



# Monumental Route of Santiago de Compostela

By means of this route, we suggest a tour around Santiago de Compostela's monumental heritage, including a not-to-be-missed walk around about the Cathedral and the famous *Praza do Obradoiro*, as well as the main monuments and squares.

This route is also available, with all the information, at [www.santiagoturismo.com](http://www.santiagoturismo.com).

Difficulty Low.

Duration 2 h and 45 mins.

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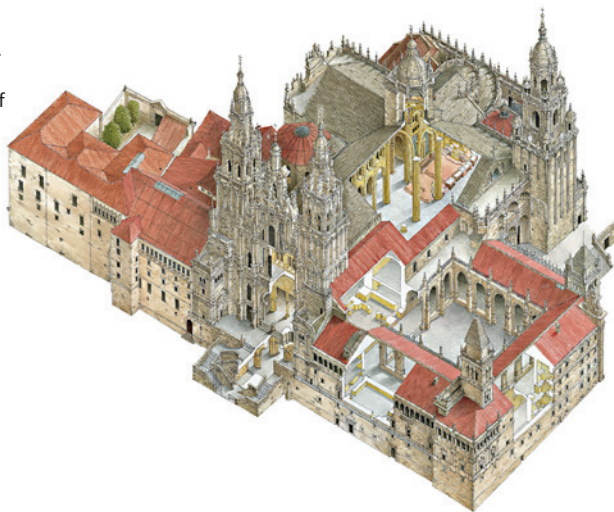
## Praza do Obradoiro (d2) ▼

So called due to the workshops ('*obradoiros*') of the stonemasons that built the Cathedral, its 7,7000 square metres feature the city's main civil and religious buildings. Its four artistic styles reflect 800 years of Compostela's history. As the city centre and end of the Way of St. James, it receives pilgrims and it is the venue of the '*Apóstol*' festival.



### Obradoiro Façade (1)

A masterpiece of Compostela's Baroque style, 17th-18th c. 74-metre high towers and central triptych crowned by St. James the Pilgrim. It took 80 years to build. On the right, the **cloister**, one of the largest in Spain. Renaissance. 16th c. Can be visited (\*).



### Cathedral (1)

Open daily.

According to an ancient tradition, the apostle St.

James the Greater, was buried in a forest of *finis terrae*. After the miraculous discovery of his relics in the 9th century, a sanctuary began to be erected in 1075, resulting in today's monumental Cathedral. The original structure has been preserved, along with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque additions.

The following stand out inside: **/'Pórtico da Gloria.'**

Maestro Mateo. 12th c. Masterpiece of Romanesque sculpture, with more than 200 figures depicting scenes, centred on the theme of Salvation. **/High Altar, Apostolic Tomb and Alcove.**

Baroque baldachin and silver altar, 17th c. Below the altar, Roman crypt (1st c.) and the Apostle's tomb. **/'Botafumeiro.'** Largest censer in the world, reaching a speed of 68 km per hour. It can normally only be seen on special occasions. Check dates (\*). **/Chapels.**

The oldest ones are those of *El Salvador* and *La Corticela*, which was an independent oratory in the 10th c. **/Museum.** Includes visit to the crypt, Treasury and Relics, cloister, tapestry room, archaeology rooms, chapterhouse, library and archive, as well as the archbishop's palace. Consult visiting hours (\*). **/Rooftops.**

Artistic-historical interest and one of the best views of the city. Consult visiting hours (\*).



### Archbishop's Palace of Xelmírez (2)

One of the best civil buildings in Spain's Romanesque style. 12th c. Impressive vaulted synodal hall, kitchen and stables. Can be visited (\*).



### Palace of Raxoi (3)

Neoclassical, 18th c. Santiago City Hall and home to the Autonomous Government of Galicia President's Office. Its tympanum features images of the Reconquest.



### Pazo de San Xerome (4)

Renaissance. Gothic façade from a former pilgrim hospital. It used to be a hall of residence for poor students and now houses the University of Santiago Vice-Chancellor's Office.



### Hostal dos Reis Católicos (5)

Pilgrim hospital and shelter founded in the 15th c. and converted in the 20th century into a five-star *Parador*. Possibly the oldest accommodation in Europe. Plateresque façade, beautiful Renaissance and baroque cloisters. Can be visited (\*).



### Church of San Fructuoso (6)

Baroque - Churrigueresque, 19th c. Its façade decorated with the four cardinal virtues can be seen from Praza do Obradoiro.



## Praza da Inmaculada and Acibechería (d2-e2) ▼

Called after the workshops that carved jet stone ('azabache'), it marks the end of the French, English and North pilgrim routes.

### Acibechería Façade (1)

During the Middle Ages travellers entered through the admirable *Door of the Paradise* in the north. The present-day façade was erected in the 18th c. featuring a combination of Baroque and Neoclassical styles.



