



# O baixo miño

one region  
for the five senses







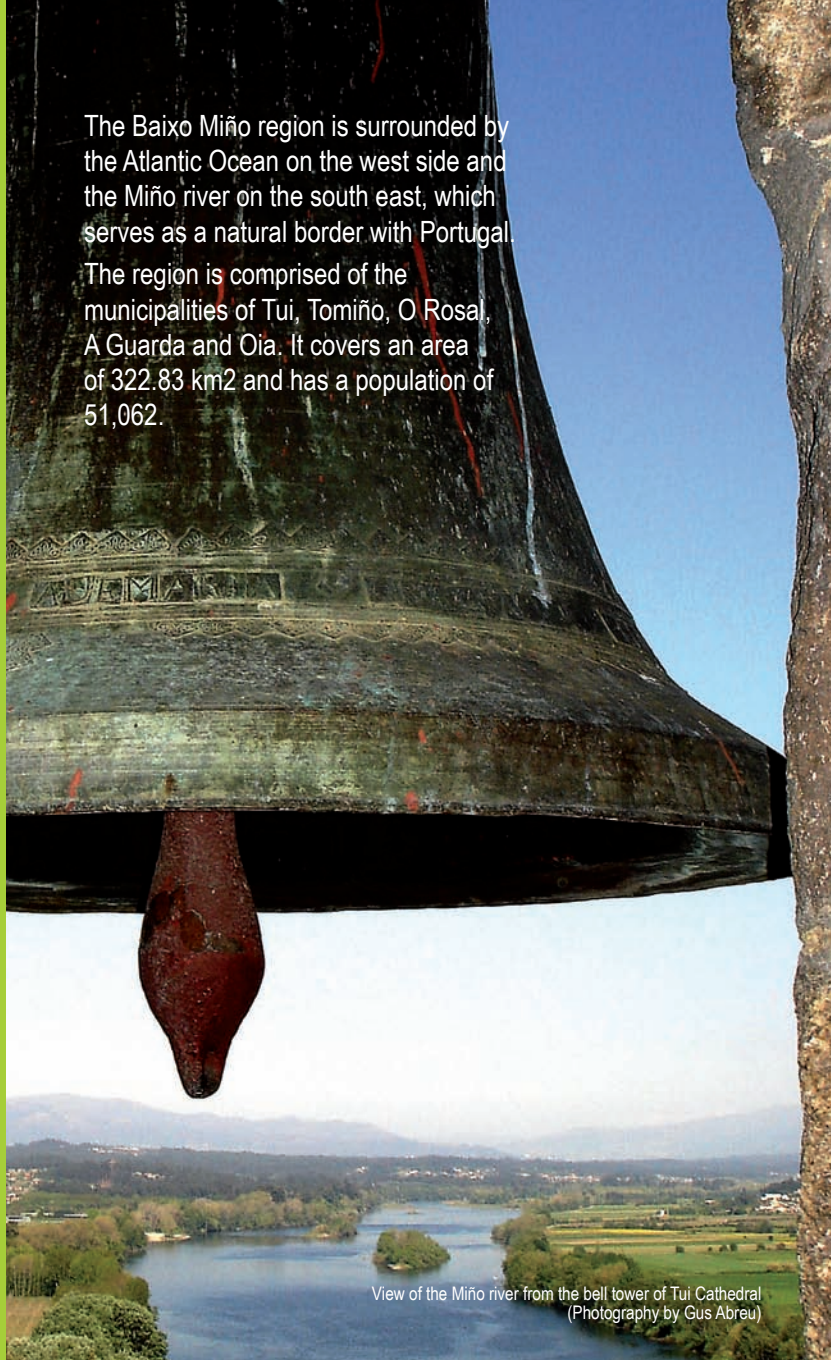
# baixo miño

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The Baixo Miño region is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west side and the Miño river on the south east, which serves as a natural border with Portugal.

The region is comprised of the municipalities of Tui, Tomiño, O Rosal, A Guarda and Oia. It covers an area of 322.83 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 51,062.



View of the Miño river from the bell tower of Tui Cathedral  
(Photography by Gus Abreu)



# natural areas

The natural feature that characterises Baixo Miño is the final stretch of the Miño river, which glides calmly over a gentle slope before it meets the ocean, forming a beautiful wide estuary.



Goián river beach



## BIODIVERSITY

The Miño estuary is a refuge for several species of bird and boasts a rich biodiversity, typical of areas where sea and river converge. In 2004 it was integrated into the European Union's network of protected natural areas, Natura 2000, as a Site of Community Importance (SCI). The estuary is also under the protection categories Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA), and Special Protection Area for Natural Values (ZEPVN).

## ISLANDS

The river flows gently along this stretch, creating numerous islands and islets, sandbanks, and reed beds. These islands are generally covered with lush vegetation and native riparian forest, making them veritable havens for wildlife. Access is by private transport only. The most striking of them is the small Portuguese island of Ínsua, situated at the confluence of the Miño river and the ocean.

## RIVER BEACHES

River beaches occur naturally along the banks, formed by the deposition of sediment carried by the river, and further enrich this landscape. Some of the beaches are suitable for bathing and offer wide recreation areas.


## SPORTS

Being navigable, the Miño river is ideal for water sports. Various companies organise activities such as rowing and canoeing. A good way to explore the region is by boat, and various mooring points are available along the river, and there is even a marina in Tui which has a rowing and canoeing federation centre. Oia is a fantastic spot for paragliding enthusiasts (see pg. 33).

## SCENIC VIEWS

The geographical layout of Baixo Miño awards fine views from practically any of its mountains. From Aloia Mountain in Tui, with an altitude of 630 m, we can watch the Miño river flow and observe the Portuguese lands and neighbouring towns. To get a view of the Miño river near its mouth, take a climb up to the A Pedrada viewpoint in the middle of the Argallo mountains, or to its neighbour, Niño do Corvo, in the municipality of O Rosal. From Santa Trega Mountain in A Guarda, you can watch the river reach the sea in all its glory. If you want views of the Atlantic Ocean, climb up to Alto da Chavella in Oia.



An aerial photograph capturing a scenic coastal landscape. A two-lane asphalt road curves along the edge of a coastal town, separating it from the Atlantic Ocean. The town features numerous buildings with terracotta roofs, interspersed with greenery and some swimming pools. To the right, the ocean is a deep blue, with white waves crashing against a rocky shoreline. In the foreground, a large, prominent building with a red-tiled roof sits on a rocky outcrop. The background shows a steep, forested hillside rising from the town. The sky is clear and blue.

Whereas the Miño river characterises the towns in the east of the region, it is the sea that is the predominant feature of the municipality of Oia.

The 18 km of road that unite A Guarda with Baiona provide a spectacular route that runs parallel to the Atlantic Ocean. On one side we can witness the power of the sea and on the other the tranquillity of the mountains.



As it flows through the neighbourhood of A Pedra, in Tomiño, the Cereixo river forms suitable areas for bathing

## WALKS

En Tui existe un sendero por la ribera del Miño que une la ciudad con Caldelas de Tui. En el Parque Natural Monte Aloia tenemos diferentes rutas para escoger (ver pág. 19). Tomiño cuenta con un sinfín de pistas forestales que atraviesan la sierra de Argallo, y nos permiten fáciles paseos. En Oia, recorrer cualquier senda de la sierra de A Groba nos puede llevar a acantilados sobre el Atlántico o a zonas húmedas donde pastan los caballos en semilibertad.

## FISHERMEN'S PATH-MIÑO TO THE TAMUXE RIVER MOUTH

In O Rosal, in addition to the Mill Route (see pg. 24) is the Fishermen's Path (PR-G 112), which is 7.2 km long. It begins in Eiras and is set amongst cork trees, rockrose and pine trees, and continues along the banks of the Miño as far as the mouth of the Tamuxe river. At this stretch, in addition to the numerous birds that make this one of the most interesting ornithological havens on the Iberian Peninsula, we also get to discover the different ecosystems in the estuary, such as riverside woodland, reed beds, and bullrushes. At the mouth of the Tamuxe river lie the ruins of a large steam sawmill, of which part of the boiler chimney remains, that once powered the saws. The path culminates at the As Aceñas mill, which forms part of a recreation area in a beautiful natural spot consisting of typical carballeira (oak forest). This mill with a house dates back to the late 19th century, and has now been converted into a Nature Classroom where environmental activities are organised, designed for both school children and adults.



## MIÑO RIVER MOUTH PATH

In A Guarda, as well the official network of "Santa Trega Mountain Paths" (PR-G 122) (see pg. 29), we can take this other river path, which begins at the border with O Rosal and ends at O Muíño beach, right at the mouth of the Miño. At the beginning of the path, in Salcidos, the river forms a wetland area, where many bird observatories are located and used by a large number of biologists, who refer to this place as the Galician Doñana due to the quantity and variety of birds found here.



