGHLIGHT

Procession of the Encuentro in the Main Square and portico of Santa María Church, a moving depiction of Christ falling with the cross on his back, and the Virgin, Veronica and St. John looking for him



Numerous floats, some of them articulated and displaying great artistic value, are the protagonists of the solemn Holy Week processions in Viveiro. The local confraternities and brotherhoods fill the town's streets with an intimate religious atmosphere. Eucharists, Stations of the Cross, drummers and more precede the major holy days. The most fascinating celebrations begin on Maundy Thursday with two processions, the Last Supper and the Prendimiento (Arrest of Jesus). The float for the first was created in 1808 by an artisan who used sailors from the port in neighbouring San Cibrao as models for the figures of the Apostles. The second is organized by the Brotherhood of the Prendimiento, which is easy to spot in its red and white tunics and hoods. The procession of the Encuentro (Meeting) is held on the morning of Good Friday. This is another moving ceremony, which includes Christ's falls, as well as figures of the Mater Dolorosa, St. John and Veronica. It is followed with growing interest by crowds from both balconies and streets. In the afternoon, the Desenclavo (Descent from the Cross) is followed by the procession of the Santo Entierro (Holy Burial), the most extravagant of all. The carriers of the float dress in black ankle-length tunics and a large hood with a mask.

The procession of the Passion takes place at midnight on Good Friday. Various confraternities, brotherhoods and sisterhoods take part with their respective floats, including the Hermandad de las Siete Palabras and the Hermandad de Mujeres de la Santa Cruz, the latter dressed in their classic mantilla. At midnight, the Soledad and Caladiños processions take to the streets, with floats of Veronica, St. John and Our Lady of Solitude, accompanied by crowds of the faithful holding lit candles in a most amazing gathering.



7

Semana Santa de Ferrol

Ferrol (A Coruña)

DATE(S)

March/April. Holy Week

HIGHLIGHT

Los Caladiños procession
on the night of Good Friday

From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, there is a non-stop series of processions commemorating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The streets of Ferrol fill with religious fervour and crowds surround the floats of its five confraternities, heirs to a centuries-old tradition and a deeply felt popular spirit which has withstood social and generational changes. The processions are striking, surrounded by crowds, moving and solemn. The most noteworthy are the ones held on Good Friday: The Santo Encuentro (Holy Meeting) takes place in the morning on the parade ground in front of the Town Hall. In the afternoon there is the procession of the Santo Entierro (Holy Burial), which has a strong liturgical element. It features the Santa Urna, a glass coffin with the figure of Jesus inside, a key part of Ferrol's Holy Week celebrations. In the evening is the eerie Caladiños procession, which goes through the streets of the historic A Magdalena neighbourhood, with floats of the Three Marys, St. John and the Mater Dolorosa. It ends in the early morning, following the traditional singing of the hymn to the Virgin Mary.

Maundy Thursday features the procession of the Santísimo Cristo de la Misericordia (Holy Christ of Mercy) and María Santísima de la Piedad (Our Holy Lady of Piety), the longest and most numerous of all. It includes the participation of 1,800 confraternity members, seven floats and nine marching bands, ending with the emotional singing of soldiers of the Brilat (Galician brigade).



DATE(S)

June. 23-24

HIGHLIGHT

Riazor Beach bonfire, which is lit at midnight by the Meiga Maior and Meiga Maior Infantil

If there is one place that celebrates St. John's Night with notable enthusiasm, it is A Coruña, where the shortest night of the year is preceded by an entire week of events and preparations. In the morning, the festival is announced by a parade of bands and floats with *meigas* (witches). And each year, the burning of the bonfire is an incomparable magical moment on the annual calendar.

Bonfires are set up in numerous spots around the city, filling it with the scent of roasted sardines and fire on the night of 23 June. Many people take part in this ancient fire ritual celebrating the arrival of summer, making a wish as they leap through the flames. The busiest bonfire is on Riazor Beach, where the papier-mâché figure of a witch, surrounded by satirical depictions of events in political and social life that have taken place during the year, is set alight.

This is the destination of the procession of the Meiga Maior (Head Witch), Meiga Maior Infantil (Junior Head Witch) and their respective *meigas de honor* (witches of honour), who are responsible for lighting the bonfire. The spectacle attracts crowds of people to Riazor and Orzán beaches, which are also dotted with small bonfires built on the spot by spectators. Meanwhile, some carry out the purifying ritual of the bath of the nine waves.

On such a night, full of ritual elements, the celebrations continue until dawn both outdoors and at spots on the promenade.



9 Festa da Arribada da Carabela Pinta

Baiona (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

March. First weekend

HIGHLIGHT

Re-enactment on the beach of the arrival of Pinzón's crew, bringing news of the discovery of the New World



The town of Baiona was the first place on the Old Continent to learn of the existence of the New World. In 1493, the caravel *La Pinta* made landfall here, under the command of Martín Pinzón, bringing news of the existence of another world and proof to back it up. To commemorate that historic event, each year there is a re-enactment on the beach which begins with the arrival of Pinzón and his battered crew. They are accompanied by a couple of natives from the new lands and foodstuffs previously unknown in this part of the world, lending credibility to the fabulous news brought by Columbus's companion in his feat.

The entire city of Baiona is decorated in medieval style. The port area and streets of the old quarter become a large outdoor market, with stalls selling food and artisanal products. The only music heard is live and medieval. Nobles, knights, merchants, artisans, peasants and maids stroll along the streets in an authentic comprehensive recreation of the past. There are maroon canvas awnings and the stalls follow the same medieval aesthetic in terms of both materials and design. In the town's squares, artisans offer live demonstrations of their crafts, troubadours recite romances and ballads, knights and squires give falconry demonstrations, and comics and juggler put on a show. On the beach, there is also a dramatization of a fight between knights for the love of a princess, the culmination of one of the best historic festivals held in Galicia.



