

Vigo

Galicia · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Vigo is the largest city in Galicia, in northwest Spain, on a wide estuary on the Atlantic coast. It is a busy port and fishing city with a lively center, good seafood and views over the water.

Most visitors come for the food, the beaches and the boat trips to the Cíes Islands. It suits a short stay, and it is a good base for the Rías Baixas coast.

When to visit

Summer is the best time, with the warmest weather and the least rain, and it is the only season for reliable beach days. Spring and early autumn are pleasant but can be wet. Winter is mild and very rainy.

Vigo is famous for its Christmas lights, which are switched on in late November and draw many visitors in December.

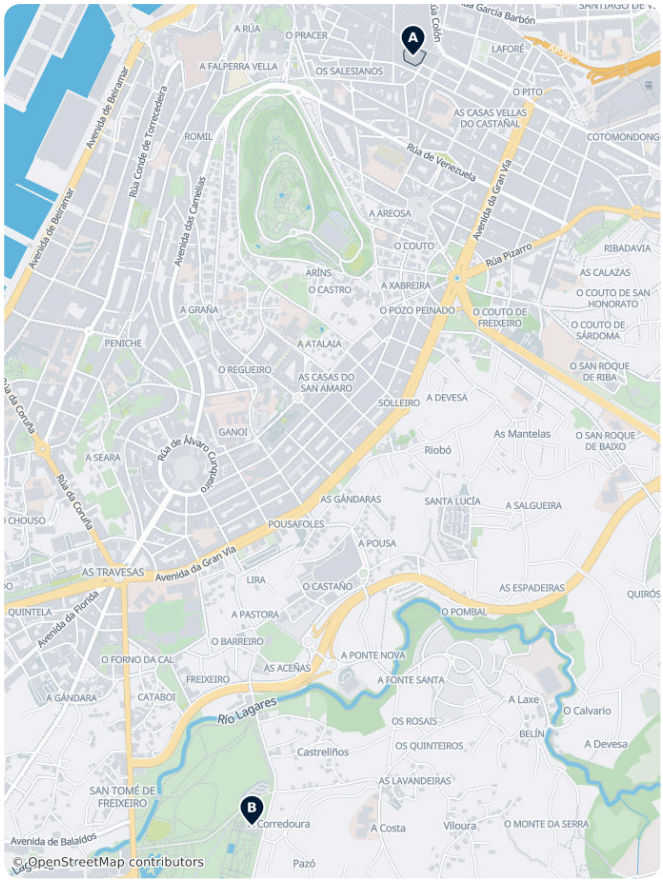
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 15° Feels like 9°	6° / 1°	16 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 18° Feels like 10°	6° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 21° Feels like 12°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 23°	9° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	11° / 8°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	14° / 11°	Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	16° / 13°	
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	16° / 13°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	15° / 12°	Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	13° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 19°	9° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 16° Feels like 10°	7° / 2°	16 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- O Castro is a hill above the old town with a ruined fortress, gardens and wide views over the estuary.
- The old town (*Casco Vello*) has narrow streets, small squares and many bars and restaurants.
- Rúa da Pescadería is a short street where oyster sellers open their shells for you to eat on the spot.
- The Cíes Islands, reached by boat, have some of the best beaches in Spain and walking trails. Access is limited in summer, so book in advance.
- A MARCO is a contemporary art museum.
- B Museo Quiñones de León is a museum in a pazo (a Galician manor house) with art and history.
- Museo do Mar is a museum about the sea and fishing.
- Praia de Samil is a long city beach with a promenade.