# St. James' Ways



Detail of the portico of Tui Cathedral

## THE PORTUGUESE WAY

### TUI

The Portuguese Way enters Galicia crossing the International Bridge that connects Valença with Tui. It runs through the historical centre as far as the Cathedral, and then goes past the Town Hall Square, the Convent of the Poor Clares and the Church of Santo Domingo, beside which a Portuguese Way Interpretation Centre has been set up. After the Church of San Bartolomé de Rebordáns, at the exit of the town, the path continues towards the Chapel of Virxe do Camiño and crosses the As Febres bridge over the San Simón river to reach A Madalena. The path continues in the direction of Ribadelouro and, after crossing Orbenlle bridge, arrives at las Gándaras de Budiño, now part of the municipality of O Porriño. The pilgrim hostel in Tui is located near the Cathedral.

### JACOBAN WORSHIP IN THE CATHEDRAL

Tui preserves its immemorial worship of St. James the Apostle. Legend has it that the first bishop of Tui, St. Epitafio, was his pupil, and also died a martyr. From early medieval times the Cathedral, which received pilgrims in its triforium, had a chapel dedicated to the Apostle, with its own altar and an image of St. James dating back to 1373 (the current altarpiece dates from 1696) and a botafumeiro (censer). Pilgrims on the Portuguese Way have been documented from a very early date, and possibly the first one to be actually named was D. Hugo, Bishop of Oporto, who died in 1156. A pilgrim hospital has existed in Tui since the 12th century.





The Portuguese Way along the Coast, passing through A Guarda

## THE PORTUGUESE WAY ALONG THE COAST

### RECOGNITION

The Portuguese Way along the Coast opened officially in 2010. It takes in the municipalities of A Guarda, O Rosal, Oia, Baiona, Nigrán, Vigo, and Redondela. Various collectives, institutions, and Friends of St. James Way associations called for recognition of the so-called Portuguese Way along the Coast, which is identified, documented and signposted.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COASTAL PATH

This was the route taken by pilgrims from the west of Portugal, and those from overseas who arrived at Portuguese ports to make their way to Compostela following this ancient coastal path, the importance of which is corroborated by the place names and elements of Jacobean worship present in the corresponding municipalities.

### A GUARDA

The A Guarda stretch of route is 9 km long. It begins at the ferry pier and continues along the lower slopes of Santa Trega Mountain. It crosses the town centre, passing through San Marcos Square, where the 19th-century San Marcos Hospital is located, dedicated to looking after pilgrims and the poor. The final stretch joins up with the two paths from the Atlantic coast, and there you can admire the ocean view until the path connects with the municipality of O Rosal.

### O ROSAL

The O Rosal stretch of path is 3 km long and passes through the neighbourhoods of Portecelo and Sanxián. Entering Sanxián, a name which alludes to the nearby Chapel of San Xulián (Xián), the path leads us to Oia.

### OIA

Oia is testimony to the importance of the Portuguese Way along the Coast, as many centuries ago pilgrims found their much-needed solace in the monastery, since it served as both a hostel and a hospital. The path continues along the coast following the Royal Path.

### OTHER PATHS

Although there is currently no adequately prepared path, there are many documented, artistic, and name references that demonstrate that historically there was a flow of pilgrims, mainly Portuguese, around the present-day municipality of Tomiño. From Portugal, this path led pilgrims through Goián and various parishes in Tomiño, arriving at Gondomar, to later connect with Vigo and join the Portuguese Way along the Coast, continuing as far as Redondela, where it then joined the Portuguese Way from Tui to Santiago.

# colonial architecture



A Guarda Cultural Centre

These colonial houses are the homes of former Galician emigrants to the Americas who later returned home. Most of the houses were built in the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, and consist of two types: urban (those in the city centre) and country (the famous *villas*).

The houses are characterised by the use of stone, tiles, and wrought iron in their construction. The structure is typical of American countries, and this was how Galicia came to be introduced

to modernist architecture. A common feature of the houses is the predominance of granite, giving them a solid, noble appearance, and contributing to their survival. The houses are colourful, and their beautiful balconies attract much attention.

The influence of this transoceanic emigration is also evident in the various public works these emigrants supported, even from their host countries, including schools and buildings for social use.





Aurora del Porvenir colonial school in Santa María de Tomiño



## TUI

The parish of Caldeas has many examples of colonial-style houses near the spa.

## TOMIÑO

The best examples of the houses can be seen in Estás and Goián. Particularly interesting are the schools, which were generally free, secular, and had study programmes inspired by American Republic models. Examples of these are the Aurora del Porvenir school in Santa María de Tomiño, the Fundación Peirópolis school in Estás, the school in Cristelos, and the Hispano-americana Goyanesa school in Goián. The Unión del Porvenir school, on the border between Taborda and Piñeiro, has recently been restored.

## O ROSAL

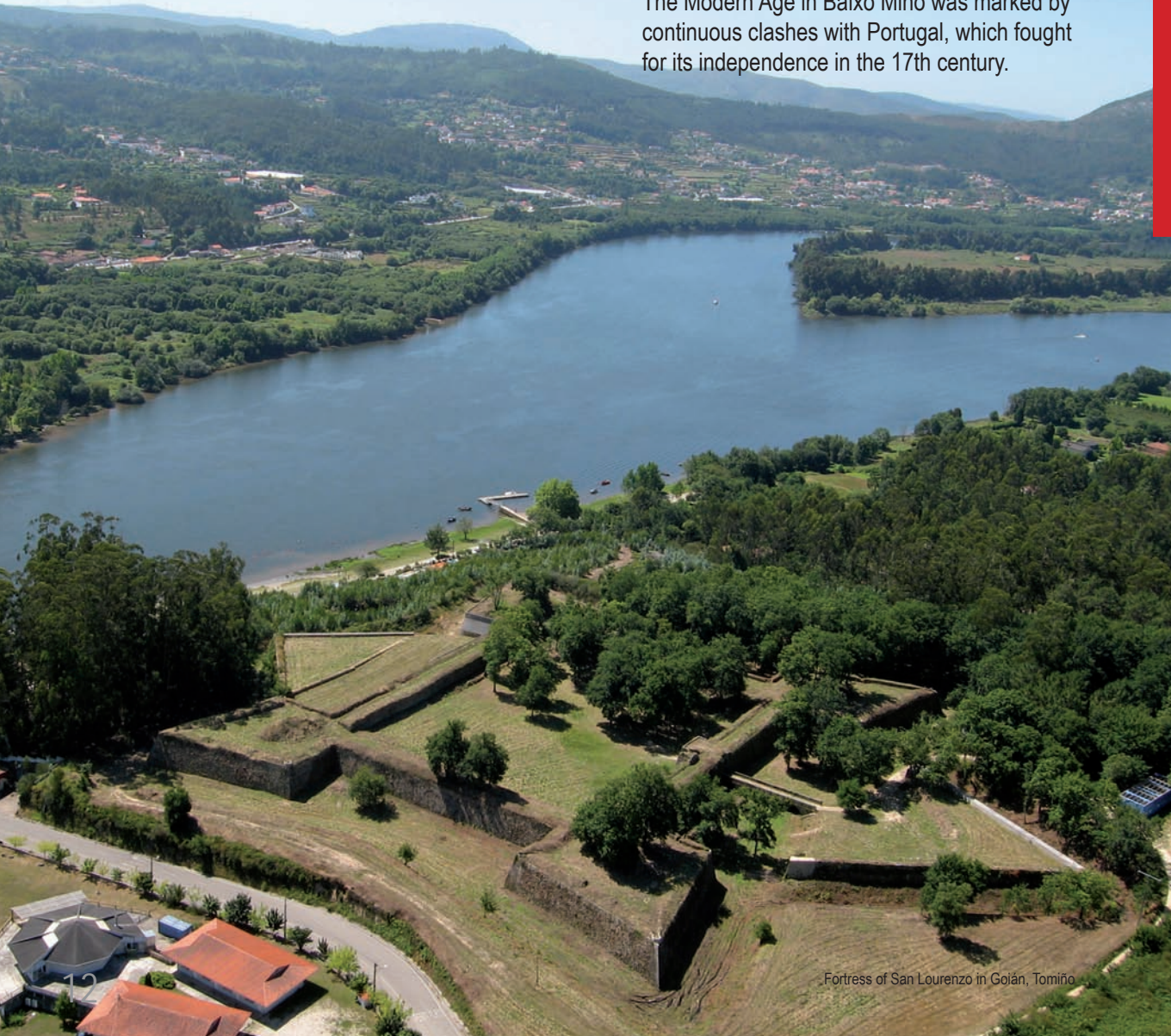
There are many colonial houses in O Rosal, some of which are veritable mansions. The main ones are concentrated in the parishes of Santa Mariña, San Xoán and San Miguel de Tabagón.

## A GUARDA

A Guarda boasts one of the most interesting architectural complexes of colonial houses in Galicia. In the second half of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th, A Guarda led Galicia's and Spain's historical phenomenon: emigration to Puerto Rico. A Guarda therefore had more immigrants than any other town in Galicia. Some excellent architectural examples include the Cultural Centre and the Casa dos Alonso. Another fact worth mentioning is that emigrants returning to A Guarda had a major influence on the town economically (businesses), socially (establishment of societies, educational foundations, etc.), and politically (from 1868 to 1936 the mayors of A Guarda were former emigrants). A Guarda offers a Colonial House Route which takes in some of the houses in the town centre.

