

A WAY FORWARD



Interreg
España - Portugal



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNIO EUROPEIA

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvemento Regional



EIXO ATLÁNTICO
DO NOROESTE PENINSULAR

Publishing: Eixo Atlántico do Noroeste Peninsular
Management: Xoán Vázquez Mao
Illustrations: Norberto Fernández and Daniel Docampo
Writing and coordination: Programmes and Cooperation Department
Printing: Sgraf Artes Gráficas, S.L.
Translation: Xiana Vázquez
Year of publication: 2020
Legal deposit: VG 340-2020
ISBN: Printed version: 978-989-54875-5-4
Digital version: 978-989-54875-6-1

This publication is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Interreg Programme V-A Spain-Portugal (POCTEP) 2014-2020.
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A WAY FORWARD





The Way of St. James (1) (Camino de Santiago) has been considered in its different routes the first European Cultural Itinerary, and the French Way has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, later extended to the Northern and the Primitive Ways. In addition, the Eixo Atlántico keeps its commitment to reach the same award for the Portuguese Way. Though evident, it cannot be overemphasized that the Way of St. James is, beyond its main spiritual component, probably one of the main tourist successes worldwide. But the Way cannot be just an itinerary with the exclusive goal of reaching Santiago. The Way is an opportunity to get to know the wide cultural, historic and heritage wealth of our cities, together with the villages and sites of the Way's surroundings.

The spirituality (both Christian and secular) that surrounds the Way, the cultural and heritage wealth since pre-Roman times, including 'citanias', 'castros' (hill forts) and the wide Roman heritage, together with modern architecture works by many worldwide-awarded architects, as well as those who marked the 19th and 20th century architecture, are just a small part of the Way's treasures.

These treasures can be discovered while travelling the Way or, for those who live in the Eixo Atlantico cities, visiting them during one of the 52 weekends of the year. The recent crisis that we have undergone requires a proactive response that recovers the economic dynamism that characterizes the area, and tourism is one of its engines. So what could be better than enjoying the pleasures that our cities offer to visitors, from gastronomy and enology to culture and hiking, while at the same time contributing to the economic recovery and regeneration?

That is the objective of this different and complementary guide (to the already-existing ones): a visual, pleasant and enjoyable guide with comic-style illustrations that communicates the immense wealth of this territory. We hope that you enjoy it and that it will encourage you to visit each and every one of our cities, where you will always be more than welcome.

Ricardo Rio - President of the Eixo Atlantico
Lara Méndez - Vice President of the Eixo Atlantico

1. St. James is the English name of Santiago. We will be using the English name whenever we are referring to the Way, or to the Apostle, but we will keep the local name (Santiago) in the denominations of buildings, villages and, of course, the city. All toponyms, and the majority of locations, have been kept in their original version, and the English translation is provided in the case of common nouns (church, monastery, museum...) or famous characters (St. James, St. John of Jerusalem...) (note of ft.).

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ENGLISH WAY

ENGLISH WAY FROM A CORUÑA

1. A Coruña - Culleredo - Hospital de Bruma
2. Hospital de Bruma - Carballo - Sigüeiro
3. Sigüeiro - Santiago de Compostela.

ENGLISH WAY FROM FERROL

1. Ferrol - Narón - Neda
2. Neda - Miño
3. Miño - Hospital de Bruma.
4. Hospital de Bruma - Sigüeiro
5. Sigüeiro - Santiago de Compostela.

This way has its origin in the 12th century, when a squadron made up of English, German and Flemish soldiers visited the tomb of St. James in 1147. Due to their location, the cities of **A Coruña** and **Ferrol** served as ports of entry for the jacobean pilgrimage in Medieval times for those European peoples who wished to access Galicia from the sea. The Scandinavian, Flemish, Scottish and the Irish used this way during centuries, but the English were the most abundant group, and this is why the path came to be known as the English way. Nowadays, the path can be made in its long version, from **Ferrol**, or in its short one, from **A Coruña**. Both meet in the parish of Hospital de Bruma, in Mesía, and run together until **Santiago de Compostela**.



A CORUÑA - CULLEREDO - HOSPITAL DE BRUMA

This route within the English Way begins in **A Coruña**. This city is located in a peninsula that penetrates the Atlantic ocean with an almost 15-km-long sea promenade, where we can visit some of the most emblematic and historical architectural elements, like the Tower of Hércules, the Church of Santiago, the Convent and the Square of Santo Domingo, the Convent of Santa Bárbara, the promenade of O Parrote, Sir John Moore's tomb, the Castle of San Antón... Moreover, the city has a great variety in terms of leisure and culture, including several scientific museums.



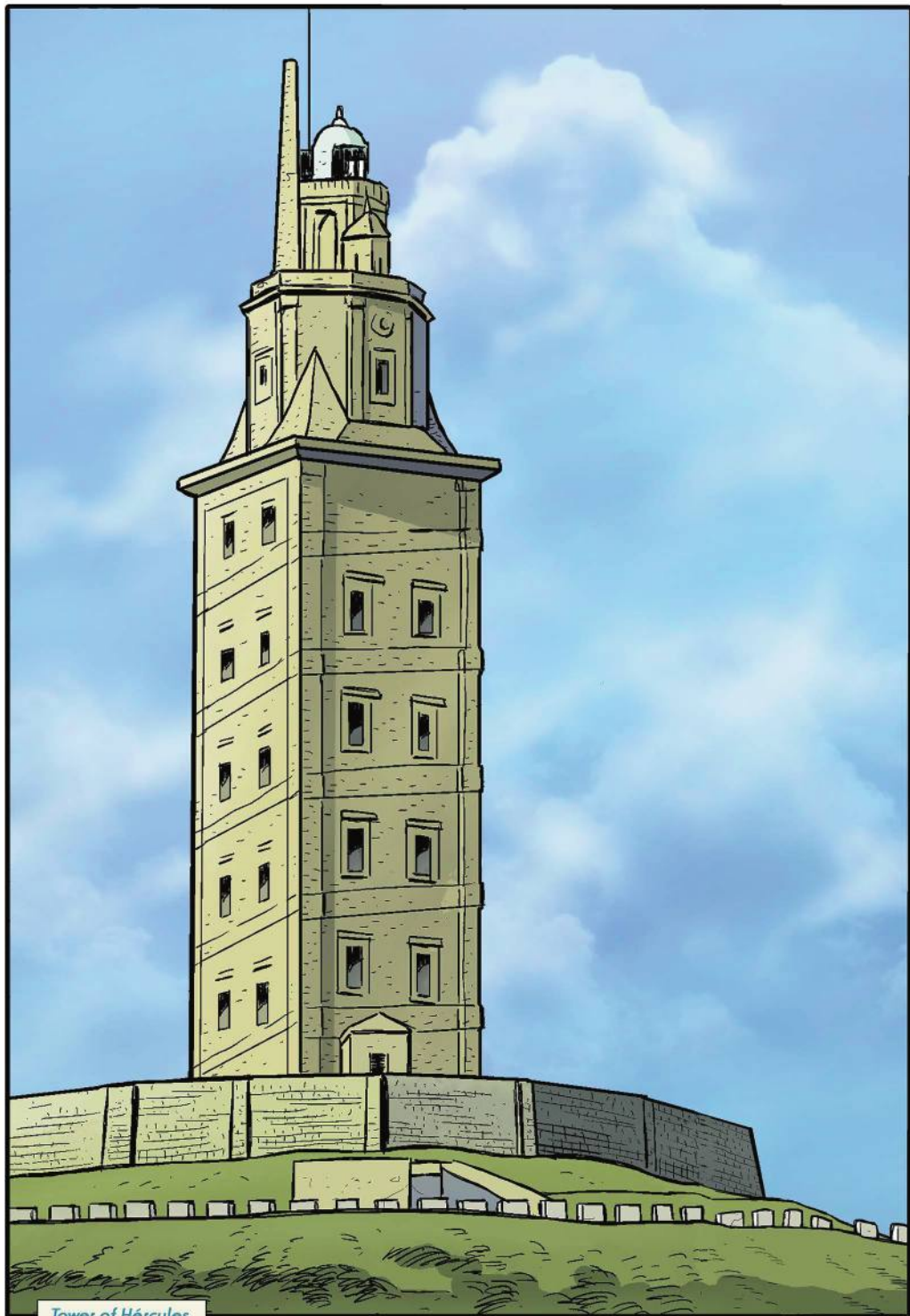
Convent of Santo Domingo



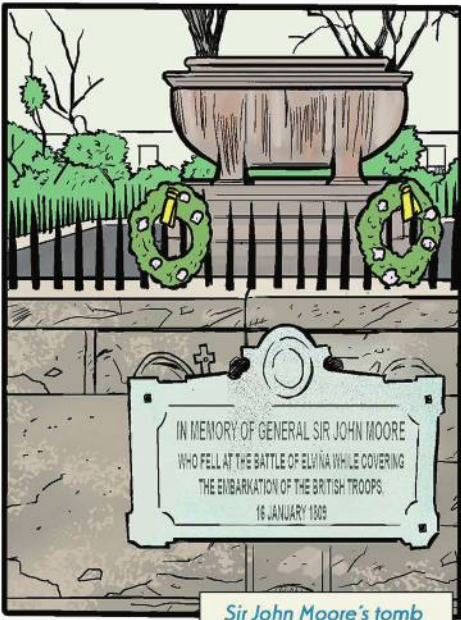
Church of Santiago



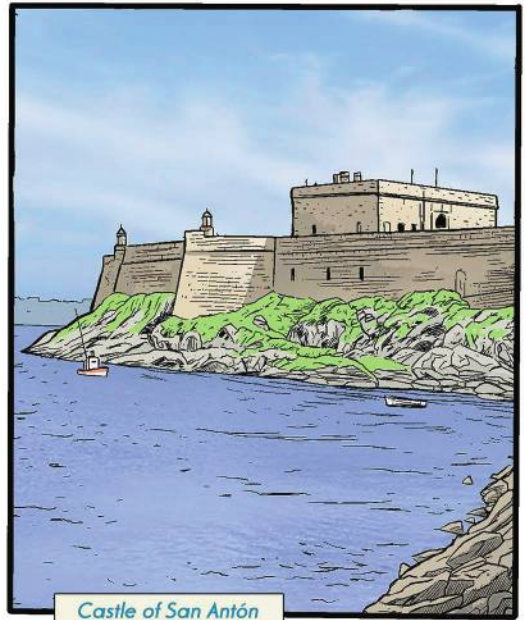
María Pita square



Tower of Hércules



Sir John Moore's tomb

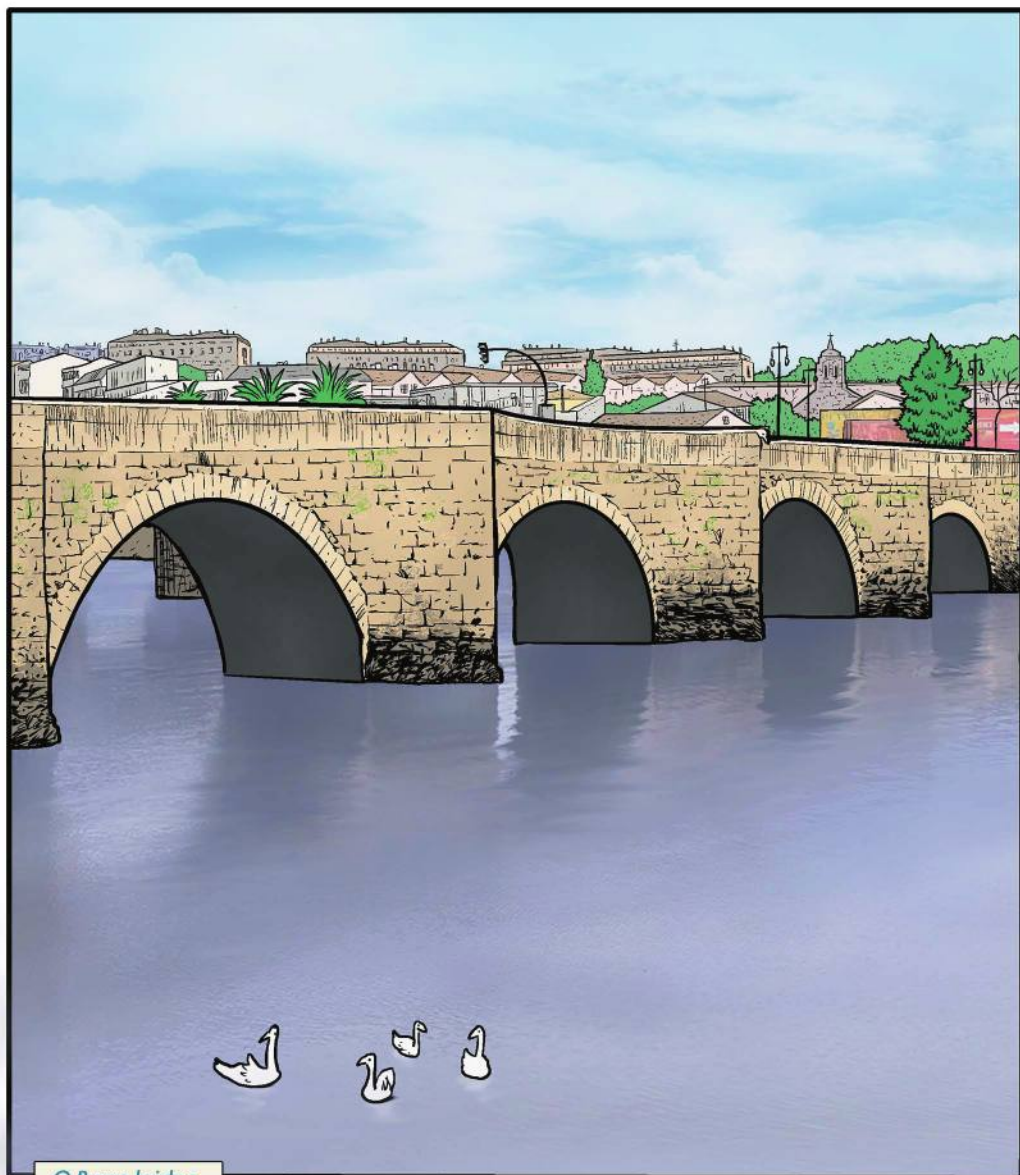


Castle of San Antón



O Parrote

We continue through the Eirís neighbourhood and enter the municipality ('Concello') of **Culleredo**, specifically in O Portádego. We cross the sea promenade of O Burgo, surrounding the homonymous 'ría' (a geographic feature, similar to an estuary, where the sea penetrates the land), where we can visit its medieval bridge and the Acea de Ama mills, originated from the monk buildings in Sobrado in the 12th century. Afterwards, we continue towards Alvedro, still inside the municipality of **Culleredo**, where the airport of **A Coruña** is currently located. We cross the medieval bridge of A Xira, and we head for Cambre, where we can visit the church of Santa María de Cambre, from the 12th century, which is considered one of the best examples of the Compostela Romanesque. We continue through Sergude and Sarandós, until the parish of Hospital de Bruma in the municipality of Mesía.



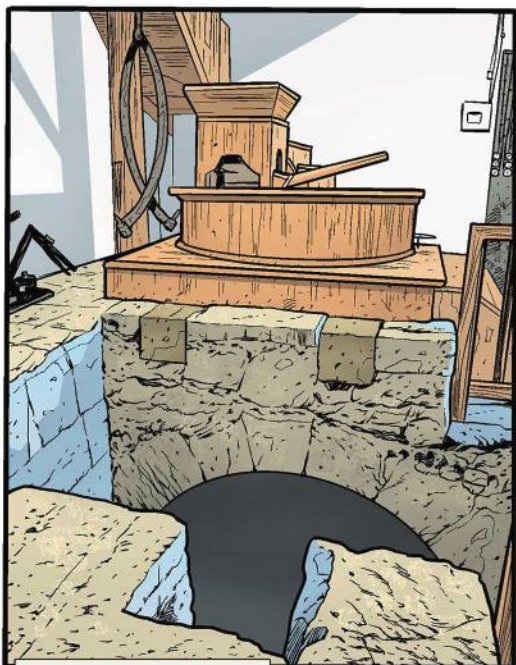
O Burgo bridge



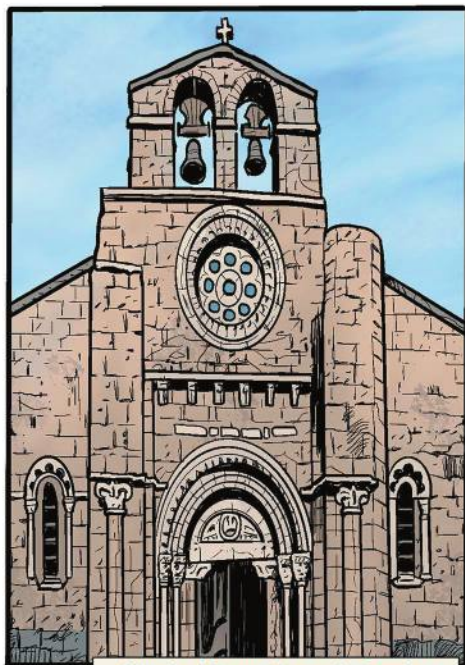
Sea promenade of O Burgo



Church of Santiago do Burgo



Acea de Ama mills

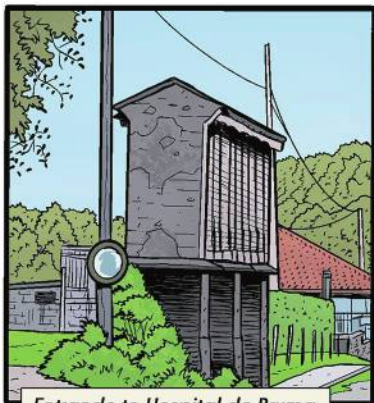


Church of Santa María de Cambre



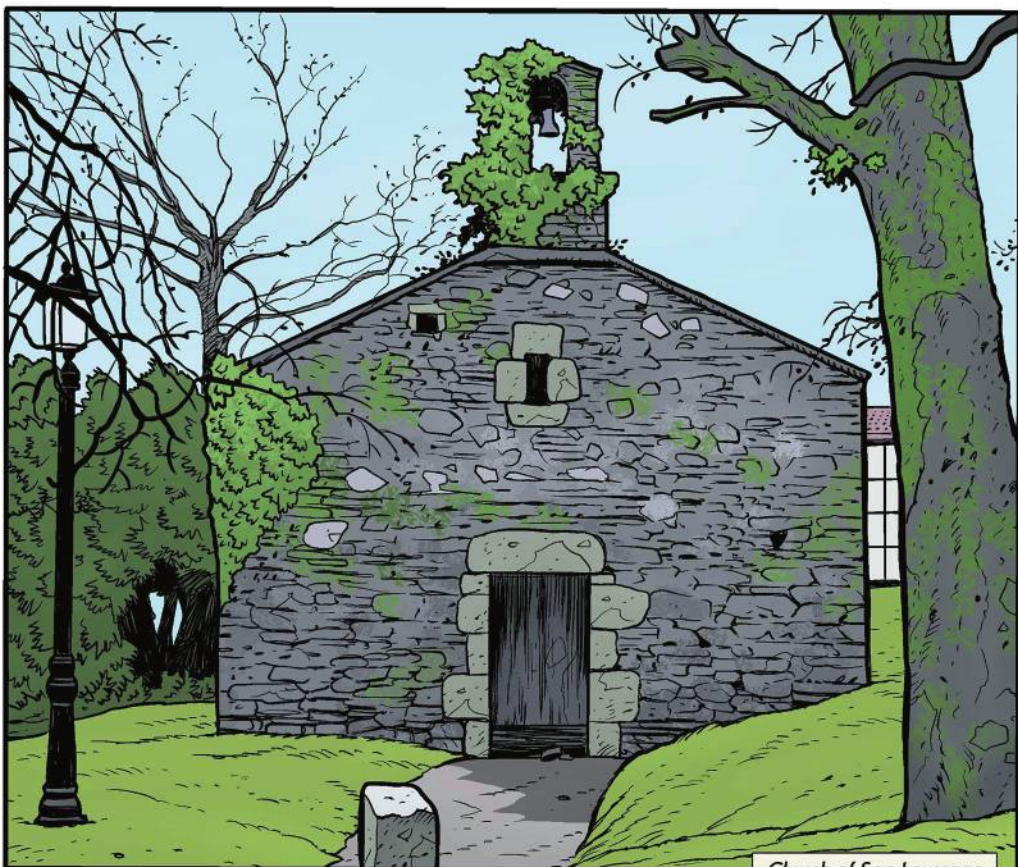
Bridge of A Xira

HOSPITAL DE BRUMA - CARBALLO - SIGÜEIRO

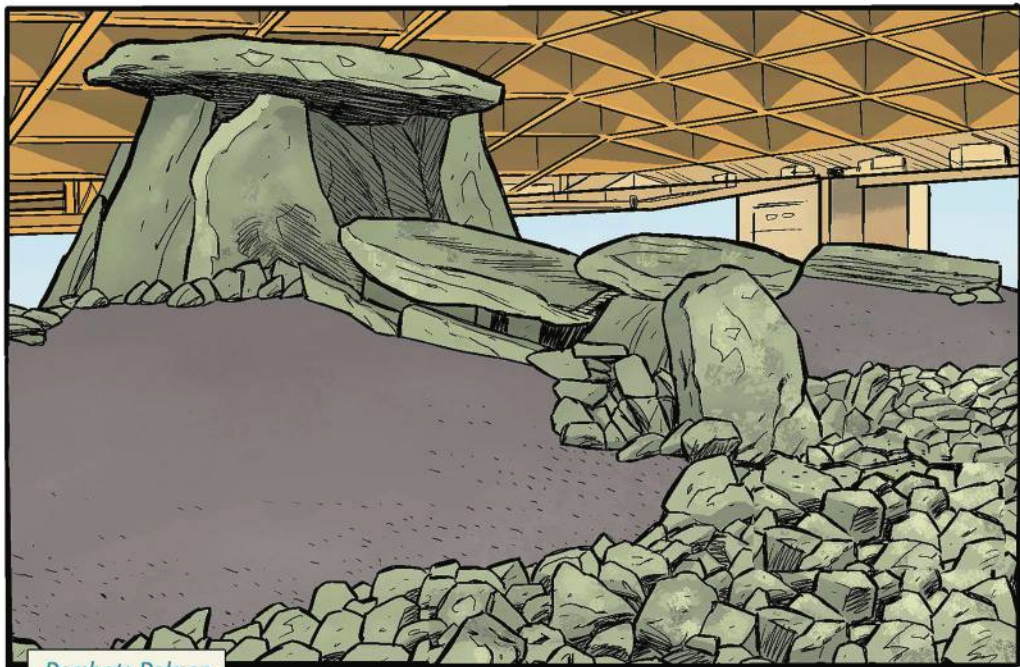


Entrande to Hospital de Bruma

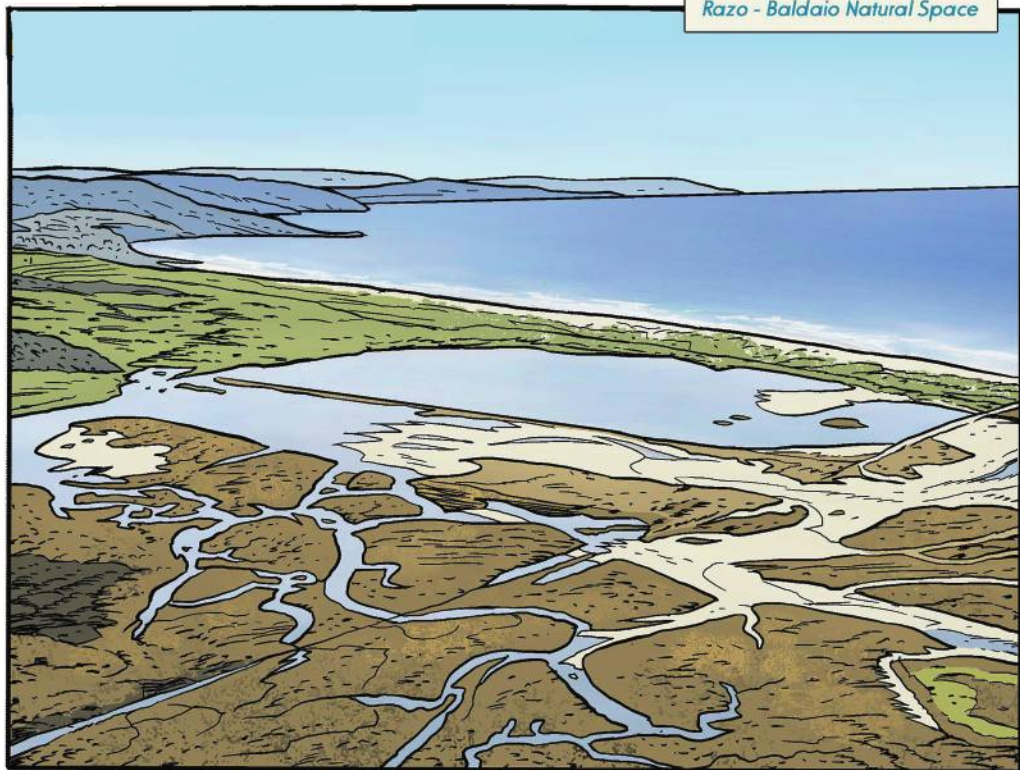
We can see the characteristic Mahía-kind 'hóreos' (stone granaries, very characteristic in the Galician rural landscape) in this area and, after passing by the church of San Lourenzo from the 16th century, we continue our way towards Ordes. We can make a stop in the way and deviate towards **Carballo**, the entry to the Costa da Morte, where we can enjoy the Razo-Baldaio Natural Space included in the Natura Network, and relax in the only mineral-medicinal spa of the Costa da Morte, as well as going for a walk in the urban centre, discovering its urban art project "Derrubando Muros con Pintura" (Tearing Down Walls with Paint). Continuing the way, we will pass through mounts, autochthonous forests, and stone crosses that guide us through different villages. We pass by the churches of San Paio de Buscás and San Xulián de Poulo, combining dirt and paved roads. When we reach the Pereira bridge, in the municipality of Ordes, we cross it to get into the forest again, until the village of Sigüeiro, of medieval origin (12th century), and capital of the municipality of Oroso.



Church of San Lourenzo



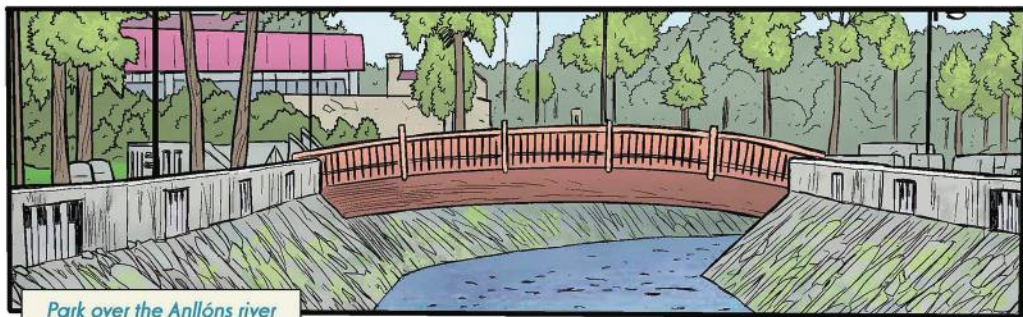
Dombate Dolmen



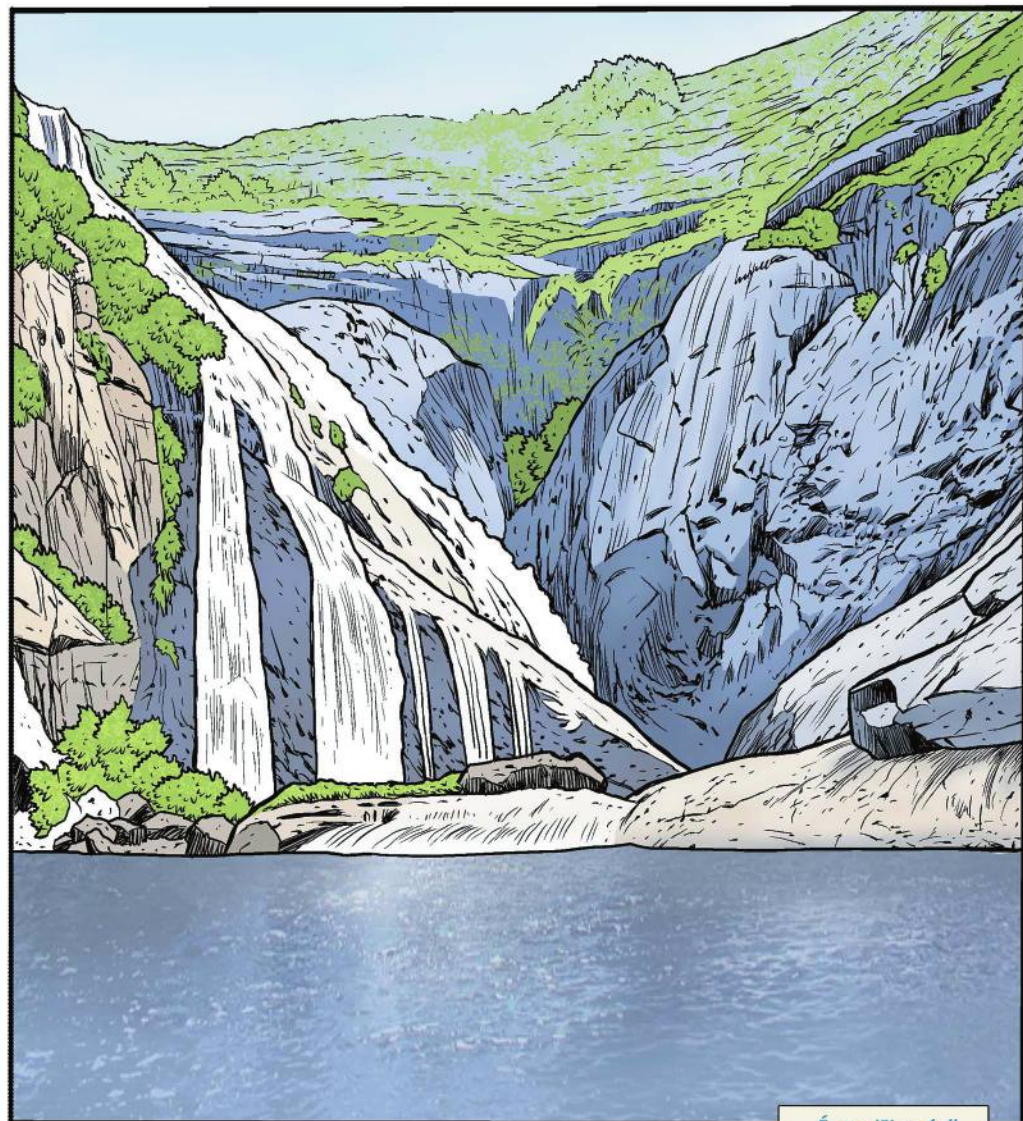
Razo - Baldaio Natural Space



Cape Vilán



Park over the Anllóns river



Ézaro Waterfall

SIGÜEIRO - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

In the centre of the village, we continue through Real street until we reach the historical bridge over the Tambre river, at the entry of the municipality of Santiago. We pass by the villages of Marantes and A Lameira, the Tambre business park, and we continue through the Via Galileo and Tambre street until we reach Meixonfrío and the Cruceiro da Coruña street, in whose vicinity there is a pre-Roman 'castro'.



Bridge of Sigüeiro

After passing through the neighbourhood of As Cancelas, we enter the urban centre of **Santiago de Compostela**. When passing by San Caetano, we can see the Monument to the Pilgrim welcoming us. Next, we will find the convents of Santa Clara and Carme, and we will continue through Loureiros street until the Porta da Pena, which was one of the city gates when it was fortified (12th-19th centuries). Finally, we pass through San Martiño Pinarío square, Troia street, and Acibecheira street, where we will see the north façade of the Santiago cathedral.



San Martiño Pinarío square

FERROL - NARÓN - NEDA

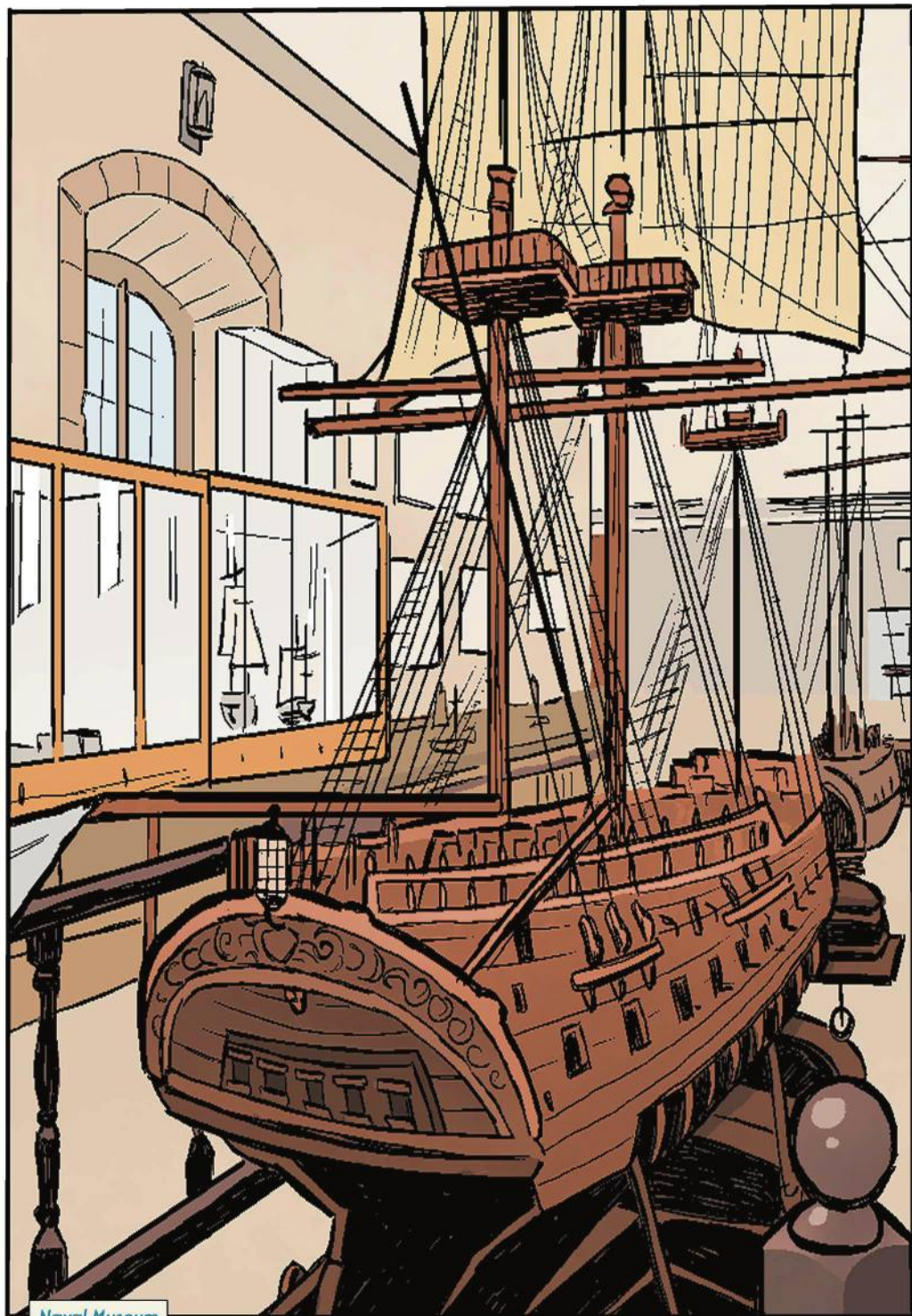
We start the way from the Curuxeiras pier, towards the centre of Ferrol, the capital of the North maritime area in the 18th century. First we pass by the Military Arsenal, a shipyard which was the economic engine of the region for many years. If we look ahead, towards the sea, we can spot the Castle of San Felipe, from the 16th century. We continue towards the neoclassical neighbourhood of La Magdalena, a historical-artistic ensemble since 1983. In this area located in the centre of Ferrol we can find the Plaza de Armas square, the current Town Hall, and several modernist buildings from the 20th century, such as the Casa Pereira. We continue our way towards Narón, passing by the Naval Museum, located inside an 18th-century prison.



Arenal Dyke door



Pereira House





Santiago Shell

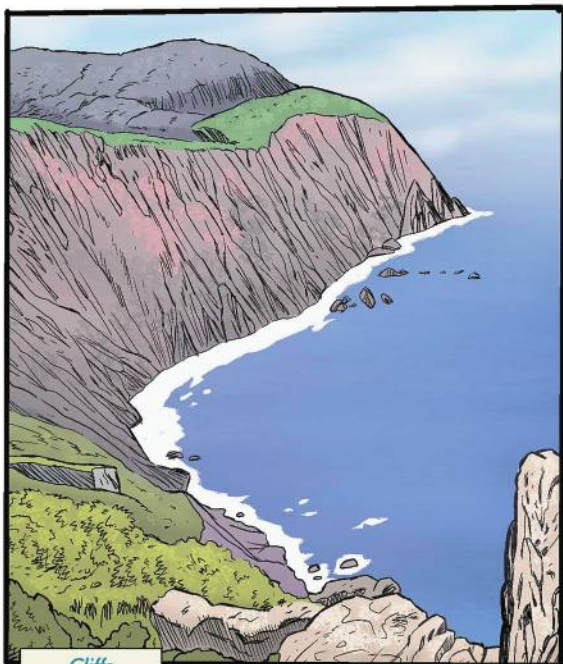


Doniños Beach

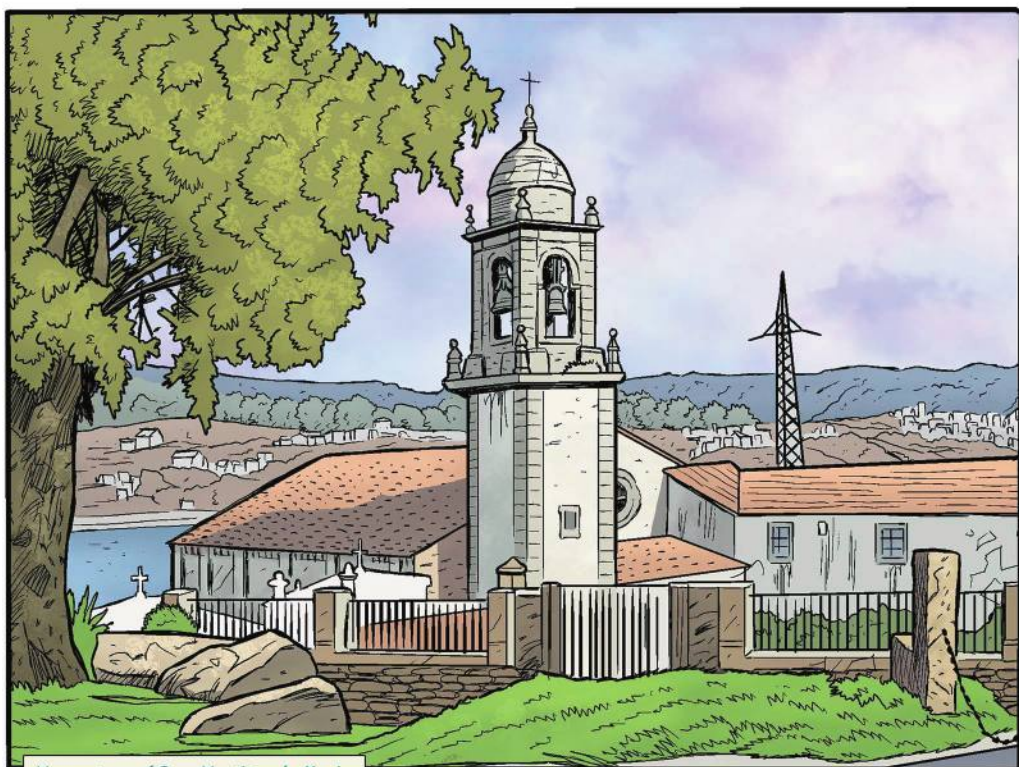


Castle of San Felipe

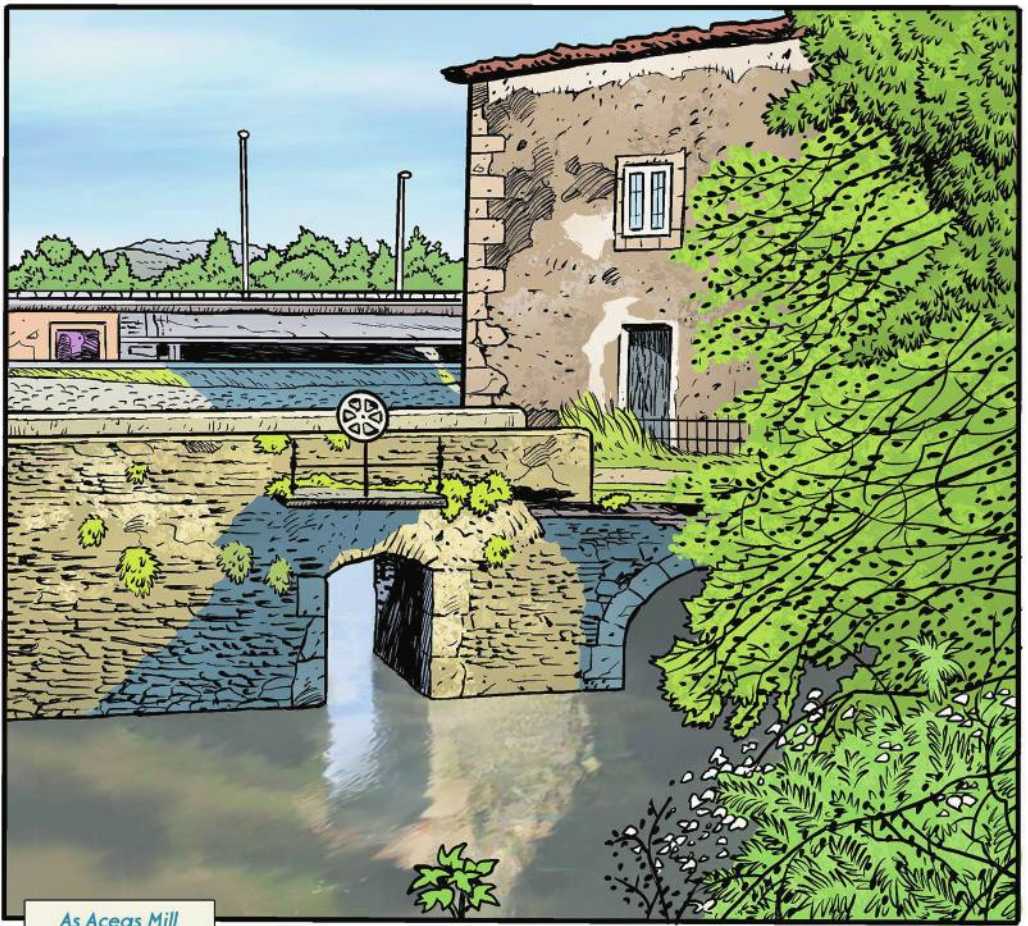
When passing through **Narón**, following the Mar Avenue, we will arrive at the Romanesque-style Monastery of San Martiño de Xuvia, from the 12th century. Going deeper into the ría we can visit the As Aceas mill, which functioned with the tide strength and constituted one of the main flour factories in 19th century-Galicia. Next, bordering the coastline we can rest in the sea promenade of Xuvia, and then cross the pedestrian bridge that connects it with the municipality of Neda.



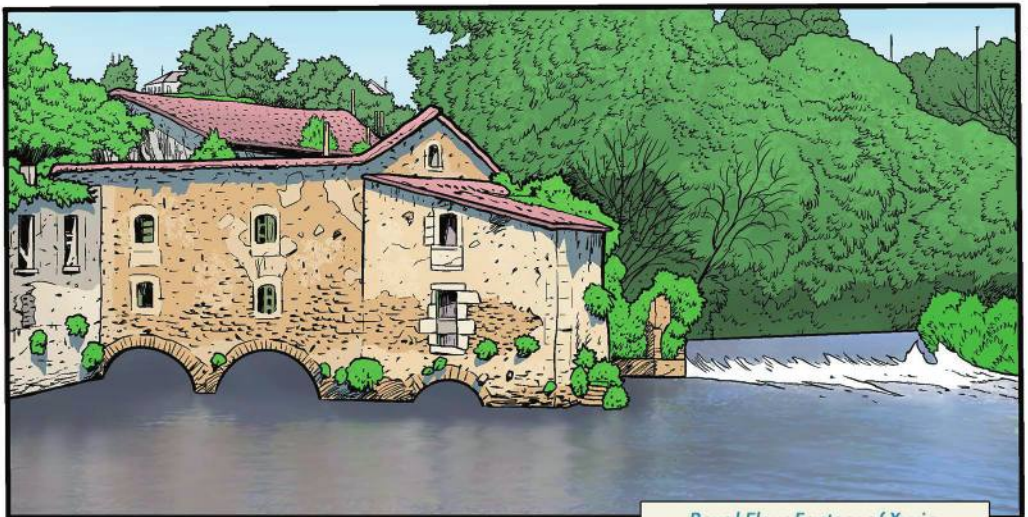
Cliffs



Monastery of San Martiño de Xuvia



As Aceas Mill



Royal Flour Factory of Xuvia



Pazo Libunca



Bridge over the Xuvia river

NEDA - MIÑO

In this stage we cross the municipalities of Neda and Fene, until we reach the municipality of Cabanas, where we can see the church of San Martiño do Porto from 1788, built at the behest of the Santiago archbishop, Bartolomé de Raxoi. Then we can cross the bridge over the Eume river and we will be entering Pontedeume.

