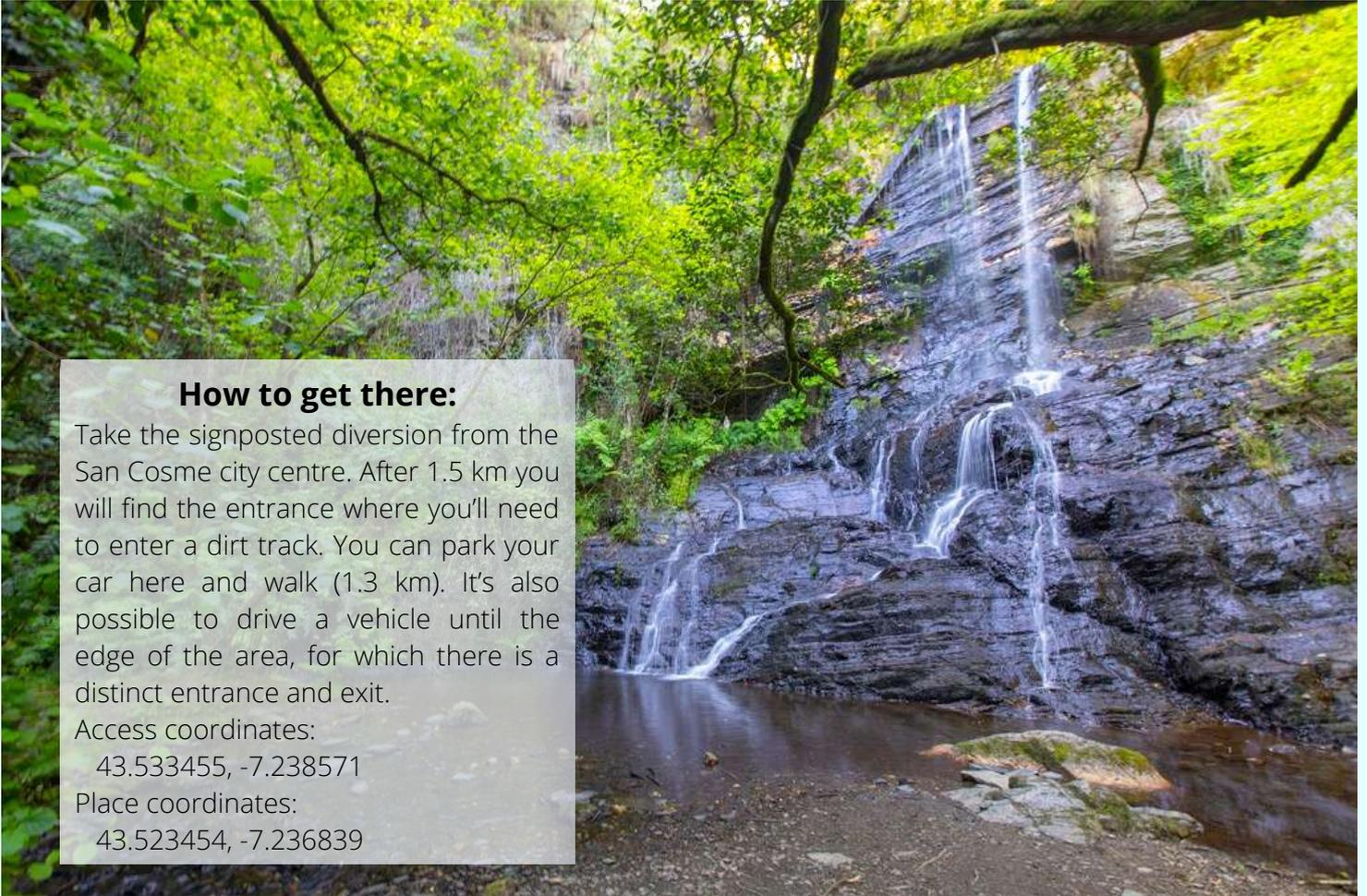




Santo Estevo do Ermo



How to get there:

Take the signposted diversion from the San Cosme city centre. After 1.5 km you will find the entrance where you'll need to enter a dirt track. You can park your car here and walk (1.3 km). It's also possible to drive a vehicle until the edge of the area, for which there is a distinct entrance and exit.

