

USEFUL WORDS

Yes • Sí
No • No
Good Bye • Adios
Good Day • Buenos Días
Thank You • Gracias
You're Welcome • De Nada

(Visitors will find that a combination of Spanish and Gallego is used. The words listed above are in Spanish).

NOTES

Horizontal lines for notes.

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing. © RCCL 2009. All rights reserved.



©1995 Magellan Geographix™ Santa Barbara, CA



PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Vigo

GENERAL INFORMATION The city of Vigo, with a growing population almost 300,000, is situated on the slopes of Monte del Castro in the northwestern Spanish province of Galicia. Its modern seaport is located 9 miles from the southern shore of Vigo Bay. Vigo Bay is 20 miles long and 3 miles wide with very deep water, and it is said to be sufficiently large to hold the combined fleets of the world.

The entrance of Vigo estuary is guarded by the mythical Cies Islands, which are steep and abrupt, but have magnificent beaches and the remains of an ancient Celtic culture. The climate is modified by the sea, and the tides of the Atlantic reach far into the estuary creating a mild climate with few extremes of temperature, in fact, oranges are grown along the Vigo inlet. One of the wettest and greenest of Spanish provinces, Galicia is sometimes called the “Wales of Spain”.

This old picturesque city is typical for the Galicia area. For visitors from the sea, Vigo is the gateway to the spectacular scenery of the northern Spanish countryside. Visitors have access to the fascinating towns of Santiago de Compostela, Valenca Do Minho, La Toja, and Bayona. As you explore this region, it will continue to reveal its fascinating lifestyle, history and marvelous landscapes.

HISTORY The name Galicia is Celtic in origin and it was the Celts who, in about the 6th century BC, occupied the region and constructed fortified defenses or castros. After the invasion by the Romans the country was taken over by the Suevians, Visigoths, and in 730 AD the Moors of North Africa, who remained for only a brief period. However, it was not until 1492 that the Moors were finally evicted from all parts of Spain, and Ferdinand and Isabella helped unite Spain while developing routes to the New World. In 1519 when Cortez captured Mexico, it was to the northern ports of Spain that the treasure ships, laden with gold and silver, returned. Galicia quickly became very prosperous through commerce.

During the reign of Philip IV (1621-65), Vigo was surrounded by a wall supported by towers, which nested on pillars embedded in the sea. The wall was erected to defend against raiding pirates. In 1702 a combined English and Dutch fleet destroyed most of the Franco-Spanish fleet in Vigo bay, capturing a vast treasure worth £1 million sterling. Vigo Street in London, England was named after this victory.

In the 19th century Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Spain and faced much popular resistance in Galicia. In 1864 the people of Galicia revolted against the Spanish central government, and an autonomist movement developed in the province towards the end of the century. During the Spanish Civil War in the 1930’s Galicia was one of the first regions to come under Generalissimo Franco’s Nationalist Forces and in 1975, after Franco’s death, the Galician language was accorded official recognition by the Spanish government.





©1995 Magellan GeographixSM Santa Barbara, CA

1 The Citadel, called El Castro, was built by Philip IV and was one of three forts that guarded the town. Today a park from which there is a wonderful view of the city, the bay and distant communities, surrounds it. The fortress is located on a hill at the top of the City above the Port.

2 Municipal Museum and Quinones de Leon Park, is approximately one mile further from the Citadel. With its gardens and open-air auditorium, it is well worth a visit. Nearby are the impressive look-out points of Mount Alba and La Madroa, as well as the Zoological Gardens.

Castrelos Palace is an ancient building that has been converted into a museum where paintings and Roman treasures are kept. It is also the residence of the Head of State when visiting Vigo. The palace is located in the western section of Vigo, close to Quinones de Leon Park.

3 Ribera del Berbes is the fishing quarter across from the Port. During the reign of Philip IV this was the main city. Within a few minutes walk of the Ship's berth, it is a favorite spot for tourists to explore and enjoy the fresh seafood at the picturesque out-door cafes.

