



History
in Stone

Tui





"Corredoira" Pavement, early 20th Century

Tui through history



Minho River – view from the Cathedral

The magnificent natural context of this territory allowed human settlement since remote times. The bronze helmet of Caldelas (exhibited in the Diocesan Museum) and the historical ruins of Alto dos Cubos (located in Pazos de Reis), stand as main witnesses of pre-historical times.

During the Romanization, Tui would have one of the Mansions of Way XIX (ancient Roman Way), between Braga and Lugo, as well as a defensive element of classical sources, the Castellum Tyde. I

Its main role is elevated by the Swabian Reign, especially after Rekiamundo settled his court in the city, as would afterwards do the Visigoth Prince Witiza.

After the Muslim invasion and the Vikings attacks, the Kings placed the city under the Bishop's jurisdiction (the head-office is documented since the 5th century). During the Middle Age and Modern Age, Tui would be the religious, administrative, military and commercial centre of the South of Galicia. Throughout these centuries, there was a Jewish Community with its synagogue and also a butcher's, the only one documented in Galicia.

In 1640, during the conflicts with Portugal, the mediaeval walls of the fortress are enlarged and adapted to new defensive systems. Until 1833, Tui was one of the seven capital cities of the Reign of Galicia and it was here that, in 1664, the meetings of the Reign of Galicia took place. Despite the conflicts against the French invaders at the beginning of the 19th century, Tui was able to preserve its rich cultural heritage and its status of being the meeting point with its Portuguese neighbours, especially after the construction of the International Bridge, in 1886.



"Área Panorâmica" Building



Commercial Streets



"Corredoiira" Pavement

Tui Nowadays

Tui holds excellent geographical and climatic conditions, convenient road connections (it is connected to Galicia, the rest of Spain and Portugal through motorway and freeway), and an attractive historical heritage.

Tui is popular for its commercial vocation, counting with traditional shops, large commercial areas and a popular street market which takes place every Thursday in the city centre.

As the centre of Baixo Minho, the city counts with several facilities such as the Finance Building or the Police Station. Moreover, its border location facilitates contact with Portuguese culture and people.

Tui stands out for its intense social and cultural life. The City Theatre and the "Área Panorâmica" building offer a wide range of activities.

Visits to the Diocesan Museum, the "Catedralício", Monte Aloia Interactive Nature Centre and the Interactive Museum about the Portuguese Way to Santiago. The historical heritage, mainly the Cathedral of Santa Maria, the natural resources of Monte Aloia and the Minho River, justify a visit to the city of Tui.

International Bridge – view from Portugal



Cathedral

Maximum exponent of the artistic wealth of the city, its construction started in the 12th century. Its plan, outside walls, the North Portico and the magnificent iconography of its capitals, reflect the Romanic style. To the Gothic corresponds the main facade, the first of this style to be built in the Iberian Peninsula, in which various representations related to the Birth of Christ can be appreciated in the tympanum.

Inside the building we can point out the Expiation alterpiece, the Reliquary altar of the Chapel of the Reliquaries, both dating from the 17th century. In the Main Chapel the visitor can find the choir, carried out in 1699 by Castro Canseco. The altar monument of the Holy Thursday corresponds to the 17th century. Being dismantlable, it is nowadays placed in the Gospel's Nave. In the Museum's Cathedral, we underline the coconut chalice of the 14th century, the woodcarving of the Virgin known as La Patrona, from the 14th century, the processional custodial and a fragment of the old major alterpiece made of limestone, dating from the year 1520. The cloister is the only Gothic element preserved in the Galician Cathedrals. The landscape which can be contemplated from the turret of Soutomaior and the Capital Romanic Room of the 12th century are astonishing.



Central Nave and Organs



Cathedral's Portal



Cathedral's Cloister

Way to Santiago

Tui has always been an important stage in the way to Santiago.

It hosted, since mediaeval time, a hospital for pilgrims (the present Diocesan Museum, which houses collections of Sacred Art of the Diocese and of the archaeology of the city), where people could then stay overnight for three days. The chapel dedicated to the Virgen del Camino and the renowned Ponte das Febres (where San Telmo, the patron saint, fell fatally ill), are great evidence of this pilgrimage itinerary. Nowadays, there is a lodging-house (albergue de peregrinos) next to the Cathedral.

