

# Ponteceoso ◆ Laxe Cabana de Bergantiños

**RIVER ANLLONS FLOWING INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**  
**The estuary of Corme e Laxe**



**COSTA DA MORTE**  
Asociación de Turismo CMAT



**Deputación  
DA CORUÑA**

**Tourism Experiences in the  
COSTA da MORTE**



# RIVER ANLLONS FLOWING INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

## The estuary of Corme e Laxe

ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños

experience tour description

map

### Departure Point

Cores (Ponteceso)

### Arrival Point

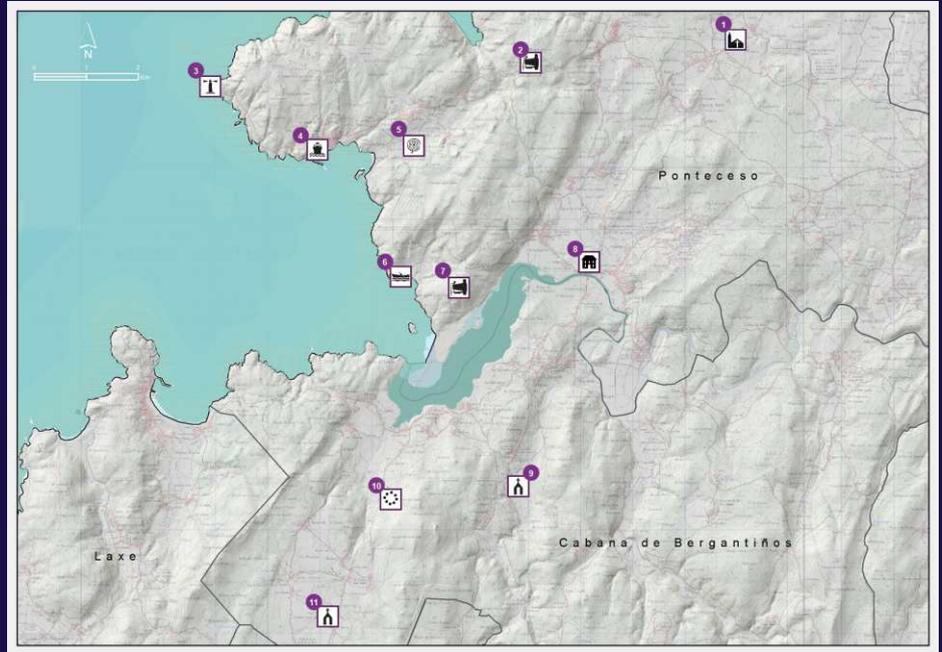
Traba (laxe)

### Duration

2 days

### Approximate Distance

75 Km.



## itinerary

- SAN MARTIÑO DE CORES CHURCH**  
• Ponteceso  **1**
- VIEWPOINT OF NOSA SEÑORA DE O FARO**  
• Ponteceso  **2**
- LIGHTHOUSE OF O RONCUDO**  
• Ponteceso  **3**
- PORT OF CORME**  
• Ponteceso  **4**
- PEDRA DA SERPE**  
• Ponteceso  **5**
- DOCK OF BALARÉS BEACH**  
• Ponteceso  **6**
- VIEWPOINT OF MONTE BRANCO**  
• Ponteceso  **7**
- FAMILY HOME OF PONDAL**  
• Ponteceso  **8**
- SAN FINS DE O CASTRO CHAPEL**  
• Cabana de Bergantiños  **9**
- LA CIBDÁ DE BORNEIRO**  
• Cabana de Bergantiños  **10**
- O BRIÑO CHAPEL**  
• Cabana de Bergantiños  **11**

Dock of Balarés Beach



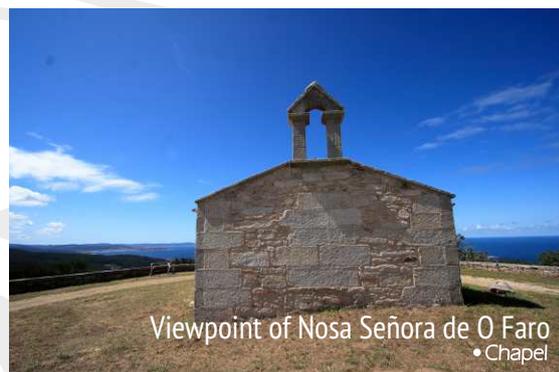
# RIVER ANLLONS FLOWING INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

