

Ponteceso



Tourism guide 2009



Concello
de Ponteceso



Tourism guide of Ponteceso

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1 Location and geographic description

The Municipality of Ponteceso, is located in the extreme eastern side of the Costa da Morte (Galician Death Coast). It belongs to the province of La Coruña, is part of the administrative region of Bergantiños, and the diocese of Santiago de Compostela. It shows extraordinary beauty in its combination of sea, mountain, and river riches, with a mild climate which, together with its impressive historical, artistic and cultural heritage, as well as the beauty of its flora and fauna, makes it an ideal holiday destination appealing to every possible liking.

The municipal surface is 91,78 km², population 6.320 (Census April 2009) distributed in fourteen parishes with a strong geographic dispersion and a complex territorial division: A Graña, Anllóns, San Xián de Brantuas, San Martiño de Cores, San Adrián de Corme (Corme Aldea), Corme Porto, San Tirso de Cospindo, Languerón, Nemeño, Niñóns, San Salvador de Pazos, San André de Tallo, Tella and Xornes. It has two main towns: Ponteceso (capital) and Corme Porto (coastal town).

It limits to the north and west with the Atlantic Ocean, to the south with the municipalities of Cabana de Bergantiños and Coristanco, and to the west with the municipalities of Carballo and Malpica de Bergantiños.



Views from Santamarina

It's an elongated area, aprox. 20 km long from west to east, with a large morphological diversity which is characterised as the area with the most rugged coast in the region, occasionally appearing to be mountainous terrain, despite only being 200 m above sea level at the most.

Near the coast there are several small mountains, forming a mountain range from Mount Nariga (223 m) to O Roncudo, where the Alto das Vixías (187 m) arises.

The Monte Branco is the place where we can enjoy a panoramic view of Ponteceso, Cabana de Bergantiños and Laxe, and the Cove of A Ínsua, where the



Natural environment

Beaches and ports

Ponteceso offers unexpected and pleasant surprises to its visitors, with beautiful and lively landscapes, natural spaces, and fine white sandy beaches. Maybe those beaches, very popular in the summer, are the most remarkable touristic aspect of the Municipality.

Balarés beach (350m long) is, undoubtedly, one of the most beautiful places in the municipality. Sheltered by the estuary of Corme y Laxe, the beach is visited by thousands of people during the summer. Balarés has been classified



View of Balarés beach

as a Blue Flag beach in 2009, and offers several services such as a restaurant by the beach, parking, showers, a promenade, access ramps for the handicapped, a daily cleaning service, surveillance, signs showing the ocean's security, and handicapped-friendly toilettes.

There is a platform very close to the beach where Wolfram was exported to the Germans during the II World War. To get there we start in Ponteceso, taking the road towards Corme. When we reach Cospindo there is a left turn with a sign indicating Balarés, reaching the beach. Continuing by the coast to the South, we find A Barra beach, with beautiful sand dunes, and the starting point of the estuary of the river Anllóns, with a great ornithologic value.

Niñóns beach (250 m), in the same parish, with fine sand as the previous beach, is another beautiful and popular beach in the area. The visitor will



Faro Roncudo

sand gathers together to make sand dunes for almost two kms. long and four hundred metres wide. This sand climbs up the hills of the Monte Branco up to the Alto das Travesas.

The coastal zone is a high area, with large cliffs, interrupted only by the small sandy coves of Niñóns and A Barda. Within the estuary, the coast becomes more cosy and secluded, and we find the coves and beaches of Osmo and Ermida, close to Corme Porto, the beaches of Balarés and A Barra in Ponteceso, and the beach of Santa Mariña, Morro and Niñóns, in the parish of Niñóns.

The Municipality's main economic sources are livestock, agriculture and lumber, as well as fishing, especially in the town of Corme, always by the sea; the barnacles from O Roncudo are considered the best barnacles in the world.

Ponteceso has similar climate characteristics as the surrounding municipalities, with damp wet days in the winter due to the proximity of the ocean. The area has an oceanic climate with heavy rains in the months of November and December, and the driest months in summertime. The rainfalls range from 945-1.748 mm. per year, and average temperatures range from 12,4-14,5°C. Therefore, this mild climate allows the visitor to enjoy Ponteceso's nature, its landscapes, beaches and other attractions during the four seasons, each with a different climatologic perspective.



Ermida beach

also enjoy a fantastic seaview; it is located in front of the Port of Santa Mariña, a traditional fishing port worth visiting because of its extraordinary views. To reach this area we start at Ponteceso and take the road towards Malpica. When we reach the crossroad of A Campara we take the road towards Corme. When we reach the parish of Brantuas, there is a turn to Niñóns. When we get to Niñóns, there is another turn to the beach.

The port of Corme forms one of the most beautiful views of the estuary and the Costa da Morte. The port's activity is mainly fishing and seafood, and Cabo Roncudo, 2,3 kms from Corme to the NO, is considered the starting point of the Costa da Morte (Death Coast). It has two important beaches, Osma and Arnela, and several coves such as "Area das Cunchas", Gralleiras and Insua, located in the road from Corme to Cabo Roncudo. One of the most visi-



Niñóns beach

ted places in Corme-Porto (also in the Municipality) is Cabo (Cape) Roncudo. The best barnacles in the world grow in this area, with a very important role in the town and municipality's economy. The dramatic crosses "Cruces da Ribeira" lie there, in memory of those people who disappeared in this rough sea; as well as the impressive Faro Roncudo (lighthouse). Ermida beach, 2 kms. from Corme, gives the visitor the chance to enjoy a relaxing swim, a beautiful picnic area, and a view of the island Illa da Estrela, an historic place.

