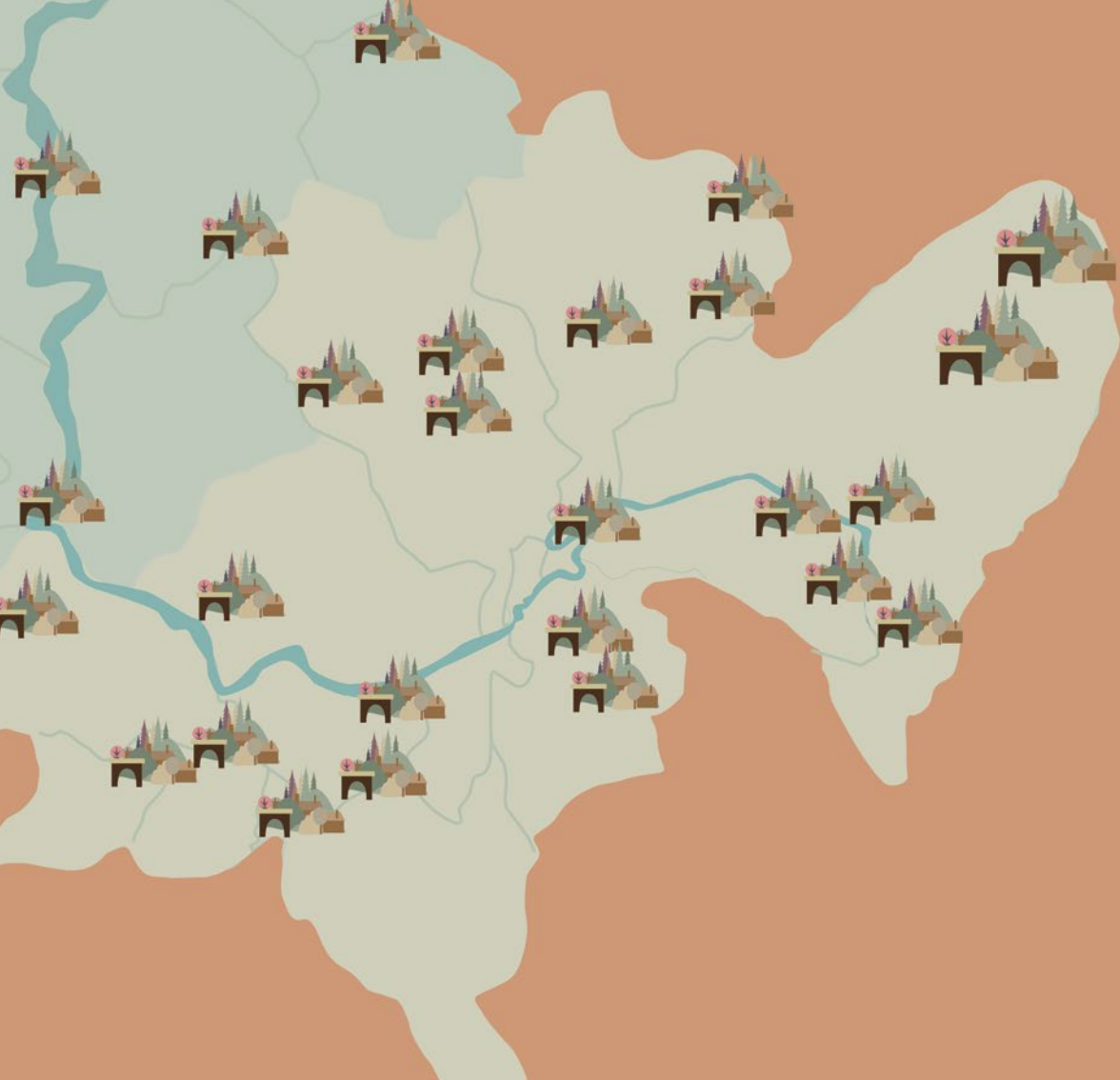




Ribeira  *Sacra* TOURIST GUIDE







Sil Canyon





C O N T E N T S

RIBEIRA SACRA	6
THE RIBEIRA SACRA E SERRAS DO ORIBIO E COUREL BIOSPHERE RESERVE	10
SIL CANYON AND BANKS	12
MIÑO BANKS	16
NATURE AND LANDSCAPE - SIL BANKS	18
NATURE AND LANDSCAPE - MIÑO BANKS	26
MONASTERIES, ROMANESQUE AND MORE - SIL RIVER	30
MONASTERIES, ROMANESQUE AND MORE - MIÑO RIVER	40
HEROIC VITICULTURE	48
THE WAY OF ST JAMES	52
ARTS AND CRAFTS	53
GASTRONOMY	54
FAIRS AND FESTIVALS	55
ENTROIDO (CARNIVAL)	57
SGRAFFITO DECORATIONS AND MURALS	58
FOLKLORE, LEGENDS, AND MYTHOLOGICAL BEINGS	59
MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS	60
OTHER ACTIVITIES	64
TOURISM SERVICES AND PRODUCTS	64
DIRECTORY	66
ROADS MAP	68





If you're looking for a place where you can visit incredible landscapes, experience many centuries of history, listen to the sounds and silence of nature in its purest form, and enjoy outstanding foods and wines, then Ribeira Sacra is the place for you: a world-class destination in the heart of Galicia.

Spread across the southern part of Lugo province and the northern part of Ourense province, and cut through by the Miño, Sil, and Cabe rivers, Ribeira Sacra includes 21 municipalities. These are A Pobra do Brollón, Bóveda, Carballedo, Chantada, Monforte de Lemos, O Saviñao, Pantón, Paradela, Portomarín, Quiroga, Ribas de Sil, Sober, and Taboada in Lugo; and A Peroxa, A Teixeira, Castro Caldelas, Esgos, Montederramo, Nogueira de Ramuín, Parada de Sil, and Xunqueira de Espadanedo in Ourense. In this Guide, the names of these municipalities are often included in brackets after the names of more specific locations.

Because of its history, location, and size, the city of Monforte de Lemos is considered to be the capital of Ribeira Sacra. This is where you will find the School of Our Lady of La Antigua, which is sometimes referred to as the "Galician El Escorial" because of its similarities to that Royal Monastery complex near Madrid. It has two works by El Greco on display in its art gallery, among other treasures. You can also visit the historic San Vicente do Pino complex, with its monastery, castle tower, and Count's Palace, and the offices of the Regulatory Council for products with the Ribeira Sacra designation of origin and the Ribeira Sacra Wine Centre are also found in this city.

The cultivation of wine grapes has historically shaped the landscape of Ribeira Sacra, in the form of terracing cut into

Ribeira Sacra



the steeply sloping riverbanks. These wines were granted a protected designation of origin (PDO) label in 1996, which has not only increased the sense of a common territory, but also helped Ribeira Sacra gain recognition around the world.

As you travel along the banks of the Sil and Miño rivers, you will be amazed by the deep, winding valleys and canyons these rivers have carved into the hard granite bedrock. Those of the Sil River are more barren and rocky, especially along the famous Sil Canyon, which has walls rising to heights of up to 500 metres. The valleys created by the Miño River are more gentle, and better suited for human settlement and cultivation. A relaxing boat trip along one of these rivers is a great way to take in the splendour of these beautiful creations of nature. Another excellent approach to experiencing these landscapes is by taking advantage of the hiking routes that run through the O Courel mountains, along the Sil Canyon, or along the banks of the Miño River (see NATURE AND LANDSCAPES). You can also try visiting some of the many viewpoints (miradores), which offer spectacular vistas you will remember for a lifetime.

For centuries, religious communities chose these extraordinary lands of unique beauty as places to settle and build, as demonstrated by the numerous historic monasteries and churches found throughout Ribeira Sacra. In fact, the area is widely considered to represent one of the premier concentrations of rural Romanesque architecture in all of Europe. The skills of the stonecutters and builders who worked during those times can still be appreciated in the form of decorated portals, eaves, apses, and other architectural details at these structures of remarkable beauty (see MONASTERIES, ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE, AND MORE).

The widespread presence of these monastic communities is thought to be the inspiration behind the Galician name “Ribeira Sacra”, which can be translated as “Sacred Riverbanks”. This name goes all the way back to the year 1124, when Teresa, Countess of Portugal donated land to the monk Arnaldo and his religious brotherhood, so they could build a new monastery at “Rovoyra Sacrata”. This is the same site where the Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo is now located, which is one of Galicia’s most architecturally significant and well preserved.

The name “Ribeira Sacra” gained popularity in the 17th century, after Father Antonio de Yepes transcribed the name from the original document as “Rivoira Sacrata”. However, much more recently, in the late 20th century, the historian Torquato de Souza Soares determined that an error had occurred, and that the correct spelling should be Rovoyra rather than Rivoira. This led him to interpret the meaning as “Robledal Sagrado”, which refers to a sacred grove of oak trees, which had spiritual associations in the region’s ancient Castro culture.

However, despite this reinterpretation of the term’s origins, the meaning of “Sacred Riverbanks” remains very appropriate for Ribeira Sacra, because of the extensive presence of monasteries, churches, and other religious structures.

Ribeira Sacra is a unique destination. It is an extensive region with a diversity of natural landscapes, and status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Spanish Asset of Cultural Interest. It contains attractions that are world famous, and others that remain well kept secrets. It is a place of unique, once-in-a-lifetime experiences linked to natural and cultural heritage, all waiting for you to discover!





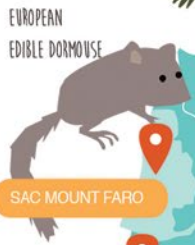
Vilouxe viewpoint (Nogueira de Ramuín)



HEATHER



COMMON KESTREL



EUROPEAN EDIBLE DORMOUSE



EUROPEAN PINE MARTEN



EURASIAN WREN



IBERIAN WOLF



BEAR



CHESTNUT

- TRANSITION AREA
- BUFFER ZONES
- CORE AREA





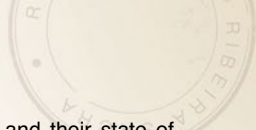
The Ribeira Sacra e Serras do Oribio e Courel Biosphere Reserve

The canyons, mountains, plains, and valleys of Ribeira Sacra, which are home to an exceptionally rich flora and fauna and a living cultural legacy, have led to designation of the Ribeira Sacra e Serras do Oribio e Courel UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

This reserve covers 306,535 hectares, which is about 10% of Galicia's total land area. It is spread across 23 municipalities in the provinces of Lugo and Ourense, with 18 of these belonging to the Ribeira Sacra "geodestination" (Bóveda, Carballedo, Chantada, Monforte de Lemos, Pantón, Paradelá, A Pobra do Brollón, Portomarín, Quiroga, Ribas de Sil, O Saviñao, Sober, and Taboada in Lugo; and A Peroxa, A Teixeira, Castro Caldelas, Nogueira de Ramuín, and Parada de Sil in Ourense).

The Sil Canyon, the banks of the Miño River, and the O Courel mountains are some of the most characteristic and exceptional natural elements, where spectacular rocky landscapes, forests, and terraced vineyards coexist with a remarkable richness of cultural heritage sites (such as historic monasteries, churches, and villages) and world-renowned geological features. There are a total of 9 protected spaces in the region: O Courel Mountains Geopark, Mount Faro Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Pena Veidosa SAC, Cabe River SAC, O Courel SAC, Sil Canyon SAC, Bidueiral de Montederramo SAC, Campodola-Leixazós Fold Natural Monument, and Loio-Ruxidoira Natural Area of Local Interest.

The flora and fauna found in this Biosphere Reserve make it the part of Galicia with the highest biodiversity levels. The confluence of Oceanic and Mediterranean climates, sharp temperature changes between winter and summer, highly complex rainfall patterns, and variations in altitude are some of the factors that have led to the presence of 1,214 species of flora, which is more than half of the diversity existing in all of Galicia.



These highly diverse habitats and ecosystems, and their state of conservation, have also produced a high level of faunal biodiversity, with almost 300 species. Iconic animals such as wolves and wildcats make their home in this territory, and it is one of the last strongholds of the brown bear in Galicia.

A cultural legacy formed by centuries of history

The results of 2,500 years of history are revealed through archaeological sites in the form of megalithic monuments, Bronze Age settlements, and Castro culture hillfort villages, along with others sites reflecting the presence of Roman legions here at the western edge of the Roman Empire. The presence of secluded hermitic and monastic communities also played an important role throughout the territory of the reserve, leading to a high concentration of rural Romanesque architecture and art.

Within the boundaries of the reserve you will find a rich cultural heritage that includes castles, churches, bridges, watermills, manor houses, dams, agricultural terraces, Roman mines, medieval towns, and much more, which all combine to create this extraordinary historical and cultural reality.

Finally, we cannot forget to mention that two Routes of Santiago de Compostela (also known as the Way of St James or Camino de Santiago), included on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1993, also pass through the reserve.

In 2018, the value of these lands and the cultural treasures they contain led to designation of Ribeira Sacra as a Spanish Asset of Cultural Interest in the Cultural Landscapes category.

But above all else, Ribeira Sacra is a living community, with more than 75,000 residents who contribute to preservation of these landscapes and their natural and cultural value. For this, they all deserve our gratitude!