# fortresses

Due to being a geographical border, numerous fortifications are dotted throughout the territory. The Modern Age in Baixo Miño was marked by continuous clashes with Portugal, which fought for its independence in the 17th century.



Fortress of San Lourenzo in Goián, Tomiño





Santa Cruz Castle in A Guarda

## TUI

The ancient walled enclosure, declared a Site of Historical and Artistic Interest in 1968, is a unique example of a medieval city. Of the medieval wall (12th and 13th c.), which forms a large irregular trapezoid, all that survives is the “A Porta da Pía” (Pia Gateway), with its shutters still visible, the base of the tower, and several walls. In 1640, because of the battles with Portugal, the wall was extended and adapted to new defence systems, the remains of which can be clearly distinguished from the River Walk. As provincial capital, it oversaw the entire network of fortresses on the Miño river until 1833.

## TOMIÑO

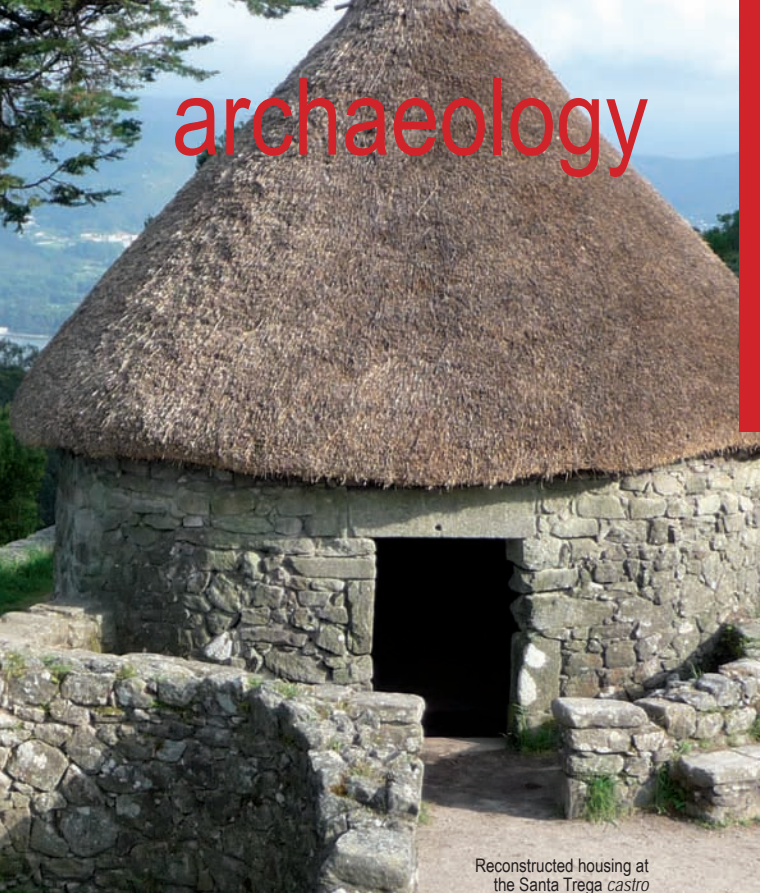
In Tomiño we can visit San Lourenzo in Goián, one of the most interesting fortresses in the whole of Galicia, owing to its good state of preservation and its proximity to the banks of the Miño. It is made of stone, and almost square, with bulwarks at the corners, and three defensive lunettes giving it a star-shaped ground plan, and is surrounded by a moat. You can also see the preserved ruins of other military constructions from the same era in Tomiño, such as the fort of Nosa Señora da Concepción, the As Chagas tower in Goián, and the Medos (Estás) and Amorín forts. In the summer months the town council organises guided tours (on foot, by bike, and by canoe) aimed at promoting and informing people about the history of these fortresses.



## A GUARDA

Santa Cruz Castle was built in 1663, after Goián (Tomiño) was taken by Portuguese troops. It was a fort consisting of four bulwarks and 2 access gates. In 1665 the castle was besieged by the Portuguese, who occupied A Guarda for three years. Today, all that remain are the walled grounds of the castle, which have been restored, and the interior is being prepared to receive visitors. The castle will be the starting point for organised tours to other military buildings on both sides of the Miño river.

# archaeology



Reconstructed housing at the Santa Trega castro

Ruins discovered in Baixo Miño bear testimony to human presence over 200,000 years ago. Palaeolithic tools, burial mounds, petroglyphs, and *castros* (Celtic hill-fort settlements in Roman Iberia) mark successive periods of human settlement in the region.

The numerous castros testify to the existence of a generalised settlement which grew continuously from 7th-6th century BC, and which remained

until Romanisation in the 1st century BC. Roman presence lasted for five hundred years and the population continued to grow during the Germanic period from the 5th century onwards.

From this time, the Episcopal See of Tui, together with the Monastery of Oia from the 12th century, were two ecclesiastical dominions which wielded great influence over the entire region.





Visigoth tombs in Marzán, O Rosal



The petroglyph at A Pedreira, in Santa María de Oia, provides a natural viewpoint that overlooks the ocean

## TUI

On the banks of the Miño river, in the parish of Caldelas de Tui, a bronze helmet dating from the 3rd century BC was found. Today it is kept in the Diocesan Museum of Tui, which houses numerous archaeological finds from Tui and the Baixo Miño region. On the lower slopes of Aloia Mountain is the Alto dos Cubos *castro*, where we can see various housing structures corresponding to Galician-Roman culture. Other important archaeological ruins include the petroglyphs at Rozacús and Alto do Coello, in the parish of Randufe.

## TOMIÑO

The group of petroglyphs on Tetón Mountain represent the most important examples of rock art in Europe (see pg. 20).

## O ROSAL

The most significant representation of *castro* culture in O Rosal is the Magdalena Mountain *castro*, which offers an impressive viewpoint from where you can see Portugal and the mouth of the Miño river. Some ancient oaks guard the Chapel of Santa Magdalena. With regard to Romanisation, particularly interesting is the Roman-Visigoth villa (next to the chapel) in San Vicente de Marzán. Two anthropomorphic tombs were discovered here, as well as a Roman altar dedicated to Mercury, which is kept in the Diocesan Museum of Tui.

## A GUARDA

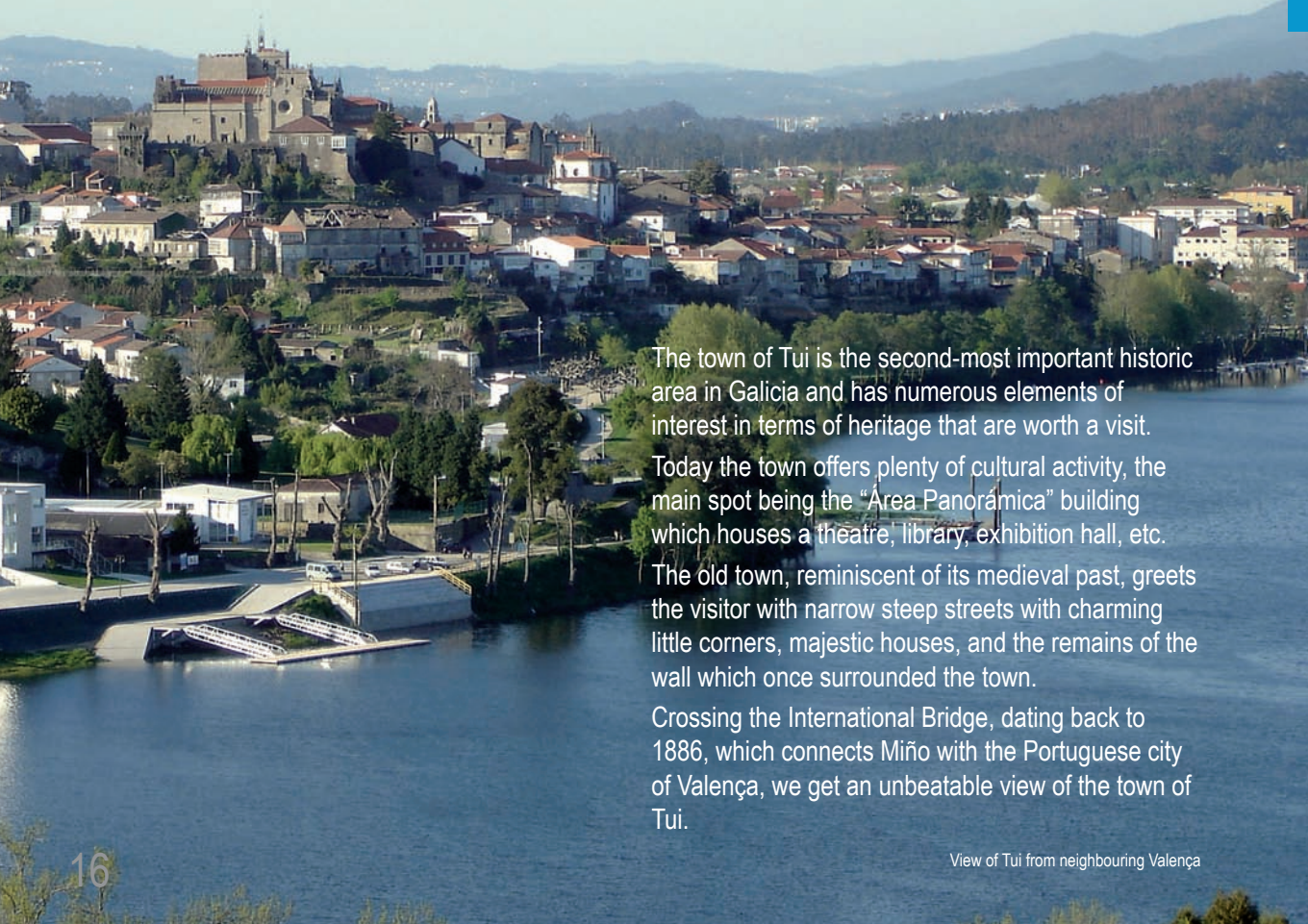
The Santa Trega *castro*, on the mountain of the same name, is one of the most important of *castro* culture in northwestern Spain. It was declared a Historic-Artistic Monument in 1931 and is notable for its size and state of preservation. The Museum (MASAT) houses the various finds from excavation work (see pg. 29).

