WHAT TO SEE

From the beach, you can see the great beauty of the Bay of Biscay. Paseo do Retiro and Paseo de la Exposición are two pedestrian avenues developed in the sports area for relaxation and a visit to the Botanical Gardens.

In the Retiro Park, you can see the Gothic stone cross that the cathedral's master builders designed in the early 17th century. The cathedral is surrounded by the Palace of Count of Porto, the Marquis of Granja, and the Bishop's Palace.

On the street of Paseo de la Exposición, the Prohibido palace still exists, where you can see the former residence of the Bishops of Santiago. The palace was built in 1570 and is considered an example of the best Renaissance architecture in Galicia.

WHAT TO SEE

In Mos, the church of Santa María de Abaixo has a bell tower with a wrought-iron railing, one of the oldest in Spain. The church is characterized by its Gothic arches and the inner chapel of San Roque.

The convent of Trasmán, the first in the city, has a splendid baroque chapel with a vaulted ceiling. The church is known for its fine altarpiece, one of the most significant in Galicia.

WHAT TO SEE

The Casa de la Corrección, a former prison, is now a cultural center. The building is divided into two parts: the old prison with its cell windows and the modern wing with a museum.

The museum displays a collection of paintings and sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries, including works by Spanish and international artists. The exhibitions are housed in the old prison cells, which adds a unique atmosphere to the museum.

WHAT TO SEE

From the bridge over the River Xunqueira, you can see the Atlantic Islands National Park. You can visit the islands by boat or hike along the coastal path.

The islands are a habitat for over 300 species of birds, including the rare Cory's shearwater and the Atlantic puffin. The islands are also home to several species of mammals, such as the wild boar and the European otter.
The entire Portuguese Route is surrounded by major hot springs. It is not for nothing that the town of Redondela, then Caldas de Reis and Padrón, where the legendary boat that brought the remains of the apostle was later anchored, is known as ‘La Portada’. In fact, the town has always been a stopover for those on the way to Santiago, and has become, in recent times, a destination for people searching for the original source of the hot springs. And while we're on the subject of geology, another aspect that has contributed to the city's tourism is the existence of massive sandstone cliffs from the Miocene era, which are also known as the ‘Sesimbra Dunes’. These dunes are a natural landmark in the region and have become a popular place for outdoor activities such as hiking and birdwatching.

The way comes into Galicia via Tui. It goes through O Porriño, continues on to Vilagarcía and, just before crossing into the province of Pontevedra, it takes a different route and enters the town of Vigo. The city offers a blend of history, culture, and modernity, making it an ideal destination for any pilgrim. In fact, Vigo is known as a gateway to the Portuguese Way and is considered to be one of the most important pilgrimage routes in the country.

In the nineteenth century, when pilgrimages were at an all-time ebb, as a result of the French occupation and the Napoleonic wars, the Portuguese pilgrimage to Santiago was nearly extinguished. However, the town of Redondela, which became the starting point for the Portuguese Way, managed to survive and continued to welcome pilgrims to the region. The town is now known as the ‘Portada’, and is considered to be one of the most important pilgrimage routes in the country.

In conclusion, the Portuguese Way is not only a religious pilgrimage route, but also a cultural and historical one. It has evolved over the centuries and has become an integral part of the region’s identity. Whether you are a pilgrim or simply a traveler, the Portuguese Way is a journey that is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. So why not start your pilgrimage today and embark on a journey that is sure to leave you with a lasting impression.