

# Camariñas Vimianzo ◆ Muxía

**BOBBIN LACE AND THE MIDDLE AGES IN THE  
WESTERNMOST PART OF EUROPE**  
from Terra de Soneira to Terra de Nemancos



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## camariñas ♦ vimianzo ♦ muxía

experience tour description

map

### Departure Point

Punta do Castelo (Camariñas)

### Arrival Point

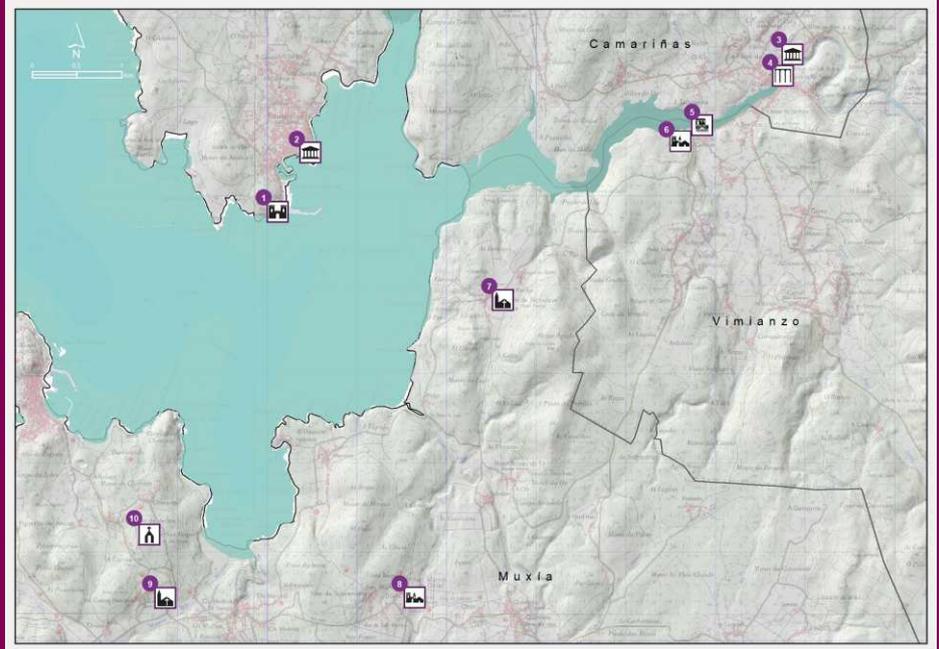
Frixe (Muxía)

### Duration

2 days

### Approximate Distance

65 Km.



## itinerary

**SOBERANO CASTLE**  **1**

• Camariñas

**MUSEUM OF THE BOBBIN LACE**  **2**

• Camariñas

**ETHNOGRAFIC MUSEUM**  **3**

• Camariñas

**A PONTE DO PORTO BRIDGE**  **4**

• Camariñas

**TIDE HILL MOLINO DE MAREA OF CEREIXO**  **5**

• Vimianzo

**COMPLEX OF ARTISTIC BUILDINGS  
CONJUNTO ARTÍSTICO OF CEREIXO**  **6**

• Vimianzo

**SAN PEDRO DE LEIS de NEMANCOS CHURCH**  **7**

• Muxía

**MONASTERY COMPLEX  
CONJUNTO MONACAL DE SAN MARTIÑO**  **8**

• Ozón - Muxía

**SAN XULIÁN DE MORAIME CHURCH**  **9**

• Muxía

**SAN ROQUE DE CHORENTE CHAPEL**  **10**

• Muxía



Oak of Cereixo



A TRADICIÓN ESTÁ DE MODA



HOXE E SEMPRE

*Sempre en Semana Santa*

**MOSTRA DO ENCAIXE  
DE CAMARIÑAS**

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This experience tour of Terras de Soneira and Nemancos takes place around the old Monastery of Moraima, where the Benedictine Order settled down. The importance of this settlement led to the proliferation of Romanesque buildings such as the churches we will visit and to the creation of the town of A Barca, where the most important pilgrimage in this area is celebrated. The monks stocked up on conger eels in the harbours, which were dried by sailors for their conservation and later commercialization. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the main export was the bobbin lace from, mainly, A Ponte do Porto (Camariñas) and Muxía.

