

# HISTORICAL account of the international city

Find a point or a flag and follow the connections

**Brigantium**  
**Depopulation, the English Way and the Royal City**  
**Commerce and migrations**  
**From the Galician Autonomy to current times**  
**International personalities**



**Coat of arms of Galicia**  
 The history of Galicia is necessarily international, and it cannot be understood without considering the country's strategic maritime position and the Atlantic trade and migration routes it is a part of, including the American diaspora. Throughout the centuries we have developed a global profile in the various fields of economy, culture, and language.



**Coat of arms of A Coruña**  
 In this history of Galicia, A Coruña plays a major role. Since the 16th century, with the Casa das Especiarias (House of Spices) and even much earlier, beginning with the history of the harbor and with it the first Atlantic trade routes; until current times, marked by the rising impact of globalization and the economic and cultural internationalization of the city.



500 m

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ASIA

LUSOPHONE WORLD

CELTIC NATIONS

## Brigantium

- 1. Tower of Hercules.** Built during the 2nd century (as a latest possible estimate), the flame at the Tower of Hercules regulated maritime transit between the Mediterranean, Gaul and the North Sea. Used as a fortress during the Middle Ages and later abandoned, its restoration, complete in 1791, allowed for the reassessment of its role as a lighthouse, as well as the conservation of the remains of the Roman monument.
- 2. Pena das Ánimas.** The reach of Julius Caesar's expedition to Gallaecia in the year 61 b. C. is unknown. If, as it is said, he truly reached the ria of A Coruña to avail himself of riches that would allow him to secure the consulate; his sailors most likely had to carefully weave through the shallows at Pena das Ánimas. Until their demolition by dynamite in the sixties, these shallows caused many shipwrecks.
- 3. Bay of O Parrote.** A Coruña was born as a port town. The Roman port was built within the shelter provided by the bay of O Parrote. This was the port where the gold of Gallaecia would, among other goods, be shipped for Rome.
- 4. Castro de Elviña.** The Castro (Hillfort) of Elviña was the first major human settlement of A Coruña, inhabited since at least the 3rd century. There is ever much discussion on the Celtic heritage of the hillfort cultures, but there is little doubt that a strong bond existed between them and the other Atlantic cultures of the Celtic Nations.

## Depopulation, the English Way and the Royal City

- 1. The city name.** Placed in the monument commemorating the Founding Charter given by Alphonse IX. The name A Coruña was not used generally until the 12th century. Before that, the settlement was called Faro (which literally means Lighthouse). A recent theory suggests that the current name first appeared in the Codex Calixtinus as Crunia, listed among the places won from the moors by Charlemagne. This invented name became linked to the city through official documents, and it is the term used in the Foundational Charter given by Alphonse IX in 1208. In the span of a few decades, the place name mutated into its current form.
- 2. The Vikings.** From the late 8th to the mid-12th century, Viking ships sailed the European coasts, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, carrying merchandise and warriors. One of the first viking expeditions to the Iberian Peninsula reached A Coruña in 844. According to contemporary records, the viking soldiers were decimated in Faro by King Ramiro's troops.
- 3. Rúa Real.** Near the end of the Middle Ages, the population grew beyond the limits of the Cidade Alta and began expanding towards what now is the Pescaría district. Although in a different configuration than today's, emblematic streets such as Rego de Auga and Rúa Real (Royal Street) were already present in the cartography of the time and walked by pilgrims en route to Compostela.
- 4. Rúa Sinagoga.** The name of this street (which translates to Synagogue Street) can be found in medieval records, and it is thought that the Jewish community was centered around it. Remains of what could have been a ritual pool were recently found on the ground floor of a house in this street. In any case, A Coruña was home to a prosperous Jewish community, important enough to produce the Kennicott Bible, one of the most finely illustrated Hebrew manuscripts in the world. This Bible, which left the city with the banishment of the Jewish community in 1492, is now kept in Oxford University's Bodleian library.
- 5. Romanesque Church of Saint James.** Although documented evidence does not go beyond the 13th century, the church of Saint James is probably older. Whether the city was depopulated during the Early Middle Ages is still an ongoing debate. In case it hadn't, archaeological remains suggest that the small-scale urban population up to the 12th century was concentrated around this area. The Church of Saint James was the first temple the pilgrims could visit after disembarking and show gratitude for a successful trip.
- 6. Palacio de Capitanía.** The Palacio de Capitanía was built in the 18th century to host the Galician Intendancy, the highest representation of the King of Spain in the Kingdom of Galicia. This palace was also home to the Real Audiencia (Royal Audience), the supreme judicial body in the country. From the 16th century onwards, A Coruña was chosen by the monarchy as the seat of their highest institutions in the Kingdom of Galicia, due to the city's optimal maritime communications.
- 7. The harbour.** The medieval harbour was almost certainly built over the Roman one. Since the 12th century onwards, due to increased maritime activity, it became the city's main economic driving force. To this port arrived many pilgrims from the British Isles and Northern Europe in order to continue by foot to Santiago.

