



# Betanzos



Concello de Betanzos



BETANZOS  
cerca

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## Routes //



### Historic Quarter Route

This route is intended to offer visitors the chance to explore Betanzos' rich historical and artistic heritage. The town's historic quarter was declared a historic and artistic

site in 1970 and boasts two national monuments: the churches of Santa María del Azogue and San Francisco. The tour of the medieval quarter (the only one in Galicia to

conserve three medieval gates) will enable visitors to discover several episodes from the town's history, as well as many intriguing facts and the chance to explore the principal monuments.

HERMANOS GARCÍA NAVEIRA SQUARE (the statue of the brothers, the Church of Santo Domingo, the Archives Building, the Former Hospital of San Antonio, the Fountain of Diana, the colonnades) • THE BANDSTAND • PORTA DA VILA GATE • CONSTITUCIÓN SQUARE (the noble houses of Casa Nuñez, Pazo de Bendaña, the Town Hall, Lanzós noble house and tower) • CHURCH OF SANTIAGO • OS FERREIROS STREET (Pazo de Taboada noble house and Ponte Novo Gate) • CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA DEL AZOGUE • CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO (the Tomb of Fernán Pérez de Andrade 'O Boo') • EL CRISTO GATE • RÚA DA CERCA STREET • PONTE VELLO GATE • CONVENT OF LAS AGUSTINAS RECOLETAS • CASAS POPULARES DE LA FONTE DE UNTA QUARTER



### García Naveira Brothers Route

This route has been designed to provide an insight into the work of the García Naveira Brothers, Juan and Jesús, two of the town's most important benefactors in the early 20th century. On emigrating to Argentina, these indianos (the name given to the men and women that emigrated to South America), amassed a vast fortune which, on their return to Betanzos, they spent on the construction of infrastructures for the poor and underprivileged and on creating a magical place, the Pasatiempo Park, designed to provide locals

with a living encyclopaedia filled with surprising and fabulous figures that would fire the imagination.

STATUE OF THE GARCÍA NAVEIRA BROTHERS • HOUSE OF THE GARCÍA NAVEIRA BROTHERS • CASA DEL PUEBLO CIVIC CENTRE • DON JESÚS GARCÍA NAVEIRA SCHOOLS • PASATIEMPO PARK • PUBLIC WASHING PLACE • THE GARCÍA HERMANOS SCHOOL • OLD PEOPLE'S HOME



### Modernist Route

This route includes the finest Modernist style buildings and elements that can be seen in Betanzos. In the early 20th century,

Betanzos underwent a profound transformation, turning its back on its medieval walls and building a number of magnificent family homes

in the Modernist style of the day. The route includes works by famous architects such as Rafael González Villar.

FOUNTAIN OF DIANA THE HUNTRESS • CASA VALDONCEL 7 • CASA PITA • THE BANDSTAND • CASA DE DOÑA AGUEDA • EL CANTÓN STREETLAMPS • RÚA NOVA HOTEL • CASA NÚÑEZ • CASA LIMIÓN • CASA DEL PUEBLO CIVIC CENTRE • SCHOOLS OF DON JESÚS GARCÍA NAVEIRA • THE ABATTOIR • PONTE NOVO POWER STATION • CASA FLORA



### Town Trades and Traditions Route

This route has a twofold objective: to offer an insight into the layout of Betanzos since its origins as the fortified settlement of Untia to its transformation into a medieval town and the changes it has experienced

up until the present day, and also to discover the town's traditional trades and crafts (as reflected in many of the town's street names) and the industries for which Betanzos is renowned, including

winemaking, hop growing, boat making and flour milling. The route also enables visitors to discover a number of legends associated with the town of Betanzos.

