

Santiago de Compostela



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FRONT PAGE: Parque de la Alameda
Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism
BACK: Santiago Cathedral
Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism

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INTRODUCTION

A city of monuments, legends and pilgrims, Santiago de Compostela is full of magic. There is history everywhere you go, and you'll find culture, unspoiled nature and gastronomy of the highest order.

If you're taking the **Way of Saint James (El Camino)**, the **cathedral** will be your final destination which you'll share with the thousands of pilgrims who arrive here each year. Your reward will be the Pilgrim's Mass. An unforgettable experience, as is walking through cobbled streets in the historical town centre.

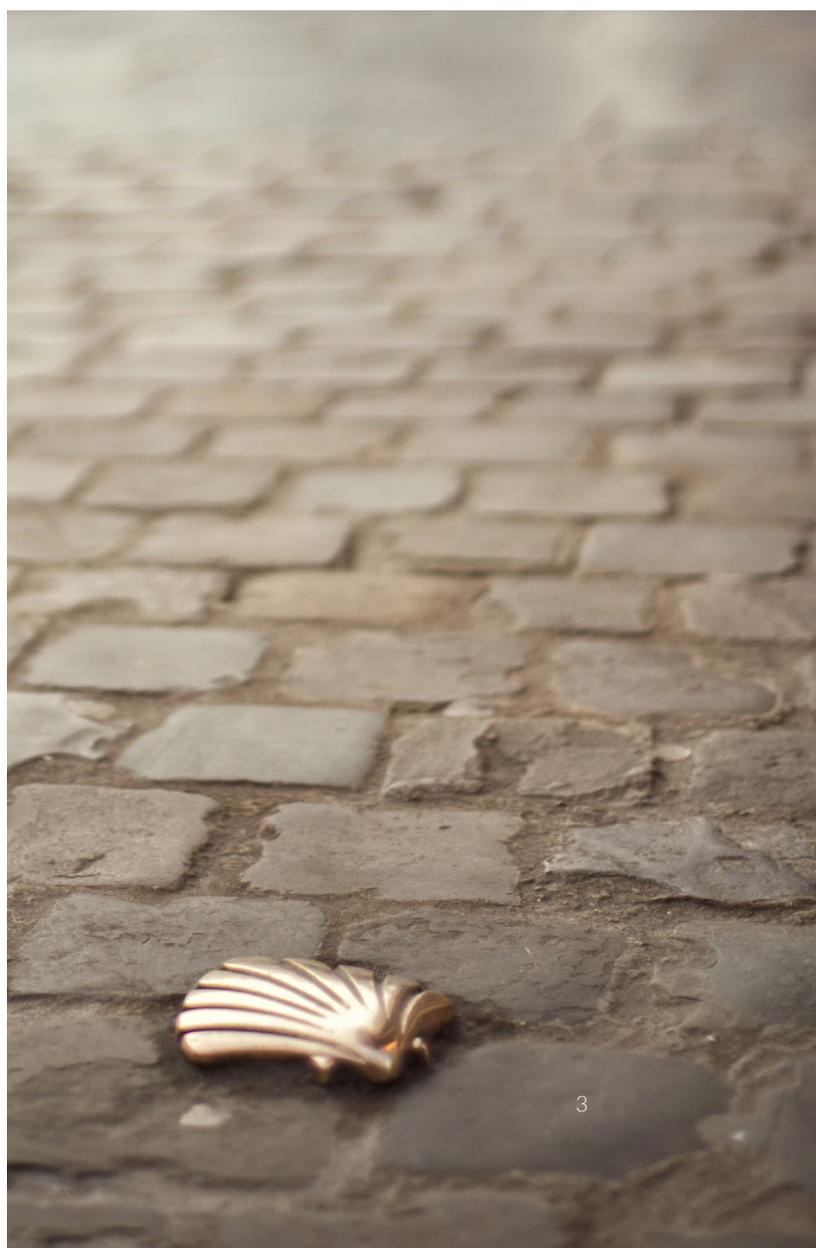
Santiago is also a **university town** with a lively, youthful, fun and festive atmosphere and bars, pubs, terraces and clubs to suit all tastes. There are so many **leisure and cultural** activities to choose from with a non-stop comprehensive programme of events (music, conferences, theatre, film, concerts, exhibitions, festivals...) all year long.