## Commerce and migrations

- 1. Moorish cemetery.** Beside the rocky point of Punta Praga, awash by the waves entering the ria, the Cemiterio Moura (Moorish Graveyard) was built during the Civil War as a graveyard for the Moroccan soldiers who died on Franco's side.
- 2. Balmis Expedition.** Placed in the monument to the expedition, the "balcón da Balmis". Doctor Francisco Javier Balmis led, in 1803, the expedition that would take the smallpox vaccine to the Spanish overseas colonies. The ship María Pita set sail from A Coruña with 22 children, who were infected with the virus in ships, as was the medical technique of the time. The ship sailed the coasts of Spanish America, from Venezuela to Mexico, to later continue on to the Philippines and even Macao and Guangzhou in China. Once the ship reached a port, other expeditions were tasked with carrying the vaccine inland.
- 3. San Amaro cemetery.** In the late 18th century, cemeteries began to be placed outside of cities, for reasons of public health. The cemeterio de San Amaro (cemetery of Saint Amaro) was opened in 1812 and numerous personalities are buried there, such as the poet Eduardo Pondal, author of the lyrics to the Galician Anthem. In a separate piece of land lies the English Graveyard, bought by the United Kingdom in the 19th century so as to serve as burial grounds for British subjects, and specially to those of Anglican belief.
- 4. The Customs House.** In 1764 Charles III decided to put an end to the monopoly on trade with America held by Seville and Cadiz. He chose thirteen ports that would be open to overseas trade. Of the Galician ports, he chose A Coruña. It took ships a month and a half to reach the Caribbean, and almost three months to reach the ports in Rio de la Plata. This privilege, that lasted until 1778 when trade with the Americas was completely liberalised, meant a boost for the local bourgeoisie.
- 5. Politics.** Placed in the Palacio de Capitanía. A Coruña had been a hotbed of political activity up until the Civil War. The city's military garrison was the first to support General Riego's pronouncement in 1820, which installed the first liberal government in Spanish history. In 1846 a new rebellion would take place, this time supported on the civilian side by a core of provincialist intellectuals. Provincialism was an early ideological current that would later become Galician nationalism. Many republican and Galician nationalist clubs flourished around the cafes and bookshops of late 19th century A Coruña. Among the workers' movement, anarchism had a significant presence. Anarchist workers led many strikes in the first third of the 20th century.
- 6. Porta de San Miguel.** Along two land gates, the gate of Aires and the Real, the walls of the Cidade Alta had three gates who opened to the sea: the gates of Cravo (Nail), Cruz (Cross) and San Miguel (Saint Michael). The latter is the oldest of the three. It is said that Peter I left through this gate in 1366 on his way to French Bayonne, while seeking troops with which to oppose his brother Henry. Three years later, Ferdinand of Portugal fled through them, abandoning his court in the Kingdom of Galicia. Charles I likewise departed through this gate in 1520, to be later crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
- 7. Casa da Especiaria (House of Spices).** Placed in the beach in O Parrote, which was the port at the time. In 1522 Charles I proclaimed A Coruña would be the center of the spice trade for the Crown of Castile's ships. Three years later, the first expedition towards the Maluku Islands set forth from the city. Its failure led Charles I to cede the rights over the Maluku and Spice Islands to Portugal in 1529, which put an end to the short lived Especiaria.
- 8. Peirao de Méndez Núñez.** Absorbed by the Peirao de Transatlánticos since the 1980s, the Peirao (pier) of Méndez Núñez was one of the main ports of departure for the Galician transoceanic migration. From this pier, numerous ships loaded with migrants sailed towards the ports of Habana, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires.
- 9. Eusebio da Guarda High School.** As a part of the expansion of public education during the 19th century, the Eusebio da Guarda was the first publicly operated secondary school in A Coruña. Teaching began in the current building in 1890. A few years later, the school admitted one of its most famous students: Pablo Picasso.
- 10. The Riazor baths.** Although it never had the fame of other northern bath cities such as Donostia, A Coruña also had its own bath tourism: many people would come to the city in the summer to breathe in the marine air and bathe in the sea for medicinal benefit.

