



Religious and Spiritual Heritage Audio Guide

At an altitude of over 900 metres, in the Serra do Candán mountain range, in a landscape whose silence is broken only by history and accompanied by the wind, the remains of the former Monastery of Aciveiro await us on the hill of San Bieito, which for centuries witnessed the many pilgrims who, every 11th of July, came to entrust themselves to this miraculous saint. Devotion to San Bieito still lives on in Pardesoa, where hundreds of votive offerings and personal vows are made each year in the 17th-century parish church.

The origins of Aciveiro date back to 1135, and it is a unique example of Cistercian Romanesque architecture in the province of Pontevedra, where the austere exterior, typical of the Cistercian order, contrasts strikingly with the decorative richness of its interior capitals and the uniqueness of the false triforium.

The foundation of Aciveiro was a strategic process of colonisation and territorial control. The monastic community came to control extensive forests and pastures, alvarizas (traditional stone beehive enclosures) and neveiras (traditional snow pits used to store ice), which are explored in the ethnography audioguide. This site is essential for understanding Galician Romanesque architecture, linking Cistercian spirituality with the work of local stonemasons.

From the sober stone of Aciveiro, we move on to the popular fervour of the Sanctuary of A Saleta in Silleda. This is a centre of living faith that reaches its peak with the great pilgrimage every 19th of September, bringing together numerous devotees and visitors in search of comfort and protection.

The Sanctuary of A Saleta, together with Our Lady of O Corpiño in Lalín, forms a spiritual axis in the Deza region, demonstrating the deep historical connection between the territory and its most deeply rooted religious traditions. “El Corpiño” is known for its history of Marian apparitions and for its association with healing and exorcisms. It is a historic place of devotion, faith and mystery that is still alive in this region, where we can also visit the medieval Chapel of Hoivás de Piloño, dedicated to the Ascension, which receives offerings for women, children and crops, linked to the healing properties of the miraculous spring nearby.



In the lands of Tabeirós, the sanctuary of Our Lady of A Grela, located in the village of the same name, brings together pilgrims every September at the top of the Cross, where Our Lady of Guadalupe, traditionally associated with seafarers, meets the saints of the parish church of San Xurxo de Codeseda to perform a ritual of devotion and ancestral tradition. Nearby, Santiago de Tabeirós is a notable example of late Romanesque architecture, with a historical significance that transcends the purely religious. Did you know that this parish gave its name to the historic region of Tabeirós? During the Middle Ages, Tabeirós was one of the most important medieval counties in Galicia, and its elevated position allows visitors to enjoy a panoramic view that helps to understand its central role in the territory as a geostrategic enclave in the historical organisation and identity of this land.

Spirituality is part of the region's identity, which is why you will find stone crosses marking crossroads, protecting travellers and warding off evil spirits; chapels and hermitages built by the fervour of the local community and their devotion to local saints; petos de ánimas (traditional roadside stone shrines for the souls in Purgatory), recalling the constant link between life and death in Galician tradition; or rituals and remedies to cure the problems of the body and spirit.