

# THE FRENCH ROUTE OF THE PILGRIM'S WAY TO SANTIAGO

IN CASTILLA Y LEÓN





**Publisher:** Fundación Siglo para el Turismo  
y las Artes de Castilla y León

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**Design and layout:** Capitán Quimera

**Legal Deposit:**

**Data Update:** ENERO 2024

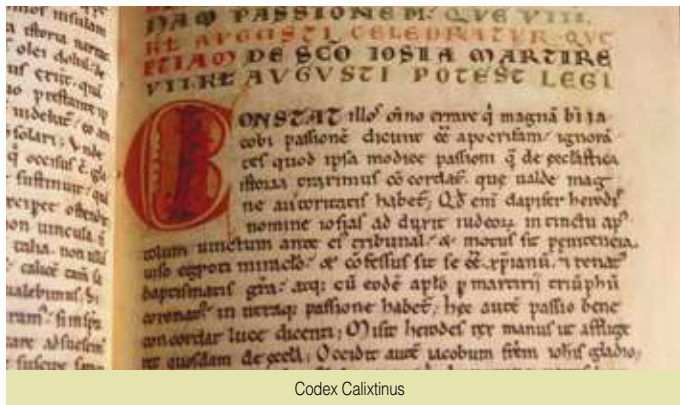


## The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León

### A Practical Guide for Pilgrims



## Introduction



Codex Calixtinus

This guide is an invitation to follow the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago through the lands of Castilla y León as a pilgrim, traveller or tourist. It includes all the essential information you will need when preparing your pilgrimage or trip.

The various Pilgrims' Routes are unique itineraries with a history stretching back more than a thousand years that extends to towns, villages and cities of immense historical and artistic signifi-

cance, as well as a range of varied landscapes, without forgetting the people that live along the Routes and that for centuries have held out a welcoming hand to travellers. Routes that offer many other aspects worthy of consideration, including an abundance of mouth-watering gastronomy, legendary tales and ancient customs that have survived until the present day.

The Pilgrim's Routes to Santiago cross Castilla y León from south to north and east

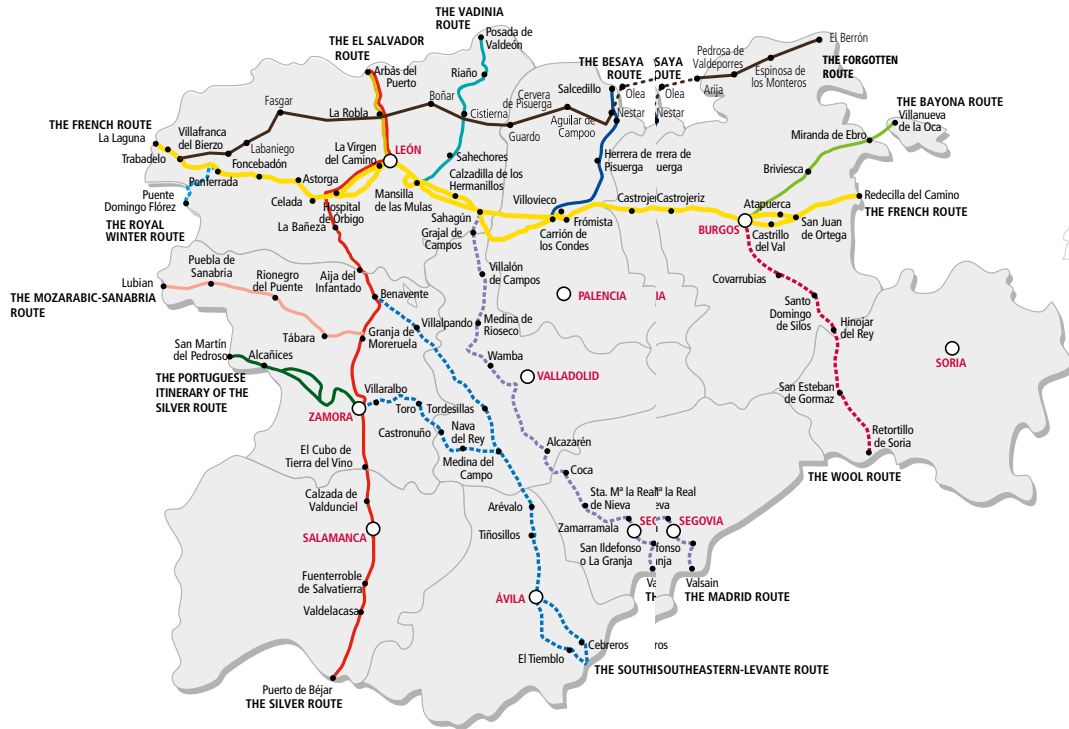


Santiago de Compostela

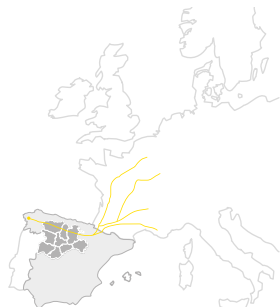
to west. The aim of these three guides goes beyond merely providing a description of the French Route as it makes its way through the provinces of Burgos, Palencia and León, with its many declarations of its national (Historic and Artistic Sites, the 'Prince of Asturias Award for Concord') and international value ('Europe's First Cultural Itinerary' and 'Major European Cultural Itinerary' named by the Council of Europe), UNESCO World Her-

itage Site, Spain's Intangible Cultural Heritage List). Indeed, they also include other historic itineraries, such as the Silver Route which crosses the provinces of Salamanca and Zamora, or the traditional ways such as the Madrid Route, which takes us through the lands of Segovia and Valladolid.

To all those that wish to travel across the dearly-loved lands of Castilla y León, all that remains for me to say is 'ULTREIA'



- The French Route
- HISTORIC ROUTES**
- The Silver Route
- The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route
- The Mozarabic-Sanabria Route
- The Bayona Route
- The Vadinia Route
- The El Salvador Route
- The Besaya Route
- The Forgotten Route
- The Madrid Route
- The Southeastern-Levante Route
- The Wool Route
- The Royal Winter Route
- Suggested stopping places
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## What is the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago?



Codex Calixtinus



Saint James as a pilgrim

Following the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle James in Santiago de Compostela in the 9th century, the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago became Medieval Europe's principal pilgrimage trail. Countless numbers of pilgrims were moved by their faith to make journey to Compostela from all over Europe, acting as the driving force for an artistic, social and economic evolution that has left its mark along the length of this Route. Yet the Pilgrims' Route is much more than a vast archaeological site dependent on its past splendour; indeed, it is a living route that is renewed by the pilgrims, travellers and tourists of the 21st century that have the opportunity to discover at first hand an experience that forms part of the common heritage of all the peoples of Europe.

Following the Route to Santiago in the traditional way as a pilgrim, or

alternatively as a traveller or tourist, is not simply a case of taking a tourist, walking or cycling tour along an artistic trail in contact with nature. Indeed, it is much more than this. It is an opportunity to learn about the religious and historic roots of Europe, a chance to embark on an inner journey of discovery and transformation, moving in time with the rhythms and pace of centuries gone by...in short, it is an opportunity to become part of a pilgrimage.

It could be said that the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago is a symbol. It is a route that represents faith; a route imbued with art and culture; an ecological and essentially human route: an encounter with the key issues in life; a search for the self; a pilgrimage to the mystery of death and rebirth. It is a physical and spiritual adventure that requires thorough preparation and the right information.



## Practical tips for following the Route on foot

For many, making the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela on foot is one of the most fulfilling and gratifying experiences of their lives. It is both a physical and mental challenge that requires thorough preparation. For this reason, the advice given below is of vital importance for those getting ready to embark on this unique experience.

A good way of starting is to read up on the history of the Route and the pilgrimage. This will help pilgrims identify with those that have gone before them, as well as enabling them to get more out of the experience.

There is a vast number of books on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. These include the guides to the Route, which provide maps and distances. Make your choice from this wide selection, read and try to plan your various stages beforehand; bearing in mind that ideally you should cover an average distance of between 25 and 30 kilometres a day. It's a good idea to start off with shorter stages until your body gets used to the exercise. After the first week, you

will be ready to undertake longer stages. You could also include the odd rest day, or alternate longer stages with shorter ones, making them coincide with places you would particularly like to spend longer visiting. This will provide



Pilgrims' hostel

you with rest periods, but will not break your rhythm.

Checking out the hostels and refuges for pilgrims is essential for those who wish to make use of this service. These refuges are only open to those making the pilgrimage entirely on foot, by bike or on horseback, without covering any stretches in a vehicle, and no prior reservations are accepted. Not all hostels are open all year round. Especially in winter, it is important to call in advance to confirm the

opening and thus be able to better organise the stages. Large groups of pilgrims are advised to look for alternative accommodation, as the capacity of these refuges is limited.

You don't have to be a highly-trained athlete to make the pilgrimage on foot; however, it is important to pace your efforts in accordance with your possibilities. Prior training and walking sessions are therefore highly recommendable.

**Basic points for consideration when getting your gear ready:**

Your **rucksack** will be your travel companion for a good number of hours, so it needs to be comfortable and light. In particular, it should be anatomical and have waist and chest straps and pockets on the sides and at the top. Packing your rucksack tidily and putting your things in cloth bags will prevent you from being noisy

in the mornings at the hostels. It will also be easier to use and help protect your gear from the rain. Remember that carrying heavy weights can be a major problem, so only take the bare essentials. If your rucksack weighs more than 8 kilos you may come to regret your choice: follow the general rule that the rucksack shouldn't weigh more than a tenth of your weight. When packing, put the heaviest items at the bottom and as close to your back as possible. Try not to leave anything hanging on the outside of your rucksack, as it could get wet or even lost.

A **sleeping bag** is essential if you're planning to stay at the pilgrims' refuges and hostels. In summer you won't need a thick sleeping bag, which means that it should be fairly lightweight. It's a good idea to take a **mat or foam sheet** to avoid direct contact with the ground if you have to sleep outdoors.

The choice of **footwear** is another key issue. Try to take more than one pair of boots and make sure you have broken them in beforehand. The best option is a pair of lightweight boots that allow the feet to breathe, protect the ankles from possible sprains and allow you to walk easily over rocky terrain or muddy ground. Trainers are





an option in summer if your boots should prove uncomfortable.

**Clothing** should be kept to a minimum: two items of each, a jumper and a cagoule or cape that can also cover your rucksack in the event of rain. Take a bag with washing powder so you can put something clean on after walking all day. Both your nose and those of your companions will thank you for it. A **scallop shell** and **staff** or walker's stick will immediately get you spotted as a pilgrim and the stick will help you on your way.

It's always a good idea to carry a small amount of **food** with you, especially nuts or chocolate, and keep your water bottle full at all times. There's no point in carrying more than a day's supply of food. You should also take a small **first aid kit** with iodine, fabric plasters, sterile lint, small plasters, laxative and anti-diarrhoea tablets, an anti-inflammatory cream and sun cream. Remember your health card or your **European health card** if you are a foreigner.

