



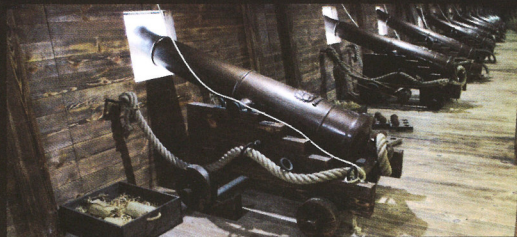
MEIRANDE

Centro de Interpretación da Batalla
e o Patrimonio Cultural de Rande

1702

In 1702, The Spanish Treasure Fleet, which had come back from Cuba escorted by French ships, is attacked at the Ría de Vigo by Anglo-Dutch ships in the so-called Batalla de Rande (Battle of Rande), this chapter is part of the War of the Spanish Succession. Despite the fact that the great majority of its valuable load, silver, precious stones, porcelain,... had been off loaded during the weeks previous to the battle, it is said that there is a huge treasure sunk in our bay.

MEIRANDE offers the visitor the possibility to know the facts at the same spot where they took place, what lead to it and what happened after the defeat of the French-Spanish fleet and the sinking of the ships.



THE LANDSCAPE

From the dock you can see an heterogeneous landscape, where there is a strong presence of industrial activity. Our sea has been, for centuries, an important source of resources for our local economy: fishing, transport, canning,...

The cantilever loading dock, from the German company Minerales de Hierro de Galicia S.A., was built in between 1925 and 1926, in the area of the Forte de Rande (Rande Fort). Another loading dock, of a much more recent construction, called Coto Wagner, was elevated over three concrete platforms over the sea, in the 1960's by the company Minero Siderúrgica de Ponferrada, which is also in disuse nowadays.

The Puente de Rande (Rande Bridge), built in the 70s, was designed by the engineers Florencio del Pozo, Fabrizio de la Miranda and Alfredo Passaro. It was awarded in 1979 with the European Award for Steel Structures.

Bateas are floating structures which in Rande are used for cultivating mussels. At the Enseada de San Simón (San Simón Bay) they appeared at the 20th century.

At the end of the bay are the Illas de San Simón e San Antón, with their legendary history, and the beach of Cesantes, the longest sandbank in the bay.

MEIRANDE
Fábrica do Alemán

Rande Fort Ruins

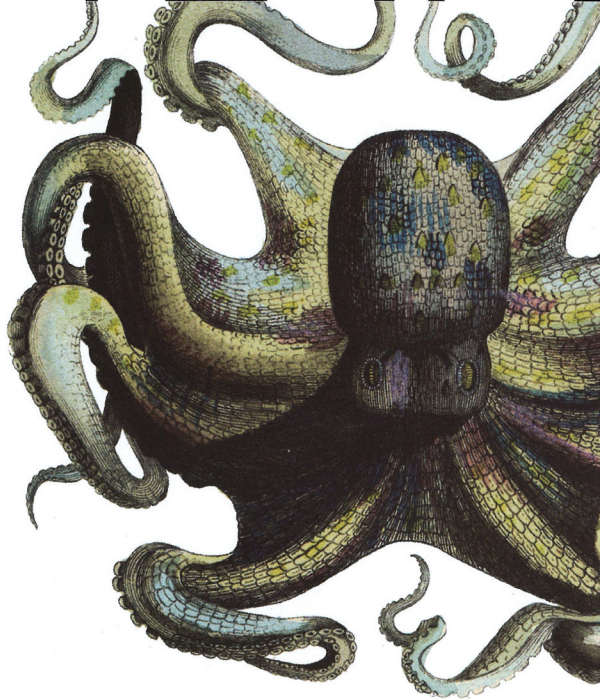
Loading dock
"do Alemán"

Rande Bridge



TREASURES

The famous treasure of Rande is, without doubt, one of the most wanted of all times. Short after the battle, dives directed by Fernando de la Mata, under the instructions of The Council of the Indies, began. Since then, there have been multiple dates and names. One of the most famous companies was the one of the newyorker John S. Potter Jr., a Harvard Engineer who obtains a three- year permit in 1955 for his explorations. At **MEIRAN-DE** we are told the story of the dives at Enseada de San Simón.



In 20.000 Leagues Under Water (1869), Jules Verne, its main character, Captain Nemo, comes to our bay in the submarine Nautilus looking for the treasures of sunken galleons.

Bateas
(floating structures
where mussels are cultivated)

**Coto Wagner
Loading Dock**

**ILLAS DE SAN SIMON
E SANTO ANTON**

Cesantes sandback



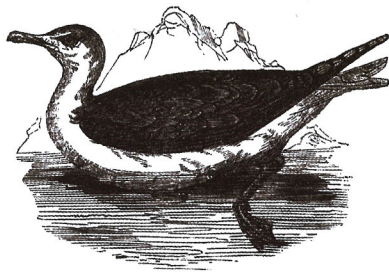
A FÀBRICA DO ALEMÁN

MEIRANDE, Interpretation Centre of the Battle and Cultural Heritage of Rande, is located in a former fish-salting factory which exists, at least, since 1836, associated to the Carsí family, of Catalan origin.

It is currently known as “A Fábrica do Alemán” (The Factory of the German) in reference to the entrepreneur Otto Gerdzen Boyé, who used these facilities from 1944 to 1955, first as a salting factory and after under the brand Conservas Boyé (a canning factory).

Distributed between the exterior and one of the modules, there are different types of machines used in the factory since the 19th century, outstanding the steam engines from the beginning of the 20th century.





natural environment

We are at the Enseada de San Simón, classified as a Special Protection Area of Natural Values (ZEPVN) and SCI (Sites of Community Importance), being part of Natura 2.000, which is a network of natural areas of high ecological value throughout Europe.

There are thousands of aquatic birds, with a large number of seagulls (*Larus fuscus*, *Larus ridibundus*, *Larus cachinnas*) and waterfowl (*Anas penelope*, *Anas platyrhynchos*).

The beauty of the aquatic games of sea crows, called cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and the elegance of the little egret (*Egretta garzatta*) is highlighted here.

Sometimes we can see groups of “arroaces” (*Tursiops truncatus*) -common bottlenose dolphins- moving in the estuaries. When the tide is low, you can find crabs (*Carcinus maenas*) in between the rocks, where mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) breed and limpets (*Patella vulgata*) and the colours of algae (*Pelvetia canaliculata*, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, *Fucus vesiculosus*).



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