**11. The Ensanche.** Placed in Praza de Lugo. The Ensanche district (whose name in Galician refers to urban expansion) was first envisioned as a bourgeois residential district outside the old walled settlement around Pescaría. Many of the buildings in this area pertain to modernist architecture, a style that first took form in the streets of Paris, Brussels and Vienna in the late 19th century.

**12. The industrial periphery.** Placed in the Agra do Orzán. From Labañou on one end to the Castros in the other, the periphery grew during the "developmentalism" years of the dictatorship, taking in many rural migrants that sought work in the factories. Thus an urban belt of working class neighbourhoods was created, whose service and supply issues still continue to this day. Nowadays, these areas regularly house incoming migrants from Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia.

**13. Industry.** Placed in the monument to the cigarmakers. From the late 17th century onwards, the Spanish crown sought to develop industrial power. A Coruña was home to, among other factories, the Royal Tablecloth Factory, founded by two Flemish businessmen, and the ship cordage factory, started by the Catalan Pedro Marzal. The city, very regrettably, also participated with ships in the transatlantic slave trade towards the United States. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Fábrica de Tabacos (Tobacco Factory) was founded, supplied by Cuban tobacco.

## From the Galician Autonomy to current times

- 1. Language.** Placed in the Royal Galician Academy building. The Galician language, similar to other languages descended from Latin, has a history spanning over a thousand years. It was the city's majority language until the seventies, when the effects of mass media and the schooling values of the time led to a growing use of Spanish, which was until then the language of the elites. To this day, Galician is the daily spoken language of a third of the city's inhabitants. As Galician shares his geographic and historical origin with Portuguese, it connects Galicia to the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).
- 2. The ship Arosa.** Various Western European countries dumped nuclear waste for years into the Atlantic Trench, close to Galician shores. In September 1981, an expedition led by various Galician intellectuals and politicians managed to record these practices. A year later, with the support of several Galician local governments, in particular Vigo and A Coruña (which chartered the Arosa), they returned to the area to further document and denounce these facts and get the dumping practices banned.
- 3. Riazor Stadium.** The city's professional football team, Real Club Deportivo, was founded in 1906, and the Riazor Stadium is their home since its completion in 1944. Renovated in the late 20th century, the stadium lived its best times in May 2000, when Deportivo won La Liga, and in 2004, when it faced Porto during the Champion's League semifinals. Very close to it, the Pavillón dos Deportes houses Hockey Club Liceo, which hold six European Leagues among their many trophies.
- 4. The University.** The University of A Coruña began operating officially in 1989, but some courses, linked to the University of Santiago, already existed before. There are currently 15.000 students registered in its three campuses of Elviña, A Zapateira and Ferrol, in fields ranging from architecture and engineering to law and teaching.

