

Lighthouses and shipwrecks in the Costa da Morte

In order to be able to guide themselves, fishermen use marks, which are inland references transmitted from father to son. In order to guide themselves in the night they

used to light torches in the

mountains near the coast, what was afterwards substituted by lighthouses. Nevertheless, the huge strength of the sea currents caused many shipwrecks in this Costa da Morte.

complemented in 1883 with the installation of a siren, "The cow", and the installation of a radio station in 1922. Altogether with the Machichaco lighthouse they were the first two first

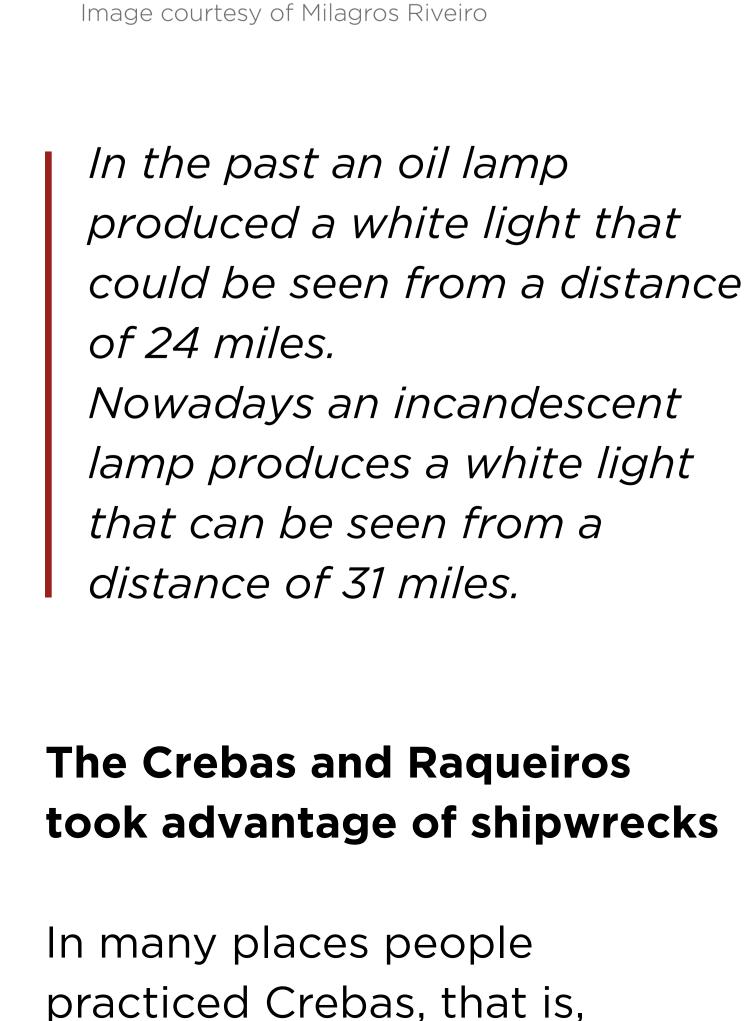
It was built in 1853 and

Fisterra lighthouse, a first

order lighthouse from the

beginning

order lighthouse built in Spain.



people used to go the beach

after the storms to take what

the sea had brought to the

shore, rests of shipwrecks

vessels.

or rests of the cargo of the

dreadful legend: The Raqueiros, pirates that caused the shipwrecks of vessels to steal

