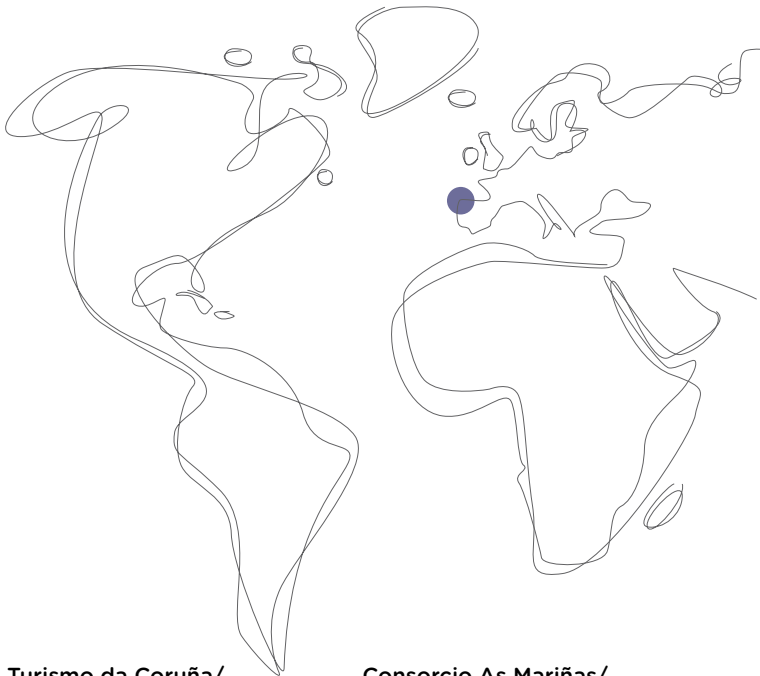




Visiting Corunna and its surroundings is making a date with history and taking a journey back in time from the Roman age to the present day, exploring the finest examples of its rich monumental and architectural heritage.