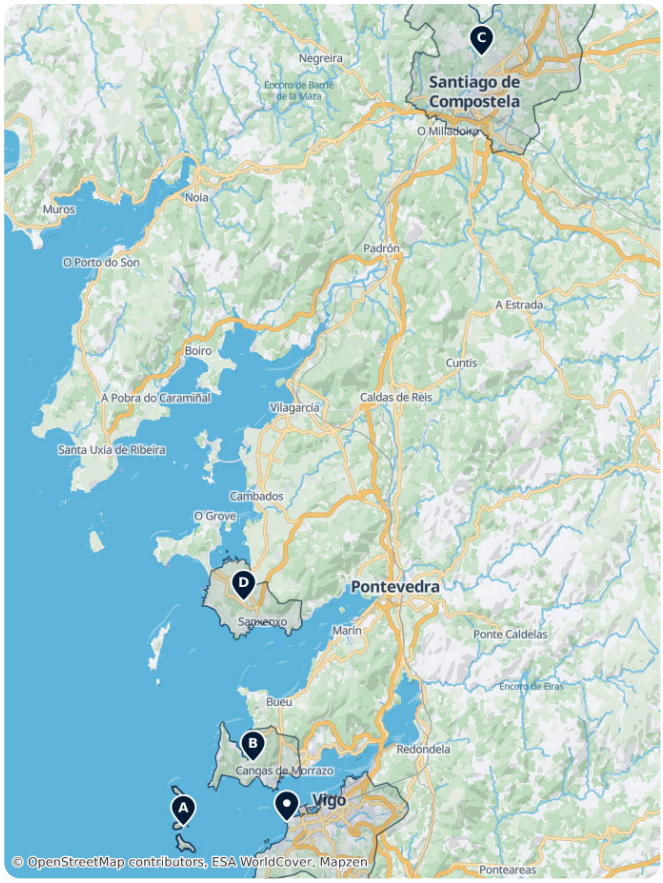
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What to experience

- Eat oysters on Rúa da Pescadería with a glass of Albariño.
- Take a boat to the Cíes Islands and spend a day on the beach.
- Walk up to O Castro for sunset views over the estuary.

Day trips

- A Cíes Islands (boat from the port, about 40 minutes): islands with white-sand beaches and trails.
- B Cangas (ferry across the estuary, about 30 minutes): a small port town with a beach.
- **Pontevedra** (about 30 km, 30 minutes by train): a pretty old town with few cars.
- C Santiago de Compostela (about 90 km, 1 hour by train or car): the end of the Camino de Santiago.
- D Sanxenxo (about 50 km): a beach resort town.



Where to explore

Other places in Galicia:

- **Cities**: A Coruña and Santiago de Compostela.
- **Coast**: Sanxenxo, Fisterra and Muxía.
- **Islands**: Cíes Islands.

Getting there

- **By air**: Vigo airport (VGO) is about 10 km from the center and has domestic flights, mainly to Madrid and Barcelona. Santiago and Porto airports have more routes.
- **By train**: Trains run to Santiago, A Coruña, Pontevedra and Madrid. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Coaches serve Santiago, Porto and the coast.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The center and the port area are walkable, but the city is built on hills, so some streets are steep.
- **Public transport**: City buses cover the main areas.
- **By boat**: Ferries cross the estuary to Cangas and Moaña.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The center and port are walkable, but the city is built on hills and some streets are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills make cycling hard in much of the city.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. A car helps for the coast and small towns.
- **Parking**: Use an underground car park, since street parking is limited in the center.
- **Restrictions**: Some streets in the old town are pedestrian only.

Food & drink

Vigo is one of Spain's top seafood cities. Oysters, mussels, scallops, octopus (*pulpo a feira*) and fresh fish are all common, and the market and port streets are the best places to eat them.

Albariño, a crisp white wine from the nearby 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

Vigo is a safe city. The weather can change quickly, and rain is common outside summer, so bring a waterproof jacket. Streets near the port are quiet late at night. On the Cíes Islands, water is cold even in summer, and there is no lifeguard on many beaches.

History

Vigo has been a port since Roman times. In 1702, a Spanish treasure fleet from the Americas was destroyed in the Battle of Vigo Bay, and the legend of lost treasure remains.

The city grew in the 19th and 20th centuries as a fishing, canning and shipbuilding center, and it is now a major car-making and port city.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