AS MARIÑAS MUSEUM • A VILA GATE • RÚA DOS PRATEIROS STREET • PONTE VELLO GATE • EL CRISTO GATE • FAÇADE OF THE CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO • PONTE NOVO GATE • QUAYSIDE • A GALERA • RÚA VALDONCEL STREET



## Festivals & Celebrations //



### Medieval Fair and Market

Held on the second weekend of July, this fair is a chance to travel back in time. Betanzos' historic quarter is transformed into a typical medieval market for the event, and the streets and squares are lined with stalls selling traditional arts and crafts. There are also numerous events that evoke this period, including plays and music performed in the street. This festival has been declared an event of Galician Tourist Interest.

### Festival of San Roque

This festival takes place between 14th and 25th August in honour of the town's patron saint, San Roque or Saint Roch. It has been declared of cultural interest due to the wide range of activities programmed each year, including religious and traditional celebrations. The festival attracts vast numbers of visitors, especially on the most important days such as the Balloon Launch and Os Caneiros river procession.

The balloon is launched at midnight on the feast day of the patron saint, 16th August. In turn, Os Caneiros river processions are held on 18th and 25th August, when elaborately decorated boats sail up the Mandeo river to a site where visitors and locals celebrate throughout the day.

February  
Carnival  
Amateur Theatre Festival

March-April  
Holly Week

May  
1st May Fair  
Festivity of Santa Maria de Pontellas

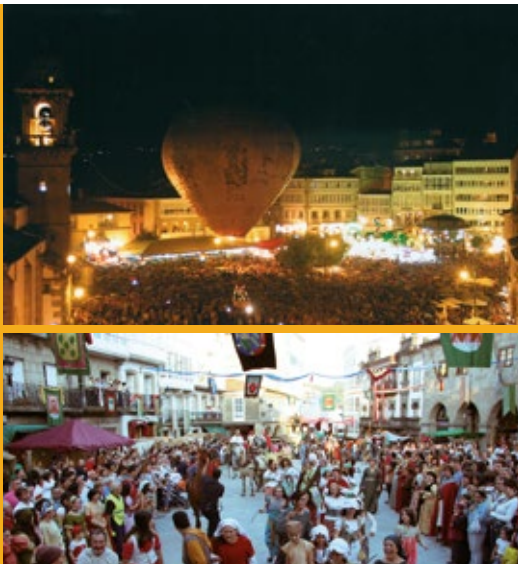
July  
Medieval Fair and Market  
Festivity of Santiago de Requían  
'As Balconadas' International Painting Competition (held every two years)  
Betanzos International Film Week

August  
Festival of San Roque (Betanzos' Patron Saint)  
September  
Os Remedios Countryside Procession  
Os Alboratados Countryside Procession

October  
Tortilla (Omelette) Week

November  
All Saints' Fair  
San Andrés Fair (30th November)

December  
Tapas Week  
Weekly market: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.  
Country Fair held on 1st and 16th of each month.



### The English Way

The English Way emerged in the 12th century as an alternative to the French Way. It includes a maritime route used by pilgrims travelling from northern Europe (the English, Irish and Scandinavians, etc.) in order to avoid using the more dangerous overland routes.

Once the French Way became established as the principal itinerary, this combined sea and overland route fell into relative oblivion, although in recent years it has been revived and is now used by many pilgrims. The fact that it is less-known than the French Way makes it the ideal choice for those

looking for absolute tranquillity and the opportunity to enjoy spectacular sea and inland scenery, including medieval towns and traditional Galician villages. Furthermore, it is a relatively short route that allows travellers to reach Santiago de Compostela in 4 or 5 stages.

The English Way to Santiago de Compostela starts in Ferrol, crossing the region known as El Eume before coming to Betanzos in a stage that boasts a wealth of built and environmental heritage.







## Monuments//

### Pasatiempo Park 01.

An initiative financed by the wealthy returned migrants to South America, the García Naveira Brothers, only a tenth of the original 90,000 m2 park, situated on the outskirts of Betanzos, still remains today. The list of the figures that can still be admired in the area known locally as 'the Caves' gives us a clear idea of the miscellany of the features made of cement, which at the time of construction was an extremely innovative material. Perhaps the most eye-catching of all, apart from the underground passages and caves, is the Retiro pond. The tour of the park also takes visitors past the polychrome painted murals featuring images of means of transport such as aeroplanes, airships or cable cars, as well as

maps of the Panama Canal, an atmospheric diving suit, the Pyramid of Cheops, testimony to a tour of Egypt, the mural of monarchical Spain and its 18 Republican Daughters, a tribute to Argentina, the clocks featuring the world's time zones, the Mosque of Muhammad Ali, mythological figures and exotic animals including a hippopotamus, elephant and an enormous lion, etc.

