



## FISTERRA TOWN COUNCIL REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF A CORUÑA

The geographical situation of Fisterra has captivated the imagination of all those, who since time immemorial, have wanted to approach the End of the Known World, where the land ends and the sea begins. Numerous classical authors left written proof of their impressions of the place. Ancient classical geographers like Strabo, Pomponius Mela, Pliny the Younger or Ptolemy place the "Promontorium Nerium" and the altar to worship the sun or "Ara Solis" here. "Ara Solis" was built by peoples of pre-roman decent and also according to tradition was levelled to the ground on the orders of the Apostle Saint James the Greater.

The same classical sources (L. Anneo Floro) mention the conquest of Galicia by the roman legions under the command of Junius Brutus who did not leave the area without witnessing with a mixture of horror and fear the sacrifice of the sun falling into the sea and fire spreading forth from the water.

To this day numerous visitors turn up everyday to contemplate and admire the impressive sunsets.

And the close relationship of Fisterra to the worship of the Apostle Saint James the Greater, established the route to Fisterra as one of the first to be walked by early pilgrims, so much so that already in C11<sup>th</sup> the town of Duio is mentioned in the Codex Calixtinus (C12<sup>th</sup>). According to ancient evidence, the old pagan town of Dugium (where Duio now stands) was sited in Fisterra. Through this town passed the mortal remains of the Apostle Saint James the Greater in the hopes that they could be interred at the outer most reaches of the occident. His disciples sought permission from the local queen who went by the name of Lupa (She-Wolf). She referred them to the governor of Dugium who had them imprisoned, where they remained until freed by an angel.

Thanks to the pilgrims who turned up at the End of the Road and fulfilled the ritual of burning the clothes they wore during the pilgrimage, a tradition which still holds true today, or to gaze upon the sea (for many it would have been for the first time in their lives), there are detailed reports of their journeys dating back to the Middle Ages which corroborate the ancient route to Fisterra and the interest it holds with its historical connotations and its legends.

At the beginning of C14<sup>th</sup>, the sea cast up on the shore a gothic statue of a

crucified Christ, the Most Holy Christ with the Golden Beard ("Santísimo Cristo da Barba Dourada"). The statue is attributed to Nicodemus who withdrew the nails which held Jesus Christ to the cross. From its arrival in Fisterra, the Most Holy Christ of Fisterra ("Santísimo Cristo de Fisterra") awoke deep devotion and acquired a reputation for miracles throughout the region. Each year, thousands of faithful pay homage to the Most Holy Christ, principally during Holy Week.

But Fisterra, because of its geographical location, was also harassed by pirates and corsairs. Many naval battles between warring nations took place in its waters and hundreds of shipwrecks of all ship types litter its coastline.

Fisterra has two distinct moods; one which looks to the open ocean where nature is rugged and hard interspersed with wonderful wide open spaces: wild beaches - Rostro, Mar de Fóra -, rocky cliffs... The other gentle with cosy coves - Sardiñeiro, Langosteira - and sheltered beaches.

The town of Fisterra has a maritime flavour and forms as a whole an amphitheatre rising up from the old beach of "Calafigueira" which now houses the port area. In the centre the Square of "Ara Solis" ("Plaza de Ara Solis") is to

be found, where the baroque Chapel of the Happy Outcome ("Buen Suceso"), C17<sup>th</sup>, is located.

Within the old historical part of the town, the Stronghold of Saint Charles ("San Carlos") stands out. This defensive structure from C18<sup>th</sup> was built under the orders of Charles III.

On the outskirts, along the road which leads to the lighthouse, the Church of Saint Mary of the Sands of Fisterra ("Santa Maria das Areas de Fisterra") can be found. Built in the Romanesque Style of the late C12<sup>th</sup>, it houses the statue of the Most Holy Christ of Fisterra. In the atrium is a splendid gothic cross from C15<sup>th</sup>, one of the most outstanding examples in the whole of Galicia. It is here that the majority of the ceremonies of the Fisterra Holy Week are held. These ceremonies are of such an ethnographic and cultural significance that they have been declared to be of 'interest to National Tourism'.

At the extremity of the peninsula sits the lighthouse ("el Faro"), at 143m above sea level. It was built under the reign of Isabel II. The first foghorn in the whole of Spain sounds on days of poor visibility, and it is located just beside the lighthouse.

