





reminiscent of a chocolate bar. The homes were built for the Ferrolano bourgeoisie. They are two or three-storey homes with balconies and ample verandas enclosed by glass and white lacquered wood, reminiscent of those that decorate the stern of a ship. First built in Ferrol, these verandas became fashionable in the rest of Galicia.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the architect Rodolfo Ucha designed numerous Modernist buildings in the Magdalena neighbourhood. Throughout the city centre we can gaze upon some of Ferrol's most emblematic buildings, such as the Jofre Theatre, the San Julian Co-cathedral, the fish market or the town hall.

## MAGDALENA NEIGHBOURHOOD

This neighbourhood dates back to the 18th Century when King Carlos III commissioned its construction after a boom in population attributed to the jobs created by the military arsenal and royal shipyard. Nowadays, it is the city centre and houses the town hall and an important part of cultural services, shopping, restaurants and nightlife. A partial pedestrian zone, the neighbourhood was declared a Historic-Artistic Complex.

**T**he layout of the Magdalena Neighbourhood is composed of six parallel streets, in perpendicular to nine parallel cross streets. They form a grid with two public squares on either side: Amboage and Armas Squares. From above, its design is rationalist, the work of naval engineers and, some say, is





# 2

## MODERNISM

Strolling through the streets of Ferrol provides visitors with the opportunity to become acquainted with Modernism, an artistic movement reflected and conserved in numerous buildings around the city, and which cannot be mentioned without making a special reference to Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro, the most famous architect to work in the city during the first half of the 20th Century.

**R**odolfo Ucha's legacy can be seen and admired in the 28 buildings, each one of them identified by a small plaque placed on the facade of the building, he designed in the city of Ferrol. Admiring them helps us to appreciate Galician Modernist style (known as Art Nouveau or Art Deco as well)

and its evolution towards New Eclecticism. There are 17 modernist properties built between 1909 and 1916 and along with them, 11 more restrained yet nevertheless spectacular buildings that define the Neo-eclectic movement that Rodolfo Ucha developed during a later period, from 1918 to 1927.



**T**he arsenal is divided into two sections, based on military and industrial functions: the Arsenal of the Park to the west and the Arsenal of the Docks to the east. Each section has one monumental entrance gate. Inside the grounds we can find the Arms Hall, closed off to the north by the Training Barracks; the Campana Dock, a



**3**

## THE ARSENAL

Under the guidance of various architects and military engineers, the Arsenal of Ferrol was built in the 18th Century and became one of the most complex missions in Spain during the Enlightenment Period. Since then, the city has been inextricably connected to maritime construction, its ups and downs, and decisions of the State.



dry dock built in the 19th Century which was at the time the largest in the world; the Herrerías building, which houses the Museum of Naval Construction; the old San Campio prison, home to both the Naval Museum and the Cantabrian Maritime Zone Library. The Arsenal has been declared a Cultural Heritage Asset.



**T**he origin of Ferrol Vello dates back to 1087, in the Middle Ages, when the first written reference to the name of “Ferrol” appeared. The city was born in this port enclave. Until the middle of the 18th Century, Ferrol wasn't much bigger than what we now know as the Ferrol Vello neighbourhood.



## FERROL VELLO

Ferrol Vello is now a fascinating neighbourhood which was the original settlement of the city and where a maritime fort was once found. Nowadays, this picturesque area conserves the layout of a medieval town, with narrow streets, fishermen's taverns and traditional squares that attract those who wish to go back in time and immerse themselves in Ferrol's rich history.

# 4

One of the most emblematic places in the area is the small port which is a meeting point for travel lovers and maritime activities, both of which co-exist in the commercial port. It is also where the English Route of the Way of Saint James begins as well as where the boat to Mugardos (a neighbouring town)

departs during the summer. In recent years, the neighbourhood has begun the process of urban renewal. We can stroll through its narrow streets, admire fishermen's cottages and visit emblematic places such as the Praza Vella (Old Square) or the Fama Fountain, built in 1787. Another interesting site is the San Juan

Battery, whose lookout point offers amazing views of the Ferrol Ría.



In 1557 construction of the castle began, commissioned by King Felipe II. This explains how the castle got its name. However, the building that we admire today is from the 18th Century, when it underwent remodelling and improving. The renovation of the castle was finally completed in 1775.

At that time it was considered a prime example of an artillery fortification. This design included coastal artillery facing the sea as well as a series of bastions that protected the curtain walls. These bastions were also used to fend off land attacks. San Felipe castle, today in a

constant process of restoration, surprises us with its innovative design and construction for its time, as well as its beautiful views of the ría.

5

## SAN FELIPE CASTLE

It is the most important military building in Ferrol, built at the initiative of Philip II in the mid-16th century. Located in front of the castle of La Palma (on the other bank of the estuary) and the disappeared castle of San Martiño, the three fortifications made the Ferrol estuary impregnable.