10 Festa do Viño Albariño

Cambados (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

August. First Sunday

HIGHLIGHT

Sampling wines from the wine makers' stalls along A Calzada Street

Without a doubt, one of the most important dates on Galicia's festival calendar is the Cambados Albariño Festival, which welcomes around 150,000 people over five days. A Calzada Street is lined with stalls where attendees can sample the wine and make purchases directly from wine makers. There are also food stalls. In this festive atmosphere, it is impossible to miss the *peñas*, groups of Cambados natives who take part in organizing the festival. Dressed in special T-shirts, glass in hand, they are always up for another taste of wine, enlivening the streets and bars with their enthusiasm. Along with the musical performances and fireworks, exhibitions and sports competitions, the festival is also an opportunity to share and promote the culture of wine and Albariño production methods at various courses, technical conferences and workshops. Another element of the festival is the investiture of the *Donas y Cabaleiros de Honra del Capítulo Serenísimos do Albariño* (Ladies and Gentlemen of Honour of the Serene Chapter of Albariño), which takes place on the Sunday in the square at Pazo de Fefiñáns manor house. The winners of the tasting competition are also announced, with awards for the three best Albariños. In addition to A Calzada Street and Fefiñáns Square, which hosts excellent music concerts, other key locations for the festival are Alameda Park, where the *peñas* gather to eat and drink, and O Concello Square, where the street party is held.



11 Entroido de Xinzo de Limia

Xinzo de Limia (Ourense)

DATE(S)

February/March. Carnival

HIGHLIGHT

Parade of floats on Tuesday, Martes de Carnaval

The *pantallas* are the stars of these Carnival festivities. The ancient figures move through town banging on two animal bladders, which have been dried and inflated like balloons, and laying down the law.

Xinzo de Limia has the longest Carnival celebration in all Spain. It begins and ends on a Sunday, running from Domingo Fareleiro (three Sundays before Carnival Sunday) to Domingo de Piñata, five weeks later. Although the town is thronged with people from all over Galicia on Domingo de Entroido (Carnival Sunday), the biggest day is a Tuesday, Martes de Entroido, when there is a parade made up of floats and groups of revellers, headed by a large contingent of *pantallas*.

During this period, the town's squares, bars and other locals become a non-stop party, with young people everywhere, accompanied by the music of brass bands, street parties and enormous meals.



Lalín (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

February/March. Sunday previous
to Carnival

HIGHLIGHT

Parade of floats and revellers



The capital of the livestock farming district of Deza can boast of good meat in general, but it has made pork products its hallmark. In fact, a bronze sculpture in the town centre alludes to the significance of the pig for Lalín and its importance to the town's outside image. The Cocido Festival, which has been held for more than forty years, raised the status of pork, a staple of the traditional Galician diet, and made *cocido* (chickpea stew with pork shoulder, ear and rib, chorizo sausage and any other parts of the pig one might wish to include, accompanied by potatoes, turnip greens or cabbage) a coveted delicacy and *the* Galician winter dish.

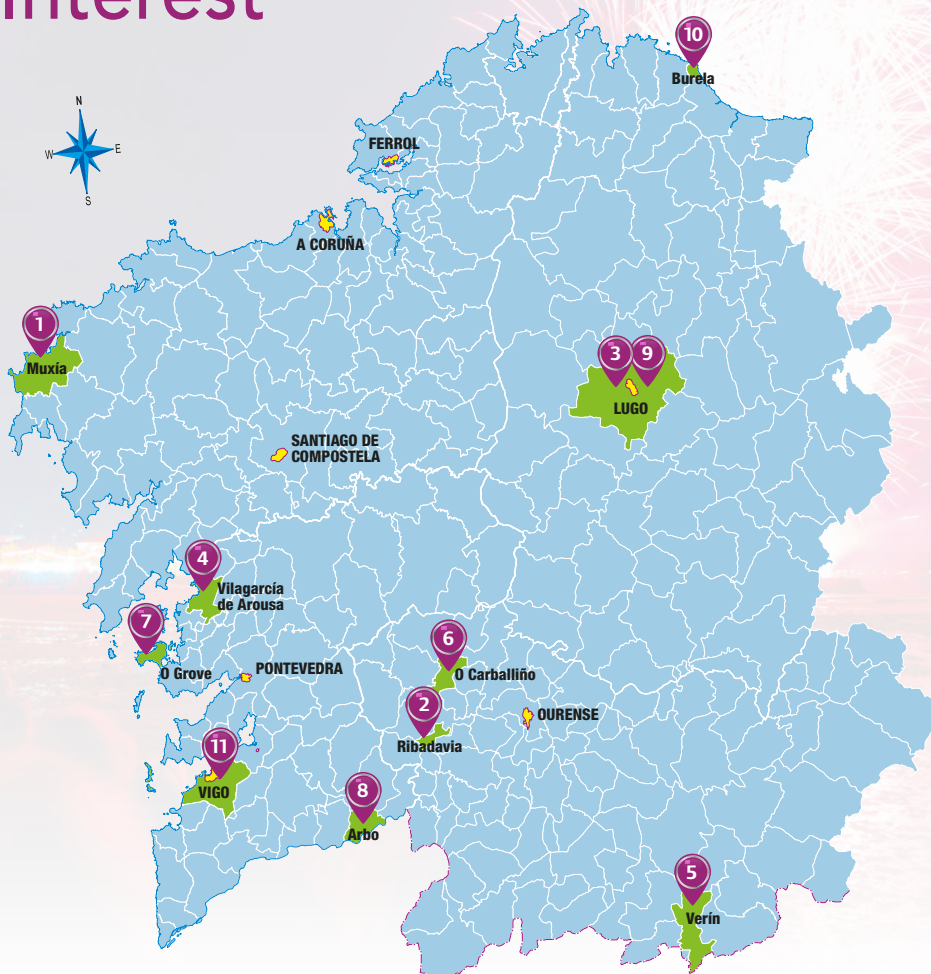
The festival has grown so much that the Sunday before Carnival Sunday marks the culmination of a cultural and culinary programme of events held over the course of one month. Among other things, it includes the Galicia Gastronomy Gala and the Álvaro Cunqueiro Journalism Prize. On the final day of the Cocido Festival, Lalín is thronged with people from all over Galicia. They flock to the Campo Vello, where stalls offer tastings and a wide variety of local products for sale, and pack the bars and restaurants.

