

## CAMARIÑAS é Costa da Morte

# CAMARIÑAS

## HERITAGE

The region of Camariñas has been inhabited in the megalithic epoch. The remains of the tumulus Mámoa de Reira, which is located in front of the beaches with the same name, or the Neolithic fortified settlements of Mourín and Monte Croado testify.

### Religious history

The parochial church of Santa María de Xaviña (12th Century) is a beautiful temple that has only the main nave with barrel vault and Romanesque capitals with vegetal and anthropomorphic decoration. In Santa Mariña village, where there is a temple, has been an ancient Benedictine monastery, "the dark monks" of Santa Mariña de Tosto which is considered as one of the oldest focus of the Christianization in this region.

The church of San Xurxo de Buria (18th Century) located in the parish of Camariñas has been a donation of an emigrant in Mexico. In its interior stand out the altarpieces, some of these dated from the 15th Century. There are sculptures of Xosé Ferreiro, one of the neoclassical Galician artists of relevance.

### Civil history

In the 18th Century the Castle of Soberano has been built. It was a defensive bastion that was dominating the sea inlet of Camariñas. This walled construction has a system of embrasures available for the artillery. In its interior there was a construction that was used as a storehouse for the gunpowder and as a refuge for the troops. At present, the foundation and the ground floor of the exterior wall remain. The bridge that crosses the Grande River is dated from the 13th Century and gives the name to Ponte do Porte village. The Country House of Mouzo, dated back to the 16th Century, is a reflection of the lordly life in the region.



In Camariñas, close to the Reira beach there is an interesting construction dated back to the 16th Century known as O Foxo dos Lobos. When there were no firearms, the neighbours were getting together to go beating and they were scaring away the wolf to the trench that was covered by brushwood used as a trap.

## AN ASTONISHING NATURE

The coast of Camariñas is wild. It is a landscape of shipwrecks and storms, injured by the wind and the rough sea. The great part of this littoral is included in the LIC (Community Interest Place) Costa da Morte in Rede Natura 2000.

This place offers a great biodiversity, with protected species of flora and fauna; such as the black-legged kittiwake, the European storm petrel or the European shag that is endangered, and the unique Spanish colony of breeding of the uria aalge. The vegetation is varied and with a good state of preservation. There are heaths and bushes; in the cliffs there are sea fennels and sea thrifts; in the beaches and dunes there is the Caramiña (Corema album) that is an unusual autochthonous species.

In the inland, the nature is smoother and more peaceful until the estuary of Grande River, in the sea inlet of Camariñas. It is an astonishingly beautiful landscape where the fresh water mixtures with the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean.

The best way to know this nature is hiking some of the routes that go along many of these incredible landscapes, such as the Shipwrecks Route, the Littoral Route, the Insua Route, The Mills Route and the Costa da Morte Route.



## THE LACE TRADE FAIR IN CAMARIÑAS

The lace of Camariñas is one of the most important cultural heritages in Galicia. It is the demonstration of the identity of a village, which has been transmitted from generation to generation and from woman to woman. It is a heritage that includes a world of short stories, songs, legends, the skills and the delicacy of the hands weaving impossible drawings.

The history of the Camariñas village is closely linked to the lace, an activity which is documented in this region since the Middle Ages. The maritime trade has favoured the origin of this activity.

The importance that has reached this handcraft can be seen in the Mostra do Encaixe de Camariñas (the lace trade of Camariñas), which is recognised as a Tourist Interest Festivity. It is an international trade that takes place along the Easter with fashion shows and the exhibitions of local, national and international lacemakers. In the Lace Museum you will be able to see a permanent exhibition with designs, pieces of lace, tools and materials that have been used for its manufacture.

## BEACHES

In Camariñas there are a wide range of beaches; wild beaches in front of the Atlantic Ocean, peaceful beaches sheltered by the sea inlet or the urban area; each one is singular and a must. The beaches of Area da Vila, Lingude, O Ariño, Camelle and Arou are urban. Area Grande, Area Longa and Pedrosa are unspoilt beaches in Reira, which are located in the north of the Vilán Cape.



## THE CARMEN'S FESTIVITIES

In the region of Camariñas takes place several festivities along the year. However, the most important are the Carmen's Festivities.