Ribeira Sacra

Sil Canyon and Banks



Sil Canyon and Banks

There can be no doubt that the Sil Canyon is one of Ribeira Sacra's best-known attractions. This geological marvel, in the form of a deep rocky gorge with the sinuous curves of a broad river flowing through it, is located along the final stretch of the Sil River before it flows into the Miño. In this section of the Guide, we will explain the various ways to discover the Sil Canyon and its surrounding riverbanks and landscapes.

The most popular way to experience the canyon itself is by taking a boat trip along the Sil River, which became navigable when dams were constructed for purposes of generating hydroelectric power. There are boat tours that depart from the following locations: Santo Estevo (Nogueira de Ramuín), Abeleda (Castro Caldelas), Ponte do Sil - Deputación de Lugo (Monforte de Lemos), and Os Chancís (Sober). At our website, you can find all the information you need regarding the various operating companies and the trips they offer.

Another option for enjoying a visit to the Sil Canyon and its surrounding areas is to take advantage of the extensive network of viewpoints, known as "*miradores*". Many of these are located at the highest points along the canyon, offering vistas over the course of the Sil River itself and the landscapes around it. Hidden monasteries, vineyards planted across steeply sloping terraces, and magnificent waterfalls are some of the surprises that are awaiting your discovery in the vicinity of these strategically located stopping points.

In addition to these viewpoints near the river, there are others located at even higher elevations. These offer vistas over the region's deep valleys, and they include those known as a "*Geomirador*", which are focused on some of the area's geological wonders.

A Pobra do Brollón: A Capela

A Teixeira: A Galeana | Xirás | Monte de O Outeiro

Castro Caldelas: As Penas de Matacás | Castro Caldelas

Monforte de Lemos: Do Duque

Nogueira de Ramuín: Moura | O Bambán do Solpor | Penedos do Castro | Pé do Home | Pena do Pobre | Vilouxe

Pantón: Pena Pombeira

Parada de Sil: Triguás | Los Balcones de Madrid/Os Torgás | Castro/A Mirada Máxica/ As Xariñas | Cabezoás | A Columna | Chao de Madeiros | As Arandeiras

Quiroga: A Conchada | A Golada | Angueiros | Bustelo | Geomirador de Campodola | Castro de Ares | Geomirador de Penas Rubias

Ribas de Sil: Geomirador de Pómez | Vilariño | Alto da Moá/As Fontes | G. de Louxoá | G. de Pena do Ladeiro

Sober: Pena do Conde/A Barca | Xabrega | Os Chancís | A Cidade | O Boqueiriño | Santiorxo | Cadeiras | Amandi | Pena do Castelo | Soutochao

Xunqueira de Espadanedo: Eirado | Val do Medo

There are also excellent options for those looking for some exercise: hiking paths and trails, some specifically for bicycles, that run along the steep slopes of the Sil riverbanks, or that lead into dense forests.

HIKING ROUTES

Low difficulty: PR-G 236 A Castaña e do Mel Route (A Pobra do Brollón) - 10.3 km | PR-G 224 A Teixeira Route (A Teixeira) - 13.7 km | PR-G 4 San Pedro de Rocas Royal Route (Esgos) - 9.0 km | PR-G 182 Bidueiral de Gabín Route (Montederramo) - 9.4 km | A Cruz - Pena Pombeira (Pantón) - 8.5 km | PR-G 181 Cibrisqueiros to San Cosmede Route (Pantón) - 4.0 km | PR-G 192 Pregamento Xeolóxico de Campodola Route (Quiroga)

Medium difficulty: PR-G 242 A Capela de San Vitorio to Mina de Veneira Route (A Pobra do Brollón) - 6.2 km | PR-G 213 Enchanted Forests Route (Castro Caldelas) - 20.2 km | PR-G 237 Matacás Mirador Route (Castro Caldelas) - 19.4 km | PR-G 253 Moura Granite Route (Nogueira de Ramuín) - 7.5 km | PR-G 178 Maquino Largaño Route (Nogueira de Ramuín) - 15.0 km | PR-G 98 Sil Canyon - Santa Cristina Route (Parada de Sil) - 18.0 km | PR-G 177 Mao River Gorge Route (Parada de Sil) - 16.0 km | PR-G 175 Augas Mestas - Doade Route (Quiroga, A Pobra do Brollón, Sober, Monforte de Lemos) - 27.1 km | PR-G 141 Gold and Royal Road Route (Quiroga) - 15.6 km | PR-G 184 Lucenza Lake Route (Quiroga) - 9.4 km | PR-G 187 Ferradal Route (Quiroga) - 11.1 km | PR-G 191 A Seara to Rugando Route (Quiroga) - 17.8 km | PR-G 193 Quiroga Valley Route (Quiroga) - 9.4 km | PR-G 180 Cubela Route (Ribas de Sil) - 13.5 km | PR-G 86 Ribeira Sacra Vineyards Route (Sober) - 12.3 km

High difficulty: PR-G 218 Montouto Circular Route (Quiroga) - 18.2 km

RIBEIRA SACRA MOUNTAIN BIKING CENTRE

Low difficulty: Os Torgais Mountain Biking Route (Parada de Sil) - 8.8 km

Medium difficulty: Maquino Largaño Mountain Biking Route (Nogueira de Ramuín) - 13.8 km

High difficulty: Nogueira Mountain Biking Circular Route (Nogueira de Ramuín and Parada de Sil) - 34.3 km | Fábrica da Luz Mountain Biking Route (Parada de Sil) - 12.3 km | Parada Mountain Biking Circular Route (Parada de Sil) - 33.5 km

The Mountain Biking Centre is currently expanding, with new routes in A Teixeira and Castro Caldelas. You can find updated information by scanning the QR code.



SIL BY BOAT



SIL VIEWPOINTS



SIL HIKING AND MTB CENTRE

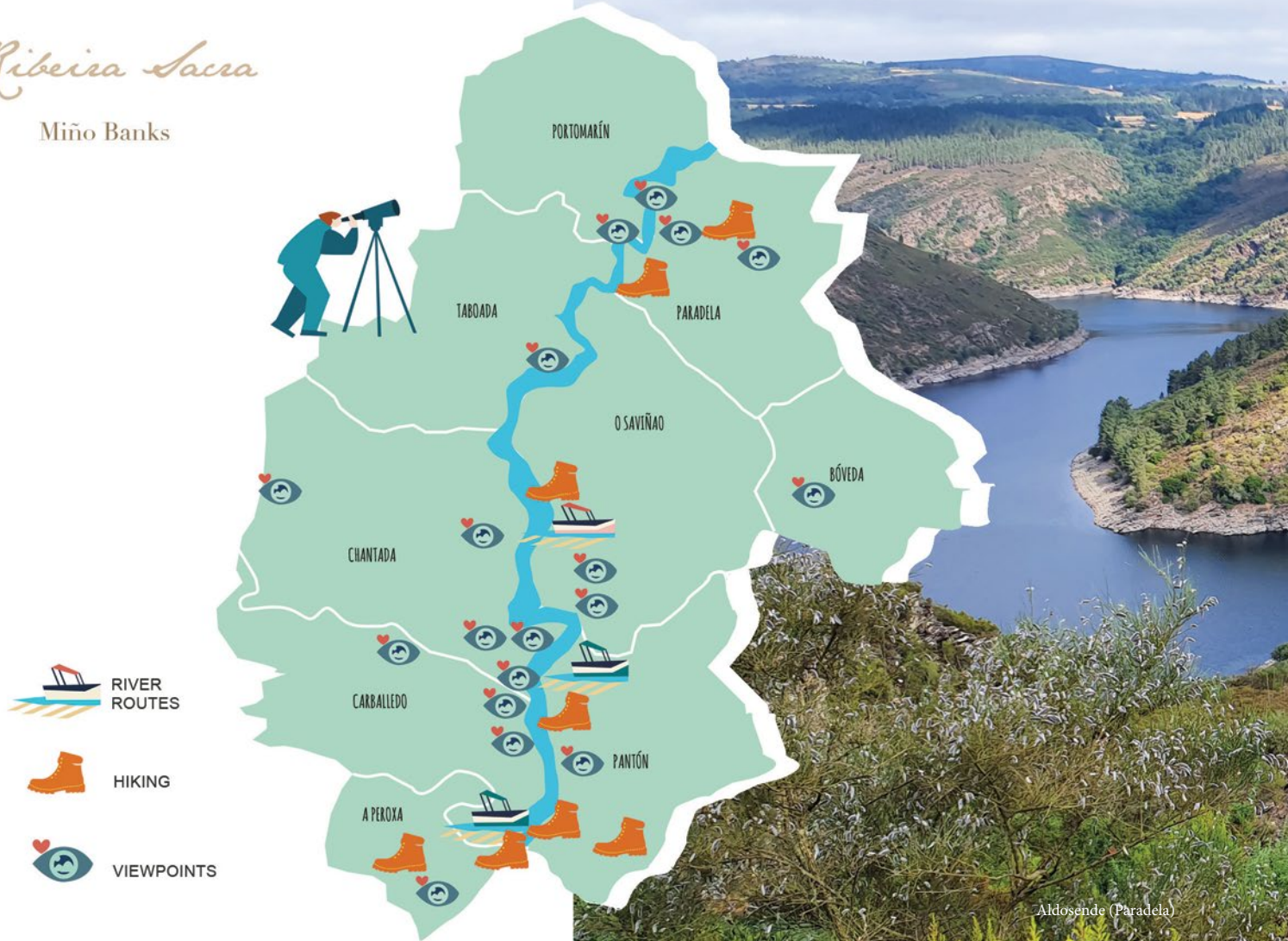


SIL ROUTES BY CAR



Ribeira Sacra

Miño Banks



Aldosende (Paradelá)

Miño Banks

As the Miño River passes through Ribeira Sacra, its banks contain landscapes with tranquil broadleaf forests and pine plantations, alternating with numerous vineyards.

There are several ways to experience these beautiful environments: on walking routes or hiking trails, by visiting some of the many viewpoints, or by taking a relaxing boat trip.

Construction of the Belesar and Os Peares dams has created wide expanses of river that are suitable for navigation. There are a variety of boat trips offered, which depart from the following locations: Belesar (O Saviñao), Pincelo (Chantada), Maiorga (Pantón), and Os Peares (Carballedo). There are additional aquatic activities offered at Ponte Mourulle (Taboada) and Praia da Cova (O Saviñao). You can visit our website to find more information about the operating companies and the boat trips they offer.

The Miño River and its immediate surroundings also feature an extensive network of viewpoints (*miradores*), strategically located so that you can experience unforgettable views of this river and the sinuous path it has carved over time. Visiting these viewpoints is also a great way to get an overview of the extensive vineyards and broad expanses of native forests, which often conceal historic churches and monasteries as well.

A Peroxa: A Peroxa

Bóveda: Serra de Penas I Alto do Coto

Carballedo: Penedo do Garabullo I A Grixoá I Pena Cabezuda

Chantada: Monte do Faro I Lincora I Terra Branca I sobre Cabo do Mundo I Sernande

O Saviñao: Cabo do Mundo I Cabo do Mundo II

Pantón: Pesqueiras

Paradela: Paradela I Cabodevila or Penedo do Bico I Santa Marta I Cortes

Portomarín: A Buqueira

Taboada: Taboada

Discovering hidden waterfalls, strolling among the grapevines, and following the winding path of the Miño River: these are some of the unique experiences waiting for you along the paths and trails that run along the riverbanks and through the surrounding areas.

HIKING ROUTES

Low difficulty low: PR-G 183 Belesar Vineyards Route (Chantada) - 4.6 km

Medium difficulty: PR-G 179 Miño River Route (A Peroxa) - 11.0 km I PR-G 162 Ribeira Sacra of the Miño Route (O Saviñao and Pantón) - 35.2 km I Augacaída Waterfall - Castro de Marce Route (Pantón) - 2.4 km I PR-G 14 Loio Route (Paradela) - 6.4 km I PR-G 249 Old Aldosende Road (Paradela)- 11.3 km



