

Pontevedra

Galicia · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Pontevedra is a small city in Galicia, in northwest Spain, at the head of a ría (estuary). Its old town is one of the largest car-free centers in Spain, and it is a relaxed, pleasant place to walk.

It has old squares, pilgrim churches, good museums and excellent seafood. It suits a day or two, and it is a good base for the Rías Baixas coast and the Camino de Santiago (Portuguese route).

When to visit

Summer is the best time, with the warmest weather and the least rain. Spring and early autumn are mild but can be wet. Winters are mild and very rainy.

The Festas da Peregrina in August are the main festival, with concerts and street events.

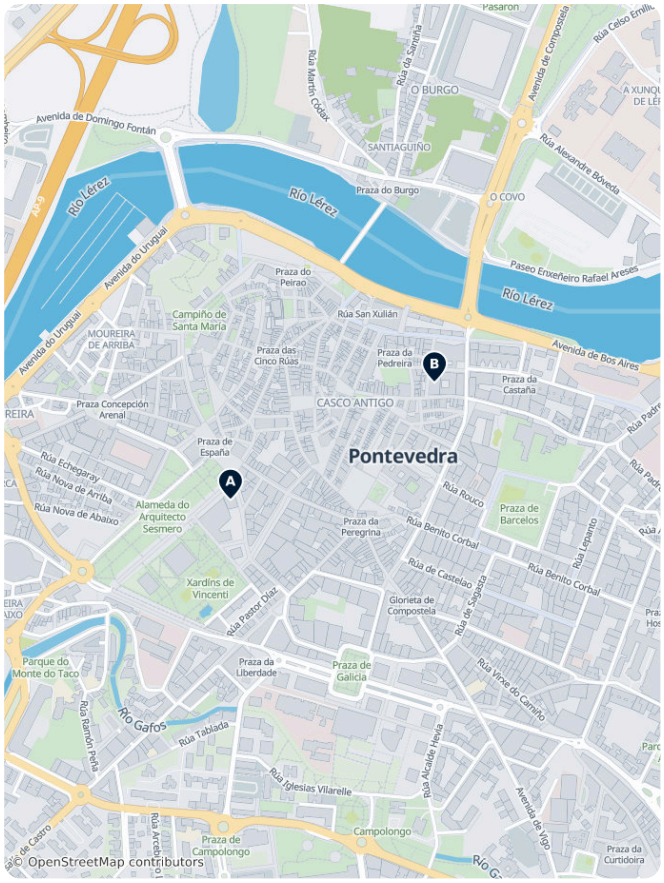
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 16°	8° / 2°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 19°	7° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 22°	8° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24°	10° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	12° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 11°	Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 34°	16° / 13°	Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 35°	16° / 14°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	15° / 12°	Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	13° / 9°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 21°	10° / 6°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	14° / 17°	8° / 3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- The old town is a network of stone streets and squares, such as Praza da Ferrería and Praza da Leña, with arcades and cafés.
- The Pilgrim's Chapel (*Capela da Peregrina*) is a small scallop-shaped church that is a symbol of the city.
- The Basilica of Santa María a Maior is a Gothic-Renaissance church with a carved façade.
- A Ruinas de San Domingos are the ruins of a Gothic convent church, now part of the Pontevedra Museum.
- B Igrexa de San Bartolomé is a church in the old town.
- The Pontevedra Museum is spread over several buildings, with art, archaeology and Galician history.
- Illa das Esculturas is a riverside park with sculptures.



