

TOURISTIC GUIDE

Ribeira  Sacra



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Ribeira Sacra

If there is a place to see, to feel the passing of time, to hear the silence, to smell the authentic nature or to taste the delicacy of the vineyard, it is

Ribeira Sacra

Where all senses are born

This is how Ribeira Sacra is launched in the current promotional campaign developed by the Consorcio de Turismo.

Since 2005, when it was set up, this consortium has been working on adapting, improving and adjusting this place which keeps one of the most outstanding Romanesque collections in Europe. The nature which emerges between de Canyons of the rivers Sil, Miño and Cabe, as well as the wineries arranged in terraces, turn Ribeira Sacra into an idyllic destination for those who love calm and wine.

Catamaran trips, visits to wineries on Viñobús (a special bus for this route), bird's eye-views in helicopter tours, Zodiac tours, wonderful paths and playing golf in an incomparable environment are among the wide range of activities to do in the area. Ribeira Sacra offers wide variety of accommodation: a large number of rural cottages, two paradores (state-run hotels) such as Parador de Santo Estevo and Parador de Monforte), hotel-spa-golf and a five-star hotel-palace.



Ribeira Sacra

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Where all senses are born

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Ribeira Sacra



Sil Canyon



Viewpoint in A Capela



Church of San Miguel de Eiré

Ribeira Sacra

Ribeira Sacra may be defined as one of the best-kept secrets in the inland of Galicia. It is made up of twenty one city councils of south Lugo and north Ourense, which share the course of the rivers Miño, Sil and Cabe. They flow through narrow passes and canyons, along delightful scenery. A land used for retreat in the past and with excellent weather conditions which boosted wine works in the area.

The following city councils of Lugo belong to Ribeira Sacra: A Pobra do Brollón, Bóveda, Carballado, Chantada, Monforte de Lemos, O Saviñao, Pantón, Paradela, Portomarín, Quiroga, Ribas de Sil, Sober and Taboada.

From the province of Ourense: A Peroxa, A Teixeira, Castro Caldelas, Esgos, Montederramo, Nogueira de

Ramuín, Parada de Sil and Xunqueira de Espadanedo. Due to its location, history and expanse, Monforte de Lemos is considered nowadays the capital of Ribeira Sacra. The headquarters of the Regulatory Council of the wine is there. The certificate of origin and quality of the wine (known in Spain as denominación de origen) has undoubtedly helped Ribeira Sacra to become an emerging tourist destination of high quality.

The outstanding conditions of the nature made an appealing environment with an unique beauty. The deep valleys of the rivers Sil and Miño, shaped from the granite rocks, impress because of their vertical faces and the uneven land. The slopes in the Sil Canyon are rough and rock, whereas the slopes in the Miño Canyon are gentle and suitable for people to explore. The routes by catamaran are a good option to enjoy this breathtaking scenery. (see ROUTES BY



Church of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño
CATAMARAN).

Other interesting options are the routes along the canyons and rivers, going through woods and spectacular viewpoints. Ribeira Sacra offers a wide offer of hiking routes for everyone (see suggestions of HIKING ROUTES).

Besides monasteries, our ancestors' deep influence is in the huge amount of Romanesque churches all through Ribeira Sacra. In Galicia there is such a clear expansion of the Romanesque style that it is considered the main concentration of Romanesque architecture in the country areas in



Church of san Xoán (North portico)

Europe. Among the temples of great beauty are San Paio de Diomondi, Santo Estevo de Atán, San Miguel de Eiré and San Fiz de Cangas (see suggestion of ROMANESQUE ROUTE). There is an important influence from the early modern period in Monforte de Lemos, where the building Cole-



Monastery of Bernardas de Ferreira

year, the queen Teresa of Portugal, Alfonso VII's daughter, donated the monk Arnaldo and the member of his order the lands where a new monastery would be put up in the called "Rivoira Sacrata". This is



Portomarín

gio de los Padres Escolapios, known as the "El Escorial Gallego" (compared to the historical residence of the King in Madrid), keeps two paintings of El Greco, among other artistic treasures.

This is a special destination for those who search memorable and unrepeatable experiences in a cultural and natural heritage.

History, legends and traditions

Ermits land

The first reference to this land as "Rivoira Sacrata" was in 1124. On a document signed in Allariz (Ourense) in August in the same



Views of a vineyard

the origin of the monastery of Santa María de Montederramo, one of the most remarkable and well preserved in Galicia. The place name became popular when the historian Fray Antonio de Yepes translated the document and explained it because of the huge amount of monasteries in the area.

The holy oak tree

Not long afterwards, the historian Torquato de Souza Soares realized a mistake in the translation by Yepes. He had written Rovoyra instead of Rivoira, which may be





Patrimonio

interpreted as a “holy oak wood” (robur: oak tree). In the Celt culture the oak and wood were holy elements and this strengthen his theory. However, people had interpreted Ribeira Sacra as “Ribera sagrada” (holy banks).

The jealous Juno

There is an ancient legend of the origin of the Miño and Sil Canyons. According to the myth, the god Jupiter, in love with the beautiful land of Galicia, decided to take the land by going throw it by the river Miño. But her jealous wife Juno didn't accept to share her love with a stranger. In order to distance him from the lovely rival, she didn't hesitate to open a deep wound on that sublime face. It was such a wife's hate that she made the wound deeper to the limit, provoking the current Canyons of the Sil.



Camiño Real

A POBRA DO BROLLÓN

Architecture in Vilachá: There are a total of forty two thousand-year-old wineries, with uneven stone walls and a flagstone gable roof. There are among the oldest in the Iberian Peninsula.

Medieval bridge of Barxa: This is a



Medieval bridge of Barxa de Lor

Roman bridge which was the Castilians' access from León to Galicia, although nowadays in only used by pedestrians. There are still remains of the medieval roads, since the highway goes past there and this is a route of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela from the river Sil.

Church of San Salvador de Ferreiros: Church with Romanesque remains dated from 12th century and part of the 17th century. It keeps wall paintings representing the Annunciation.

Church of San Xíán de Veiga: Nave with semicircular apses from the second half of the 12th century. It keeps sculptures and a Baroque altarpiece from the 17th century.

Church of Óutara: It has a Renaissance main altarpiece and a statue of the Virgin Mary dated from the 15th century.

Architecture in Parada de Montes: In

this village, which lies the mountains in O Courel, you can see the popular architecture of the mountain. The houses are right next to each other; they have gable roofs in order to keep them warm and make people's lives easier for snowfalls. In Parada de Montes there is a church from the end of the 19th century dedicated to Saint Inés, with a neoclassic altarpiece from the convent of the Clarisas de Monforte.

Other interesting places: The forts in Saa, Salcedo, Lamaigreja, Domiz and Barxa, the convent of Feirarrúa, Casa Grande de Marcón.



Chapel of Ecce Homo

BÓVEDA

Pazo de Bóveda: This typical country house from Galicia belonged to the marquess of Bóveda and was built by Sir Francisco Suárez de Deza y Oca, the marquess of Vivance. It is in the parish of San Martín. Even though it dates from the 18th century (year 1769), it had been built on a former pazo from the 16th century.

Chapel of Ecce Homo: It is in the parish of Rubián and dates from the 18th century. This is a building with a cross floor and slate walls.

CARBALLEDO

Church of Santo Estevo de Chouzán: 12th-century Romanesque church. From this period are also the apse and the inside nave which were moved stone by stone to its current site, due to the building of the damming of Os Peares.

Church of San Xoán da Cova: 12th-century Romanesque church with a spectacular front of archivolts. As



Church of Santo Estevo de Chouzán

well as the one of Chouzán, it was moved stone by stone to its current site owing to the building of the damming.

Parish church of Temes: The church has features of the pre-Roman and Roman period (Roman altar), Early Christian period (marble sarcophagus from the 4th century) and Christian-Visigoth (inscription in the consecration).

Church of Lousada: from the ancient monastery of Santiago de Lousada only the Romanesque church of the 12th century is preserved. It has the sarcophagus with the reclining statue of Sir Vasco Pérez de Temes.

Pazo de Cartelos: a 18th-century building, but later restored. It was one of the most ancient ancestral homes of the Mr and Mrs Temes. It keeps a medieval tower with semicircular floor. In the wood of this property is the oldest oak in Europe, about 1500 years old.

Other interesting places: the towers Torres Irmandiñas de San Román and Grixoá, the fort in Morgade.

CHANTADA

Old quarter: cobbled streets and emblazoned houses from the 16th and 17th centuries are the main appeal of



Church of San Salvador de Asma

the village of Chantada. Several of these traditional buildings rose on picturesque arcades, following the civil Galician architecture. The medieval square Plaza de España (Cantón) is one of the most outstanding places, where the neoclassic church of Santa Marina is. In the surrounding area is the square Plaza del Mercado, where there is the colonial mansion Casona de Lemos.

Casa Grande de Lemos: a manor house dated from the 16th century. It was restored as a Culture House at the end of the 1980s by the architect Manuel Gallego.

Monasterio de Santa María de Pesqueiras: a monastery in a natural environment, among a hundred-year-old grove and close to the dam of Belesar (13th century). This is what still remains of the former Benedictine convent, which was annexed the one of San Paio de Antealtares at the end of the 15th century. It keeps 16th-century



Dous de Maio Street (Chantada)

wall paintings.

Church of San Salvador de Asma: this 12th-century church belonged to the buildings of the monastery of San Salvador de Asma. Several granite pieces from the pre-Romanesque period are still kept.

Church of Camporramiro: Romanesque church dated from the 12th century.

Church of Santa María de Nogueira: it holds Romanesque remains as well as some from the 16th century. Some of the most outstanding are the wall paintings just restored.

Other interesting places: tower Torre de Arcos.

MONFORTE DE LEMOS

Monuments in San Vicente del Pino: at the highest point in the village, it consisted of the Torre del Homenaje - remains of the former castle -, Palacio Condal and Monasterio Benedictino, today a state-owned hotel.

Torre del Homenaje: a tower at the top of the village built between the 13th and 14th centuries. It was the most significant building in the castle, since the ritual of association between the lord and his vassal, known as Tribute Ceremony, was there celebrated. It is 30m high, 13 m side and has three-meter-wide walls. the tower and the wall of



Torre del Homenaje



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Antigua

the medieval fortress were severely damaged in the Great War Irmandiña (1467-1469), and were rebuilt after the confrontation (see MUSEUMS) .

Monastery of San Vicente del Pino: though it is dated from the 10th century, the present building was built in the 16th century. The square of the nunnery is in neoclassic style, the facade as well as the cloister. The monastic church, of Renaissance façade and transitional Gothic interior, has elaborated domes and, to one of its side, a choir in organ Baroque style. It worths seeing the statue of Saint Ann with the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus and a Romanesque bas-relief. A great part of the monastery holds nowadays the Parador (state-owned hotel) of tourism in Monforte de Lemos.

The hill comes down the alleys in the Jewish neighbourhood, where some of the former doors to access the city are still preserved.

Colegio de Nuestra Señora de la An-

tigua: this is a Renaissance building known as el “Escorial de Galicia”. It has a Herrerian terrace, which construction began in the 16th century, two perfectly symmetrical wings and a central church with a huge dome topped with a lantern. It was started to be built by the cardinal Rodrigo de Castro in 1593. Today is the school of the Padres Escolapios and keeps a significant art gallery, where the most prized jewels are the works by El Greco and three that were attributed to the Italian Andrea del Sarto (see MUSEUMS).

Nunnery of the Clarisas: in this 17th-century nunnery an excellent collection of sacred art is kept; the Lying Christ and the Blessed Virgin by Gregorio Fernández are the most outstanding works (see MUSEUMS).

Roman bridge: close to the nunnery of the Clarisas is the “old bridge.” The tradition says its origin is Roman. All we know is it was restored by the master Pedro Rodríguez Remberde by the end of the 16th century.

Pazo de San Xoán de Tor: this typical house of Galicia is in the outskirts of the city. It keeps an important bookcase, four living rooms in a row, a Baroque staircase and a collection of armor (14th and 15th centuries), besides furniture and paintings from the 16th century (see MUSEUMS).

PANTÓN

Monastery of San Salvador de Ferreira: dated from the 10th century, it achieved its greatest splendor during the Cistercian period. This the only nunnery with religious life in Ribeira Sacra. It covers many different styles and periods: the church is from the 12th, the cloister from the 16th, and the façade from the 18th century. There are several sarcophagus and a carving of the Virgin Mary and the baby on her lap, which is a clearly Roman tradition.

Church of San Miguel de Eiré: is one of the best kept Romanesque



Church of San Miguel Pombeiro

buildings in Galiciaç (12th century) and not often can you see such a slender, elegant and compact work. It reminds those of the pre-Romanesque in Asturias.

What makes it a original piece is its structure with square plant, where raises a rectangular tower in the transept nave (the only one in the Galician Romanesque style), and a semicircular apse whose dome holds a Pantocrator with Saint Mary and Saint John.

