




# SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Santiago de Compostela, capital of Galicia and a UNESCO World Heritage City, is the final destination of the Way of St. James. Pilgrims from all over the world visit the Apostle James' relics and gain the Jubilee in its Cathedral each Holy Year. A holy city, episcopal see during a thousand years and university city for more than 500 years, Santiago de Compostela is now a living and monumental city, dynamic and safe, and ideal for walking.

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## TOURING THE CITY

### 1. HISTORICAL CENTRE

#### Cathedral

According to an ancient tradition, St. James the Greater, one of Christ's twelve apostles, was buried by his disciples 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 of this Romanesque masterpiece has been preserved, along with Gothic, Renaissance and baroque additions. The following stand out inside:

**Pórtico da Gloria.** Maestro Mateo. 12th c. Scenes from the Old and New Testaments, centred on the theme of Salvation.

#### High Altar, Apostolic Tomb and Alcove.

Baroque baldachin and silver altar, 17th c. Relics of St. James in the mausoleum.

**"Botafumeiro."** Largest censer in the world. It reaches a speed of 68 km per hour. Check dates.

**Chapels.** The oldest ones are those of Salvador and Corticela, which was an independent oratory in the 10<sup>th</sup> c.

\* **Museum.** Includes visit to the crypt, Treasury and Relics, cloister, tapestry room, archaeology rooms, chapterhouse, library and archive.

\*\* **Rooftops.** Artistic-historical interest and one of the best views of the city.

#### Praza do Obradoiro

Called after the workshops ("obradoiros") of the stonemasons that worked on the Cathedral, it features the city's main civil and religious buildings.

**Obradoiro Façade.** A masterpiece of Compostela's baroque style, 17th-18<sup>th</sup> c. 74-metre-high towers.

\* **Cloister.** One of the largest in Spain. Renaissance. 16th c.

**Hostal dos Reis Católicos.** Pilgrim hospital and shelter converted in the 20th century into a five-star "Parador" hotel.

\* **Archbishop's Palace of Xelmírez.** One of the best civil buildings in Spain's Romanesque style. 12th c.

**Palace of Raxoi.** Neoclassical, 18th c. Santiago City Hall.

**Pazo de San Xerome.** Renaissance. Houses the University of Santiago Rector's Office.





#### **Praza das Praterías.**

The Cathedral's south square is called after the workshops of the silversmiths that surrounded the cloister in the Middle Ages.

**Cathedral's Romanesque façade.** 12th c. Rich iconography centred on the life of Christ.

**Clock Tower.** Called the "Berenguela." The base is from the 14th c. and the baroque top from the 18th c. Houses the Cathedral's largest bell.

