



## Pazo da Trave

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Viveiro, Galicia, tel. 982 598 331

### Walking and rambling routes through the *Mariña*

#### *The Souto de Retorta and the Chavín Eucalyptus Grove*

Not very far from the Pazo<sup>1</sup>, if we head along the C-640 road towards Lugo and then turn off at the roundabout to take the road to Mondoñedo, after a couple of kilometres we reach the Hidrofersa Plant and 100 metres above it an esplanade where one can park the car and set off on foot.

The path runs through the eucalyptus grove, which has been listed as a National Monument, following the riverbed between trees that are more than a hundred years old, which were originally planted to put a stop to the continual encroachments of the Landro Marshes. The Abuelo<sup>2</sup>, a tree that was planted more than 130 years ago, lies at the end of the path; it is over 70 metres high and is several metres in diameter.

It takes about 20 minutes to reach this point and the route is suitable for old and young alike, and children will love it, as long as it is not too windy – a danger of all falling branches – to appreciate a fragrant and humble tree,

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<sup>1</sup> A Pazo is a large Galician country noble house

<sup>2</sup> Abuelo means grandfather in Spanish

unjustly reviled and pilloried because it was thought that the only useful purpose it served was to feed the paper mills.

### **The Fraga das Saímas and the Rapa das Bestas**

The Fraga das Saímas<sup>3</sup> is a mass of autochthonous vegetation that has largely escaped interference from human activity and where the rambler can enjoy a very pleasant walk through the heart of the wood. The terrain is rather broken, abrupt and steep and a large number of different species of tree coexist in the zone, the most outstanding ones being the hazel, oak and holly. It is in this spot that the famous Rapa das Bestas<sup>4</sup> fiesta is held every year in July.

This place is reached by driving along the C-640 road towards Lugo, then turning off in the direction of Mondoñedo, before taking a left turn at Boimente, and heading towards Curro de Candaoso, and then branching off again to the left where we will see the sign indicating the “Fraga de Saímas”.

### **Climbing up to the San Roque vantage point**

This is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular panoramas where one can get a wonderful view of the Viveiro Ria, the Landro Marshes, the Port of Celeiro and .... much of the Bay of Biscay. One can walk up to this vantage point from the centre of the city, making a parsimonious approach to the 3 kilometre climb up to an altitude of 353 metres, leaving to one side, the San Francisco Church, the cemetery, the Souto das Nogueiras<sup>5</sup> – a place where grilled sardines are consumed during *fiestas* – and a deer park. The views are all waiting for us at the top, together with a hermitage, and a bar/restaurant where we can get our strength back after the climb.

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<sup>3</sup> Fraga means forest in Galician

<sup>4</sup> Rapa das Bestas means “Taming the Beasts” in Galician

<sup>5</sup> Nogueira means walnut tree area in Galician

**Other interesting walks** include the ones that take the rambler to **Monte Faro** after crossing the Area Beach (on the road to Ribadeo and about 5 Km. from Viveiro taking the left turn that leads to the beach).

Another interesting walk runs through the old mines of Silvarosa and the ethnographic area of **Insua**, with its old mineral yards. It is reached following the C-642 road towards Ferrol, and turning off to the right 1 Km. at the first curve beyond the Las Sirenas hotel complex.