

Photo: arousa/Shutterstock.com



Vigo, a port city in Spain's north-west set scenically on the bank of Ria de Vigo estuary, is the world's largest fishing port. Vigo enjoys fine seafood fresh from the Atlantic, as evident in its numerous cozy taverns. The wildly beautiful Cies Islands, along with one of the world's finest beaches, Rodas, are only a short ferry trip away.

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# THE CITY



Maria Madrinan/Shutterstock.com

Arguably the underdog of Galician cities, Vigo is surprisingly the province's most populous, and one that can - given the chance - easily entice both city breakers and beach vacationers over to its side. Vigo's indisputable winning cards are its excellent seafood (it is, after all, the world's largest fishing port) and easy access to the stunningly beautiful Cies Islands, dubbed by the Romans "the islands of the Gods". There is a limit of 2200 daily visitors to the islands for preservation purposes, so booking a spot in advance is highly recommended (especially so during the summer).

The town itself is appealing in equal measure. Alongside plenty of shopping and dining opportunities, there are a few museums worth checking out, and a good many hiking routes the city's highest points are the O Castro, with its 2000-year-old archaeological site and panoramic public park, overlooking the Vigo estuary, and the Monte da Guía, just north along the coast. What the city may lack in architectural uniformity (its 20th-century growth happened rapidly) it more than makes up for with vibrancy of spirit, natural beauty, and a thriving nightlife.

# DO & SEE



Arnau Miguel/Shutterstock.com

More often than not used as a transit base or intermediate point between destinations elsewhere on the mainland and the magnificent Cies Islands, Vigo has much more to see than you might have expected. With art museums, some of the world's finest seafood, breezy seaside promenades and an attractive old town, Vigo is worth lingering in for quite a while.

#### Casco Vello (Old Town)



In stark contrast to the modern part of the city and its industrial port area, the Casco Vello enchants with 19th-century

architecture, narrow streets and charming squares of the old town. Casco Vello is an easy uphill hike from the port. Note that some businesses close on Sundays.

Photo: Alexleiro(image cropped) Address: Casco Vello, Vigo

#### **Castro Fortress**



Vigo's Castro (Celtic era) archaeological site grants visitors a glimpse into what the Galician settlement of today once was (between roughly 2

BC and 3 AD). Guided tours of the Castro are organized Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-2pm & 4-6pm. Hike up the mountainside to take in the ancient city from afar.

Photo: Contando Estrelas/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Parque do Castro, Vigo

# Cíes Islands



The Cíes Islands, just off the coast of Vigo, are home to one of the world's finest beaches (Rodas Beach), and are easily accessible by sea.

Only 2,200 visitors per day are allowed on the islands, so do reserve your spot in advance if traveling during high season or at the weekends.

Photo: Marcos Seijas/Shutterstock.com Internet: www.turismodevigo.org/en/cies-islands

#### Samil Beach



Samil Beach (or Praia de Samil) is, perhaps, the finest stretch of sand in the area, easily accessible from downtown Vigo. Only 5km away from the

city centre and with opportunities for dining and relaxation (including open-air kids' pools and beach facilities), the beach is an excellent choice for a day trip.

Photo: StockPhotoAstur/Shutterstock.com Public Transport: Bus 15C from Porta do Sol, buses 10 or 15B from Centro Comercial A Laxe (hourly, Mon-Sat)

# Castro Park



Make your way uphill to Parque do Castro via Camelias Street although the climb is somewhat steep, the views over the Vigo

estuary from here are simply unbeatable. The Castro de Vigo (dating back to the 3rd century BC) and Castello the Castro can both be visited en route.

Photo: Stefano\_Valeri/Shutterstock.com Address: Parque do Castro, Vigo

# **Museum of Contemporary Art**



Contained inside what was once built to become a public prison, the Vigo Museum of Contemporary Art is a local cultural center that boasts a

regular rotation of exhibitions, showcasing various forms of artwork (from painting to modern design). There is no permanent exhibition, however, so do check what's on when you're in town.

Photo: zhu difeng/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Principe 54, Vigo Opening hours: Tue-Sat 11am-2.30pm & 5-9pm, Sun 11am-2.30pm, Mon closed Phone: +34 986 11 39 00 Internet: www.marcovigo.com

## Quiñones de León Museum



Housed inside a former castle, and with splendid park grounds in its immediate surroundings, the Quiñones de León Museum is worth the

short trip from central Vigo if only for its well-maintained French garden (some say, a miniature of the one in Versailles). The museum itself contains archaeological artefacts discovered in Vigo and surroundings.

