

Riestra Street [06]. The **Villa Pilar** palace stands out portraying the bourgeois typology of the beginning of the 20th century.

01. Alameda. In the 19th century architect Alejandro Sesmero was in charge of a building project that would ultimately result in the Alameda. Pontevedra had been named capital of the province in 1833 and it was imperative that the city wall was demolished in order to accommodate new government buildings. Thanks to Mendizábal's freeing of enclosure, what used to be the Dominicans Garden became the Alameda. At the back we can admire tiles by the native Pontevedran Carlos Sobrino that date to 1927. They are made from ceramic from Triana and depict local customs from Pontevedra and surrounding areas.

02. Pazo Provincial. Work of Alejandro and Domingo Sesmero that was completed in 1890.

03. Ruins of Santo Domingo. All that remains of the church is the Gothic chevet with its five apses, the largest church ever built in Galicia by the Jacobins (friars of the order of Saint Dominic). These medieval ruins date back to the 14th century. In the 19th century, its demolition was considered but the Archeological Society prevented this from happening. The ruins were declared a national monument in 1895. Since 1947 they form part of the Provincial Museum of Pontevedra.



04. Monument to the Heroes of Ponte Sampaio. This monument commemorates the victory of the Spanish troops against the French in the battle of Ponte Sampaio, near Pontevedra. The battle took place between June 7th and June 9th of 1809. In the very middle there is a feminine figure that symbolizes the motherland Galicia. She incites them to fight while holding a shield with the Spanish coat of arms. The pillar where the whole monument rests resembles that of the bridge where the battle took place.

05. City Hall - Sculpture Cluster El Fiel Contraste
Built in 1880 by the municipal architect of the time Alejandro Sesmero. Its inspiration comes from parisian buildings and it was decorated following the style of Louis XV. *El Fiel Contraste*, created by sculptor Ramón Conde, represents a medieval government employee responsible for keeping track of the weights and measures to ensure fair and successful commercial transactions by using a balance.

06. CITA the Torres Arcebispaís interpretation center. The fortress is known as Torres Arcebispaís (Towers of the Archbishop) as it used to be the residence of the archbishops from Santiago dates to when visiting Pontevedra. The prison was located in the basement. The initial building process the 13th century and was in ruins up until the end of the 19th century. Recent excavations brought to light part of the moat, the drawbridge and catapult ammunition all of which are exhibited currently at the Center for the Performing Arts.

07. Mendoza Mansion. site acquired by Soledad Méndez Núñez, sister of the famous counter-admiral where the mansion was built in the 19th century. Years later, her nieces turned the place into a very well-known cultural hot spot and they participated in the establishment of the Provincial Museum with many donations. In front of the palace at the beginning of the avenue, we can see one of the four iron fountains that date to the 19th century. The rest of them are located at different points in the historic downtown area. The original one was built in France while the 3 copies were made in Vigo. Before arriving to the basilica on the left we can still see part of medieval wall.

08. Real Basílica Menor de Santa María la Mayor. This basilica exemplifies the richness and importance of the seafarer's guild in 16th century Pontevedra. It starts with a late gothic style with influences from the Portuguese manuelino and it also reflects those first strokes of the Renaissance. The main façade is one of the very best plateresque masterpieces in Galicia worked on by Cornelius the Dutch and the Portuguese João Nóbrega. The main scenes take front stage: Dormition of the Virgin, Assumption, and Trinity. It is interesting to see how the son is seated to the left of the Father. The Galtory scene finishes the façade. The iconographic repertoire is very ample and it is interesting to see San Jerónimo wearing glasses that symbolize wisdom and intelligence. Inside we can see exquisite ribbed vaults and the principal altarpiece that dates to the 20th century made of chestnut and walnut wood. The most interesting element is the back piece situated in the southern wall where we can find some educational embossed artwork portraying biblical scenes, fables and representations of the walls of Pontevedra.



09. Shrine of the Apparitions. Former school managed by the Doroteas nuns where Sister Lucía lived after the apparitions of the virgin of Fátima. Her room was transformed into a small chapel in which another apparition took place in 1925.

10. Cinco Calles (Five streets) Square. The *crucero* (stone cross) built in the 18th century which was originally located in Estrébeda, municipality of Pontevedra, deserves honorable mention. After the Civil War it was relocated to the main house in the square was the residence of D. Ramón María del Valle-Inclán. He attended school in this city up until 1885 when he left for Madrid. It was in Pontevedra where he published his very first work, *Femeninas*. He also wrote articles in many magazines and newspapers.