Tradition has a notable presence in this city. There are great events like the **Festival of Santiago the Apostle** in July, with spectacular firework displays and a whole host of activities for all ages like music, dance, theatre, parades, a fair, workshops...

The wonderful surroundings and its location right in the centre of Galicia make it an ideal starting point for outings to the sea and the countryside, as well as enjoying **sporting activities** like hiking, fishing and golf.

Here the food is fantastic. You should try the **cuisine** and local produce (seafood, fish and beef, the three star products) in bars, inns and restaurants with a full range of prices.

You'll discover a city full of light, full of history and with an extraordinary personality, where you'll feel right at home from the moment you arrive and you'll leave with wonderful, unforgettable memories.



EXPERIENCE SANTIAGO

Explore the delights of this city's iconic districts: inside and outside the walls.



▲ PLAZA DO OBRADOIRO

INSIDE THE WALLS

Take a stroll and discover a thousand-year-old city with a unique historical heritage. The old town is full of palaces, churches, mansions, squares, and narrow streets adorned by extraordinary granite buildings. There are times when you're not sure whether you're in the present, the Renaissance or the Spanish Golden Age. The UNESCO was fully justified in designating it a World Heritage City.

It is essential to explore the **cathedral**, whose construction began in the 11th century. It is one of the most prominent works of Romanesque art in Spain, although it also includes Baroque, Gothic and Neoclassical elements. The great nave is presided over by a Baroque **High Altar**. Behind it, under a spectacular canopy facing the faithful you'll find a niche with the figure of Saint James the Apostle. Through one of the sides you

come to a narrow passageway leading to the saint.

In some religious services, the *botafumeiro* (gigantic incense burner) swings over the temple's central aisle and the cathedral is filled with the scent of incense. You should also visit the cathedral's Archive and Library which houses books and documentary gems from hundreds of years ago. You should also go up to the roof of the building to enjoy one of many incredible panoramic views of the city.

The **Praza do Obradoiro** lies to the west of the cathedral. This is where the temple's main facade faces, in Baroque style, with a characteristic stairway leading up to the **Pórtico da Gloria**, a spectacular portico with three arches and containing over 200 granite figures presided over by an image of Christ and the four Apostles.

The **Praza da Inmaculada**, otherwise known as the **Jet Carvers' Square** after the traditional workshops there dedicated to carving jet stone, lies between the **Monastery of San Martiño Pinario** (the second largest in Spain, after El Escorial) and the north face of the cathedral.

To the south there's the **Praza das Praterías**, the smallest square which preserves the cathedral's only Romanesque facade and, as its name suggests, was home to silversmiths' workshops in the Middle Ages.

The **Praza da Quintana** is another iconic location in Santiago's historical old town. This features the **Torre del Reloj** or Clock Tower which can be seen from almost anywhere in the city. Take a



▲ MONASTERY OF SAN MARTÍN PINARIO

stroll through the surrounding streets and alleyways, you're bound to come across a Baroque house, a delightful souvenir shop and a tavern or two where you can stop for a snack. This square is dominated by the east facade of the cathedral and the **Puerta Santa** or Holy Doorway, which is only opened in Jacobean years (when the festivity of Saint James falls on a Sunday).

The whole area inside the walls is scattered with ancient aristocratic houses and

▼ PÓRTICO DA GLORIA





PAZO DE RAXOI

examples of civil architecture which have become real monuments: these include the **Casa do Deán**, the **Casa do Cabido**, the **Casa da Conga**, the **Casa das Pomas**, the **Pazo de Fondevila** y the **Casa-Pazo de Vaamonde**. A walk along the Rúa Nova, alongside the cathedral and one of the busiest streets in the historical old town, will take you past some extraordinary examples of this city's monumental stature.

In the Praza do Obradoiro there's the **Pazo de Raxoi**, a Neoclassical palace which is now Santiago's City Hall, the **Pazo de Xelmírez**, also known as the Episcopal Palace which was built at the request of the first Archbishop of Compostela, Diego Xelmírez and which is now used for cultural purposes, and the **College of San Xerome**, now the Vice-Chancellery of the University of Santiago.

