



CASTRO DE VILADONGA MUSEUM

THE CASTRO (HILLFORT)

A continued settlement in the Castro de Viladonga was revealed by the archaeological works carried out since 1972. Its greatest occupation occurred between the 2nd and 5th centuries AD. It is considered a key site for studying and understanding the evolution of the Castreña and Galaico-Roman cultures in the rural area, both due to the materials and the structures found there. It was declared BIC (Asset of Cultural Interest) by the Xunta de Galicia in 2009.

The castro consists of several areas of ramparts and ditches, two antecastros or expansion areas and a large central area, called croa, where most of the excavated structures can be found. The inside of the croa is set up around two paths that intersect one another from north to south and from east to west, as well as an inner ring that runs parallel to the main wall. The buildings are usually arranged forming groups or neighbourhoods, sometimes around a patio.



Visiting the Castro de Viladonga

1. Defences. Access to the castro is on the eastern side, where the construction of a series of four walls and three ditches was made possible by the low slope of the land. The structure of the walls, made of earth and stone, as well as the remarkable depth of the moats, were revealed by the archaeological excavation of this defensive system.

2. Access to the inside of the croa. This entrance to the village is made through a monumental corridor, flanked by high wall faces. In these faces the openings of two successive doors were discovered. A circular granite stone with a central groove was found in the middle of the outer doorway.

3. Construction around a courtyard. In this large building, located in a preeminent part of the village, the rooms are arranged around a partially paved central courtyard. A large amount of imported Roman pottery, glass and luxury objects were found in this excavation. All these findings refer to a construction belonging to a family of a certain, at least economic, power and strongly Romanised.

4. Constructions of the northeastern area. In this area of the castro, independent structures with a circular floor plan coexist with others with a quadrangular floor plan, among which a large elongated construction of unknown use stands out.

5. Constructions of the southeastern area. This set of rooms consists of several attached rooms which are accessed through a corridor. One of them is stone-paved and in another one a fireplace is preserved.

6. West antecastro. This wide terrace could have been used to cultivate the land, to stable cattle or to expand the housing area of the village. Part of the access path to the croa was discovered there, along with the remains of a silo inside a rectangular construction.

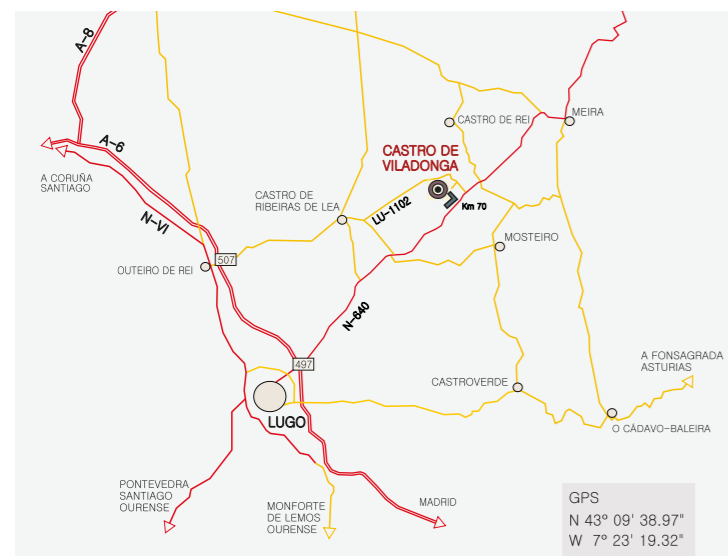
7. Southeast antecastro. The entrance to a cave or old prospecting gallery is located in this antecastro, where the luminous moss *Schistostega pennata*, of an intense green color, grows. It is a species little represented in the European flora, and threatened with disappearance.