11. Parador Casa del Barón. This *pazo* (Galician mansion belonging to noblemen) was built on a former Roman town. Its second owner was the marquise of Figueroa and Atalaya. After his death, the building deteriorated rapidly up until Eduardo de Cea y Naharro, baron of the Odeda house, brought it back to splendor. It was the very first national *parador* (state-owned hotel) ever opened in Galicia and was inaugurated in the year 1955 under the name of its last owner.

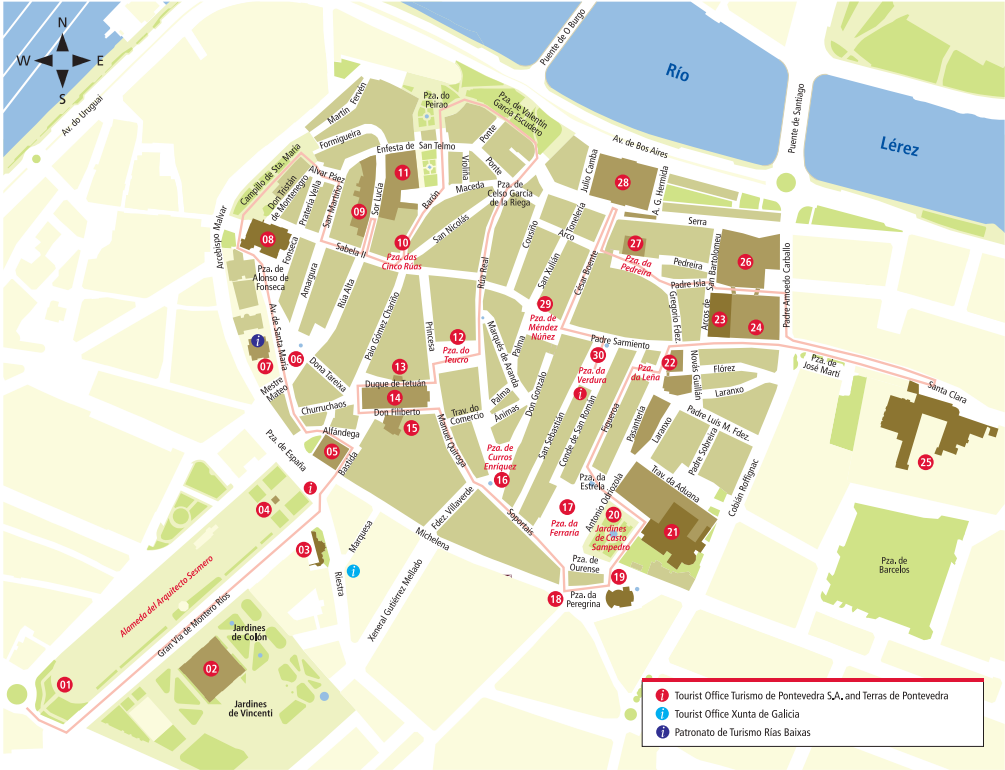
12. Teucro Square. According to the legend, the Greek archer Teucro, after the Trojan War, arrived to this coast and founded the city. It is colloquially known as the *Semillas* (seeds) square since seeds are sold there four days a month. It is a great example of the richness of the heraldry in Pontevedra as it is represented by its coat of arms. The building is a fine example of mansions dating from the 17th to 18th centuries. Some of the coats of arms found there belong to Gago y Monenegro, authentic jewel of the baroque style in Galicia.



13. Nazareno Chapel. It was built in the 14th century and was known as the chapel of the *Emparedadas* (confined) as it was a small cloister convent. The statue of Jesus of Nazareth can be found inside. Following tradition, it is visited by many people on the first Friday in March. The devotees arrive to the chapel to make three petitions to Jesus of Nazareth and leave their offerings there.

✧ A JOURNEY THROUGH MONUMENTAL PONTEVEDRA ✧

Pontevedra enjoys a strategic location as the capital of the 'Rías Baixas' and is a key stop on the Portuguese Pilgrimage Route to Santiago. Pontevedra's name comes from the latin "Ponte Vetera" (Ancient Bridge) an refers to an old Roman bridge. The city enjoyed its own golden age during the 15th and 16th centuries mainly due to its port and sardine fisheries. It was then that it became the biggest town in Galicia. In 1833 it was named capital of the province. Presently, its historic downtown is considered one of the best in Galicia and it was declared Historic Artistic Site in 1951.



14. Main Theater and Casino Liceo. To build it they used stones from the fortress of the Towers of the Archbishop after they had been demolished. The building process started in 1864 on the site of the former church of San Bartolomé el Viejo, once the original head office of the society became too small. It was inaugurated in 1878 and both buildings were rebuilt in 1983 after the serious fire of 1980.