### The city gates 02.

Betanzos' ancient city walls, small stretches of which are still standing, had a total of 5 gates, three of which can still be seen today. The main gate, known as Porta da Vila, which was crowned by 3 coats-of-arms which today are embedded in

the side walls of a home, is no longer standing, although the name is still used for the entrance to the historic quarter. The three remaining gates are Porta da Ponte Nova, Porta do Cristo and Porta da Ponte Vella.

### Convent of Agustinas Recoletas 03.

This convent stands on the site of the former Hospital of La Anunciata. It was built between the 17th and 18th centuries and conserves the ancient cloister building featuring two bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the Annunciation, as well as the coat-of-arms on the façade (Charles V and the city arms).

### Church of San Francisco 07.

This church stands in the square named after Fernán Pérez de Andrade O Boo or 'the Good' and dates back to the second half of the 14th century. The most interesting features of the interior of this Latin cross plan church are the tombs of knights from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, in particular the sarcophagus that contains the remains of Fernán Pérez de Andrade. The pointed main door of the church is decorated with archivolts featuring geometrical patterns and foliage mouldings. The tympanum depicts the Adoration of the Magi. The church was declared a National Monument in 1919 and today it is an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC in its Spanish initials). The Tomb of Fernán Pérez de Andrade: It is situated at the far end of the church, close to the choir stalls, and stands on a carved bear and boar. The head

of the tomb is decorated with the Andrade family coat-of-arms, and the sides feature hunting scenes carved in relief. The sarcophagus is topped by a granite slab with a recumbent effigy of the knight in armour, in keeping with the style of the time. There is also an inscription surrounding the tombstone bearing the knight's name and the date the monastery was founded.

### Church of Santa María 08.

Standing in Fernán Pérez de Andrade 'O Boo' Square, this church was built in the second half of the 14th century and the early 15th century. It has a basilica plan and three naves. The entrance is flanked by two alcoves housing ancient statues of the Virgin Mary and the Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation). Highlights include the altarpiece and the capital which features Galicia's only agricultural calendar. It was

declared a National Monument in 1944 and today it is an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC in its Spanish initials).

### Church of Santiago 09.

This 15th century church, situated in Lanzós Street, shares certain similarities with the Church of Santa María del Azogue both in terms of its architecture and iconography. It has a basilica plan and is a fine example of the transition from the Romanesque to the Gothic styles, although it lost some of its architectural value due to the reconstruction of the main façade in 1900, when the original single tower was demolished and replaced by two towers topped by cement steeples. Fortunately, the main door was left intact. The Municipal or Clock Tower that stands adjacent to this church was built in the 16th century.

### Church of Santo Domingo 04.

Situated in Hermanos García Naveira Square, work on this church began in the mid 16th century on the site of an earlier chapel, following the arrival in Betanzos of the Dominican Order. However, one of the most noteworthy features is the 18th century tower, which is said to have been built thanks to a donation from Archbishop Monroy of Santiago de Compostela. It is from this tower that the famous San Roque balloon is launched on the night of the 16th August. The Convent of Santo Domingo was built next to the church, and today is home to the Municipal Library and Archives as well as As Mariñas Museum.

### As Mariñas Museum 05.

As Mariñas Museum was opened in 1983 and reopened in 1993 following extensive rehabilitation work on the building, originally the Convent of Santo Domingo (16th – 18th centuries). The building houses the Municipal Library and Archives, in addition to a varied collection of exhibits which has earned it a place amongst Galicia's leading museums. The collection has benefited from a large number of private donations and is particularly noted for its ethnographic value.