Nearby you can also visit the **College of Fonseca** which has a Renaissance facade and a gardened cloister with views of the cathedral. This was where the Compostela University began and is currently the **University's General Library**. It also stages interesting temporary exhibitions in what was the refectory and the chapel.

You couldn't imagine the capital of Galicia without the thousands of students who come to reside in the city each year. The university's heritage covers five centuries and you can learn about it by taking a guided tour in which everything you need to know about the buildings and the city's scholastic life will be explained. The **Faculty of Geography and History** is especially fascinating. The South and North Campuses lie outside the city centre and are centres for both academic life and leisure.



In the Praza do Obradoiro there are a number of interesting historical buildings, like the **Hostal dos Reis Católicos**, now a Parador Hotel, with a wonderful Gothic-Plateresque facade and four large interior patios.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Even though most of the monuments are to be found inside the old city walls, there are still numerous attractions outside the historical old town. You can take a walk in parks and green areas which are also home to convents, monasteries and some of Santiago's most iconic contemporary architecture.

▼ PARQUE DE LA ALAMEDA



Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism



PARQUE DE LA ALAMEDA

The **Parque da Alameda** is the green lung where the city's residents come to take a walk. You can wander aimlessly and if you keep your eyes wide open you'll discover statues and sculptures hidden away in this charming, tranquil urban garden, as well as iconic benches created by Sargadelos, the renowned Galician ceramics manufacturer. One of this garden's most curious secrets is the **sculpture of Las Marías** which is of two women in brightly-coloured dresses and make-up. It stands at the entrance to the garden and commemorates two sisters who were punished during Franco's regime. In the park

you'll also find the Baroque **Church of El Pilar**, and the **Chapel of Santa Susana**, rebuilt in the 17th and 18th centuries, also in the Baroque style, although certain original Romanesque elements have been preserved.

If you cross over to the Sar neighbourhood you can visit the 12th-century **Collegiate Church of Santa María A Real do Sar**, with a sombre Romanesque exterior and a beautiful interior which houses the city's only Romanesque cloister and a small religious art museum.