It's not a good idea to carry large amounts of cash with you. Use your **credit cards** or travellers' cheques instead. Inform your family of your route and leave a list of the Information Office telephone numbers so you can be contacted in case of emergency. You may



also find it useful to carry a small diary or notebook to write down your impressions or include the many and varied stamps you will find along the Route. Remember that it is 'compulsory' to include the stamp of the refuges you stay at on your pilgrim's credentials.

When walking, remember that the entire Route is marked with yellow arrows and milestones. In summer, get up a bit earlier to avoid walking in the full heat of the day. Remember to use sun cream and for the first few days avoid wearing just T-shirts and shorts. At first, try not to walk too fast - you'll soon settle into your own natural pace. If you're part of a group, adapt the pace to that of the slowest walker. On this Route, it's not a question of getting there first - what really matters is getting there.

Take care when walking on roads; remember that you're the most vulnerable and that drivers can't easily spot a mere 'pedestrian'.

## Practical tips for following the Route by bicycle



Pilgrims on bicycles before the Cathedral of Santiago

**B**efore setting off, draw up a plan based on the total number of kilometres you plan to cover and your daily average. If you intend to travel along the entire French Route, from Roncesvalles or Somport, remember that you will need at least ten days. Do your pilgrimage without a rush so that you have time to visit the key locations on the route.

As for your physical preparation, if you do not cycle regularly, tackling long hours on your bike each day requires some serious training.

You should consider visiting a specialist for a check up, as you will be making a major physical effort

over a prolonged period. Draw up a training schedule, starting off with just a few kilometres a day and gradually building up the distance. Complete your physical training with visits to the gym to improve the flexibility of your legs, back and neck.

As for your bicycle, it is essential to get it checked by an expert. Make sure all the moving parts are in perfect working order and that there is a logical combination of front and rear sprockets that can easily adapt to your movements.

Your cycling technique is also vital. You should train with experienced cyclists, who will advise you on questions such as the best



cycling posture, how and when to change gear, pedalling rhythms, etc.

As for carrying your luggage, the best idea is to use saddlebags that can be tied to the back wheel and handlebars. Remember that the less weight you carry, the better it will be for your bike and you. Choose your clothing carefully too. It's a good idea to use relatively skin-tight clothes in bright colours, as they will reduce wind resistance and make it easy for drivers to spot you sooner. Try not to have anything hanging or loose that may get caught up in



Pilgrim on a bicycle before La Cruz de Ferro

the moving parts of your bicycle. A toilet bag, a sleeping bag and a tracksuit or normal clothes are also essential for when you eventually dismount.

Make sure you abide strictly with the Highway Code. In addition, you should always keep mineral water with you and avoid drinking from the fountains you will find on your way. Carry a small tool kit with you in case of a puncture or other minor mechanical problem. By following this advice, your pilgrimage is guaranteed to be an unforgettable and extremely positive experience.

## Information about the Pilgrims' Credentials and the 'Compostela' (Certificate of Completion)



The origins of the modern-day pilgrim's credentials, which are only given to those completing all or part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, lie in the letters of recommendation or safe conduct passes that were granted by kings, princes, members of the clergy, popes and other authorities during the early days of the Pilgrims' Route to those travelling to Compostela. History tells us of a host of documents granting a wide variety of privileges and favours to ensure that the bearer and his companions would enjoy protection and exemption from taxes (tolls to travel over mountains, through passes,

etc.), which could have resulted in serious financial hardship for the medieval pilgrims.

The credentials are granted by the Church, the Friends of the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago Associations, the brotherhoods or other institutions duly authorised to this effect by Santiago Cathedral. They are issued prior to the start of the Route or at the starting point by the organisations listed above. It is advisable to take a letter or document that identifies the applicant. The credentials entitle those that have covered at least the last hundred kilometres of the Route on foot or horseback, or the last two hundred kilometres by bike, to obtain the certificate known as the 'Compostela'. Issued by Santiago Cathedral, it certifies that the pilgrim has successfully reached Santiago de Compostela and has done so for religious reasons. For those of you who are doing the route for other reasons, the pilgrim's office issues another document that is similar.





Originally, the Compostela was written on parchment and contained an extensive text, including a mention of the Apostle Santiago, the "unique and singular" patron and protector of Spain.

("...Our Patron and Protector of Spain..."), the confirmation of the pilgrim's visit to the temple, "...has devoutly visited this most sacred Temple with a Christian spirit (pietatis causa)...". For some time now it has been printed on paper, featuring the characteristic border of oak leaves and scallop shells the traditional emblem of Saint James, with the pilgrim's name written in Latin. The document is signed at the bottom by the Pilgrims' Canon, who is in charge of the Pilgrims' Office. Originally, the Compostela would in theory have been signed by the Archbishop, although common practice was for the canon responsible for the pilgrims to sign it on his behalf. Many pilgrims have asked for the Compostela to include not only the date of arrival in Santiago, but also the place where the pilgrimage started, the date and the kilometres covered. The Pilgrims' Office has decided to issue a certificate with this new information for all applicants. Furthermore, to avoid long queues to collect the Compostela, the Pilgrims' Office has opted for a formula whereby group managers can apply for the Compostelas for their groups using a particular form.

The documents are to be handed in at the so-called 'Pilgrim's Reception Office' at Rúa do Carreteras nº 33. The credentials must include the stamps proving that the pilgrim has completed the various stages and stretches of the Route each day, although in the case of the last 100 kilometres, two stamps per day are required.

Although the pilgrims that receive the Compostela are required to provide a pious or religious reason for their pilgrimage, in recent years the religious authorities in Santiago de Compostela have introduced an alternative diploma that replaces the credentials for those who opt to follow the Pilgrimage Route for other reasons.

## The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Spain



The Camino as it passes through the Canal de Castilla, Palencia

The origins of the trail that is known as the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago date back to some time in the early 9th century, when a hermit called Pelayo claimed that he had witnessed various phenomena illuminating the night sky and that had every indication of representing a miracle. The hermit informed the Bishop of Iria Flavia (at that time the site of the See) of the fabulous visions that were taking place in the westernmost region of what was then the known world, who in turn related the tale at the Court of King Alphonse II of Asturias, marking the start of a mass movement of persons and the dissemination

of the event of a proportion that would rapidly spread throughout Christendom.

Teodomiro, Bishop of Iria Flavia, removed from a cave a marble ark containing the remains of St James the Greater, and King Alphonse II the Chaste had a chapel built on the site to house the Apostle's remains, thereby initiating the construction of what would become the city of Compostela, which in time would become the cherished finishing point for millions of pilgrims, a bishop's see, a thriving city and a historic and spiritual landmark for the Christian world.



Pilgrims began making their way to the site across northern Spain, not without serious difficulties, as reaching the end of the medieval world that Galicia represented at the time was a major challenge. The first trails were traced from Oviedo, at the time the capital of the Peninsula's Christian kingdoms, although they would soon be linked to Europe via a 'coastal route'. Later, as the Reconquest progressed, the Pilgrims' Route would extend further south, giving rise to what became known as 'The French Route', and which today is considered to be the authentic Pilgrim's Route to Santiago.

The pilgrims that visited the tomb of St James were not just from the

Iberian Peninsula: Compostela's reputation spread so quickly that it soon attracted people from all over Europe. Indeed, the popularity of the Route brought with it an intense commercial and spiritual activity that led to the founding of cities, the construction of vast temples and monasteries and flourishing trade and crafts.

Religious institutions played a major role in this resurgence that spread throughout much of northern Spain. An example of one such institution is the Order of Cluny, which rapidly became the 'leading multinational' in terms of its promotion of the Route to Santiago de Compostela and a

number of publications such as the Codex Calixtinus, written by the priest Aymeric Picaud and commissioned by Pope Calixtus II. As far as local influences are concerned, mention must be made of Bishop Gelmírez, who consolidated the See, turning it into an Archbishopric and was essentially responsible for designing and planning its future. He was helped in this task by the laws of Navarre, Castile, León and Galicia who legislated generously in favour of the pilgrims and passed acts that also helped the cities, towns and villages on this holy trail, which was destined to become medieval Europe's most important commercial and artistic itinerary.

The routes that led to Santiago rapidly formed a close-knit network that began as far north as Poland, Germany and the Nordic countries and stretched down to France, taking in Paris, Vezelay, Le Puy or Saint-Gilles, thereby linking their origins with these major shrines. The routes then continued across the Pyrenees, entering Spain at two different points: Sompport in Huesca welcomed the pilgrims who came from Saint Gilles du Gard, whilst those travelling from Tours, Vezelay and Le Puy would enter through the Ibañeta Pass in Roncesvalles, Navarre.

After passing through Jaca on the Aragón side and Pamplona, the two routes converged at Puente La Reina, from where 'all the routes become one as far as Santiago', the common finishing point of all the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago. From here ancient and modern routes make their way towards Estella Lizarra and Los Arcos before crossing the Ebro River in Logroño and passing through the towns of Nájera, Azofra, Navarrete and Santo Domingo de la Calzada in La Rioja.

Castilla y León is home to the longest stretch of the Pilgrims' Route, covering some 400 kilometres, and also boasts the highest number of Assets of Cultural Interest.

Finally, the Camino de Santiago enters Galicia, which Picaud aptly described as a region abundant in forests, "pleasant with its rivers, meadows, and very rich apple trees, its good fruits, and its very clear springs...". Through O Cebreiro, the Camino enters the lands of Lugo until reaching the heart of the A Ulloa region, so well immortalized by Emilia Pardo Bazán in her novel "Los Pazos de Ulloa," and the starting point of the journey through the province of A Coruña, passing through Melide and Arzúa until reaching the final destination of Santiago de Compostela.

## Castilla y León: a trail steeped in art



The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León offers pilgrims, travellers and tourists alike a host of unexpected and delightful surprises. In this region history appears to have stood still, offering us magnificent examples of a common heritage and creating a space in which the two great medieval kingdoms converge to reflect on their contribution to the history of a Route that was forged with the support of kings and the generosity of the monasteries. The route makes its way through these lands for almost 400 kilometres. A route that was first taken by the Romans and which the military orders on occasions protected

and on others conquered in times of peace and war. It was in these lands that the Romanesque style developed into a unique art form, creating a sense of art and order that would become an intrinsic part of the Route.

Castilla y León is home to endless plains and fields and majestic mountain ranges, boasting landscapes that are a delight to explore. Today, when the natural trail that is formed by the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago is becoming an increasingly valued asset, it could be claimed that the section of the Route that crosses the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León mirrors the variety to be found in its regions and reflects the multicoloured explosion of spaces and experiences that make for a truly exceptional journey.

Pilgrims, travellers and tourists enter the region via the fertile fields of the area known as the 'Riojilla burgalesa', before suddenly coming face to face with the Oca Mountains. Fortunately, the robbers that used to attack unsuspecting pilgrims have long since disap-



Romanesque cloister

peared, and this section of the trail is characterised by its spectacular and peaceful natural setting, which brings us to the emblematic Monastery of San Juan de Ortega. Just a short distance from here, and before reaching Burgos, we pass by Atapuerca where our ancestors lived hundreds of thousands of years ago.