Along the Miño river we can near the emblematic Castle of Andrade (13th century), also known as the Nogueirosa fortress. We finish this stage crossing the medieval bridge over the Baxoi river and continuing the path that takes us to the Miño village.



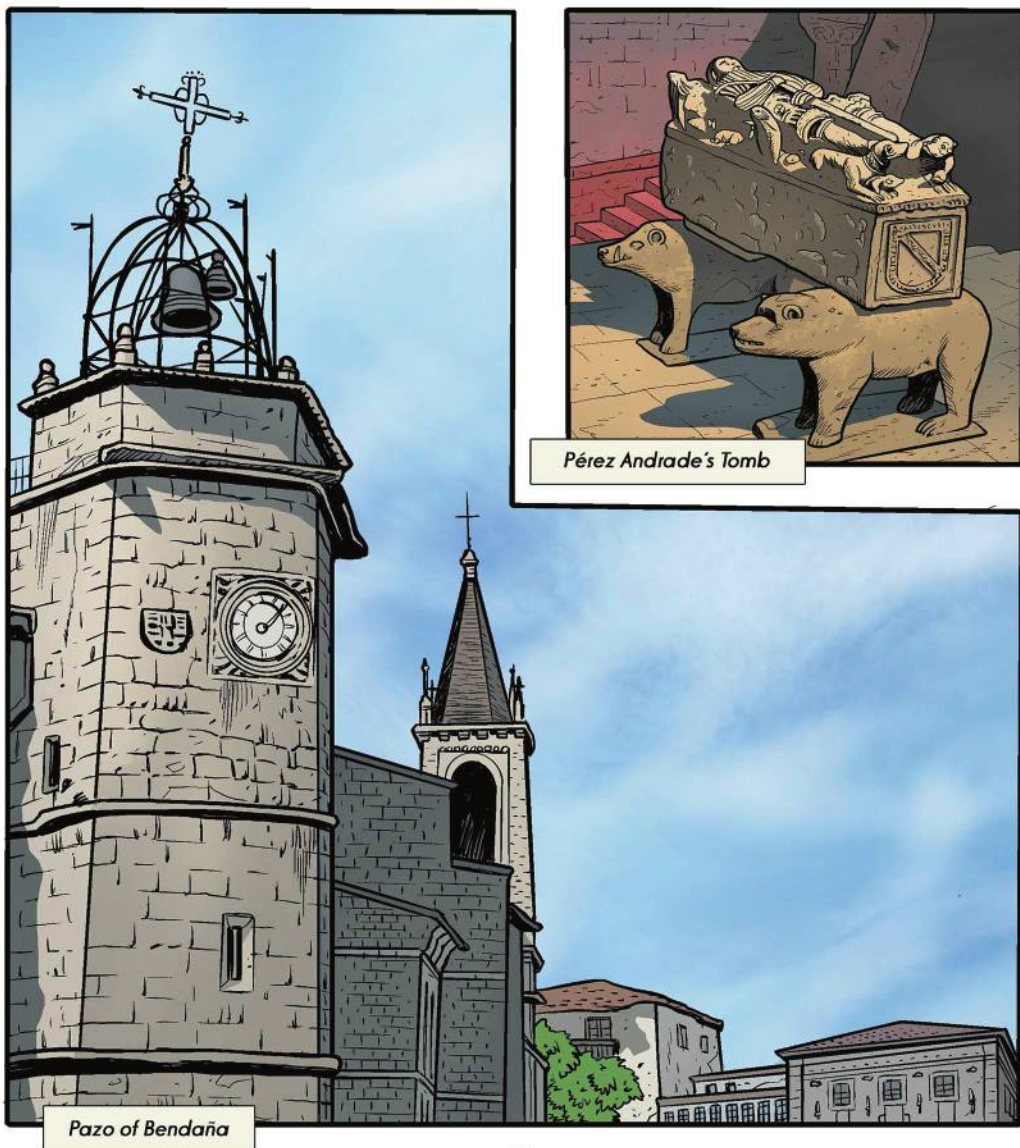
Castle of Andrade Tower

MIÑO - HOSPITAL DE BRUMA

Leaving Miño we can cross the O Porco bridge, crossing the Lambre river and following its course through a forest road that leads to Betanzos. We reach this city crossing the Madeo river through the bridge of Ponte Vella, and walking under the Ponte Vella Arch, a vestige of the medieval wall. In Betanzos we can visit, among others, the Pazo of Bendaña, rebuilt in the 16th century, or the Gothic temple of San Francisco from the 14th century. Here we can see the tomb of Pérez Andrade "The Good", one of the most prominent aristocrats of the

Galician Kingdom in the 15th century, and benefactor of the mapping of the English Way.

We leave Betanzos behind to head for Hospital de Bruma, in Mesía, passing by the municipality of Leiro. At the end of this stage the route joins the one of the English Way that begins in [A Coruña](#). (See the last two stages in the previous route)



THE NORTHERN ROUTE

1. Ribadeo – Lourenzá
2. Lourenzá – Abadín
3. Abadín – Vilalba
4. Vilalba – Baamonde
5. Baamonde – Sobrado dos Monxes
6. Sobrado dos Monxes – Arzúa
7. Arzúa – Arca
8. Arca – Santiago de Compostela.

The Northern Route, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2015, enters Galicia through Ribadeo and continues 198 km until Compostela. There have been many famous pilgrims who have chosen this route, like Saint Francis of Assisi, who made this Jacobean route in 1214.



RIBADEO - LOURENZÁ

The Way passes through France and the North of Spain, and enters Galicia in Ribadeo, crossing the homonymous ría, considered an Special Protection Area of birds. We can deviate from the route towards the Northeast, to the Pancha Island, which has a wonderful viewpoint over the Cantabric sea. We continue until the centre of the village, where the Convent of Santa Clara, from the 11th century, is located, as well as the Trindade chapel (12th century) in the upper part of the A Atalaia viewpoint. There are also several examples of Indiana architecture, such as the Moreno Tower.

We then head for Vilanova de Lourenzá and pass through Vilela, A Ponte, Vilamartín Pequeno and Gondán. Once we are in Vilanova, we can find the Monastery of San Salvador, which was founded in 969 and constitutes a Baroque reference in Galicia. Its monastic church, dedicated to Saint Mary, houses the paleochristian Sarcophagus of Conde Santo.



Viewpoint of Pancha island



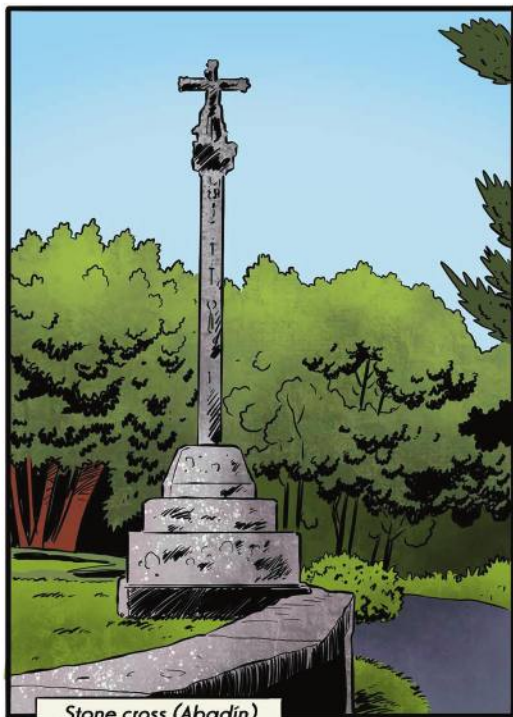
Cathedral of Mondoñedo

LOURENZÁ - ABADÍN

In this stage the Way meets another route coming from Santiago de la Ría de Abres, which crosses Trabada, and we pass through small villages until we reach Mondoñedo, the capital of the region until 1833, and Álvaro Cunqueiro's birthplace. The cathedral, founded in 1833 and dedicated to the Virgin of the Assumption, is the symbol of the city. It is a Romanesque building, although it has Gothic and Baroque parts which were added in subsequent years. The Interpretation Centre of the Northern Route and the countless religious heritage sites will conclude our visit to the village. Our route continues until Abadín, in the region of A Terra Chá.

ABADÍN - VILALBA

When we reach Abadín, we find the Romanesque church dedicated to Saint Mary, a simple building with a chapel that was rebuilt in the 16th century in an Isabelline Gothic style. Next to it there is a stone cross with Christ figures in the front and the Piety in its back. Afterwards, we continue this stage through the beautiful peatlands until we reach Vilalba.



Stone cross (Abadín)



Tower of Andrade

VILALBA - BAAMONDE

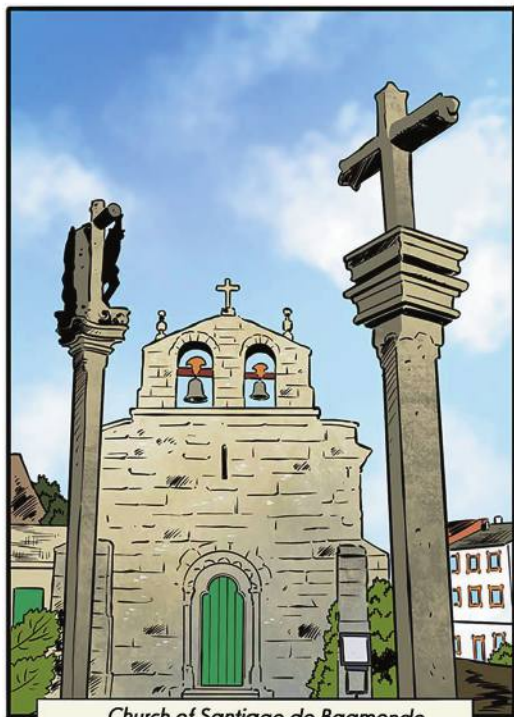
In the entry of the municipality of Vilalba we can visit the Prehistory and Archaeology Museum. Next, we can walk through the old part of the village and see the Andrade Tower, a current National Tourism Parador, the church of Santa María and the Pravia of Vilalba, a centenary tree which is part of the Galician Catalogue of Singular Trees. We can't leave without tasting the famous San Simón cheese and the Vilalba capon.

We leave Vilalba, heading for Alba. We pass by the Pazo de Penas Corveiras, originally owned by the Ombreiro Marquis, and by the restored O Rañego mill, until we reach the Ponte Rodríguez and Ponte de Saa bridges over the Labrada river, and we continue towards Baamonde.

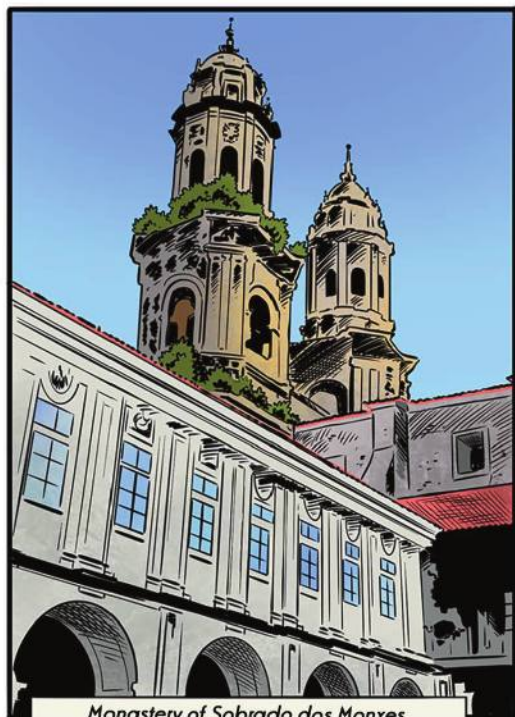
BAAMONDE - SOBRADO DOS MONXES

In the parish of Baamonde, belonging to the municipality of Begonte, we can visit the church from the 9th century dedicated to the apostle St. James, which has a three-crosses Calvary from the 18th century next to it, as well as the sculptor Víctor Corral Museum-House.

We leave Baamonde towards the municipality of Guitiriz. Going into the woods and passing by a medieval bridge we can see the Santo Alberte Gothic chapel, where there is a 'romería' celebrated in honour of the saint every May. We continue through San Paio de Seixón, with its Romanesque church, until the village of Friol, with its famous Friol cheese and the Ousá bread. We keep moving towards the province of A Coruña, finishing this stage in the village of Sobrado.



Church of Santiago de Baamonde



Monastery of Sobrado dos Monxes

SOBRADO DOS MONXES - ARZÚA

The historical-artistic monument of the Sobrado dos Monxes Monastery stands out with its impressive Baroque church, which dates back to 952.

We leave the monastic village and we pass by the San Lourenzo de Carelle church, continuing our way until Boimorto. Between here and Arzúa we will travel through beautiful landscapes and diverse popular architecture. When we arrive in Arzúa, our route meets the French Way until [Santiago de Compostela](#).

THE PRIMITIVE WAY

1. Alto do Acebo - Paradavella
2. Paradavella - Castroverde
3. Castroverde - Lugo
4. Lugo - San Romao da Retorta
5. San Romao da Retorta - Melide
6. Melide - Arzúa (Enlaza có camiño francés)
7. Arzúa - Arca
8. Arca - Santiago de Compostela.

The Primitive Way is the first and the oldest pilgrimage route, declared in 2015 a World Heritage site by UNESCO, together with the Northern Way. The route connects Oviedo and Santiago, mostly going through Roman roads. It was a path very frequented by the Asturian-Galician people in the 9th and 10th centuries, as well as a pilgrimage source in other parts of the North of Spain and Europe.



ALTO DO ACEBO - PARADAVELLA



Viewpoint in Alto do Acebo

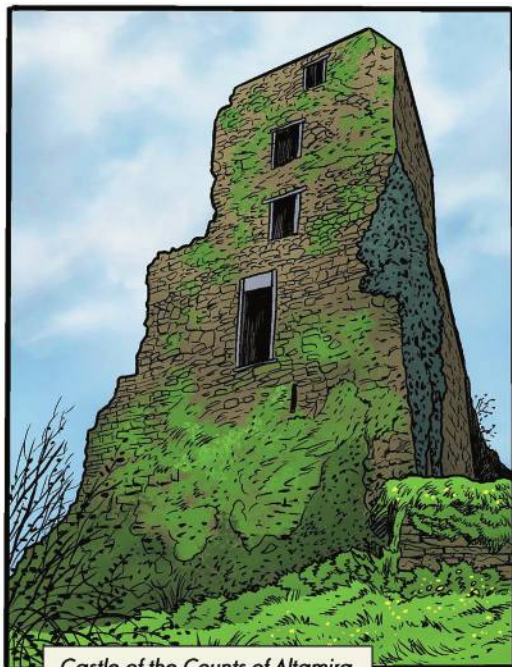
We start this route getting into Galicia from Asturias through the Alto do Acebo, a 1030-metres-high viewpoint that surprises us with its magic landscape. We pass through Fonfría and Paradanova until the highest village of Galicia: A Fonsagrada, which belonged to Asturias until 1835.

Protected by the temple, we find the Fons Sacrata, a fountain that gave the place its name.

The Regional Museum, founded by the village neighbours in 1984, has ethnographic, archaeological and contemporary-art pieces.

At this point of the Way we can either continue through San Xoán do Padrón, or through A Proba de Burón, which will later meet at the Montouto hospital. We continue our way until Padrón, with the church of San Xoán from the 18th century, and A Proba de Burón, with the Hospital da Trindade and the Castle of the Counts of Altamira (also known as A Fortaleza), a target of the Irmandiños' attacks, where there only remains the Homenaje Tower and some vestiges.

We continue the Way passing by the ruins of the Montouto hospital, a former pilgrim hostel founded in 1357, until we reach Paradavella, still in the municipality of A Fonsagrada.



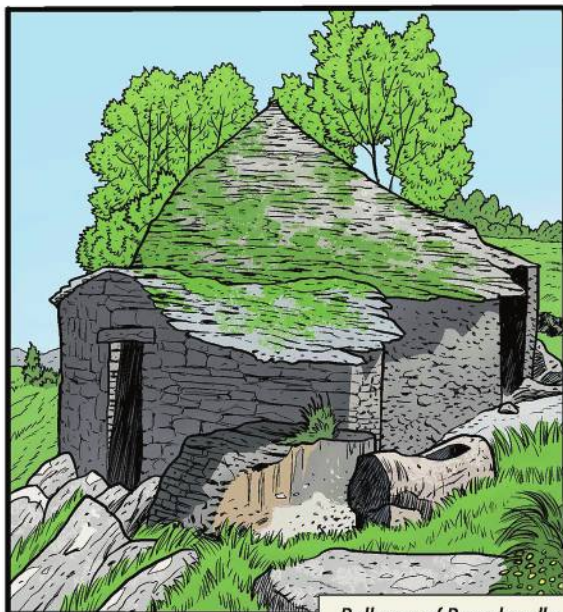
Castle of the Counts of Altamira

PARADAVELLA - CASTROVERDE

Walking through Paradavella, we can see the hórreos and 'pallozas' (traditional houses made of stone with straw roofs), very characteristic of this mountain area. Regarding gastronomy, the 'doces da Fonsagrada' - a butter and almond-based dessert- will satisfy the sweet teeth.

From Paradavella we continue towards O Cádavo, with the curious O Campo da Matanza legend: according to the oral tradition, the place is named after a battle between King Alfonso II "the Chaste" and the islamic army, when the Galician kingdom troops were heading for Compostela with the Apostle's tomb.

Going up towards Vilabade, we can visit the Santa María church (15th-17th century), which has a Baroque-style main altarpiece, around which the Franciscan convent was built. Next to it we can see the Abraira-Arana pazo, better known as the Pazo of Vilabade.



Pallozas of Paradavella

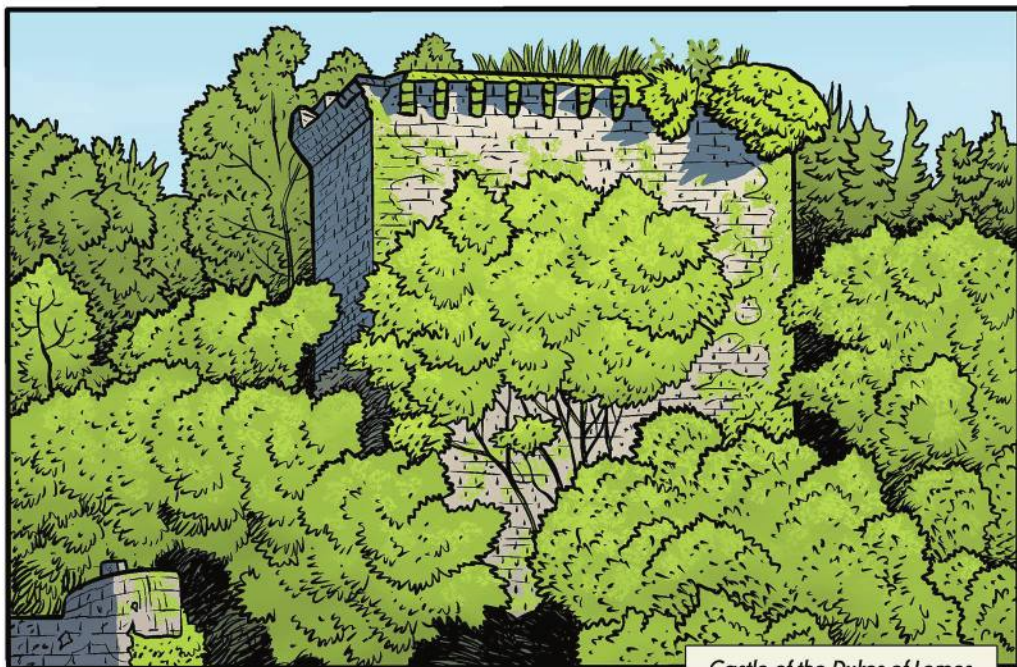


O Cádavo

CASTROVERDE - LUGO

We arrive in Castroverde, where it stands out the Homenaje Tower of the Castle of Duques de Lemos, from the 14th century.

In our way to **Lugo** we will pass by the pre-Roman church of Soutomerille, and we will continue through several landscapes among rivers, meadows and autochthonous forest, going through Santa María de Gondar and Carballido, in order to enter, finally, the oldest city of Galicia, the Roman Lucus Augusti.

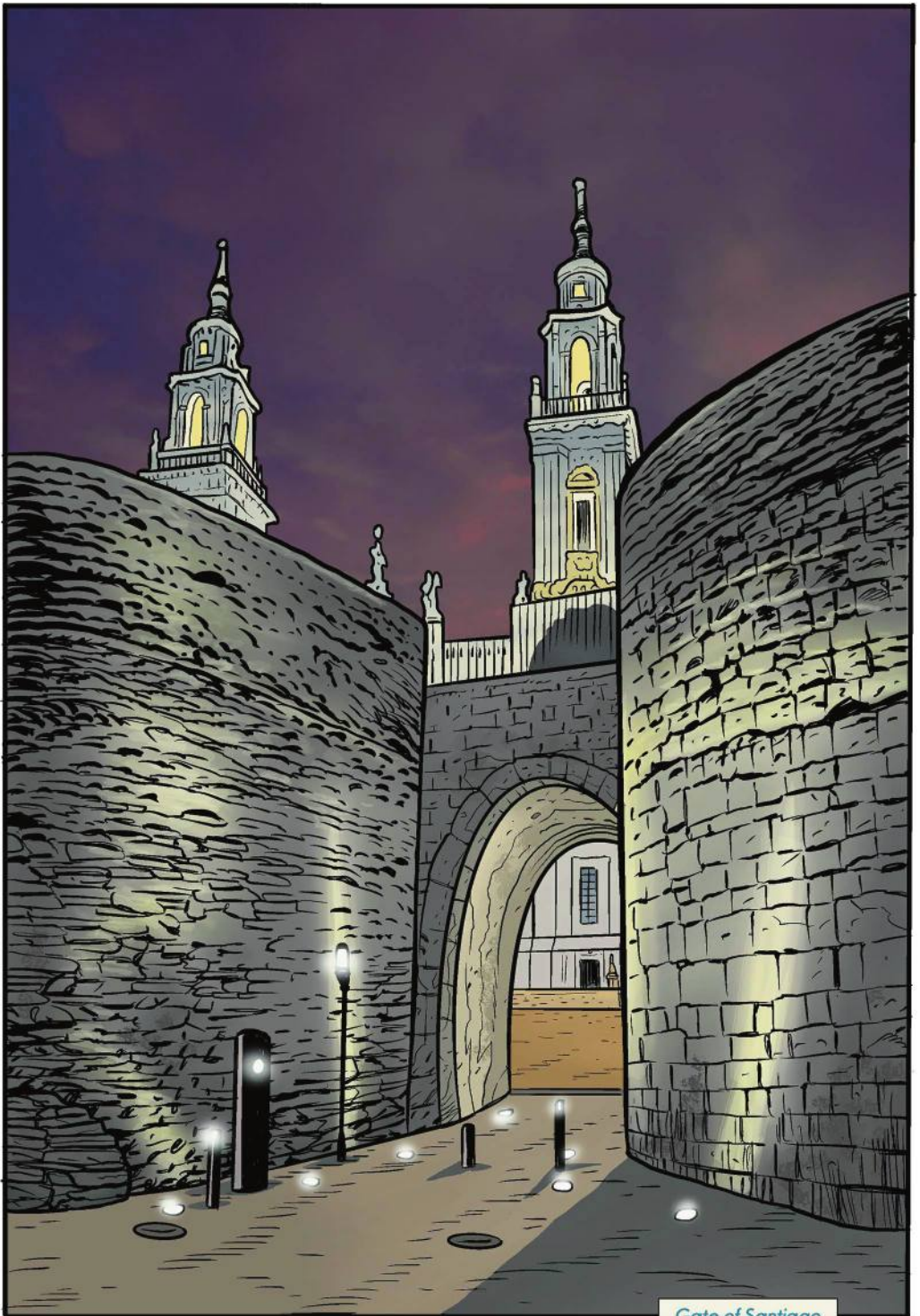


Castle of the Dukes of Lemos

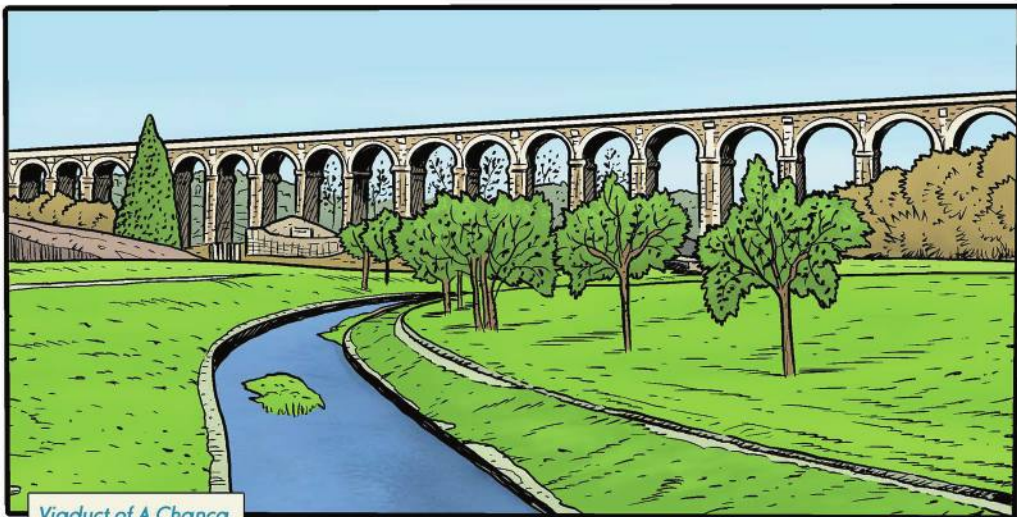
LUGO - SAN ROMAO DA RETORTA

Lugo will be welcoming us after we cross the A Chanca viaduct bridge. Inside the Wall, declared a World Heritage site in 2000, with the gates that give access to the city centre, we will find the historic quarter, with the Santa María Cathedral that was initiated in the 12th century, with several Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassic-style extensions; the Lugo Provincial Museum; or the Way of St. James Interpretation Centre, among many other elements with heritage value. In the Main Square, with the Town Hall at the end, we can see the monument to the city founders, Paullus Fabius Maximus and the Emperor Augustus.

We leave **Lugo** towards San Romao da Retorta to travel its beautiful river landscapes, the Roman Baths, and the church of San Vicente do Burgo, as well as the Temple of Santalla de Bóveda and the Romanesque church of San Miguel de Bacurín.



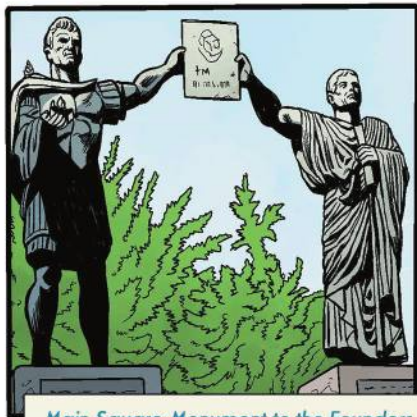
Gate of Santiago



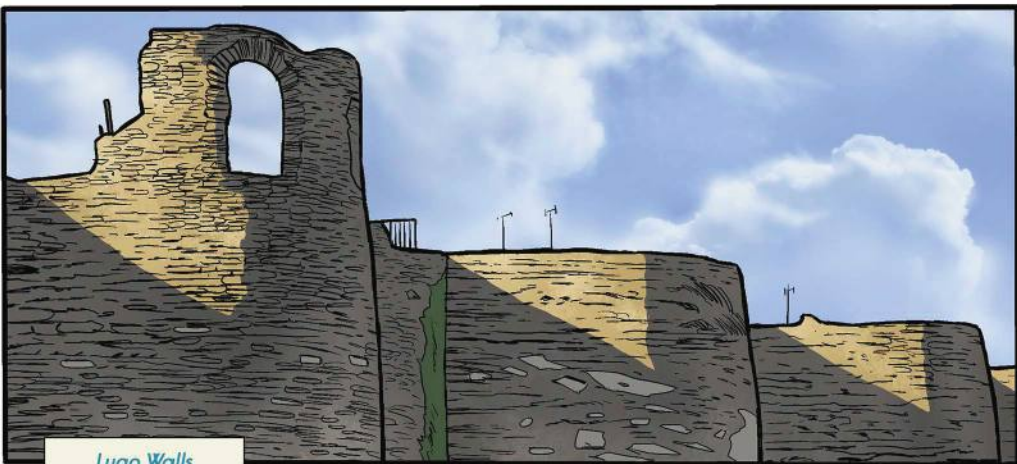
Viaduct of A Chanca



Roman Wall



Main Square-Monument to the Founders



Lugo Walls



Temple of Santalla de Bóveda



Interpretation Centre of the Way of St. James



Cathedral of Santa María

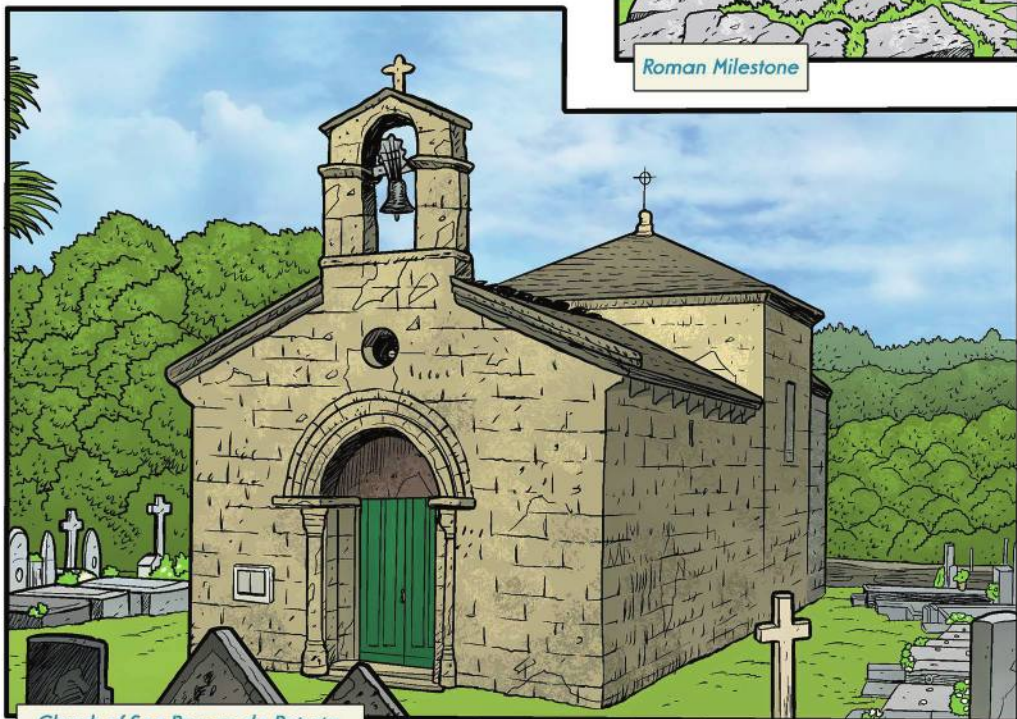
SAN ROMAO DA RETORTA - MELIDE

San Romao da Retorta, in the municipality of Guntín, will delight us with its architectural expressions. A Roman milestone indicates that the Primitive Way maintains the route of a former Roman road. We continue towards A Ponte Ferreira, whose Romanesque church of San Martiño, from the 12th century, can be accessed through the medieval bridge.

We go back to nature, passing through one of the best preserved areas of the Galician autochthonous forests, until we reach Melide, where our route meets the French Way and they run together until [Santiago de Compostela](#).



Roman Milestone

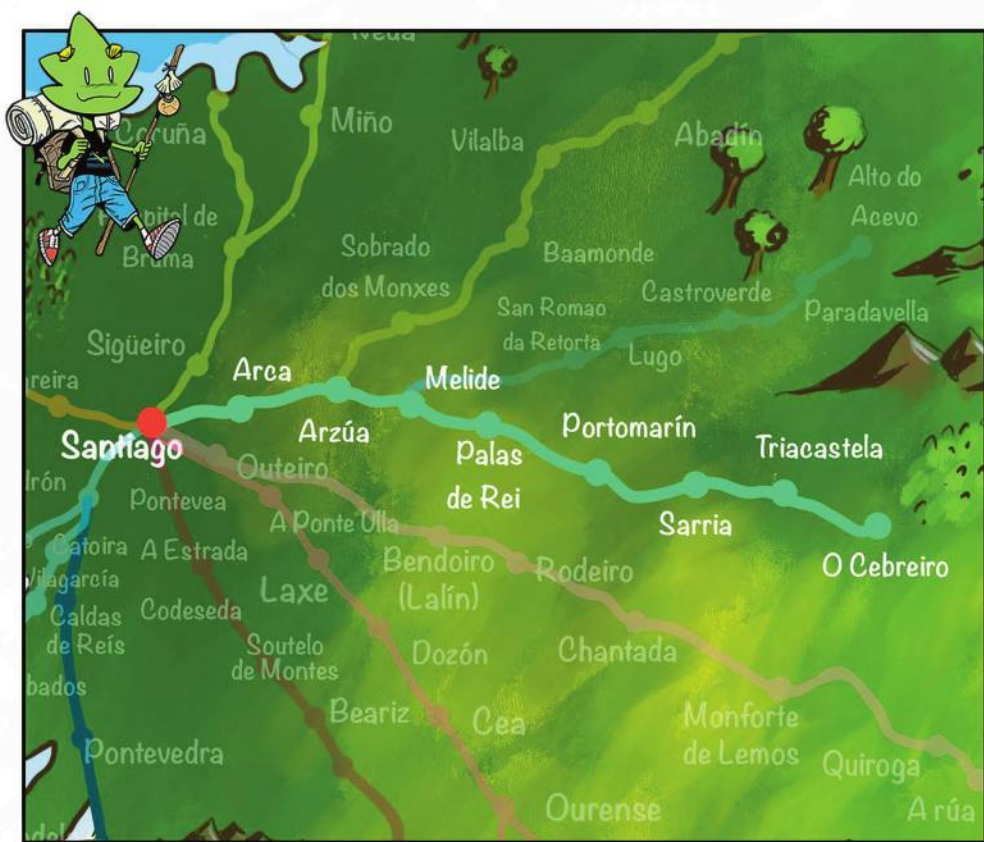


Church of San Romao da Retorta

THE FRENCH WAY

1. O Cebreiro - Triacastela
2. Triacastela - Sarria
3. Sarria - Portomarín
4. Portomarín - Palas de Rei
5. Palas de Rei - Melide
6. Melide - Arzúa
7. Arzúa - Arca
8. Arca - Santiago de Compostela.

The French Way or Via Francigena was declared as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1993. It is the route with the largest pilgrim inflow. Aimeric Picaud's "Pilgrim's guide", included in the fifth book of the Codex Calixtinus in 1135, shows the importance of the importance of this pilgrimage route to Compostela. The guide contains the French Way routes from France, and gives information about sanctuaries, hospitality, and local food and customs, among others.



O CEBREIRO - TRIACASTELA

The Way coming from León arrives in Galicia through Pedrafita do Cebreiro, between the mountains of O Courel and Os Ancares. We reach the church of Santa María la Real, from the 9th century, and also the pre-Roman pallozas, inhabited until the last century. We continue the route towards Liñares, where, after passing through steep climbs and descents, we can find the San Roque hill (1,270m) with a pilgrim statue looking at the valley.

Afterwards, we pass through the villages of Hospital da Condesa, which is named after the pilgrim hospital that was there in the first centuries of the jacobean tradition, O Podornelo, Fonfría, and O Biduedo, before going down to Triacastela. In this village we can find the Eirós cave, with cave paintings and engravings that could date back 30,000 years ago.

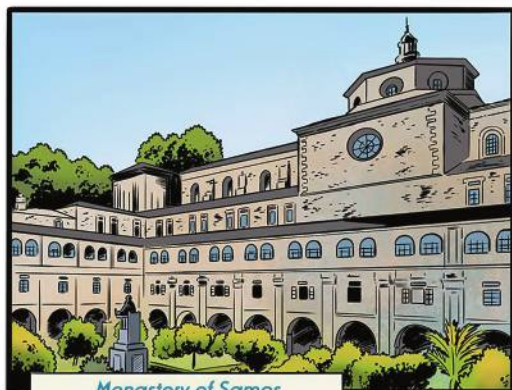


San Roque hill

TRIACASTELA - SARRIA

In Triacastela we will pass by the Santiago church, of Romanesque origin (9th century) to go towards Sarria. We can choose between the shortest way through San Xil, or the longest one through Samos, passing by its famous monastery, founded by San Martiño Dumiense in the 6th century. Once there, we can see the mixture of architectural styles that resulted from the lootings and fires that it suffered over the years.

Entering the village of Sarria, we can make the route of As Aceas, which crosses the Sarria river among mills, waterfalls, and the autochthonous forests.



Monastery of Samos

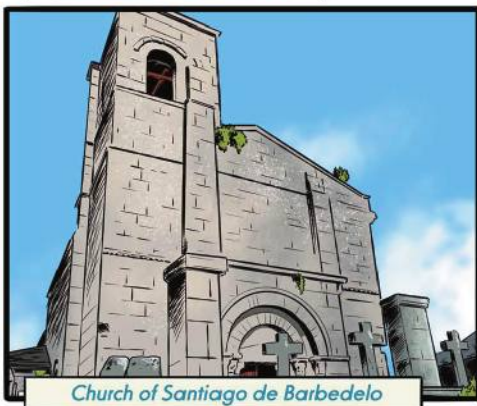


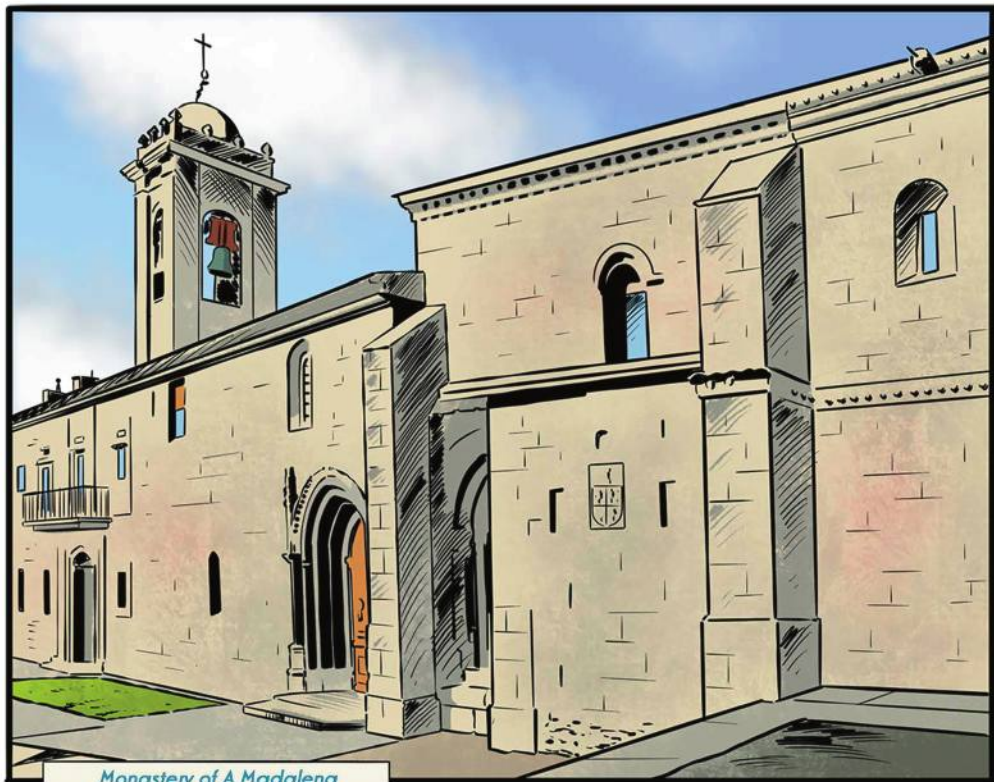
Route of As Aceas

SARRIA - PORTOMARÍN

In this village we can witness the important presence of the Way through its manifold hostels and religious monuments. After going up the main staircase, we reach the neo-Gothic church of Santa Mariña de Sarria. We continue through the Romanesque San Salvador church, which dates back to the 13th century and has Gothic elements; the vestiges of a medieval fortress from the 15th century known as Sarria Tower; and we finally arrive to the Magdalena Monastery. The latter was founded in the 13th century and served as a pilgrim hospital and hostel.

We leave the village and we cross the A Áspera bridge. We start the descent towards Barbadele, next to a church also dedicated to St. James, until we reach the highest point of this stage, in the village of Ferreiros, the first one in Lugo's Ribeira Sacra.





Monastery of A Madalena

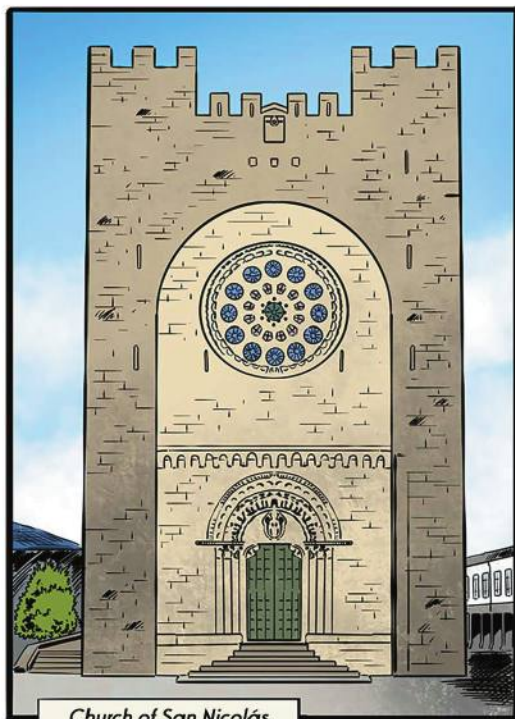


A Áspera bridge

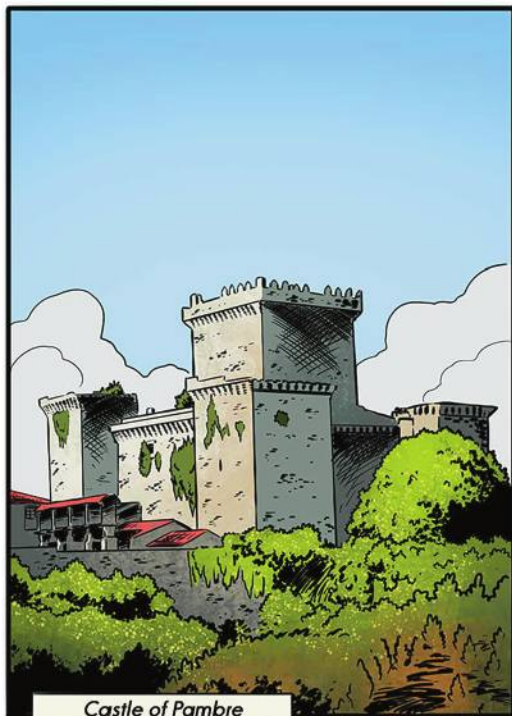
PORTOMARÍN - PALAS DE REI

Continuing our way, we arrive at the Belesar reservoir in the municipality of Portomarín. Its construction in 1963 provoked the transfer of the village relevant monuments to a higher place, such as the churches of San Nicolás and San Pedro, the latter of Romanesque style from the 12th century, which belonged to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Leaving Portomarín behind, we will pass through Gonzor, Castromaior and Vendas de Narón, with its chapel dedicated to Magdalene (13th century), and we will continue through A Eirexe and Lestedo until Palas de Rei. Here we can see the Romanesque church of San Tirso, with its outstanding Romanesque façade.



Church of San Nicolás



Castle of Pambre

PALAS DE REI - PALAS DE REI - MELIDE

We leave Palas de Rei to head for the Castle of Pambre (14th century), a Site of Cultural Interest and Historic Heritage of Spain, considered one of the few that survived the Irmandiños' revolt. We enter the province of A Coruña through Leboeiro, until the Furelos medieval bridge, mentioned in the Codex Calixtinus. From here, we head for Melide, where the historic quarter awaits.

MELIDE - ARZÚA

MELIDE - ARZÚA

In Melide, the Primitive Way meets the French Way. In this village, it must be highlighted the church of San Pedro de Melide (14th century).

Once the historic part has been explored, we leave the village behind to get into Boente and Ribadiso, and finally we reach Arzúa, where cheese becomes a party every March. Here the French Way also meets the Northern Way.



