

10 good reasons to visit Ferrol

Discover them!



10 good reasons to visit Ferrol

The Magdalena district, modernism, San Felipe Castle and the estuary fortifications, the Arsenal, the naval museums, the old town (Ferrol Vello), its gastronomy, its natural surroundings, the estuary and its beaches, Holy Week (Semana Santa) with its traditions and culture...these are 10 of the many reasons to visit Ferrol.

Enlightened, modernist, fortified, military, naval, marine, gastronomic, scenic, beach-loving, passionate...

We welcome you to Ferrol!

Magdalena district = enlightened**Ferrol**

Modernism = modernistFerrol

San Felipe Castle and fortresses = fortified**Ferrol**

Arsenal = military**Ferro1**

Exponav & Naval Museum = naval**Ferrol**

Ferrol Vello = marine Ferrol

Gastronomy = gastronomic**Ferrol**

Beaches and estuary = beach-loving**Ferrol**

Natural surroundings = scenic**Ferrol**

Holy Week, traditions and culture = passionate**Ferrol**

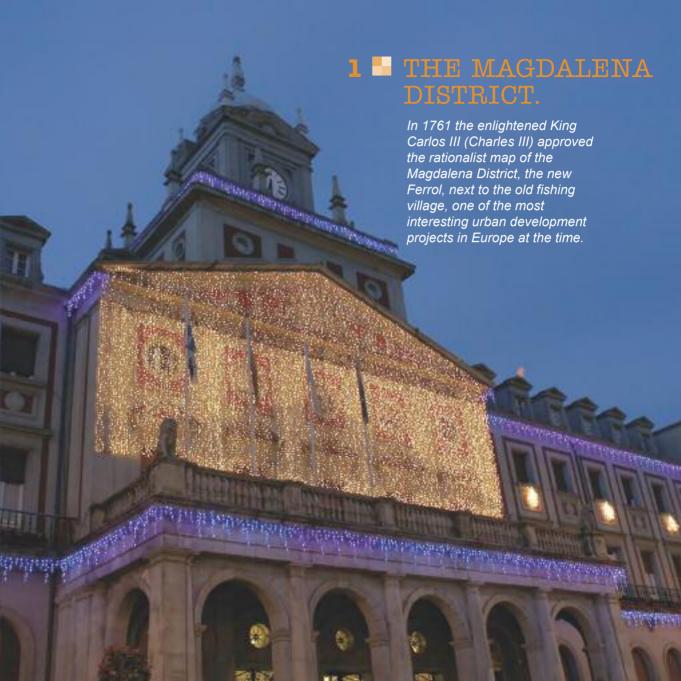
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The Magdalena District = enlightened Ferrol



The Magdalena District was built in the 18th century at the same time as the arsenals and the royal shipyard in the Esteiro district. That's why they share the same engineers and military architects such as Jorge Juan and Julián Sánchez Bort, among others.

The layout is a perfect rectangle in the shape of a chocolate bar with six long and straight streets crossed by nine streets at a right angle. Both ends of this grid turn into two big symmetric squares, plaza de Amboage and plaza de Armas.

The two **streets named Magdalena** and **Real** still have buildings of that period designed for the well-off social classes such as naval officers, naval architects, members of the liberal professions and merchants. The buildings are **classical-style houses** with big wrought-iron balconies and glass – galerías – inspired by the aft castles of sailing ships. The



design would later spread all over Galicia to become a symbol of the region's identity. In the first decades of the 20th century, **art nouveau buildings**, authentic masterpieces of architecture, joined the existing classical houses.

The Magdalena district unites the **most important monuments** of the town: Captaincy (Capitanía), the Herrera Gardens (Jardines de Herrera), the Market (mercado), the Procathedral (Concatedral San Julián) and the Jofre theatre. Thanks to its layout and buildings, it was declared a Historic-Artistic Site in 1984. Some of its properties are listed in Ferrol's application for "World Heritage Site"-status.