## The estuary of Corme e Laxe

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We will begin our tour in the parish of **Cores** (which means colours in Galician), a name that evokes happiness and desires to live unique experiences in the amazing Costa da Morte. Here we have to stop at the singular **San Martiño Church**, a construction of Romanesque origin, a style that can be found in the North side door, crowned by a semicircular arch with chequered archivolt and columns with ornamented capitals. In the chancel of the building there are two sepulchres from the 6-7<sup>th</sup> century that are framed by the columns of the original door of this Romanesque church. Both outside and inside the church there are some remains found in the nearby estates. We must highlight two Roman altars and, overall, the pre-Roman fertility goddess of Santa Mariña do Remuíño Chapel, located on the outside wall of the chancel.

Taking the road to Corme, we will stop to enjoy the beautiful views from the **Viewpoint of Nosa Señora do Faro**, where we will find an eighteenth century chapel and a tower dedicated to Sagrado Corazón de Xesús. This construction from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century was made by the master builder Ramón Méndez and was funded by the neighbour of Ponteceso, Ricardo Pose Orens. From its height of 39 metres, you can enjoy the best panoramic view of the estuary of Corme e Laxe. On the 8<sup>th</sup> September a pilgrimage (romería) is held and neighbours go there to cure their warts in the fountain Fuente Santa, located on the southern slope of the hill.



We will then go down and return to the road to go to the **Lighthouse of O Roncudo**, almost 3 kilometres away from the port.

This tour of the estuary of Corme e Laxe (also known as Ría de Corme y Lage) goes through three councils of the region of Bergantiños: Cabana, Ponteceso and Laxe. Monuments from different periods and amazing panoramic views that mix nature, art, history and geology.



San Martiño de Cores Church

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ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños

 This building is from 1920 and although its architecture is not singular, its surroundings are a set of indescribable beauty. Punta de O Roncudo is well-known for having the best barnacle in the world, whose party is celebrated the first fortnight of July, being its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. In this area waves crash wildly against the rocks, bringing tragedy to many shellfish gatherers. These stones are full of crosses not only to remember this fact but also to make us aware of the severity of this job.



Pedra da Serpe

Now is time to visit the nice **Port of Corme**, secular development engine of Ponteceso, together with fishing and shellfish-gathering. From here, we can enjoy the beautiful views of the island Isla de A Estrela and A Ermida beach. Its name comes from the religious construction dedicated to the virgin Virgen de A Estrela, currently in ruins. This small portion of land was a cemetery that welcomed unknown sailors brought by the sea.

 We will continue our tour to go to **Balarés beach**. A huge sandy area with a leisure zone, a pine forest and the remains of a **dock**, that recalls the past of these lands during the II World War. Here wolfram was loaded and exported to the German who used it to harden their weapons. Since 2002, the sculpture of a steel arachnid made by the sculptor Ramón Amigo has reminded us of this fact. According to him, it is not known whether “El bicho” (The Bug), as he calls it, goes into or goes out of the water.

Leaving the port of Corme, we will go to the village of Corme, more precisely to Gondomil, where we will find the legendary **Pedra da Serpe**. A rock with a winged snake engraved in high relief from pre-Roman pagan worships. Legend has it that San Adrián, the patron saint of the parish, freed the neighbours from a plague of snakes, by killing them with a strong blow of his foot against the ground. Although its origin is not known exactly (pre-Roman period, Roman period or Medieval), existing different opinions among historians, we do know that a pre-Christian legend, such as that of the snake, was christianized by placing a cross on the petroglyph.