**Casa do Cabido.** Stone backdrop barely three metres wide, 18<sup>th</sup> c.

**Casa do Deán.** Palace-house, 18th c.

**\* Pilgrimage and Santiago Museum.** Permanent and temporary exhibitions centred on the city and the "Camino."



### **Praza da Quintana**

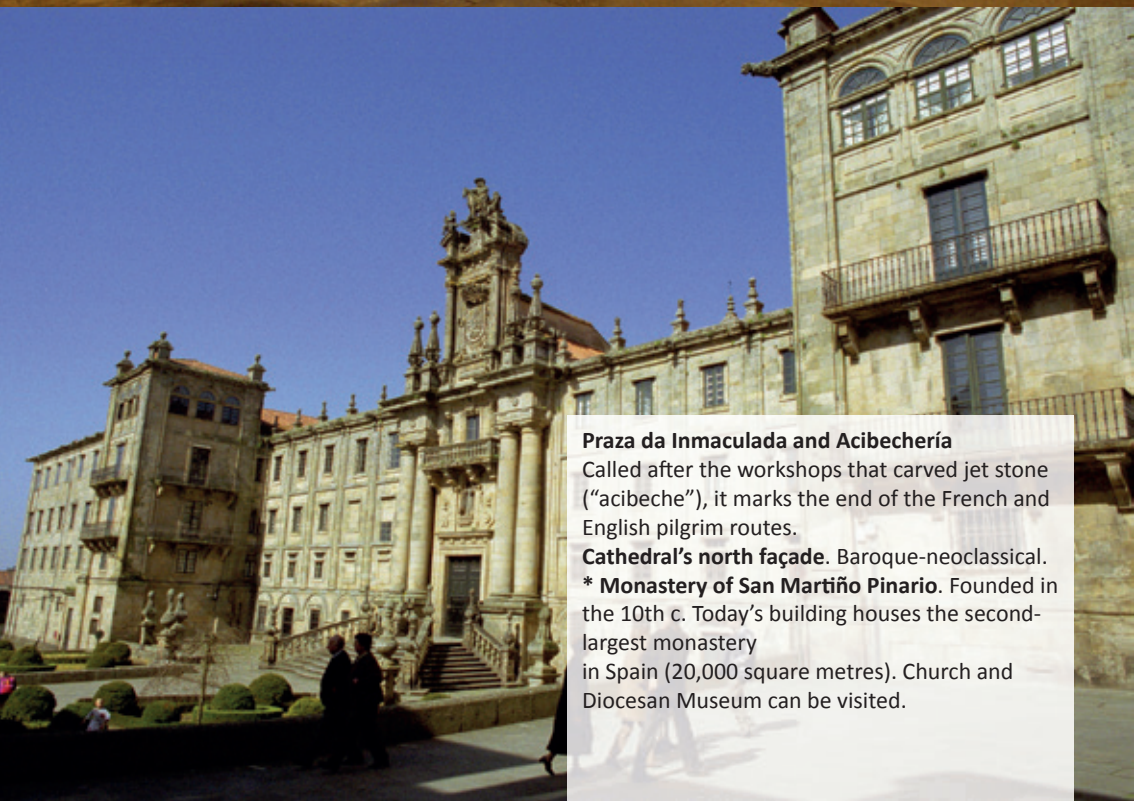
Baroque square divided in two: top, “Quintana de Vivos”; bottom, “Quintana de Mortos”, a burial site until 1780.

**Holy Door.** Only opened in Holy Years.

#### **\* Monastery of San Paio de Antealtares.**

Founded in the 10th c. Today’s baroque building houses cloistered Benedictine nuns. Sacred Art Museum.

**Casa da Conga and Casa da Parra.** Baroque houses, 18th c.



### **Praza da Inmaculada and Acibecheira**

Called after the workshops that carved jet stone (“acibeche”), it marks the end of the French and English pilgrim routes.

**Cathedral’s north façade.** Baroque-neoclassical.

**\* Monastery of San Martiño Pinario.** Founded in the 10th c. Today’s building houses the second-largest monastery in Spain (20,000 square metres). Church and Diocesan Museum can be visited.



## Other places of interest

\* **Colexio de Fonseca.** Renaissance, 16th c., houses the University library.

**Church and Convent of San Francisco.** Gothic convent, renovated in the 17<sup>th</sup> c. Functions as a hotel. Church from the 18th c.

**Rúas.** Not to be missed is a leisurely stroll along Rúa do Vilar and Rúa Nova, full of arches and stately houses; O Franco and A Raíña, dotted with restaurants and bars; and the traditional shopping route formed by Orfas-Caldeirería-Preguntoiro Streets.

\*\* **Alameda Park.** 19th c. Features a magnificent view of the old town, ornamental species, oak grove, chapels, fountains and statues.

\* **Pazo de Bendaña.** Baroque building that now houses the Granell Foundation. 18<sup>th</sup> c.

**Church of Santa María Salomé.** 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c.

**Church of San Fiz de Solovio.** 9th c. Romanesque façade.

\*\* **Faculty of Geography and History.** Neoclassical.

**Praza de Abastos.** The main market features fresh fish and seafood, meat, fruit, vegetables, flowers and cheese in a monumental building from the 20th c.



## 2. SAN DOMINGOS DE BONAVAL AND SAN PEDRO NEIGHBOURHOOD

The neighbourhoods of San Domingos de Bonaval and San Pedro make up an area characterised by art, history, scenery, popular tradition and contemporary architecture.

\* **Convent of San Domingos de Bonaval and Museo do Pobo Galego.** Ethnographic museum of Galicia. Rooms featuring the sea, countryside, trades and traditional architecture. Gothic church. Pantheon of Illustrious Galicians.

\* **CGAC.** Contemporary art in a building by Álvaro Siza.

\*\* **San Domingos de Bonaval Park.** Combines an old Dominican garden, oak grove and former cemetery in terraces designed by Álvaro Siza and Isabel Aguirre. Not-to-be-missed views of the city.