The Magdalena District is one of Ferrol's main **shopping** areas and the place to go for drinks and "**tapas**". Besides, it has many crowded cafés, open-air terraces and numerous pubs.

Magdalena District: Guided tours are available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office.

Visitor groups: Guided tours available on request throughout the year.

For more information please see the cultural tourism brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office



Modernism = modernistFerrol





Modernism incorporated new construction elements into Ferrol's façades, such as wrought iron and cement, thus creating striking balconies with lattice windows, known as "galerías", and bay windows with geometric and naturalistic decorations in intricate, colourful designs. There is nothing standardized on their creativity, being a craftsman style, what makes each building is interesting to look at. The style's greatest proponent was the municipal architect Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro.

Ferrol's principal art nouveau buildings can be found at:

Casa Antón* [1918] calle Pintor Imeldo Corral, 18

Capilla de la Merced* [1926] calle María, 179

The former "Bank of La Coruña"*, calle Real, 193

Casa Rodríguez Trigo* [1914] calle Real, 146

Banco Hispano* [Hotel Suizo; 1916] calle Real, 134

Casino Ferrolano* [first third of the 20th century]. Real, 100

Casa Luaces* calle Real, 98

Casa Brañas* [1913] calle Real, 125

Casa Munduate* [1910] calle Magdalena, 61

Casa Romero* [1910] calle Magdalena, 119

Teatro Jofre* [1919] Praza de Galicia, s/n





Mercado de la Magdalena* [Market 1923] calle Igrexa, s/n

Casa Pereira I* [1912] María, 172

Casa Rodríguez Trigo* [1914] Dolores, 77

Casa Pereira II* [1912] Dolores, 64

Hotel Suizo* [Fonda Suiza; 1909] Dolores, 67

Correo Gallego* [1912] Magdalena, 186

Former Hotel Ideal Room* [1915] Real, 83-85

Casa Magdalena, 82* [2nd decade of the 20th century]

Magdalena, 82

Casa Bruquetas* [1912] Igrexa, 4

Casa Vázquez* [1913] Pardo Baixo, 25

Dispensario Antituberculoso [Health clinic 1908] Sol, 26

Cocina económica* [charity kitchen, 1st decade of the 20th

century] Rubalcava, 29

Casa Rodríguez Fernández* [1912], Rubalcava, 55

Casa Concepción Arenal, 53 Concepción Arenal, 53

Casa Magdalena, 169 Magdalena, 169

Casa Méndez Núñez, 1* [third decade of the 20th century]

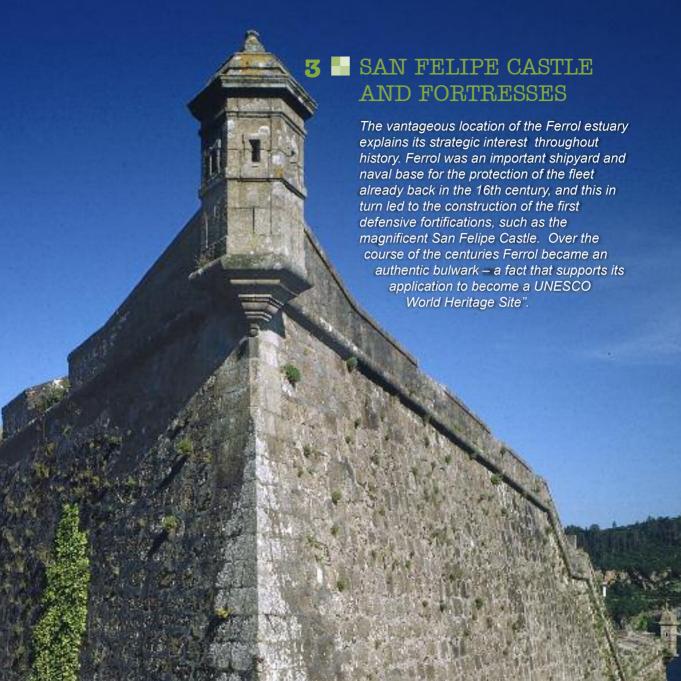
Méndez Núñez, 1

Modernism: Guided tours are available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office.

