

The Lagoon of Traba

The parish of Traba hides near the village of Mórdomo one of its biggest treasures, a small and narrow lagoon rich in fauna and vegetation, accessible through different paths that come from the main road from Laxe to Camariñas.

The lagoon of Traba in the strict sense is narrow, - 250 metres wide and 800 metres long - and it lies at the bottom of the valley, between the dunes and the fields. In this coastal lagoon we can find a big part of the animal species and plants usual in this type of places. As for the fauna, there are many animal species that find in the lagoon a clear refuge to nest. This is the case of different seagull's species and the cormorant, among others.

However, the most important interest in this lagoon from an environmental point of view are the visits of many birds unusual in these latitudes like "Heron", "Purple Herons", "Kingfishers", "Mallards", "Pintails" or "Lagoon Eaglets" and many other more.

It is also very important the presence of otters as well as different amphibians, fish and reptiles during all the year.

This lagoon is related with the legend of the city of Valverde, which was collapsed by the Apostle St James by ignoring his teachings. This legend is very common in many other lagoons in Galicia.

The big environmental interest of the lagoon and beach of Traba was accepted when it was declared "Natural Site" by a resolution of a department of the Galician Regional Government in 10/01/1990.


The Rocky Hills of Traba

Surrounding the whole Valley of Traba we can find the sharp and rocky hills or "Peaks" of Traba, formed by four summits or peaks: "Pena dos Mouros", "Pena Forcada or Gallada", "O Castelo" and "Torre da Moa".

One of these summits - the peak "Torre da Moa" - with 241 meters of altitude is actually the most interesting summit in these rocky hills due to the localization of an important altar for sacrifices in this place. Due to its shape, we could affirm that this summit would be one of those historical "Aras Sextianas" mentioned by different Roman historians like Estrabón, Mela, Ptolomeo or Plinio.

Moreover two other summits, "Pena dos Mouros" and "Pena Forcada or Gallada", could have been used in the past as places for sacrifices by the Celts and the Romans because of their shape.

In fact, the peaks of Traba are sharp and rocky mountains to whom the erosion gave capricious shapes that look like giants or animals very often. At dusk, lights and shadows give an amazing and mysterious aspect to this stony wood, what contributes to the rise of many legends around their figures.

 Lagoon of Traba

Festivities

LAXE

THE EASTER

There are many processions, masses, sermons...(as for example: The taking down from the cross, saying of Jesus on the cross, the sung reading of the passion, the kiss of the wound on the Lord's body...etc) during this week, especially the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The most important and interesting procession during these days is "The Procession of the Saint Burial and the Rosary of the Good Death". It takes place at 11:00 p.m. on the Good Friday and it is the most traditional and crowded procession in the town of Laxe: Men and women, separated in two groups, chant the "Rosary of the Good Death" to our Lord in turns.

The 21st of July: Day of "Santa Cruz de la Rosa" in the St. Rose's chapel on the top of the mount Cornaceiras. It is very traditional and crowded because it is very popular among the people of the region.

The 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th of August: THE MAIN FESTIVITIES OF LAXE:

The 14th of August: "Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal".

The 15th of August: "Virgen de la Atalaya" (patron saint).

The 16th of August: "Saint Roch".

The 17th of August: "Our Lady of the Mount Carmel": Marine procession around the bay, preceded by one of the most popular tradition in our town, "The performance of the Shipwreck", which has been carrying out by the sailor Avelino Lema Santos since 1962 as a gratefulness for the sailor's patron saint.

The 30th of August: Day of Saint Rose in the chapel of the mount Cornaceiras, with a popular pilgrimage and a country meal.

SERANTES

The 1st Saturday and Sunday of July: Day of "Saint Anthony" and "Our Lady of the Rosary" respectively.

The 2nd Saturday and Sunday of September: Day of "Saint Roch" and the patron saint "Saint Mary".

SOESTO

The 2nd Saturday and Sunday of July: "The Ascension Day" and "The Blessed Sacrament Day" respectively.