## International personalities through the ages

- 1. Bregón.** Placed in his statue. According to the Irish Book of Invasions, Bregón, King of the Celts, first saw Ireland from a high tower. Together with his sons Ith and Bile, he conquered the island. At the beginning of the 17th century, after the conquest of Ireland by the English, a large part of Irish aristocracy sought refuge in Galicia.
- 2. Manolo Rivas.** Placed in the Monte Alto district. Born in the Monte Alto district in the late fifties, Rivas worked as a journalist in different media from A Coruña. His literary work can be considered a fresco of the city's history from the beginning of the Civil War to the present.

**3. Isabel Zandal.** Placed in his statue. Nurse and director of the Charity Hospital of A Coruña, Isabel Zandal was in charge of the orphans who physically bore the smallpox virus during the Balmis Expedition. In this way, they managed to vaccinate the population of the Spanish territories against the sickness. She died in Mexico, together with her son, shortly after the end of the expedition.

**4. María Casares.** Placed in her former family home, the Casares Quiroga House-Museum. She was born in the rúa Panadela, as a daughter of Santiago Casares Quiroga, who was president of the Council of Ministers of the Second Republic, when the fascist coup took place. She was exiled in France, where she enjoyed enormous success as a theatre actress.

**5. Sofía Casanova.** Placed in the rúa San Andrés, where she lived. Married to a Polish aristocrat, whom she would later divorce, she worked as a correspondent in Europe for several Spanish newspapers. Of special note are her chronicles of World War I and of the Russian Revolution.

**6. María Pita.** Placed in the square bearing her name. As a response to the Spanish Armada, Sir Francis Drake arrived to A Coruña on the 4th of May 1589. The city garrison was lacking in strength, so it had to enlist the aid of commoners, among them, María Pita. She led the counterattack at a time where the English were about to breach the walls at Porta de Aires. The English retreated, later heading to Lisbon to continue their expedition.

**7. Emilia Pardo Bazán.** Placed in her former home, currently the Royal Galician Academy building. One of Spain's first professional writers, she introduced naturalism to Spanish literature. Many of her works are set in Marinéda, a portrait of the A Coruña of the late 19th century, such as The Tribune of the People, where she describes the life of the cigarmakers at the Fábrica de Tabacos. At the time of her death, she bequeathed her family palace in rúa Tabernas to the Royal Galician Academy, who turned it into its Head Office.

**8. John Moore.** Placed in his cenotaph in the Xardín de San Carlos. In late 1808, Marshal General Soult was dispatched to Galicia to expel the British troops sent against Napoleon's armies. General Moore, commanding officer of the British force, was forced to fight him in the Elviña valley, at the time in the outskirts of the city, to cover for the British evacuation. He was wounded in the battle and died in a house in the Cantóns district on the 16th of January 1809. A cenotaph in the xardín de San Carlos was erected in his honour.

**9. Juana de Vega.** Placed in the street bearing her name. The descendant of a prominent liberal family, she and her husband, general Espoz y Mina, went into exile when absolute monarchy was restored in 1823. She later lived in England and France, where she sought international support for the cause of the Spanish liberals. She returned to A Coruña in 1843 and used her fortune in works of philanthropy.

**10. Pablo Picasso.** Placed in his House-Museum in rúa Payo Gómez. Picasso was born in Málaga, yet he lived in A Coruña between 1891 and 1895. He was a student in the Eusebio da Guarda high school, where his father taught Drawing. The sketches and pictures he made in A Coruña -views of the sea, a portrait of his sister- correspond to a grown artist, in full possession of the skills of an accomplished painter.

**11. Luis Suárez.** Placed in the Riazor Stadium. Born in the Monte Alto district, Luisito Suárez had a meteoric rise. He debuted in La Liga at 18, and on the following year he signed for FC Barcelona. In 1980, he became the first and only Spanish football player to win the Ballon D'Or. One year later, he signed for Inter de Milán in what became football's most expensive transfer at the time, priced at 25 million pesetas.