Church of San Vicente de Pombeiro: it was built by the “black minks” of the Cluny order taking the ones in Borgoña as a point of reference. It stands out the south door, between buttresses (13th century).

Church of San Fiz de Cangas: Today only the church of the monastery remains, which was extended in the 17th century to hold the chapel of the Torrenovais, where Ro-



Church of San Miguel de Eiré



Monastery Bernardas de Ferreira

drigo López de Quiroga is buried.

Church of Santo Estevo de Atán: it came into being by a convent of the 8th century and the primitive construction of the pre-Romanesque period still remains. Its small fretwork windows work as lattices.

Sanctuary of Augas Santas: temple situated in the parish of San Martín de Pantón. Its origin is associated with a spring of curative water. In the walls of the naves you can see elements from the Romanesque period, as well as from previous times (12th and 13th century).

Other interesting places: Pazos de Ferreiroá, Goián and O Reguengo and the Castle of Maside.

PARADELA

Chapel of Loio: it is in Cortes and it keeps Mozarabic elements (10th century). It is linked to the origin of the order La Orden de los caballeros de Santiago.

Church of Santa María de Ferreiros: Romanesque church situated in Mirallos, part of the French route to Santiago. From the monastery and its rooms only the church and its fabulous Romanesque façade remain. It was a priory of the Encomienda de Portomarín (control over the land) and was used as a shelter for pilgrims, with a hospital in one of the rooms.



Church of San Facundo de Ribas de Miño

Church of San Facundo de Ribas de Miño: it was declared national interest monument in 1982 and in 1998 it got a prize by the Architecture Association in Galicia as the best project of restoration. Not only is the architecture remarkable, but also, even more, the environment: surrounded by vineyards which come down the slopes of the Monte da Trapa until the river Miño, with jetty for the catamaran.

Castro de Baran: this fort consists of a moat, two terraces and a croa. The most accessible way is by a Folga dos Bois.

Saint James Way: the stretch of the French route to Santiago, from Ferreiros to Portomarín, through Paradela is full of ancient and medieval history.

Paraje de Castro San Martiño: from this spot, where there is the church and the atrium of the fort San Martiño you will see one of the most breathtaking views of Belesar and Portomarín.

PORTOMARÍN

Village of Portomarín: this village was completely moved in the sixties due to the construction of the dam in Belesar. There is proof of a bridge built to cross the river Miño in Portomarín in the 2nd century. It was called "la Pons Minea" in the Codex Calixtinus. It was destroyed by the order of Miss Urraca in 1112 and rebuilt afterwards. As it later became a strategic pass, a hospital for pilgrims was built in 1226.

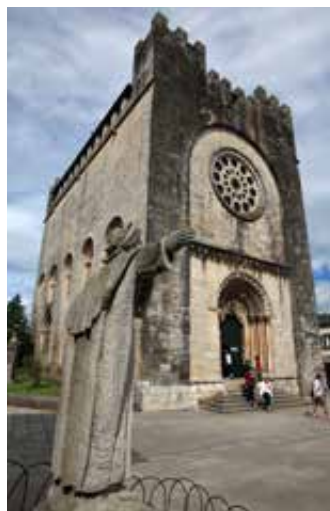
Due to the construction of the dam in Belesar, the whole village and the famous Roman church of Saint Nicholas or Saint John had to be moved. The vi-



Church of San Xoán

llage was restored according to a new urban development plan typical from the "new villages" in Spain in the fifties and sixties.

Church of San Nicolás or San Xoán: it was declared historical-artistic collection in 1946. The church was moved and built, stone by stone, in its current place, in the middle of Portomarín. It is a church-fortress with battlements, a rose window and a beautiful façade with archivolts, where there are 24 elderly men surrounding Christ. This is a good example of the medieval masonry workers who were educated with Mas-



Church of San Xoán



Pilgrims arriving to Portomarín

ter Mateo.

Castro de Castromaior: this fort is 5 km away from the village of Portomarín. It has more than 5 hectares and spreads throughout six army premises which show the appearance of the Iron Age in Galicia. It covers an extended period of the Galician prehistory, from the 4th century BC to the 1st century AD.

Other interesting places: Saint James way (French route).

QUIROGA

Quiroga: in the city council of Quiroga there are remains of the Roman Imperium. Researchers assure a paleochristian church had been there before the current small church of A Ermida.

Túnel de Montefurado: a giant gold-panning site built in the 2nd century AC by the Romans. They had diverted the



Tunnel of Montefurado

river Sil and drained it in a 2.5 km-long meander in order to easily get the gold from the river.

Castillo de Torrenovaes: this castle consisted in two structures built between the 10th and 13th centuries: the Torre del Homenaje and the Pazo de la Encomienda, the first headquarters of the commanders in the Orden de San Juan de Jerusalén, in the valley of Quiroga. This is one of the most emblematic places of the history of Quiroga.

Villages of Mazo, O Solón and A Seara: these are extraordinary examples of popular architecture adapted to the hard living conditions in the mountains of O Courel.

Almazara de Bendilló: an old mill which is still used to produce oil using traditional methods; it makes good use of the strength of the animal which pulls the mill stone. No one knows exactly when it was built, but it is linked to the Romans' settlement after the 2nd century.

Here the Crismón de Quiroga turned up and it is exhibited today in the Provincial Museum in Lugo.

RIBAS DE SIL

Church of San Clodio: dated from 1200, it has notably changed and some extras have been later added. From the original Romanesque building remains only the apse and the north gate of the nave. It stands out the side gate with Visigothic capitals, which may have been restored.

Abbey of San Clodio: next to the church, in the north, is the presbytery with façade, a tower and other remains of the abbey. The Abbey of San Clodio was founded about a thousand years ago. Its façade, with round arches,



Oil mill in Bendilló



Church of San Clodio

keeps on the top the shield of Spain and an inscription about the restoration in 1604 carried out by Alfonso de Solís.

Church of Santa María de Torbeo, (transition from 12th to 13th century). It keeps from the monastic period the apse and the north gate. The boat trip across the meander of A Cubela, in the river Sil, was handled by the monks of Torbeo. This is one of the most elegant examples of the Romanesque period in the rural areas in Galicia. A fire in 1936 destroyed this church where only the walls and the domes of the apse remained. It was restored in 1945. In the north wall of the nave you can see a gothic inscription, the only sample of a painting which survived the fire.

Iron bridge over the Sil: it was en-



Church of Torbeo

ded in 1883. The technique used in its construction was well ahead of its time, the pneumatic bell. This way, they could work under the water with a pressure-air bell. Since it was invented by Eiffel, people used to think that he had designed the bridge.

Other interesting places: the oil mills of Peites and Figueiredo, the train station Renfe.

O SAVIÑO

Church of San Paio de Diomondi: erected among woods and deep-green fields, this church from the 12th century was part of a Benedictine monastery. Inside the nave there are four pairs of columns with pointed arches placed on the top. Outside, there is a magnificent main gate with four semi-circular archivolts and decorated with zoomorphic elements.

Church of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño (13th century): It is one of the most outstanding monuments in the Galician heritage, located in an extraordinary place by the Miño slope, over the dam of Belesar. It was declared National Monument in 1931. Its capitals are decorated with plants and musicians. This is an excellent sample of the Master Mateo's influence. On the façade there is a huge rose window, beautiful and carefully elaborated, which forms a twelve-elongated-pentagonal petals rose.

Church of Santa María de Seteventos: this is famous for its wall paintings from the 16th century restored some years ago, with scenes of the Annunciation and the Final Judgement.



Church of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño

Church of San Martiño da Cova: dated from the end of the 13th century, it keeps wall paintings from the 17th century and a baroque altarpiece.

Other interesting places: church of Marrube, the house-fort Casa-fuerte de Candaira (civil military architecture of the 13th century), Pazo de As Cortes, Pazo da Lamaquebrada, a set of dolmens in Abuiime, set of forts: Freán and Vilatán.

SOBER

Church of San Xulián de Lobios: this is the most remarkable Romanesque building in Sober. It is dated from the 13th century. It stands out because of its spectacular façade and magnificent capitals.

Church of Santa María de Proendos: from the 12th century, this is a unique sample of the rural Romanesque style. In the main chapel 16th-century wall paintings are kept, and they depict the Adoration of the Magi, the flight to Egypt, the Annunciation, the Visitation of the virgin Mary and Saint Blas and the Adoration of the Shepherds.



Church of Proendos

Church of San Vicente de Pinol: on the façade of this church there is a stone rose window with a hexagonal star, symbol which may represent the Jewish star of David.

Sanctuary of Cadeiras: It was built in the 18th century, but it is not still finished. It is not the architecture its main appeal, but a place of pilgrimage due to the miracles traditionally attributed to the Virgin of Cadeiras. The procession of Cadeiras takes place on 7,8 and 9 September. From the top of the tower you can enjoy the superb panoramic views.

Other interesting places: Church of Bolmente (9th century), church of San Pedro de Canaval (13th century).

TABOADA

Pazo de Perrelos: this typical country house from Galicia is dated from mid-17th century and has a baroque façade and a gallery facing the garden. Just in the middle of the garden there is a granite spring from 1788. It has four spouts and a lion holding among its claws the oldest coat of arms in the pazo.

Casa de la Torre de Moreda: here are the remains of anthropomorphic graves dug out of the rock.

Church of San Pedro de Bemibre: Romanesque building declared national interest monument. It is an anonymous work which has buttresses against the walls to originally build a vaulted roof, but it has a plain wooden roof today.



Church of San Martiño da Cova



Church of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño

Church of Taboada dos Freires: Romanesque remains of a church and necropolis with anthropomorphic graves dug out of the rock. It keeps an inscription from 1190 on the tympanum of the gate and Mozarabic de-

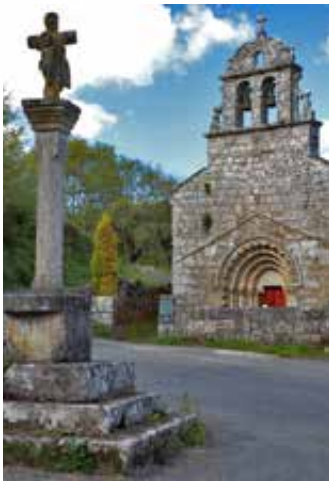


Pazo de Perrelos

corative items.

Church of Santa María de Piñeira: Church from the 13th century except for the façade and the sacristy, both from the Baroque period.

Other interesting places: Pazo de Relás, Pazo de Nogueira, Pazo Fortaleza de los señores de Taboada (15th century), church of Santa María de Castelo, church of Bouzoa.



Church of San Pedro de Bemibre

CASTRO CALDELAS

Castle of Castro Caldelas: it is dated from the 14th century although some authors claim it was built in the 12th century. It has several towers: Torre del Homenaje, Torre del Reloj and Torre de la Cárcel. Its history was especially hectic due to the uprising Revuelta Irmandiña and the later conflicts between the count of Benavente and the one of Lemos. In 1808 it was set fired by the French troops in withdrawal after being attacked by the neighbours. Its location at the precipice to the Sil Canyon turns it into an idyllic viewpoint (see MUSEUMS).

Church and Monastery of San Paio de la Abeleda: from medieval origin, this monastery is believed to be dated from the 10th century. It was one of the most influential monastic buildings in the province and here sarcophaguses from the 7th century AC were found. Today it is in ruins.

Church of Virgen de los Remedios: this is a neoclassic temple in the capital of the town council. Its twin towers and austere lines are the most remarkable features. It is visited by lots of devotees and it keeps the parish museum.

House of Vicente Risco: the house where the Galician writer Vicente



Castle of Castro Caldelas (Torre del reloj)

Martínez Risco e Agüero (Ourense, 1884-1963) lived. He was one of the most outstanding members in the group Xeración Nós, especially after the book *Teoría do nacionalismo galego* had been published in 1920. Nowadays, this house was restructured as a rural inn Pousada Vicente Risco, where there is a monographic collection about the author.

Other interesting places: old part of town, church of San Xoán do Burgo, mills of A Ponte and Alais, village of Vilarellos, Sasaus and O Burgo.

ESGOS

Monastery of Saint Pedro de Rocas: this is the oldest monastery in Galicia (6th – 16th century). The naves of the church were dug out of granite, as caves, and were extended in order to take in more monks. The chapels in the church, with three naves, are full of anthropomorphic sarcophaguses in stone. Everything in this monastery is exceptional and atypical, as the bell tower built in the precipitous ground, dated from middle 16th century and two spaces for the bells placed at the top of the crag. (see MUSEUMS).

Other interesting places: Church and stone cross of Vilar de Ordelles, church of Santa María de Esgos, village of Os Arcos.



Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas

MONTEDERRAMO

Ponte Vella of Vilariño Frío: it used to be a bridge of the Roman road between Astorga and Braga which was built over the river Mao in the 3rd century. Walking on it will make you enjoy the nature and 12 information notice boards will explain you in detail the history of these types of communication.

Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo: although its origin is from a Benedictine order, it became more important and started to be studied in the 12th century with the Cistercian order. It was founded by Mrs Teresa, Alfonso VII's daughter, in 1142. The present Renaissance building keeps the pilasters, the dome and the vault of classic elegance and harmony. Besides el Escorial and the Escolapios in Monforte, this monastery is another example of smithy style. The grandeur of the church, the harmony of its cloisters, the impressive altarpiece, as well as the stalls make this visit a must in Ribeira Sacra.

Monastery of Seoane Vello: the monastery and the name of the



Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo

place if necessary.

Religious collection of Marrubio: it is made up of a chapel dedicated to Saint Anthony, a covered stone cross and two wayside shrines. It is worth mention that the stone cross keeps all its polychromy.

Castro galaico of Leboreiro: this fort is known among the local people as "O Castrexo", where the Celt tribe Tiburos had settled.

NOGUEIRA DE RAMUÍN

Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil: its origin is in a small community founded in the 6th century by San Martiño Dumien-se. The monastery is today the result of a combination of styles and times, beginning with the Romanesque one of the church, from the end of the 12th century. The cloister Claustro de los Obispos has the Romanesque style in the lower part and the Gothic one in the upper section. The other two cloisters are from the Renaissance period, as it can be seen in its balance and simple elegance. Its façade is baroque and it is divided into three sections, where the shield of the imperial Spain prevails. The Romanesque art is a constant feature in the church of the monastery, with its three apses, being the central one surprisingly the shortest in order to take advantage of the rose window's light in the façade. It also stands out an amazing stone altarpiece.

Other interesting places: churches of San Martiño de Nogueira and San Cristovo de Armariz, both from the Romanesque period, Chapel of Virxe do Monte, country houses Pazo de A Seara and Celeiros, Parque de Mámoas in As Cabanas, also known as "Mámoas de Moura."



Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil

PARADA DE SIL

Monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil: this is considered as the jewel of the Romanesque architecture in Ribeira Sacra. It is a Benedictine monastery which was first mentioned in the 10th century. Its stonework was made up of the Romanesque temple and several rooms arranged along two cover corridors around the monastic courtyard. A huge rose window, which is one of the most well kept in Galician Romanesque architecture, stands out in its façade. It keeps Renaissance paintings inside and it is a marvelous view over the Sil Canyon.

Necrópolis rupestre de San Lorenzo de Barxacoba: it is a necropolis of anthropomorphic tombs which were associated with the chapel of San Víctor, knocked down in the 19th century, which was placed at the top of a rock with strategic views over the canyon of the river Mao. The site can be dated from between the 9th and the 12th centuries. After the 12th century the necropolis was deserted and the graveyard of San Lorenzo



Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo

area "Rivoira Sacrata" have their origin in the monastery in Seoane Vello, by the path towards Ourense. Mrs Teresa from Portugal granted the abbot Arnaldo and his Benedictine monks, who were at the place known as RIVOIRA SACRATA, permission to found a monastery and the possibility of move to another

started to be used, although it was kept as a worship site. A short path leads us to this necropolis where the archeological works still go on.

Medieval bridge of Canceleños: in the Middle Ages, the valleys of the rivers Mao and Sil had a great importance as a place of passage for people and goods. It was necessary for monasteries to have bridges over the rivers, as the bridge of Canceleños, which is an example of medieval civil engineering.

Other interesting places: stone cross of Forcas.



Monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil

A PEROXA

Castle of A Peroxa (12th century): it is believed that this castle has a medieval origin and it was erected on a primitive fort. It is a natural viewpoint today.

Church of San Martiño: Baroque building with a façade with four pilasters which seem to support the huge bell tower from the 17th century.

Palace architecture: typical country house, Pazo of Redondelle, Anzariz and Turbisquedo, mills of Barra and river Bubal.



A Peroxa Castle

A TEIXEIRA

Architectural ensemble of Lumeares: It's a ethnographic set of great interest formed by *hórreos* (typical Galician buildings to keep vegetables), *petos de ánimas* (stone monuments where people offer alms), mills and a bridge of the same name. We will also find here environment small waterfalls.

Other interesting places: Village of Cristosende, Church of Santa María de Boazo



Lumeares bridge

XUNQUEIRA DE ESPADANEDO

Monastery of Santa María de Xunqueira de Espadanedo: The cloister of the monastery dates from the Renaissance. The Cistercian church, which is transitional Romanesque (12th-13th century) has three naves with semicircular apses. The façade we see today is Neoclassical. Currently this is the parish church and the various municipal departments are located in the monastery.

Ice houses or "casiñas da neve" of Monte Meda: These are ice houses that the monastery is used to have in the mountains. During the winter they collected the snow from these constructions and organized it in layers protected by straw. In some of the ice was used to preserve medicines.



Monastery of Santa María Xunqueira de Espadanedo

and you...
what do
you see?

Museums

CENTRE OF WINE RIBEIRA SACRA

TIMETABLE EXHIBITION AND SHOP: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm and 4:30 pm to 8 pm in winter and 10 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm in summer (July to September). Open on Mondays in August.

Guided tours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm and 6:30 pm in winter; 11:30 am, 12:30 pm 5:30 pm and 7 pm in summer.

When the visit is over, you may taste the wines from Ribeira Sacra.

The Centre of wine from Ribeira Sacra is a space created to combine all activities related to the wine from this land. There is an exhibition hall, a shop and a tastería to have some Galician tapes. The building which provides space for the Centre of Wine had several functions in the course of its history: in 1752 was donated as a hospital to the Order of San Juan de Dios; in the second half of the 19th century it was converted into a casino; in the 30's it hosted the town hall of Monforte. Today it also hosts the Consello Regulador de la denominación de Origen Ribeira Sacra (the organ responsible for guaranteeing the origin and quality of the wine).

Price: 2.5€ / 1.5€ (under-18s, pensioners and groups with more than 20 people).

Address: Comercio street, 6. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).

Web: www.centrovino-ribeirasacra.com
Phone: 982 105 303



Center of wine

GALLERY SARGADELOS

TIMETABLE: from Monday to Friday, 10.00 to 13.30 and 16.30 to 20.00; Sunday from 10.00 to 13.30

The work of Sargadelos stands out because of the traditional care which every piece of work is made with. All

plates, figures and porcelain jewellery are finished and decorated by hand in the factories in Castro, Sada (A Coruña) and Sargadelos, Cervo (Lugo).
Address: Plaza de España s/n
E-mail: tienda@sargadelemos.com
maealmansa@gmail.com
Phone: 982 402 657

MONFORTE DOLL'S HOUSE MUSEUM

All year round, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm (7 pm in summer) and Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm. Closed on Mondays, except for public holidays.

It is composed of 24 pieces decorated and furnished to the last detail, where the visitor can admire the meticulous work of the craftsmen

Price: 5 €
Address: Plaza de la Estación 27400 Monforte de Lemos
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/MuseoCasasDeMonecasMonforte/>
Phone: 982 403 677 / 654 014 397

RAILWAY MUSEUM OF GALICIA

TIMETABLE: Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 19:00 Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 12:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 19:00.

Locomotives, coaches and several material among the most significant of the history of the railway of Galicia. The museum has a railway roundabout with 38 railway lines, the only one of its kind in Spain.

Price: 4€ (guided tour), 3€ (unguided visit)
Address: Prolongación Padre Feijóo s/n. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).
Web: www.muferga.es
Phone: 982 418 421 / 606 401 982



Museum of the railway of Galicia

MUSEUM TORRE DA HOMENAXE

TIMETABLE: Consult.
History and context of the tower from the Middle Ages.
Price: 1.50€
Group: check prices.
Address: collection of monuments of San Vicente del Pino. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).
Web: www.monfortedelemos.es
Phone: 982 404 715



Torre da Homenaxe

MUSEUMS OF HOLY ART OF THE CLARISAS IN MONFORTE

TIMETABLE: Enquire at the Monforte de Lemos Tourist Office (Phone no. 982 404 715).
Holy art objects such as the images of the Lying Christ and the Blessed Virgin.
Price: 6€
Address: Santa Clara s/n, Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)
Phone: 982 401 544

PAZO DE TOR

TIMETABLE: guided tours from Tuesday to Sunday at 11.00, 12.30, 16.30 and 18.00.
Architectonic collection
Price: free entrance
Address: San Xoán de Tor, s/n. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).
Phone: 982 165 534
Web: <http://www.museolugo.org>
e-mail: pazodetor@museolugo.org

PAZO MUIÑOS DE ANTERO

TIMETABLE: Enquire at the Monforte de Lemos Tourist Office (Phone no. 982 404 715).
Architectonic collection

Price: 3€
Address: Malvarón, s/n. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).
Web: www.pazomolinosdeantero.com
Phone: 676 573 563 - 606 110 539 (bookings for guided tours)

PINACOTECA NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ANTIGUA

TIMETABLE: Consult.
Paintings by El Greco, such as "San Lorenzo" and "San Francisco", and by Andrea del Sarto are "Santa Margarita de Cortona", "Santa Inés", "Santa Catalina de Alejandría", "San Pedro" and "San Juan Bautista." There are also personal things and books which belonged to the cardinal.
Price: 4
Address: Campo de la Compañía, 50. Monforte de Lemos (Lugo).
Phone: 982 400 450 / 982 404 715



Ntra. Señora de la Antigua

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM IN QUIROGA

TIMETABLE: Monday to Friday from 13.00 to 14.00. Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 12.00 to 13.00. Special guides for groups by appointment only.
oil, chestnut, wine, fabrics...
Geography and landscape of Quiroga and Ribeira Sacra.
Price: 1€
Address: Auditorio Municipal, Calle Real s/n, Quiroga (Lugo).
Web: <http://museoetnograficodequiroga.blogspot.com>
Phone: 982 435 125



Ethnographic museum in Quiroga

GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF QUIROGA

TIMETABLE: Monday to Friday from 11.30 to 13.00. Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 11.00 to 12.00. Special guides for groups by appointment only.

Geography, diversity on the land and palaeontology of the Courel mountains.

Price: 1€

Address: Auditorio Municipal, Calle Real s/n, Quiroga (Lugo).

Web: <http://museogeologicodequiroga.blogspot.com>

Phone: 982 435 125



Geological Museum

ARXERIZ ECOMUSEUM

TIMETABLE: Winter timetable (01/11-15/03): Wednesday Sunday, 11:00 to 14:00.

Summer timetable (16/03-31/10): Wednesday Sunday, 11:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 20:00.

Different exhibition rooms about the ethnography of the Ribeira Sacra. In the surroundings, it is possible to visit the archaeological digs of a "castro".



Geological museum – ecomuseum in Arxeriz

Price: 3,5€ (normal), 2€ (reduced) children accompanied by adults free of charge

Address: Arxeriz, Fión, O Saviñao (Lugo).

Web: www.sotodefion.org

Email: info@sotodefion.org
ecomuseodearxeriz@gmail.com
 Phone: 982 031 040 / 692 941 667

FIGULUS

Timetable: All days (advance reservation)

Workshop, shop and guided tours on the ceramic Gundivós. Workshops are organized for different audiences. Possibility to visit the winery in the same enclosure.

Price: Consult

Address: Avda. Proendos, Corbelle 27460 Sober (Lugo)

Web: www.facebook.com/Oleria-Figulus

Phone: 982 460 546 / 616 706 356

RECTORAL DE GUNDIVÓS

TIMETABLE: summer (April to October) from 10.30 to 13.30 and 16.00 to 20.00; winter (November to March) from 10.30 to 13.30 and from 15.30 to 19.00.

The main features of this pottery are its tradition, faithfulness of the aesthetics and romanticism. Passed from generation to generation, its most emblematic piece of work is the "Xarro", apart from other great ones such as pots, stewpots or washing-up bowls.

Live wine shows

Price: ask for prices

Address: church of Guindivós, s/n, Sober (Lugo)

Web: www.rectoraldegundivos.com

Phone: 626 966 280



Pottery of Guindivós

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF CASTRO CALDELAS

TIMETABLE: every day from 10.00 to 14.00 and from 16.00 to 20.00 in summer, until 19.00 in winter.

Background: parts and elements of lo-

cal ethnography and exhibitions "Lingua Galega" and "Caldelaos Ilustres"
 Price: 2€. Children until 10 for free and pensioners and those with carnet joven 1.60€. Groups until 50 people 25€ and 50€ for more than 50.

Address: Plaza de la Torre s/n (inside the castle). Castro Caldelas (Ourense).

Phone: 988 203 358



Ethnographic museum of Castro Caldelas

CENTRO DE INTERPRETACIÓN DE SAN PEDRO DE ROCAS

TIMETABLE: October to March: from 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m and from 4:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m (Monday closed). April to September: from Monday to Sunday: from 10:30 a.m to 1:45 p.m and from 4:00 p.m to 7:45 p.m.