Photo: Ploetzlich (Discussion)/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped) Address: Parque de Castrelos, Av Castrelos,Vigo Phone: +34 986 29 50 70

Internet: www.museodevigo.org

# Los Caballos Monument (The Horses)



Juan José Oliveira's 1991 creation will quite probably strike you as one unlike any other you've ever seen - the ensemble of horses

ascending to the skies up a waterfall was partially inspired by the wild horses historically inhabiting the region.

Photo: Dantadd/Wikimedia Commons Address: Plaza de Esapana, Vigo

#### Monte da Guía



Hike up to the top of Monte da Guía, northeast of the town, and take in the panoramic view of the city of Vigo and Ria de Vigo river, with the

splendid Cies Islands looming in the background. There is a scenic little chapel at the hilltop. The hill is a half hour's walk from the Vigo Guixar

## station.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

## Parque de Castrelos



A pleasant urban park within easy reach from downtown Vigo, with a kids' entertainment area, basketball courts, and an open-air amphitheatre

(hosting world-renowned celebrity musicians a few times per year) on its grounds. Climb to the top and see what remains of the Castro.

Photo: Maria Madrinan/Shutterstock.com Address: Av Castrelos, Vigo Phone: +34 986 81 03 06

# Castelo de San Sebastián



The crumblings ruins of what was once Vigo's strongest fortification date from 1656. Take in wonderful views of Vigo city, the bay, and Ceis

islands from this unique vantage point.

Photo: Miguel Angel Otero Soliño/Wiki Commons(image cropped)

Address: Subida Barranco, 16, 36202 Vigo, PO, Spain

## DINING



Andres Garcia Martin/Shutterstock.com

As one might well-expect from the world's largest fishing port, seafood reigns supreme in Vigo, and is best enjoyed as part of traditional Galician offerings such as "polbo á feira" (or "pulpo a la gallega", octopus dusted with red paprika and sprinkled with oil). There is plenty beyond fine seafood, however - "lacón con grelos", for example, is traditional pork leg with greens, and Galician "empanadas" (or meat pies).

#### Rua da Ostras



This street leading up to the town's port is jam-packed with restaurants and vendors offering up some of the freshest seafood

imaginable. Walk up the street away from the port to find the best value deals, and do sample the fresh oysters at a stall that suits your fancy.

Photo: Lena Serditova/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua da Ostras, Vigo

#### **Follas Novas**



Ranking among the finest in Vigo, this compact restaurant is one where reservations are simply mandatory - demand on the establishment's

honest, quality food and impeccable service remains high on the part of both visitors and locals. The menu is varied, and one cannot go wrong with the seafood.

Photo: shutterdandan/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Serafín Avendaño 10, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Sat 1.15-3.45pm & 8.15-11.45pm Phone: +34 986 22 93 06

#### A Curuxa



When asked for a restaurant recommendations, a local would, without hesitation, most likely single out A Curuxa. The stone-wall

tavern is another safe bet when it comes to dining on Galician specialities and seafood, with stand-outs such as pulpo (octopus), empanada pies, meats, and more - all paired with native Albariño wines.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Cesteiros 7, Vigo Opening hours: Wed-Mon 12-4pm & 8.30pm-12am Phone: +34 986 43 65 26

#### Casa Marco



Heralded as one of the finest in Vigo and surroundings, Casa Marco is a superb restaurant showcasing local produce, meats and

seafood at their absolute finest. Pricing is

extremely reasonable for the quality. Reservations highly recommended, even on weeknights.

Photo: Besjunior/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua de Garcia Barbon 123, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Sat 1.30-4pm & 8.30pm-12am Phone: +34 986 22 51 10 Internet: restaurantecasamarco.leiteaopedavaca1.co

# Maruja Limon



One wouldn't expect to find a level of creativity and finesse this high behind the restaurant's humble facade, and yet Maruja Limon will

probably deliver one of a lifetime's most memorable meals: local ingredients are sourced and handled carefully to create dishes that tend to look more like works of modern art than edibles, and yet splendidly deliver on flavour.

