



 XUNTA
DE GALICIA

 Xacobeo 21-22

Santiago de Compostela



The English Way
a walk of
history and life

Santiago de Compostela



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

IT HAS BEEN A COSMOPOLITAN CITY SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF PILGRIMS FROM ALL OVER THE CHRISTIAN WORLD BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS FAMOUS UNIVERSITY, WHICH WAS FOUNDED OVER FIVE CENTURIES AGO. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF GALICIA.

Essentials

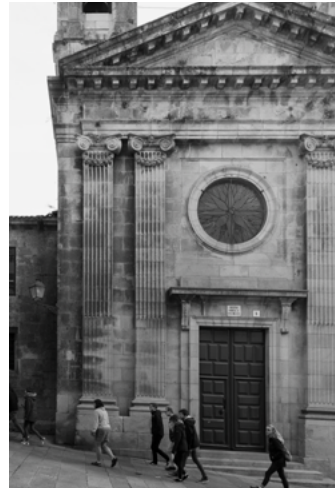
A Praza de Cervantes



B San Martiño Pinario



C San Miguel dos Agros



D Convento de Las Clarisas



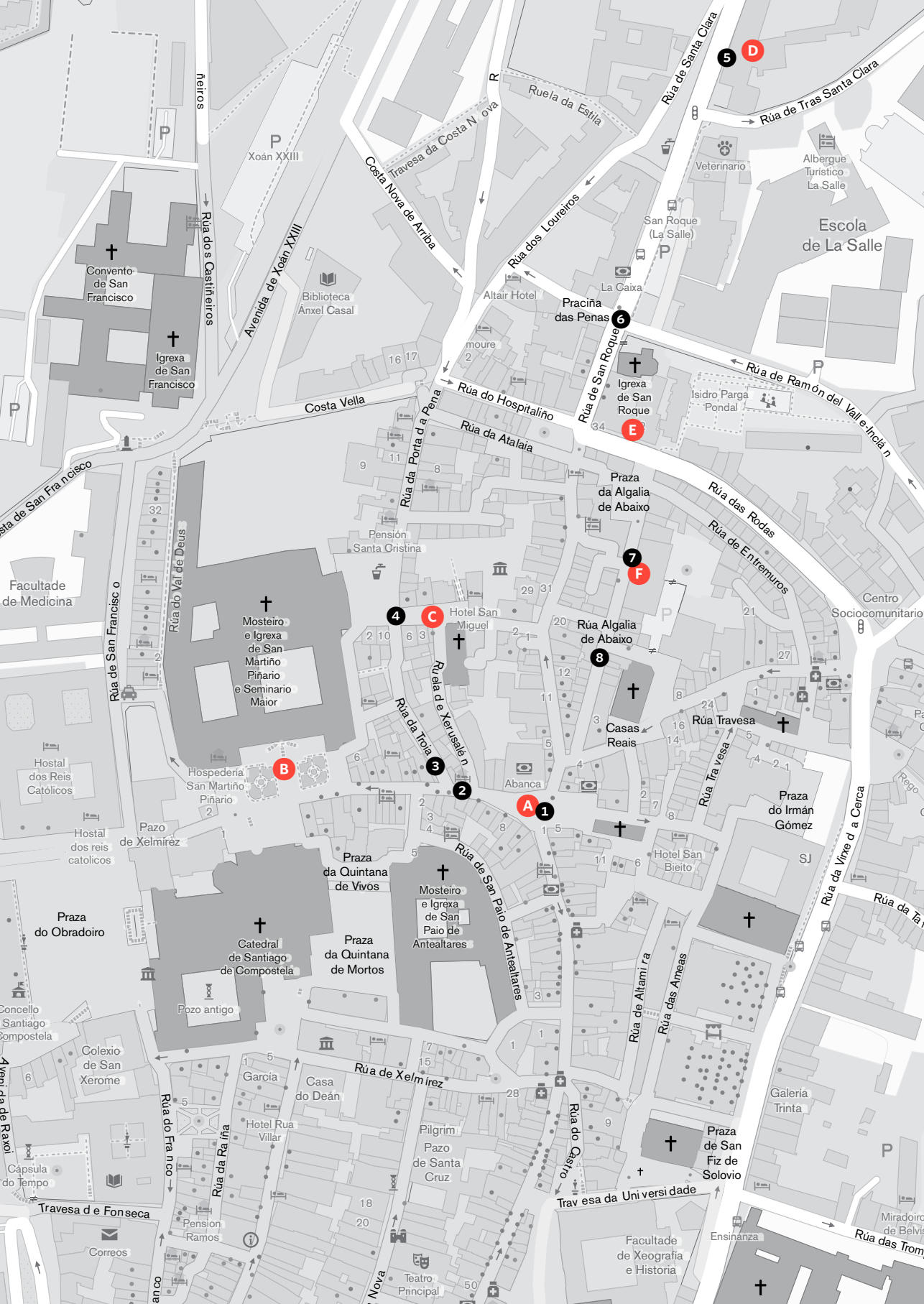
E Hospitalillo de San Roque



F Pazo de los Marqueses de Camarasa



The route



- 1 Praza de Cervantes
- 2 Rúa da Acibechería
- 3 Rúa da Troia
- 4 Rúa Fonte de San Miguel
- 5 Rúa de Santa Clara
- 6 Rúa de San Roque
- 7 Rúa de Algalia de Arriba
- 8 Rúa Algalia de Abaixo



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We start off from the central and lively **Praza de Cervantes 1** (Cervantes Square) and go down the **rúa da Acibechería 2** where we come to a small street called **rúa de Xerusalén**, into which we will enter. Through it, we come to a rather isolated space, a small square with an olive tree, all very evocative and reminiscent of the site of the city's old Jewish quarter. There we find

Novaniké (Arts & Books), where we may find the books of the Biblioteca para Misántropos (Library for Misanthropists), of poetry and essays. It is an ideal place for discussion and reflection, of which there aren't many left!

We retrace our steps and turn off at **rúa da Troia 3**, where we find the **CASA DA TROYA**, a house-museum that captures university life at the beginning of the 20th century; it was the subject of a successful novel, published in 1915, which was later made into a film on several occasions. In it, its author, Alejandro Pérez Lugín, "masterfully described the feeling of young university students", as can be read on one of the numerous plaques on the



