

EUROCITY CERVEIRA-TOMIÑO AN INTRODUCTION FOR VISITORS

THE REGION

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Vila Nova de Cerveira, with an approximate surface area of 108.5 km², is located in the Portuguese side in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula on the left bank of the River Miño. Tomiño, with an approximate surface area of 106.6 km², is located in the southwest of the province of Pontevedra and Galicia, on the right bank of the River Miño.



CLIMATE

Climate plays a fundamental role in the socio-economic and environmental development of a region. The Miño basin has conditions somewhere between a temperate and a Mediterranean macro-bioclimate (with a minimum of 2 months of summer drought). The average annual rainfall for the transnational River Miño region is 1,632 mm, with an average of 152 rainy days per year. December is the month with the highest rainfall (221.4 mm) while July (33.9 mm) is the driest. 70% of the annual rainfall is concentrated in the autumn and winter months (October to March). The average temperature is 13.9°C, with average maximum and minimum temperatures between 19.3°C and 9.1°C, respectively. January is the coldest month and August the warmest, with a marked seasonality. Average temperatures are 9.3°C in winter, 15.1°C in spring, 19.4°C in summer and 11.9°C in autumn.

HOW TO GET THERE

By plane

Less than 100 km from Oporto Airport (Francisco Sá Carneiro)

35 km from Vigo Airport (Peinador)

128 km from Santiago de Compostela Airport (Rosalía de Castro, Lavacolla)

By car

From Vila Nova de Cerveira there are links to the A3 and the A28. Tomiño can be reached from Ourense, taking the A-52 to O Porriño and then the A-55 towards Tui. Coming from the North, from A Coruña, Santiago and Vigo, take the AP-9 motorway to Tui or the A-52 Vigo - O Porriño motorway, which continues to Tui under the name A-55. At the end of the motorway, take exit 30 Tui Sur-Tomiño-A Guarda-O Rosal, on to the PO-552 road.

An international bridge, the Ponte da Amizade, links the two Eurocity municipalities. The region is 53 km from Vigo, 128 km from Santiago de Compostela, 202 km from A Coruña, 36 km from Viana do Castelo, 106 km from Porto and 415 km from Lisbon.

By bus

To Vila Nova de Cerveira

Vila Nova de Cerveira Transport Coordination Centre.

To Tomiño

Regular connections from Vigo to neighbouring municipalities in the region.

By train

Take the railway line "Linha do Miño" (Porto-Nine-Viana do Castelo-Valença) run by Comboios de Portugal. There are various services that stop at Vila Nova de Cerveira station. There are daily connections between Vigo and Valença do Minho, where it connects with the Linha do Miño. For more information: www.cp.pt e www.renfe.es

The railway line coming from Vigo-Redondela-O Porriño stops 11 km from Valença in Guillarei (Tui), where some of the Vigo-Ourense and Vigo-Barcelona services stop. For more information: www.renfe.es

NATURAL HERITAGE

THE RIVER MIÑO

The river is the natural frontier of this cross-border region. It is of great importance not only from an environmental point of view but also from a social, economic and cultural one. Its contribution is not limited to providing ecosystem services of enormous importance, but is also of great historical, heritage and cultural significance. Nor can we forget the river's key role in the economy, which gives rise to a number of exclusive industries in the area, such as fishing and the associated gastronomy.



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNÃO EUROPEIA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO



EFE/CHEMA MOYA

From an environmental point of view, the River Miño is an indisputable cornerstone of the region's ecology and landscape. At its mouth is the Esteiro do Miño (a wetland shared by Galicia and northern Portugal that constitutes an important ecosystem for birdlife), a protected area listed as part of the Natura 2000 Network¹.

The River Miño is the element that gives the region its personality and geographical particularity. The river flows slowly along this stretch, depositing alluvial materials along its course with numerous islands and islets (such as Vacariza Island, Boega Island and Amores Island), sandbanks and marshes, forming a wide valley up to its mouth.

The riverbanks are lushly vegetated, with native forest trees on the banks providing a haven for wildlife. Other areas are colonised by reeds and scrub vegetation and are used in some cases for semi-free grazing of livestock. Some of these river islands are submersed in winter, due to river floods or spring tides, when the sea rushes upriver.

In general, the entire riverbank area is of great environmental and scenic interest, with one of the best representations of native vegetation, whose greatest exponent is the riparian woodland, and with a high diversity of fauna. These riverbanks help in the regulation of the general water level, protecting against erosion and river flooding. River beaches are also formed naturally, due to the sediment carried by the river itself, which gives added value to this landscape.

¹ The unique characteristics of the Rio Miño natural area justify its inclusion in the Natura 2000 Network, as a Special Protection Area and Site of Community Importance.



Interreg
España - Portugal



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomíño
CONCELLO

The banks of the river and the estuary that forms at its mouth are an exceptional refuge for numerous animal species, mainly birds. Here we find numerous indigenous inland fish and several endangered and endemic species, such as the lamprey, the salmon, which finds its southern limit of distribution in Europe here, the migratory form of the trout and the eel. The estuary is also an important enclave for aquatic birds, such as the great cormorant, which has numerous wintering sites here; varied populations of wading birds; and the osprey.

AQUAMUSEO RIO MIÑO (WATER MUSEUM)

41°56'16.38"N, 8°44'57.91"W

On the banks of the River Miño and integrated in the natural environment of Vila Nova de Cerveira, a public space has been created that contains all the richness of this international waterway within its four walls. In aquariums ranging between 1200 and 6000 litres in volume, visitors to the Aquamuseu do Rio Miño can see the most representative biotopes of the River Miño, from its source to its mouth. In the otter exhibit you can see otters, a mammal that lives in the Miño river basin and which is important to conserve.

The mission of the Aquamuseu do Rio Miño is to promote and disseminate the natural heritage of the River Miño basin.