Church of San Pedro de Melide



Chapel of A Madalena

ARZÚA - ARCA

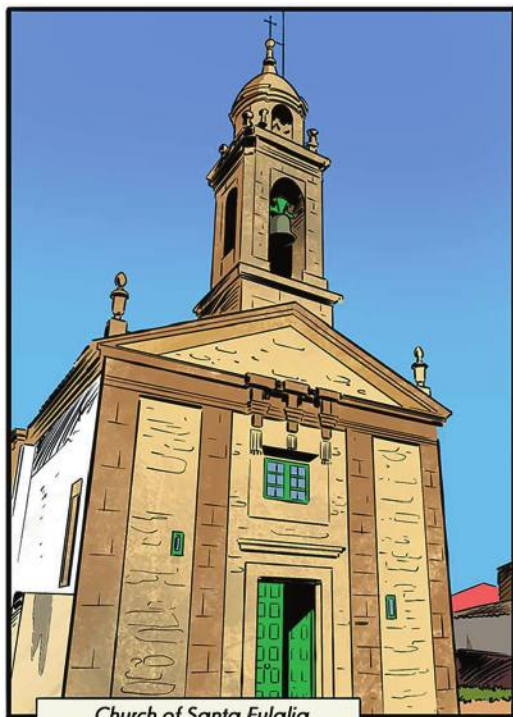
ARZÚA - ARCA

In the centre of Arzúa we can find the church of Santiago and the Romanesque Chapel of Magdalena, the only remaining vestige from the Augustinian monk convent built in the 14th century to host pilgrims, which has been reconverted and is currently an exhibition hall.

We leave Arzúa behind and we head for Arca, in the municipality of O Pino, crossing the oak and eucalyptus woods, as well as farming pastures. In Santa Irene we can see a chapel in her honor (from the 17th century), as well as a fountain whose water, according to the legend, provides eternal youth. Finally, we continue towards O Pedrouzo, heart of the parish of Arca, where we can have a break from this nature-dominated stage.

ARCA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

We leave the parish of Arca, going first through the Neoclassic church of Santa Eulalia, and continuing towards the Monte do Gozo, entering Compostela through the San Lázaro neighbourhood. We continue through Os Concheiros and San Pedro streets, until we reach the Porta do Camiño ('the Way's gate'), which gives access to the medieval city of Compostela. To the right, we can see the monastery of San Domingos de Bonaval, where the Museo do Pobo Galego ('Galician Folk Museum') and the Panteón de Galegos Ilustres ('Distinguished Galicians Pantheon') are located. In front of the monastery there is the Galician Museum of Contemporary Art (CGAC), designed by the Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza. In our way to the cathedral we can see the As Ánimas chapel, very close to the Cervantes square, which leads to the gate of the Monastery of San Martiño Pinario. The Way ends in the Obradoiro square, going down the stairs of the passageway that connects the cathedral with the Archbishop's Pazo.



Church of Santa Eulalia

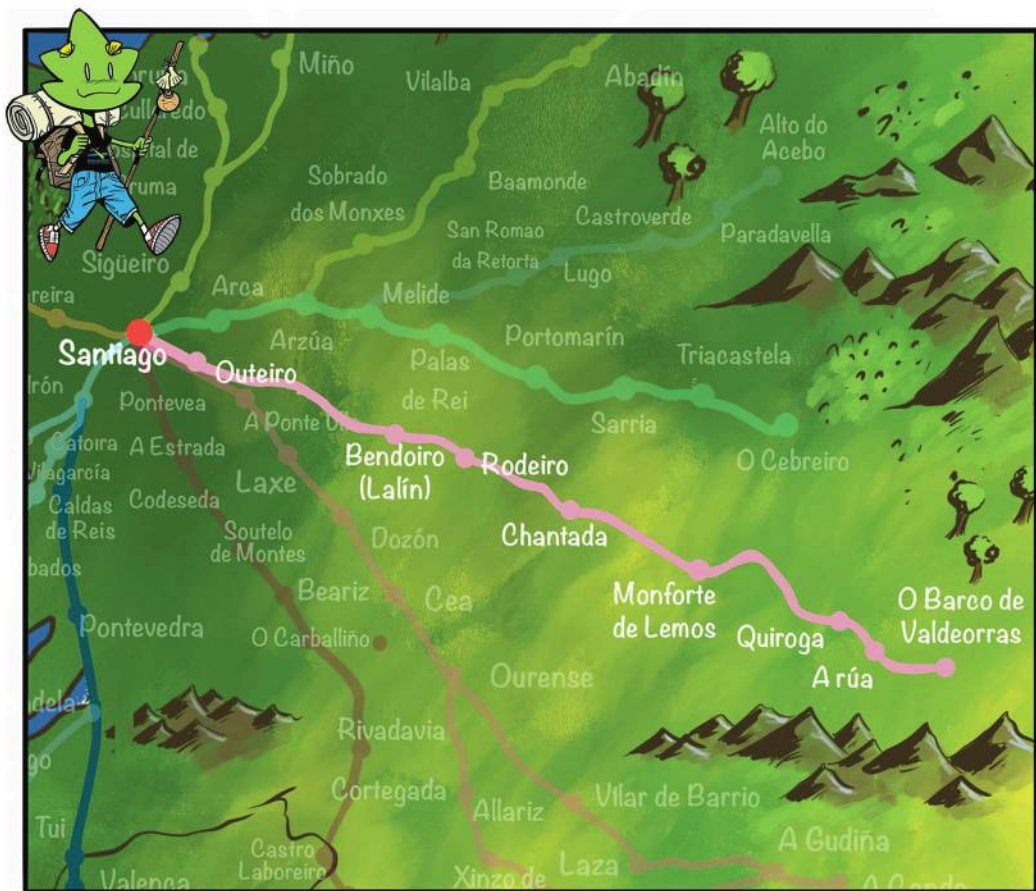


San Pedro street

THE WINTER WAY

1. O Barco de Valdeorras - A Rúa
2. A Rúa - Quiroga
3. Quiroga - Monforte de Lemos
4. Monforte de Lemos - Chantada
5. Chantada - Rodeiro
6. Rodeiro - Lalín - Bendoiro
7. Bendoiro - Outeiro
8. Outeiro - Santiago de Compostela.

This way was traditionally used by pilgrims during winter to avoid the snow in O Cebreiro. It starts in the León regional capital of El Bierzo, in Ponferrada, and goes through the four Galician provinces. In Lalín it meets the Silver Way ('Vía de la Plata') until Compostela.



O BARCO DE VALDEORRAS - A RÚA

We start the Way from the region of Valdeorras. On our way to [O Barco de Valdeorras](#) we can see the village of Éntoma, crossing its Roman bridge and continuing through the village centre. Once there, we can visit the Casa Grande of Viloira and of Riocigüño (both from the 17th century), which show the relevance of the nobility in the region. Moreover, a bit further from the centre we can see the 14th-century Castro Tower and the fortress, declared as Site of Cultural Interest, from where we can have a panoramic sight of the village. We leave towards Vilamarín de Valdeorras through the Sil river bank. The village stands out for its drilled caves, many of which were mines in Roman times, and which are currently used as wineries. We continue our way towards A Rúa, where we can find the Fonteí parochial church (19th-20th century), with a likely Gaudian influence, since Gaudí used to spend resting breaks in the village while the Episcopal Pazo of Astorga was being built.



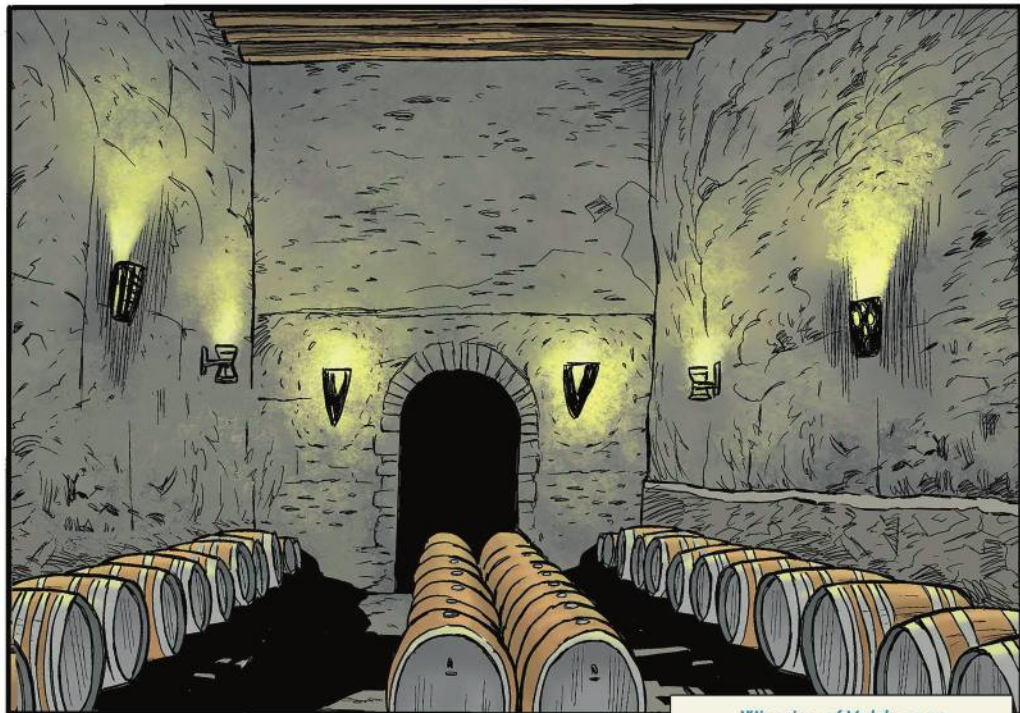
Sil river



Viloria House



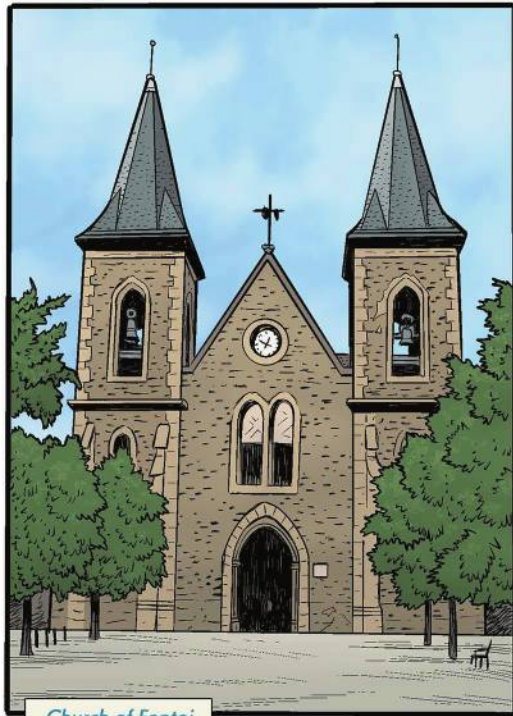
Río Cigüeño House



Wineries of Valdeorras



Tower of O Castro



Church of Fontei

A RÚA - QUIROGA

We continue along the Sil riverbank among olive, fig, and walnut trees, walking along the N-533 towards Albaredo.

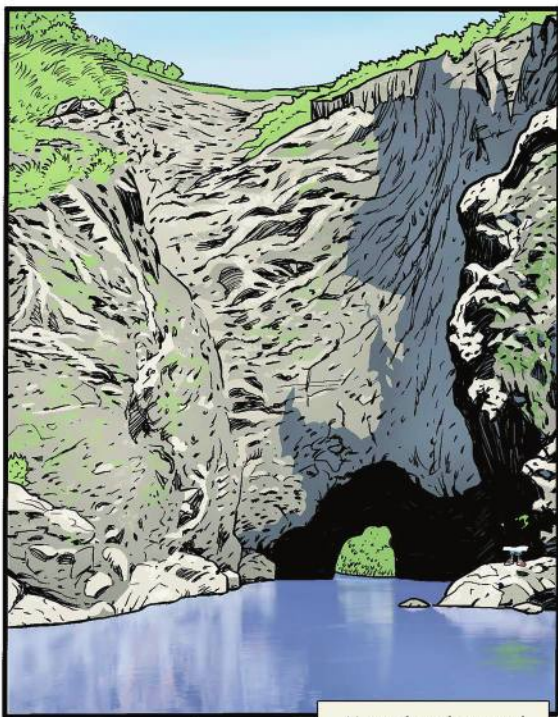
We will reach Montefurado, famous for its tunnel excavated out of the mountain by order of emperor Trajan, to exploit the gold in the Sil river.

We continue our way passing through Ermidón, Venda Vella, Venda Nova, and the chapel of Os Farrapos, which makes reference to the rags that pilgrims had to get rid of upon their arrival.

We will reach Bendilló, where the forge of the Hospital Order of St. John of Jerusalem is located.

We pass by Sequeiros, and we go all the way up to the Castle of Os Novaes (from the 10th century), the residence of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which has a Maltese cross engraved in its rounded arch at the entrance.

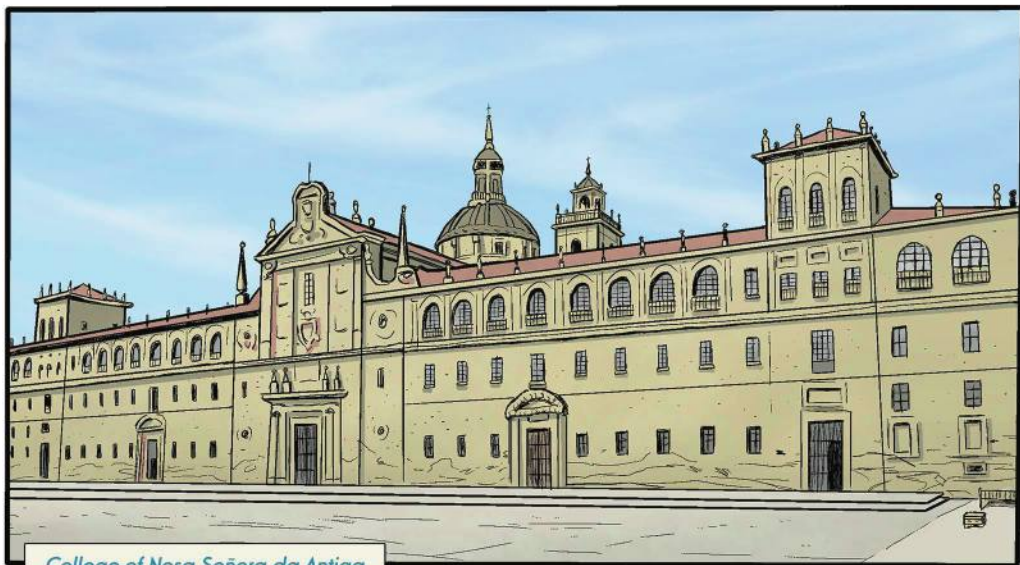
Finally, we start the descent towards Quiroga, where we will cross the medieval bridge of Ponte Pedriña.



Montefurado tunnel

QUIROGA - MONFORTE DE LEMOS

We leave Quiroga along the left bank of the Sil river, passing through Espandariz, Pontido, and San Lourenzo de Nocado, reaching Carballo de Lor. From here, we go down following the Lor river until Carballo de Lor. We pass through Castroncelos, crossing the roman bridge of Labrada, and we arrive in Pobra de Brollón. From here we start the way up to Alto da Serra and Monte Moncal, to finally reach **Monforte de Lemos**, the regional capital of Lemos and Ribeira Sacra. It is a village with a rich heritage, in which the architectural ensemble of San Vicente do Pino stands out with several monuments: the Benedictine monastery from the 10th century and current Parador Hotel; the pazo where the Counts of Lemos used to live; and defensive elements like the wall, the gates, and the Homenaje Tower, from the 13th and 15th centuries, which constitute nowadays a wonderful viewpoint to see the whole Lemos valley. We must also highlight the Jewish quarter and medieval village, which belong to the Spanish Jewry Network, as well as the College of Nosa Señora da Antiga, a Herreian-style building from the 16th century that houses an important picture gallery with artworks by El Greco. Other places of interest here are the Galician Railway Museum, linked to the history of the village, and the detour towards the Sil river Canyon, declared a special conservation site. Here it stands out the Viewpoint of O Duque, where we can scan the terrace-vineyards of A Ribeira Sacra.



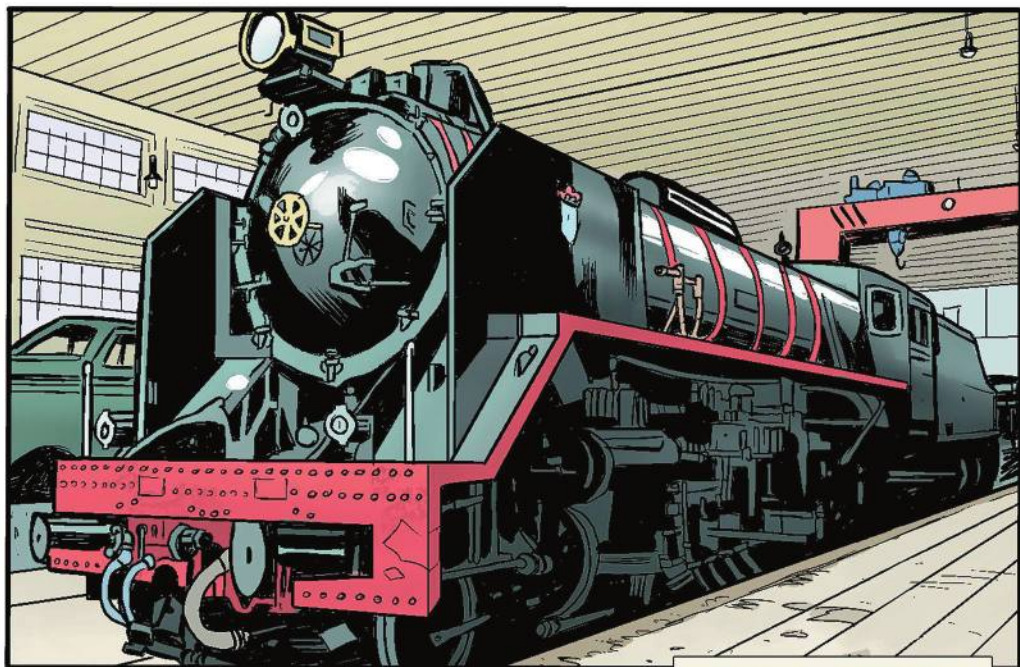
College of Nosa Señora da Antiga



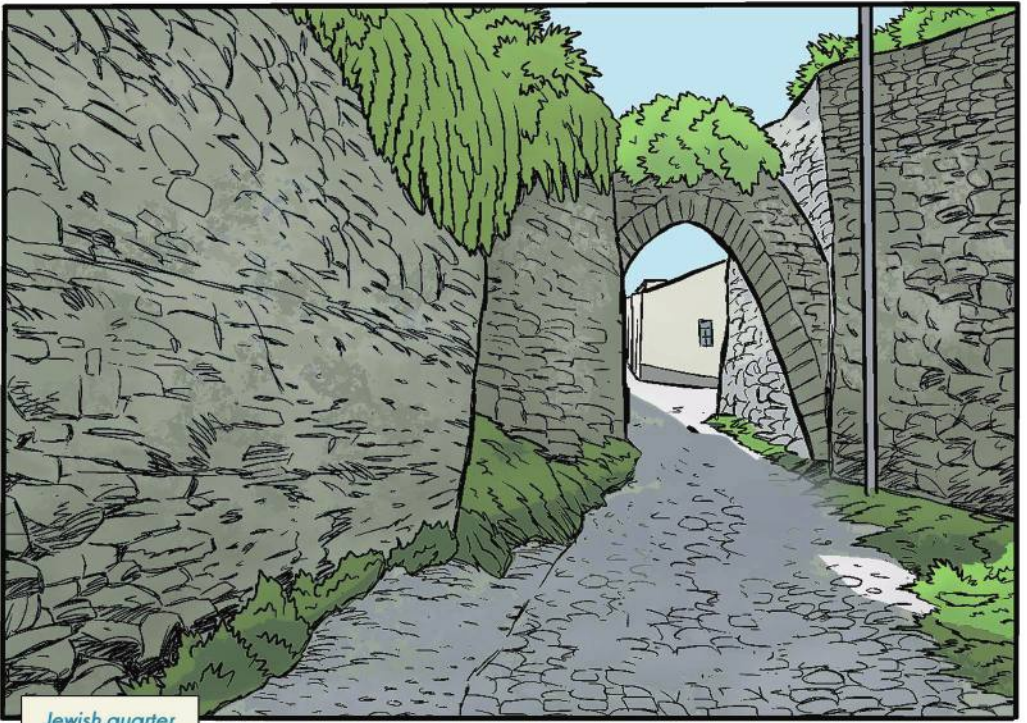
San Vicente de O Pino



Medieval bridge over the Cabe river



Galician Railway Museum



Jewish quarter



Duque Viewpoint Sil Canyon

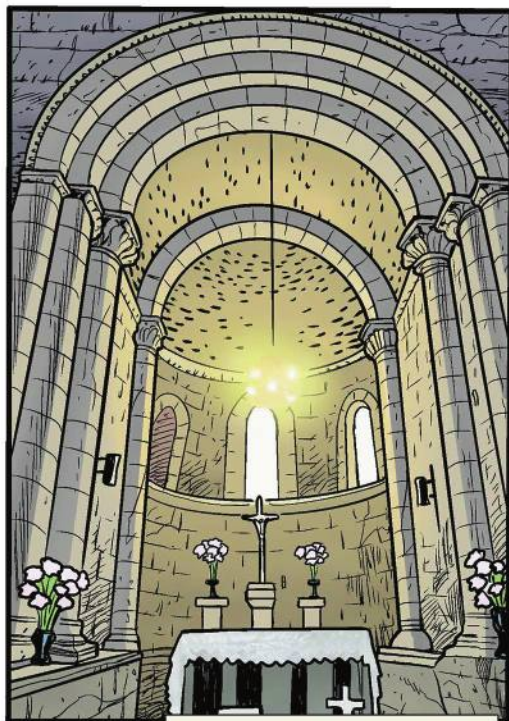
MONFORTE DE LE MOS - CHANTADA

We leave the village through the Ponte Vella medieval bridge, crossing the Cabe river and passing by the Sacred Art Museum and the Claissas Convent.

We leave the Counts of Lemos' lands, heading for Moreda. From here, we continue towards Pantón, passing through O Reguengo, A Barxa and Diomondi, where the Romanesque church of monastic style stands out, especially for its main gate with four archivolts with smooth shafts and historiated capitals.

We go down towards the Belesar bridge over the Miño river, flanked by the so-called 'socialcos', hanging vineyards in terraces which are characteristic of this area.

Once in Chantada, we pass by San Pedro de Lincora until we reach the capital of A Terra Chá: Chantada.



Church of San Paio de Diomondi

CHANTADA - RODEIRO



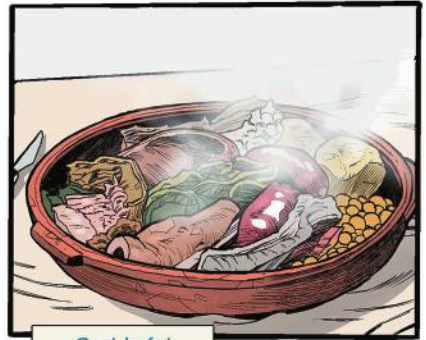
Hermitage of Nosa Señora do Faro

This stage runs through crosses, hórreos and 'peto de ánimas', as well as a nice display of Galician flora, full of oaks and chestnut trees. We leave Chantada towards Centulle and San Xurxo de Asma, and we find the Benedictine monastery of San Salvador (9th century). We cross A Lucenza, Vilaseco and Penasillás, climbing the Faro mount, and we enter the chapel of Nosa Señora do Faro, although we can also take the alternative route that passes by Mouricios and San Vicente. We go down towards A Casa Grande de Camba, passing by Ermida, Río and Mouriz, until we reach Rodeiro, where we can see the astonishing Council House, raised upon the ruins of a fortress.

RODEIRO - LALÍN - BENDOIRO

We depart from Lalín through the C-533, and we cross the Ponte do Hospital bridge until we reach A Penerbosa, where we cross the medieval bridge of Ponte Pedroso. Our way keeps running through A Ponte, former hostelry of the Way of St. James, Val de Boi, Coto de Anta, Coto de Mamuela, and Palmaz, until we arrive in Lalín, located in the Kilometre Zero of Galicia, that is, the geographical centre of the Autonomous Region. The village is famous for its annual celebration of the 'cocido gallego' (Galician stew), when the pig becomes the village's mascot, as we can see in the Pork Art colourful artistic expressions in several places of its urban area.

Here we can see the Municipal Museum of Ramón María Aller Ulloa (1878-1966), a famous astronomer and nature mathematician of the village, the innovative Town Hall, also known as Technological Castro, designed by architects Luis M. Mansilla and Emilio Tuñón, and the Pazos of Gil Taboada and Liñares. From here, the Way meets the Silver Way until they reach Compostela.



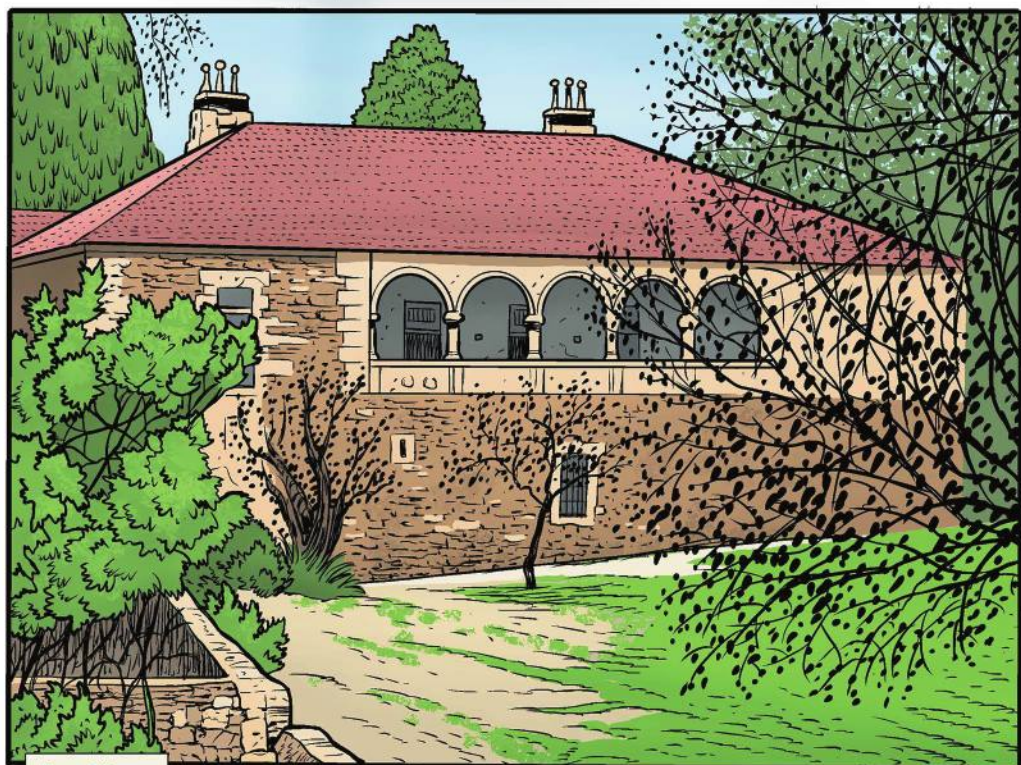
Cocido fair



Pork Art



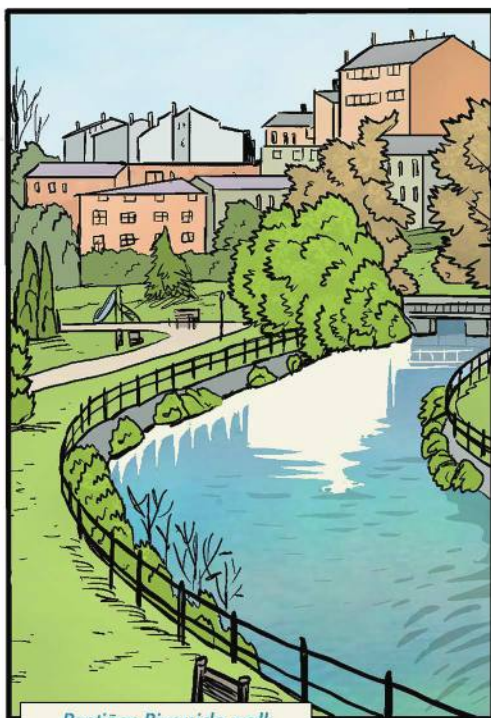
Municipal Museum of Ramón María Aller Ulloa



Pazo Liñares



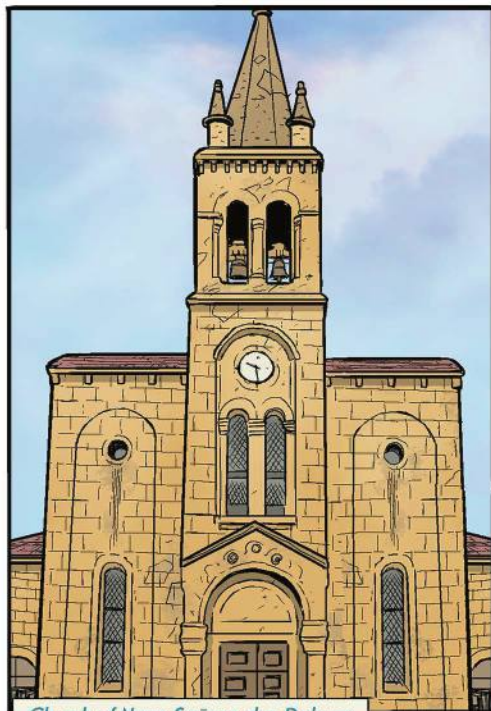
Pazo of Gil Taboada



Pontiñas Riverside walk



Town Hall in the Castro Tecnológico



Church of Nosa Señora dos Dolores

THE SILVER WAY: SOUTHEASTERN WAY

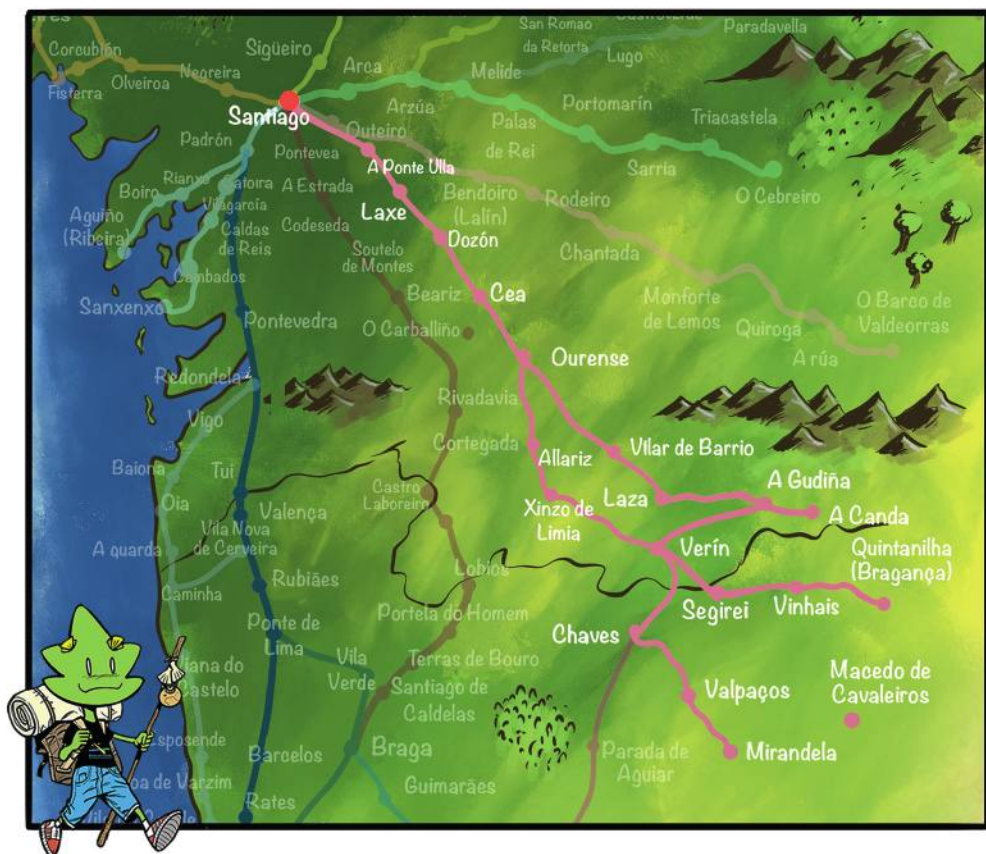
VERSION THROUGH LAZA

1. A Canda (A Mezquita) - A Gudiña
2. A Gudiña - Laza
3. Laza - Vilar de Barrio
4. Vilar de Barrio - Ourense
5. Ourense - Cea
6. Cea - Dozón
7. Dozón - Laxe
8. Laxe - A Ponte Ulla
9. A Ponte Ulla - Santiago

VERSION THROUGH VERÍN

1. A Canda (A Mezquita) - A Gudiña
2. A Gudiña - Verín
3. Verín - Xinzo de Limia
4. Xinzo de Limia - Allariz
5. Allariz - Ourense
6. Ourense - Cea
7. Cea - Dozón
8. Dozón - Laxe
9. Laxe - A Ponte Ulla
10. A Ponte Ulla - Santiago

The Southeastern Way is also known as the Silver Way, which comes from the Arabic Bal'latta and which referred to the cobbled public way through which Muslims headed for the Christian north. This Way enters Galicia through the municipalities of A Mezquita and A Gudiña. The route allows the traveller to enjoy the wonderful landscapes of the Macizo Central in Ourense. Once here, we can choose between two routes: the one that goes towards Verín, or the one that passes through Laza. Both flow into Ourense and continue together until Santiago de Compostela.

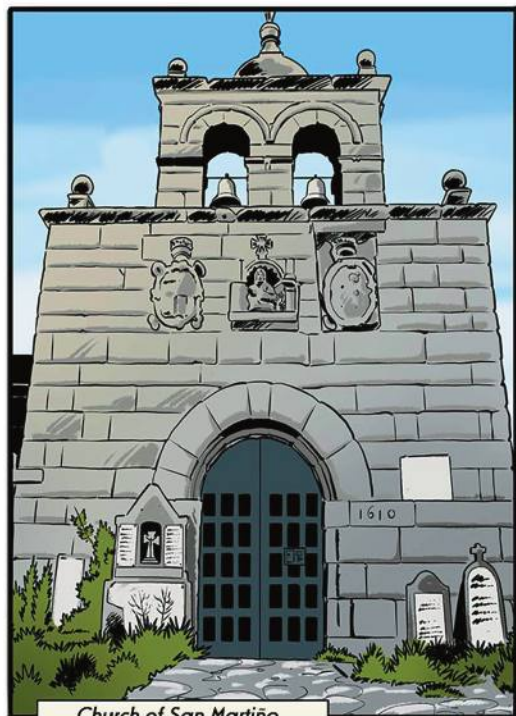


A CANDA (A MEZQUITA) - A GUDIÑA

We start in the Portela da Canda mountain pass, in the municipality of A Mezquita. This town was a historic link between Castilla, Galicia and Portugal, frequented by pilgrims, harvesters, muleteers and procurers who arrived here for different reasons. We cross Vilavella and we continue until O Pereiro, where it stands out the church of San Pedro and the Loreto chapel. We continue our route through ancient cobbled paths, enjoying the natural landscape that surrounds us until we arrive in A Gudiña.



Ourense massif - Mezquita



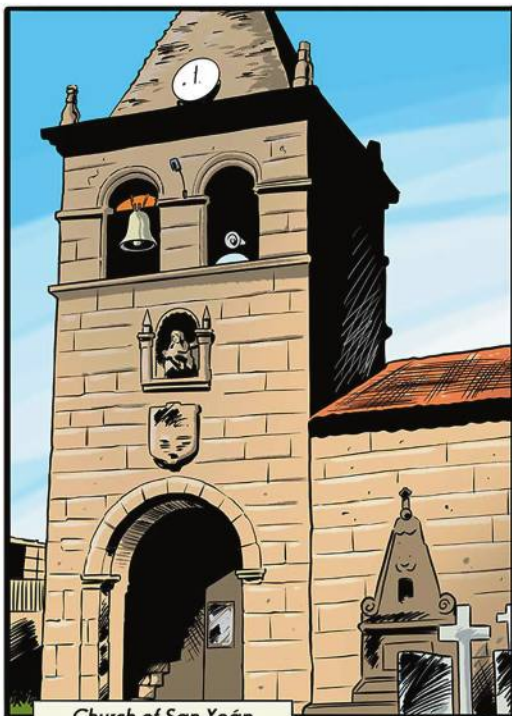
Church of San Martiño

SOUTHEASTERN WAY BY LAZA A GUDIÑA - LAZA

We depart from the church of San Martiño da Gudiña, with a rounded-arch façade, and an inscription of its foundation year, 1619, with subsequent modifications until the 18th century. Continuing the prolongation of the Roman road that connected Emerita Augusta (Merida) and Asturica Augusta (Astorga), we take the Vereca Vella or the Vereca Sur, with its wonderful landscapes of the Serra Seca, which comes to an end in Campobeceros, a parish that belonged to the Santiaguist Congregation of San Marcos de León. From here, we get into Porto Camba and the Val da Serra de San Mamede, formerly belonging to the Montederramo Monastery. From Eiras we enter Laza, famous for its Entroido, the Galician Carnival, and its 'Peliqueiros'.

LAZA - VILAR DE BARRIO

In Laza, we can see the San Xoán church, which stands out for its Tuscan style and the four baroque gilded altars inside. Going up the Támega river we will reach Tamicelas, and after a steep rise, the pilgrim arrives in Santa María da Alberguería. There used to be a travellers inn and a pilgrim hospital. Afterwards, we go up to the Alto da Paradiña in the Talariño mount, in the municipality of Sarreaus, where the Limia river is born. This river was also known by the Greek and Romans as the Letheo river, or 'Oblivion river'. The pre-Roman inhabitants of the region believed that crossing this river caused complete forgetfulness. According to the Latin writer Pliny, the Roman general Decimus Junius Brutus was the first person who dared to cross its waters in 138 BC, demystifying the legend. We will go down from here until we reach Vilar de Barrio.



Church of San Xoán



Chapel of San Lourenzo

VILAR DE BARRIO - OURENSE

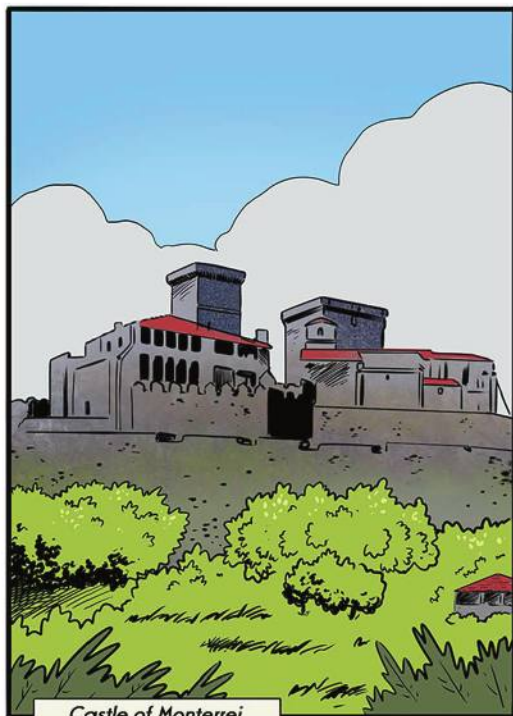
We continue towards Vilar de Gomairete, passing through Xunqueira de Ambía and Sobradelo. Crossing the Roman Via XVIII, we can see the Roman milestones that remain there. We continue towards Bovadela and Cima de Vila to enter Xunqueira de Ambía; a very important medieval spiritual centre. We continue through the municipalities of San Xillau, Vila Nova, Os Casares, Baños de Molgas, Paderne de Allariz, Taboadela and San Cibrao das Viñas.

In As Pereiras we continue the road towards **Ourense**, reaching the end of this stage. Here the Way meets the alternative route that comes from Verín.

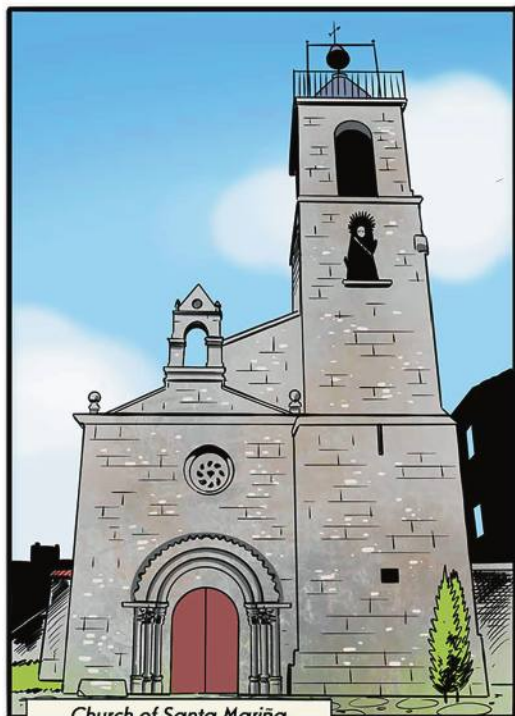
SOUTHEASTERN WAY BY VERÍN A GUDIÑA - VERÍN

From A Gudiña we head for San Mamede de Pentes, and continue through O Mente, O Navallo and Riós, until we reach As Vendas da Barreira. Strolling through oak and chestnut woods, we reach Mirós.

From here, we go up towards Fumaces until Verín, where the Pazo of Monterrei awaits. It was founded in the 10th century and now declared as Site of Cultural Interest, together with the historical ensemble where it stands out the Pilgrim Hospital from 1391.



Castle of Monterrei



Church of Santa Mariña

VERÍN - XINZO DE LIMIA

From Albarellos we go through Guillarei, Rebordondo and Pena Verde, continuing through Viladerrei and Zos, reaching the heart of the A Limia region: Xinzo. This village is known for its Entroido, and we can find here the Santa Mariña church, with an outstanding Romanesque façade from the 12th century, decorated with vegetal and floral ornamentation carved in the stone.

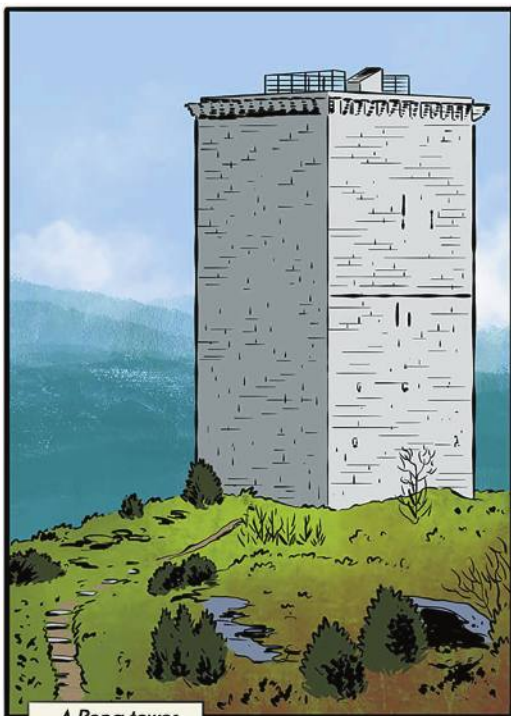
This area accommodated as well the largest freshwater lagoon of Spain, until it was drained in the 60s. Today we can visit As Areeiras da Limia, a space of environmental recovery of the former lagoon where we can watch diverse birdlife.

XINZO DE LIMIA - ALLARIZ

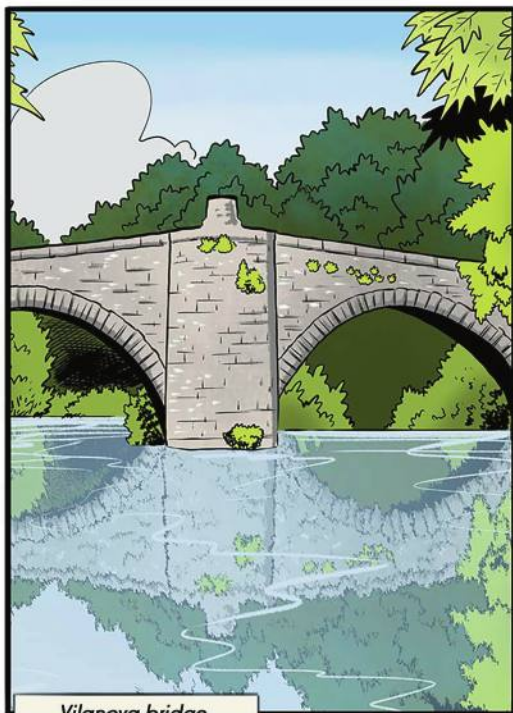
We continue our way passing by Vilaríño de Poldras, Couso de Limia and Vilar de Sandiás. These lands witnessed the Irmandiños' revolts and the Portuguese invasions, as reveals the medieval Pena Tower.

We continue through Piñeira de Arcos, crossing the valley that leads to Allariz. We pass by Coedo, Outeiro de Torneiros, Pardiñas, Torneiros and San Salvador de Penedos, and we then go down towards Allariz passing through O Couto das Picoutas, among the autochthonous forest and the streams that constitute this Biosphere Reserve.

We reach the historical village of Allariz, bathed by the Arnoia river, which dates back to the 6th century, when the Suebi created Vila Aliaricii. We can not leave without walking through its streets, because Allariz is a monument in itself. Stone paving, 'hidalgo' houses, bridges, squares... this historical-artistic ensemble is worth of admiration and enjoyment.



A Pena tower



Vilanova bridge

ALLARIZ - OURENSE

We leave Allariz crossing the Vilanova bridge, from the 15th century, and we pass by A Frieira, Santiago de Folgoso, Roiriz de Abaixo, Roiriz de Arriba, Rubiás, Espiñeiros, Turzas and A Vila. We arrive in Santa Mariña de Augas Santas, whose ethnographic, religious and archaeological ensemble is worth admiring. We follow the route until San Cibrao das Viñas, and passing through San Breixo de Seixalbo, we continue until we reach **Ourense**.