15. Casa das Campás (Bell House). One of the oldest houses in town, it is a building from the 15th century. Its façade preserves gothic arches and two pieces of heraldry. In the 19th century it was related to the adventures of Benito Soto, a pirate from Pontevedra. He was a cruel and bloodthirsty pirate who sailed in boats of corsairs and slave dealers in Brazil and the Caribbean. He was believed to hide in this house when he was persecuted and the rumor has it that he hid part of a treasure there that has never been found. Benito Soto was hanged in Gibraltar when he was 25. The building now belongs to the city that gave it to the University of Vigo and it is there where the vicechancellorship is today.

16. Curros Enríquez Square. It is part of the Portuguese route of the Portuguese Pilgrimage Route to Santiago and it was formerly well known as the Hospital Square since it was there where the hospital Corpus Christi was located until 1896. The fountain resembles the one mentioned earlier. The bust located in the square is of Alexandre Bóveda who participated together with Castelino in the foundation of the Partido Galeguista (Galician Party) in Pontevedra in 1931. He was later sentenced to death and was executed in the city suburbs.

17. A Ferraría Square. It takes its name from after the iron forges that were installed in the square's porches. This space was created in order to accommodate the *Feira Franca* (a fair) that the King Enrique IV granted to the city in the 15th century. Bullfights were celebrated here in the 17th and 18th centuries. There were many buildings built back then that are still in very good condition and now coexist with newer constructions dating from the 20th century.



18. Monument to the parrot Ravachol. Each year during the Carnival Season, people from Pontevedra think of Ravachol, a parrot that was named after a very famous French anarchist. The animal would display its wit and charm in a pharmacy located where the monument is today.

The pharmacist would organize intellectual meetings there and the parrot would actively participate in all of them. When the parrot passed away in the Carnival of 1993, the mourning turned into a public display of affection. Ever since, each year the parrot's 'burial' marks the end of the Carnival season in Pontevedra.

19. Shrine of the Virgen Peregrina (Pilgrim Virgin). The shrine was built at the end of the 18th century. It is one of the most relevant buildings in the city. It was built in honor of the Virgen Peregrina, patron saint of the province of Pontevedra and the Portuguese Pilgrimage Route to Santiago. Her feast day is celebrated yearly on the second Sunday of August. Inside the shrine there is a statue of the Virgin dating from the 19th century as well as a large natural scallop shell to keep holy water. The scallop shell symbolizes the pilgrims and the Saint James' Way. In the façade, Saint James and Saint Joseph keep company to the Virgin. The three of them are wearing typical Pilgrim clothing. At the bottom of the shrine we discover the city's coat of arms and an image of Teucro, the mythical founder of the city.



20. Casto Sampedro Gardens. These gardens were created in honor of the well-known archeologist from Pontevedra Casto Sampedro. He is responsible for the building of the fountain that we can still see in the gardens. The city of Pontevedra suffered frequent water shortages in the Middle Ages. As the city grew larger, the city council was forced to build structures to solve this issue. The water was brought into the city from springs nearby. Water of these gardens came from Franciscan's spring. There is a popular song that refers to this specific situation:
Pontevedra is a good town/gives drink to those who pass by the Ferrería fountain and the San Bartolomeu square
The original fountain was neglected and had to be rebuilt in the 20th century. Many of the original pieces from the 16th century were kept in the restoration process. It resembles the fountains from the north of Portugal.

21. San Francisco Church. It was founded in the middle of the 13th century. The only part of the church that remains from that time is the façade. The church building and the convent were continuous throughout the entire Middle Ages. The same applies during the Modern Ages when

prominent families such as the Soutomaior, the Cruu or the Marino de Lobeira chose to build their funeral chapel there. One of the most relevant funeral monuments is located in front of the high altar. The ones next to the Epistle belong to the admiral and poet Paio Gómez Chariño and his wife. In the Gospels section of the church there is another funeral monument dating to the late 15th century in which you can find two tombs with unknown identity. The monks left the city in 1836 due to the confiscation process. The temple was semi-abandoned for many decades and some of the chapels turned into ruins. The walls became whitewashed and many mural paintings were lost. Two of them were recovered in a recent restoration. The medieval monastery was replaced by the current one at the end of the XVIII century. It is currently the location of the main tax office. The building's door is the only wall door left and it was added to the building in the 19th century.