The Municipal Auditorium hosts the General Meeting of the Encomenda do Cocido gastronomy society, featuring the investiture of new members. And shortly after noon, as a prelude to the Entroido (Carnival), there is a colourful traditional parade crowded with floats, groups of revellers and brass bands from all over Galicia.





Fetivals of National Tourist Interest



- 1 Romaría de Nosa Señora da Barca (Muxía)
- 2 Festa "da Istoría" en Ribadavia
- 3 Festas de San Froilán (Lugo)
- 4 Festas Patronais na honra de San Roque (Vilagarcía de Arousa)
- 5 Entroido de Verín
- 6 Festa do Polbo (O Carballiño)
- 7 Festa de Exaltación do Marisco (O Grove)
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- 9 Arde Lucus (Lugo)
- 10 Feira do Bonito de Burela
- 11 Festa da Reconquista de Vigo

1 Romaría de Nosa Señora da Barca

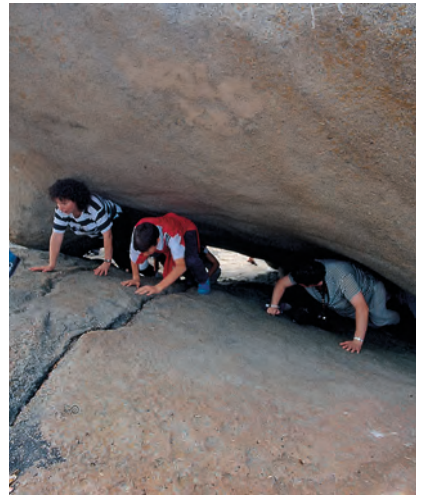
Muxía (A Coruña)

DATE(S)

September. Weekend following the 8th

HIGHLIGHT

People complete the traditional rituals at Pedra dos Cadrís and Pedra de Abalar, which are believed to have healing powers



Virxe de Nosa Señora da Barca Shrine is one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Galicia. Legend has it that the Virgin came to this land to support St. James the Apostle in his evangelical labours. She arrived in a stone boat, whose vestiges can be found among the large granite rocks washed by the sea beside the shrine. One of them, A Pedra dos Cadrís, symbolizes the boat. Pilgrims pass under it nine times in an ancient ritual to cure rheumatic ailments. Another, A Pedra de Abalar, symbolizes the sail. With a little patience, it is possible to rock the granite stone with your feet, although according to legend, it can only be moved by those who are free of sin. A third, A Pedra do Temón, symbolizes the boat's tiller. All of them are believed to have healing powers.

The Pilgrimage of Nosa Señora da Barca is one of the most popular in Galicia. As is common at many pilgrimage celebrations, it is a combination of religious sentiment, pagan rituals, an outdoor meal and a festival. Beginning on Saturday, the path leading to the shrine is occupied by a continuous procession of people – many come on foot from their town or village – and the festival stands are erected. The pilgrims enjoy an outdoor meal accompanied by the music of Galician bagpipes and tambourines. The celebrations continue late into the night in town. On Sunday morning, the faithful attend the outdoor mass held outside the shrine, followed by a procession back into Muxía, where the blessing of the waters ceremony takes place, and a deafening display of fireworks and rockets.



2 Festa “da Istoria” en Ribadavia

Ribadavia (Ourense)

DATE(S)

August. Last Sunday of August

HIGHLIGHT

Re-enactment of a ‘Jewish wedding’

The Jewish quarter of Ribadavia is the site of one of the most authentic medieval festivals among the many held in Galicia. Coaches and cars of visitors arrive from all over to immerse themselves in history for a day. They travel back to the golden age of the capital of O Ribeiro, around 1600, when foreign sales of wine reached dizzying heights and the district of O Ribeiro became one of the most prosperous areas of Spain.

The event begins on Saturday morning with the reading of the historic edict in the streets and squares of the town. The Jewish quarter, decked out in medieval style, is filled with stalls selling culinary products, with benches and tables for eating, and artisanal products. Everything must be paid for using maravedis (which can be purchased at an office set up by the town council).

The best way to enjoy the festival is to dress in medieval attire, regardless of character or social status. To make things even easier for attendees, the festival organizers have thousands of costumes for hire. This will allow you to take part in the Istoria parade, which is open to anyone dressed in period costume, or the medieval dinner on the grounds of Sarmiento Castle. Nobles and peasants alike dine on the most traditional Galician foods, accompanied by the excellent wines of O Ribeiro.

The day is enhanced by a packed programme of activities, from games and human chess for kids to battling knights, dances for ladies without knights, a Jewish wedding, falconry demonstrations, archery, and more, all in a true medieval setting.



