

# A Vila de Redondela



**English**

## The Origins

Although the primitive origin of the current village is unknown, everything points out to a progressive occupation of the valley, taking into account the appearance of remains of Chalcolithic and Bronze Age settlements in the highest area, in the surroundings of Mount Carrascal, where in addition, remains of a Roman settlement were found.

## Vilanova de Redondela

In the 13th century, the Archbishop of Santiago established Vilanova de Redondela to open their territories to the sea and keep the control over the Jacobean route that crosses the territory following the ancient Roman road.

The new vila would be independent of a previous one called Vilavella, which was under the domain of the Order of the Temple until the 14th century, when it was given as a royal gift to the Cathedral of Tui. This separation, marked by a small bridge, remained until the 19th century.

Vilanova opened up to the world through a little harbour from which tonnes of sardines were exported, this catch was important during the 15th and 16th centuries. To this period of splendour belongs the current church of Santiago de Redondela, with its graceful ribbed vaults and the tomb of Don Vasco Machado, a nobleman who was buried in the 16th century.

## The Fishing Vila

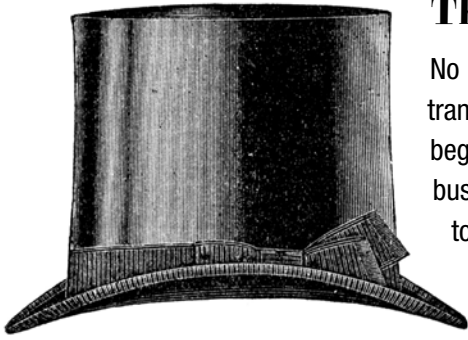
The framework of streets and squares of the old town belongs to the primitive medieval planimetry.

On the one hand, the vila was surrounded by a wall (at least since the 14th century) and you could access it by various doors and gates. There are only remains of this wall around the church of Santiago.

On the other hand, the fishing district, outside the walls and developed from a little tidal port and the Jacobean route. Even nowadays in the local toponymy there are testimonies of this past associated with the sea: Rúa das Regateiras, Cabo dos Fumeiros, Campo das Redes, Ribeira... It was extended from "Porta da Vila" up to Santa Mariña. It went up to the Alto da Esfarrapada, where there was a chapel dedicated to the Holy Spirit. It went down to the shore area, and from there to the shipyard, the current Praza da Constitución.

The fishing houses, with their gable roofs, their whitewashed walls and the fishing gear at the door, the space distributed between the granaries to keep the harvest, and some noble house like the house of Soutomaior in Cabo dos Fumeiros. John O'Dogherty, Irish nobleman considered one of the heroes of the War of Independence, lived and died in Loureiro Street in the 19th century. Some years ago the Town Hall was in this district.





## The Modernity

No doubt the arrival of the railway had a lot to do with the transformation of the old village. At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries a new society linked to the business world appeared. They built their houses according to their modern and elegant lifestyle. Eclecticism dominates these constructions, although there are also some examples of art nouveau. In this period, rich returned emigrants also built their colonial style houses.

With the channeling of the river in the 20s, the spaces gained to the sea and the sedimentation of the area, the harbour falls into disuse. In the 60s, with the construction of the pier in Cesantes, the port activity in the vila comes to an end.

The Art Nouveau-style Royalty House was built for the Justo Tojeiro family, following the design attributed to the French architect Michel Pacewicz, who in 2021 commemorates the centenary of his death. Pacewicz is considered the author of the plans of different unique buildings located on the outskirts of the urban area, such as the Casa Masiell, the Villa de Monterraso or the remodeling of the old Pazo del Conde de Torrecedeira and its gardens. These works show elegant architectural solutions both in the stonework and in the evocative forms of the facades.

## Industry

The economic engine throughout the 20th century was mainly the textile industry, especially from the second half, when the Regojo factory employed the great majority of the population. From this period we still have the ornamental chimney of the factory and the memory of the famous Camisa Dalí (Dalí Shirt), produced in cooperation with the brilliant artist, of which they sold about 10 million units. Redondela was then internationally known.

## Canned Food

Although the tradition of preserving fish is secular in the village, the production of canned food in Redondela at the beginning of the 20th century, ironically being the furthest part of the sea, Vilavella, where small family enterprises are settled. In the 30s the brand Conservas JOB is founded. The boom of shell-fishing on the beach of Cesantes was closely linked to the demand of the factory, to which they sold almost everything they caught.