Photo: Jesus del Rio/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Montero Rios 4, Vigo Opening hours: Tue-Sat 1-4pm & 8.30pm-12am Phone: +34 986 47 34 06 Internet: www.marujalimon.es

# The Othilio Bar



With its modern take on traditional Galician flavours, The Othilio Bar elevates local cuisine to a level few have been able to match. It's hard to go

wrong with any of the menu offerings, so pick whichever fine dish suits your fancy. To complete the experience, pair with a Galician Albariño wine.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua de Luis Taboada 9, Vigo Phone: +34 986 19 00 17

#### Internet: www.othilio.es

## La Pepita Burger Bar



Having set out to "revolutionise the traditional burger", La Pepita appears to have accomplished the noble goal with flying colours.

Burgers served here are all exquisitely crafted, and look nothing like your typical burger joint offerings. Traditional beef, ox, lamb, Iberian pig and veggie patties available.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Calle Oporto 15, Vigo Phone: +34 986 11 81 56 Internet: www.lapepitaburgerbar.com

#### Taberna A Pedra



The classic Galician tavern serves fresh, professionally cooked seafood, smack in the heart of Vigo's old town. One can't go wrong with

any of the octopus dishes, just as well as other seafood offerings. Prices are very reasonable for the quality.

Photo: arousa/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Cesteiros 2, Vigo Opening hours: Daily 12am-3.45pm & 7.45-11.45pm Phone: +34 986 43 86 92

# CAFES



StudioPhotoDFlorez/Shutterstock.com

Whether it's traditional Spanish churros served with hot chocolate, a fine coffee brew or traditional Galician desserts that you're after, rest assured you'll find exactly what you're looking for at one of Vigo's many cafe hideaways.

# Cafetería Maracaibo



A Vigo classic, this longstanding, quintessentially Spanish eatery in Praza de Compostela is a great choice for a breakfast

croissant, a serving of churros (deep-fried dough pastry served with thick hot chocolate), an evening glass of wine or even lunch, all to be had in the outdoor seating area.

Photo: Lesya Dolyuk/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Velazquez Moreno 2, Vigo Phone: +34 986 22 55 46

#### Matina



Matina is an excellent choice fore breakfast, and set Sunday brunches enjoy a particular popularity as well. Dishes served are reasonable

healthy, with a vast selection of fresh juices and

smoothies offered. Coffee and cake alone are also a good option.

Photo: Warunee Settanaranon/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Abeleira Menendez 26, Vigo

# The Coffee Land



This excellent little place serves high-quality coffee (choice is vast, so do not hesitate to ask for a recommendation), by no means leaving it at that

and offering patrons a very affordable, tasty breakfast selection along with a few light snacks and sandwiches.

Photo: Uber Images/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Serafin Avendano 8 Bajo, Vigo Opening hours: Wed-Mon 8am-11pm Phone: +34 886 11 45 90

# Vitruvia Cafe



The cafe's warm ambience invites for a coffee (organic) and cake break on your walk in town. Vitruvia has also earned itself a crowd of

return patrons for the live jazz played here frequently during the evenings. A multitude of light meals and snacks are also on offer.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com Address: Praza de Compostela 4, Vigo Internet: www.vitruviacafe.com

#### Sésamo Bakery Shop & Lounge



Sésamo Bakery Shop & Lounge is a solid choice for a quick recharge or brunch in town. The set brunch menu includes your choice of a hot and

cold beverage, a sweet course (yogurt, pastry or similar), and a selection of main (eggs cooked to your liking, miniature hamburgers, savoury pastries, and more). The adjacent bakery sells heavenly fresh goodies.

Photo: Diana Daley/Shutterstock.com Address: Calle de Ecuador 73, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8.30am-11pm Phone: +34 986 11 04 05

## Porto Santo



The buzzing burger place is a great find - the menu is concise, yet includes a good choice of burgers, meats and Spanish/Galician tapas.

Depending on the time of day, these go incredibly well with both beer and coffee. Prices are reasonable, most menu items being under €5.

Photo: veryulissa/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua de Garcia Barbon 45, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 7.30am-12am, Fri 7.30am-2am, Sat 10am-2am, Sun 10am-12am Phone: +34 626 58 51 18

# **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



ImYanis/Shutterstock.com

Start a night out in Vigo with tapas and local Albariño wine, a product of grapes harvested on the banks of Rías Baixas, or "lower rivers". The crisp, naturally acidic Albariño whites are praised for their sophisticated aroma and fruit undertones, and are said to go very well with seafood. To follow this with dancing, try old town's Teófilo Llorente and Real Street, check out one of the beach clubs of Samil and Beiramar, or head to the lively area of Areal. Swankier Alamdea is best fit for cocktails, while Churruca's rock bars attract the alternative crowd.

