



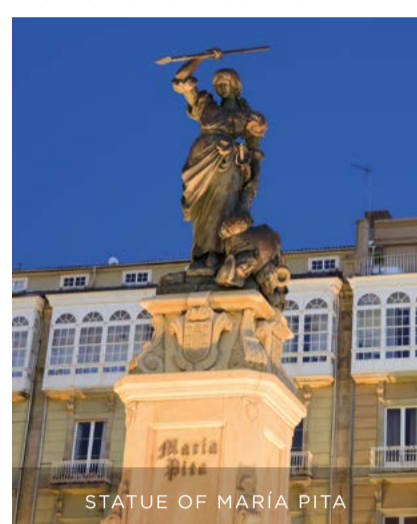
*Quen teña honra, que me siga**



MARÍA PITA PALACE - CITY HALL

**María Pita*

Before setting off to explore the nooks and crannies of the **Old Town**, we would like to introduce you to a woman who represents the strength and determination that characterise the women of A Coruña.



STATUE OF MARÍA PITA

Welcome to the **Old Town**, a must-see tour offering a fascinating insight into the history of A Coruña. Its street names, churches and noble houses will reveal all the secrets of our medieval and Baroque past.

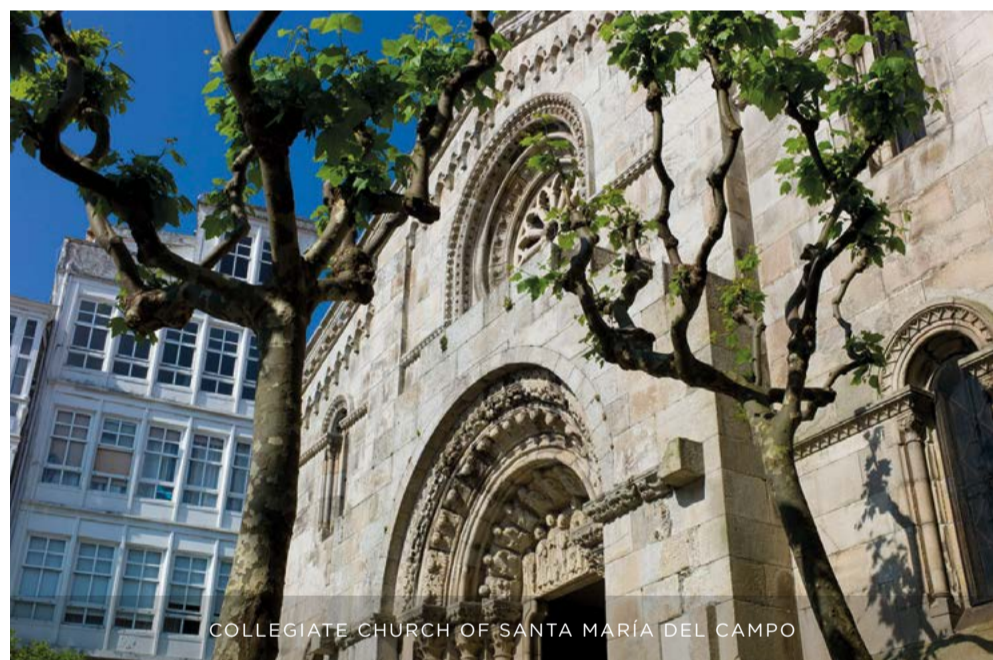
Enjoy this stroll along the cobbled streets that form the oldest part of the city, which was refounded in 1208 on the orders of Alphonse IX of León and nestles on the shores of the stormy North Atlantic, the site of the former Roman settlement of Crunia.

María Pita is name given not only to probably the city's most important square, but also a host of other places. And you are about to discover why.

In 1589, the English troops, led by the privateer Sir Francis Drake, surrounded and laid siege to the walled city, following the orders of Queen Elizabeth I of England.

During the attack, María Pita's husband, Gregorio de Racamunde, was killed. In a fit of rage, she seized the English standard from a lance and killed Francis Drake's brother, crying "Quen teña honra que me siga" (Let all honourable men and women follow me). The story goes that on hearing her cries, the invading troops were filled with dread and began to retreat. And so it was that María Pita and the city's 4,000 inhabitants withstood the onslaught of the 12,000 strong English army.

The statue that today presides over María Pita Square, depicts the heroine holding the lance ready to attack, with her husband's lifeless body at her feet.