Once here, the two alternatives of the Southeastern Way meet in a single route until they reach Santiago de Compostela.

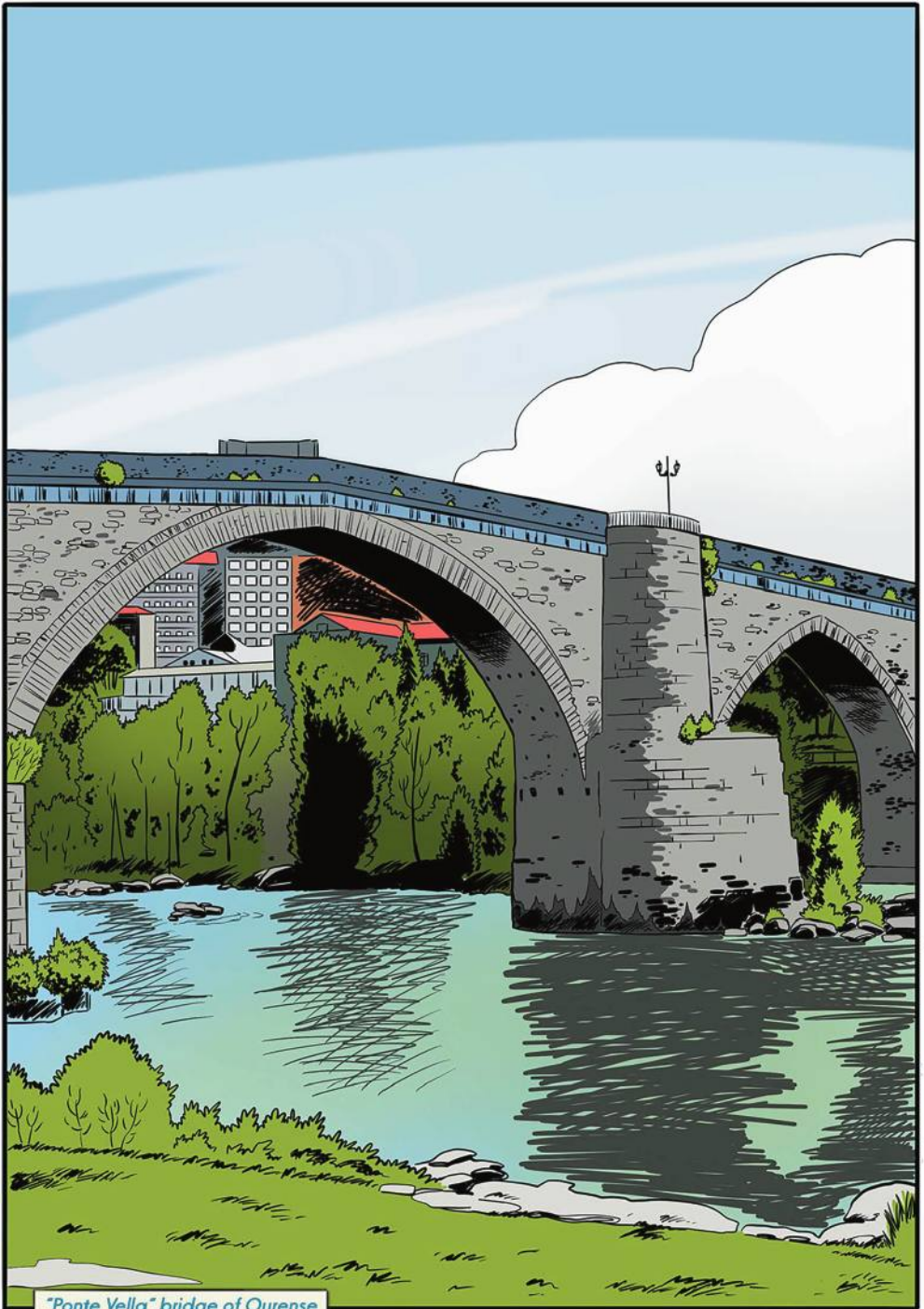
OURENSE - CEA

Ourense awaits with all its attractions: the Cathedral and the historical ensemble, the former Convent of San Francisco, with its cloister - a Galician-Gothic treasure -, the As Burgas fountains with its thermal waters, or the Paseo street with its emblematic buildings, among others. Besides, this city is bathed by the Miño river, with outstanding natural landscapes and leisure spaces in the riverbank, as well as its popular thermal spaces.

We start this stage crossing the Roman bridge, also known as Ponte Vella of Ourense, and we walk towards Casanovas (Cea). About two kilometres away, we can find San Cristovo de Cea, famous for its bread and its ethnographic ensemble.



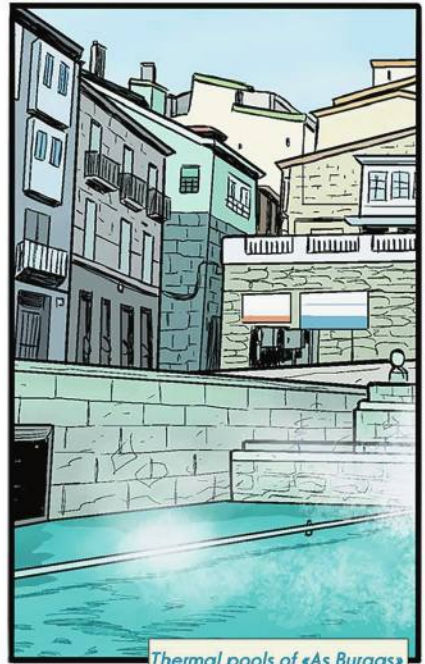
Cathedral of San Martiño



"Ponte Vella" bridge of Ourense



Las Burgas



Thermal pools of «As Burgas»

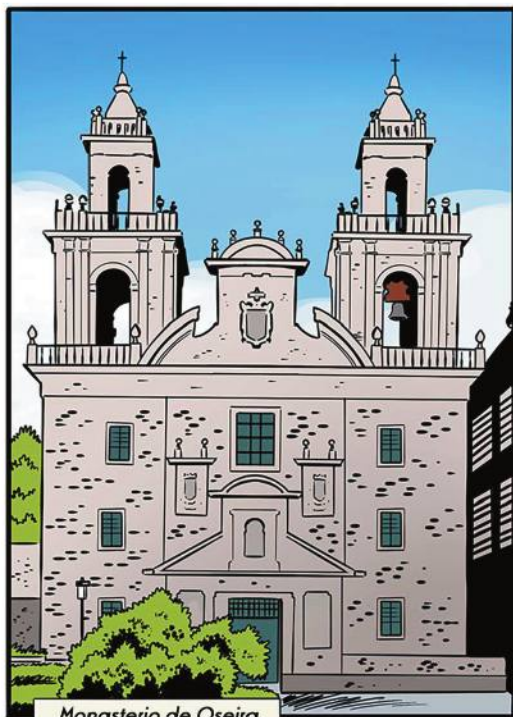


Cloister of San Francisco

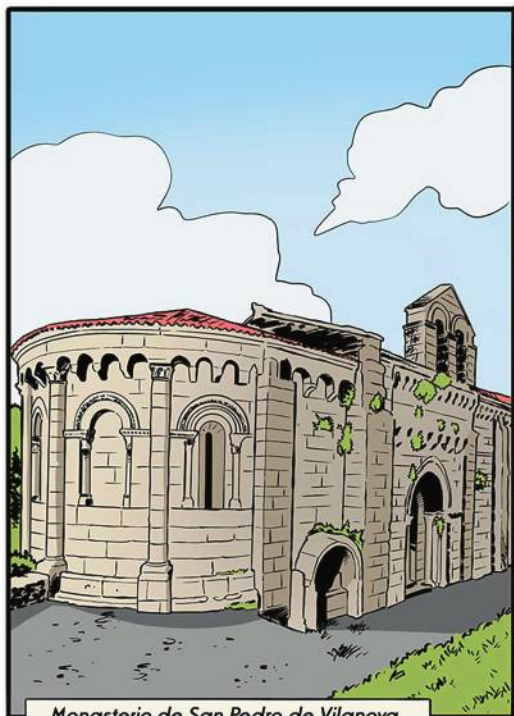
CEA - DOZÓN

CEA - DOZÓN

From Cea we can choose between two alternatives: either going through Piñor and then arriving in Dozón, or deviating through the alternative route that passes by the Cistercian Monastery of Oseira. Dating back to the 12th century, its wonderful church was inspired in the floor plan of the Santiago cathedral, and constitutes an important ensemble and vestige of the Romanesque, gothic, Renaissance and baroque periods. We continue our way towards Dozón, passing by Mirallos, Carballadaña and Coiras de Abaixo.



Monasterio de Oseira



Monasterio de San Pedro de Vilanova

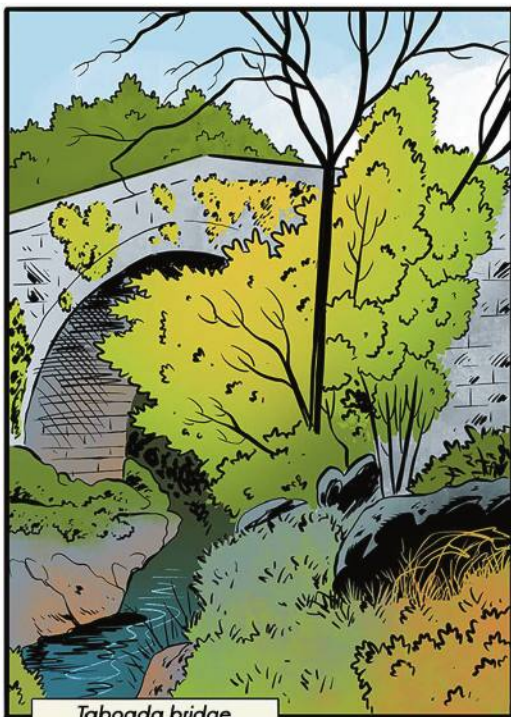
DOZÓN - LAXE

DOZÓN - LAXE

We leave Dozón towards A Laxe. We deviate from the original route to visit the Monastery of San Pedro de Vilanova, a late-Romanesque example from the 12th-13th centuries, which has two buttresses in transition to Gothic. Going down the Asneiro river bank, the 'mámoa' of Xandín and O Castro take us back to pre-Roman times in Galicia.

LAXE - A PONTE ULLA

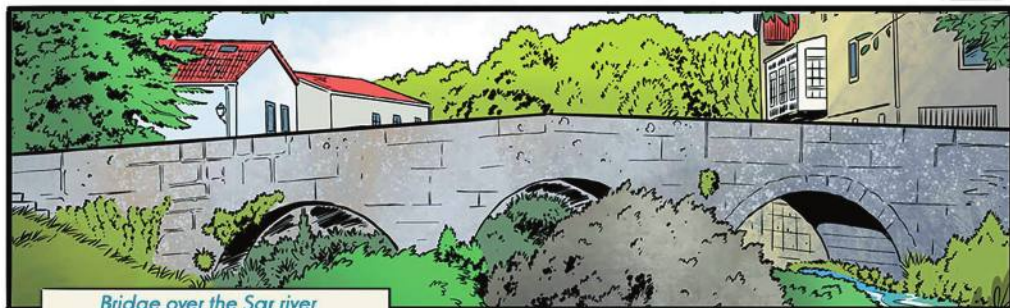
We leave the A Laxe hostel and walk along the N-525 road, passing through Vilasoa and Prado. Arriving to A Boralla, we cross the medieval bridge of Taboada over the Deza river. Heading Silleda, we pass Taboada and Trasfontao. Once in Silleda we continue towards O Foxo and Chapa, and visit A Bandeira, Codeseira, Piñeiro and already in the municipality of A Estrada, we find Castrovite. From this point, we keep going until Santo Estevo de Oca, where we can find the beautiful Pazo de Oca palace, known as the "Galician Versailles" due to its gardens and ponds. We continue until we reach the province of A Coruña, and in the municipality of Vedra, we find A Ponte Ulla by crossing the bridge over the Ulla river, which gives its name to the town. We finish our step here, visiting the Romanic church of Santa María Magdalena.



Taboada bridge

A PONTE ULLA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Leaving A Ponte Ulla, we start the final step of the Southeastern Way by passing close to the famous mountain of Pico Sacro, in the municipality of Boqueixón. Deviating from the original path to climb to its top, the pilgrim will behold one of the most marvellous landscapes of this area. The top of the mountain is linked to the transfer of the Apostle St. James from Iria Flavia to [Compostela](#): the slopes were inhabited by wild bulls that the disciples of the Apostle domesticated to load the coffin to [Compostela](#). We follow the Way to enter in the municipality of Santiago by the place of Susana. We keep walking until we enter in the pilgrim city through the Sar neighbourhood, where the Romanic church of Santa María welcomes the pilgrims. We cross the bridge over the Sar river and we climb up the Costa do Castrón Douro hill until we reach the Mazarelos entrance (the only entrance that is preserved from the ancient Medieval wall). We pass by the University square, Caldeirería (ancient placement of the boilermaker guild) and we reach the Praterías square, with a magnificent view of the Romanic side entrance of the Cathedral, until we advance up to the Pazo de Fonseca palace and, towards the right, we continue until the end of our pilgrimage: the splendid Obradoiro square welcomes us.



Bridge over the Sar river

THE SILVER WAY

VERSION THROUGH BRAGANÇA

1. Quintanilha (Bragança)- Vinhais
2. Vinhais - Segirei

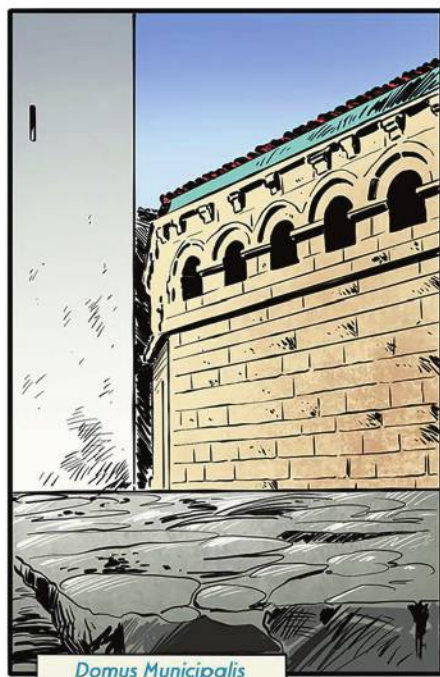
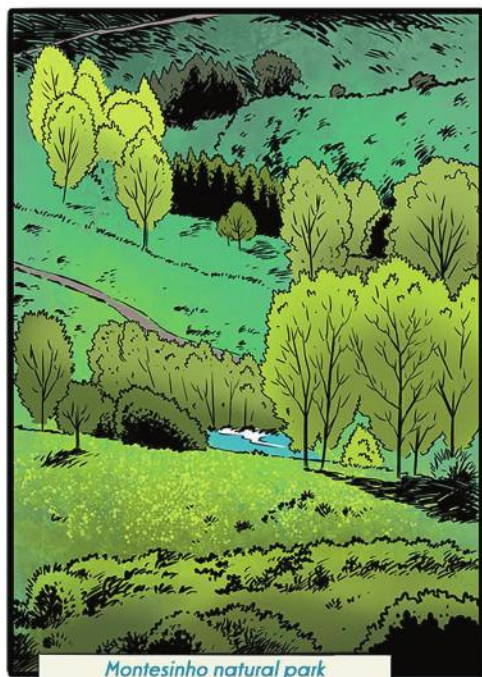
VERSION THROUGH MIRANDELA

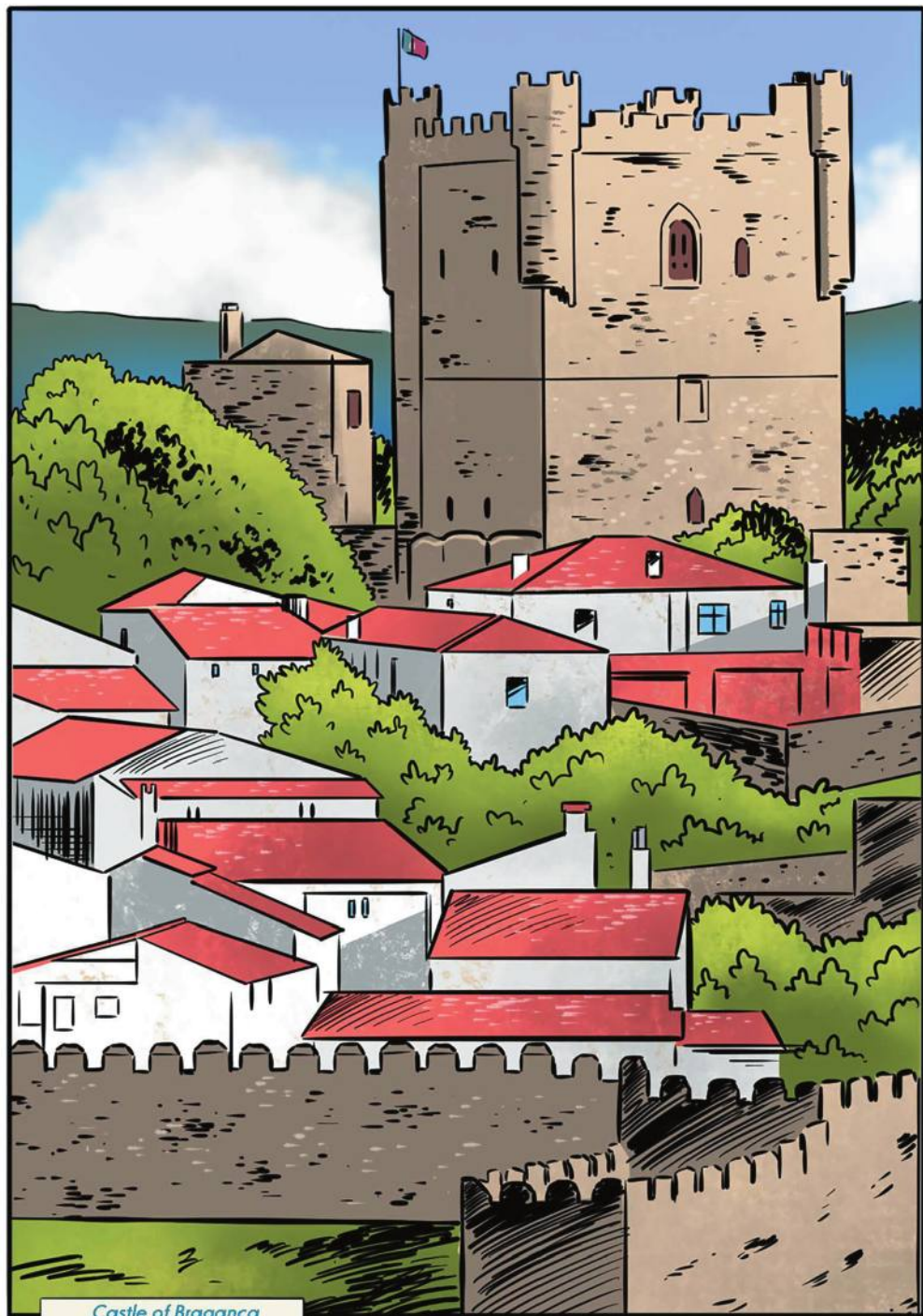
1. Miranda - Valpaços
2. Valpaços - Chaves

The route of the Silver Way runs close to the Portuguese border during a big part of its path, so it is common that some pilgrims enter through the region of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, crossing the territory and then getting out through Chaves to enter Galicia through Verín, and continue the route from there following the Southeastern Way until [Santiago de Compostela](#).

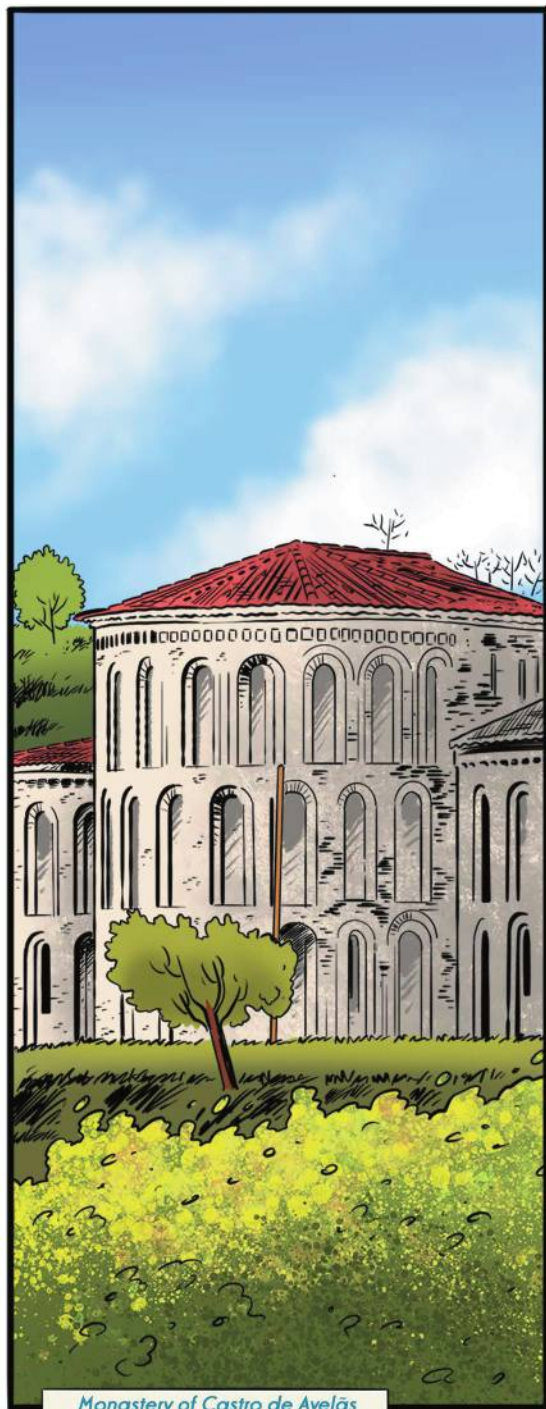
QUINTANILHA (BRAGANÇA) - VINHAIS

We enter Portugal through Quintanilha, the oldest jacobean gate in Portugal, in the municipality of [Bragança](#), a city located in an area of environmental excellence, declared as Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. We will cross some parts of the Montesinho Natural Park. In the [Bragança](#) citadel we can visit the immovable heritage that witnessed the history of the city, like the Castle and the Domus Municipalis, a unique example in Portugal of Romanesque civil architecture, which originally functioned as a cistern. We continue walking through the Castro de Avelãs, where we can visit the Monastery of Castro de Avelãs, and we follow the winding path towards Vinhais.





Castle of Bragança



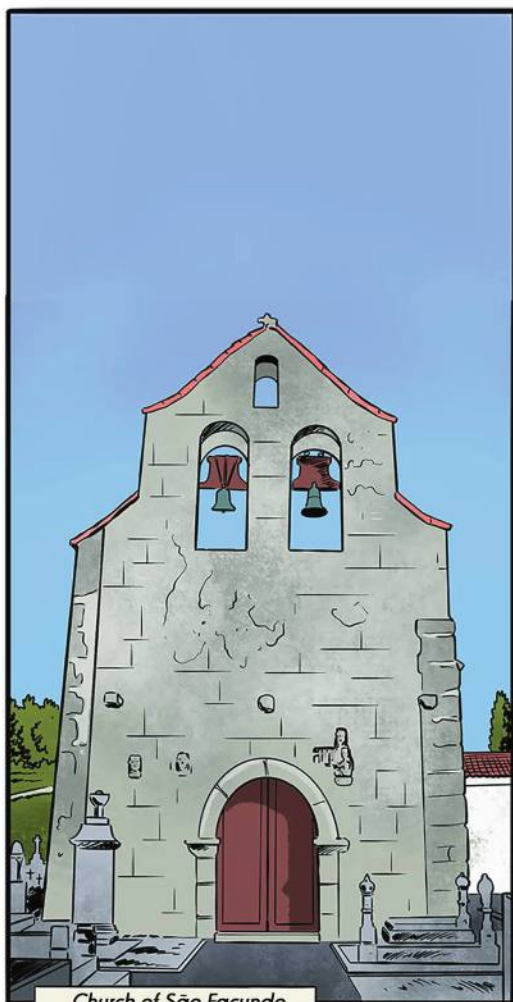
Monastery of Castro de Avelãs



Cathedral square

VINHAIS - SEGIREI (CHAVES)

Vinhais maintains part of the walls that surround the citadel, where we can also see some pre-Roman vestiges and visit the convent of São Francisco and the church of São Facundo. From here, we continue towards Segirei, in Chaves, where we can find the famous Santiago niche. Here we leave Portuguese lands to enter Galicia.



VERSION THROUGH MIRANDELA

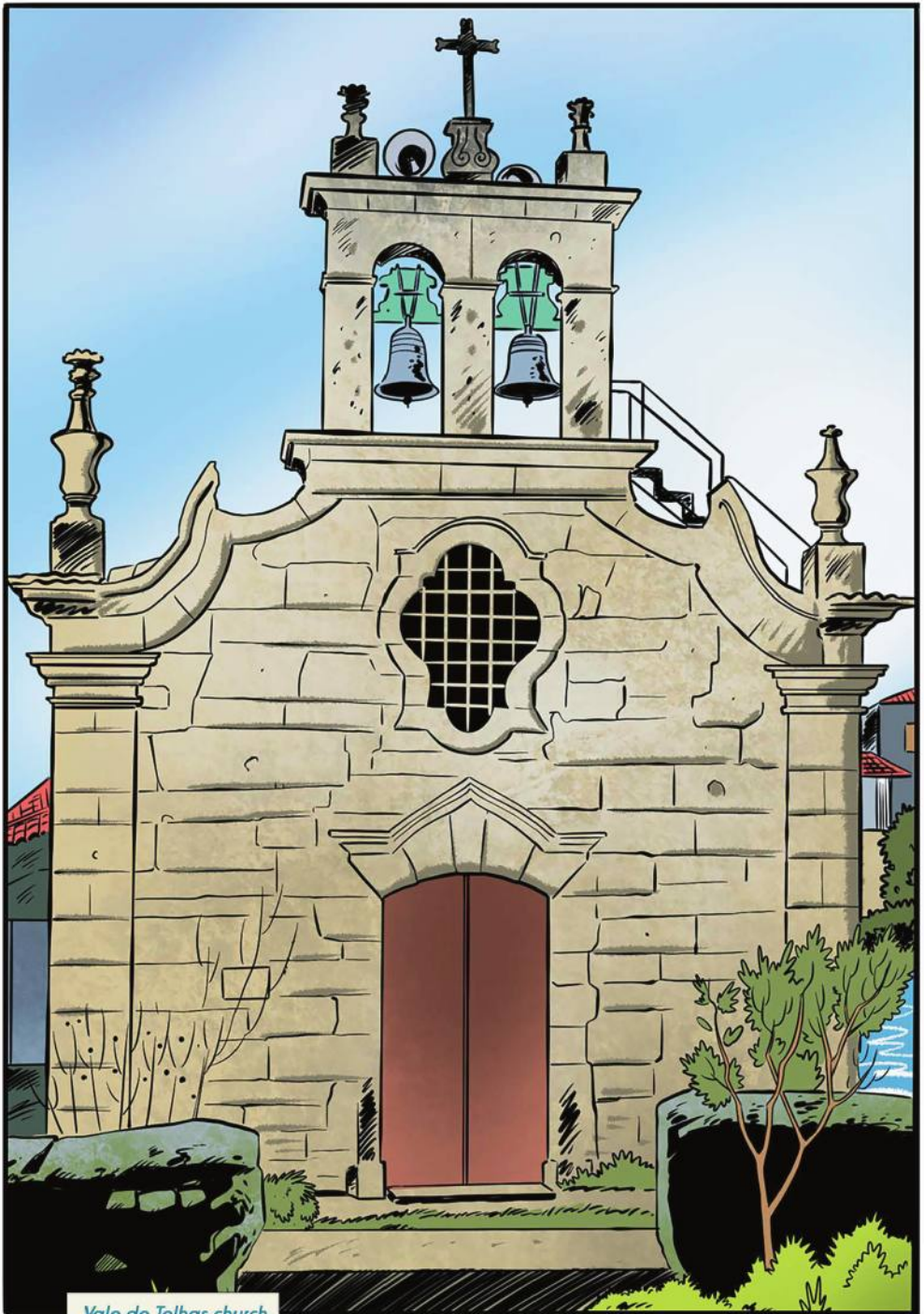
Still in the region of Trás-os-Montes, there are several historical signs related to St. James and the pilgrimage to Compostela, among which it stands out the municipality of Mirandela. This city integrates the alternative of the Silver Way that connects with the town of Puerto Seguro (España) and enters Portugal through the town of Castelo Rodrigo.

MIRANDELA - VALPAÇOS

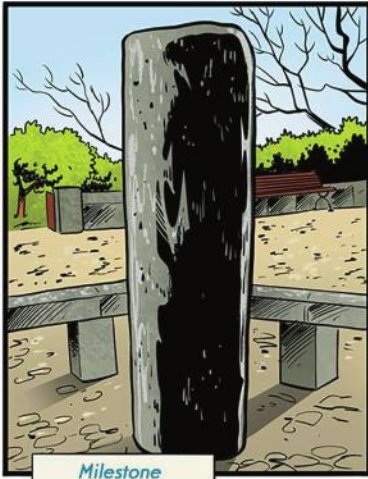
In Mirandela, known for its main assets like the olive tree and olive oil, we can see in the main façade of the Solar of the Counts of Vinhais de stone figure that represents the warrior Apostle São Tiago (St. James), dressed as a fighter. The Romanesque Ponte Vella, or Ponte Medieval bridge over the Tua river, catalogued as National Monument, is one of the referents of this city, famous for its sausage-meat called alheira. Crossing the bridge, we can see the Paço dos Távoras, currently turned into Town Hall. In the historic quarter we can visit the Puerta de Santo António, the only vestige of the former medieval castle. We can also visit the remains of the Via XVII Augusta, present in the Vale de Telhas, in the Marco Miliario, or in the Vale de Telhas bridge. This Via ran through the stone bridge over the Tuela river in Torre de Dona Chama, thus being one of the few in Portugal that keeps its Roman identity.



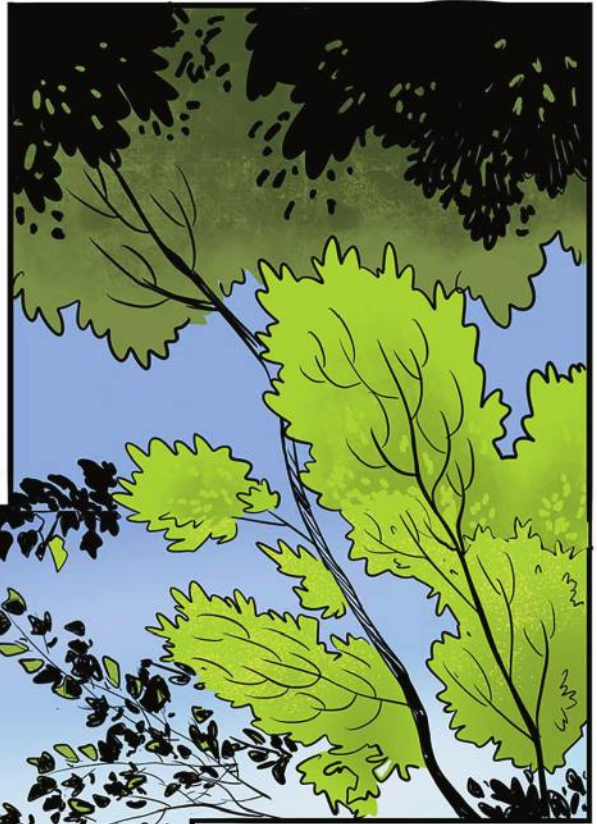
Vale de Telhas bridge



Vale de Telhas church



Milestone



Stone bridge (Tuela river)



Roman vestiges

MACEDO DE CAVALEIROS

Before continuing towards Valpaços, we can visit [Macedo de Cavaleiros](#), a territory catalogued as a UNESCO

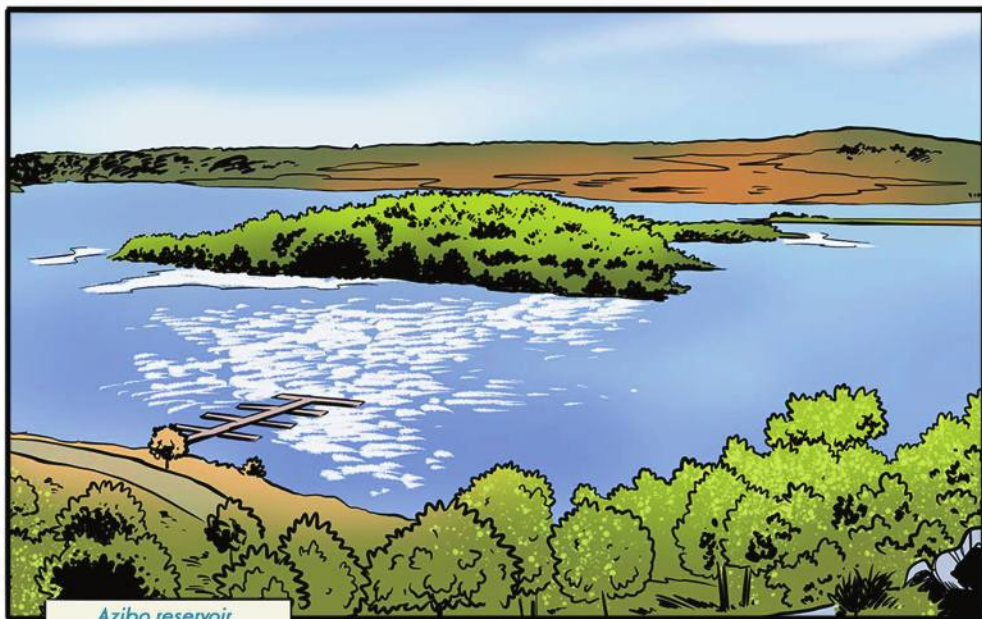
Global Geopark, with an important geological, biodiversity and historical-cultural heritage. The essential elements of this town are the Caretos de Podence and the Albufeira do Azibo. The latter is a Protected Landscape, and its environmental characteristics make it also part of the Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, the biggest Reserve in Europe. We continue our way towards Valpaços and we cross the Valtelhas bridge over the Rabaçal river and the Arquinho Roman bridge, over the Calvo river, to enter the municipality.



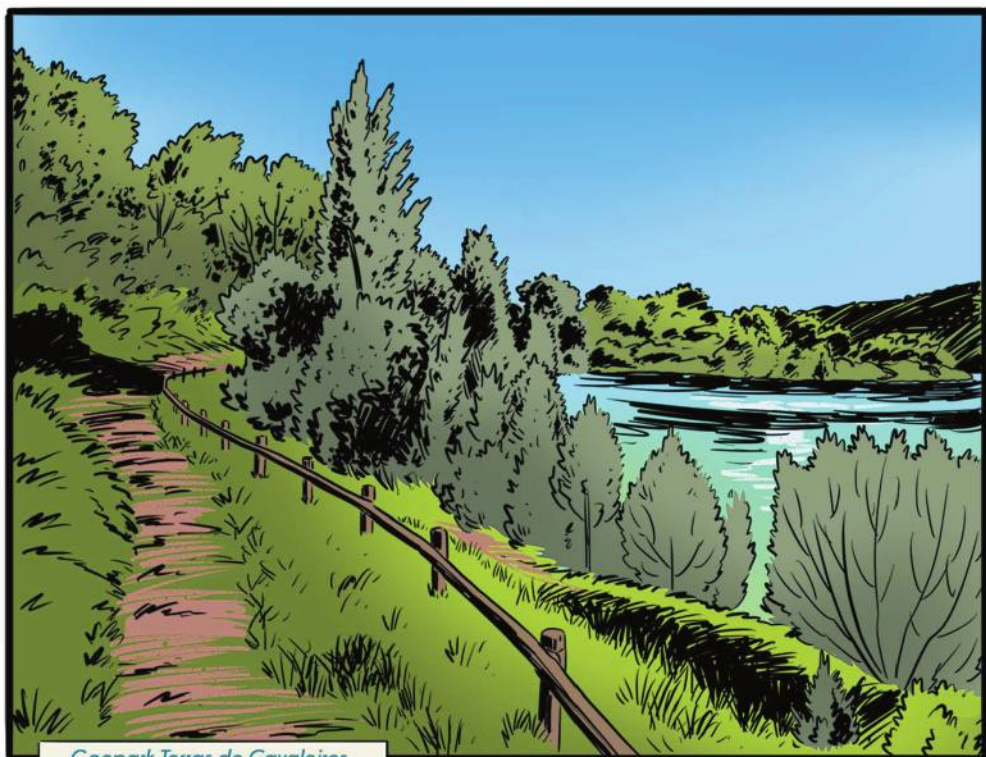
Caretos de Podence



Primeiro de Maio garden



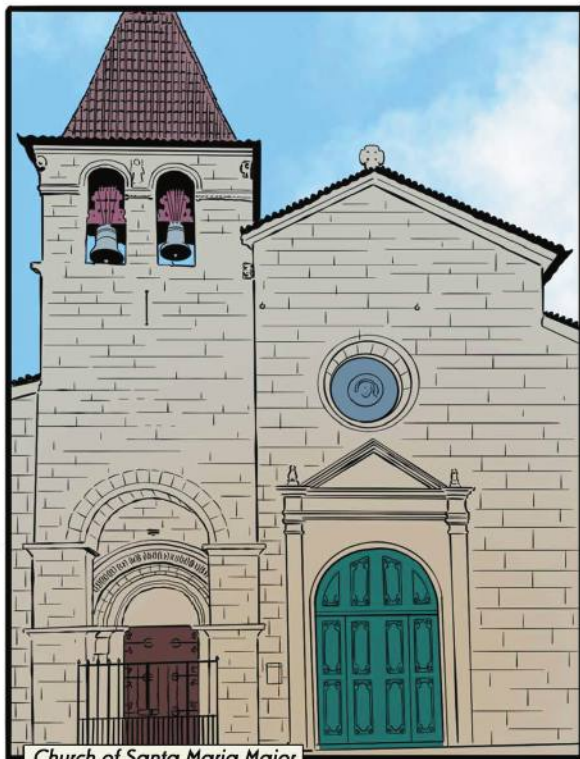
Azibo reservoir



Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros

VALPAÇOS - CHAVES

In Valpaços, where we can visit the chapel of Nossa Senhora da Saúde, we can find elements from the Castro culture, like the Castro de Vilarandelo and the Castro da Lama de Ouriço, Sites of Public Interest since 1986. We continue our way towards Chaves.



Church of Santa Maria Maior



Matriz church of Valpaços

INTERIOR WAY

1. Bigorne - Lamego
2. Lamego - Peso da Régua - Bertelo (Santa Marta de Penaguião)
3. Bertelo (Santa Marta de Penaguião) - Vila Real
4. Vila Real - Parada de Aguiar (Vila Pouca de Aguiar)
5. Parada de Aguiar (Vila Pouca de Aguiar) - Vidago
6. Vidago - Chaves

The route of the Portuguese Interior Way of St. James, and former medieval path in the interior of Portugal, appears in the "Ways of St. James - First European Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" map, which dates back to 1987. Coming from Viseu, it runs 387 km until it arrives in Santiago. After crossing the border in Chaves, it meets the Southeastern Way - Silver Way in Verín.



BIGORNE - LAMEGO

We enter the Portuguese Northern region through the town of Bigorne, in the municipality of Lamego. We pass through Magueijinha, whose parochial church is dedicated to Santiago, as well as Matança and other places in the way to Penude. When passing through Lamego, the sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios is worth a visit, with its monumental staircase with more than 650 steps. It is a Site of Public Interest on the top of the Santo Estevão Mount, covered by a dense grove that constitutes the Park of Santo Estevão.

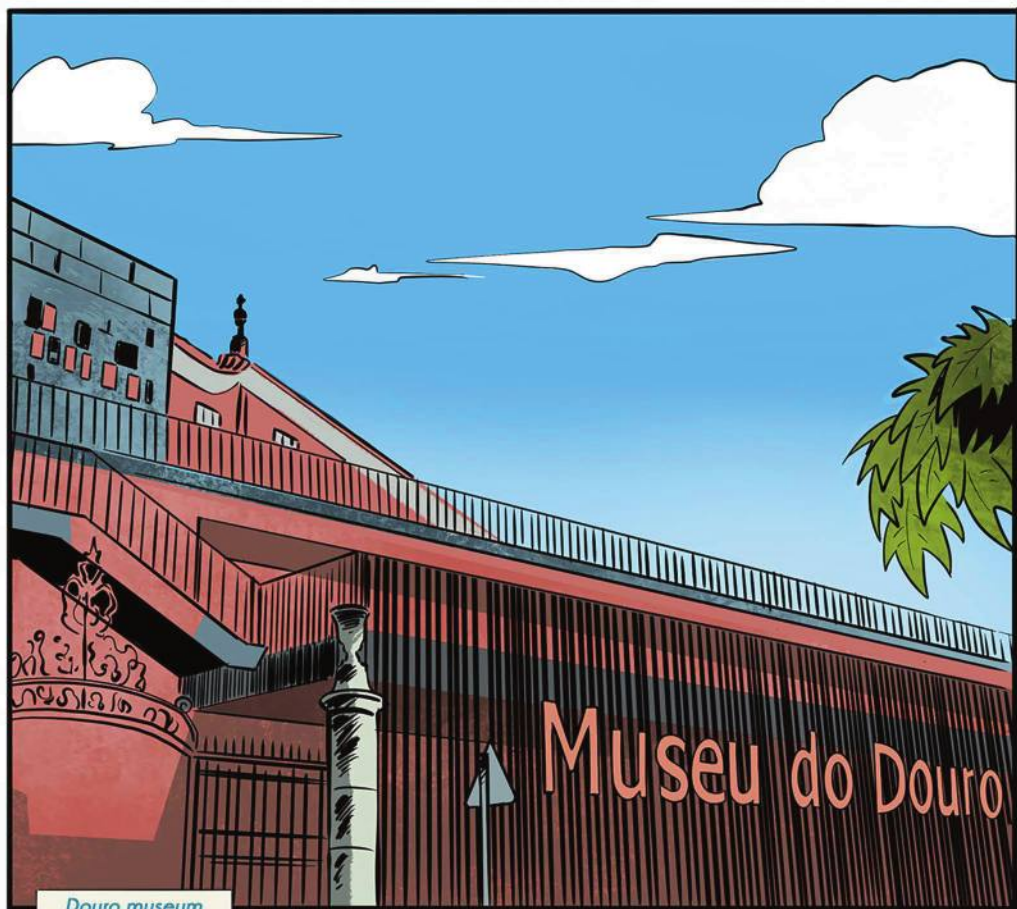


Nossa Senhora dos Remédios

LAMEGO - PESO DA RÉGUA -BERTELO (SANTA MARTA DE PENAGUIÃO)

We leave Lamego and we head for Souto Covo and then continue towards A Régua.

We enter the city of **Peso da Régua** through the Metal Bridge. This city is the home of the first delineated and regulated region in the world, and it was also created here the Companhia Geral da Agricultura das Vinhas do Alto Douro in 1756, whose building is nowadays the Museu do Douro. This museum, an essential place to visit, aims to show the natural and cultural heritage of the Region Demarcada do Douro, classified by the UNESCO World Heritage Charter as a cultural, evolution and alive landscape, in a collective space of memory and identity of the winegrowing region. Here, the terrace vineyards on the hillside next to the river offer impressive panoramic sights to be observed from one of the many viewpoints in the area. It stands out the São Leonardo da Galafura viewpoint in the São Leonardo Mount, located 566 metres high, where there used to be a Roman castró. From A Régua we head for Bertelo, in the municipality of Santa Marta de Penaguião.





Winegrowing of Alto Douro



Winegrowing of Alto Douro



Wineries of the Douro valley

BERTELO (SANTA MARTA DE PENAGUIÃO) - VILA REAL

As we pass through this village, where winegrowing has a huge influence, we can enjoy one of its many view-points, one of them with views over the Corgo river and Alvações do Corgo, a vineyard village constituted as world heritage. Before getting out of the municipality, the way passes by the Matriz Church of Cumieira, a Site of Public Interest, where we can enjoy a valuable ensemble of golden-carved altarpieces. We head for Vila Real, where we can visit its Cathedral, known as Church of São Domingos, built in the 15th century, and which constitutes the best example of late-Gothic architecture of the Transmontana region.



Church of São João Batista de Lobrigos

VILA REAL - PARADA DE AGUIAR (VILA POUCA DE AGUIAR)

Vila Real is a city inhabited since the Paleolithic, where there were also vestiges of the Roman presence in the region, among which it stands out the Santuario Rupestre de Panolás, located in the Lugar do Assento.

We follow the path crossing the bridge over the Corgo river. In the centre of the city there are countless monuments that constitute Heritage of Cultural and Religious Interest which can be visited, such as the Cathedral, also known as Church of São Domingos, built in the 15th century, as well as the Church of São Pedro, or Church of São or Capela Nova, whose architecture is attributed to Nicolau Nasoni, the architect of Casa de Mateus.