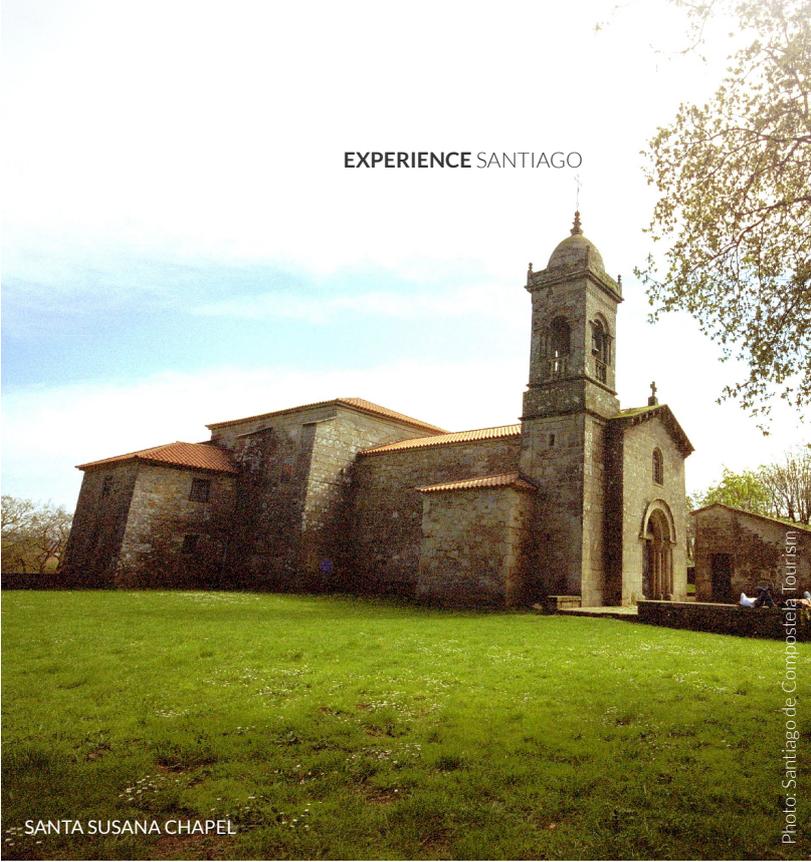


Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism

▼ COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA A REAL DO SAR



ARTS AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

In Santiago you can just breathe the arts. Here you'll find an extraordinary density of museums per square metre. Start your tour in the **Cathedral Museum** which exhibits history and art relating to both the cathedral and the Way of Saint James. Travel back in time, discover how it was built starting from the tomb found in the 9th century and enjoy some incredible artistic works. The museum also regularly or-

ganises interesting temporary exhibitions.

You can complete this spiritual experience in the Monastery of San Paio de Antealtares. It houses the **Museum of Religious Art**, including gems like a 13th-century figure of Christ, a silver reliquary containing the arm of San Pelayo and a copy of the Rule of Saint Benedict from 1610.

CATHEDRAL MUSEUM





Santiago de Compostela Tourism

▲ CIDADE DA CULTURA

Continue with a visit to the **Museo do Pobo Galego** or Museum of the Galician People in what was the Convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval, where you can investigate the most representative aspects of indigenous Galician culture. You'll learn about the sea, traditional crafts, popular agriculture...

In the **University of Santiago Natural History Museum**, located in the Vista Alegre Park, you can tour the extraordinary continental waters and Galician forest ecosystems, learn about the geodiversity of mineral samples, discover the local flora and a host of other interesting activities.

The **Cidade da Cultura**, one of Galicia's most spectacular contemporary structures, houses the **Centro Gaiás Museum**. There are surprising temporary art exhibitions and you can take part in leisure and educational

workshops. The dimensions of the centre have room for large artistic facilities which include a library, a newspaper library, study centres and a large woodland area recreating an indigenous landscape.

i Interesting links:

www.museodopobo.gal

www.cidadedacultura.gal

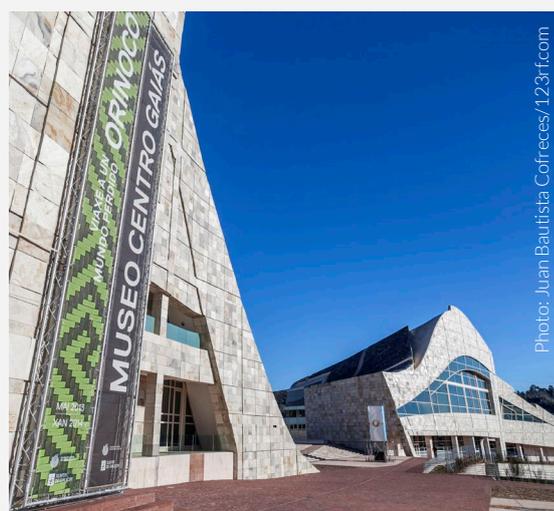


Photo: Juan Bautista Cofreces/123rf.com

▲ CIDADE DA CULTURA



TASTING SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Enjoy this real culinary festival. You'll find the best traditional cuisine, first-class local produce and truly innovative gastronomy which will appeal to your gourmet spirit.

◀ RÍAS BAIXAS

TRADITIONAL **CUISINE**

Galicia is synonymous with **top-quality fresh fish and seafood**. Try the scampi, scallops, mussels, lobster, spider crabs, cockles, velvet crabs, prawns, goose barnacles... and get all the flavour of the Rías Baixas. You can treat yourself in any of the city's seafood restaurants or in one of the traditional taverns in the area surrounding the cathedral and the "rúas" or streets of Franco and Raiña. The best wines to accompany seafood are **Albariño, Ribeiro** and other wines with the Galicia designation of origin.

They say that **octopus** is fished on the coast, but cooked best inland. In any bar or restaurant you can get a portion of *pulpo á feira* (traditional spicy octopus) with boiled potatoes: octopus, paprika,



SANTIAGO TART



▲ OCTOPUS 'A FEIRA'

salt, oil and potatoes. That's all it takes to make this exquisite dish. You also have to try delicious beef from Galicia and traditional pasties stuffed with fish, seafood, meat...