After Burgos, Castile reveals its true nature, amply fulfilling all expectations: spaces made for walking in the early morning to the sound of the cock crowing and the song of goldfinches, crested larks or greenfinches; for admiring the full beauty of a landscape which seems to have been created with the artist's brush, and the horizon stretching out into the distance in a world in which nature rules

supreme. Surrounded by a landscape which could on occasions appear repetitive, we advance towards the area known as Vega, marking the start of the province of Palencia, and a sense of continuity which will be consolidated kilometre after kilometre.

The river basins run from north to south, whilst our Pilgrims' Route to Santiago takes us from east to west, making these rivers a frequent feature of the landscape, coming and going in a rhythm that is both soothing on the eyes and offers solace for the spirit as we observe the flora and fauna that live on their banks; the body is refreshed by the waters that flow under bridges that transport us back in time, and that almost always conceal legends that are guaranteed to delight and enthral. Fitero

Bridge takes us across the River Pisuerga, traditionally the border between the kingdoms of Castile and León. Later we will also cross the locks that line the Castilla Canal, built during the Age of the Enlightenment, refreshed and revived by the fast-flowing waters of the small manmade stone waterfalls. In Carrión de los Condes we cross the river the city is named after, and which reminds us of the epic and legendary tales that tell of the marriages between the Princess of Carrión and the daughters of Cid Campeador.

In Sahagún, in the province of León, the Pilgrims' Bridge, which dates back to Roman times, crosses the River Cea, whilst a little further on the Órbigo River, tamed by the modern reservoirs that have done away with its wide channels, is crossed by a bridge that retains its uneven forms and twenty arches. Hospital de Órbigo was famed for its medieval jousting tournaments, and it was here, on this very bridge, that Suero de Quiñones held a tournament that history recalls with the name 'Paso Honroso'. Although the Pilgrims' Route is crossed by many other bridges and rivers, we will make a brief stop to take in the splendour of these moors and meadows, where the sun sets against a truly stunning backdrop, in a call to life and hope, while the starry nights

are a superb opportunity to marvel at the Milky Way, the heavenly blanket that covers the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago... True wonders of nature that are only to be seen in these lands where roads, paths and rough trails twist and turn between the capitals of these kingdoms which share close ties with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. Burgos and León.



Pilgrims on a Roman bridge

In León we will discover that the terrain is once again dominated by hills and mountains; after Astorga we will make our way around the legendary Mount Teleno. This site was used by the Romans to worship their gods, although later it was Christianised and a simple iron cross known as La Cruz de Ferro was erected there, a milestone on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago marking our entrance into the region known as El Bierzo.

From this mythical site we began a sharp descent that further highlights this vastly contrasting landscape: just twenty kilometres from the often snow-capped Mount Teleno and La Cruz de Ferro lies a lush valley dotted with trees and bushes. This is the sight that greets us as we make our way into Bierzo, lined by mountains that stretch out in sharp contrast, and which will bring us to the gateway to Galicia, and eventually to Santiago de Compostela.

Despite the fact that the landscapes and environmental heritage we have described are more than sufficient reason to follow the Pilgrim's Route in Castilla y León, the wealth of artistic heritage this land boasts - a major draw for cultural tourism - has turned the art and architecture to be discovered on the Route into a major attraction. Romanesque is the predominant style, and one that holds the privilege of being the first international style to spread throughout the Christian world. Indeed, this style represented the first artistic and cultural movement in Western Europe since the fall of the Roman Empire.

Regrettably, many of the abbeys and churches that were scattered throughout the northern part of Spain between the 11th and the 12th centuries and which represented focal points that influenced

the style of the surrounding towns and villages, have long since disappeared. Although only scant ruins remain of the monasteries that once stood in Carrión de los Condes or Sahagún, much documentary evidence of the existence of these exceptional centres of culture, power and influence of the famous Order of Cluny still remains.

Along this route and its surroundings, the main Romanesque landmarks or centres built between the last quarter of the 11th century and the second half of the 12th century continue to be found. These represent a true array of works of art, partially or fully preserved, in Redecilla del Camino, San Juan de Ortega, Burgos, and Castrojeriz in the province of Burgos. In Palencia, notable sites include: Boadilla del Camino, Frómista, Villalcázar de Sirga, and Carrión de los Condes. In the province of León, notable sites are Sahagún, León, Astorga, Rabanal del Camino, and Villafranca del Bierzo, to mention just the most emblematic localities along the Jacobean route through this autonomous community.

José Manuel Pita Andrade wrote that Spanish Romanesque art developed in keeping with the styles to be found along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. From Jaca to Compostela, passing through Frómista and León, a series of



decisive experiences occurred which would reach their full glory in the Sanctuary of the Apostle.

This same author believes that the Romanesque sculptures that are to be found along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago act as a form of communication. The Route should be seen not merely as a meeting point for pilgrims, but also for itinerant artists, who turned it into a highly productive and fertile setting for the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Consequently, the artistic style and features to be seen in Santiago de Compostela reflect those in Toulouse, and, along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, the buildings in Frómista, Carrión or León, thereby proving that one of the most characteristic features of this style is its widespread influence and expansion, making it difficult to associate specific features with certain areas on the way to Compostela.

It is sufficient to consider the list of sites along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago that even today are the sites of major examples of the Romanesque style in order to realise the relevance of this style during the heyday of pilgrimages: San Juan de Ortega, Burgos, Frómista, Carrión de los Condes, Sahagún, San Pedro de las Dueñas, León, Astorga, Rabanal del Camino, Espinoso de Compludo, Cacabelos, Píeros and Villafranca del Bierzo.

This region is also scattered with superb examples of Gothic architecture. It was Alfonso VII the Emperor who introduced this new aesthetic movement into the Iberian Peninsula, which would reach its zenith in the 15th century. The popularity of this new architectural style would vary considerably from region to region. The style was characterised essentially by a close relation between the building and symbolism, the vertical nature of the constructions and the introduction of major technical innovations such as the pointed arch and the ogival vault. The cathedral is seen as one of the first attempts at the creation of 'total art'; a space in which art as well as architecture converge: sculpture painting are present in the stained glass windows, the altarpieces and tapestries. These hallmarks of identity can be seen in all their splendour on the Route to Santiago as it makes its way through Castilla y León and in two treasures in particular: the Cathedrals of Burgos and León.

As for the link between the Renaissance period and the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, it must be said that the flow of pilgrims began to fall off during the Late Middle Ages, following the heyday of the previous centuries; the Peninsula was to become an attractive area for the Europeans, an area to be discovered and explored.

The Renaissance highlights the visible - landscapes, people, etc. - in a radical break from the Gothic style and a return to the model of Ancient Rome. This region is home to a large number of examples that line the Route, such as the Hospital del Rey in Burgos, the cloister of the Monastery of San Zoilo de Carrión de los Condes, Astorga Cathedral, the Hospital of San Marcos in León, the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de la Encina in Ponferrada or the Collegiate Church of Santa María de Villafranca del Bierzo. All of these are definite musts in order to learn more about a style that rediscovers the classical world and takes a look back at the Middle Ages.

Yet the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León is also home to other styles of art that form part of the region's cultural heritage, creating a sense of continuity throughout time. Examples include the Shrine of La Virgen del Camino in León, the work of the architect and Dominican Friar Francisco Coello de Portugal, with sculptures by José María Subirachs. In addition to the more classical styles, there are also examples of modern trends in architecture, including two works by the architect Gaudí: The Episcopal Palace in Astorga, which today houses the Pilgrims' Route Museum, and the so-called 'Casa Botines'. Among the most modern

examples are the building that houses León's Museum of Contemporary Art (MUSAC), designed by architects Emilio Tuñón and Luís Moreno, which has received several awards, earning it widespread international recognition, and the Museum of Human Evolution (MEH), designed in the city of Burgos by architect Juan Navarro Baldeweg, a reflection of avant-garde and modern styles.



# Nomenclature

## SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA:

Town

Altitude:	1040 m
Distance from Santovenia de Oca:	3.2 km
Distance from Agés:	3.7 km
Kind of route:	Way



Services

(A few metres from the Sanctuary of San Juan de Ortega...

Branch route starts

Link with the French Route:  
Burgos

Link with Main Itinerary

**ABCD** Town on the Main Itinerary

**ABCD** Town on an alternative branch route

**ABCD** First town on the alternative branch

**ABCD** Last town on the alternative branch

**ABCD** Town where the branch route rejoins the itinerary



REGION COLOURS

Itinerary before reaching Castilla y León (Navarra/La Rioja)

Burgos

Palencia

León

Galicia



Asset of Cultural Interest



Hostels



Fountain



Bar



Restaurant



Accommodations



Supermarket



Bank



Chemist's shop



Red Cross/  
medical centre



Bicycle repair shop



Campground



Information point



Horse stalls

## Types of Hostels along the Route



Tourist Hostel on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago



Tourist Hostel



Non-Profit Hostel

## Category



n = number of shells

# Itinerary table-list of contents

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<b>NAVARRRE</b>					
0	0	755	952	Orreaga / Roncesvalles	32
42,6	0	713	446	Pamplona	32
23,5	0	690	346	Puente la Reina	33
22,1	0	668	426	Estella - Lizarra	34
<b>LA RIOJA</b>					
49,2	0	611,8	384	Logroño	35
29,1	0	582,7	485	Nájera	35
20,8	0	561,9	638	Sto. Domingo de la Calzada	36
<b>BURGOS</b>					
10,3	0	551,6	740	Redecilla del Camino	37
1,5	1,5	550,1	770	Castildelgado	38
2,1	3,6	548	801	Vitoria de Rioja	38
3,5	7,1	544,5	792	Villamayor del Río	39
4,7	11,8	539,8	772	Belorado	39
4,8	16,6	535	818	Tosantos	41
1,9	18,5	533,1	868	Villambistia	41
1,6	20,1	531,5	745	Espinosa del Camino	42
3,7	23,8	527,8	948	Villafranca Montes de Oca	43
12	35,8	515,8	1040	San Juan de Ortega	44
3,2	0	0	997	Santovenia de Oca	45
2	0	0	950	Zalduendo	46
4,5	0	0	930	Ibeas de Juarros	46
4,1	0	0	939	Castrillo del Val	47
0,5	0	0	898	San Medel	48
2,6	0	0	856	Castañares	48
2	0	0	873	Villayuda o La Ventilla	49
3,7	39,5	512,1	971	Agés	49
2,5	42	509,6	966	Atapuerca	50
6,4	48,4	503,2	935	Cardeñuela Riopico	52

km Partial	km travelled Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Town	Page
2,1	50,5	501,1	925	Orbaneja Riopico	52
2,8	53,3	498,3	887	Villafria	53
10,1 4,2	63,4	488,2	860	Burgos	53
8,6	72	479,6	827	Tardajos	57
1,6	73,6	478	831	Rabé de la Calzada	57
8,1	81,7	469,9	825	Hornillos del Camino	58
16	97,7	453,9	867	Hontanas	59
9,7	107,4	444,2	808	Castrojeriz	60
<b>PALENCIA</b>					
9,5	116,9	434,7	772	Itero de la Vega	63
8,1	125	426,6	782	Boadilla del Camino	64
6	131	420,6	783	Frómista	64
3,8	134,8	416,8	792	Población de Campos	65
2,5	0	0	797	Villovieco	66
3,7	138,5	413,1	792	Revenga de Campos	66
2	140,5	411,1	793	Villarmetero de Campos	67
47,3	144,5	407,1	809	Villalcázar de Sirga	68
5,7	150,2	401,4	839	Carrión de los Condes	69
13	0	0	798	Cervatos de la Cueva	72
8	0	0	803	San Román de la Cuba	72
3	0	0	809	Pozo de Urama	73
6	0	0	749	Villada	73
2	0	0	810	Pozuelos del Rey	74
6	0	0	813	Grajal de Campos (León)	74
11	167,4	384,2	858	Calzadilla de la Cueva	75
3,1	170,5	373,7	889	Ledigos	76
3,7	174,2	377,4	913	Terradillos de los Templarios	76
3,3	177,5	374,1	860	Moratinos	77
2,6	180,1	371,5	840	San Nicolás del Real Camino	78
<b>LEÓN</b>					
7,4 5,2	187,5	364,1	816	Sahagún	79
5	192,5	359,1	822	Calzada del Coto	81
8	0	0	816	Calzadilla de los Hermanillos	81