Visitor groups: Guided tours available on request throughout the year (including visits to the Magdalena district).

For more information please see the cultural tourism brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office.

^{*}The buildings designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro bear a sian on the facade



San Felipe Castle and fortresses = fortified Ferrol







What we see of **San Felipe Castle** today is the result of revamping in the 18th century, when a group of military engineers remodelled the castle, as well as the **La Palma Castle** on the other side of the estuary in order to make them considerably larger.

These monumental buildings, magnificently integrated into the landscape, as well as the San Martín fortress, which currently lies in ruins further west on the same bank as the La Palma Castle, constitute the best ensemble of military grounds in Spain at the time. Due to their position at the most strategic and narrowest point of the estuary, as well as their well-planned supply of cannons, they formed a fail-safe triangle of fire. The defence was completed by an iron chain stretched between the castles of San Felipe and San Martín, which prevented enemy troops from entering the estuary.

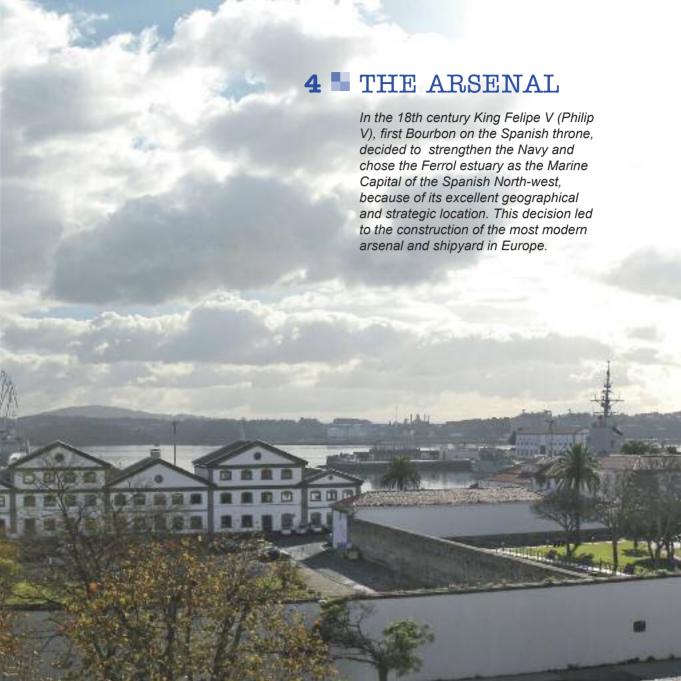
The large defensive town wall, of which still remain the San Xoán, Canido and O Rei bastions and the Fontelonga Gate, also dates from the 18th century.

In the same century, with the Navy already established in Ferrol, the number of coastal defences increased and apart from the construction of the town wall and the extension of the castles, batteries were constructed following a more simple plan, which included the batteries of San Carlos, San Cristóbal, Cariño, As Viñas (moved to Prioriño from its original location beneath the outer harbour), Prioriño and the almost disappeared Doniños battery. In the tumultuous 20th century, coastal batteries were added to the above mentioned defences in Prior, Monte Ventoso, Pieiro and Prioriño Grande, although all of them have been demolished.

San Felipe Castle: Free visits: low season from 10 am till sunset; high season from 10 am to 9 pm. Guided tours: available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office. Visitor groups: Guided tours available on request throughout the year.

Other batteries: Free access. For more information please consult the Ferrol tourist office. (La Palma Castle was used as a military prison after the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939) and is currently empty and closed to the public).

For more information, please see the cultural tourism brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office.



Arsenal = military**Ferrol**







Under the supervision of various architects and military engineers, the Arsenal was built during the 18th century and evolved into one of the biggest and most difficult of Spain's enterprises in the era of Enlightenment. The city has been exposed to the ups and downs of shipbuilding and the government's complex decisions ever since.