After visiting the beach where the music festival V de Valarés takes place in August, we will go to the natural viewpoint of the council in **Monte Branco**. From this place, we can see the estuary of the Anllóns where the fresh water of the river mixes with the salted sea. This natural area presents an enormous ecological and scenic wealth, being an area for bird watching. A long stripe of sand divides the estuary into two, creating the well-known dunes Dunas de A Barra, almost 2 kilometres long.



Lighthouse of O Roncudo



Lighthouse of O Roncudo



Port of Corme



Pedra da Serpe



Dock of Balarés Beach

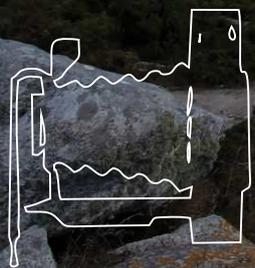


Viewpoint of Monte Branco

Porto Corme



Monte Brañco



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## The estuary of Corme e Laxe

### ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños

 And visiting Ponteceso, the stop at **Casa de Pondal** is a must. It is a private property closed to the public, visible from the nearby bridge over the river Anllóns.

The house was built by Pondal's father in 1820 who had made a fortune by emigrating to Buenos Aires. Eduardo María González-Pondal Abente (1835-1917), known as the bard of Bergantiños, is one of the most important leading figures of Letras Gallegas (Galician literature). Born in Ponteceso, he dedicated countless verses to Costa da Morte and to his council.

Did you know that ..... one of his verses is dedicated to his city?

Eu nacín en agreste soedade,  
eu nacín cabo dun agreste outeiro,  
por onde o Anllóns con nobre maxestade  
camiña ao seu destino derradeiro.

Eu non nacín en vila nin cidade  
mais lonxe do seu ruído lisonxeiro;  
eu nacín cabo de pinal espeso  
eu nacín na pequena Ponteceso.

 After visiting the bard, we will go on to reach the nearby council of Cabana de Bergantiños. Here we can visit **San Fins de O Castro Chapel**, where one of the most crowded pilgrimages (romerías) of Costa da Morte is celebrated, mixing both religious and profane elements. It is held on 1<sup>st</sup> August, promoted by the priest Saturnino Cuiñas Lois, who composed the hymn for the festivity in the 1930s. He started new rites such as Berro seco, that is currently connected to the festivity, and Santo da pólvora. The building is unusually oriented to the East but a legend justifies this fact: a young man went to the chapel to pray but was surprised by a storm. Having to climb to the roof because of the rising water levels, he promised to build a new chapel if he could escape the situation. Besides, there is a miraculous fountain where devoted people wash to cure their warts.



Family Home of Pondal



Family Home of Pondal



San Fins de O Castro  
Chapel



# San Fins do Castelo

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Did you know that ..... "Berro Seco" is a cry that is made three times imitating the sound that quarry workers made when they raised big stones? And did you know that "Santō da pólvora" is a falla that represents traditional jobs and is burnt before the dances of the mass?

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## The estuary of Corme e Laxe

ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños



La Cibdá de Borneiro



© Briño Chapel

Our route continues to visit one of the magical places of Costa da Morte, **La Cibdá de Borneiro**, the only castro (Celtic fortified settlement) excavated in the whole area. This archaeological place inhabited from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century before Christ to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century after Christ, was the first one to be dated with the carbon-14 method. Found out in 1924 by the scientist Parga Pondal and the historian Pérez Bustamante, it was excavated several times over the years. Nowadays three quarters of the croa, the highest part of the castro, are excavated.

To finish the tour today, we will go to rest in the area where **O Briño Chapel** is located, sharing space with a cruise ship, a mill and the fountain Fuente Santa as well as a contemporary children's playground. The construction is dedicated to Virgen de As Virtudes and to Virgen del Carmen and dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Its pilgrimage (romería) is celebrated on the 18<sup>th</sup> July and people from all the region go there.

