



South University Campus



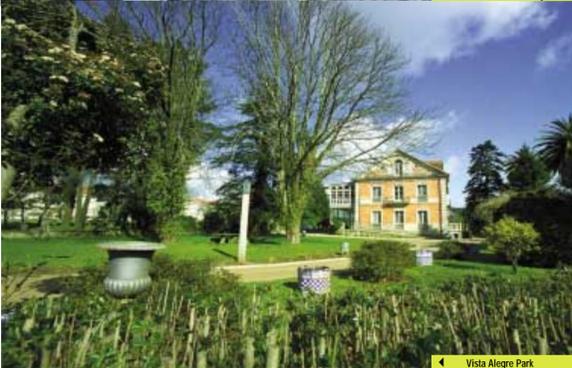
San Lourenzo Oak Grove



Sarela River Walkway



Galeras Park



Vista Alegre Park



Music in Compostela Park



Ponte Mantible Park



Monte Da Almisga Park



Belvis Park



Carlimagno Park





THE CITY HIDDEN AMONG PARKS AND GARDENS

Another Way to Discover Santiago de Compostela



San Domingos de Bonaval Park Eugenio Granell Park



Alameda Park Carreira Do Xesto Park



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a walk around santiago de compostela's parks

Parks and gardens have the virtue of transforming themselves throughout the seasons, modifying in turn the entire city: colouring it in autumn, baring it in winter, lighting it up in spring, shading it in summer, invading it with the smell of damp soil, of recently cut grass, of flowering plants... and they are undoubtedly the best lounges for contemplating Compostela's sunsets.

This Itinerary enables us to become acquainted with Santiago de Compostela's parks and gardens. Due to their scenic and environmental quality, the city has won several prizes and international recognition.

It starts in the Alameda park, in the city centre, and goes through the most representative green spaces: historical and artistic gardens, spaces of botanical interest, parks of contemporary design, extensive lawns...

The route reveals new perspectives, unexpected panoramas, hidden visions of the city and informs us about its history, its urban development and its monumentality.

a city embraced by green spaces

Santiago de Compostela's landscape has always been characterised by the presence of green. From almost any point in the city, and especially from the old town, we are presented with perspectives revealing the trees of the city's parks, or fleeing towards farmland or towards the forests covering the nearby hills.

Testimony of the coexistence between the city and its natural surroundings are the "rueliros": long, straight streets of medieval design linking the clearly urban town centre and the farmland bordering the city. Going along such streets, the city was gradually replaced by countryside, and this is still the case today.

During centuries, the sensation of closeness to nature has been enhanced by the city's historical gardens -the area formed by the Alameda park, the Santa Susana oak grove and the South University Campus, plus the San Domingos de Bonaval and Belvis parks- which are still some of the city's most emblematic and popular places.

The urban expansion that began in the mid-20th century led to an increase in the number of flats and the need for guaranteeing sustainable urban development, by creating new green spaces in the city. This task was fully assumed in the nineties, making Santiago, with more than one and a half million square metres of public green spaces, a city that can be encircled and toured by means of its parks and gardens.

The new green spaces embracing the old town have safeguarded this historical relationship between the constructed area and the natural surroundings. Thus, today we can still enjoy the same urban scenes that were enjoyed, a long time ago, by other travellers and pilgrims...

The Green Itinerary is a project that will create a large, 15 km-long corridor surrounding the city and linking its main green spaces. It will also in turn connect these with the city's other green areas: with other parks and gardens, with rural and forest pathways and with the different Ways of St. James.

It will thereby create an urban route that, by means of initiatives comprising differential surfacing, signposting, information panels and the restoration of each pathway's characteristic elements, will form a network facilitating the city's integration and dialogue with its natural surroundings.



ALAMEDA PARK



Although the park is called by the general name Alameda, it consists of three different parts: Paseo da Alameda, Carballeira ('oak grove' in Galician) de Santa Susana and Paseo da Ferradura. The resulting park has, since the 19th century, been the most important reference point for the walks and leisure of Santiago's residents: it is characterised by its pleasant atmosphere, as a kind of natural lounge.

