

## MONTERREAL FORT

The fort is located on the Monte Boi peninsula, also known as Monterreal. This site has been known over the past 2000 years as the walled precinct. Pre-Christian civilisations such as the Celts, the Phoenicians and the Romans lived here in the past. During the present time, the place was occupied by many different people and it suffered a number of attacks and modifications. The village of Baiona was site here due to a royal privilege issued by The Catholic Kings, as a defence against the corsair incursions.

The peninsula covers an area of 18 hectares and is surrounded by 3 Km of crenellated battlement walls dating back from the 9th to the 17th centuries. This place changed ownership over the years until 1963, when it was acquired by the Ministry of Information & Tourism to convert it into a Parador Hotel named Conde de Gondomar.



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## INTERESTING ROUTES

Fascinating Baiona



# ROUTE THROUGH OLD TOWN

Aproximate duration: 1 hour & 15 minutes

## 1 Monument to King Alfonso IX of Spain

This was built in 2001 to commemorate the VIII Centenary of the founding of Baiona as a Royal Village. It is the work of Juan Oliveira Viéitez and represents King Alfonso IX of Spain as founder, protector and benefactor of Baiona.



## 2 Dominican Convent

A cloister convent founded in 1547 by Ms. Mayor Fernández Acuña. This is a complex building that was built over an earlier building that dated back to the 13th century. The baroque high altarpiece is dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation, the patron of Baiona.



## 3 Salgado House

The many alterations carried out over time eliminated the original features of this 16th century building. The coat of arms is missing as well. This place was known as the House of Seven Birettas.



## 4 Mercy Chapel

This building was erected by order of King Phillip II of Spain in 1595 at the entrance to Monterreal fort. The building was rebuilt inside the old quarters of town in 1656 where it can be seen today. It is owned by the Holy House of peace & Mercy. The baroque altarpiece can be seen inside together with the tombstones that exist in the presbytery, not forgetting the Golden Christ, which according to legend came from America full of gold coins in its hollow interior.



## 5 Lorenzo Correa's House

It was built in 1757 by Mr. Lorenzo Correa y Araújo, Mayor of Cuernavaca (Mexico). The building was purchased by the City Council in 1942 to convert it into the Council Hall. The building covers an area of 630 m<sup>2</sup>, distributed over two storeys and a tower. Two coats of arms represent the Correa, Sotomayor and Troncoso de Lira families. A third coat of arms, taken from the old council hall, was placed between the other two by the City Council.

## 6 Ceta House

This place is also called the House of Pardon due to a cruel privilege granted by the Catholic Kings, which pardoned wrongdoers from public trial if they grasped the chain that hung from the entrance door to the house. The building was erect in 14th century and still preserves the two coats of arms of the Ceta, Figueroa and Fitado families amongst other things.

## 11 12 St. James' Battery & Well Gate

It has three canons and there is a door between this battery and the Blacksmith's Battery which communicates with the vegetable garden of the Franciscan Friars that is located along the shore line. This is presently known as the vegetable garden or Friars beach.



## 13 Blacksmith's Battery

It has 6 canons and defends the isthmus formed by this part with the landward side.

## 14 Chain Tower

## 15 Well & Cistern

The well is located just a few metres from the cistern. It was apparently built by the Romans although it was reconstructed in 1580. One can access the spring directly via a stairway with 446 steps. The entire structure is sustained by 48 granite columns. The cistern is a subterranean construction of huge dimensions. It has stone ashlar and was built in 1642 by the A Coruña master mason Antonio Martinez. Water for the entire garrison and the inhabitants of the village was stored here.



## 16 Gate & Madrugá Warehouse

This served as a warehouse for gunpowder, grenades and bombs which were stored in a place called Atejevana.

## 17 Concheira Bastion

It has four embrasures and is united to the blacksmith's Battery by a curtain. There is a door almost in front of this bastion which communicates with the old square grounds.

## 18 Middle Bastion

Flat bastion with five embrasures that pound the isthmus.