And to finish the meal, a slice of **Santiago cake**, the characteristic dessert. You'll love the smooth texture, the almond and cinnamon flavour and the sprinkling of icing sugar.

MERCADO DE ABASTOS MARKET

Here, you can not only look around the different stalls selling fish, shellfish, meat and vegetables, there are also stalls which will cook the *in situ* the

produce you buy. You'll also be able to get fantastic snacks and all kinds of exquisite tapas.

AVANT-GARDE CUISINE

Santiago is not only a haven for traditional cuisine. There are also restaurants serving avant-garde cuisine created by chefs leaving their mark with elegant, ground-breaking dishes. You could try the surprising cuisine which is a perfect blend of technology, innovation and the full flavour of fresh produce which you can try in some of the city's Michelin-starred restaurants.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS

Whenever you come, you'll always find plenty to do. Each season has its own personality and a calendar full of festivities and events as well as cultural and leisure attractions.



SUMMER

The second fortnight in July is dedicated to **Saint James the Apostle**, the patron saint of the city and of the whole of Spain. Two weeks of festivities full of religious devotion, and a lively atmosphere. You'll see for yourself how the city is transformed into a true festival: all kinds of music, dance, theatre, gastronomy, folk dancing, fireworks, parades... Choose your favourite activities from the wide range available. The most important days are 24 and 25 July. On the nights of 24 and 31 July, a spectacular fireworks display lights up the night sky and puts the finishing touch to the festivities.

You can cool off on one of the beaches in the area surrounding the city. The **Playa de Broña** in Outes (A Coruña) boasts an almost unspoilt setting, but still has all the infrastructure you need for a fantastic day out with all the family. It is protected from the north winds so the sea is calm and clean.

The unspoilt **Playa de Agueira** is a nudist beach in a cove with clear waters and fine, white sand. It nestles within a nature reserve, which should give you an idea of its environmental value. Another maritime treasure is the **Playa de Vilar-Carreira**, in the Corrubedo Dunes and Carregal y Vixán Lagoons Nature Reserve. Watch out for the waves, as the beach is open water and bathed by the Atlantic Ocean. Its incredible landscape and natural surroundings will take your breath away.



Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism

▲ FESTIVAL OF THE APOSTLE SAINT JAMES

In the **Muros, Noia and Arousa Estuaries** you'll find more beaches and coves where you can soak up the sun and simply enjoy the sand, the waves and the surrounding countryside.

You don't need the sea to be able to enjoy the water. There are a number of river beaches in the surrounding area where you can take a dip, rest and enjoy the sunshine. We specially recommend **Tarroeira, Chaián, Cira, Furelos, Ínsuas de San Ramón, Liñares** and **O Refuxio**.



▲ PLAZA DE PLATERÍAS

AUTUMN

When the students return from their summer holidays in September, the city recovers its vibrant, youthful pulse. This is when the **International Puppet Theatre Festival** is held. It takes place in mid-October and brings together prestigious companies from Galicia, Spain and the rest of the world. You'll find puppet theatres and works to suit all tastes. In November, the **Cineuropa Festival** looks back at the best of the season, from award-winning films to documentaries and indie cinema.

In all Santiago de Compostela's neighbourhoods and in the other towns in the region they hold what they call **Magostos**, a popular festival with a bonfire, delicious chestnuts, the wine from the previous year, traditional music... The most authentic events take place in the rural areas.

WINTER

The cold and the rain give Santiago a magical appearance. The stones seem to be older, as if this city's monuments had a special glow to them.

In addition to decorated streets, the traditional Nativity scenes and Christmas markets, **Christmas** ushers in a special programme of activities including concerts, parades and shows. In February, there is the distinct Carnival **Entroido dos Xeneiros**, with its army of choirs, troupes and pageants that walks about the Val do Ulla, and its brightly dressed generals who face each in satirical plays and funny exchanges of words. The **San Lazáro Pilgrimage-Uña Gastronomic Festival** marks the end of winter, a festival which is both religious and gastronomic and takes place at the entrance to the city.

