



Camino de invierno

Etapa Chantada-Rodeiro

The Camino de invierno enters the province of Pontevedra via Monte Faro, which, at over 1,000 metres above sea level and crowned by the chapel of Nuestra Señora del Faro, acts as a natural border with Lugo. On this section, which is almost 13 km long and quite difficult, we descend along sloping forest tracks to the small village of Vilanova and continue along a local road to the village of Camba, where we find the Pazo de Camba or Casa de los Churruchaos, built in the early Middle Ages, with two monumental 18th-century chimneys and a Romanesque chapel in honour of San Xoán.

The route takes us through the Ermida valley to Río, where traditional dry stone architecture is evident in the walls of the paths and in the pendellos, traditional stone shelters used during historic cattle fairs. We take a cobbled path that leads us to Mouriz, from where we can see the centre of Rodeiro. Here, we end the stage with a well-deserved rest, sampling traditional game dishes or homemade cheeses and sausages, and take the opportunity to visit the 12th-century church of San Vicente, the old mill and the historic surroundings of the town hall.

Etapa Rodeiro-A Laxe

We begin a new stage that is more accessible and comfortable than the previous one, covering almost 28 km along local paved roads and traditional paths accompanied by native forest. We leave Rodeiro on the local road towards Fonte do Hospital, which reminds us of the old pilgrims' hospital located there, and continue alongside the River Arnego and its beautiful riverside forest, through the villages of Penerbosa, Puza and A Penela.

The next landmark is the Romanesque bridge in the parish of San Xiao de Pedroso, whose 13th-century chapel is well worth a visit as an example of the fine workmanship of the ancient master stonemasons. We continue through the village of Ponte, also known as Mesón, as it was once a place of lodging, and through the villages of Val do Boi and Coto de Anta to reach the municipal



boundary with Lalín at Coto da Mamuela, named in honour of the mámoas necropolis in this mythological spot, from where we can see Mount Faro and Farelo.

Palmaz and Fontecova are the towns that welcome us to Lalín, where we make an obligatory stop at the Chapel of San Martiño, a former 10th-century monastery with an abbot and abbess. The capital of cocido (a traditional stew) allows us to rest, stock up on supplies to continue the route and do some sightseeing, where the parish church of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, the monument to the aviator Joaquín Loriga and the Ramón María Aller municipal museum allow us to get to know this town steeped in history and delicious dishes in the local restaurants, with cocido as the star attraction.

We leave Lalín via the Pontiñas river path, passing through centuries-old oak groves and Espiño with its modern Chapel of Fátima. We end this stage in A Laxe, where we can sleep in the hostel and where the route joins the Vía de la Plata.

Etapa A Laxe-Outeiro

This stage, where two routes converge, the Vía de la Plata and the Camino de invierno, is 33 km long and of medium difficulty. It runs along traditional roads and paths that allow us to enjoy the landscape of the Deza and Ulla rivers. From A Laxe, we walk to Vilasoa to take a track to the villages of Prado and Borralla and continue along the traditional path to the Romanesque bridge Ponte Taboada, on the River Deza, which separates Lalín from Silleda.

We climb about 5 km along a paved path to Taboada and continue to Transfontao with its Baroque manor house and chapel belonging to the Montenegro, Mosquera and Ojea families. We arrive in Silleda where we can rest, buy provisions, visit the Neoclassical Church of Santa Eulalia or buy traditional rosquillas (ring-shaped pastries).

We leave Silleda via the San Fiz path, walking slightly downhill to the medieval bridge of Chapa, over the River Toxa, with beautiful scenery accompanying us to



Bandeira, a village that celebrates the Festa da Empanada every August, which is of national tourist interest.

We continue past the monument to José Espiño, a local parish priest renowned for his great work in support of the Camino, to reach Dornelas with its church of San Martiño, an outstanding example of Compostelan Romanesque architecture.

We continue along paved roads alongside the N-525 national road to the parish of San Miguel de Castro, in A Estrada, where we find the 18th-century Chapel of As Angustias and, a short distance away, the Romanesque chapel of San Miguel. We end this final stretch by visiting the Castro viewpoint or “Eira dos Mouros”, which bids us farewell to the province in an incomparable setting overlooking the River Ulla.