the cargo. In order to do this,

The Costa da Morte shares with

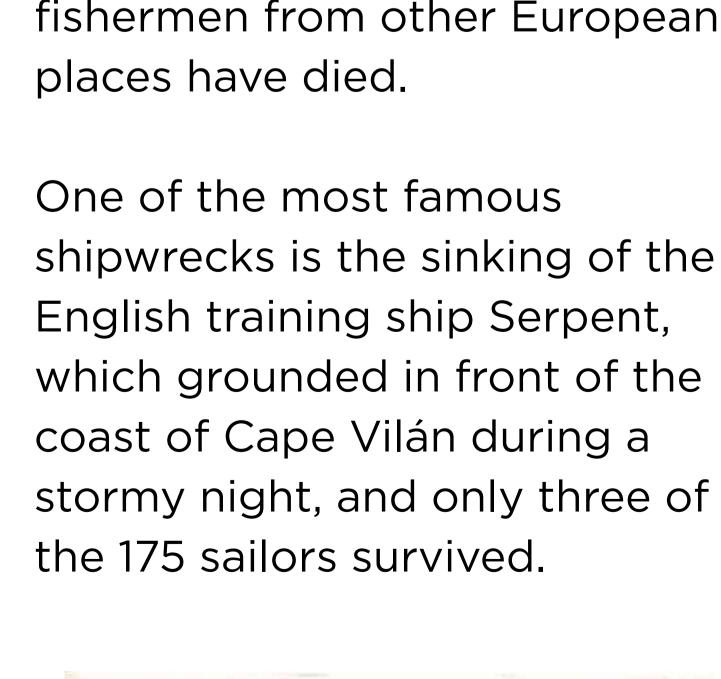
other Atlantic communities a

they used to make false light or sound sign inland so that the vessels got close to the shore and ran aground. Nevertheless this seems to be only a legend which cannot be compared to the courage showed by the inhabitants of this coast at the time of helping many vessels that shipwrecked in this coast.

The Costa da Morte has a long history full of shipwrecks, legends about pirates who caused the shipwrecks in order to steal the cargos, common legends to other Atlantic European coasts. Shipwrecks in a rough sea: a

Image courtesy of Milagros Riveiro

tragic outcome

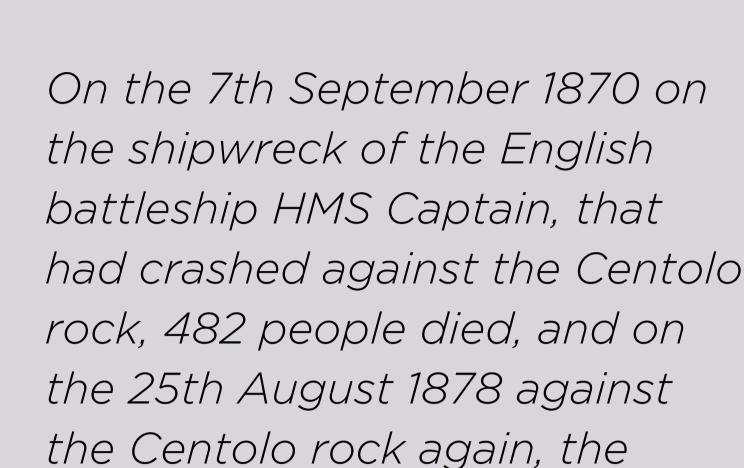


The Costa da Morte and, in it,

Fisterra, have a long history of

shipwrecks in its coasts, where

many Galician fishermen and



merchant ship Bitten sank and

10 of the 12 crewmembers died.

The English freighter Sunrise

sinks on the 19th June 1882 in

and his two sons.

the coast of Fisterra: 33 sailors

were saved by a local fishermen

On the 31st June 1903 the crash

between the Swedish vessel

Image courtesy of Milagros Riveiro

SOME OF THE MOST SERIOUS

SHIPWRFCKS IN THE COAST

OF FISTFRRA

On the 28th November 1596

more that 1700 men lost their

lives during the shipwreck of

while trying to find shelter in

the estuary during a storm.

20 vessels of the Spanish Army

Sytpord and English vessel Tang Castle causes the death of all the Swedish sailors who were trapped in the vessel. On the 1st June 1907, due to the tog, the English freighter Denewell crashes against the Carraca rock.

On the 12th June 1932, after

crashing against the Centolo

reef, the Spanish Army vessel

manoeuvres.

Blas de Lezo sink during military

On the 31st March 1951 the tug boat Hudson was tugging the vessel Ulster Duve when the mooring broke and the vessel went adrift and crasher against the Bufadoiro rocks. Only one sailor survived. On the 5th December 1987 the merchant ship Cason loaded with unidentified toxic substances sank at Rostro beach. 23 members of the crew

died due to poisoning during

the accident and the villages of Fisterra, Corcubión and Cee were evacuated.

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