The 26th of December: "Saint Stephen" (patron saint).

The 27th of December: "Saint Roch".

NANDE

The 17th of May: "Saint Isidore the farmer" in the place of "Matio".

The 13th of June: "Saint Anthony" in the place of "O Aprazadoiro".

The 14th of June: "Saint Joseph" in the place of "O Aprazadoiro".

The 28th of October: "Saint Simon" (patron saint) in the place of "Matio".


The 8th of December: "The Immaculate Conception".

SARCES

On a May Thursday: "The Ascension Day" in the place of "A Torre".

The 10th and the 11th of August: "San Mamed" (patron saint) in the place of "A Torre".



 Port of Laxe

TRABA

The 2nd of February: "As Candeas".

The 24th of June: "Saint John" and "The Sacrament".

The 4th Sunday and Monday of August: "Our Lady of Miracles" and "Saint Joseph" respectively (The main festivities of Traba).

The 30th and 31st of December: "Saint James" (patron saint).

The Religious Heritage

Saint Mary's Church of Laxe

In the same town, on a highest hill over the port, we can find the most interesting and important building in Laxe: Saint Mary's Church. It is located on a wide atrium made up of highest stony walls. In the past there were several canyons in this atrium in order to defend the port against unfriendly fleets.

It is a marine gothic church and at the beginning this church was only made up of a chancel built in the first third of the 13th century. In fact it was finished by Mrs Urraca de Moscoso (Countess of Altamira) at the end of the 15th century. The bell tower was built in the 16th century.

The most amazing and interesting part in the church are five stony pictures about Jesus Christ's resurrection located in the high altar. Besides we can also watch: A medieval image of Saint Mary, two coats of arms, several altars with different images of the 17th and the 18th centuries, different stony images and so on. Due to this beautiful decoration it is regarded as one of the best temples in Costa da Morte.

Saint James's Church of Traba

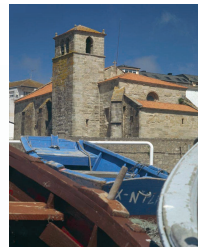
We can find the parish church in a lonely place, in the same centre of the valley. The apse and the nave were built in the first third of the 13th century. The structural base of this temple is Romanesque, noticeable in walls, in the apse vault and in external elements typically Romanesque.

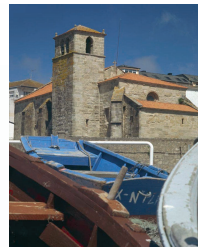
The main façade suffered the last reform in 1716 and it is believed that the stony altarpiece existing in the central part of this main façade was also built that year. This altarpiece is the most amazing and beautiful part in the temple.

We can watch several images in the stony altarpiece that is 5 meters high:


1. The upper part of the main entrance gate: Saint James Matamoros's equestrian image and over it a stony image of the Virgin surrounded by two sirens and over it a relief that represents the "Everlasting Father".
2. Right part (from top to bottom): Saint Francisco and Eva.
3. Left part (from top to bottom): Saint Peter and Adam.

Apart from these two main churches we can also find many other churches in different parishes of our municipal territory such as Serantes, Soesto, Nande and Sarces. There were also two little chapels: The Saint Rose's chapel in Laxe and Saint Anthony's chapel in O Aprazadoiro.




 Saint Mary's Church of Laxe



 Saint James Church of Traba



 Laxe: Interior of the Church

The Civil Heritage

The Country House "Casa del Arco"

It is the most important civil monument in Laxe from a historical point of view. It is located on the northwest corner of Ramon Juega Square. It is also one of the scare gothic houses existing nowadays in Galicia. This House is 500 years old.

The ground plan is trapezium-shaped, almost rectangular. The southern façade is the most beautiful part of the building because we can watch the pointed arch and a simple balcony. The main façade was always the western one where we can find the main entrance gate surrounded by two large chimneys.

There are two coats of arms under the arch: the first one is in the lintel of a gate and it has got a Gothic-German inscription, a chalice and a host (representing very likely the Galician shield). The second one is under the same arch and it represents the Moscoso and Castro lineages.