Access coordinates:

43.533455, -7.238571

Place coordinates:

43.523454, -7.236839



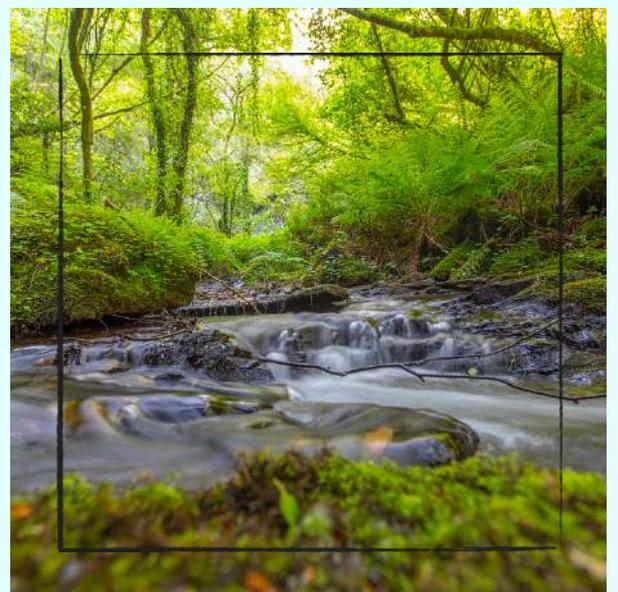
An experience for your five senses



This forest is a **haven of local species**, a great reflection of **biodiversity**, architecture, legends and history.

This place makes you feel alive while escaping your daily routine.

Visiting requires silence, serenity and a deep respect for nature.



Before your visit begins, please read the following:

- Tour in the forest: approx 1Km with stairs, muddy and stony areas.
- Use suitable clothing and footwear for hiking.
- Try to only leave behind your own footsteps.
- Don't exit the defined paths.
- Pay respect to the natural and cultural heritage elements and try not to damage them.
- If you bring a dog, keep him on leash and control him at all times.
- Enjoy the sounds of nature and be quiet.

- Thank you for your collaboration -



We will begin our route to this quiet and magical place **from the porch of the age-old Santo Estevo do Ermo chapel.**

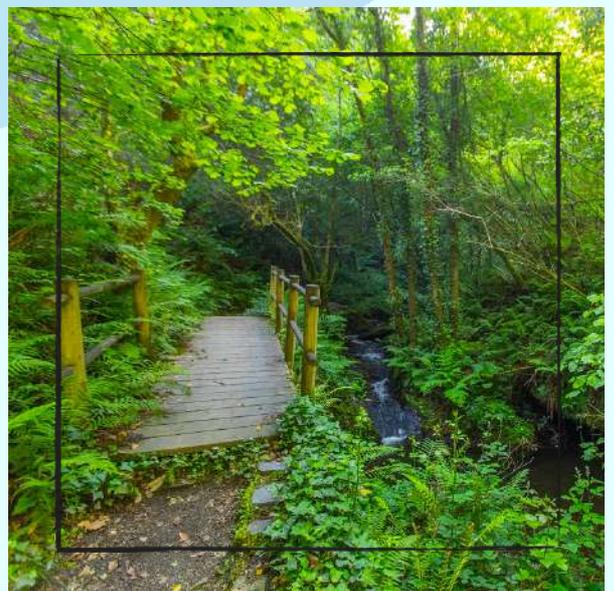
The current building is from the XVIII century, as it was relocated from a higher place where the remains of the primitive church can be found, as well as the old parish graveyard.

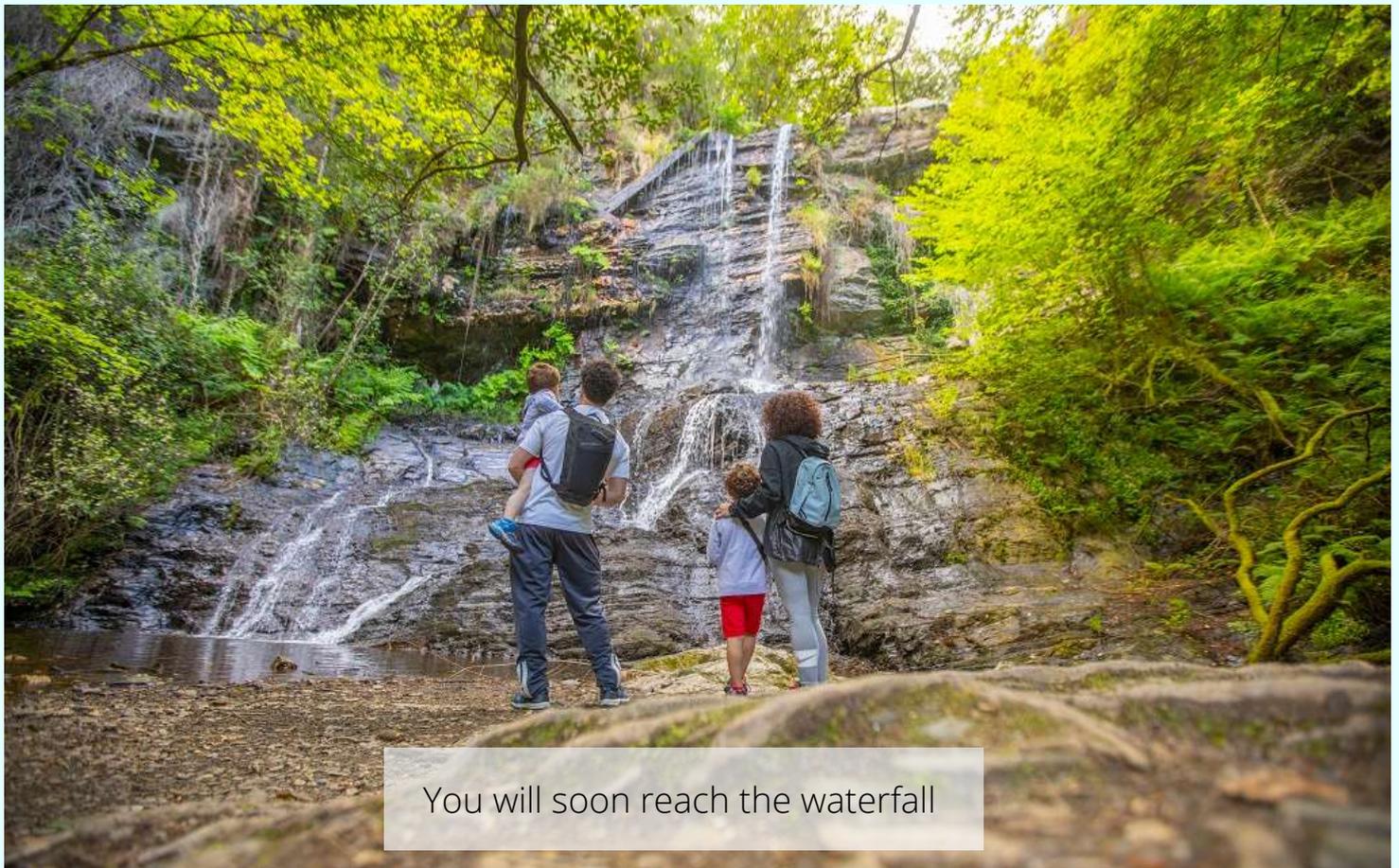
There is evidence from its existence from at least the IX century.