3

Festas de San Froilán

Lugo

DATE(S)

October. First half (4-12)

HIGHLIGHT

Sampling *pulpo á feira* (octopus and potatoes dressed with olive oil and paprika)

One unusual feature of the Festival of St. Froilan, which has been held since 1754, is how much interest it attracts throughout the rest of Galicia. In fact, during the two weekends of the festival, Lugo becomes Galicia's epicentre of

social life. It is considered the quintessential Galician autumn festival. At the fairground, the octopus stalls are the most popular attraction. Numerous activities for children and the market round out the festival, which attracts more and more interest with each passing year, bringing in hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The squares of the old quarter are filled with activities, many intended specifically for children, together known as San Froilanciño. In the evenings, they host free concerts by the best performers on the Spanish music scene. One of the most important days is the second Sunday of the festival, known as O Domingo das Mozas. It is devoted to the celebration of traditional costumes and Galician folklore.



Parades of *cabezudos* (giant-headed papier-mâché figures), brass bands, markets, and magic and juggling shows fill the days of the festival, which ends with a medieval fair in the cathedral square and area around the Roman walls, and a great fireworks show.



4 Festas Patronais na honra de San Roque

Vilagarcía de Arousa (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

August 16

HIGHLIGHT

Huge water fight with brass bands at the Water Festival



The most eagerly awaited day on Vilagarcía de Arousa's annual calendar is 16 August, Feast Day of San Roque, when two of its most famous celebrations are held: the procession of the saint, a centuries-old tradition, and the Water Festival, which emerged spontaneously in the 1980s and has now been officially sanctioned. The day's events begin with the High Mass and procession of the saint, which attracts huge crowds. However, rather than having the subdued feel which usually characterizes such events, here they have a most festive air, as the route is walked to the beat of the pasodoble 'Triunfo' and the figure of the saint is even made to 'dance'.

The town is getting ready for what comes next: once the saint has been placed in the chapel, the signal is given for the start of an enormous water fight. This takes place in a large designated 'wet area' and even includes fire hoses. Water pistols, balloons, buckets from balconies, household hoses...any 'weapon' will do if it helps to soak the crowd of up to 30,000 people. Fun is ensured and continues afterwards with lunch on the beach.

The festival of the patron saint of Vilagarcía is also known for a variety of celebrations. It includes a famous naval battle with fireworks between a ship and a castle on the dock. There are also two well established culinary events: the Carril Clam Festival and the Albarousa Artisanal Albariño Show.



Verín (Ourense)

DATE(S)

February/March. Carnival

HIGHLIGHT

Greetings from the legions of *cigarróns* as people leave Sunday mass on Domingo Corredoiro

In this eastern Ourense town, the *cigarróns* are the stars of the Carnival celebrations. They appear on Domingo Corredoiro, the Sunday before Domingo de Entroido (Carnival Sunday), following the morning masses, greeting the faithful and lending the town an atmosphere of magic and excitement with their dances and the deafening sound of their *chocas* (cowbells).

In the weeks leading up to the culmination of the celebrations, a number of rituals take place, including the Xoves de Comadres y de Compadres, a war of the sexes between young men and women.

On Luns de Entroido (Carnival Monday) there is a large flour fight, a symbol of breaking down the barriers of daily life and in the past, a way for young men to approach girls and get their attention. On Tuesday, there is a great parade of floats, revellers, masked figures and *cigarróns* through the centre of town.

Cigarróns, brass bands and street parties breathe life into the streets and squares of Verín, which rests from the excesses of Carnival on Wednesday, Mércores de Cinza, a local holiday.



6 Festa do Polbo

O Carballiño (Ourense)

DATE(S)

August. Second Sunday

HIGHLIGHT

Sampling octopus from the street vendors in the Municipal Park

possessions in the Rías Baixas region. The people of O Carballiño, specifically those of the parishes of San Xoán de Arcos and Santa María de Arcos, also properties of Oseira Monastery, were responsible for its transport, preparation and sale in the market.

The tradition of those fairs and markets has been celebrated since 1962 with one of the most important culinary festivals in Galicia. Some 70,000 people visit the town, which fills with the smell of octopus cooking on the stoves of each and every restaurant and in the Municipal Park. Tables and benches are set up in this spot beside the banks of the Arenteiro River to celebrate the festival. It exudes the atmosphere of a traditional pilgrimage celebration, with a number of popular performances and clubs known as *peñas* playing an important role.



The octopus chefs of Arcos embody the age-old tradition of preparing the cephalopod. They cook around 40,000 kilos of it, although the festival also offers the opportunity to sample *caldo* (soup), *carne ao caldeiro* (beef and potatoes dressed with olive oil and paprika), *empanada* (savoury pie), O Ribeiro wine, bread from Cea, traditional *queimada* (hot punch ritual) and O Carballiño's famous *cañas de crema* (cream-filled pastry rolls).



7 Festa de Exaltación do Marisco

O Grove (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

October. Second Sunday (Pilar bank holiday)

HIGHLIGHT

Sampling a wide variety of seafood dishes from stands at the fairground



Focusing on the luxury culinary offerings available throughout the town and from stands lined up at the port, O Grove puts on a festival with numerous attractions. There are concerts by famous performers from throughout the country and folk groups, the now classic Habaneras Competition, traditional performances, street entertainers and a *dorna* (fishing boat) race.

The fame of the Seafood Festival extends beyond Galicia's borders. The number of visitors increases each year, attracted by the quality and variety of the star culinary attraction of the Rías Bajas region. Displays at the fairground allow visitors to learn about and sample the products, prepared according to the most traditional recipes or in innovative ways. From morning to night, thousands of portions are served up at a frenetic pace: seafood rice dishes, grilled razor clams, clams *marinière*, langoustines, oysters, baked scallops and more. Their accompaniment, the music of Galician bagpipes and traditional dances, is a constant presence throughout the festival.

The event also includes the award ceremony for the Centollos de Oro, four distinctions presented by the O Grove Town Council to people and institutions that have made notable contributions to O Grove.



