

# YOUNG TOURIST GUIDEBOOK



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# YOUNG TOURIST GUIDEBOOK 2014-2016

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This book is the main product of the Erasmus+ project “Tourism for Teenagers” organized by five schools from Rome (Italy), Poio (Spain), Kalamata (Greece), Radom (Poland) and Příbram (Czech Republic).

The project has aimed at involving our students, making them aware of the importance of their cultural and historical heritage. We have wanted them to understand that cultural diversity is important but also that different identities have the same value and sometimes common or similar background.

This guidebook has been written by young people (our students) for young people, and it is about the tourist attractions in the five areas where the schools involved in the project are, seen from the point of view of these young people, following the suggestions and the experience obtained during the project meetings.

None of the five areas is particularly famous among tourists, with the possible exception of Kalamata in Greece. This is also the reason why we chose to deal with a specific part of Rome, Eur, and not with the city itself.

The final result is this guidebook which may be used by those who can be interested in visiting these places, increasing their touristic appeal, especially among young people.

It will be also published online so that it may become a useful resource for everybody and it will be translated in the local languages.

# POIO





# San Xoán de Poio

In the parish of San Xoán, the biggest one in the municipality, we can find the main urban hub.

The municipality of Poio arose from the transformation of an abbatial jurisdiction linked to the Monastery of San Xoán, which became a hub whose first settlement was the parish of San Xoán de Poio.

Among the different places that belong to the parish, the town of Campelo is specially typical. Its little harbor, specialized in seafood, is considered to be the most interior in the estuary (Ría) of Pontevedra.

## A Seca



# Monastery of Poio

It is located in *San Xoán de Poio*, in front of our high school. The Monastery is one of the most important tourist attractions in town.

You just need to see the annual number of visitors to realize that, together with the fishing village of Combarro, it is the best known and most attractive place in Poio.



## HISTORY



It is believed that the Monastery was founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century by Saint Fructuoso, although some say that it was actually founded by one of his disciples, Teodosio.

The first preserved historical document where the monastery is mentioned dates back to the year 942.

From that century on, the monastery began to gain wealth and power.

Until the mid-nineteenth century, Poio enjoyed great power and influence, but in 1835 the expropriations of church properties carried out by the politician Mendizábal forced the order of St. Benedict to leave the place.

More than a half a century later, the order of Mercy was installed on the site and began the works of restoration of the Monastery.

In 1970 the Monastery was declared to be part of the National Artistic Heritage.

Over the last century, the Mercedaries have managed to maintain the center of cultural activity.

## ARCHITECTURE

As for the architecture of the Monastery, one can say that the church is an example of pure Renaissance, with some Baroque features.

It has two cloisters: one is called "*Cruceiro*" and the other one "*Procesiones*".



The first one, *Cruceiro*, is Baroque. Its walls are decorated very richly, covered by a mosaic that represents all the way along the *Saint James way*.



The second cloister is Renaissance.

In the center of the courtyard of the Monastery, there is a Baroque fountain whose water comes from the mountain called *Castrove*.

As a curiosity, we can say that aside from the Monastery, where once there were orchards, now there is a granary (*hórreo*), one of the largest in Galicia. We should also note the existence of a Roman road linking the complex with a nearby road.

This is one of the clearest examples of Roman remains found in the town of Poio.



## **CULTURE**

In the Monastery, there is a large library with more than 80,000 copies that represents one of the most impressive in Galicia, making the monastery of Poio a cultural reference in the *Rías Baixas* area.

## Watermills of A Freixa

Along the riverbed of the Cancela river, we can find nine watermills.

The current buildings have just one floor, roughly rectangular, whose area is 6x4 m. There is one single open space or room. The walls are made of rough stone masonry, and are 60 or 70 cm thick.



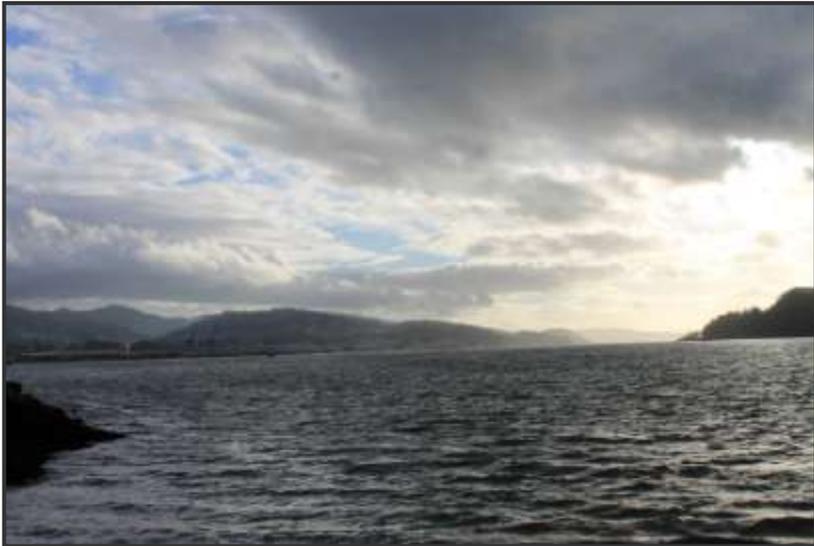
## Campelo

Campelo is a little village situated on the seashore of Poio. It has a little port beach with calm waters, white and fine sand, which is protected from the wind. There is also a berthing zone for the boats, from which we can see the fishing boats that come back to the port.