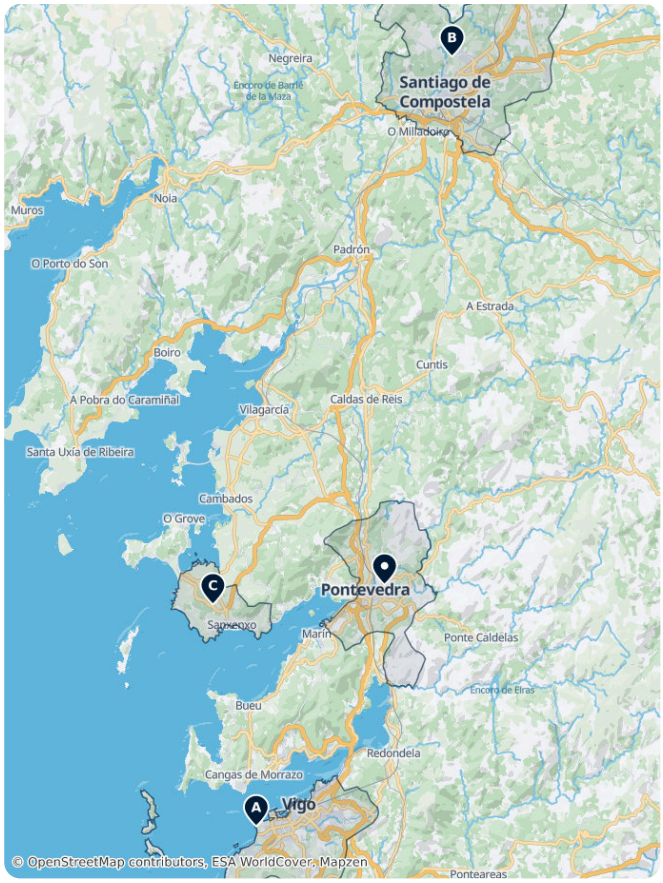
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What to experience

- Walk through the old town in the evening and stop in a café on one of the squares.
- Eat seafood and drink Albariño at a restaurant near the center.
- Walk part of the Portuguese Camino de Santiago out of the city.

Day trips

- A Vigo (about 30 km, 30 minutes): Galicia's largest city, with a port and good food.
- B Santiago de Compostela (about 60 km, 40 minutes by train): the end of the Camino de Santiago.
- C Sanxenxo (about 20 km): a beach resort town.
- **Combarro** (about 10 km): a fishing village with stone granaries (*hórreos*) on the shore.
- **Cambados** (about 25 km): a town in Albariño wine country.



Where to explore

Other places in Galicia:

- **Cities**: Vigo, Santiago de Compostela and A Coruña.
- **Coast**: Sanxenxo and Cangas.

Getting there

- **By air**: The closest airports are Vigo (about 30 km) and Santiago (about 60 km).
- **By train**: Trains connect Pontevedra with Vigo, Santiago, A Coruña and Madrid. The station is a short walk from the old town. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Coaches serve Vigo, Santiago and the coast.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The center is compact and mostly flat, and cars are banned from the old town, so walking is the best way to get around.
- **Cycling**: There are bike lanes, and the city is largely flat.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is car-free, compact and mostly flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The city is largely flat, with bike lanes.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. A car helps for the coast and wine villages.
- **Parking**: Use a car park at the edge of the center.
- **Restrictions**: Cars are banned from most of the old town.

Food & drink

Pontevedra has excellent seafood, including octopus (*pulpo*), scallops, and shellfish from the ría. *Empanada* is a baked pie filled with fish, meat or vegetables.

Albariño wine from the Rías Baixas is the local drink.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Pontevedra is a very safe city. Rain is common outside summer, so bring a waterproof jacket. Stone streets can be slippery when wet.

History

Pontevedra was a Roman port and later a major medieval town, with a fleet and a busy fishing trade. It became a stop on the Portuguese Camino de Santiago.

In the late 20th century the city closed its center to cars, and it became a model for pedestrian-friendly urban planning.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