**12. Amancio Ortega.** Placed in the first Zara store in rúa Juan Flórez. Zara, the textile company that started the Inditex group, opened their first store in 1975 in A Coruña. By the end of the eighties, the group began to expand internationally, opening stores in Portugal, France and the United Kingdom. The Inditex group currently has a presence in almost 80 countries in the world's 5 continents.

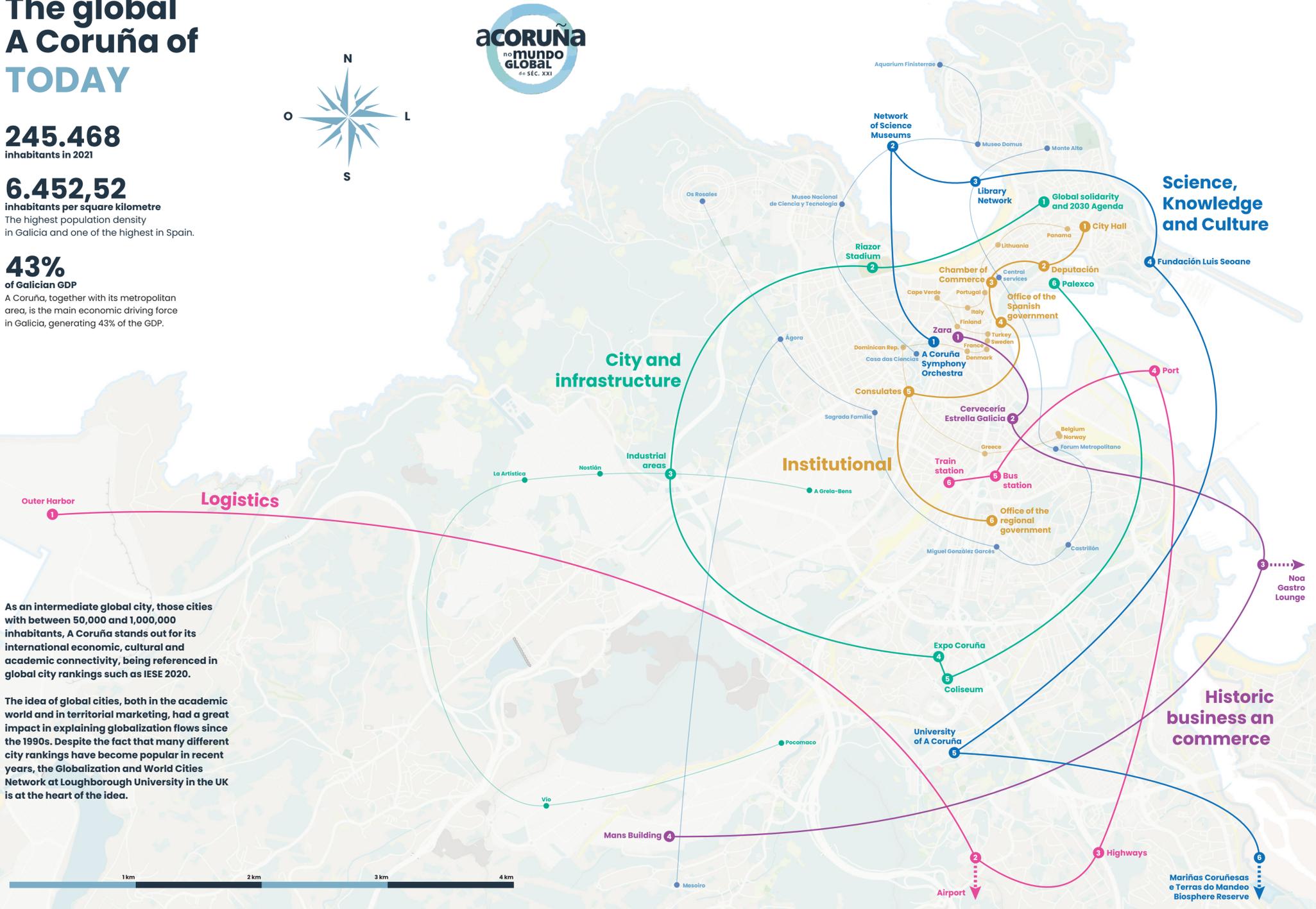
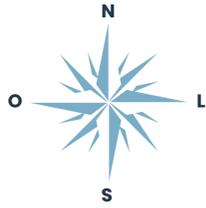
**13. María Wonenburger.** Placed in the Casa das Ciencias. The descendant of a long line of German industrialists established in the city, she enjoyed a successful career in North American universities. During the sixties and seventies, she took part in some of the most significant advances in the field of algebra, her speciality. She enjoyed her retirement in A Coruña, bringing both mathematics and her smile to high schools, mathematical fairs and anywhere she was asked to.