Its privileged location, bordering part of the old town and with a magnificent view of its west facade (the most monumental one), made it the main city park. It also stands out due to the variety and size of its trees and ornamental species, such as its oak groves, magnificent eucalyptus trees or the scenic pergola formed by the horse chestnuts in Paseo da Ferradura.

The passing of time has gradually influenced its layout, as we can see in the central avenue, with corridors for the different social classes of the 19th century: in what is almost a triumphal arch leading to Paseo dos Leóns, or in the arrangement of flowerbeds, fountains and ponds. And also in its nineteenth-century, modernist and contemporary buildings -Chapel of Santa Susana, Church of O Pilar, devocot, bandstand, acoustic bench, etc.- in the abundance and shapes of its statues and sculptures, and in its urban furniture, especially the granite benches with an artistic cast-iron back made by the well-known Galician factory Sargadelos in Lugo.

Since the Alameda park is the city's most representative green space, it houses the Parks and Gardens Interpretation Centre.



SOUTH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



An ambitious project was approved in 1929 to create students' residences and other university facilities, which form the basis of the present-day South Campus. This project involved an extension of -and also an alternative to- the congested existing city, following the 19th-century hygiene-based ideas of "green city" or "garden city".

The general layout is based on a south-facing axis from the stairway linking it to the Alameda park and includes green spaces, sports facilities and residences. There are magnificent views of the complex from the top of the stairway, which also overlooks Monte Pedroso and the Amalva valley. The water rising from the foot of the stairway runs along the central avenue, giving rise to ponds and fountains.

The gardens are formalised with a rigorous geometric layout: lawns, flowerbeds, ponds and paths are connected by walks, along which we can find a great variety of trees and ornamental plants -ginkgos, white cedars, camellias, magnolias, pines, cedars, junipers- forming a peculiar city botanical garden.



SAN LOURENZO OAK GROVE



The Convent of San Lourenzo de Trasouso was founded at the beginning of the 12th century in a shady oak grove on the banks of the River Sarela. Outside this building, which was eventually turned into a palace ("pazo" in Galician) and is now a distinguished restaurant for special occasions, there is still a luxuriant grove of centuries-old oak trees.



SARELA RIVER WALKWAY



This walkway is per se a world of its own, completely separate from the city: it runs through woodland and suggests excursion, adventure, discovery and direct contact with nature. It follows the small river Sarela and reveals the historical importance of such watercourses as regards shaping the landscape: bridges, irrigation ditches, channels, waterwheels, tanneries... Such tanneries played an important role in the city's economic development from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, as we can see throughout this route that begins at the Ponte Sarela tannery and ends at the Carne de Abaixo tannery, which has now been converted into a housing complex.

The path is shady, as if it were a natural pergola, thanks to the oak trees and Galicia's typical riverside vegetation: alders, birches, willows, etc.



GALERAS PARK



Galeras Park runs along the banks of the small river Sarela, in a flat area where it is joined by the Corgo stream. This watercourse is delimited in the west by the Finca do Espiño estate (with luxuriant vegetation and a romantic modernist mansion) and Monte Pio (the president of Galicia's official residence), and in the east by the old town; this enables us to compare the scale of large singular buildings (Cathedral, former hospital, etc) with that of the small houses and rural constructions leading up to Monte Pedroso. It therefore marks the transition between city and countryside.

Galeras is, above all, a large meadow that is well suited to walking, children's play and sports. Furthermore, it is bordered by several unique architectures as well as cafes and restaurants, with views of the park.



GRANXA DO XESTO PARK



A large natural space on the slopes of Monte Pedroso (Compostela's most emblematic hill), halfway between a city park -due to its configuration, layout and facilities- and forest: in fact, it is bordered by the Monte Pedroso Forest Park.