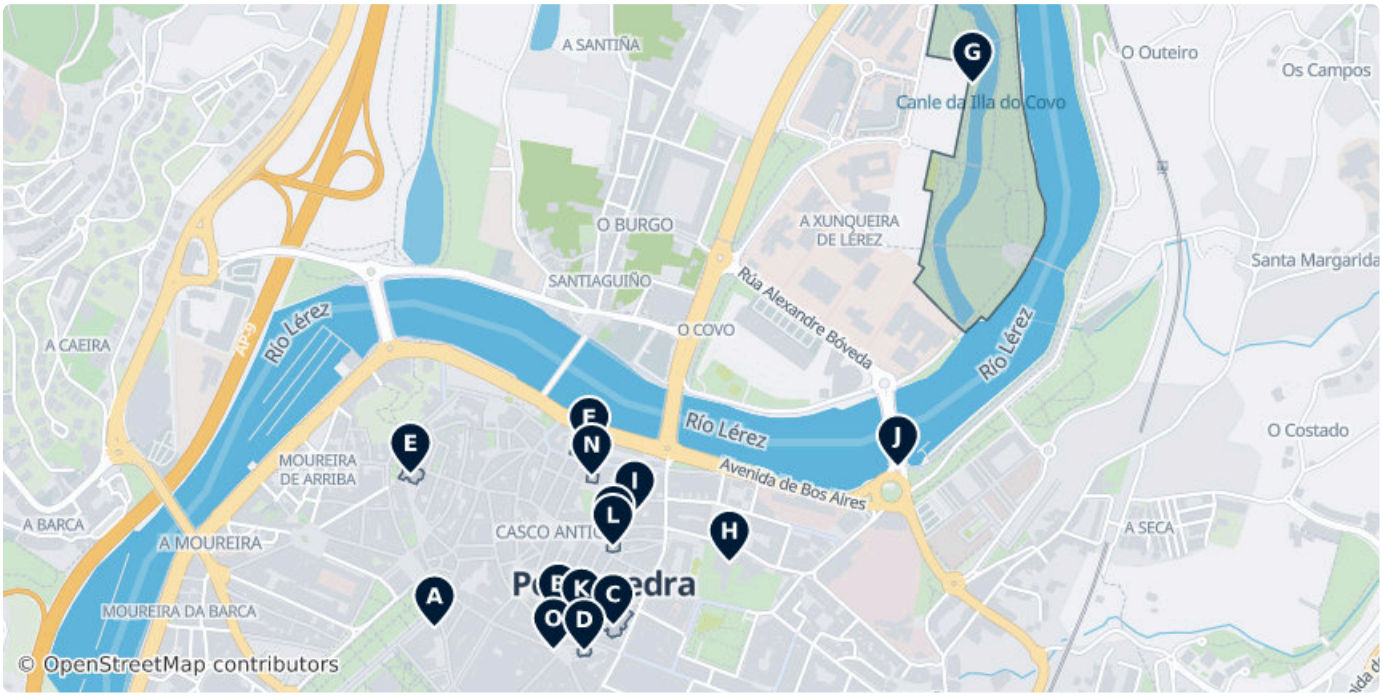
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Pontevedra Essentials

Pontevedra's pedestrian-only center preserves a wealth of Galician heritage, from the 14th-century Gothic ruins of San Domingos to the Plateresque facade of the Basilica of Santa María. This collection highlights the city's interconnected squares, such as the historic Praza da Ferraría, and unique religious landmarks like the scallop-shaped Capela da Virxe Peregrina. Beyond the medieval core, the list includes the modern Ponte dos Tirantes and the riverside sculpture garden on the Illa das Esculturas.





A Ruins of the Santo Domingo Monastery

These mystical ruins of a Gothic monastery consists of sanctuary and its chapels. Explore its premises and note the tomb carvings.

Calle de Gran Vía de Montero Ríos, 1, 36001 Pontevedra, Spain (42.43117, -8.64705)

museo.depontevedra.es, +34 986843238



B Praza da Ferraría

Central square bordered by historic arcades and the San Francisco convent. Historically the site of the city's blacksmith shops, it remains a focal point of local life.

Praza da Ferraría, 36001 Pontevedra, Spain (42.43138, -8.64421)



C Convento de San Francisco

14th-century Gothic convent featuring the tomb of Admiral Paio Gómez Chariño. Legend attributes its founding to Saint Francis of Assisi during his pilgrimage.

3 Calle de Cobián Roffignac, Pontevedra 36002, Spain
(42.43120, -8.64294)



D Capela da Virxe Peregrina

18th-century sanctuary dedicated to the patron saint of pilgrims. It is architecturally unique for its floor plan shaped like a scallop shell.

Rúa González Zúñiga, 36001 Pontevedra, Spain
(42.43077, -8.64361)



E Real Basílica de Santa María a Maior

16th-century Plateresque basilica commissioned by the sailors' guild. Its western facade is a masterpiece of carved stone, functioning as an outdoor altarpiece.

36 Calle de Isabel II, Pontevedra 36002, Spain
(42.43376, -8.64760)

Mo–Su 09:30–13:30, 17:00–21:00



F Mercado central de Pontevedra

The Central Market of Pontevedra is a covered market located in Pontevedra, Spain.

