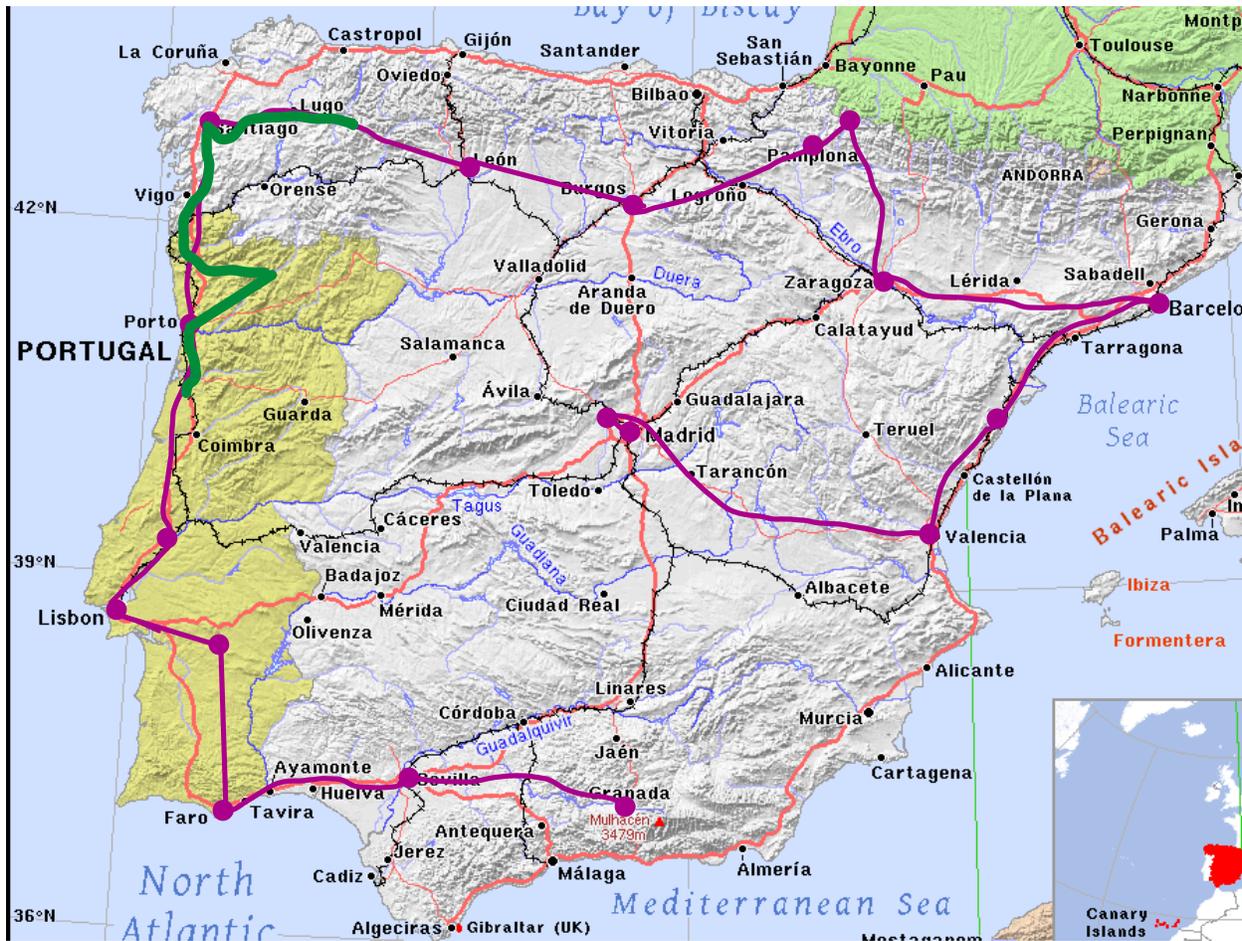


## Walk Through Spain and Portugal from 1/26—3/22/2026

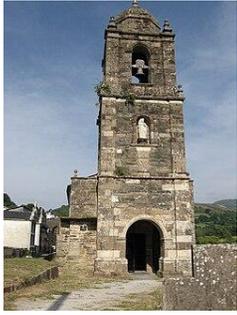
### Results of Week 5: 2/23—3/1/2026

During this week we collectively walked 415 miles and had 23 participants. Sources for photos are given in smaller font near the image. You can click on images to increase their size for a better view. The green line on map of Spain and Portugal indicates places we visited each week. A magenta line on the entire map is our proposed route for our 8 week walk with major cities marked with magenta dots. PAT is free software. Copyright © 2010, 2013 by Ian Macky. **Note: This document is copyrighted by K. Scharer, 2026, except where other copyrights are noted.**