## La Cervercería de Vigo



The celebrated local Estrella Galicia beer flows freely at this beer hall, run by the beer's very brewers. Come for a drink if pale lagers suit

your fancy (non-pasteurised beer is served, too), and pair a glass with an offering of tapas or a full meal.

Photo: michelangeloop/Shutterstock.com Address: Praza de Compostela 17, Vigo Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am Phone: +34 886 11 72 67

#### Cervexeria Nós



This Vigo microbrewery, is, indeed, rather compact in size, but despite its limited capacity stocks an impressive amount of

local and international beers, as well as it's own in-house brewed drafts. Snacks, burgers (including vegan ones), and various tapas are on offer.

Photo: qwasder1987/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Palma 3, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 6pm-12am, Fri-Sun 12pm-12am Phone: +34 679 42 79 82 Internet: www.cervexanos.es

# Van Gogh Cafe



The recently refurbished Van Gogh Cafe only closes for a handful of hours at night, luring visitors in with a cup of joe in the early morning

and keeping regulars going past midnight with its impressive array of spirits (take your pick from the display behind the bar).

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua de Rosalia de Castro 28, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7.15-2am, Sun 7.15-12am Phone: +34 678 59 23 36

#### **Bar Princesa**



With a rather unlikely choice of name for what is, essentially, a rock bar, Princesa plays good music and lets the crowd spill out onto the Praza

da Constitución, a square where a night out in Vigo starts more often than not. Good vibes are sure to be present.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Praza da Constitución 5, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 9-12am, Fri 9-2am, Sat 11.30-2am

## **20th Century Rock**



This popular rock bar's interior is a sight to behold: walls are adorned with US pop cultural memorabilia, and the space itself contains

curious exhibits, such as a full yellow cab, a statue of liberty mock-up, an odd elephant head and (be weary - unreliable!) street signs.

Photo: Peter Kim/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua do Areal 18, Vigo Opening hours: Daily 10.30am-3.30pm Phone: +34 986 43 93 14

# Buqué



Seat yourself at one of the barrels that serve the bar as tables and enjoy a tasting of the region's finest wines (international labels represented if

you're interested in varieties from elsewhere). Buqué is a relaxed, quaint wine bar for a low-key evening in the old town.

Photo: Cristi Lucaci/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Palma 9, Vigo Phone: +34 986 22 18 79

#### Craft



If beer is your drink of choice, do check out Craft in Rua Fisterra. The bar stocks a surprising number of draft beer varieties, with Spanish

and international beers both on tap and bottled. The bar also holds courses on beer making, but these will require some knowledge of Spanish.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Fisterra 3, Vigo Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7am-11.30pm Phone: +34 986 12 93 67

# SHOPPING



Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Basket-weaving has a long tradition in Vigo, and the craft is still kept alive by locals (Cesteiros is a street where basket weavers once lived; craftsmen of today showcase and sell their work here, too). Woodwork, ceramics, and precious metal jewellery are some of the arts still fostered and propelled in Vigo, and modern takes on ancient forms often make for very stylish designs.

#### Mercado da Pedra



Make your way to Mercado da Pedra in the historic town center around lunch time - the market is known for its extensive offer of seafood,

and houses several eateries serving fresh oysters, which won't cost a fortune here. Some local speciality items and deli are also sold at the market; do expect a selection more limited than that of a larger city.

Photo: Curioso/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Teofilo Llorente 9, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-2pm & 4.30pm-8.30pm, Sun 10am-2pm Phone: +34 986 81 01 00

# A Laxe Shopping Centre



A Laxe Shopping Centre in the Vigo marina is one of the largest commercial complexes in the area, with a multitude of stores and eateries under one

roof. Some local fashion labels are represented. The shopping center is popular with cruise tourists because of its convenient waterfront location.

Photo: Alliance/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Canovas del Castillo 1, Vigo Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm Phone: +34 986 44 37 88 Internet: www.alaxecentrocomercial.es

#### Almacenes Gonzalez



This local deli store offers a wide array of scrumptious foods typical of the region - legs of cured ham adorn the walls and hand down

from a bar right above the counter, and local cheeses are showcased alongside dried fruit, nuts and wines from the region.