MIÑO VIEWPOINTS



MIÑO BY BOAT



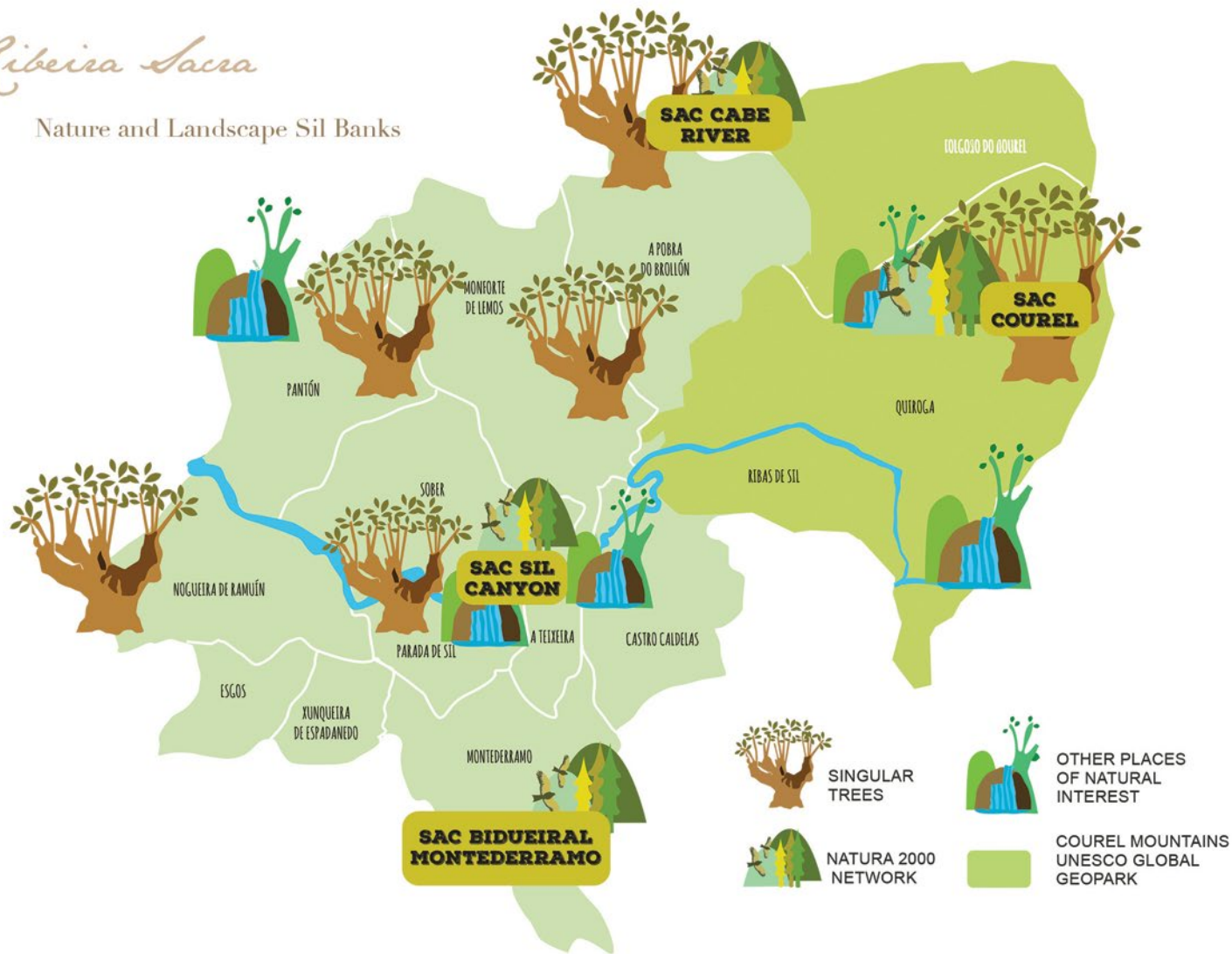
MIÑO HIKING



MIÑO ROUTES BY CAR

Ribeira Sacra

Nature and Landscape Sil Banks



Nature and Landscape of the Sil Banks

Much of the Ribeira Sacra benefits from some form of special protection programme, all of which are helping to preserve its most significant natural spaces and elements.

In the lands surrounding the course of the Sil River, the Biosphere Reserve includes areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network, which is the European Union's most important nature conservation system. There are also Galician geoparks and trees catalogued in the Singular Trees of Galicia programme.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK

BIDUEIRAL DE MONTEDERRAMO SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The "Bidueiral de Montederramo" is one of Europe's southernmost birch forests with Euro-Siberian vegetation. It is located in the San Mamede Mountains, which are part of the Central Ourense Massif Special Area of Conservation.

This forest contains species of birch trees mixed with hollies, mountain ash, and bilberries, along with other common elements such as brooms, oaks, and ferns. This creates a habitat for wild boar, roe deer, and red deer, as well as lizards, skinks, bats, eagles, owls, and goshawks.

SIL CANYON SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The Sil Canyon Special Area of Conservation covers 5,914 hectares, divided between the provinces of Lugo and Ourense. It incorporates the Sil Canyon itself, from Parada de Sil to Os Peares, as well as the final stretch of the Cabe River and its gorge until the point where it flows into the Sil River.

This is a landscape where the Sil River runs between sheer walls

of granite, which are nearly vertical and more than 500 metres high in some locations. This deep gorge was created over the course of many thousands of years, mainly by two factors: erosion, as the river very gradually carved its way into the bedrock, and powerful geological processes associated with plate tectonics. The flow of the river is quite gentle because of the effects of the dams built on it, and the Sil River eventually merges into the Miño River at Os Peares.

The Sil Canyon area is subject to two different climates: an Atlantic climate and a microclimate with Mediterranean influences. This is a factor that makes the area an excellent habitat and refuge for many species of plants and animals. Here you can find plants and trees that are typical of Atlantic forests, such as chestnuts and oaks, but also others much more common in Mediterranean regions, such as cork oaks and lavenders, which inhabit the more suitable areas. Various birds of prey also make this area their home, such as the peregrine falcon, black kite, and even the threatened golden eagle, all of which are able to find good nesting sites along the steep and rugged riverbanks.

O COUREL SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Located in the southeastern corner of the province of Lugo, this is some of the Iberian Peninsula's oldest land, geologically speaking. It has elements of undeniable geological interest, including a multitude of impressive caves and the spectacular Campodola Fold (Quiroga). In addition to being a habitat for wolves, the O Courel mountains have been called Galicia's largest nature reserve. All species from this region of Spain, except for those adapted to coastal habitats, are found in this mountainous geographic crossroads, which combines characteristics of Atlantic and Mediterranean climates.

The most typical forest formations found in the O Courel mountains are a mixed type that includes a diverse range of plant species, generally located at the headwaters of the rivers. It is also typical to find chestnut forests close to towns and villages, and cultivation of olive trees in certain parts of Quiroga..





A Cubela (Ribas de Sil)

With respect to the fauna, you will find species typical of the mountains of Galicia, such as roe deer, wild boar, mustelids, various birds of prey, and a multitude of amphibians such as the green newt.

CABE RIVER SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The Cabe River begins its journey in the O Courel mountains and passes through the landscapes of Monforte de Lemos before flowing into the Sil River. It is notable for its well preserved riverside vegetation and the abundant presence of the fish known as the Iberian nase. The forests contain Galician-Portuguese oaks, chestnuts, heather, gorse, and riverbank species.

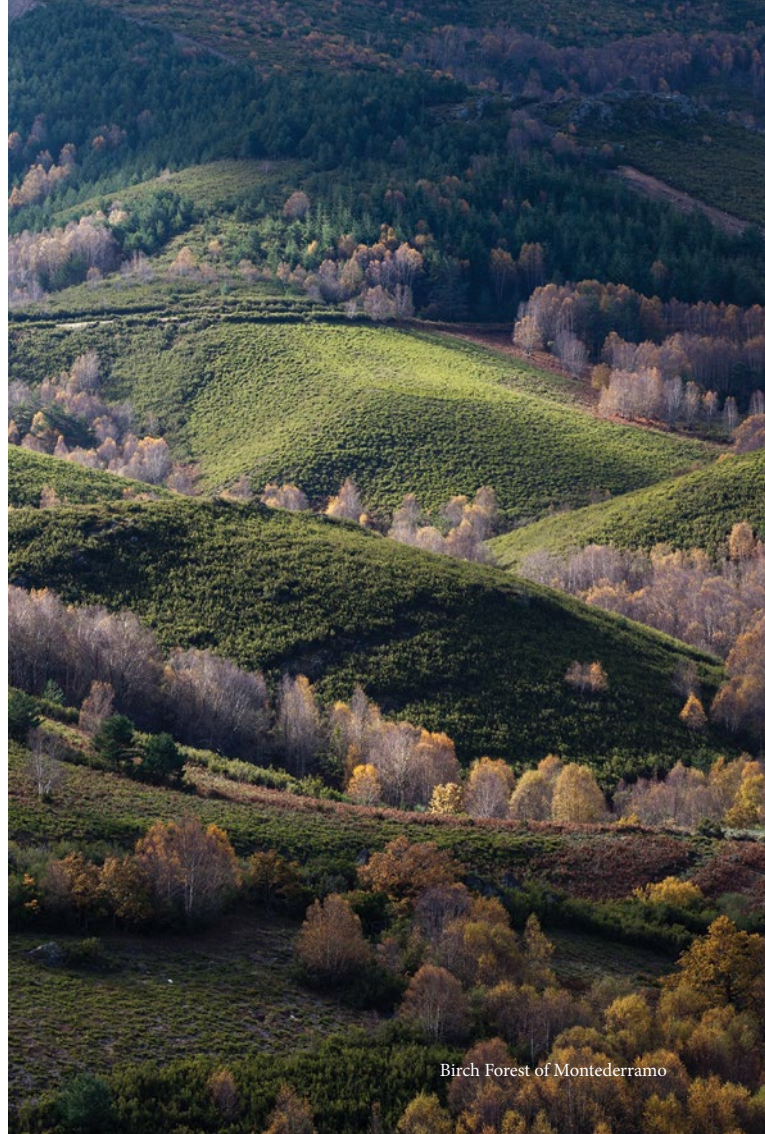
In terms of fauna, here you will find the grey heron, merlin, bats, owls, and ermines, among other creatures. The civet cat and wildcat are two other mammals that inhabit this area.

COUREL MOUNTAINS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (UGGp)

Without a doubt, the Courel Mountains Geopark is Ribeira Sacra's geological jewel. Covering an area of 577.85 km², the geopark is located in the eastern zone of our geodestination, specifically within the municipalities of Quiroga, Ribas de Sil, and Folgoso do Courel.

It reflects a valuable geological heritage that includes rocks, minerals, fossils, geological structures, and a modern landscape dominated by fluvial and glacial valleys. Humans have been taking advantage of the area's geological resources for more than 4,000 years, through their extraction of gold, iron, antimony, lead, lime, and slate.

One of the most notable geological resources in the geopark is undoubtedly the Campodola-Leixazós geological fold. Declared as a Geological Point of International Interest in 1983, it is now considered to be not only one of the most significant points of structural geology in Spain, but in all of Europe as well. This is



Birch Forest of Montederramo

a type of natural wonder that can only be viewed in a very limited number of locations worldwide, where events that occurred below the earth's crust over the course of the last 500 million years can be viewed in plain sight. To facilitate observation of this phenomenon and other spectacular geological features, the geopark has an extensive network of geological viewpoints known as geomiradores (see SIL CANYON AND BANKS).

SINGULAR TREES

The government of Galicia created its "Singular Trees" protection programme as a way to help preserve species that merit special attention and care, and it revolves around a Catalogue of Singular Trees of Galicia. Along the banks of the Sil River there are a variety of extraordinary specimens listed in this catalogue, with some highlights including the chestnut trees in the areas to the south of the Sil River (which has traditionally been an important centre of chestnut production) and trees associated with Mediterranean climates in the eastern parts of Ribeira Sacra.

Cork oak tree at the Casa do Tristo (A Pobra do Brollón)
Narrow-leaved ash tree in Montepando (Monforte de Lemos)
Chestnut tree at Souto de A Ramigoa (Nogueira de Ramuín)
Ancient chestnut tree in Entrambosrrios (Parada de Sil)
Yew tree in Cereixedo (Quiroga)

OTHER PLACES OF NATURAL INTEREST

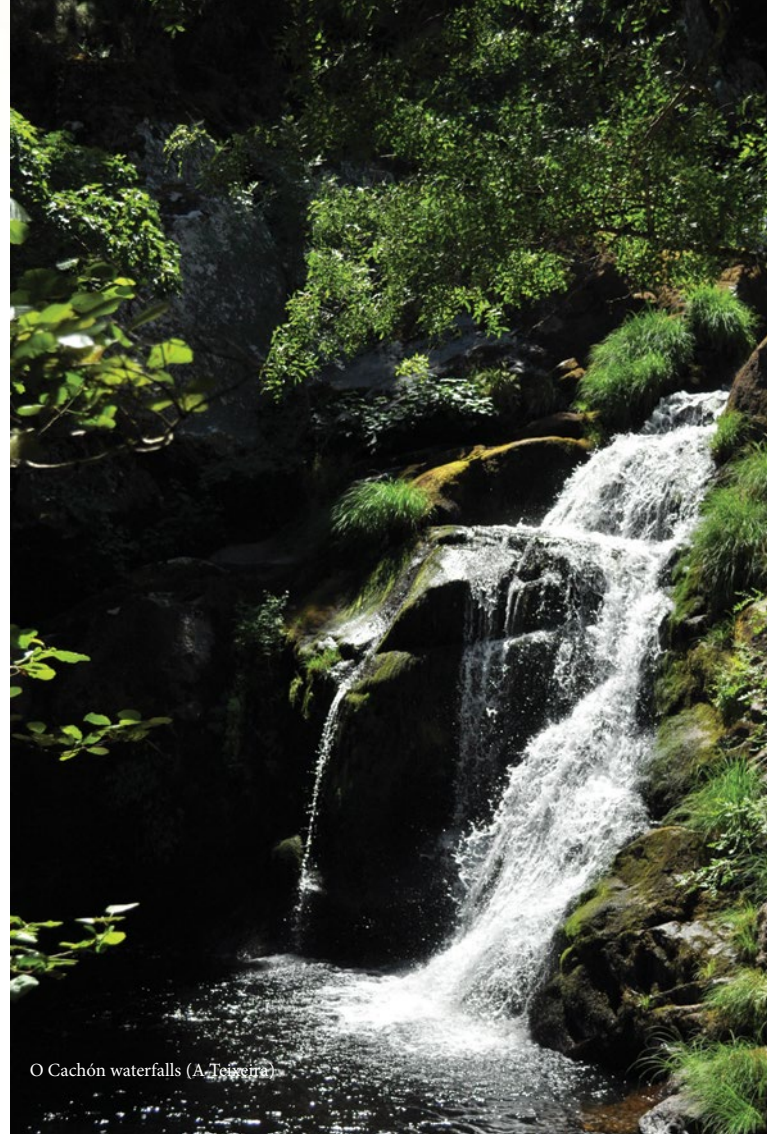
Cachón waterfalls (A Teixeira)
Wooden walkways along the Mao River (Parada de Sil)
Gold mining sites at Montefurado (Quiroga)



SINGULAR TREES



**OTHER PLACES OF
NATURAL INTEREST**



O Cachón waterfalls (A Teixeira)





Vineyards on the Miño riverbanks

Ribeira Sacra

Nature and Landscape Miño Banks



SINGULAR
TREES



NATURA 2000
NETWORK



OTHER PLACES OF
NATURAL
INTEREST

Mount Faro viewpoint (Chantada)



Nature and Landscape Miño Banks

The landscapes that surround the Miño River feature exceptional forest zones and riverbanks covered with the area's characteristic terraced vineyards.