PREVIOUS PAGES Detail of San Martín Pinario; Pipers
FACING Pilgrims in Praza de Cervantes
RIGHT Rúa Xerusalén



façade. There are still people who remember what their elders used to say when there was a lot of commotion in the houses: "Try and keep it down, it's like the House of Troy in here!", alluding to the dissipated and somewhat chaotic life of the students in those days.

At number 8, **rúa da Troia**, the *Acivro Xoias* shop offers original and elegant jewellery, mostly in silver, combining tradition with modernity. Its window display is as imagi-



native as its jewellery, ever reminiscent of Galicia's culture.

At number 10, **rúa da Fonte de San Miguel** 4, *Antigüedades Folgar*, one of the establishments with the longest history in the area, stands out for its varied offer, which ranges from Sèvres vases to contemporary art pieces: a real treat for collectors and art lovers in general. Entering here is like going back in time; it is reminiscent of the old Cabinets of Curiosities, which were the forerunners of today's art galleries.

Our walk takes us to the **Praza de San Martiño**, where we can contemplate one of the largest monastic complexes in Spain as well as the façade of the IGLESIA DE SAN MARTIÑO PINARIO (Church of San Martiño Pinario). Of

ABOVE Antigüedades Folgar
BELOW Casa da Troia

Renaissance design and Baroque finishes, the church houses in its interior true carving and woodwork masterpieces by the great masters of the 17th and 18th centuries, such as Mateo de Prado or the architect Fernando de Casas y Novoa. Its splendid altarpieces and spectacular choir stalls make San Martiño Pinario a true museum in itself, offering the chance to visit the various collections in its restored rooms, such as the sacristy, the rood screen and the old dispensary.