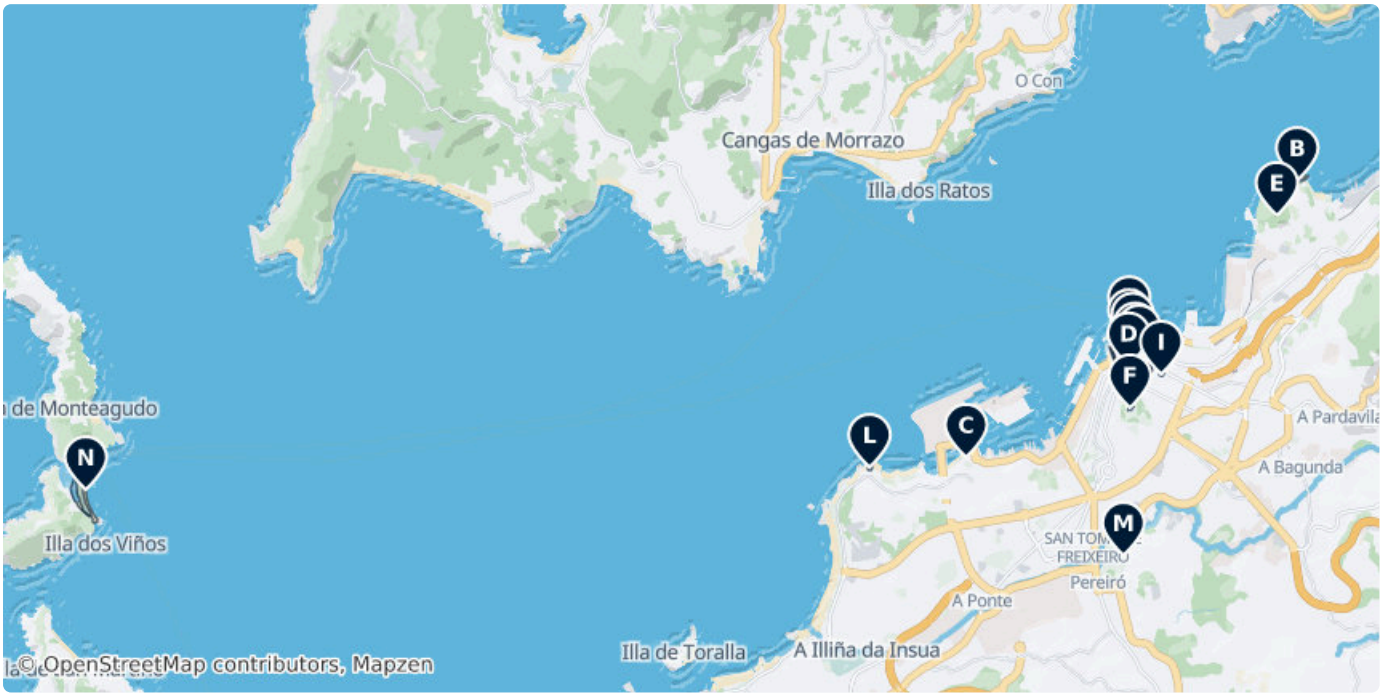
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Vigo Essentials

Vigo serves as the primary Atlantic gateway to Galicia, defined by its maritime history as Europe's largest fishing port. This selection spans the city's evolution, from the 17th-century fortifications of Castro and San Sebastian to contemporary art housed in a former prison. Historic sites like the neoclassical Concatedral de Santa María stand alongside modern landmarks like the Sireno sculpture. The list includes the coastal district of Bouzas, the Museum of the Sea, and the white sands of the Cíes Islands.





A Mercado da Pedra

Traditional market in the old town famous for its outdoor oyster stalls where vendors shuck fresh Galician oysters for immediate consumption.

9 Plaza de la Piedra, Vigo 36202, Spain (42.23973, -8.72655)

B Praia da Punta

Urban beach located in the Teis neighborhood, featuring a promenade and views across the Vigo estuary toward the Rande Bridge.

(Unnamed Road), Vigo 36207, Spain (42.25986, -8.69836)

C Praza da Vila de Bouzas

The central square of the historic fishing village of Bouzas, surrounded by traditional stone architecture and local taverns.

(42.22549, -8.75395)



D San Sebastian Castle

A 17th-century defensive fortification built during the Portuguese Restoration War, located near the town hall with views of the port.

14 Subida de Barranco, Vigo 36202, Spain
(42.23684, -8.72668)

E Capela de Nosa Señora da Guía

Mid-20th-century chapel designed by Manuel Gómez Román, situated atop Monte da Guía with a prominent bell tower.

Avenida de Doña Fermina, 36207, Spain
(42.25553, -8.70179)



F Fortaleza do Castro

Part of a 17th-century walled complex featuring landscaped gardens and a panoramic viewpoint overlooking the city and the Ría de Vigo.