DATE(S)

April. Weekend of the last Sunday of April

HIGHLIGHT

Lamprey tasting accompanied by
O Condado wine

The lamprey is the most primitive fish, some 400 million years old. Its appearance, a grey and yellow cylindrical body without scales, is unlike other fishes. On the plate, lamprey cooked in its own blood (the most popular dish) may look a little unappealing to the most refined. Nonetheless, it is a delicious culinary product which was already appreciated by the Roman emperors.



The lamprey reproduces in the river, matures in the sea and ultimately returns to the river. Since ancient times, fishermen on the Miño River in the Paradanta district, more specifically in Arbo, have been using stone structures in the river known as *pesqueiras* to catch the fish. They have become a symbol of the river culture of this region.

This culinary festival has been held in Arbo during lamprey season (January to April) since 1960. O Condado wines, Galician bagpipe music and the municipal band accompany tastings under the marquees set up by the organizers. And of course, bars and restaurants around town have plenty of lamprey dishes on offer that day.



Lugo (Lugo)

DATE(S)

Second half of June

HIGHLIGHT

The intense activity at the Macellum

ture with the utmost historical accuracy. For three days each year, the walled area of the town is transformed into Lucus Augusti, a prominent city in Roman Gallaecia, offering visitors a varied programme of activities.

The city walls play a special role during the festival, as do the local residents, who form an active part of the festive atmosphere, taking to the streets in Roman or pre-Roman attire. In addition to the historical reenactment, Lucus Augusti offers participants a fine selection of Lugo cuisine.

The town council, residents, historical reenactment associations and various private organizations have made it possible for Arde Lucus to achieve strong growth since its first edition. The festival currently receives half a million visitors.

The quintessential gathering spot, the Macellum (market), is a constant throng of activity. The Praza Maior (main square) is the ideal place to travel back to the 1st century. Even the Cohors I Lucensium sets up camp in this square, protecting the safety of the empire's citizens.

Another must-see spot for visitors to Arde Lucus is the camp where legionaries and gladiators, people from Lucus Augusti and other parts of the empire, lived together and shared space with members of various tribes from the pre-Roman castro culture. The circus, Gallaeci settlement, and Romanus Theatrum on Plaza de Santa María, the festival's cultural centre, are other areas well worth visiting.

The Arde Lucus festival was established in 2002 with the core aim of commemorating the founding of the city of Lugo through a recreation of its Roman past. Linked to the summer solstice, this event combines entertainment and cul-



Burela (Lugo)

DATE(S)

First Saturday of August

HIGHLIGHT

Taste the best bonito in the world in four different formats and soak up a tradition that allowed a village to grow

Northern bonito is one of the main economic drivers of Burela, a fishing village on the coast of the Mariña Lucense, as well as one of its hallmarks. Burela has the most important port in Galicia for bonito, as it's the second most significant species in terms of business volume of the municipality's fish market. Considering that the bonito coastline only lasts a few months, this fact is very relevant. This product gives Burela a key projection towards the outside world; this, of course, has repercussions in many other sectors, such as tourism.

For all these reasons, Burela has dedicated its main festivity to this product for the last 35 years: The Bonito Fair. The variety of activities that integrate it have as main objectives the vindication of the town's seafaring history as well as that of its culture and gastronomy.

Organised since its inception by the Leticia Cultural and Recreation Society, with the collaboration of the Burela Council, it is held annually during the first weekend of August.

In each edition, there are entertainment and musical performances with samples of the most relevant Galician artists.

Parallel to the Feira, the Amarte International Mural Painting Competition takes place. For four days, ten artists paint their giant canvases on the harbour wall under the same theme: The Sea.



11 Festa da Reconquista de Vigo

Vigo (Pontevedra)

DATE(S)

About 28th March

HIGHLIGHT

The French troops retreat by boat



On 28 March 1809, a popular uprising allowed Vigo to overthrow the Napoleon occupation. Over 1,400 imperial soldiers were taken prisoner. From this olive-growing town, a Galicia-wide offensive was later organised that led to the definitive withdrawal of Napoleon's army.

This historical fact, that the people of Vigo commemorate as the "Reconquista" ("Reconquest"), was hugely significant and resulted in Vigo obtaining the title of "city", awarded by the Regency.

Vigo began to celebrate the Reconquista from the year following their victory over the Napoleonic invaders. The festival as it is celebrated today emerged from the initiative of the Neighbourhood Association of Casco

Vello, which gave new impetus to the celebration with its idea to recreate the battle.