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 **Coruña**



Monumental route/
Corunna and its surroundings/

Monumental
route/

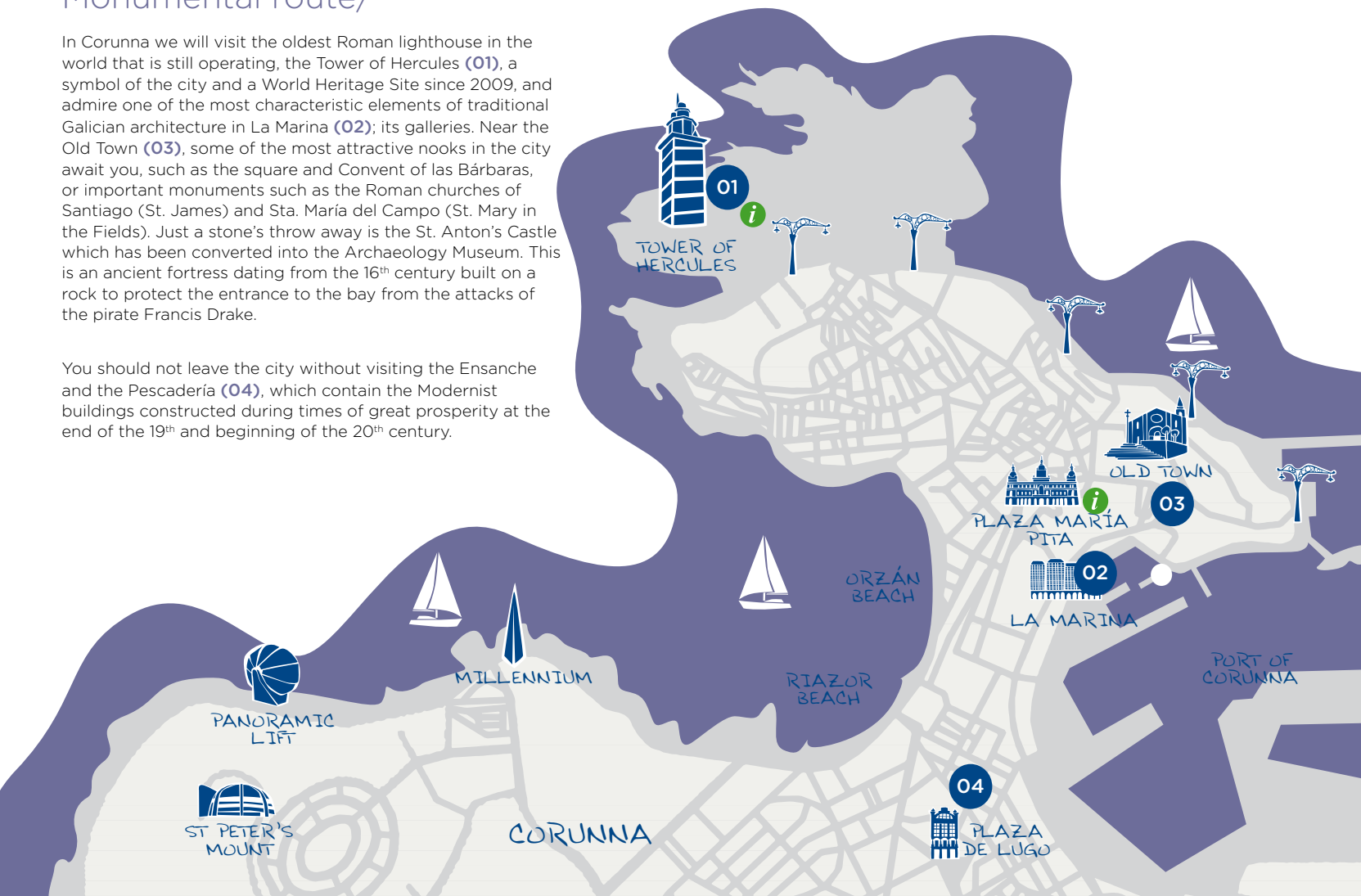




Monumental route/

In Corunna we will visit the oldest Roman lighthouse in the world that is still operating, the Tower of Hercules **(01)**, a symbol of the city and a World Heritage Site since 2009, and admire one of the most characteristic elements of traditional Galician architecture in La Marina **(02)**; its galleries. Near the Old Town **(03)**, some of the most attractive nooks in the city await you, such as the square and Convent of las Bárbaras, or important monuments such as the Roman churches of Santiago (St. James) and Sta. María del Campo (St. Mary in the Fields). Just a stone's throw away is the St. Anton's Castle which has been converted into the Archaeology Museum. This is an ancient fortress dating from the 16th century built on a rock to protect the entrance to the bay from the attacks of the pirate Francis Drake.

You should not leave the city without visiting the Ensanche and the Pescadería **(04)**, which contain the Modernist buildings constructed during times of great prosperity at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.



When you enter the region, you will find an abundance of religious architecture such as the churches of Oseiro and Monteagudo in Arteixo **(01)** in the Roman style, and the Sanctuary of Pastoriza, which was originally Roman but is now in the Baroque style, adding an important social and cultural dimension to its artistic value due to the Pilgrimage that is organised near it each year, in honour of the Virgin of Pastoriza.

In Culleredo **(02)**, visit the church of O Burgo, near the mediaeval bridge of the same name, and San Esteban de Culleredo (St. Steven of Culleredo), both in the contemporary and Roman styles, with the church of Sta. María de Cambre **(03)** (St. Mary of Cambre) being the most important one of the period, and one of the most important places of worship in Galicia. In 1931 it was declared a National Artistic-Historic Monument and has a rose window on its façade, and a font dating from the 12th century inside, known as the Hydria of Jerusalem.

The district has many estates and stately homes that were established in rural Galicia from the 16th century, but many of them are privately owned and cannot be visited. Carral **(04)** is the site of estates such as Balbén, Ribeira, Esperante, Vila-Suso and Las Cadenas, the latter in Barcia Valley and Abegondo houses the Estates of Figueroa, Las Torres de Bordel or Quiroga. In addition, among the many stone crosses that are scattered through the region, the one in this town, known as Cruceiros Bonitos, stands out as a unique monument in Galicia with five columns on a rectangular platform.



We then come to Betanzos **(05)**. It is worth wandering through the streets of the old part of the town which contain many important Roman churches, such as the church of San Francisco (St. Francis) or Sta. María del Azogue (St. Mary of Azogue), the Town Hall building or the remains of the wall that surrounded the city, dating from the 14th century, among other interesting sites. Visitors should not miss seeing the Pasatiempo park, legacy of the García Naveira brothers, the school of San Francisco (St. Francis) or the García Hermanos school. These latter buildings are in the Modernist style.

On the road between Betanzos and Sada is Bergondo Monastery **(06)**, a Roman construction dating from the 12th century, which was declared a Historic-Artistic Monument, and Mariñán Estate **(07)**, with its magnificent gardens, which is open to the public. Not far away, in the town of Meirás **(08)**, is another of the most emblematic estates in the region, Meirás Estate, a privately-owned property that belongs to the Franco family, but can also be visited by the public.

Lastly, Sada **(09)** and Oleiros **(10)** also have some of the best examples of the Modernist architecture which dotted the region with singular buildings from the end of the 19th century. The most important examples of this type of architecture are the Terrace and Barrié House in Sada and Charry House or Rialda House in Oleiros. Before leaving Oleiros, you should not forget to visit the Castle of Sta. Cruz, which can be reached on foot along a trail leading from the coast.