The programme of activities is mainly focused on three main areas - educational-cultural, tourism and scientific research - developed with the aim of dynamizing human resources and enhancing the value of natural resources, proposing strategies for their use and conservation.

Dissemination of the natural and cultural heritage: The permanent exhibitions at the aquarium, the fish museum and the temporary exhibitions allow visitors to get to know part of the natural and cultural heritage of the Miño Valley, mainly associated with small-scale fishing.

Educational-cultural activities: Activities are carried out with school groups, from pre-school to higher education, as well as with groups of adults, exploring themes that aim to increase awareness of the conservation of natural values, favouring experimental activity as a methodology for the acquisition of knowledge.

Research: In collaboration with national and/or foreign research institutions, the Aquamuseu promotes scientific knowledge of the River Miño, being a partner in projects, providing working conditions for visiting researchers, carrying out collaboration protocols, promoting academic tourism and disseminating the general knowledge acquired.

SERRA D'ARGA

The Serra d'Arga is one of the most emblematic areas of the Alto Miño, not only for the immensity of its wild landscapes, but also for the uniqueness of its natural values. At the highest points of the mountain range, dominated by imposing granite massifs, there are natural grasslands of rare beauty where various types of shrubs grow in a matrix of pastures with a remarkable diversity of flora. In these thickets and meadows, goats, cows and sheep feed, coexisting in the same ecosystem with the wolf, which has one of the populations closest to the coast. Near the picturesque villages that stand in the transition to schist, there are crop fields, meadows and natural forests, crossed by various watercourses. In the past, these rivers and streams supplied power to the mills, which can still be seen, and where the grain that grew in the fields was milled.



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvimento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNION EUROPEA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomino
CONCELLO

SERRA DA GÁVEA

41°56'50.23"N, 8°43'40.54"W -Cervo

The Serra da Gávea mountain range constituted the granite outcrop of Vila Nova de Cerveira. It has an elongated, more or less elliptical shape, with a major axis oriented in a north-south direction. The slopes of this mountain range, together with other small geomorphological elements, such as Monte do Espírito Santo or Atalaia, frame the village of Cerveira in a magnificent green setting. The sculpture of the Deer, the work of the sculptor José Rodrigues, is located on one of the two peaks of this mountain range, where there is a viewpoint overlooking the final stretch of the River Miño. This viewpoint is located over the archaeological ruins of the first castle on the top of Terra de Cerveira, erected at the start of the Middle Ages, which took advantage of its geo-strategic position to control the whole valley.

ALTO DA PENA

41°55'17.46"N, 8°42'51.60"W

The Alto da Pena is the highest point of Vila Nova de Cerveira (638 m) with views over the neighbouring municipalities, the River Miño and the Galician lands.

SERRA DO ARGALLO

This is a natural space of primarily communal land, which stands out for its landscape value and its views, dominating a large area of the Baixo Miño. One of the main scenic spots is Niño do Corvo (313 m above sea level), with a beautiful panoramic view of the extensive Tomiño plain and the mouth of the River Miño and the O Rosal valley. Another point of interest is Vilachán, with an extensive wine-growing area and a **viewpoint** from the top of the vineyards.

N 41° 56' 58.384"O 8° 48' 40.006"

A GROBA NATURAL COMPLEX

N 42° 3' 13.985"O 8° 48' 44.797"

An extensive range that includes the **Brañal de Pinzás**, a part of Tomiño with an extensive wet plain combined with meadows. In this plain we find numerous streams that naturally contribute to draining the accumulation of water that is produced, running at shallow depths and moistening the surrounding land. This favours the development of numerous water-based wildlife and plant species, making this area a very interesting place from an ecological point of view. The wetland remains waterlogged almost all year round and the streams that give rise to the River Cereixo flow through it. In addition, the plain is used as pasture for numerous heads of livestock: horses, sheep and cows graze all year round in semi-freedom, offering a curious vignette.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE HISTORY

Occupied since the Bronze Age, the "Vila Nova" (New Village) de Cerveira arose, however, with the granting of the Foral Charter by King Dinis, in 1321, and the construction of a new Castle, destined to protect the town as it grew.

The town has had to defend its successively threatened territory with ingenuity and determination and has always been fearless in the search for the different and new, beyond the physical, administrative and mental borders. Add to this an enviable location for the beauty of the landscape, marked by the serene and unspoilt course of the river and the richness of its biodiversity.

The municipality of Tomiño preserves in its territory an extensive cultural heritage, of great historical and ethnographic value, which allows the visitor to delve into the unique history of this frontier region in the south of Galicia. The popular architecture, both religious and traditional, make the rural landscape unique and define the region with buildings of great heritage value.

A FRONTIER IDENTITY AND SMUGGLING

Border regions present a set of similar characteristics around the world, particularly with regard to the imbalances between the levels of development of their economies, the presence of migratory flows and administrative traditions to regulate local border exchanges and relations with the interior of each country. The border is understood as an artificial construct where there are states that, due to their historical and cultural proximity and use of common natural resources, require a different perception of their realities and, today, many of them have become porous. The geopolitical boundary is "a territory made up of multiple and diverse spaces, shaped by socio-cultural diversity in different ways". Where the line is drawn, the "other" begins. The boundary was constructed as sacred, it could not be transgressed, but paradoxically bridges and passageways were erected as legitimate spaces, where this separation was established.

Cerveira and Tomiño represent a territory historically divided by a secular border (the oldest in Europe), which has vanished in the present day, where the River Miño is the central element of its identity. It is a border which is used as a navigational space that continues in a process of rapprochement and that points to the disappearance of the psychological barriers derived from so many years of separation.



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNIAO EUROPEIA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO



Smuggling

The lack of resources and means of subsistence among the inhabitants of this border area forced many people to seek a living facing risks and hardships. Thus, smuggling represents one of the most important economic and social phenomena in the recent history of the Galician-Portuguese banks of the Miño. Many people, on both sides of the border, dedicated and risked a large part of their lives to this activity.