Behind the chapel, by the river, you'll find the path that will bring you towards the waterfall.

On your way there you will enter this woodland, which serves as shelter for various sensitive species. **Here hides a surprising forest with local species** such as oaks, chestnut trees, European hollies, birches, common hazels or laurels.

There are other environmentally interesting species such as ferns from the Cenozoic or peregrine falcons, golden-striped salamanders and various bat species.

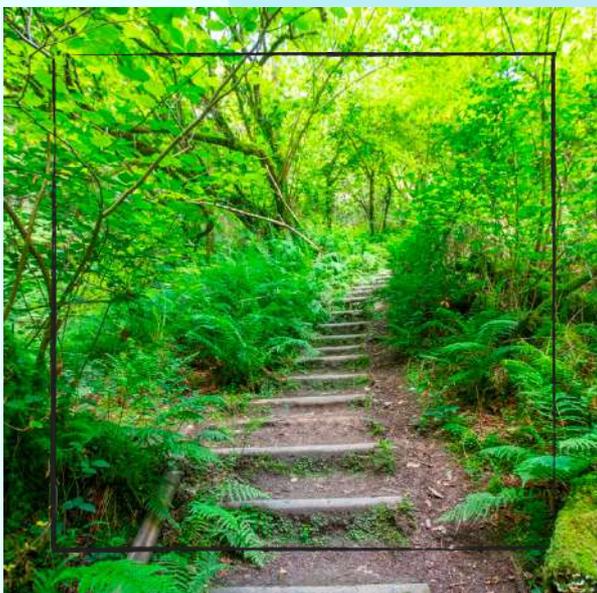




You will soon reach the waterfall

Here is where this famous quote from the Spanish philosopher George Santayana becomes reality:

"Nature has music for whoever listens"



Next, we will go upstairs and turn left, towards a **viewpoint** where we will be able to watch the waterfall as well as the natural environment from another perspective.

We will then go back to continue hiking towards the **Santiago's horse horseshoe**, which is on one of the rocks of the path. The legend says that when the apostle Santiago was escaping from the mythical *mouros*, his horse jumped more than 200 meters from the rock ahead to this spot, freeing himself from them.

We'll continue the stone path until we cross a bridge. A few meters ahead, the branches of the hazelnut trees decorated with rags will indicate us that we reached the **Santa Rosa fountain**, which is said to have healing properties for skin diseases. After the healing ritual, the used cloth is tied to a branch as an offering.

This place is part of ancestral traditions. Please, **don't leave any traces of your visit.** Don't contribute to the banalization of our history.



We will then go back only to walk straight forward, leaving the stairs to the waterfall to our right.

We will soon arrive to the **Augas Santas fountain**. This spring with ferruginous water is said to have healing properties and it was used by people from A Mariña until not too long ago.

*Drinking safety is not guaranteed.

Further down to the left we find the place where the **old church and graveyard** used to be. These used to be sacred places formerly and must be respected nowadays.

Now we only need to descend the slope that will bring us back to the current chapel, built with the stone from the former.



Local Tourist Office

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www.barreirosturismo.gal



Barreiros Turismo