SPRING

When the good weather arrives there are more popular festivities. The **Feira da Primavera** or Spring Fair takes place between April and May. you can enjoy a craft market, music, cultural activities, workshops, parades, astronomy and many more surprises. In May, the **Fiestas de la Ascensión** last a week and feature countless cultural and fun events.



▲ PASEO DE SARELA

NATURE

Just step outside the city to start to enjoy nature and its unspoilt coastline, wild rivers, outings, golf and diving. There are recreational areas barely 15 minutes from the city centre and splendid, low-difficulty riverside walks along the Sar, Sarela, Tambre and Ulla rivers. You'll find beautiful places ideal either for a short rest or a little fishing.

Halfway between Santiago and Ourense, on the outskirts of Lalín, stands **Fraga de Catasós**, where you can take a stroll amongst some of the tallest oak and chestnut trees in Europe.

The **Lagoa Sacra de Olives** is an extensive area of low hills and meadows with interesting wetlands. It lies between the towns of A Estrada, Forcarei and Silleda and is home to wildlife typically found in the Galicia countryside (wolves, foxes, eagles, hawks, falcons...).

Nearby, you'll find **Picho de Curantes**, a beautiful natural area with waterfalls like the **Picho da Fervenza** and **Poza de Maimón**.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WITH CHILDREN

Santiago boasts a great range of activities for kids.

Santiago Cathedral organises tours to visit the whole of this monumental complex, including climbing up to the roof to discover the secrets hidden there, ideal for all the family.

together with your children, there are a number of easy routes available. The **Bridge to Bridge** Route runs parallel to the Ulla River, from the Ponte Remesquide bridge (in the parish of Ribeira, district of Touro) to the Ponteledesma



The **Contemporary Art Centre of Galicia** holds family workshops where children can experiment with art. They will also love other museums like the **Pobo Galego Museum** or the **Museum of Magic**.

If you're looking to enjoy some hiking

▼ GALICIAN CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE



bridge (in the district of Boqueixón) passing through three recreation areas.

The **As Canteiras da Pedra Mona Circular Route**, medium difficulty, has splendid natural and cultural treasures as well as fantastic views of the mouth of the Ulla River. It starts and finishes in the town of Requián and passes by mills, *hórreos* (traditional, wooden raised granaries), barns, chapels...

For a close-up of the local wildlife and vegetation you should visit Molino de Buxos, in the parish of Parada and take the **Auga de Parada PR-G 124 Route**.

The **riverside and botanical path along the Mera River** runs along its banks from the river beach of A Tarroeira to

the Church of Gonzar. The species of flora you'll find along the way are duly sign-posted so there's no excuse for not learning all about the indigenous plant life.

If you'd like to learn how to fish, or improve your technique, then the **Coto de Pesca de Chaián**, specialising in trout, is the place for you.

Take a bike ride along the **Alternative French Route**, 25 kilometres along the AC-240 local road from the district of Arzúa to the Ponte Ulla bridge. There are some magnificent examples of popular architecture along the way.

📍 **Useful links:**

<http://cgac.xunta.gal>

▼ PARQUE DE BONAVAL





THE HIDDEN CITY

If you still have time and would like to find out more, here are a number of attractive suggestions suitable for all tastes.

▲ PARQUE DA MÚSICA IN COMPOSTELA

PARKS AND GARDENS

The enormous **Parque do Lago** means you can enjoy natural surroundings without leaving the city. The city has over 400 hectares of green spaces. It has a network of pathways and an oak grove which has been converted into a leisure area with tables, benches and a running track.

Nearby, up on Mount Gaiás, there are thousands of trees of indigenous species (oak, chestnut, willow, birch, alder, hawthorn, mountain ash, laurel...). Known as the **Forest of Galicia**, it is the city's vital green lung, with numerous walkways, rest areas and a lookout point.

Next to the Auditorium you'll find the **Música en Compostela Park**, a meadow

with streams and fascinating surrealist sculptures by Eugenio Granell, a mirror effect caused by the park and unexpected views of the old town.

If we're talking about lookout points, then we must mention the **Carlomagno Park**. If you climb up to the Alto da Canteira you'll have a magnificent panoramic view of Santiago.