Women and men transported rice, oil, cloth, coffee, seafood, livestock, chocolate and tobacco, among other things, crossing the River Miño in the traditional boats of the area (the *batel*), by mule, by car and even by train. Orders, payments and contacts were made on the islands in the estuary or in the river itself, where the Portuguese border police and excise officers had no jurisdiction.

Smuggling was characterised by ingenuity, the art of deception and trickery, but it also had some collaborators among the border guards. There were spies, often children and family members who alerted the smugglers using sound or light signal codes.

EVENTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

CERVEIRA INTERNATIONAL ART BIENNIAL AND BIENNIAL MUSEUM

41°56'46.56"N, 8°44'32.75"W

With more than four decades of existence, the Cerveira International Art Biennial celebrates the historical past. Talking about its beginnings implies contextualising a period that includes the

democratic transition of 1974. As a corollary of the post-dictatorial regime, the need for artistic intervention emerged as a newly restored model of free expression. The creative impulse, until then repressed, was strongly displayed.

The International Art Biennial of Vila Nova de Cerveira takes place every two years, between July and September, and throughout the year you can visit the Cultural Forum, consisting of three pavilions, the first of which houses the Museu da Bienal de Cerveira, whose collection is the result of its various editions held since 1978. The second houses exhibitions, fairs and other events and, finally, the third serves as a support space for holding congresses, conferences, concerts and other events with a capacity of up to 300 people.

SAN PAYO PRIORY

41°55'48.11"N, 8°42'27.53"W

The San Payo Priory, founded at the end of the 14th century by monks from Galicia, belongs to the Congregação dos Frades Menores de S. Francisco. It was the fourth Franciscan priory built in Portugal. The harshness of isolation, successive sackings and political impositions over the centuries, contributed to the priory gradually falling into ruin and finally being abandoned in the mid 19th century. Until one day the sculptor José Rodrigues (re)found it.

Thanks to his careful restoration, the Priory is now a museum in itself, preserving and showcasing a rare example of priory architecture and observant Franciscanism. Inhabited by one of the most remarkable examples of contemporary Portuguese art, it has become a sort of museum-atelier. The collection of sculptures, drawings and paintings, owned by the author, in a collection of several hundred pieces, allows the visitor to learn more about the work of José Rodrigues.

The San Payo Priory provides visits and workshops for the dissemination of Art and Nature, which have as their starting point the collections and works of the sculptor José Rodrigues.

17TH MAY, DAY OF GALICIAN LITERATURE

Book fair, cultural programme and children's leisure activities in Praza do Seixo (Tomiño), with the participation of the local volunteer group, on the day dedicated to the Galician language and literature to commemorate the 1863 publication of Cantares Galegos by Rosalía de Castro.

ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ OPEN-AIR PAINTING COMPETITION

The open-air painting competition is for in situ paintings from nature, and is usually held in August. A subsequent exhibition shows the prize-winning works and a selection of the entries.

FAIRS, MARKETS AND TRADITIONS

WEEKLY MARKET IN VILA NOVA DE CERVEIRA

41°56'29.35"N, 8°44'40.64"W

The weekly market in Vila Nova de Cerveira, one of the largest in the Northern Region, attracts hundreds of people every Saturday, especially from the large cities of northern Portugal and Galicia.



Interreg
Espanha - Portugal




CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

Some 250 stalls offer a diverse range of products, with an emphasis on textiles, handicrafts, decoration and ornamentation; footwear and ready-to-wear, tools and copper, fruit, vegetables and flowers, among others.

TOMIÑO MARKET

N 41° 59' 27.686" O 8° 44' 36.664"

Tomiño Market, renovated in 2014, is the first Galician market to obtain the distinction of "excellent market" awarded by the Xunta de Galicia. In June 2019 it was selected for the 10th International Public Markets Conference held in London. It offers a wide range of seasonal products on the ground floor (fish, seafood, meat, fruit, vegetables,...) and on the first floor a space dedicated to gastronomy and cultural activities. It is located in the Praza do Seixo, a meeting place in the centre of Tomiño.



THREE KINGS PARADE

Religious festivity in which, in addition to the Living Nativity Scene, a raffle is held. On the afternoon of 5th January, the procession goes from the Campo do Alivio to the Praza do Seixo in Tomiño, where the reception of the "Three Kings" takes place.

Holy week / Easter

A week with a programme of various religious and pagan events, including the Senhor dos Passos procession with the singing of Veronica, the Burning of Judas, both in Vila Nova de Cerveira, and on Monday with the erection of the Cross, a peculiar cross-border pilgrimage in the parish of Sobrada (Tomiño) that combines the spirit of brotherhood between the Miño communities with a tribute to the fishermen.

The Burning of Judas, one of the most profound traditions of popular satire and criticism with Judeo-Christian overtones, takes place on Holy Saturday.

This is a community theatre show, in which the pagan ritual of the death of the old year and the arrival of spring is revived, in a show where Judas, the traitor, is condemned and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated.

LOCAL FIESTAS IN HONOUR OF SAN SEBASTIÃO

The Festas Concelhias de Vila Nova de Cerveira, honour San Sebastião. It is always held on the first weekend of August. The profane and the religious coexist throughout the programme, meticulously prepared by the Festivities Board, with musical shows for all tastes, the celebration of tradition, with emphasis on the "Cortejo das Freguesias" and drum parades, various fireworks shows, as well as the religious aspect.

FIESTAS IN HONOUR NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL SOCORRO

These are the festivities honouring the patron saint of Tomiño and are the most important in the town. They are held in September with a complementary programme of exhibitions, concerts and other civic and cultural events.