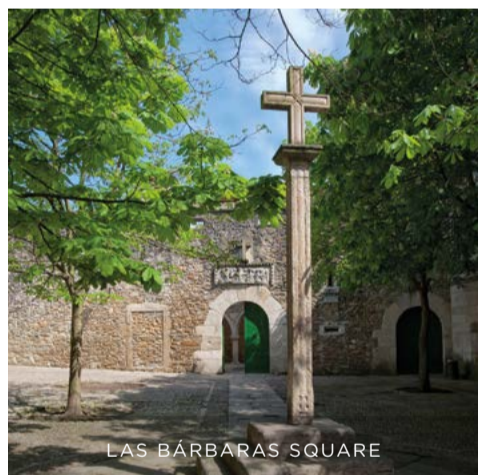
COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA DEL CAMPO

...more:

María Pita Square, Marina Avenue with its gallery windows and Troncoso Street, are all lined with eateries and street cafés that spring to life in tune with the first rays of sunshine. You must have already seen them.



THE PEACEFUL OLD TOWN



LAS BÁRBARAS SQUARE

The labyrinthine streets of the Old Town conceal intriguing bars and small restaurants, antique shops that offer an insight into the lifestyle of the 'Town's' affluent residents, craft shops and a host of other surprises.

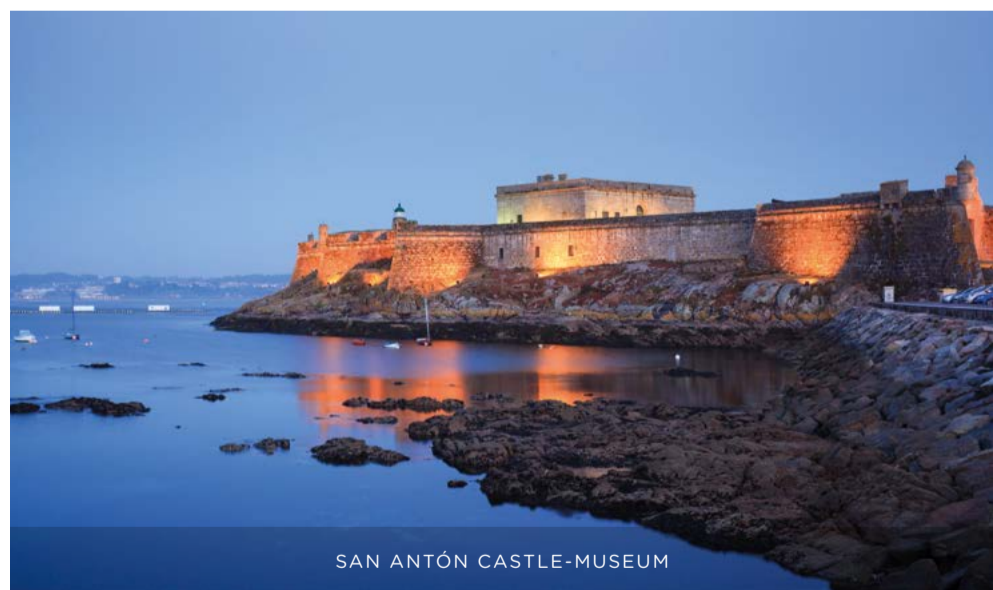
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As you walk you will come across three women that have made their mark:

María Pita, the heroine that defended us thanks to her sense of honour and courage.

Rosalía de Castro, author of the book of poems entitled **Cantares Gallegos**, ('Galician Songs') the first masterpiece of contemporary Galician literature.

Emilia Pardo Bazán, a feminist and forerunner of women's rights.



SAN ANTÓN CASTLE-MUSEUM

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A Coruña, the Old Town



Maria Pita Square and the City Hall
Praza María Pita
 A square covering more than 10,000 m² named after the heroine María Pita (19th century). It is lined with porticoed buildings which house a number of eateries and street cafés. The City Hall (1914) is an imposing eclectic style building, designed by the municipal architect Pedro Mariño. Visitors may tour its majestic rooms and halls that house a collection of clocks dating from the 18th to 20th centuries, as well as an interesting collection of paintings and a magnificent series of Galician pre-stamp postmarks.



Flour Square
Praza de Azcárraga
 Even today this square is still considered the most important square and the heart of the Old Town. The Quartermaster's Store, the City Hall and the Ordnance Store once stood here. It was also the site of the corn exchange, and a venue for all kinds of public ceremonies and celebrations.



Military Government Headquarters
Rúa Veeduría
 The former residence of the Counts of Montaos, donated to the Royal Estate in 1640. In the early 18th century it housed the Counting House of the Kingdom of Galicia. In 1725 it became the administrative headquarters of the Kingdom of Galicia Treasury Office.



Archive of the Kingdom of Galicia
Xardín de San Carlos
 Founded in 1775, the Archive is responsible for collecting, safeguarding and providing public access to provincial and Galician documents drawn up by various judicial and administrative bodies that are based in the province of A Coruña.



Statue of María Pita
Praza María Pita
 This bronze statue, weighing 30 metric tons, is the work of Xosé Castiñeiras. At the base is an eternal flame symbolising the liberal character of the people of A Coruña.