### SPAIN AND PORTUGAL MAP



On Monday morning, we continued on our way heading for Triacastela. The walk was pretty easy on this stage after our climb to O Cebreiro. And the landscape was pretty as we walked through forested areas. Fortunately, the yellow arrows painted on the trees helped keep us on the path. We gradually descended to Triacastela which is situated in a valley. There is some debate about the meaning of the town's name. Some sources reported that the name refers to three castles which were there at one time while other sources suggested it referred to three forts. Most seem to favor the idea of three castles. In 968 AD, Vikings invaded the area and may have been the source of the castles' destruction. The town has about 1,000 inhabitants. During the months of pilgrimage, there are sometimes more pilgrims than residents in the town!

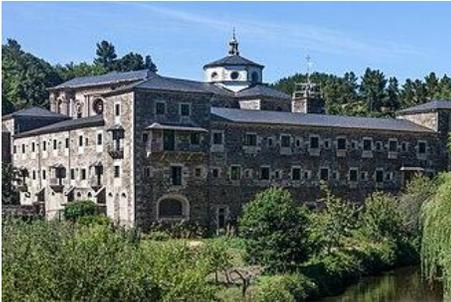


Alejandro Moreno Calvo from Madrid, Spain, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, church below left. Today most of the town's functions are related to assisting the pilgrims passing through. There is an interesting church, the 18th-century Church of Santiago which we explored. There is a cave nearby that is being studied by archeologists but is off limits to tourists. The research team has found evidence that Neanderthals once lived there.

After our brief stop we trek to Samos to see the famous monastery there on our way to Sarria. The village of Samos is located approximately 11 kilometers from Sarria and 45 kilometers from Lugo. It is home to an abbey, the Real Abadía de Samos, and the Benedictine monastery of San Xulián de Samos. Pilgrims on the Way of St. James to Compostela often pass through Samos to visit the abbey and monastery. There is a refuge (accommodation) that the pilgrims can use freely at the Royal Benedictine Abbey of St. Julian of Samos. The abbey, one of the most important religious centers of Galicia, is dated the sixth century, a period in which the Swabian territories inhabited what is now known as Galicia.

### The Monastery of San Xulián de Samos

Luis Miguel Bugallo Sánchez (Lmbuga), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left and center images below.



Jl FilpoC, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right, main chapel

The Monastery is currently used by Benedictine monks since the 500's and is one of the oldest monasteries in the world that is still used for its original purpose. It was abandoned for a time during a Muslim invasion and was restored to the monks in 760 after the town was reclaimed by the local King of Asturias. It was also empty in 1836 when the monastery was confiscated. But then the monks returned in 1880. It has been renovated and restored several times, due to age and two fires.

The monks ran a School of Theology and Philosophy until 1836 but did not continue with it when they returned in 1880. Today, the monks focus on spirituality and supporting the pilgrims. They also provide tours of the Monastery, which we enjoyed.

The town of Samos' main economic drivers are agriculture and raising livestock but the boom in pilgrims on the Camino has led to major increases in the hospitality sector. Then we continued on to Sarria.

Sarria is the town with the greatest population on the French way with about 14,000 residents.



We learned that in 1230 AD, the King of León, King Alfonso IX, died here while on the Camino; we found a statue of him sitting on a chair or a throne during our exploration of the city. Luis Miguel Bugallo Sánchez (Lmbuga), CC BY-SA 4.0 >, via Wikimedia Commons, Image of City and King Alfonso, right

The city of Sarria has several important religious buildings including the Church of O Salvador from the 13 century, shown below right and the Convent of A Madalena which

provided a hospital for pilgrims, below left.

Archivo histórico de sarria, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, below right. Zarateman, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons, below left.