ENTROIDO (CARNIVAL)

Venres de Foliada: Carnival parade and party on the Friday before Lent, attended by numerous troupes and floats from Tomiño and the region, one of the busiest and most popular festivals of the year.

For its part, the unique Entroido de Goián hosts three unmissable events: Carrilanas (Sunday), Parade of Floats (Tuesday) and Queima da Taiña (Wednesday).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

THE NEOLITHIC ARTEFACTS AND THE PETROGLYPHS OF MOUNT TETÓN

The domestication of animals and plants arrived in Galicia around 6500 years ago and, shortly afterwards, the first monumental architecture, which left its mark on the landscape: **the burial mounds**. In Tomiño, the set of tumuli located on the plains of Vilachán do Monte, still unexcavated, is particularly noteworthy.

Monte Tetón

Monte Tetón, located in the parish of Tebra in Tomiño, has one of the most important rock art sites in southern Europe, with nearly 200 stone engravings from the Chalcolithic - Bronze Age (2500 - 900 BC). The Monte Tetón Archaeological Ecopark was created around these sites, a cultural and recreational space created by Tomiño Council in collaboration with the Mancomunidade de Montes de Santa María Tebra, which aims to enhance the value of the area's natural and archaeological heritage. It is a unique spot where visitors can enjoy the remnants of history through splendid petroglyphs, surrounded by incomparable landscapes. Although the greatest concentration of these prehistoric engravings in Galicia is found along the course of the River Lérez and on the shores of the Rías Baixas, Monte Tetón is home to one of the most significant and important sets of petroglyphs in the southwest of the region, which can be found at As Portaxes and Real Seco. Consisting of 18 circles and with a diameter of almost 250 cm, the Portaxes petroglyph is considered the second-largest circular combination in Europe. This granite outcrop is the one with the largest number of engravings, including circular combinations, groups of bowls,



Interreg
España - Portugal



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

quadrangular shapes, hunting scenes and human figures. Next to it is the Real Seco petroglyph, possibly the largest circular labyrinth on the European continent with its impressive formation of concentric rings with a maximum diameter of 350 cm, although it is very worn by the passage of time and barely visible.

FORTIFIED VILLAGE OF COSSOURADO.

41°54'56.35"N, 8°38'16.16"W

The village of "Cividade do Cossourado" is located on the border between the municipalities of Paredes de Coura and Vila Nova de Cerveira. This Iron Age settlement, within the context of the so-called "castro culture", with a fortress standing out quite prominently, commands a strong dominance over the surrounding landscape.

The settlement covers an area of approximately 10 hectares and is endowed with a defensive system made up of three ramparts built from regional stone materials.

LOVELHE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

41°57'7.51"N, 8°44'37.71"W

The Aro Arqueológico do Forte de Lovelhe is located between the Parishes of Vila Nova de Cerveira and Lovelhe, more precisely in Lugar da Breia. It is a vast patrimonial complex made up of archaeological remains dating from the 1st century BC to the 7th century AD, in addition to the Fort of Lovelhe and the Quinta do Forte. All the lands that make up the estate have archaeological remains, and most of the excavated ruins are located there. Scientific research has been carried out in the area for 30 years, hence the visible ruins.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Military Architecture / Goián - Vila Nova de Cerveira System

Throughout history, these lands were the scene of numerous exchanges and confrontations, which led to a series of fortifications on both banks of the River Miño. These fortifications cannot be understood in isolation, but as part of different but interrelated defensive systems, and whose purpose was to protect a specific territorial boundary.

The Goian - Vila Nova de Cerveira - Estás system includes the fortresses of São Lourenço, Nossa Senhora da Conceição, As Chagas and Medos, as well as Torre dos Ratores and Tebra on the Galician side; and the fortifications of Vila Nova de Cerveira, Lovelhe and Atalaia do Espírito Santo on the Portuguese side. Its main purpose was the defence of a boat bridge that existed in the 17th century. Also important in understanding this system was a Portuguese military incursion into Spanish territory, from which some elements, initially designed as temporary, developed into permanent fortifications.

Vila Nova de Cerveira Fortress -Castelo de Cerveira

41°56'25.40"N, 8°44'38.82"W

The fortification of Vila Nova de Cerveira, more precisely its medieval core, is located on the highest point of a small hill that stands above the surrounding landscape, allowing visual dominion over a wide stretch of the River Miño.



Interreg
Espanña - Portugal



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomíño
CONCELLO

The castle of Vila Nova de Cerveira was ordered to be built by King Denis, together with the granting of the Foral Charter in 1321. From its origins, it is prefigured as an oval enclosure in the transition from Romanesque to Gothic style, since it housed a group of buildings, mostly related to the administration of the Town Hall, in its interior. Thus, we find the Casa da Câmara (Town Hall) and the Pelourinho (pillory) here, as well as the prison, the mayor's house and the military barracks.

Lovelhe Fortress

41°57'7.88"N, 8°44'32.28"W

This 17th century fort was built at the height of the Restoration Wars to reinforce the frontier defence system of Vila Nova de Cerveira. The Lovelhe fortress was ordered to be built by General D. Francisco de Azevedo in 1642, forming part of the defence system that comprises the town's Praça-Forte and the Atalaia do Espírito Santo.

Atalaia

41°56'45.09"N, 8°44'12.95"W

The "**Fortim da Atalaia do Espírito Santo**" is a small stronghold in a corner of Monte Senhora da Encarnação, in the Serra da Gávea, from where you can see the whole vast expanse of the River Miño, from the lands of Valença to the territory of Caminha. It cooperated with the castle at Vila Nova de Cerveira and the Fort of São Francisco de Lovelhe, with which it formed a defensive triangle.

Atalaia was classified as a Monument of Public Interest by decree no. 493/2017, DR, 2nd series, no. 248, 28-12-2017.