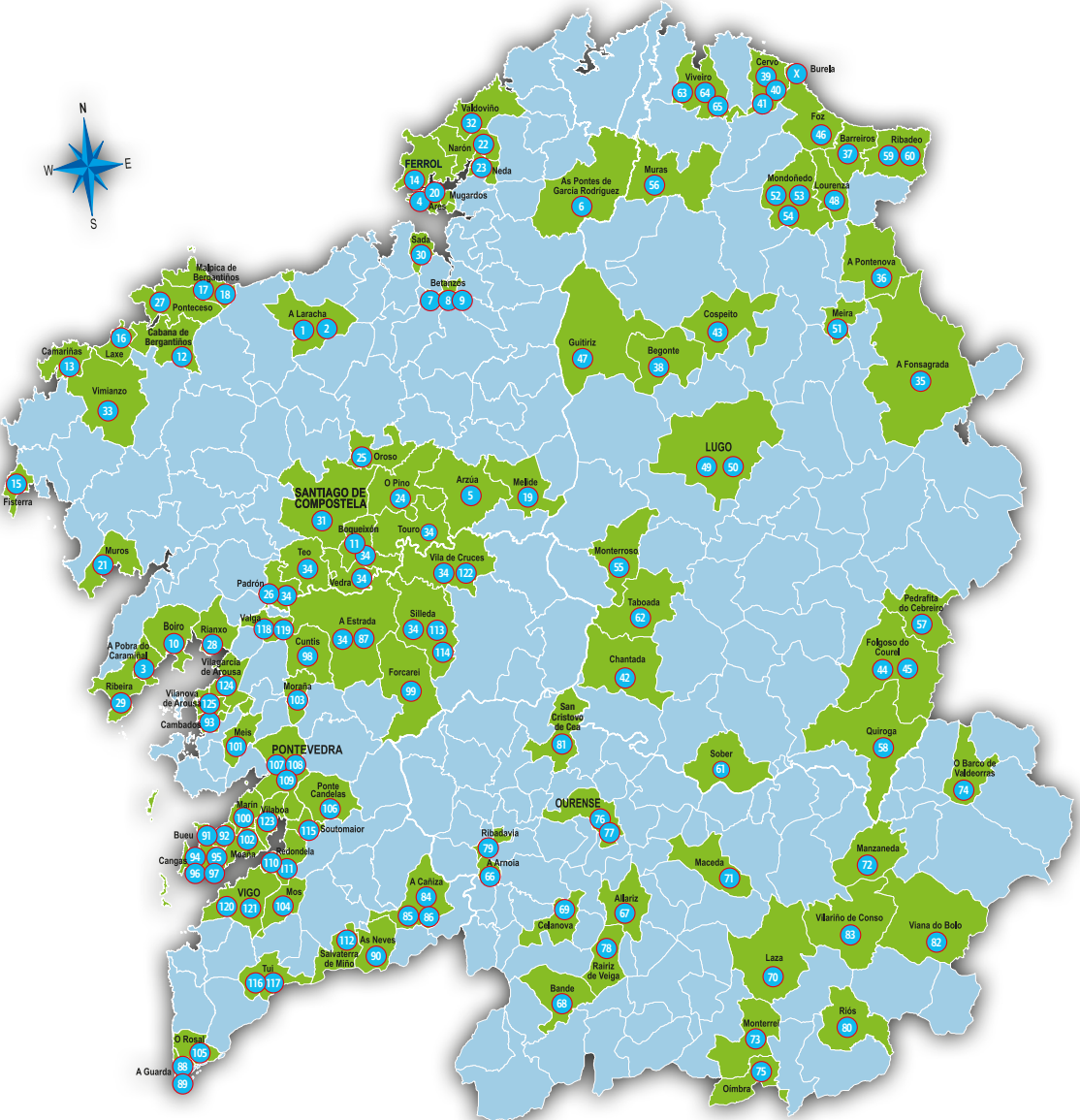
Casco Vello goes back in time each year to recreate the expulsion of the invaders, and both citizens and visitors come dressed in costume to soak up the historical spirit of the 19th century.

This celebration, which is a major date in the Galician calendar, includes a craft market, craft and handicraft workshops, food stalls, a French camp and also children's entertainment areas and live music by traditional music groups. There are also theatrical performances, ancient fencing, giants and cabezudos and other performances.

There is no doubt that the theatrical recreation of the Reconquest is the event's focal point. Each year around 500 people participate, representing 50 French soldiers, between 60 and 70 popular militias and some 400 locals. After the confrontation, the Napoleonic troops flee the city by boat.



Galician Festivals of Tourist Interest



Nº	PR	LOCATION	NAME
1	CO	Caión	Romaría de Nosa Señora dos Milagres de Caión
2	CO	Paiosaco	Festa das Cereixas de Paiosaco
3	CO	A Pobra do Caramiñal	Festa de Xesús O Nazareno-Festa das Mortallas
4	CO	Ares	Alfombras Florais de Corpus Christi
5	CO	Arzúa	Festa do Queixo
6	CO	As Pontes de García Rodríguez	Romaría da Fraga
7	CO	Betanzos	Festas Patronais de San Roque en Betanzos
8	CO	Betanzos	Feira Franca Medieval de Betanzos
9	CO	Betanzos	Semana Santa de Betanzos
10	CO	Bealo	Romaría de San Ramón de Bealo
11	CO	Lestedo	Festa da Filloa de Lestedo
12	CO	Cesullas	Festa de San Fins do Castro
13	CO	Camariñas	Mostra do Encaixe de Palillos
14	CO	Ferrol	Festa das Pepitas
15	CO	Fisterra	Festas do Santísimo Cristo
16	CO	Laxe	O Naufraxio de Laxe
17	CO	Buño	Mostra da Olaría de Buño
18	CO	Malpica	Romaría de Santo Hadrián
19	CO	Melide	Festa do Melindre e da Repostería Tradicional da Terra de Melide
20	CO	Mugardos	Festa do Polbo
21	CO	Esteiro	Gran Premio de Carrilanas de Esteiro
22	CO	Narón	Oenach Atlántico
23	CO	Neda	Festa do Pan de Neda
24	CO	O Pino	Festa do galo piñeiro e mostra cabalar
25	CO	Oroso	Festa da Troita
26	CO	Herbón	Festa do Pemento de Herbón
27	CO	Ponteceso	Festa do Percebe do Roncudo
28	CO	Rianxo	Festividade da Virxe de Guadalupe
29	CO	Ribeira	Festa da Dorna
30	CO	Sada	Festas Patronais de San Roque en Sada
31	CO	Santiago de Compostela	Semana Santa de Santiago
32	CO	Pantín	Pantín Classic Pro
33	CO	Vimianzo	Faguía do Carnés