## 19 The Constable Crescent

This is presently located outside the walls and contains the Monument to the two worlds.

## 20 Parador Nacional de Turismo Conde de Gondomar (Hotel)

The site of the present day Parador Hotel housed the old Franciscan Convent, which was built during





## PINZON'S ROUTE

Baiona was the first port in Europe which received the news of the Discovery of America. The 1st March, 1493, Pinta caravel, commanded by Martin Alonso Pinzón, tied up to these waters.



## MONTERREAL FORT

Approximate duration: 1 hour & 30 minutes

### 1 Main Gate or Phillip IV Gate

It was constructed in the 17th. Century under the reign of Phillip IV of Spain and is presided by the Austria family coat of arms under which one can find an inscription. There are two interesting columns attached to the gate which support two huge stone bishops. The A Barbeira beach can be accessed through this gate.

### 2 Crescent shaped Crab

A crescent shaped construction called Crab whose foundations lie in the water and its fire power partly defends both the interior part of the port and landward side.

### 3 Monterreal Yacht Club

### 4 The Baluster of the Bridge

It has 15 embrasures, two of which reversely batter the main gate.

### 5 Clock Tower

This tower receives visitors to the Fort coming via land and guards those entering Baiona Bay though the sea. The sentinels sounded the alarm by ringing the clock bell that dates back to 1510, so that all the churches in the Val Miñor area followed suit to warn of impending danger.

### 6 Sun Gate

This is located at the foot of the Fort Clock Tower and was built by Governor Mr. Pedro Bermúdez in 1586. It is the second barrier that one has to overcome after passing through the main gate.

### 7 Royal Gate

This was constructed in the 16th. Century and bears a coat of arms belonging to the Austrias family that contains a two-headed eagle surrounded by the Toisón de oro (golden insignia).

### 8 Pincer Tower

This is located to the east of the Fort as a strategic defence for Baiona port. It has nevertheless also served over time as a warehouse for storage of gunpowder and as a dungeon.

### 9 Battery & St. Anthony's Gate

This is the fourth battery and defends the interior of the port and part of the entrance. It has eight embrasures. The pounding from these batteries is a lot lower than of the first batteries. Between this gate and the Signal Tower lies a door and drum that can be used to descend towards the sea through rugged craggy terrain.

### 10 Battery & Prince Tower

This was initially erected to the west of the walls to serve as a lighthouse to navigators and as a vigilance centre due to its strategic location from where one can dominate the entry into Baiona port. The tower was destroyed in 997 by Almanzor but was reconstructed under instructions from King Alfonso XI of Spain a few years later. The site was modified a number of times in 1564 by the architect Juan Zurita under orders from King Phillip II of Spain. The Towers is quadrangular and its ceiling is vaulted. There is a spiral staircase that leads up to the topmost platform. There are three coats of arms over the entrance: that of Baiona is located to the right, the one with the fiery head is located to the left (possibly due to the rebuilding in 1663 during Governor Payo Gomez de Sotomayor's time) and in the centre there is the Spanish coat of arms on top of the eagles of the Austria family coat of arms, which is supported by the Hercules columns.

The Prince Tower is full of legends related to love and prisoners. The tower was probably named as such after the Portuguese prince Alfonso Enriques, who was imprisoned there in 1173 by order of his cousin Alfonso.



### 9 St. Liberata's Sanctuary

Construction began in the year 1695 by popular demand and the place is dedicated to the worship of St. Liberata, her sisters and her nursemaid Sila. St. Liberata was the first Christian woman to receive martyrdom on the cross. The design of the building is a hybrid Italian with Tuscan and plateresque refinements. The main façade portrays the crucified Saint.

### 10 Ex- Collegiate church of St. Mary

The building dates back to the second half of the 12th century although most of the building was constructed in the 14th century. It has a Romanesque transition style with Cistercian influences. The building has a basilica floor plan in the shape of a Latin cross and 3 naves. The high altarpiece is of baroque style. The main façade is decorated with a big ceiling rose typical of the transition period.