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5,1	197,6	354	855	Bercianos del Real Camino	82
7,8	205,4	346,2	878	El Burgo Ranero	83
8,1	213,4	338,1	851	Villamarco	84
12,8	218,2	333,4	830	Reliegos	85
5 24	223,2	328,4	802	Mansilla de las Mulas ↘	86
3	0	0	796	Mansilla Mayor ↗	88
2	0	0	802	Villaverde de Sandoval ↘	88
1	0	0	801	Nogales	89
4 4	227,2	324,4	800	Villamoros de Mansilla ↘	90
2	229,2	322,4	804	Puente de Villarente	90
4,4	233,6	318	850	Archahueja	91
1,5	235,1	316,5	855	Valdelafuente	92
3,5	238,6	313	820	Puente Castro	92
3	241,6	310	838	León	93
3,7	245,3	306,3	837	Trobajo del Camino	95
4,1	249,4	302,2	850	La Virgen del Camino	96
1,9	0	0	897	Fresno del Camino ↗	97
2,5	0	0	900	La Aldea de la Valdoncina ↗	97
8	0	0	924	Robledo de la Valdoncina	98
14	0	0	896	Estación de Villadangos ↘	98
1,7	0	0	860	Oncina de la Valdoncina ↗	98
5,9	0	0	886	Chozas de Abajo	99
3,9	0	0	860	Villar de Mazarife	99
9	0	0	875	Villavante ↘	100
2	251,4	300,2	887	Valverde de la Virgen	100
2	253,4	298,2	910	San Miguel del Camino	101
8 2	261,4	290,2	890	Villadangos del Páramo ↘	101
5	266,4	285,2	870	San Martín del Camino	102
11 3,5	277,4	274,2	823	Hospital de Órbigo ↘	103
2,2	279,6	272	834	Villares de Órbigo	104
2,7	282,3	269,3	816	Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias	105
8,1	290,4	261,2	845	San Justo de la Vega	105
4	294,4	257,2	869	Astorga	106
2,4	295,4	256,2	865	Valdevejas	108

km Partial	km tours Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Town	Page
2	296,4	255,2	802	Murias de Rechivaldo	108
4,8	301,2	250,4	997	Santa Catalina de Somoza	109
4,2	305,4	246,2	1013	El Ganso	110
6,5	311,9	239,7	1149	Rabanal del Camino	110
5,7	317,6	234	1439	Foncebadón	111
4,1	321,7	229,9	1145	Manjarín	112
6,9	328,6	223	1200	El Acebo	112
3	331,6	220	920	Riego de Ambrós	113
3	331,6	220	920	Riego de Ambrós	113
4,4	340,3	211,3	555	Campo	114
3,6	343,9	207,7	541	Ponferrada	115
4,8	348,7	202,9	530	Columbianos	117
2,8	351,5	200,1	513	Fuentes Nuevas	118
2	353,5	198,1	492	Camponaraya	119
5,7	359,2	192,4	483	Cacabelos	119
3	362,2	189,4	528	Pieros	120
4,1	366,3	185,3	509	Villafranca del Bierzo	121
5	371,3	180,3	542	Pereje	123
5,5	376,8	174,8	578	Trabadelo	124
3,3	380,1	171,5	580	La Portela de Valcarce	125
1,4	381,5	170,1	605	Ambasmestas	126
2,2	383,7	167,9	631	Vega de Valcarce	126
1,7	385,4	166,2	690	Ruitelán	127
1,1	386,5	165,1	675	Herrerías	128
1	387,5	164,1	790	Hospital	128
2,6	390,1	161,5	917	La Faba	129
2,3	392,4	159,2	1100	La Laguna	129
GALICIA					
2,4	0	156,8	1330	Cebreiro	130
	0	127,3	685	Triacastela	130
40	0	116,8	450	Sarria	131
23,5	0	93,3	320	Portomarín	131
24,5	0	68,8	565	Palas de Rei	132
15	0	53,8	457	Melide	132
17	0	36,8	389	Arzúa	133
	0	20,2	280	Arca O Pino	133
36,8	0	0	260	Santiago de Compostela	134



— The French Route

**HISTORIC ROUTES**

- The Silver Route
- The Bayona Route
- The Vadinia Route
- The El Salvador Route
- The Besaya Route
- The Forgotten Route

**TRADITIONAL ROUTES**

- The Madrid Route
- The Wool Route
- The Royal Winter Route

● Suggested stopping places

○ PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

# Itinerary

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**INFORMATION:**  
[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)



# Navarre

## ORREAGA/RONCESVALLES:

Altitude: 952 m  
Distance from Pamplona: 42.6 km



Declared a National Site of Historic Interest, this is the best-known of all the starting points on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. This mythical town is imbued with the pilgrimage spirit and still echoes to the sound of the epic Battle of Roncevaux and the tragedy that befell Roland and the Twelve Peers of France, buried, according to legend, in the Romanesque Chapel of Sancti Spiritus or Silo de Carlomagno.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Royal Collegiate Church. Heir of the old Pilgrims' Hospital (10th century) Church of Santiago (13th century). Chapel of Sancti Spiritus (12th century). Cruz de Peregrinos (15th century).

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

Hostel of La Real Colegiata.  
Roncesvalles Collegiate Church.  
☎948 760 000. (223 beds)



Roncesvalles Collegiate Church

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office.  
Antiguo Molino. ☎ 948 760 301  
Centro de Atención al Peregrino.  
Roncesvalles Royal Collegiate Church.  
☎ 948 760 000  
🌐 <https://roncesvalles.es/>

## PAMPLONA:

Altitude: 446 m  
Distance from Puente la Reina: 23.5 km



Passing through the French Gate in the city walls, complete with a drawbridge, we enter the first capital on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Spain. The best option on arrival in the ancient city of Iruña is to lose yourself in the Old Quarter and take a stroll along the

bustling streets that have so often resounded to the thunder of the hooves of bulls during the world famous San Fermín Bull Running Festival.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Cathedral (14th-15th century). Church of San Saturnino. (13th century). Church of San Nicolás (12th century). Church of San Lorenzo (San Fermín Chapel). Cámara de Comptos 14th century. Citadel of Pamplona. Old Quarter. Declared a Historical-Artistic Site in 1968. Museum of Navarre Sarasate Museum. Ultreia, Camino de Santiago Interpretation Centre.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Jesús y María Municipal Hostel.  
Compañía, 4, bajo.  
☎ 948 222 644 (112 beds).



Romanesque bridge of Puente la Reina



Pilgrims at the foot of the city wall in Pamplona

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office. San Saturio, 2 bajo.  
☎ 948 420 700  
🌐 <https://www.pamplona.es/turismo>  
Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Navarra.  
Ansoleaga, 2. ☎ 646 947 291  
🌐 [www.caminodesantiagoennavarra.es](http://www.caminodesantiagoennavarra.es)

## PUENTE LA REINA:

Altitude: 346 m  
Distance from Estella: 22.1 km



It is here in Puente la Reina or Gares, marked by the Monument to the Pilgrim, that the routes from Navarre and Aragón converge. Built as a fortified town, it has three parallel streets. Many of the fortified towers that once stood on the town's southern walls can still be glimpsed among the houses.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Church of the Crucifix (12th-13th century). Church of Santiago (12th century). Church of San Pedro. Romanesque Bridge (11th



century) 🏰. Plaza Mayor. Casa del Vínculo.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Los Padres Hostel.  
Reparadores. Crucifijo, 1.  
☎ 663 615 795 (94 beds).

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office.  
Puente de los Peregrinos, 1.  
☎ (+34) 948 341 301.  
🌐 <http://www.puentelareina-gares.es>

### ESTELLA-LIZARRA:

Altitude: 426 m  
Distance from Logroño: 49.2 km



*This is a city born for the Camino, with an interesting artistic heritage. It lies in the shadow of Poblado de Lizarra, a French enclave that took advantage of the trading opportunities that came with the Route.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

Cloister and Church of San Pedro de la Rúa (12th century) 🏰.  
Palace of the Kings of Navarra (12th century) 🏰, currently housing the Gustavo de Maeztu Museum.  
Church of San Miguel (12th century) 🏰. Church of the Santo Sepulcro (13th century) 🏰. Church of



Church of San Miguel de Estella-Lizarra

Santa María Jus del Castillo (12th century), formerly a synagogue and now the Interpretation Centre of Romanesque Art and the Camino de Santiago. Church of San Juan. Basilica of La Virgen de Puy. Carlism Museum.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Municipal Hostel. La Rúa, 50.  
☎ 948 550 200 (94 beds).  
San Miguel Parrochial Hostel  
Mercado Viejo, 18.  
☎ 948 550 431 (32 beds).

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office. Plaza San Martín, 4.  
☎ 848 420 485  
✉ [oit.estella@navarra.es](mailto:oit.estella@navarra.es).  
Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Estella.  
La Rúa, 50. ☎ 948 550 200  
Tourist Information Point.  
Plaza de la Regla, 1.  
☎ (+34) 948 546 503.  
🌐 [www.estellaturismo.com](http://www.estellaturismo.com)

# La Rioja

## LOGROÑO:

Altitude: 384 m  
Distance from Nájera: 29.1 km



*We enter the capital of La Rioja by crossing the Bridge of San Juan de Ortega, also known as the Stone Bridge and built by the Saint in the 11th century.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

Cathedral of Santa María de la Redonda. Church of San Bartolomé. Imperial Church of Santa María de Palacio. Church of Santiago El Real. Walls and Gateway of Charles V. Museum of La Rioja. Museum-House of Sciences.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Municipal Hostel. Rúa Vieja, 32.  
☎ (+34) 941 248 686. (68 beds).  
Apóstol Santiago Hostel.  
Rúa Vieja, 42.  
☎ 941 256 876 (85 beds).