MUNICIPALITY	MONTH	DAY
A Laracha	September	8 th
A Laracha	July	First Sunday
A Pobra do Caramiñal	September	Third Sunday
Ares	May-June	First Sunday after Corpus
Arzúa	March	First Sunday
As Pontes de García Rodríguez	July	24 th -25 th
Betanzos	August	14 th -25 th
Betanzos	July	Second Sunday
Betanzos	March-April	Easter
Boiro	August	31 st
Boqueixón	February-March	Sunday following Shrove Tuesday Carnival
Cabana de Bergantiños	August	1 st
Camariñas	April	Easter (Wednesday to Sunday)
Ferrol	March	18 th
Fisterra	April	Easter
Laxe	August	17 th
Malpica de Bergantiños	August	12 th to 20 th
Malpica de Bergantiños	June	16 June or Sunday following it, the first does not match in Sunday
Melide	May	Second Sunday
Mugardos	July	Second Saturday
Muros	July	Third weekend
Narón	July	Last weekend
Neda	September	First Sunday
O Pino	August	First week
Oroso	May	During May
Padrón	August	First Saturday
Ponteceso	July	First fortnight
Rianxo	September	8 th
Ribeira	July	24 th
Sada	August	15 th -19 th
Santiago de Compostela	March-April	Easter
Valdoviño	September	At the beginning of the month
Vimianzo	July	9 th

Nº	PR	LOCATION	NAME
34	CO- PO-	Santiago de Compostela, Teo, Touro, Padrón, Boqueixón, A Estrada, Silleda, Vila de Cruces e Vedra	Entroido da Ulla-Entroido dos Xenerais
35	LU	A Fonsagrada	Feira do Butelo da Fonsagrada
36	LU	A Pontenova	Festa da Troita da Pontenova
37	LU	San Miguel de Reinante	Festival Internacional do Emigrante
38	LU	Begonte	Belén Electrónico de Begonte
39	LU	Cervo	Queimada Popular de Cervo
40	LU	San Cibrao	Festa da Maruxaina de San Cibrao
41	LU	Cervo	Festa do Ourizo de Cervo
42	LU	Chantada	Folión de Carros
43	LU	Muimenta	Festa da Filloa de Muimenta
44	LU	Folgozo do Courel	Filandón de Músicas do Courel
45	LU	Folgozo do Courel	Festa da Castaña
46	LU	Foz	Festas Patronais de San Lourenzo
47	LU	Pardiñas	Festival de Pardiñas
48	LU	Lourenzã	Festa da Faba de Lourenzã
49	LU	Lugo	Ofrenda do Reino de Galicia ao Santísimo Sacramento
50	LU	Lugo	Semana Santa de Lugo
51	LU	Meira	Festa da Malla
52	LU	Mondoñedo	As San Lucas
53	LU	Mondoñedo	Semana Santa de Mondoñedo
54	LU	Mondoñedo	Mercado Medieval de Mondoñedo
55	LU	Monterroso	Feira dos Santos
56	LU	A Gañidoira	Feira do Poldro e Gando do Monte
57	LU	Pedrafita do Cebreiro	Feira do Queixo do Cebreiro
58	LU	Quiroga	Mostra do Aceite de Quiroga
59	LU	Ribadeo	Día da Gaita e Romaría a Santa Cruz
60	LU	Ribadeo	Festa da Romaxe das Cruces
61	LU	Sober	Feira do Viño de Amandi de Sober
62	LU	Castelo	Festa das Fachas de Castelo
63	LU	Santo André de Boimente	A Rapa das Bestas de Candaoso
64	LU	San Pedro	O Naseiro
65	LU	Celeiro	Festa da Pescada do Pincho de Celeiro

MUNICIPALITY	MONTH	DAY
Santiago de Compostela, Teo, Touro, Padrón, Boqueixón, A Estrada, Silleda, Vila de Cruces e Vedra	February-March	Carnival
A Fonsagrada	February-March	Previous weekend to the one of Carnival
A Pontenova	May	1 st
Barreiros	August	First Saturday
Begonte	December-January	During Christmas
Cervo	August	Next Saturday after the 16 th
Cervo	August	Second Saturday
Cervo	March	March
Chantada	August	Saturday after the 20 th
Cospeito	May	1 st
Folgo do Courel	August	Second Sunday
Folgo do Courel	November	First weekend
Foz	August	10 th
Guitiriz	August	First weekend
Lourenzã	October	First Sunday
Lugo	May-June	Sunday after Corpus Christi's Sunday
Lugo	March-April	Easter
Meira	August	Second fortnight: First Sunday without fair after the 17 th
Mondoñedo	October	Around the 18 th (weekend)
Mondoñedo	March-April	Easter
Mondoñedo	August	Second weekend of August
Monterroso	November	1 st
Muras	September	The fourth weekend of September
Pedrafita do Cebreiro	March-April	Easter
Quiroga	February-March	Last Sunday of February or First of March
Ribadeo	August	First Sunday
Ribadeo	May-June	Pentecost Monday
Sober	April	Saturday and Palm Sunday
Taboada	September	7 th until 9 th
Viveiro	July	First weekend
Viveiro	August	4 th Sunday
Viveiro	July	Weekend before the 25 th