28 Calle Serra, Pontevedra 36002, Spain
(42.43420, -8.64350)



G Island of Scuptures

Sculpture garden, one of its kind on the Iberian peninsula, displays statues by prominent Spanish sculptors in a beautiful nature...

36005, Spain (42.44039, -8.63469)



H Convento de Santa Clara

14th-century Gothic convent formerly belonging to the Order of Saint Clare. It features a notable Baroque main altarpiece and was recently opened for public visits.

8 Calle de Santa Clara, Pontevedra 36002, Spain (42.43227, -8.64027)



I St. Bartholomew's Church, Pontevedra

St. Bartholomew's Church is a Catholic religious building in the city of Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain.

Rúa dos Arcos de San Bartolomeu, 36002 Pontevedra, Spain (42.43312, -8.64245)

J Ponte dos Tirantes

Modern cable-stayed bridge spanning the Lérez River. Completed in 1995, it is a prominent example of contemporary engineering in the city.

Ponte dos Tirantes, 36004 Pontevedra, Spain (42.43389, -8.63640)



K Fonte da Ferraría

16th-century Renaissance fountain located in Praza da Ferraría. It was restored in the 20th century and features classical tiered basins.

1 Plaza de la Herreria, Pontevedra 36002, Spain
(42.43130, -8.64367)

L Pazo de Castro Monteagudo

18th-century Baroque palace characterized by its stone balconies. It serves as one of the primary exhibition spaces for the Pontevedra Museum.

(42.43254, -8.64295)

M Pazo de García Flórez

18th-century manor house featuring a prominent coat of arms on its facade. It houses significant archaeological and historical collections of the Pontevedra Museum.

(42.43271, -8.64293)

N Pazo de Mugartegui

18th-century Baroque palace with a grand stone balcony. It currently houses the headquarters of the Rías Baixas wine regulatory council.

Praza da Pedreira 10, 36002 Pontevedra
(42.43374, -8.64344)