We explored both of these sites. The Convent of A Madalena is now staffed with the Mercedarian Fathers who care for the pilgrims but originally, two Italian monks of the Order of the Blessed Martyrs of Jesus founded the convent. The two monks began with a pilgrim's hospital sometime in the 1200's. Currently the convent has both a church along with a cloister. The church is a mixture of styles from the 1400's to the 1700's. The priests also run a private school there.



Then we headed to O Salvador Church which is located on the major street of Sarria. It is pictured in the photo above left. It is early-Gothic in style with some Romanesque features, built in the 1100's. The belfry is a later addition from 1860. The tympanum, a semi-circular decorated area over the door often with carvings of religious art, is above the door on the northside of the church. This is common in early Gothic and Romanesque styles of architecture. There are also some interesting carved capitals in the church and some ironwork of importance. From the church we could see the one tower of the old Fortress of Sarria that still stands. It is pictured left.

Archivo histórico de sarria, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, tower, left. Manolix~enwiki, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, other remains of the castle, center.



After exploring Sarria, we began walking to Portomarín, part of the Lugo Province. About 1350 people live there. The original town of Portomarín was built during medieval times. One of the features of the town was an old Roman bridge built over the Miño River.

But the town and surrounding areas needed a steady source of water so the decision was made in the 1960's to move the town so the river could be dammed to form a new reservoir. The most important historic buildings were demolished with care and rebuilt in the new site bit by bit using the old materials wherever possible. One of those buildings was the Church of San Nicolás of Portomarín, AKA the Church of San Xoán (Church of Saint John). This church is from the 1100's and is described as Romanesque castle of fortress style. It was designed to serve as both a church and a castle. It has a single barrel-vaulted nave and decorations expected in a Romanesque church. As a fortress or castle, it has four towers for defense along with merlons along the perimeter. The church was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem to protect the pilgrims on the Camino.

We were not present when the water was low in the reservoir, but we were told during low water season in the summer, you can see some of the old buildings and the old bridge. Theoretically, if the water ever got low enough in Lake Murray, we would see some old buildings too, since the town that was

there got flooded.

We did visit the Church in its new location.

José Antonio Gil Martínez, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, front left. SanchoPanzaXXI, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, rear of San Nicolao church.



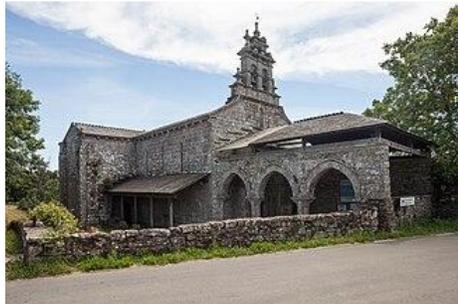
It looked massive in size but we didn't take any measurements. But I do recall that the rose window is 18 feet in diameter. We explored some other old buildings that were also relocated and then moved on to Palas de Rei.

Our path for this stage was mostly paved with asphalt which made walking a bit easier. Again, we encountered some rivers, the Minho and Ulla, along our path. As we walked through various small villages on this leg of the Camino, we saw several Romanesque churches. We also spotted several Cruceiro dos Lameiros which are crosses made of stone before reaching Palas de Rei. It is a small town with a population of about 3,500.

The town has a variety of archaeological sites, mostly dolmens which are large tombs made of two or more standing stones covered by a flatter stone and sometimes covered with dirt to form a mound. There are other sites of what were forts ages ago; these sites suggest the town has a long military history. and forts) from a remote settlement. The town's name is derived from the palace of a Visigothic King who ruled there in the early 700's.

We visited the church of San Salgado de Vilar de Donas, just three miles away, an excellent example of Galician Romanesque style with exquisite artwork inside and out, including beautiful and well-preserved murals. In 1931, Spain declared the church a historical-artistic monument. We then visited the parish church of Palas de Rei, nearby.

Calimerojoseluis, CC BY-SA 3.0 ES, via Wikimedia Commons, Parish Church of Palas de Rei, below, left. Lmbuga (Luis Miguel Bugallo Sánchez), CC BY-SA 4., via Wikimedia Commons, below center, Church of Santiago.



The Church of San Salgado was built in the 1100's. It was built by a family named Arias de Monterroso and legend has it the women of the family founded it. There was a convent attached for women only. This church was one of the most special places for the

knights of the Order of Santiago where the Knights buried its most important members and leaders. It was declared National Monument in 1931.