Landscapes

The Municipality of Ponteceso offers plenty of lush natural landscapes, so as to enjoy quiet walks through the natural environment. The river Anllóns goes through the South of the municipality until its mouth in the Cove of Insúa, a very rich natural area. In the parish of Anllóns we find the "Sáima", a beautiful place which supplies water to the region. This fluvial area, once an outstanding salmon fishing preserve, also gives you a chance to practice fishing. There is a recreational area in the Camp of the river Anllóns, where the visitor may enjoy different activities or a leisurely rest. Continuing by the coast to the West, towards Balarés beach, we find the natural scenic viewpoint of Monte Branco, with spectacular panoramic views of the municipality and the sea, which can only be compared to those we observe at Monte do Faro, in the parish of Brantuas, where a 39m high tower stands. In the parish of Xornes we can cross

the bridge of Pontedona, where we can stroll by the river Anllóns towards the natural reserve of Verdes.

The recreational areas are fully equipped with leisure and rest fixtures such as stone tables and chairs, picnic area, childrens games, etc.



View from Monte Branco

Geology

The most significant geological aspect of the municipality of Ponteceso is the clear view of its coastal erosion. According to the studies by the prestigious geologist Isidro Parga Pondal, born in the neighbouring municipality of Laxe, the estuary Corme-Laxe is defined by an inlet in its granitic coast, where the river Anllóns flows into. In his studies we observe that the coast is formed by a gneiss granite of two micas, crossed through by pegmatites with black tourmaline. There is an important system of basic rocks seams inserted by almost parallel scattered fractures. Inland, the two micas granite (granite of Laxe) make contact with a gistic formation followed by a glandular biotite gneiss. The band between the granite and the gneiss has been degraded by erosion, resulting in the Valley of Canduas in the South and the Valley of Cospindo in the North. It is formed petrologically by biotite migmate gneiss with concurrent dikes of gneiss granite and acid seams.

At the mouth of the river Anllóns, which has a higher water level, begins the Ensenada da Insúa, where two different parts are established: a higher area with drained marshes and a lower area where the fluvial elements are laid, forming sand banks. The cove ends with a long littoral arrow of 1,5km. stabilised due to its connection with the Anllóns' mouth channel.



Froxán

Vegetation, flora and fauna

The visitor of Ponteceso probably associates the area's image to that of the sea, the Costa da Morte, and indeed that is the most frequent and popular image. However, this land offers rich natural spaces of great importance, less known and visited, and with great value and biodiversity.



A Pontedona

The most important natural treasures lie in the river Anllóns, classified by the Xunta de Galicia (regional governmental body) as a protected natural area. The Rural Environment Council, indicates in its area's studies, that in the river's mouth there is a significant number of marsh vegetation, surrounded by swamp alders, formed mainly by common reeds (*Phragmites australis*) and, secondarily, by rushes (*Juncus* spp.).

Two main environments occupy the largest part of the river beds. The Riparian forest is the most characteristic one, being able to observe its clear markings in certain areas (i.e. in the lower course of the Anllóns). Among its tree families we find the common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), the alder buckhorn (*Frangula alnus*), ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior* y *Fraxinus angustifolia*), the common oak (*Quercus robur*), and willows (*Salix* spp.), restricted to the river beds we find hydrophitic prairies, as well as several species of pondweeds (*Potamogeton berchtoldii*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Potamogeton trichoides*), the pond water starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), the sparganium (*Sparganium emersum*) and the water dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*).

Regarding the fauna, among its forest invertebrates we find the kerry slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*) and the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*). Its fishery wil-



Panoramic view of Corne

dlife include, the sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), the brown trout (*Salmo trutta trutta*), the eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and the ray-finned fish (*Chondrostoma duriense*).

Several species of amphibians and reptiles are found in this area, such as the endemic gold-striped salamandra (*Chioglossa lusitanica*), the bosca's newt (*Triturus boscai*), the Iberian frog (*Rana iberica*) and the Iberian Emerald Lizard



Coast of Ponteceso

(*Lacerta schreiberi*). The most typical river birds are the common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), the white-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) and the grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*). In the marsh areas close to the river's mouth, certain aquatic birds breed, such as the water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and the reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*). Regarding mammals, the presence of animals usually found in fluvial environments is remarkable, such as the Pyrenean desman (*Galemys pyrenaicus*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*), the Miller's Water Shrew (*Neomys anomalus*), the water vole (*Arvicola sapidus*), the polecat (*Mustela putorius*) and the stoat (*Mustela erminea*).

The population of sea birds found in the coast of the cape O Roncudo is also of great importance, such as the common shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*); this entire coast is a regular transit area for migrant and hibernating sea birds (petrels, gannets, auks, terns). The cove of Insúa has a great ornitologic value, where we can find the oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), several species of dunlins and the bar-tailed godwit, of great regional and national importance because of their migrant and hibernating colonies. During the reproductive season, these beaches are the choice for breeding groups of Kentish plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Among the avifauna from the marsh environments you can find the presence of the little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*).



Trekking route



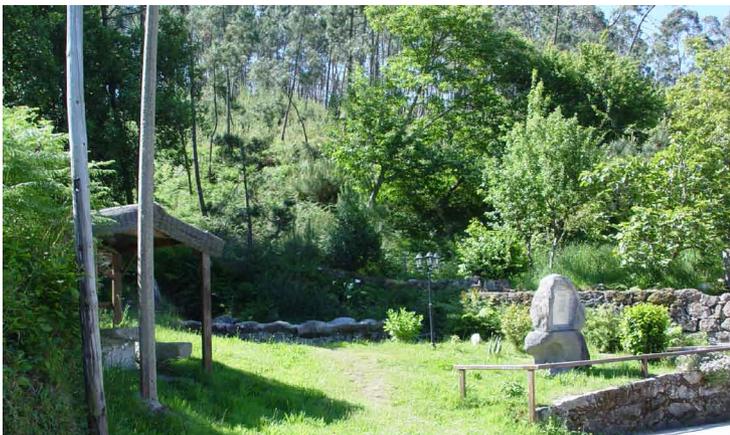
View from Monte do Faro



River Anllóns



Niños beach



Froxán



Coast of Niños

Cultural, historical and artistic heritage

Historical Introduction

From pre-historical times there are remains such as stone circles at the island of Estrela, and celtic settlements such as those in Nemeño. Some petroglyphs have been found recently in the surroundings of the town of Roncudo, which are being currently studied, of undetermined origin.



