

# SAMPLE PROGRAM SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



# Santiago de Compostela, land of the Celts and Galician traditions, final destination of the pilgrims... Santiago has a lot to offer for your MICE events



## DAY 1

Santiago counts with an airport however it only has domestic flights. You should therefore fly through Madrid or Barcelona airport to reach Santiago. Upon your arrival, our local guides will welcome you and accompany you to the hotel where we will organise a welcome lunch.

Our recommendation goes to the Parador de Santiago, emblematic building in town, located in the very heart of the city centre (5 stars). If you have a lower budget, we also recommend the Hotel San Francisco, a former monastery converted into a 4-star hotel with much character.

The afternoon will be dedicated to visiting the historic city centre of Santiago de Compostela and, of course, its world-widely famous Cathedral.

Optionally: we can privatise the cathedral to attend the ceremony of the Botafumeiro (when the priests burn the incense) or visit the Cathedral by its rooftop instead of doing the normal guided tour.

In the evening, we will organise a tapas hopping tour in the Rua Do Franco, in the very heart of th city centre, street full of tapas bars, wine taverns...

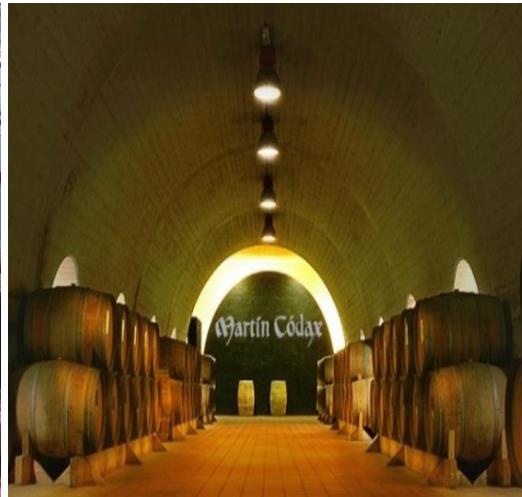


## DAY 2

Today, we will spend the day visiting the Rias Baixas. First part of the excursions will be a coach trip along the beautiful coast and villages of Rias Baixas (Southern estuaries of Galicia) with a stops in Pontevedra for a short visit and a taste of oysters in the famous oyster-street.

Continue to Combarro and Cambados fishermen villages, with traditional fishing methods. Afterwards, visit of the best wine cellar of the region: Martin Codax, producing excellent local white wine called “Albariño”. Albariño wines have been nicknamed the Wines of the Sea, based on their derivation from coastal vineyards and on their compatibility with seafood. Martin Codax is located in Cambados village and it is a traditional cellar.

Later, a boat will bring us to explore the dramatic coasts of this area, including stops in the amazing Cape of O Grove and Island of La Toxa with wild life and sea birds. You will have the opportunity of visiting the “bateas” of Arousa Estuary (floating structures for mussel and oyster cultivation). In the boat we will enjoy a picnic lunch based on fresh mussels.



## DAY 2

The afternoon will be dedicated to discovering Vigo. Vigo is the most populated city of the Galician Community, placed on the south coast of the Bay of Vigo, an industrial and fishing town which enjoys a very soft oceanic humid climate and a wonderful landscape.

Tucked into Spain's northwest corner, in the province of Galicia, Vigo is one of the world's busiest seafood ports. Known as the "gateway to the Atlantic" Vigo boasts sweeping stretches of sandy beaches and a hardworking, fun-loving population.

We will enjoy a stroll through Vigo's historic centre, where your guide will point out significant landmarks like the Vigo Cathedral and Plaza da Constitución. Visit the Parque del Castro, where you can see Stone Age ruins and views of Vigo's coastline from a hilltop fort. You may want to take a short boat ride to the beautiful Isla Cies, with their splendid beaches (including one named "most beautiful in the world" in 2007).



## DAY 2

The evening will be dedicated to a typical Celt dinner with queimada. This is a very typical Galicia punch which is frequently done after a group or family dinner, always in the night. This punch is done by burning on a pot some aguardente (a strong white spirit), local herbs, coffee seeds, lemon and sugar. “Queimada” means literally “burning”. The exconjuro is a sort of ritual Galician-Celtic spell which is said during the burning.



## DAY 2

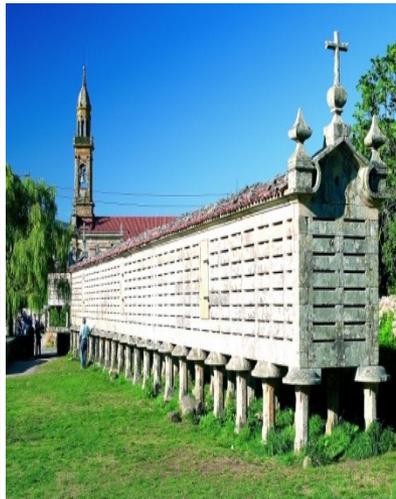
Another option for the dinner, if you want a Gala Dinner style, we recommend using one of the Pazos of the area. A Pazo is a seignieurlial house in the typical Galician style. These private houses usually are located around the city. We can organise cocktail in the beautiful gardens, followed by a dinner. To entertain during the dinner, we recommend hiring the services of *gaiteros*,



## DAY 3

This will be a coach trip exploring the mysterious “Costa da Morte” (Coast of Death) an area where Atlantic water is brave and rough and the coastline very rocky which has resulted in lives and ships being lost. Coast of Death is located in Rias Altas (the Highlands Estuaries of Galicia), and you will visit the most relevant sites of this area: Celtic remains and typical villages such as Noia, Carnota, etc. Cabo Finisterre (Cape of the End of the World) is the western point of Europe and was considered by Romans as the point where the Earth ended. From the lighthouse of Cape Finsiterre there are impressive views all over the Atlantic Ocean.

Galicia people are used to cook their fresh fish on a simple way, just fire-barbecued. The “sardiñada” (sardines barbecue) is a classic of all Galicia families, just add some salt and lemon slices. Today we invite you to enjoy your own cooked “sardiñada” with a fresh drink of Ribeiro, a local white wine served in small flat cups. After lunch, we will leave for the airport



## ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TOUR

Santiago is the most important and historic pilgrims city of Europe. Medieval pilgrims walked the Way of St. James for months to arrive at Santiago Cathedral, home of the relics of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. We can organize a full-day activity, covering the last 15km of the Santiago Pilgrims' way. This way, our participants will live the tradition of arriving in Santiago until reaching the Cathedral. For lunch, we would organize a picnic pack, to eat like the real Pilgrims.



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