As with the areas surrounding the Sil River, part of the land around the Miño River is protected within the Natura 2000 network, which is the European Union's premier nature conservation programme. There are also numerous entries in the catalogue of Singular Trees of Galicia found along the Miño River, in addition to many other areas of undeniable natural significance.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK

MOUNT FARO SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Mount Faro is a gigantic block of fractured granite, pushed upwards by the forces of orogenic movement. A hermitage, a viewpoint, and a recreation area can now be found at its summit. Also referred to as "Faro de Chantada", at 1,187 metres in altitude it provides an excellent natural vantage point.

The Faro mountains, which occupy the very centre of the region of Galicia, are part of the extensive series of mountain ranges that run across Galicia from north to south, known as the Dorsal Gallega ("backbone of Galicia"). The peaks of these mountains are rounded and gently sloping, leading smoothly downwards towards the Miño River valley, and their slopes contain scenic

agricultural landscapes that combine pastures with forests and oak groves. Small villages preserve the local historic heritage and blend harmoniously with their natural environment.

PENA VEIDOSA SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Lying at the centre of the Dorsal Gallega mountain ranges, the Pena Veidosa Special Area of Conservation covers a total area of 2,321 hectares. Because of the importance of the flora and fauna found in this location, it has been added to the Natura 2000 network. The floral aspects include an abundance of heathlands and grasslands, with sphagnum moss being a prominent component. In terms of the forested areas, oak trees are the most common element.

In terms of fauna, the importance of this conservation area is due to the presence of endangered animals, which include birds such as the northern goshawk, Dartford warbler, Eurasian sparrowhawk, and Montagu's harrier. Other notable species present here include the gold-striped salamander, European stag beetle, and various types of bats (barbastelle bat, greater mouse-eared bat, and greater horseshoe bat).

SINGULAR TREES

The "Singular Trees" protection programme was created by the government of Galicia to help preserve species that merit special attention and care. Especially remarkable trees are added to a Catalogue of Singular Trees of Galicia. An Atlantic climate dominates in the areas surrounding the Miño River, which means that the majority of the most spectacular specimens found here belong to the group that best characterises Galicia: the oaks.

Oak tree at the Cartelos Manor House (Carballedo)
Oak tree at the Casa Grande de Loureiro (Carballedo)
Giant oak tree in Bustelo de Abaixo (Carballedo)
Oak tree at the Casa do Herdeiro (Carballedo)
Giant oak tree of O Mestre (Carballedo)
Alder tree at the Maside Manor House (Pantón)
The Ramos oak (Taboada)

OTHER PLACES OF NATURAL INTEREST

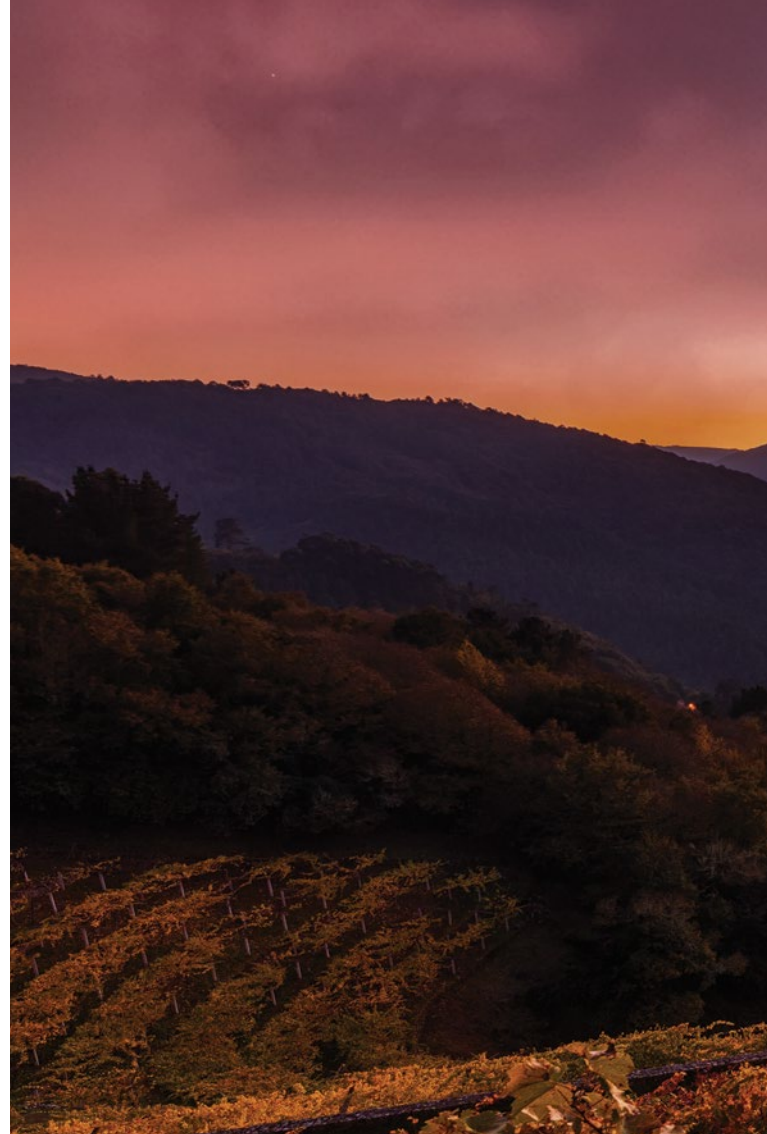
Garabullo rock and Fondós waterfall (Carballedo)
Asma riverside promenade (Chantada)
A Cova riverside beach (O Saviñao)
Augacaída waterfall (Pantón)
Loio-Ruxidoira Natural Area of Local Interest (Paradela)



SINGULAR TREES



**OTHER PLACES OF
NATURAL INTEREST**





Cabo do Mundo (O Saviñao)

Ribeira Sacra

Monasteries, Romanesque
and More Sil Banks



Monasteries, Romanesque and Mose Sil Banks

The landscapes of Ribeira Sacra have always attracted those seeking tranquillity and retreat, and for centuries this has included the monastic communities that settled in the area. Many of the churches and monasteries they built still survive today and have become part of the TRANSROMANICA Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. This section of the Guide contains an introduction to the rich religious heritage found along the Sil River and in the surrounding areas, in addition to other places of cultural interest such as castles, manor houses (*pa-zos*), archaeological sites, and charming traditional villages.

MONASTERIES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS HERITAGE SITES

Church of San Salvador de Ferreiros (A Pobra do Brollón): this church includes Romanesque elements from the 12th century as well as other parts dating to the 17th century, with painted murals preserved inside.

Church of San Xíán de Veiga (A Pobra do Brollón): the semi-circular apse from the mid-12th century is preserved.

Church of the Asunción do Burgo (Castro Caldelas): this is a Romanesque church with a series of carved stone figures on the modillions around its exterior.

Church of San Xoán de Camba and monastery ruins (Castro Caldelas): founded in the 10th century, this was an important abbey used as a secondary Royal Monastery.

Monastery of San Paio (Castro Caldelas): this medieval monastery is thought to date to the 10th century, although it is now preserved only as ruins.

Church of Our Lady of Los Remedios (Castro Caldelas): built in the 19th century, this church is notable for its height and formal simplicity, as well as for the relics curated inside.

Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas (Esgos): this is the oldest monastery in Galicia (6th to 16th centuries), and also the only one excavated into stone. The former priory is now used to house the

Ribeira Sacra Interpretive Centre.

Church of Santa María de Esgos (Esgos): built in the 16th century, there are a variety of 17th-century sculptures found inside.

Church and stone cross in Vilar de Ordelles (Esgos): this church and stone cross date to c. 1830 and reflect the late Baroque style.

School of Our Lady of La Antigua (Monforte de Lemos): founded by the Cardinal Rodrigo de Castro in the year 1593 and built in the late-Renaissance Herrerian style, this building is sometimes referred to as the “Galician El Escorial”, by comparison to that Royal Monastery complex near Madrid. It is known for its 110 metre granite façade, as well as for its art gallery.

Convent of Las Clarisas (Monforte de Lemos): built in the 17th century, this building contains an outstanding collection of religious art, with highlights including the Dead Christ and Immaculate Conception sculptures by Gregorio Fernández (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).

Convent of Santo Domingo da Régoa (Monforte de Lemos): founded in the 17th century by Pedro Fernández de Castro and Catalina de la Cerda y Sandoval, the Count and Countess of Lemos, its interior is notable for the main altar and organ.

Stone cross in Campo de Santo Antonio square (Monforte de Lemos): this cross dates to the 16th century, but was moved to its current location in front of the city council building in the 19th century.

Monastery of San Vicente do Pino (Monforte de Lemos): the current structure dates to the 16th century, although there are references to its origins in the 10th century. The areas of the monastery that were used as the monks’ quarters are now part of Spain’s network of Parador hotels, while its church remains in use. A variety of architectural styles can be seen in this complex.

Monastery of Seoane Vello (Montederramo): the first appearance of the name Ribeira Sacra is associated with construction of this monastery (see RIBEIRA SACRA section).

Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo (Montederramo): although founded in 1142, the current building dates to the Renaissance period. Like the School of Our Lady of La Antigua in Monforte de Lemos, this is another beautiful example of Herrerian architecture.





School of Our Lady of La Antigua (Monforte de Lemos)

Religious complex at Marrubio (Montederramo): this complex consists of a chapel dedicated to St Anthony, a covered stone cross, and two wayside shrines. The cross is an especially interesting piece because the original polychrome paint has been preserved.

Wayside shrine at Vilariño Frío (Montederramo): this is a type of small stone structure where the local people would deposit offerings, to encourage the release of souls from purgatory.

Chapel of the Virxe do Monte (Nogueira de Ramuín): dating to the 18th century, this chapel's location is an impressive natural viewpoint at an altitude of 930 metres.

Church of San Martiño de Nogueira (Nogueira de Ramuín): originally of Romanesque construction, although only the portals from that period are preserved.

Church of San Cristovo de Armariz (Nogueira de Ramuín): this church dates to the 12th century, with preservation of the Romanesque portal and modillions.

Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil (Nogueira de Ramuín): a beautiful combination of architectural styles and eras, beginning with the Romanesque. The liturgical east end of the church and lower part of the Bishops' Cloister are preserved from that period. It now belongs to Spain's network of Parador hotels.

Church of San Vicente de Pombeiro (Pantón): this church was part of a historic monastery constructed between the 12th and 13th centuries. It has 15th-century painted murals preserved inside.

Stone cross in Forcas (Parada de Sil): this cross was created in 1766, according to an inscription on its base. Its abundant ornamentation makes it especially noteworthy.

Monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil (Parada de Sil): this is considered to be one of Ribeira Sacra's jewels of Romanesque architecture. The first documented references to this Benedictine monastery date to the 10th century.

Church and Abbey of San Clodio (Ribas de Sil): the church, a



Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas (Esgos)

tower, and the entry portal are preserved from this Abbey, which was founded over a thousand years ago. Only the apse and the northern doorway of the nave remain from the original Romanesque church.

Church of Santa María de Torbeo (Ribas de Sil): a Romanesque church with its origins in the 13th century, with later renovations. Its 12th-century immersion baptismal font is especially noteworthy, because it is one of the few examples of its type preserved in Galicia.

Church of San Xillao de Lobios (Sober): this church's construction dates to the 13th century. Highlights include its impressive portal, the magnificent capitals of its pillars, and its 16th-century painted murals depicting the Last Judgment.

Church of San Pedro de Canaval (Sober): this church dates to the 12th century, with subsequent renovations in the 18th century. The Romanesque western façade is entirely preserved.

Church of Santa María de Bolmente (Sober): although entirely reconstructed at the end of the 18th century, there are still Romanesque elements preserved in the structure of the central nave and a few other parts of this church.

Church of Santa María de Proendos (Sober): originally constructed in the 12th century. The Romanesque presbytery has been preserved, although the rest of the church has undergone numerous modifications. The 16th-century painted murals are also preserved.

Church of San Vicente de Pinol (Sober): this is a very simple and elegant Romanesque church. Highlights include its circular window featuring a carved Star of David and its painted murals, which were restored in 2020.

Church of Our Lady of Cadeiras (Sober): this church dates to the 18th century. Because of the miracles attributed to the Virgin of Cadeiras, a pilgrimage is held in her honour on 6, 7, and 8 September.