## OIA

Among the 150 petroglyphs in Oia, the Auga dos Cebros group on the Vilar river is the most impressive, as they depict the only known boats on Galician prehistoric petroglyphs to date. The largest boat is 155 cm long, surrounded by a group of deer. They can be found on the left side of the road from Oia to Torroña, in the parish of Pedornes. All of these vessels point to Eastern Mediterranean models of the 2nd millennium BC. Another spectacular petroglyph is the Pedra Escrita or Laxe Crusade, between Burgueira and Torroña, which depicts the largest outdoor labyrinth found in Europe, with a diameter of 110 cm. The most accessible petroglyphs are A Cabeciña in Mougás and A Pedreira in Santa María de Oia.

# TUI

## HISTORICAL TOWN



The town of Tui is the second-most important historic area in Galicia and has numerous elements of interest in terms of heritage that are worth a visit.

Today the town offers plenty of cultural activity, the main spot being the “Área Panorámica” building which houses a theatre, library, exhibition hall, etc.

The old town, reminiscent of its medieval past, greets the visitor with narrow steep streets with charming little corners, majestic houses, and the remains of the wall which once surrounded the town.

Crossing the International Bridge, dating back to 1886, which connects Miño with the Portuguese city of Valença, we get an unbeatable view of the town of Tui.

View of Tui from neighbouring Valença





The old town, reminiscent of its medieval past, presents the visitor with narrow steep streets

### CHAPEL OF SAN TELMO

This is a unique example of Portuguese Baroque architecture in Galicia, and is notable for its circular ground plan, segmented dome, and frescos from the beginning of the 19th century. It was built on the site of the former house where the Dominican saint died in the 13th century.

### CONVENT OF THE POOR CLARES

Built over the former Episcopal palaces of Oliveira in the 17th and 18th centuries are the present-day convent and church, work of the architect Domingo de Andrade, who also designed the Clock Tower of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The Clares, usually referred to as the “enclosed” order, form part of Tui’s identity. Even today their bell marks the rhythm of daily life in the old town. Their conventual confectionery, the almond fishes (a Jewish tradition) offer visitors a tasty invitation to step inside.

### CHAPEL OF LA MISERICORDIA

The chapel dates from 1575 and is an example of Renaissance art, its façade designed by Tui artist Melchor Alonso Feal. Inside, some of the images of Holy Week processions have been preserved; including the notable *La Dolorosa*, the work of sculptor Agustín Querol.

### JEWISH PRESENCE

The Jewish community settled in Tui, taking advantage of the business benefits given the town by the forums of Fernando II in 1170. In 1464, they accounted for 7% of the town’s population, the highest percentage in Galicia. Entreforos Street, where intestines used to be sold, had the only documented Jewish butcher in Galicia. The Diocesan Museum contains a collection of 17th-century sanbenitos.

### CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

This was the church of the Franciscan Convent of San Antonio, and it displays an outstanding Baroque altarpiece from the first half of the 18th century. The old convent has been the Diocesan Minor Seminary since 1850.

### CONVENT OF SAN DOMINGO

Characteristic of the Dominican order, the church is in Gothic-style, and boasts two magnificent Baroque altarpieces. This church and convent, of which few relics remain, was the pantheon of Tui’s nobility: Soutomaior, Correias, Ozores, etc.

### CHURCH OF SAN BARTOLOMÉ DE REBORDÁNS

Based on Roman and Suevic precedents, its construction dates from the 11th century. Of note are its crudely primitive historiated capitals. The main chapel houses some magnificent 16th-century murals. This former monastery was the first Episcopal See in early medieval times.

# CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA

## CATHEDRAL FORTRESS

Construction of the fortress began in 1120, and it was consecrated for worship in 1225. It sits atop the highest part of the town, retaining its fortress-like appearance, with its crenellated towers, sentry walk, etc.

## ROMANESQUE TO GOTHIC

The ground plan, exterior walls, north façade, and the magnificent iconography of its capitals are in Romanesque style. Gothic influence is visible in the interior naves, with their pointed arches; in the Gothic cloister (the only one of this style preserved in Galician cathedrals); and especially in the portico, which boasts the first Gothic art sculptures on the Iberian Peninsula. The work is attributed to itinerant French stonemasons originating from Laon, Sens, Senlis, and Chartres. The column statues on the left represent Moses, Isaiah, St. Peter, and St. John the Baptist. On the right side are Salomon, the Queen of Sheba (to others, it is Fernando II and his wife, Berenguela), Jeremiah, and Daniel. The tympanum depicts nativity scenes; the lower register shows the Annunciation, the Birth (the Virgin Mary gives birth in a bed with a canopy), and the Annunciation to the Shepherds. The upper register shows the Adoration of the Magi, and the Magi meeting King Herod. The depiction is completed by the celestial Jerusalem on the upper part.

## THE INTERIOR

The altarpiece of Expectation (with the image of a pregnant Virgin, one of the three examples preserved in the Cathedral), and the reliquary altar of the Chapel of the Relics, are from the 18th century. Also from this time are the spectacular organs, one of which is still in operation today. In the main chapel are the choir stalls, built in 1699 by Castro Canseco. Dating from the 18th century is the altar monument of Holy Thursday, which can be dismantled. Today it is installed in the Gospel nave. The Cathedral Museum houses a 15th-century coconut ciborium, a wooden statue of the Virgin, known as "La Patrona", from the 14th century, a processional monstrance, and a piece of the primitive limestone main altar, dated 1520.

## VIEWS

From the Soutomaior tower and the viewpoints in the Cathedral's gardens, it is clear to see why Tui is known as a historical town.



The Gothic cloister in Tui Cathedral is the only one of this style preserved in Galician cathedrals





Aloia Mountain Natural Park has over 365 plant species

## ALOIA MOUNTAIN

### NATURAL PARK

Declared a Natural Park in 1978, it spans over 746 hectares. A walled area remains from the Galician-Roman period, along with a small hermitage dedicated to St. Xián, reconstructed in 1713 over a Roman temple. The Casa Forestal (Forestry House), with its curious design by forestry engineer Rafael Areses, today serves as the Nature Interpretation Centre.

### VIEWPOINTS

There are various viewpoints at the top of the mountain. The best of these is the one at the cross, from where you can see the neighbouring towns and the Miño river in full flow as far as the point where it meets the sea.

### EXPERIENCE THE FOREST

Amongst the vegetation, characterised by shrubs such as gorse, heather, and carquesia, are many interesting tree species. Deciduous forests and scrub share this space with a large pine forest, the result of a well-controlled replantation programme. These trees provide the perfect environment for a wide variety of animals, especially mammals such as foxes and rabbits, and birds such as partridges and owls.

### ROUTES

**Botanic Trail** (0.4 km. Approx. 45 mins. Difficulty: low). Using the display panels we can identify up to 30 different species. The trail runs along a small stream.

**Cabana – Cabaciña** (1.8 km. Approx. 2 hrs. Difficulty: low). We climb up to Alto da Cabaciña, a granite outcrop with panoramic views, to later descend from the source of the river Tripes to la Poza de Cabana.

**Alto dos Cubos castro** (2.5 km. Approx. 2 hrs. Difficulty: low). This route is of high archaeological interest, and is an easy way to reach the castro. It also offers some fine views.

**Rego de Pedra** (3 km. Approx. 2 hrs. Difficulty: medium). The route runs parallel to an ancient stone irrigation system and ends at the Botanic Trail.

**Tripes Mills** (2.8 km. Approx. 2 hrs. Difficulty: low). Starts in a crop-growing region, then climbs parallel to the Tripes river, where you can see riparian vegetation and mills.

**Paredes Mills** (9 km. Approx. 4 hrs. Difficulty: medium-high). This route has a steep slope, hence its medium-high difficulty level. It enables us to explore the park further and observe different types of vegetation. The route ends in an area dotted with mills.



