

TRAVEL JOANNE O'CONNOR



Take me there Vigo, Spain

Why go?

Spanish airline Air Nostrum launches direct flights between Luton and Vigo next month (airnostrum.es). Sprawling and industrial, this sea-facing city is not a place to fall in love with at first sight. But beneath the occasionally gritty facade beats the heart of one of Spain's most energetic and forward-looking towns. It has a vibrant nightlife and restaurant scene, as well as some of Galicia's most glorious beaches on its doorstep.

What to do

Get your bearings by climbing to the Castro hill fort for far-reaching views across the city and harbour. Explore the plazas and medieval streets of the Casco Vello – the rapidly gentrifying old town which is now home to cool bars, coffee shops and galleries. Learn about Vigo's long seafaring history at the Museo do Mar (museodomar.xunta.es) or catch an avant-garde exhibition in Marco, the Museum of Contemporary Art (marcovigo.com). Escape the city by catching a ferry to the unspoiled Islas Cíes – a ride away – for lazy picnics on sand beaches and peaceful hikes through the forest.

Where to stay

The Hotel Puerta Gamboa is a run hotel with plenty of character in the old town. There are j



Shelling out: oysters for sale at Vigo's A Pedra market

rooms all of which have either a small balcony or terrace (from £53 a night, hotelpuertagamboa.com).

Insider tip

Sean O'Rourke, co-founder of EATour Specialist (eatourspecialist.com), which runs culinary tours of Vigo and beyond, recommends taking the ferry to the seaside village of Cangas. "It's a pleasant 20-minute ride across the harbour and you get to see the city from the sea. Spend the day on the beach, then watch the sun set from the Monte O Facho in Donon, with a panoramic view of the whole of Vigo Bay." ■



For more inside tips, advice and holiday ideas, go to theguardian.com/travel

Lantern & Larks are mentioned down here

Give me a break



Posh camping in Rutland

Glamping specialist Lantern and Larks has opened a new site in a walled garden in the grounds of Exton Park, Rutland. The stately home's former orchard and kitchen garden will be home to five colonial-style luxury tents. There are 14 miles of bridleways to explore and Rutland Water, the UK's largest manmade lake, is a short ride away. A two-night break in June costs £297.50 for a family of four (lanternandlarks.co.uk).



Visit Moominworld in Finland

The Finnish resort of Naantali Spa has launched a Moomin-themed break to coincide with the release of the *Moomins on the Riviera* movie. Naantali is the home of Moomin creator Tove Jansson and the Moominworld theme park. Packages cost £652 for a family of four, including three nights' B&B in a Moomin-themed room and tickets and train transfers to the theme park. Flights are extra (naantalisp.fi).