

# FISTERRA

## HERITAGE

The remote past of Fisterra is confirmed by the archaeological remains. The three sepulchres founded in Sardiñeiro de Abaixo verifies that this region have been inhabited since the Neolithic era. From the army culture there are the remains of the Neolithic fortified settlement of Castro miñán, in the place with the same name.

### Religious history

The church of San Vicenzo de Duio (1669) has been sacked during the Napoleonic invasion. This small baroque temple has been built next to a Neolithic fortified settlement. In its inside stands out a big altarpiece, which is dominated by the statue of San Vicente.

The Chapel of Nosa Señora do Bo Suceso (1743) is located in the village of Fisterra. The baroque building has in its main facade a gable with a coat of arms. In its inside there is a baroque altarpiece that is dominated by the statue of the Virxe do Socorro.

The church of San Xoán is situated in Sardiñeiro. It is a baroque neoclassical temple, where a statue of San Xoán Bautista, a saint very venerated in the region, stands out and is over a corbel.

### Civil history

In relation to the civil heritage stand out the Casa do Porto, which is a small medieval turret, and the Casa do Cuadrante (13th Century), which could have been an ancient hospital for pilgrims. In its facade it has a coat of arms and a sundial.



## Subventions

Programme LEADER 2014-2020

### GDR-Costa da Morte Region.

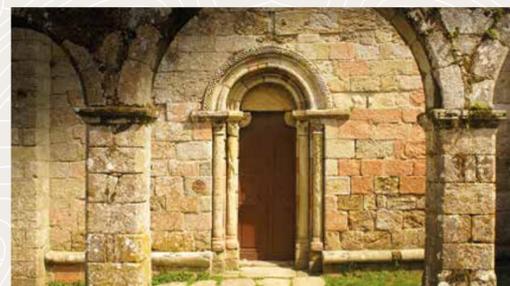
The territorial sphere of action of the programme is managed by the GDR-Costa da Morte that consists of the following councils:

- > Cabana de Bergantiños
- > Camariñas
- > Carballa
- > Carnota
- > Cee
- > Corcubión
- > Coristanco
- > Dumbria
- > Fisterra
- > A Laracha
- > Laxe
- > Malpica
- > Mazariños
- > Muxia
- > Ponteceso
- > Vimianzo
- > Zas

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## NATURE

The nature in this region that dominates the ocean is characterised by a rough geography with cliffs, mountains and unspoilt beaches. It is a landscape that is the son of the winds and storms and that is peaceful only in the interior side of the sea inlet, because of it is sweeter and friendly.

The natural area that goes from the north point of the Rostro beach to the interior coast of the Fisterra peninsula is protected by the LIC (Place of Community Importance) Costa da Morte of the Rede Natura 2000 by its great natural value and the importance of the species.

The Veladoiro Mountain or Nave Cape rises as a nautical vantage point in 243 m of altitude. Its cliffs have been the witness of several shipwrecks and the singular beauty of this landscape becomes quiet along the astonishing sunsets. A bit more to the north is located the Punta Castelo, where is situated the Neolithic fortified settlement of Castro miñán.

From the Facho Mountain, the panoramic view is spectacular. In this mountain are located the remains of the San Guillerme hermitage and the Pedras Santas (sacred stones). The Seoane Mountain reaches 249 m and descends sharply to the sea. It is the best place to observe the geography of the Fisterra Cape, the sea inlet, the port, the Pindo Mountain, the Lobeiras Islands and the whole coast until Corrubedo.

## TOURIST FISH MARKET

In the port of Fisterra is located the first tourist fish market in Galicia. In the modern facilities there is an exhibition about the fishing. Moreover, visitors can see the auction of fish and know the captured species by the coastal fishing ships.



## SAN CARLOS CASTLE

This bastion was forming part of a defensive plan in the sea inlet of Corcubión joined with the Prince Castle in Cee and the Cardeal Castle in Corcubión.

The construction of the castle has been started around the middle of the 18th Century (1757) but it was not finished until 10 years later by the Carlos III order. This fortress has an irregular shape in order to be adapted to the topography of the land. It had three fronts and the embrasure was strategically oriented to the Fisterra cape, the port and the centre of the sea inlet.

The indoor building was the officer room, serving also as the headquarters and the place for the gunpowder. During the Independence War it has been attacked by the French people, who have burned and partially destroyed it. Later, it has been rebuilt and restored.

The San Carlos Castle is located in the centre of the Fisterra village and nowadays is a Museum about the Sea.

## HERMITAGE OF SAN GUILLERME

In the Facho Mountain are located the remains of an ancient hermitage which is related to the pagan rituals of Ara Solis and the tradition says that here takes place rituals of fecundity. They say that in a big horizontal stone was the bed, where the sterile couples were sleeping in order to have babies. They also say that it has been the dwelling of a hermit. According to historians he could be the Aquitania Duke, Guillerme X, who went on a pilgrimage to Santiago in the 11th Century.