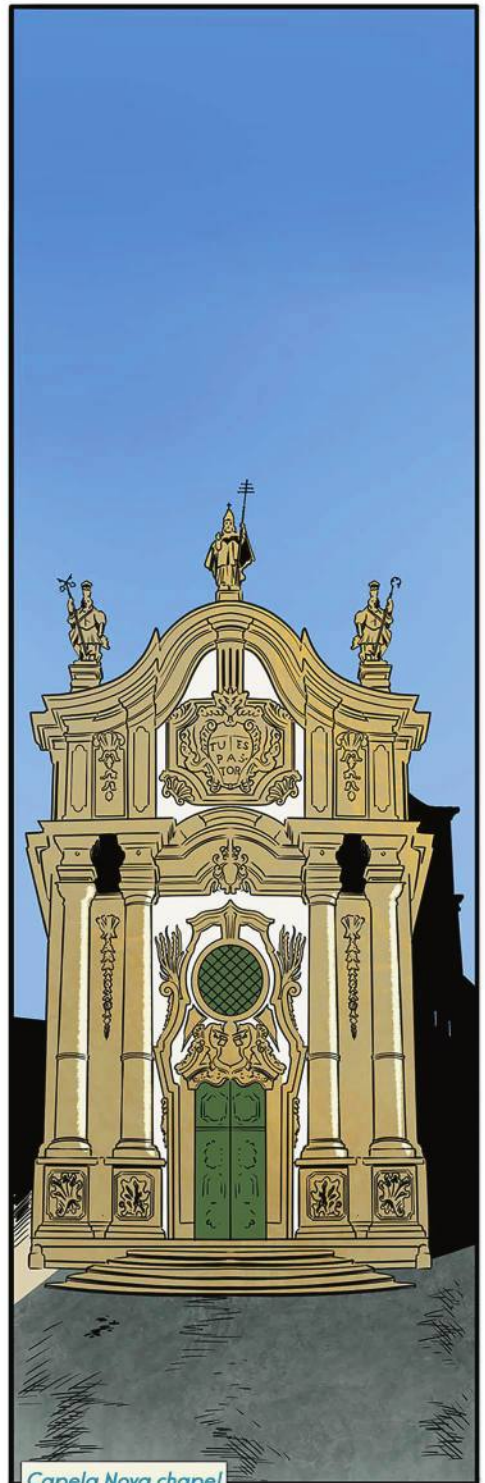
Corgo Park



Church of São Domingos



Vila Real theatre



Capela Nova chapel

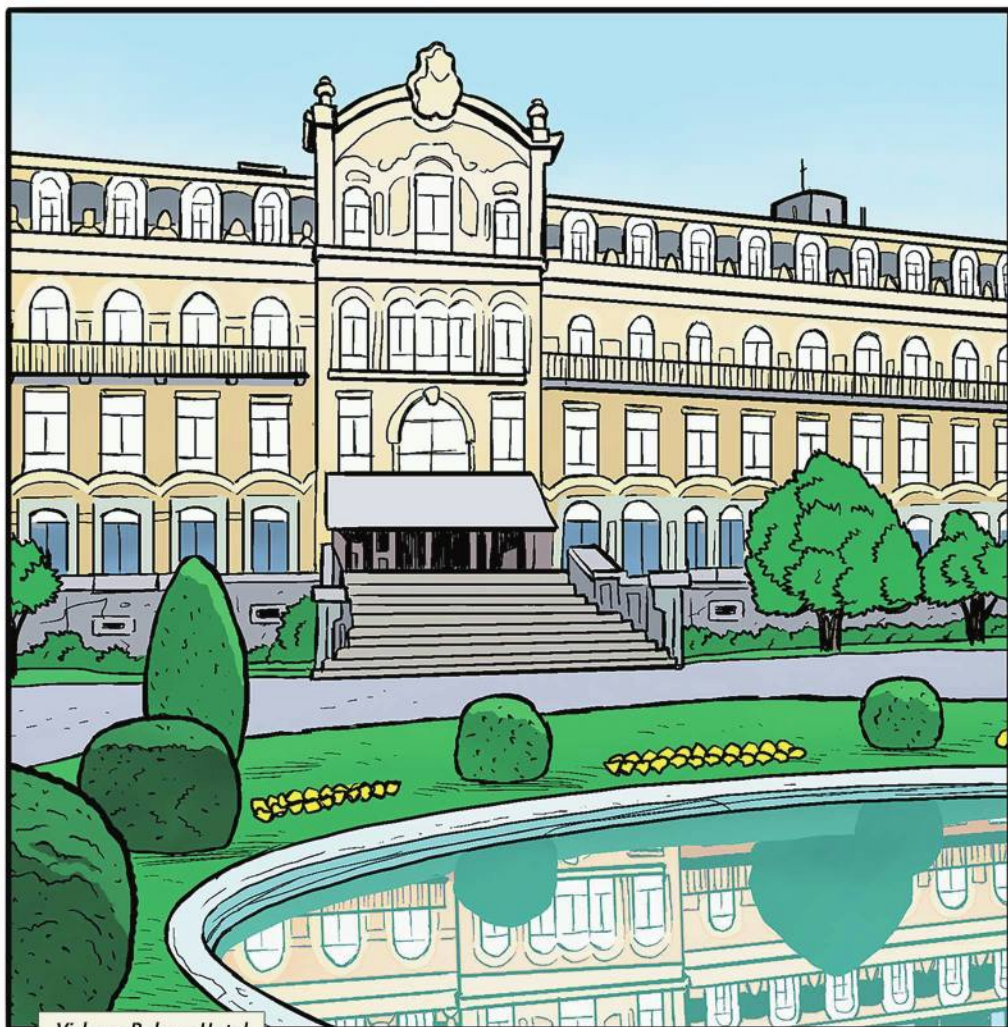


Mateus House

PARADA DE AGUIAR (VILA POUCA DE AGUIAR) – VIDAGO

The route continues towards Vila Pouca de Aguiar, whose Castle of Pena de Aguiar was built upon a huge granite rock, and whose origins date back to the 9th/10th centuries. Along this municipality, it stands out the Cidadelha, the chapel of Santiago in Vila Meã, or the thermal complex in Pedras Salgadas.

We continue the way towards Salus and Vidago, until we reach Redial and we continue until Vidago, which is mostly known for its thermal waters. Here it is worth a visit the Parque Centenario Natural that surrounds the Vidago Palace, referent of this village.



Vidago Palace Hotel

VIDAGO - CHAVES

Here the way leads us through Vila Nova da Veiga and Outeiro Jusão until Chaves.

In this city we finish the route in Portuguese lands, before entering Galicia through Verín. The Romans called it *Aquae Flaviae*, acknowledging the quality of its thermal springs, with healing properties, considered the hottest ones in Europe (close to 73°C), and still highly valued today. Here it is worth a visit the castle, which rises above the Tâmega river bank, or a stroll through the Roman bridge *Ponte de Trajano*, from the 2nd century AC, both catalogued as National Monuments.



Trajano bridge

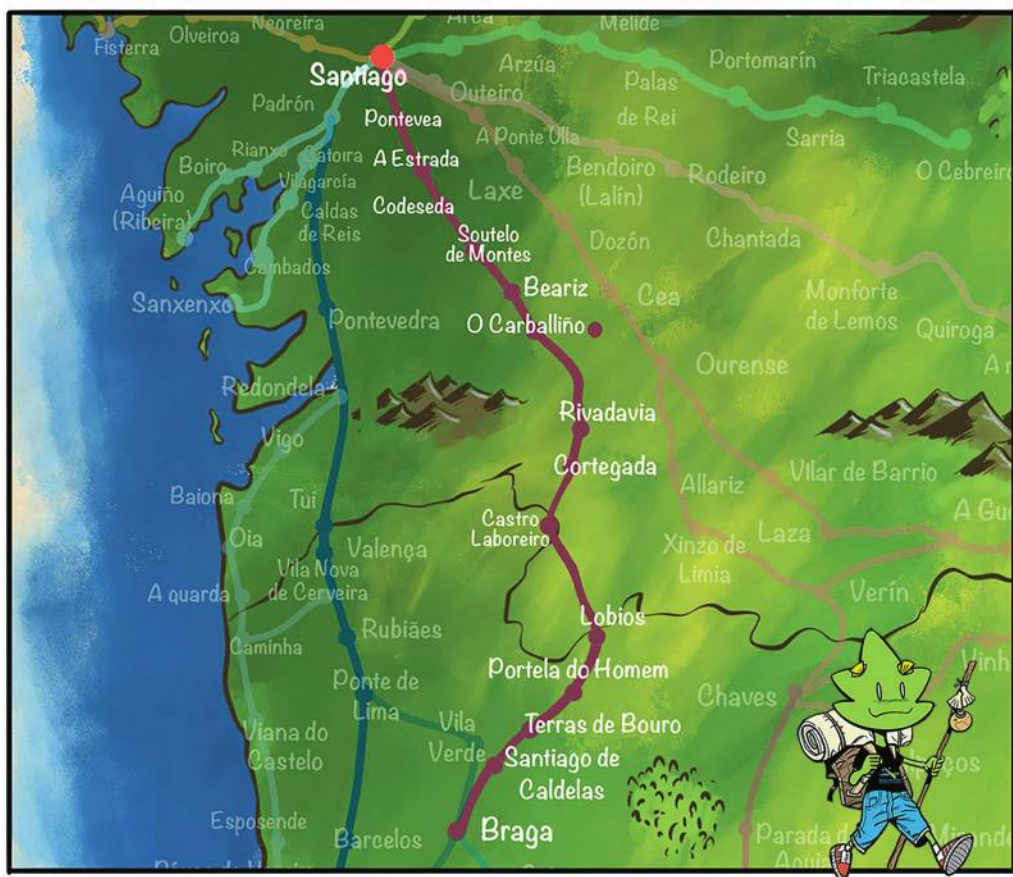


Castle of Chaves

WAY OF "GEIRA E ARRIEIROS"

1. Braga - Santiago de Caldelas.
2. Santiago de Caldelas - Terras de Bouro.
3. Terras de Bouro - Portela de Homem.
4. Portela de Homem - Lobios.
5. Lobios - Castro Laboreiro.
6. Castro Laboreiro - Cortegada.
7. Cortegada - Ribadavia.
8. Ribadavia - O Carballiño - Beariz.
9. Beariz - Soutelo de Montes.
10. Soutelo de Montes - Codeseda.
11. Codeseda - A Estrada.
12. A Estrada - Pontevea.
13. Pontevea - Santiago de Compostela.

This 261-km path until **Compostela** is named after the Geira Romana, the denomination during the Middle Ages of the Roman road that connected **Braga** and Astorga. The way runs through this road until we arrive in A Portela do Homem, in the Galician border, and continues through the Arrieiros Route. The 'arrieiros' were muleteers who transported wine from Ribeiro to **Compostela**. This is the most recent jacobean pilgrimage route, and also one of the most difficult ones, since it mainly crosses mountain paths, most of which are unmarked trails.



BRAGA - SANTIAGO DE CALDELAS

We start this route in **Braga**, where we can find the ways of Torres and the Central version, and visit its cathedral, the city referent.

The Cathedral Sé de **Braga** was the first Portuguese cathedral, built even before the foundation of Portugal, and there we can see the sepulchres of Don Henrique and Doña Teresa, the parents of the first king of Portugal, in the Capela dos Reis chapel.

Leaving **Braga** towards Santiago de Caldelas, we pass by Montélios and the monastery of Rendufe, whose origin dates back to before 1090, being one of the main Benedictine houses between the 12th and 14th centuries.



Cathedral of Braga

SANTIAGO DE CALDELAS - TERRAS DE BOURO

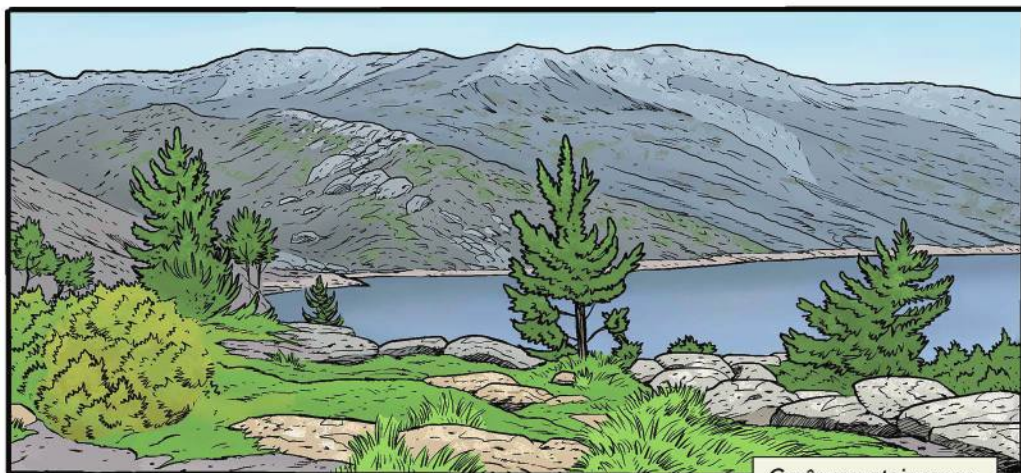
In Santiago de Caldelas we can see a Santiago Peregrino (Pilgrim St. James) made of stone over the main door of its Matriz Church. From here, we continue towards the village of Real, a magic place surrounded by vineyards. We continue all the way up to Paranhos de Cima and from here we go down passing through the municipality of Amares, walking among Roman milestones that lead the way until Terras de Bouro, where we can enjoy its thermal waters to rest and recover.



Church of Santiago Peregrino

TERRAS DE BOURO - PORTELA DO HOMEM

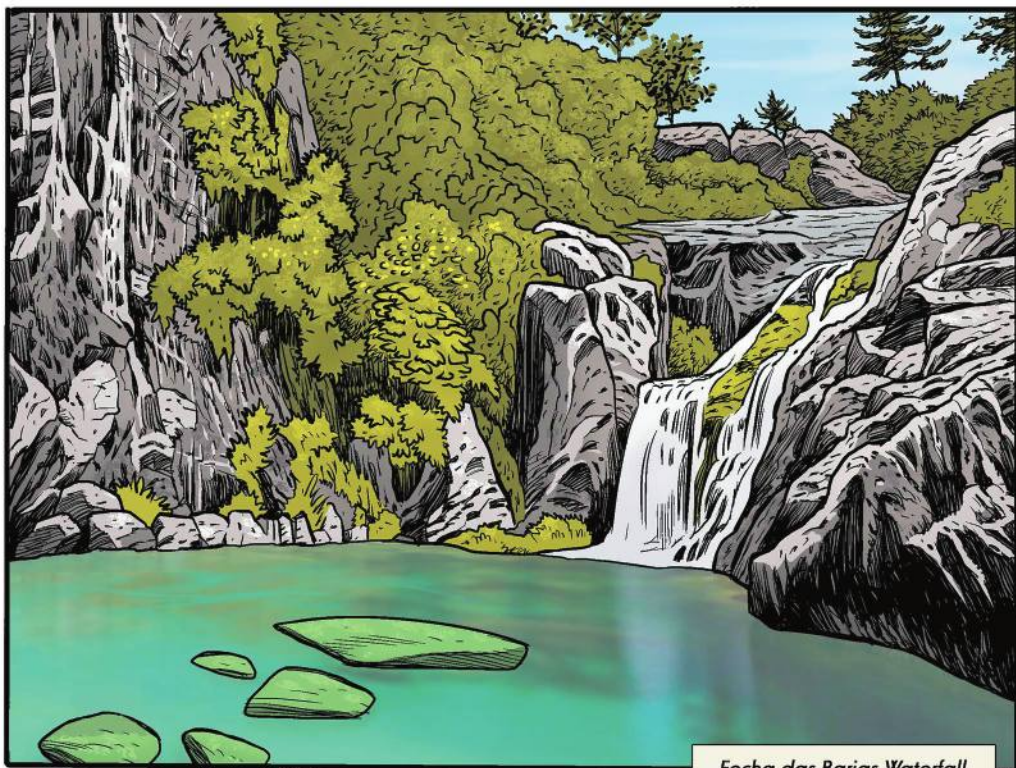
From Terras de Bouro we walk towards Campo de Gerês, located in the Peneda-Gerês National Park, through the Via Nova XVIII, which has the best-preserved Roman road sections in the Iberian Peninsula. We continue towards the border of A Portela do Homem, and we can take the opportunity to go to the turquoise blue crystal-clear waterfalls, a place that is worth a visit not only because of its cascades and lagoons, but also the beauty of the Mata da Albergaria forest that takes us there.



Gerês mountain range

PORTELA DO HOMEM - LOBIOS

Portela de Homem is a 822-metres-high mountain pass, located in the border between Galicia and Portugal, in Terras de Bouro (Portugal), next to the municipality of Lobios (Galicia). We enter Galicia through Bubaces, in Lobios, where we can find the archaeological vestiges of the Caldo river Roman baths, to continue walking towards the winding border between Galicia and Portugal. During the route, we cross the heart of the Baixa Limia - Serra do Xurés Natural Park, enjoying the autochthonous forest and the fauna that may surprise us, like wild horses, roe deers, and cachena cows.



Feixa das Barjas Waterfall

LOBIOS - CASTRO LABOREIRO

In the parish of San Salvador de Marín, in Lobios, we pass through a place called Compostela, in honour of the sacred city and a proof of the jacobean tradition of the route.

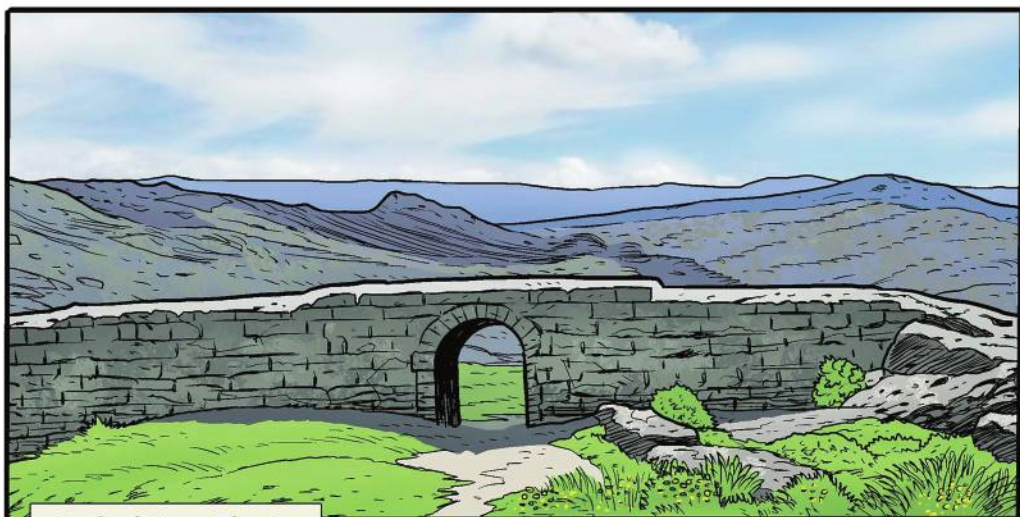
We continue towards Entrimo passing through A Feira Vella. The way takes us back to Portuguese lands until we reach Castro Laboreiro (Melgaço), where we can visit its castle, declared National Monument.



Church of San Salvador de Manín

CASTRO LABOREIRO - CORTEGADA

From Castro Laboreiro we go towards Alcobça, a Portuguese village in Melgaço, and back in Galicia we pass through Padrenda, San Xoán de Monte Redondo and Santa María do Condado, reaching afterwards Cortegada, a village with a well-known thermal tradition.



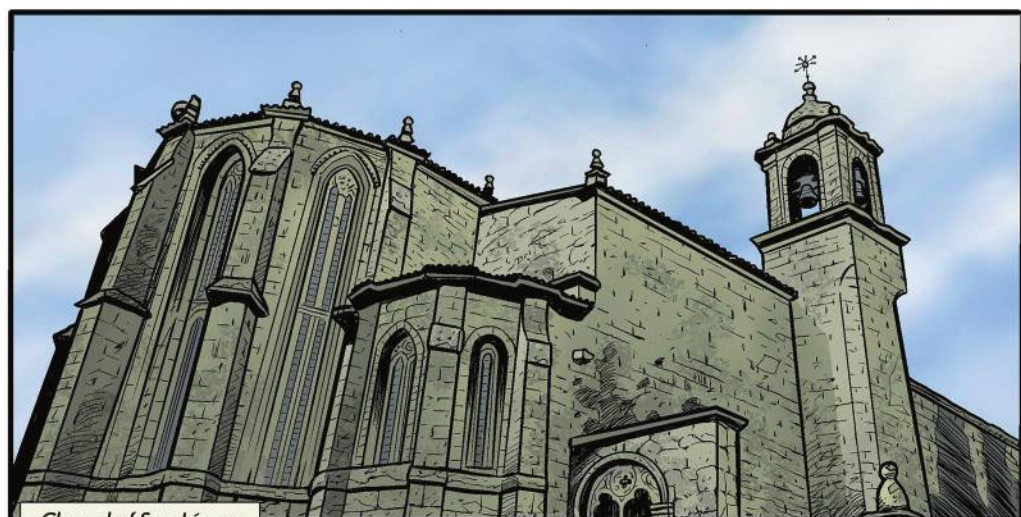
Castle of Castro Laboreiro

CORTEGADA - RIBADAVIA

We leave Cortegada along the Miño river bank, and we continue through the O Ribeiro region until we arrive in A Arnoia and its well-known spa. We follow the route until we reach Ribadavia, a village that housed pilgrim hospitals since the 12th century. Here we can visit the chapel of San Lázaro (12th century), the former lazaretto of the region, and the convent and church of Santo Domingo, which joined the Romanesque and Gothic styles. The church of San Xoán, also from the 12th century, belonged to the Order of Malta.



Cortegada spa



Chapel of San Lázaro

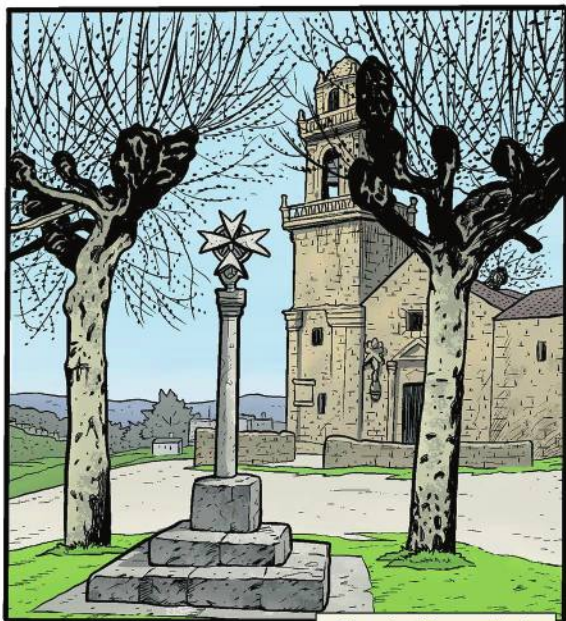
RIBADAVIA - O CARBALLIÑO - BEARIZ

We leave Ribadavia towards San Cristovo de Regodigón, and head for Beade, whose church of Santa María combines the Renaissance and Baroque styles, and which used to belong to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

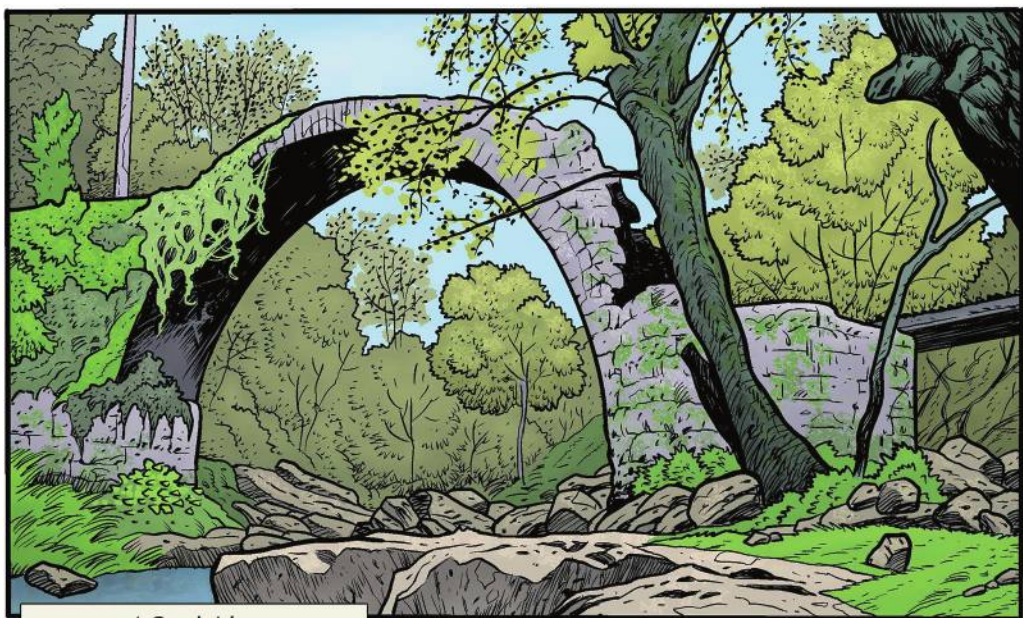
We continue through the Camino Real passing by As Regadas and Berán, until we reach the municipality of Boborás.

Here, we walk through the parishes of San Salvador, San Miguel de Albarellos, Salón, Distriz and Paredes, until we reach Pazos de Arenteiro.

We cross the bridge over the Arenteiro river and we pass by the image of Pilgrim Apostle St. James portrayed on it.



Church of Santa María

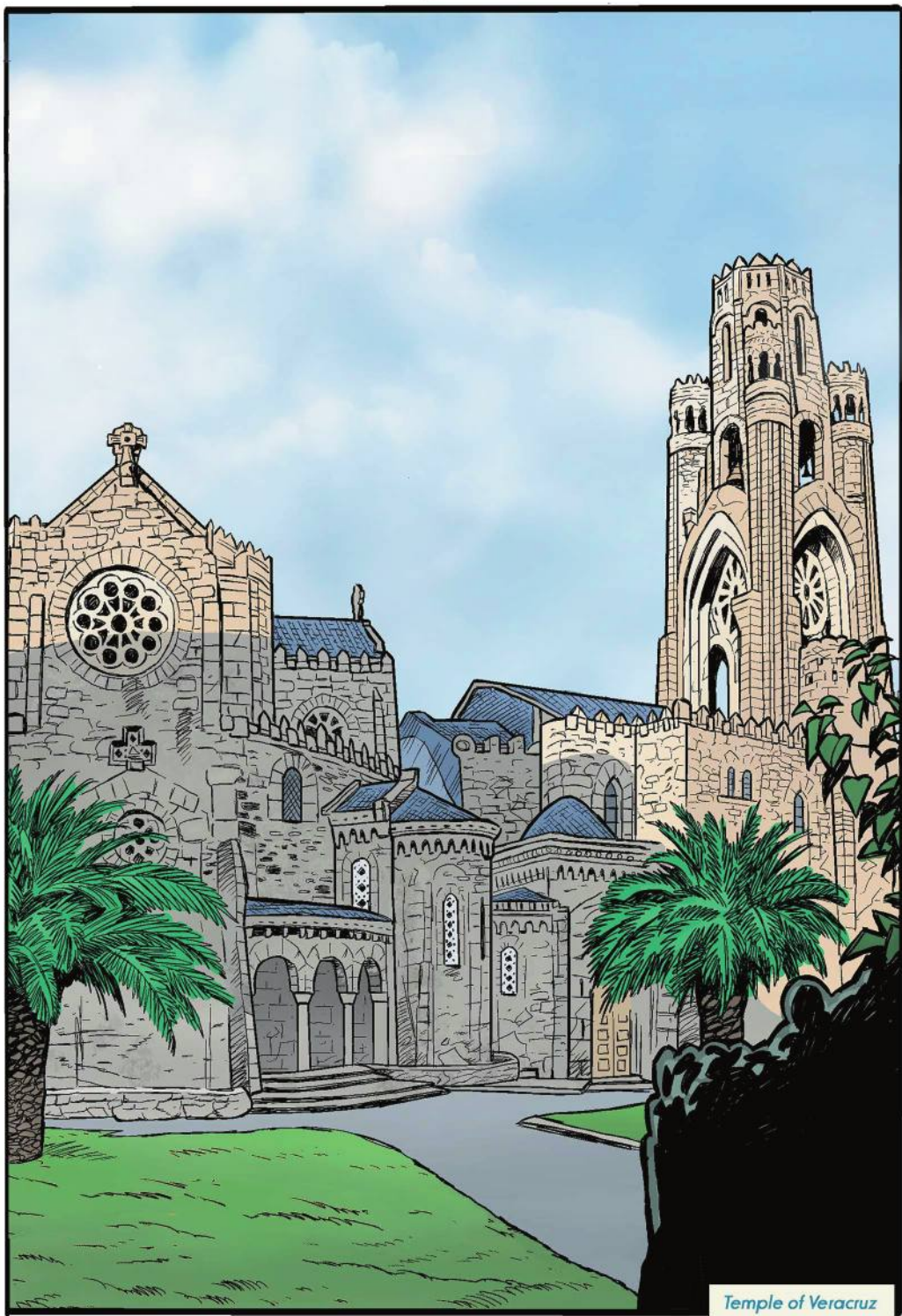


A Cruz bridge

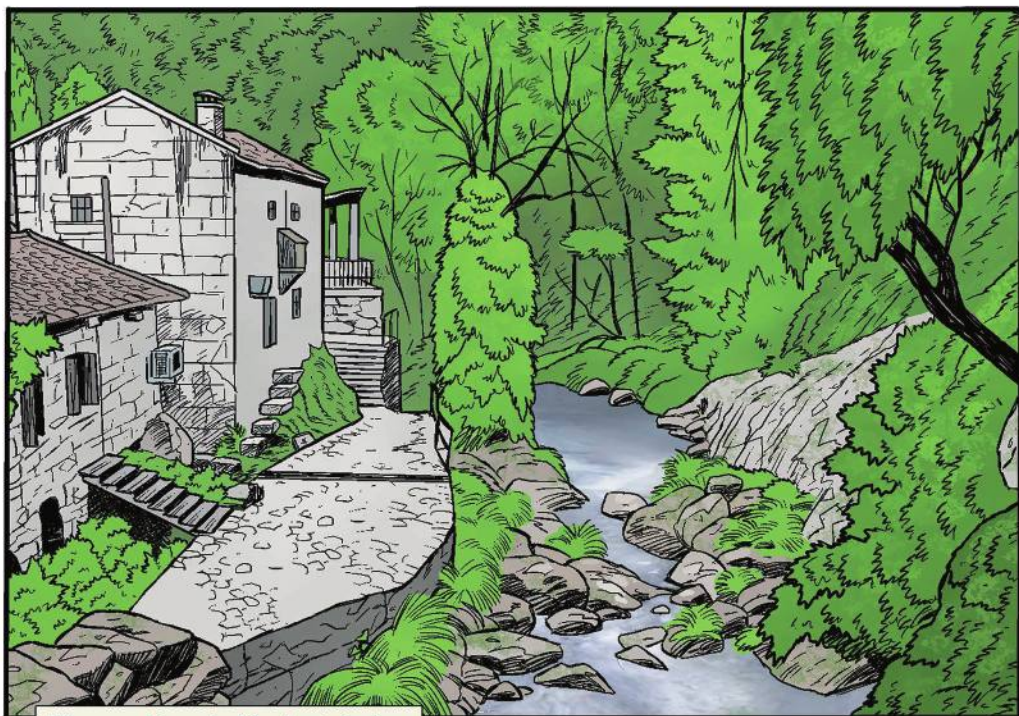
At this point, we can deviate from the way to visit [O Carballiño](#). This town is known for the traditional dish of pulpo á feira, and it also has a great thermal activity, housing two spa resorts: O Carballiño and Caldas de Partovia. Moreover, it is worth a visit the Templo de Veracruz, a posthumous work by architect A. Palacios, as well as the municipal park, a large green space complemented with a riverside walk. We head for Feás until we reach Beariz, the last stop within the province of Ourense.



Octopus fair



Temple of Veracruz



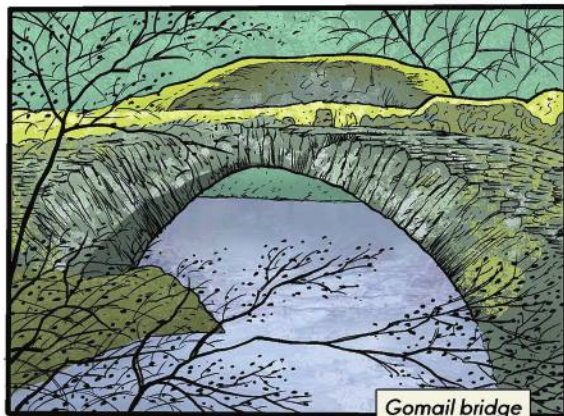
Ethnographic park of the Arenteiro river



Great Spa of O Carballiño

BEARIZ - SOUTELO DE MONTES

We enter the province of Pontevedra through Forcarei and Santiago de Pardoesoa, surrounding the O Candán range. We arrive in Soutelo de Montes, where we can find the Ethnographic Centre of Terra de Montes, which gathers daily objects from this area for its cultural dissemination.



Gomail bridge

SOUTELO DE MONTES - CODESEDA



Parochial Church of Codeseda

We start walking from Soutelo de Montes passing through Fontela and Aciveiro, a place with a Monastery of the same name, founded in the 12th century and considered a Historic-Artistic Monument since 1931, and current Site of Cultural Interest.

We continue through Vilar, Freixeira, Cachafeiro, Gaxín and Ponte Gomail until we arrive in A Mámoa, getting into the municipality of A Estrada, in the town of Codeseda. This area has a large variety of prehistoric heritage, where it stands out the petroglyph of Chan das Lamas. Its Romanesque parochial church constitutes one of the Romanesque Routes promoted by the municipality of A Estrada.

CODESEDA - A ESTRADA

We continue the way towards Sabucedo, where there is the annual celebration of A Rapa das Bestas, declared Fiesta of International Touristic Interest.

It remembers the bond between humans and wild horses, chasing them in the forests and bringing them down to the village, to enclosures called curros, in order to cut their manes.

We then head for Tabeirós, passing through San Xiao, Xerlis, A Panceira and, finally, A Estrada.

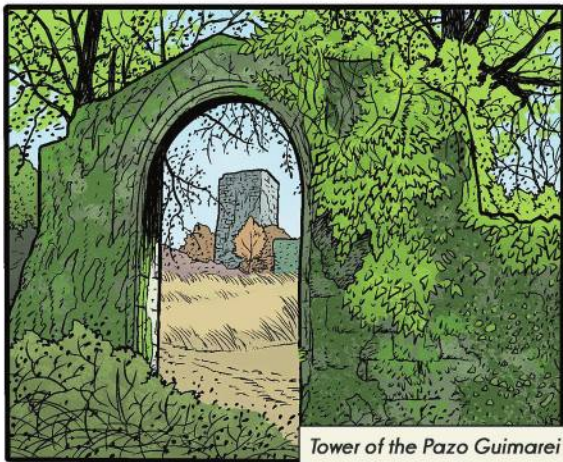


"Curro das bestas", Sabucedo

A ESTRADA - PONTEVEA

In the municipality of A Estrada, we pass by the Guimarei Tower, from the 12th century, and it is worth to deviate towards the Northeast to visit the Pazo of Oca, which has gardens inspired in the French landscape tradition from the 18th century. We continue walking and pass through San Pedro de Toedo, San Salvador de Baloiira, Santa Cristina de Veá, Couso and, finally, we reach Pontevea. We cross the medieval bridge over the Ulla river, and we continue the riverside walk until the thermal waters of A Burga to take a breath.

Close to the end of the route we pass by Cacheiras, Montouto and Outeiro do Castiñeiriño, already in the municipality of Santiago.



Tower of the Pazo Guimarei



Pazo of Oca

PONTEVEA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

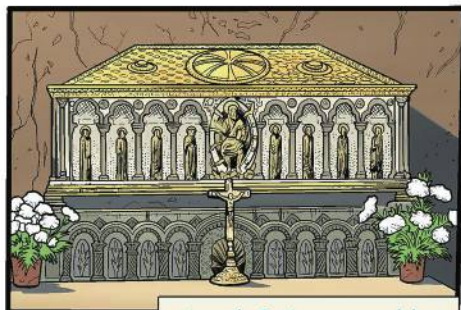


Burga of Pontevea

We continue walking until we enter through the gate of Mazarelos and we get into the city's historic quarter, ending up in the Cathedral. Inside we can find, besides the sepulchre of Apostle St. James, several symbols like the botafumeiro, the world's biggest censer, which can weight up to 60 kilograms, or the famous Romanesque-style Pórtico da Gloria, made by Master Mateo, which still has some polychromed vestiges.



St. James in the high altar



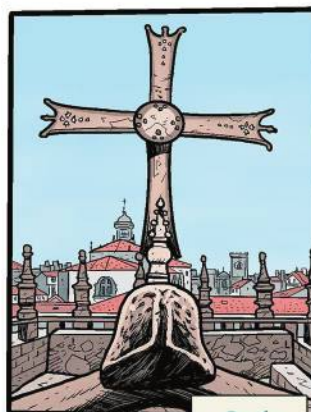
Apostle St. James sepulchre



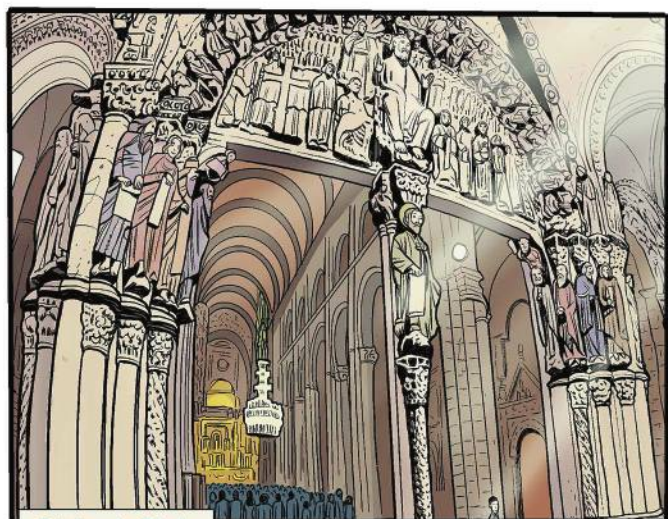
Organs



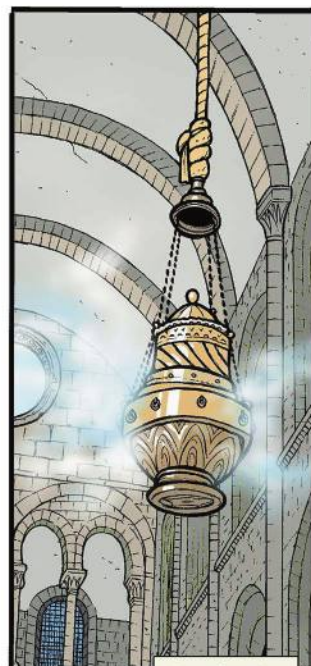
Dome



Roofs



Pórtico da Gloria

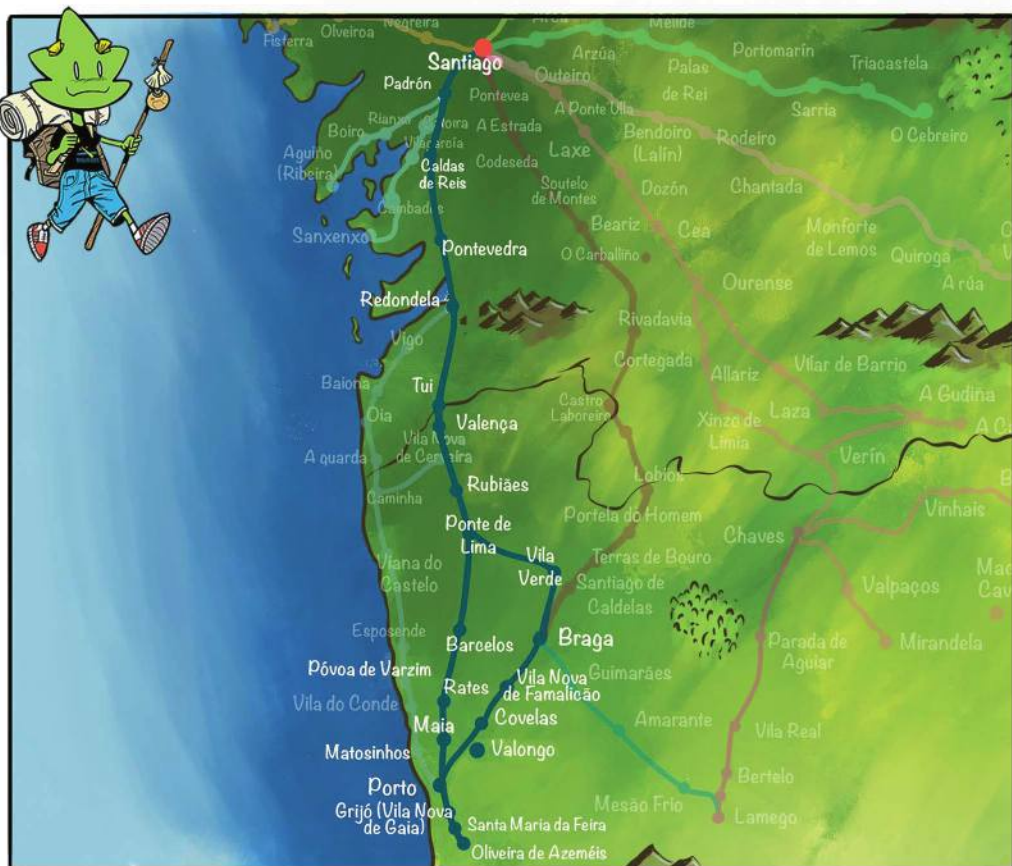


Botafumeiro

CENTRAL PORTUGUESE WAY

1. Oliveira de Azeméis – Santa Maria da Feira - Grijó (Vila Nova de Gaia)
2. Grijó (Vila Nova de Gaia) - Porto
3. Porto – Matosinhos - Maia - São Pedro de Rates (Póvoa de Varzim)
4. São Pedro de Rates (Póvoa de Varzim) – Barcelos
5. Barcelos – Ponte de Lima
6. Ponte de Lima – Rubiães (Paredes de Coura)
7. Rubiães (Paredes de Coura) – Tui
8. Tui – Redondela
9. Redondela – Pontevedra
10. Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis
11. Caldas de Reis – Padrón
12. Padrón - Santiago de Compostela

The route of the Central Portuguese Way is drawn from older paths and routes, like the Via XIX, built in the 1st century AC, which connected **Braga** and Astorga through Ponte de Lima, Tui, **Pontevedra**, **Santiago** and **Lugo**, and which was one of the most important Roman roads, since it structured the former Gallaecia. This route increased its relevance especially from the 12th century onwards, after Portugal's independence.



OLIVEIRA DE AZEMÉIS - SANTA MARIA DA FEIRA - GRIJÓ (VILA NOVA DE GAIA)

The Central Portuguese Way comes from the South and enters the Northern Region of Portugal through Oliveira de Azeméis, a city with outstanding places like the Ul and Osserla castros, as well as the park and chapel of La Salette.

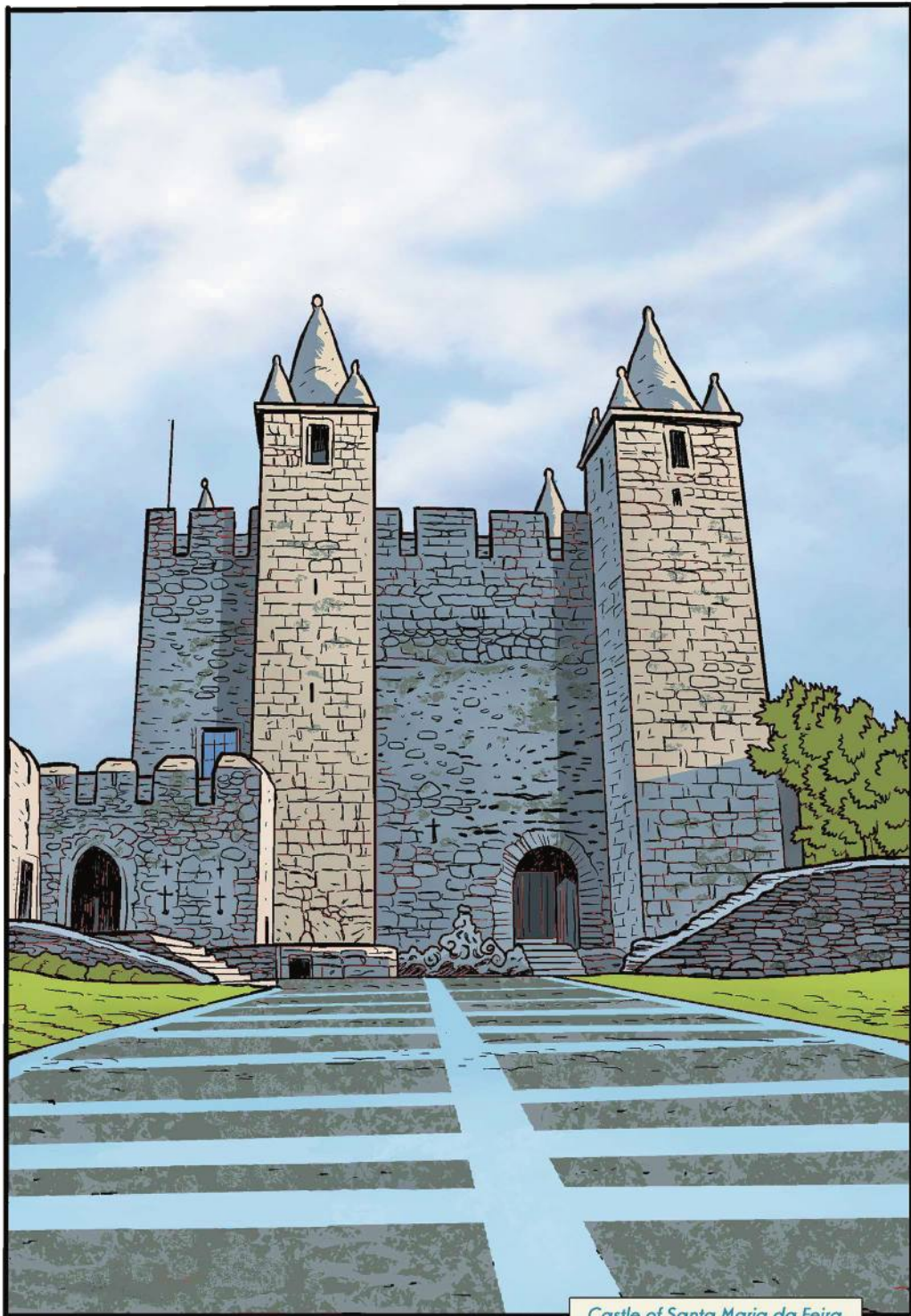
The route passes by the Matriz Church in Santiago street, a church dedicated to St. James, and then crosses the Ul river through the medieval bridge of Ponte de Salgueiro.