Pedra da Serpe

The Pedra da Serpe, located in the parish of Gondomil and representing a snake, of disputed chronology, belongs to the pre-Christian era, and may be related to pre-roman ancient cults.

According to the historians, the toponymy of Ponteceso comes from the existence of a bridge (ponte) on the river Anllóns. The current bridge, with five arches, was built in the XIX century over another one of roman origin. Its Roman origin also left its imprint with the Roman path Per Loca Maritima.

The monastery of Almerzo, according to writings found in the area, already existed in 876, founded by Saint Rudesind. It was absorbed in the XII century by the Monastery of Sobrado.

In Ponteceso we find several churches, pazos, stone crucifixes and mills, showing its history's rich artistic heritage.

Ponteceso's visitors must not forget to get to know the people who, more recently, contributed to the growth of our arts and culture, specially the bard Eduardo Pondal, son of Ponteceso, author of the Galician Anthem. The Foundation Eduardo Pondal is located in the parish of Couto, and must be visited by the lovers of Galician culture and poetry.



Eduardo Pondal's birthplace



Monte do Faro

Churches

Most of the churches in Ponteceso are a fine representation of Romanesque style, although the passing of time and the successive restorations offer artworks of Baroque style, some dating as far back as the V century.

Church of San Martiño de Cores

Located in the parish of Cores, it was originally a Romanesque church, and some remains from the XIII century are still preserved, and above these, two original bell-bottomed windows, which were blinded. Two wooden mainstays holding the ceiling, also wooden, in the main nave, are also Romanesque style. The floor is of Latin cross, with two side chapels covered with barrel vaults and barrel arches. The presbytery, which was restored, is covered with a cul-de-four vault. A reversed Roman altar was found on the sacristy's vault, which was placed on one of this body's walls by the parish priest. The Baroque altarpieces embellishing the major altar and the lateral chapels are remarkable. The wall, below the Romanesque facade, reflects on the outside the church's successive enlargements and restorations. This wall, dated in the XIII century, was restored in the XII century. On that same wall there are two hollows and two pointed arches. A Gothic window was later closed, and another was opened in the XVIII century, when the church was finally extended and a Baroque facade was built, which is presided by a slender bell tower. There is a sarcophagus from VI or VII century on one of the exterior sides, flanked by two columns from the old main facade.

Church of San Fiz do Anllóns

Located in the same named parish, the church is an extension of an originally Romanesque church.

Its architectural structure includes a rectangular floor with a single nave and Romanesque presbytery, which shelters a Baroque altarpiece from the XVIII century. The main outside facade maintains its Baroque belfry, which has a double hollow. The gabled cover is covered with tile. In the church's atrium we find the original pavement from the ancient Romanesque church, and its modillions were moved to the new lateral facades.



Church of San Martiño de Cores

Church of San Vicenzo

The church of San Vicenzo, located in Carballido, in the parish of A Raña, from the XVII century and Baroque style, is remarkable. It was built over the monastery of Almerzo. There are presently no remains from this monastery, founded on May 7th, 867 by Saint Rudesind, bishop of Santiago at that time. The building's architectural structure is of a rectangular floor plan, with small bodies added later used as chapels and sacristy, the latter located in the northern wall by the presbytery. Its material is of irregular quarry, and curve shaped. The building's exterior is vigorously volumetric and quite remarkable. The main facade is organized in a plain and simple way, ending in a belfry with exuberant decoration.

Church of San Xián de Brantuas

This church is built in a planimetric single nave design, with two small chapels on each side and presbytery. At the height of the latter, and by its northern wall, a small body was added as a sacristy, which also has an external entrance. The walls are load bearing, and the roof is gabled in the main body and hipped in the presbytery, all of them covered with curved tile.

The presbytery's interior is covered with a groin vault. Amongst its ornaments is an image who is wearing clothing from the XVII century. The church's exterior facade resembles that of San Martiño de Cospindo, which may indicate that the same quarrymen built it. The bell tower is extraordinary, with a pentagonal floor plan.



Church of San Vicenzo's interior

Church of San Adrián

The parochial church of Corme Aldea dates back from the late XVIII century, and replaced the ancient church of San Adrián, where some graves were found amongst its ruins. The church's floor plan is Latin crossed, together with the Sacristy which was added later. The main facade's decoration is more recent, breaking with the Baroque tradition in the area, classifying its origin as an advanced Baroque. As if they were huge medallions on its façade, we find inscriptions referred to Jesus and the Virgin Mary. On the main façade there is a slender double gap belfry.



Church of San Adrián



Church of San Fiz de Anllóns

Church of San Tirso de Cospindo

The religious temple, located in O Couto, had a rectangular floor plan with a single nave, with a wooden gabled cover. Several chapels were added later, as well as a sacristy and a new altar. It currently has a Latin cross floor plan. In the interior, the nave and the presbytery's area are delimited by a triumphal arch, with the altarpieces as the most significant ornamental aspect, common in the XVIII century, reproducing usual designs found in other churches in this area. In the exterior we find a great section entirely built with regular stone. The facade, organized symmetrically, ends with a bell tower decorated geometrically, built by mid XVIII century. The church is surrounded by a stone wall, with a stone crucifix in front of its main entrance door.

Church of San Xíán de Langueirón

The church of San Xíán de Langueirón is located on the right bank of the river Anllóns. Mounts Seixos de Angamie are on its west side, with its main parish to its north. The building suffered several restoration efforts; an apse covered by a barrel vault was added to the original rectangular nave. In the second restoration in the XVII century a chapel was covered by a star shaped vault. The main facade has the typical pentagonal system found in most of the municipality's churches. Its cornice breaks at its center to show a significantly large belfry which increases the sense of verticality. Access to the church is through an interior staircase.