## SANTA MARÍA DAS AREAS

The origin of this temple, which is situated in the surroundings of the San Guillerme Mountain, dated back to 1199. The mythic connection of the Santiago Apostle with this region and the Santo Cristo de Fisterra worship has originated a great attendance of pilgrims, even in the 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries. In 1479 a hospital for pilgrims has been built in front of the facade of the church. The different architectural styles live together in this temple and provide it with a great artistic wealth.

From the Romanesque it preserves a window and in its facade has a door with two pairs of columns and archivolts. On one side, we can see a door of Egas style, which is strange in Galicia.

The gothic and the baroque can be seen in different constructive elements, in the altarpieces and in the statues. There are some statues that stand out in the inside such as the statue of Santiago Pilgrim, the Renaissance statue of Nosa Señora das Areas and the Santo Cristo da Barba Dourada, which is gothic.

According to the tradition, this statue was made by Nicodemus. When it was transported by a ship, which was sailing along this coast, they had to throw it to the sea in order to stop the storm. When it arrived to the land, it was picked up by sailors of the village.

They say that the Christ emits perspiration of death and its hair and nails grows up. In the exterior is located the gothic transept of the 15th Century, one of the most ancient transepts in Galicia.

## FESTIVITIES

The Santo Cristo is declared as tourist interest festivity and takes place along the Easter. It has several staging of the Christ's Passion such as the recreation of the Station of the Cross, the performance of the Calvary and the procession of the Saint Burial. It is one of the most traditional festivities in Galicia. The religious ceremonies culminate the Easter Sunday with the traditional "dance of sticks", which has its origin in the 17th Century.

In the Fisterra Carnival takes place the traditional Burial of the Sardine and the Burning of the Octopus.

The Fin do Camiño takes place in Anchoa the 3rd weekend of August. It is a folk festival where there are sample of local products, the passacaglia music and the attractions for children.

The Longueirón Festivity takes place the 1st Sunday of August in Fisterra. It is a gastronomic tasting of the leading product in the village, which is the longueirón (a seafood similar to the razor shell) that is cooked in different ways.



## FISTERRA, THE END OF THE WAY

There is the idea about the ancient pilgrimages of Celtic villages, which were following in the sky the "Stars Way" going to the European "finisterrae" points to worship the sun where the land ends and the "Sea of Cadavers" begins. Fisterra is one of those places and nowadays is the final point of the Santiago Way to Muxia - Fisterra.

The process of Christianization of Fisterra is reflected in the Codex Calixtinus, which links this region with the tradition of St James. The antiquity of this route is confirmed in several documents of the 1119 year that narrate the worry about how to lodge the pilgrims.

Along the centuries, rituals of purification, death and resurrection have persisted, which were probably founded in pagan worships of the ancient villages. In the Langosteira Beach, pilgrims purify their bodies in order to reach the goal cleaned, where they contemplate the sunset in the end of the world, as a symbol of death and resurrection. Nowadays many pilgrims end their pilgrimages when they make these ceremonies.

## BEACH

The region of Fisterra has magnificent beaches with astonishing beauty and different characteristics. The Rostro Beach and the Mar de Fóra Beach are two beautiful beaches with unspoilt nature that are protected by the Rede Natura 2000. Joined with the Arnela Beach, they are the wildest and more dangerous beaches to swim. The Langosteira Beach has all services and the Blue Flag. The beaches of Talón, Ribeira, Corbeiro, Sardiñeiro and Restrelo are quiet and much recommended to swim.

## FISTERRA CAPE

This astonishing geographical point, where the land ends penetrating the ocean along 5 km, has been considered along centuries as the "end of the world" and the entrance door to the "Sea of Tebras". Ancient Greek-Romanesque geographers have situated here the Promontorium Nerium, which is a sacred place of pilgrimage for Celtic villages, and the Ara Solis, which is a mythic altar cult of the sun.

In this Cape is located the most emblematic lighthouse of Europe, which has been built in 1853. It is the most visited place in Galicia, after the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The European Union has included this point in the "List of European Heritage" by its landscape values, its role along the history and the construction of the European identity.



# GDR COSTA DA MORTE

## A TERRITORY FULL OF WEALTHS

The Costa da Morte GDR is a non-profit organization that has been created to integrate and represent the different territorial, institutional, social and economical agents, both the public and the private, who are interested in promoting and developing this territory.

Our responsibilities are related to the paperwork of grants of the "Leader Galicia 2014-2020" Program and the promotion and dissemination of our territory. We inform and act as consultant to the rural population about the rural development programmes. Moreover, we stimulate the participation as well as we promote, gain initiatives and accompany the promoters in the process of project maturation.

Other aspect of our work consist in publishing our appreciated resources and the great heritage of these regions, such as the tourism, the gastronomy and the immaterial, artistic, archaeological or natural heritage.

The Costa da Morte GDR is composed by 17 councils: Cabana de Bergantiños, Camariñas, Carballo, Carnota, Cee, Corcubiión, Coristanco, Dumbría, Fisterra, A Laracha, Laxe, Malpica de Bergantiños, Mazaricos, Muxia, Ponteceso, Vimianzo and Zas.