Route around the landscape, history and life in the monastery, as well as areas set aside for wine, trades and local traditions.

Price: free entrance

Address: Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas, Esgos (Ourense).

Phone: 988 290 000 / 661 508 243



S. Pedro de Rocas

MILL IN PONTE MAZAIRA

TIMETABLE: Please enquire

This is a mill near the village of Montederramo which was classed and documented in the 18th century. In 1897 it was extended and changed by the family of the present owners, who restored some woodworks in bad condition in 2012. You can visit it and see and learn how the mill works.

Price: Please enquire

Address: Montederramo

Phone: 619 052 758

CHOCOLAT MUSEUM OF TEIMENDE

TIMETABLE: Consult in www.parada-desil.es or telf. Concello 988 208 010.

Exhibition of tools , machines and various materials used in the old chocolate factory Caldelas.

Price: Free

Address: Teimende, Parada de Sil (Ourense)

Phone: 988 208 010

NIÑODAGUIA MUSEUM AND POTTERY WORKSHOP

TIMETABLE: : Enquire at the Xunqueira de Espadanedo tourist office (Phone no. 988 291 001)

Pottery in Niñodagua: features, history and collection.

Price: ask for prices

Address: C/ O Campo, Niñodagua, Xunqueira de Espadanedo (Ourense)

Web: www.xunqueiradeespadanedo.es

Phone: 988 291 190



Museum workshop of pottery in Niñodagua

OBSERVATIONS: timetables, prices and other information may be varied by the management companies.

Natural spaces

Travelling all over Ribeira Sacra, from Monforte until Nogueira de Ramuín, you will feel how nature is the prominent element in the land, which merges with the landscape. This explains why this land had been taken up by monks and hermits who looked for an unique place to meditate.

Monasteries and churches are strategically placed in points with an extraordinary environmental value, almost always on natural viewpoints, where it is possible to gaze uncommon landscapes. Some of the most remarkable ones are the woods with native trees, the more human farm lands and the canyons of the rivers Miño, Sil and Cabe, a combination of vertical faces covered with vegetation and vineyards and the water, where you can sail by catamaran.



Meander of A Cubela, Ribas de Sil



Viewpoint of A Capela, A Pobra do Brollón



Sil Canyon

L.I.C. Canyon of Sil and L.I.C. River Cabe

The L.I.C (a Site of Community Importance) “Cañón do Sil” covers 5,914 hectares. This protected site has the most spectacular landscapes of Ribeira Sacra: on the one hand, the canyon of Sil itself from Parada de Sil until Os Peares; on the other hand, the last stretch and the canyon of the river Cabe until it meets the Sil, which sets the border between the town councils of Sober and Pantón. Here are also two of the most valued buildings in our cultural heritage: the monastery of Santo Estevo and Saint Cristina de Ribas de Sil, both placed at strategic viewpoints to gaze the valley of the river Sil.

There is a contrast between horizontal and vertical plans due to the cramped rivers Sil and Cabe, as well as the uplifting of the ground.



River Cabe by traditional boat, Monforte de Lemos

This is the most remarkable feature in this area, with very vertical faces of up to 500 meters in some stretches. The river started to be cramped before the uplifting, which linked to the hard rock cau-



sed the formation of the canyons. This fact explains why the Sil wasn't attracted by the depression of Lemos, but it made its own valley out of the hard rocks instead. The very steep slopes were used to build important damming such as the one in San Pedro or Santo Estevo. We can admire this natural work by catamaran or smaller boats from the jetties of Doade, Abeleda, Chancís or Santo Estevo.



Views to the Sil Canyon

The amazing work the river made by carving the rocks could be admired from viewpoints as the Balcones de Madrid, a place of extraordinary beauty some hundreds of meters away from Parada de Sil. From here the roughest stretch of the valley can be gazed. The waterfall of the river Vao, very close to Santo Estevo, is another attractive place to visit, as well as the site where the river Mao meets the Sil, near the village of Cristosende. The singular topography of these landscapes makes also there is a singular weather. The bottom area

of the valleys is especially mild, with less humidity and rains than in the average in Galicia. This involves a Mediterranean weather. Nevertheless, there is a clear contrast between the slopes regarding their direction. Those facing to the north are colder and darker, and Atlantic leafy woods with oak trees (*quercus robur*) or chestnut trees (*castanea sativa*) are found here. In the steepest slopes there are more bushes such as the broom (*genista falcata*) or the heather (*erica arbórea*).

On the other hand, the slopes facing to the south get more hours of sunshine during the year. Besides, men have been making terraces like stands which cover the slopes from the top to the river. Vine is cultivated in these terraces in order to make the famous wine of Ribeira Sacra with guarantee of origin and quality. Apart from the vine, the terraces have been traditionally used to cultivate a wide range of pulses, vegetables and fruit which grow because of the good weather conditions. The terraces from Ribeira Sacra are a good combination between men and natural landscape, which make us feel the harmony and exceptionality of the place. These good conditions are favourable for some typical Mediterranean species such as olive trees, cypresses

and tree strawberries.

Regarding the wildlife, we can find trout, escalo and picón in the river Sil. Raptors such as eagles and kites, and mammals like the genet and the wild cat are also typical from the area.

L.I.C. Monte Faro.

Also known as "Faro de Chantada", this 1,187 meter-lighthouse high is an excellent natural viewpoint to see all Ribeira Sacra in Lugo and a great part from Ourense.

Monte Faro, where there is a chapel to celebrate the famous procession of Faro in September as well as a recreational area, is a huge granite block fractured and lifted due to the orogenic movements already mentioned. Serra do Faro, which takes up central Galicia, belongs to Dorsal Galega, with rounded tops and a few slopes which slide down to the valley of Miño.

On the slopes of the Monte Faro you can see a harmonic landscape of meadows, groves, oak woods and small villages where the cultural heritage is still preserved in good condition and merges with the nature.

Serra de San Mamede and L.I.C. Bidueiral de Montederramo.

The town council of Montederramo is between Ribeira Sacra and the massif Macizo de Queixa-Manzaneda. The San Mamede moun-



Monte Faro, Chantada

tains lie to the north, advance of the mountains of the Macizo Central Ourensán (L.I.C.). Quite near the place are Serra de Queixa and Montes do Invernadoiro (Nature Park), as well as the only ski resort in Galicia, Cabeza de Manzaneda. In San Mamede Mountains there are important woods of typical species such as oak trees, birches and holly trees, which make up an ideal environment to do leisure activities.

It is here where a huge wood of birches can be admired. Due to its landscape and natural interest it was declared Site of Community Importance. This is known as “Bidueiral de Montederramo” and is made up of species of birches (*betulla alba*) which achieve their greatest splendor in autumn, when the yellow and red leaves show their spectacular shows.

In the vicinity, the banks of the river Mao, which flows into the Sil, are damp and fertile, with large fields. The trout is here the predominant fish.



Bidueiral de Montederramo



Cabo do mundo, Canyon of the Miño

CONNECTION WITH OTHER NATURAL SPACES WITH TOURISTIC OR LANDSCAPE INTEREST

Canyon of the river Miño

The Miño Canyon, despite not belonging to the Area of Community Importance it appeals to the visitor thanks to a greater presence of men and a better use of the slopes. Up to Belesar and until it meets the Sil in Os Peares, the Miño flows cramped, due to the same tectonic movements in the rivers Sil and Cabe, through the plain or surface especially in Chantada. By taking the catamaran at Os Peares or Belesar, or at the fast corridor from Monforte to Chantada, you can see the beautiful slope full with terraces, where each field has a small

stone cottage used as winery. On the other slope thick woods with species such as oak and chestnut trees are there.

It is particularly beautiful to visit this area in autumn, when the leaves of the vineyards and woods show spectacular colours. It is worth mentioning a steep meander which describes the river Miño near this town known as “Cabo do Mundo.”

Like the Sil, the river Miño can be gazed at several viewpoints on the tops of the slopes.

A Pobra do Brollón, towards the mountain

The town council of Pobra do Brollón is one of the accesses to the Courel Mountains (L.I.C. Ancares-Courel), a famous mountain range in the east of Galicia which demarcates our Community and Castilla



River Miño from A Cova

y León. As we are approaching to the east we can see how the topography changes. The flora, fauna and architecture are adapted to a rougher landscape and a severer climate. The Courel is a land of groves, smithies, forts, stone crosses, mines, paths, mills, fountains and chapels, with a great presence in A Pobra do Brollón. The morphology of this land towards the mountain is also interesting. The Pliegue de Campodola, in the town council of Quiroga, is a reference place for geologists (it is classified as Point of Geological Interest) which should be visited. This is a huge tectonic fold in quartzite and slates which can be clearly seen from the viewpoint at the kilometer 9 in the road Quiroga-Folgoso.



Mao route, Parada de Sil



Os Peares

Mouth of the river Mao.

It can be approached by a spectacular path in Parada de Sil which goes by the river Mao near its mouth to the Sil.

The environment the route goes through and the wooden footbridges make it is one of the most demanded natural routes in Ribeira Sacra nowadays. It has low difficulty because stairs have been put in the most precipitous areas in order to make the ascent easier. It is about 3 km long and takes approximately an hour to enjoy the remotest places.

Waterfall of Augacaída.

This is another secret hidden in Ribeira Sacra. Located in Marce (town council of Pantón), this is the most interesting waterfall in the valley of Lemos. The differen-



Waterfall Augacaída, Pantón

ce in floor level is about 40 meters and it can be reached only by vessel from the river Miño (you can hire a canoe, zodiac or small catamaran for the transfer) or through a medium-high-level path which goes through a typical wood that is well conserved.

Confluence of the rivers Sil and Miño.

Os Peares: Here, in the junction of four city councils and two provinces, the Sil flows into the Miño. The railway line Ourense-Monforte goes past Os Peares and allow us to enjoy the beauty of the nature in Ribeira Sacra.

Groves.

Woods full of chestnut trees. There are lots of groves all over Ribeira Sacra with thousand-year-



Thousand-year-old chestnut tree, Sober

old chestnut trees which make up enchanted spaces to immerse ourselves in the purest nature.



River beach in A Cova, O Saviñao

Recreational area and river beach in San Clodio (Ribas de Sil)



Recreational area in San Clodio, Ribas de Sil.

RECOGNIZED PATHS

Camino Real de San Pedro de Rocas (PRG4)

Loio Route (PRG14)

Viñedos Ribeira Sacra Paths (PRG86)

Cañón del Sil-Santa Cristina Path (PRG98)

Ouro and Camiño Real Route (PRG141)

Augasmestas-Doade (PRG157)

Ribeira Sacra del Miño Route (PRG162)



Camiño Real, Esgos



(See other proposals in the Guide of hiking Ribeira Sacra)