Because of its functions, both military and industrial, the Arsenal is divided into two parts: the **Arsenal del Parque**, the first to start its activity in the western part, closed off by the imposing **La Cortina-battery**, and the **Arsenal de los Diques**. Monumental gates grant access to each of the Arsenal's sections. Inside the enclosure we find: the rectangular square with arcades which connects to the dock; the Armoury (**Sala de Armas**) bordered with the training barracks at its northern end; the

Dique de la Campana (19th century, at the time one of the biggest docks in the world); the Herrerías Building, which houses EXPONAV, the permanent national shipbuilding collection; the Naval Museum and the library dedicated to the coastal area of the Bay of Biscay, which are both located in the former San Campio prison.

The Arsenal is an outstanding example of hydraulic, defensive, naval and military architecture and because of its importance it has been proposed to the UNESCO as "World Heritage Site".

The Dolores Barracks (**Cuartel de Dolores**) also bears witness to Ferrol's military importance. There you can not only admire a monumental building but also discover what life is like in an infantry barracks today.

Ferrol Arsenal: Guided tours available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office. Visitor groups: Guided tours available on request and subject to authorisation. No unguided visits.

Dolores Barracks (Cuartel de Dolores): Guided tours available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office.

Visitor groups: Guided tours available on request and subject to authorisation. No unquided visits.

For more information, please see the cultural tourism brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office



Exponav and naval museum = navalFerrol





From the 18th century, Ferrol developed into one of the leading industrial cities in Galicia. With a record of over 250 years of construction experience, Ferrol continues the activity nowadays. Navantia, the city's main company, is a public company which managess one of the world's best factories for building warships.

Apart from the undeniable quality of their displays, a visit to Exponav and the Naval Museum is indispensable

to understand the nature and character of Ferrol. Exponav, the National Exhibition of Shipbuilding, traces the history of shipbuilding in Europe's biggest museum dedicated to this topic. Situated in an 18th-century industrial warehouse, the museum also stands out for the beauty of its interior. The Naval Museum holds a permanent exhibition of old ships, navigation equipment, maps and information about all ships built in Ferrol between 1751 and 1984.

Exponav: calle de los Irmandiños. Herrerías building. Opening hours: Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm; Mondays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. Telephone: (+34)981336017 www.exponav.org/ email exponav@exponav.org

Naval Museum: calle de los Irmandiños. Herrerías building. Opening hours: Tuesdays to Fridays from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. Telephone: (+34)981336000 www.armada.mde.es

For more information, please see the cultural tourism brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office.



Ferrol Vello = marine Ferrol







Nowadays, the **Paseo de la Marina** has plenty of bright bars, whose terraces are crowded with people day and night in summer. Behind these bars, you can still make out the medieval layout of narrow, crooked streets with chandlery shops, old taverns, and single-story houses with wooden balconies, typical of the coastal area. Some of these fishermen's houses can still be seen around the nearby square named **Praza Vella**.

Ferrol Vello is located right at the start of the Saint James' Way to Santiago de Compostela (Camino Inglés). Since the Middle Ages the port of Ferrol Vello has been one of the places for pilgrims from the British Isles and northern Europe to come ashore on their way to Compostela. For this reason, the Espíritu Santo hospital, a hostel for pilgrims, was located close to the wharf. A further reason is that it is the starting point of another

millennial pilgrimage route named Camino de San Andrés de Teixido.

In the middle of this friendly fishermen's quarter lies the church dedicated to the Virgin of Relief (Iglesia del Socorro) which is much revered by the locals and holds two images much loved by the fishermen: Cristo de los Navegantes and the Virgen del Socorro. Besides, the San Xoán bastion, one of the most important remainders of the 18th century town wall, offers a fantastic view over the harbour.

From Ferrol Vello, **ferries sail to Mugardos**, a typical fishing village on the opposite shore, well-known for its Mugardos-style octopus (pulpo a la mugardesa). During high season, also departing from Ferrol Vello, tourist ships cruise across the estuary and towards San Felipe Castle. Moreover, there are also offers for **dinner cruises**.