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experience tour description

map

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Cores (Ponteceso)

### Arrival Point

Traba (laxe)

### Duration

2 days

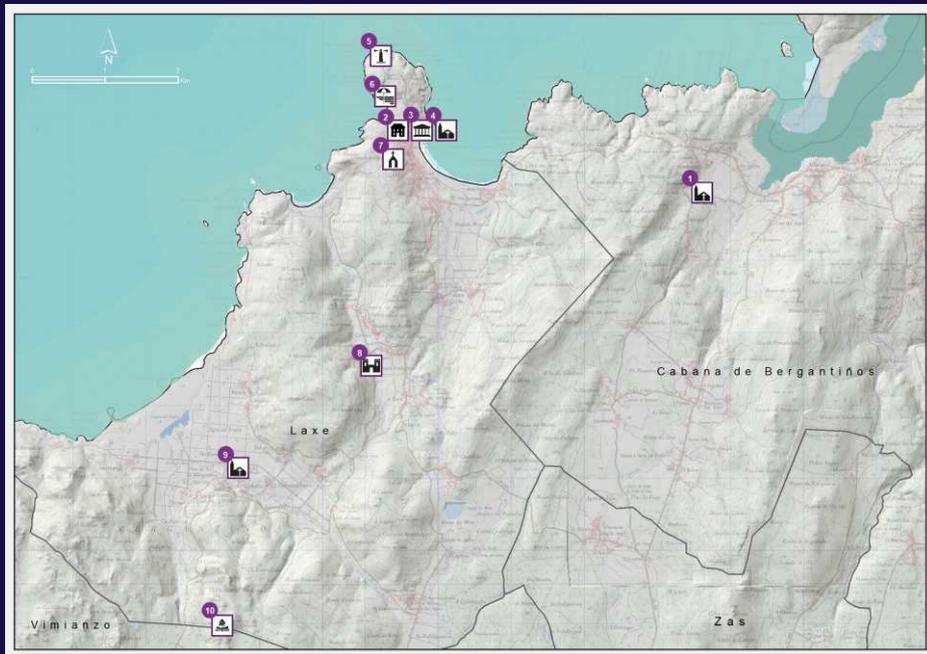
### Approximate distance

75 Km.



## itinerary

- SAN MARTIÑO DE CANDUAS CHURCH**  
• Cabana de Bergantiños
- CASA DO ARCO**  
• Laxe
- MUSEUM MAR DE LAXE**  
• Laxe
- SANTA MARÍA DE A ATALAIA CHURCH**  
• Laxe
- LIGHTHOUSE OF LAXE**  
• Laxe
- LOS CRISTALES BEACH**  
• Laxe
- SANTA ROSA DE LIMA HERMITAGE**  
• Laxe
- GALICIAN COUNTRY HOUSE PAZO DE LEIS**  
• Laxe
- SANTIAGO DE TRABA CHURCH**  
• Laxe
- PENEDOS DE PASARELA Y TRABA**  
• Vimianzo - Laxe



Santa Rosa de Lima Hermitage

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## The estuary of Corme e Laxe

### ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños

**A**t the coastal area of Cabana de Bergantiños, **Candúas** stands out, with its medieval design. In the middle of the village we will find **San Martiño Church**, special because it is oriented to the North. The chapel was part of the old monastery of Candúas, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. But only the keystones of the old raised granary have been preserved and reused in the facade of the church, resulting in a unique appearance.

We will go to Laxe where we will find, first of all, the best urban civil work. This is the **Casa do Arco**, a 15th-century architectural treasure which belonged to doña Urraca de Moscoso (Condesa de Altamira – Countess of Altamira) and her husband Don Pedro de Osorio, also owners of the Castle of Vimianzo. The coat of arms, the front iron balcony and the ogival arches of Gothic style stand out.

Very close to this construction is the **Museum del Mar de Laxe**, located in the former Civil Guard headquarters. The centre, a collection open to the public, shows the historic and anthropological heritage of the sea-faring people of Laxe and Costa da Morte from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Besides, it hosts the Photographic Archive *Archivo fotográfico* of Plácido Vidal and his son José María. Since 2011 the museum has received important donations of cultural properties from the area that are now part of the permanent exhibition.