The parish church, the Church of Santiago, is from the 1900's, so it is relatively new. It is next to the main square of the town. We spent some time praying in the parish church before heading to Arzúa.



Our first stop in Arzúa was at the Chapel of Madalena, which is the only thing that remains of a former convent of Augustinian monks. It was built in the 1300's. The monks departed Arzúa to live in Santiago de Compostella.

Mentxuwiki, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left

Perhaps the most famous legend of Arzúa is that of the pilgrim and bread. The story was that during a time when many pilgrims were on the Camino, one young pilgrim stopped and asked for a baker for bread. The young man said he was hungry but he could not pay for the bread but he would pray for the

baker in Santiago de Compostella in front of St. James tomb. The baker refused to give him some bread since he couldn't pay for it. So, the young man continued to the next baker on the route and asked again for bread. The second baker said the bread was not yet done and invited the pilgrim inside to rest while it finished baking. The pilgrim thanked the baker but said he had to continue on. The baker then offered him some bread left over from the day before which he accepted. The baker went into the kitchen to get the leftover bread and when the baker returned the pilgrim was gone and not in sight. When it was time to take the fresh bread from the oven, the baker found it had been transformed into gold loaves. The first baker discovered his bread had turned to stone. Legend also says the pilgrim was Santiago himself that had asked for bread.

When the bread was ready, the lady opened the oven and to her astonishment, the bread had been transformed into gold. The opposite happened in the first furnace that the pilgrim visited. In that house, when they took the bread, they found the oven full of stones. Legend has it that it was Santiago, the Pilgrim Apostle, who, that day, was walking through Arzúa.

We then continued on our way to the final stage before Santiago de Compostella: O Pedrouzo. We again saw several smaller villages, rivers, and lots of cattle as we walked. O Pedrouzo is in the municipality of O Pino. There is not a lot to see or do here but for some routes, it is a required stop. We did visit one of the churches we found along the way today, the Church of San Vicenzo do Pino



Bene Riobó, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, images of church right.

The building is concrete with a single nave a Moorish style tile roof and a bell tower. It is from the 1700's and built in baroque style. But we were anxious to finish our Camino pilgrimage and so we eagerly headed to Santiago de Compostela to end at the Plaza del Obradoiro and the Santiago Cathedral! This last stage was easy, mostly passing by eucalyptus and oak trees until we approach Santiago, where our trek was through more urban environments until we reached the historic heart of the city.

Santiago de Compostela has its origin in the shrine of Saint James (Spanish: Santiago) the Greater, which was replaced by the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Since the 800's it has been a major Catholic pilgrimage terminus for the various Camino de Santiago routes.



Fernando Pascullo, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, West façade of the grand Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, left

St. James was a missionary for Spain for some time before he returned to the Holy Land. He traveled in Spain as a missionary, preaching about Jesus as he went. We viewed the pillar he left at a chapel he had built at the Virgin Mary's request in week two of our pilgrimage. St. James returned to the holy land after the chapel was completed.

At right is the Plaza de la Azabachería or as it sometimes called, the Plaza de la Purísima. José Luis Filpo Cabana, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, above right.



Sts. James, John, and Peter were the three brothers who were among the first disciples to follow Christ. The three brothers were at times the only disciples with Jesus. St. James was the first martyr among the Saints, although Judas Iscariot died by suicide first. After his return to Jerusalem, Herod Addripa had St. James beheaded 1n 44 AD. The reason for his beheading is not clear, although some sources suggested thata James had angered Herodby. After St. James' death, his remains were brought to what is now known as Galicia for burial in Santiago and then apparently forgotten. In the 800's , the tomb in Santiago was found by a hermit who saw strange lights in the sky and went to investigate. The hermit notified the local bishop of the tomb of St. James he found and about the lights; the bishop believed the strange phenonmeon was a miracle. The bishop then told the King of Galicia. The king decided that a chaple should be built at the spot where the tomb was found. By 829, a church was built to replace the shrine. In 899, a larger church replaced the first church as the number of pilgrims increased.

But as happened all over Spain, Muslims arrived in 977 and captured the area and burned the church, although the tomb of St. James and his relics were left there unharmed. The muslims had the bells and gates of the church taken to Córdoba. These items were used to adorn a mosque there. Cordoba was captured in 1236 by Spain under King Ferdinand III and the same bells and gates were taken to Toledo and installed in the Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo, where they remain still.