Río Lor



River Lor. A Pobra do Brollón

HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING ROUTE GUIDE



Ribeira Sacra Website

Ribeira  Sacra



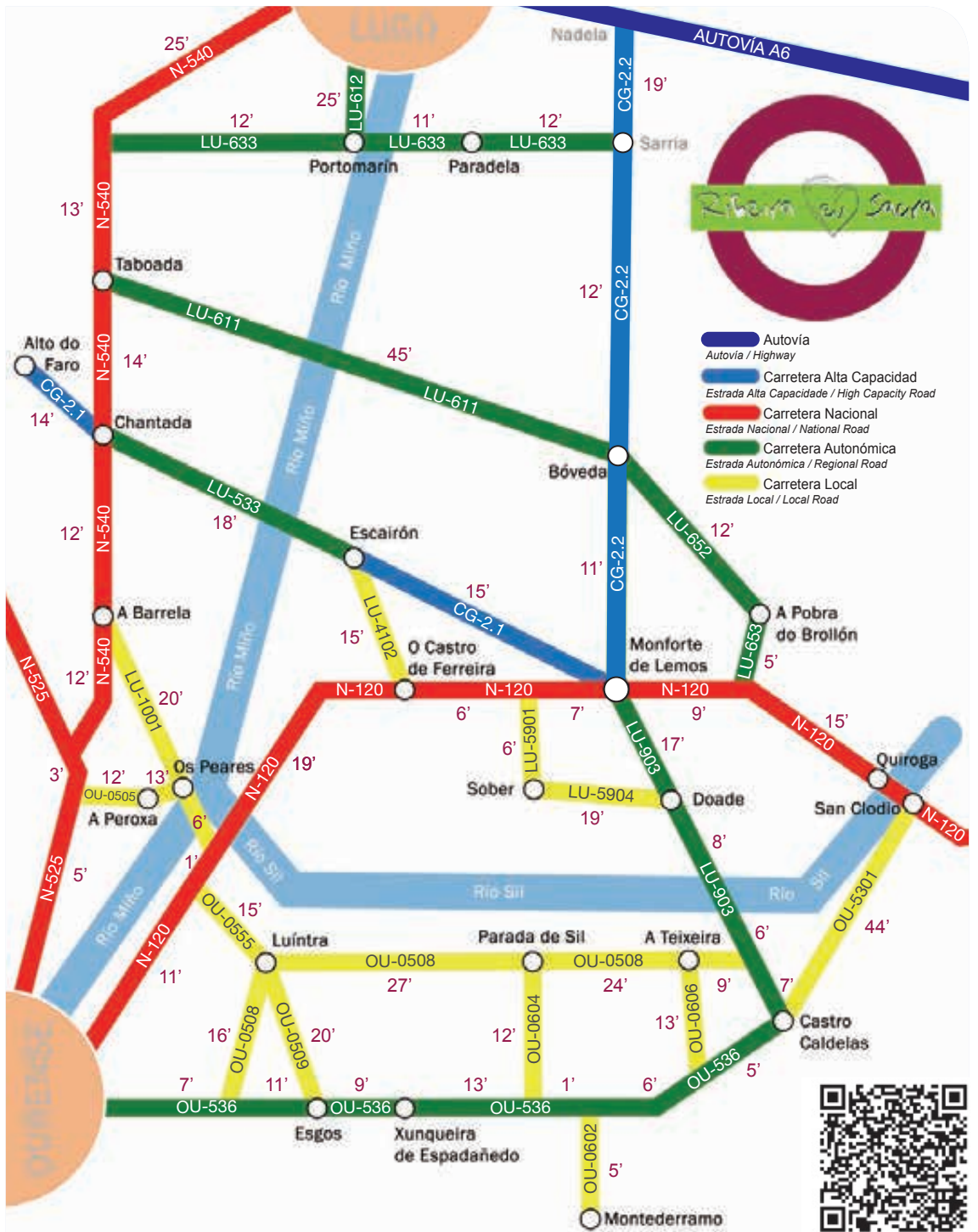
Travelling
by road in RS



Map of RS

vive las
rutas

rame



- █ Autovía
Autovía / Highway
- █ Carretera Alta Capacidad
Estrada Alta Capacidad / High Capacity Road
- █ Carretera Nacional
Estrada Nacional / National Road
- █ Carretera Autonómica
Estrada Autonómica / Regional Road
- █ Carretera Local
Estrada Local / Local Road



The landscapes and the historic heritage are the strong points which Ribeira Sacra offers to the traveler. Several thematic routes which will help you to explore this land are stated below. You can either do them calmly, stopping off every pointed place, or choose the most interesting place among the ones here suggested.

ROMANESQUE ROUTE

LENGTH: 73 km

METHOD: by car

ESTIMATED TIME: 3 days

You will start the route in Ourense and you will take the N-540 road (Ourense-Lugo) until Chantada, where you can see the old part of town with its popular arcades. Then, you will take the fast corridor Monforte-Lalín (CRG-2.1) and after the new bridge over the Miño there is a sign on the right which points out the church of Santo Estevo de Rivas de Miño, a marvellous example of the typical Romanesque in Ribeira Sacra.

The church, which is well suited to the rocky slope, dominates the valley of the Miño and from here you can see the damming of Belesar. Besides admiring the monument, you will enjoy some extraordinary outlooks over the east of the Miño full of terraces.

If you go back you will reach again the crossing with CRG-2.1, where two options are available. Firstly, you can visit -from the damming of Belesar- the churches of Santa María de Pesqueiras and San Vitorio de Ribas de Miño, as well as the famous church of San Nicolao de Portomarín, which was taken apart stone by stone and built again later due to the building of the damming in Belesar. Secondly, if you have less time follow the sign which will lead you to San Paio de Diamondi, a church from the 12th century

Routes

which can be visited on Sundays at 12 during the mass.

Going on O Saviñao and moving forward to the south along the Miño, you will reach a crossing where you must turn right in order to reach the church of San Martiño da Cova. This jewel of Romanesque architecture is in a place known as “Cabo do Mundo”, an amazing meander which the Miño describes to the south of the town councils of Chantada and O Saviñao.

Advancing to the south, in the town council of Pantón, you will go to the area where most of the Romanesque architecture of Ribeira Sacra is. The first stop will be San Miguel de Eire, a small but slender church. From here, you must visit three treasures of the Romanes-



Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño

que: Santo Estevo de Atán, San Vicente de Pombeiro and San Fiz de Cangas. For going to the first one you must reach Os Peares and take there a road to the left, to go back again to Atán. From Atán take the N-120 road (Ourense-Monforte), getting off before reaching Ferreira de Pantón to visit San Fiz de Cangas.

From this point you will go towards Monforte to reach Castro de Ferreira (Pantón), where you will visit the Monastery of the Bernardas de Ferreira, which was controlled by the Saint Benedict Order in the 10th century. Today only the church of the former feminine monastery is kept in a simple building.

After these visits, at the N-120 road you will go off towards the rail station in Canaval. You will here admire the beauty of the church San Pedro de Canaval, and take a local road which starts at Sober to see the churches of Santa María de Proendos and Santa María de Bolmente. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the viewpoint of Cividade.

By going on the same road you will find the churches of San Vicente de Pinol and San Xillao de Lobios. Finally, you will go back to the N-120 road towards Ourense.

MONASTERIES ROUTE

LENGTH: 78 km

METHOD: by car

ESTIMATED TIME: 2 days

The route can be started at Monforte or Ourense. From Monforte, take the N-120 road going off at Ferreira de Pantón to visit the Monastery of San Salvador de Ferreira. From here you can take again the N-120 road towards Ourense and get off at Os Peares or later on at Penalba. Both ways will lead you to Luintra to see the Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil.

From Ourense, take the N-120 road

and at Os Peares take the road of services of the hydroelectric dams by the river Sil. This road, built by the hydroelectric companies, is private but the free traffic of private cars is permitted. After a route at the same level as the river flows, the road starts to go up towards Luintra. Here go on towards Parada de Sil to visit the Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil. It belongs nowadays to the chain of Paradores de Turismo (state-owned hotels used for tourism), but the three cloisters, the church and an information centre downstairs can be visited.

Go back and take the road Luintra-Parada de Sil. At the entrance of this centre of population you must turn left towards the Monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil, which is accessible by a paving track. Go back again to Parada de Sil (where you can visit the extraordinary viewpoint of Balcones de Madrid) and take the road which leads us to Vilariño Frío, going past Hedrada, at the crossing with the old road from Ourense to Ponferrada.

The next objective will be the Monastery of Santa María de Montederramo, which was partly turned into a school. To reach Montederramo, do some kilometers towards Trives and then take a local road at the right, which will lead you to Montederramo and San Mamede Mountains.

If you go back and follow the old



Sto. Estevo de Ribas de Sil

secondary road towards Ourense, you will stop by Vilariño Frío and Alto do Rodicio to admire the views over the valley of Maceda. Going down the place, turn right to reach Xunqueira de Espadanedo and visit the monastery.

San Pedro de Rocas, in the town council of Esgos, will be the next place of interest. It will captivate the traveler with its combination between rural areas and historic heritage. This monastery has witnessed how the first monks settled on this land with graves dug out of

rocks. Go back to the secondary road, go past the town council of Esgos and turn right to reach the monastery.

DAMMINGS ROUTE

By catamaran:

Canyons of the Sil

From Santo Estevo (Nogueira de Ramuín, Ourense)

From Abeleda (A Teixeira, Ourense)

From Doade (Sober, Lugo)

From Os Chancís (Sober, Lugo)

Canyons of the Miño

From Belesar (Chantada, Lugo)



Monastery of Santo Estevo



Catamarán

From Os Peares (A Peroxa, Ourense)

By car:

LENGTH: 292 km

ESTIMATED TIME: 2.5 days

You can also go through the dammings by car, following the roads where excellent views of the valleys of the Miño and Sil can be seen.

There is an extraordinary route which starts and finishes in Monforte de Lemos. To do so, take the fast corridor CGR-2.1 Monforte-Lalín at Monforte de Lemos. After crossing the river Miño and leaving the damming of Belesar on your right, take the road to the village of Belesar, where the main features are the terraces full with vineyards. It is particularly in autumn when the colourful leaves reflected on the water captive the tourist.

In order to continue exploring the valley of the Miño, go up towards Chantada through a steep road with lots of bends. After Líncora, turn left to take a road which goes by the right bank of the Miño until Os Peares, through Chantada and Carballedo. Most of the route shows wonderful views of the valley of Miño, especially around the meander which the river describes between Chantada and O Saviñao, known as "Cabo do Mundo."

In Os Peares, where the rivers Miño, Sil and Bubal meet, you can go on discovering the canyons of

the inland of Galicia by the river Sil. To do so, take the road of services of the hydroelectric dams above mentioned. Few kilometers away, you will reach the confluence of the river Cabe and you will see the first installations of the transformers of the damming in Santo Estevo. On this road you will soon reach the mouth of the damming and then, you will go up until the road from Nogueira de Ramuín to A Teixeira. All through this road you will have marvellous views of the Sil. You can visit monasteries such as Santo Estevo and Santa Cristina, as well as viewpoints as Balcones de Madrid. On the other hand, parishes as Sacardebois or Cristosende keep a traditional farmhouse, which makes the view even more spectacular. The cramped valley of the river Mao and the terraces of the vineyards round off a nice landscape which will lead the traveler to A Teixeira, the small capital of the town council where the views of the valley of the Sil are amazing.

It is possible from here to visit Castro Caldelas and enjoy the most natural viewpoint of the area. The village and the castle dominate one of the slopes to the Sil. Whether



Catamarán

you go to Castro Caldelas or not, you must take the secondary road towards Monforte de Lemos, crossing the Sil at Abeleda. In the slope of Lugo, facing the south, there are the largest stretches of vineyards of the Denominación de Origen Ribeira Sacra, besides several wineries which can be visited. After this appealing route, you will reach Monforte.

ROUTE "TO SEE CLOSELY AND FAR". VIEWPOINTS

LENGTH: 300 km

ESTIMATED TIME: 3 days

METHOD: by car

This is an offer to choose the best viewpoint in each town council of Ribeira Sacra. It is only a selection of some of them, but there are other ones in the nearby which are also worth being visited. The best way to reach them is by checking the location and GPS coordinates which are in the web www.ribeira-sacra.org/turismo.



Viewpoint of A Capela, A Pobra do Brollón

COMBINED ROUTES

Ribera del Miño Route
 Ribeira del Sil occidental Route
 Ribeira del Sil oriental Route
 Below you will find some indications about three combined routes which belong to different areas of Ribeira Sacra, where the above mentioned elements can be found.

RIBERA DEL MIÑO ROUTE (EXIT MONFORTE)

LENGTH: 82.3 km
 ESTIMATED TIME: 1.5 days
 METHOD: by car o bus

Starting at Monforte, take the N-120 road until Ferreira de Pantón, where you will visit the monastery of Bernardas after seeing the church of San Miguel de Eiré, only three kilometres away. If you go on towards Escairón (O Saviñao), go off to visit the church San Martiño da Cova in a beautiful landscape. From here, go on towards Escairón until taking the fast corridor towards Chantada. As you are getting closer to the Miño, go off carefully towards Belesar. Here you can take the catamaran and then visit Chantada.

After a walk around the old part of Chantada, you will go back to Monforte through the same fast corridor but stopping at some Romanesque churches such as Santo Estevo de Ribas de Miño and San Paio de Diomondi, where you can enjoy the beautiful views in one of the first thick woods in Diomondi. These are only some of the nume-

rous churches and monasteries in the town councils of south Lugo. To visit them you should turn off the main road and go back then to Monforte.

RIBEIRA DEL SIL OCCIDENTAL ROUTE (EXIT OURENSE)

LENGTH: 61.2 km
 ESTIMATED TIME: 1 day
 METHOD: by car

Move forward through the N-120 road from Ourense to Os Peares. Once here, take the road of services of the hydroelectric dams which will lead us to the jetty of Santo Estevo. You may here sail by catamaran about 3 hours (return trip) along the most amazing stretches of Ribeira Sacra and gaze the slopes and the thick woods of the

road) which will lead you again to the starting point.

RIBEIRA DEL SIL ORIENTAL ROUTE (EXIT CASTRO CALDELAS)

LENGTH: 122km
 ESTIMATED TIME: 1.5 days
 METHOD: by car

You will start at Castro Caldelas towards Monforte de Lemos, but turn left to A Teixeira. In A Teixeira (490 m) you will have a breathtaking outlook of the valley of the Sil. The route will take place at half-slope, to the west. You will see the beauty of the traditional farmhouse of Cristosende and the natural waterfall of the river Mao,



area.