Church of Santo Tomé de Nemeño

The church of Santo Tomé de Nemeño is located in the small village of Porto do Souto, which can be reached by the road that leaves Mezquita and goes through Graña. It was a monastic church in the XII century, and it was later incorporated into the priorship of Sar (Santiago). It was originally a parish on its own, and was later annexed to Cores. The monastery, as mentioned in some documents, is "in territorio bergantinus nalle selagie locum predictum ubi dicent nemo". The building shows an architectural structure with a Latin cross floor plan, where a single nave, presbytery and two small lateral chapels were incorporated. The Sacristy is located behind the main altar, reaching this area through two doors located at the front. The external building is remarkable by its simplicity and sobriety of its size, and its outstanding of symmetry.

Other churches of interest in the area: The church of Nosa Señora do Faro, at the Monte do Faro, and the most recent church of Corme porto, as well as the smallest although charming church of Ourada, at the parish of Cores.

Pazos

A pazo is a traditional Galician house similar to English Manor houses

Pazo de Rebordáns

The Pazo de Rebordáns is located in the parish of San Salvador de Pazos; its original design was altered by the current owners in order to adapt it to rural use. The floor plan was "L" shaped, but another body was added, varying its typology. The facades also suffered several unfortunate restorations, and they show masonry and quarry in the same plan, filled areas next to brick, with an evident lack of criteria. It has a curve tile gabled and hipped cover. The pazo was founded in 1643 by Mr. Julián Rodríguez de Añón, as showed in an inscription on one of its doors. There are some stony remains in the rear of the pazo, reading "year 1658", with no clear reference as to identify it with.

Pazo de Sergude

It is located in a wide wooded estate, with mainly oaks and pinetrees, at the parish of San Xoán de Xornes. The pazo de Sergude maintains the "L" shaped floor plan design, without any additions, within a walled ground with access through a large quarry door crowned with merlons, with a coat of arms and a cross. The design of its hollows is simple, concentrating on the main facade with a Baroque styled front, stone built, composed of pilasters crowning the cornice with pinnacles. At both sides there is a balcony sustained by three stone corbels and a wooden hand rail. On the main entrance there is a coat of arms representing the Camamaño, Moscoso, Romero and Carballido or Anxón lineages.

The parameters have been filled and painted in white, and the quarry leaves the hollows' frames, the cornice and the corners within sight. The pazo was built in the early XVIII century by Mr. Diego Jacinto Romero de Moscoso y Caamaño. An hórreo is located by the entrance, dated in 1857. The pazo was restored by the architect and owner Mr. German Álvarez de Sotomayor y Castro, deceased a few years ago.



Pazo de Sergude

Pazo de Ardabón

It is located in the parish of San Xoán de Xornes, on a small hill. This pazo has a rectangular floor plan arranged on two levels, although originally it had an "L" shaped floor plan displayed on the eastern facade along its occupied area. The inside chapel also disappeared. It was built of stone, combining masonry with quarry in the frames and the reinforcements of the corners. The main facade is noted for its shortage of hollows. It has a curved country tile gabled cover.

Pazo de Torres

The pazo de Torres, or Tallo, is the only building in the municipality with its original towers, although they have been distorted by several additions and restorations. One of them is significantly high, while the other was integrated in the rectangular linking body. The entrance is withdrawn against the facade's plan to allow the setting of a porch laying on a front wall and three quarry columns. There is a balcony on it with thick balusters cut in granite. Three columns of the same material sustain the country tiled gabled cover. The rest of the building is not very interesting due to the enlargement work it suffered. As Martínez Barbeito quotes; the house's lineage was created in 1572 and established by Mr. García de Pardiñas Villardefrancos.

Pazo de Amarelle

Founded by Maria Antonia Romero de Rioboo y Caamaño and her husband Juan Antonio de Soto y Carballido. It is currently a non visitable private property. The main building is on a wide extension of land and it is reached through a walled road, parallel to the main facade. A rectangular floored building, with masonry granite walls panelled and mortared with rolling ashlar. The building is one entire body with two floors. In the main facade there is an outstanding veranda with forged iron hand rails.



Church of Corme

Other monuments of interest

A Pedra da Serpe

Just before reaching the town of Corme, there is a road on the left which takes you to Ermida beach and the village of Gondomil, where we find the famous Pedra da Serpe. At a crossroad, on top of a stone, there is a relief of a snake with wings, with no precise dating of its construction. Some historians declare it prehistoric, while others say it may be from the Roman era or even later, although the motif it represents is B.C.; this may prove that the endurance of pagan cults in Galicia persisted much longer. The stone makes evidence to the existence of a pre-Christian cult to the snakes in this area, related to, according to some historians, the arrival of the Celts, who had the snake as a crest.

The Roman historian R. Festo Avieno (IV A.C.), writes about the Oestrimnis (ancient inhabitants of Galicia), being expelled by a snake invasion (referring to the Celts), resulting in this part of the penninsulae being named



Cruceiro de Monte Branco



Hórreo de Cores



Pazo Ardabon

Ophiusa. The Christianisation of this area is attributed to Saint Adrián; as the legend goes, there was a snake invasion, and people could not live in that land. Saint Adrián, who was preaching in the region, stamped his foot down hard on the ground, making that horrible plague disappear. All the snakes found shelter under that stone, and one of them petrified as a sign of that happening.

A cross was set above this motif as symbol of Christianity.

Ethnography

Cruceiros (Monumental crucifix)

As in most of the Galician regions, the cruceiros (stone crucifix) are present in most of Ponteceso's parishes, showing the importance of Christianity in this land's culture. The Cruceiro de San Fiz, in the parish of Anllóns, of historic and cultural interest, the cruceiro at the entrance of the church of San Tirso de Cospindo, and the cruceiro at Monte Branco are quite important.