Then appears the Monastery of Cucujães, and in O Mosteiro street, taking a slight detour, we can visit the town's impressive Monastery.



Park and chapel of La Salette

Passing by [Santa Maria da Feira](#), where it stands out its high castle, dating back to the 10th century. We can explore the freguesias (parishes) of Arifana, with its Matriz Church, passing through the Roman road in São João de Ver; Escapães, with its leisure park that invites to take a rest; and continuing through Fiães, Lourosa, where we can see its Ornithological Park; Mozelos; and finally, Nogueira da Regedoura, in the border with Grijó. Before leaving [Santa Maria da Feira](#), it is worth to visit its historic quarter and its castle, which are transformed every year to recreate the Fiesta das Fogaceiras and for the well-known Viagem Medieval.



Castle of Santa Maria da Feira



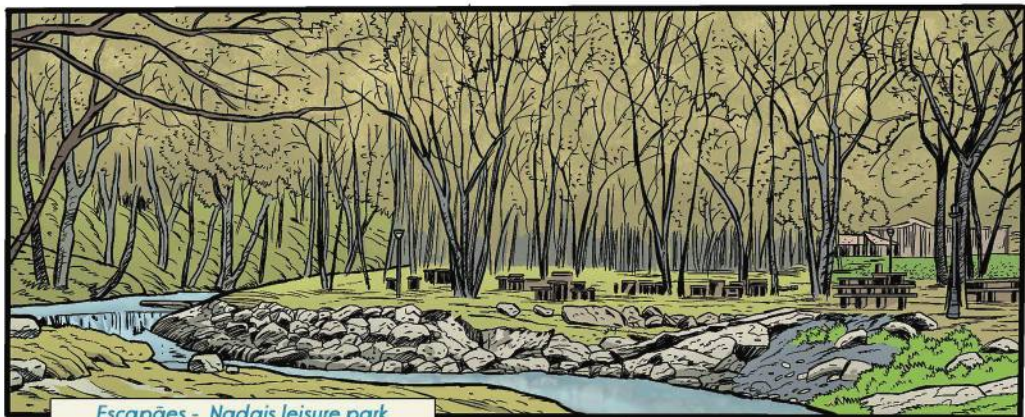
São João de Ver- Roman road



Church of Santiago (Rio Meão)



Church of S. Nicolau



Escapães - Nadais leisure park



Lourosa - Ornithological park

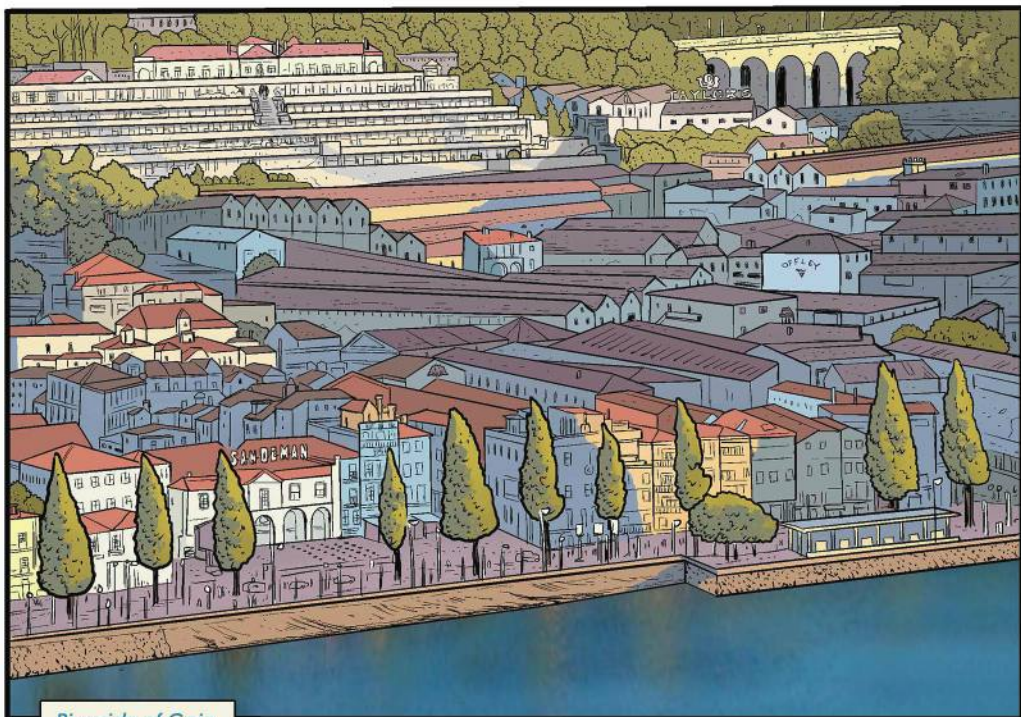
GRIJÓ (VILA NOVA DE GAIA) - PORTO

In Vila Nova de Gaia, internationally known for its Porto and Douro wine companies, which constitute the quintessential touristic attraction of the city, we can find, after 2 km, the Monastery of S. Salvador de Grijó, from the 13th century.

There spent the night in 1594 Confalonieri, whose pilgrimage narratives constituted the building block of the research about the Central Way. Continuing the route, we pass by the freguesia of Perosinho, where we can see its Matriz Church, and, to finish the route in the city, we go down the Republica avenue. There we can find the Town Hall known as Paços do Concelho, the Casa Barbot, and the Monastery of Serra do Pilar, almost reaching the Luis I Bridge, both declared as World Heritage.



Monastery of São Salvador de Grijó



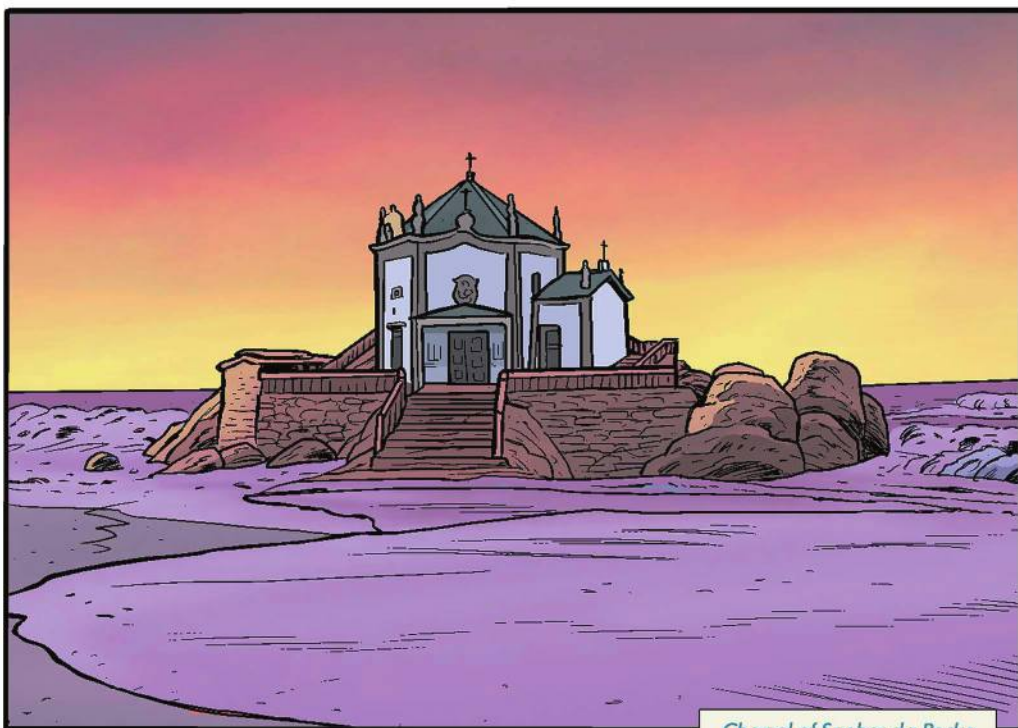
Riverside of Gaia



Church of São Salvador de Perosinho



Chapel of Santa Marinha



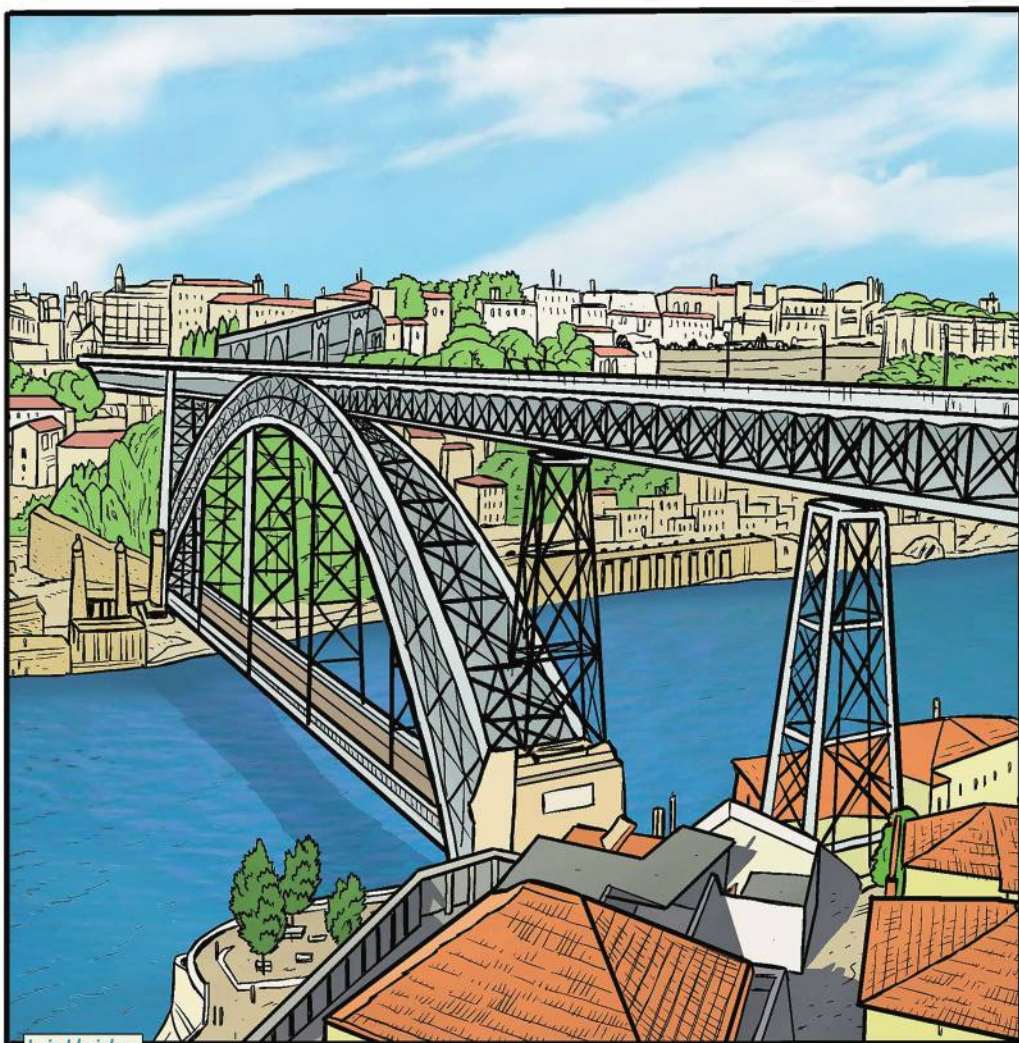
Chapel of Senhor da Pedra



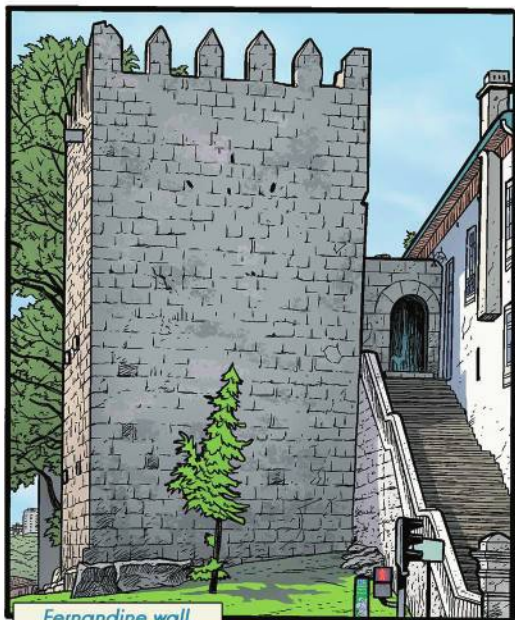
Luis I bridge - Monastery of Serra do Pilar

PORTO - MATOSINHOS - MAIA - SÃO PEDRO DE RATES (PÓVOA DE VARZIM)

Crossing the bridge we enter the city of **Porto**, also known as 'the undefeated city', which gave Portugal its name (Portus Cale). From the bridge we can see the Fernandine wall, and passing by the Cathedral of Porto, the route goes through part of the historic quarter, catalogued as World Heritage. Arriving at the Largo São Domingos square, it is worth to deviate a bit to visit the convent church of São Francisco de Assis. Going back to the route, and once at the top of Ferraz street, we continue towards A Cordoaria, where we can climb the Clérigos Tower, one of the city referents. We can still visit the famous Lello bookshop, see the tile panel of the church of O Carmo, visit the Casa Escondida, and the church of the Carmelitas Descalços.



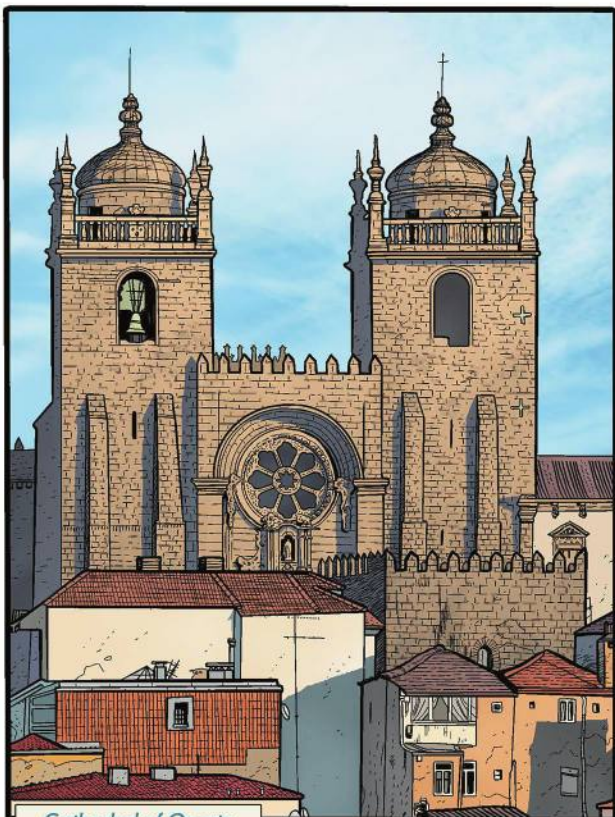
Luis I bridge



Fernandine wall



Stock Exchange Palace

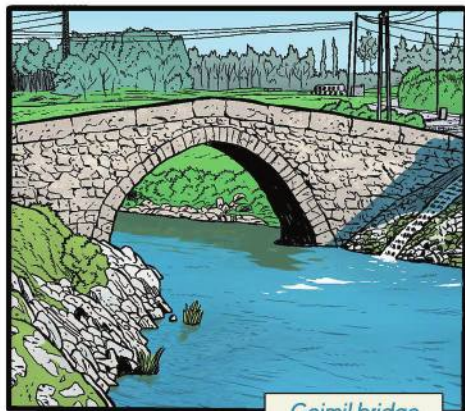


Cathedral of Oporto



Clérigos tower

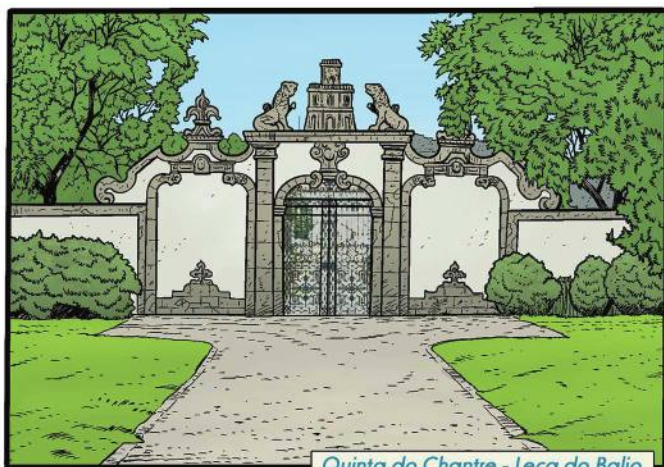
Leaving **Porto** we continue towards **Matosinhos**, located in the coast, which keeps a strong bond with the sea since ancient times, and which is currently one of the best places to enjoy the gastronomic wealth offered by the sea. It is also the birthplace of architect Siza Vieira, who left some of its best-known workpieces in the city, such as the Casa de Chá de Boa Nova, or the Marés pool. In Leça do Balio, after crossing the Leça river through the Roman Pedra Bridge, we pass by the Zimbório de Araújo, the Quinta do Chantre, and the Monastery of Leça do Balio, which had a relevant role in the pilgrim age routes.



Goimil bridge



Dome of Araújo - Leça do Balio



Quinta do Chantre - Leça do Balio



Monastery of Leça do Balio

From here we leave towards **Maia**, where we can find the fifth highest building in Portugal, the 92-metres-high Lidador Tower, named after the hero of these lands, the knight Gonçalo Mendes da Maia. Along the route, we pass by the Marian Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora do Bom Despacho. Nearby we can find the Maia Zoo, where we can see more than 600 animals from 200 different species. Before leaving Maia, passing through Moreira, we can visit the convent church of S. Salvador de Moreira, or the Quinta do Mosteiro.



Marian sanctuary



Church of Moreira



Lidador tower

Passing through Vila do Conde, a coastal city whose ancestral origins are revealed in the Castro of S. João Baptista, we can visit the Monastery of Santa Clara, founded in 1318, one of the referents together with the aqueduct.

The way takes us through Vairão, where we can visit the monastery of the same name, and farther northwards we can see the Arcos Bridge, built in the 12th century, which crosses the Este river.



Monastery of Santa Clara

SÃO PEDRO DE RATES (PÓVOA DE VARZIM) - BARCELOS

Once in the municipality of [A Póvoa de Varzim](#), located in a wide plain between the Ave and Cávado rivers, with ancestral ties to the sea, and an ideal bay for fishing, we continue the way towards S. Pedro de Rates, an emblematic place in the Way. Here we can visit the Romanesque church of S. Pedro de Rates, from the 12th century, one of the most important monuments of the Portuguese Romanesque and national monument, as well as the Capela do Senhor da Praça, a baroque chapel from 1745, and the Pelourinho de Rates.



Romanesque church of São Pedro de Rates



Chapel of São Tiago



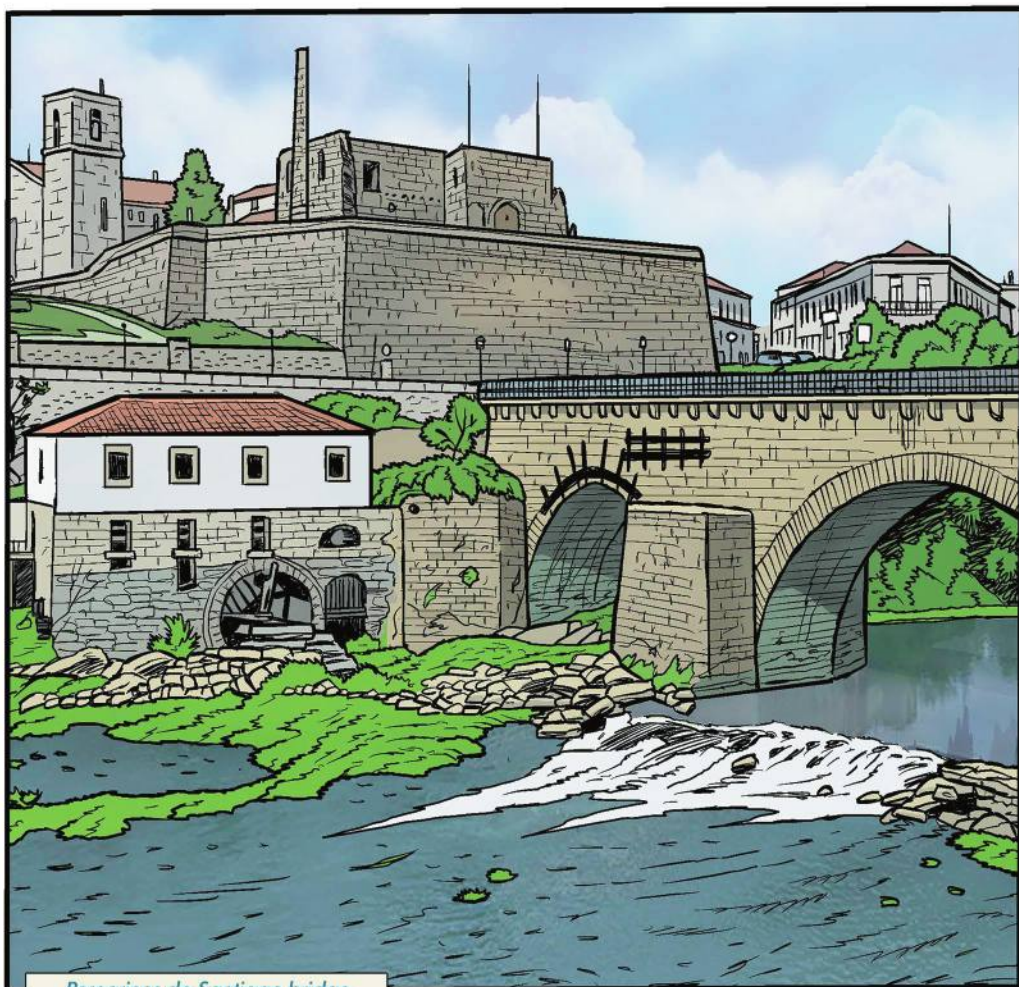
Alegre walk



Almada square

BARCELOS - PONTE DE LIMA

From Rates to Barcelos we pass through São Martinho do Courel, surrounding the legendary Alto da Mulher Morta. From there we start to go down passing through Barcelinhos, where we can find the Chapel of A Senhora da Ponte, built in the 14th century. Afterwards, we cross the Medieval Bridge of Barcelos (built between 1325 and 1328 - 14th century), from which we can appreciate the landscape over the medieval heart of the city, and enter the centre of Barcelos, a city famous for its handcrafted products and birthplace of the Barcelos rooster, symbol of the legend associated with the jacobean pilgrimages. In the historic quarter of Barcelos we can visit the Paço of the Counts of Barcelos and the Stone Cross of O Galo from the 14th century, which recalls the miracle of St. James. We continue the route through Vila Boca, initiating the way up to Portela de Tamel through São Pedro Fins and Bouças, going down through Aborim until Ponte das Tábuas, in Balugães, where we can find the Church of S. Martinho de Balugães, a place to take a rest.



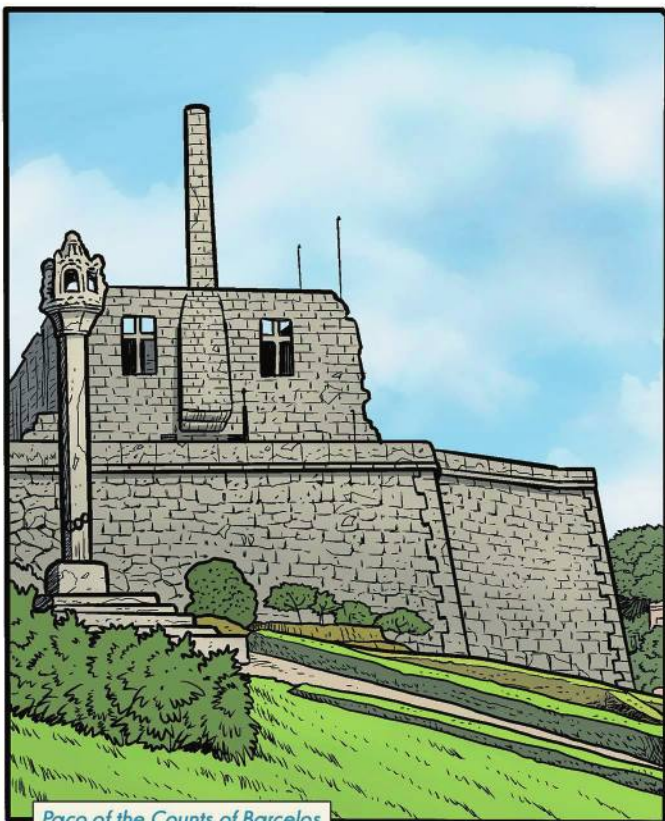
Peregrinos de Santiago bridge



Barcelos rooster



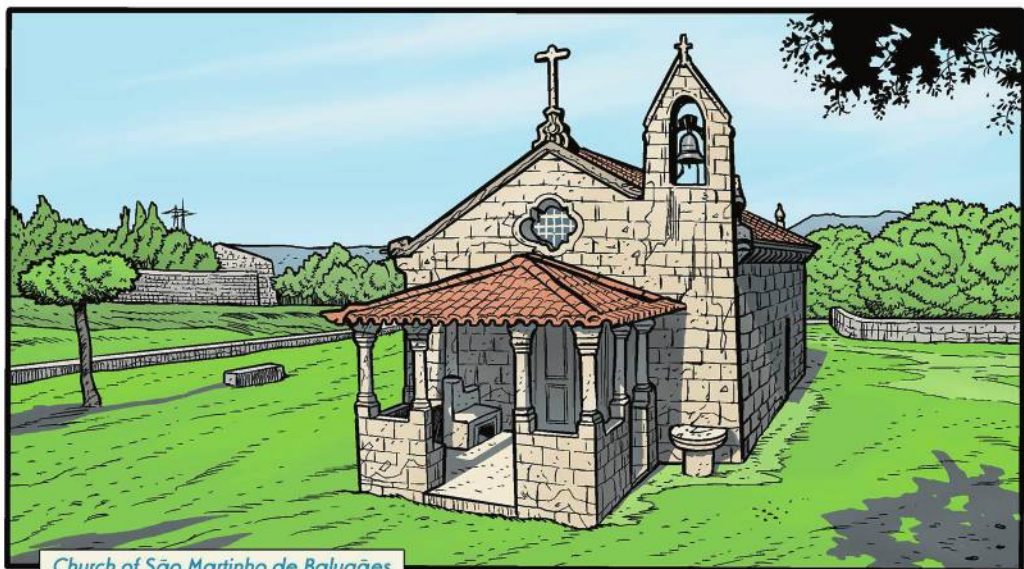
Chapel of the Senhora da Ponte



Paço of the Counts of Barcelos



Stone cross of Milagre de Santiago



Church of São Martinho de Balugães



Tábuas bridge

PONTE DE LIMA - RUBIÃES (PAREDES DE COURA)

In Ponte de Lima, the oldest village of Portugal, where the Way through Braga and the Way through Torres meet after crossing the Roman and Medieval bridges, the Way continues through Arcozelo, where we can visit its parochial church.

We continue towards Labruja, where we can find the Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Neves, where the route ends in the Cruz dos Franceses.



Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Neves



Romanesque church of São Pedro de Rubiães

RUBIÃES (PAREDES DE COURA) - TUI

We arrive in Paredes de Coura, with the 883-metres-high O Como do Bico, a small natural sanctuary catalogued as Protected Landscape.

In the route we can see an ensemble of traditional watermills in perfect conditions of preservation and use.

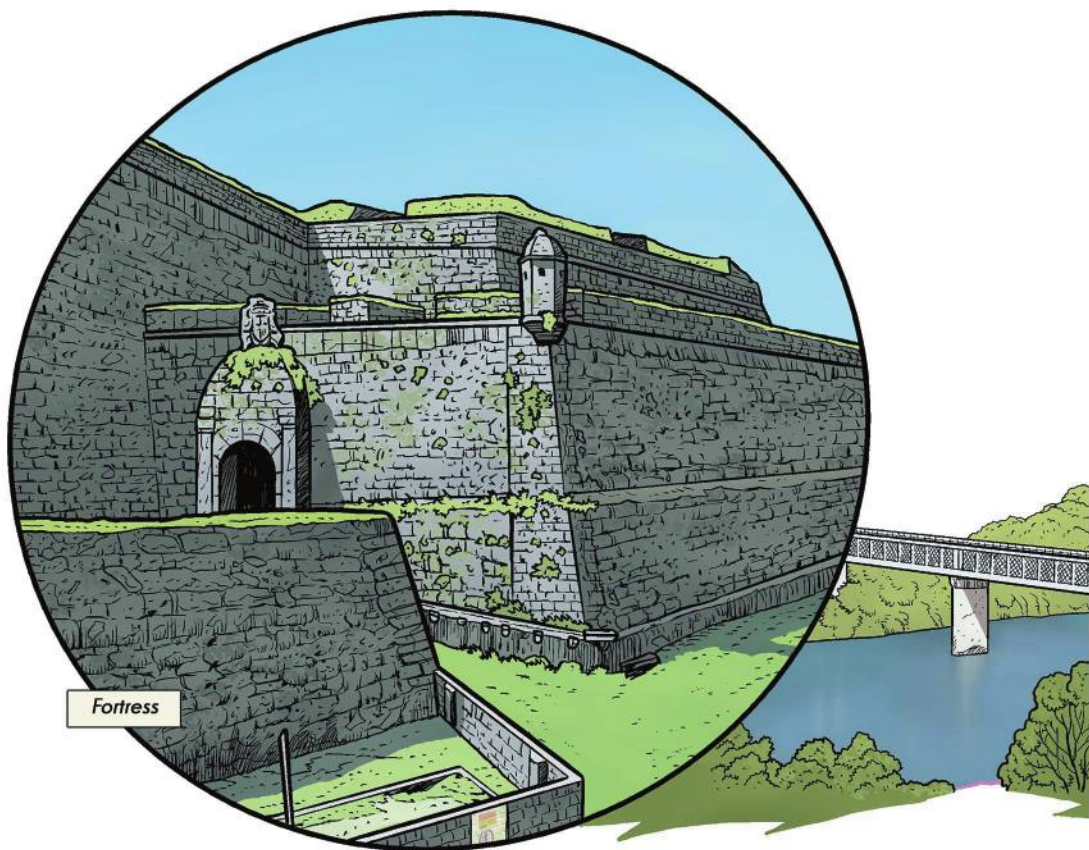
Continuing towards Agualonga, we cross an old bridge and we reach the Chapel of S. Roque, meeting again the Roman Road that comes from Romarigães.

The way that follows the route of the Roman via getting into a dense forest leads us to the Romanesque Church of Rubiães from the 13th century, built in 1295 and catalogued as National Monument. From here, we continue towards Valença.

In Valença, a fortified city whose Fortress keeps vestiges with more than 2,000 years of history, the Way crosses the Miño river towards Galicia.

In the centre of Fontoura, in the vicinity of the parochial church, we find the chapel of O Senhor dos Aflitos, in whose stone cross we can see the stick and the scallop shell called 'vieira', the pilgrim symbols.

In Fontoura there is also the Senhor dos Caminhos cross.

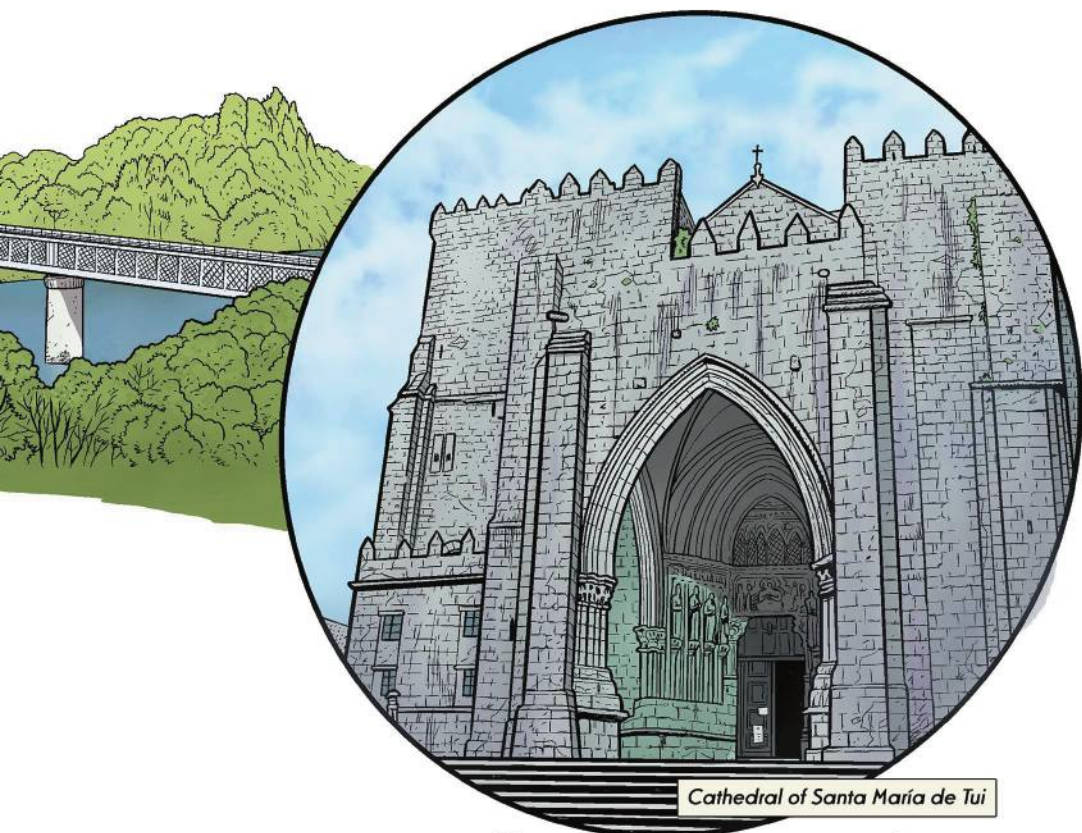


TUI - REDONDELA

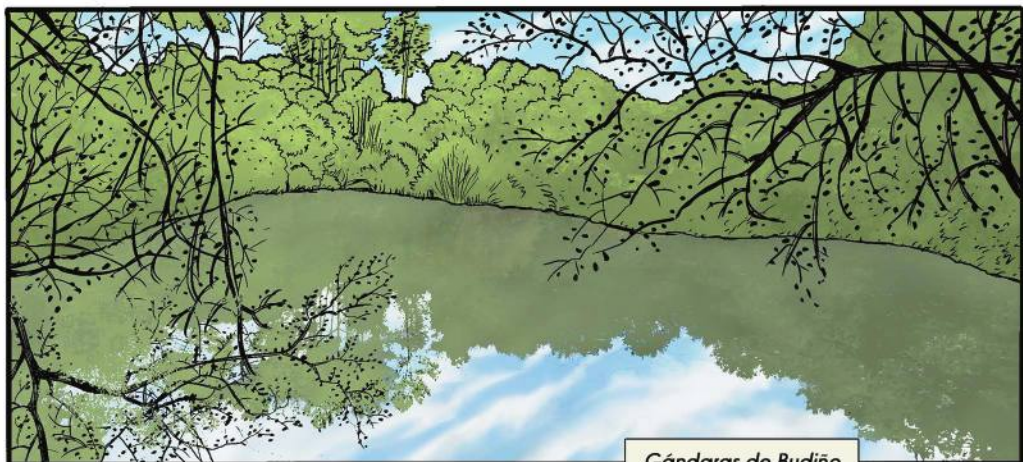
We say goodbye to Portuguese lands crossing the International bridge of Tui over the Minho river, designed by the architect Pelayo Mancebo y Ágreda, inaugurated in 1886 with access for pedestrians, trains and vehicles. The Santa María Cathedral, whose patron Saint is San Telmo, welcomes the pilgrims.

The main façade is the first Gothic style construction in the Iberian Peninsula. Next to the Cathedral, we can find the Diocesan Museum, in the ancient hospital of poor and pilgrims.

The way goes though the centre of the village, passing near the Clarisas Convent founded in 1517 with a style between the Mannerism and the Portuguese Baroque, and the Santo Domingo Convent, whose church keeps inside the sarcophagi of the nobility of the Region.



Leaving Tui, in Rebordáns, we reach the church of San Bartolomeu (12th century), the first Episcopal See. We can see the Aloia mount, the first declared Natural Park of Galicia, and we continue towards Gándaras de Budiño, between the municipalities of O Porriño, Salceda de Caselas and Tui, a natural space declared as Special Area of Conservation (ZEC), due to the great diversity of flora and fauna.

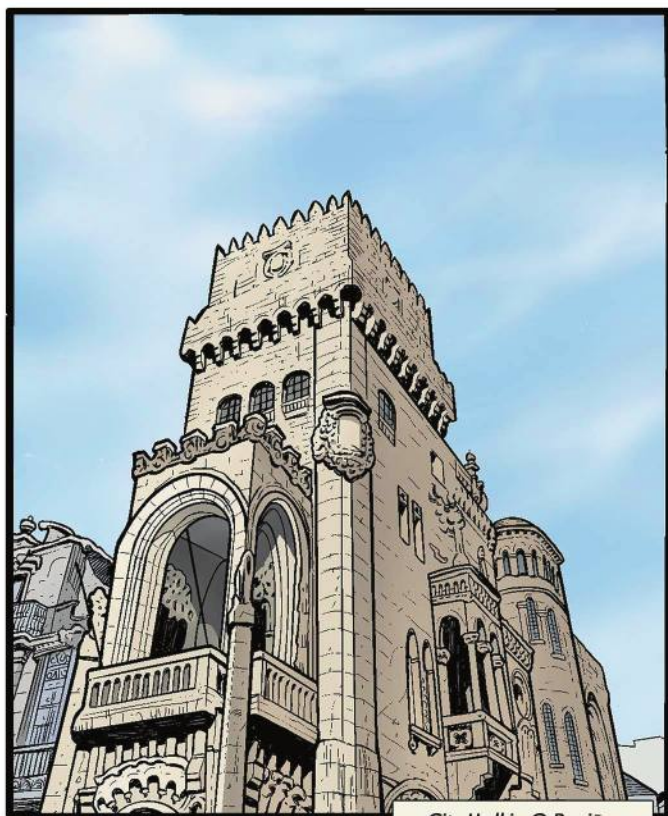


Gándaras de Budiño

We arrive in O Porriño passing by its town hall, a work by architect A. Palacios.

Before reaching the end of this stage, we stop in Mos, and afterwards we find the baroque church of Santa Baia (16th century), and the Pazo of the Marquises of Mos. Leaving Mos, we can see the stone cross of Cabaleiros (18th century) and a Roman milestone of the Via XIX which leads our way towards Redondela.

In this point the Coastal Way meets the Central Way.



City Hall in O Porriño

REDONDELA - PONTEVEDRA

We start this stage in the entrance to Redondela, in the Renaissance-style Vilavella convent (16th century), and continue crossing the village until the upper part, where we can find the Santiago church, which dates back to Diego Xelmírez's times, the first archbishop of Santiago, and promoter of the cathedral construction in the Galician capital. Very close to the church, in the Casa da Torre (16th century), we can find the current hostel, which was the town hall until the 19th century.

We leave the centre of the village and arrive in the parish of Cesantes, where the San Simón and San Antón islands emerge in the ría of Vigo. The Rande Bridge appears in the distance, surrounded by mussel farming platforms called bateas. In this area in the ría of Vigo took place the famous Battle of Rande. We pass through Arcade, within the municipality of Soutomaior, a parish famous for the quality of its seafood and, especially, its oysters.

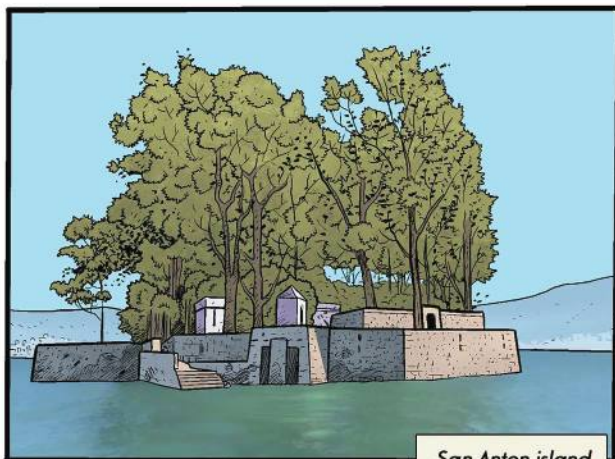
In this town we can deviate from our way to visit the Medieval Castle of Soutomaior, built in the 12th century.

We follow the Way until we reach Ponte Sampaio, over the Verdugo river.

In this stage of the way we pass through sections of the former Roman Via XIX, which connected the current cities of Braga, Lugo and Astorga. We keep walking until the city of Pontevedra.



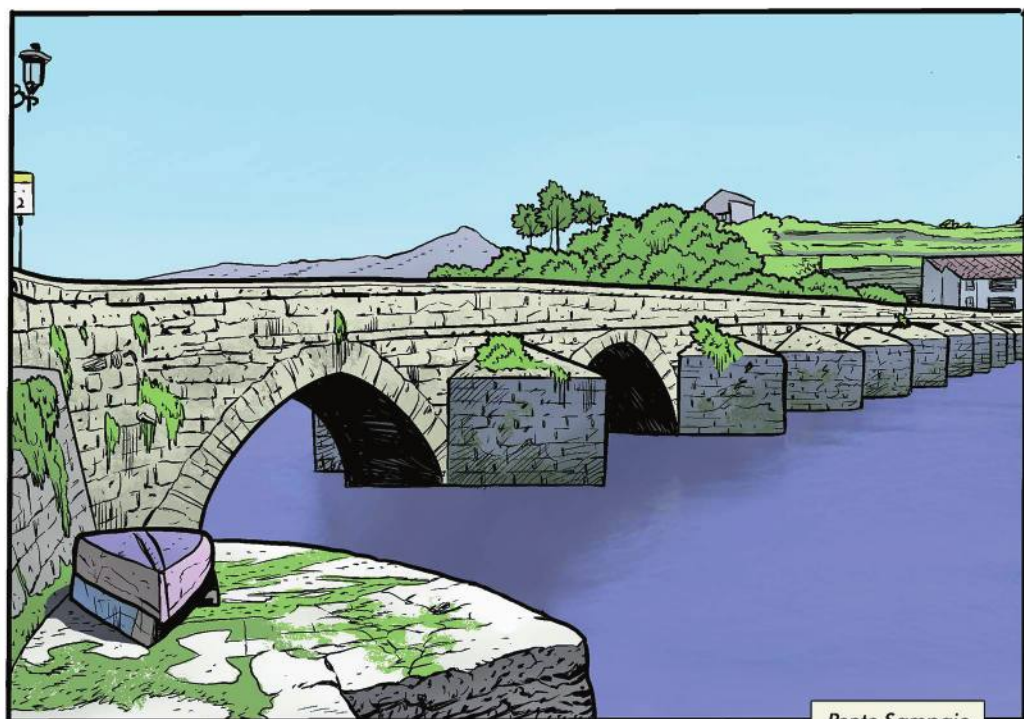
Rande bridge



San Anton island



Castle of Soutomaior



Ponte Sampaio

PONTEVEDRA - CALDAS DE REIS

We enter through Otero Pedrayo street and the Glorieta de Compostela, until we reach the Chapel of A Virxe da Peregrina (1792). Its style is late baroque with neoclassical forms. The holy water font that we can see at the entrance is a shell brought from the Pacific Ocean by Casto Méndez Núñez. In the old town of Pontevedra we must also highlight other monuments, like the basilica of Santa María A Grande (15th-16th centuries); the Museum of Pontevedra, with six buildings that house archaeological and ethnographic pieces, among which it stands out the ruins of the Convent of Santo Domingo; and the A Ferrería, A Leña and O Teucro squares, the latter paying homage to the legend of the founder of the city.

We can also enjoy several green and pedestrian areas, like the Alameda, where we can find the Monument to the Ponte Sampaio heroes.