**San Pedro neighbourhood.** Final stage of the Way of St. James before entering the old town via "Porta do Camiño." Traditional houses, gastronomy and old bars.





### 3. OTHER SANTIAGOS

Santiago is a lot more than its old town. Venturing beyond it, you will discover monuments, picturesque traditional streets, designer buildings, appealing shops and viewpoints.

**\*\* Belvís neighbourhood.** Wonderful view of the old town. Dominican convent. Park with views. “A Trisca” socio-cultural centre, designed by John Hejduk.

**\* Collegiate Church of Sar.** Romanesque, 12th c. Striking inclination of its walls and columns. Small museum in its Romanesque cloister.

**Ensanche.** Large urban expansion area, 20th c. Shops, Galician fashion, cafés and restaurants. Galician Parliament (Rúa do Hórreo).

**\*\* University campuses.** The South Campus arose in the 1930s as a “garden city.” The North Campus features the Journalism and Philology Faculties and the “Auditorio de Galicia” auditorium.

**\*\* Parks and viewpoints.** Santiago’s rolling terrain has given rise to natural viewpoints such as the Alameda, San Domingos de Bonaval, Belvís, Galeras Park, Granxa do Xesto and Carlomagno Park.



#### Contemporary architecture.

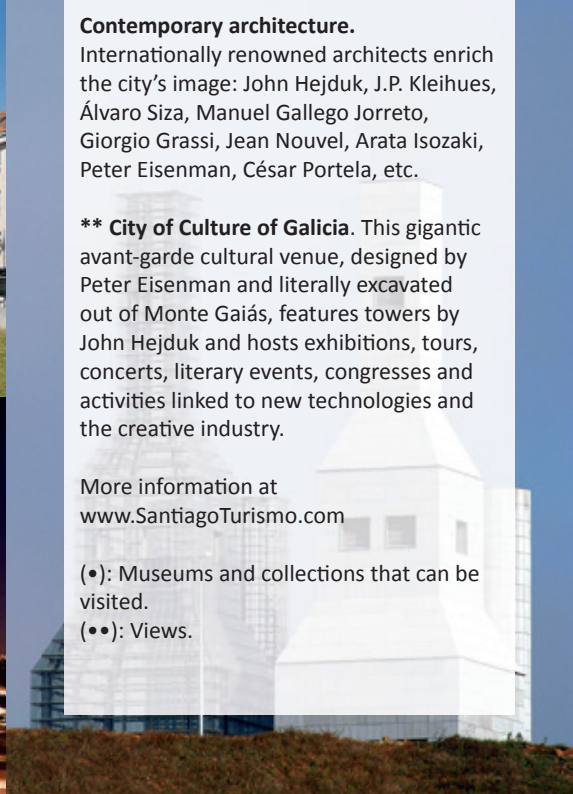
Internationally renowned architects enrich the city’s image: John Hejduk, J.P. Kleihues, Álvaro Siza, Manuel Gallego Jorroto, Giorgio Grassi, Jean Nouvel, Arata Isozaki, Peter Eisenman, César Portela, etc.

**\*\* City of Culture of Galicia.** This gigantic avant-garde cultural venue, designed by Peter Eisenman and literally excavated out of Monte Gaiás, features towers by John Hejduk and hosts exhibitions, tours, concerts, literary events, congresses and activities linked to new technologies and the creative industry.

More information at  
[www.SantiagoTurismo.com](http://www.SantiagoTurismo.com)

(●): Museums and collections that can be visited.

(●●): Views.





## GASTRONOMY

Santiago is the capital of Atlantic gastronomy. Its market ("Plaza de Abastos") offers fresh sea and farm produce: more than 80 kinds of fish, 50 types of molluscs and meats that are prepared in a very natural way to preserve their top quality.

More than a thousand bars and restaurants offer both traditional cooking and auteur cuisine; Galician and international food; gourmet menus, set meals, portions and tapas. Not to be missed are seafood, "polbo á feira" (Galician-style octopus), "queixo tetilla" (conical soft cheese), "tarta de Santiago" (almond cake) and Galician wines such as Albariño and Ribeiro. In winter, "cocido" (stew), "caldo galego" (Galician broth) and stuffed "filloas" (crepes). And many delights (convent cakes and biscuits, wines, eau-de-vies, cold meats and cheeses) can be bought to take away.



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