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

##### MUSEUM MAR de LAXE

Pracer Street, 5 15.117 Laxe

+34 981 735 393 (Museum)

+34 981 706 965

+ 34 981 706 903 (Guides for Groups)

e-mail address: [museo@laxe.es](mailto:museo@laxe.es)

[www.concellodelaxe.com/turismo](http://www.concellodelaxe.com/turismo)



After enjoying the maritime culture of the area, we will go to **Santa María de A Atalaia Church**. As its name says, the church is on the high part of the council, being a watchtower. The atrium is surrounded by a high stone wall where cannons were located to protect Laxe from possible enemy fleets. The 15th-century church is characteristic of the maritime Gothic style. The images on the austere stone stairs that lead to the bell tower and the Gothic representation of the Virgin over the door of the South wall date from the same period. We cannot leave this church without seeing the high relief of the Resurrection over the door of the North façade.



Santa María de A Atalaia Church

Second  
Day



San Martiño  
de Candúas Church



Casa do Arco



Museum do Mar de Laxe



Santa María  
de A Atalaia Church

# San Martín de Canduas



# RIVER ANLLONS FLOWING INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

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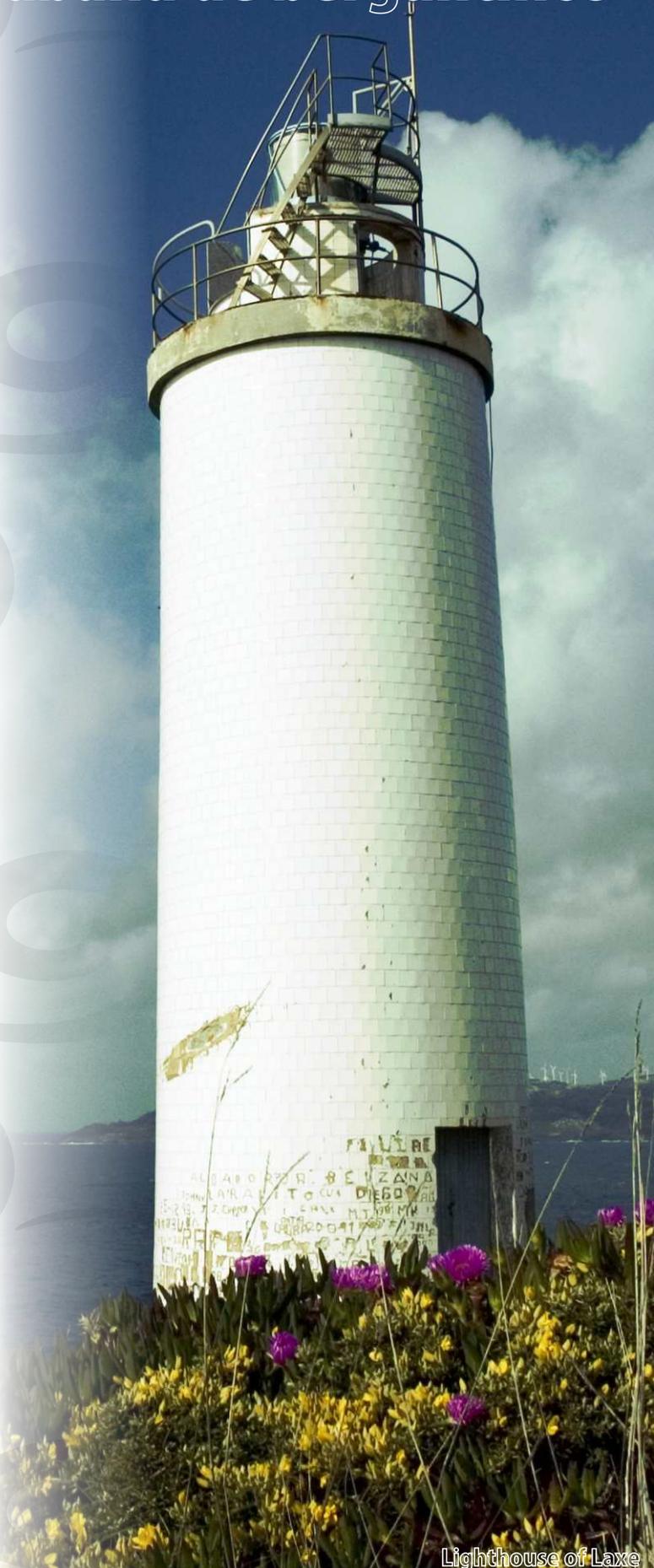
ponteceso ♦ laxe ♦ cabana de bergantiños

