

# Places of interest in Redondela

## 1 – VILAVELLA CONVENT



Located in the parish of Vilavella, near the town centre, the convent was founded in 1501 by the Prego de Montaos family and its construction ended in 1554. It was the home of nuns of the San Lorenzo Justiniano order from 1554 to 1932. Renaissance style, its original five-section church layout still exists. Currently it is used for wedding receptions and other events.

## 2 – VIADUCT TO MADRID



Redondela is also known as “the Town of the viaducts” for the two massive railway

structures that fly over the town. This is the older of the two. Unlike the Pontevedra viaduct (see 19), it is built with iron and stone. Its structure is 32 metres high and 411 metres long. It was inaugurated on June 30, 1876 and was active for more than a century on the Vigo-Ourense railway route. The bridge has not been used since 1971, when the layout of the railway line was modified. In 2014, the rehabilitation of the structure was completed, with the aim of using it as a pedestrian walk.



### 3 – CHIMNEY OF THE OLD JOSÉ REGOJO FACTORY



The chimney is the only thing that remains of the Regojo textile company, which employed thousands of people in the region and was the pillar of the local economy until its fall in the early 80s.

José Regojo, a businessman from Zamora married to a local lady, opened his shoe

shop and textile workshop in Redondela in the 1930s. In 1937, during the Civil War, he reached an agreement to supply the army with uniforms, shirts, underwear, sheets, blankets and footwear, thus beginning the great growth of the company.

In the 50s and 60s, Regojo shirts became very popular among the working class for their low price; they were made entirely in the Redondela factory and also in the small textile workshops in the area that worked for Regojo. This is why the firm was the axis of the region's economy at that point. In the 70s it had more than 1,000 employees and had a sales network that exceeded 15,000 stores throughout Spain, in addition to exporting more than 30,000 shirts per month to the German market.

Regojo became the third textile company in Spain, behind El Corte Inglés and Cortefiel; however, it began its decline with the arrival of democracy, and after a long process, closed its doors for good in 1987.

Since then, a number of blocks of flats have been built on the original site of the factory, but the chimney has been kept as a memorial of the Regojo company, although it has been moved from its original location and reinforced with a steel structure.



#### 4 – FRAGMENT OF THE BERLIN WALL



Redondela keeps a fragment of the original Berlin Wall, built in 1961 and demolished on November 9, 1989. Two original blocks have been exhibited since the beginning of 2011 inside a window frame on the Paseo de A Xunqueira, in front of the “Multiusos” leisure centre. Previously, these remains could be seen for more than fifteen years under one of the pillars of the old train viaduct in the Ascenso á Estación.

The blocks, which are about two metres long and one metre wide, were brought to Redondela in the early 1990s by Manuel A. Figueroa, an immigrant in Germany. His uncle, Jacinto Suarez, donated them to the City Council to be exhibited as a memorial of one of the great historical events of the twentieth century.

## 5 – PETÁN MANOR HOUSE



Also known as Pazo de Santa Teresa or Pazo de Regojo, it was founded by the Prego de Montaos family in the 17th century. It is a noble building with an amazing coat of

arms. In the twentieth century it was bought by businessman José Regojo, who reformed it and gave it the name of Pazo de Santa Teresa. At present, the building belongs to the Regojo estate.



## 6 – CASA DA TORRE



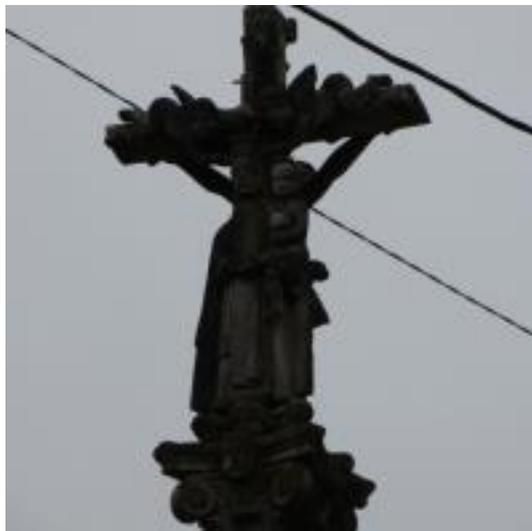
Founded also by the Prego de Montaos family in the 16th century, this Renaissance-style building is linked to a medieval tower, from which it takes its name. In the twentieth century it was used as the seat of the Courts and the Redondela Town Council. Today it houses the pilgrims' hostel on the Camino de Santiago.