The house was built in the 15th century by Mrs Urraca de Moscoso (Countess of Altamira) and her second husband Sir Pedro de Osorio.



 Country House of Leis

 House of Arco

 Ramón Juega's Square

 Lighthouse of Laxe

The Country House of Soesto

The Country House of Soesto is also known as "Country House of Leis". It is located beside the road from Laxe to Camariñas (AC-433). When we are in the village of Arrueiro we can see this Country House on the right hand of the road.

It is a private estate and a building on a rectangular L-shaped ground plan with a small tower section on three floors. The façades are simple. It has no more decoration than a coat of arms with the emblem of the Leis Family: a pine with some spears.

The building is surrounded by a large and beautiful garden enclosed by a wall, featuring a dovecot. It has got three chimneys. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful and amazing country houses existing nowadays in Costa da Morte together with Country House of Romelle in Zas because of its beautiful garden, its tower, its dovecot and its small stream, in one word, it is a complete country house.

The present building was built between the 19th and 20th centuries.

Other Noble Country Houses

The "Casa do Arco" and the Country House of Leis are the only country houses we can see entirely in our municipality. In addition to these ones, we can find other noble houses with coats of arms and the remains of amazing country houses now disappeared in our municipality.

In the town of Laxe we can find at least other important noble house: the illustrious poet Anton Zapata's natal house. In Serantes there are two noble houses: The first one is known as "Casa de Carrabete" and the second one is known as "Casa do Piñeiro". In Nande we can watch today the remains of the ancient country house of Aprazadoiro (an old house with a small chapel). And finally in Traba, we can see different noble houses with a coat of arms like "Casa do Pombal" in Boafío or The House of Mórdomo.

The Lighthouse of Laxe

The lighthouse of Laxe is a good example of civil architecture. It is 11 metres high and is located on a hillock in Insua point. It was built in 1920.

It is 50 metres above sea level and is located on an amazing open space where we can watch beautiful scenery from Corne to Camella and Arou.

...loving the sea

...living stone

Laxe

 Tourist Guide



Concello de Laxe

Tourist Information Office of Laxe
Telephone: +34 981 706 903
www.concellodelaxe.com

Introduction

The Municipality of Laxe is located in the northwest of Galicia. It is also a part of the famous "Coast of the Death" together with other municipalities. The place-name "Laxe" is one of the most usual place-names in Galicia. It comes from a kind of rocks (plane and wide stones). Laxe means "stone" in the Galician language.

Laxe is also one of the smallest municipalities in size in all the province of La Coruña, as it stretches for a whole of 34,1 Km² distributed between the capital town Laxe and the parishes of Serantes, Soesto, Nande, Sarces and Traba.

There are two main roads to reach Laxe: One starts in La Coruña and the other one in Santiago de Compostela. The first one comes from La Coruña, and we can choose to take the old road C-552 or to take the modern toll motorway as far as Carballo. In Carballo we take the road towards Malpica, and in the village of Buño we leave it for Ponteceso turning to the left. In Ponteceso we cross the bridge in the direction of Laxe. The second one comes from Santiago and it goes across Portomouro, Santa Comba and Baio where we take the intersection to Ponteceso and Laxe.

Fornela dos Mouros

The Fornela dos Mouros is located on the parish of Saint Simon of Nande, near the place of Aprazadoiro. This dolmen dates between 2500 and 2000 before Christ, it presents a rectangular plan ground and it is formed by three vertical flagstones and a horizontal one as a cover. It is related, due to its shape, with other dolmens of the area like "Casota de Freat" in the municipality of Vimianzo.

It is 1,35 metres high and 2,57 metres wide. The stone of the cover measures 2,70 metres.

Many historians question that this structure is in fact a dolmen because they argue that we are very likely before one of those square or rectangular shaped megalithic arks, with a unique and very elegant cover, which are the prelude to individual tombs that will arise since the Bronze Age in Galicia.