**W**e will start this interesting tour with a stop at Punta do Castelo, where there are some remains of the old battery of Camariñas. We have evidence that the **Soberano Castle** has been there since 1740, becoming one of the elements of the set of fortifications, which were progressively built on the coast since the 17<sup>th</sup> century to be protected from naval battles which had started to take place a century earlier. The original construction disappeared in the 1940s when its blocks were used for the dock of Camariñas. Besides, its cannons were used as moorings for vessels.

**Did you know that...** the Muestra de Encaje de Camariñas (exhibition of Bobbin Lace of Camariñas), with fashion shows and exhibitions, is held at Easter and has been recognized as Festival of Tourist Interest? Did you know that the Associations of Bobbin Lace Makers are on the maritime promenade? They are called Asociación profesional Rendas and Asociación Puntillas of Camariñas and organise exhibitions of palilleras (Bobbin Lace Makers) working with the pillow.

From Punta do Castelo we will go to Punta da Ínsua, where the bobbin lace museum **Museo del Encaje** is located. Created in 1996, it is worth visiting to learn more about this handmade work, so characteristic of the coast.



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### MUSEO DEL ENCAJE

Check opening hours, prices and visits.

Address: Praza de Insuela, 57 (Camariñas)

+34 981 737 004 - +34 981 736 340

e-mail: [museodoencaixe@camariñas.net](mailto:museodoencaixe@camariñas.net)



**T**his centre was created to enhance this art and to promote its diffusion. Camariñas lives and breathes through this work that represents a way of life.

Leaving the heart of Camariñas, we will go to the bridge A Ponte do Porto, stopping at the ethnographic museum **Museo etnográfico**, opened in 1997. Its exhibits are pieces of furniture and tools of the maritime culture and of the bobbin lace art as well as some documents about both. Crossing **A Ponte do Porto Bridge**, we will arrive at the council of Vimianzo. This architectonic work has Romanesque origins and was the backbone of this town and its 19th-century commercial port.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### MUSEO ETNOGRÁFICO

Check opening hours, prices and visits.

Rúa Curros, 31. A Ponte do Porto (Camariñas)

+34 981 730 998

Continuing our route, we will arrive in **Cereixo**, where we can park our car to get closer to the river and visit the tide mill **Molino de marea**, also known as the mill of As Arceas. This type of constructions are scarce in Galicia and use the strength of the water flow produced by the tides. This formidable 17th-century construction worked as a mill-dwelling house, which belonged to the Counts Condes de Maceda y Taboada, former owners of the towers Torres de Cereixo. The initial building had only one floor, adding later a second floor used as a dwelling house.

**Did you know that...** according to the *Dicionario de etnografía e antropoloxía de Galicia* (Dictionary of Ethnography and anthropology of Galicia), bobbin lace might have come from Flandes in the 16<sup>th</sup> century? And did you know that a century later the bobbin lace of Camariñas became well-known? Or did you know that the palilladas, meetings of women to make bobbin lace, where girls and boys gathered in the evening ending in dances, were forbidden by the Church in 18<sup>th</sup> century?

First Day



Soberano Castle



Museum of the Bobbin Lace



Ethnographic Museum



A Ponte do Porto Bridge



Tide Mill Molino de Marea of Cereixo

# A Ponte do Porto

# Moinho de Marea



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A few metres away from this pre-industrial construction we will find the **Conjunto artístico (Complex of Artistic Buildings) of Cereixo** consisting of the Towers, Santiago Church and the hundred-year-old oak of the square; three outstanding elements in very few metres that show us the importance of this place in the Middle Ages. The Galician Country house Pazo de las torres has been declared Bien de Interés Cultural (Heritage of Cultural Interest) and can be seen from the outside. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the oldest parts are the two towers, the central body being built later. Next to it we can see one of the best works of the Romanesque of Costa da Morte, whose authors may have been the same as the ones who built Moraime, according to research. This construction is from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, but its most important part is the South door, built a century later. In its tympanum it is represented for the first time the Traslato of the apostle, at the moment when, after his martyrdom, his body is taken on a stone boat by his disciples and arrives in Galicia, according to the legend in the Codex Calixtinus.