The **Parque da Granxa do Xesto** is an urban park, forest and vantage point located on the hillsides of Mount Pedroso. This natural area is ideal for sports activities and for taking a well-earned rest. It's also the starting point for a network of pathways where you'll find huge *cruceiros* (Celtic stone crosses) which make up a *Vía Crucis* up to the top of the hill where you'll look out over the city and the natural surroundings.

Right on the edge of the city you have the **Parque das Galeras**. It runs along the banks of the Sarela River, on nearly flat land where it joins the Corgo Stream, an ideal location for a stroll, children's games and sports.

SECRET MUSEUMS

For in-depth research into the Way of Saint James you should visit the **Pilgrim's Museum**, which exhibits sculpture, paintings and icons related to Saint James. There are eight exhibition rooms illustrating the origin of the cult of the Apostle, the initiation and development of pilgrimages and their influence on artistic development in the city's craft guilds.



Photo: Santiago de Compostela Tourism

▲ CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA SALOMÉ

You could also visit a very original and unique museum: **Casa da Troia**. Have you ever thought how students lived in the 19th century? Here there's a recreation of the famous boarding house run by 'Doña Generosa' and immortalised by the author Alejandro Pérez Lugín in his novel *La Casa de la Troya* (Troya's House).

MONUMENTS

Halfway along the Rúa Nova you'll find the **Church of Santa María Salomé**, dedicated to the mother of James the Apostle, with a tower and a set of sculptures and Baroque carvings. Nearby, there is the **Pazo de Bendaña**, which houses the Granell Museum. If you look up you'll see the coat of arms presiding over the facade.

On any stroll through Compostela you're bound to find little treasures.



Photo: Juan Bautista Cofreces/123rf.com

▲ MENOR SEMINARY

In the Rúa Santa Clara area there are the **Convents of El Carmen** and **Santa Clara** and the **Church of San Roque**, three Baroque gems which are well worth a visit.

The **Convent of Belvís** and the stately **Seminario Menor** are separated from the monumental area by a natural ditch. Then you can wander around the **Belvís Park**. All around this area there are amazing views over the city.



PRAZA DO OBRADOIRO

ROOFTOPS OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Santiago is a city of roof top terraces and lookout points. From high up you can enjoy the extraordinary blend of grey, old buildings and green meadows. In the Alameda Park there's a balustrade overlooking the University's South Campus and where you can take a great photo. From the Colina de Santa Susana hill, on the **Herradura promenade**, you'll get a spectacular postcard frontal view of the cathedral.

You can also climb up the iconic **Mount Pedroso** for another amazing view of the cathedral. Any time is good, but at sunset it'll be a truly magical experience.

The architects Álvaro Siza and Isabel Aguirre transformed the estate around the Convent of **San Domingos de Bonaval** into a city park where you can relax surrounded by *carballos* (oaks) and extensive meadows. In the background, the old town lies at your feet.



▲ SAN PAIO DE ANTEALTARES

ENJOY THE NIGHTLIFE

In Santiago there's fantastic nightlife to suit all tastes and all ages. There's a great night atmosphere both in the old and the new parts of the city. The traditional difference between the two areas (folk versus modern) is slowly disappearing, and there are now different options throughout the city.

The streets in the **historical town centre** come alive at nightfall. There are pubs, bars and cafeterias in just about every street. It is typical to go from one to the other for a glass of wine, tapas and snacks. They are mostly concentrated in the streets of Franco, Raiña, Troia, San

Pedro and the surrounding area (Porta do Camiño, Rúa Travesa, Praza de Santo Agostiño, San Roque...).

In good weather, the Rúa de San Paio de Antealtares, the Praza da Quintana, Rúas Vilar, Nova and Rodrigo de Padrón are full of terraces where you can sit and enjoy the brightly-lit city.

In the **new part of town**, the nightlife is concentrated in Carreira do Conde, Montero Ríos, Alfredo Brañas and República de El Salvador. Then to the south there's the Praza Roxa, Santiago del Estero, Rúa Nova de Abaixo and Santiago de Chile.

TOURS AND WALKS IN THE CITY

The best and most enjoyable way to get to know the city is on foot. To visit the essential monuments you should follow the **Ruta Intramuros** or route within the the walls, lasting a little under three hours. The **Ruta Extramuros** or route outside the walls is ideal for exploring Santiago's natural surroundings.

