



REPÚBLICA ESPAÑOLA



PONTEVEDRA



A view

Photo. Loty

By reason of its situation, the mildness of its climate, the fertility of its soil with an abundance of trees, fruit, and flowers, and its quiet and peaceful life, Pontevedra is a perfect town for a restful stay. This was realised long ago by the Benedictine monks, who settled at a short distance from the city in Tenorio, Lérez, Poyo and Tambo.

At the bottom of an estuary which bears the same name, the peninsula on which the town is situated is bounded on the north and west by the river Lérez and on the east and south by the modest Tomeza; it is surrounded by gently undulating mountains which form the sides of the estuary and then slope down to the open sea. The mouth of the estuary is protected by the Ons islands, while in the centre, the isle of Tambo,



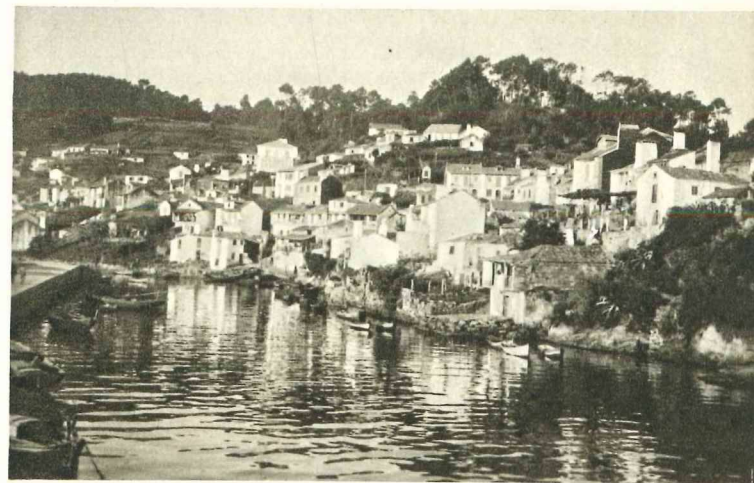
A view of the estuary

Photo. Loty

opposite Marín, protects the city from storms and tempests. Here Nature is found in her most smiling mood; orchards and gardens meet the eye wherever one turns both within and without the town, making it an incomparably delightful spot.

The abundance of roads and the central position of Pontevedra make it the most appropriate place from which to visit the south of Galicia.

Its history is simple and lacking in great events. It seems that it is to be identified with Duos Pontes, which figures in the *Itinerary* of *Antoninus*, and that in a 12th century document it is already known as *Pontis Veteris*. A passage in Pliny gave rise to the idea that it was originally founded and called *Helenes* by Theucrus, the son of Telamon, on his return from the Trojan war. Ferdinand II put the town under the suzerainty of the archbishops of Compostela. Alphonse X, Ferdinand IV, John II and their successors granted it privileges. The institution which brought Pontevedra centuries of prosperity was the Seamen's Guild, which in the 16th century sent fish as far as Andalusia, and erected the magnificent temple of Santa María at its own expense. Side by side with the sailors' dwellings there are many noble mansions which give an aristocratic air to the city, which possesses even to-day its picturesque



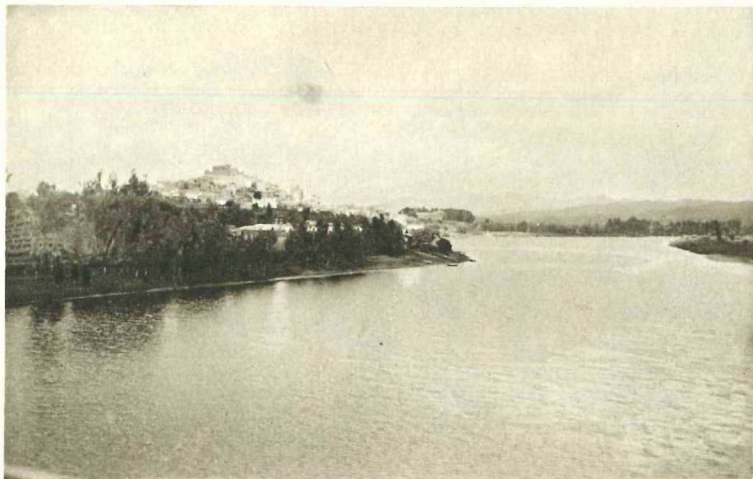
Marín. A view

quarter of la Moureira, and in the centre streets full of the houses of the nobility.

It is an easy city to visit on foot since it has hardly any hills and the distances are short.