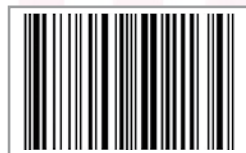
**Discover Redondela. A vila that once was two. The newest one founded in the 13th century from the Camino de Santiago and from a harbour that had its golden age in between the 15th and 16th centuries. In the 19th century came to modernity thanks to two viaducts, and in mid 20th century was worldwide known because of the famous Camisa Dalí (Dalí Shirt).**

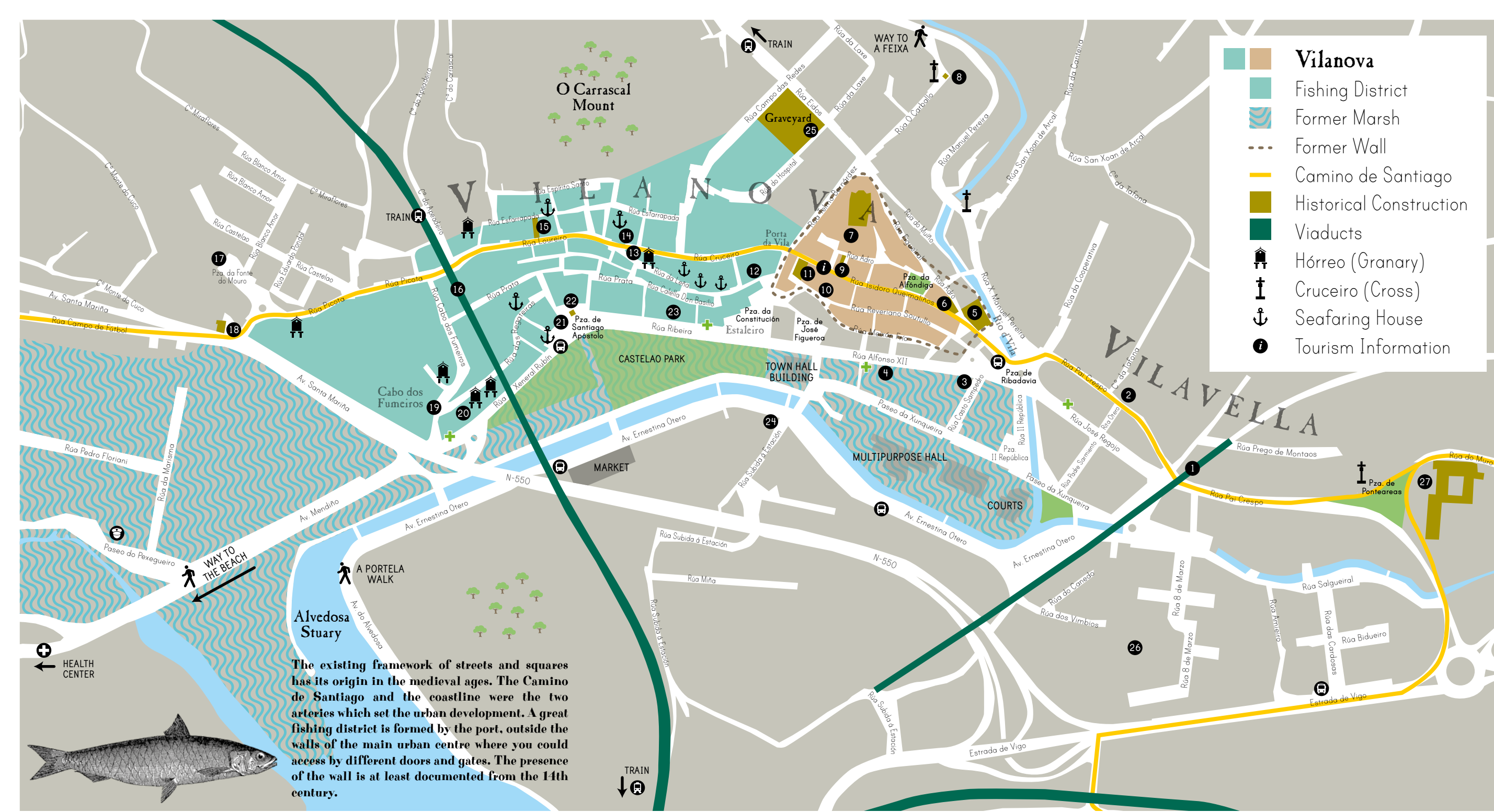


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The existing framework of streets and squares has its origin in the medieval ages. The Camino de Santiago and the coastline were the two arteries which set the urban development. A great fishing district is formed by the port, outside the walls of the main urban centre where you could access by different doors and gates. The presence of the wall is at least documented from the 14th century.

**Vilanova**

- Fishing District
- Former Marsh
- Former Wall
- Camino de Santiago
- Historical Construction
- Viaducts
- Hórreo (Granary)
- Cruceiro (Cross)
- Seafaring House
- Tourism Information

