



From the Obradoiro to Gaiás / Desde el Obradoiro al Gaiás

ENG

From the historic Obradoiro square to the modern architecture of the City of Culture. Walk this route across the old city, a World Heritage site, to reach the parks of Bonaval and Belvís; experience the lively neighbourhood of San Pedro. Discover jewels such as the collegiate church of Sar, with its leaning columns. Climb up the trails through the Forest of Galicia and behold the views over the city, to enjoy the sunset over Santiago from the top of Mount Gaiás.

CAST

Desde la histórica plaza del Obradoiro a la arquitectura contemporánea de la Cidade da Cultura. Recorre este itinerario que atraviesa el casco antiguo, Patrimonio de la Humanidad, se acerca a los parques de Bonaval y Belvís, pasando por el animado barrio de San Pedro. Descubre joyas como la Colexiata do Sar, con sus columnas inclinadas. Asciende por las sendas del Bosque de Galicia con vistas a la ciudad, y disfruta de la puesta de sol en Santiago desde lo alto del Gaiás.

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WITH THE COLLABORATION BY:

Route to Gaiás

A self-guided walking tour to the City of Culture of Galicia

Distance: 5 km
Approximate time: 1 hour.

Ruta autoguiada a pie a la Cidade da Cultura de Galicia

Distancia: 5 km
Tiempo aprox.: 1 h.

Bus from Gaiás–downtown / Bus Gaiás–centro ciudad

L9 Mondays to Fridays and Saturday mornings every 60 minutes. LUN–VIE cada hora y sábados por la mañana Cada 60 min.

C11 Saturday afternoons, Sundays, and holidays at 10:30, 13:30, 17:35 and 19:55 h. SAB por la tarde, DOM y festivos (10:30, 13:30, 17:35 y 19:55 h.)

09 Bosque de Galicia



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The Sar neighbourhood is surrounded by the **Bosque de Galicia** (Forest of Galicia), the new green area of Santiago de Compostela. El Bosque de Galicia is located on the slopes of Mount Gaiás, on top of which stands the City of Culture of Galicia. Consisting of 24,000 hectares of natural areas, the Bosque de Galicia was conditioned during 2015 and 2016 in order to enable the planting of 6,000 trees of different native species such as willow, oak, and sweet chestnut; and a 3-kilometre-long network of paths was also laid out. At the end of the Bosque de Galicia, there is a recreational area: the **Parque da Balea** (Whale Park), a space for play and rest that pays tribute to a great Galician artist, Urbano Lugrís.

CAST

El Barrio de Sar está delimitado por el **Bosque de Galicia**, la nueva área verde de Santiago de Compostela. El Bosque de Galicia se encuentra en las laderas del Monte Gaiás, sobre el que se erige la Cidade da Cultura de Galicia. Formado por 24 hectáreas de espacio natural, el Bosque de Galicia fue objeto durante los años 2015 y 2016 de labores de acondicionamiento que permitieron la plantación de 6.000 árboles de diferentes especies autóctonas como abedules, robles o castaños, así como la creación de una red de sendas de unos 3 kilómetros con vistas a la ciudad. El Bosque de Galicia finaliza en un área de ocio: el **Parque de la Ballena**, un espacio de juego y descanso que homenajea a uno de los grandes artistas plásticos gallegos, Urbano Lugrís.

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10 Cidade da Cultura



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On the top of Mount Gaiás stands the **City of Culture of Galicia**, an architectural complex dedicated to culture, innovation and entrepreneurship. The American architect Peter Eisenman designed this "city" that seems to emerge from the ground to establish itself as an icon of contemporary Galicia. The City of Culture comprises four institutions: the **Library and Archive of Galicia**, the **Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship**, the **Centre for Cultural Innovation**, and the **Gaiás Centre Museum**. The complex also includes the **Hejduk Towers** and the **Literary Garden**, a green area at the heart of the complex, dedicated to Galician writers and poets.

CAST

En el alto del Gaiás se alza la **Cidade da Cultura de Galicia**, un complejo arquitectónico dedicado a la cultura, a la innovación y la capacidad de emprender. El arquitecto norteamericano Peter Eisenman diseñó esta "ciudad" que parece surgir de la tierra para erigirse en un icono de la Galicia contemporánea. La Cidade da Cultura está formada por cuatro instituciones: la **Biblioteca e Arquivo de Galicia**, el **Centro de Emprendemento**, el **Centro de Innovación Cultural** y el **Museo Centro Gaiás**. El complejo cuenta además con las **Torres Hejduk** y el **Xardín Literario**, una zona verde situada en el corazón del complejo dedicado a los escritores y poetas gallegos.