Monastery of Santa María de Xunqueira de Espadanedo (Xunqueira de Espadanedo): this monastery includes a Cistercian church from the Romanesque transition period (12th to 13th cen-

tury), with a neoclassical façade. It also has a cloister from the Renaissance period.

HISTORIC VILLAGES AND COMPLEXES

Castro Caldelas is a town positioned at the top of a hill overlooking the banks of the Edo River. Its oldest part is known as “Cima de Vila” or “Peak of the Village”, with winding cobblestone streets leading up to the mid-14th century castle, which was built at the orders of Pedro Fernández de Castro.

This historic centre was declared as a “Historic-Artistic Complex” in 1998, and it has now been named as “One of Spain’s most beautiful villages”.

Castro Caldelas is also famous for some of its culinary creations, which are based on beef from the Caldelá cattle breed, the local cured ham, and of course, the famous sponge cake known as *bica*.

On the opposite side of the Sil River is **Monforte de Lemos**. This is the only city in Ribeira Sacra and is considered to be its capital. The city's origins have been traced to a hill known as San Vicente, which offers extensive views over the Lemos valley and the course of the Cabe River. This is where the castle that now presides over the city is located, originally referred to by the Romans as “Castro Dactonio”, and which is most notable for its fortified tower (keep), which is well preserved, with a restored interior. There are two individuals who played very essential roles in the history and development of Monforte. One is Pedro Fernández de Castro, who was the 7th Count of Lemos and one of Galicia's most famous personalities of his time. The other is Cardinal Rodrigo de Castro, who developed the School of Our Lady of La Antigua. That building is sometimes referred to as the “Galician El Escorial” by comparison to that famous royal monastery complex near Madrid.

In the areas surrounding the Sil River there are a series of architectural complexes that are notable for their historical or ethnographic importance.

Architectural complex in Vilachá (A Pobra do Brollón): this is a series of 42 buildings that are hundreds of years old, originally used for wine storage. They have masonry walls and gable roofs covered in slate.

Historic complex in A Barxa (A Pobra do Brollón): the main element here is the bridge with Roman origin. This complex also includes an unreconstructed historic watermill and some houses attached to the bridge.

Architectural complex in Lumeares (A Teixeira): this is a site of great ethnographic interest, consisting of a wayside shrine, a stone cross, and the Lumeares bridge.

Monumental complex of San Vicente do Pino (Monforte de Lemos): located at the highest point in the city of Monforte de Lemos, it consists of the castle's keep (Torre de Homenaje), the Count's Palace, and the Benedictine monastery of San Vicente (now a Parador hotel).

Historic-artistic complex of San Salvador de O Hospital (Quiroga): this complex is linked to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. It combines a significant number of cultural heritage elements from various time periods, centred around the San Salvador parochial church.

CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES (PAZOS)

Manor House in Marcón (A Pobra do Brollón): originally built in 1466, with significant restoration work in the 17th and 19th centuries.

Castle in Castro Caldelas (Castro Caldelas): this castle dates to the 14th century, and its double wall and three towers have been preserved. There is an Interpretive Centre inside, along with various exhibition rooms and the Castro Caldelas tourism office (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).

Manor House in Tor (Monforte de Lemos): this house contains an important library, four connected ballrooms, a Baroque staircase, and a collection of 14th to 15th-century armaments and 16th-century furniture and paintings (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).



Castro Caldelas castle

Manor House in Molinos de Antero (Monforte de Lemos): this manor house was an important administrative centre, for collecting taxes, notarising documents, and managing the nobility's assets. Because of these functions, it has an interesting security system based on spy holes, many hidden from view (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).

Castle's Keep (Monforte de Lemos): the most important part of the castle, built between the 13th and 15th centuries. It presides over the town from the top of its highest hill, and there is also a museum inside (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).

Castle in Os Novais (Quiroga): built in the 12th century, this castle was used as a place of residence by the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, and it is where their assignments were given and administrative tasks performed. This site is preserved only as ruins, but it can still be visited.

OTHER HERITAGE SITES OF INTEREST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

San Lourenzo Hillfort (A Pobra do Brollón): this is a fortified village constructed after the Roman conquest, to house workers from the gold mining (and probably also ironworking) operations that existed in this area between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Burial mounds in As Cabanas (Nogueira de Ramuín): a set of seven burial mounds dating to the period between 4,500 and 2,000 BC.

Rock-cut necropolis in San Lourenzo de Barxacova (Parada de Sil): this necropolis features a series of anthropomorphic tombs carved into a rocky stone outcrop, dating to the 9th and 10th centuries.

Stone "freezers" in Monte Meda (Parada de Sil and Xunqueira de Espadanedo): monasteries would maintain these "freezers" in the mountains. The stone-lined pits would collect snow, which would then turn into ice that was used for various types of storage.

Tunnel of Montefurado (Quiroga): this is an enormous tunnel



San Lourenzo Hillfort (A Pobra do Brollón)

created by the Romans as part of their gold mining operations in the 2nd century AD.

Archaeological complex in O Covallón (Ribas de Sil): this complex includes the A Escrita, O Vago, and O Covallón mines and the Augas Santas tunnel. These sites can be visited along a 4.5 km circular path.

UNIQUE VILLAGES

O Busto Ethnographic Village (A Pobra do Brollón): located at an altitude of 1,000 metres, this is a traditional mountain village that has been renovated.

Architectural complex in Parada de Montes (A Pobra do Brollón): this is a village where you can experience the local mountain architecture, with adjoining houses and overlapping roofs that improve heat retention and make life easier during snowy weather.

Village of Arcos (Esgos): this is a typical Galician village. Various ethnographic elements of traditional Galician life are preserved here, such as a clothes washing site and various raised granaries. The centre of the village is occupied by a large stone threshing floor.

Village of A Seara (Quiroga): this is a partially restored village in the O Courel mountains. It is also the starting point for some spectacular hiking routes such as the one leading to Lucenza Lake.

Village of Outeiro (Quiroga): another village located in the O Courel mountains. The traditional homes are distributed down the side of a steep riverbank overlooking the Soldón River.

Village and meander of A Cubela (Ribas de Sil): this village is located at the site of an ancient Roman gold mining operation, on the riverbank above one of the most iconic meanders on the Sil River, which has a curvature of 355°. The traditional architecture of the red stone houses with slate roofs is very well preserved.

AND MORE...

Mario's Cave (Castro Caldelas): this cave was used as shelter by resistance fighters during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and for a few years afterwards.

Watermill in A Ponte (Castro Caldelas): this is a restored watermill on the Edo River. The shorter loop of the PR-G 213 hiking route passes by this watermill and a few others, through a leafy forest.

Medieval wall and Jewish quarter (Monforte de Lemos): built between the 12th and 13th centuries, various towers and gateways of the wall are preserved, along with decorated doorways on the streets inside such as Falagueira, A Calexa, Pescaderías, and Zapaterías. The Jewish community established here was one of the largest in Galicia, and its members sold products such as silk, textiles and silverware... while others had medical or legal practices.

Old Bridge of Monforte de Lemos: although tradition says that this bridge is of Roman origin, all that is known for certain is that it was reconstructed by the master builder Pedro Rodríguez Ramberde at the end of the 16th century.

Old Bridge of Vilaríño Frío (Montederramo): although the current bridge dates to the 17th century, a bridge over the Mao River existed here in the 3rd century as part of the old Roman road between Astorga and Braga.

Bridge at Conceliñas (Parada de Sil): this single-span bridge across the Mao River is 6.5 metres in height and of medieval origin, or possibly Roman.

Olive mill in Bendilló (Quiroga): this is a historic olive mill that is still used to produce olive oil in the traditional way.

Iron bridge over the Sil River (Ribas de Sil): this bridge was completed in 1883, using a construction technique that was very novel for its time, invented by Gustave Eiffel.

Watermills in Xabrega (Sober): a series of restored watermills along the Xabrega River.

Petroglyphs in Proendos (Sober): this is an example of Bronze Age rock art carved into the local stone.



Monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil (Parada de Sil)

Ribeira Sacra

Monasteries, Romanesque
and More Miño Banks



MONASTERIES AND
OTHER RELIGIOUS
HERITAGE SITES



HISTORIC
VILLAGES
AND COMPLEXES



OTHER
HERITAGE
SITES OF INTEREST



CASTLES AND
MANOR HOUSES
(PAZOS)



Monastery of San Salvador de Ferreira (Pantón)

Monasteries, Romanesque and More Miño Banks

The banks of the Miño River and the surrounding areas are also the site of impressive jewels of Romanesque architecture. Many of these are in the form of churches that were once part of monastery complexes that have not otherwise survived over time. You will also find important archaeological sites, castles, manor houses (*pazos*), and unique towns and villages.

MONASTERIES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS HERITAGE SITES

Church of San Martiño de Vilarrubín (A Peroxa): this Baroque church has a façade with four pilasters, which give the appearance of supporting the large bell tower built in the early 17th century.

Church of Santiago de Carracedo (A Peroxa): built in Baroque style, but has undergone multiple renovations.

Ecce Homo Chapel (Bóveda): several 18th-century works of art are found inside this chapel, including images of the Ecce Homo, St James the Pilgrim, the Ecce Homo statue carried in processions, and the Immaculate Conception.

Church of Santo Estevo de Chouzán (Carballedo): this church was moved stone-by-stone from its original location, to avoid flooding when the Os Peares dam was built in 1953. The original 12th to 13th-century Romanesque apse has been preserved.

Church of San Xoán da Cova (Carballedo): like the previous one, this church is of 12th-century origins (except for its bell gable) and was moved stone-by-stone from its original location.

Church of Santa María de Temes (Carballedo): this church brings together elements from three historical eras: pre-Roman and Roman (Roman altar), paleo-Christian (4th-century Roman marble

sarcophagus), and Visigothic Christian (consecration inscription).

Church of Santiago de Lousada (Carballedo): highlights here include the series of carved modillions around the church's exterior and the tomb monument of Vasco Pérez de Temes inside.

Church of Santa Baia de Aguada (Carballedo): built in the early 13th century, with restoration work performed in the 16th-17th and 20th centuries.

Church of San Cristovo de Fornas (Chantada): this church was built in the 12th century, and its Romanesque nave and apse have been preserved.

Church of Santa Mariña (Chantada): originally built in the 18th century, this church is located in the historic centre of Chantada.

Church of San Salvador de Asma (Chantada): this church was once part of a powerful monastery. The 12th-century apse and modillions have been preserved, along with pre-Romanesque remains from the 9th century and an impressive Mannerist altarpiece.

Church of Santa María de Camporramiro (Chantada): this is a 12-century Romanesque church. Its original structure has been preserved, except for addition of the 18th-century sacristy and 20th-century bell gable.

Church of Santa María de Bermún (Chantada): except for the upper part of its façade, which presents various modifications, this church remains entirely Romanesque.

Church of Santa María de Nogueira (Chantada): part of this church's Romanesque structure is preserved, along with other elements from the 16th century. These include the restored painted murals inside, which are so impressive that this church is sometimes referred to as the "Galician Sistine Chapel".

Church of Santa María de Pesqueiras (Chantada): this is a Romanesque church that dates to the 13th century, with 16th-century painted murals preserved inside.

Church of Santiago de Requeixo (Chantada): highlights here include sculptures, painted murals, and a Romanesque tympanum relocated to the south side.

Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe (O Saviñao): built at the top of A Capela mountain in the 18th century, this is a unique example

of the many devotional chapels and small churches dedicated to the Virgen Mary throughout the Ribeira Sacra.

Church of San Lourenzo de Fión (O Saviñao): the existing structure dates to the 12th century, but there are documented references to the original church at the 8th century.

Church of San Paio de Diomondi (O Saviñao): the existing structure dates to the 12th century, but there are documented references to the original church at the 8th century. It adjoins the Bishops' House, which was historically used as a summer residence, now converted into a hostel for pilgrims.

Church of Santa María de Marrube (O Saviñao): this church was built in the late 12th century and early 13th century. From the 15th century, painted murals and altarpieces with carved images are preserved inside.

Church of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño (O Saviñao): this 13th-century church is notable for its perfect adaptation to the slope of the land, as well as for its impressive rose window (one of the largest in Galicia).

Church of Santa María de Seteventos (O Saviñao): this church dates to the late 12th and early 13th centuries. However, it is famous for the 16th-century painted murals found inside.

Church of San Martiño da Cova (O Saviñao): dating to the 13th century, this church features 17th-century painted murals and Baroque altarpieces.

Church of San Vitorio de Ribas de Miño (O Saviñao): this was originally the site of a 10th-century monastery, although this church is Romanesque and dates to the 12th-13th centuries.

Convent of San Salvador de Ferreira (Pantón): this convent reflects a range of styles and eras. Its 12th-century Romanesque church is a notable highlight, which contains a 12th-century wooden sculpture of the Virgen Mary inside. This is the only convent in Ribeira Sacra that remains religiously active.

Church of San Miguel de Eiré (Pantón): this slender and elegant church combines many of the 12th-century elements commonly found in Ribeira Sacra. There are also 16th-century painted murals preserved inside, depicting the Last Judgment.



Church of Santo Estevo de Chouzán (Carballedo)

Church of San Fiz de Cangas (Pantón): this church is all that remains of the original convent complex. The church was expanded in the 18th century with construction of the Chapel of the Torrenovais, which contains the tomb of Rodrigo López de Quiroga.
Church of Santo Estevo de Atán (Pantón): the origins of this church go all the way back to the 8th century. The current structure was built in the 13th century, and it provides an opportunity to observe some pre-Romanesque features.