**T**he Museum of Naval Construction is located in the Herrerías building which was built in the 18th Century and restored in the 21st to maintain its original aesthetic. In this old industrial smithy there were 32 furnaces, or forges, in addition to four especially large forges in the centre of the workshop to



6

## MUSEUM OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTION

This amazing museum, which presents the exciting world of naval construction, is the result of the collective effort of people who not only contributed their knowledge but also their passion for these technologies. A magnificent 18th Century building houses a world-class technological and scientific exhibit, the only of its kind in all of Spain.

produce anchors, as well as a workforce of 386 blacksmiths. In the museum, society, industry and the scientific community converge to work together to preserve and protect objects that, because of their historical importance, are part of Ferrol's heritage. We can see the evolution of ships and shipyards over time,

the traditional methods of naval construction and the diverse trades and technologies needed in this industry over the past 200 years. There we can also marvel at the remains of the Santa María Magdalena frigate (a type of warship) that was recovered in the 1970s, 200 years after it wrecked in the Viveiro Ría.





# 7

## BEACHES

Beaches for everyone. Beach-lovers and water sport enthusiasts (especially surfers) have many options to choose from in Ferrol whether they prefer endless open sea beaches with white sand and little urban development, calm waters within the ría or secluded coves.

In Ferrol there are many long stretches of white sand where we can enjoy nature and the sea. They are spectacular, nearly wild beaches with a half-moon shape. There are also beaches within the Ferrol Ría which are smaller and have calmer waters. Also, they are closer to populated areas so there are

more services closeby. Five beaches (A Fragata-O Pareixal, Caranza, Doniños, Esmelle and San Xurxo) have EU Blue Flag ecolabels which reflect water quality, services, safety and accessibility, and environmental management of the beach and its surroundings. All along the coast there are lovely, secluded coves to enjoy as well.







# 8

## NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Ferrol's coastline is part of the Artabrian Coast, a natural landscape protected as a Site of Community Importance. In Ferrol we can appreciate some beautiful panoramic views. Inland, one can admire a landscape full of wild mountains and valleys. Along the coast's many lookout points, in the winter we can see the power of the waves breaking against cliffs and in the summer, peaceful sunsets.

**T**he variety of landscapes is outstanding. It's a place of great natural beauty, ideal to watch the sunset. On a clear day we can see A Coruña to the west and all of the Artabrian Gulf to the east. Very closeby, towards the north, is Prioriño Cape and its lighthouse. From there we can be amazed by the

seascapes and the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean. Then, if we continue along a coastal path that connects the lighthouse with the Lobadiz Castro (a pre-Roman settlement) in Doniños we can contemplate the sand dunes in Covas and San Xurxo beaches. Doniños –a beautiful beach– is the name of a fertile valley. Where

the valley meets the sea we can find the Doniños lagoon, a freshwater lagoon flanked by sand dunes. It has been declared a wetland of national importance to protect its plant community. It is an ecosystem of great ecological interest. Also, within the Ferrol Ría we can find even more places of great scenic value and beauty.

**D**eclared an International Tourist Attraction, Ferrol Holy Week dates back to the 18th Century and is the most amazing holy week celebration in Galicia. During nine days there are more than 20 processions, in addition to exhibits and cultural events. Noite das Pepitas (Pepitas Night, held on the 18th of



## TRADITIONS, CULTURE AND SPORT

Ferrol Holy Week, an International Tourist Attraction, and Pepitas Night, a Galician Tourist Attraction, are two of the most famous traditions in the city, even though there are many more parties and celebrations. Cultural spaces such as the Jofre Theatre and the Auditorium of Ferrol, as well as many other private and public spaces, offer yearlong cultural programming.

9

March, the eve of Saint Joseph's Day) the rondallas from Ferrol –ensembles of stringed instruments whose members sing while playing– parade through the streets to celebrate the beauty of the women of Ferrol, sing to them under their balconies and finally gather in the Plaza de Armas, where they perform waltzes and habaneras.

In recent years, Las Meninas de Canido, a street art festival, has become another tradition of the city. Over one weekend, a large number of artists use buildings and urban spaces in the Canido neighbourhood to paint murals and other works. Ferrol also participates in Galician traditions such as Carnival, San Xoán Night on

the summer solstice, Samaín (a Celtic harvest celebration) as well as other local traditions like the religious pilgrimage to the Chamorro Chapel on Easter Monday. Every weekend there are professional sporting events to enjoy such as football, basketball, surf and water sports among many others.



**F**resh products from the Ferrol Ría and many others from the other rías of Galicia –shellfish and seafood such as goose barnacles, octopus, clams, razor clams, mussels, scallops and a huge variety of fresh fish– are without any doubt, the star products to try in the city’s markets, shops and



industry and its clients clearly benefit from these high quality, locally sourced products some of them come from organic farming . An afternoon of shopping is always recommended. In Ferrol, we will find well cared for establishments, historic shops, and a great variety of options for all tastes.

## **CUISINE, RESTAURANTS AND SHOPPING**

Ferrol is a city known for good food and drink. In the city centre and around town, we can find informal bars and eateries as well as traditional Galician restaurants or restaurants offering modern cuisine. There are gourmet shops, three municipal markets, restaurants and bars, hotels in beautiful settings and historic businesses - all offering unexpected experiences for visitors.

# 10

different restaurants. To all that we can add meat and vegetables, the majority of which come from small farms close to the city. There are also many artisanal sweets and cheeses.

What is now considered to be Zero-KM has always been a tradition in Galician cuisine. The hospitality



FERROL



Deputación  
DA CORUÑA



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