Hórreos (Traditional Galician raised granary)

These representations of the Galician arts and culture are found in most of the municipality's parishes, we highlight the ones located in the parishes of Brantuas y Tallo.

Castros

The castros (celtic settlements) are representations of the pre-Roman culture, frequent in Galicia. In the Municipality of Ponteceso, there once was a castro close to Ermida beach, where a chapel was later built dedicated to the Virgin of Estrela, naming the island and the beach after her. In the parish of A Graña there are several interesting archeological sites, such as the Castro de Lestimoño. The parish of Cores is also rich in such archeological monuments, as stated in the inventory performed by the Xunta de Galicia's Cultural Heritage General Administration, which indicates the existence of several sites such as the Castro da Coteleira, the Castro de Cores and Mámoa dos Torrados. We also find sites with historic interest in Nemeño, such as the Castro de Nemeño and Mámoa das Modias.

Personalities



Eduardo Pondal

Ponteceso is the birthplace of distinguished personalities related to its culture. The most important of them is the poet **Eduardo Pondal**, or the Bard of Bergantiños, born next to the bridge by the banks of the river Anllóns on the 8th of February 1835, within a noble yet humble family, which became wealthy after emigrating to America.

He settled in Santiago de Compostela in 1848, where he attended Medical school. His passionate interest in regionalism cause dates from this period. He was one of the organisers, together with Aguirre, of the Conxo banquet, which brotherly united workers and students in the forrest of Conxo on the 2nd of March, 1856. On that occasion Pondal read a vindicative poem, in Spanish, "Brindis", about men's equality. In 1862, after finishing his studies, he worked as a doctor, but not long after that he would abandon the medical profession. He retired to his father's house, travelling frequently to Santiago de Compostela, where he participated in literary gatherings, with Manuel Murguía, Florencio Vaamonde, Urbano Lugris and others.

Since then, Pondal assumed the role of bard of the Galician nation. His first poem in Galician language, "A Campana de Anllóns (El canto de un Brigante)", appeared in 1861. In 1877 he publishes "Rumores de los pinos", a collection of twenty-one poems (in Spanish and Galician), which will later serve as ground for his "Queixumes dos Pinos" (1886). Besides those works, Eduardo Pondal left extensive unpublished productions, including his collection of poems, one which is called; "Os Eoas" working all his life on this poem. But it was never published during his lifetime. Pondal develops in "Os Eoas" a perfect symbiosis between the mythical Celtic world and the regenerationist goodwill of Spain. Pondal wanted to prove the validity of the language in the hardest tests, as he himself wrote in his work's prologue. In 1890 the musician Pascual Veiga asked him for lyrics for some work he wanted to enter in a contest in A

Coruña. Pondal composed for that occasion, the poem “Os Pinos”. The work was not performed, but the poem was published that year in the contest’s brochure and in several Galician newspapers of the Cuban immigrants. In 1907, Veiga’s composition was performed in La Habana for the first time, and it was from then on considered as Galicia’s anthem. In 1981 it was legally recognized as the official anthem in the Statute of Galicia.

Pondal is the highest exponent of the literature from the Galician regionalism. He idealises the Celtic past of Galicia, which he imagines free and independent, and is inspired by the classical sources of the Roman invasion, by the ossianic poems from James McPherson, some quotes from the Leabhar Gabala and by some research by Manuel Murguía and Benito Vicetto. At the same time, his poetry incorporates a Hellenist influence, related to his efforts to create an educated poetry. Eduardo Pondal died in A Coruña, in 1917 and he is buried in the cemetery of San Amaro in this city. Eduardo Pondal’s house can be visited in Ponteceso, and the Foundation Eduardo Pondal located is in O Couto-Cospindo. The city council displays several references to his works.

Admiral **Mourelle da Rúa** is also relevant in this section; he was born on 1750 in Corme-Ponteceso, and he is undoubtedly one of the most significant people in the entire Spanish naval history, intrepid explorer of the distant South Seas, discoverer of the archipelago of Tonga, his stately coat of arms can be admired in his house in Corme.

Another personality related to the artistic world is **Álvarez de Sotomayor**, a famous painter who lived in the pazo currently named Sotomayor in Sergude-Xornes.

Jose María Mosqueira Manso, oceanographer and ictiologist born in Corme on 1886. He was captain in the Merchant Navy and officer in the Spanish naval reserve. He carried out several studies about the different species of the sea and fluvial fauna, and fishing studies of some coastlines in Spain, Portugal, the Sahara, Santo Domingo and Venezuela. He explored the rivers Orinoco and Apura in this country.

Finally, we must highlight the personality of **Susa da Chasca**, Corme’s midwife, Mamá Susa, as she was called by Corme’s boys and girls, born on 1882. She represents the generosity of a woman who, unselfishly, helped many families in a tough time for the municipality and Galicia overall. A very happy and sweet woman, Tía Susa performed an important role in our town in the first half of the XX century, when medical attention was not what it is today. As Tía Susa, there were many anonymous heroines in Corme, women who were left by themselves and had to take care of their families the best they could in hard times of hunger and poverty. This biography of Mamá Susa is a tribute to all of them.

Ponteceso’s gastronomy is characterised by its variety, with common dishes like the rest of Galicia but others with their own singularity. The undisputed gastronomic king is the barnacle, which, without local exaggeration may even be considered the gastronomic king of Galicia. The barnacle of O Roncudo, of regional, national and international acclaim, has a significantly rich gastronomic and economic impact in the municipality. The visitor can not leave Ponteceso without tasting it, and, if possible, attend the famous barnacle festival in the summer.

Continuing with the sea products, there is a large variety of fishes from the rich Costa da Morte: groupers, turbot, congers, rays... and, as far as fluvial fishes; salmon, eels, lampreys and the trouts from the rich Anllóns. We must not forget the octopus, with its own festival in the municipality. Regarding seafood, apart from the barnacle there is a generous range of choices, with fine velvet crabs, spider crabs and sea crabs. The cockles from the cove of Insúa are especially popular.