Paseo de Rosalía de Castro, 36202 Vigo, Spain
(42.23164, -8.72645)

Mo–Su	08:00–23:00



G Dinoseto

A large topiary sculpture of a dinosaur and its offspring located in Praza da Princesa, which has become a modern local landmark.

1 Plaza de la Princesa, Vigo 36202, Spain (42.23808, -8.72558)



H Concatedral de Santa María - Colexiata de Vigo

Neoclassical cathedral built in 1811 on the site of a former Gothic church, housing the revered Christ of Victory statue.

9 Calle de la Palma, Vigo 36202, Spain (42.23930, -8.72597)



I Marco - Museum of Contemporary Art

The Vigo Museum of Contemporary Art is an art museum in Vigo,, Spain. It displays changing exhibitions of contemporary art, but has no...

Rúa do Príncipe 54 (42.23581, -8.72119)

Tu–Sa	11:00–14:30, 17:00–21:00
Su	11:00–14:30

marcovigo.com, +34986113900



J O Sereo

A stainless steel sculpture by Francisco Leiro depicting a hybrid man-fish creature perched on high pillars in Puerta del Sol.

6 Plaza de la Puerta del Sol, Vigo 36202, Spain (42.23778, -8.72492)



K Porto de Vigo

One of the world's busiest fishing ports, featuring a passenger terminal for ferries to the Cíes Islands and a seaside promenade.

(42.24134, -8.72656)

L Museum of the Sea

Located in a former canning factory, this museum designed by Aldo Rossi and César Portela documents Galicia's maritime and fishing history.

160 Avenida de la Atlántida, Vigo 36208, Spain (42.22425, -8.77015)

museodomar.com, +34 986 247 750



M Quiñones de León Municipal Museum

Typical local art museum. This one displays collection of Galician art, predominantly paintings.

Paseo Ángel Ilarri, 36213 Vigo, Spain (42.21330, -8.72755)