Chapel of Augas Santas (Pantón): The origin of this small church, which has preserved Romanesque elements, is related to a spring that was thought to have curative properties.

Chapel of Loio (Paradela): this location is associated with the origin of the Order of St James, which was founded for the purpose of protecting pilgrims travelling the Way of St James and the tomb of the apostle James in that city during the 9th and 10th centuries.

Church of Santa María de Ferreiros (Paradela): this is a significant location along the French Route of the Way of St James, since pilgrims were traditionally given care and lodging inside the church. The Romanesque portal is preserved here.

Church of San Facundo de Ribas de Miño (Paradela): this church was founded in the 12th century, to provide assistance to pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. There are 15th-century painted murals preserved inside.

Church of Santa María de Castro de Rei (Paradela): this church's interior features the remains of 15th-century painted murals, a pre-Romanesque capital, and a large silver cross dating to the year 1730.

Church of San Nicolás / San Xoán (Portomarín): this 13th-century church was moved to its current location in the 1950s when the Belesar dam was constructed.

Church of San Pedro de Portomarín: although consecrated in the year 1182, this church originally dates to the 10th century.

Church of San Pedro de Bembibre (Taboada): highlights of this church include its portal with a serrated outer archivolt, its murals, and the tomb monument of the Count of Taboada.

Church of Santa María de Castelo (Taboada): this church dates



Church of San Xoán de Portomarín

to the second half of the 12th century, and it has survived until now with almost no alterations.

Church in Taboada dos Freires (Taboada): to the 12th century, preserves the original main portal, a window in the apse and some of the modillions around the nave.

Church of San Xián de Campo (Taboada): this church dates to the 12th century, but has undergone significant renovations.

HISTORIC VILLAGES AND COMPLEXES

Chantada: The historic centre of this town still maintains its medieval charm. When walking through its streets, we must remember that the Monastery of San Salvador de Asma can be seen when crossing the Asma River in the A Ponte neighbourhood, which was a true reflection of the town's local progress. There are also some excellent examples of Romanesque architecture in the area surrounding this town, as seen in churches such as Santa María de Pesqueiras, San Salvador de Asma, Santa María de Camporramiro, and Santa María de Nogueira, among others.

Portomarín: the original village grew up on the shore of the Miño River and has two neighbourhoods: San Xoán and San Pedro. In 1963, when the Belesar dam was constructed, the old part of Portomarín became submerged by the Miño River. However, the town has been reconstructed on higher ground, with a new layout that still maintains some of the medieval atmosphere, with cobblestone streets and houses with covered galleries. Some significant buildings like the churches of San Xoán and San Pedro were moved stone-by-stone to the new location.

Since the Middle Ages, and still today, Portomarín has been a major milestone along the French Route of the Way of St James. Some sites to see in the town include the Plaza de los Condes de Fenosa, considered to be the heart of Portomarín, the Church of San Xoán, and one of the arches from the 2nd-century Roman bridge, which was saved from being submerged when the dam was built and can now be seen at one end of the new bridge.

CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES (PAZOS)

Castle of A Peroxa (A Peroxa): this castle is located on the site of an ancient hillfort and may date as far back as the 8th century. A Peroxa castle was one of the few in Galicia that survived destruction during the Irmandiño revolts of the 15th century. However, only ruins of the castle survive today, because its stones were sold in order to build the church at A Peroxa.

The Big House of Lemos (Chantada): this is the oldest building in Chantada, dating to the 16th century. It is now the location of the House of Culture, library, and municipal tourism office.

OTHER HERITAGE SITES OF INTEREST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Dolmen of Abuime (O Saviñao): in the parish of Santa María de Abuime there are several Neolithic tomb sites, but only one of these, the Dolmen of Abuime, still has its upright stones arranged in the form of a burial chamber.

Castromaior Hillfort (Portomarín): this archaeological site represents an extensive period of proto-historic Galicia, from the 4th century BC to the 1st century AD.

UNIQUE VILLAGES

Village of Belesar (Chantada and O Saviñao): this location is notable for the beauty of its landscape. It lies among steeply terraced vineyards and is reflected in the waters of the Miño River.

Village of Os Peares (A Peroxa, Carballedo, Nogueira de Ramuín, and Pantón): this village is characterised by its location at the confluence of the Miño and Sil rivers, and it is also the point of convergence for four municipalities from two different provinces.

AND MORE...

Penacova Smithy (Bóveda): The first documented reference to this blacksmith's shop dates to 1780, although clearly its origins go back even further. The traditional forge machinery remained in operation until the 20th century, when Benito Valcárcel was the last worker to use it, although even afterwards the shop remained active in the hands of his descendants. Today, his knowledge can still be shared with anyone who comes to visit.

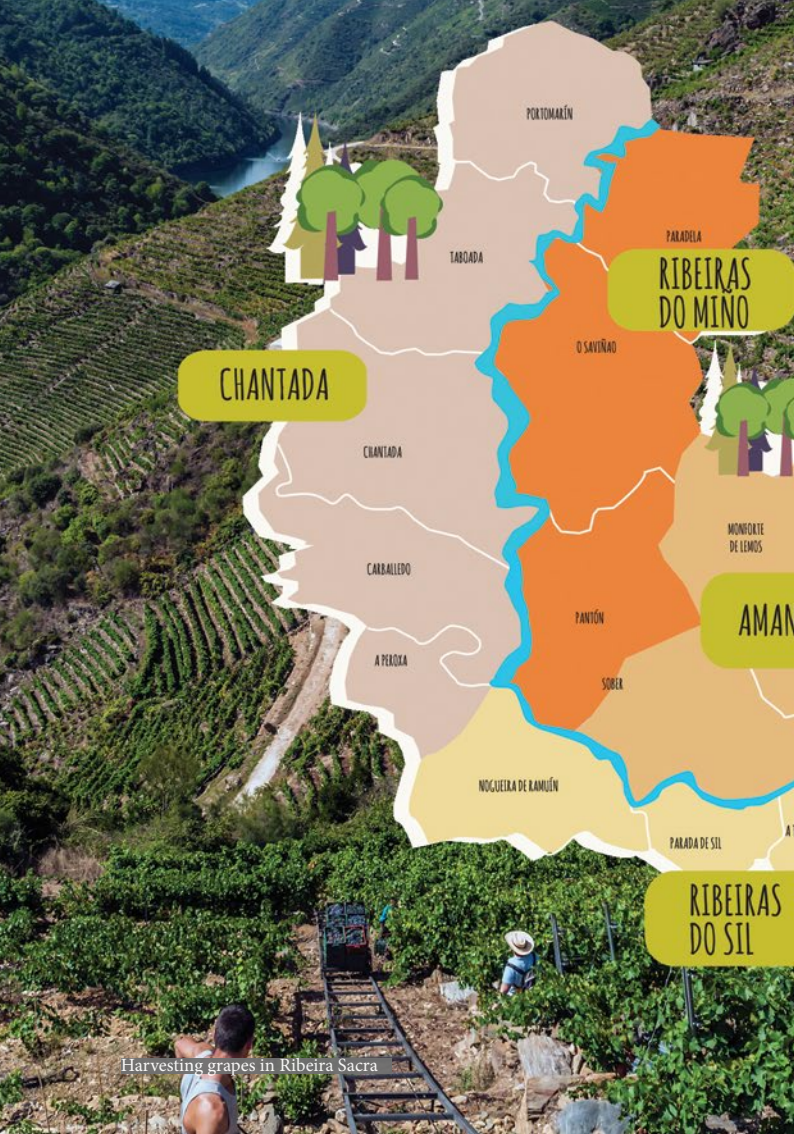


A Peroxa Castle





Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark from Montouto (Quiroga)



CHANTADA

RIBEIRAS DO MINO

AMANDI

RIBEIRAS DO SIL

QUIIROGA-BIBEI

Harvesting grapes in Ribeira Sacra



Heroic Viticulture

It is believed that cultivation of grapevines was first introduced to Ribeira Sacra by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago. However, it was the monks residing in the local monasteries who later began to create the distinctive terraced vineyards that have come to characterise these landscapes today.

In 1996, Ribeira Sacra was granted a protected designation of origin (PDO), and there are now a set of regulations and a Regulatory Council to protect the various varietal wines that have been authorised under that system. This helps guarantee their quality and enhances the ability to promote them around the world.

There are more than 1,250 hectares of vineyards in Ribeira Sacra, spread across 20 municipalities that can be grouped into 5 sub-zones: Amandi, Chantada, Quiroga-Bibei, Ribeiras do Miño, and Ribeiras do Sil. In total, these vineyards are currently producing between 5,500 and 7,000 tonnes of grapes each year.

Mencia is considered to be Ribeira Sacra's most outstanding red varietal wine, along with others such as Sousón, Brancellao, and Merenzao, while the most notable white wines include Godello, Albariño, and Treixadura. All of these wines reflect the flavour of their distinctive landscapes of origin.

These wines are now produced at about 90 local wineries, with some still applying more traditional methods while others have highly modernised facilities. Many of these wineries also welcome visitors, offering tours of their vineyards for enjoyment of the local landscapes, and wine tasting as a way to sample the final results.

Another great option is to visit the Wine Centre in Monforte de Lemos. This is an interpretive centre where you can learn the secrets behind the Ribeira Sacra PDO (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).

Those with a passion for wine should also plan to visit some of the establishments located along the **Ribeira Sacra Wine Route**. These include wineries, hotels, rural B&Bs, restaurants, recreational sites, museums, interpretive centres, wine cellars, specialised shops, tourism information offices, and more. The Wine Route brings together a whole series of locations linked to this theme, as a way to celebrate the culture of wine: its landscapes, monuments, artistry, traditions, and people. All of this will help you discover the unique characteristics of viticulture in Ribeira Sacra.

Of course, this section would not be complete without a mention of the classic Wine Bus (*Viñobús*). This is an initiative launched by the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium as a way to bring visitors closer to the wine culture of the Ribeira Sacra PDO, including the specific features of our own particular form of grape cultivation, which we refer to as “heroic viticulture” because of the special challenges presented by work in the steeply sloping vineyards. There are two different Wine Bus formats available at different times during the year: Wine Bus (*Viñobús*) and Wine Bus Harvest (*Viñobús Vendimia*). On the classic Wine Bus trip, visitors will get a first-hand look at some of the wineries associated with the Ribeira Sacra PDO, along with other cultural resources representing the area's local history and heritage. With the Wine Bus Harvest version the experience goes a bit further, because visitors will have a chance to experience the world of heroic viticulture themselves as “grape harvesters for a day”.

Dates and time schedules available at turismo.ribeirasacra.org, or by telephone on 638 823 592.



P.D.O. RIBEIRA SACRA



RIBEIRA SACRA
WINE ROUTE





Walkways along the Mao River (Parada de Sil)



The Way of St James

When the tomb of the apostle James was discovered at the end of the 9th century, in the city now known as Santiago de Compostela, the news travelled far beyond the borders of the Spanish kingdoms and was heard all over Europe. Soon afterwards, the first pilgrims began to arrive. As their level of affluence increased, the Spanish monarchs established services and other forms of assistance for them along the “*Camino de Santiago*”, which developed into a sort of symbolic backbone of Europe. The path the pilgrims initially followed came to be known as the French Route (*Camino Francés*), which entered Spain at Roncesvalles, before passing through the cities of Logroño, Burgos, and León and eventually crossing into Galicia at Pedrafita do Cebreiro in the Os Ancares mountains.

The heavy snowfall that fell in those mountains caused the Way of St James to split into two different routes, with a new alternative established further south to avoid blizzards and other difficult conditions during the winter. This is how the Winter Route (*Camino de Invierno*) came into existence.

These are just two of the many routes that have now been developed, but what they all have in common is the same ultimate destination: the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The two routes described above both pass through Ribeira Sacra: the French Route towards the north (Paradela and Portomarín) and the Winter Route across the centre (Quiroga, Ribas de Sil, A Pobra do Brollón, Monforte de Lemos, Pantón, O Saviñao, and Chantada).



WAYS OF ST. JAMES

Arts and Crafts

Many traditional arts and crafts are still practiced in Ribeira Sacra, often adapted to new functions. In many cases, the value of these products is now found more in the quality and timeless beauty of the pieces created, rather than in their practical usefulness in everyday life. This is the situation, for example, with woven baskets, pottery, and copperwork.

In earlier times, many of these products were used for grape harvesting work, wine storage, or for producing distilled spirits (*aguardiente*), although today they may be appreciated more from an aesthetic perspective as decorative objects. During the last few decades, changes in society and material culture were causing many of these traditional crafts to disappear, but more recently there has been a movement to recover their techniques, and they are becoming increasingly valued.

In municipalities such as Lemos, Sober, and Portomarín there were well-established and highly appreciated traditions related to wine and grapes involving work with brass and copper, although the practice of these trades and crafts is diminishing. This metalwork was used to make stills and other equipment for distilling spirits from pressed grape seeds (*aguardiente de orujo*). However, new public health laws and changes in the industry have mostly eliminated home production of these products, and vendors selling them in the local neighbourhoods are no longer a typical sight in Ribeira Sacra or the rest of Galicia.