After the magnificence of Cereixo, we will go to the Monastery of Ozón, stopping first at **San Pedro de Leis de Nemancos Church**. This small church, one of the oldest Romanesque constructions of Costa da Morte, is similar to the church of Santiago, which we have just visited, due to its nave and granite walls, although the walls of Nemancos stand out due to their pink colour.

We will go then to one of the most amazing places in this area, object of lots of transformations over the centuries. The monastery complex **Conjunto monacal de San Martiño de Ozón** was built from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and its church and remains of the monastery, where the rectory house was built, are preserved.



Santiago de Cereixo Church



Conjunto Artístico de Cereixo



San Pedro de Leis de Nemancos Church



Conjunto Monacal de San Martiño de Ozón

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This architectural complex, abandoned for years, is currently managed by a non-profit organisation that works on its maintenance. This complex also has a raised granary of stone with 22 pairs of feet, something that makes it one of the biggest raised granaries in Galicia. From the Romanesque church, only two semicircular apses of the former three and an ogival arch that connects the church with the rectory house are preserved. Look at the foliage corbels that can be also seen in other churches of this route! The history of Ozón is really connected to that of Moraime, our next stop.

And we will now arrive at the jewel of the Romanesque of Costa da Morte, **San Xulián de Moraime Church**. The monasteries of Ozón and Moraime are said to be connected by a passage. The Monastery of Moraime had the protection of the King Alfonso VII and for centuries received lots of donations from kings and the nobility, which made it a wealthy estate, being the monks of Ozón their poor brothers. The economy of the village and its commerce depended on the Benedictine Order. Its wealth and power were the cause of some Norman, pirate and Almoravid attacks over the centuries. From the original monastery, only the 12th-century church, erected on a Visigothic cemetery, and remains of the Roman Period are preserved. The church was declared Bien de Interés Cultural (Heritage of Cultural Interest) in 1972. The influence of the masters of the cathedral can be seen in the impressive facade where the images are placed in radial shape reminding us of the Pórtico de la Gloria in Santiago de Compostela. The Southern nave was attached to the monastery, accessing through an astonishing door (covered until 1975) representing The Last Supper. Inside more art works and Gothic paintings with images related to the seven deadly sins are preserved. The attached rectory house was built on the remains of the monastery and has recently been refurbished as a hotel.

After being amazed by the indescribable beauty of Moraime, we will follow the signs of the Camino de Santiago to **San Roque de Chorente Chapel**. This Building is connected with the old monastery because one of the monastery priors ordered its construction. A lovely place with views, with a simple chapel whose pilgrimage (romería) is celebrated the week after the 16<sup>th</sup> of August.