Photo: DUSAN ZIDAR/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua da Ronda de Don Bosco 26, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-2pm & 5-8.30pm, Sat 9.30am-2pm, Sun closed Phone: +34 986 22 10 17

## **Cesteiros Street**



Cesteiros is an Old Town alley once inhabited almost exclusively by local basket weavers. The traditional baskets (used historically to store

seafood and produce) are now showcased at the street's store fronts, and may be purchased as a souvenir of Vigo's widely renowned basketwork.

Photo: symbiot/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Cesteiros, Vigo

#### O Calvario



The shopping district of O Calvario retains some of its old-time atmosphere, with many of its streets pedestrian-only. The area is populated by multiple

traditional shops and eateries, and is home to the O Calvario Market, a long-time locals' favourite for produce shopping. Address: San Roque 109, Vigo

#### Vaidhe



Vaidhe is a design store comparable to none other in Vigo - it stocks one-of-kind, unique items crafted and/or designed in Spain. The assortment

ranges from original post cards to accessories and stationery to some innovative T-shirt designs. It's a definitive must for worthy souvenirs.

Photo: A. and I. Kruk/Shutterstock.com Address: Rua Carral 7, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11am-9pm, Sat 11am-2pm &5-9pm Phone: +34 986 11 61 26 Internet: www.vaidhe.bigcartel.com

#### **Rua do Principe**



Vigo's main commercial thoroughfare, Rua do Principe (and the street it eventually merges with, Rua Urzaiz), is lined with all manner of shops and

boutiques, primarily vending international brand clothing. There are quite a few cafes and eateries here, and the Modern Art Museum in the way of attractions.

Photo: connel/Shutterstock.com

# **TOURIST INFORMATION**



StockPhotoAstur/Shutterstock.com

#### Airport



The Vigo-Peinador Airport is located just 10 kilometres away from the city. It serves several airlines, and connects Vigo to multiple locations

across Spain and several destinations abroad. To rech Vigo downtown, use the public bus (L9A runs every day of the week), hire a cab or rental car.

Vigo is also well-connected by land: reaching the city is easy via Spanish cities of Madrid, A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, or from the north of Portugal.

Photo: Juan Garces Address: Apdo. de Correos 1553, Vigo Phone: +34 902 40 47 04 Internet: www.aena.es/en/vigo-airport/index.html

#### Passport/Visa



Spain can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and

most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

## **Best Time to Visit**



Within Spain, Galicia is considered to be the "rainy region", but this is relative to the rest of the country, characterised by a very sunny, favourable

climate. The best time of year to visit Vigo is between June and August, when daylight hours are long and warm temperatures allow visitors to take full advantage of the area's beaches.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

#### Public Transport



Public bus service is convenient and efficient, provided by Vitrasa (a company whose name has grown to become synonymous with "bus").

Use their website of free phone app to find

suitable routes. Tickets are purchased form the driver or at tobacco shops.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Internet: rutas.vitrasa.es

#### Taxi



Taxis are easily hired from multiple locations across the city. To order a cab, use one of the trusted local providers: Audiotaxis +34 986 296

957

Central Radio Taxi +34 986 470 000

Su Taxi Vigo +34 986 132 222

Photo: ArrivalGuides Internet: www.sutaxivigo.es

#### Pharmacy



There are multiple pharmacies located across the city. One round-the-clock pharmacy in Vigo's downtown is:

Photo: Gemma Garner Address: Ronda Don Bosco 2, Vigo Opening hours: 24/7 Phone: +34 986 43 84 08

#### Post



Post boxes are yellow in colour. Post offices (Correos) can be found all across Vigo. One central location is at:

Photo: Andy Fuchs Address: Praza de Compostela 3, Vigo Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am-8.30pm, Sat 9.30am-1pm Phone: +34 902 19 71 97

#### Telephone

City code +34



Photo: Jardson Almeida

#### Electricity



220-240 Volts



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population 293,642

Currency 1 euro = 100 cents

#### **Opening hours**

The 2.30 to 5pm siesta is widely observed; most shops are closed on Sunday, and some do not open on Saturday evenings.

Newspapers Faro de Vigo (Spanish)

**Emergency numbers** EU Emergency: 112

Police: 091 Guardia Civil: 062

#### **Tourist information**

Vigo Tourist Office Estación Maritima (ferry ticket office) +34 986 430 577 Daily 10am-5pm www.turismodevigo.org

Galician Regional Bureau Rúa Cánovas del Castillo 22, Vigo Mon-Fri 9.30am-2pm & 4.30-6.30pm, Sat 10am-1.30pm