During the last decades of the nineteenth and the first of the twentieth centuries, Ribadeo went through a period of considerable growth both in economic and social terms, and in terms of its urban development. This boom owed much to the return of emigrants from abroad, especially those referred to as the "Indianos". They invested in industry and trade, and sponsored many socio-cultural activities and projects, thus contributing hugely to the modernization of the municipality’s infrastructures and facilities.

On their arrival around the year 1870, the first returnees built houses of a varied but unmistakable style. The "Indianos" brought with them a cosmopolitan style of architecture which stood out intrusively among the traditional Galician houses, a testimony to their triumphs and successes achieved abroad. These mansions are comfortable, lavish, open to the space outside, with new shapes and materials which spoke of wealth, sophistication and urban lifestyles, with elegant adornments on their façades, lush gardens reminiscent of the tropics, containing palm-trees and camellias, and surrounded by wrought-iron walls and fences, in place of the traditional walls and gates.

These houses, though built by Galician architects, found their inspiration in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, Havana and Paris, and displayed a wide range of styles: eclectic, modernist, historicist or traditional, all of which contributed to an impression of distinction and good taste. In fact, it was usual to order the elements of decoration and furnishing from Paris or Barcelona, with the aim of supplying houses with the most up-to-date objects.

Ribadeo boasts the largest number of "Indiano" or "Indiano-style" houses. The tours we present below consists of two itineraries: one of them urban, the other taking us through the parishes in the countryside. By means of these, the visitor will be able to become acquainted with part of the Indiano heritage in Ribadeo, some of its most outstanding buildings being real architectural gems.
**TOUR OF THE TOWN**

1. We begin the Indiano Tour in the Cantón dos Morenos.

2. Torre dos Morenos: (The Moreno Brothers' Tower). This mansion was built between 1914 and 1915 by the architect Julián García Núñez (a follower of Gaudí's), at the initiative of the brothers Juan and Pedro Moreno Ullóa. The building features modernist ornamentation and a dome on top, supported by four caryatids, which is visible from anywhere in the town.

3. Casa de Don Clemente: (Clemente’s House). Having accumulated a considerable fortune, and a social position that corresponded with it, Don Clemente, who had been born in Ribadeo, returned to the town and purchased two houses side-by-side, which he partially rebuilt and renovated in order to create a single detached mansion.

4. Casa del Viejo Pancho: (Old Pancho’s House). Even though this is not an Indiano house, it is a must to pause and admire this building, where José Alonso Trelles e Jarén, better known as “Old Pancho”, was born in 1857. He was one of the Uruguay’s greatest writers, and not an Indiano house, it is a must to pause and admire this building, where José Alonso Trelles e Jarén, better known as “Old Pancho”, was born in 1857. He was one of the Uruguay’s greatest writers.

5. Rodríguez Murias Street: This street undoubtedly boasts several of the most representative buildings, not just of Indiano architecture but of the town’s growth in its boom years. The street is named in honour of one of the foremost Indians, Jesús Rodríguez Murias.

6. The San Roque District: This is the Indiano district par excellence. Most of the emigrants who first returned to Ribadeo during the 1870’s built their residences in this area, which was at that time located in the outskirts of the town.

7. Right side of San Roque Street: Among other buildings, here we will find the Marine Authority building, the home of Esperanza Leiras, that of Ascensión Pilloado and the Andés family home.

8. Left side of San Roque Street: Firstly, we will find houses of the Indians, the most striking being the Pink House, Casa da Calzada and the so-called Dwarves’ House.

9. Sela’s House and the Indiano’s Gardens: Sela House is one of the oldest Indiano mansions in Ribadeo, dating back to 1869. Its great size, the sober nature of its ornamentation and the use of quarried granite in its construction, remind us rather more of traditional architecture in this case.

The Indianos’ Gardens, included in this itinerary, were laid out in memory of emigrants from Ribadeo. The Gardens possess typical plant species from Galicia and America, including monkey-puzzle trees, magnolia trees, plane trees, and many species of flowering plants.

10. 11. The Optician’s House and the Old Barracks: The Optician’s House is a fine example of Indiano style. It is crowned by the viewpoint or lookout post which is characteristic of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses of traders and ship-owners. This house still boasts the acacia tree planted a century ago and the palm-tree so common in Indians’ gardens.

The Old Barracks is better known for its size than for its architectural features, which nevertheless display one virtue, that of the functionality of the main body of the building, an octahedron on three floors, in rationalist style.