museodevigo.org, +34 986295070



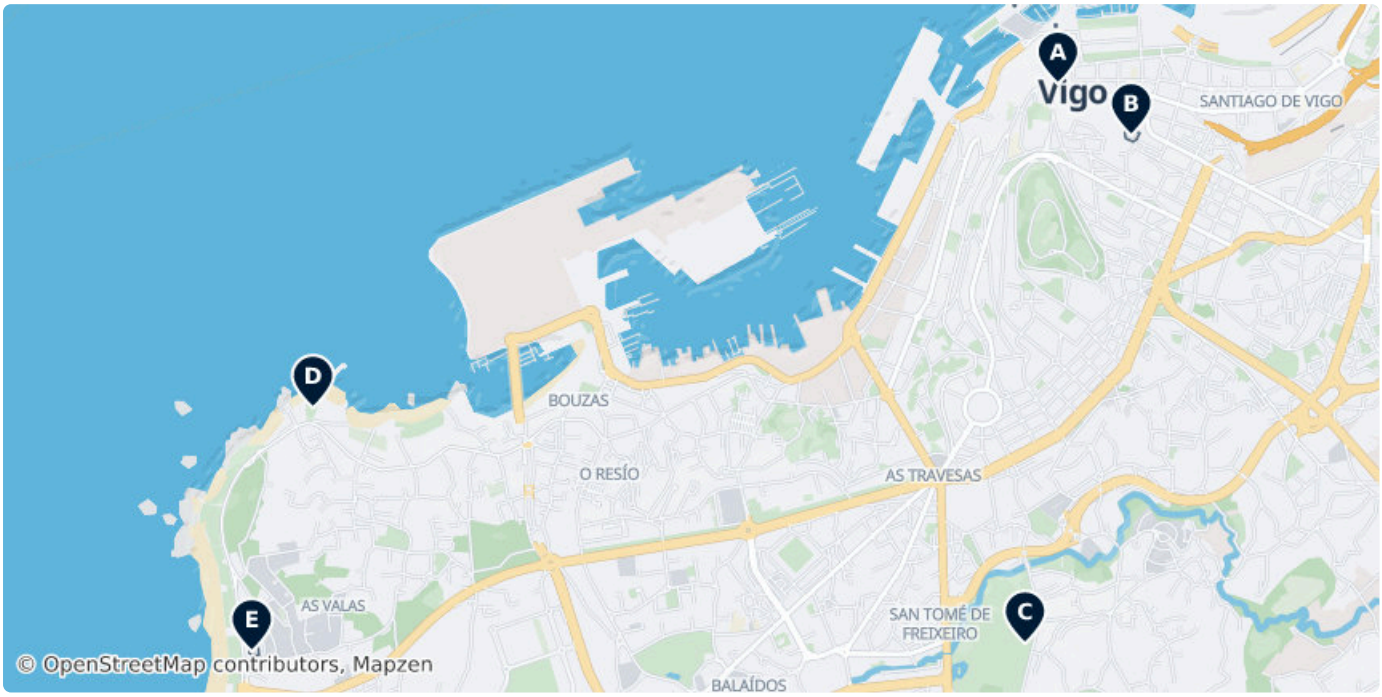
N A Area das Rodas

The main beach of the Cíes Islands, characterized by a long crescent of white sand and turquoise water connecting the Monteagudo and Faro islands.

36212, Spain (42.22146, -8.90175)

Best of Vigo

This selection highlights Vigo’s diverse cultural institutions, from the contemporary art exhibitions housed in the former prison building of MARCO to the 17th-century Quiñones de León manor house, which showcases Galician paintings and archaeological finds. The Galicia Marine Museum explores the city's relationship with the Atlantic through interactive displays and aquariums, while Verbum focuses on the science of communication. The list is completed by Dinoseto, a topiary sculpture in the city center that has become a modern local icon.





A Dinoseto

A large topiary dinosaur located in the central Porta do Sol. Originally placed as a temporary decoration, this hedge sculpture has become a permanent city landmark and symbols of local pop culture.

1 Plaza de la Princesa, Vigo 36202, Spain
(42.23808, -8.72558)



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marcovigo.com, +34986113900



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museodevigo.org, +34 986295070



D Galicia Marine Museum

This modern museum covers all the issues related to the sea in four floors, from sailing exhibition to aquariums.

Avenida da Atlántida, 160, 36208 Vigo, Spain (42.22374, -8.77017)

museodomar.com/gl, +34 986247750

E Verbum - Casa das Palabras

An interactive museum dedicated to human communication, language, and words. Located near Samil Beach, the building was designed by architect César Portela and features experimental exhibits covering linguistics, signs, and technology.

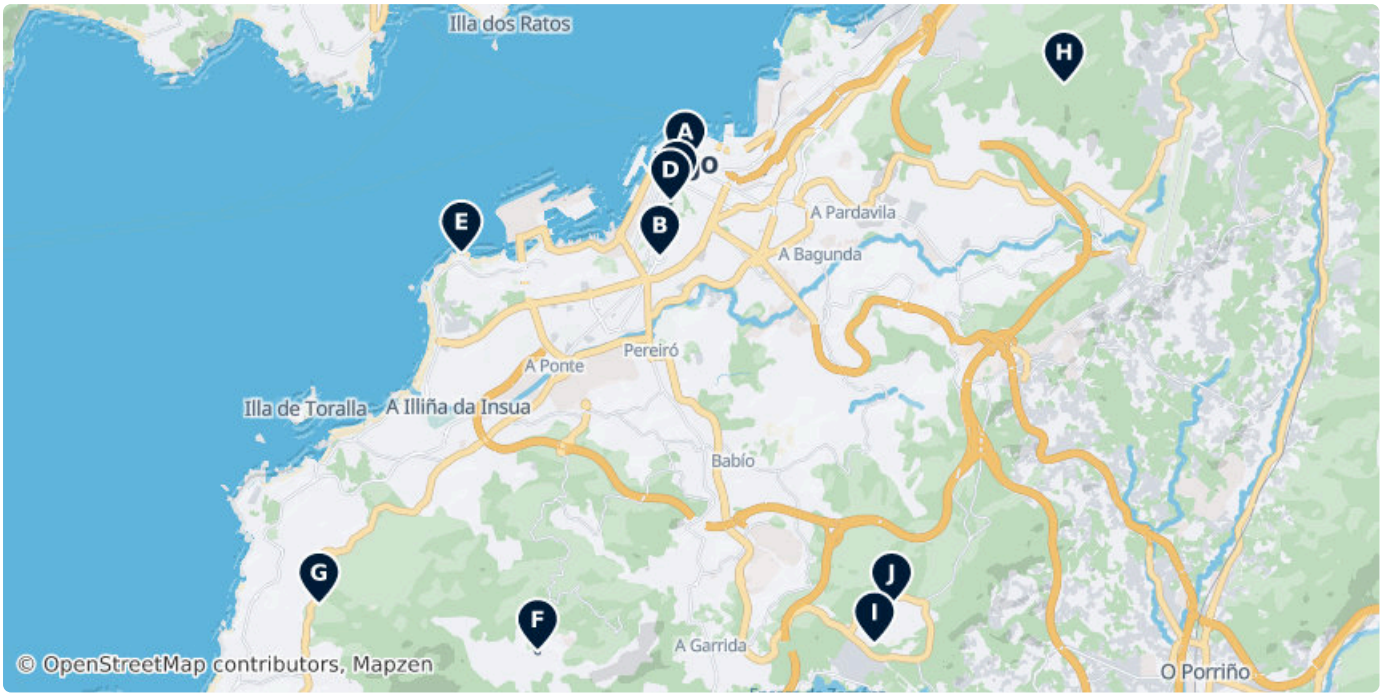
Avenida de Samil 17, 36212 Vigo (42.21295, -8.77383)