Also interesting is the **Domus Dei Route**, visiting the cloistered convents scattered around the city.

If you're a photography fan then you can take the **Santiago in 23 Photos** tour to help you get the very best photos of the city. You can also watch the videoguides on the Turismo de Santiago website.

① *For further information go to:*
www.santiagoturismo.com/rutas

EL CAMINO

For over a thousand years pilgrims have been coming to the tomb of the Christian Apostle: Saint James the Greater. A pilgrimage to Santiago is a voyage of personal discovery through the most extraordinary landscapes.

Any time of the year is ideal, each season has its advantages and distinctive features. Your reasons may be cultural interest, religious concern, the spirit of adventure or a personal challenge, but the goal remains the same: Santiago Cathedral always welcomes pilgrims at the end of the last stage of the Way of Saint James.

You can do it on foot, by bicycle or on horseback along one of the different pilgrimage routes: the French Route, the North Route, the Cantabrian Route... They're all perfectly sign-posted and take you through unforgettable landscapes.

① *On www.caminodesantiago.gal you'll find all the practical information you need to get started.*





WHAT IS THERE TO VISIT IN THE AREA AROUND SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA?

▲ FINISTERRE

The city is right in the centre of Galicia, so there are many outings you can make to nearby places of interest. If you have time you should visit the incredible **Cabo de Finisterre**, Spain's Land's End and an iconic destination in the north of Spain. In ancient times it really was considered to be the end of the known world and for many pilgrims it was the final stage of the Way of Saint James. Be that as it may, the views of the sea and the coast are quite spectacular.

The **Rías Baixas** are a splendid region combining cities like Vigo or the monumental and elegante Pontevedra, and towns with incredible charm (Bayona, Sanxenxo, Combarro). There you can enjoy idyllic beaches, a seafaring atmosphere, first-class cuisine and some of the best wine-producing regions in Galicia with the Rías Baixas designation of origin.

Located facing the Atlantic and with a real seafaring spirit, **A Coruña** has two fantastic urban beaches, Riazor and Orzán, as well as a maze of medieval streets and squares, with the *Torre de Hércules* or Tower of Hercules standing out as a symbol. It is the only Roman lighthouse and the oldest still in operation in the world and declared a World Heritage Site. A Coruña is synonymous with culture, street entertainment and cuisine. One of the most iconic images of the city are the A Mariña galleries, in the avenue with the same name. These are closed, wooden balconies with enormous glass windows making it ideal as a lookout point and a place where sunlight gathers right from dawn.

HOW TO GET THERE

▲ TRANSCANTABRIAN GRANDE LUXE TRAIN

CAR

The AP-9 connects Santiago with Galicia's coastal towns and with Portugal. Access from Madrid is on the A-6, linking with the A-52. The A-8 Cantabrian Motorway connects Galicia with France.

PLANE

The Santiago-Rosalía de Castro airport has scheduled domestic flights to Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Bilbao, and to European destinations like London, Frankfurt, Geneva and Paris. It is only ten kilometres from the city centre.

BY RAIL

There are **daily trains** linking the city with Madrid, Vitoria, Barcelona and other cities. A unique way of travelling to Santiago is on the **Transcantabrian**, a railway gem which crosses north and northwest Spain from San Sebastián to Santiago de Compostela. On these trains you'll be treated to whole host of

luxuries: lounges with bars and dance floors, *deluxe suites* and rooms with en suite bathrooms, hydrosauna, turbo-massage, steam bath...It's an invitation to discover nature, culture and excellent cuisine both on and off the train.

BUS

There are coach services to Spanish destinations like Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Bilbao, and to other European countries like Portugal, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland.

GETTING ABOUT IN SANTIAGO

The short distances and the simple layout of the city make it ideal for getting around Santiago on foot. In any case, there are bicycles for hire, taxis and city buses for travelling to the outskirts of the city and visiting nearby places.



FURTHER INFORMATION

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA TOURIST
INFORMATION OFFICE

Rúa do Vilar, 63
15705, Santiago de Compostela
www.santiagoturismo.com

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