The Mount "Facho" (242m) is home to

the Sacred Stones ("Piedras Santas"), the end point of the Pilgrims' Way to Santiago and the ruins of the Hermitage of Saint William ("San Guillermo") C7<sup>th</sup>; the relics of this hermitage were kept in the church until it was pillaged by corsairs in the middle of C16<sup>th</sup>.

[Church of Saint Mary of the Sands of Fisterra (Oil on canvas, 66 x 82cm)]

### THINGS TO DO

- Pilgrims' Road: Santiago - Fisterra which crosses the municipality.
- In Duio - Church of Saint Martin ("San Martiño") 1717; Mount "da Nave"; Cove of "Amela"; Beach of "Rostro"; Mount "Seoane"; Church of Saint Vincent ("San Vicenzo") 1669; Chapel of the Immaculate Conception ("la Concepción") 1678 - Mallas.
- In Fisterra - Church of Saint Mary of the Sands ("Santa Maria das Areas") C12<sup>th</sup>; Chapel of the Good Outcome ("Buen Suceso") 1753; Ruins of the Hermitage of Saint William ("San Guillermo") C7<sup>th</sup>; the Sacred Stones ("Piedras Santas"); Stronghold of Saint Charles ("San Carlos") 1757; Lighthouse 1853.
- In Sardiñeiro - Church of Saint John ("San Xoán") 1774.

Concellería de Cultura  
Deportes e Turismo

Concello de Fisterra



INSTRUMENTACIÓN - ITC

### MARKETS, FAIRS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Market day		
Tuesdays & Fridays	Fisterra	
"Entraído" - Carnival		
Date according to Easter	Fisterra	
* Competition of Masquerades		
"Festas do Cristo"		
Holy Week	Fisterra	
* Live passion plays & processions (Of Interest to National Tourism)		
"San Xoán"		
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sardiñeiro	
* Open air festivities on the of Saint John		
"Fiesta del Longueirón"		
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of August	Fisterra	
* Festival of local foods		
"Fiestas del Carmen"		
2 <sup>nd</sup> week of August	Sardiñeiro	
* Processions & open air festivities on the eve of "Carmen"		
Folk Festival		
3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend of August	Anchoa	
"Fiestas Marineras y Patronales"		
8, 9 & 10 September	Fisterra	
Open air festivities and maritime processions for the Parton Saints of Fishermen and of the town		

### ACCOMMODATION

• Hotel "Finisterre".....	981 740 000
• Hotel "Langosteira".....	981 740 543
• Boarding House "Cabo Finisterre".....	981 740 000
• Boarding House "Mariquito".....	981 740 084
• Boarding House "Áncora".....	981 740 791
• Boarding House "Rivas".....	981 740 027
• Boarding House "Nicola" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 743 741
• Lodgings "Lopéz".....	981 740 449
• Apart-Hotel "Lestón" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 743 599
• Guest House "Velay".....	981 740 127
• Room/Bungalow "Merendero" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 743 733
• Rural Lodgings "Dugium" (San Salvador de Duio).....	981 740 780
• Inn "O Semáforo" (Faro).....	981 725 859



### RESTAURANTS

• "O Gentolo".....	981 740 452
• "Cabo Finisterre".....	981 740 000
• "A Palaxa".....	981 740 559
• "Áncora".....	981 740 791
• "Tira do Cardal".....	981 740 697
• "Nicola" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 743 741
• "Doña Lubina".....	981 740 311
• "Lestón" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 743 599
• "Casa Velay".....	981 740 127
• "O Merendero" (Sardiñeiro).....	981 740 733
• "Praia da Serra".....	981 740 385
• "Calcoba".....	981 740 838
• "Finisterre".....	981 740 025
• "Don Percebe".....	981 740 512
• "O Semáforo" (Faro).....	981 725 859
• "Tearrón".....	981 740 112
• "Tres Golpes".....	981 740 047

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Town hall (*Ayuntamiento*)  
981 740 001
- Municipal Police (*Policia Local*)  
981 740 001
- Health Centre (*Centro de Salud*)  
981 712 253
- Chemists (*Farmacias*)  
981 740 104  
981 740 055
- Taxis  
981 740 255
- Pilgrims' Hospice (*A albergue Peregrinos*)  
981 740 781
- Tourist Information Office (*Oficina de Turismo*)  
981 740 781
- Civil Guard (*Guardia Civil*)  
981 745 424
- Red Cross (*Cruz Roja*)  
981 740 134
- Emergency Services (*Emergencias*)  
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