### 13 Blessed Virgin in the Rock

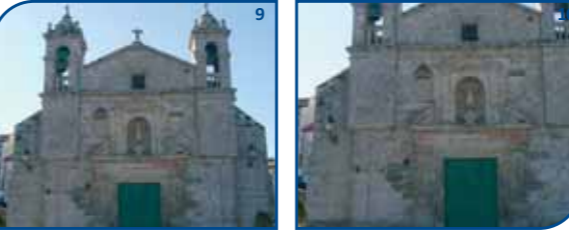
(Next to the historical centre). This statue was built using granite by the architect Antonio Palacios from Porriño. The work was inaugurated in 1930. It is 15 metres high and portrays the Blessed Virgin carrying a boat in her right hand – a vantage point, which can be accessed through a stone spiral stairway on the inside of the statue. The face and hands of the Blessed Virgin are made of white marble, sculpted by the Valencian sculptor Mariano Benlliure.

### 7 Cultural Centre

The building was known as the Sancti Spiritus Hospital, and was built in the 16th century. It presently houses the Cultural Centre, the Municipal Library and a Crèche.

### 8 St. John's Chapel

A little 17th century chapel dedicated to St. John of Castelo. It is closed all year round except during Easter and on St. John's feast day when it is opened for visitors.



### 11 Holy Trinity stone cross

This can be seen along the old Roman road and consists of a 15th century gothic cross covered with a renaissance shrine that is 8 metres tall. It was used in the past as an altar for celebrating mass during times of plague, by the inhabitants of the region of Valle Miñor and the crew of the ships that anchors in the Ria (Bay).

### 12 Dean Mendoza's House

The house was built in 1768 by Mr. Policarpo Mendoza, Dean of the Santiago Town Hall and a native of Baiona. A coat of arms stands out on the façade with the family motto inscription "Ave Maria".





# PINZON'S ROUTE

Approximate duration: 45 minutes



## ROUTE THROUGH OLD TOWN

During more or less 1 hour and 15 minutes you can travel the narrow and stone-paved streets of the old part of Baiona, constantly discovering a small church, a monument or a noblemen house.

The old part of Baiona was declared site of Historical and Artistic Interest by Xunta de Galicia in 1993, coinciding with the celebration of the V Centenary of the Arrival of Pinta Caravel to Baiona.



**1 Replica of the Pinta caravel**  
 This was built in 1993, to commemorate the 5th centenary celebration of the arrival in Baiona of the Pinta caravel. The boat presently houses the 'Navigation Museum', which is a little columbine museum where one can find elements both from the Christian and native Indian cultures.



**2 Monolith of Columbus' arrival in port**  
 This is located in Pedro de Castro square and was installed by order of the Institute of Hispanic Culture in 1965 to commemorate the arrival in port of the Pinta caravel. The 20 ton rock has a caravel sculpted on the front side by the Baiona sculptor Ángel Fernández.

**3 Tile painting of Columbus' arrival in port**  
 This mural outlines the routes taken by Pinzon and Columbus in the caravels 'Pinta' and 'Niña' respectively on their return journey after discovering the new world. The work was inaugurated in 1963.

**4 Spring well**  
 According to folklore, the well supplied water to the caravel Pinta prior to its departure from Baiona to Palos on the 11th of March, 1493. The crew manually filled the barrels with water to last them through their journey.

**5 Monument to the meeting of two worlds**  
 This was constructed at the wall at Mount Boi, very near the place where the first Native American who died on the old continent was buried. This was inaugurated on the 1st of March, 1993, by his Royal Highness Prince Felipe de Borbón, to commemorate the 5th centenary celebration of the arrival of the Pinta caravel in Baiona. This is the work of the sculptor Magin Picallo.

**6 Pinzon's statue**  
 This can be viewed at the Pinzon walkway and is fraternity present from the town of Palos de la Frontera (Huelva). The sculpture represents the great Captain of the Pinta caravel, who was the person responsible for the discovery of America. This is a work of the sculptor A. León Ortega and was inaugurated in 1977.