Beaches

Our beaches are the main tourist attraction of our municipality. Bearing in mind that a big part of our coast is formed by beaches, we can find beaches for all types of people: An urban beach endowed with all the services for the swimmers, a beach for the practice of sports, small and remote beaches, a long and wild beach or small and remote creeks.

The Beach of Laxe

Next to the houses the long beach of Laxe is almost two kilometres long, with calm and clean waters, and with thin and very white sand. It is in the same centre of the town and so it has got the own services of an urban beach: parking-place, showers, buses, lifeguards, footbridges, accessibility to the beach for people with disabilities, promenade, daily cleaning, the red cross, wind and wave forecast, hotels and restaurants very next to the beach...etc.



Laxe Beach

The Beach of Soesto

Leaving Laxe for Camariñas, and diverting from a small road near the country house of Leis, we can find the hidden beach of Soesto. It is only 860 metres long. It is also an isolated and calmer beach with thin sand and tame waters. This beach is ideal for the practice of surf. The celebration of sport trials pertaining to the championship of Spain takes place in its waters the last weekend of August.



Soesto Beach

The Beach of Amado

A bit beyond the beach of Soesto, following the coastline towards Camariñas and Traba, we can find the beach of Amado, ideal for the lovers of the rest and the tranquillity, because it is a secluded inlet of 90 metres in length. It has got white sand and a small pier.

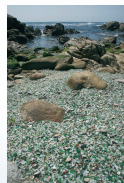


Amado Beach

The Beach of Traba

It is surrounded by a large sandy ground, almost three Kilometres in length, with dunes, salt marshes and a lagoon filled with legends, and with a high environmental value.

In addition, we have also small remote creeks along our coast like Morelo, O Castrillón and so on.



Los Cristales Beach



Traba Beach

Flora and Fauna

The coastline of the municipality of Laxe is protected by the Natura 2000 Network due to its big environmental value. Our coastline belongs to SCI "Costa da Morte" (a site of community importance) and in addition the lagoon of Traba is regarded as a "natural site" by the Galician Regional Government and it is also included in IBA "Costa da Morte" (important bird area).

Fauna

If we talk about predominant fauna in our territory we will highlight, at least, the following wild animal species: sights of several kinds of dolphins from any part of the coastline; otters; Iberian wolves; red foxes or common foxes; wild boars; common rabbits or European rabbits; bats; horses; the Galician green lizard; striped squirrels; badgers; and many other more.

The lagoon of Traba and its surroundings are also chosen by a big amount of birds as a clear refuge to nest. This is the case of different seagull's species and the cormorant. However, the most important interest in this lagoon from an environmental point of view is the visits of many birds unusual in these latitudes like "Heron", "Purple Herons", "Kingfishers", "Mallards", "Pintails", "Eurasian Coots" or "Lagoon Eaglets" and many other more.

Moreover, we can watch in our woods wild bird species such as crows, hawks, owls, magpies...

But the marine biodiversity is ever more valuable, because you can find in our sea octopuses; squids; different species of fish (breams; sea-basses...); barnacles; mussels; razor shells ...etc. Laxe is a sailors' town and so it is also an ideal place to fish.

Flora

You can find in our cliffs plants such as sea thrifts or pinks; ladies fingers; catchflies; rock samphires; different kinds of ferns; dandelions; sour figs (also known as highway ice plant, pig faces, or hottentot figs...)...etc.

You can find in our dunes plants such as the sea spurge; the Gramineae; the sea holly...etc.

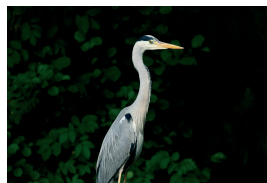
You can find in our woods trees such as oaks; brushwood; chestnuts; the blue eucalyptus; different kinds of pines; gorses; alders...etc.

Moss, mushrooms, rushes, bulrushes, fig trees... and a huge number of plants more.

All this flora and fauna diversity makes true our slogan Laxe – Living Stone.



Cormorants



The Heron



The Sea Otter



Fig Trees of Mordomo



Concello de Laxe



www.dicoruna.es