Cathedral of Sta. María de la Redonda

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office. Portales, 50.  
☎ 941 291260.  
🌐 [www.lariojatourismo.com](http://www.lariojatourismo.com).

## NÁJERA:

Altitude: 485 m  
Distance from Santo Domingo de la Calzada: 20.8 km



*Sancho Garcés named this town the capital of the Kingdom*





Cloister of Santa María la Real in Nájera

of Nájera-Pamplona, a status it held between 918 and 1076. The majesty of its monuments harks back to the time when it was the cultural heart of the Peninsula.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

Monastery of Santa María la Real. Cloister of the Knights. "El Castillo" Museum and Caves.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office.  
Paseo San Julián, 4  
☎ 941 741184.

### SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA:

Altitude: 638 m  
Distance from Redecilla del Camino: 10.3 km



This town sprang up as a result of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. Work began in the late 11th century and it is named after

Santo Domingo, the saint who was born in the neighbouring town of Vitoria. In 1973 the Old Quarter was declared a Site of Historical and Artistic Interest.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

Cathedral. Convent of San Francisco. Calle Mayor. Municipality. The Town Walls. Sor María de Leiva Tower.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Tourism Office.  
Mayor, 33.  
☎ 941 341 238



Santo Domingo de la Calzada Cathedral

# Burgos

## REDECILLA DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 740 m  
Distance from Castildelgado: 1.5 km  
Kind of route: Way



This small village with a population of just 115 is the first municipality on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in the province of Burgos and indeed in the region of Castilla y León. The "Radicella" of the Codex Calixtinus is a typical example of Jacobean town planning.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Jurisdictional Pillar** 📍 It marks the beginning of Calle Real with a predominantly Jacobean layout. This monument is declared a Cultural Interest Asset.



Cross and boundary stone in Redecilla del Camino

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Calle (17th and 18th centuries). This temple was rebuilt in the 17th century, although medieval remains can be seen at the head. Particularly worthy of note is the 12th century Romanesque baptismal font, elaborately decorated with city scenes. Other interesting features include the superb altarpieces and Rococo furniture.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **ESSENTIA**  
Older, 34  
☎ 606046298 (10 beds).  
✉ manuramirez6@hotmail.es
- 🏠 **SAN LÁZARO**  
Calle Mayor, 24  
☎ 947585221 - 947580283 (38 beds).  
✉ hostel-redecil@terra.es

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office.  
El Crucero, s/n  
☎ 947 588 004 - 947 588 078  
✉ turismoredecilladelcamino@telefonica.net

#### REST AREAS:

In the Plaza Mayor, there are benches, tables and a wooded area.



## CASTILDELGADO

Altitude: 770 m  
Distance from Vitoria de Rioja: 2.1 km  
Kind of route: Way



*This tiny village, with a population of just 36 and also known as Villa de Pun, conserves various traditional elements such as the baker's oven, today privately owned but which formerly belonged to the Council, and the ancient forge and stocks. It was also the site of a pilgrims' hospital founded by Alphonse VII.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Pedro (16th century).** This church houses the tomb of Francisco Delgado, Bishop of Lugo and Jaén and one of the town's most illustrious sons. Next door stand the ruins of the mansion of the Counts of Berberana. **Hermitage of Santa María del Campo**, with



Church of Santa María del Campo

an 18th-century façade. It commemorates the church of the same dedication, which no longer exists.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

##### 🏠 BIDLUZE

Mayor, 8  
☎ 616647115 (18 beds).  
✉ isabelgarriz@hotmail.com

## VILORIA DE RIOJA:

Altitude: 801 m  
Distance from Villamayor del Río: 3.5 km  
Kind of route: Way



*This village, with a population of 37, is the birthplace of Domingo García, who is known as Santo Domingo de la Calzada. A restoration project is currently under way on the house where according to ancient local records the saint was born, situated opposite the parish church.*



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of La Asunción de Nuestra Señora.** Particularly worthy of note is the elegant apse reflecting the transition to the Gothic period with a projecting eave and the Romanesque font in which this saint and engineer was baptised.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

##### 🏠 ACACIO & ORIETTA

Calle Nueva, 6  
☎ 947585220 (10 beds).  
🌐 www.peregrinando.org  
✉ casaperegrina@yahoo.es

##### 🏠 PARADA VILORIA

Calle Bajera, 37  
☎ 610625065 (16 beds).  
✉ majeperez7@yahoo.es

### REST AREAS:

A wooded area next to the church with benches and tables.

## VILLAMAYOR DEL RIO:

Altitude: 792 m  
Distance from Belorado: 4.7 km  
Kind of route: Way



*Most of the houses in this town of just 34 inhabitants are built in the popular architecture style that can be found throughout the Riojilla Burgalesa area, characterised by the wooden framework on the upper floors, gravel on the ground floor and projecting roofs.*



Typical houses in Villamayor del Río

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Gil.** This church presides over the hamlet. In the days of King Ferdinand III it was annexed to Belorado. It was repaired in the mid 18th century. Next to the church stood the Hospital of La Misericordia, which was used in the rebuilding of this temple.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

##### 🏠 SAN LUIS DE FRANCIA

Carretera de Quintanilla, S/N  
☎ 947580566 - 659967967 (52 beds).  
✉ alberguesanluisdefrancia@hotmail.com

##### 🏠 VILLAMAYOR

Carretera Villamayor 4  
☎ 611333775 (12 beds).  
✉ locutelcomunicaciones@gmail.com

### REST AREAS:

In the Plaza Mayor, it has of benches, tables and seating area.



Castle ruins in Belorado



Cave hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Peña

## BELORADO:

Altitude: 772 m  
 Distance from Tosantos: 4.8 km  
 Kind of route: Way



*This medieval village dates back to the days of the Romans and in the 9th century was one of a line of fortresses built on the border of the Castilian county. In the 12th century King Alphonse I of Aragón granted it a series of privileges, converting it into an important medieval town. Today it has a population of 1,787.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

International Museum of Radio-communication Inocencio Boccanegra. Church of Santa María. This former Church of La Virgen de la Capilla was rebuilt in the 16th century. The interior houses a number of interesting tombs and a chapel to Saint James with a 16th century altarpiece. Church of San Pedro (17th century). Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Belén. Old Pilgrims' Hospital. It was rebuilt in the 18th century. Convent of Nuestra Señora de la Bretonera (16th century). Run by

nuns of the Order of St Clare. **Castle.** Remains of the important medieval fortress that marked the border with Navarre. **Caves of San Valentin and Santa Pía.** Remains of the caves in which Saint Caprasius was said to have retreated. **Jewish Quarter.** Remains of the Jewish Quarter which historians believe was situated in the Corro District can still be seen today.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- CUATRO CANTONES**  
Hipólito López Bernal, 10  
☎ 947580591 - 696427707 (56 beds).  
🌐 www.alberguecuatrocantones.com  
✉ cuatrocantones@hotmail.com
- EL CORRO**  
Mayor  
☎ 636634459 - 639307923 (46 beds).  
✉ albergueelcorro@gmail.com
- EL SALTO**  
De Los Cauces, S/N  
☎ 947614324 - 669415636 (24 beds).  
🌐 www.elsalto.eu  
✉ elsalto@elsalto.eu
- HOSTEL.B**  
Cuatro Cantones, 4-D

☎ 947581620 - 699538565 (25 beds).  
✉ hola@hostelpuntob.com

**A SANTIAGO**  
Camino de Redoña, S/N  
☎ 947562164 - 677811847 (98 beds).  
🌐 www.a-santiago.es  
✉ albergueasantiago@hotmail.com

**EL CAMINANTE**  
Mayor, 36  
☎ 947580231 - 656873927 (22 beds).

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office and pilgrim assistance. Plaza Mayor, 1.  
☎ 947 580 815  
✉ info@belorado.org.

### REST AREA:

Situated at the entrance to the town, this area offers tables, benches and shade. On the outskirts of the municipality, there is also a fully-equipped park on the banks of the River Tirón at El Canto Bridge.

## TOSANTOS:

Altitude: 818 m  
 Distance from Villambistia: 1.9 km  
 Kind of route: Way



*The etymological origins of this tiny village of just 51 inhabitants date back to the years 970 and 972 when it appears as iuxta rivum de Tolsanctos. A document dated 1084 establishes a direct link with*



Church of San Esteban, in Villambistia

*the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: '(...) in Torsantos (...) iuxta caminum de francos'.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Esteban.** A simple temple situated next to a site where an ancient pilgrims' hospital once stood. **Cave hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Peña.** Semi-excavated on a rocky face just outside the municipality, this hermitage boasts an exceptional natural beauty. A small altarpiece inside the hermitage features a 12th century image of the Christ Child.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**LOS ARANCONES**  
La Iglesia, 5  
☎ 947581485 (16 beds).

### REST AREA:

Next to the church, there are benches and a wooded area. (no tables available)

## VILLAMBISTIA:

Altitude: 868 m  
 Distance from  
 Espinosa del Camino: 1.6 km  
 Kind of route: Way







This village, standing on a slight slope, has a population of 45. It was once included in the jurisdiction of Hospital de Villafranca. It has a fountain with various spouts and links with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago due to the former charity hospital that once stood here.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Esteban (17th century).** This church has a single nave divided into five sections. In the presbytery visitors will find an interesting painting of Saint Sebastian from the Italian School. The interior boasts several Renaissance altarpieces. **Hermitage of San Roque 18th century.** Access to this hermitage is via the small bridge that crosses the Ranaza Stream. The interior has a Rococo altarpiece decorated with a red and blue background that comes from the Convent of San Francisco in Belorado.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

##### SAN ROQUE

Cayetano Ortiz, 39  
 660797011 (14 beds).  
 villambistia@diputaciondeburgos.net

#### REST AREA:

The municipality has a square with a fountains and a campsite where tents may be pitched.

## ESPINOSA DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 745 m  
 Distance from Villafranca Montes de Oca: 3.7 km  
 Kind of route: Way



Here the French Route begins its slow yet steady climb up towards the Oca Mountains. The current route makes its way up the long main street, although in the past it coincided with the Royal Route on the outskirts of the village. With a current population of just 42 inhabitants, it also once fell under the dominions of Hospital de Villafranca.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of La Asunción de Nuestra Señora.** A modest 16th century cruciform church built mainly in the Renaissance style.