Looking at the façade of the church, on the right-hand side, there is a catering establishment and several private dwellings which, according to the records of the time, occupy the site that was once one of the headquarters of the Holy Office in the city. It seems that it was here where those accused of witchcraft were subjected to the ordeals, terrible tests they had to pass in order to prove their innocence. The screams and cries of the almost condemned would awake and disturb the Benedictine monks of San Martiño Pinario, who lodged numerous complaints with the Holy Office.

On the corner of **rúa de San Miguel**, at number 5, is the MUSEO DE LA MAGIA (Museum of Magic), a unique space where you can discover historical pieces of the art of magic from the hands of the illusionist, Kiko Pastur. Here you will be able to buy magic items or souvenirs of the museum itself, whi-



It is also being able to attend a show or take part in one of the workshops.

The small IGLESIA DE SAN MIGUEL DOS AGROS (Church of San Miguel dos Agros) which dates from the end of the 18th century, surprises us with its very classical design, its slenderness, its curious polychrome altarpieces, where wood imitates stone, and its organ, which is used to perform the occasional marvellous concert.

The opening of new hotel establishments in the area, such as the *Hotel Gastronómico de San Miguel*, the *Casa Felisa Restaurant* or the *Hotel Costa Vella*, made it possible for

ABOVE San Miguel de Agros
FOLLOWING PAGES Iglesia de San Martiño Pinario and rúa da Porta da Pena





people to enjoy these properties' unknown and marvellous gardens, which were previously inaccessible to the general public. It is highly recommended to walk along the **rúa Porta da Pena** and to take some time to rest in these beautiful inside terraces and contemplate the camellias, magnolias, bamboo, apple trees, lemon trees...

We leave through the Porta da Pena, one of the seven gates located in the city wall and



which served as the entrance to the English Way. We head along **rúa dos Loureiros** to the IGLESIA AND CONVENTO DE LAS CARMELITAS DESCALZAS (Church and convent of The Discalced Carmelites), which was the first convent founded by this Order in Galicia. On its façade, there is a delicate stone image of the Virgen del Carmen (the Virgin of the Carmen), attributed to one of the great sculptors of the late Galician Baroque period, José Gambino. Just opposite, on **rúa de Santa Clara** ⁵, we find the wondrous façade of the church and the CONVENTO DE LAS CLARISAS, whose foundation dates back to

the 13th century, although it is the baroque work of the distinguished architect Simón Rodríguez that provides us with the unforgettable façade. Crowning a niche containing a sculpture of the saint is an enormous stone cylinder weighing several tons, the pinnacle of Compostela's geometric Baroque style, which created a whole school of thought.

Walking down towards the historic centre along **rúa de San Roque** ⁶, at number 27, we find the Confitería San Roque-Salón de Té, a tea room that has been here for several decades offering fresh and handmade products. Nowadays, few cloistered convents make confectionery, but the bond between the neighbourhood and its sweets is still very much alive here.

Rúa de San Roque takes its name from the church and the old HOSPITALILLO DE SAN ROQUE (San Roque Hospital), founded at the end of the 16th century, at a time when plague epidemics ravaged the land. On the façade



of the church, we can see the images of San Cosme and San Damián, patron saints of Medicine. Every 16th August, the Municipal Corporation renews its vows to San Roque so that he may continue to protect us all. The interior features a peaceful and serene Renaissance cloister.

We continue descending towards the south and enter the **rúa da Algalia de Arriba** ⁷. Here we will find small, highly specialised shops such as Vaka Loura, at number 46, which offers personalised gifts, 3D printing, laser engraving and recycled objects. Legumia, at number 42, is a small shop that sells in bulk only the best quality produce from the countryside. Amongst dried fruits, spices

FACING, ABOVE Hotel Costa Vella
FACING, BELOW Interior Garden
ABOVE Carmelitas Descalzas
BELOW Convento de Las Clarisas



and local organic products, the restaurant's restored and refurbished stone lareira, or fireplace, stands out. For its part, [A Tenda de Igrexias](#), at number 36, keeps the tradition of the grocery and colonial shops alive, which would sell exotic products from overseas. Today, they not only offer fresh produce to their locals but have also developed into true gourmet boutiques. At number 43, we have a chance to freshen up and relax with the best craft beers in Galicia at [La Atlántica Beer Shop](#).