In 1075 the current cathedral was begun in Romanesque style; granite was the main building material. Construction was interrupted on several occasions and the corner stone was not laid until 1122. But even then the building was not complete. It was not consecrated until 1211. It has been renovated several times over the years. It is one of the largest churches in Europe at 318 feet long and 72 feet high. We spent some time in prayer there, before we began traveling south toward Portugal.

There is another Camino de Santiago starting in Lisbon and heading north to Santiago. We will be following the Portuguese Camino going south, although with fewer stops at stages and some diversions from the route to see interesting places.



Pontevedra, Spain was the next place we visited. Pontevedra has a quaint old town section. We first went to the Santa María la Mayor

Basilica. Fernando, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left. Adrián Estévez (Estevoaei) Estevoaei at gl.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, below

right shows the ornate detail of the façade. This Basilica is a clear example of Spanish Elizabethan Gothic architecture. Built in the sixteenth century, by order of the Guild of fishermen. It was granted the status of small basilica in 1962, by Pope John XXIII.



Luis Fernández García, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior of the Basilica



Next, we stopped at the Church of Peregrina (The Pilgrim's Church) which is a very distinctive rounded church, located on the Plaza da Ferrería in the

center of town. Fernando, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right. Built in the 1700's, it is Portuguese looking in



its style. The church is dedicated to the Pilgrim Virgin who is said to watch over those walking the Portuguese Camino pilgrim route from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. We went to a Spanish Mass while we were here. We continued down the coast moving through small towns and villages, heading south. We stopped in Oia, Spain. This is the location of a former Cistercian monastery of Santa María la Real, shown left. It has another beautiful Marian church. It is Romanesque from the 12th century and has a baroque façade put up in the 18th century, during one of a series of



alterations. It has been declared a National monument.. Saruska, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left. We were able to take a tour of the monument.

We then crossed the border into Portugal. Portugal is a relatively small country—somewhere between the size of Maine and Indiana. It is only 285 miles long and 88 miles wide. Its history is similar to other European countries like Italy. Until about the 700's it was made up of small city states and kingdoms that were often invaded by other groups from Europe—the Visigoths and the Romans, for example. But they were also invaded by the Moors from nearby Africa. The Crusaders helped return the country to European rule but afterwards Spain granted Portugal to Henry of Burgandy (France) for his help in defeating the Moors in the 1000's.

It was Henry's son who won freedom for Portugal in 1143 during the battle with Spain. But the battles were not over—Portugal still had to defend the northern borders from the Kings of Castile and in the south to gain control of the southern portion of their country from the Moors. It wasn't until almost a century later that today's boundaries for Portugal were set.

Portugal was a strong seafaring nation and established various colonies in the Americas, the Philippines, and elsewhere. Brazil is a prime example of a country that once was a Portuguese colony. However, after the early 1500's, Portugal's power declined. In the mid-15,000's, the Spanish controlled Portugal for about 60 years.

In 1640, the people of Portugal ousted the Spanish ruler in a bloodless coup achieved a bloodless coup and named and installed their highest-ranking Duke as King. Spain was entrenched with other foreign campaigns and was unable to respond to the Portuguese actions effectively. Strife between the two countries with periodic battles occurred for the next 28 years before Spain agreed to Portugal's independence.

The first place we stopped in Portugal was Viana de Castelo. We visited the beautiful cathedral, a 15th-century parochial church and cathedral, was constructed in the Romanesque style.



Joseolgon, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons, Cathedral exterior. Krzysztof Golik, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior of cathedral.



We then went on to see the Sanctuary of Saint Lucy dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Lucy of Syracuse. This sanctuary, shown below left, sits at the top of a hill overlooking the city. The hill also contains remnants of Celtic settlements. Unfortunately, most of the ancient buildings are reduced to low walls. The stone blocks form circular shapes which represent multiple dwellings. Occupied

between 1 BC and 1 AD, this privileged hilltop location allowed the community to monitor traffic on the River Lima as well as the coast and surrounding inland areas. The views were exceptional from the Sanctuary.