Being an area of rich livestock activity, all veal dishes are of excellent quality, as well as those with pork. The raxo (loin) has its well deserved spot in the municipality’s gastronomy, with its own festival celebration in the parish of Brantuas during the summer. The agricultural production has also its place here, with products such as corn, potatoes, and “fabas” (beans). The festivity of the “fabas” in Ponteceso is already at its eighteenth annual celebration, testimony of its high quality.



Other typical Galician dishes, such as “lacón con gregos” (pork with turnip tops), the “coci-do gallego”, with chorizo, potatoes, turnip tops and veal meat; “empanadas” (filled round flat bread) of all sorts (tuna, cod, meat...) have their own place, prepared by the gastronomic establishments within the municipality.

The visitor will also have the opportunity to taste the typical Galician pastries and wines, of extraordinary quality. The high quality and diversity of the gastronomic establishments in the region, and the numerous gastronomic festivals celebrated here, “obligate” the visitor to our land to taste and enjoy the rich gastronomic supply.

Festivities and fairs

All throughout the year, all the parishes from Ponteceso celebrate their festivities, with a significantly rich variety, including gastronomic celebrations, religious festivities, sport and cultural events, as well as “romarías” and musical concerts with local, regional, national and international artists.

Perhaps the festivity with greatest popularity is the Fiesta del Percebe (Barnacle) del Roncudo in Corme, of national and international renown. The opportunities for “fiesta” and fun await the visitor with a flavor for modernity and tradition.



Cycling competition

Socio-cultural events

Habaneras music Festival in Corme

Celebration of As Letras Galegas (Galician Language)

Shows for children: Magicians, theatre for kids...

Cinema

Theatre Festival in Ponteceso

Bicycle touring routes

Dance

Day trips

Musical band meetings



Brotherhood

The Municipality of Ponteceso is twinned with the civil parish of Avintes (Portugal). All throughout the year, there are several activities which unite both municipalities' people and strengthen their touristic, cultural, sports, economic and human ties. Both municipalities have streets dedicated to their twin town, and

groups of kids from ponteceso visit those from Avintes regularly, great opportunities for friendship and personal growth. Every summer, local groups have intercultural exchanges, through music and theatre. In August the Brotherhood Football Cup is celebrated, with Avintes' football team playing against one of the teams from the municipality, Ponteceso C.F. or Corme C.F., which rotate their participation.

Directory of celebrations and festivities in the Municipality of Ponteceso

Parish	Festivity	Date
Ponteceso	Octopuss Festival	Holy week
	Patronal festivity “A Barquiña”	2nd weekend September
	Bicycle Day	1st Sunday August
	Faba (Beans) Festival	Last weekend October
	Exaltation – Horse Fair	Sunday before Apostle
	Día de la letras gallegas (Galician Language Day)	May 17th
	Crafts' Fair	May 17th
	International Motorbike Meeting “Motofesta”	1st weekend August
	Trekking routes / Nature	Spring-Autumn
	Night trekking	Summer
Anllóns	Festivity of San Roque	August 16th-17th
Corme Aldea	Festivity of S. Adrián	June 16th
Corme Porto	Holy Week Procession procesion	Holy week
	Percebe de Roncudo (Barnacle) Festival	1st / 2nd week July
	Procession Virgen del Carmen	July 16th
	Music Festival “Noite dos Encantos” at Osmo beach	August 7th
	Mussel Festival	1st Saturday August
	Bicycle touring route	2nd Sunday August
Brantuas	Nuestra Señora dos Remedios	September 23rd -24th
	Raxo (Ioin) Festival	1st Saturday of June
	Festivity of San Xoán	June 24th-27th
	Festivity of S. Sacramento “Romería” of Virxe do Faro	August 2nd September 8th
Balarés	Music Festival “Valarés con V”	June 24th
Cores	Festivity of San Antonio	June 13rd
	Festivity of Nª Señora do Carme	August 15th

Parish	Festivity	Date
A Graña	Romaría of San Bernardo	August 20th -21st
Langueirón	Festivity of Sta. Isabel	July 4th
Tallo	Festivity of Corpus Christi	June 14th
Xornes	Festivity of San Xoán	June 24th -27th
Nemeño	Festivity of Sto. Sacramento	2º summer August
Tella	Festivity of Sto. Sacramento	July 26th

Fairs	Place	Date
	A Trabe´s Fair	Every Saturday
	Corme´s Fair	Every Friday morning



Trekking routes



Advertisement for Festival do Percebe



Corme´s Market

Accommodation and dining



Accommodation

Rural Cottage “O Fontán”

c/ Tella, 42. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714855 Web: www.ofontan.net

Rural Cottage “Riotorto”

Riotorto – Ponteceso. Tel. 609273331 Web: www.casariotorto.com

Vacational Cotatge “Casa de Lelo”

Praia de Balarés. Ponteceso. Tel. 609889387 Web: www.casadelelo.com

Rural Cottage “Campo da Feira”

Campo da Feira, 2 . Ponteceso. Tel.609 61 82 42 / 609 61 82 41

Web: www.campodafeira.com

Pension-Residence “Teyma”

Avda. Bergantiños, 27. Ponteceso. Tel. 636456150

Pension-Residence “Casa Varela”

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 2. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714303

Restaurants

Casa Mosqueira

Pazos de Abaixo. Ponteceso. Tel. 981713784

A Pesqueira

Avda. Anllóns, 84. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714052

Casa Eiroa

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 1. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714008

Restaurant- Wines “Casa Elías”

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 14. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714572

Balarés

Praia de Balarés- Tel. 609889387

Miramar

Rúa, 35. Corme. Tel. 981738039

O Biscoteiro

Rúa Vires dos Remedios, 14. Corme. Tel. 981738665

Tapas

Raxería Aduana

Rúa Aduana, 9. Ponteceso. Tel. 981715399

Mesón O Barril

Rúa Aduana, 9. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714827

Faldra Folc

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 39. Ponteceso. Tel. 661247228

