



Camino Miñoto Ribeiro

Etapa Pazos de Arenteiro-Soutelo de Montes

The Camino Miñoto Ribeiro enters the province of Pontevedra through the village of Portela de Lamas, where we leave the cold lands of Paraño behind and continue along the royal road to Soutelo de Montes, the end point of this stage, which covers just 4 km in Pontevedra territory. The town reveals its packhorse-trading past in its traditional architecture, in the cross in the Plaza de la Constitución and in the 19th-century traditional Galician shrines (peto de ánimas) to Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Immaculate Conception.

In addition to taking a break at the local services, we can learn about its illustrious figures - El Gaitero de Soutelo, Avelino Cachafeiro and the international photographer Virxilio Vieitez - on the tourist panels located in the Plaza de los Gaiteros.

We leave Soutelo de Montes via the 17th-century Bouza bridge, the subject of legends of mythical Moors and packhorse drivers, to continue to the next stage.

Etapa Soutelo de Montes-O Foxo

We begin a stage of almost 28 km of comfortable walking with few slopes, which recreates the steps of the royal road and the ancient “vreeiros” paths, traditional historic routes used by traders and travellers, that connected this province with the Ribeiro area.

From Soutelo de Montes, we ascend along asphalt to the village of Ventoxo, where we connect via local roads and traditional paths to the Freixeira recreational area and the village of Cachafeiro. The route continues along asphalt until it reaches the Gaxín path, which takes us to the medieval bridge of Gomial, in a memorable setting dominated by the River Lérez.

From here, we begin a new ascent towards the village of Forcarei, where we can enjoy a tasty richada (traditional Galician stew). The route continues along asphalt roads through the villages of Chamosa, As Casetas, Leboso



and Quintillán, where we stop at the old mill waterfall, the Church of San Pedro (1605) and the cross with pilgrim shells carved by the famous stonemasons of Terra de Montes.

We head towards the ruins of the 17th-century chapel of San Amaro de Meavía, in a picturesque landscape that is like a film set. We cross the bridge over the River Umia to the place of the cross and continue along a forest track to the Cruz del Coto, on the border with A Estrada.

Castrelo de Arriba in Pardemarin is the next landmark on this last stretch, barely 5 km long, across flat terrain that runs through Salouzans, Santa María de Rubín -which preserves three late Roman stelae in its walls- and O Foxo, where we stop to rest at the local inn.

Etapa O Foxo-A Gándara

We begin this stage, barely 7 km long, leaving the village of O Foxo towards San Pedro de Ancorados, where the church was a former convent from the late Middle Ages until the confiscation of church property in the 19th century. We continue along a paved track to the village of Mamoela.

From there, we begin a slight ascent to Monte Moído and then descend gently towards the village of A Pica, which owes its name to the location of a place of punishment and condemnation on the side of the road. We end this first part of the stage in Vilagude, in the parish of Moreira, where we can visit the Chapel of San Vicente or learn about the legends of the fortified settlement near the village from the locals.

The paved route continues through O Piñeiro and Pazo, where the neoclassical parish church of Santa Mariña de Ribeira awaits us, with a statue of Santiago Peregrino inside. The Camino takes us to Ponte Sarandón, where the new bridge built in 1929 on the remains of the old medieval bridge separates the provinces of Pontevedra and A Coruña.

Here, we bid farewell to this stage, enjoying the landscape of the Ulla and the colours of this valley rich in wine and garden produce, where just 5 km away, the route joins the Vía de la Plata on the way to Compostela.