### Monastery of San Martiño Pinarío (8)

Founded in the 10th c. Today's building houses the second-largest monastery in Spain, with 20,000 square metres.

### Church of San Martiño Pinarío (8)

Renaissance - baroque, 16th c. Plateresque altarpiece façade dominated by St. Martin. Baroque stairway. Inside, a beautiful baroque high altarpiece and renaissance stalls, which can be visited with the **Diocesan Museum**. Consult visiting hours (\*).



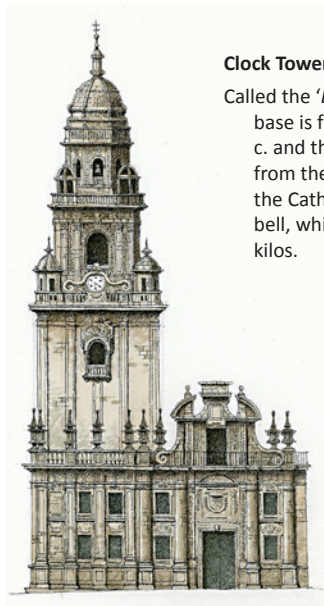
## Praza da Quintana (d2) ▼

After a long existence that featured the first City Hall, market and public cemetery until 1780, the *Quintana* is now a baroque square divided in two: top, '*Quintana de Vivos*'; bottom, '*Quintana de Mortos*.' It has a combined length of 80 metres and width of 50 metres.



**Casa da Parra (9)**

Baroque house, 17th c.



**Clock Tower (1)**

Called the '*Berenguela*.' The base is from the 14th c. and the Baroque top from the 18th c. Houses the Cathedral's largest bell, which weighs 6,433 kilos.

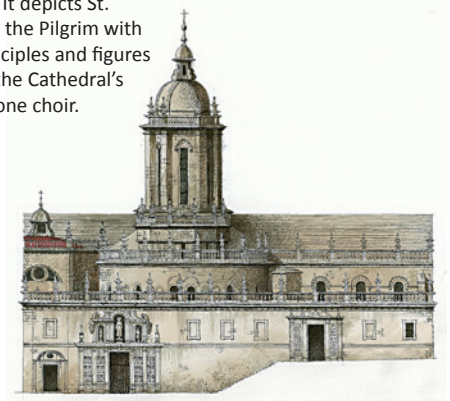


**Casa da Conga (11)**

Baroque houses, 18th c., belonging to the Cathedral's canons.

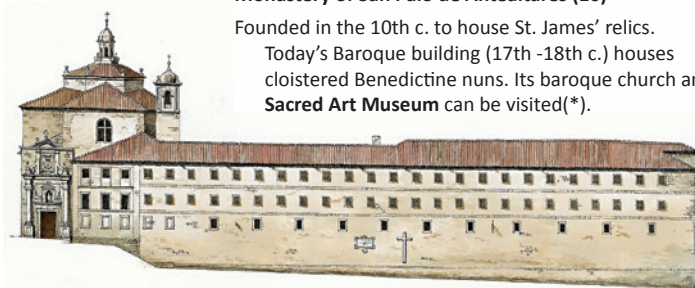
### Holy Door (1)

Only opened during Holy Years. It depicts St. James the Pilgrim with his disciples and figures from the Cathedral's old stone choir.



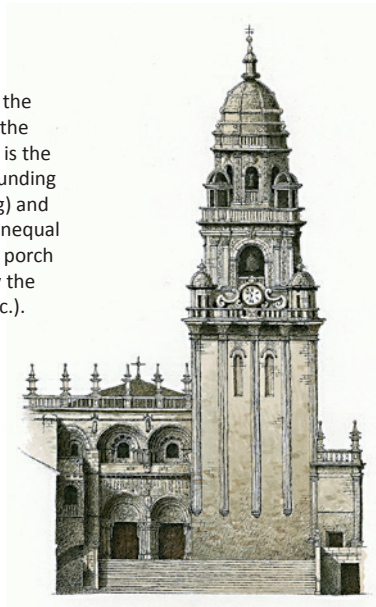
### Monastery of San Paio de Antealtares (10)

Founded in the 10th c. to house St. James' relics. Today's Baroque building (17th -18th c.) houses cloistered Benedictine nuns. Its baroque church and **Sacred Art Museum** can be visited(\*).



## Praza de Praterías (d2) ▼

The Cathedral's south square is called after the workshops of the silversmiths that surrounded the cloister in the Middle Ages. It is the smallest of the squares surrounding the Cathedral (50 metres long) and since 1700 divided into two unequal platforms: the church's south porch and the square dominated by the Fountain of the Horses (19th c.).