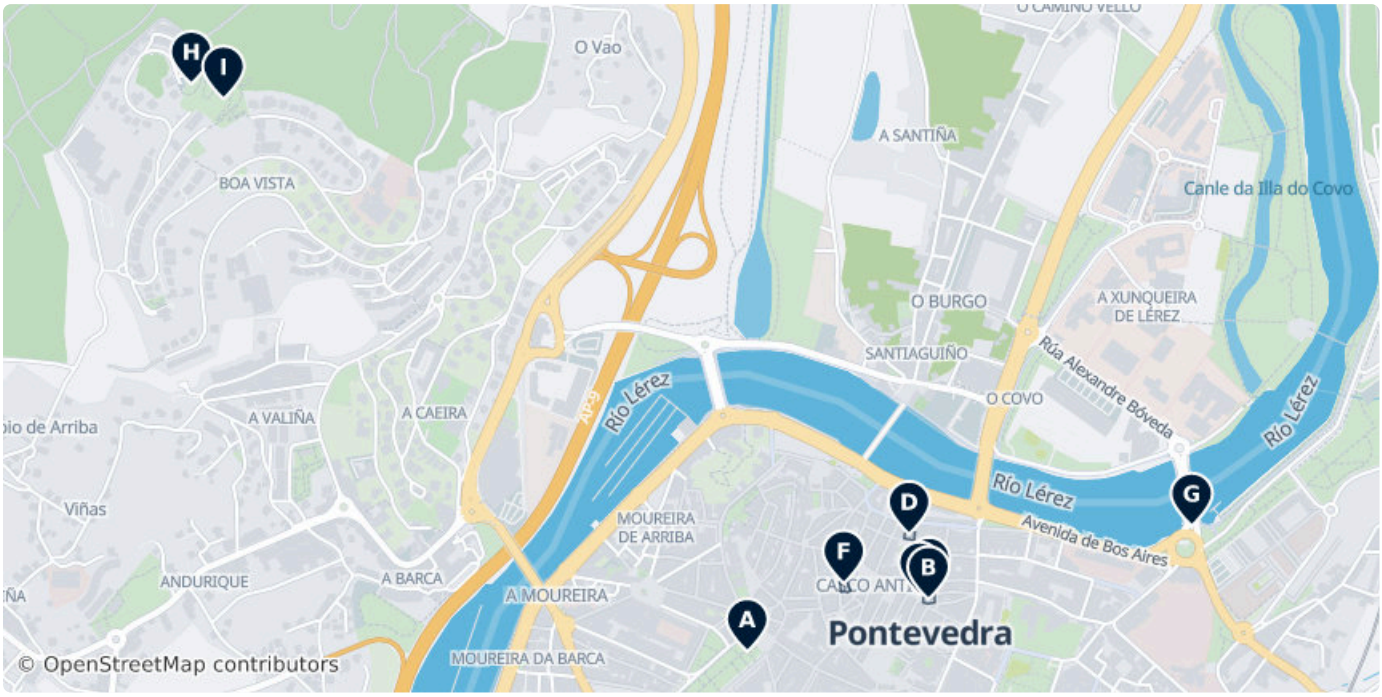
O Papagaio Ravachol

Iron sculpture honoring a famous 19th-century pet parrot that became a local icon and a symbol of the city's Carnival festivities.

(42.43079, -8.64432)

Historic Sites of Pontevedra

Pontevedra's historical landscape spans from prehistoric rock art to 18th-century Baroque architecture. This collection highlights the city's evolution, featuring the Bronze Age petroglyphs of A Caeira and grand urban palaces like Castro Monteagudo and Mugartegui. Memorials commemorate significant events such as the 1809 Battle of Ponte Sampaio, while the modern Ponte dos Tirantes bridge marks the city's contemporary expansion across the Lérez River.



A Monumento aos Heroes de Ponte Sampaio

Bronze and granite monument commemorating the 1809 victory over Napoleonic forces during the Spanish War of Independence.

(42.43158, -8.64746)

B Pazo de Castro Monteagudo

18th-century Baroque palace featuring a stone facade and served as the first building of the Pontevedra Museum.

(42.43254, -8.64295)

C Pazo de García Flórez

18th-century palace distinguished by its large stone coat of arms and ornate Baroque balconies. It houses nautical and decorative art collections.

(42.43271, -8.64293)

D Pazo de Mugartegui

Baroque urban palace built in 1750, notable for its arched loggia and large heraldic shield. It currently hosts the Rías Baixas Wine Council.

Praza da Pedreira 10, 36002 Pontevedra
(42.43374, -8.64344)

E Monumento a Castelao

Memorial dedicated to the influential Galician writer, politician, and artist Alfonso Daniel Rodríguez Castelao.

(42.43262, -8.64317)

F Pazo dos Marqueses de Aranda

18th-century Baroque residence featuring a prominent square tower and coats of arms on its facade.

(42.43283, -8.64506)

G Ponte dos Tirantes

Cable-stayed bridge completed in 1995, characterized by its 63-meter-high leaning pylon and steel cables crossing the Lérez River.

Ponte dos Tirantes, 36004 Pontevedra, Spain
(42.43389, -8.63640)

H Petroglifo en A Caeira

Prehistoric rock carvings from the Bronze Age, located in an archaeological park overlooking the city.

(42.44200, -8.66130)