Tu–Fr	17:00–20:00
Sa–Su	12:00–14:00

vigocultura.org/gl/museos, +34 986 240 130

Vigo's Hidden Art & History

Vigo's landscape is shaped by its ancient roots and maritime history. This collection spans from Neolithic megalithic burial mounds and Iron Age hillforts (castros) with reconstructed stone dwellings to modern urban landmarks. Highlights include original anchors salvaged from the 1702 Battle of Vigo Bay and contemporary sculptures that define the city's central plazas and historical identity.





A O Sereo

A stainless steel sculpture by Francisco Leiro depicting a hybrid human-fish figure, elevated on high granite pillars in the central Puerta del Sol.

6 Plaza de la Puerta del Sol, Vigo 36202, Spain
(42.23778, -8.72492)



B Monumento a los héroes de la Reconquista

This monument commemorates the 1809 uprising when Vigo's citizens became the first to expel Napoleon's occupying army during the Peninsular War.

123 Avenida Camelias, Vigo 36211, Spain
(42.22386, -8.73004)



C Galeones de Rande

A monument featuring three original anchors recovered from the sea, salvaged from the 1702 Battle of Vigo Bay where a Spanish treasure fleet was attacked.

Paseo de Rosalía de Castro, Vigo 36203, Spain (42.23342, -8.72658)

D Castro del Castro

An excavated Iron Age settlement dating from the 3rd to 1st centuries BC, featuring three reconstructed circular stone dwellings and original defensive walls.

10 Paseo del Cronista Xosé María Álvarez Blázquez, Vigo 36203, Spain (42.23212, -8.72789)

E Castro Punta do Muíño do Vento

A coastal archaeological site in Alcabre containing the remains of an Iron Age settlement situated directly overlooking the Atlantic.

160 Avenida de la Atlántida, Vigo 36208, Spain (42.22435, -8.76998)

F Castro de Chandebrito

An ancient hillfort settlement located on a strategic height, providing panoramic views of the Ría de Vigo and the surrounding valleys.

(Unnamed Road), 36350, Spain (42.16506, -8.75465)

G Castro do Alto da Medoña

The remains of a fortified Iron Age settlement located on a prominent ridge near the border of Vigo and Nigrán.

(42.17205, -8.79866)

H Mámoa do Vixiador

A Neolithic megalithic burial mound located within the Vixiador forest park, representing the region's earliest funerary architecture.

(42.24961, -8.64866)

I Monte das Cabanas

An archaeological site containing prehistoric remains and traces of an ancient settlement on the slopes of Monte das Cabanas.

(42.16616, -8.68682)

J Mámoas do Monte das Pedreiras

A group of prehistoric megalithic burial mounds situated in the Monte das Pedreiras area.

(42.17202, -8.68336)

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