



# A GUARDA

## URBAN ROUTE

This route permits to know the A Guarda's heritage and history having a walk through its three most important areas:

**Fishing Port**, **Old Town** and **Center Town** with the Indianos' Houses

Tourist Information tel. 986 61 45 46 [www.turismoaguarda.es](http://www.turismoaguarda.es)



### FISHING PORT route

The Fishing Port is characterized by the **typical seafaring people houses**, very narrow and great colorful, that with the docks create one of the liveliest meeting point of the town, thanks to the **promenade and terraces** that welcome the locals and visitors.



Barnacles



Fishermen working

#### 1. SOUTH DOCK

Built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, is the place from where the **daily work of the fishermen** can be observed, their arrival to the seaport, the vessels and fishing gears they use. **The Fish Market** is located in the harbour and can be visited Mon-Fri from 4pm to observe the fish captures or barnacles depending on the season, and its auction.

#### 2. FISHERMAN MONUMENT

This **José Antunez Pousa work** (1991) emphasises the hardness of the fishermen job in A Guarda and also pay a tribute to the complementary and necessary job carried out by the women, as is the net making and maintenance.

#### 3. LOST FISHERMAN MONUMENT

The **Magín Picallo work** (2004) is a tribute to the sorrow of the women when a loved one has lost the life in the sea. It portrays the feelings accompanying the sea-faring women of solitude and uncertainty.

#### 4. MALTESES STREET & PROMENADE

This is the **most representative sea-faring lane**, narrow and with the tight houses over the sea. The traditional street goes parallel the current promenade, this esplanade was built up above the rocks and it has **gardens and leisure facilities**.



Promenade



Porto street



Atalaia. Museum of the Sea

#### 5. MUSEUM OF THE SEA \*

At the end of the promenade is located an small **defensive fortress with circular plant**, rebuilt in 1977. The original building was erected in the another dock in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the portuguese. It was long used as shelter of the pirates attacks. This building is represented on the A Guarda shield since 1844.

This Atalaia houses the Museum of the Sea **showing an ethnographic collection** with a sample of old fishing gear and tackle, and a **malacological** collection, with a choice of seashells from around the world.

#### 6. CONVENT OF SAN BENITO

**Founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century** by the Ozores de Sotomayor family. The nuns left their house in 1983 and after a renovation it turned into a hotel and a restaurant. The church, small and spoiled, was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it is still dedicated to the religious cult. **In the side façade in baroque style** are located the **family blazon** and the one of the Saint Benedict order.





## OLD TOWN route

Next to the Convent of San Benito's Church, up the **steep staircase of the Colón street**, ancient street which links the port to the old town.

### 7. IREIRA STREET

This street is an alternative route to the old town accessible without stairs. This street **preserves a stretch of the medieval wall**, the current wall of Bautista Alonso Square, also known as Monte Real.

### 8. COLÓN STREET

This street divided in two sectors the walled town. At the beginning and the end were **the only entrances to inside of the town**. The stone stairway is also from time immemorial and connects the Praza do Reló (Clock Square) with the port.

### 9. BAJO MURO STREET

Here is preserved part of the **ancient defensive rampart** that gave shelter to the population from the enemies attacks.

### 10. SAN MARCOS SQUARE

This plaza is in between Colón street and San Marcos street and the current Peace Court. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century here was the **San Marcos Hospital that offered help to the poor and pilgrims to Santiago** came from Portugal. It is unknown the date of its foundation but it is recorded the existence in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the hospital and the chapel were rebuilt.

### 11. PLAZA DEL RELÓ (CLOCK SQUARE)

The most significant buildings are the old Council, the **Tower "Do Reló"** and the **Aloncos' House**, the current town hall. Nowadays the square is called Do Reló, – that is translated as "of the Clock" –, but it had many names depends on the moment, particularly the political situation. It was the Plaza Mayor ("Main Square") until 16<sup>th</sup> century, "Constitution Square" afterwards, and then "Republic Square" and "Spain Square". In this square are located the **Tourist Office and the Local Police**.

### 12. TOWER "DO RELÓ"

It is part of the **ancient medieval wall** and protected one of the town entrances at the enclosure highest point. In 1570 was risen the current tower upon the primitive one. Then was rebuilt in 1730 because the previous one was falling to ruin, the bell was substituted at that time but the clock will be a Jose Manuel Andreini's donation in 1924. In the body of the tower we find **some coats of arms**.

### 13. SANTA MARÍA CHURCH

The parish church **originally romanesque** was expanded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Diego de Torquemada was the Tui Bishop. At the interior stands out the retable of the high altar, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century in borrominesque style and dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Of keen interest are the **statues of Christ**: Christ Lying, a local sculptor Cándido Sobrino work; in the retable of the Altar of the Anima is placed the Crucified Christ, according to tradition this statue was recovered from the sea when it was thrown by the british catholics in Henry VIII times.