Pilgrims along the Way

Highlights include the alabaster façade (18th century) and a vaulted niche in the attic with the polychrome statue of San Indalecio (12th century). **Typical Houses.** The municipality boasts well-preserved examples of popular architecture, characterised by the wooden framework on the upper floors.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

##### ESPINOSA DEL CAMINO HOSTEL

Barruelo  
 660916937 (22 beds).  
 cervera.abel@ayalaasociados.com

## VILLAFRANCA MONTES DE OCA:

Altitude: 948 m  
 Distance from San Juan de Ortega: 12 km  
 Kind of route: Way




The name of this town recalls its splendid past as a bishop's see. It also filled medieval pilgrims with a sense of trepidation as it marked the start of the Oca Mountains, plagued with bandits and highwaymen. Today it has a population of 116. A slight detour when leaving the town brings us to Valdefuentes, where we can admire the remains of what was once an important pri-



Pilgrim before the ruins of the Monastery of San Félix

ory and a 12th century Cistercian hospital.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Monastery of San Félix de Oca (9th century).**  Situated one kilometre from the entrance to the town. Today we can see the ruins of the apse of this Mozarabic monastery. It was here that Count Diego Rodríguez Porcelos, founder of the city of Burgos, was buried. The ruins of the Church of San Félix have been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest. **Parish Church of Santiago (late 18th century).** The interior houses an interesting Baroque sculpture of the Apostle. Another outstanding feature is the Riojano-style dome that tops the tower. **San Antonio Abad Hospital (14th century).** Founded by Queen Juana Manuel of Castile in 1380, it retains a doorway (15th-16th centuries) leading to a courtyard with remains from the 15th century. It was a major institution on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and today has been fully restored. **Hermitage of la Virgen de la Oca.** Set against a stunning backdrop next to the



well traditionally associated with the martyrdom of St Indaletius, a disciple of St James. A popular religious procession is held here on the second Sunday in August.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

#### SAN ANTÓN

Hospital  
 ☎ 947582150 - 636988216  
 (30 beds).

🌐 www.hotelsanantonabad.com  
 ✉ hotelsanantonabad@gmail.com


#### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF VILLAFRANCA MONTES DE OCA

Mayor,17  
 ☎ 947582111 (60 beds).

### REST AREA:

Rest area located halfway between Villafranca and San Juan de Ortega.


### SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA:

Altitude: 1040 m  
 Distance from Santovenia de Oca: 3.2 km  
 Distance from Agés: 3.7 km  
 Kind of route: Way  


*A small village of 21 inhabitants, part of the municipality of Barrios de Colina. Known for its hospitable reputation since its founding by the saint of the same name. A living milestone on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. This place of pilgrimage boasts a*

*church that has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

 **Monastery of San Juan de Ortega (12th century).** Founded by the disciple of Santo Domingo de la Calzada to provide aid for pilgrims. It was a monastery belonging to the Order of St Jerome from 1432 until Mendizábal's Disentailment (1835). It has a triapsidal church (12th-13th centuries) completed in the 15th century. It boasts a fascinating canopy with 6 reliefs depicting scenes from the saint's life. In the centre of the crypt was a sarcophagus containing the remains of St John and on one side the Romanesque tomb that always remained empty; today, both can be found on the ground floor of the church. One of the chapels that surround the apse offers visitors the chance to admire the famous miracle of the light of the equinox as it shines on the capital that tells the Christmas story. The sanctuary boasts a Herre-rrian style courtyard. **Chapel of San Nicolás.** Annexed to the monastery it



Monastery in San Juan de Ortega

has a fine 16th century railing and a hostel with a courtyard dating back to the same century.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

#### MONASTERIO DE SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA

De La Iglesia, 1  
 ☎ 947560438 - 635742060  
 (68 beds).

🌐 www.alberguesanjuanndeortega.es  
 ✉ albergue@alberguesanjuanndeortega.es

#### LA CUADRA DE LUISITO

La Iglesia  
 ☎ 675161846 (22 beds).  
 ✉ morazamarra@gmail.com


#### EL DESCANSO DE SAN JUAN

Transformador, 1  
 ☎ 671825168 - 947484488  
 (7 beds).

✉ noviembre66@gmail.com

### REST AREAS:

In the square (next to the Monastery). It has benches, shade, and a fountain. There is also a free camping area.

 (Just a few metres from the Sanctuary of San Juan de Ortega there are two optional routes: the first is described below. Less popular with pilgrims, it takes us to the city of Burgos via Santovenia de Oca. From Santovenia we take the N-120 road, passing through the towns of Zalduendo, Ibeas de Juarros, Castriello del Val, San Medel, Castañares and Villayuda or La Ventilla on the itinerary described below).

## SANTOVENIA DE OCA:

Altitude: 997 m  
 Distance from Zalduendo: 2 km  
 Kind of route: Way



*Leaving San Juan de Ortega by the modern road, we come to a crossroads marked by a wooden cross. From here we can take an alternative route that will bring us to Santovenia de Oca. Only a few examples of popular architecture remain in this hamlet of just 24 residents.*

### WHAT TO SEE:


Parish Church of Santa Eugenia. **La Viñuela Bridge.** An old foot and horse bridge situated some one hundred metres from the



Altarpiece in the Church of Santa Eugenia

hamlet which is traditionally attributed to St John of Ortega. **Fountain and watering hole** in the centre of the town.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

 **CAMINO SANTOVENIA**  
Mayor  
☎ 606258359 - (24 beds).  
✉ caminodesantovenia@gmail.com

### REST AREA:

On the way out of the village there is a small green area with trees and benches.

### ZALDUENDO:

Altitude:	950 m
Distance from Ibeas de Juarros:	4.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



*The Pilgrims' Route reaches Zalduendo from Santovenia via a secondary road that leads from San Juan de Ortega. This village of 79 inhabitants is characterised by its buildings with adobe-filled frameworks and noble houses, the finest example of which is the Casona del Balcón, standing in the centre of the square.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of La Asunción de Nuestra Señora.** Construction with a basilica-style layout, Renaissance front and interesting altarpiece by Rodrigo de Haya from the end of the 16th century. In the main square, the notable "Casona del Balcón" stands out. Interesting civil building from the 16th century. The old mill, which was recently restored, on the banks of the River Arlanzón.

### REST AREAS:

There is a small green area with trees and benches in the southern part of the town.

### IBEAS DE JUARROS:

Altitude:	930 m
Distance from Castrillo del Val:	4.1 km
Kind of route:	Way




*On leaving Zalduendo follow the current N-120 Road from Valdehuentas until it joins the main Arlanzón road in the town of Ibeas. The traditional architecture of this town of 1418 inhabitants is immediately recognisable due to the use of stone from the quarries in the nearby Atapuerca Mountain Range.*



Typical house in Ibeas de Juarros

### WHAT TO SEE:

In the vicinity of Ibeas lies the **Atapuerca Site**.  At the foot of the range, a small anticline made up of karstified limestone dotted with countless caves is a site of human fossils considered to be the largest of the Middle Pleistocene period and which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Parish Church of San Martín.**

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Atapuerca Site Access Centre (CAYAC) N-120 Road, km 98.  
☎ 947 421 000

### REST AREAS:

In the town centre, next to the road, with a spring and a few trees.

### CASTRILLO DEL VAL:


Altitude:	939 m
Distance from San Medel:	0.5 km
Kind of route:	Urban stretch



*To reach this town of 829 inhabitants, you have to turn off the main road. This makes it suitable for cyclists and pilgrims who aren't in a hurry. The village is 5 km away and then there are another 5 km to San Pedro de Cardeña.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santa Eugenia.** From the 16th century, an interior that has been extensively refurbished, a good high altarpiece and baptism font. **Church of San Juan,** located on a hill; today, only its front and main walls remain. **Beautiful** cross that was moved from the entrance to the village to the main square (Plaza Mayor).

**Monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña.**  This monument has been considered an Asset of Cultural Interest since 1931. Built in the 9th century, it is steeped in legend, as it was here that El Cid bade farewell to his wife and daughters before being banished into exile. Very few traces of the days of El Cid remain, although the Romanesque tower and several arches from the cloister, known as the



Monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña

Martyrs' Cloister, can still be seen. The Gothic church has three naves, a transept and a vast presbytery.

## SAN MEDEL:

Altitude: 898 m  
Distance from Castañares: 2.6 km  
Kind of route: Way



Between Ibeas and Burgos the Route runs parallel to the River Arlanzón, passing through a number of towns and villages, some of which have now disappeared, such as Castrillo de la Vega, Hospital Yermo or San Martín del Río before coming to San Medel. A document dating back to the year 944 mentions a community of monks that lived in the Monastery of San Martín, situated at the entrance to this village which currently has 304 in-

habitants, and that the abbot himself would donate to San Pedro de Cardeña in 963.

## WHAT TO SEE:

The Parish Church of La Asunción. One of the most outstanding elements to be seen in this church is the magnificent carving of Nuestra Señora de las Viñas.

## REST AREAS:

The square includes an area with tables, benches and a fountain.

## CASTAÑARES:

Altitude: 856 m  
Distance from Villayuda or La Ventilla: 2 km  
Kind of route: Urban stretch



Before reaching this village of just 283 inhabitants, our route takes us past Calzada Hospital, associated with the Monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña. This dominion initially belonged to the Monastery of San Juan de Burgos but later passed into the hands of the Count of Villariezo.

## WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Quirico and Santa Julita. Park of Fuentes Blancas.

## ↑ VILLAYUDA O LA VENTILLA:

Altitude: 873 m  
Distance from Burgos: 4.2 km  
Kind of route: Urban stretch



## Link with the French Route: Burgos

The Becerro Gótico de Cardeña cartulary contains documentary evidence dating back to the year 931 that refers to this village, which today has a population of 792. It is also known that King Alphonse VII donated this settlement to Burgos Cathedral, and that it remained part of its dominions until the 19th century.

## WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Vicente Mártir. (The second option from San Juan de Ortega follows a pre-

dominantly Jacobean route, passing through: Agés, Atapuerca, Cardeñuela Riopico, Orbaneja Riopico, and Villafria, ultimately arriving in Burgos. This itinerary is described below.

## AGÉS:

Altitude: 971 m  
Distance from Atapuerca: 2.5 km  
Kind of route: Way



This small hamlet of just 55 inhabitants was given to Santa María la Real de Nájera by King García of Navarre in 1052. Throughout its history it has been known by several different names, including Fagege and Hageges.

## WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa Eulalia de Mérida (16th century). The



Pilgrim on a bicycle in the province of Burgos



Pilgrims passing through Agés





Church of Santa Eulalia de Mérida

tombstone at the entrance is claimed to hold the entrails of King García of Navarre, killed by Ferdinand I of Castile at the Battle of Atapuerca in 1054. **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Rebollar o Robledal (18th century)**. A simple stone hermitage situated at the entrance to the municipality. **Canto Bridge**. This single arch bridge, standing to the left on the way out of the town, is attributed to San Juan de Ortega.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

#### EL PAJAR DE AGÉS

Ochabro, 12  
648492990 (34 beds).  
www.elpajardeages.es  
joaquin@elpajardeg.es

#### FAGUS

Adobera  
647312996 - 947561329  
(22 beds).

www.alberguefagus.com  
info@alberguefagus.es

#### TAVERN-MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF AGÉS

Del Medio, 21  
947400697 (36 beds).

### REST AREAS:

On the way out of the village, next to the Medieval Bridge, there is a small green area with trees and benches.

