

STAGE 2

FERROL-SANTIAGO

From Neda to Pontedume

 DISTANCE **13,204** Km  DIFFICULTY **LOW**  TIME **4:00** h

The second stage of the English Way does not take long. It is practically 13.2 km (it is a few metres short of that figure). Leaving the town of Neda, the pilgrim crosses the road and enters a small cluster of very narrow tracks with very little traffic. The first few metres are uphill, and then the slope stabilizes. The estuary of Ferrol is on the right, and the walker enjoys a wide panoramic view that extends to the entrance of this natural accident, which in other times was praised even by the English, at that time at war with the Spanish. The pilgrim descends to Fene, which is crossed quickly, and climbs again, to repeat the cycle: down to a small valley and then climbs to see the mouth of the river Eume, which is very wide. We then reach the municipality of Cabanas, and going down again we arrive at the water's edge.

Don't miss out



The tower of Andrade, in Pontedeume. In its day it was part of the palace of the family that gives it its name, a building that occupied the space where we find the municipal market today. A large coat of arms is highlighted on the façade of the fortification, which originally was not there but on the façade of the palace. It is possible to visit its interior. On its lower floor is the tourist office, and in the upper floors is an interpretation centre of the aforementioned family and a permanent exhibition. Great views from right at the top.

THE HOSTEL. Check all accommodations at www.caminoingles.gal



Since 2010, a municipally-run public hostel has opened its doors in Pontedeume; it is

in the former fish market of Archbishop Raxoi, in the port. The space is distributed in two bedrooms, with a total of 20 beds. It has no heating, and has a washer and dryer. Pontedeume also has a private hostel, a rural tourism establishment (3 km away), two hotels, pensions and apartments, suitable for all kind of budgets.

AGENDA

Civil protection: 112

Health emergencies: 061

Guardia Civil: 065

Weather forecast:
www.meteogalicia.gal

Pontedeume Tourist Office
Torreón de Andrade. Tel.: 981 430 270

Neda Town Hall
Avda. de Algeciras, 34. 15510
www.neda.es. Tel.: 981 380 039

Fene Town Hall
Praza do Alcalde Ramón José Souto González, s/n. 15500
fene.gal. Tel.: 981 492 707

Cabanas Town Hall
Rúa do Concello, s/n. 15621
www.cabanas.gal. Tel.: 981 495 959

Pontedeume Town Hall
Rúa Real, 13. 15600
www.pontedeume.gal. Tel.: 981 433 05

Web:
www.caminoingles.gal
Facebook Group:
Camino Inglés Oficial
Facebook Fan Page:
Camino Inglés
Instagram:
@caminoinglesoficial





Pontedeume

■ The **church of San Nicolás** in the town centre of Neda, is worth a visit, both the temple itself and its cruceiro. The first church was built in 1397, which was undertaken following the guidelines of a Gothic style that was beginning to approach its end. The main chapel and the baptismal font are preserved from those times, although, curiously, a Romanesque window can be seen on one side wall. The present façade belongs to the world of Baroque.

■ **Traditional washing** places used in all the villages before the electrification of homes and the appearance of washing machines, mark the stretch that goes from Neda to the town of Fene, which the English Way crosses transversally over 2.8 km. The pilgrim will find three of these facilities, the first two of which are very similar. The last one dates from the middle of the 20th century, and all of them are in perfect condition.

■ At the exit of the industrial estate of Vilar de Colo, which logically one hardly enters,

there is a stretch of mountain crossed by an uphill **path** that deserves to be justly described as beautiful.

■ The arrival at the banks of the river Eume is carried out by descending the hillside on which the urban nucleus of Cabanas was built, 86.3 km from Obradoiro square, with its **church** (which although seen, one does not pass next to it). Below awaits the 19th century bridge that crosses this stream and that is the heir of a medieval one built in 1380, which in turn seems to be the heir of another Roman one. In the middle of it, a small **hospital for pilgrims** which disappeared some time before 1820.

■ The bridge ends in the town of Pontedeume, built at the foot of Mount Breamo, at the top of which stands the granite church of San Miguel. The English Way does not pass in front of it, but very close. On the left, at the top of the mountain, you can see the silhouette of the castle of Nogueirosa, a lookout post over that part of the Rias.

■ On arriving at Pontedeume, 1.7 km after Cabanas, the pilgrim realises that he has reached a town steeped in history, with numerous buildings that bear witness to this. The granite, porched **calle Real** becomes the backbone of this town. To the left is the convent of the Agostiños, from the 16th century, with a Baroque façade and a Renaissance cloister, and founded by Andrade, Fernando; it is an active cultural centre nowadays. On the right, the tower of Andrade and the Cátedra de Latinidad, which now houses the municipal library, which must be entered slowly so as not to miss the door's lintel, which states that the building was rebuilt in 1621 because it suffered a fire years ago. The Casa do Concello also demands a look.

■ In addition, Pontedeume has a promenade that goes up the last metres of the river Eume for a kilometre, which a little further on travels along the natural park Fragas do Eume, with the collegiate church of Caaveiro.