Every 16th July, the sailors live with passion a festivity in honour of their patron saint. The village and the boats are embellished with colourful flags. The ancestral Danza de Arcos, where the dancers dance while they move wooden arches decorated with flowers. They go over the village to take the statue of the Virgin that will go in procession in the boats.

In the entrance of the sea inlet, the ships make a floral offering in memory of dead people in the sea. Coming back to Camariñas, in the dock, the disembarkation of the patron saint under the vault of colourful arches is the most emotive moment of the festivity.



## BRANCO MOUNTAIN

The inlet of Trece is an indescribable place, difficult to imagine and we could say, without exaggerating, that it is one of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the Costa da Morte.

In front of the immensity of the ocean there are three small bays from Punta do Boi to the Branco Mountain. The roaring of the sea is like a warning that informs us it is a dangerous area and we have to go with respect.

This spectacle for the senses culminates in the metamorphosis that makes the beach to become mountain. The sand has been moved by winds along thousands years climbing one side of the Beo Mountain, creating a strange phenomenon. This is a "rampant dune" of 150 m of altitude, which is known as Branco Mountain. It is the highest in Spain and one of the highest in Europe. This place has a fragile ecosystem with great ecological value, where endemic species grow up such as caramiñas, which is endangered and here are the great reserve of these in the northern Spain.

## GERMAN PERSON MUSEUM

It is located in Camelle. It is a true homage to the imagination and the life; it is brilliance. The museum has two sides; one of these is outdoors and has been created by the German artist Manfred Gnädinger, who was known as "Man, the German person of Camelle". When Man was living in the museum, because it was his house, he was asking the visitors that they were drawing in his notebook. He usually said "each paper is the soul of everyone and my objective is creating a big skyline with all of those". There is also a second public building named Casa do Alemán (the house of the German person), where his artistic and personal legacy is protected.



## VILÁN LIGHTHOUSE



On the rocky cliffs is located the Vilán Cape, where is one of the most emblematic lighthouses of the Costa da Morte. The topography draws an unmistakable shape that remembers a sea-monster emerged from the sea. Over this sheer promontory that seeps into the sea, to 100 m of altitude, the Vilán Lighthouse dominates the ocean, guiding with its light the ships that sail at the darkness nights in the Costa da Morte.

The history of this lighthouse is related to the tragic shipwreck of The Serpent (1890). This incident was the origin of this lighthouse became the first electric lighthouse in Spain. Its light reaches the 60 nautical miles. The building is very beautiful; the tower that harbours the lantern has 25 m of altitude and is separated of the building but connected by a tunnel. The main building is open, in its inside is the Interpretation Centre about the Shipwrecks in the Costa da Morte. The panoramic view is unforgettable. The Vilán Cape has been declared as Natural Place of National Interest in 1933.

## ENGLISHMEN CEMETERY

It is included in the "European Route of Significant Cemeteries". Between Punta do Boi and Punta da Cagada is located one of the most fateful points of the Costa da Morte. In eight shipwrecks, the sea claimed 245 victims.

However, the most tragic was the unfortunate shipwreck of The Serpent. It has crashed in the area that nowadays has its name. Only 3 of 175 crewmen have survived. The priest of Xaviña called up the neighbours in order to bury the cadavers. In this way, from the night to the morning a cemetery has been built in the same place of the tragedy. In the inland are the remains of the ship's captain and two naval officers; outside are the sailors. The Englishmen Cemetery is included in the European Route of Singular Cemeteries, which is recognised, as the same as the Santiago Way is, as European Cultural Itinerary.



## 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 | > Coristanco | > Mazariños |
| > Camariñas             | > Dumbria    | > Muxia     |
| > Carballo              | > Fisterra   | > Ponteceso |
| > Carnota               | > A Laracha  | > Virianzo  |
| > Cee                   | > Laxe       | > Zas       |
| > Corcubión             | > Malpica    |             |

Multipurpose Building  
A Torre Street, no number  
15129 - VIMIANZO  
T. 678 648 065

Regional Centre of Bergantiños  
A Camposa, no number, Buño  
15111 - MALPICA DE BERGANTIÑOS  
T. 608 633 222

+ info | 981 71 73 58  
gdrcostadamorte.com



# 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, Corcubión, Coristanco, Dumbria, 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.