The **main facade is made in Baroque style** with **white walls** (portuguese influence) and the **south facade is of Renaissance style**. The side tower has a rectangular plan and a was topped with dome in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## URBAN route

### 14. CASTLE OF SANTA CRUZ \*

The Castle of Santa Cruz is part of the **strongholds and defense systems built in the last stretch of the Miño river during the Independence War** between Spain and Portugal in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The fortress, popularly known as "castle", was erected around 1664, to speed up the construction, stones from the medieval wall that surrounded the town were used. The plant is an irregular polygon, with four bastions standing out from the main wall. On these bastions are placed the bartizans well worked in stone. The fortress has two pedestrian entrances. From Puerto Rico Street the access is through the Puerta de la Villa (Town Gate). The another access, the Socorro Gate, go around the walled enclosure from Santo Domingo street.

The **Interpretation Centre** holds the only existing building within the fortress and facilitates understanding of the historical context and the role played by the A Guarda stronghold within the system of cross-border bastioned fortresses.

### 15. INDIANOS HOUSES

These dwellings **were built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> by some returned emigrants** of A Guarda from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Brazil, popularly called the *indianos*.

The houses of the *indianos* are characterized by the use of the **stonework, tile and forge**. They are showy buildings that adopted the most significant architectural structures of the american country, for that reason each one has its own personality. Some of them were **built to living** in as the villas, and others were dedicated to business or **social activities**.

They are preserved a good number of this houses in all of the town, however it must be highlighted the houses located in the old town and Galicia street and Puerto Rico street.

### 16. GALICIA STREET

This street crosses the urban centre and here curious examples of the houses of indianos can be observed. The returned emigrants built their buildings following open spaces plannings, making up this important avenue that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century amazed by its spaciousness.

### 17. ALAMEDA

It is located in the high zone of the urban centre, close to the Santa Tegra Mountain access road. In its surroundings prominent examples of **indianos' dwellings** can be observed.

### 18. CULTURAL CENTER

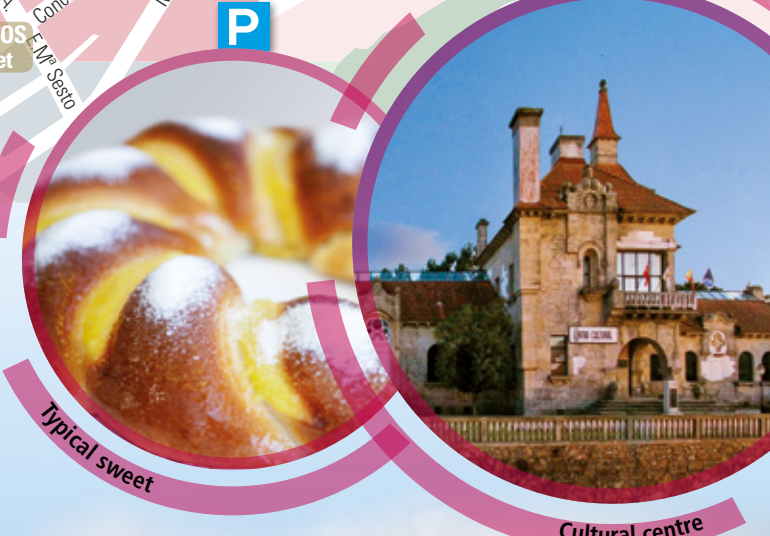
The **most singular indianos' building**. It was built in 1921 thanks to the collaboration of returned emigrants and destined to be a hospital and shelter. After the 1990 refurbish became the current Cultural Center. It housed the Municipal Library, an exhibitions hall and an events room.

### 19. COMMERCIAL AREA & WEEKLY MARKET

The urban zone has a **wide and interesting range of shops** that can be discovered walking this route and the close streets. Besides, on Saturday morning, you can find the **weekly street market** in the **Alameda**.

### 20. CONCEPCIÓN ARENAL STREET

Commercial street that takes straight away to the fishing port from the Galicia Street. Can be visited the **Market building** that offers fresh products in the mornings the working days from Monday to Saturday.



#### TIMETABLES/FARES

\* MUSEUMS NETWORK: **Museum of the Sea** and **Fortresses Interpretation Center**

Can be visited on **weekends & holidays** (from Easter until December)

Timetable: from **11am to 2pm** / from **4pm to 7pm**.

**Except in Summer** (from 15 Jun to 15 Sep): from **11am to 2pm** / from **6pm to 9pm**

Fares: **1,50€** adult and **1€** reduced rate. **FREE ACCESS:** first Saturday of each month & the local festivities in A Guarda

Opening Timetables **Castle of Santa Cruz** Public Area:

10am – 6pm: Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb | 10am – 7pm: Mar & Oct

10am – 9pm: Apr, May & Sep | 10am – 10pm: Jun, Jul & Aug

**BLUE AREA** some commercial streets have a blue area as free parking zone but with time limited

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