# The global A Coruña of TODAY

**245.468**  
inhabitants in 2021

**6.452,52**  
inhabitants per square kilometre  
The highest population density in Galicia and one of the highest in Spain.

**43%**  
of Galician GDP  
A Coruña, together with its metropolitan area, is the main economic driving force in Galicia, generating 43% of the GDP.



As an intermediate global city, those cities with between 50,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants, A Coruña stands out for its international economic, cultural and academic connectivity, being referenced in global city rankings such as IESE 2020.

The idea of global cities, both in the academic world and in territorial marketing, had a great impact in explaining globalization flows since the 1990s. Despite the fact that many different city rankings have become popular in recent years, the Globalization and World Cities Network at Loughborough University in the UK is at the heart of the idea.

## Logistics

- 1. Porto exterior.** The strategic future for the Outer Harbor lies in its specialization into energy transportation (liquid as well as solid), as well as its train line connection, which began construction in 2021. The MAERSK multinational maritime shipping corporation announced a new green methanol plant to supply fuel for their 750 strong fleet. It is believed that this plant will be located in A Coruña's Outer Harbor.
- 2. The airport.** The International Airport of A Coruña - Alvedro operates routes to and from Paris and London as well as Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, Málaga and Gran Canaria. In April 2023, routes to Amsterdam, Milan and Geneva will begin to operate. The airport is located within the Metropolitan Area, in the Municipality of Culleredo. A 30 minute bus ride links the airport with the University and the city center every 30 minutes.
- 3. Highways.** The AP9 highway connects the Galician Atlantic Axis and Galicia's major cities to northern Portugal, while the A6 or Autovía do Noroeste is one of Spain's six radial freeways and connects Galicia and Madrid.
- 4. The port.** The port is central to the city's history and is still one of its major hubs of international connection. It comprises more than six kilometers of wharfs, distributed in six stations specialized in different offloading procedures, ranging from fish to coal, containers and fuel.  
The Port of A Coruña is renowned for being Europe's largest port in fresh fish unloading. It also presents a remarkable level of logistics due to its high level of specialization. The passenger terminal, in Avenida da Marina, welcomes the passengers of hundreds of cruise ships from all over Europe. Estimates for 2022 foresee the arrival of 180,000 cruise ship passengers, mostly from England, Germany and Switzerland.
- 5 and 6. Train and bus stations.** A Coruña is connected to the rest of Galicia through a fast railway network, with travel times averaging 90 minutes to Vigo, 60 minutes to Pontevedra and 30 minutes to Santiago. Close to the general stores of Corte Inglés and Catro Camiños, they connect the city with the rest of Galicia, Spain and Europe. A new combined bus and rail station is currently under construction, and is predicted to boost the city's modernization. Portugal and Spain are currently building a joint high-speed railway that will connect A Coruña and Porto in 3 hours.