Nº	PR	LOCATION	NAME
66	OU	A Arnoia	Festa do Pemento da Arnoia
67	OU	Allariz	Festa do Boi
68	OU	Bande	Festa do Peixe
69	OU	Vilanova dos Infantes	Romaría etnográfica Raigame de Vilanova
70	OU	Laza	Entroido de Laza
71	OU	Maceda	Entroido de Maceda
72	OU	Manzaneda	Folión tradicional do Entroido de Manzaneda
73	OU	Monterrei	Xuntanza Internacional de Gaiteiros de Monterrei
74	OU	O Barco de Valdeorras	Festa do Botelo
75	OU	Oímbra	Feira do Pemento de Oímbra
76	OU	Ourense	Festa dos Maios
77	OU	Ourense	Festa do Magosto
78	OU	A Saínza	Romaría da Saínza
79	OU	Ribadavia	Feira-exposición de exaltación do viño da zona do Ribeiro
80	OU	Riós	Festa da Castaña e do Cogomelo
81	OU	San Cristovo de Cea	Festa de Exaltación do Pan de Cea
82	OU	Viana do Bolo	Festa da Androlla e o Entroido
83	OU	Vilariño de Conso	Entroido de Vilariño de Conso
84	PO	A Franqueira	Romarías da Virxe da Franqueira
85	PO	A Franqueira	Romarías da Virxe da Franqueira
86	PO	A Cañiza	Feira do Xamón da Cañiza
87	PO	A Estrada	Festa do Salmón
88	PO	A Guarda	Festa do Monte
89	PO	A Guarda	Festa da Lagosta e da Cociña Mariñeira
90	PO	As Neves	Feira do Requeixo e do Mel
91	PO	Bueu	Encontro degustación do millo corvo
92	PO	Bueu	Festa das Alfombras Florais
93	PO	Cambados	Festa da Vieira
94	PO	Aldán	Danzas Ancestrais-San Sebastián de Aldán
95	PO	O Hío	Danzas Ancestrais- San Roque do Hío
96	PO	Cangas	Easter de Cangas
97	PO	Darbo	Danzas Ancestrais-Danza e Contradanza de Darbo
98	PO	Cuntis	Festa do Lacón con Grelos

MUNICIPALITY	MONTH	DAY
A Arnoia	August	First weekend
Allariz	May-June	Around Corpus
Bande	June	First weekend
Celanova	May	17 th
Laza	February-March	Carnival
Maceda	February-March	Carnival
Manzaneda	February-March	Carnival
Monterrei	June	Second week
O Barco de Valdeorras	January	January
Oímbra	August	First Sunday
Ourense	May	1 st
Ourense	November	11 th
Rairiz de Veiga	September	24 th
Ribadavia	July	First weekend
Riós	November	First weekend
San Cristovo de Cea	July	First Sunday
Viana do Bolo	February-March	Carnival
Vilariño de Conso	February-March	Carnival
A Cañiza	May-June	Monday of Pentecost
A Cañiza	September	8 th
A Cañiza	August	15 th
A Estrada	May	Third Sunday
A Guarda	August	Second week
A Guarda	July	First weekend
As Neves	March-April	Easter
Bueu	March	Last weekend
Bueu	May-June	During Corpus Christi
Cambados	July	18 th -21 st
Cangas	January	20 th
Cangas	August	16 th
Cangas	March-April	Easter
Cangas	September	8 th
Cuntis	February-March	Sunday following the Sunday of Carnival

Nº	PR	LOCATION	NAME
99	PO	Forcarei	Festa do Gaiteiro de Soutelo de Montes
100	PO	Marín	Festa de San Miguel e danza das Espadas
101	PO	Paradela	Easter de Santa María de Paradela
102	PO	Moaña	Festa do San Martiño
103	PO	Moraña	Festa do Carneiro ao Espeto
104	PO	Mos	Festa da Rosa
105	PO	O Rosal	Feira do Viño do Rosal
106	PO	Ponte Caldelas	Festa da Troita de Ponte Caldelas
107	PO	Mourente	Festa do Caldo Galego de Mourente
108	PO	Lérez	Festas de San Benitiño de Lérez
109	PO	Pontevedra	Feira Franca
110	PO	Redondela	Festa do Corpus Christi, cos eventos celebrativos da Coca, as Penlas e a Danza de Espadas
111	PO	Redondela	Festa do Choco
112	PO	Salvaterra de Miño	Festa do Viño do Condado do Tea
113	PO	Bandeira	Festa da Empanada de Bandeira
114	PO	Laro	Romaña da Tortilla de Laro
115	PO	Arcade	Festa da Ostra de Arcade
116	PO	Tui	Descenso Internacional do Miño
117	PO	Tui	Festas patronais de San Telmo
118	PO	Valga	Belén Artesanal en Movemento
119	PO	Valga	Festa da Anguía e Mostra da Caña do País
120	PO	Bouzas	Festa do Santísimo Cristo dos Aflixidos de Bouzas
121	PO	Bembrive	Festa do San Brais de Bembrive
122	PO	Vila de Cruces	Festa Gastronómica do Galo de Curral de
123	PO	Cobres	Entroido de Cobres
124	PO	Carril	Festa da Ameixa do Carril
125	PO	Vilanova de Arousa	Festa do Mexillón e do Berberecho

MUNICIPALITY	MONTH	DAY
Forcarei	August	First saturday after the 16 th of August
Marín	September	29 th
Meis	March-April	Easter
Moaña	November	11 th
Moraña	July	Last Sunday
Mos	June	13 th
O Rosal	August	Last weekend
Ponte Caldelas	May	Last weekend
Pontevedra	March	Second Sunday of March
Pontevedra	July	11 th
Pontevedra	September	First weekend
Redondela	May-June	Corpus day
Redondela	May	Second weekend
Salvaterra de Miño	August	Last weekend
Silleda	August	Third Saturday
Silleda	August	First Friday
Soutomaíor	April	First weekend
Tui	August	Variable
Tui	March-April	Weekend following the first Easter's Sunday
Valga	December-January	From the first Sunday of December to the second Sunday of January
Valga	August	Last week
Vigo	July	Third Sunday
Vigo	February	3 rd
Vila de Cruces	May	Last weekend
Vilaboa	February-March	Carnival
Vilagarcía de Arousa	August	Second fortnight
Vilanova de Arousa	August	Second week

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