# TOMIÑO

4,000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Tomiño is the largest municipality in Baixo Miño. Its scenery is enhanced by the valley formed by the Miño river, and by the beautiful mountain landscapes provided by the Argallo mountains, with lofty peaks providing excellent natural viewpoints from where you can make out the whole region.





Churches of Santa María de Tomiño, San Salvador de Tebra, and Santa María de Tebra

### PETROGLYPHS ON TETÓN MOUNTAIN

Tetón Mountain, in the parish of Santa María de Tebra, is home to one of the most important examples of rupestrian art in Europe, with engravings over 4,000 years old. Their present appearance is due to natural erosion over time, and they are sometimes hard to make out if the light is poor. The best time of day to see them is first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon. The iconographic repertoire of this rupestrian site includes all kinds of motifs, such as pots, quadrangular shapes, and human and animal figures. However, what is most striking about them is the impressive combination of concentric circles. Schoolchildren are often taken on guided visits to the area. During the summer the town council organises guided nighttime visits.

### THE ECO PARK

Tetón Mountain Archaeological Eco Park includes a forest park, two scenic viewpoints, and a culture trail. The track that leads to the Eco Park ends at the forestry house, where a walking route begins.

### ROUTE

Along the route we can admire some of the most important petroglyphs that form part of Galicia's heritage, and enjoy impressive views of the entire Tebra valley, part of the A Groba mountain range. On clear days we can see the Vigo river. The route, a total distance of 2.1 km, with an average gradient of 9%, begins at a viewpoint at the bottom of the mountain, passes the two main petroglyphs in the area, and concludes at the viewpoint at the top of the mountain. At the end of the route is a recreation area with tables and benches.

### ROMANESQUE ENVIRONMENT

Of Tomiño's rich and diverse range of religious architecture, particularly noteworthy are its Romanesque chapels and churches (mainly 12th c.), which retain features and elements of this architectural style.



Trees and ornamental plants are the main production in Tomiño's nurseries

## RURAL SETTING

### CROPS

Tomiño is situated between the Miño river and the Argallo mountain range, which shelters it from the Atlantic winds. The mild climate here is ideal for crop-growing, and provides visitors with an interesting mix of natural and man-made landscapes, with extensive open-air, cultivated areas. Trees and ornamental plants such as rhododendrons, camelias, and magnolias are the main source of income for nurseries. However, in recent years there has been a major drive in kiwi production. The fruit adapts exceptionally well to the climate, and the number of farms has increased each year, making Tomiño the biggest kiwi producer in Spain today.

### VILACHÁN VIEWPOINT

Set among an extensive vine-growing area is an adapted viewpoint above the vineyards.

### MOUNTAIN

The Argallo Mountains offer us a beautiful two-sided panorama; on one side we have the vast plain of Tomiño and the mouth of the Miño river; on the other, O Rosal Valley and the mouth of the same river.

### WATER

The main tributaries around Tomiño are the Furnia, the Cereixo, and the Tollo rivers. Their source is in the upper reaches of the Argallo and A Groba mountain ranges, where they contribute to shaping beautiful wetlands and populate the territory with abundant riparian vegetation, providing a wealth of fish not easily found in other rivers. The Cereixo is the municipality's most emblematic river. Its banks are inhabited by alders, willows, laurels and other riparian species, and its crystal-clear waters meander alongside farms and meadows. The stretch of river at the A Pedra neighbourhood forms a natural pool, used for bathing and as a recreation area.

### PINZÁS WETLAND

Pinzás is a very rural parish in Tomiño, where we find a large wet plain together with pastureland. The wetland remains waterlogged almost all year and many streams leading from the Cereixo river run through it. In addition, the plain is used as pastureland for large numbers of livestock, which graze there all year in almost semi-freedom, presenting a curious picture.





The Bridge of Friendship unites Goián with the Portuguese municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira

## GOIÁN

### BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

Goián is Tomiño's second-largest town, situated on the PO-552 road from Tui to A Guarda. At this symbolic border point, a new international bridge was opened in 2004, connecting the town to Vila Nova de Cerveira. The Bridge of Friendship further strengthens the relationship between the two towns and offers an attractive view of the river and its banks from its pedestrian walkway.

### HISTORICAL MEMORIES

In the centre of the town we find Pintor Antonio Fernández Square, along with the 18th-century parish church and the rectory. Ordóñez Avenue still has many of the colonial-style houses which contributed to the town's development at the beginning of the last century, and also the Goianés Centre, which was established in 1914, and was the most active social centre in the entire region for many years.

Continuing along the main avenue we come to the crossroads which lead to Tabagón, where we find *A Casa das do Correo*, a former station for post coaches in the early 19th century, now converted into a restaurant. At the end of the road we arrive at the hermitage of San Roque, in a beautiful setting amidst ancient oak trees which housed the fort of Nosa Señora da Concepción in the 17th century, built by the Portuguese, of which only a few vestiges survive.

### BY THE MIÑO RIVER

Ordóñez avenue leads to the Miño river via a pedestrian path, which offers visitors a beautiful panoramic view of the riverside and the neighbouring Portuguese town of Vila Nova de Cerveira. An environmental improvement and enhancement plan has recently been implemented in the vicinity of the river beach and San Lourenzo fort, creating new spaces for public use.

# O ROSAL

## NATURE AND LANDSCAPE

The historical-ethnographic mill complex of Folón and Picón is formed of 67 water mills, which were declared Sites of Cultural Interest by the *Xunta de Galicia* (the Galician Government) in 1998. Winning the *Agader* prize awarded by the Galician Rural Development Agency for embellishment of the rural environment in 2003, and the recent approval of its hiking path (PR-G 94), by the Galician Mountaineering Federation, have put this place on the tourist map. Guided visits can be arranged through the Town Council.

The route brings the visitor into contact with nature and with the culture and history of our ancestors. It takes about an hour and a half to complete its 3.5 km.





To find out more about O Rosal's natural and ethnographic heritage you can visit the Nature Classroom

## FOLÓN AND PICÓN MILLS

These mills date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. They were the work of neighbours, and their construction did not, as was originally believed, involve the monks of Oia Monastery. At the first mill, As Laxes, if the force of the water is sufficient, there is a milling demonstration for visitors to see how the corn is converted into flour.

### 36 FOLÓN MILLS

We begin our tour by climbing up the slope of the 36 Folón mills, laid out in three different areas: the lower area (mills 1-9), the middle (10-15) and the upper area (16-36). This final area, of 22 mills, is unique in the world as regards its layout and visual impact, with the mills positioned one after the other in ladder or waterfall formation, so as to best harness the flow of water and increase its driving force. Along the route, and in the mills themselves, we can see several engravings: initials, names, and cruciforms. Wells and natural waterfalls accompany the hiker on this path through culture and folk tradition.

## A WINDOW ONTO THE MIÑO RIVER

Once at the top, at Chan da Cereixeira, we can admire the view of the Miño river mouth, O Rosal Valley, Santa Trega Mountain, and Portugal.

### 31 PICÓN MILLS

Before beginning our descent through Picón, we see a rock with four holes ("O Nivel"), fundamental to the equal distribution of water, and to preventing arguments among the former neighbours of Martín and Picón. Going down past Picón (composed of 31 mills) we notice that some of its mills also have a stable or shed for animals. The piles of feed, the hitching rings for tying the animals, and the *posos* (stone bases on which to rest sacks of grain) are also present on this side. Around these mills are the "Camiño dos Frades" (Friars Way) and the "Camiño do Carro" (Carriage Way), marked by the tracks and ruts made by carriages over the years. Every 11 November the religious pilgrimage of the traditional festival of San Martiño passes along this route.

## O ROSAL WINE

### TWO WINES, ONE UNIQUE FLAVOUR

The valley and the mountain slopes of O Rosal are ideal for growing grapes. The white wines of the O Rosal subzone belong to the Rías Baixas D.O. and are considered to be some of the best in the world. The prestigious awards won by the bodegas support this claim. The microclimate lends itself to the cultivation of grape varieties that produce two types of wines: Albariño, made with albariño grapes, which has a fruity, enveloping, and sensual aroma; and O Rosal, obtained from a blend of albariño, loureiro, and caíño blanco grapes, offering superb finesse and lots of personality.

### VINES FROM THE MIDDLE AGES

The first historical description of vines in the territory of O Rosal dates from the 12th century. The citation of 1123, in documentation belonging to the Monastery of Oia, refers to the vines of Sanoane Farm (Couselo). In 1284, mention is made of vines in Sandián and, in 1305, vineyards in Tabagón. The implantation of vines and the spread of O Rosal wine-making is attributed to the Cistercian monks of Oia Monastery.

### O ROSAL WINE FESTIVAL

Every July, since 1993, the town council has organised the “Feira do Viño do Rosal” and a display of local products. The town’s bodegas, and those with the Rías Baixas D.O., take part in this annual event which provides the perfect opportunity to present both local and foreign forms of the art of wine production. In addition, a growing number of gastronomic establishments make Calvario Square a must if you want to experience the best of Baixo Miño life.