Hórreo de Ozón



Conjunto Monacal de San Martín de Ozón



San Xulián de Moraime Church



San Roque de Chorente Chapel



# San Xulián de Moráime

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## itinerary

### PORT OF MUXÍA 1

• Muxía

### SANTA MARÍA CHURCH 2

• Muxía

### A BARCA SANCTUARY 3

• Muxía

### CONGER DRYING SITE SECADERO DE A PEDRIÑA 4

• Muxía

### VIEWPOINT O FACHO 5

• Muxía

### SANTA MARÍA DE MORQUINTIÁN CHURCH 6

• Muxía

### LIGHTHOUSE OF CAPE TOURIÑAN 7

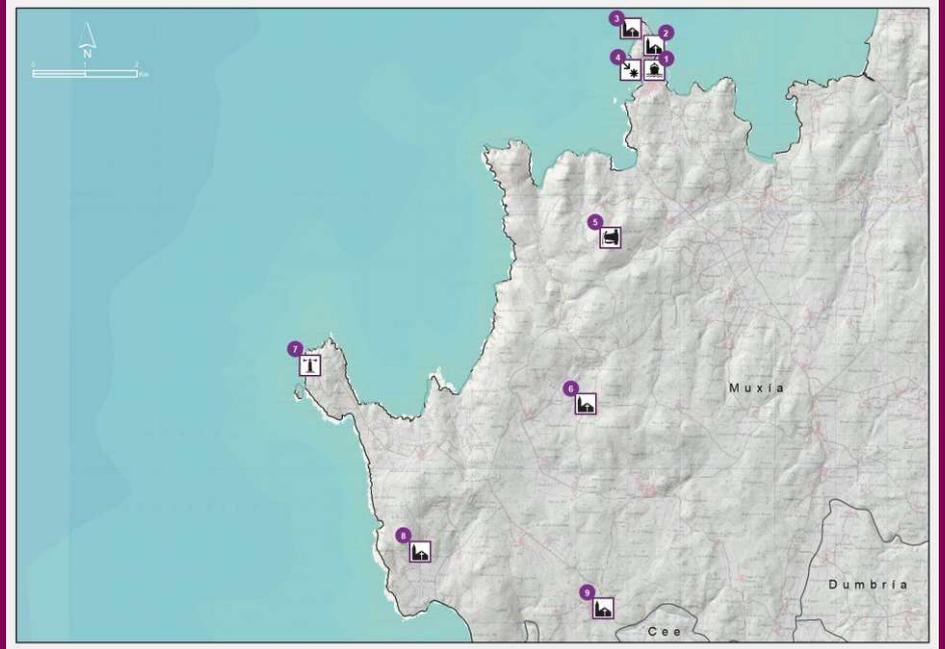
• Muxía

### SAN CRISTOVO DE NEMIÑA CHURCH 8

• Muxía

### SANTA LOCACIA DE FRIXE CHURCH 9

• Muxía



Viewpoint O Facho

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We will begin our tour by the **Port of Muxía**, where the first houses of the village were placed on the riverbank area, at the foot of Monte do Corpiño. The construction of the dock and the port made the old beach disappear, which was a natural shelter for boats. Nowadays there are fleets of coastal and inshore fishing. The main products of the port of Muxía were sardines and conger eels, but expanded with the sale of bobbin lace in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because this port was one of the main trading places of this artistic fabric. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Los Muros del Nordeste (Northeast Walls) were built to protect the village from the wind and are now used as a canvas for contemporary murals. These works of Street art, whose main topics are women and the maritime world, continued in the market, currently out of use.

**Did you know that...** Muxía has a Museum of the voluntary work? You can visit it in the Edificio de Servicios Múltiples located in Camposa square, less than five minutes away from the port. Check opening hours on +34 981 742 001.

We recommend to walk until our next stop or to park the car on the hard shoulder of Virxe da Barca Street. On the mountain slope of Monte do Corpiño, we can see **Santa María Church**, construction of maritime Gothic style built on the rocks. The church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and little is known about its origins but we do know that the church and its belongings were donated by the Pope Inocent III to the Cistercian Monastery of Carracedo (El Bierzo) in 1203.

It is worth seeing its free-standing bell tower on a rock and, from the front of the church, we can enjoy the views of one of the best-known conger drying sites of Muxía, Os Cascóns (we will talk about it later). From there, you can walk to A Barca along the cobbled track or the promenade, from where you can also continue by car.

Declared Interés turístico Nacional (of National Tourist Interest), the pilgrimage (romería) of the sanctuary **Santuario de A Barca** is one of the most important ones in Galicia, where people from all over the world go to celebrate A Barca's Saturday and Sunday in September. This area of singular beauty, has many legends, the most important of which is the legend which relates the rocks of Os Cadrís and of Abalar to the remains of the stone boat used by the Virgin. This may be another example of sacralization of a place of pagan rites linked with stones, so abundant in Galicia.



Port of Muxía

Second Day



Port of Muxía



Santa María Church



A Barca Sanctuary

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**A**nother legend, prior to the christianization of this area, states that if we go under Pedra dos Cadrís nine times, our back and hip pains will disappear. The current large church dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, being before a small chapel. In addition to the stones and the church, there is an extraordinary view from the viewpoint, where you can see the sculpture A Ferida, built after the disaster of the Prestige. Less than 500 metres away from there, the viewpoint of O Corpiño has incredible views of the peninsula of Muxía.

**Did you know that...** the famous Rosalía de Castro participated in the pilgrimage romería de A Barca in 1853 and wrote some verses for it? Here you have the first four verses:

¡Canta xente..., canta xente  
por campiñas e por veigas!  
¡Canta polo mar abaixo  
vén camiño da ribeiral

Cantares Gallegos, 1863

We will continue our tour to learn more about the conger drying process, stopping at the **Secadero de A Pedriña**, near the square Praza do Coído. Muxía is internationally well-known thanks to its traditional method of conger drying in the peninsula.