- 1. Viaduct to Madrid**  
Built in between 1872 and 1876 by Parent Schaken Hovel & Caillet (later called Compagnie de Fives - Lille). For a long time it was known as the "El Viaducto de Redondela".
- 2. Pazo de Petán or Santa Teresa**  
It has the coat of arms of the Prego de Montaos. It already existed in the 17th century and it was formerly known as "La granja de Vilavella". In the 20th century it was reformed by the textile industrial José Regojo, who gave the name to the "Pazo de Santa Teresa".
- 3. Royalty House**  
From the beginning of the 20th century, in Art Nouveau style, it is attributed to the Frenchman Michel Paczevich for Justo Tojeiro's family. The stonework and the forging of the balconies give it its elegant character of that period.
- 4. Former Hotel España**  
Of an eclectic style, it still preserves its original facade where you can see the typical decoration of this style. At the beginning of the 20th century it was an elegant lodging place.
- 5. Casa da Torre**  
Built in the 16th century by the family Prego de Montaos, attached to a medieval tower, which gives it its name. Also known as "Casa del Conde de San Román y Maceda", as it was his home. In the 20th century it was home to the municipal offices.
- 6. Casa da Alfóndiga**  
It was known as "Torre de Reboreda", because of its link to the entailed estate of the Casa de Reboreda of the Prego de Montaos. Its current name was given by the former seed market, which was developed in this street for centuries.
- 7. Santiago Church**  
It already existed in the 13th century, although the current building has the style of the 15th and 16th centuries, with further additions.
- 8. Cruceiro do Carballo (Cross)**  
It was built in 1790. It had on its cross a small oil lamp paid for by the guild of fishermen who lit it up before they went out to sea. There was an old oak tree there, and at least in the 17th century the so-called "Concejos Abiertos" (reunions of neighbours to make decisions) took place there.
- 9. Traditional whitewashed house**  
Small, with a medieval urban touch, although its construction was made later. It preserves the thick walls whitewashed as was customary.
- 10. House of Casto Sampedro**  
House in the vila, probably from the 18th century, where in 1848 one of the most important scholars of galician arts and culture was born. Casto Sampedro was the founder of Archaeological Society of Pontevedra and a member of the Royal Galician Academy (RAG).
- 11. Former Town Hall**  
Built in 1788 over what before it had been a salt storage. It was whitewashed and in its facade the shield of the vila stood out.
- 12. House of the family Bujones Gándara**  
Also eclectic in style, it was built in 1889. It has a fun combination of volumes. The set was formed by a house and a garden.
- 13. Hórreo da Esfarrapada (Granary)**  
Located in the former Plaza da Leña, in the middle of the seafarer district, it still preserves its original doors. It's a typical model of the area of Pontevedra, circular tornarratos and built in stone and wood.
- 14. Houses of the arches**  
Sailor houses, with arcades used to store fishing gears and as a shelter from bad weather. Typical in fishing vila's squares and streets.
- 15. Typical fishing vila house**  
Typical two story house with a corridor, where big corbels outstand. It has thick whitewashed walls, as is typical in most of the constructions of the area.
- 16. Viaduct towards Pontevedra or New Viaduct**  
Built in between 1881 and 1884 by the Compañía Maquinista Terrestre y Marítima of Barcelona, and designed by the architect Mariano Canderera.
- 17. O Mouro Fountain**  
Its name comes from a reused sculpture of an old set and placed on top of a pipe. Back then, its water was credited to have curative properties.
- 18. Chapel of Santa Mariña**  
The current construction is from 1870, built over an old one, also dedicated to Galician Santa Mariña. It holds inside several religious images from the beginning of the 20th century from the prestigious sculptor Ramón Núñez, educated at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.
- 19. Noble house**  
House linked to the noble Soutomaioir family. Casto Sampedro called it "Casa de los Fensi de Florencia". It used to have a little chapel attached to it which was supposed to be dedicated to San Telmo, patron saint of fishermen. It was all just few meters away from the former Cabo dos Fumeiros, a place where fish was also smoked for its preservation.
- 20. Os Canastros (The Granaries)**  
Group of stone baskets or granaries which years ago was bigger, located in the upper part of the vila, taking advantage of the currents of air for a better preservation of the harvest.
- 21. Vila house of urban style**  
Probably built in the 18th century, with whitewashed walls, revealing the decoration of plaques. The second story was added in the 20th century.
- 22. Santiago Fountain**  
It may have been built on an unknown date, using an old embossment of Apóstol Santiago, which belonged to a missing collection. It was known as "Fonte das Regateiras", because it was where women fishmongers took their "patelas", baskets in which they transported the fish, in front of the former shore.
- 23. House of the family Criado**  
Bourgeois house with an eclectic style, built in 1884. The stonework and the original gallery stand out.
- 24. Indiana house**  
Built for Avelino Giráldez at the beginning of the 20th century. It has the typical elements of these constructions, adapted to the tropical American architecture, such as the viewpoint and the handrails. In its garden, exotic species, like the palm tree and the big magnolia, stand out.
- 25. Os Eidos Cemetery**  
Old cemetery built in the 19th century following the rules of that period, which dictated to be placed far away for health reasons. In the place rest the remains of illustrious characters such as the Irish noble John O'Dogherty, hero of the War of Independence.
- 26. Regojo Chimney**  
Witness to the former shirt factory which was located in that place. Regojo was known internationally for producing the famous Dalí Shirt.
- 27. Vilavella Convent**  
Founded by the 16th century by the Prego de Montaos, using allegedly an old tower. In the 20th century it was adapted into a house by the owner of Conservas JOB.

