



Ethnography and Popular Tradition Audio Guide

The character of these lands can be read not only in the natural landscape, but also in the traces left by human hands. This heritage is a true testament to traditional architecture, rural life and the deep connection between local communities and their land.

The commercial and community spirit of these places can still be felt at the Pendellos of Agolada and the Pendellos da Feria in Rodeiro, which were the heart of regional trade, where trade and fairs brought together the rural and the urban worlds. Equally important was the old market of Gouxá, in Dozón. And alongside them we find the Neveiras de Fixó, traditional snow pits used to store ice located in Forcarei. These structures, built at the initiative of the monks of Aciveiro in the 17th century, were crucial to the ice trade, supplying this resource to both the monastery and the Cabildo de Santiago (ecclesiastical community) and promoting its commercial and medicinal use in many parts of Galicia.

Working the land and its resources gave rise to unique structures; the alvarizas (traditional stone beehive enclosures), essential for beekeeping, were built with high circular walls to protect the beehives from bears. Examples of this can be found in the Alvarizas de Zobra (Lalín) and the Alvariza de A Graña (Forcarei).

The force of water powered the mills scattered throughout the region, such as the unique Muíño de A Barca (Vila de Cruces) and those of Serra do Mestre and Vesacarballa, in Sabucedo, and the impressive Muíño de Covián de Silleda, which, with four millstones, is the largest in the region. Alongside them, the hórreos (raised granaries) still store the harvest today.

The memory of rural work and life is preserved in key reference sites, such as the Casa Museo do Patrón in Doade, Lalín. This ethnographic museum preserves and exhibits an important collection of tools used in rural life and farm work, and was crucial in the recovery and dissemination of the traditional Festa da Malla, a traditional harvest-threshing festival, now recognised as a Festival of Tourist Interest in Galicia.



But alongside the architecture, the soul of these lands lies in their deepest traditions. The best-known of these is the Rapa das Bestas de Sabucedo, a wild-horse gathering and branding festival. This ancestral rite, recognised as a Festival of International Tourist Interest, celebrates freedom and strength and is also an ecological and sustainable practice, essential for preventing forest fires. In the Human Landscape and Rural Life audioguide, you can learn how this tradition shapes the character and work of local people.

However, the soul of the region also lies in the traditions and rituals that define the relationship between its people and the land, marking the passage of time. During Carnival, the ancestral Os Xenerais da Ulla festival in Silleda, A Estrada and Vila de Cruces stand out as a colourful and unique manifestation of Galician Carnival, recognised as a Festival of Tourist Interest in Galicia. In rural life, time is not measured by the clock, but by the cycle of the seasons and daily work: when to sow or harvest, the time of the pig slaughter or the Maia festival. These rites speak of a way of life that refuses to disappear, kept alive thanks to its people and their secular festivals.