



Camiño da Ribeira route

The first steps of the Camiño da Ribeira hiking trail start right in front of the house where the poet Eduardo Pondal was born and then follows the mouth of the River Anllóns along the riverside promenade and the O Couto pier to the A Insua Cove. The earth and stone dam separates the wide channel from the marshes that were productive farmland (maize) from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the end of the 1980s.

The estuary is a place of great ecological value that has been declared a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) on the northern Costa da Morte and a Site of Community Importance (SCI) in the Nature 2000 network. Here, numerous native and migratory waterfowl – especially waders and some endangered species such as the snowy plover – find shelter and food.

The tour continues along the cove, where you will find a bird observatory almost opposite the island of Cagallóns Os, on the side of Mount Branco. An alternative path over the mountain allows you to climb the summit and have a nicer view of the surroundings; another path through the sand will lead you to the secluded Barra or Del Medio Beach at the foot of the shifting dunes. Be careful not to step on them!

The dune system protects the estuary from the ravages of the Atlantic Ocean, which opens to the sea in the Corme y Laxe estuary. Arriving at the small island of A Tiñosa – which can be reached on foot at low tide – the rhythmic sound of the waves and the fleeting salty scent of the air will tell you that the open sea is at



hand. The poet Eduardo Pondal said that this stone island "produces excellent mussels and is home to wild petrels and seagulls."

As though it were a carpet of sand, a fishermen's trail flows to Balarés Beach. The black specks dotting the cliffs are mussels; behind the two capes you see opposite is hidden the tip of Cape Roncudo, where the justifiably famous barnacles grow.

After a break on Balarés Beach – home to a long-spent titanium mine and the exit point for this mineral and for the tungsten ore from nearby Mount Neme – the route runs along the side of Mount A Facha towards Gondomil Valley. The monument known as Pedra da Serpe (Serpent Stone) is worth a stop so you can take a look at the winged reptile engraved on its base.

The route markers, markings and signs on poles, stones and tree trunks will now guide you toward A Ermida Beach, which is protected by the island of A Estrela and to which – it is said – it was once connected, and towards the beaches of O Osmo and A Arnela. The last stop is the town of Corme, where you'll find all of its seafaring and business history, and its current history, too, which is still tied to the sea.

The Camiño da Ribeira hiking route (PR-G148) is marked along both directions, so the more adventurous among you can return to Ponteceso along the same route or along the bypass that ascends near the Pedra da Serpe up to the Alto dos Loureiros and the Alto das Traviesas (PR-G 148.1, 5.57 km), ending at the viewpoint on Mount Branco.

If you choose to stay in Corme, an alternative route to Cape Roncudo will allow you to continue your sensory adventure with a walk along the wild seas of the



Costa da Morte to see where the barnacles – famous for their taste, but also for the riskiness of the barnacle collectors' job is – grow.

From the rocky point beaten by the force of the waves and the wind, you can continue to explore Ponteceso's coast to the north: the A Barda Cove, the port of Santa Marina with its fishermen's huts, Niñóns Beach and Mount Faro. Here, next to the chapel of the Virgin of the same name, is a monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus measuring 39 metres high, with an internal stairway of 133 steps.

If you can manage to overcome the associated vertigo, the coastal views of Ponteceso are superb!