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The Beauty of Galicia by James Purefoy

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Galicia is renowned as â€œthe land of a thousand riversâ€• in Spain. These rivers flow through the whole region of Galicia via mountains and coasts to form the â€œRiasâ€•. Hence, great contrasts are found at th different landscapes of Galicia; the beaches are smooth with their fine sand and warm waters while the cliffs are high and dangerous as with Costa de la Muerte which is nicknamed â€œcoast of deathâ€•.

Galiciaâ€™s capital is Santiago de Compostela with four provinces: A CoruÃ±a, Ourense, Pontevedra and Lugo. Its climate is temperate from 5 degrees Celsius in winter to 20 degrees Celsius in the summer.

Rias offering

The manifold rivers plying through Galicia form its abundant riches in water supply that brings on the Rias characteristic. In Rias Altas, there are magnificent beaches with booming towns and quaint fishing villages co-existing. In RÃ-as Baixas, one can enjoy the natural preserves and balnearies with lots of vast green landscapes as well as romantic fishing villages.

Rich Cultures

Galicia enjoys many rich cultures which were deposited by early settlers and conquerors such as the Celtics and the Romans. The Lugo walls were built by the Romans along with the Ourense Bridge and Hercules Tower.

Middle Ages are stamped with the discovery of Apostle Santiago or Saint Jamesâ€™ tomb where thousands of pilgrims pay tribute to the saint every year at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The world renowned Way of Santiago is also called by other names such as Camino Jacobeo and the Way of St. James. Hence, it is not surprising that there are many churches, chapels and monasteries built that are based on this historical-religious value. The diverse cultures in Galicia are graciously embraced.

Rich Folklore

The rich Galician folklore reflects the obvious Celtic and Gaelic origins; one of the characteristic musical instruments used in the folklore is the Gaita or the bagpipe. Many festivals and fiestas have music and dancing which use the Gaita. Many folkloristic groups have been formed to keep the traditions alive especially during the various fiestas. They are active in presentations of folklore music during the various occasions with the full traditional costumes donned.

The Galician population is still actively involved in their traditions and folklore which have been passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Historical events are re-enacted during the respective festivals to commemorate the rich culture and influences although there may be some blends.

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