Beyond Vigo

Islas Cíes (Cies Islands) – boasts the best beaches in the vicinity. These three islands protect the entrance of the Vigo inlet, and can only be reached by boat (less than an hour away). One of the islands is a bird sanctuary and is off-limits; however, the other two islands are accessible for exploration.

Bayona – is a medieval town and fishing port about 12 miles southwest of Vigo. It is situated at the mouth of the Vigo Ria or inlet and is arguably the region's best resort. In 1493 the Pinta sailed into Bayona, homeport of the ship's pilot, with news of the discovery of the New World weeks ahead of the return of

Columbus to Spain. Today the harbor is busy with fishing and pleasure boats.

Monte Real – is a 16th century castillo and the main feature of Bayona. It was once the Governor's residence but has now been converted into a parador (hotel). It is surrounded by pine and eucalyptus forests. There are spectacular views of the bay and Cies islands from the battlements.

Santiago de Compostela – is the site of the famous cathedral said to contain the remains of St. James. Santiago de Compostela is located some 68 miles inland from Vigo, and was one of the three chief places of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, its only rivals being Rome and Jerusalem. The old part of the city is extremely charming with narrow medieval streets and beautiful buildings. According to legend St. James visited Spain after the death of Christ to preach the Gospel. He later died in Judea at the hands of Herod. The body of James, it is said, was brought back to Spain for burial. It was lost and after many years rediscovered in the 9th century, when a hermit noticed a bright star shining steadily over a hill. An altar and the grave of St. James were found and a church was then built over the tomb. Pilgrim's flocked to the Saint's tomb from all the countries of Christendom, and a town grew up to accommodate them. For centuries, people from all parts of the world made a pilgrimage to Santiago and the tomb of the beheaded apostle St. James.

Aside from its religious connections, Santiago de Compostela is one of the most romantic and historic cities of Spain and has been declared a national landmark.

Plaza del Obradoiro – in Santiago, is a magnificent square bordered by the baroque façade of the Cathedral, the Bishop's Palace, the imposing 18th century Town Hall, and San Jeronimo College. The square is completed by the magnificent 16th century Hotel de los Reyes Catolicos. Built by order of the Catholic monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, the hotel originally served as a hospital and inn for religious pilgrims, but was converted into a luxury hotel in 1954.

Other noteworthy structures in Santiago include the **Monasterio de San Martin Pinario**, the **Convent of Santo Domingo** and the **Fonesca College**.

Valenca Do Minho, Portugal – "Border Country" is located 20 miles south of Vigo in the northwestern corner of Portugal. This peaceful fortified town is set alongside the Minho River, which forms the border between Spain and Portugal.

- Admission Charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Vigo and its surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices listed in shops are not negotiable. For the most part, the practice of bartering does not exist.

Tipping: In most restaurants, a 10% gratuity is acceptable. Taxi drivers should receive about 10% of the total fare.

Local Cuisine: The rugged coast line of Galicia is world famous for its quality seafood. The least expensive and traditional way of tasting these local favorites is at a tapas bar. Fresh seafood is in abundance with such delicacies as; oysters, octopus, squid or grilled sardines. For dessert a Spanish favorite is flan, an egg custard.

Drink Specialties: Some of the best Spanish wines come from the Rioja region but the Albarino wine is quite palatable.

Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shops are generally open from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm Only a few of the larger department stores or tourist oriented stores may remain open during siesta.

Vigo and the surrounding areas of Galicia are noted for handicrafts, tablecloths, pottery, furniture and leatherwork.

U.S. Dollars are not generally accepted, but most major credit cards are welcomed.

Value Added Tax (VAT) is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change, and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.® cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities. Check with the individual shops for details.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Post Office is located on Plaza de Compostela Street. Telephone facilities are located outside the port and at Plaza de Compostela.

AT&T: 900-99-0011 / MCI 900-99-0014
SPRINT: 900-99-0013

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Office is located at Muelle de Trasatlánticos, by the Estación Marítima (port).

TRANSPORTATION A number of taxis are usually available outside the Port gates. There are few English-speaking drivers and it is advisable to negotiate a fare before departing.