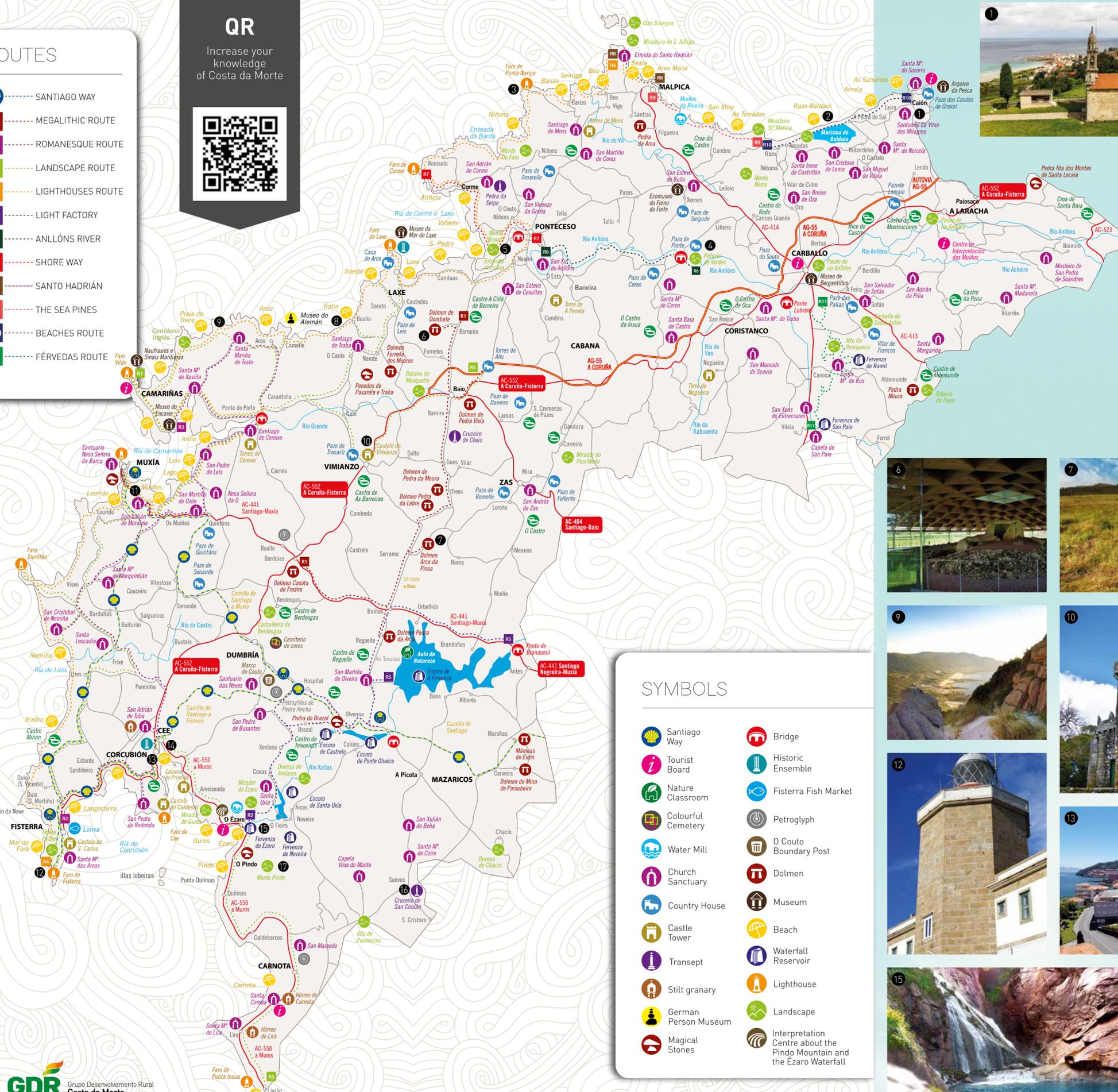
Each council is unique and provides our initiative with a great value; from natural, economical, tourist, cultural, gastronomic and patrimonial resources to pioneering initiatives of the habitants. The uses of these resources promote the development of our territory.

To know all is to discover a great part of the wealth in our area.

### ROUTES

- SANTIAGO WAY
- R1 MEGALITHIC ROUTE
- R2 ROMANESQUE ROUTE
- R3 LANDSCAPE ROUTE
- R4 LIGHTHOUSES ROUTE
- R5 LIGHT FACTORY
- R6 ANLLÓNS RIVER
- R7 SHORE WAY
- R8 SANTO HADRIÁN
- R9 THE SEA PINES
- R10 BEACHES ROUTE
- R11 FÉRVEDAS ROUTE

QR  
Increase your knowledge of Costa da Morte



### SYMBOLS

- Santiago Way
- Tourist Board
- Nature Classroom
- Colourful Cemetery
- Water Mill
- Church Sanctuary
- Country House
- Castle Tower
- Transept
- Stilt granary
- German Person Museum
- Magical Stones
- Bridge
- Historic Ensemble
- Fisterra Fish Market
- Petroglyph
- O Couto Boundary Post
- Dolmen
- Museum
- Beach
- Waterfall Reservoir
- Lighthouse
- Landscape
- Interpretation Centre about the Pindo Mountain and the Ezaro Waterfall