**G**oing up to reach our next stop, we will find a diversion on the road with a sign to Los Cristales Beach, where we will go later. We will go ahead to the viewpoint of Aínsua, made with the contributions that Laxe received because of the disaster of the Prestige in 2002. We will go on to the **lighthouse of Laxe** at the end of the road where there is a contemporary 11-metre-high construction, similar to the lighthouse of O Roncudo de Corme. From the nearby hill, we can enjoy amazing views of the estuary of Corme e Laxe.

Returning towards the city centre, we will follow the signs to **Los Cristales Beach**. This small bay was created in contemporary times by the arrival of pieces of glass brought back by the sea, polished as if they were pebbles. Nowadays the surprise and a second-to-none view are guaranteed in this corner located on the low part of the cemetery. Remember that you cannot take pieces of glass in order to protect this landscape!

Now we will go to the hill Cornaceiras where **Santa Rosa de Lima Hermitage** is located. An area of great devotion for the neighbours every 30<sup>th</sup> August. Sailors used to climb there to pray for the protection from the saint. The chapel was built by the neighbour Manuel Ramos Mesía in 1941, although the place had been visited since 1676. The neighbours went there to pray to the saint, whose relics were under the “Cruz del Navegante” (Cross of the navigator). It was built due to the promise of a neighbour surnamed Couceiro, who brought these relics from Perú in one of his voyages. From here you can see the city centre, its excellent sandy area of Laxe standing out.

Los Cristales Beach



Lighthouse of Laxe



Lighthouse of Laxe



Los Cristales Beach



Santa Rosa de Lima Hermitage

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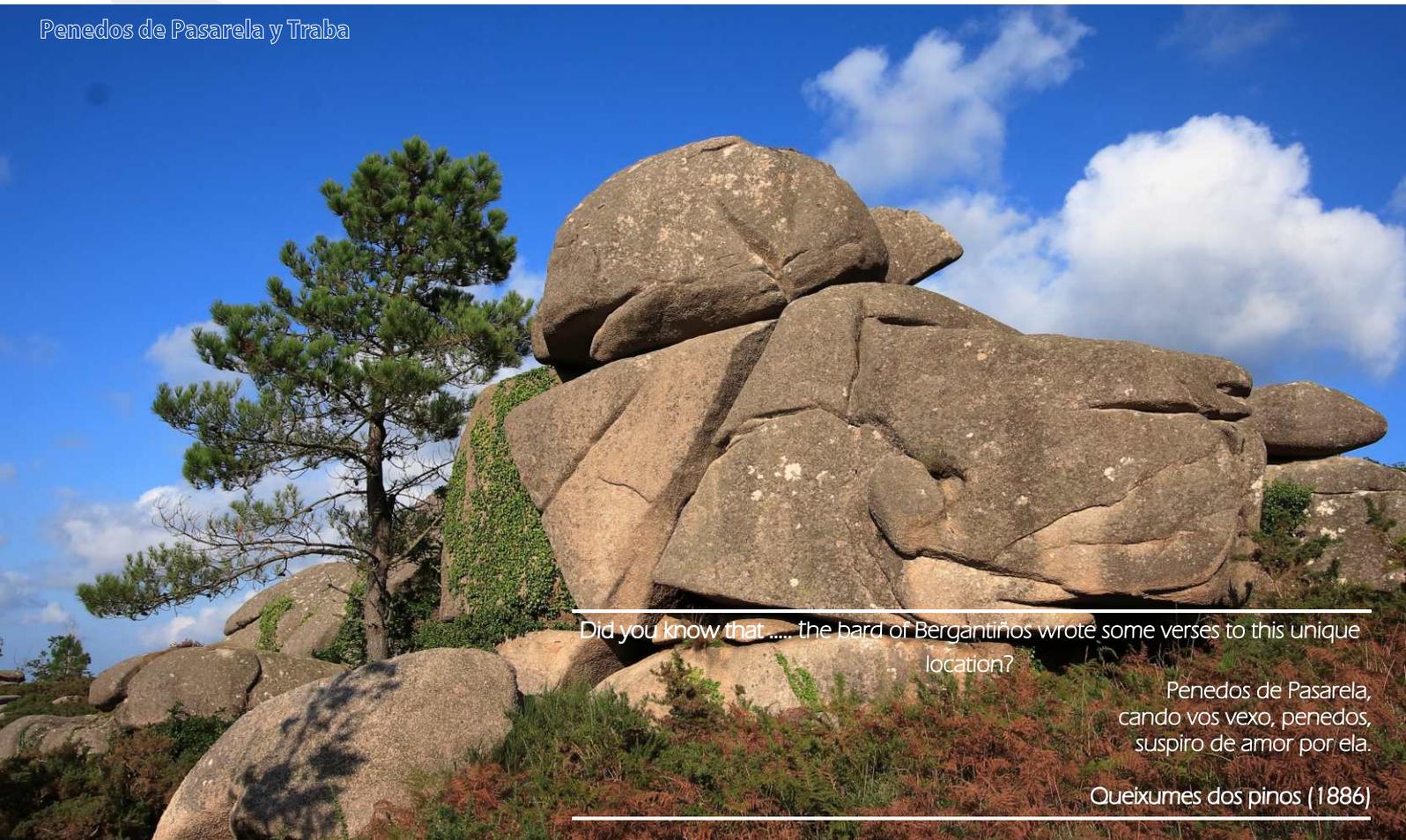