A Ferradura

Avda. de Anllóns, 7. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714381

Abeiro

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 54. Tel. 981714875

Casa Rosalía

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 3. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714037

O Pazo

Pazos de Arriba, s/n. Ponteceso

Paula

Pazos de Abaixo, s/n. Ponteceso

Amancio

Zona Escolar C. Ponteceso

Bodegón O Labrego

Río Roda. Corme. Tel. 981738176

Bodegón Chans

Rúa do Crego. Corme

Faro Roncudo

Rúa Real, s/n. Corme. Tel. 981738319

Fast food

O Cruce

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 66. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714065

Madison

Avda. Eduardo Pondal, 51. Ponteceso. Tel. 981714019

Municipal equipment

Socio-cultural and recreational

City Hall

Rúa do Concello nº18
Ponteceso. Tel. 981 714 000
www.ponteceso.net

Corme´s Municipal Office

Praza de Avintes
Corme. Tel. 981 738 428

Touristic Information Office

Avda de Bergantiños, s/n. Ponteceso.
Tel.981 715 442

Municipal Library

Rúa Eduardo Pondal, 30. Ponteceso
Tel. 981 714 756

Civil Guard

Rúa do Concello, s/n.Ponteceso.
Tel. 981 714 023

Port Authority

Virxe dos Remedios. Corme
Tel. 981 738 016

Local Police

R/ do Concello.Ponteceso.
Tel. 630 907 127

Civil Defence

R/ Teresa Mosqueira Manso. Ponteceso
Tel. 112/981 7146 22

Peace Court

R/ do Concello, 18. Ponteceso.
Tel. 981 714 016

Youth Information Municipal Office

R/ Eduardo Blanco Amor. Ponteceso
Tel. 981 714 622

Corme´s Fishermen Association

Zona portuaria s/n. Corme-Porto
Tel. 981 73 80 43

Tourist Information Center

Ponteceso (open July and August)



City Hall

Sports

Municipal Pavillion

Rúa do Cubeiro. Corme-Porto

Naval Base

Corme-Porto

Municipal Swimming pool

CEIP Eduardo Pondal

Avenida Anllóns s/n Ponteceso Tel. 981 714 071

There are two municipal football fields in Corme and Ponteceso, as well as another multisports hall within the school IES Ponteceso, at Teresa Mosqueira Manso S/N (Tfno. 981 714 477).



Youth Information Center



Children's gym performance



Children enjoy their school break



Ponteceso football stadium

Trekking

There are two trekking routes for this sports lover, where one can take walks and enjoy the natural environment of the municipality. The first route takes us from the Campo of the river Anllóns to the natural reserve of Verdes, in the neighbouring municipality of Ponteceso. It is a lush, green interior route. The second route starts at Pondal's house, goes through the promenade to Xuncal pequeno and the Monte Branco, where the visitor can observe beautiful panoramic views. It goes on through Dunas da Barra to Balarés beach, ending in the port of Corme.



Port of Corme

Communications

To get to Ponteceso, our starting point is Carballo, 33 kilómetros from A Coruña by C-552, and 45 km from Santiago. In Carballo we continue the LC-412 towards Malpica until Buño (9,5 kms), where we must turn towards the LC-422 until Ponteceso. The total distance from A Coruña es de 54 kilometres and from Santiago, 66 kilometres.

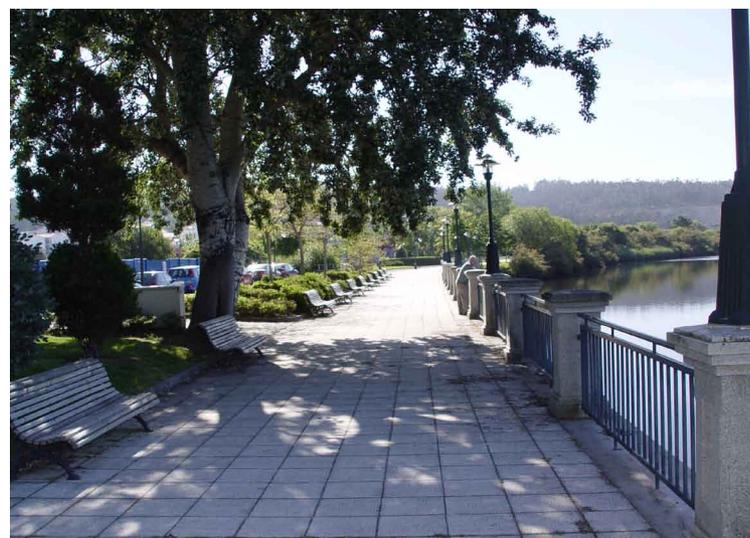
The road LC-424 starts from the municipal capital town, of great toruistic interest, towards Corme. It goes on close to Balarés beach and the monument tribute to Nosa Señora do Faro, going down through Corme Aldea until Corme Porto.

Another picturesque road is that linking Ponteceso and Malpica (LC-430), as well as that going through Cabana to Laxe (LC-431), by the coastline. Towards the C-552, from A Coruña to Fisterra, the twisting road LC-423 goes through lush landscapes, reaching it by Agrilloi (Agalada).

Galicia's international airports (Alvedro - A Coruña, Lavacolla - Santiago de Compostela and Peinador - Vigo) are well communicated by a modern highway and road network with an easy arrival to the municipality of Ponteceso. Also, there are good communications by bus from Carballo to Ponteceso, with frequent connections to A Coruña and Santiago de Compostela.