### Praterías Façade (1)

Romanesque. 11-12th c. The oldest of the existing façades symbolises Redemption, with scenes from Jesus' life and passion.



### Treasury Façade (1)

Renaissance, 16th c. Cloister wall decorated with medallions featuring the Virgin's genealogy and scenes from the Apostle James' life. Stepped-pyramid tower.

### Pilgrimage Museum (12)

The former Bank of Spain was refurbished by M. Gallego Jorroto in 2012 to house this new museum that can be visited (\*).

### Casa do Cabido (13)

Baroque, 18th c. Stone backdrop barely three metres wide. As of 2011, it forms part of the Pilgrimage Museum.



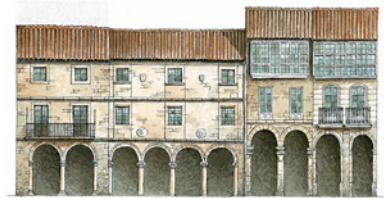
## Around the streets (d2) ▼

Some monumental streets are as old as the city itself: *Franco*, *Vilar* and *Preguntoiro* date from the 10th c.; *Rúa Nova* from the 12th c. Featuring stately houses, cultural venues and shops, almost all of them acquired their present-day appearance starting from the Enlightenment and were paved with stones in the 19th c.



**Casa do Deán (14)**

Baroque palace-house, 18th c.  
Façade decoration formed by plaques, scrolls and cylinders.



**Houses on Rúa do Vilar**

Renaissance, baroque and neoclassical mansions correspond to the prototype of an urban '*pazo*' (palace) and are characterised by their large coats of arms and the quality of their stonework and ornamental wrought-ironwork. Advancing towards Praza do Toural, we come across the **Torrente Ballester Foundation (15)** and the **Afundación Abanca Foundation (16)**, both of which can be visited (\*); Pazo de Monroy, in a pure Renaissance style, and **Pazo de Vaamonde (18)**.

**Pazo de Bendaña (19)**

Urban palace, 18th c. Balconies in Compostela's baroque style and statue of Atlas supporting the globe of the world. It now houses the **Granell Foundation**. Its museum can be visited (\*).



**Church of Santa María Salomé (21)**

13th – 18th c. The only church in Spain dedicated to the mother of the apostles James and John the Evangelist. Romanesque façade.



Also, on Rúa Nova...

**Teatro Principal (24)**, 19th c. theatre; **Casa das Pomas (25)**, baroque house; **Pazo de Santa Cruz (26)**, 19th c.



## Praza de Mazarelos and the Market (d2-d3) ▼

### Convento dos Remedios or Orfas (31)

Former Convent of *Orfas* ('orphan girls') from the 17th c., it now houses a school. Baroque church, 17th-18th c.

### Archway of Mazarelos (32)

The only existing archway from the medieval wall (11th c.). The 2-kilometre perimeter fort was demolished in the 19th century.



### Convent of Madres Mercedarias (33)

Founded in the 15th c., baroque building. Its church can be visited (\*).



### University Church or 'da Compañía' (36)

Baroque. 17th c., it belonged to the Jesuits until their expulsion in 1767. The interior houses university exhibitions, which can be visited (\*).



### Faculty of Geography and History (37)

18th-19th c. Neoclassical building crowned by giant statues of the University's benefactors. Landscaped cloister, auditorium featuring frescos and terraces with views of the entire city, which can be visited (\*).

### Church of San Fiz de Solovio (38)

Romanesque, 11th-18th c. One of Compostela's first churches, it is mentioned in the Codex Calixtinus. 12th-14th c. Façade; baroque tower.



### Praza de Abastos - Market (39)

The main market features fresh fish and seafood, meat, fruit, vegetables, flowers and cheese in a monumental building from the 20th c. Open from Monday to Saturday.



### Convent of Santo Agostiño (40)

17th c., a former Augustinian convent, it is now a hall of residence. The unfinished towers of its church façade stand out.



## Praza de Cervantes (e1-e2) ▼

Former marketplace and municipal square, Cervantes features the first baroque city hall, stately houses and a 19th c. fountain dedicated to the writer. It is surrounded by the former Jewish Quarter's streets: Algalia, Xerusalén, Troia...



### Church of As Ánimas (43)

Neoclassical, 18th c. Façade featuring bas-relief of souls in Purgatory. Sacred art collection, which can be visited (\*).



### Church of San Bieito do Campo (47)

18th c. Founded in the 10th c., it is now neoclassical. Valuable altarpieces and reliefs, which can be visited (\*).

### Casa Gótica (53)

14th c., also known as *Casa do Rei don Pedro*, it is one of the few examples of Gothic civil architecture in the city.