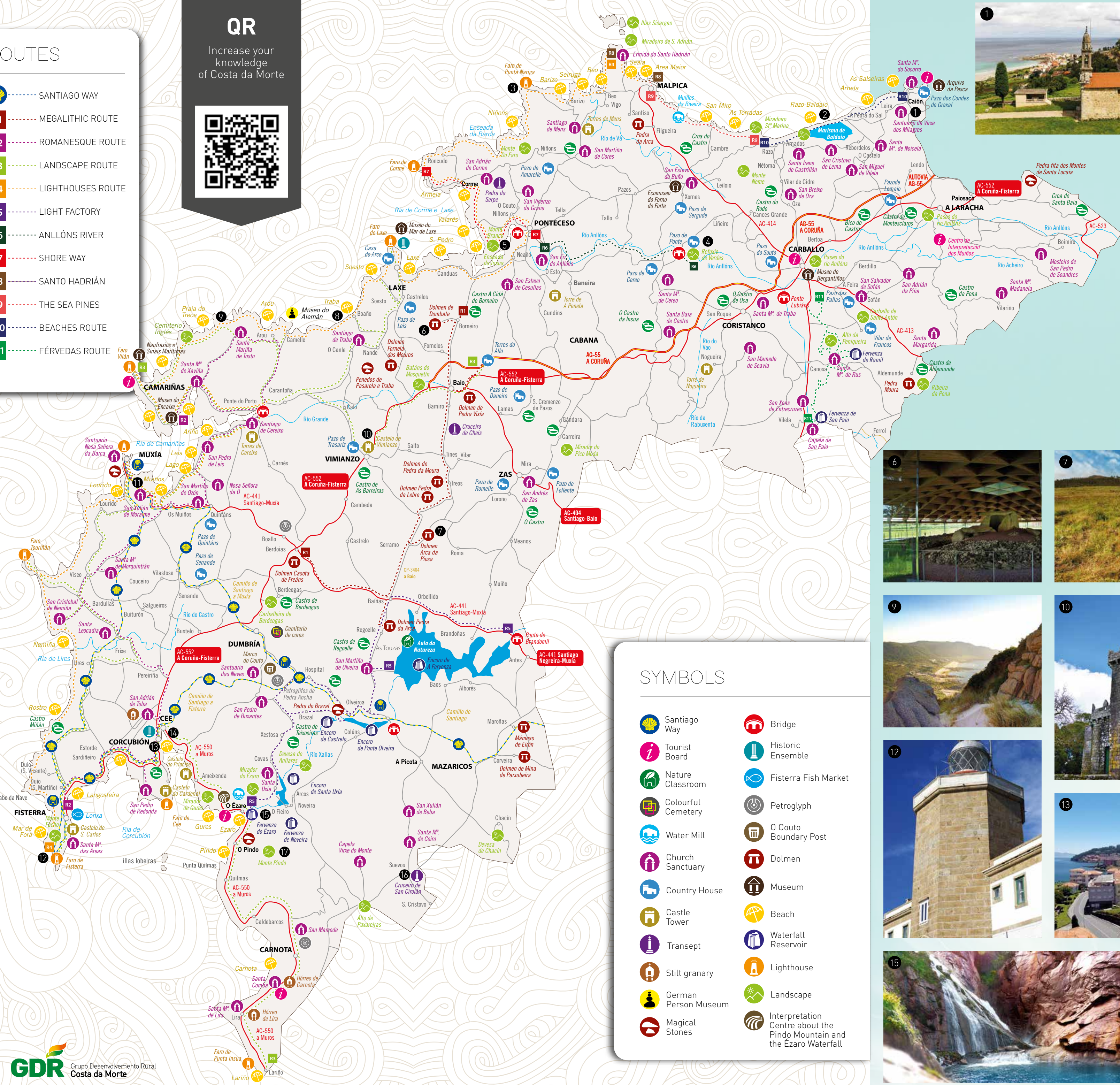
To know all is to discover a great part of the wealth in our area.

## 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



+ info 981 71 73 58  
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**GDR** Grupo Desenvolvemento Rural  
Costa da Morte