Fortress of San Lourenzo de Goián

N 41° 56' 26.441"O 8° 45' 11.35"

After the signing of the Peace Treaty in 1668, a period of return of the occupied areas and reinforcement of the fortifications began. Both sides decided to maintain some of them, making modifications or completing the defence with new buildings, as in the case of San Lourenzo de Goián. This fort was built by the Spanish to replace the Portuguese defensive complex that defended the area of Goián, with the aim of strengthening the area in the event of a possible new conflict with Portugal. It is the best preserved of all the fortresses. We find ourselves in an area of great heritage interest, both for the size of the assets and for what was once the phenomenon of border fortification, with fortifications erected on both sides of the River Miño. All of them have been declared Sites of Cultural Interest, the highest level of protection under Galician cultural heritage legislation.

RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

Igreja Matriz (Mother Church)

41°56'24.04"N, 8°44'37.77"W

Dedicated to St Cyprian, its origins are difficult to trace to an exact time, but it is certainly medieval. Despite the church's 19th-century reconstruction, which also gave it baroque and



Interreg
España - Portugal



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomíño
CONCELLO

neoclassical features, the building retains some 15th-century elements, such as the main chapel, with its external buttresses and the configuration of its longitudinal layout with three naves.

Igreja da Misericórdia (Church of Mercy)

41°56'26.31"N, 8°44'40.44"W

Church with beautiful neoclassical style carved altars in which the main altar shows a representation of the visitation. The sixteenth-century figure of ECCE Homo and the three panels of the old fifteenth-century altarpiece representing the meeting of Santa Ana and San Joaquim and the chest of seven keys, probably from the seventeenth century, stand out.

Reboreda Church

41°57'29.26"N, 8°43'31.97"W

This church dates back to medieval times, but it was successively transformed, eliminating almost all the elements from this period. Of that church, only some façades marked with O and L and the buttresses of the main chapel remain.

The 16th-century temple's beautiful entrance doorway with its carved granite, incorporating stylised flowers still remains along with some other spaces which are, however, walled-up. In 1750 the building was almost completely rebuilt, giving it a baroque air that is still preserved today.

Church of San Campio de Lonxe

N 41° 57' 49.954" O 8° 46' 19.106"

The church of "San Campio de Lonxe", located in the Tomiño parish of Figueiró, plays a leading role in an important and traditional pilgrimage. With a notable Portuguese architectural influence, it was erected in 1804 over an old chapel in honour of San Antonio de Padua, to accommodate the numerous people who came every year on pilgrimage to venerate the saint.

Chapel of Santa Luzia

41°57'59.66"N, 8°41'24.28"W

This chapel was founded in 1098 according to an inscription on the frontispiece.

Of particular interest are the gothic frescoes inside, as well as the two tombs set in stone arches, the one on the Gospel side has the Pereiras coat of arms and a sword on the cover, and the one on the Epistle side belongs to Rodrigo Álvares Pereira, brother of D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, to whom D. João I, by deed of 9th March 1424 (ANTT - Chancellery of D. João I, Book 1.º: 154v) donated Vila Nova de Cerveira and its territories with all its rights".

Above the entrance door is the coat of arms of the Porto Carreiro family. In the chapel courtyard, there is a sarcophagus dug into the rock.

Church of Santa Maria

N 41° 59' 12.368" O 8° 45' 1.281"

The church of Santa María de Tomiño, in a Romanesque style, was originally part of a 12th-century Benedictine convent for women. During the 14th century, the convent disappeared and all that remained was the church dedicated to the parish. Later, in 1809, it underwent a thorough renovation that gave it the appearance it has today, with the addition of the tower and the sacristy.



Interreg
España - Portugal



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNION EUROPEA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

Churches of Santa Maria and San Salvador

N 42° 2' 31.355''O 8° 44' 9.704''

In Tebra (Tomiño), **the church of Santa María** dates back to the 12th century and belonged to the Encomenda da Orden de Malta. The church of **San Salvador** only conserves the Romanesque walls of the nave and its rectangular apse. N 42° 1' 58.984''O 8° 43' 41.332''

Church of San Vicente de Barrantes

N 42° 0' 55.08''O 8° 45' 46.821''

The church of San Vicente de Barrantes belonged to an old Benedictine monastery which, according to an inscription found on its north wall, was built around 1139. The monastery disappeared in the 15th century, but the apse and a large part of the side walls remain from the Romanesque period.

CIVIL ARCHITECTURE

INDIANA ARCHITECTURE

Galicia is the protagonist of a notable chapter in the history of transoceanic emigration, especially from the second half of the 19th century onwards. Thousands of Galicians emigrated in search of a better life in the face of the scant prospects they had in their homeland. Thus, the impact of this emigration on Galicia was very noticeable through the various public works that were promoted from afar, as is the case of numerous schools. The same is true of the private colonial-style houses built by many of those who returned to their homeland after making a fortune in the Americas, known as *Indianos*. Tomiño was no exception to this phenomenon and the high rate of emigration of its population throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has left us abundant examples of a type of architecture of high heritage value, thanks to the peculiarity of its construction, on the one hand, and by the sentimental baggage, on the other. The small village of Goián, with a tradition of emigrants dating back to the 18th century, especially to Brazil and New York, preserves some *casas Indianas* of great architectural eclecticism and many others with a style that mixes colonial and Portuguese influences. These buildings transcend their purely architectural value to become the authentic historical memory of emigration.

The Casas Indianas: the appearance of these buildings in the decadent Galician architectural panorama at the end of the 19th century was a totally innovative chapter. Through them, modernist architecture was introduced in Galicia, a new vision of the house that was a far cry from the typical Galician building. There were two main types of houses: the townhouse, integrated into an urban area and attached to other dwellings, and the so-called *quintas* or chalets, detached dwellings that followed the model of an eclectic-style mansion. In the case of the Baixo Miño, those with links to Brazil stand out. These are houses where colour plays a large part, and the galleries are the main protagonists of their ornamentation. A common characteristic of all these *casas Indianas* in the Baixo Miño is the predominance of granite stone in their construction.

