

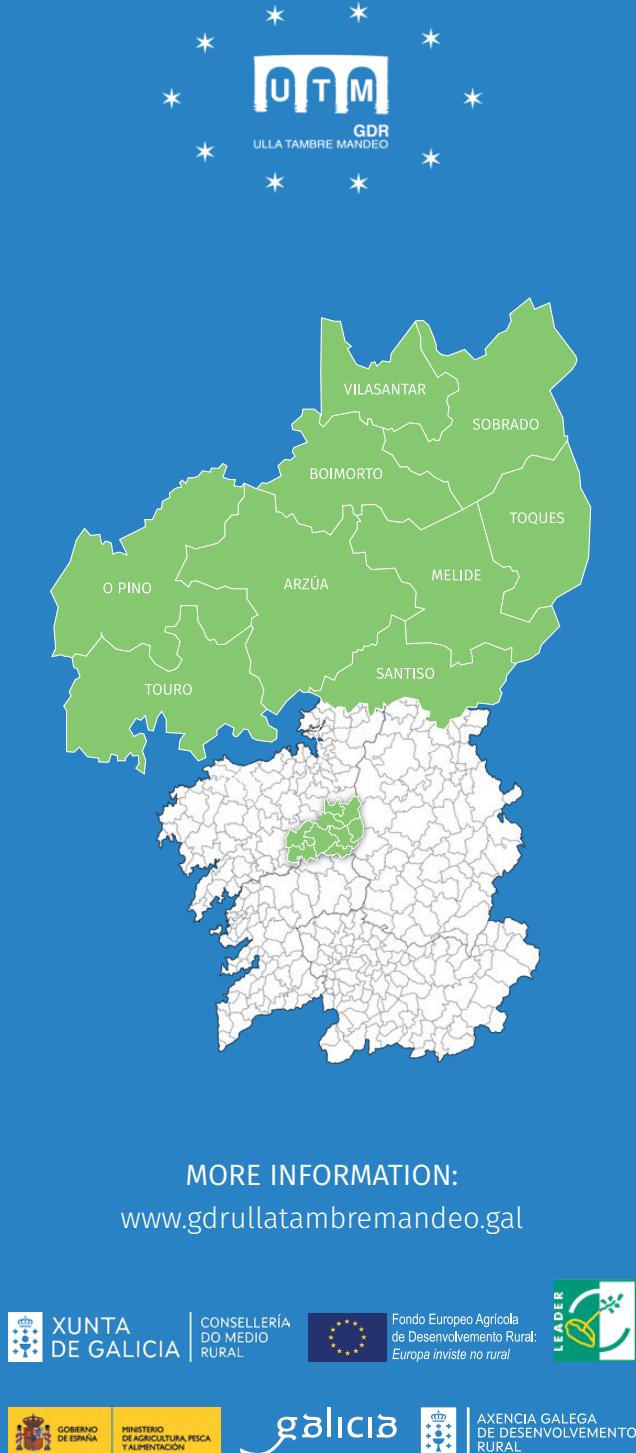


Water, stone, sun and wind  
here so great is the joy  
that everything seethes and sings  
and the Ulla flows serenely  
In this land I have a place  
and a deep feeling  
a living, resounding love  
for the valley where I was born  
I bear the stoneware within me  
I am from this fragment of the world

*Auga, pedra, sol e vento  
aquí a ledicia é tanta  
que todo rebule e canta  
e o Ulla vaise contento  
Teño nesta terra asento  
e un sentimento profundo  
un amor vivo e rotundo  
polo val onte nacín  
levo a Gres dentro de min  
son deste anaco do mundo.*

Xosé Neira Vilas

## GRUPO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL



## THE DUTCHMAN'S ROUTE

A TWO-WHEELED TRAVEL COMPANION





The origin of the route, known as the Dutchman's Route, is an itinerary with years of history. It has been almost two decades since cycle tourists, predominantly from the Netherlands, but also from Germany, France, and Central Europe, began passing through Touro on their way to Compostela.

These people, whose main travelling companions were bicycles, sought alternatives to the hustle and bustle and the crowds of the Camino de Santiago, and along this route they found a haven of peace: the tranquillity of nature in its purest form and the warmth of the people in these villages of inland Galicia.

The route rose to prominence when Clemens Sweerman published a guidebook in the Netherlands: *St. Jacobs Fietsroute langs pelgrims wegen naar Santiago de Compostela* (Cycling route of the Apostle St. James along the pilgrimage routes towards Santiago de Compostela).

<https://www.europafietsers.nl/fietsroutes/st-jacobs-fietsroute/>



## A WAY WITH A LONG HISTORY!

As far back as the 19th century, the renowned Galician geographer, Domingo Fontán, author of the Geometric Chart of Galicia, outlined this route within this territory to make the journey to Santiago, which was recognised as a historical itinerary in the report from the UNESCO International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), indicating the clock tower, better known as the *Be-renguela*, as the end point.

A historic way along which thousands of Pilgrims have passed, and which may also have been one of the great Roman communication arterial roads of the ancient Gallaecia. Proof of this is the fortified site of *O Castrillón*, located at the foot of the hill fort settlement, Coto de San Sebastián, in the municipality of Touro, which confirms the hypothesis of a Roman military presence in the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula.

Nowadays, the course of the Dutchman's Route has been included as part of EuroVelo 3, a long-distance route that crosses Europe from north to south: from Trondheim cathedral in Norway, to the cathedral of Santiago.

The final stage of EuroVelo 3 passes through the municipalities of Santiago, Arzúa, Touro and Boqueixón, until it reaches the City of Culture, which welcomes visitors to the capital of Galicia: Santiago de Compostela. A city brimming with all manner of attractions, and declared a **World Heritage Site**.



## WELKOM BIJ TOURO! A HOME FROM HOME!

On this section of the Way, the landscape, terrain, climate, architecture, way of life, and gastronomy are strongly influenced by the passage of the River Ulla, which runs alongside the route.

Here you can enjoy examples of civil architecture such as *hórreos*, granaries for storing corn; "Ouriceiras" for keeping chestnuts, dovecotes, and watermills; Galician manor houses and stately homes; and the bridges, that have served since time immemorial to unite peoples and cultures, just like this Dutch Way that has brought you to our land.

You can also discover our religious or spiritual architecture by visiting stone crosses, churches, and chapels. Another way to learn more about our culture and way of life is to visit the River Ulla Interpretation Centre, located in Touro. You will learn about the natural areas through which our river flows, the literature in our Galician language, the specificities of our flora and fauna, or delve deeper into our rich landscape. You will learn the secrets of our gastronomy and the carnival tradition of the Generals of the Ulla, called in these parts *entroido* or *máscaras*.

On the route along Eurovelo 3, we recommend stopping off to visit the **Carballeira de Baibre, O Coto de San Sebastián**, where you can enjoy spectacular panoramic views and feel the presence of the Roman army at your feet from **O Castrillón, the sulphurous waters of Brandelos, or the waterfalls on the streams along the way**. You will be surprised to learn about parts of our cultural and historical heritage that are still preserved!