Bus services

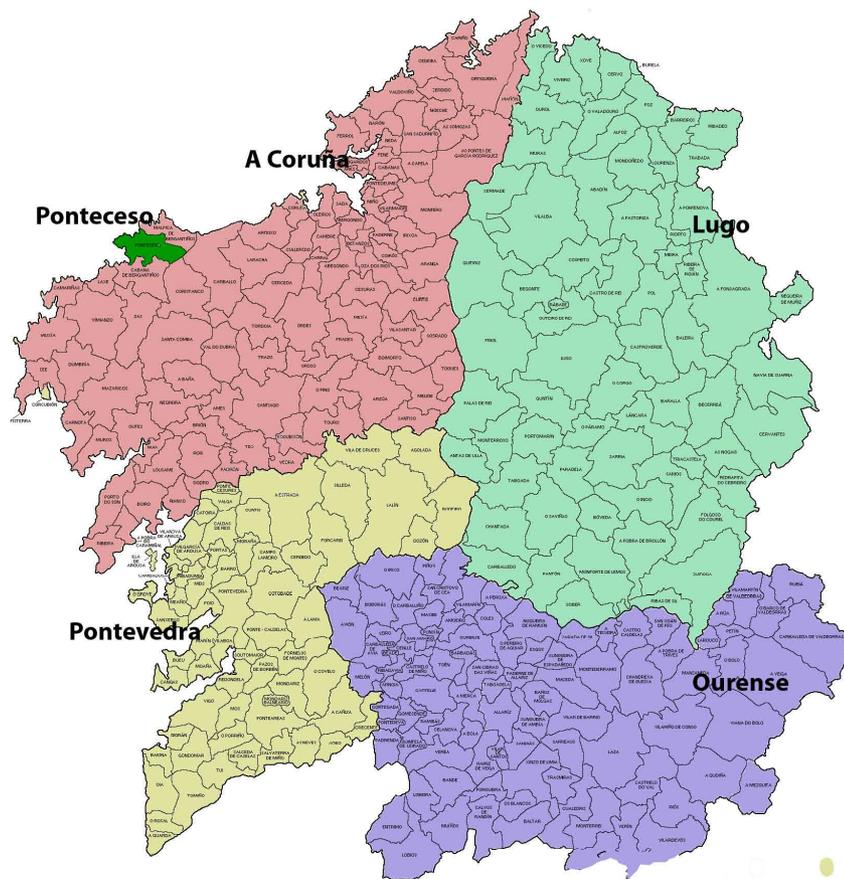
Bus company: AUTOS VÁZQUEZ, S.A. Tel. 981700195 / 981254145



Fluvial promenade of Ponteceso

Distances from Ponteceso to other Galician locations

Distance	km	Distance	km
Ames	65	A Garda	211
Ares	101	Lavacolla	77
Arzúa	89	Laxe	12
Arteixo	43	Lugo	146
Baiona	182	Malpica	16
Barco de Valdeorras	266	Miño	82
Baroña	61	Muxía	48
Betanzos	76	Muros	70
Boiro	83	Ourense	171
Buño	11	Pontedeume	92
Cabana	8	Ribadeo	205
Caión	36	Ribeira	102
Camariñas	41	Sada	70
Camelle	37	Santiago de Compostela	66
O Carballiño	160	Sanxenxo	137
Carballo	23	Tui	178
Cariño	98	Verín	237
Cedeira	131	Vigo	153
Cee	47	Vilagarcía de Arousa	118
Corcubión	48	Vilalba	133
A Coruña	54	Vimianzo	22
Ferrol	102	Viveiro	166
Fisterra	58	Xinzo de Limia	208



Ponteceso

Distances from Ponteceso to several national and international cities

Distance	km	Distance	km
Albacete	901	Logroño	680
Alicante	1.067	Madrid	640
Almería	1.186	Málaga	1.171
Ávila	619	Murcia	1.045
Avintes	300	Oporto	294
Barcelona	1.148	Oviedo	344
Badajoz	700	Palencia	516
Bilbao	689	Pamplona	741
Burgos	529	París	1.562
Cáceres	700	Salamanca	544
Cádiz	1.128	San Sebastián	744
Castellón	1.064	Santander	622
Ciudad Real	828	Segovia	613
Córdoba	1.034	Sevilla	1.027
Cuenca	809	Soria	669
Gerona	1.232	Tarragona	1.079
Granada	811	Teruel	1.017
Guadalajara	700	Toledo	715
Huelva	942	Valencia	998
Huesca	921	Valladolid	487
Jaén	976	Vitoria	650
León	365	Zamora	445
Lérida	994	Zaragoza	848
Lisboa	605		

Useful Contacts & phone numbers

Health Information

Medical Emergencies	061
Ponteceso Hospital	981714802
Corme Hospital	981738149
Health primary attention (non urgent)	902400116

Public Safety

Emergencies SOS Galicia	112
Civil Defence	112
Local Police	630907127
Civil Guard police	062 – 981714023
Bush Fires	085
Firemen	080 – 981758057
National police	091
Provincial Traffic Unit	981132160
Sea Rescue Unit	981209541
Red Cross	981703764

Transportation

Carballo Bus Station	981700195
Autos Vázquez – Carballo	981700195
Autos Vázquez – A Coruña	981254145
A Coruña Bus Station	981184335
Santiago Bus Station	981542416
RENFE (Trains)	902240202
Alvedro Airport (A Coruña)	981187200
Lavacolla Airport (Santiago)	981547501
Peinador Airport (Vigo)	981268200

Taxi Stands

Ponteceso / Praza do Relleno	981714110
Ponteceso / Avda. E. Pondal	981714552
Carballo	981700170
A Coruña	981243333
Radio Taxi	981154499

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www.ponteceso.net

Editorial and Graphic Design
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Avda. General Sanjurjo, 39 - 15006 La Coruña
Tel: 981 13 79 74
E-mail: circulocultural@gmail.com





Eduardo Pondal

*And you, bell of Anllóns,
that softly rings
pouring into our hearts
a sad and soft balsam
of forgotten illusions.
There in our past winds
first of my life,
hear your vague concerts,
clock of my sad moments
from my dear homeland.*