Other traditions are preserved in Chantada, such as loom weaving, production of traditional boots and wooden clogs, and basketmaking with the basket willow plant, which is also used for wrapping the jars of Bergaza, and as the raw material used for training grapevines. Quiroga is also the traditional site where locally grown olives are used to produce unrefined olive oil that is known throughout Galicia and beyond for its exceptional quality. Other traditional trades include knife and tool sharpening, which

was especially common in Esgos and Nogueira de Ramuín, with the sound of an unmistakable whistle used to attract customers; production of flavoured wafers in Parada de Sil, sold in a characteristic round tin with a game built into the lid, and blacksmithing, which remains an active and essential practice for creating all types of agricultural and household tools.

However, the area's most important traditional craft is undoubtedly the production of pottery and other ceramic objects, which have a reputation for quality that reaches far beyond the Ribeira Sacra, and with the capacity to be constantly adapted to new purposes. Some of the most highly valued pieces are produced in Gundivós (Sober) and Niñodaguia (Xunqueira de Espadanedo) (see MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS).



Traditional pottery

Gastronomy

The local foods and beverages that can be discovered in Ribeira Sacra are as widely varied as its landscapes and historical and cultural attractions. Products of the highest quality can be found here at an extensive range of restaurants, rural B&Bs, street fairs, and culinary festivals, enjoyed in the form of traditional dishes or perhaps with a bit of modern updating.

Ribeira Sacra is a very important centre for livestock raising, including not only beef but also pork, goat, lamb, and even ox. It is also famous for its production of milk and other dairy products, including cheeses that are routinely recognised with national and international awards.

Sweeter flavours are contributed by honey and cherries, and of course there is also the famous sponge cake (*bica*) of Castro Caldelas, which is always a suitable accompaniment for the various local spirits and brandies.

The widest variety of culinary options can be found at the end of summer and in early autumn, because this is the harvest season: for the apples used to make cider, the wild mushrooms from our forests, the olives from Quiroga used to produce outstanding un-refined olive oil, and of course the chestnuts, which are not just a food product, but part of our history as well.



Castro Caldelas sponge cake

Fairs and Festivals



Out of all the fairs and festivals celebrated in Ribeira Sacra, the most popular are probably those that revolve around food and drink, such as the Wine Festivals held in the various sub-zones of the Ribeira Sacra Protected Designation of Origin (PDO).

These begin in March with the CHANTADA WINE FESTIVAL, followed by the AMANDI WINE FESTIVAL on Palm Sunday weekend, and then the QUIROGA WINE FESTIVAL on Easter weekend. The VILACHÁ WINE FESTIVAL takes place in the month of May in A Pobra do Brollón, and the RIBEIRA SACRA WINE PRESENTATION is also held during that month in Pantón. The arrival of summer brings with it the RIBEIRA SACRA WINE FESTIVAL in Monforte de Lemos, and in November, after the grape harvest, there is the A TEIXEIRA UNAGED WINE FESTIVAL.

Of course, there are other fruits of the harvest worth celebrating too, like at the CHERRY AND OLIVE OIL FESTIVAL, held in Ribas de Sil on the second weekend in June, the PORTOMARÍN AGUARDIENTE FESTIVAL on Easter Sunday, the BELESAR WINE AND CHERRY FESTIVAL in the month of May, and the OLIVE OIL TASTING and HONEY TASTING events held in Quiroga, in February-March and on 10 August, respectively.

Ribeira Sacra is also known for its excellent meats, which are celebrated at well-loved festivals such as the PORK STEW (*CALDO DE ÓSOS*) FESTIVAL in Taboada, held on Shrove Sunday, the MEAT AND STEW FESTIVAL held in Carballedo on the third Sunday in April, the A PEROXA MEAT FESTIVAL in June, and the MEAT FESTIVAL in Montederramo, always held on 12 October.

Other food-related festivals worth attending are the CHANTADA EMPANADA FESTIVAL, which takes place on the last day of the festival honouring that town's patron saint in August, the PORTOMARÍN EEL FESTIVAL on 6 September, and the RING BREAD FESTIVAL held in Sober on 12 August. Chestnuts have their own place reserved on the calendar in the month of November, with the CHESTNUT SHELLING FESTIVAL in Parada de Sil and the CHESTNUT PARTY held in November in Lúintra (Nogueira de Ramuín).



Felo of Esgos



Entroido Ribeirao

Many other celebrations that take place in Ribeira Sacra have religious origins. There are numerous pilgrimages focused on local hermitages, which attract hundreds of visitors, such as those of Monte Faro (Chantada), San Mateo (Monforte de Lemos), San Benito (Parada de Sil), Our Lady of Los Remedios (Quiroga), and Our Lady of Cadeiras (Sober).

In Castro Caldelas, the FESTIVAL OF OS REMEDIOS takes on great importance on 8 September, and revolves around the arrival of a character known as Irrio Peliqueiro: a masked figure wearing a long tailcoat and a red head scarf, who threatens onlookers with his sheepskin lash. There is also the OS FACHÓS holiday, celebrated on the evening of 19 January, when locals and visitors parade through the streets with huge burning torches made of straw, following the lead torch. Other events related to fire and torches include the CASTELO WOODEN TORCH FESTIVAL (Taboada) on 7 September and the VILELOS TORCH AND BONFIRE NIGHT (O Saviñao) held at the end of that same month.

There are also events that revolve around traditional arts and crafts, such as the OUTRORA ARTISANS FAIR (Bóveda), held each year on 14 July, and the NIÑODAGUIA POTTERY FAIR, held in Xunqueira de Espadanedo in August. In that same location, there is an event held the day before Easter known as SÁBADO LONGO, which is celebrated by re-creating an ancient tradition of stealing a neighbour's haycart, decorating it, and leaving it in front of the church.

The ANNUAL FAIR in Paradela is held on 15 May in honour of San Isidro, with a livestock market, fun fair, and many other activities; Chantada celebrates CART NIGHT, a parade of carts enacting scenes of traditional trades, held on the fourth Saturday night in August, and in Monforte de Lemos, the MEDIEVAL FAIR is held during Easter week.

Entroido (Carnival)

This section would not be complete without a mention of one of the region's most remarkable pagan festivals, known as Entroido, somewhat comparable to Carnival and celebrated throughout Ribeira Sacra during the same season.

The **Entroido in Salcedo** (A Pobra do Brollón) is one of the most ancient celebrations. The most important day is Entroido Monday, which is when the Bear appears, accompanied by its cubs. Their job is to pursue and capture the residents and curious onlookers, throwing them to the ground and marking them with a mixture of water and ashes.

Chantada (Santiago de Arriba) has a celebration known as **Entroido Ribeirao**. The “volantes” are colourful characters who are the protagonists at this event, dressed in a costume adorned with brightly coloured streamers, paper flowers, and even dolls. Their basic outfit is a red and yellow suit, a belt with many bells attached, and a “Portuguese” scarf around their shoulders. Their helpers, with names like *peliquiero*, *maragato*, and *meco*, are also dressed up, but in a simpler and/or more rustic manner, and they are responsible for making space in the crowd for the volantes to pass through.

Finally, in the town of Esgos a tradition known as **Os Felos** is being revived, with the protagonists in this case wearing elongated masks decorated with paintings of animals and belts with cowbells attached, while carrying a curved rod known as a *caida*. Their female counterparts are the *Madamas*, who wear extra colourful and highly decorated versions of traditional outfits.



The Bear of Salcedo

Sgraffito Decorations and Murals

Sgraffito is the term used for a traditional technique used to decorate the outside of buildings. It is done by applying two layers of material, then scraping off the top layer, usually plaster, to create shapes that stand out by contrast with the underlying textures and colours. These can range from a basic form of decoration known as encintado, which fills and highlights the joints between building stones, to more complex geometric patterns or freehand creations of images and figures.

In addition to their decorative function, these techniques may also have symbolic and communicative connotations through the images represented, as well as more utilitarian purposes such as strengthening walls and reducing moisture.

The Tourism Consortium has been performing work to catalogue these traditional decorations, publish research about them, and restore noteworthy examples. It has also been encouraging creation of new works using these traditional techniques, including some where sgraffito is combined with other artistic forms.

The Tourism Consortium has also launched a programme to beautify public spaces, with the title “A Touch of Colour in Ribeira Sacra”. This is a project focused on murals and street art, which is proving to be a successful way to bring some magic back to places where the local environments and heritage had been losing their lustre.

The themes selected for these murals are related to local folklore, crafts, monuments, and landscapes. This means that in addition

to their artistic value, these works are also drawing attention to important aspects of Ribeira Sacra’s cultural heritage.

Thanks to these two projects, sgraffito decorations and murals are becoming another form of tourism resource, bringing all of us closer to tangible and intangible elements of Ribeira Sacra’s culture and history.



SGRAFFITO AND MURALS



Sgraffito in Casa do Camiñas

Folklore, Legends, and Mythological Beings

Ribeira Sacra is also a land of folklore and mythological beings, with the majority being related to water in some way. These include tales of the ground-dwelling mouras and mouros, mermaid-like *xacias*, stories of love and conflict, and an endless series of mythical adventures that have been passed down from one generation to the next since time immemorial...

Many historians now agree that the document in which the name Ribeira Sacra is claimed to have first appeared as “Rivoira Sacrata” should have been interpreted as “Rovoyra Sacrata”. This changes the meaning entirely, to one associated with a “Sacred Oak Grove”. This leads to the realisation that this was a region populated by oak trees that were seen by the local populations as sacred, maybe even magical.

Within the sort of magic realism that existed in this ancient land called Galicia, inhabited by gnomes and wizards, witches and supernatural builders, Ribeira Sacra is intimately linked to mythical beings such as fish-men, flying elves, and even the mother of the devil, who appear in the tales and folklore surrounding the grape harvests and winepresses.

This is just one more excellent reason to visit Ribeira Sacra, simply to see whether you will be lucky enough to encounter any of these mythical beings (especially the friendlier ones), who can become part of our lives and our way of seeing the world. They can help us grow deeper roots and motivate us to take care of our forests, vineyards, and streams, which are the home of these unique magical characters.

Text adapted from Anxo Moure

**FOLKLORE, LEGENDS, AND MYTHOLOGICAL
BEINGS**



La tejedora (The Weaver) mural (A. Teixeira)

Museums and Exhibitions

Throughout Ribeira Sacra you will find exhibition spaces focused on a wide variety of subjects, many related to the traditional lives, customs, and cultures of the people who have made this place their home. Whether relating to wine, railways, pottery, ethnography, geology, or many other specialised themes, our cultural heritage is waiting for you to discover.

SIL BANKS

Castro Caldelas Ethnographic Museum: located in the Castro Caldelas castle, this museum features a collection of artefacts and displays focused on the medieval period.

Ribeira Sacra Interpretive Centre (Esgos): located at the Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas, with various rooms dedicated to monastic life and other customs and traditions of Ribeira Sacra.

Our Lady of La Antigua Art Gallery (Monforte de Lemos): an impressive art collection with highlights including paintings by El Greco and Andrea del Sarto.

Ribeira Sacra Wine Centre (Monforte de Lemos): an interactive exhibition designed to help visitors understand the unique aspects of Ribeira Sacra wines and vineyards.

Sargadelos Gallery (Monforte de Lemos): a shop and showroom for the unique ceramic products produced by Sargadelos, with a focus on the artisanal skill and care that go into each piece created.

Museum of Sacred Art of Las Clarisas in Monforte: this museum features four rooms with works of art in gold, paintings, sculptures, reliquaries, and religious ornaments, primarily Spani-

sh and Italian works from the 16th and 17th centuries.

Monforte Doll House Museum (Monforte de Lemos): this is a private collection featuring 24 houses at 1:12 scale, fully furnished and decorated down to the last detail.

Galicia Railway Museum (Monforte de Lemos): locomotives, railway cars, and some of the most significant materials from Galicia's railway history.

Lodeiro Museum (Monforte de Lemos): a collection of works in stone and wood by the sculptor Darío Lodeiro.

Castle's Keep Museum (Monforte de Lemos): during the medieval period Monforte was a unique example of a feudal fortified city. This museum contains an exhibition about the history of the town's iconic keep (*Torre da Homenaxe*) and its historical context.

Manor House in Tor (Monforte de Lemos): contains an important library, four connected ballrooms, a Baroque staircase, and a collection of 14th-15th century armaments and 16th-century furniture and paintings.

Manor House in Molinos de Antero (Monforte de Lemos): this manor house (*pazo*) was an important administrative centre, for collecting taxes, notarising documents, and managing the nobility's assets. Because of these functions, it has an interesting security system based on spy holes, many of them hidden from view.

Chocolate Museum House in Teimede (Parada de Sil): Galicia's only museum dedicated to chocolate. Here you can learn all about the chocolate manufacturing process and see the antique machinery that was used for this purpose.

Quiroga Ethnographic Museum: this ethnographic collection is related to the four traditional products from the Courel Mountains Geopark, and the materials that have been essential for living, farming, and raising livestock there.

Quiroga Geological Museum: this 250 m² space displays the most representative geological materials from the surrounding area, in five rooms arranged from the oldest to the most modern.

Roman Gold Mining Interpretive Centre (Ribas de Sil): in its three rooms we can discover the different gold mines in the area, as well as the techniques used by the Romans for mining.

Figulus (Sober): features a workshop, shop, and guided tours focused on pottery from Gundivós. Educational events are also organised for the public, and a winery in the same complex also welcomes visitors.

Gundivós Rectory (Sober): a restored 18th-century manor house, now used as an interpretive centre for Gundivós pottery, with a workshop and shop.