The Escolas Indianas: The particularity of Galicians compared to emigrants of other nationalities was the close link they always maintained with their place of origin, and the emigrants financed



Interreg
España - Portugal



Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

various associations for mutual, recreational, political, and cultural purposes. This associative phenomenon reached its peak in the first three decades of the 20th century. One of the most important works carried out by these emigrant societies was to promote and spread education in their place of origin. These schools, sponsored by the emigrants, are proof of the solidarity and commitment of these people to the land of their birth. Most of these schools would be free, secular, with modern curricula, inspired by the models of the American republics. Tomiño is one of the Galician municipalities with the highest concentration of these schools, favoured by the high number of emigrants and by the proliferation, from the end of the 19th century, of numerous agrarian societies, many of which gave rise to educational societies. Examples of these schools include the Escola "Aurora del Porvenir", the Escola Fundación Peirópolis, the Escola Hispano-americano of Goián and the Escola Unión del Porvenir.

OTHER UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

The Pazo Casa Forte Dos Correia (Goián), located on the banks of the River Miño, is a fine example of Galician Baroque palatial architecture. Its history is inextricably linked to the Portuguese Restoration War and its defensive function as a strategic point on the Galician-Portuguese border. It belonged to the lineage of the Correa family, which from the 14th century was linked to the history of the town of Goián and exercised their prerogatives there until the beginning of the 19th century, when the feudal regime was abolished. This *casa-pazo* or manor house, also called the Tower, after the defensive tower that stood in the complex, was built in the 17th century, and later rebuilt in the 18th century, after suffering a devastating fire as a result of the Portuguese invasion.

Solar dos Castros

This building currently houses the Municipal Library of Vila Nova de Cerveira.

The Solar dos Castros was originally built in the first decades of the 17th century. In 1640, during the Restoration Wars fought between Portugal and Spain, it was burned down and looted, and even part of the archive was lost.

Solar dos Castros acquired its current appearance in the 18th century, after reconstruction works. On the main façade, in the centre, we can see the baroque-style heraldic symbol of the Castros, a noble family from Vila de Cerveira.

A two-storey urban manor house in the neoclassical style, with a French-style garden on the south side. The garden contains grave cover stones from various periods found in cemeteries in the region, among other relics that are difficult to date, such as a Roman-era milestone transformed into a stepping stone.

POPULAR ARCHITECTURE

Stone Crosses

The cross is one of the most deeply-rooted monuments in the culture of the region, closely linked to the Galician rural landscape. They stand in the most unexpected corners and have become an object of respect and popular devotion. They are often found at crossroads, roadsides, courtyards, outside churches, etc., often places where pagan nature cults already existed. Their origin can be



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNIAO EUROPEIA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

dated to around the second half of the 14th century, but the golden years of their construction came in the 17th century. However, they were not really valued and studied until well into the 20th century. The stone crosses were mostly erected by private individuals, who sought to atone for their sins or those of a deceased person. Their iconography became more complex over time and the typology varied according to the economic resources of those who commissioned their construction. The Baixo Miño has an interesting and varied collection of these monuments. Tomiño, in particular, has the oldest one found so far: the Cruceiro da Barca, located in Goián, next to the river, which dates back to 1557. Also of note is the one located in Camiño Novo, at a small crossroads where the Portuguese Camino (Way of St. James) passes, with an inscription from 1691 and historical decoration.

Watermills at Gávea

41°56'54.37"N, 8°42'58.54"W

The Moinhos da Gávea Interpretation Centre covers 5 recovered mills, where the themes related to flour milling are dealt with, ranging from the cereal cycle, with special attention to corn, to the daily life of a miller, passing through the history of milling technology, the different milling and ending with the waterwheel-powered mills.

Watermills and bridges

The traditional watermills, located on the banks of the rivers, were a fundamental element in the population's diet until relatively recent times, as they were used to transform cereals into flours. This would explain their abundance throughout the Baixo Miño area. Tomiño has numerous examples throughout its hydrographic network, with a special concentration of them along the course of the River Cereixo. Likewise, the district has long undertaken the construction of small road bridges, creating unique constructions made with the knowledge of traditional wisdom.

7 NICHES

The steps of the Via Sacra are formed by seven niche-shaped shrines representing the Saga of the Passion of Christ. Although there are slight differences between each of them, they must have been built in the 18th century, in the Baroque style, by the Santa e Real Casa da Misericórdia. of Vila Nova de Cerveira.

They have Ionic pilasters at the quoins, plain or carved, architrave with projecting cornice and topped by a pediment of discontinuous volutes, crowned by pyramidal pinnacles and a central cross on an acroterium. It has a semi-circular opening, with an overhanging parapet, a plastered and whitewashed interior and a barrel vault, closed by a latticed and glazed window. It houses wooden images of the Passion of Jesus.

Wayside shrines

The wayside shrines remind us of the importance of the veneration of the dead in popular culture. These small constructions, which we find in places with a lot of traffic, have the function of collecting alms to help the souls to leave Purgatory and reach Heaven. In general, they are simple stone constructions in which the scene of Purgatory is represented, figures in the fire that are helped to leave by the Virgin or by the saints. One of the most characteristic features of these small monuments in Baixo Miño is their typological variety. In Tomiño, the shrines in Vilar de Matos



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional




CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

and Forcadela stand out from the rest for their monumentality and artistic quality. The monument to the Pilgrim in Estás, erected by the Portuguese artist Manuel Barros in 1905, and built with citizen donations and with the help of the emigrant collective, is also very curious as the sculpture incorporates an almsbox in its lower part.

