

First Discoveries

When **Pro Monte Society**, created by *indianos* (popular appellation for the returned emigrants) from A Guarda, made the road that opened the access to the top of the mount, in 1913, were brought to light numerous stone structures. They were concerned to recover them, so they undertook different excavation campaigns, on which participated successively **Ignacio Calvo, Cayetano Mergelina, Manuel Fernández** and **De la Peña Santos**. The last one (2015-2016) led by **Rafael Rodríguez** and funded by the Deputation of Pontevedra and the Spanish Ministry of Development, consisted in dig again the already studied area between 1928-1933 by the archaeologist of the University of Valladolid, Cayetano Mergelina y Luna.

Here lived between 3000 and 5000 people

The **walled enclosure** made by stone masonry defines the *citania* (village), with an estimated **extent of 20 hectares**. The wall has two **main entrances**, one in the **North**, near the current road, and the another one in the **South**. By the exterior side of the wall the waste were accumulated in the **cuncheiro** (cuncha=shell, *cuncheiro* means the place where are shells). The buildings, with **plants shaped round, oval or rectangular** with rounded corners were **used as dwellings, storehouses, workshops or barns**. The houses identified by the **foyer where is placed the oven and the fireplace inside**, are the **most cared-for building** and the **access is through a door**. The rest of the buildings, destined to other uses lack these elements. The **roof were made by vegetal materials** and also with **roman tegulae** (tiles).

Excavation works in Mergelina zone

Monte Santa Trega

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You are one in thousands of people visiting annually this place. **Please, respect the buildings and structures, don't climb the walls**. Besides it is dangerous, it damages the archaeological site, our heritage.

Thank you very much!!

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Monte Santa Trega

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The neighbours lived in a place with views

In the half of the Santa Trega mountainside, with 341 metres height, are located the ruins of one of the greatest cities in the Iberian Peninsula Northwestern: **the citania (village) of Santa Trega**. The place offered to its inhabitants a **wide scenic view**, that seems to **permit an utter maritime and fluvial traffic control**, as well the **plentiful mining documented** in the nearby **A Groba mountain range**.



A colourfully and ornamented village

The outward appearance of the settlement was absolutely different as can be imagined, having in mind that the **walls of the buildings were plastered and painted on red, blue or white**. The **doorjambs and lintels** of some of the doors were **richly decorated** with key patterns engraved, cylindrical blocs (swastikas) embeded in the walls and with other **additions as plinths and projections in the wall** where to tie on domestic cattle.

Its disorganized urban planning it's just apparent

The buildings are organized in **groups composed by dwellings and warehouses sharing a common small yard**, frequently paved. They gather in **small neighbourhoods** separated by narrow streets perfectly identified in the Mergelina zone. This urban planning is complemented with a **complex collection chanel network for the pluvial waters and reservoirs** distributed in all the *citania*.

A settlement influenced by roman and punics

The last researches confirm the **first occupation**, at least, **in the 4th century BC**. The Iberian Peninsula Northwestern takes part of the **punic commercial route** which from Gadir (Cadiz) sails by the atlantic coastal looking for tin, slaves or leather. The presence of abundant and **varied pottery confirms the main role of the trade in Santa Trega**. The *citania* will lose its relevance when the construction of the roads reduces the importance of the maritime trade and the roman administration reform promotes the occupation of the valleys and low lands.

The agriculture, stockbreeding and craftworks could be the daily activities

As happens in all the *castros*, the subsistence way was quite autonomous. There were a **varied agriculture** (wheat, barley, oats, millet or beans) and **stockbreeding** (cow, sheep, goat or pig). The **hunting, fishing and shellfish gathering** were complementary activities, but still important. The **pottery manufacturing**, the **knitting** and **metal tools production** are some other activities of the *castro* inhabitants.



HERMITAGE, CROSSES & STONE CROSSES

In one of the two peaks is placed the **Santa Trega Hermitage**, already recorded since the 12th century, but renewed and enlarged at the 16th and 17th. As a sign of the important religious tradition and the veneration to the martyr from Iconium, A Guarda celebrates various religious festivities in her honour, such as the *romería* (in which the families spend the day together in the mountain with a typical meal) on September 23rd; or the **hundred-year-old Procession of Voto**, in which the devotees go through the stations of the modern **Via Crucis** (way of the cross), work of the Valencian sculptor Vincent Mengual, that replaced the previous one that had been made in a more plain style. In front of the hermitage rises a 16th century **cruceiro** (stone cross), dedicated to San Francisco, that remembers the presence of the order in **A Ínsua**, the small portuguese island just at the confluence of the river and the sea.