Located in the ancient Convent of Santo Domingo is the Interactive Museum about the Portuguese Way to Santiago



Bridge "da Veiga do Louro"



Bridge "das Febres"



Pilgrims' Lodging-house



Pilgrims's monument

Aloia hill

Declared Natural Park by the Real Decree 3160, 4-12-1978, it embraces an area of 746 hectares. It includes a walled area of the Galician-Roman age and a small hermit dedicated to San Xian, reconstructed in the year 1713 on a Romanic temple. The remarkable Casa Forestal (Forest House) is of singular design conceived by Don Rafael Areses. Nowadays, it hosts the Centre of Interpretation of Nature. There are various hiking paths in this Natural Park.



Chapel of San Xián



Hilltop belvedere of Monte Aloia



Lakes on the slopes of Monte Aloia



Forest House - Interpretation Centre



Aerial View of the Rowing and Canoeing Centre



Fluvial Pavement



Tui's Sports Port

River inho

On its way through Tui and taking into account its ecological value, the Minho River is included in Rede Natura 2000 of the European Union. Its landscape elevates its beauty. Its forest and abundant fauna includes species such as the angula (eel's spawn), the lamprey, the shad or the salmon, as well as various other amphibians and reptiles of interest. Its navigable character turns it into an ideal place for different sports activities such as rowing, canoeing or even sailing.

Areeiros Fluvial Beach - Guillarei



Chapel of San Telmo

Chapel of San Telmo

Unique example of the Portuguese Baroque in Galicia built up upon the house where the Dominican saint died in the 13th century. Although its construction began in 1769, it was only concluded in 1803. Its circular plan, the vault of edges and the frescoes dating from the early 19th century are remarkable.

Chapel of Mercy

Its facade, example of the Renaissance art, is a work by the locally born artist Melchor Afonso Feal, dating from 1575. Inside the building there are still some well-preserved Easter processional images, such as "la Dolorosa", a work by the sculptor Agustin Querol



Chapel of Mercy



Church of San Francisco

Church of San Francisco

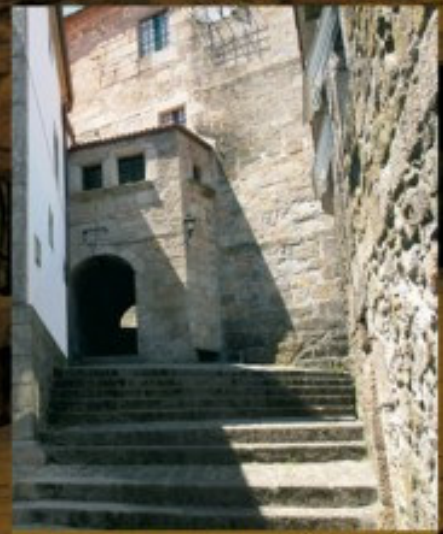
It was initially the church of the Franciscan Convent of San Antonio, built between 1682 and 1728. It houses a Baroque alterpiece from the first half of 18th century. The convent has been, since 1850, the Minor Diocesan Seminary.

Convent of The Clarissas



Convent of the Clarissas ("Encerradas")

The existing convent was built upon the old Episcopal Palaces of Oliveira between the 17th and 18th centuries. The church, dating from the end of the 18th century, was designed by the architect Domingo de Andrade, author of the Obradoiro Compostelano facade. The Clarissas' nuns, Encerradas, are well-known for their pastries: the delicious "little fish" made of almond.



Tunnel of "Las Encerradas"

Convent of Santo Domingo



Church of San Domingo

This church is built up in a Gothic style, very characteristic of this mendicant order. It has got two magnificent Baroque altarpieces. The biggest was built by Antonio del Villar and dates from the 18th century. Its grandiosity is outstanding. In the Southern Cross, the altarpiece of the Virgem do Rosario reflects a curious representation of the Lepanto Battle. This church and convent of which only scarce evidence remains, was pantheon of Tui's nobility: Soutomaior, Correias and Ozores among others.

Walls of the Fortress

The city maintains remains of the walled enclosures built for its defence. One of them belonging to the mediaeval time (12th and 18th centuries) formed a wide irregular trapezium with various towers for defensive purpose. At the moment, only the Porta da Pia keeps the window shutters visible, as well as various original walls. In the 17th and 18th centuries, on the occasion of the wars with Portugal, a new wider wall system is built. Its remains can still be seen, for example, in the River pavement.



Tunnel of Mercy

Historical Site



Entrefornos Street

The old walled enclosure of the city, declared as an object of artistic and historic interest and value, is considered to be a unique example of the mediaeval town. It is also important to note the uncountable emblazoned houses or endowed with broken bows of the 15th and 16th centuries. A walk through streets such as A Canicouba, Entrefornos, Rua do Corpo Santo, the Encerradas Tunnel or the Misericórdia, mirrors those old times.