In **Praciña da Algalia de Arriba** there are some terraces where you can enjoy an apéritif or a meal, such as the [Café-Teatro Garigolo](#). Built of stone and wood, it offers an interesting programme of performances and a menu of exotic and oriental cuisine. Almost

ABOVE Confeitaria San Roque
BELOW Hospitalillo de San Roque

opposite, the [Taberna Mariñeira Mamá Peixe](#) specialises in top quality fish from the Galician estuaries and has been awarded Bib Gourmand by the Michelin Guide 2021.

A little further on, at number 27, [O Camiño Empeza Agora](#) offers us a unique space, occupying one of the oldest civil buildings in the city and designed as a meeting point for pilgrims and travellers. Here we will enjoy a fine selection of the best gastronomy, crafts and literature of the communities through which the French Way runs.

The street is lined with small shops, both old and modern, dedicated mainly to fashion and textiles, such as [Flora Infraganti](#), [Aliche Moda](#), [Tin Moda](#), [Naftalina Vintage](#) or [Sánchez](#), all of which offer men and women's fashion for all tastes, sizes and conditions. As could not be otherwise, we can once again admire the work of silver and jet in the [BS Artesanía Workshop](#), at number 14, by the goldsmith Breixo Beiroa. Algalia, or civet oil,



is a substance of animal origin, similar to musk, which was used in the production of perfumes and oils in the Middle Ages. Today it is no longer in use, but at number 3, Rúa Algalia de Arriba, [La Reina de Saba](#) continues to enchant us with its fragrances. For a modest price, we will have the chance to take home scents very similar to those of haute perfumery. And if our thing is natural and ecological cosmetics, we should visit [Amor Propio](#), at number 13.

At the far end of the street, we enter **rúa da Algalia de Abaixo** ⁸ where, at number 26, we will pass by the imposing [PAZO DE LOS MARQUESES DE CAMARASA Y CONDES DE AMARANTE](#) (Manor House of the Marquises of Camarasa and Counts of Amarante), an 18th-century civil construction, nowadays used for administrative purposes, which hides in its backyard a secluded public garden with century-old camellias.



We end our route at number 9, Praza da Algalia de Abaixo, where [Susi Gesto Ourive](#) welcomes us to her goldsmith's workshop. Here, jet and precious metals are worked using traditional methods. The workshop is visible to the public, turning a visit here into a memorable experience. Susi Gesto is a master when it comes to making sapos, imaginative pieces of Galician jewellery that complement the traditional gala attire. They are comprised of three independent linked pieces and probably have their origins in the ornamental jewellery used by the nobility in the 18th century.

ABOVE Pazo de los Marqueses de Camarasa
BELOW Modernist gallery in Algalia de Abaixo

Nearby

Parque de Belvís and its Convent

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

FACING Convento de Belvís

ABOVE Colegiata de Santa María La Mayor y Real de Sar



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

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

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



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

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

ABOVE Cidade da Cultura

FACING Santa María de Conxo

The Iglesia de Conxo and its monastery

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

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



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

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

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

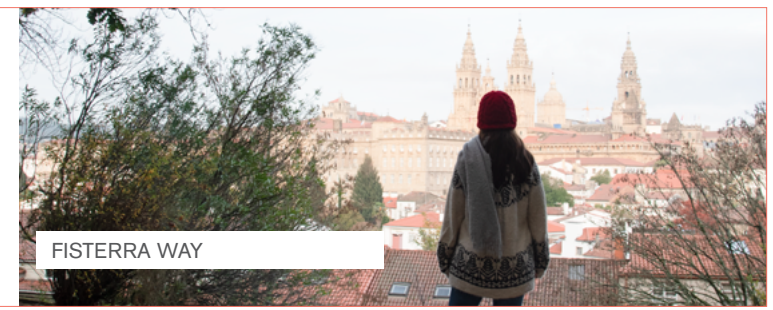
The IGLESIA AND CONVENTO DE SANTA MARÍA DE CONXO is a 12th-century complex linked to a lady called Rosuida, who had built, in memory of her lover who was murdered during her pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, a small hermitage that would later become a Benedictine church and monastery. At the end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



Other related guides



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