EXPERIENCES

ROUTES AND TOURS

Tour of the Arts

Cerveira is an impressive open-air art gallery. Here, art and culture live and breathe on every corner, proudly attracting national and international artists to work and live. In 1978 there was a cultural revolution, in which the utopia of cultural decentralisation was shattered and, today, we can testify to this reality, with the Cerveira International Art Biennial, which has created the “Cerveira, Vila das Artes” brand which has created an indisputable impact beyond national borders.

Under the concept of a perfect dialogue between art and nature, and especially with the River Miño, Vila Nova de Cerveira has symbolic and fascinating spaces and, above all, the openness and boldness to innovate and develop new expressions adapted to reality, while preserving values and traditions.

The cultural project is never ending, especially in the 'Vila das Artes'.

Grande Rota da Ribeira Minho (Miño riverside footpath)

The Ribeira Minho footpath is a long-distance route (Grande Rota) signposted in both directions, in accordance with FERP/ERA regulations.

The Grande Rota da Travessia da Ribeira do Minho is 95.7 km long, passing through the municipalities of Melgaço, Monção, Valença and Vila Nova de Cerveira. There is also a 13.8 km section - the Derivação Coura Miño - which leaves Valença along the route of the Ecopista to link up with the Grande Rota da Travessia do Alto Coura, in Paredes de Coura.

Ecopista do Rio Miño

The Ecopista Caminho do Rio (Riverside eco-path) follows the left bank of the River Miño. It is a setting of great scenic beauty, which allows you to appreciate the River Miño Estuary in all its splendour, with views of the river itself, the riparian gallery forests, islands, etc.



Interreg
Espanha - Portugal

Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvimento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNION EUROPEA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomino
CONCELLO



The Ecopista pathway passes through a maritime-terrestrial wetland of great ecological value in terms of flora and fauna, recognised at European level for its inclusion in the Estuários dos Rios Miño e Coura Special Protection Area (PTZPE0001) and the Rio Miño Site of Community Importance (PTCON0019). The natural conditions underlying this route give rise to the presence of several species of birds such as mallard, grey heron, cormorant and kingfisher; mammals including the otter and marten, amphibians such as the green frog, newt and salamander and fish including the boga, chub and trout.

The Ecopista - Caminho do Rio is an experience of diverse and contrasting landscapes that leads us through the timeless relationship between Man and the River Miño. The pathway is 13.5 km long and allows us to fully enjoy a “green route” through Vila Nova de Cerveira, in either direction towards the municipalities of Valença and Caminha.

Miño Pathway

Tomiño and O Rosal are connected by a path from the beach at Goián (Tomiño) to the one at Eiras (O Rosal). With this project, the Tomiño Council continues opening up the municipality to the River Miño, the first step of which was the "Environmental recovery of the surroundings of the San Lourenzo Fortress and Praia de Goián".

Mount Tetón Route

N 42° 3' 18.547" O 8° 43' 36.055"

The route, with a total distance of 2.1 km and an average gradient of 9%, starts at a viewpoint at the foot of the hill, passes by the two main petroglyphs in the area and ends at another viewpoint

at the summit. The route is complemented with a leisure area, with tables and benches to take a break along the way.

To get there from Tomiño, take the PO-351 road, towards Gondomar. When you reach the top of Couso, turn right following the signs. The path that leads to the Ecopark ends at a parking area where there's a cabin and from where the walking route begins.

Pedra furada Route

This is a 1.5 km route of scenic and natural interest. Rock formations of great geological singularity, located in the parish of Figueiró, are the main attraction on this route, together with the panoramic views on offer from the highest point. The maximum altitude is 204 m and takes the walker past impressive rock formations perforated by the action of erosion and to a viewpoint with a wide panoramic view.

To get there from the PO-552 road, take the turn-off to Figueiró and in the vicinity of the main square, where the sanctuary of San Campio is located, the signposting of the footpath begins, starting from a paved road that crosses a place called Muíños. At the end of the road there is a recreational area, and there the route of the nature trail begins.

Aula Aberta da Natureza do Río Furnia and walking route

This open nature interpretation centre, launched in 2010, is specially designed as a space for leisure and self-learning through panels that inform about the biodiversity and the characteristics of the flora in this environmentally protected wetland, where you can find a forest of alders, more than 20 different species of trees and shrubs and 60 species of small plants and ferns.

From the PO-552 road, take the turning next to the Amorín cemetery, pass the signpost (Aula Aberta da Natureza Río Furnia) and continue along the dirt track, passing the football pitch on the right, until you reach the riverbank. On the left, you will see the first panels explaining the route. This is where the nature trail begins. It is a route of scenic and natural interest of 1.6 km, with an estimated duration of one hour. In the rainy season it is advisable to wear suitable footwear.

41°56'19.41"N, 8°44'51.55"W (CASTELINHO)

Castelinho Leisure Park: The perfect place for children to have fun and for the family to experience nature, the Castelinho Leisure Park is an excellent suggestion.

It is an area that includes various sports and leisure activities with an educational component linked to nature and water resources, where art also plays an important role. Its privileged location, right at the gates to the historic centre and on the banks of the River Miño, provides unforgettable and pleasant relaxation in a beautiful natural setting.

It is an experience of diverse and contrasting landscapes that leads us through the timeless relationship between Man and the River Miño. Nearby, it is possible to come into contact with one of the ancestral activities on the River Miño - fishing. A number of boats, some traditional, can be



Interreg
España - Portugal




CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

seen, which are the last vestiges of a practice which until the middle of the 20th century was carried out along this border route.