Hours

Open daily
(closed 24, 25 & 31 December; 1 & 6 January)
March to October: 10:00 - 20:00 h
November to February: 10:00 - 19:00 h

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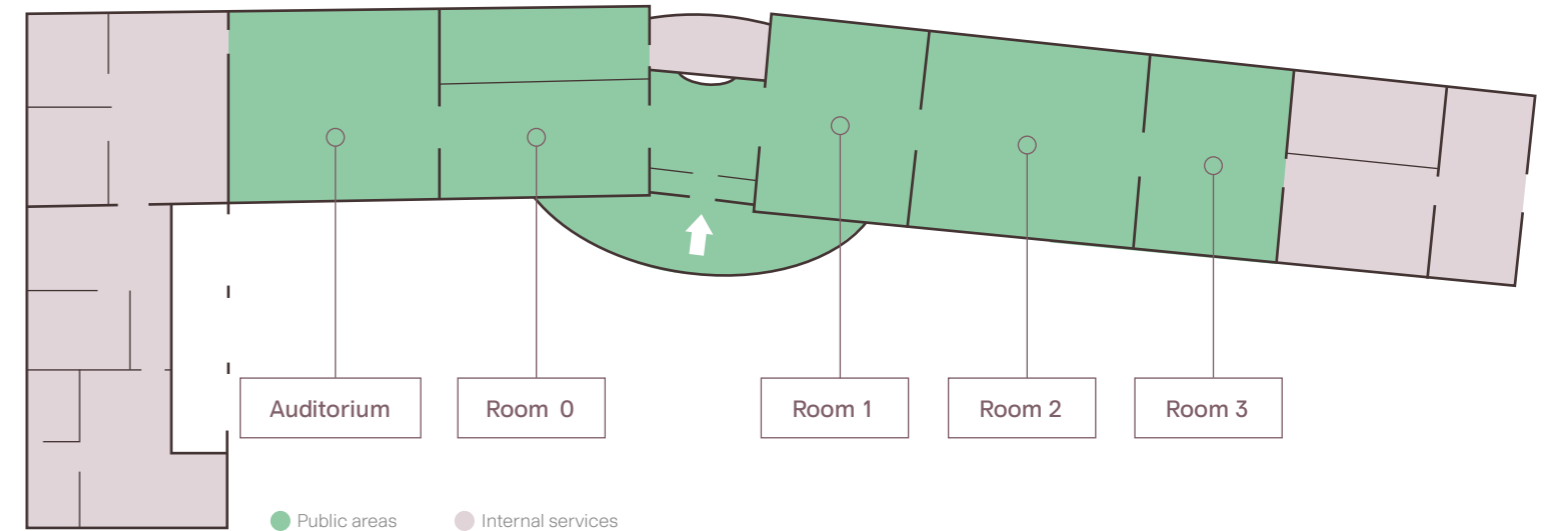


THE MUSEUM

The archaeological importance and historical interest of Castro de Viladonga, the quantity and quality of the materials found there, as well as the need to study and exhibit them in their own context, caused the Ministry of Culture to create the Castro de Viladonga Museum in 1983, in a building that had been built between 1976 and 1978. The Museum was opened to the public on November 29, 1986. In 1990 the management of the Museum was transferred to the Autonomous Community of Galicia. Important works of expansion and renovation of the facilities were carried out between 1992 and 1994.

The Museum is located at the foot of the last wall on the southeastern side of the Castro and it can be reached from km 70 of the N-640 road from Vegadeo to Pontevedra, 23 km away from Lugo.

The Association of friends of Castro de Viladonga was created in 1989. The primary aims of the association are to promote and disseminate the cultural, scientific and didactic activities of the Museum, as well as promoting the protection and knowledge of the Castro.



Room 0. Supplementary information. The archaeological works carried out in the Castro since 1972, as well as the history of the museum are shown in this room. Information on the Castreña culture, the Galaico-Roman period and the natural and patrimonial surroundings of Castro de Viladonga is also offered.

Room 1. Natural environment and habitat. Aspects related to the natural environment in which the site is inserted are shown in this room. Here too, a possible pre-Roman level of the Castro is reported and there is an explanation about the disposition and type of the defences, the organisation of the village and about the different types of constructions and their elements.