## 7 – CASA DA ALFÓNDEGA



This old house was founded, like many others in the town, by the Prego de Montaos family, whose coat of arms appears on its facade. It was previously known as Torre de Reboreda, although its current name derives from its ancient use as a grain market. In recent years it has functioned as a restaurant under different names.

#### 8 – “CARBALLO” STONE CROSS



An example of the typical Galician “cruceiros” or stone crosses, the Cruceiro de Animas do Santo Cristo do Carballo was built in 1790 "A DEVOCIÓN DE LOS SEÑORES DON MANUEL OCHOA I SU ESPOSA", according to its inscription. Sailors used to light candles at the base before they went sailing, and neighborhood councils were usually held there.

#### 9 – SANTIAGO CHURCH



It is the parish church of Redondela. Although it is believed to exist since the thirteenth century, its structure has undergone different changes throughout its history, so it presents Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. It has a rosette on its facade with a statue of Santiago “the Moor-slayer” (the patron saint of Redondela) on top.

Inside you can see the chapels of the Nazarene, Christ, St. Sebastian, St. Bieito and the Immaculate Conception, with altarpieces of very different styles. One of them, that of the main altar, was replaced in 1951 by a new one, built thanks to a popular donation campaign started by José and Rita Regojo.

## 10 – FORMER TOWN HALL BUILDING



This house was the first building known as the headquarters of the Concello de Redondela, before it was moved to the Casa da Torre in the mid-19th century. It was built in 1788 on top of an old salt warehouse, and on its facade you can see Redondela’s coat

of arms. It was used as a shelter for the poor and later as a Music Conservatory. It currently hosts the Social Services offices of the Town Council.

## 11 – FORMER PRISON



Located at José Figueroa Square, this building used to be a jail during the Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939). It corresponded to an area that encompassed Redondela and adjoining municipalities (Fornelos de Montes, Pazos de Borbén, Mos and Soutomaior). It is currently a cultural centre and the headquarters of Radio Redondela.

The former prison is located at the east end of José Figueroa Square, a cosy spot named after a generous philanthropist. José Figueroa was born in 1880 and emigrated to Brazil at a very young age. He made a fortune there but he didn't forget his roots. He and other emigrants donated money for charitable causes such as a school in Redondela.

## 12 – HÓRREO DA ESFARRAPADA (GRANARY)



“Hórreos” are small granaries or barns made from stone and wood, raised above the ground by pillars and meant for storing crops, especially corn. The ventilation is achieved by slots in the stone walls or by gaps between the wooden boards.

The Esfarrapada granary is located at the confluence of the former Praza da Leña (Firewood Square) and Praza do Leite (Milk Square) where milk and bundles of firewood were sold in the past to heat kitchens and fireplaces. It is a typical model of the province of Pontevedra, a granite and wood building on individual round pillars topped by protruding round stones to prevent access by rodents. It still preserves its original doors.

### 13 – TOWN HALL



This neo-baroque building dates back to 1955 and it is located on the site of the old market of Redondela. It was designed by the Galician architect Emilio Bugallo Orozco. It shows a mixture of the architecture of 18th century Galician manor houses and the

Compostellan Baroque style.

#### 14 – BUST OF VALLE-INCLÁN



Located at José Figueroa square, the stone bust of Ramón María del Valle-Inclán is a tribute to Spain's most noteworthy and radical novelist and playwright of the early 20th century. This Galician writer (1866-1936) is the creator of the *esperpento*, a literary genre that uses distorted descriptions of reality in order to criticize society. Some of his most outstanding literary works are *Luces de Bohemia*, *Divinas Palabras* and *Tirano Banderas*.