Back to the jetty, you will go up through the zigzag road towards Luintra. Before reaching this village, capital of the town council Nogueira de Ramuín, turn off some meters to see the Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil (today used as Parador). Go back to the main road to take another one which will lead you to San Pedro de Rocas, an original monastery in the town council Esgos. After this visit, go ahead for some kilometers until reach the old road Ourense-Ponferrada (today a secondary

which comes from the Montederramo Mountains and drains into the Sil. Through Sacardebois and Chandrexa you will reach Parada de Sil, capital of the town council. From there, you will do two short routes. The first one, to the known as "Balcons de Madrid." The second one, to the monastery of Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil. To visit it, you must go down through a lonely road in a thick wood. Back to the main road and Parada take the road towards Vilariño Frío. From there you can visit the Monastery of Xunqueira de Espada-

nedo. Going back towards Castro Caldelas, you will turn right towards Montederramo to visit the monastery of Santa María and the San Mamede Mountains, with its famous birch wood. Through the old road Ourense-Ponferrada you will be back at the start point, Castro Caldelas.

OURO E ACEITE ROUTE

LENGTH: 30 km

ESTIMATED TIME: 45 min

RECOMMENDED METHOD: by car
You will start at Quiroga through the N-120 road between A Rúa and Monforte. Turn to Montefurado (first, the tunnel, and then, the village, where the Médulas are) to visit the old goldmines from the Romans at both sides of the river



Sil. Move forward to Bendilló in order to visit the traditional mill used to make oil. Go on to Sequeiros, Bendollo, Quiroga, Alto de Aldriz. Médulas de Bargaride and Roman bridge of Barxa de Lor. You will arrive to Ribas de Sil (Figueiredo, Peites and Piñeira). The mine of Covallón worths being visited.

MIEL ROUTE

LENGTH: 5.5 km aprox.

ESTIMATED TIME: 2 hours

RECOMMENDED METHOD: hiking.
Also possible by car.

The route lies by the rivers Qui-

roga and Pacios, through a natural landscape with interesting species in the mountains of Lugo. You can visit an albariza – a typical building to protect the beehives from the bears – with a high cultural and ethnologic value. Besides, several centres of honey production can be visited, and in the town capital, Quiroga, the rooms of the Ethnographic Museum show traditional tools to look after the bees and to get their product.

OBSERVATIONS: the road of services of the hydroelectric dams mentioned in several routes may be not accessible at all times due to works on them or on the dams. Check alternative routes on the road map of Ribeira Sacra.

VIÑOBÚS

(Several alternatives)

For wine lovers or for those who want to enjoy the landscape which vine-growing of Ribeira Sacra offers, there is the known as Viñobús. This is a special bus for an about 4-hour route which leads you to wineries of some of the 5 production subareas recognized by the Consejo Regulador. Apart from knowing the systems and production areas, as well as the main features of these valued wines, you can also taste different wines taking some advice from wine experts.



Viñobús

The routes are by bus or minivan and led by a guide. They are usually available in Easter, summer (July-September) and wine harvest period (end September-beginning October).

For further information visit www.ribeirasacra.org/turismo.

TOURIST TRAIN

Another interesting alternative to visit the vineyards and wineries is to take the tourist train which departs from Doade (Sober). <http://www.abasacra.com/>



Touristic train

SAINT JAMES WAY

French Way (through Paradela and Portomarin)

Winter Way: also known as “South Way”, is an alternative to the French Way which pilgrims used to take in order to avoid the snowfalls in O Cebreiro. It crosses Ribeira Sacra from the east to the west.



Pilgrims in Portomarin.

Further information about routes on foot in the Guide of hiking Ribeira Sacra.



LAS RUTAS POR Ribeira Sacra

Camino de Invierno

In a little over 200 km, the Winter Way crosses all four of Galicia's provinces and its historic districts, which are full of personality and attractions, like Valdeorras, **Ribeira Sacra** and Deza. The Winter Way is the natural entry point into Galicia from the Meseta and was used by the Romans. It is thought that it began an alternative route in the winter months to the tough climb to the snowy heights of O Cebreiro, where the French Way enters Galicia, and to avoid the frequent floods from the rivers in the Valcarce valley.

Further information:

www.caminodesantiago.gal

www.caminodeinvierno.com



French Way

This is the Way par excellence. The St. James Way with the most tradition and the most famous internationally. It was described already in 1135 in the Codex Calixtinus, the essential book for pilgrims. Book V of this codex is a true mediaeval guidebook on pilgrimages to Santiago. It describes the stages of the French Way from France and gives detailed information on the sanctuaries along the route, the hospitality, people, food, springs, local customs, etc. It is all summarised and written with the clarity needed of a practical answer to a specific question: making a pilgrimage to Santiago.

The French Way crosses **Ribeira Sacra** in the north, between Paradela and Portomarin.

Further information:

www.caminodesantiago.gal

Traditional craftwork an crafts

The popular jobs which still remain in the region have adapted to new functions, which have more to do with the quality and beauty of the products than the usefulness in our daily lives. A good example of this is the wicker baskets, the pottery or the brass products. In its time, many of them were used in the wine harvest, to store wine and to make wine spirits, but today they are appreciated for their beauty, as decorative elements. Changes in society and their lifestyles lead these objects to disappear in the last decades, but they are



Traditional craftwork in Niñodagua



Traditional craftwork in Gundivós

being made up and valued again nowadays.

A tradition, almost forgotten today, about the use of brass and copper in wine and grape products had been established, especially in some town councils such as Monforte de Lemos, sober and Portomarín. Of this metals stills were made, Arabic objects to distill since the Middle Ages wine spirits from the bagasse, that is, the remaining solid waste of the grapes



Traditional craftwork in Niñodagua

after being trodden to make wine. Brass workers used tinplates that they bought in shops or markets or even took out from old objects. They used a burin, ruler or compass to draw the profiles on them and then they cut the pieces of brass which will be weld. Owing to the changes in the regulation of public health (Decree by the Xunta de Galicia in 1989) and the development of the sector, the famous figure of the *aguardenteiro* (the peddler who carried the wine spirits) was not a common one in Ribeira Sacra and in the rest of Galicia any more.

Some traditions are kept in Chantada, as the work of the *tecedeiras* (weavers) or the *zoqueiros* (people who make clogs), as well as the *cesteiros* (basketweavers), who made the jugs of Vergaza making good use of the osiers, which were also used in the vineyards.



Weaver

The figure of the *cesteiro* has been recently recovered in A Teixeira curiously by foreign people from Central Europe but settled in this small town council in the last years.

In Quiroga, virgin olive oil is made nowadays from olives in the area. The craft production of this oil stands out because of its exceptional character. This is an unique example in Galicia, since it combines an old tradition of olives and mills in the east of Ribeira Sacra with Mediterranean climate and vegetation.

But, without doubt, the *olería* (pottery) is the most significant traditional trade thanks to, firstly,



Basketweaver



Pottery in Gundivós

the quality of the products and, secondly, the change in their functions. They have been perfectly adapted to the new life and this has created an example of quality out of the region. These are the centers of Gundivós (in Sober) and Niñodagua (Xunqueira de Espadanedo).

In the town council of Sober, the pottery of Guindivós is made, with its particular black jugs. These are varnished with a waterproof product leaving them shiny in-

side and dark outside due to the smoke when they are firing. The clay taken in the same area is hand-worked with a potter's wheel, placing a stripe on the top of the other one. These containers were used in wineries to keep the wine, since it was said that they improved its taste. With time, the containers had been losing their function and they were replaced by the new industrial objects, most of them of plastic. This tendency made most of the workshops which supplied popular markets in Monforte, Castro Caldelas, Chantada or Lugo with their pottery were left. The



Zoqueiro



Pottery in Gundivós

trade has been lately recovered due to popular initiatives as pottery courses, new artisans and the creation of a design and promotion center of the traditional pottery in Sober. Nowadays the variety and originality of the pieces are huge, but they usually make them from the old shapes.

In Ourense, there is the pottery of Niñodagua, in the town council of Xunqueira de Espadanedo. Though the workshops have disappeared, there are still some traditional kilns, which make beautiful ocher-coloured containers, quite creative in order to adapt the products to the demand and compete with the industrial pottery sector. The artisans choose white local clay which is later covered with a yellow or orange varnish. To make the pieces, artisans use a fast potter's wheel with two parts and an innovative process for glazed pottery. These pieces range from decorati-



Knife grinder

ve figures such as hórreos (typical Galician buildings to keep vegetables) or stone crosses to objects from domestic use like jugs, jars, pots, chocolatepots or ataños, containers to make the famous Galician "queimada" (from wine spirits). The association "Amigos del Barro de Niñodagua" manages today a great project to promote the museum-workshop completely devoted to this resource.

Not as outstanding as the pottery, but still important, is the knife grinder, typical from Galician areas as Esgos and Nogueira de Ramuín, who were the responsible for sharpening knives and fixed umbrellas as well as other things people brought them when they heard unmistakable sound.



Ferry

According to Galician ethnographers, the rivers were always governed by boatmen and women for whom the riverside carpenters in Galicia alone created over a dozen traditional boats, many of them in chestnut wood; from the "batuxo" of Terra Chá, in Lugo, which keeps this name right to Portomarín, and from there to the heart of the harvests in the lands of Ribeira Sacra, in Pantón, Chantada, Carballo, Taboada...., with the barca de pousa, which had a framework in the centre to hold the baskets filled with grapes, and the "barca de paso", which, using the same construction method, ferried thousands of local inhabitants across rivers before the construction of dams and bridges. Their existence and their contribution to the economy are recorded in the Marqués de la Ensenada's 18th century inventory.

We should also mention the unusual "barco de dornas", two hollowed-out tree trunks linked together with planks like a catamaran. There are photographic references to them in the Os Peares area and some excellent examples can be found in the Arxeriz Ecomuseum.





Wine festival

The festivities celebrated in Ribeira Sacra are linked to the calendar of the nature. The crops, especially the wine harvest, determine when the main festivities in the area can be celebrated. So, FEIRA DO VIÑO DE AMANDI, which takes place the weekend of Palm Sunday, FEIRA DO VIÑO DE QUIROGA, on Easter Sunday, FEIRA DO VIÑO DE CHANTADA, in March, and FESTA DO VIÑO NOVO DE A TEIXEIRA in November, are the main festivals about wine in these lands.

Wine culture is also exalted in FEIRA DO VIÑO DE VILACHÁ, which takes place in A Pobra do Brollón at the first weekend in May. The small village of Vilachá has been deeply renovated, which will allow you to visit several wineries all along paving streets. Wines of Denominación de Origen Ribeira Sacra play a prime role in the economy of the area, where both manufacturers as well as shops and tourism are involved.

Other local products are exalted, like cherries and oil in the FIESTA DE LA CEREZA Y EL ACEITE, which takes place in Ribas de Sil the second weekend in June, FIESTA DEL VINO Y LA CEREZA DE BELESAR (in May), and wine spirits in FIESTA DEL AGUARDIENTE DE PORTOMARÍN (on Easter Sun-



Galician women

Festivals

day). Quiroga holds every year two festivals about oil and honey, MUESTRA DEL ACEITE between February and March and MUESTRA DE LA MIEL on 10 August.

There are high-quality meat in Ribeira Sacra and, therefore, it is exalted in festivities as FESTA DA CARNE Ó CALDEIRO (Galician style boiled meat) in Carballedo, the third Sunday in April, FESTA DO CALDO DE OSOS, which takes place in Taboada on Carnival Sunday, and FESTA DE LA CARNE in Montederramo on 12 October.

Other important gastronomic meetings are the FIESTAS DE EMPANADA DE CHANTADA in August, when the last day of the patron saint's day is celebrated; FIESTA DE LA ANGULA DE PORTOMARÍN (6 September), and FERIA DE LA ROSCA DE SOBER (12 August). Chestnuts are also present in the calendar of festivities of Parada de Sil in November with the FIESTA DE LA PISA.

Some festivities of Ribeira Sacra are related to religious celebrations. Lots of processions get hundreds of visitors together in their respective churches. Examples of these are: Romería del Monte Faro (Chantada), Romería de San Benito (Parada de Sil) and Romería de Cadeiras (Sober). The calendar also offers the opportunity of ta-



Pipers

king part in pagan traditions like Carnival time. In February it is celebrated the carnival in SALCEDO, A Pobra do Brollón – characteristic characters are O Oso, As Madamas and Os Danzantes – and the ENTROIDO RIBEIRAO DE CHANTADA.

Among the festivities in Ribeira Sacra there are also cultural and traditional elements of each village. The most outstanding ones are: Feast of OS REMEDIOS (September) with the output of the Irrio Peliqueiro, character with own jurisdictions that wears a frac and carries a kind of whip with which sticks to the public, and OS FACHÓS DE CASTRO CALDELAS, which is celebrated at dusk on 19 January when local people and visitors make a huge straw torch and its fire lights the night. A similar show takes place in Castro de Castelo (Taboada) on 7 September in the FESTA DAS FACHAS.

On the fourth weekend in August, Chantada celebrates the FOLIÓN DE CARROS, a festivity with high ethnographic value from the Middle Ages which represents several local trades, as well as the main agricultural works traditionally developed in the area. It was declared a Touristic Festivity of Interest in Galicia.