### ATAPUERCA:

Altitude:	966 m
Distance from Cardeñuela Riopico:	6.4 km
Kind of route:	Way



*Queen Urraca donated the town of Atapuerca to the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, whose members cared for sick pilgrims. Alfonso VII would later confirm this donation in 1138. In order to cross the marshy land between Agés and Atapuerca the engineer and saint from Ortega built a road, traces of which can still be seen today. On the outskirts of this village of just 182 inhabitants stands a commemorative stone to mark the site of a battle fought between the people of Castile and Navarre.*



Archaeological dig at Atapuerca

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Martín (15th-16th century)**. Combining Gothic and Renaissance elements, this church looks out over the village from the top of a small hill. **Dolmenic Tumuli**. Flanking the San Juan or Carresanjuan path, which leads directly to this village from San Juan de Ortega without having to go through Agés. **Menhir**. This monument stands in the middle of a field on the stretch between Agés and Atapuerca, in a site known as 'Fin del Rey' not far from another known as 'La Matanza'. Tradition has it that this stone, known as Piedrahita, stands on the exact spot where King García III of Navarre fell, killed by the troops of his brother Ferdinand I of Castile at the Battle of Atapuerca in 1054. **Sierra de Atapuerca site**. At the foot of the range, a small anticline made up of karstic limestone dotted with countless caves

is a site of human fossils considered to be the largest of the Middle Pleistocene and has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

#### LA PLAZUELA VERDE

San Polo, 41  
654301152 (10 beds).  
alvargarcimartin@gmail.com

#### EL PEREGRINO

Camino de Santiago, 25  
661580882 (48 beds).  
www.albergueatapuerca.com  
rocio@albergueatapuerca.co

#### LA HUTTE

En Medio, 38  
947430320 - 661980297  
(18 beds).  
www.burgostouralrural.com  
frog@burgostourismrural.com

### NEARBY:

A few kilometers from Atapuerca is the town of Olmos de Atapuerca that has a hostel.

#### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF OLMOS DE ATAPUERCA

Iglesia, 9  
947430524 (22 beds).  
ayuntamientoolmosdeatapuerca@gmail.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Experimental Archaeology Centre  
947 421 000





**REST AREAS:**

On the way out of the village, there is an area with tables, benches and a fountain.

**CARDEÑUELA RIOPICO:**

Altitude: 935 m  
 Distance from Orbaneja Riopico: 2.1 km  
 Kind of route: Track/Way



We now come to this municipality of just 107 inhabitants nestling in the Pico River Valley.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of Santa Eulalia de Mérida.** Highlights include the Renaissance façade with a magnificent carved pieta and the belfry with its huge bells. **Roman Fountain** (in the Villal Val neighbourhood). **Church of San Juan Evangelista** (in the Villal Val neighbourhood).

**ACCOMMODATION****FOR PILGRIMS:**

- SANTA FE**  
 Los Huertos, 2  
 947560722 - 626352269  
 (22 beds).  
 alberguesantafe@hotmail.com
- VÍA MINERA**  
 La Iglesia, 1  
 652941647 (22 beds).
- LA PARADA**  
 Real, 28  
 661438093 (12 beds).  
 mabelita\_7@msn.com



Church of San Millán abutting the Route

**REST AREAS:**

In the Villal Val quarter, next to the Roman Fountain.

**ORBANEJA RIOPICO:**

Altitude: 925 m  
 Distance from Villafría: 2.8 km  
 Kind of route: Road



The stretch that passes through this municipality of 355 inhabitants is fully adapted to the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. From here the route stretches out across extensive plains for kilometre after kilometre with the city of Burgos standing on the western horizon.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of San Millán Abad.** A simple construction standing on high ground and housing a fascinating carving of San Roque dressed in the traditional pilgrims' clothing. **Hermit-**



Panoramic view of Orbaneja Riopico

**age of the Inmaculada.** Situated just a short distance from the parish church.

**VILLAFRÍA:**

Altitude: 887 m  
 Distance from Burgos: 10.1 km  
 Kind of route: Urban section and road



Alphonse IV donated the town of Villa Frida to San Pedro de Cardaña in 931. Its proximity to the capital explains the almost total disappearance of its traditional built heritage. It currently has a population of 945.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of San Esteban.** Rebuilt in the 16th century, the interior houses an interesting Baroque altarpiece. **Fountain.** Standing next to the church, it is topped by an original pyramid-shaped section.



Church of San Esteban

**BURGOS:**

Altitude: 860 m  
 Distance from Tardajos: 8.6 km  
 Kind of route: Urban section and Way



'Caput castellae', founded around 884 by Count Diego Rodríguez Porcelos, was and still is one of the most important stopping places on the Route. The city, which today boasts a population of 173 483, experienced a period of economic expansion and prosperity during the 15th and 16th centuries thanks to the wool trade with other European countries. This Castilla y León capital boasts three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: The Cathedral and its surroundings, the Camino de Santiago, and the archaeological site of the Sierra de Atapuerca.





**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Church of Santa María la Real y antigua de Gamonal.** 🏰 Located in the Gamonal quarter, it dates from the 14th century. Opposite its original front, there is an impressive cross of St James from the 15th century. **Former convent of San Bernardo (16th century).** Today, it is used as the Municipal School of Music. **Monastery of San Juan.** 🏰 Destroyed Church from the 15th century and Cloister from the 16th century. The second floor is home to a museum with works by the painter Marceliano Santamaría. **Hospital of San Juan.** Only the front of the 15th-century building remains. It was founded in 1085 and once had a prestigious pharmacy. Today it is used as the municipal library. **Church of San Lesmes (15th-16th century).** The church has good altarpieces (15th century), sepulchres (16th century) and paintings. It is also where the remains of the French patron saint of the city are kept. **Arch of San Juan.** Extensively refurbished, it was once part of the gate in the city walls through which pilgrims gained access to the city centre. **Church of San Gil (14th century).** 🏰 This church has very interesting altarpieces from the end of the 15th and 16th centuries, set in beautiful chapels that were sponsored by Burgos merchants. **Cathedral of Santa María.** 🏰 Magnificent Gothic cathedral

with French influences. Construction work began in 1221 thanks to sponsorship by King Ferdinand III and Bishop Mauricio. It has three naves, a transept and an ambulatory. It also has a number of outstanding chapels, such as that of El Condestable. The dome is a beautiful piece from the Renaissance. La Casa de los Cubos (16th century), currently a municipal pilgrims' hostel. **Palace of Malueda or Castilfalé (16th century).** A number of later alterations were made to the original construction, which has now been restored to house the municipal archives. **Church of San Nicolás de Bari (15th century).** 🏰 The interior houses several interesting tombs, although the highlight is the outstanding 16th century stone high



Hospital del Rey



Burgos Cathedral

Monastery of Las Huelgas Reales

altarpiece, the work of Francis of Cologne. **Arch of Fernán González (late 16th century).** Located on the site traditionally believed to be the house of Fernán González. **Monument to El Empecinado.** This memorial contains the mortal remains of the famous soldier who took part in the Peninsular War. **Solar del Cid (18th century).** This marks the spot where the house of Rodrigo Díaz, better known as El Cid, stood. **Arch of San Martín (14th century).** Built in the Mudejar style, this is the gate that pilgrims would pass through on their way out of the city. **Arch of Santa María (16th century)** 🏰 It was one of the most important entrances to the city through the wall. Formerly one of the principal gateways into the walled city, today it is one of Burgos' principal cultural centres. **Church of San Pedro de la Fuente.** The original church was destroyed during the Peninsular War. The current building dates back to the

19th century. **Malatos Bridge (12th century).** Rebuilt in the 18th century. It was named Malatos (which comes from an old Spanish word meaning sick persons) due to the nearby leper hospital. **Chapel of San Amaro (17th century).** This chapel houses the tomb dating back to the same century that contains the remains of St Amaro, a French pilgrim who cared for the infirm in the Hospital del Rey. **Hospital del Rey (late 19th century) (12th century).** 🏰 Founded by Alphonse VIII under the jurisdiction of the Abbess of Las Huelgas. This was one of the most important hospitals on the entire Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. Today it houses the offices of the University of Burgos. **Carthusian Monastery of Miraflores.** 🏰 A 15th century Gothic building noted for its magnificent altarpiece and the superb tombs of King John II his wife Isabella of Portugal and Prince Alphonse, all dating back to the late 15th century and the



Museum of Human Evolution

work of Gil de Siloé. **Monastery of las Huelgas.** Alphonse VIII of Castile and his wife Eleanor Plantagenet commissioned this monastery at the end of the 12th century. Worthy of note is the elegant Chapter House, as well as the cloisters, altarpieces, reliefs, carvings, the courtyard where the Curpillios Festival is held, and tapestries. The Chapel of Santiago houses a seated articulated image of the apostle with a sword in his right hand. **The Museum of Human Evolution (MEH).** Designed by architect Juan Navarro Baldeweg, the mission of this museum is to provide visitors with an insight into the major discoveries of the Atapuerca Archaeological Site and encourage them to discover the site and its countless treasures for themselves.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- CATEDRAL BURGOS HOSTEL**  
Lain Calvo  
 647977329 (136 beds).  
 www.hostelcatedralburgos.com  
 info@hostelcatedralburgos.com

- BURGOS MOLA HOSTEL**  
Miranda  
 947244024 - 66941566 (120 beds).  
 clara.lafont@aincar.com

- PILGRIM MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF BURGOS**  
Fernán González, 28  
 947460922 (98 beds).  
 asociacion@caminosantiagoburgos.com

- EMAÚS PILGRIM HOSTEL**  
Calle San Pedro de Cardena 31 Bis  
 947252850 (20 beds).  
 peregrinosemaus@gmail.com

- DIVINA PASTORA**  
Lain Calvo, 10  
 947207952

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourist Information Office of Junta de Castilla y León.

Plaza Alonso Martínez, 7.

(+34) 947 203 125.

oficinadeturisticodeburgos@jcyll.es

Municipal Tourism Office.

Nuño Rasura, 7.

(+34) 947 288 874.

infoturismo@aytoburgos.es.

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Burgos.

Fernán González, 28.

Fax: (+34) 947 268 386.

asociacion@caminosantiagoburgos.com

### REST AREAS:

El Parral and Fuentes Blancas have a large wooded area with tables, benches, barbecues and a fountain.

## TARDAJOS:

Altitude: 827 m  
Distance from Rabé de la Calzadas: 1.6 km  
Kind of route: Way and Road



Pilgrim's fountain

*Today the former Augustobriga has a population of 812 inhabitants. It stands on the site of an ancient Roman settlement and next to the Roman road of Clunia (in Coruña del Conde).*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of Santa María 13th-16th century).** The façade of this church dates back to the 18th century. **Apostolic College of the PP Paúles.** This building retains remnants of the 16th-century façade from the Palace of Santo Domingo. 16th century. Built on the palace donated by the Count of Monatamar. **Cross (17th century).** Just outside the

town stands an elegant stone cross that pilgrims encounter before crossing the Archbishop's Bridge over the River Arlanzón. **Archbishop's Bridge.** This medieval bridge, rebuilt in the 17th century, is situated outside the village. It was here that King Alphonse VI fell whilst in pursuit of enemy troops.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- LA CASA DE BELI**  
De España  
 947451234 (50 beds).  
 www.lacasadebeli.com  
 lacasadebeli@gmail.com
- LA FÁBRICA**  
De La Fábrica  
 620111939 (33 beds).  
 cristina@alberguelafabrica.com

### REST AREAS:

Next to the pilgrims' hostel is a wooded area with benches.