Ferries to Mugardos -Cruises across the estuary-Available during high season (Holy Week and summer). Please consult the local tourist office. Visitor groups: available on request throughout the year. Telephone (+34)620926958



Gastronomy = gastronomic**Ferrol**







There is no better place to talk about food than at the Magdalena Market, which is without doubt one of the city's most frequented spots. Whether you come for shopping or simply to look, because the building dedicated to the fish sale, decorated with geometric designs, is an outstanding modernist work by architect Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro (1923).

There is a huge variety of sites in Ferrol where you can taste the delicacies of Galician cuisine – from modern restaurants to traditional food houses or tempting seafood restaurants. Moreover, there are wine bars and taverns where they serve free and usually delicious tapas, rations,

as well as sausages or cheese boards... As Ferrol is a working city guarantees an offer of daily menus at reasonable prices in countless restaurants scattered all over the town.

Ferrol is a city with a **coffee house culture** and caters for your **sweet tooth** – pastry shops with cafés, cosy traditional cafés, cafés with a modernist atmosphere or cafés down at the harbour, caressed by the sea breeze. Enjoying a good coffee or a hot chocolate accompanied by home-made pastries is a habit in Ferrol. Among the traditional grocery shops that have stood the test of time there are still a few that sell their own roasted coffee and other **gourmet products**.

Magdalena Market: calle Igrexa. Opening hours: Mondays to Saturdays from 5 am to 4 pm (on Saturdays it closes a little earlier). Opens on one Sunday a month only: between each the 15th and 22nd of the month), 7 am to 3 pm. Closed all other Sundays and on special holidays.

The days with major activities are Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays between 9 am and 1 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

For more information, please see the extra gastronomy brochure available in the Ferrol tourist office.



Beaches and estuary = beach-loving Ferrol



Ferrol has plenty of long beaches with fine white sand to enjoy nature and the sea. They are particularly beautiful, shaped like half moons and with an almost unspoilt vegetation. These beaches are **Doniños**, **San Xurxo**, **Covas**, **Santa Comba**, **Ponzos** to name a few. On windy days their high waves present ideal conditions for surfing and body-boarding.

The **beaches along the estuary** are normally smaller in size, their waters are quiet and they are closer to towns or villages. This applies to villages such as San Felipe, A Graña or the urban beach of Caranza. Less visited but **charming coves** can be found all along the coast, where it is easy to



relax and switch off - Lobadíz, Lumebó, As Fontes, O Porto...

The Ferrol estuary is a perfect place for **sailing**, and even more so when bearing in mind the sights from the sea of the castles and coastal fortifications, such as San Felipe, La Palma, San Cristóbal, San Carlos, to name but a few. Boaters who have visited this estuary would always remember its spectacular entrance. It's a safe, sheltered estuary without sandbanks which allows easy access to other fishing villages of the Ártabro Gulf, such as Mugardos, Ares, Sada or even the city of A Coruña. This is the reason why Ferrol is an excellent starting point for **cruises** offered by companies in the city.



Natural environment = scenic Ferrol



On Ferrol's extensive **maritime coastline**, steep and rugged shores alternate with the estuary's quiet waters, long beaches and even fresh water lagoons with marshes and a dune landscape, like at **Doniños** beach. The lighthouses on the iconic capes of **Prioriño and Prior** invite you to contemplate the vastness of the Atlantic ocean, not to mention the mysticism of **Santa Comba's hermitage**, which stands completely isolated facing the sea. The Ferrol's coast forms part of the so-called **Costa Ártabra**, a natural area under protection as Site of Community Importance.

In the interior, the visitors can enjoy a countryside where **hills** alternate with **valleys** and **rivers**, in sparsely populated surroundings of wild nature, ploughed by millennial roads, such as the Saint James Ways (**Caminos de Santiago**) and the road to **San Andrés de Teixido**, as well as **paths** like



those of Esmelle which are dotted with river mills.