The little church of *A Granxa* square and the primary school for the kids that live in the village are some of the main attractions. Besides, Campelo has a market for selling the fish and the seafood that the fishing boats bring in, where fish is often auctioned. The market can be visited in a guided tour with the services of Pescantur Pontevedra.



**San Salvador de Poio**

**Lourido**

Lourido belongs to the parish of San Salvador. It has a seafront that runs along two beaches: the Lourido beach, which has a football pitch on the sand, as well as a volleyball court, and the Cabeceira beach, from which the Tambo island can be seen.



The seafront consists of two lanes: one for walking and another for cycling.



Besides, Lourido has two parks, one of which is equipped with a zip-line, a football pitch, a basketball court and a bar. Both parks display exercise machines of different types.



**Portosanto**

## House of Cristóbal Colón

A newly created space, the supposed birthplace of Christopher Columbus, in which, via screens, models, books and videos, it justifies the theory about the birth of Columbus in Poio.



**Combarro**

The *Hórreos* Coastline could be the current definition of Combarro. In fact, the sea has its own way on this piece of coast in the municipality of Poio.



Between the river, which defines the coast with a line of granaries (*hórreos*), and the street behind (San Roque), there is an entire space which is a symbol of the popular Galicia culture.



On the granite outcrop, the small maritime houses stand with their delicate hewn stonework. They have charming sunny stone

balconies, very much in a Baroque style, but inspired by the architecture of the *pazos* (Galician traditional palaces)



## Hórreos of Combarro

*Hórreos* are constructions serving as storehouses or larders where people would keep their family foods. At the beginning, they were made out of braided canes and straw but, later on, they were built in stone or wood. They are raised from the ground by pillars to avoid soil humidity and to keep mice from the crops. What strikes people as shocking about Combarro's *hórreos* is their location: near the sea. Many neighbours owned land across the *ría* so they carried the crops by sea and built the storehouses on the river bank to directly unload the cargo from the ships. Unfortunately, not few pirate ships landed on the shore during high tides in order to loot the villagers' *hórreos* .



## **Cruceiros**

They are a very common construction in Galicia. The *cruceiros* were built in crossroads with the hopes of making them safe. It was then widely believed that these crossroads were the secret meeting place of *meigas*.

There are several elements composing a *cruceiro*:

- Base: construction and origin inscriptions might be found on the base.
- Shaft: the pillar, which usually shows the statue of a saint.
- Capital: base where the cross rests. Many show decorative elements.
- Cross: the most important part in a *cruceiro*. It is usually accompanied by a Jesus Christ or a catholic Virgin statue.



## Samieira

Samieira is a Little village placed on the coast of Poio. It is mainly known for several beaches which are connected by a beautiful promenade.



The town offers plenty of restaurants and bars where you can taste the Galician gastronomy as well. This is the destination of numerous families during the summer because of its climate conditions and exceptional location.



Furthermore,  
there is a route called "Ruta de los molinos" that leads up to the highest part of Samieira where the views are breathtaking and you can also find a wide range of flora and fauna.



## **Raxó**

Raxó is a small parish situated between Poio and Sanxenxo, only 12 km away from Pontevedra. It is a village which combines its fishing and farming life with tourism. It is also a modern town with hardly any vestiges of the past.



Lots of tourists come during the summer to enjoy the fine weather and beautiful beaches such as Xiorto or Sinás which have many facilities and restaurants that offer a wide range of typical dishes where fish and seafood play the leading roles.



In the centre of the village, there is a little beach which is located next to its fishing and mussel-gathering port.

# Addenda

## Tambo island



Located on Poio's coastline, the Island of Tambo has virgin beaches and crystal-clear waters. It is historically linked to the monastery of San Xoán de Poio but, when Combarro became independent from such monastery, Tambo started belonging to Combarro.

The military entered the island soon after the Spanish Civil War and they stayed there, safe-keeping the land, for 59 years. They built munitions dumps and trenches, whose ruins you can actually visit nowadays, as well as a chapel and beautiful and calm coves.