Home of Rosalía de Castro
3, Rúa Príncipe
 The Galician poetess Rosalía de Castro and her husband Manuel Murguía lived here between 1870 and 1879.



María Pita House Museum
28, Rúa Herrerías
 The ground floor features a recreation of two of the house's original spaces, the store and the bedroom. Rooms 1 and 2 provide an insight into the Kingdom of Galicia and the city of A Coruña in the 16th and 17th centuries. Room 3 describes the conflict between Spain and England and the reasons for the English attack on A Coruña in 1589.



Church of La Orden Tercera
Praza Carlos I
 Attached to the Church of San Francisco, it was built in 1743 in accordance with the plans of by Simón Rodríguez, an architect from Santiago de Compostela. Highlights inside the church include a sculpture depicting the embrace between Saint Francis and Christ, a statue of Jesus of Nazareth and the carving of the body and legs of Saint Louis, King of France.



Emilia Pardo Bazán House Museum
11, Rúa Tabernas
 The headquarters of Royal Academy of the Galician Language and the former home of the aristocrat, novelist, journalist and feminist who was also a staunch defender of women's rights. The museum provides an insight into the writer's personality and analyses her literary and intellectual facets. In her book entitled *La Tribuna*, the first novel of Spain's naturalism movement, she coined the literary name by which A Coruña is known: 'Marineda'.



Collegiate Church of Santa María del Campo
24, Rúa Damas
 Named *del Campo* (countryside) due to the fact that it was initially built outside the city walls, this Ogival-Romanesque church (12th to 14th centuries) boasts a series of medieval tombs, polychrome carved images and an embossed silver altar. It was originally the church of the sailors and merchants' guilds.



Las Bárbaras Square and Convent
Praza das Bárbaras
 Home to a religious community since the 14th century, it later became part of the Franciscan Order. The name comes from a chapel dedicated to Saint Barbara, which is believed to have stood on this site.



Military History Museum
Praza Carlos I
 The building stands on part of the site of the former Convent of San Francisco. It boasts a magnificent collection of weapons, salute cannons and artillery models.



Stately Home of the Marquis of San Martín
14, Rúa Parrote
 The home of the Marquis of San Martín de Hombreiro is a four-storey building dating back to the late 18th century, in which the influence of Melchor de Prado is clearly visible.



Religious Art Museum
23, Puerta de Aires
 Designed by the architect Manuel Gallego Jorrete and opened in 1990, this building houses the collection of religious gold and silver work that was gradually acquired by the Collegiate Church, mainly between the 16th and 19th centuries. Highlights of the collection include the tabernacle and monstrance donated by Queen Maria Anna of Neuberg (late 17th century German Baroque).



Convent and Church of Santo Domingo
Praza San Domingos
 Originally located outside the city walls, it was rebuilt inside the Old Town during the first half of the 17th century. The convent was extended around 1726, but the church was demolished, with only the chapels of Los Remedios and El Rosario left standing.



Luis Seoane Foundation
28, Rúa San Francisco
 A centre for contemporary art and culture that, in addition to housing the permanent exhibition dedicated to the artist and writer Luis Seoane, also holds regular exhibitions featuring the latest trends in art.



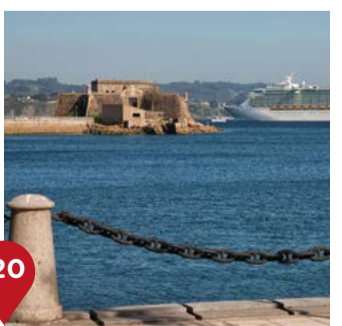
Church of Parrote
1, Rúa Parrote
 This 12th century Romanesque church is the oldest in A Coruña. It was built next to the port to welcome the pilgrims travelling to Santiago along the English Way. It houses a statue of Saint James the Greater that the pilgrims would embrace in a display of intense emotion.



Cornide Palace
25, Rúa Damas
 The polygraph José Cornide was born here in 1734, albeit most probably in an earlier building that stood on the same site. Cornide Palace was built in the French style some time around 1750. During the 20th century it was used as a cinema, until in the 1950s it passed into the hands of the Franco family.



San Carlos Garden
3, Rúa Parrote
 A vantage point overlooking the city port and the site of a former fortress constructed outside the city walls in the 14th century. Its strategic importance gradually diminished, and following an explosion in the ammunition dump, it was abandoned until it was converted into a garden by Carlos F. de Croix.



San Antón Castle
Paseo Marítimo
 Built by Philip II (16th century) on a small rocky (16th century) to defend the port. Following a series of renovation projects, it acquired its current appearance in the late 18th century. The castle was also a prison until the mid 20th century. Since 1968 it has been the home of the Archaeology and History Museum.

Have you enjoyed your tour of the Old Town?