#### 15 – INDIANO HOUSE



It was built at the beginning of the 20th century to be used as the family home of Avelino Giráldez, a politician who was elected mayor of Redondela for a first term in 1902 and for a second term in 1909.

The house shows a combination of styles using architectural trends of that time. It has a colonial style, with large rooms overlooking the town.

Its name comes from “indiano”, which refers to locals that emigrated to America in the 19th and 20th centuries and made their fortune there. These palace-style houses are usually surrounded by an ornamental garden with exotic plants and trees such as magnolias, camellias and palm trees.

## 16 – THE MARKET



In the 1950s several urban renovation processes transformed the town due to the new requirements for urban spaces. The old market, which dated back to 1891, was demolished. A new Town Hall was built on the site by the architect Emilio Bugallo Orozco. He also rearranged the area to find a new location for a bigger market on the opposite bank of the Alvedosa river. Both buildings were inaugurated in 1955 and a new bridge improved access to the market.

The external walls of the building show two distinct parts. According to the original design, one part was destined for market and another for a fish market and for direct sale of products by farmers.

## 17 – ALAMEDA GARDENS OR CASTELAO GARDENS



There used to be a pedestrian boulevard along the Alvedosa river back in 1938. In the 1950s the arrangement and design of new buildings, such as the Town Hall and the Market, and the river channelling works gave shape to other public spaces and made this gardened area more functional and attractive. In 1954, the landscape architecture added geometrical gardens with trimmed boxwood hedges and a grove of fine and varied species such as poplars, willow trees, London planes, cedars, fir trees, magnolia trees and camellia shrubs. A playground and a car park were also added over time.

In 1986 the artist Alfonso Vilar made a bronze statue of Alfonso Daniel Rodríguez Castelao, the famous Galician writer and father figure of the Galician nationalist movement in the early 20th century. It is on a stone pedestal and three stone fishermen carrying nets and a woman with her child complete the set at the base.



At the north-east end of the geometrical gardens there is a statue devoted to the mythical founder of Redondela, Xan Carallás. According to legend, a winged dragon called A Coca regularly kidnapped young girls and took them to the island of San Simón. Xan Carallás, a rough seaman, heard their cries and recruited other sailors to kill the monster. That is the origin of the “Danza das espadas”, a traditional sword dance at Corpus Christi celebrations.



## 18 – SANTIAGO FOUNTAIN OR REGATEIRAS FOUNTAIN



An old high relief of Santiago the apostle was used to build the fountain which probably dates back to the 18th century. It is also known as Fonte das Regateiras (Fountain of the fishwives) because it is located at the part of the river bank from where fishwives used to transport fresh fish in their “patelas” (low square baskets made from chestnut wood strips). The name “regateiras” refers to their ability to haggle or negotiate about the price of fish.

## 19 – VIADUCT TO PONTEVEDRA



This viaduct, inaugurated in 1884, is the newer of the two railway structures that fly over the town and give it its popular name of “the Town of the viaducts”. It was designed by the engineer and architect Mariano Carderera. “La Maquinista Terrestre y Marítima” Company built it between 1881 and 1884. This lattice truss bridge is 149 metres long and rests on two metallic pillars on granite bases. There are stone abutments at each side of the viaduct. Unlike the viaduct to Madrid (see 2), it is still in use for trains bound for Pontevedra, the province’s capital city.

## 20 – HÓRREOS AT CABO DOS FUMEIROS



Hórreos or canastros are small raised granaries. They are used to store grain, especially corn, and other food crops for the winter. Its slatted panels, in wood or in stone, keep the crop dry and safe from animals, thanks to their pillars topped with round stones.

The architectural ensemble of several hórreos at the same square is called an “eirado”. The former eirado de Cabo dos Fumeiros used to have more than twenty-five hórreos. Only five of them remain.



Cabo dos Fumeiros was a good location to dry fishing nets on poles called “fumeiros”. The place name may also refer to the smoking (“afumado”) processes to preserve fish. Humidity was harmful to perishable crops and this location avoided harvest losses.