The finest of the monuments is the church of *Santa María la Grande*, built between 1515 and 1559: it consists of three great aisles with chapels adjoining. In spite of the complicated ribbing of the vaulted ceilings, the details show marked signs of Renaissance influence, and the proportions are noble and majestic. The façade ends in a horizontal line, and resembles an immense reredos; it is the work of a certain Cornelis de Holanda who worked also at Avila, Orense, and Santiago. Mention should be made of some mid-16th century Castilian panels in the second "Epístola" chapel, and the fine *Christ* by Ferreiro (18th century) in the same aisle. The chapels are all of different and very fine designs, and the Triumphal Arch is most impressive as is also the cresting work which crowns the exterior of the temple.

The church of *San Francisco* is an enormous 18th century building, the greater part of which is used for offices, side by side with the church which is a national monument, recently restored: it preserves the three chapels in the apse which date from the 14th century and are



Tuy. A view with the Miño river

Photo. Loty

most graceful, a fine rose-window, and various tombs among which the most notable is the 13th century recumbent statue of the great poet and "Admiral of the Sea", Payo Gómez Charino.

In the gardens in front of the church stands the magnificent restored fountain (1554) so highly praised by Ambrosio de Morales in his *Sacred Journey* (Viaje Santo) in 1571.

Near by there stands the fine house belonging to the Monteagudo family, built in 1760 and to-day a Museum. It contains a collection of more than fifty processional crosses of the 13th to 19th centuries, pre-Roman golden ornaments found in the province, paintings by Zurbarán, Correa, Wouwermans, Carletto Veronese, Teniers, Lucas Giordano, and other copies by Velázquez, Titian and Rubens, furniture, glass, porcelain from Sargadelos, relics of ancient Pontevedra, drawings of monuments, that have disappeared, charters, records of trials, books, engravings from Compostela, and a section of modern Galician art.

A few yards from the Museum is *San Bartolomé*, a Baroque edifice which was formerly a Jesuit church. Here is the Magdalena of Gregorio Fernández, the great sculptor who was born in Pontevedra.

Further away is *Santa Clara*, a Gothic church of the early 14th century; it has only one aisle, and is decorated with grotesque gargoyles.



Lórez. Cloister of the Convent

Photo. Loty

In the centre of the town is the Sanctuary of the "Virgen de la Peregrina"; few Spanish shrines of the period are as graceful and delicate. It is in the form of a scallop shell, of great height, with two towers and a convex façade. It is the work of the master stone-cutter Antonio Souto (1778). Inside are several paintings famous among those being an ancient copy of Leonardo's Madonna from San Onofre's in Rome. The feast of the Virgen de la Peregrina is observed on the second Sunday in August and is the occasion of great celebrations.

There are few more impressive monuments in Galicia than the ruins of *Santo Domingo*: five graceful 14th century apses, covered with lichen and ivy, guard the tombs of noble citizens of Pontevedra; around are gay flower-beds from which rise splendid tombstones and Roman tablets, mediaeval capitals and coats of arms which bear dates from the 16th to the 19th centuries. We should make mention of the Treitonsende stone, thought to be the oldest piece of sculpture in the Peninsula, the tablet to Diana the Huntress and the funeral stone of three legionaries of the "Decima Gemina Serena"; the Byzantine capitals of Siete Coros, the Swabian stones and a beautiful 16th century St. John, made of Coimbra lime-stone. Near by, in the Instituto there is a little



Mondariz. Villabroso Castle

Photo. Loty

room containing prehistoric axes, Roman bronzes, coins, porcelain, and other interesting archaeological remains.

The public buildings, especially the 19th century Town Hall and the *Casa de la Diputación*, are not lacking in elegance and beauty of line.

Avenues and Gardens.—We may apply the former term to practically all the streets and roads of Pontevedra though there are some particularly notable promenades, such for example as the magnificent *Alameda* of oaks, limes, white poplars and plane-trees, from the end of which a splendid view can be obtained: the Gran Via, the piers, the Avenida de Buenos Aires alongside the Lérez. Among the gardens are, before coming to the "Alameda", the Vicenti gardens with great palm-trees and magnolias, the barracks gardens, and those of the Diputación. The Soportales Walk is a typical winter promenade. The country which surrounds the city is full of magnificent country houses—La Caeyra, Lourizán, Monte Porreiro and others. Special mention must be made of the characteristic Granja de Salcedo, an ancient ancestral mansion, to-day the quarters of a biological commission specialising in the study of animal and vegetal fertilization, and with a nursery of trees which is one of the most important in Europe. Near by the Morrazo mountains



Lérez. Landscape

Photo. Loty

are beginning to be re-peopled; they are crossed by a forest road which in time will be one of the most delightful in Spain.