Leaving the city centre behind us, we will go to Soesto and next to the road we will find **Pazo de Leis**. According to some documents from 1200, the building is said to be located in the same place as the house where Alfonso IX, King of Galicia and León, stayed several times. Its construction was carried out in different periods, but most of it was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The building and the well-maintained garden are closed by a high wall, visible from the outside. The property is private and closed to the public but it is worth going to see the surroundings, where there is a traditional sink in Rego de Soesto and a big dovecote raised over a big granite mass, property of the pazo (Galician traditional house).

We are approaching the end of the tour, but first we will stop at two protected areas of Traba. Of Romanesque origin, Santiago de Traba Church combines the style of this period in its nave and apse, with the Baroque style, specially the stone altarpiece of its façade. This represents the images of San Pedro and San Francisco de Asís, Adam and Eve at the bottom and the Virgen ascendiendo al Cielo (Virgin Ascending to Heaven) and Santiago a Caballo (Santiago on Horseback) in the middle. The church is next to the natural area of the lake and the sand dunes of Traba. Legend has it that the city of Valverde is under the lake, flooded by Santiago Apóstol, angry due to his lack of success of his mission there.

To finish this tour, we will go across one of the most special geological sights in Galicia, Penedos de Pasarela (Vimianzo) and Traba (Laxe), declared Paisaxe Protexida (Protected Landscape) in 2009 by Xunta de Galicia. The massif is part of Sierra de Pena Forcada that stretches from Laxe to Punta do Boi. From Traba, we will go to Pasarela where our way to cross the granitic area is signposted. Following the signs, along unpaved and paved roads, we will arrive at a cross and turning left, we will find the sign of "Torre da Moa". This is one of the highest hills and is used as a natural viewpoint at the same time. From there, we can see the natural area of Traba and exceptional views of the granitic landscape whose rocks are called La Cachucha, El Cantor, La Águia or La Tartaruga because of their shape.

Penedos de Pasarela y Traba



Did you know that .... the bard of Bergantiños wrote some verses to this unique location?

Penedos de Pasarela,  
cando vos vexo, penedos,  
suspiro de amor por ela.

Queixumes dos pinos (1886)



Galician Country House  
Pazo de Leis



Santiago de Traba  
Church



Penedos de Pasarela  
y Traba



Cover Image

Santiago de Traba Church

Back Cover Image

Barnacles of O Roncudo