Granxa do Xesto combines woodland (eucalyptus trees, pines and native species), grassland and small lakes fed by natural springs. It features 3 km of paths, a children's playground, different sports elements and a quiet cafe overlooking the city.

It is also the starting point of a network of paths around Monte Pedroso, where an interesting outdoor Way of the Cross, made up of large stone "cruciros" or crosses, leads up to the summit, offering a fine view of the city in the surrounding landscape.



VISTA ALEGRE PARK (FINCA SIMEÓN)



This park was once a private garden, as shown by its sturdy outer wall, the statues guarding the way, its trees (palm trees, orange trees, apple trees, camellias, monkey puzzle trees, etc., some of which are more than a hundred years old), its pavilion and other shady corners in which to sit and rest.

This property, which belonged to an important family of city bankers (the Simeón family), now houses, apart from a colonial-style mansion from the early 20th century (now a select university residence called "Casa de Europa"), the University of Santiago's Advanced Studies Institute and the School of High Music Studies.



MUSIC IN COMPOSTELA PARK



This green, tapestry-like meadow is located at the foot of the Auditorio de Galicia (which explains its name) and on the banks of the small Corgo stream. The stream is the park's main element, forming a large mirror-lake that reflects the auditorium's contemporary architecture. The park features a surrealist sculpture by the Galician artist Eugenio Granell that stands out due to its height and bright colours.

The park reveals unexpected views of the old town: the backs of the convents of San Francisco and San Martin Pinaro, the Cathedral towers...

The auditorium's plastic arts exhibitions and its cafeteria overlooking the lake are additional attractions offered by this park.



SAN DOMINGOS DE BONAVAL PARK



Leaving behind the small garden of San Roque, on grounds that used to belong to the hospital and chapel of the same name, we arrive at the Dominican convent's old estate and cemetery, which have been turned into a city park by the Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza.

The park is accessed via the strategic passageway formed by the contrasting architectures of two museums: the Galician Contemporary Art Centre (CGAC), a modern building also designed by Siza, and the Museo do Pobo Galego (Museum of the Galician People), housed in the former medieval convent.

Situated on a west-facing hillside, the park offers surprising views of the city's rooftops, to which Chillida dedicated a sculpture that intentionally frames a vision of the city.

This project is an example of perfect adaptation to the topography and existing elements, combining the undulating forms of the hillside and the linearity of the geometric designs defining its paths and terraces. It retains the tripartite structure of the convent estate: vegetable garden, oak grove and cemetery. Water murmurs throughout the walk: with fountains, channels and small cisterns.

The result is an elegant area of great quality, a park of subtle contemporary design that plays with the different perspectives, being greatly enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, as well as an exceptional setting for artistic events.

The historical trees have been completed with new species, thanks to which the park is of special botanical interest, especially its "carballeira" (oak grove).



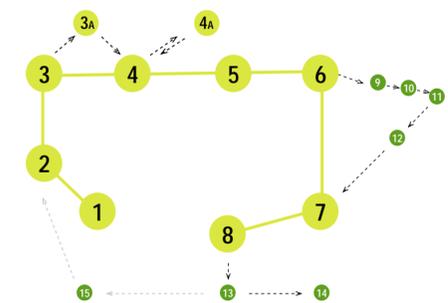
BELVIS PARK



This park follows the Belvis watercourse, an elongated area made up of several meadows watered by a small stream. The walls, terraces and historical paths, such as the picturesque lane called As Trompas, have been respected in this park's project.

This green space both separates and links the historical quarter and the large buildings of the Convent of Belvis and the Minor Seminary, forming a kind of natural "moat" bordering the medieval town. Its highest part provides singular views of the entire city.

