

# Visiting the Cathedral

Tags: Santiago Cathedral, St James Way, Religious, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance style, VISIBLE, World Heritage, Apostle, Emotion

Bernard the Elder, Admirable Master, and Roberto, began the construction of the Romanesque Cathedral in 1075, during the reign of Alfonso VI, when Diego Peláez was bishop. After that initial stage, a number of historical changes suspended or, at least, slowed down the works until they were newly launched during in times of Archbishop Gelmírez, in 1100. The works were commissioned to Master Esteban (also known as "Maestro de Platerías"); little by little the construction of the Cathedral progressed throughout the 12th century. In 1168 Master Mateo was commissioned to complete it, including the western closure and the building of the Choir in the main nave. In 1211 the Basilica was consecrated before Alfonso IX.

Although the fundamental medieval structure has been preserved, over the centuries the Cathedral has changed its physiognomy as a result of the building of the Cloister and its annex areas, during the Renaissance, and especially during the Baroque period, when works such as the main chapel, the organs, the closing of the chevet or the Obradoiro facade were carried out, among other important developments. During the Neoclassic period the new Azabachería facade was executed and over the past one hundred years different actions have continued to be carried out.

**Open:** 365 days a year, from 7.00 am to 8.30 pm.

[www.catedraldesantiago.es](http://www.catedraldesantiago.es)

**Prizes:** Free for individual visitors, except Museum area (Cloister, Chapel of Relics, Chapter House, Royal Pantheon and Treasury), rooftops, excavations and Pazo de Xelmírez.

## Guided visit types:

### 1. Museum collections

Ticket: 6 euros. Reduced ticket: 4 euros (\*)

### 2. Museum collections + Porch of Glory

Ticket: 10 euros. Reduced ticket: 8 euros (\*)

### 3. Archaeological excavations

Ticket: 10 euros. Reduced ticket: 8 euros (\*)

### 4. Rooftops

Ticket: 12 euros. Reduced ticket: 10 euros (\*)

### 5. Museum collections + Rooftops

Ticket: 15 euros. Reduced ticket: 12 euros (\*)

### 6. Tribune Ticket: 10 euros. Reduced ticket: 8 euros (\*)

(\*) Reduced ticket: Students, seniors, unemployed and pilgrims.



<https://tickets.catedraldesantiago.es/site/CatedralDeSantiago/?lang=en>



# Cathedral rooftops

Tags: Highlighted, Old town, Santiago Cathedral, Visitable, Recommended!, With views, Emotion

The visit to the Cathedral rooftops includes two consecutive guided tours: the Archbishop's Palace of Gelmírez and going up to the church's rooftops.

You enter via Gelmírez Palace, considered one of the main civil constructions of the Romanesque period in Spain, and the centre of the feudal power wielded by the spiritual shepherds of Santiago and the surroundings. It owes its name to the archbishop that ordered its construction, after his first palace was destroyed up to three times in the same year of 1117, by popular uprisings against royal and religious power. The new building, with access to two squares, would become accommodation for receiving with dignity kings, princes and magnates that visited Santiago. With Gothic and Renaissance additions, and a baroque façade covering it, this Romanesque place features an Armoury (12th-13th c.), stables and a hallway from the 13th century, where the archbishop and knights got off their horses; a 12th-century kitchen and above all the grand Synodal Hall, built in the 13th c. for the prelate's audiences and receptions. There, an amazing 32-metre-long ribbed vault stands out; its corbels are decorated with scenes from a lively medieval banquet.

After going up the narrow stairs of the tower, we see the Cathedral's impressive stepped rooftops, which are all included in the tour. This stone heaven gives us a unique opportunity to understand the church's different construction stages; to have its towers, domes and pinnacles within touching distance and enjoy the unbeatable perspective of the monumental squares. At an altitude of almost 300 metres, 30 metres above Plaza del Obradoiro and with a 360-degree field of view, your eyes wander over the city roofs and disappear into the surrounding hills in an unforgettable view.



## Guided visit schedules

Morning: 10:00am - 11:00am - 12:00pm - 01:00pm

Afternoon: 04:00pm - 05:00pm - 06:00pm - 07:00pm



# Museo do Pobo Galego

Tags: Highlighted, Old town, Visitable, Recommended!, With views

The Museum of Galician People was created in 1976 with the objectives of research and the preservation, dissemination, defence and promotion of Galician culture in all areas, and, specifically, to create and develop a museum at the service of these goals. The first rooms were opened in 1977 in the former convent of San Domingos de Bonaval which was donated by the city of Santiago de Compostela. The Xunta de Galicia, understanding that the Museum of Galician People would be considered as the spiritual and symbolic head of the anthropological museum network of Galicia, accepted by Decree 111/1993 of May 22 that it would act as the competent central body to combine all museums and public and private collections in the integrated network of Galician museums dedicated to the study, promotion and dissemination of the anthropological heritage of Galicia.

The founding of the old convent of Bonaval is attributed to Santo Domingo de Guzman, who, according to tradition, made a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1219. It lies outside the city wall, at the foot of Mount Almáciga and quite near the Porta do Camino (The Pilgrim Gate), thus providing the pilgrims of the Camino Francés with easy access to the Basilica of the Apostle. However, the outward appearance of the convent, as it has come down to us, corresponds to the episcopate of Fray Antonio de Monroy, Archbishop of Santiago between 1685 and 1715, and is the work of Domingo de Andrade. The façade is composed of two large Tuscan pillars decorated with strings of fruit characteristic of the architect, which support a curved split pediment and the great door frame lintel, presided over by the founder's image. Above is the coat of arms of the House of Altamira with the royal crown.

Inside the building, at the northwest corner, is the triple helical staircase which, for its technical and structural audacity is a good example of the virtuosity of Andrade and well worthy of our admiration. Within the same space are three separate ramps leading to the different floors. This staircase is considered by locals and visitors alike as one of the unique elements of the architectural heritage of Compostela.



<http://www.museodopobo.gal>

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**Open:** From Tuesday to Saturday: 10:30 -14 hours // 16 - 19:30 hours

**Ordinary ticket:** 3 euros