41°56'25.01"N, 8°45'8.64"W (FORTRESS AREA)

Fortress area: For years, the undergrowth hid one of the best-preserved fortified enclaves along the river frontier. The Asociación Eliseo Alonso de Goián and the locals of the parish excavated the San Lourenzo Fortress. The Town Council of Tomiño, in an attempt to promote this Site of Cultural Interest, has recovered part of the area for public use. In the summer of 2012 the "Espazo Fortaleza" was opened to the public. A different space, designed by the architect Pablo Gallego Picard, and which has been distinguished with important architecture, urban planning and landscape awards. Undoubtedly, a place to rediscover every spring and summer: **the river beach** where you can spend a nice summer day; the terraces from where you can contemplate the waters of the River Miño: the old castro on the top with its impressive walls... The site also has an **adapted "launch-jetty"**, the only one of its kind on the River Miño, which allows accessible navigation for people with reduced mobility, and a children's playground, bar and information point, Punto Fortaleza, where it is possible to arrange guided tours, by canoe, bicycle or on foot.

The Parque da Amizade (Friendship Park) is the opportunity to create a truly European space, without physical or psychological borders and with respect for difference, freedom and the environment, where human relations of socialisation, leisure, sport, knowledge of the environmental and cultural memory of the river are established, in an environment of balance between people and nature.

CULTIVATION

Tomiño and Vila Nova de Cerveira are part of one of the most fertile areas of Galicia (Baixo Miño) and Northern Portugal. Both share the landscape of the River Miño and in Goián an annual **Cultivation Fair** is held in Goián, organised by acuBam (Baixo Miño Cultivation Association), with professional meetings, stands from companies in the sector, exhibitions, educational and leisure activities for all audiences.

Nurseries abound in this cross-border region where there is a long history of agriculture due to both the fertility of the land and its privileged climate, which maintains the environment with high average temperatures throughout the year. The former is favoured by the entrepreneurial attitude of the people who work in the area's crops, basically ornamental plants, trees for repopulation and flower seeds.

There are around fifty companies on both sides of the Miño, with significant turnover and export figures. These companies provide employment and wealth in a region where agricultural cooperatives also play an important role, which has resulted in the proliferation of greenhouses in the landscape.



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNÃO EUROPEIA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO

GASTRONOMY AND WINES

The local gastronomy tastes of the river. It is revealing of the uses and customs and, above all, of the strong relationship that the riverside population has with the river.

Sável (Allis shad) is one of the most characteristic dishes, whether boiled, pickled, fried or stewed, it brings locals and visitors to the town of Vila Nova de Cerveira in search of this famous dish that, due to its abundance, quality and ease of preservation, has been part of the population of Vila Nova de Cerveira since its beginnings.

During the winter months, lamprey from the River Miño is present on the tables of many families and restaurants, whether in traditional or modern recipes.

The corn biscuit is a genuine sweet from Cerveira, created by the people of the land inspired by the maize cycle, cultivation of which was common in local agriculture.

Vila Nova de Cerveira promotes, throughout the year, a series of gastronomic events, which take place in the participating restaurants:

- Lampreia do Rio Miño: a Dish of Excellence, promoted in partnership with AdriMinho, between January and April.
- Gastronomic Weekends - Galo de Cabidela, an event held in partnership with Turismo do Porto e Norte de Portugal, on the first weekend of May.
- Debulho de Sável - Weekends in May, except the first.
- Sabores Tradicionais de Cerveira - A Patanisca - Weekends in June
- Rabanada uma Doce Tradição, during the month of December.

The garden produce takes on a special significance due to the importance of agricultural work in the region's economy, favoured by the exceptional microclimate, especially in Tomiño, sheltered from the influence of the sea and with high summer temperatures which enhance the quality of these products.

As for wine, the Galician Designation de Origin Rías Baixas refers to and geographically delimits the region where the world-famous Albariño grape is grown. This wine is only produced in the five sub-areas that make up this appellation, each with its own characteristics and which, since 1988, have formed part of the **Denominación de Orixe Rías Baixas**. Two varieties of wine are produced in Baixo Miño: Albariño and Rosal.

The wine culture in this region dates back to very ancient times and, although there are references to Roman times, it seems that it was the monks of the monastery of Oia who spread the cultivation of vines in these lands.



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
Fundo Europeu para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNÃO EUROPEIA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO



This is the warmest area in the Rías Baixas Denomination of Origin and the vines are grown on river terraces. The high temperatures in the area favour an excellent ripening of the grapes, which gives the wine a high sugar content and lower acidity than in other areas further north. The largest of the vineyards are in Tomiño and O Rosal, forming a beautiful tour that is part of the **Rías Baixas Wine Route**, which combines landscape, art and gastronomy.

CAMINHO DE SANTIAGO

The Portuguese Way - Coastal Route, connects Porto with other coastal municipalities, offering various routes into Galicia, crossing the River Miño to A Guarda, Goián (via Vila Nova de Cerveira) or even Tui (via Valença do Minho). It was, according to some historians, one of the most important routes to reach the apostle's tomb in Santiago de Compostela. This route along the seafront, starting

from the city of Porto, passing through Matosinhos, Maia, Vila do Conde, Póvoa de Varzim, Esposende, Viana do Castelo, Caminha, Vila Nova de Cerveira and Valença, would only become important in the modern period, but has been used since the 15th century onwards by the coastal populations and those who disembarked at the ports.

In April 2023, the Camiño da Nosa Señora do Norte was opened. It passes through the Eurocity Cerveira-Tomiño, arriving from S. Pedro de Rates in Póvoa do Varzim, passing through Barcelos, Viana do Castelo and Caminha before continuing on to Gondomar, Vigo and Redondela then Vilavella where it joins the main Portuguese Way. The research carried out showed evidence of the passage of pilgrims through Tomiño to Santiago since at least 1295. The origin of the route of the Camino through Tomiño is in the village of Barca, "now disappeared, located in the modern-day Goián, a toponym that certifies that it was one of the important routes on the River Miño".



Interreg
España - Portugal

Fundo Europeo de Desenvolvemento Regional
Fundo Europeo para o Desenvolvemento Regional



UNIÓN EUROPEA
UNION EUROPEA



CERVEIRA
VILA DAS ARTES

Tomiño
CONCELLO