ITINERARY PLAN



Duration of main Itinerary: 2 hours and 30 minutes

- 1 Alameda Park
- 2 South University Campus
- 3 San Lourenzo Oak Grove
- 3a Sarela River Walkway
- 4 Galeras Park
- 4a Granxa Do Xesto Park
- 5 Vista Alegre Park
- 6 Music In Compostela Park
- 7 San Domingos De Bonaval Park
- 8 Belvis Park
- 9 Avenida do Burgo das Nacións Park and Xixon Park
- 10 Fermín Bouza Brey Park and Alexandre Boveda Park
- 11 Pablo Iglesias Park, Ponte Mantible Park, Blanco Amor Park and San Caetano Park
- 12 Monte Da Almáciga Park
- 13 Sar River Walkway
- 14 Carlomagno Park
- 15 Eugenio Granell Park

Area

Duration of park tour

Topography

Topography

Open

Special botanical interest

Special monumental interest

Viewpoint/ good views

Extensive shady areas

Extensive lawns

Areas with benches for resting

Pedestrian itineraries

Possibility of cycling

Accessibility for the handicapped

Drinking fountains

Picnic area

Watercourses

Ducks

Children's playground

Sports areas

Cafeteria

Public toilets

Night lighting

Information point

Guided visits

Nearby parking areas

OTHER PARKS OF INTEREST: ALTERNATIVES TO THE MAIN ITINERARY

- 9 AVENIDA DO BURGO DAS NACIONS PARK AND XIXÓN PARK
Situated beside each other, in contact with Music in Compostela Park, near the bus terminus. The two form a well-kept area with extensive green spaces, good sports facilities and a children's park.
- 10 FERMIN BOUZA BREY PARK AND ALEXANDRE BÓVEDA PARK
Situated alongside a watercourse, beside Xixon Park, near the bus terminus. They make up an area with a lot of shade, crossed by the Corgo stream, with good services and extensive areas for walking.
- 11 PABLO IGLESIAS PARK, PONTE MANTIBLE PARK, BLANCO AMOR PARK AND SAN CAETANO PARK
These are directly linked with the previous parks, forming a corridor along both sides of the road. They are situated in the area of the Vite neighbourhood, very close to the bus station and the Galician Government's central administrative buildings.
- 12 MONTE DA ALMÁCIGA PARK
Following the suggested alternative itinerary, the park is accessed via San Caetano Park. Situated in the Almáciga neighbourhood, very close to the bus station, it occupies the city's highest hill, making it a privileged water tower with excellent views of the surrounding landscape. It is linked to San Domingos de Bonaval Park by means of Teo street.
- 13 SAR RIVER WALKWAY
From Belvis Park, we pass the Collegiate Church of Sar and come to the River Sar, whose riverside will shortly be turned into a natural walkway linking Carlomagno Park in the As Fontiñas neighbourhood, situated to the east of the city, and Eugenio Granell Park in the A Ponte Pedreira neighbourhood, to the south. This project will also connect with the City of Culture's park, called the "Forest of Galicia" (currently under construction), which will occupy an area of 125,000 m² and will recreate a traditional Galician forest.
- 14 CARLOMAGNO PARK (AS FONTIÑAS)
Situated in the As Fontiñas neighbourhood, it includes the park itself, located on a hilltop, as well as the landscaped areas surrounding the blocks of flats. It stands out as one of the city's most extensive green areas and due to its fine panoramic view. This park leads directly to San Lázaro Park, which includes several contemporary architectures of interest: Congress and Exhibition Hall, the football stadium, large hotels and several of the Galician Government's administrative buildings.
- 15 EUGENIO GRANELL PARK (O PAXONÁL)
It is situated in the O Paxonal neighbourhood, also known by the general name of A Ponte Pedreira, very close to the train station. In the near future, the green walkway through the valley of the River Sar will connect it with Carlomagno Park, in the As Fontiñas neighbourhood. It is one of Compostela's most extensive parks, with spectacular views of the city and an outstanding configuration: its landscaped and grassy areas gradually turn into a luxuriant oak grove on the river banks, completely separate from the nearby city. It features platforms for physical exercises and skateboarding areas and will soon be connected to the parks in the Conxo neighbourhood, and from there to the South University Campus, thereby completing the Green Itinerary that will surround the city.