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Route to Gaiás

A self-guided walking tour to the City of Culture of Galicia

Ruta autoguiada a pie a la Cidade da Cultura de Galicia

Praza do Obradoiro

San Martiño Pinario

Praza de Cervantes

San Domingos de Bonaval

Parque de Bonaval

Parque de Belvís

CIAC

Colexiata de Sar

Bosque de Galicia

Cidade da Cultura

01

Praza do Obradoiro

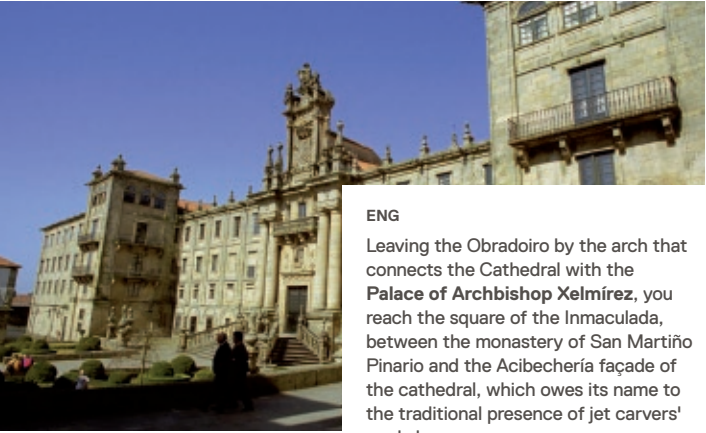
ENG

The Praza do Obradoiro is the monumental centre of Santiago de Compostela. Its name seemingly derives from the workshops (obradoiros in Galician) of the stonemasons who worked on the construction of the Baroque façade of the Cathedral, which dominates the plaza and welcomes thousands of pilgrims arriving along the Way of Saint James.

The buildings that surround the plaza –the **Cathedral**, the **Hostal dos Reis Católicos**, formerly a pilgrim's hospital and nowadays a Parador; the **Colexio de San Xerome**, seat of the Rectorate of the University; and the **Palace of Raxoi**, housing the Town Hall– are representative of the main poles of the life of Galicia's capital: religion, university education, attention to pilgrims and travellers, and the Administration.



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Leaving the Obradoiro by the arch that connects the Cathedral with the **Palace of Archbishop Xelmírez**, you reach the square of the Immaculada, between the monastery of San Martiño Pinario and the Acibechería façade of the cathedral, which owes its name to the traditional presence of jet carvers' workshops.

The **Monastery of San Martiño Pinario**, now the Major Seminary of the archdiocese, was founded in the tenth century to house a group of monks whose task was to guard the cult of the relics of the Apostle James. Its surface area of more than 20,000 square metres makes it the second largest monastery in Spain, surpassed only by the Escorial.

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02

San Martiño Pinario

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Saliendo del Obradoiro por el arco que conecta la Catedral con el **Pazo Arzobispal de Xelmírez** se llega a la plaza de la Inmaculada, enmarcada entre el Monasterio de San Martín Pinario y la fachada catedralicia de la Acibechería, que debe su nombre a la tradicional presencia de talleres dedicados a la talla del azabache.

El **Monasterio de San Martiño Pinario**, hoy sede del Seminario Mayor, fue fundado en el siglo X para albergar a un grupo de monjes cuya tarea era vigilar el culto a las reliquias del Apóstol. Su extensión de más de 20.000 metros cuadrados lo convierten en el segundo monasterio más grande de España, solo superado por el Escorial.

03

Praza de Cervantes

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Following along Acibechería street, we arrive at the **Praza de Cervantes**, known in the twelfth century as the 'Forum', as it was a popular meeting point and the place where the town crier read out the municipal agreements and the archbishop's decrees.

Later on, by specializing in the sale of food and goods, this space acquired the name of 'Praza do Campo' and achieved the category of the main marketplace. The market was moved to its current location in the late nineteenth century, and the square was finally given the name of Cervantes. A bust of the writer crowns the central fountain, reminding us that the two surnames of the author of Don Quixote were of Galician origin: Cervantes and Saavedra.



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Exiting the almond-shaped historic centre along the street called Casas Reais, we arrive at the **Galician Center for Contemporary Art (CGAC)**, designed by the architect Alvaro Siza and opened in 1993 to accommodate the latest trends in painting, sculpture, photography and installations.

Behind the CGAC is the **Monastery of San Domingos de Bonaval**, founded in 1220 by San Domingos de Guzmán. It now houses the **Museo do Pobo Galego**, dedicated to restoring and exhibiting ethnographic and anthropological materials relevant to the life and customs of Galicia. Beside it stands the **Church of San Domingos de Bonaval**, which houses the Pantheon of Illustrious Galicians: the burial site for figures like Castelao, Rosalía de Castro, and Alfredo Brañas.