### Rúa das Casas Reais

The extensive Way of St. James crosses the old town from east to west. On entering via Porta do Camiño, it changes its name nine times according to today's map: Casas Reais, Ruela das Ánimas, Praza de Cervantes, Acibechería, Praza da Inmaculada, Arco de Palacio, Praza do Obradoiro, Costa do Cristo and Rúa das Hortas. From there, it continues alongside the Sarela River towards Fisterra.

### Church of Santa María do Camiño (41)

Neoclassical, 18th c., dedicated to the patron saint of pilgrims; it is the last Marian church on the Way of St. James before reaching the Apostle's tomb.



### Church of San Miguel dos Agros (52)

18th c., now baroque, it dates from the 10th c., which can be visited.

### Church and Convent of San Francisco (54)

13th-19th c. Gothic church believed to have been founded by St. Francis of Assisi. It is now also a hotel. It houses the **Holy Land Museum**, which can be visited (\*). Enormous Baroque-Neoclassical church from the 18th c., which can be visited (\*).

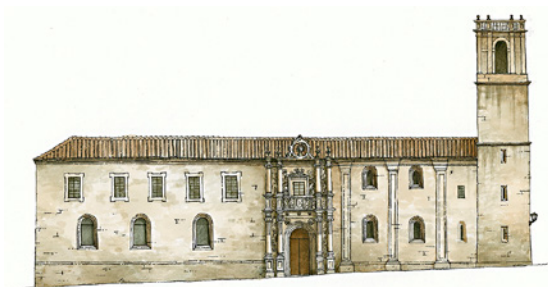


## Rúa do Franco and Alameda (c2-d2) ▼

### Rúa do Franco

It is the old town's gastronomic street par excellence.

Its restaurants continue the tradition of the medieval innkeepers who came here to cater to pilgrims (*Franks*, a term used to denote any pilgrim from beyond the Pyrenees), after whom the street is called.



### Colexio de Fonseca (57)

Renaissance, 16th c. The University of Santiago de Compostela's first college 500 years ago and first Galician Parliament in 1982. It now houses the university library. Beautiful cloister. Its exhibitions can be visited (\*).

### Porta Faxeira

One of the old city gates.

### Parque da Alameda

Nineteenth-century park featuring a wonderful view of the old town, old ornamental species, pond, oak grove, chapels, fountains and sculptures. The *Paseo da Ferradura* and *Paseo das Letras Galegas* viewpoints stand out, along with the *Carballeira de Santa Susana* (oak grove) and its chapel.



### Colexio de San Clemente (60)

Renaissance, 17th c. Formerly a Theology college, it is now a secondary school.



### Church of Santa Susana (63)

12th c., it is now baroque. It used to house St. Susana's relics, which are now kept in the Cathedral.

## Porta do Camiño and Bonaval (e2-f2) ▼

*Porta do Camiño* is the location of the former city gate through which pilgrims entered, after passing through the *Concheiros* neighbourhood and Rúa de San Pedro.



### Convento do Carmen (93)

Convent. Baroque, 18th c. A solid and simple building in the Carmelite style, which still houses a Carmelite community.



### Convent of Santa Clara (94)

Baroque, 17th-18th c. Cloistered convent founded in the 13th c., it features a peculiar curtain-façade in Compostela's geometric baroque style. Its baroque church can be visited (\*).



### Hospital and Chapel of San Roque (95)

Renaissance, 16th c. Former hospital built during the plague epidemics of the 16th c. Baroque church, 18th c., which can be visited (\*).

### Parque de San Domingos de Bonaval

It combines an old Dominican garden, oak grove and former cemetery. Not-to-be-missed views of the city.



### Convent of San Domingos de Bonaval (97)

Dominican convent founded in the 13th c., now baroque. Surprising triple spiral stairway, beautiful Gothic church and Pantheon of Illustrious Galicians. It houses the **Museo do Pobo Galego** (ethnographic museum), which can be visited (\*).

## Belvís and Sar (e3-c4) ▼



### Rúa de San Pedro

Final stage of the Way of St. James before entering the old town via *Porta do Camiño*. Traditional houses and old bars. Also, **Church of San Pedro (98)** and **Chapel of Angustia (99)**.



### Convent of Belvís (101)

Convent Baroque, 17th c. Founded in the 14th century to house cloistered Dominican nuns. Chapel featuring the popular *Virxe do Portal*, which can be visited (\*). Wonderful panoramic view of the old town and pleasant park featuring vegetable gardens.



### Colexiata de Santa María a Real de Sar (105)

Romanesque, 12th. Impressive inclination of its walls and columns. Small **museum** in the city's only Romanesque cloister, which can be visited (\*).

## Turismo de Santiago de Compostela

### Oficina Central de Información Turística Municipal

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Open all year

[info@santiagoturismo.com](mailto:info@santiagoturismo.com)

(\*) All the information at  
[www.santiagoturismo.com](http://www.santiagoturismo.com)