





the spanish emerald isle

GALICIA, SPAIN

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Located in Northwest Spain, the region of Galicia is under the radar for most visitors. It's far from popular Madrid and Barcelona and probably one of the most underrated areas, which enhances its appeal. Both the Cantabrian Sea and the Atlantic Ocean give Galicia its rugged, yet beautiful coastline; thus, the region is known to be wet and windy, but also remarkably lush and green.



OPENING SPREAD: Witness the power of the Atlantic from the rugged cliffs of Galicia's coastline. THESE PAGES, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The Cathedral of Santiago is the focal point of historic Old Town Santiago de Compostela, which is deemed a UNESCO World Heritage site. Pair renowned seafood dishes with local white wine. Architectural, historical, and culinary gems are found around every corner in Galicia. The verdant hillsides and quaint small towns of Galicia welcome you—*benvido!*

travel tips.

How to Get There: Santiago de Compostela has an international airport, Lavacolla. There are direct flights from the US, mostly from the east coast. From Madrid, book a direct flight (one hour twenty minutes) or train (three hours forty-five minutes).

What to Eat and Drink:

Pulpo a la Gallega: sautéed octopus with olive oil and paprika

Pimientos de Padrón: sautéed green peppers with olive oil and sea salt

Caldo Gallego: soup typically made with turnip tops, potatoes, pork fat, beans, and any type of meat from chorizo to seafood

Tarta de Santiago: light cake made with egg, almonds, sugar, and decorated with a powdered sugar image of the Santiago cross

Albariño: light white wine, similar to a Sauvignon Blanc

Ribiero: fruity white wine, similar to a Riesling and known as the oldest wine in Galicia

The area's history runs deep with Celtic ties dating back 2,500 years and today it's a member of the Celtic League (insert the faint distant melody of bagpipes playing). With the combination of the verdant hillsides and Celtic traditions, Galicia is commonly described as like Ireland, but on the Iberian Peninsula. The natural wonders and history of the area bring visitors to Galicia, but the food and drink keep them coming back. Let this look at Galicia inspire your next adventure.

Santiago de Compostela.

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of the Galicia region. It's known as the culmination of the Camino de Santiago (the Way of Saint James/Saint James Way pilgrimage route). The remains of biblical apostle Saint James the Great reputedly lie within the Catedral de Santiago de Compostela (the Cathedral of Santiago). Although this pilgrimage started as a religious journey, "the Camino" is now a way for anyone to walk their way to inspiration, resolution, healing, forgiveness, and more.

The entire Old Town that surrounds the cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Take a relaxing walk along the cobblestone and explore the narrow streets with small cafés,

souvenir shops, and local artisans. Around every corner or plaza in Santiago's Old Town, there's another postcard-worthy scene.

A Coruña's Coastline.

No visit to Galicia would be complete without witnessing the power of the seas and an unforgettable coastline view. Just a forty-minute drive from Santiago, you can experience Finis-terre (end of the earth) firsthand. The coastline, nicknamed Costa da Morte (Coast of Death) due to countless fallen sailors and lost ships, is known for thick fog and rough sea conditions.

Ourense: Old City and Thermal Pools.

Full of history, Ourense's Old City preserves several Roman sites—many of which date back almost two thousand years. The most famous is Ponte Vella (High Bridge), which is also the symbol of Ourense. As an extra appeal, Ourense's numerous public and private thermal pools allow locals and visitors alike to indulge in a *spaaaah* day.

Whether you are a history lover, foodie, photographer, oenophile, or just in need of an adventure, Galicia will impress you. It's time to discover for yourself this lesser-known part of Spain. 