# Economy of Poio

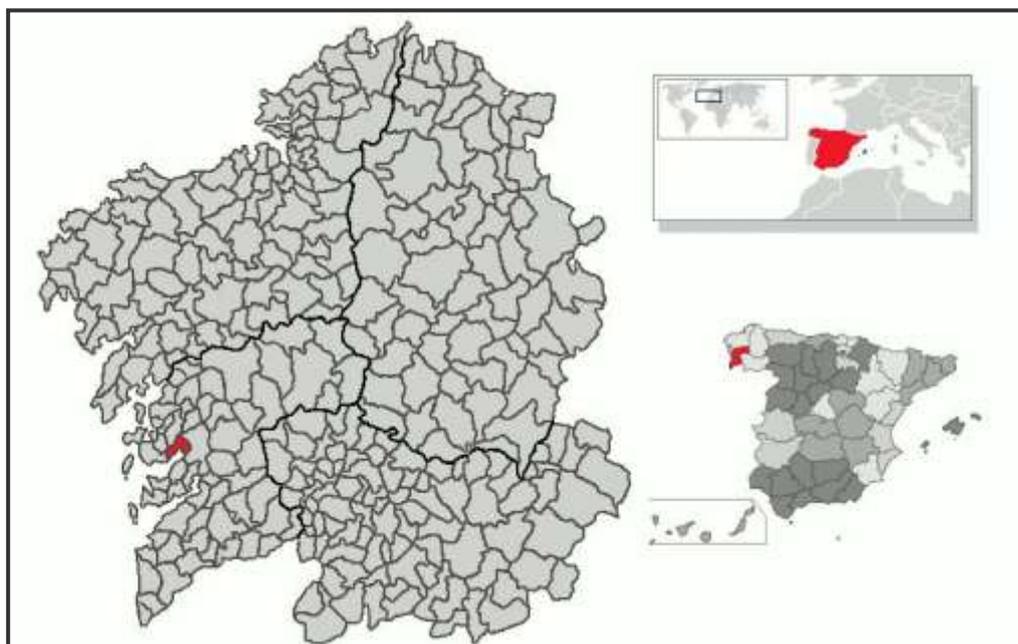
## SOCIETY AND POPULATION

Poio's municipality is in the center of the province of Pontevedra, next to the river. Its borders arrive to Pontevedra to the East, Meis to the North, Meaño and Sanxenxo to the West, and Pontevedra's estuary to the South.

This municipality has 33.9 km<sup>2</sup>, and is divided in five parishes: San Salvador, San Xoán, Combarro, Samieira and Raxó.

In Poio, there is a total of 16,794 people, of which 2,715 are 15-years-old minors, 11,205 are 16 to 64 years and there is a total of 2,874 people of more of 65 years. These numbers are due to the increase in population that municipality experienced in the last few years.

This increase in population is probably due to Poio's proximity to the city of Pontevedra.



As for the relevancy of the economic sectors, the territory is characterized by the loss of importance that the primary sector is suffering and the trend towards modernization that the economy is experiencing. These zones in fact find an excellent source of income in the tourism sector.

The agriculture is an activity in setback, of which only part-time initiatives have been kept. Seafood fishing stands out in the sea inlet of Pontevedra, while coastal fishing is widely practiced in the seaports of Campelo, Combarro and Raxó.



In the industry, the canning industry stands out, along with the textile industry, and that of graphical arts. Construction is important since it has taken advantage of an intense real-state residential activity that is linked to the touristic demand.

The number of enterprises per type of activity would be as follows:

Services	Construction	Industry

## Traditional activities

### SHELLFISHING

Shell fishing is the activity practised by the shell fishers, which consists in breeding, capturing and collecting shellfish.

At the beginning, this work was done to improve the household income. When the sea fruit demand started growing, the villagers living at the coastlines saw shell fishing as a perfect opportunity to hold a well-valued job. In spite of the current difficult situation, the lady shell fishers' lifestyle is slowly and not effortlessly improving.

The different types of beaches provide with different shell fishing techniques. In rocky areas, there are both molluscs stuck to the rocks and crustaceans hiding in hollow spaces. While in sandy areas, they can be found in dug-out passages.



## TOOLS

### ***Gancha:***



Tool used in shell fishing which consists of a rake that is dragged along the sand, picking up molluscs (such as cockles, clams...) that then are stored in a metallic net.

This tool is used by shell fishers on foot or on board of a boat.

### ***Rastrillo (rake):***

The *rastrillo* is a tool which consists of a long handle ending in a perpendicular metal piece. This piece is formed by wooden or iron teeth that form some kind of comb.

This tool is used by shell fishers on foot.



## ***Nasas (creels)***

A *nasa* is a fishing net or a structure formed by cylinder-shaped metal ribs that narrows so that once the prey is caught, it cannot escape. *Nasas* are used when fishing shellfish such as spider crabs, common lobster and red lobsters.



## ***Bateas***

Floating structures used for farming bivalves typical from the Galician Rías. They consist of a wooden structure on the top, with large floats below.

From these platforms there are hanging ropes, where oysters and mussels are farmed (among others)

After some time, some boats called *bateiros* lift the heavy ropes and remove the molluscs.



## ***Dornas***

They are the traditional fishing boats in Rías Baixas. They are usually small-sized and fitted for propulsion by means of oars. Nowadays, some *dornas* have had their sails replaced by an outboard.