Jewish Presence

Throughout its history, Tui had a dynamic Jewish community which had a synagogue and a cemetery. The only Jewish butcher's in Galicia is documented here. After their expulsion in 1492, converted and Judaizing people remained in the city as can be witnessed by the "sambenitos" (unique in Spain and conserved in the Diocesan Museum) and the singular image of the doctor and philosopher of the 16th century, Francisco Sanchez, known as The Sceptic.



"Soidade" Street



Sambenitos, Diocesan Museum

Church of San Bartolomé

Paintings from the 16th Century



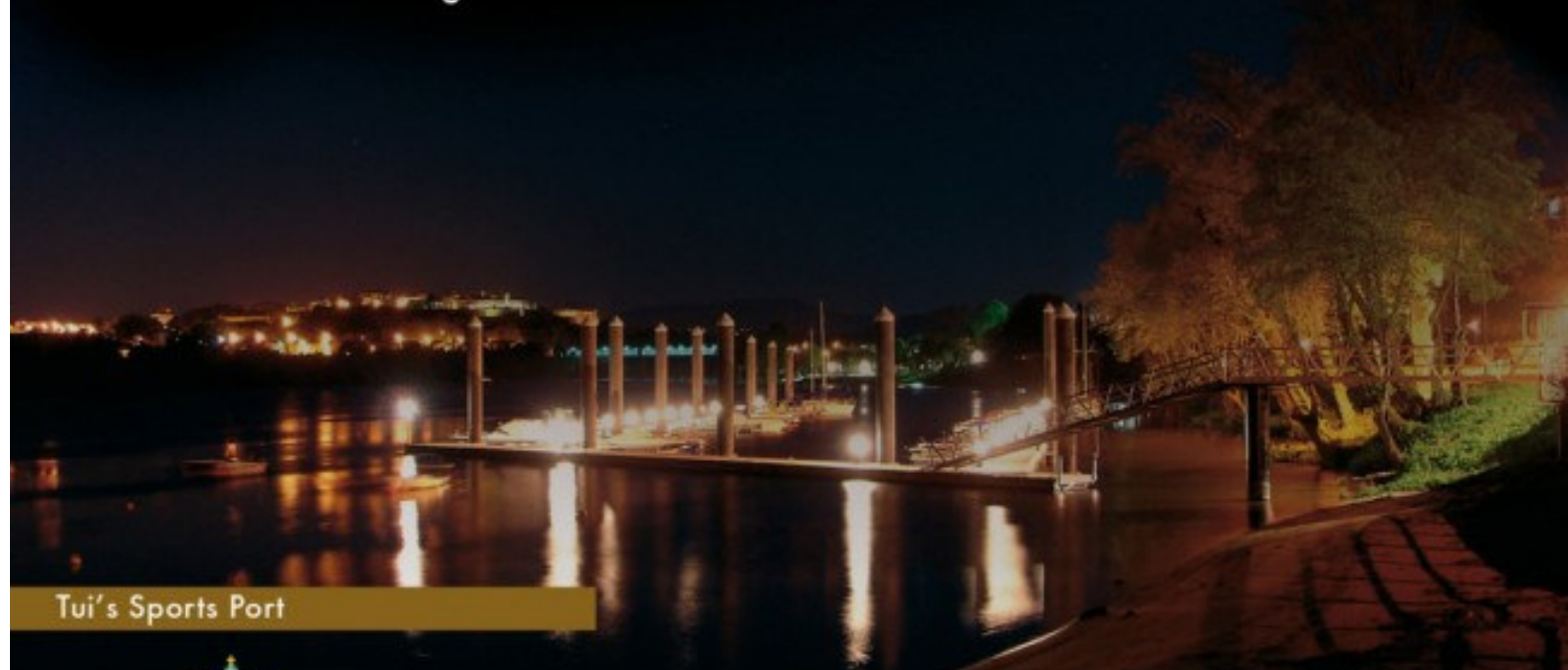
Church of San Bartolomeu

Built upon Roman and Swabian remains, this church dates from the 11th century. In its basilical plan we can stress the historic capitals of rude primitivism. The major chapel keeps some wall paintings dating from the 16th century. This old monastery was the Episcopal headquarters in the mediaeval period.



Tui - view from Valença

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Tui's Sports Port



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