



Camino de Santiago and Historic Routes Audio Guide

The roads of this land are not just trails; they are living memory, gathering thousands of footsteps, stories and ideas that have converged here for centuries. This region is not just a place of passage, but a veritable hub of historic routes where the legacy of the Camiño de Santiago and other historic routes converge, highlighting its importance as a centuries-old transit hub.

Historically, this territory has been crossed by five major routes: the Vía de la Plata (or Camiño Sanabrés), the Camiño de Inverno, the Camiño Miñoto Ribeiro, the Camiño da Geira e dos Arrieiros and the Camiño de Taverneiro. These routes were complemented by local rural paths (known as vreeiros), historically linked to two geostrategic centres of power: the monasteries of Aciveiro in Forcarei and Carboeiro in Silleda. They were also complemented by royal roads that led to the medieval fairs of Soutelo de Montes, and by routes towards Agolada, where the pendellos still bear witness to this commercial past, following the course of the Camiño Miñoto Ribeiro. This confluence of commercial exchange and pilgrimage gives the Camiño de Santiago routes through Deza-Tabeirós-Montes a special character. These royal roads were also trade and fair routes. If you want to learn about our culinary tradition and the products that travelled along them, be sure to listen to the Gastronomy audioguide.

One of the most visible signs of history and of the importance of the routes to Santiago de Compostela can be found in our bridges. The Ponte Taboada bridge in Lalín stands imposingly over the River Deza, with a single arch structure that was vital for medieval travel and transport. Following the course of history, we find the medieval bridge of Pedroso, in Rodeiro, and the beautiful Romanesque bridge of Pontevea, in A Estrada, which not only marked one of the last major crossings before Compostela, but also served historically as a border and toll collection point. Other essential landmarks are the Ponte Gomial and the Ponte Vella de Andón, both over the Lerez River in Forcarei, and the Ponte dos Cabalos over the Arnego River in Agolada. These bridges are not just architecture, they are symbols of the historical transit of pilgrims and goods and essential elements that link our past with our present. Another



trace can be found in the place names along the route, from Portela de Lamas in Forcarei, as the access point to the Camiño Miñoto between two provinces, to the Hospital Bridge on the Camiño de Inverno in Rodeiro, referring to a pilgrims' hospital, or places such as O Mesón de Cuñarro on the Vía de la Plata in Lalín.

But our status as a land of passage is much older than the Camiño de Santiago. The Roman villa of Porta de Arcos, in Rodeiro, linked to the Roman Road XIX, which connected present-day Braga with Lugo, reminds us that since Roman times, this was a geostrategic area, fundamental to the organisation of the territory, functioning as an economic hub and place of residence for the local elite.

The green heart of Galicia is made up of a thousand-year-old network of paths and routes. Dare to discover its secrets.