Room 2. Material culture I. Materials related to daily life in Castro de Viladonga can be found in this room. There is also a large scale mockup that recreates the whole castreño village.

Room 3. Material culture II. In this room there are decorative objects both for people and horses, jewellery and decorations, coins, games, amulets and other materials of different designs and uses. In this last room, there is a video-mockup which recreates various scenes from everyday life in Castro de Viladonga.

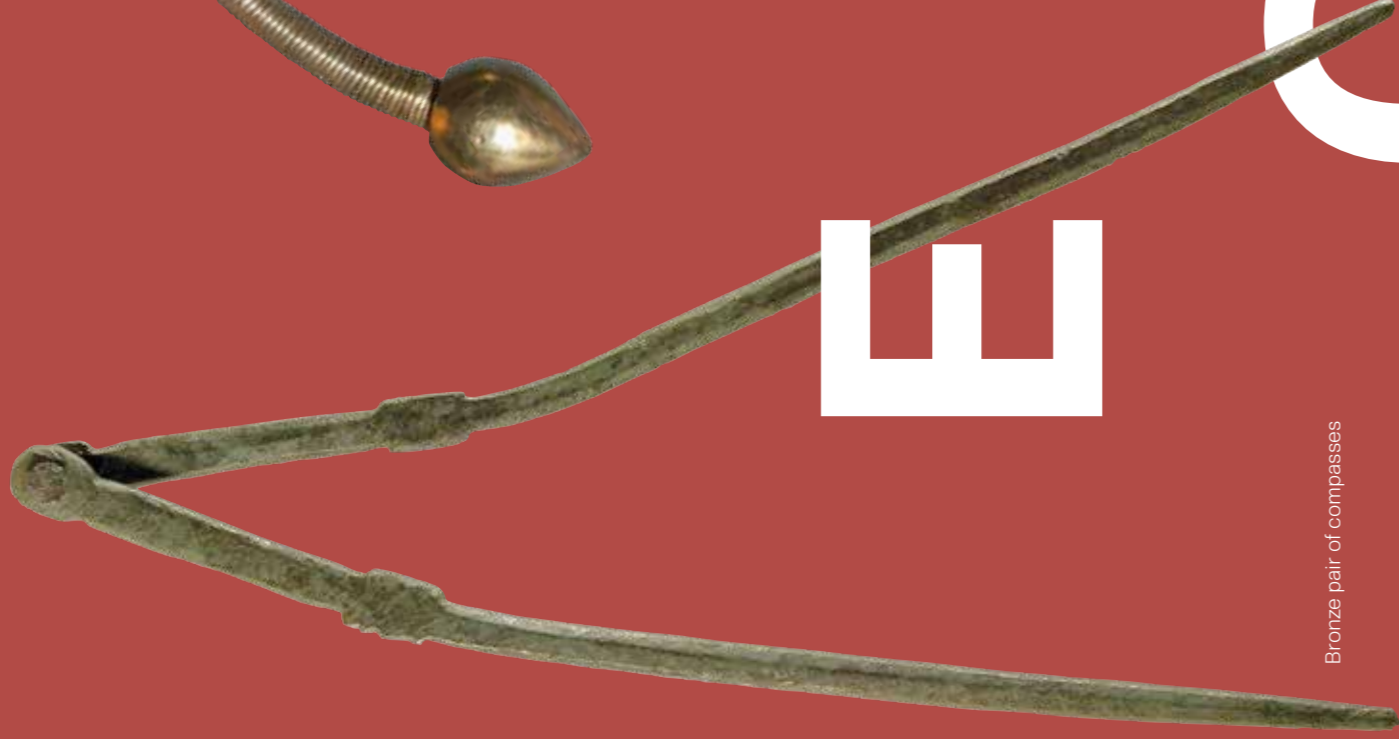
M



Augustus silver Denarius (Head)



Bronze antenna dagger



Bronze pair of compasses



Torque found in 1974



Iron cowbell



Horse bit shank

S

U

S



Hoop or chain earring

E



Bronze clasp with human head

O

M

E

U

E

O