

## Museo Provincial do Mar

In October 1969, the Provincial Government of Lugo agreed to create the Provincial Museum of the Sea in San Cibrao (Cervo). It was initially based on the collection of Francisco Rivera Casás, who was a teacher in this coastal town from 1934 to 1982, combining his work in the school with studies of the sea and fishing. In 1994 the “Cruz da Venta” residents' association of San Cibrao took over the management of the museum until 2004, when it returned to the control of the Provincial Government of Lugo through its Museum Network.

The Provincial Museum of the Sea, one of the oldest maritime museums in Galicia, occupies a building originally constructed in 1931 to house a one-room school thanks to a donation by a married couple, José María Fernández and Manuela Goñi Maiste.

From the start, the San Cibrao Provincial Museum of the Sea was designed to reflect the seafaring history and marine life of the Lugo coast, with a wealth of biological and ethnographic content, now displayed in four sections.

The **first** commemorates and records the school which was originally housed in the building. In the adjoining space, where a steam engine symbolises the heart of the museum, pictorial displays show visitors the seafaring past of the town and its district, with a large collection of photographs contributed by local residents representing its historical memory.

The main theme of the **second** space is boat building, with a display of carpentry tools that would have been used in the dockyards of San Cibrao, models of the most common types of boats made there, and scale replicas of vessels of particular significance for the town, such as the Paca Gómez, the Industrial or the schooner Sargadelos (**Sections 1 and 2**). San Cibrao has a long boat-building tradition, originating in the 14th century. However, naval engineering became an important part of the town's economy when the Sargadelos ceramic factory opened in the late 18th century. Its commercial success led to higher demand for ships to transport the finished goods and bring the raw materials the factory needed. Thus, the town's shipwrights began building large sailing ships for longer routes, mainly schooners and brigantines (and hybrid variants) and smaller vessels, such as *cachemarines*, *faluchos* and *pataches*, for shorter journeys. For fishing they made large rowboats, such as *traíñones* and *chalupas*, used both for whaling and for sardine fishing.

The introduction of iron for building larger cargo vessels coincided with the decline of the local boat carpenters, who worked with wood. Their activity eventually dwindled to building small fishing boats and repair work. However, the boat-building business took off again in the 1960s with the boom in albacore tuna fishing.

The section titled “El arte de marear: buscando el norte” (The art of navigation: finding the north) displays nautical instruments, essential for understanding the evolution of navigation and the scale of its conquests, as well as fishing lights and navigation lights, used for marking the position of boats and signalling manoeuvres. A special place is reserved for items salvaged from shipwrecks, such as the remains of the frigate Magdalena and the brigantine Palomo, the latter of which sank in the Ría de Viveiro in 1810.

The **third** gallery focuses on maritime professions (fish sellers, net makers, ropemakers, etc.) and fishing equipment (most strikingly, a complete set of oilskins made of treated or “encascado” linen, and a 3-metre “**traíñón**” or **whaling boat** with two sails). It also includes a display of a wide range of marine fauna, with a notable malacological collection (about 70% of the museum's total holdings, with numerous items organised according to the five main mollusc groups), and whole or partial skeletons of marine animals (shark jawbones, swordfish bills, dolphin skeletons, etc.), taxidermy (turtles), coral, fossils, seaweed, etc.

The **fourth** room, on the history of whaling, is dominated by whale bones. They were collected on the beaches of San Cibrao, especially on Cubelas beach, where the whalers used to process their catch from the 16th to the 18th centuries. At the start of the 20th century whaling in Galician waters had declined, although in 1965 this activity became important again in the town when the canning company Massó installed one of its factories in Morás harbour (Xove), only to close again in 1976, ten years before the declaration of the international ban on commercial whaling.

Coordinates of the Provincial Museum of the Sea (datum ETRS89)

UTM: 29 625558 4839244

Geographical: 43°41'44.15"N 7°26'30.78"W

Decimals: 43.6955969455 -7.4418833614

#### **Winter opening times (October to May)**

Tuesday to Saturday:

Mornings, 11 am to 2 pm

Afternoons, 4 pm to 7 pm

Sundays and public holidays:

Mornings, 11 am to 2 pm

Closed Mondays

#### **Summer opening times (June to September)**

Tuesday to Saturday:

Mornings, 11 am to 2 pm

Afternoons, 5 pm to 8 pm

Sundays and public holidays:

Mornings, 11 am to 2 pm

Closed Mondays

The Museum is closed on 1 January (New Year), 22 May (St. Rita), 24, 25 and 31 December and the two

local public holidays determined by Cervo Town council each year.

Free admission

**Contact**

Museo Provincial do Mar

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