Krzysztof Golik, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Sanctuary of St. Lucy. left



We continued south a bit longer then headed about 18 miles east to visit Braga. Braga is known for its religious heritage and events. As we approached Braga we came to the Bom Jesus do Monte complex. This complex has a has a neoclassical church at the top of an elaborate 17-flight stairway which is 381 feet high. The image at right shows the entrance to the complex.

Botafogo, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, right. Asublif, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior, left.



The original chapel on the hill was built in 1373.

It was rebuilt as a pilgrim church in 1629 and was dedicated to the Good Jesus. In 1722 the current building was begun, supported by the archbishop of Braga. The stairway was done one flight at a time and each flight has a dedication. And each flight has varied decorations. For example, the first flight is dedicated to the Passion of Christ and has 6 chapels reflecting this dedication. The second flight is dedicated to the five senses (e.g., hearing, touch) with 5 fountains representing the senses. The final flight is dedicated to Faith, Hope and Charity. Flights 2 and 3 are zig-zag in shape. Altogether we climbed 583 steps. There was a church built at the

top but its replacement was started in 1784 and finally finished and dedicated in 1834. It was one of the first Portuguese churches built in Neoclassical style. It was elevated to Minor Basilica status in 2015.

Just south of Bom Jesus do Monte is another hilltop sanctuary, the Shrine of Our Lady of Sameiro which, at 619 yards above sea level, is even higher than Bom Jesus do Monte.



We visited there next. The Shrine of Our Lady of Sameiro is a highly popular Marian shrine in Portugal and is the second largest after Fatima. Otto Domes, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Shrine exterior. Sara Silva, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, shrine interior.

The Virgin Mother is extremely popular in Portugal with a majority of cathedrals in the country dedicated to her. Because of what amounted to a civil war in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many churches had been closed. But in 1854 When Pope Pius the IX proclaimed the validity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as truth, Portugal began

to reclaim Mary and the Braga dioceses was the first one to celebrate. Soon after this the Virgin appeared at Lourdes. And the Iberian peninsula had the first Marian shrine, Mary of the Pillar, although that was in what I now Spain.



The church at the shrine was started in 1863. An outdoor shrine was also built and it was dedicated in 1869. The entire complex took decades to complete. Besides the outdoor shrine and the domed church, there is a rectory, the Chapel of the Eucharist, a crypt beneath the church, and several monuments. There is also an enormous staircase! Both of these shrines are within the municipality of Braga, although outside the city proper.

We then continued east to the city of Braga. Braga is the third largest city in Portugal. The area is quite different in geography from the coastal area we have been in most recently with more forests and agricultural areas near the city. Braga was a Catholic diocese from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century but was a center of developing Christianity for northern Portugal and the Galicia region of Spain beginning in 45 AD when St. Peter of Braga began preaching in the region.

The area had about the same history as the rest of the Iberian peninsula with various invaders



over the years. Braga Cathedral was the earliest Cathedral built in Portugal. It was started by the bishop in 1071 but was not complete until 1089. Michael Paraskevas, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Exterior. nborges from Portugal, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Cathedral Altar.

It was built before Portugal was even a country, when the area was part of the kingdom of Leon. Then, after Henry of Burgandy began



ruling the area, in 1107, he and the Bishop of the area convinced the Pope to turn the area into an Archbishopric. The Cathedral stands in the middle of the city. It still serves as a cathedral but also has a museum of a sacred art.

Since the Santa Barbara Garden was close to the Cathedral, we stopped there next. Vitor Oliveira from Torres Vedras, PORTUGAL, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, garden. The garden is next to what was once the Archbishop's Palace. The garden is open all year long and is kept beautiful with seasonal flowers.



We then headed to the Monastery of St Martin of Tibaes, about 6.5 miles northwest of Braga. The Benedictine order was first founded in this location around 1060. And it became the headquarters of the

Benedictines for Portugal and Brazil in 1567. The complex was further developed and renovated over the years. It was most powerful during the Reformation. Because of its position as head of the order, it exerted much influence over Portugal's religion but also over the art, architecture, and other aspects of culture.



Joseolgon, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, monastery below left and aerial view of complex right. Pedro from Maia (Porto), Portugal, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Master's chair, left. Joseolgon, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior of the church, right. The Master's chair, left, shows the beautiful creativity found in the monastery. The monastery was noted for its Baroque art and provided training for woodworkers and sculptures on site during its heyday.