22. Leña (Firewood) Square and Provincial Museum. It is one of the most emblematic squares in the whole city. It received its name from the firewood market that supplied old kitchens. The stone cross is a key piece and it was originally from the nearby city of Caldas de Reis but came to Pontevedra after its restoration in 1941. Some of the main buildings that belong to the Museum of Pontevedra are located in the Leña square. The museum was founded on December 30, 1927. The treasures of the museum are unique in terms of variety and exquisiteness. Some of their most precious pieces are prehistoric works of precious metals. The well-known gold treasure of Caldas is one of the most relevant collections of bronze hatchets, precious onyx from all over the country, parish crosses, Sargadelos ceramic as well as the most important collection of naval history. This collection showcases representations of a chamber of the frigate Numancia as well as the office of the boat of the rear admiral Méndez Núñez. The museum of Pontevedra, with its six buildings, is one of the biggest and best provincial museums on a national level.



23. San Bartolomé Church. This church was built between 17th - 18th century by the Jesuits. It has an extraordinary cluster of baroque altarpieces and sculptures. The statue representing the order's founder, San Ignacio de Loyola, deserves special mention. The sculpture belongs to the Castilian school and it is located in the high altar. The statues of the Jesuits Francisco de Boria and San Francisco Javier are located to the sides. The one representing Magdalena the penitent belongs to the school of Gregorio Fernández while the Doloresa from the 18th century belongs to the school of Pedro de Mena. It is in this church as well that we can find the Virgin of the O, patron saint of the city of Pontevedra whose feast day is celebrated on December 18th.



24. Sarmiento Building. This is the building contiguous to the church of San Bartolomé and it was the former Jesuit school. In the 19th century it used to be the new high school that Valle-Inclán attended. Presently it is part of the Museum of Pontevedra under the name of Edificio Sarmiento, in honor of Friar Martín Sarmiento who started his intellectual journey here.

25. Church and Convent of Santa Clara. The Poor Clares settled in Pontevedra in the XIII century. They decided to stay outside the city walls, close to one of the five walls doors. It was the number one place of choice for the distinguished families to take their single daughters until they were ready to get married. The church's façade dates back to the XIV century. Many relics of Saint Vicente the martyr and impressing baroque retables are found inside this church.

26. Sixth Building. It is built in the former vegetable garden of the Society of Jesus. By including this new building in the Museum of Pontevedra, the museum contains an additional 10,000 square meters to use as temporary as well as permanent exhibition rooms, a restoration workshop and an auditorium with a capacity for 200 people.

27. Mugartegui or De la Pedreira Square. In the past this square was used as a meeting point for all the stone workers in town so that they could carve and sculpt. The Mugartegui *pazo* that presides over the square was built during the 17th and 18th century following the very typical Galician urban-baroque architecture of the time. In the present time it is the head office of the Regulatory Council for the guarantee of origin and quality of the Rías Baixas.

28. Wholesale food market and bridges. It was first remodeled in the year 2003 after half a century of continuous use. The intention of architect César Portela in doing this reform was to add space and offer more diversity to its businesses. When doing this, they found pieces of the ancient city wall. From the highest floor of the building you can see many of the most relevant bridges in the city. The bridge of Burgo is the oldest and is currently in an incredible condition thanks to the restoration efforts of many experts from the 14th to the 20th century. The city receives its name after this bridge. The Portuguese Pilgrimage Route to Santiago crosses this bridge. It was here that the peace treaty of Lézrez was signed between Fernando II and the king of Portugal Afonso I. The bridge of the Tirantes lies to the east of this bridge and was built in 1995. It is at the most modern of all bridges and its tower is 56 meters long. This is one of the most peculiar bridges in Spain.

29. Méndez Núñez Square. It was built in honor of the very famous rear admiral born in Vigo but who lived and died in the house that presides over this square. The original building dates to the 15th century but the actual look was created by the end of the 18th to 19th centuries. Valle Inclán used to visit the place often to attend literature circles. The owner's library was one of the best known in Pontevedra. The magnolia tree is from the 19th century and it could have been planted by a family member of Méndez Núñez.

30. Verdura Square. Formerly known as Feira Vella because of the market that was held there and where vegetables and produce were sold up until recently. In the present time there is a small antique flea market on Sundays. The building of the arches located in the upper part deserves special mention. It is known as *Casa de la Luz* (House of light) since it was there, where in the 19th century, a power plant was installed. In 1888 Pontevedra became the very first city in Galicia to have electric lighting. This was possible thanks to a key individual in the city's politic, cultural and social life at the time: the Marquis of Riestra. Today it is the main office for Pontevedra's tourism as well as the new welcoming center of the city. In the square we can also find another of the four 19th century iron fountains in the downtown area of the city.