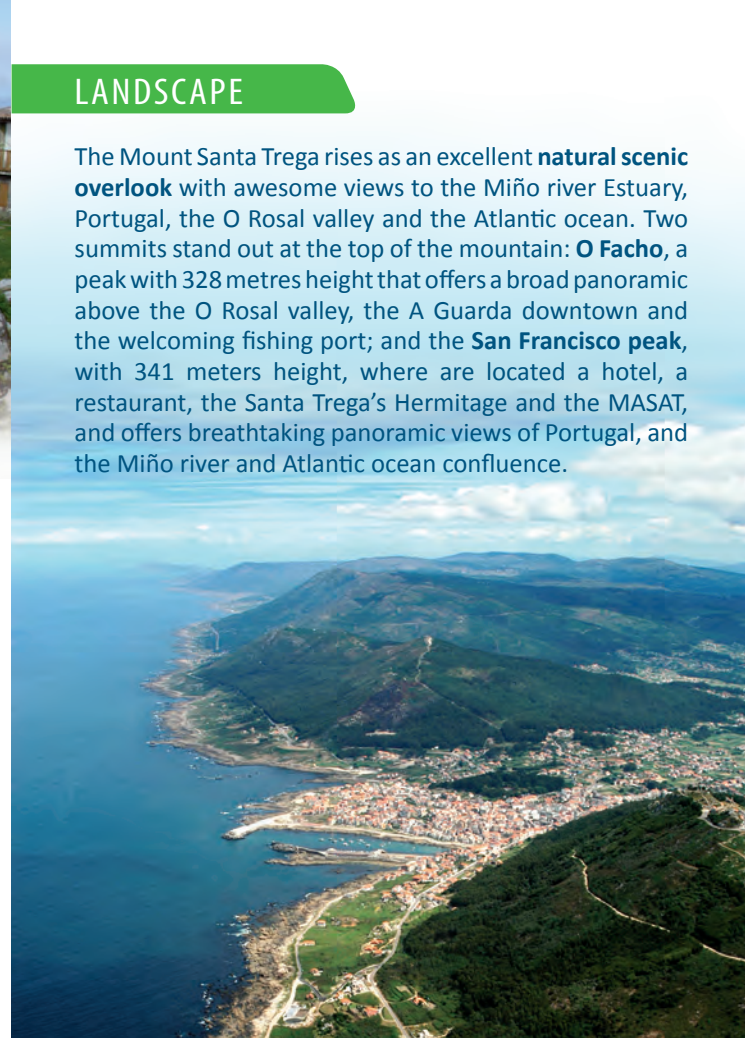
MASAT

The **Archeological Museum of Sta. Trega (MASAT)** is located in a building that was designed to be a restaurant by the architect from O Porriño, **Antonio Palacios**. By popular acclaim the Society Pro Monte bought and adapted the building that was inaugurated as Museum in 1953, all of the archaeological remains that were being warehoused in a hall in A Guarda downtown until that moment, were brought to it.

The MASAT displays a **complete collection of stone carvings with triskelions and swastikas, roman coins, ceramic objects, glass...** and like singular pieces stand out the superb **terminals of a torc** decorated with fine filigree and the **Cabezón** ("big head") of the Trega, the most emblematic found of the recent excavation works.

LANDSCAPE

The Mount Santa Trega rises as an excellent **natural scenic overlook** with awesome views to the Miño river Estuary, Portugal, the O Rosal valley and the Atlantic ocean. Two summits stand out at the top of the mountain: **O Facho**, a peak with 328 metres height that offers a broad panoramic above the O Rosal valley, the A Guarda downtown and the welcoming fishing port; and the **San Francisco peak**, with 341 meters height, where are located a hotel, a restaurant, the Santa Trega's Hermitage and the MASAT, and offers breathtaking panoramic views of Portugal, and the Miño river and Atlantic ocean confluence.



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