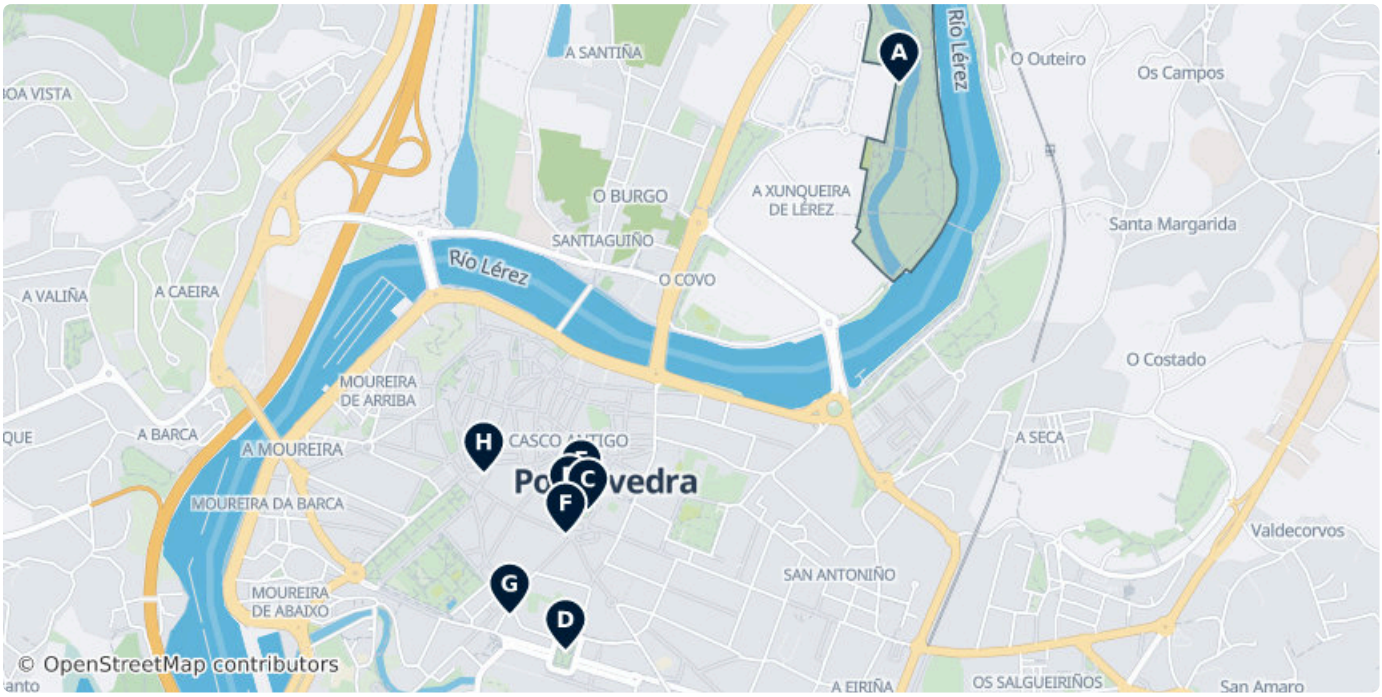
I Petroglifo en A Caeira

Archaeological site featuring ancient engravings, including circular motifs and representations of deer.

(42.44172, -8.66049)

Historic Squares and Parks

Pontevedra's historic center is characterized by interconnected pedestrian squares and unique public art. This selection includes the 16th-century Renaissance Fonte da Ferraría and the expansive Island of Sculptures, an open-air museum on the Lérez River featuring contemporary works by Spanish artists. Visitors can explore local history through monuments like the statue of the mythical founder Teucer, the medieval-themed O Fiel Contraste, and the iconic Ravachol Parrot, a symbol of the city's annual Carnival.





A Island of Scuptures

Sculpture garden, one of its kind on the Iberian peninsula, displays statues by prominent Spanish sculptors in a beautiful nature...

36005, Spain (42.44039, -8.63469)



B Praza da Ferraría

The city's main square, named after the blacksmiths who once worked under its arches. It is bordered by the 14th-century Convent of San Francisco and serves as a central hub of the historic pedestrian district.

Praza da Ferraría, 36001 Pontevedra, Spain (42.43138, -8.64421)



C Fonte da Ferraría

A 16th-century Renaissance fountain reconstructed in its current location in 1930. It features several water spouts and the imperial coat of arms of Charles V.

1 Plaza de la Herreria, Pontevedra 36002, Spain
(42.43130, -8.64367)



D Plaza de Galicia

The Plaza de Galicia is a 20th century square located in the city centre of Pontevedra, on the edge of the Campolongo neighbourhood.

2 Plaza de Galicia, Pontevedra 36001, Spain
(42.42831, -8.64432)



E Praza da Estrela

Small pedestrian square located next to the Praza da Ferraría. It is distinguished by its central stone cross and the 18th-century facade of the Casa das Caras.

Praza da Estrela, 36002 Pontevedra, Spain
(42.43171, -8.64386)

F Papagaio Ravachol

Sculpture honoring a famous parrot that belonged to a local pharmacist in the late 19th century. The bird became a beloved local character and remains the central symbol of Pontevedra's Carnival.

(42.43079, -8.64432)

G Estatua de Teucro

Monument dedicated to the mythical Greek archer Teucer, who legend claims founded Pontevedra upon his return from the Trojan War.

(42.42907, -8.64593)

H O Fiel Contraste

Bronze sculpture group by Ramón Conde depicting a medieval official responsible for weighing and measuring goods to prevent fraud in the city markets.

(42.43209, -8.64668)

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