This is where you can enjoy the most beautiful **panoramic views**. From the coastal lookouts, you can see the waves fighting against the cliffs in winter or observe peaceful sunsets in summer. Here you can also admire the Magnus Portus Artabrorum, the Ártabro Gulf, where three estuaries meet, a spot already much admired by the Romans. There you can watch the sinuous landscapes of the sea which enters the land.

Further inland, the **Chamorro** hermitage offers spectacular panoramic views over the harbour, the city and the whole of the Ferrol estuary. **Monte Ventoso**, a hill of 245 metres above sea level, is the best place to let your imagination fly over the ocean between cape Prior and cape Prioriño, and it's also the favourite place for **paragliding** fans.



Holy Week, traditions and culture = passionate Ferrol





The Ferrol's Holy Week, proclaimed of national tourist interest, is the city's main festivity and Galicia's most traditional and spectacular Holy Week. More than 20 processions in 8 days, as well as liturgical services of the Confraternities and concerts of religious music in monumental settings. The procession of the Santo Encuentro is the event that stands out on Good Friday, the Holy Week's great day, and it culminates in a crowded gathering on plaza de Armas. However, Good Friday night is the most silent, with the procession of "los Caladiños".

Another major tradition is the feast in honour to the **Chamorro Virgin**, or Virxe do Nordés, a call on sailors to pray for northeasterly winds which are the most favourable for fishing in the estuary and also because the Chamorro hermitage is located in the north-east. Easter Monday is the day to go on pilgrimage to the Chamorro hermitage. Thousands of devotees make their way up to the solitary sanctuary on their knees or on foot following the Stations of the Cross (Vía Crucis). Once up there, everyone spends a day in the countryside to the sound of bagpipes and donates candles and offerings to the Virgin.

Other traditional festivals are **San Julián**, the city's patron saint, which is celebrated with rice pudding, typical for Ferrol, on 7th



January; Carnival with its parades of people in fancy dress; the Rondalla de las Pepitas, which brings together musicians on Ferrol streets the night of 18th March, on the eve of Saint Joseph's Day (one of its particular attractions is a cake in the shape of a heart, called "bico das Pepitas" -bico means kiss in Galician language-). Other events are the bonfires of San Juan on 23rd June; the Battle of Brion on 25th August; the pilgrimage to the hermitage of Santa Comba, built on a rock and normally surrounded by water being only accessible at low tide, the last weekend in August; the summer festival in the second half of August, which concludes with the traditional fireworks on 31st August.

Also of interest are the following fairs: **Equiocio** – Salón de Caballo, an equestrian fair celebrated during Holy Week, the Northwest Wine Fair (**Fevino** - Feria del Vino del Noroeste) in March and the Ferrol International Trade Fair (**Feria de Muestras**) in July, which have turned into unmissable dates of the city's calendar.

This cultural life is complemented by, among other, the events staged by the **Jofre theatre**, the two naval museums and other five establishments linked to nature, as well as interesting collections and exhibitions in the renowned Centro Torrente Ballester and Fundación Caixa Galicia, which offer a rich variety of activities.

How to get to Ferrol

Ferrol is located in north-west Spain.

It's one of Galicia's most important cities.

BY TRAIN

Estación de Tren de Ferrol (Ferrol railway station) Avenida de Compostela s/n Phone (+34) 902 432 343

Long distance

A daily train connects to Madrid (Trenhotel), sleeping car/ couchette. Through a single transfer, it is possible to connect daily to trains to Barcelona, Hendaya and other important destinations in Spain.

Phone (+34) 902 240 202 (reservations) www.renfe.es (Spanish railway company)

Commuter trains

Several daily train connect Ferrol to other tourist destinations in the surrounding areas like Pontedeume, Betanzos and A Coruña. Through a single transfer in A Coruña, you can get easy access to the rest of the major cities in Galicia, such as Santiago, Vilagarcía de Arousa, Pontevedra, Vigo (connections to Portugal) and Ourense.