Carnival in Chantada



Fachós, Castro Caldelas

Gastronomy



Chestnut



Carne ao Caldeiro



Oil from Quiroga

Besides the landscape and the undoubtedly appealing in history and art, one of the strong points of Ribeira Sacra – though it may be extended to the whole Galicia – is the wide range of local products of the highest quality, many of them even have a seal of quality guarantee, which you can taste in restaurants and rural cottages.

The specialty of Ribeira Sacra is a high-quality meat. It is worth men-



Views to a vineyard in Chantada

tioning the historic role of the pork slaughter which supplied families with many products all the year long. Androllas and botelos, chorizos, ham, salchichón and morcillas are some of the local products you can buy and taste in this region. Apart from the pork there are other excellent types of meat as beef, lamb, small game and big game (in season). Any of this goes with a variety of mushrooms which can be picked in autumn and all together make a real treat.

Among the desserts it is necessary to mention the Bica mantecada of Castro Caldelas, a typical and highly valued dessert in all Gali-



Bica

cia of this town council near to the mountains of Manzaneda and Queixa. Other quality products as cherries, chestnuts and honey are excellent options to end up a great meal.

It must be said that wine has been grown for more than 2.000 years (it was introduced by Romans) and it became a key element when all monasteries in Ribeira Sacra were colonized. Monks grew and improved it and also started to shape the landscape into an extraordinary one full of terraces and spread it to the cities.



Cherries



Jrujos



Honey



Wine harvest

Nowadays, wine production is the main economic driving force for Ribeira Sacra, as well as a strong sign of identity. The creation of the Denominación de Origen Ribeira Sacra in 19976 and of the Consejo Regulador, in order to control the production, stimulated not only the quantity but also the quality of the wine.

With 1.550 hectares given over to vineyards and 5.2% of the Galician land to its production, Ribeira Sacra is divided into 5 subareas for



Wine

crops: Chantada, Ribeira do Miño, Amandi, Ribeira do Sil and Quiroga-Bibei. To make this wine different varieties of grapes are used: godello, albariño and treixadura for white wines and mencia, breccellao and merenzao for red wines. These are mainly wines in season, although aging red wines are also

produced. The best of them are in Ribeira Sacra. These wines must be served at room temperature and go with all kinds of meat, especially big game.

Wineries have greatly developed lately. In 1992 there were 30 wineries, 89 in 2002 and 99 between 2002 and 2005. Today there are over a hundred and they have reached in the last harvests between 4 and 5 million kilos of grapes, 75% mencia.

For those who love wine, visiting the wineries, tasting their wines and buying in situ the wine of Ribeira Sacra are the most appealing



Socalcos



Octopus

features of the region. The number of wineries that can be visited is higher every year, either by yourself or within a tourist programme which combines exhibitions, tastings, restaurants and points of sale. The Center of Wine in Mon-

forte de Lemos stands out. This space was created to show the visitor Ribeira Sacra as a set of numerous elements: land, water, sun and, particularly, the wines you will taste at the end of the visit.

Not only the wineries have increased, but also the additional offer



Basket with chestnuts

which makes the area more accessible to tourists. You can take the Viñobús or the touristic train Aba Sacra to visit the vineyards, terraces and barrel rooms where it is possible to taste the wines with the help of experts.



Interesting addresses

TOWN COUNCILS AND TOURIST OFFICES

PROVINCE OF LUGO

•Town council of Bóveda

Avda. Alfonso XII, 85 – 27430 Bóveda
Tlf.: (+34) 982 426 006
www.concellodeboveda.com
cultura@concellodeboveda.com
cultura@boveda.gob.es

•Town council of Chantada

Praza de España 1- 27500 Chantada
Tlf.: (+34) 982 440 011
Tourist office: Plaza do Mercado s/n
Tlf.: (+34) 982 441 752
www.concellodechantada.org
turismochantada@yahoo.es

•Town council of Carballedo

c/ Víctor Portomeñe s/n
27520 A Barrela
Tlf.: (+34) 982 466 201
www.concellosdemonforte.com
Tourist office: Avda dos Peares, s/n
27520, Carballedo (Lugo)
Tlf.: (+34) 982 466 025
turismocarballedo@gmail.com

•Town council of Monforte de Lemos-

Campo de San Antonio s/n – 27400
Monforte de Lemos.
Tlf.: (+34) 982 402 501
Tourist office: Comercio 6
Tlf.: (+34) 982 404 715
www.concellodemonforte.com
turismo@concellodemonforte.com

•Town council of Pantón

Praza do concello s/n – 27430 O Castro
de Ferreira.
Tlf.: (+34) 982 456 005
Tourist office: Praza do Concello, s/n/
Edificio Sociocultural
Tlf.: (+34) 982 456 377/ 982 456 279
www.concellodepanton.es
turismopanton@hotmail.com

•Town council of Paradela

c/Cabaleiros de Santiago 15
Tlf.: (+34) 982 541 101 / 982 541 196
www.paradela.es
concello.paradela@eidolocal.es



PIM. Multimedia information screen in all Town Council

•Town council of A Pobra do Brollón

Avda de Galicia 50 – 27330
Tlf.: (+34) 982 430 001 / 982 430 546
www.pobradobrollon.com
secretaria@pobradobrollon.es

•Town council of Portomarín

Praza Conde de Fenosa 1 – 27170
Portomarín
Tlf.: (+34) 982 545 070
www.concellodeportomarín.es
infoportomarín@concelloportomarín.es

•Town council of Quiroga

Rúa Real 52 27320 Quiroga
Tlf.: (+34) 982 428 001
Oficina de Turismo: Rúa Real s/n
Tlf.: (+34) 982 435 125
http://concellodequiroga.com/
concello.quiroga@eidolocal.es

•Town council of Ribas de Sil

Praza Mayor s/n – 27310 San Clodio
Tlf.: (+34) 982 428 237
www.concelloderibasdosil.es
concello.ribasdesil@eidolocal.es

•Town council of O Saviñao

Praza de España 1 – 27540 Escairon
Tlf.: (+34) 982 452 061
www.concellodosavinao.com
savinao@telefonica.net

•Town council of Sober

Praza do Concello s/n – 27460 Sober
Tlf.: (+34) 982 460 001
Tourist office: Praza do Concello s/n
Tlf.: (+34) 982 460 161
www.concellodesober.com
info@concellodesober.com

•Town council of Taboada

Praza General Muínelo 1 – 27550 Ta-
boada
Tlf.: (+34) 982 465 301
www.concellodetaboada.es
info@concellotaboada.es

PROVINCE OF OURENSE

•Town council of Castro Caldelas

Concello 1 – 32760 Castro Caldelas
Tlf.: (+34) 988 203 305 / (+34) 988 203
000
www.castrocaldelas.es
Tourist office: Praza da Torre s/n (Cas-
tillo)
Tlf.: (+34) 988 203 358
oficina.castelo.castrocaldelas@gmail.com

•Town council of Esgos

Praza da Souteira s/n – 32720 Esgos
Tlf.: (+34) 988 290 000
Information Office:
Monasterio San Pedro de Rocas
32720 Esgos
www.concelloesgos.com

•Town council of Montederramo

Praza de Montederramo 28 – 32750
Montederramo
Tlf.: (+34) 988 292 000
Tourist office:
Praza de Montederramo, 28
Tlf.: (+34) 988 292 000
www.concellomontederramo.org
concello.montederramo@eidolocal.es

•Town council of Nogueira de Ramuín

Estrada Nogueira nº3 – 32160 Luintra
Tlf.: (+34) 988 201 023 / 988 201 525
(Tourism)
www.nogueiraderamuin.com
Tourist office: Estrada Nogueira nº 3.
cultura@nogueiraderamuin.gal

•**Town council of Parada de Sil**

Campo da Feira 1 -32740 Parada

Tlf.: (+34) 988 208 010

Tourist office: Campo da Feira 1

Tlf.: (+34) 988 208 010

www.paradadesil.com

turismo@paradadesil.es

(Audioguides available at the tourist office and rural cottages)

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concello@aperoxa.es



•**Town council of A Teixeira**

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http://www.concelloateixeira.org

concello.ateixeira@eidolocal.es

•**Town council of Xunqueira de Espadanedo**

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TOP TEN

Ribeira  Sacra

galicia



Monastery of San Pedro de Rocas.
Esgos. Ourense
(see HISTORIC-ARTISTIC HERITAGE)



Monastery of Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil
Nogueira de Ramuín. Ourense.
(see HISTORIC-ARTISTIC HERITAGE)



Catamarán trips by the Canyons of the
rivers Sil and Amandi
(see NATURAL SPACES AND ROUTES)



Meander of A Cubela. Ribas de Sil. Lugo
(see NATURAL SPACES)



Monforte de Lemos. Lugo
(see HISTORIC-ARTISTIC HERITAGE)



Footbridge over the river Mao
(see NATURAL SPACES)



Cabo do Mundo. O Saviñao. Lugo
(see NATURAL SPACES)



Monastery of Santa Cristina.
Parada de Sil. Ourense.
(see HISTORIC-ARTISTIC HERITAGE)



Viewpoints of El Duque (Monforte de Lemos.
Lugo), Cabezoás and Balcones de Madrid
(Parada de Sil, Ourense) (see ROUTES)



Waterfall of Auga Caída. Pantón. Lugo
(see NATURAL SPACES)

A TOUCH OF COLOR IN Ribeira Sacra



Sacra



The appearance and urban planning are fundamental aspects for development and that is why we have sought the way to contribute in this area from the tourism Consortium through "A touch of color in Ribeira Sacra".

In 2015 we started a project of "Muralization" of "feísmo" (unfinished or deteriorated elements) in the 21 municipalities of this territory. What we have done has been recovering walls, buildings and architectural elements degraded through urban art.

Why do we propose the mural / graffiti?

Because, in our opinion, it is the more contemporary expression of art that can be found, because it generates heritage, because it allows us to decadent spaces in large pictures size. Because they are in the street, in direct contact with people, and have the ability to move, excite, provoke and to animate, being a sensitizing vehicle.

The **objectives** we have achieved with this conversion:

- Conceal elements that detract from our valuable environment and on those who we have no other way of intervening.
- Act as a sign of rejection of new actions of this type and call-to-call act on existing ones.
- Put in value material elements and immaterial aspects of our destiny, all murals refer to legends, offices, celebrations, ... of Ribeira Sacra.
- Create an innovative tourism product, an additional attraction for the area.

Our intention is to keep expanding this pictorial collection in 2017.

TABOADA

- 1 *As Fachas* party. Piscinas municipais.

PARADELA

- 2 *Medicinal herbs and pilgrims.* Km 97,938, Camino de Santiago, Moimentos.

- 3 *French route to Santiago.* R/ Cabaleiros de Santiago.

CHANTADA

- 4 *Miño river banks.* Polideportivo.

- 5 *"A peneda da Erosa"* legend. Polideportivo.

PORTOMARÍN

- 6 *Pilgrim to Santiago.* Rúa da Deputación.

- 7 *Ripening of the grape.* Avda. de Chantada.

SOBER

- 8 *"A cova da serpe de Vilaescura"* legend. Praza do Mercado.

- 9 *Gandivos* handcraft. Proendos.

BÓVEDA

- 10 *Pulpeira* (octopus cook). Naves da Feira.

A POBRA DO BROLLÓN

- 11 *Vineyard terraces.* Área Recreativa de Sanagueiros.

A PEROXA

- 12 *A Peroxa* Castle, cow and grapes. Frente Casa Consistorial.

CARBALLEDO

- 13 *Homage to the woman farmer.* Casa Consistorial.

O Saviñao

- 14 The vintage. *Cabo do Mundo* and petroglyphs. Praza de España.

QUIROGA

- 15 *Lavandeiras* (gold searchers) of the Sil. Albergue.

OS PEARES

- 16 *Collection of picture. The principal is steam machine "Mikado".* Entorno Estación de FFCC.

RIBAS DE SIL

- 17 *Fishing.* Playa fuvial de S. Clodio.

CASTRO CALDELAS

- 18 *O Irrio Peliqueiro* (legendary character of Castro Caldelas). Rúa dos Pilos.

NOGUEIRA DE RAMUÍN

- 19 *Person sharpening knives* (traditional trade). Campo de fútbol.

- 20 *The magosto.* Campo de fútbol.

ESGOS

- 21 Anthropomorphic tombs of *San Pedro de Rocas.* Centro Médico.

PANTÓN

- 22 *Hijas de las xacías* legend. Salida N-120, Rúa Bispo Páramo Somoza.

XUNQUEIRA DE ESPADANEDO

- 23 *Sábado longo* (traditional party). Frenta al Monasterio de Santa María.
- 24 *Pottery of Niñodagua.* Rúa dos Cagallas.

PARADA DE SIL

- 25 *Vegetable motifs.* Carretera de Os Gozos.
- 26 *Vegetable motifs.* Carretera de Castro.

MONTEDESTRAMO

- 27 *"Ermiteño de San Mamede"* legend. Albergue.