Celebrating the “Feira do Viño do Rosal”



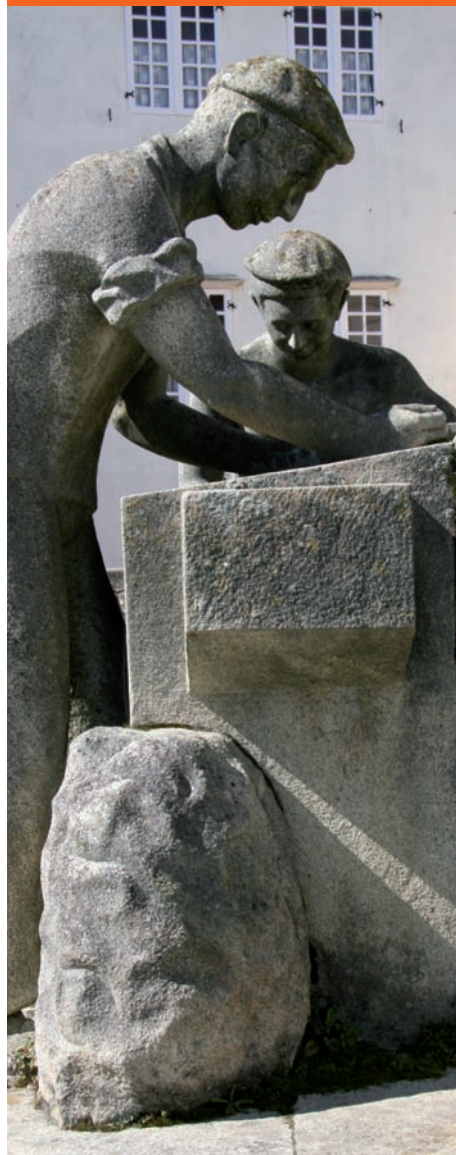
## "FESTA DO CABAQUEIRO"

### HEIRS OF THE ROMAN POTTERS

Since 1988, on 12 October each year the "Festa do Cabaqueiro" is celebrated in Calvario Square, in remembrance of the craftsmen who once made roof tiles in Baixo Miño; considered to be the true heirs of the Roman potters who occupied the region's castros. Together with farming, tilemaking was the most common occupation of the inhabitants of O Rosal and Baixo Miño until the mid 20th century. Tiles and bricks were hand made by a team of at least 5 tilemakers, known as "a cuadrilla". The work season lasted 5 months, and the "cuadrillas" were hired to work in tile-making factories in Galicia, the rest of Spain, and even in South America. The "Festa do Cabaqueiro" coincided with the public holiday to celebrate El Pilar, the patron saint, as that was when the season finished and the tilemakers returned home. The tilemakers used to have their own particular language, in order to maintain their privacy and not be understood by outsiders. This jargon is included in various publications.

### THE FESTIVAL

The celebration of the festival includes a mass in honour of the Virgin of Pilar, bagpipe bands, octopus *á feira* (literally "fair-style") and O Rosal wine, along with displays of the tools, ceramic pieces, photographs, and utensils used in the everyday life of the tilemaker. To involve the younger public, workshops on tilemaking and other crafts are organised, as well as a table football competition for children.



A sculpture of the *cabaqueiro* in Calvario Square

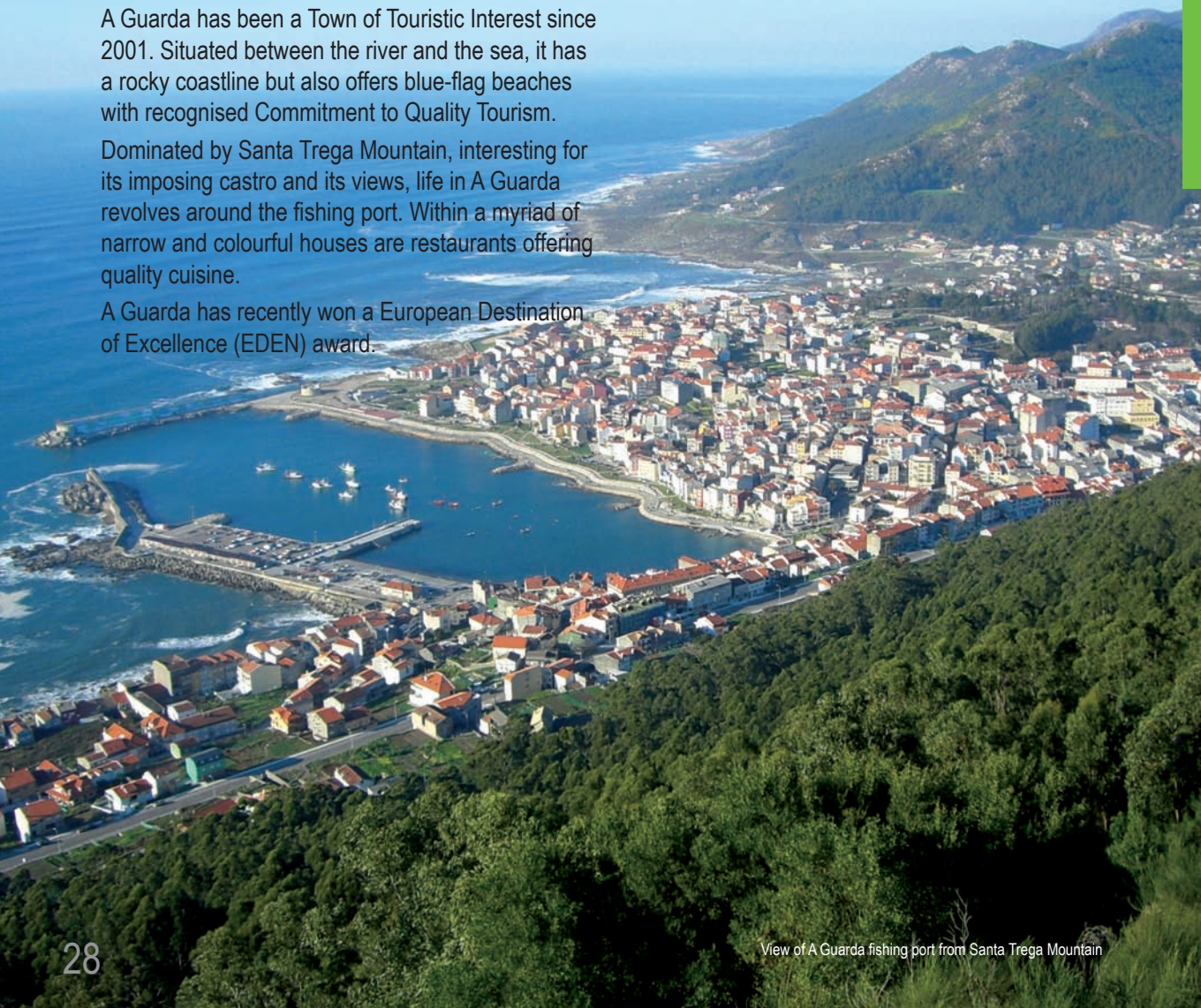
# A GUARDA

## NATURAL HORIZON

A Guarda has been a Town of Touristic Interest since 2001. Situated between the river and the sea, it has a rocky coastline but also offers blue-flag beaches with recognised Commitment to Quality Tourism.

Dominated by Santa Trega Mountain, interesting for its imposing castro and its views, life in A Guarda revolves around the fishing port. Within a myriad of narrow and colourful houses are restaurants offering quality cuisine.

A Guarda has recently won a European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) award.







Santa Trega castro

## SANTA TREGA MOUNTAIN

### SANTA TREGA CASTRO

This is the finest example of castro culture in the northwestern peninsula. Discovered in 1913, the site was declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument in 1931. The Galician-Roman settlement had its golden era around the 1st century BC. At this time the northwestern peninsula had just been incorporated into the Roman Empire and the sea routes and those going up the Miño river acquired commercial importance.

### MASAT

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF SANTA TREGA

The museum takes visitors on a journey through the successive periods of castros and archaeological research work. Particularly interesting are the torque ends and the fine collection of swastikas found during the excavations.

Opening hours: Winter 11am – 5pm. Summer 10am – 8pm.

### PETROGLYPHS

Thirty groups of rock engravings were discovered on Santa Trega Mountain, notable of which are the Laxe Sagrada and the Laxe del Mapa.

### A FORCA CASTRO

At the start of the climb up the mountain is the A Forca *castro*, a settlement that shows little Roman influence, which was built in the 4th century BC.

### VÍA CRUCIS (PATH OF THE CROSS)

This is an interesting group of sculptures on the path climbing to the top of the mountain. Notable are the bronze medallions which represent the scenes at Calvary.

### HERMITAGE OF SANTA TREGA

Worship of the saint in A Guarda goes back to the 7th century. However, the existence of the hermitage is documented from the 12th century, and belonged at that time to the Monastery of Oia. Its present appearance is due to restoration work in the 16th and 17th centuries. On 23 September the Pilgrimage of Santa Trega takes place, a religious family festival involving a picnic.