The Monastery was sold in 1864 and for some reason was allowed to fall into ruin. There was a major fire there in 1894 which may have made restitution difficult for the owners. Much of its beauty was lost. But in 1986, Portugal took control of the property and began significant efforts to restore the property to its former beauty. Work continues on the restorations even today, although a great deal has



been completed. We were able to explore the buildings and grounds and spent some time in quiet prayer while we were in the church.

Next, we stopped at Porto, shown below left. Porto is the second largest municipality in Portugal; Lisbon, the capital, is the largest. Porto's metropolitan area, which includes the city proper, covers 925 square miles and has a 1.9 million inhabitants. By comparison, the Columbia, SC metro area covers 3,700 square miles and has a population of about 871,000. So, the density of population in Porto's metropolitan area is about 4 times what we have here in the Columbia metro area.



Alain Rouiller, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left. The Douro River runs near the city. Porto is considered to be one of the oldest European centers in existence. The history of Porto was inhabited by Celtic people in 300 BC. Because of its location it was an important commercial port. Port wine is an important product of the area and the name actually is derived from the name of the city. Like most of the Iberian peninsula,

the area traded owners multiple times over the centuries depending upon what invader took control of the region. The city itself begins at the Atlantic ocean and continues inland.



Only a few of the buildings in the city built before the 16<sup>th</sup> century



have survived in Porto. One is the Cathedral, shown above right. Ivan Stesso, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, exterior, above right. JensKunstfreund, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior, left..

The Porto Cathedral's construction started around 1150 but was not completed until the 1500s. The cathedral's exterior is rather plain and not of a consistent architectural style, perhaps because of the years of construction. However, the Romanesque interior is lovely. It has a barrel vaulted ceiling and lovely decoration as seen right. In other areas there is lovely blue tile decorations, perhaps a result of Moorish influences from a prior

invasion.

Two other churches from the 1500's have survived also: the small Romanesque Church of Cedofeita, shown below, right, and the gothic Church of Saint Francis.



T meltzer, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left image., pt:usuário:JoaoMiranda, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Church of Cedofeita, right.

Some of the city walls still exist and also a few 15th-century homes remain. The Church of Cedofeita has been closed; its parish joined with a newer church. But the Church of St. Francis, below left, is still in use today. It is the most outstanding example of Gothic design in



the city. The interior is mostly Baroque in style as the pictures below show. Although the Franciscans received a parcel of land in 1223, there was resentment from both secular and other denominations of the clergy plus the Bishop of Porto that prevented the Franciscans from developing a convent or church. Pope Innocent V needed to create a papal bull to restore the property to the Franciscans so they could begin building in 1244. The Church was dedicated to St.



Francis. By 1383, a larger building was begun and finished in 1425. Georges Jansoone, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, Baroque main portal and Gothic rose window of the main façade, left. Asmodaeus, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, interior view facing the main chapel, right. The design of the new church was

Gothic and it has not been extensively renovated, thus remaining an excellent example of that style in Porto today. St. Francis was the popular location for worship in the 1400's and 1500's for the most important Porto families and many had chapels built for



their use. In the early 1700's, most of the interior surfaces were covered in gilt, called talha dourada, in Baroque style. Next we visited the Clérigos Church with the Torre dos Clérigos tower. The name of this church translates to the Church of the Clergyman. It is Baroque in style. The bell tower is 246 feet tall and the church sits on a hill so the Bell tower can be seen from all over the city.

The church's construction The church's construction started in 1732 but it was not finished until 1750. The bell tower which is of solid granite wasn't done until 1763. In 1732, Construction of the church began in 1732 and was finished in 1750. Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, tower, left. HombreDHOjalata, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, front façade, right. Peter K Burian, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, interior, center.



The church's construction The church's construction started in 1732 but it was not finished until 1750. The bell tower which is of solid granite wasn't done until 1763. In 1732, 1732 and was finished in

1750, while the bell tower and the huge, divided stairway with 240 steps in front of the church were completed in 1763. The bell tower is about 146 feet tall. The main façade of the church is heavily decorated with baroque motifs (such as garlands and shells). The central frieze above the windows shows symbols of worship and an incense boat. The lateral façades reveal the almost elliptic floorplan of the church nave. We ended our week here and will head to Coimbra tomorrow morning.

Thanks for Participating!

Your Tour Director,  
Kathy Scharer