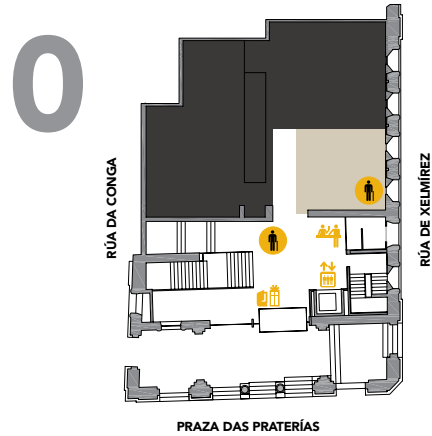


## Pilgrimage as a universal phenomenon

The tour of the ground floor begins by presenting pilgrimage as an inherent part of human beliefs that has taken place throughout history and all over the world. **Different cultures and different religions** create different forms of pilgrimage each expressed in its own particular way, so creating a wealth and variety of practices that in turn have given rise to very diverse and unusual ritual objects



Coin showing the transporting of the Apostle's body. Obol. Minted in Compostela. Reign of Fernando II of León. 1157-1188



The Museum of Pilgrimage and Santiago was created in 1951 and opened its doors to the public on a permanent basis in 1996 in the Casa Gótica (in the Calle San Miguel), an emblematic building which today houses, among other things, the technical and administrative areas of the Museum and its Library.

In November 2015, the Museum was opened to the public in its new home on the Plaza de las Platerías in a building that was once the Bank of Spain, which was refitted by the Consortium of Santiago in a project designed by Manuel Gallego Jorroto.

### Sites

Exhibition area, auditorium and café.  
Praza das Praterías 2  
Tel: +34 981 566 110  
15704 Santiago de Compostela

Library, administration, technical, research and management areas.  
Rúa san Miguel, 4 (Casa gótica)  
Tel: +34 981 581 558  
Fax: +34 981 581 955  
15704 Santiago de Compostela

### Opening times

Tuesday to Friday from 09:30 to 20:30  
Saturdays from 11:00 to 19:30  
Sundays and Holidays from 10:15 to 14:45  
Closed:  
Every Monday,  
1 and 6 January; 1 May; 24, 25 and 31 December; one local holiday.



galicia

<http://museoperegrinacions.xunta.gal/>  
[www.facebook.com/museodasperegrinacionsedesantiago](http://www.facebook.com/museodasperegrinacionsedesantiago)



DL C 1954-2016



MUSEUM OF  
PILGRIMAGE  
AND SANTIAGO



XUNTA DE GALICIA



The permanent exhibition is spread over three floors and covers three main subject areas:

- Pilgrimage as a universal phenomenon
- The pilgrimage of St James and the Camino de Santiago
- The emergence and development of the city of Santiago



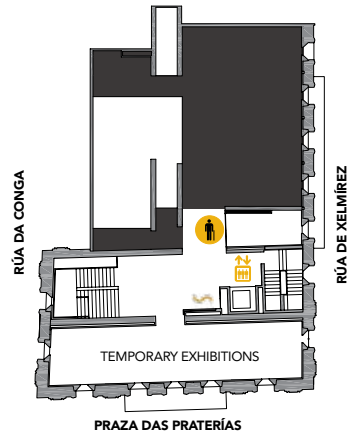
Codex showing women's clothing. Watercolour on parchment. Anonymous artist. Between 1530-1550.



Pilgrim's shell. Circa 1120. From a grave in Santiago Cathedral.



St James the Pilgrim.  
Oil on board.  
Juan de Flandes.  
Hispano-Flemish style.  
1505-1519.  
Prado Museum, Madrid.



## The Pilgrimage and the Camino de Santiago

Also on the ground floor and continuing upstairs to the first floor, the exhibition traces the origins of the pilgrimage and the development of the Camino de Santiago. It begins by introducing Saint James the Great (known in Spanish as Santiago) **in his family and geographical context** before going on to explore his role as a **disciple of Jesus**, the tradition regarding his preaching in *Hispania* and the wonderful legend describing the transporting of his body to *Gallaecia*. Attractive artworks, archaeological finds, books and documents put all these various aspects into context.

Around **820-830 AD** during the reign of Alfonso II, when Teodomiro was Bishop of Iria, a sepulchre was discovered which was soon identified as the Tomb of St James. **The Pilgrimage to Compostela began** and little by little the Camino de Santiago was laid out, as a symbolic reflection of the Milky Way. From the 11th century onwards it became well established, reaching its peak in the following centuries. Here we can see some of the different **routes, infrastructures** and **even towns** that developed along the Camino.

The story of the Camino being presented at the Museum wishes to emphasize the role of the pilgrim as the key figure in the pilgrimage. The motivations, travel books, means of transport, the protection and assistance offered to pilgrims en route, the clothes they wore and the souvenirs of their journey are all illustrated through interesting exhibits from the collection.

The first floor highlights the importance of the **literature** and **music** of the pilgrimage as a universal language of pilgrims. This is followed by a section on the most important **symbols of the pilgrimage** - the scallop shell and the cross of St James, with a selective representation of historical pieces to explain their origin and use, both symbolic and decorative.

The central space on this floor is dedicated to the different representations of Saint James, as an **Apostle**, a **Pilgrim** and a **Knight**. In this way we are introduced to the iconography of the Camino in the Museum collection, a small selection of which is on display. The best known of the numerous paintings, sculptures, fabrics, engravings etc are the altarpieces by Juan de Flandes and Juan de Juanes (16th century).

The visit to this floor ends with interesting artworks highlighting the role of **Saint James in the world**, in both Spain and the rest of Europe. They also explain how the cult of the Apostle set down firm roots in the New World.

## Emergence and Development of the city of Santiago de Compostela

The place identified as the **Sepulchre of the Apostle St James** was converted into a sanctuary around which the *Locus Sancti Iacobi* appeared. A small rural village gradually developed during the Middle Ages into the city of Santiago de Compostela. On the second floor, a careful selection of pieces and audio-visual resources are used to explain the development of both the church dedicated to the Apostle and the city that bears his name.

The archaeological exhibits deserve special mention. These include various pieces found in Compostela such as those from the *Castelo de Rocha Forte*, a symbol of feudal power which explains the important role of the city during the Middle Ages under the Lordship of the Archbishop of Compostela.



This mediaeval yoke (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries) was uncovered during the archaeological excavations conducted during the restoration and refitting of the museum building.

The **economic life of the city** is displayed in the exhibition via the pieces produced over the centuries in the workshops of local craftsmen and in the activities of **the city's guilds**: money-changers, shoemakers, engravers and above all jet-stone carvers and silversmiths.

**The rediscovery of the remains** of the Apostle in **1879** led to the start of the modern pilgrimage and the revitalization of the city and the Camino to its present-day enormous popularity.

The visit ends on the third floor with a fantastic panoramic view of the old city of Santiago and a small relaxation area that leads to the café.

St James with people praying.  
Jet-stone. Workshop in Compostela  
(1476 - 1600). From the collection  
of the Royal Family of Bavaria.