## Institutional

**1. Concello.** Praza de María Pita hosts the Council's government and administrative buildings, which, since the eighties, have multiplied their international links. The first sisterhood agreements with other coastal cities such as Recife, in Brazil, Brest in France and Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in New York, conducted in the eighties, have led to the city's current participation in city networks. In this regard, A Coruña is part of Eixo Atlántico (a network of Galician and Portuguese cities), the Association of Atlantic Cities (comprised of cities in the European Atlantic coast, from Spain, Portugal, France and Ireland) and the United Cities and Local Governments network.  
A Coruña is also a part of European urban knowledge projects such as URBACT, of whom Rome and Riga are also members; the Covenant of Mayors and the 2030 Agenda for Cities. The Council's global connections go even further, in promoting actions for economic internationalization through the support of local businesses, attraction of international events such as Womex 2023, and working in development cooperation through the Galician Fund for Cooperation and Solidarity (specially focused in Portuguese speaking African countries). In addition to all these, actions are also taken to empower citizens for thriving in the global landscape, such as language learning grants for young people and education and training grants within the Erasmus+ programme.

**2. Deputación da Coruña.** The Deputación (A Coruña Provincial Council) is the administrative body responsible for the development of all the municipalities in the Province of A Coruña, of which this city is the capital. Its central building is a short walk away from City Hall. The building also hosts Europe Direct A Coruña, the informational and meeting point of the European Union in the region. A Coruña is Europe's finis terrae!

## Science, Knowledge and Culture

- 1. Orquesta Sinfónica da Coruña.** Created in 1992 by the Council, the Symphony Orchestra has the Palacio da Ópera as their home. Historically relevant for their international prestige and connectivity, it currently has followers in all five continents thanks to their YouTube channel.
- 2. Network of Science Museums.** One of the city's distinguishing traits are its science museums, namely the trio formed by Domus, Casa das Ciencias and Aquarium Finisterrae. All three are themselves integrated in European and global applied knowledge networks, as well as in the local knowledge ecosystem led by the University of A Coruña.
- 3. Library Network.** A Coruña's 10 public libraries are linked in a network that also includes the city's cultural and knowledge industries: design, editing, film, video games and IT. This cultural and creative network is present in events like the International Comic Festival Viñetas desde o Atlántico and the major Festival Noroeste. The Library Network has been a key part of A Coruña's partnership within the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.
- 4. Fundación Luis Seoane.** Created by the Council in 1996, it hosts Luis Seoane's important artistic legacy in the graphic arts. A son of Galician emigration and exile in Buenos Aires, Seoane is one of Galicia's major artists. The Fundación hosts and organizes cultural, artistic, and philosophical events all year long, always with an international outlook.
- 5. University of A Coruña.** The University's Innova Campus is a strategic project classed as high impact in business development and consolidates the commitment to excellence of the University as a whole in technological, digital and humanistic innovation. It holds international prominence in the fields of oceanic and naval engineering, astronomy and IT, and it reaches for an outstanding international connectivity of its research groups. It hosts hundreds of international students every year, both from the Erasmus programme and from agreements with universities from Latin America, Africa and Asia.
- 6. Mariñas Coruñesas e Terras do Mandeo Biosphere Reserve.** Recognised by UNESCO in 2013 as Global Biosphere Reserve, it contributes to land conservation around A Coruña and its metropolitan area, and is one of the greenbelts of northern Galicia.

**3. A Coruña Chamber of Commerce.** This institution is part of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce. The A Coruña branch plays a strategic role in the internationalisation of the city's companies and business sectors. It often leads actions to support companies on commercial missions and international fairs, strategic training, consultancy regarding foreign markets, etcetera. The Chambers of Commerce work closely with the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX), and, in Galicia, with the Galician Institute for Economic Development (IGAPE) and their internationalization department, for the benefit of local businesses. Within Spain, Galicia is ranked fourth in exports among the Autonomous Communities. Some of our top export partners include Portugal, France, the US, Brazil and China.

- 4 and 6. Provincial Offices of the Spanish and Regional Governments.** Due to its relevance, A Coruña houses a Provincial Office of the Spanish Government as well as a Provincial Office of the Galician Government.
- 5. Consulates.** A Coruña hosts consular missions from 15 countries, most of them honorary, thanks to the city's global history and multiplication of international economic, cultural and migratory ties over the past decades. These include Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Greece and Romania.