### SCENIC VIEWS

From San Francisco Peak, at 341 metres high, you can see the estuary and where the Miño river flows out into the Atlantic, and also the neighbouring lands of Portugal. From Facho Peak, a name which alludes to the bonfire lit at the summit to signal peace, or two bonfires to signal danger, you can observe the vast expanse of ocean and the fishing port, the A Groba mountain range, and O Rosal Valley.

### TREGA PATHS

Santa Trega Mountain offers a network of paths and trails, with a combined length of 7.7 km. Six of these have been approved as PR-G 122 routes.

# BEACHES

## RIVER BEACHES

O Muíño, A Lamiña, A Armona and O Codesal.

The river Miño's four beaches are situated along the final 2 km before it meets the sea, and form a perfect unit. As well as offering superb views of Portugal and the mouth of the river, these sandy areas are framed by a pine forest, ideal for a stroll or for relaxing in the shade. The beaches are influenced by the tides, so the salinity of the water increases when the tide goes upstream. The tides also affect the temperature of the water, being more ocean-like when the tide is high, and more Mediterranean at low tide.

## SEA BEACHES

Area Grande, Fedorento and O Carreiro.

These sea beaches are known for the health benefits of their waters. They are small sandy coves, open to the sea, and are ideal for bathing and practicing water sports such as diving or sport fishing.

O Muíño river beach with A Insua in the background





A Guarda fishing port, protected by two breakwaters

## THE PORT

### FISHING PORT

A Guarda port is characterised by the traditional fishermen's houses; narrow, multi-storied, and very colourful. These, together with the pedestrian streets and docks, make it an unmissable place to visit. Along the pedestrian area are many restaurants and terraces. Fishing is closely tied in with the town and continues to be one of the main sources of income. Today, along with coastal fishing, offshore fishing plays a major role, and A Guarda's swordfishing fleet is considered to be one of the most important in Spain.

### SOUTHERN BREAKWATER

Built in the early 20th century, and known as the fishermen's breakwater, or simply the dock. Here you can see fishermen at work, their boats and fishing tackle, as well as the curious activity of the wholesale auction at the *lonja* (fish market). This is also where the Redeiras (women who make and mend fishing nets) have their workshop.

### PROMENADE

The promenade is pedestrianised and has landscaped and recreation areas. At the end of the promenade is a watchtower and pier.

### MALECÓN

The pier, or new breakwater, closes the port off from the rough winter seas. In 2008, the breakwater served as a giant canvas and was painted to reflect the colours of the traditional fishermen's houses and social life in A Guarda.

### MUSEUM OF THE SEA - WATCHTOWER

This was a circular fortress built by the Portuguese when A Guarda was in the hands of its neighbouring country. It was demolished in 1943 and reconstructed in 1997 on the promenade, opposite its original location. Today it houses the Museum of the Sea which, in addition to its ethnographic content, including ancient fishing equipment, it also has a impressive collection of sea shells on display.

Open: Weekends and public holidays. Summer: 11am - 2pm and 6pm - 9pm. Winter: 11am - 2pm and 4pm - 7pm.

### SEA ROUTES

**Coastal route:** 3.6 km of path that connects A Guarda port with O Muíño beach. It passes only a few metres from the sea, lending it a special charm. A bicycle lane is available along half of the route.

**Shellfish Farm route:** goes from the port and arrives almost to the border with O Rosal. Along its 4 km you can see the ancient shellfish nurseries inserted among the rocks in the sea surrounding A Guarda.

# OIA

## SEA AND MOUNTAIN

Oia consists mostly of sea, mountain, and sky. Taking the PO-552 road connecting A Guarda with Baiona, we can enjoy 18 km of magnificent coastline between the tempestuous Atlantic and the A Groba mountains.

A stop at Cape Silleiro, easily identified by its lighthouse, affords visitors beautiful views of the Cíes islands, as well as some unforgettable sunsets.



The Oia coast provides ideal conditions for paragliding





Bridge over the Tamuxe river in Loureza

## SPORT

On the Oia coast, visitors can practice watersports such as surfing, bodyboarding, windsurfing and canoeing. In addition, the rivers that traverse the municipality offer opportunities for rafting or canoeing. The Tamuxe river, between Burgueira and Loureza, is the most suitable for these kinds of activities. The mountains offer various activities such as trekking, horse riding at the Alto da Cheira riding school in Mougás, wall climbing at A Fervenza in Mougás and at A Guieira in Santa María de Oia. The municipality of Oia is the place par excellence to practice paragliding. Whether from the top of Corrubelo Mountain at 580 m, or from Castro Mountain at 460 m, the conditions are perfect for soaring over the hillside with the sea as a backdrop.

## MOUNTAINS

Climbing from the PO-550 road towards Torroña, Mabilia and Santa Comba, we can follow a circular route of about 30 km through the heart of the massif of the A Groba mountain range, which will give us a panoramic view of the municipality. Leaving the car and walking along one of the forest paths is a true delight for nature lovers.

## NATURAL POOLS

The best known of these are in Mougás and Loureza, since they are larger and more easily accessible. The pools in Mougás can be accessed on foot from the town centre, or by car in the direction of Torroña, near Alto da Cheira. To get to the pools at Loureza we ascend towards Burgueira.

## “SOBREIRAS DO FARO”

In the Broi river valley, in the mountains of the parish of Viladesuso, is “Sobreiras do Faro”, a large expanse of almost exclusively cork-oak trees, some of which are over 70 years old.



The celebration of the *curros* attracts a multitude of visitors

## CURROS

### "CABALO GALEGO"

In 1567 a great plague devastated the province of Pontevedra. Legend has it that, in exchange for protection, two sisters offered two horses to St. Lourenzo. Once the danger had passed, they fulfilled their promise and sent the animals to the village's parish priest. This pair of horses continued to breed in the mountains of Pontevedra until it became commonplace to see horses in the wild. And so the "Cabalo Galego" breed was born.

### 4,000 YEARS

Legend aside, the presence of horses in the A Groba mountains goes back at least 4,000 years, as evidenced by the figures depicted on petroglyphs. The presence of mares and stallions was documented in the 12th century as belonging to the Monastery of Oia, who bought land from the Monastery of Coruxo using these animals as payment. The existence of the *curros* has been known about since at least the 18th century, through a forum which recognised the monastery's right to "capture and corral".

### "RAPA DAS BESTAS"

The "Cabalo Galego" lives in semi-freedom in the mountains. Once a year the animals are rounded up and taken to the *curros* to be cleaned up by cutting their manes, and for the colts to be branded with the branding iron of each horse owner. After this process, known as the "rapa das bestas" (shearing of the beasts), part of the herd is sold for meat or farm work, and the rest are returned to the mountains.

### ROUTE OF THE CURROS

With the arrival of summer comes the start of the *curros*; traditionally an agricultural task but which is today a festival. The Route of the *Curros* begins on the second Sunday in May with the *curro* in Valga, situated between the parishes of Burgueira and Loureza. A particular feature of this *curro* is its venue; presiding over the A Groba mountains, at 600 metres above sea level. On the first weekend in June, the *curro* takes place in Torroña, a parish in Burgueira, and the following weekend the *curro* is in Mougás. The people who, through sheer physical strength, try to break the horses, are known as the "agarradores" (grabbers) or "aloitadores" (fighters). The enormous struggle that ensues forms part of the attraction. The "rapa das bestas" is a unique festival that defines the way of life and tradition in the mountains of Galicia. The festival offers the visitor a truly great way to learn about the roots of a different land.





The Monastery of Oia by the sea

## MONASTERY OF SANTA MARÍA LA REAL OF OIA

### SINCE THE 12TH CENTURY

This is located in Oia cove where, according to some historians, there once stood a castle. The monastery was founded in 1137, and was where the region's monks resided under the protection of Alfonso VII of Castilla. It was run by 140 abbots from 1137 to 1835, and was an austere order, in accordance with the simplicity dictated by St. Bernard, whose influence can be seen in the simple architectural forms. The choir stalls and the sacristy are 16th century and the cloister was completed in the last quarter of 1500.

### BESIDE THE SEA

The monastery has the appearance of a fortress by the sea. At various times it served as a defensive bastion for the Kingdom against the countless pirate attacks and constant raids by the Portuguese. In 1621, the Captain General of the Kingdom of Galicia ordered the captain and the lieutenant in command of the forces guarding the coast, to reside in Oia and never abandon the monastery.

### CONCENTRATION CAMP DURING THE CIVIL WAR

The monastery's history, as regards its intended purpose, came to an end after almost 700 years, with the Ecclesiastical confiscations of Mendizábal in 1835. It was designated the parish church in 1838. In 1912 it was occupied by the Jesuits expelled from Portugal, who remained there until 1932, when the Republican Government nationalised the assets of the Society of Jesus. Shortly after, it was used as a concentration camp during the Spanish Civil War. It is currently being restored, after passing through the hands of various owners.

### AN ENVIRONMENT TO ENJOY

El Arrabal is the small town that grew up under the shelter of the monastery. It is worth taking a stroll through its streets to see examples of typical Galician architecture. In Oia's port, at the foot of the monastery, when the tide is low we can clearly distinguish a "camboa" (a fish garth for trapping fish) made by the monks. From the Monastery of Oia to Orelluda Point you can take an evocative walk through fields and little coves. An old house depicts the inscription "Casa de la Culpa 1810" (The House of Sin), where the neighbours enclosed people accused of theft or other crimes.

