



# San Xoán Guide 2026

Bonfires · Queimada · Midnight Rituals · Galicia

✦ 23-24 JUNE 2026 ✦

## Queimada Recipe

### INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 1 litre of aguardiente (Galician pomace brandy)
- ▶ 200 g sugar
- ▶ Peel of 1 lemon and 1 orange
- ▶ A handful of coffee beans
- ▶ Optional: 1 cinnamon stick

### STEPS

- 1 Pour the aguardiente into an earthenware cauldron
- 2 Add the sugar, peels, coffee and cinnamon
- 3 Stir with a wooden ladle
- 4 Light it with a long match
- 5 Stir while it burns until the sugar dissolves
- 6 Wait for the flames to go out on their own and serve in *cuncas* (traditional clay cups)

 **Tip:** The aguardiente must be at room temperature. Never tilt the cauldron when lighting it. Keep a jug of water nearby for safety.

## The 7 Herbs of San Xoán

For *facer o cacho* — collect water from 7 different springs on the afternoon of 23 June:


 **Fennel** (fiúncho)


 **Rosemary** (romeu)

 **St. John's Wort** (hipérico)

 **Mallow** (malva)


 **Lemon verbena** (herbaluísia)

 **Broom** (codeso / xesta)

 **Male fern** (fento macho)

**How to do it:** Collect water from 7 different springs into a single container. Add the 7 herbs and leave it out all night under the *sereno* (the night dew). The next morning, wash your face with this water **without looking in the mirror**. Protection for the whole year.

## Checklist — Key Schedule

TIME	WHAT'S HAPPENING
18:00 – 20:00	Setting up bonfires on beaches and squares
20:00 – 23:00	Outdoor dinner — sardines, meat, wine, empanada
23:00 – 00:00	Gaitas (Galician bagpipes) and pre-party atmosphere
00:00 (midnight)	 <b>Jump the bonfires!</b> + midnight swim in the sea
00:00 – 02:00	Queimada ceremonies and ancient incantations
02:00 – 06:00	Street party and dancing until sunrise
24 June (holiday)	Wake up late. Wash face with 7-herb water. Family lunch.



# How to Get to Each City from Santiago

All trains depart from Santiago de Compostela railway station (800 m from the Old Town). Tickets: [renfe.com](https://www.renfe.com).

CITY	TRAIN FROM SANTIAGO	ALSO BY AIR
<b>A Coruña</b>	<b>30 min · ~€12</b> Renfe Media Distancia. Frequent departures all day.	✈ A Coruña Airport (LCG) — 15 min from Santiago by train. Flights from London, Paris, Barcelona.
<b>Vigo</b>	<b>1 h 15 min · ~€15</b> Renfe Media Distancia. Direct trains every 1–2 hours.	✈ Vigo Airport (VGO) — 20 min bus from city. Flights from London, Dublin, Milan, Lisbon.
<b>Lugo</b>	<b>1 h 30 min · ~€13</b> Renfe via Monforte. Also Monbús bus (1 h 30, €10).	—
<b>Pontevedra</b>	<b>35 min · ~€8</b> Renfe Media Distancia. Very frequent service.	—
<b>Ourense</b>	<b>35–50 min · ~€10</b> Renfe Media Distancia + AVE (high-speed). Multiple daily.	—

## ⚠ Safety Tips

No glass bottles on the beach — banned in A Coruña, fines apply	Do not swim in the sea after drinking alcohol
Only jump over small bonfires, and never after drinking	Children: choose a neighbourhood or village bonfire — less crowded
Plan your return: public transport gets saturated, taxis disappear	Check the weather — Galicia can rain even in June. Bring a jacket!

### Passing through Santiago on 24 June?



We open at **1:00 PM** — come tell us how your San Xoán night went!

📍 **Av. de Quiroga Palacios, 5 — 10 min walk from the Cathedral**

🍷 Queimada for the hangover · 🍔 Galician burgers · ☕ Coffee to wake up