## City and infrastructure

- 1. Global solidarity and 2030 agenda.** Placed in the monument to Isabel Zendal, A Coruña has today a vibrant and active NGO community. It hosts the head offices of 17 out of the 45 entities in the Galician Development NGO Coordinator. It is also the historic home of the world's first recorded humanitarian expedition, the Real Expedición Filantrópica da Vacina, commanded by Dr. Balmis with the support of nurse Isabel Zendal in the year 1803.
- 2. Estadio de Riazor.** The Real Club Deportivo da Coruña home stadium is the club's home in the city and a strong social significant in its recent history. The stadium has a capacity for 32,490 fans. Deportivo is referential among the city's sports club and plays in European and global competitions. The same is true of Hockey Club Liceo, and of many other sports disciplines that represent A Coruña globally across the five continents. Sport, and the blue and white culture, are a core part of the city's identity. An Atlantic, coastal, creative city, an open and modern gateway to Europe and the world.
- 3. Industrial areas.** The Pocomaco industrial area is very close to the city center and has excellent connections to rest of the northern peninsula, southern Galicia and northern Portugal. The veteran industrial areas of A Greia and Sabón, and the newer ones such as Nostión, Vía and La Artística, make up a comprehensive offering for industrial and commercial land in the city, which is tightly linked to international clothing leader Inditex, headquartered in the neighboring municipality of Arteixo.
- 4. Expo Coruña.** Established in 2008, Expo Coruña holds a multitude of national and international events. It differentiates itself as a unique, multipurpose and flexible space, seeking to incorporate values such as innovation, culture, technology, design, sports and music. A world of possibility within 19,000 m<sup>2</sup> of inner space and 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of outer area.
- 5. Coliseum.** With a capacity for 11,000 people as a grand venue for cultural events. It is also occasionally used as a multipurpose space, and has hosted sporting events in the past, including ice skating. Since its opening in 1991 it has hosted performances by Frank Sinatra, Deep Purple, the Pixies and Shakira, in what is undoubtedly one of the Peninsula's most renowned venues.
- 6. Palexco.** The ideal venue for any type of event, be it fairs, expos, congresses, or spectacles. Its prime central location, very close to the marina, the emblematic galleries of the same name and the Peirao de Transatlánticos makes Palexco a prime choice for international events.

## Historic business and commerce

- 1. First Zara store.** Number 64 of Rúa de Juan Flórez is home, since 1975, to the first Zara store, a reminder of the history of Inditex, one of the largest clothing companies in the world. The company's development has had a strong impact in the local economic, social and cultural scene of recent decades. The Inditex group is currently present in over 70 countries, and positions itself globally via multiple brands.
- 2. Cervecería Estrella Galicia.** The former site of the first Estrella Galicia brewery, founded in 1906 by company founder José María Rivera Corral, houses now a pub that has been visited since by several generations of locals. The lager, iconic and representative of A Coruña, became international: it extended first to the rest of Europe, and later to the other side of the Atlantic, now counting two large factories in Brazil.
- 3. Noa Gastro Lounge.** In the municipality of Oleiros, within the Metropolitan Area, one can find the Noa Gastro Lounge. This restaurant won the World Luxury Restaurant Awards in 2021. It serves a powerful demonstration of the potential of Atlantic and Galician cuisine.
- 4. Mans building.** The building is the seat of business initiative of Fundación Paidéia, whose mission is the promotion and support of innovative projects. It offers a high-quality space plus all the necessary services for developments. It houses both Galician and international companies and entrepreneurs, among them tech companies such as Softek and Denodo.



In the diverse fields of economy, culture, and the arts, we have been developing a global profile through the centuries in an ever more international society.  
In this history, A Coruña plays a major role. Since the 16th century, with the historic Espectáculos (House of Spices) and the historic harbor, marked by the rising impact and times, marked by the rising impact and international connection of the city's business and cultural agents.



International map of A Coruña

acorunha.hub.gal