# gastronomy

The region's cuisine is famous for the excellent quality of the raw ingredients. The presence of the sea and rivers makes fish and seafood the star products, in addition to market garden products, which are particularly important here, given the large contribution agriculture makes to the economy.

## FROM THE LAND

Kiwis and mirabelles are the most unusual of the fruit produced in the region. Tomiño accounts for 60% of the total kiwi production in Spain. The mirabelle is a small, tasty fruit, a type of plum. It can be eaten fresh, in syrup, or in jam. It originates from Central Europe and arrived in O Rosal in 1938, brought by the entrepreneur José Sánchez García, who founded the first canned vegetable factory in Galicia.

## FROM THE MIÑO RIVER

The Miño boasts a greater wealth of fish than any other European river, and offers much sought-after seasonal fish such as eel, elver ("meixón"), plaice, shad, salmon, and lamprey, for which this river is its main habitat in Galicia. Tui is gastronomically-renowned for its eels, which had their first festival in 1968. During the week of the San Telmo festival in Tui you get a chance to try eels, lamprey, and other typical local products.



Lobster is the star of A Guarda's cuisine



## FROM THE ATLANTIC

Owing to its kilometres of coastline, the fish and seafood here is excellent. Some of the best include *percebes* (goose barnacle), *polbo* (octopus), *nécora* (small crab), and *ourizo de mar* (sea urchin). These days the region's restaurants incorporate algae into their dishes, making them even tastier still. On the first weekend in July, A Guarda celebrates the "Festa da Lagosta e da Cociña Mariñeira". Coastal fishing plays an important role in the town and you can see fish and seafood of all kinds in the *lonxa* (fish market). One of the most prized shellfish is the goose barnacle, which has its festival in Oia on 15 August. The *caramuxo* (a type of sea snail), can be tasted at the festival celebrated in August in Perdonés (Oia).

## FROM THE MOUNTAIN

The meat par excellence in the region is veal and pork, which are perfectly combined in succulent dishes such as the *cocido galego* (Galician stew). Other popular meat is lamb, and particularly famous is the lamb from Santa Comba (Loureza). The gastronomic potro (colt) festival, which takes place in August in Torroña, provides an ideal opportunity to try the meat while you soak up the idyllic surroundings. *Chourizos* (cured pork sausages) taste their best when the weather is cold, and this is why a *chourizada* (chorizo-eating event) has been held in the middle of January since 1983, in Santa María de Oia. In Autumn the forests are abundant with mushrooms, which feature increasingly often in Galician cuisine.

## AND FOR DESSERT

Well-known to pilgrims trying to recover their strength in Tui are the traditional almond fish prepared by the nuns. The *roscón de xema* (large ring-shaped bun made with candied egg yolk) is typical of A Guarda, as the original recipe was originally conceived in a confectioner's shop in A Guarda. Coriander liqueur, the artisan distillation of which began in Goián (Tomiño), and other liqueurs such as coffee and mirabelle plum, are ideal for enjoying after a tasty Galician meal.



The Miño river provides the lamprey's main habitat in Galicia



Rosca de xema, liqueurs, and mirabelle plums



The Goose Barnacle Festival is held in Oia on 15 August

# O Rosal wine, D.O. Rías Baixas

The Rías Baixas Denomination of Origin refers to, and geographically defines, the region where the legendary Albariño grape is cultivated.



Vineyards in the municipality of Tomiño

Two varieties of wine are produced in the Baixo Miño region: Albariño, made with a single grape variety of the same name; and O Rosal, obtained from a blend of albariño, loureiro, and caíño blanco grapes.

Viniculture in this region goes back to ancient times. Although we have references from Roman times, it seems that it was the monks of Oia Monastery who extended the cultivation of vines.

This is the warmest area in the Rías Baixas D.O., and here the vines are cultivated on the mountain slopes. The microclimate of the area is ideal for ripening the grapes, resulting in a wine that has a greater sugar content and less acidity than that of more northern areas.

The majority of the vineyards are located in Tomiño and O Rosal, marking out a beautiful path that forms part of the Rías Baixas Wine Route, which combines scenery, art, and gastronomy. Tui also has many bodegas that produce Albariño.



# O baixo miño festivals

winter

## FESTIVAL OF HEALTH AND SAN BLAS

**Beginning of February, O Rosal.**

In the distinctly traditional setting of San Xoán de Tabagón, an artistic arch, designed by a local artist, is erected and then decorated with flowers by all the neighbours.

## CARNIVAL

In Tui, there is always a huge turnout for the Tuesday parade which forms part of the local Carnival festival.

The main festivals in Tomiño include those of Goián (parade, street parties, concerts, etc.) and the parade that takes place in O Seixo. The neighbourhoods of Fornelos and Novás (O

Rosal) celebrate the "Corrida do galo" (where blindfolded men mount donkeys and try to break *piñatas*, papier-mâché structures filled with sweets) and the "Frixidela" (groups from the *entroido* parade fry corn pancakes and other foods in the village square). In A Guarda, the children's parade is very popular.

spring

## LANZO DA CRUZ

**Easter Monday, Sobrada (Tomiño).**

This is an unusual festival owing to its cross-border nature, where Galicians and Portuguese gather together in the middle of the Miño to bless the river's water and the fishermen's nets.

## SAN TELMO FESTIVALS

**In Tui, the weekend after Easter Sunday.**

Galician Festival of Tourist Interest. The highlight is the traditional procession, in which the patron saint's image is paraded by Tui's ancient guilds.

## EXHIBITION OF BAIXO MIÑO CROPS

**April, Tomiño.**

The exhibition takes place in the sports pavilion in Goián and is arranged by sector. Seminars are held, and there are workshops for children.

## SANTA COLUMBA PILGRIMAGE

**Beginning of May, Oia.**

In the neighbourhood of Santa Comba, Loureza (Oia). There is a strong tradition here and people do the pilgrimage on foot. A Lamb Festival is also organised, which is typical of the area.

## KIWI FESTIVAL

**Beginning of May, Tomiño.**

This festival, in which the kiwi is the protagonist, also serves as a showcase for traditional local products, and free tastings are offered. There are performances, workshops, and information sessions.

summer

## THE HOLY SACRAMENT

**June, A Guarda.**

During the night the floral 'carpets' are prepared and, on Sunday, the Procession of the Holy Sacrament takes place. The design of the carpet is very impressive, and is made using coloured salt.

## OUR LADY OF SORROWS

**First Sunday in July, Tui.**

This pilgrimage takes place on Aloia Mountain and draws people from all over the region.

## EXHIBITION OF FISHING TRADITIONS

**Last weekend in July, A Guarda.**

Exhibitions, workshops, water activities, popular games, and a *serán* (traditional folk music festival) are organised around the port.

## PILGRIMAGE OF LA MADANELA

**End of July, Oia-Tomiño.**

This is celebrated on Pedrada Mountain, between the towns of Oia and Tomiño. Organised by the parishes of Burgueira (Oia) and Barrantes (Tomiño).

A crowd of people ascend on foot, carrying the image of St. Madalena, which spends the rest of the year in Church of Burgueira. The pilgrimage takes place on the mountain and traditional food is eaten.

## MOUNTAIN FESTIVALS

**Second week in August, A Guarda.**

Galician Festival of Tourist Interest. During the week various cultural, sports, and leisure activities are organised. On the Saturday, the Great Folklore Parade takes place, with bagpipe and folk music bands, along with fishermen

bands. On the Sunday, the fishermen bands, families, and visitors climb the mountain to celebrate one of the most famous *enxebres* (Galician term meaning authentically Galician) pilgrimages in Galicia. The festival is rounded off on the Monday with a concert and fireworks.

## A ROCHA

**Last Monday in August, Tui.**

This historical pilgrimage is celebrated with a picnic, traditionally with *empanada* (a type of pie), on the banks of the Miño at Caldeas de Tui.

autumn

## PILGRIMAGE OF SAN MARTIÑO

**Middle of November, O Rosal.**

Traditional pilgrimage with a procession from the Church of Santa Mariña, in Calvario Square, to the Chapel of San Martiño, on Campo do Couto Mountain.

# baixo miño

## TUI

Town Council: + (34) 986 603 625

Tourist Office: + (34) 986 601 789

[www.concellotui.org](http://www.concellotui.org)

## TOMIÑO

Town Council: + (34) 986 622 001

[www.concellotomino.com](http://www.concellotomino.com)

## O ROSAL

Town Council: + (34) 986 625 000

[www.concellodorosal.es](http://www.concellodorosal.es)

## A GUARDA

Town Council: + (34) 986 610 000

Tourist Office: + (34) 986 614 546

[www.aguarda.es](http://www.aguarda.es)

## OIA

Town Council: + (34) 986 362 125

[www.concellodeoia.com](http://www.concellodeoia.com)



Concello de Tui



Concello de Tomiño



Concello do Rosal



Concello da Guarda



Concello de Oia