Phone (+34) 902 240 202 (reservations)

www.renfe.es

reve

The narrow-gauge railway crosses northern Spain parallel to the Bay of Biscay, connecting Ferrol and Bilbao. Phone $(+34)\,981\,370\,401$

www.feve.es

Transcantábrico

Luxury tourist train which crosses the north and northwest, the "Green Spain", from San Sebastián in the Basque Country to Santiago de Compostela, passing through Ferrol. Available to groups on request (maximum 52 persons). www.transcantabrico.com

El Expreso de la Robla

Vintage tourist train with all the comforts of a modern hotel, which crosses northern Spain. Available to groups on request (minimum 27, maximum 54 persons).

www.elexpresodelarobla.com

Trenes Turísticos del Norte: Ferrol-Ortegal

Tren turístico que ofrece un itinerario de un día por la costa norte de Galicia. Incluye: viaje en tren, autocar de apoyo para acercarse a los lugares más recónditos, visitas programadas, comida y asistencia del personal abordo. Viajes a medida para grupos bajo petición (mín. 40 pax). www.trenesturisticosdelnorte.com



BY COACH

Estación de Autobuses de Ferrol (Ferrol Bus Station) Paseo de la Estación s/n

Long distance routes

- Alsa

Connections via A Coruña to Madrid, Gijón, Bilbao, Irún, Lugo, Ponferrada, Astorga, Benavente, Zamora, Salamanca, Cáceres, Seville, Cádiz, Algeciras, Portugal, Germany, Belgium France, Switzerland.

Phone (+34) 902 42 22 42 (+34) 981 326 205 www.alsa.es

Destinations in Galicia

- Castromil and Monbus

Main destinations: ACoruña, Santiago de Compostela, Vigo, Pontevedra, Vilagarcía de Arousa, Cambados, O Grove, A Toxa, Noia, Muros, Fisterra (Finisterre), Betanzos, Ourense, Narón, Valdoviño, Cedeira

(+34) 981 314 063

www.monbus.es

- Arriva Noroeste

Main destinations: Pontedeume, Betanzos, A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, Rías Baixas (Boiro, A Pobra do Caramiñal and Ribeira)

(+34) 981 324 751

www.arriva.es

BY PLANE

www.aena.es

A Coruña Airport LCG [52 km - 36 min] (+34) 981 187 200

Santiago de Compostela Airport SCQ

[93 km - 1 h] (+34) 981 547 500

Vigo Airport VGO ([178 km - 1 h 48 min] (+34) 986 268 200

BY CAP

- Autopista del Atlántico AP-9 (motorway AP 9, toll road) Connects Ferrol, A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, Pontevedra, Vigo, Tui and the Portuguese border.

- Autovía Ferrol-Vilalba AG-64 (motorway)

Connects Ferrol and Vilalba to link up with motorways A-8 and A-6 with connections to the Bay of Biscay and Madrid respectively.

- Autovía del Cantábrico A-8 (motorway)

Connects Galicia and France across the Bay of Biscay (link to Ferrol from Vilalba across the AG-64 motorway Ferrol – Vilalba).

- Autovía del Noroeste A-6 (motorway)

Connects Galicia to the rest of Spain across the province of Lugo (link to Ferrol via motorway AP-9 in the surroundings of A Coruña or via motorway AG-64 Ferrol – Vilalba)

- Autovía Rías Baixas A-52 (motorway)

Connects Galicia to the rest of Spain across the province of Ourense (link to Ferrol via motorway AP-9 in Vigo or via motorways AP-53/AG-53 in Santiago de Compostela).









www.youtube.com/user/Ferrolturismo



www.facebook.com/Ferroltourism



- Ferrol Tourist Office/ Oficina Central de Turismo de Ferrol Rúa Magdalena, 56 981 944 272
- (i) Tourist information Point / Punto de Información de Turismo de Ferrol
 Peirao de Curuxeiras / Curuxeiras wharf

www.ferrol.es ferrolturismo@ferrol.es