### CIEC 06.

The CIEC Foundation, the International Centre for Contemporary Prints, is housed in Casa Núñez, a monumental building situated in Betanzos' historic quarter, designed by Rafael González Villar in 1923. Today it is a centre of graphic arts, and the facilities include a school, workshop, exhibition space, collection and library. The foundation works to promote and disseminate visual arts in general with a special emphasis on graphic art.



### Hermanos García Naveira Square 10.

This is the city's central square and former market place. It features several elements worthy of mention, including the Statue of the García Naveira Brothers, which originally stood in the Pasatiempo Park; the Liceo Building, intended to house the Archives of the Kingdom of Galicia, although it was never actually used for this purpose; San Antonio Hospital, founded by Antonio Sánchez de Taibo in the 17th century to provide assistance for the inhabitants of Betanzos and the pilgrims travelling along the English Way to Santiago de Compostela and which currently houses the local courts; the Orphanage School, dating back to the 18th century; the Fountain of Diana the Huntress, officially inaugurated in 1867 and a faithful cast iron copy of the

statue housed in the Louvre; and the House of the García Naveira Brothers, which in its day represented a radical move away from the local architectural style, clearly reflecting the wealth and influence of its owners.

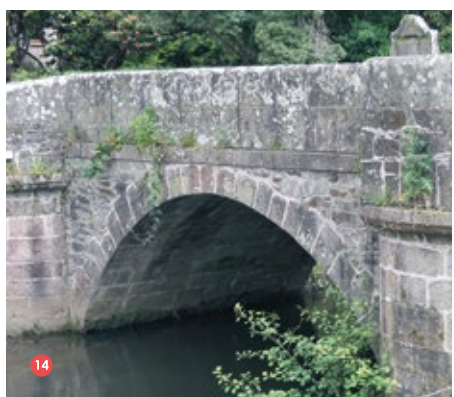
### Constitución Square 11.

The centre of the historic quarter boasts a number of architectural elements that are worthy of note: Pazo de Bendaña: this noble home was built in the 15th century and renovated in the 16th century; The Clock Tower: dating back to the 16th century, this polygonal tower features a series of coats-of-arms that surround the clock, indicating that although it stands adjacent to the church, it is the property of

the local government; The Town Hall: a three storey Neoclassical building designed in the 18th century by the architect Ventura Rodríguez; Pazo de Lanzós: renovated in the 17th and 18th centuries, this noble house reflects the sobriety of Galician architecture at that time.

### Casas Populares Fonte de Unta 12.

The Fonte de Unta quarter was traditionally home to farm workers, and is made up of characteristic buildings featuring the architectural elements necessary for their daily lives. The typical porches and arcades provided shelter from the rain and the wooden balconies were used to dry the corn, acting as a kind of urban granary.



### Public Washing Place 13.

Located on the left bank of the River Mendo and accessed by As Cascas Bridge, it was commissioned in 1902 by the García Naveira Brothers. It is a functional building, in keeping with the Rationalist architecture of the day. Particularly worthy of note is its horizontal nature, with just two storeys topped by a frieze.

### Ponte de As Cascas and Ponte Vella 14.

The Ponte Vella or 'Old Bridge' dates back to 1219, when it was known as 'Untia'. Today it is 59 metres long and is made up of 5 semicircular arches with triangular cutwaters on either side. The earliest written record of As Cascas Bridge dates back to 1219, making it in all probability the oldest bridge in Betanzos. Today it provides access out of the town for the pilgrims following the English Way to Santiago de Compostela.

### Shrine of Nuestra Señora del Camino-Os Remedios 15.

Belonging to the parish of Tiobre and standing on the English Way to Santiago de Compostela, the current church was built in the second half of the 16th century under the orders of the master architect Juan de Herrera on the site of an ancient chapel.

### The River Pelamios 16.

An area of natural beauty including the ruins of 19 'toll' mills (a system whereby the miller would keep a portion of the flour). Today a hiking route enables us to explore this breathtaking scenery.

## City map//