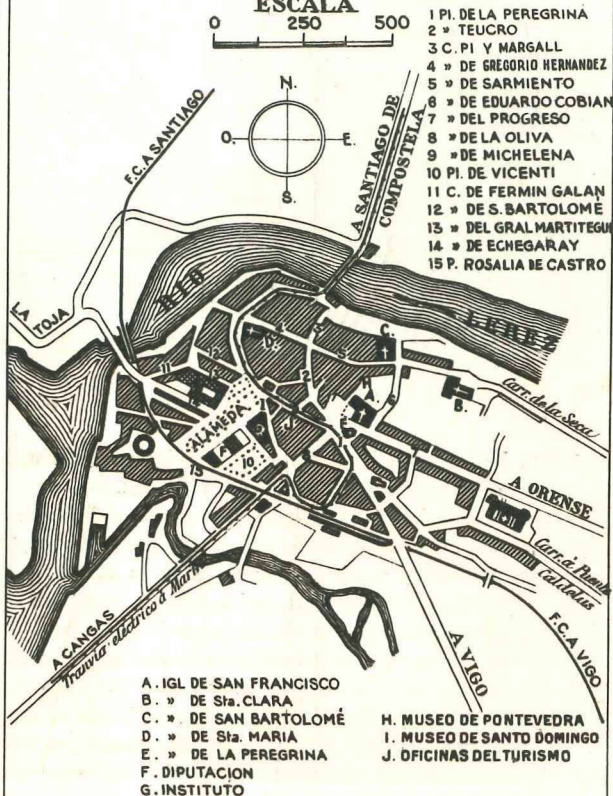
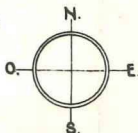
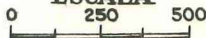
Excursions.—Pontevedra is a centre for innumerable excursions: by boat on the Lérez—"the green river"—or up the estuary to Los Placeres, Tambo, and many other places; by tram to Marín; by car to the Monasteries of Lérez and Poyo; to Combarro and Loira, lovely fishing villages; to the beaches of Sanjenjo and Lanzada, the latter, a broad expanse of firm sand over which motors can drive; to the baths of La Toja and Mondariz; to the Castle of Mos; to the bridge of Sampayo, the site of a famous battle in the Napoleonic Wars; to Cambados, a village full of palatial buildings, etc.: in short, either by rail or by car, a visit can be paid from Pontevedra in a morning or an afternoon to almost every place in the south of Galicia.

HOTELS

ALFONSO—Full board from 15 to 30 pesetas
 PALACE—Full board from 12 to 35 pesetas
 MODERNO—Full board from 9 to 18 pesetas
 ANTIGUA ESTRELLA—Full board from 8 to 12 pesetas
 MADRID—Full board from 8 to 12 pesetas
 PROGRESO—Full board from 12 pesetas

PONTEVEDRA

ESCALA



- 1 PI. DE LA PEREGRINA
- 2 » TEUCRO
- 3 C. PI Y MARGALL
- 4 » DE GREGORIO HERNANDEZ
- 5 » DE SARMIENTO
- 6 » DE EDUARDO COBIAN
- 7 » DEL PROGRESO
- 8 » DE LA OLIVA
- 9 » DE MICHELENA
- 10 PI. DE VICENTI
- 11 C. DE FERMIN GALAN
- 12 » DE S. BARTOLOME
- 13 » DEL GRAL MARTITEGUI
- 14 » DE ECHEGARAY
- 15 P. ROSALIA DE CASTRO

- A. IGL DE SAN FRANCISCO
- B. » DE Sta. CLARA
- C. » DE SAN BARTOLOME
- D. » DE Sta. MARIA
- E. » DE LA PEREGRINA
- F. DIPUTACION
- G. INSTITUTO

- H. MUSEO DE PONTEVEDRA
- I. MUSEO DE SANTO DOMINGO
- J. OFICINAS DEL TURISMO

DISTANCE

From Madrid	=	831	Km. by rail. and	658	by road
From Irun	=	910	»	790	»
From Port-Bou	=	1.683	»		»
From La Junquera				1.527	»
From Algeciras	=	1.575	»	1.524	»
From Paris	=	1.734	»	1.575	»

PATRONATO NACIONAL DEL TURISMO

(Spanish State Tourist Department)

MADRID

Medinaceli, 2

PARIS

12, Bd. de la Madeleine

PONTEVEDRA

Museum