This is our tower, our landmark. Its silhouette mirrored on the ocean reflects the Atlantic character of the people of A Coruña. The Tower of Hercules is part of our heritage and, since 2009, a World Heritage.

A truly unique monument, and also the world’s oldest working lighthouse. Built by the Romans in the 1st century CE, the original construction was lower, wider and featured an exterior ramp used to take the wood that fuelled the fire up to the top of the tower. In 1788, Eustaquio Giannini, aided by city alderman José Coralles, embarked on an ambitious plan to renovate the tower. He clad the original Roman building with a Neoclassical façade, decorated with a band as a reminder of the original lamp. Later additions included the upper section that houses the lamp, the aedicule containing the Latin inscription and the platform at the base.

A truly unique monument, and also the world’s oldest lighthouse. Designed by Eustaquio Giannini, it is managed by the Spanish Maritime Administration. The Tower of Hercules is part of our heritage, and also of Picasso’s inspiration. Picasso’s Candy Tower was named after the brilliant young artist affectionately called it the Candy Tower.

**Visiting the Tower**

**The Visitor Centre CIAV**

The Visitor Centre offers guided visits and self-guided visits with an audiovisual presentation and basic information on the Tower as well as the history and development of lighthouses and light navigation. This service is aimed at all those interested in learning more about the Tower of Hercules and its strategic location in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Archaeological Site**

The remains of the original foundations and constructions are conserved in this area, providing an insight into the Tower of Hercules’ historical development and construction. The Centre also has an exhibition of Roman and medieval artefacts as well as a library and Learning Centre.

**The Tower excavations**

Large blocks of stone laid in rows to form the walls of the Tower. These basaltic stones were used for the entire construction of the Tower, giving it a strong and lasting structure.

**The Former Lamp**

The tower was equipped with a lamp installed by the Romans in the 1st century CE. The lamp emitted an orange flame that could be seen from a distance of 300 miles. As the lamp burned, it emitted a puff of smoke that warned of approaching enemy ships.

**The Former Tower**

The Tower of Hercules was originally a lighthouse that can be seen at the base of the tower. This object is the first tower to be built in the area, surrounded by a Roman town.

**The Light House**

The bell jar housing the lamp, the aedicule containing the Latin inscription and the platform at the base.

**The Lighthouse Lamp**

The lamp of the Tower of Hercules was reinstalled in 2004 after a long period of restoration. The lamp emits a powerful beam of light that can be seen from a distance of 300 miles. The lamp is fuelled by a mixture of palm oil and linseed oil, which is heated to a temperature of 350°C. The lamp is operated by a team of specialist engineers who ensure that the lamp is always in working order.

**Legends**

**The Legend of Hercules**

Hercules is a Greek hero who was known for his strength and his legendary quests. He was a symbol of the Greek ideal of heroism and was celebrated in art and literature. The Legend of Hercules is a story that tells of the hero’s adventures and his role in the founding of the city of A Coruña. According to this tale, Trezenzonio son of Ithe, travelled to Ireland on a voyage of conquest. He was defeated by the hero Breoghan and Ithe, the first woman to live on the coast, the Farum, a magnificent construction rising to the heavens. According to this tale, the Roman writer Tacitus described the Tower of Hercules as “a true beacon for sailors” and “a symbol of divine protection”.

**The Tale of Trezenzonio**

According to this tale, Trezenzonio son of Ithe, travelled to Ireland on a voyage of conquest. He was defeated by the hero Breoghan and Ithe, the first woman to live on the coast. The Farum, a magnificent construction rising to the heavens, was a symbol of divine protection. According to this tale, the Roman writer Tacitus described the Tower of Hercules as “a true beacon for sailors” and “a symbol of divine protection”.

**Sculpture of Hercules in the Interpretation Centre CIAV**

Francisco Leiro, 1992

**Painting the Tower on A Coruña**

A young artist affectionately called it the Candy Tower. Picasso’s Candy Tower was named after the brilliant young artist affectionately called it the Candy Tower.

**Contact**

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**TICKETS ON SALE AT CIAV**

*Picasso’s Candy Tower*

**Pablo Picasso**

Pablo Picasso spent part of his childhood in A Coruña, drawing and painting the Tower on several occasions. The young artist affectionately called it the Candy Tower. Picasso’s Candy Tower was named after the brilliant young artist affectionately called it the Candy Tower.

**Opening Times**

**SUMMER (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER)**

MONDAY – SUNDAY 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

**WINTER (OCTOBER TO MAY)**

MONDAY – FRIDAY 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

**VISITOR AND INTERPRETATION CENTRE OPENING TIMES**

MONDAY – FRIDAY 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

MONDAY – FRIDAY 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

**TOURS ON SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS**

**Architecture**

The Tower of Hercules is a triumph of Roman engineering. It is a large building of rectangular plan with four chambers featuring barrel vaulted ceilings. All four chambers feature a staircase and a corridor. The building is divided into three floors, each with a separate entrance. The first floor contains the Merchants’ Area, the second floor contains the Merchants’ Chambers and the third floor contains the Merchants’ Hall.

**Historic Society**

The Tower of Hercules was originally a lighthouse that was built to guide sailors along the coast. It was later adapted as a lighthouse for the Roman Empire. The Tower was later adapted as a lighthouse for the Roman Empire.

**Language**

The Tower of Hercules is a true beacon for sailors. It is a symbol of divine protection and a true symbol of Roman architecture. The Tower is a great example of Roman engineering and is a true symbol of Roman architecture.
TOWER OF HERCULES - WORLD HERITAGE - A CORUÑA

The world’s only working Roman lighthouse

1st CENTURY CE - 1788
steps 234
43° 23’ 09” N
8° 24’ 23” W
FI (4) 20s
range 23 miles

Since 2008 the Tower of Hercules has been twinned with the Statue of Liberty, two outstanding symbols that connect the old and New Worlds across the Atlantic. The Tower is also twinned with Morro Castle Lighthouse in Havana, the oldest lighthouse on the American continent.

A timeline for the Tower:

1st CENTURY CE Possible construction
1788 State prior to renovation work
1788-1790 Twinned with Morro Castle Lighthouse
2008 Twinned with Statue of Liberty

Since 2008 the Tower of Hercules has been twinned with the Statue of Liberty, two outstanding symbols that connect the Old and New Worlds across the Atlantic. The Tower is also twinned with Morro Castle Lighthouse in Havana, the oldest lighthouse on the American continent.

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