Ponte dos Tirantes over the Lérez river. Pazo da Cultura



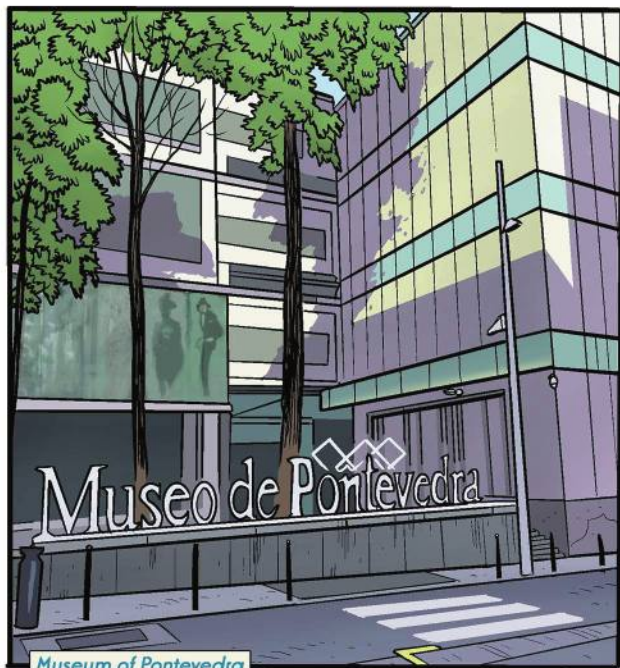
Ruins of the convent of Santo Domingo



Chapel of A Virxe da Peregrina



Basilica of Santa María A Grande



Museum of Pontevedra



Alameda, Monument to the heroes of Ponte Sampaio



Praza da Leña

We leave towards Caldas de Reis and we arrive in Alba, in the parish of Touceda, where we can find the Romanesque Monastery of Santa María de Alba. In the municipality of Barro, on the way to Caldas, we can see the Barosa river, with an almost-monumental waterfall, and an ensemble of aligned watermills that make use of the force of the water to move their millstones. The town of Tibo, with its ethnographic ensemble, gives way to Caldas de Reis, the former Roman Aquis Celenis, a thermal village bathed by the Umia and Bermaña rivers.



Waterfall in the Barosa river



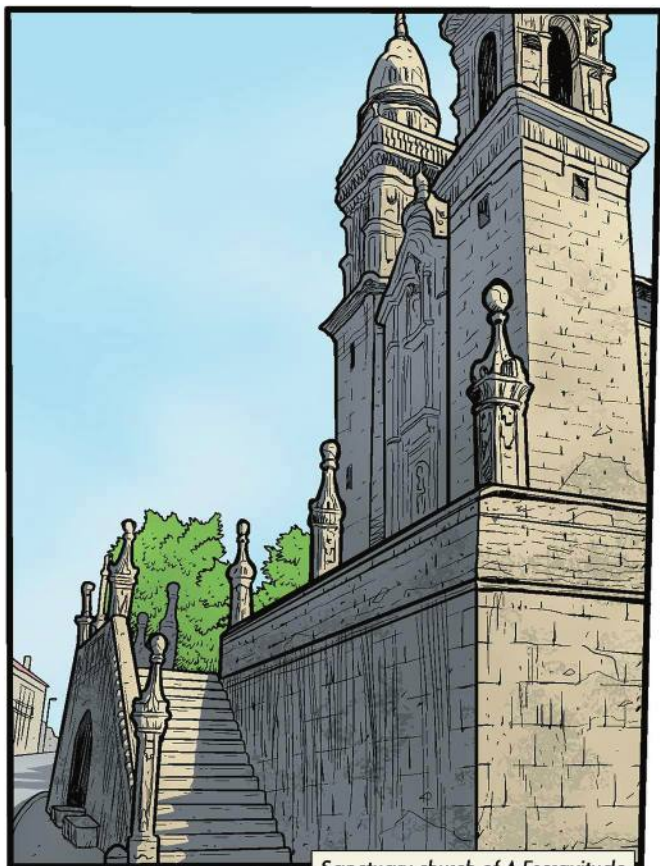
Church of San Cristovo

CALDAS DE REIS - PADRÓN

In the urban centre of Caldas we can find the neo-medieval church of Santo Tomás de Becket (19th century), which is the only church in Galicia devoted to the Saint Archbishop of Canterbury (1118-1170).

We cross the Roman bridge that passes through Real street in the old town, and continue towards the Romanesque church of Santa María, built over an earlier temple which was destroyed by Almanzor, according to the Arab chronicles.

We continue towards Padrón, passing through Santa María de Carracedo, Valga and the Castelo mount, with traditional mills. We reach the church of San Xulián de Requeixo (12th century), in Pontecesures, and we cross the Roman bridge over the Ulla river until we reach Padrón, the place where the Portuguese Way meets the 'Mar de Arousa and Río Ulla' route.



Sanctuary church of A Escravitude

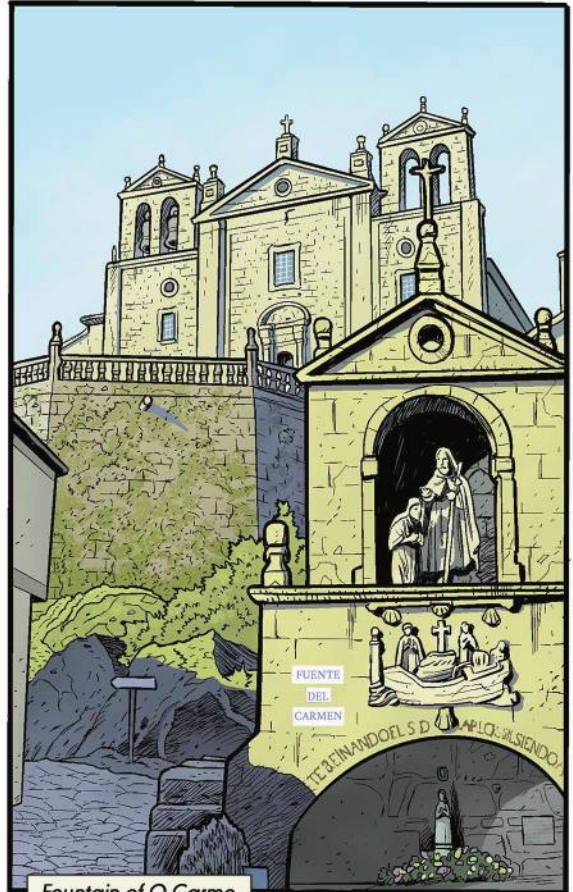


Roman bridge

PADRÓN - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

We get into the village of Padrón, where the old port where the boat of Apostle St. James arrived from Jerusalem was found in 2018. We get closer to the church of Santa María A Grande, where the O Pedrón is kept. This is a Roman altar where the Apostle's disciples tied the boat that carried his dead body. In this village we can also visit the O Carne Fount, with a figure of the Apostle brought by his disciples by boat, christening queen Lupa when he converted her to Christianity. Other places to discover in Padrón are the beautiful botanical garden, and the house of writer Rosalía de Castro.

We continue the way and we cross Iria Flavia, where we can visit the Camilo José Cela Foundation in the Casa dos Coengos, a building from the 18th century, and the Adina cemetery, where Cela is buried. Then we pass through A Escravitude, where we can visit its famous Sanctuary, until we reach Francos street, where we find the oldest Gothic stone cross of Galicia. In the vicinity we can see the Castro Lupario, linked to the legends of queen Lupa, and the beginnings of the jacobean history. Entering the municipality of **Compostela** we pass through the neighbourhood of A Rocha, which has the castle ruins of Rocha Forte, occupied from the 12th to the 15th century and destroyed by the Irmandiños' revolts in 1466. We keep walking until O Franco street, which takes its name from the medieval times, and we end up in the monumental Obradoiro square, thus reaching the end of the Way.



Fountain of O Carne



Arrival in Santiago

THE BRAGA VERSION

1. Porto - Valongo - Covelas (Trofa)
2. Covelas (Trofa) - São Tiago de Antas (Vila Nova de Famalicão)
3. São Tiago de Antas (Vila Nova de Famalicão) - Braga
4. Braga - Lugar de Pereiro, Goães (Vila Verde)
5. Lugar de Pereiro, Goães (Vila Verde) - Ponte de Lima

This Way can be travelled through different versions. The one that runs through Braga is an old route that passes through several ancient Roman routes until Bracara Augusta (Braga), and where we can still see some vestiges of these vias, as well as several heritage elements of devotion to Santiago.



PORTO - VALONGO - COVELAS (TROFA)

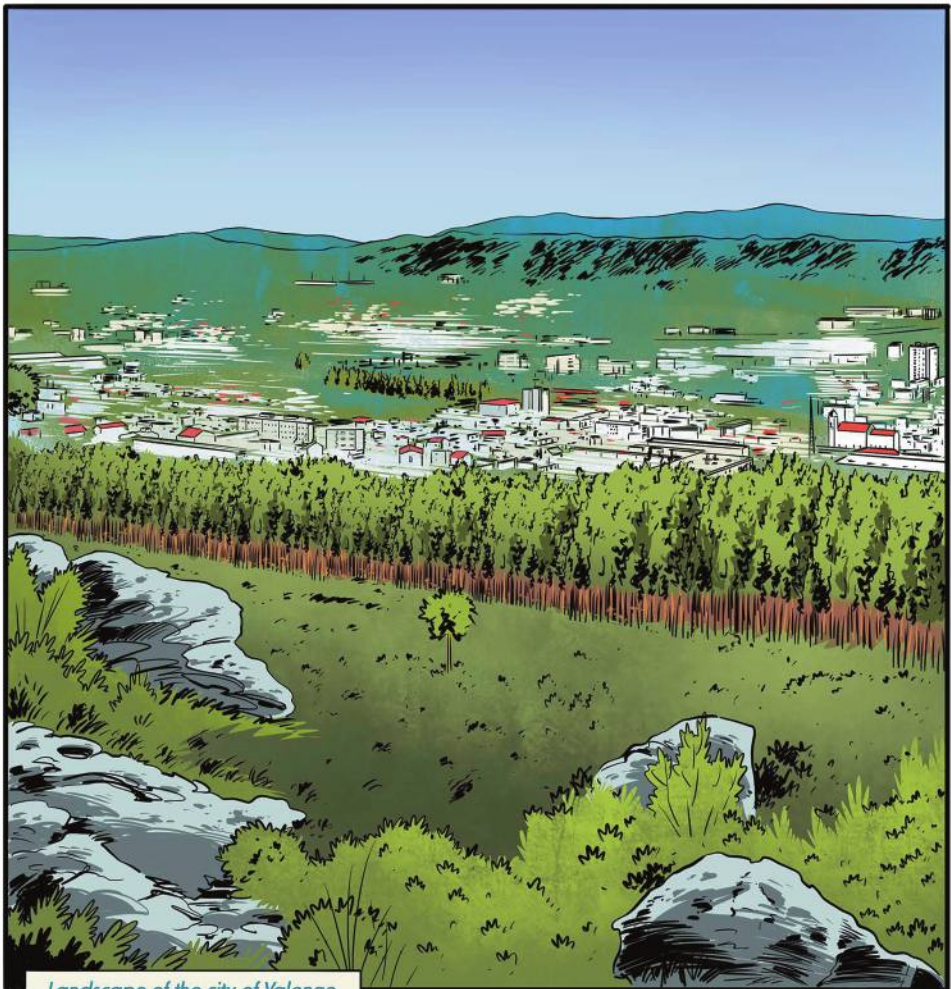
In this version, when we leave Porto, instead of heading for Maia towards Vila do Conde, we go towards Trofa, whose origins date back to the prehistoric ages, as show the engravings of Monte de S. Gens or the mámoas of S. Pantaleão and Alvarelhos. We cross the Prado Bridge, National Monument from 1616, passing by the Matriz Church of Prado, from the 18th century, and we continue through several towns until we reach Goães.



Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Dores

Before heading for Trofa, **Valongo** is worth a visit. At this point we can continue the Way through several routes, depending on where we arrive. Passing through Ermesinde, Vila do Sobrado, Vila de Campo or Alfena is the perfect opportunity to discover the reasons to be proud of the symbols of Valongo. We can cross the mountain ranges of Santa Justa e Pias, the "Parque das Serras do Porto", whose geodiversity and biodiversity have achieved the recognition as Protected Landscape Area, and we can discover the historical village of Couce, a small rural settlement of ancient origins, recently classified as "Aldeia de Portugal". We can also discover the religious heritage and other heritage elements that are true vestiges of ancient times.

The slate extracted from the Campo subsoil, the traditional toys of Alfena and Ermesinde, the regueifa sweets and the biscoito ('sponge cake') of **Valongo**, are other emblems of the place, as well as the Bugios and Mourisqueiros, symbols of their original festivities called Bugiada and Mouriscada, which take place in Sobrado every June 24th.



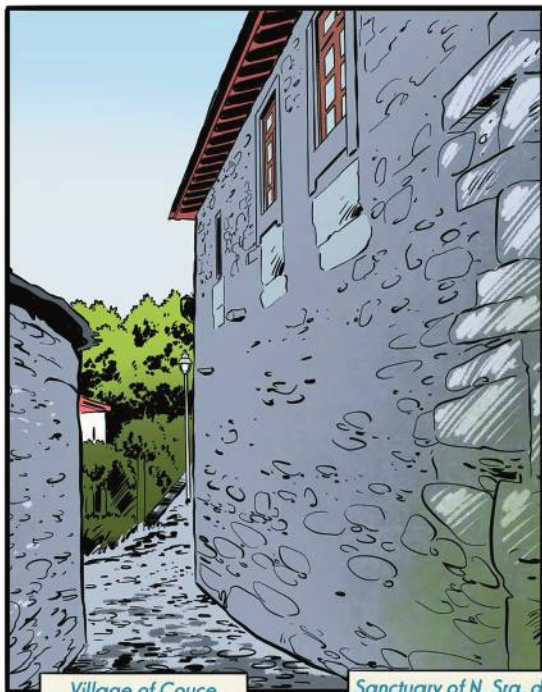
Landscape of the city of Valongo



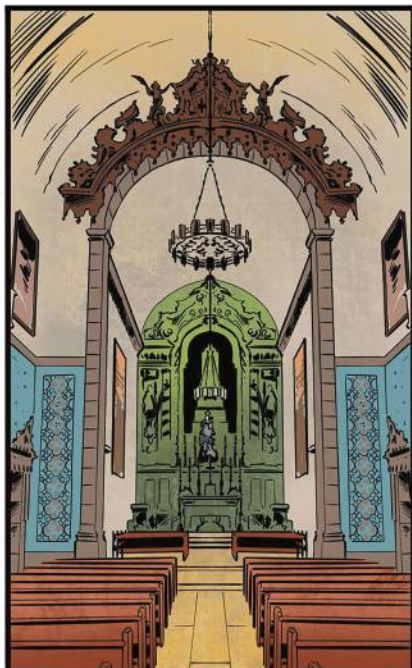
Matriz church of Sobrado



Aqueduct of Os Arcos



Village of Couce



Sanctuary of N. Sra. do Bom Despacho da Mão Poderosa and Santa Rita



S. Lázaro bridge

COVELAS (TROFA)- SÃO TIAGO DE ANTAS (VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO)

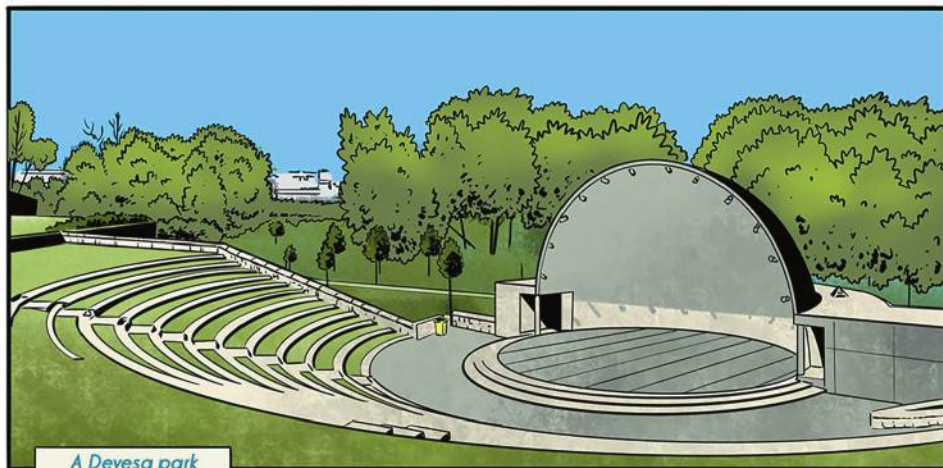
Going back to the way, we head for *Vila Nova de Famalicão*, with the outstanding beauty of its green landscape, where it stands out the Devesa Park, with 23 hectares of green space crossed by a river, a creek, a lake, and several cultural spaces. Before arriving in São Tiago de Antas, where we pass by the Monastery of Santiago de Antas, the way crosses the Ave river through the Ponte da Lagoncinha bridge, catalogued as National Monument. Other examples of its rich heritage are the Monasteries of Landim and Arnosó, which are worth a visit.



Matriz church of Covelas

SÃO TIAGO DE ANTAS (VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO) - BRAGA

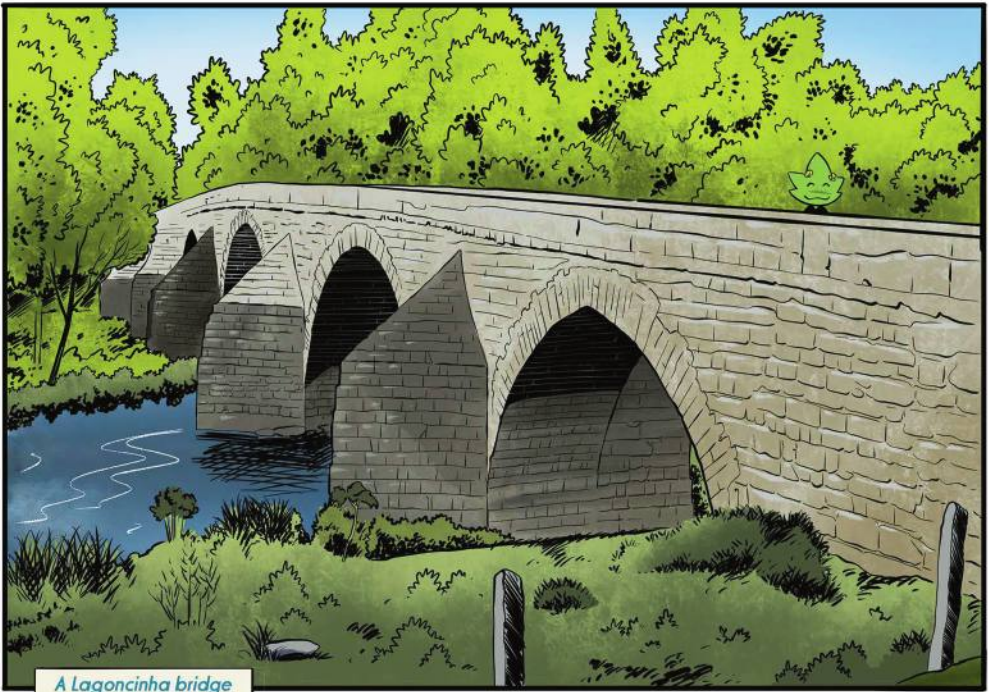
From here we continue towards Braga, a city founded by Romans more than 2,000 years ago, which was the capital of the Kingdom of Galicia, and which is also crossed by the Ways of Torres and of "Geira e dos Arrieiros". In the historic quarter we pass under the Arco da Porta Nova to reach the Cathedral, and after that we go towards the Largo de Santiago to see the Santiago fountain, the Santiago Tower, a vestige of the medieval wall, and the Seminar of Santiago. Further on we can visit the Church of Hospital de São Marcos, and once out of the city we can see the Chapel of São Frutuoso de Montélios or the Monastery of Tibães, a Benedictine hostel-convent which offered assistance to pilgrims.



A Devesa park



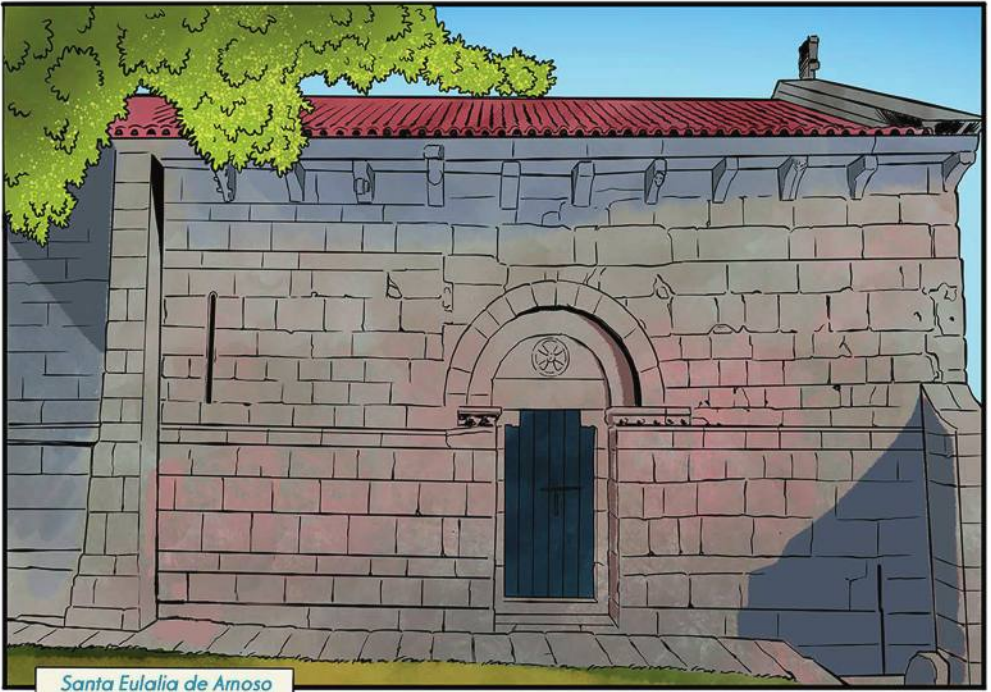
Monastery of Santiago de Antas



A Lagoncinha bridge



Monastery of Landim



Santa Eulalia de Amoso



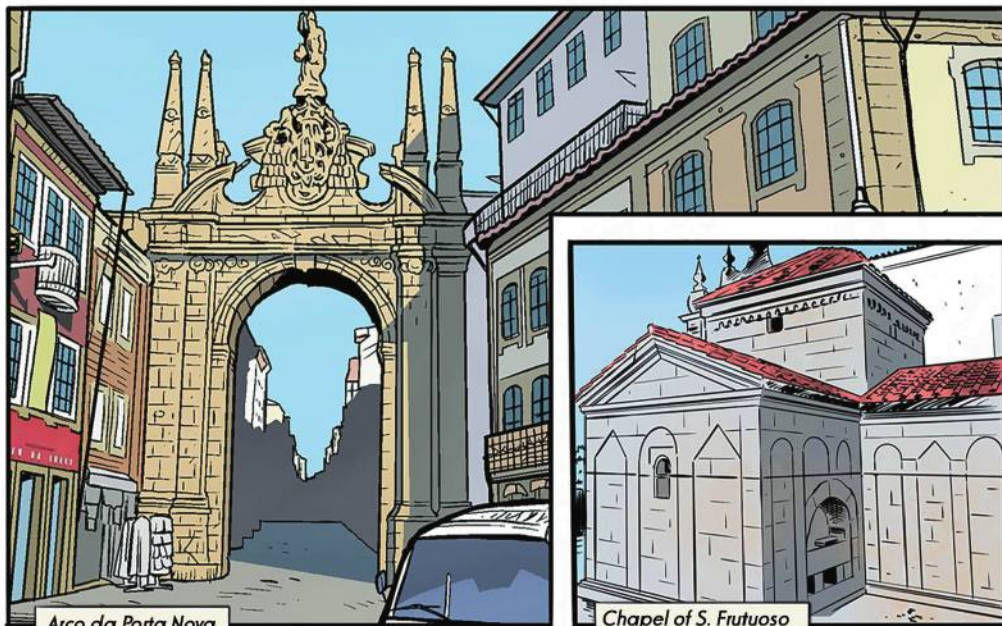
Convent of nuns

BRAGA - LUGAR DE PEREIRO, GOÃES (VILA VERDE)

We leave **Braga** and go towards Vila Verde, a town with a rich heritage, and prehistoric and castreño findings, such as the Castro Barbudo or the Citania de S. Julião de Caldelas, where we continue the way from Ponte de Prado, passing through A Lage, Moure, Carreiras S. Miguel, Portela das Cabras and Goães.



Nossa Senhora da Torre chapel and S. Tiago gate



Arco da Porta Nova

Chapel of S. Frutuoso

LUGAR DE PEREIRO- GOÃES (VILA VERDE) - PONTE DE LIMA

After saying goodbye to Vila Verde we continue towards Ponte de Lima, where we go back to the route of the Central Way.



Pedrinha bridge (Goães)



Roman bridge

WAY OF TORRES

1. Lamego - Mesão Frio
2. Mesão Frio - Amarante
3. Amarante - Guimarães
4. Guimarães - Braga

This Way is named after the famous pilgrim from Salamanca Diego de Torres Villarroel, catedratic of the University of Salamanca, who made this route in 1737. The way departs from Salamanca, enters the Northern region of Portugal through the municipality of Sernancelhe, and then crosses Moimenta da Beira and Tarouca before arriving in Lamego.



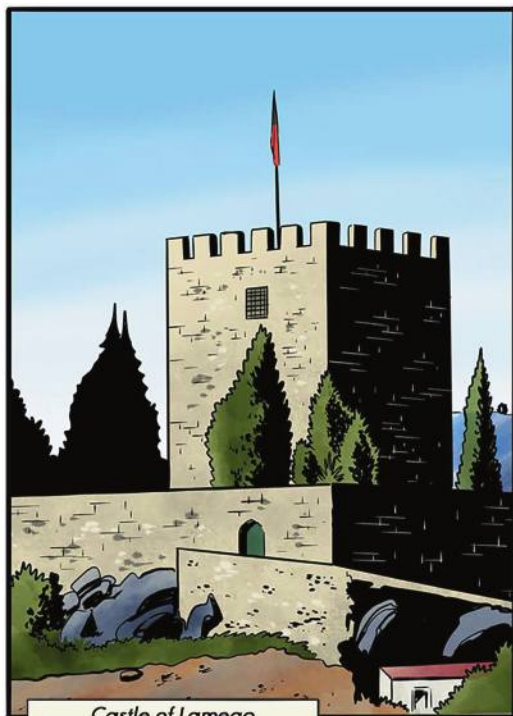
LAMEGO - MESÃO FRIO

From Lamego we continue towards **Peso da Régua**, passing by the Romanesque church of Santa Maria do Almacave, continuing through the plantation houses called "quintas" and the characteristic vineyards of this area. We share the way with those who come following the Interior Way and we continue towards Mesão Frio, entering through Largo do Cruzeiro.

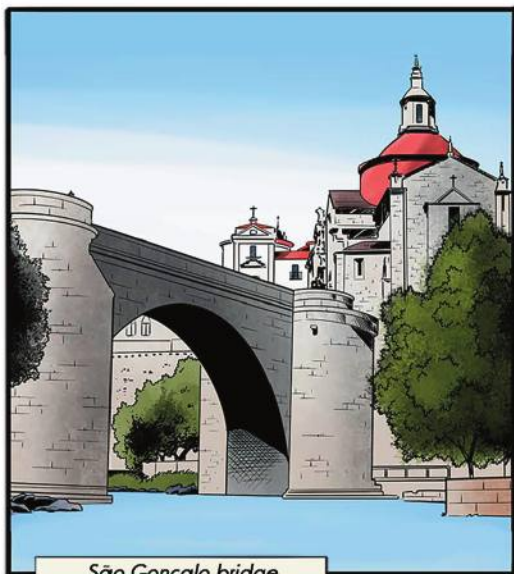
MESÃO FRIO - AMARANTE

In Mesão Frio we start the way going up to Portela and Graça until its highest point, 925 metres high, with a view over the Serra do Marão. Afterwards we go down to continue the way along the Carneiro river bank, in a nice walk through nature, and after crossing the bridge over the Ovelha river, in Baião, we start to finally grasp Amarante.

Amarante saw its relevance and visibility increased with the arrival of S. Gonçalo, who settled in this town. The bridge over the Tâmega river, and the Church and the Convent which take its name, are the referents of the city. The bridge that Gonçalo de Amarante ordered to rebuild in the 13th century from the remains of a former Roman bridge achieved the union of the regions of Trás-os-Montes and Porto, also contributing to the pilgrims flow to Santiago.



Castle of Lamego



São Gonçalo bridge

AMARANTE - GUIMARÃES

We continue the way crossing the historic quarter of Amarante and going up to the Prelonga Mount. Before reaching Guimarães we pass through Felgueiras, where we can visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Pombeiro, founded in 1102.

In **Guimarães**, known as the birthplace of the Portuguese nationality, and whose historic quarter was catalogued as World Heritage by UNESCO in 2001, we can visit the Castle and the Paço of the Dukes of Bragança. We can walk its historic quarter passing by the Largo da Oliveira, where we can find the Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira and in front of it, the Padrão do Salado, national monument.

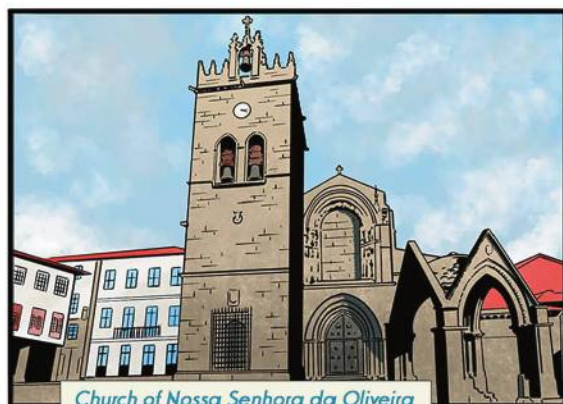
GUIMARÃES - BRAGA

The way continues through Praça de São Tiago, and before leaving **Guimarães** we cross Caldas das Taipas, where we find the Roman Banhos Velhos, and the Ara de Trajano, with a honorable mention that dates back to 103 BC by Roman emperor Trajan Augustus. In fact, in this stage there are many evidences of the presence of the Roman Empire, being one of them the Roman Via that connected **Guimarães** and **Braga**, catalogued in 1910 as National Monument.

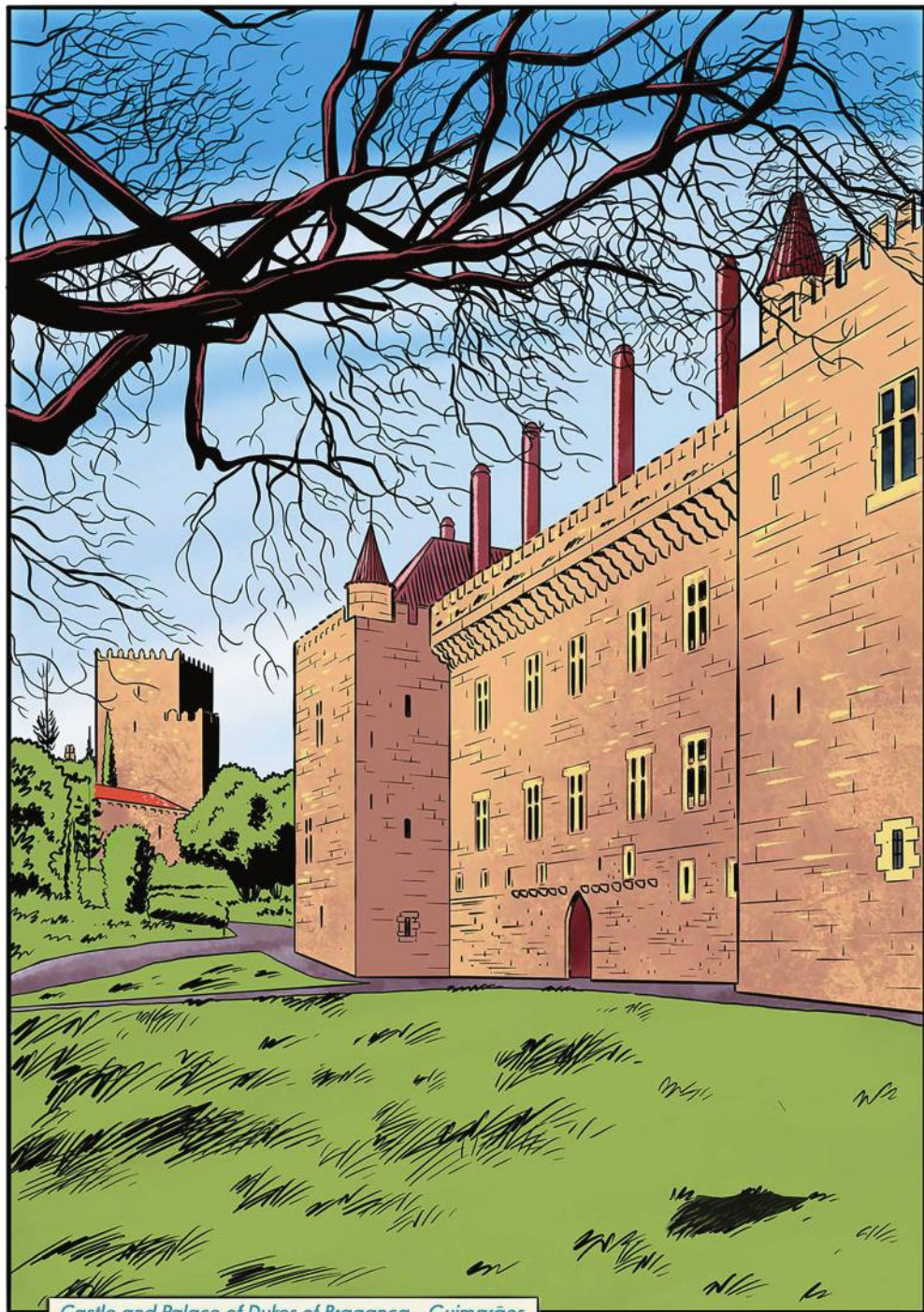
We finally arrive in **Braga**, where we can visit the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte, constituted by an architectural-landscape ensemble consisting of a church, a staircase with the Via Sacra del Bom Jesus, a forest area, and a cable car recently catalogued as National Monument and declared World Heritage by UNESCO. Here the Way meets the Central route coming from **Vila Nova de Famalicão**, and continues through Vila Verde and Ponte de Lima until it reaches **Santiago de Compostela**.



Santa Maria Street - Historic Centre



Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira



Castle and Palace of Dukes of Bragança - Guimarães



S. Tiago square



Old Baths - Caldas das Taipas



Bom Jesus Sanctuary in Braga

PORTUGUESE COASTAL WAY

1. Porto - Matosinhos - Maia
2. Maia - Póvoa de Varzim
3. Póvoa de Varzim - Esposende
4. Esposende - Viana do Castelo
5. Viana do Castelo - Caminha
6. Caminha - Vila Nova de Cerveira
7. Vila Nova de Cerveira - A Guarda
8. A Guarda - Santa María de Oia
9. Santa María de Oia - Baiona
10. Baiona - Vigo
11. Vigo - Redondela

The Portuguese Coastal Way was, according to some historians, one of the most important axis to reach the temple of the Apostle in Santiago de Compostela, but it was in more recent times, from the 15th century onwards, when it acquired a special relevance, being used by coastal villages and those who landed in seaports. It departs from Porto and runs through several municipalities in the coast until the Galician border.



PORTO - MATOSINHOS - MAIA

The coastal way has its origin in the city of **Porto**, and shares most of the route of the Central Way. Close to the Cathedral we can find the Chapel of A Senhora das Verdades, where there is a pilgrim information centre. They can stamp the pilgrim pass here. Reaching the Campo dos Mártires da Pátria, we can visit the Portuguese Centre of Photography, located in the building of the former prison of Cadeia da Relação do Porto. When we arrive at the Exército Libertador square, we can see the Cross of o Senhor do Padrão, built in 1738, which provides the religiosity of the routes. Near the Cross of Padrão da Légua in **Matosinhos**, the way starts to deviate from the route of the Central Way. We head for Largo do Souto, catalogued in 1258 as "ad crucem Sanctii Iacobii Costoyas". Very close to it we can see the Parochial Church of Santiago de Custóias and after crossing the Leça river through the medieval bridge of D. Goimil, we go towards the limits of the municipality, until Marco do Couto de Leça. We enter Maia through Moreira da Maia and we continue in the vicinity of the Francisco Sá Carneiro airport, from which we can slightly deviate towards the Convent Church of S. Salvador de Moreira da Maria, founded in the 11th century.





Church of Bom Jesus de Matosinhos



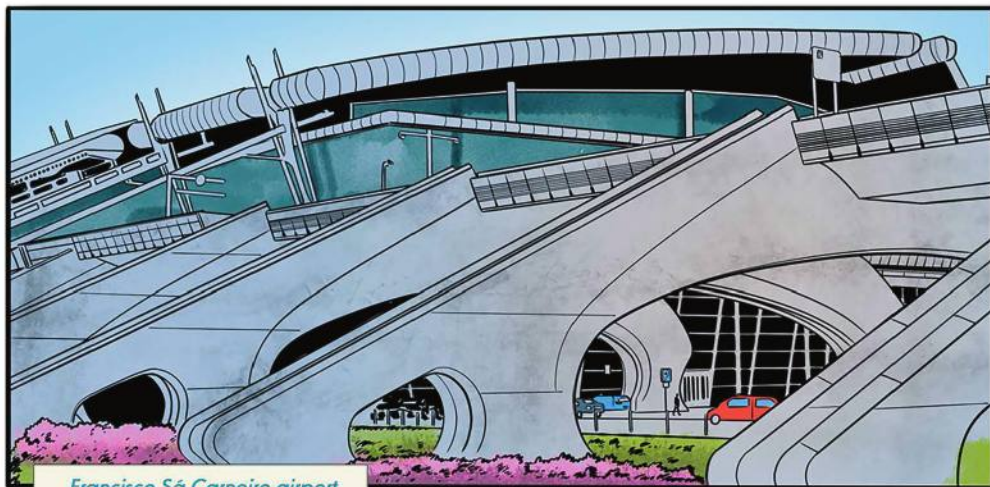
Dome of Senhor do Padrão



Tragédia do Mar monument

MAIA - PÓVOA DE VARZIM

Going back to the Way, we pass by the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Mãe dos Homens and almost at the end of Maia we pass by the Church of Santa Maria de Vila Nova da Telha. Arriving in Vila do Conde, the way gets closer to the coast after passing by the Church of Santiago de Labruge, crossing the Ornithological Reserve of Mindelo. Before crossing the Ave river through the bridge from the late 18th century, we pass by Granja, near the church of the former Convent of the Capuchos and Santa Maria de Azurara. The way continues through **Póvoa de Varzim**, always along the sea, passing by the Fortress of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, built between 1701 and 1740. Quite nearby we can visit the Pelourinho, the Paços do Concelho, the Museum and the Matriz Church of Póvoa de Varzim.



Francisco Sá Carneiro airport



Chapel of Nossa Senhora Mãe dos Homens



Church of Santa Maria de Vila Nova de Teiã



Church of Santiago de Labruge



Zoo of Maia

PÓVOA DE VARZIM - ESPOSENDE

Before heading for the end of the municipality, it is worth to visit the Cidade de Terroso, which, due to the proximity of the sea, was an important settlement of the Castro culture in the Northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. In **Esposende**, the way passes through Apúlia, the Village of Fão, the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus, and it crosses the Cávado river through the D. Luís Filipe bridge.



Santo André beach pathway



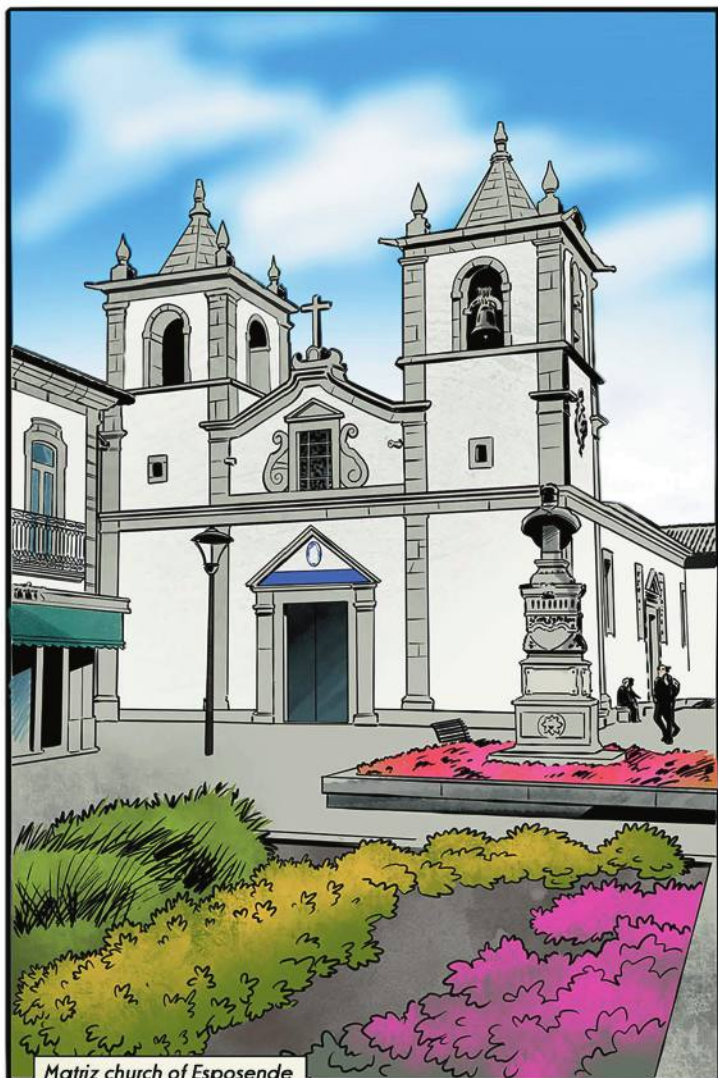
Seaside path - Luisa da Costa Mill



Póvoa de Varzim beach

ESPOSENDE - VIANA DO CASTELO

We continue through Portela, where we can see the Chapel of São Cristóvão, which dates back to the 15th century, passes by the Casa de Belinho, with the chapel of Nossa Senhora do Rosário next to it, and, further on, the chapel of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios from the 18th century. After crossing the Neiva river through the Sebastião bridge, we arrive in **Viana do Castelo**, the northernmost Atlantic city in Portugal, located between the river, the mountain and the sea. We pass through several towns, like Castelo do Neiva, where we can visit the Church of Santiago, the oldest one devoted to the Apostle outside Spain.



VIANA DO CASTELO - CAMINHA

Further on we can also find the Monastery of São Romão do Neiva, or Anha, as well as the parochial church of Santiago de Anha, before crossing the Eiffel bridge on our way to the city centre. There, we can visit the Sé de Viana and the Hospital Velho, where there is the interpretation centre of the Portuguese Coastal Way, among other things. Before departing towards **Viana do Castelo** we can visit, in Cabanas, the Convent of S. João de Cabanas, a Benedictine monastery.