Niñodagua Pottery Museum and Workshop (Xunqueira de Espadanedo): a journey into the heart of artisanal pottery, featuring historic kilns, displays on the uses of various types of pottery, and the secrets of the potter's wheel.

MIÑO BANKS

Os Trollos Forestry Hall and Interpretive Centre (Bóveda): an exhibition dedicated to a simple and entertaining explanation of the life cycle of trees, from planting through harvesting, along with the various steps used for processing the wood.

Arxeriz Ethnographic Museum and Ecomuseum (O Saviñao): this museum is located in a 17th-century manor house surrounded by 35 hectares of land. The buildings contain a variety of exhibitions, and there is an excavated hillfort on the land.



MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS



Ribeira Sacra Wine Centre (Monforte de Lemos)



Hot air balloon over the Miño River



Mural dedicated to olive oil in Quiroga

Other Activities

Throughout this guide we have presented all of the possible ways to visit and enjoy Ribeira Sacra and its natural and cultural heritage, through its monasteries, castles, museums, viewpoints, river trips, protected natural spaces, and more. What we also want to mention is that there are always new forms of discovery being created.

Part of our work at the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium is to encourage the emergence of new, unique tourism programmes and products each year, as additional ways to give value to our resources and make them accessible to visitors, with approaches that are perhaps a little less conventional.

One good example of these initiatives is the now-iconic **hot air balloon flights**. Another is the new “**Búskalo en Ribeira Sacra**” (“Go Find It in Ribeira Sacra”) programme. These are outdoor adventure games offered at various points of interest within our geodestination. Families, couples, or groups of friends set off along an unknown path, where only their creativity, ingenuity, and teamwork will allow them to successfully arrive at the end.

Currently, Búskalo en Ribeira Sacra has two games available year-round: “Irmandiño Revolt: The Final Battle” and “Mystery of the Sacred Book”. There will also be more new challenges coming soon... (Games only available in Spanish language)

Hot air balloon flights have already become one of Ribeira Sacra’s most popular attractions, offering a bird’s eye view of our rivers, valleys, and cultural monuments.

You can find the latest news and periods of operation at turismo.ribeirasacra.org (in the ENJOY section).

Tourism Services and Products

At our website you can find all the information you need about the extensive catalogue of tourism service companies operating in Ribeira Sacra, including those offering lodging and accommodation, restaurants, active tourism, river trips, guided tours, travel agencies, artisanal shops, and much more. Here, we will give you a few tips about how to make use of that website (turismo.ribeirasacra.org):

The website is structured as three sections: DISCOVER, ENJOY, and PLAN.

In the DISCOVER section you will find more extensive descriptions of all the cultural and natural heritage resources that have been mentioned briefly in this guide.

The ENJOY section is dedicated to all the activities ready for your participation within our geodestination. You will find river trip operating companies, active tourism and sports activities and operators (aquatic sports, hiking, canyoning, golf, horse riding, etc.), as well as winery tours, arts and crafts workshops, and other recreational options.

And in the PLAN section, you will find lists of hotels and B&Bs, restaurants, package trips (tour guides and travel agencies), and a section where you can download all our guides and maps in pdf format. There is also a section with recommended travel routes when visiting by car.

Another great feature you can find at our website is the “MY PLAN” trip planner. To use this feature you first need to sign up using an email address, and you can then mark all the resources

you want to visit as your favourites, along with all the services you want to use. You will then have the option of grouping these based on the duration of your stay, and the trip planner will automatically calculate the optimal route for your visit.

GUIDES AND MAPS DOWNLOAD



TOWN COUNCILS AND TOURIST OFFICES

SIL CANYON AND BANKS

Concello de A Pobra do Brollón

Avda de Galicia, 50, 27330, A Pobra do Brollón (Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 430 001 / 982 430 546

www.concellodapobradobrollon.gal

secretaria@concellodapobradobrollon.gal

Concello de A Teixeira

Estrada Ivedo-Valilongo, 19, 32765, A Teixeira (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 207 400

www.ateixeira.es

concello.ateixeira@eidolocal.es

Concello de Castro Caldelas

Concello, 1, 32760, Castro Caldelas (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 203 305 / 988 203 000

www.castrocaldelas.es

Oficina de Turismo: Praza da Torre s/n (Castillo)

Tfno.: 988 203 358

castelocastrocaldelas@gmail.com

Concello de Esgos

Praza da Souteira, s/n, 32720, Esgos (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 290 000

www.concelloesgos.com

Oficina de Turismo: Mosteiro San Pedro de Rocas

Tfno.: 651 044 951

turismosanpedrorocas@gmail.com

Concello de Monforte de Lemos

Campo de San Antonio, s/n, 27400,

Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 402 501

www.monfortedelemos.es

Oficina de Turismo: Comercio, 6

Tfno.: 982 404 715

turismo@concellodemonforte.com

Concello de Montederramo

Praza de Montederramo, 28, 32750,

Montederramo (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 292 000

<https://montederramo.es/>

Oficina de Turismo: Praza de Montederramo, 28

Tfno.: 988316303

concello.montederramo@eidolocal.es

Concello de Nogueira de Ramuín

Estrada Nogueira, 3, 32160, Luíntra -

Nogueira de Ramuín (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 201 023

www.nogueiraderamuin.gal

Oficina de Turismo: Estrada de Esgos, 2

Tfno.: 988 201 023 / 988 201 525

(Turismo)

cultura@nogueiraderamuin.gal

Concello de O Saviñao

Praza de España, 1, 27540,

Escairón - O Saviñao (Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 452 061

www.concellodosavinao.com

savinao@telefonica.net

Concello de Parada de Sil

Campo da Feira, 1, 32740, Parada de Sil

(Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 208 010

www.paradadesil.es

Oficina de Turismo: Campo da Feira, 1

Tfno.: 689 683 713

turismo@paradadesil.es

Concello de Quiroga

Rúa Real, 52, 27320, Quiroga (Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 428 001

www.concellodequiroga.com

Oficina de Turismo: Rúa Real s/n

Tfno.: 982 435 125

culturaquiroga2@gmail.com

Concello de Ribas de Sil

Praza Maior, s/n, 27310, San Clodio-

Ribas de Sil (Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 428 237

www.concelloribasdesil.es

concello.ribasdesil@eidolocal.es

Concello de Sober

Praza do Concello, s/n, 27460, Sober

(Lugo)

Tfno.: 982 460 001

www.concellodesober.com

Oficina de Turismo: Praza do Concello, s/n

Tfno.: 982 460 161

info@concellodesober.com

Concello de Xunqueira de Espadanedo

Praza dos Amigos, s/n, 32730, Xunqueira

de Espadanedo (Ourense)

Tfno.: 988 291 001

www.xunqueiradeespadanedo.es

Oficina de Turismo: Praza dos Amigos, s/n

Tfno.: 988 315 684

turismodexunqueiradespadanedo@gmail.com

com

MIÑO BANKS

Concello de A Peroxa

Concello s/n, 32150, A Peroxa (Ourense)
Tfno.: 988 206 614
www.aperoxa.es
concello@aperoxa.es

Concello de Bóveda

Avda. Alfonso XII, 85, 27430, Bóveda (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 426 006
www.concellodeboveda.com
cultura@concellodeboveda.com
cultura@boveda.gob.es

Concello de Carballedo

Víctor Portomeñe, s/n, 27520, A Barrela - Carballedo (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 466 201
www.concellocarballedo.es
Oficina de Turismo: Avda dos Peares, s/n - Castro
Tfno.: 982 466 025
turismocarballedo@gmail.com

Concello de Chantada

Praza de España, 1, 27500, Chantada (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 440 011
www.concellodechantada.org
Oficina de Turismo: Praza do Mercado s/n
Tfno.: 982 441 752
turismo@concellodechantada.org

Concello de Pantón

Praza do Concello, s/n, 27430, O Castro de Ferreira - Pantón (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 456 005
www.concellodepanton.es

Oficina de Turismo: Praza do Concello, s/n - Edificio Sociocultural
Tfno.: 982 456 377/ 982 456 279
turismopanton@hotmail.com

Concello de Paradela

Cabaleiros de Santiago, 15, 27611, Paradela (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 541 101 / 982 541 196
www.paradela.es
concello.paradela@eidolocal.es

Concello de Portomarín

Praza Condes de Fenosa, 1, 27170, Portomarín (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 545 070
www.concellodeportomarin.es
Oficina de Turismo: Praza Condes de Fenosa, 1
Tfno.: 982 545 070
infoportomarin@concelloportomarin.es

Concello de Taboada

Praza General Muínelo, 1, 27550, Taboada
Tfno.: 982 465 301
www.concellodetaboada.es
info@concellotaboada.es

TOURISM ORGANIZATIONS

CONSORCIO DE TURISMO RIBEIRA SACRA

Estrada a Nogueira, 3, 32160, Luíntra, Nogueira de Ramuín (Ourense)
Tfno.: 638 823 592
Tódolos días da semana de 10:00 horas a 18:00 horas.
turismo.ribeirasacra.org
turismo@ribeirasacra.org

C.R.D.O. RIBEIRA SACRA

Comercio, 6-8, 27400, Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 410 968
www.ribeirasacra.org
info@ribeirasacra.org

DEPUTACIÓN DE OURENSE - INORDE

Progreso, 28, 32002, Ourense
Tfno.: 988 391 085
www.turismoourense.com

DEPUTACIÓN DE LUGO - Servizo de Turismo

Rúa San Marcos, 8, 27004, Lugo
Tfno.: 982 260 000
https://turismo.deputacionlugo.gal/

RUTA DO VIÑO RIBEIRA SACRA C.R.D.O.

Comercio, 6-8, 27400, Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)
Tfno.: 982 410 968
www.rutadelvinoribeirasacra.org

TURISMO DE GALICIA

Estrada Santiago -Noia km. 3, A Barcia, 15897, Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña)
Tfno.: 981 546 358
www.turismo.gal

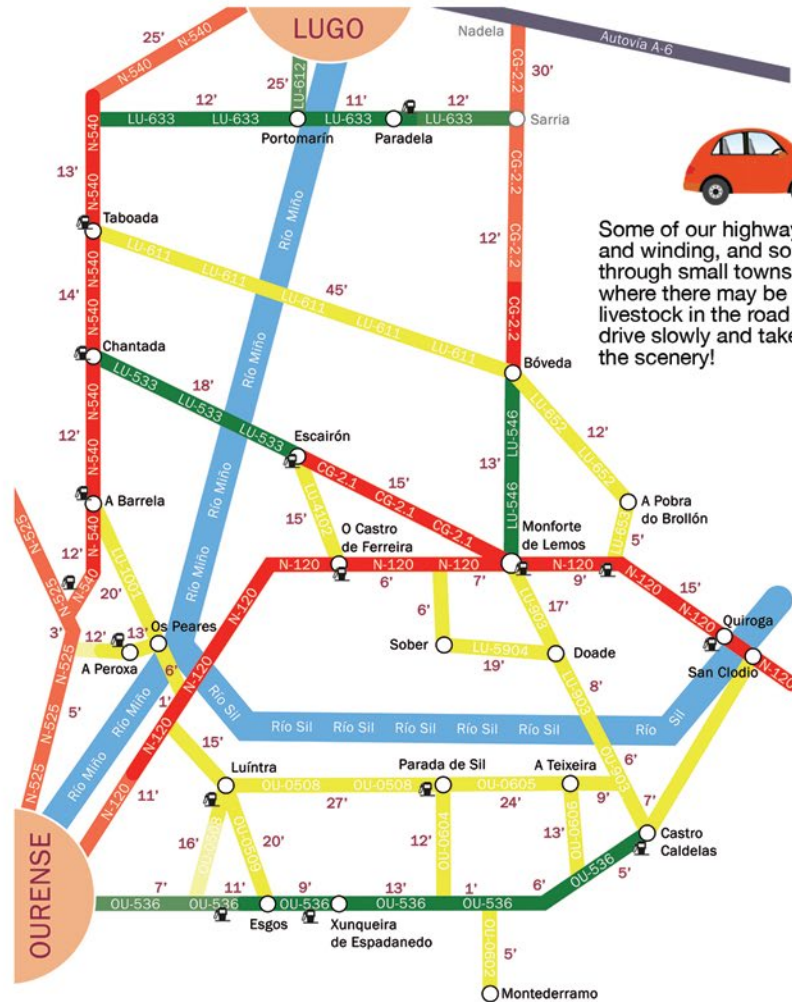
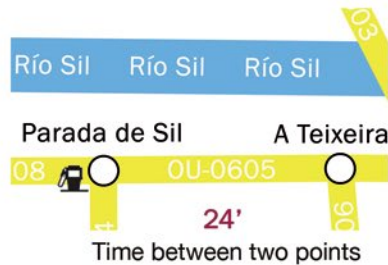


TOURIST OFFICES

Calculate your travel times



-  National highway
-  Regional highway
-  Local highway



Some of our highways are narrow and winding, and some pass through small towns and villages, where there may be people or livestock in the road ... so please drive slowly and take time to enjoy the scenery!





Boat jetties in the Sil

Notes

Things to remember for
my next visit to
Ribeira Sacra



My favourite photo
from my trip



Anecdotes and observations
from my stay





Painted murals, Church of Santa María de Nogueira de Miño (Chantada)



Consortio
de Turismo

galicia



Xacobeo 21-22



XUNTA
DE GALICIA