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04

San Domingos de Bonaval

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Saliendo de la almendra histórica por la calle de las Casas Reais llegamos al **Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea (CGAC)**, diseñado por el arquitecto Álvaro Siza e inaugurado en 1993 para acoger las últimas tendencias en pintura, escultura, fotografía e instalaciones.

Tras él, el **Convento de San Domingos de Bonaval**, fundado en 1220 por San Domingos de Guzmán y hoy sede del **Museo do Pobo Galego**, dedicado a recuperar y exponer material etnográfico y antropológico sobre la vida y costumbres de Galicia. Junto a él está la **Iglesia de San Domingos de Bonaval**, que alberga el Panteón de Galegos Ilustres, en el que descansan figuras como Castelao, Rosalía de Castro o Alfredo Brañas.

05

Parque de Bonaval

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The **Parque de San Domingos de Bonaval**, located in the former orchard and cemetery of the Dominican monastery, was refurbished as an urban green area following the project by the Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza. This action is an example of perfect adaptation to the topography and to the elements and the tripartite organization that the Dominicans gave this space centuries ago: orchard, oak grove, and cemetery.

At the feet of the monastery lies the typical **neighbourhood of San Pedro**, whose axis is the city of the same name, a good example of popular Santiago: packed houses, narrow streets, alleys, some old crafts and small shops and, more recently, specialized stores, restaurants, and a lively nightlife.



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From the Church of San Pedro, we reach the **Parque de Belvís**, which spans a valley comprised of meadows crossed by a brook. Dry stone walls, terraced plots of land and historic pathways were preserved in the land planning for this green area that separates while at the same time joins the historic city centre with the buildings of the monastery of Belvís and the Minor Seminary, forming a natural moat for the medieval city. Founded in the 14th century, the **Monastery of Belvís** was rebuilt in the Baroque era by the Mexican Archbishop Monroy, of the Dominican order. The Minor Seminary, built in the 1950s in an eclectic style typical in Spain at the time, is also a school and a hostel for pilgrims.



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06

Parque de Belvís

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Desde la Iglesia de San Pedro accedemos al **Parque de Belvís**, que se extiende por una vaguada formada por prados cruzados por un riachuelo. Los muros, los bancales del terreno y las vías históricas se respetaron en el proyecto de este espacio verde que separa, y a la vez relaciona, el recinto histórico con las edificaciones del Convento de Belvís y del Seminario Menor, constituyendo un foso natural de la ciudad medieval. Fundado en el XIV, el **Convento de Belvís** fue reedificado en la época barroca por el arzobispo mexicano Monroy, de la orden de los dominicos. Construido en los 50 del siglo XX en el estilo ecléctico característico en España en ese momento, el Seminario Menor es, a la vez, colegio, seminario y albergue de peregrinos.

07

CIAC

Centro de Interpretación Ambiental de Compostela

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Before leaving the Parque de Belvís to discover the charms of the Sar neighbourhood, there is one last stop: the Environmental Interpretation Centre of Compostela (CIAC), a space dedicated to better understand our city and its environment.

The CIAC will take us through the complexity of the city of Compostela, along the inflows of energy, water, and basic supplies; along the processes, uses and waste generated; along the communications that enables its integrated operation; along the different areas and ecosystems that render Santiago a sustainable city that is integrated into its environment, and committed to the preservation of its biodiversity.



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After crossing the Parque de Belvís, we arrive at the **Sar neighbourhood**, named after the river that crosses it. Here is the **Collegiate Church of Sar**, founded in 1134. It is the best preserved Romanesque building in Santiago, although almost miraculously: either by a construction defect, or because of the fact that it was built on the floodplain of the nearby river, the vaults sagged, tilting the columns and walls; in the eighteenth century, several buttresses were added to the building to prevent it from collapsing. The inside, of beautiful and harmonic proportions, is impressive due to the misleading anti-gravitational inclination of the columns. The attached monastic building contains a small **Museum of Sacred Art**.



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08

Colexiata de Sar

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Tras cruzar el Parque de Belvís desembocamos en el **Barrio de Sar**, llamado así por el río que lo cruza. En él encontramos la **Colegiata de Sar**, fundada en el año 1134. Es el edificio románico mejor conservado de Santiago, aunque de un modo casi milagroso: bien por un defecto en la fábrica, bien porque cedió el terreno anegado por las aguas del vecino río, las bóvedas bajaron, inclinando las columnas y los muros, por lo que en el siglo XVIII se le añadieron unos contrafuertes que evitarán su caída. El interior, de hermosas y armónicas proporciones, impresiona por esa engañosa inclinación antigraavitatoria de las columnas. La edificación monacal aneja contiene el pequeño **Museo de Arte Sacra**.