**T**here used to be three drying sites, but nowadays there are only two, which consist of a warehouse and a wooden structure made by crossed poles called cabrias, where the conger is hung after a laborious process. It is first washed and then opened in half and gutted (this process is called lañado). Later, its head is hit and finally, strategic holes are made to expose it to the sunlight and wind for fifteen or twenty days to cure it. A traditional method known since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Did you know that...** the population of A Barca was also mentioned by another important writer? The honoured Manuel Rivas dedicated these words to the conger drying sites:

Nos secadoiros do congro  
abanean peellos de vento.  
O sol lambe as feridas do solpor.  
O sol crava os ollos con noxo  
no coágulo da súa sombra granate

Costa da Morte Blues. Xerais, 1995



Secadero de A Pedriña



A Barca Sanctuary



Conger Drying Site  
Secadero de A Pedriña

# Sanitario da Barca



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Leaving Muxía behind us, we will go to the highest point of the council, the 312-metre-high **Viewpoint of O Facho**. Going up by the village of Lourido, with its beautiful beach, we will enjoy spectacular views of the centre of Muxía, Punta de A Barca and Monte Farelo of Camariñas. The name of Facho reminds us of the first lighthouses on the coast, with small bonfires that were set on the highest part of the mountains for the protection and guide of navigators.

After enjoying the views of Muxía, we will stop at another Romanesque place of this region, **Santa María de Morquintián Church**, which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It underwent important transformations on its front in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Looking at its austere facade, the bell tower, whose access is at the back, stands out. Before leaving, have a look at the magnificent corbels of the eaves, where foliage, animal and human motifs represent different actions, such as playing the viola.

We will continue our tour towards the **Lighthouse of Cabo Touriñán**, the westernmost point of mainland Spain. Twice a year, from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> April and from 13<sup>th</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, this is the point of finis solis in Europe, where the last ray of sunlight disappears. A place where wind blows strongly and the lighthouse guides the navigation of boats. Spectacular sunsets in a rocky environment surrounded by rocks and cliffs.

From the exceptional landscape of the westernmost point in Europe, we will continue our tour until **San Cristovo de Nemiña Church**, outstanding because it is the smallest one in the region, despite having the most perfect proportions of the churches in this council. Do not miss the foliage capitals on the columns to compare them later with the Romanesque work of our last stop. Before going on, you can enjoy the views of the Nemiña beach from the road.

We will finish our tour with **Santa Locacia de Frixe Church**, located in the Camino de Santiago. It was also built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, like the ones in Leis, Morquintián and Nemiña and has the same foliage motifs on the capitals. Do not miss its front window recalling the Medieval Ages.



Lighthouse of Cabo Touriñán



Viewpoint O Facho



Santa María de Morquintián Church



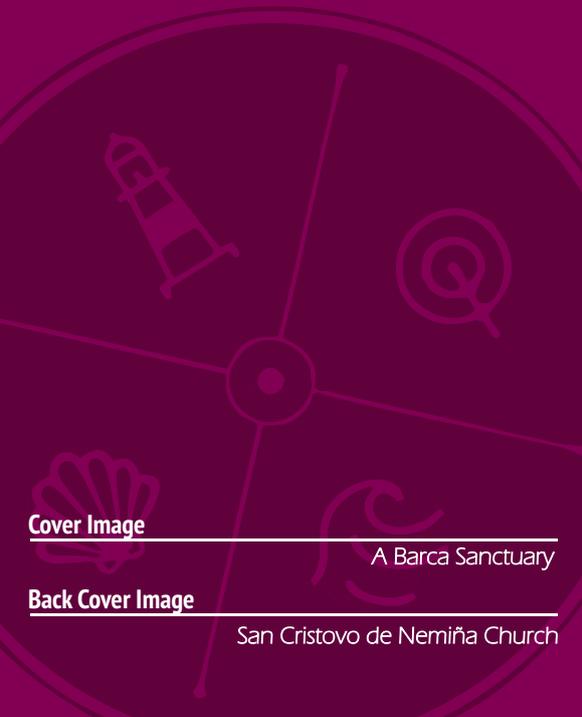
Lighthouse of Cabo Touriñán



San Cristovo de Nemiña Church



Santa Locacia de Frixe Church



Cover Image

A Barca Sanctuary

Back Cover Image

San Cristovo de Nemiña Church