A TEIXEIRA

- 28 *The weaver.*
- 29 *Vegetable motifs.* Carretera Castro Caldelas-A Teixeira.

MONFORTE DE LEMOS

Pending execution in 2017.

and what you see? galicia



RURAL RIBEIRA SACRA ASSOCIATION

Reserving your accommodation or searching experiences in a few minutes on our central office.

Contact:

Phone: 666 160 641

Web: <https://www.facebook.com/turismoruralribeirasacra>



WINE RUTE

If you are particularly interested in wine and its culture, have a look at the Wine Route Ribeira Sacra. A collection of wineries, restaurants, accommodation and activities which will lead you to closely live our heroic wine-growing culture.

Head office of the Wine Route Ribeira Sacra
Comercio street, 6-8. 27440 Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)
698 167 991 – rutavino@ribeirasacra.org



ONLINE SHOP

We have a wide range of products to give a piece of Ribeira Sacra as a present. Some soap made of the local wine, moisturizing chestnut cream, funny t-shirts for kids, small potteries and many other little gifts of the brand.

Look our catalogue of products up in our online shop and get them home delivered or come to one of our points of sale in your visit to Ribeira Sacra

(see www.ribeirasacra.org/turismo)



Showing off the **sgraffito** plasterwork in Ribeira Sacra

In the humanized landscapes of Ribeira Sacra, remarkable buildings adorned with original plasterwork are being preserved. Most of these are homes but a considerable number of foundations of granaries, a few porches, cellars, mills and dovecots, and some churches and chapels can also be found.



Sios (Pantón)

Castro Caldelas. Since January 2018 all of these can be visited.

You can find real examples of sgraffiti on many constructions around Ribeira Sacra. Those in Taboada, Chantada, Carballedo, Sober, O Saviñao, Pantón, Quiroga and A Teixeira are particularly remarkable due to their large number and perfection. As to dates, this plasterwork was done in the 19th and first half of the 20th century. The large numbers that have been preserved, around a thousand in Ribeira Sacra, show that it was a fashion at the time.

In regard to technique, a difference is made between “encintado”, where the joints are filled and marked, making them stand out, and “sgraffito”, which uses two layers of plaster, with the upper layer scratched off to reveal the lower layer, producing a play of colours and textures. Two opposing colours can be seen, the contrast between the white of the lime and the grey background, and the possibility of seeing it as positive or negative. And two different textures, a rough background and a plain, whitewashed foreground.

In the composition or organization of the wall, we need to distinguish between the bands around the outer edge of the spaces and the filling, which can be in the form of geometrical shapes, a ruler and compass, and plants, or curved freehand strokes, especially in Ribeira Sacra, that create commas or teardrops.

Various uses were made of this decorative plaster coating, including architectural (it strengthens the wall and prevents damp patches), decorative (the fashion of the time), symbolic (protection in the form of certain shapes, like crosses and astral symbols), communication (specific, inviting travellers in with jars and glasses, and general, as ornamentation) and health-related (due to its anti-parasitic properties).

Lastly, in regard to its origins, we should mention that this is a European cultural tradition, highly valued in historic centres, many of which are listed as UNESCO heritage sites. On the Iberian Peninsula, two focal points have been noted from which it spread: in Catalonia and the Levant, which can be traced back to the Italian Renaissance; and Mudejar, with late Gothic shapes, which could have come from Toledo and peaked in Segovia. For the decorations in Galicia this second influence is interesting, due to the geographical and temporal continuity.



Campo, Abeleda (A Teixeira)

In 2017, under the coordination of the Ribeira Sacra Tourist Council and with the sponsorship of the Galicia Tourist Agency, interventions took place at centres of cultural and scenic interest. Two restorations were chosen, in Montefurado (Quiroga) and San Xulián do Campo (Taboada). And two new constructions, one using a traditional technique, in Barxacova (Parada de Sil), and another involving the work of muralists, in the historic centre of



San Xulián do Campo (Taboada)



@davidprotos (España)

Museo de Santa Cristina de Riias de Sillrobres Secor

Tagged

Al Megusta
28 de noviembre de 2016

#Dame Galicia

A mi dame rutas, dame caminos y lugares por descubrir. Dame senderos en los que solo escuché mis pasos encima de las hojas. Dame un bosque en el que perdí el rumbo y encuentre algo mucho más importante. A mi dame paisajes que hablen por sí solos... ¡Dame Galicia!

galicia
el buen camino



XUNTA
DE GALICIA



FONDO EUROPEO DE
DESARROLLO REGIONAL
"Creando oportunidades"

galicia.es

Mythological Beings

by Anxo Moure

Different historians have spoken of Ribeira Sacra as Roboyra Sacrata according to the seminal document dated 1124 from the monastery Santa María de Montederramo. It could be a reference to the quercus robur (oak) so it would be referring to an area inhabited by oak trees that were sacred and possibly magical for the population in the surrounding area. Also, as part of the magical realism of this ancient land called Galicia, inhabited by elves and fairies, witches and enchantresses, Ribeira Sacra is intimately linked with the xacias, merpeople, Jewish rabudos, papist papeiros, and even the devil's mother..., who all live on tales and songs of the winepress and harvest... This is why Ribeira Sacra is a place one must visit even if only to try one's luck and see if one can find some of these magical beings (especially the nicer ones) to make them part of our lives and change our way of viewing the world by adding some roots that will motivate us to care for the woods, vineyards and streams, the homes of these unique magical beings.

“Papeiros and rabudos”: For centuries, at the beginning and end of the harvest, a shout rang out from one bank to the other of the river. The people from Chantada, Taboada and Carballedo let out a rousing “¡Ei rabudooooos!”, which loosely translates as “Hey, rabbinicals”, receiving as their reply from Pantón and O Saviñao “Ei papeirooooo!” which loosely translates as “Hey, papists”, in a kind of festive dialogue that, as we have been told, has its roots in the Jewish origins of that region, being changed from Rabino (rabbi) to Rabudo (lite-

rally, long-tailed) around Lemos, and from Papa (Pope) to Papeiro (literally, potato pot) where there was Catholic influence. But we are convinced that rabudos and papeiros are flying pixies that carry human speech in little bags to place it among the vines to tell stories to the roots, so that when we drink the wine we also drink in a story. In Ribeira Sacra, we also harvest stories and legends...

“Xacias and merpeople”: In Chouzán, near Cabo do Mundo, they used to talk of some magical beings named “xacias”, which are undoubtedly related to the European culture of Irishselkis, mermaids, and the fresh water xanas of Asturias, half woman-half fish, that came out of the waters of the R. Minõ to win the hearts of boatmen. When they returned to the river, they were not welcomed by the other merpeople...

“The devil's mother”: They say that on a trip from the Monforte area to Fis-



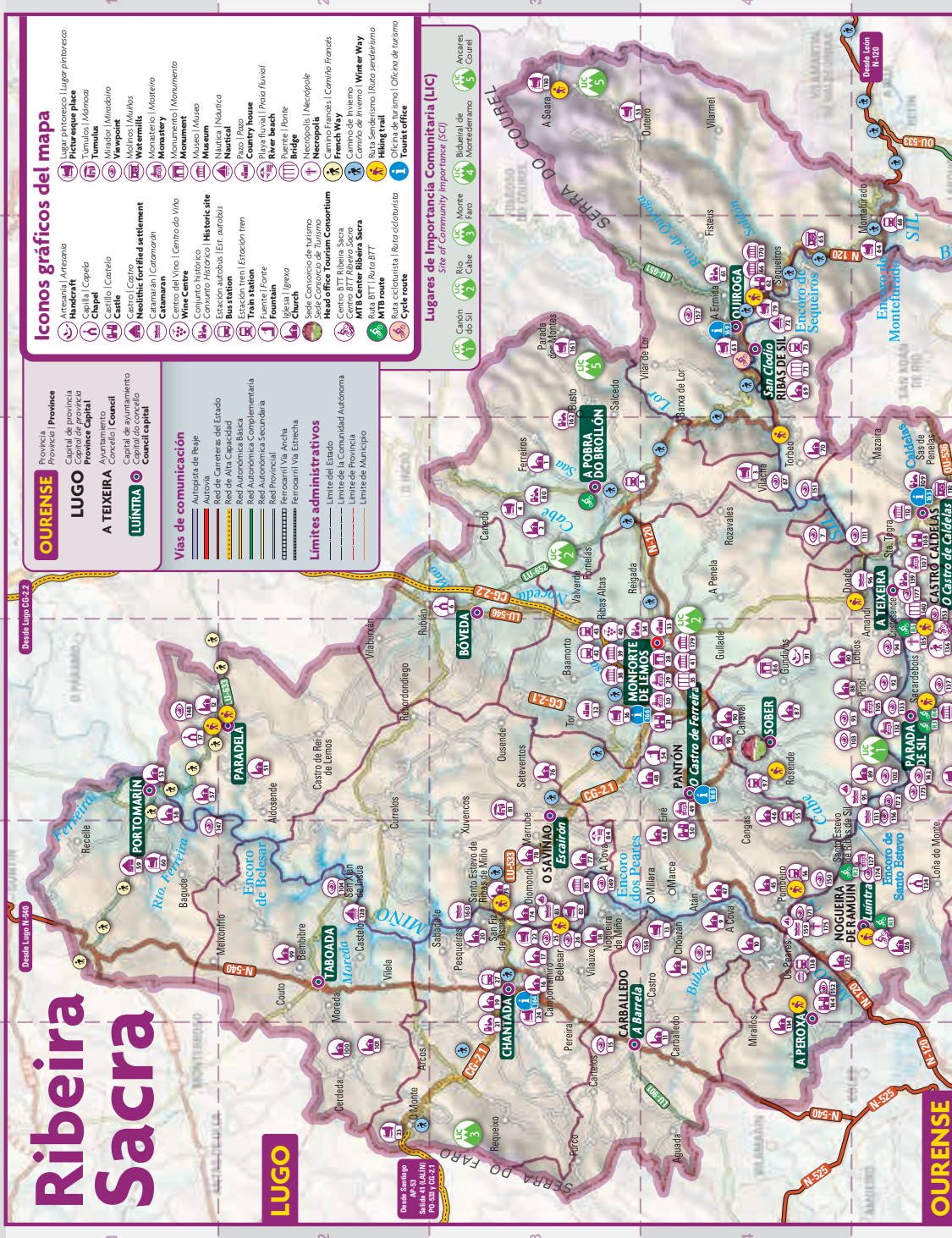
Graphic by Servando Barreiro

terra, the devil was riding on a broom with his mother but he grew tired of her scolding. So, when they got to the area of Fonte Arcada, he pushed her off the broom, screaming “Here you stay stuck”, which gave rise to the place name of Chantada (implanted). So, if you see her, harvesting grapes on the river bank...



Graphic by Servando Barreiro

Ribeira Sacra



OURENSE
 Provincia | Province
 Capital de provincia | Province Capital
LUGO
 Capital de provincia | Province Capital
A TEIXEIRA
 Concello | Council
LUIÑTRA
 Capital do concello | Council capital

Vías de comunicación

- Autobús de Peleje
- Autobús
- Red de Carreteras del Estado
- Red de Alta Capacidad
- Red Autonómica Básica
- Red Autonómica Complementaria
- Red Provincial
- Ferrocarril Vía Ancha
- Ferrocarril Vía Estrecha

Límites administrativos

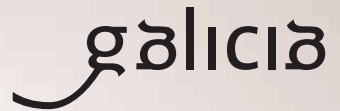
- Límite del Estado
- Límite de la Comunidad Autónoma
- Límite de Provincia
- Límite de Municipio

Iconos gráficos del mapa

- Lugar pintoresco | Lugar pintoresco
- Atracción | Attraction
- Artesanía | Artisania
- Capilla | Chapel
- Tumulus | Tumulus
- Minas | Mines
- Castro | Castle
- Yacimiento | Site
- Mirador | Viewpoint
- Monasterio | Monastery
- Monje | Monk
- Wine Centre
- Monumento | Monument
- Museo | Museum
- Náutica | Nautical
- Punto de partida | Starting point
- Playa | Beach
- Playa fluvial | Fluvial beach
- Puerto | Port
- Puente | Bridge
- Necrópolis | Necropolis
- Sede Consorcio de turismo | Tourism Consortium
- Centro BTT Ribeira Sacra | BTT Centre
- Centro BTT Ribeira Sacra | BTT Centre
- Wine Way
- Camino de Invierno | Winter Way
- Hiking trail
- Ruta ciclistarista | Cycling route
- Ruta de turismo | Tourism Office

Lugares de Importancia Comunitaria (LIC)
 Site of Community Importance (SCI)

- Canón | Canon
- Río do Sil | Sil River
- Monte | Mountain
- Cabe | Head
- Monte | Mountain
- Río | River
- Ancares | Ancares
- Montederramo | Montederramo
- Courel | Courel



Guías&planos
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