República square



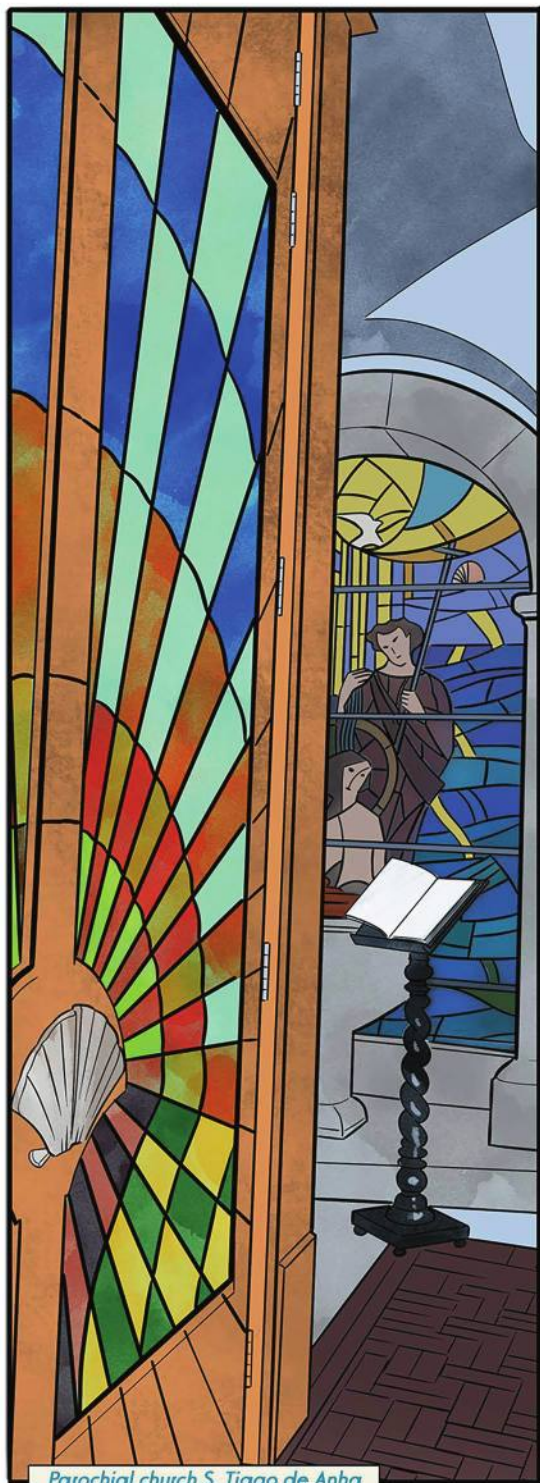
Convent of S. João de Cabanas



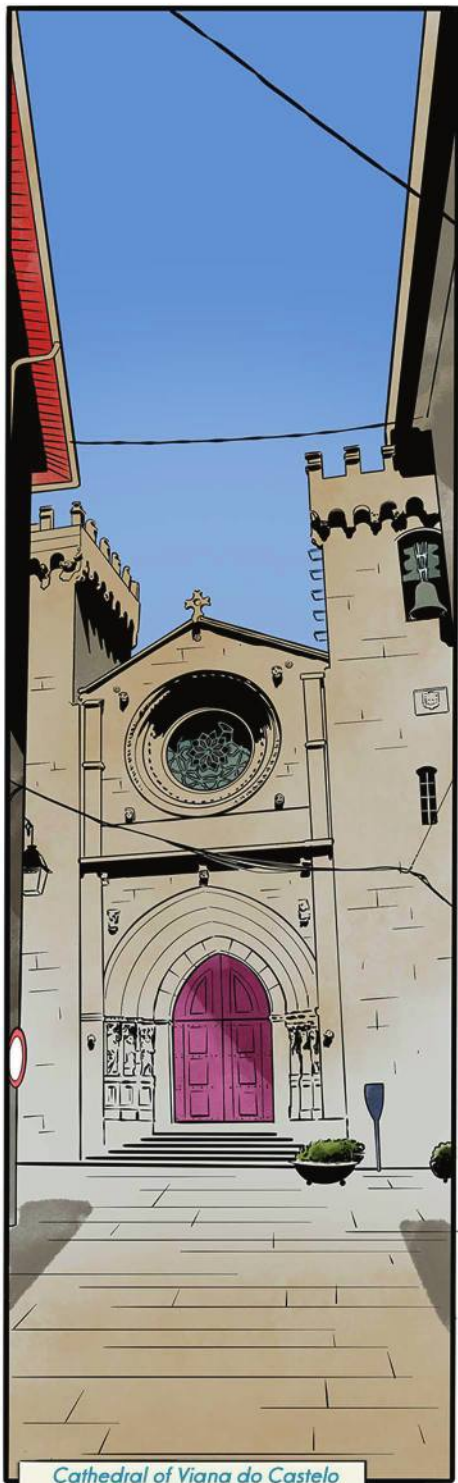
Church of Santiago de Castelo do Neiva



Monastery of S. Romão do Neiva



Parochial church S. Tiago de Anha



Cathedral of Viana do Castelo

CAMINHA - VILA NOVA DE CERVEIRA

We enter **Caminha** through the freguesia of **Âncora**, among forestal ways, passing by the **Ponte da Torre**.

In **Vila Praia de Âncora**, we can see the **Anta** or **Dolmen** of **A Barrosa**, and reaching the **República** square, there is the **Chapel of N. Sra. da Bonança**. Next to the sea we can see the **Forte da Lagarteira** and in the historic quarter, the **Relógio Tower** and the **Misericórdia Church**. On the right, the street gets into the heart of the historic quarter, where we can visit its **Matriz Church**.



Fountain of O Terreiro



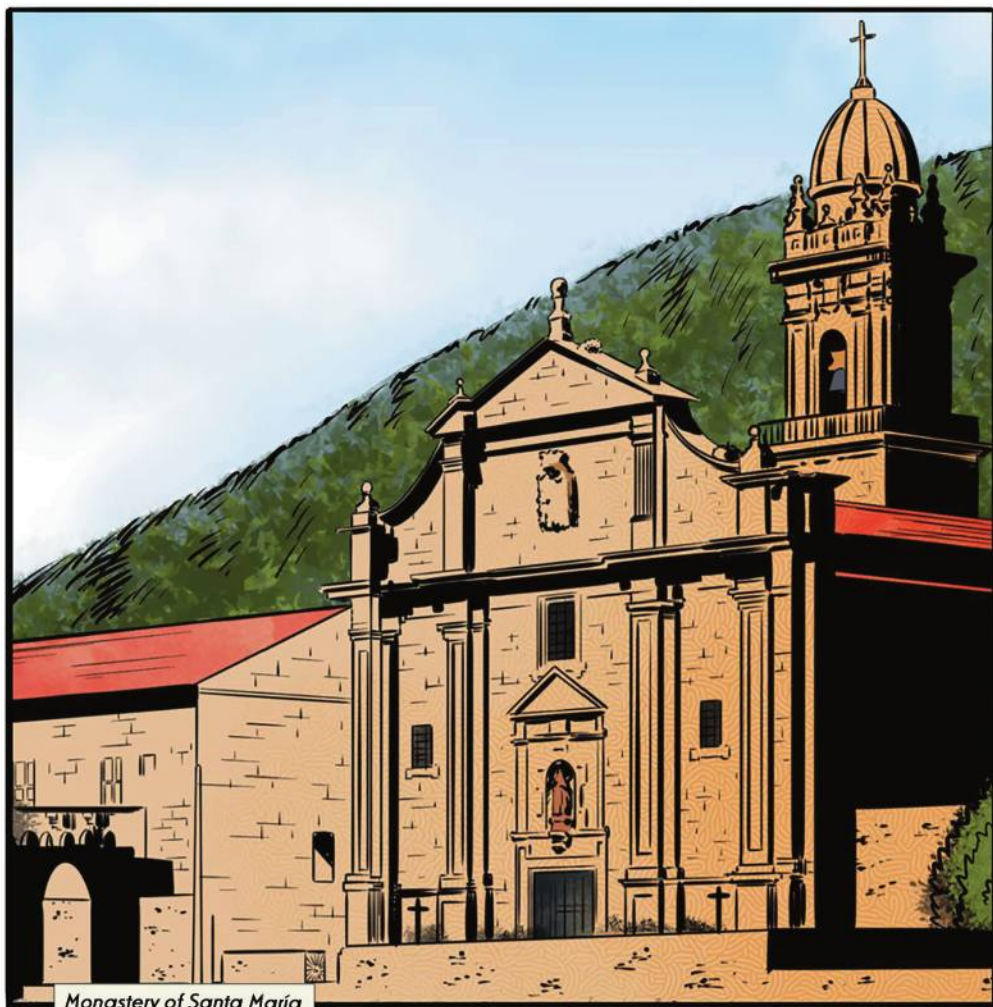
Castle of Vila Nova de Cerveira

VILA NOVA DE CERVEIRA - A GUARDA

In Vila Nova de Cerveira the way passes through the historic quarter, where there is the **Castle** and the **Fortresses**, both historic heritage, and which constitute its greatest identity symbol. Inside the castle there is the first hospital of the village, where the pilgrims used to go for assistance. Nowadays, we can enter Spain either through the **Ponte da Amizade**, next to the **Fuerte de Lovelhe**, or continuing towards **Valença** through flat ways, surrounding agricultural fields and the short distance of the **Miño** waters.

A GUARDA - OIA

Walking along the Miño river, we reach its estuary, which shapes its mouth in the Atlantic ocean. The beautiful panoramic view is completed with the sight over the Santa Trega mount, a castro home where there is one of the most important castros preserved in Galicia. The stage finishes in the town of Oia, where the Monastery of Santa María (12th century) was declared as Site of Cultural Interest in 1931. It is constituted by an austere, sober architecture, characteristic of the buildings and norms of the Cistercian Order. The cloister, chapterhouse, sacristy and rood screen date back to the 16th century.

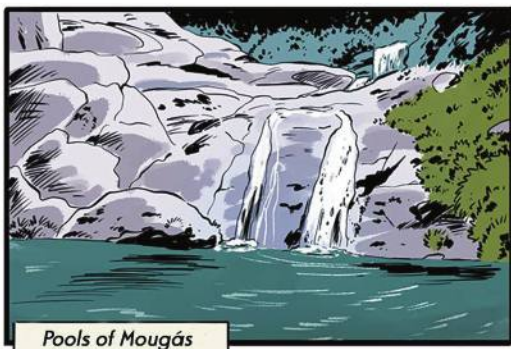


Monastery of Santa María

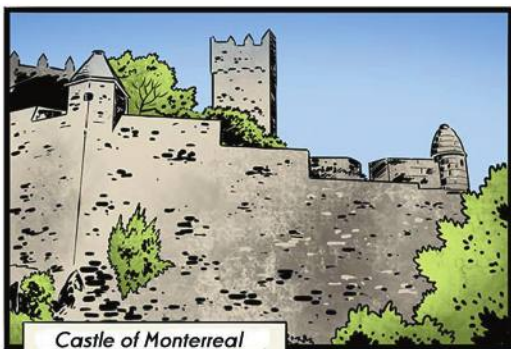
OIA - BAIONA

Leaving **Oia** towards Baiona we find in the parish of Mougás a natural landscape hidden between the mountains of the A Grova range: the Mougás natural pools, surrounded by waterfalls. Here we can see the oldest petroglyphs of Galicia. In our way to Baiona we pass next to Cape Silleiro and its lighthouse which dates back to 1924, and which substitutes a former building from the 19th century located at sea level.

We arrive in **Baiona**, entering through its historic quarter which has medieval, Renaissance and baroque architecture. Up in the San Roque mount we can see A Virxe da Rocha, carved in stone by Antonio Palacios, with beautiful sights over the sea. We get closer to the coast and we can see the gem of the town, its fantastic Parador hotel in the Monterreal peninsula, looking towards the ría of Vigo. If we walk on the sea promenade, we can find in the port a replica of the Pinta Caravel, which commemorates its arrival at the port of Baiona after the first travel to America by Christopher Columbus.



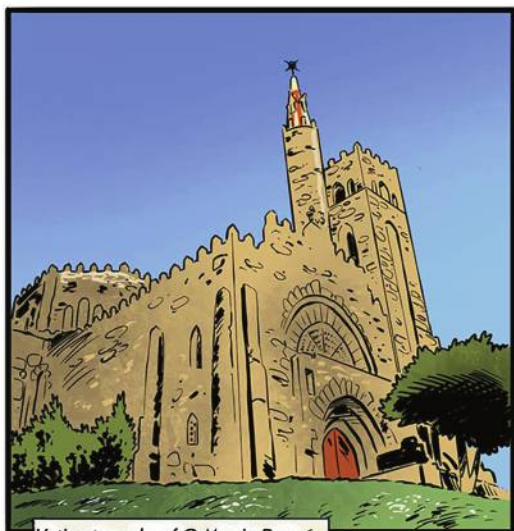
Pools of Mougás



Castle of Monterreal

BAIONA - VIGO

Leaving the urban centre of Baiona, we head for **Vigo**. We arrive at Fonte do Pombal and cross the medieval bridge of A Ramallosa, which used to be crossed by the Roman Via XX per loca maritima. We keep walking towards Panxón and we pass by the Votive Temple of O Mar, by Antonio Palacios, and the Visigoth Arch of Panxón. Once in **Vigo**, we find the Romanesque church of San Salvador de Coruxo followed by beautiful beaches.



Votive temple of O Mar in Panxón

We continue along the Lagares river until the Pazo de Castrelos (17th century), today a museum that houses Galician archaeology and paintings. On our way to the city centre we can see the Alfonso XII promenade, with the ría underneath, and the centenary olive tree, the symbol of the city.

Vigo is the biggest Galician city, and we can discover its history through its architecture: castro sites in the Castro Park, former Roman salt mines in the Areal Archaeological Centre and the Roman villa of Toralla, fishing houses in the historic quarter, defence medieval vestiges in the wall and the Castle of San Sebastián, 19th century buildings in its expansion area, like the neogothic church of Santiago, or works from the 20th century, like the Simeón modernist building or the Sireno statue. Besides, one of its main tourist attractions are the beautiful Cíes islands, which are part of the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia.

VIGO - REDONDELA

Leaving **Vigo** behind, we can see the hermitage of Nosa Señora da Guía, a sanctuary built in a privileged area with wonderful sights. We keep walking through the parishes of Parada and Igrexa, and in Trasmañó we can go up until "The best bench of the world", and stop there to enjoy the beautiful sights of the whole ría, the Cíes Islands, the Rande Bridge, Moaña, Cangas, the San Simón island, Santa Cristina and San Adrián de Cobres... We can also visit the Meirande Museum, Interpretation Centre of the Battle of Rande, which took place in 1702 between the Anglo-Dutch troops and the Spanish-French army. We continue towards Redondela, where the route meets the Portuguese Central Way until reaching **Santiago de Compostela**.



Plaza de España square



Pazo of Castelros



Cies islands



Cies islands



Puerta del Sol



Chapel of A Guía



Afundación theatre

MAR DE AROUSA AND RÍO ULLA ROUTE

Northern Version:

1. Aguiño (Ribeira) – Boiro
2. Boiro – Rianxo
3. Rianxo – Padrón

Southern version:

1. Sanxenxo – Cambados
2. Cambados – Vilagarcía de Arousa
3. Vilagarcía de Arousa – Catoira
4. Catoira – Padrón

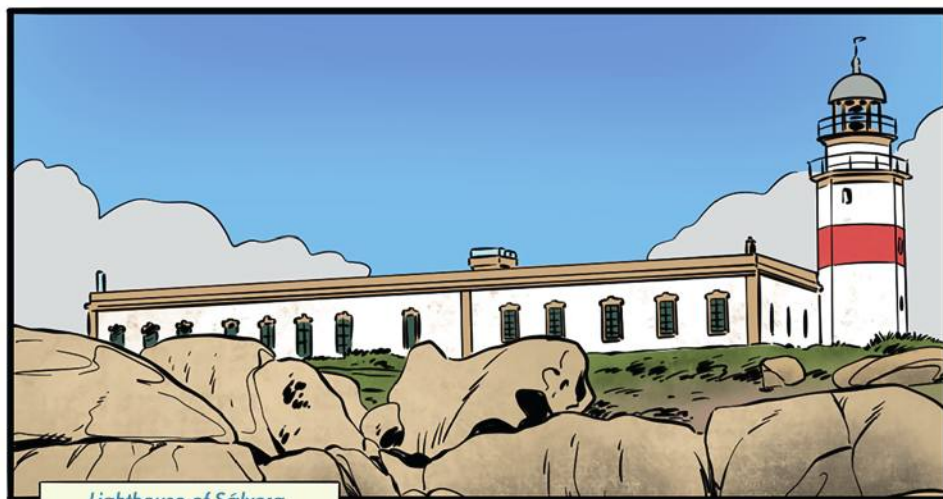
This way commemorates the entry route to Galicia that the stone sepulchre of Apostle Santiago travelled in its journey from Jerusalem to Compostela in 44 AC. This route is known as Traslato and it is narrated in the III Book of the Codex Calixtinus. Nowadays, this route can be made by sea, stopping in the different ports of the ría of Arousa, or by land, visiting the towns in this area through two routes: the Northern version, which departs from Ribeira, in A Coruña, and the southern version, which starts in Sanxenxo, in Pontevedra, and passes through the city of Vilagarcía de Arousa. Both continue along the coast towards the Ulla river, and then meet and run together until Santiago de Compostela following the route of the Portuguese Way.



NORTHERN VERSION

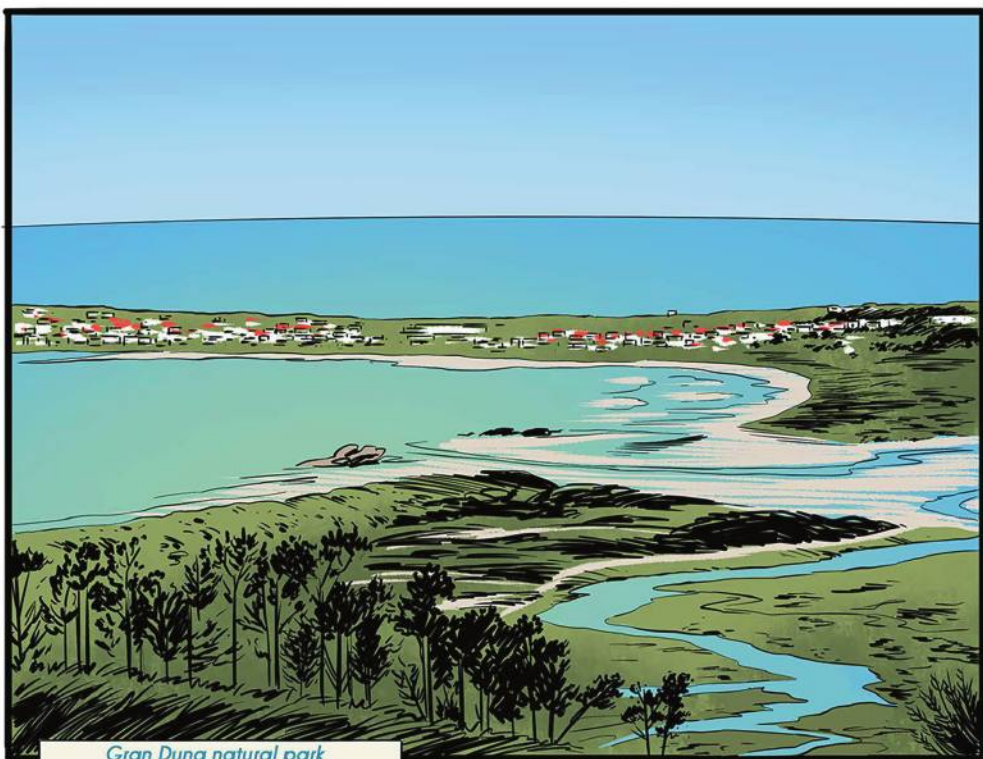
RIBEIRA - BOIRO

We start the route in Aguño, in the Western part of the municipality of Ribeira, close to the vestiges of the Phoenician port located in A Covasa pier. If we look far away, we can see the Sálvora island, which is part of the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia, with its lighthouse which dates back to 1921. Before heading for the town of Ribeira, we get into the Natural Park of Dunas de Corrubedo and Lagunas de Carregal y Vixán, where it stands out the natural ensemble constituted by a mobile dune, lagoons and beaches, as well as its lighthouse (1854). Moreover, Oleiros has the Dolmen of Axeitos, a megalithic monument which dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. We go towards the city centre, where we can see the biggest inshore fishing port of Galicia. In the vicinity of the Avenue of the Malecón it takes place, every summer, the Festa da Dorna, declared of Touristic Interest in Galicia. We continue towards Pobra do Caramiñal, where the Xunqueiras Tower (13th-18th century) welcomes us. Getting into the village, passing by the Bermúdez Tower, we can visit the Valle-Inclán Museum before continuing our way towards Boiro.

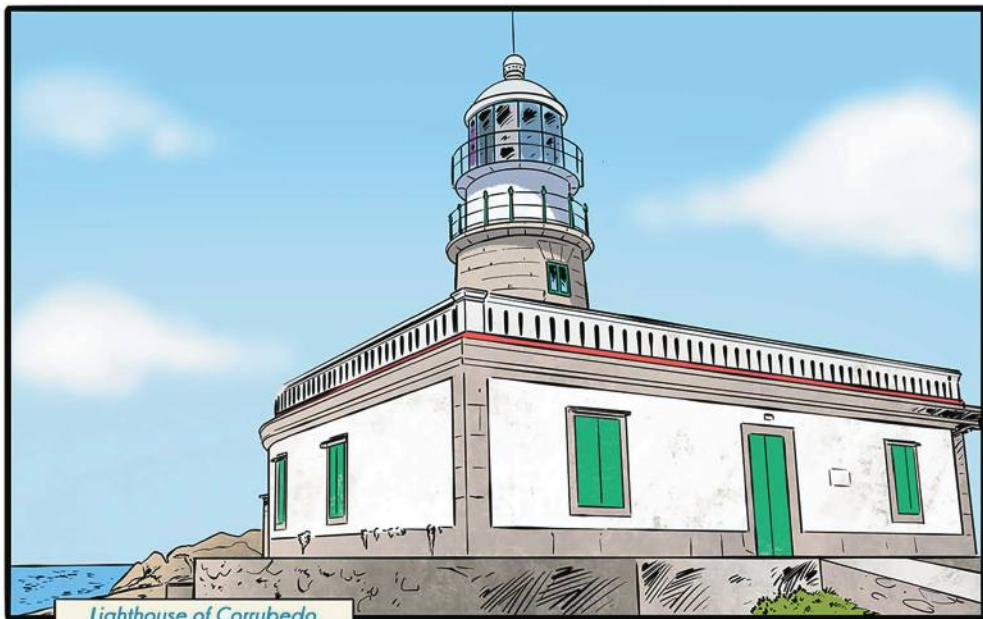




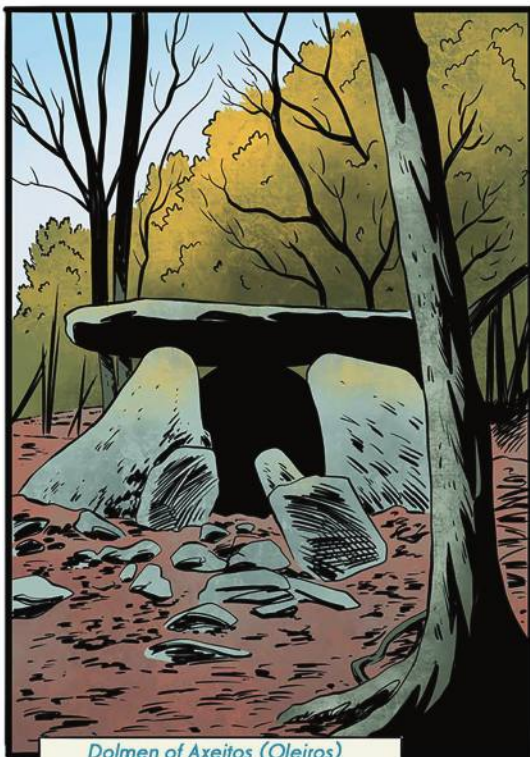
Pazo of Sálvora



Gran Duna natural park



Lighthouse of Corrubedo



Dolmen of Axeitos (Oleiros)



O Vilar beach

BOIRO - RIANXO

In Boiro, it stands out the important prehistoric sites, as well as pre-Roman fields like the Castro of Neixón. Before leaving Boiro towards Rianxo, we can also enjoy its manifold beaches.

Rianxo is the birthplace of renowned Galicians like Castelao, Manuel Antonio and Rafael Dieste. We cannot leave without visiting the Gothic sanctuary of A Virxe de Guadalupe, patron saint of the municipality, the Pazo of Martelo (17th-18th century) and the baroque stone cross and church of Santa Comba, as well as the Hórreo de Araño, the longest one in Galicia.



Castro of Neixón



Hórreo of Araño

RIANXO - PADRÓN

Continuing along the river mouth, we can see on the other side the Catoira village and, next, its marshlands. At this point, we can either cross the bridge that connects both municipalities and continue through the southern route, following the Oeste Towers, or we can continue in the same river bank, until we arrive in Dodro.

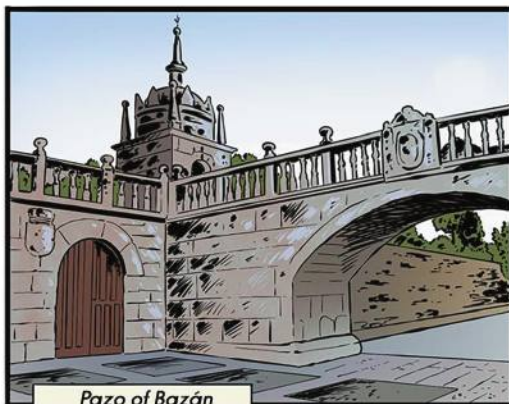
In Dodro, surrounded by the Ulla and Sar rivers, we need to visit the Pazo of Lestrove (16th-18th centuries), and the parochial church of Santa María from the 18th century, by Simón Rodríguez, the greatest example of plaque Baroque in Galicia. Afterwards, we can visit the Pazo of Hermida, mentioned in the Cantigas (medieval songs characteristic of the galician-Portuguese lyric) of Santa María, and place of residence of the illustrious Rosalía de Castro and Manuel Murguía. We continue the way until our next stop, Padrón, where we meet the route of the Portuguese Way that takes us to [Compostela](#).

SANXENXO - CAMBADOS

We start walking in the village of Sanxenxo, and its admirable Silgar and A Lanzada beaches. The latter, which belongs to the municipalities of O Grove and Sanxenxo, has a Roman necropolis and the remainings of the Castle of A Lanzada (12th-13th centuries), with its tower and chapel. Once in the territory of O Grove, in the Miradella Mount we get closer to the highest point of the O Grove peninsula, with its Nature Interpretation Centre. In the O Carreiro beach we can find the excavations of O Adro Vello, where it was found a coin from the 12th century with the image of the Traslatio, preserved in the Museum of Pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela. In Meaño, the Pazos of Zárata and Lis, and the Route of Muíños welcome the visitor, as well as the Romanesque church of Simes and its characteristic L-shaped hórreo. We walk towards Meis, getting into nature, where it stands out the 'Ruta dos Muíños e da Auga' in the Armenteira riverbank, for its landscape and ethnography. This leads to the Cistercian monastery of the same name, from the 12th century, which constitutes one of the most important ones of Galicia. Before arriving in Cambados, we need to cross the municipality of Ribadumia, located in the centre of O Salnés valley, and bathed by the Umia river. Here it stands out the manor houses (pazos) like the Barrantes one, which gives its name to the autochthonous wine of the municipality, known as Tinto de Barrantes.



Remainings of the castle of A Lanzada



Pazo of Bazán

CAMBADOS -
VILAGARCÍA DE
AROUSA

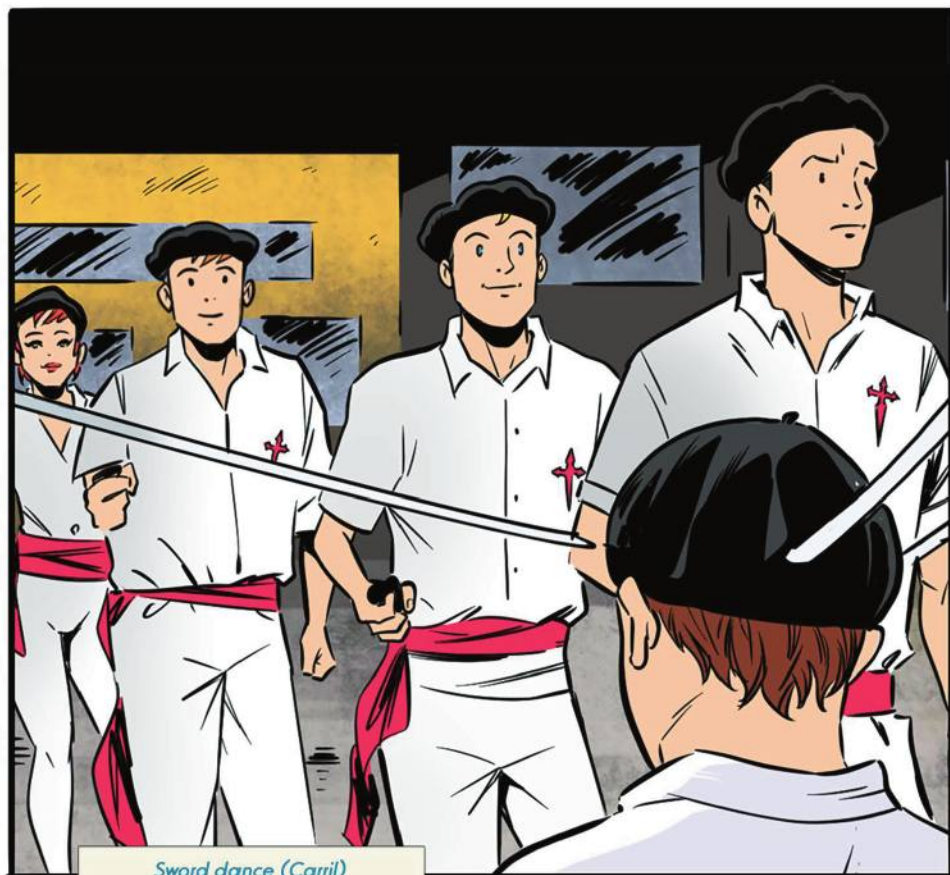
We arrive in Cambados, wine land and capital of the Albariño, which is also the birthplace of poet Ramón Cabanillas and sculptors Francisco Asorey and Francisco Leiro. Besides, its historic quarter, catalogued as Site of Cultural Interest, has manifold pazos like Bazán (currently a National Tourism Parador Hotel), or Ulloa and Montesacro, among others. We leave towards the Arousa island, in the middle of the sea of Arousa. We can visit the Natural Park of Carreirón, with an important protected habitat of migratory and autochthonous birds, like the grey heron, as well as its numerous beaches. Crossing again the bridge towards the peninsula we arrive in Vilanova de Arousa, birthplace of the Camba brothers and Valle-Inclán, where we can visit the writer's Museum-House. The municipality extends to the coastal line of the ría, known as sea of Arousa, and has many beaches that connect it with our next stop, Vilagarcía de Arousa.

VILAGARCÍA DE AROUSA - CATOIRA

We arrive in the noble village of **Vilagarcía**. We pass by the Romanesque church of San Martiño de Sobrán (12th century), in Vilaxoán, next to the Pazo of Lagar (16th century) and we keep walking until the centre of the city, founded in the 15th century between the Xiabre and Lobeira mounts. In this city we can see the famous pazo of Vista Alegre, from the 16th century, and its convent, declared National Historical-Artistic Monument.

We continue along its port area until the sea promenade that accompanies the beaches of A Concha and Compostela, and which connects the centre with Caril, famous for its clams of the same name. In front of this fishing village we can see the Cortegada island, which belongs to the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia and it has one of the most important bay forests in Europe.

Continuing along the coast, we leave the ría of Arousa behind, and we enter the Ulla river estuary.



Sword dance (Caril)



Passenger dock



Panoramic view of Xiabre



Pazo of Vistalegre

CATOIRA - PADRÓN

We start the next stage in the Oeste Towers of Catoira, next to the bridge over the Ulla river, which connects the province of Coruña and the municipality of Rianxo.

In the past, this area was a constant victim of Norman attacks, so every first Sunday of August a Viking 'Romería' recall the important role of Catoira in the defence of Galicia against these invasions. The current Towers, also known as Castellum Honesti, date back to the 10th century, although they were formerly Roman, and they were a key location for the defence of the lands of the Santiago Archdiocese.

From Pontecesures the route can meet the Central Way that leads to Padrón.



Oeste Towers

FISTERRA AND MUXÍA WAY

1. Santiago de Compostela - Negreira.
2. Negreira - Olveiroa.
3. Olveiroa- Corcubión.

4. Corcubión – Fisterra
5. Fisterra – Lires
6. Lires – Santuario Virxe da Barca

The Fisterra and Muxía Way is the Xacobean prolongation until the Roman Finisterrae of "the end of the world", which the medievals located in the Sanctuary of A Virxe da Barca, and Cape Fisterra. It has its own certification, so after receiving the "Compostelana", the pilgrim can walk further until the place where Apostle St. James destroyed the Ara Solis - the Sun altar built by Phoenicians - in his pilgrimage through the Iberian Peninsula.



SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - NEGREIRA

We leave the Obradoiro square towards As Hortas street, the famous birthplace of the Galeguist intellectual Isaac Díaz Pardo.

At the left we can find the Baroque church of San Froitoso, from the 18th century.



Historic quarter



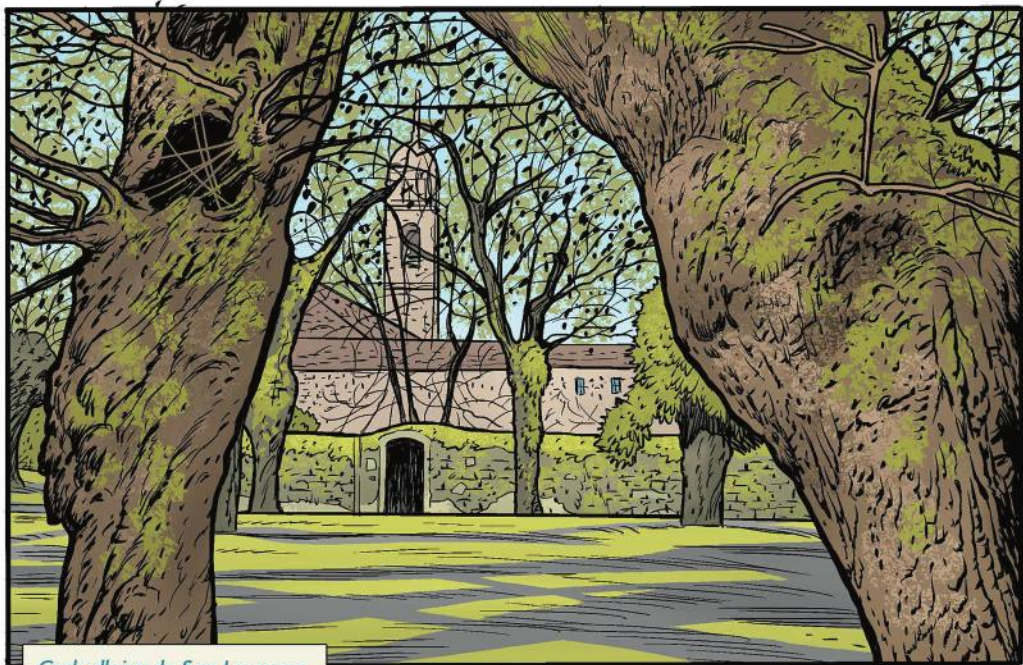
O Villar street

We leave the holy city through O Cruceiro do Gaio and Poza de Bar streets, until we reach a Carballeira de San Lourenzo. Beautiful and ancestral, Rosalía de Castro some verses to it in *Follas Novas* (1880).

We pass through the parishes of Figueiras, Villestro and Roxos until Alto do Vento in the municipality of Ames.

We continue through Augaspesadas, Alto do Mar de Duellas, Carballo and Trasmonte, Reino and Burgueiros, and in Ponte Maceira we cross the Tambre river.

Here starts the Region of Barcala. We continue towards Negreira, where the pazos of Chancela, O Capitán and Baladrón await, as well as the chapel of San Amaro, the Pazo de Cotón and the chapel of O Carme and San Brais.



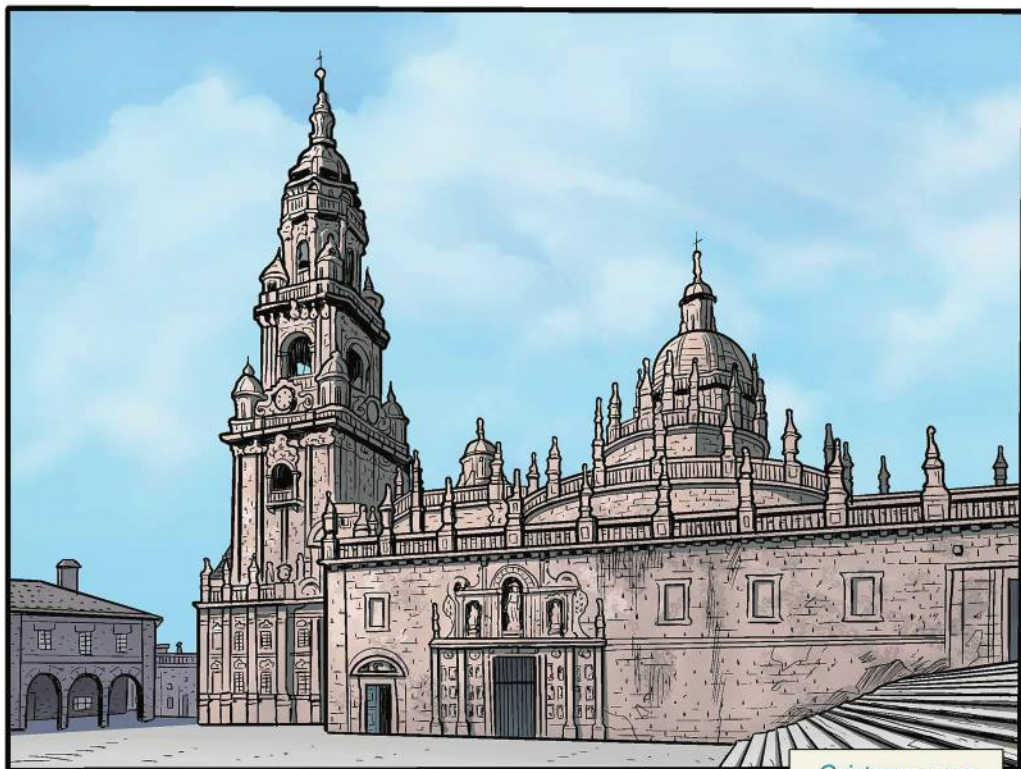
Carballeira de San Lourenzo



Church of San Froitoso



Cathedral of Apóstol Santiago



Quintana square



Inmaculada square

NEGREIRA - OLVEIROA



Hórreo, Negreira

The way continues towards Zas until Mazaricos, in the region of Xallas. Several hórreos and Romanesque architecture can be seen in our way. The Hórreo of Maroñas and the church of Santa Mariña are clear examples of the Galician ethnography in the area. From here we go up to the Aro Mount (556m), Campo Valado, Porteliñas and As Abeleiroas, finally reaching the viewpoint of Corzón.

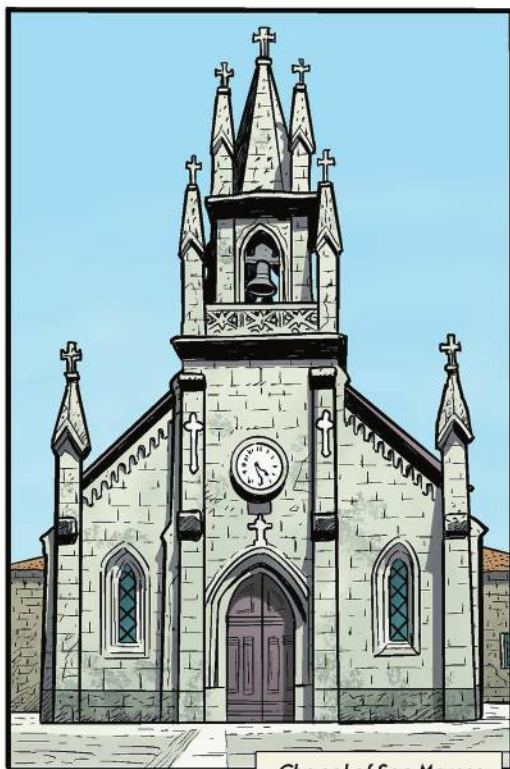
We go to Mollón and reach the Bridge over the Xallas river, which divides the municipalities of Mazaricos and Dumbría. Afterwards, we arrive in Ponte Oliveira and finally in Oliveiroa.

OLVEIROA - CORCUBIÓN

We start the route towards O Logoso.

We pass by Hospital and, before reaching Cee, we pass by the hermitages of A Nosa Señora das Neves (18th century) and the chapel of San Pedro Mártir, going down afterwards towards Cee. Here, the Pazo of Cotón (18th century) houses the Fernando Blanco Foundation.

We keep walking until Corcubión, with its maritime-Gothic-style chapel of San Marcos (14th-15th century).



Chapel of San Marcos

CORCUBIÓ - FISTERRA

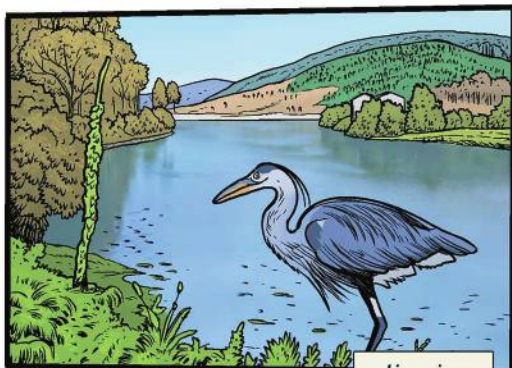
From Corcubi3n we go to Sardi3eiro and A Langosteira, we surround the beautiful Cala do Tal3n, and we reach the long beach of Langosteira. We enter the village of Fisterra, go up to the lighthouse, and pass by the church of Santa Mar3a das Areas (Santo Cristo de Fisterra). We arrive to the lighthouse, where an impressive Atlantic Ocean reveals all its splendour.



Lighthouse of Fisterra

FISTERRA - LIRES

We leave Fisterra and go towards the parish of San Mart3o de Duio, a chapel that dates back to the times of the lost Roman city of Dugium, whose existence is known thanks to the Codex Calixtinus, which mentions it in the Book III. We go towards Castrexe, walk along the O Rostro beach, and we arrive in the R3a de Lires, whose ornithological wealth and popular architecture will accompany us until we reach Lires.



Lires river

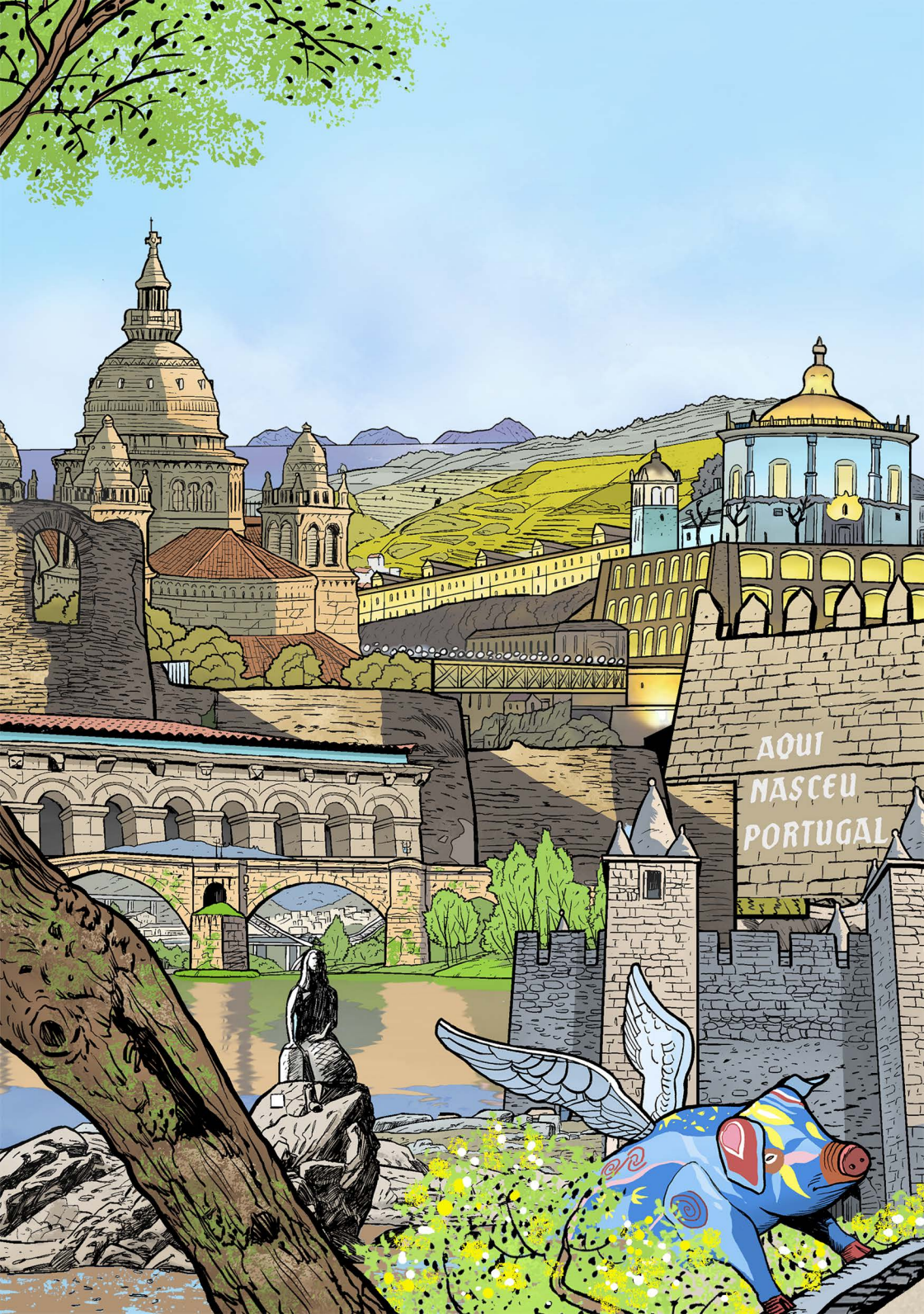
LIRES - SANTUARIO DA VIRXE DA BARCA (MUXÍA)

Our way does not stop until it reaches the Sanctuary of A Virxe da Barca, in Muxía, where the stones that surround the temple are full of legends and myths. The tale narrates that the Virgin arrived here in a boat to encourage Apostle St. James after the failure of his evangelization of the Duio population. The region was drown in the sea waters and its inhabitants disappeared for its disobedience of St. James's predicates, and for keeping their cult to the Sun.

The Apostle arrived there the current chapel is located, and prayed for these people to remove their aversion to his predicates. One of these famous stones is the Abalar one, which is said to be the boat where the Virgin arrived from the coast. Other famous stones are Os Cadris, with healing properties, and the Timón, which takes its name from a rudder ("timón" in Spanish) for its resemblance.



Sanctuary of A Virxe da Barca



AQUI
NASCEU
PORTUGAL