## RABÉ DE LAS CALZADAS:

Altitude: 831 m  
Distance from Hornillos del Camino: 8.1 km  
Kind of route: Way



*Two Roman roads converge at this point. It is also the site of the Prao Torre Fountain. This small village has just 226 inhabitants.*



Church of Santa Marina

## HORNILLOS DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 825 m  
Distance from Hontanas: 16 km  
Kind of route: Way



This municipality, with just 54 inhabitants, is one of the most exceptional examples of single-street villages, as Calle Real follows the Pilgrims' Route along the only street. The only surviving hospital of the seal that once existed here is the Sancti Spiritus Hospital, situated at the entrance to the village.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Román.** A Gothic hall church built in the 16th century. **Hermitage of Santa María.** Built in the Gothic style. This building is all that remains of the former Church of the Prior of Nuestra Señora de Rocamadador. **Hospital del Sancti Spiritus.** The relief featuring the chalice with the crossed keys on the lintel reminds us this was once a pilgrims' hospital. **Medieval bridges.** Over the River Hormazuélas and the Molinar river bed.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**EL ALFAR DE HORNILLOS**  
Cantarranas, 8  
654263857 (20 beds).  
 www.elalfardehornillos.es  
 elalfardehornillos@gmail.com



Church of San Román

### HORNILLOS MEETING POINT

Cantarranas, 3  
600660994 (32 beds).

### DE SOL A SOL

Cantarranas, 7  
649876091 - 947065656  
(24 beds).  
 desolasolrural@hotmail.com

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF HORNILLOS DEL CAMINO

Calle San Román, 3  
689784681 (10 beds).  
 www.hornillosalbergue.es  
 hornillos.alberguemunicipal@gmail.com

### NEARBY:

Five kilometres further on, just before Hontanas, we will come to **Arroyo San Bol**, an enigmatic spot in the heart of the moorland and the site of the ruins of the ancient Convent of San Baudilio, which belonged to the Order of Saint Anthony, but was abandoned in the 15th century.

## HONTANAS:

Altitude: 867 m  
Distance from Castrojeriz: 9.7 km  
Kind of route: Way/Road



The name of this village of 73 inhabitants comes from the Spanish word for fountain due to the numerous springs that can be found here. Traces of its ties to the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago can still be seen in the 'Mesón de los Franceses' - a former pilgrims' hospital. It has a population of 69 and the castle boasts a fortified tower that has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Concepción (14th century)**, formerly Santa María. Beside it, in neoclassical style, we find the remains of what, according to tradition, was a palace of the Burgos prelate, former lord of the village. **Hospital of San Juan.** This building has been restored and converted into a pilgrims' hostel. The interior conserves the pointed arch that formed part of the façade of the original hospital. **Convent of San Miguel.** Ruins of this monastery.

**Hermitage of San Vicente.** The ruins of an ancient medieval church. The thick corner walls can still be seen today. **Tower.**

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish of Santa Marina.** This church conserves an early 13th century door. **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Monasterio.** Situated at the far western end of the municipality, it is the only remaining hermitage of the three mentioned in the records of the bishop's visits during the 18th century. The image of the Virgin that is worshipped here was discovered in a place known as Monasterio, next to Prao Torre. **Palace.** This building dates back to the 17th century.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**LIBERANOS DOMINE**  
Plaza Francisco Riberas, 10  
695116901 (24 beds).  
 clementinadelatorre@gmail.com

### REST AREAS:

Next to the Town Hall, there is a small area with trees and benches. Another area is located approximately 2 km outside the village.





Remains of the Hermitage of San Vicente

☎ 635637327 (16 beds).  
✉ andresrubiomiguel@gmail.com

### NEARBY:

The impressive ruins of the Convent of San Antón, are situated between Hontanas and Castrojeriz. This Gothic convent was founded in the 12th century as a hospital for those suffering from erysipelas, a medieval disease similar to leprosy that was also known as the 'Fire of Saint Anthony'. In this convent they received the Tau (a kind of scapular), as well as the bread and wine of Saint Anthony.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- EL PUNTIDO**  
La Iglesia  
☎ 947378597 - 947378597  
(50 beds).  
www.puntido.com  
✉ contacto@puntido.com
- SANTA BRÍGIDA**  
Real, 19  
☎ 628927317 (14 beds).  
✉ sara@novaexim.es
- SANTA BRIGIDA - YEPES**  
Real, 1  
☎ 653243385 (54 beds).  
www.alberguessantabrigida.com  
✉ juandeyepes@santabrigida.com
- SANTA BRÍGIDA REAL 14**  
Real  
☎ 638938546 (9 beds).  
www.alberguessantabrigida.com
- MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF SAN JUAN**  
Real,  
☎ 635637327 (18 beds).  
✉ andresrubiomiguel@gmail.com
- MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF THE CURCH**  
Calle La Iglesia 11

### CASTROJERIZ:

Altitude: 808 m  
Distance from Ibero de la Vega (Palencia): 9.5 km  
Kind of route: Way/Road



*Although its origins are uncertain, with some claiming it dates back to the days of the Visigoths and others to the Roman period, what is clear is that this ancient hilltop fortress played a key role in the history of Castile. This historic municipality with a population of 767 has, among its monuments, more than half a dozen Assets of Cultural Interest, including the town's Historical Sites.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

Former collegiate church of Santa María del Manzano (9th century). 🏰

The interior of this Romanesque ogival temple houses the 13th century polychrome carving of the Virgen del Manzano. This Benedictine monastery was secularised in the 12th century. Its church, commissioned by Berenguela the Great, was extended in the 17th century. **Parish Church of Santo Domingo** (currently Iacobus - Pilgrim Interpretation Centre). This three-nave temple is currently the site of the parish museum, whose exhibits include six magnificent 17th century tapestries and other objects of interest. **Church of San Juan**. The base of the tower is all that remains of the original Romanesque building. It features three naves (16th century) and a transept. The apse is from the 14th century. It has an outstanding cloister (14th century) that has conserved three of its galleries and a beautiful Mudéjar-style coffered ceiling. There are also six Flemish tapestries from the 12th century, brought from the Church of Santo Domingo. **Convent of San Francisco (14th century)**. Ruins of a convent built on the site of the former palace and gardens of Peter I the Cruel. **Convent of Santa Clara (14th century)**. Founded by Alphonse X. The original single-nave church was altered on several occasions. **Casa del Cordón (16th century)**. The name of this palace comes from the Franciscan rope belt that surrounds the basket handle arch. **Wall**. Remains of the medieval wall built from



General View of Castrojeriz



Castle of Castrojeriz

ashlars dating back to the days of the Romans. **Castle (14th century)**. 🏰 Built on Roman foundations that were restored in the ninth century, it was an important medieval fortress and has recently been refurbished to welcome visitors. **Ethnographic Museum**. Home to an exceptional collection of traditional objects including utensils, tools and farm implements of great historic value and that were common in this area.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- LA RINCONADA HOSTEL**  
Virgen Del Manzano, 4  
☎ 651931332 - 657406748  
(22 beds).  
✉ aidaap2@gmail.com
- ORION**  
Avda. De La Colegiata, 28  
☎ 649481609 (29 beds).  
✉ albergueorion2016@hotmail.com



**34 ULTREIA**  
Real de Oriente, 77  
947378640 (34 beds).  
albergue.ultreia.castrojeriz@gmail.com

**4 ROSALIA**  
Cordón, 2  
947373714 - 637765779  
(32 beds).  
www.alberguerosalia.com  
info@alberguerosalia.com

**4 ESPACIO INTERIOR**  
Real de Oriente  
628454668 (10 beds).  
www.buymeacoffee.com/niacamino  
niapeiro@gmail.com

**4 A CIEN LEGUAS**  
Real de Oriente, 78  
947562305 - 619289476  
(30 beds).  
www.acienleguas.es  
fballano@gmail.com

**4 MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF SAN ESTEBAN**  
Plaza Mayor, 17  
947377001 (22 beds).  
ayto@castrojeriz.es

**4 EL CAMINO VERGE DE MONTSERRAT ASSOCIATION**  
Calle Real de Oriente, 79  
633538993 - 947377310  
(2 beds).  
albergueelcaminovm@hotmail.com

**4 CASA NOSTRA**  
Real de Oriente, 52  
947377493 (32 beds).  
encastrojeriz@hotmail.com

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Tourist Information Office, Real de Oriente, 57.  
947 378 588  
ayto@castrojeriz.es



Church of San Juan

#### REST AREAS:

The village has a wooded area with benches and a foundation. On the way out of the town heading up to Mostelares, there is another rest area with benches and a wooded area.

#### NEARBY:

The current route used by pilgrims does not run through the centre of **Itero del Castillo**, which stands only 2 km away. However, it is well worth a visit to see the **tower**, which is the only remains of the castle that stood on the border between the Kingdoms of Castile and León. There is also the **Church of San Cristobal**, which dates from the 18th century and has interesting Baroque altarpieces. Before reaching Itero de la Vega (Palencia), the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago runs past the Hermitage of San Nicolás.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**4 PUENTE FITERO HOSTEL**  
El Sol, 1  
681675652 (12 beds).  
canta27@hotmail.com

#### REST AREA:

Surrounding the Hermitage of San Nicolás, there is a grove with a fountain and rustic tables.

# Palencia

## ITERO DE LA VEGA:

Altitude: 772 m  
Distance from Boadilla del Camino: 8.1 km  
Kind of route: Way



*This is the first village in the province of Palencia, accessed via the historic Fitero Bridge, one of the longest and most beautiful on the entire Route. It has a population of 157 inhabitants*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Piedad (13th century)**. A simple construction with a Gothic style façade. **Parish Church of San Pedro (16th century)**. The façade features Gothic traces and there is also a number of interesting tombs. **Gothic Column (15th century)** Located in the main square, it serves as a reminder of the jurisdictional power of the area. This monument is declared a Cultural Interest Asset.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**34 HOGAR DEL PEREGRINO HOSTEL**  
Santa Maria 17  
979151866 - 616629353  
(7 beds).  
alberguehogardelperegrino@hotmail.com



Panoramic view

**4 LA MOCHILA HOSTEL**  
Santa Ana, 3  
979151781 (26 beds).  
lamochilaitero@gmail.com

#### REST AREA:

Situated at the entrance to the village, next to the Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Piedad. Facilities include a fountain, tables, barbecues and wooded areas.



## BOADILLA DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 782 m  
Distance from Frómista: 6 km  
Kind of route: Way



A small village of just 115 inhabitants but boasting a wealth of artistic heritage thanks to its two monuments that have been declared **Assets of Cultural Interest**. The famous **Castilla Canal** runs through this municipality, which also has a number of fascinating underground wine cellars.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of **Nuestra Señora de la Asunción** (16th century). An interesting Renaissance altarpiece and Romanesque baptismal font. **Gothic Column** (15th century). A jurisdiction column decorated with scallop shells, the symbol of pilgrims travelling to Santiago.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **"JUNTOS" HOSTEL**  
Mayor N° 7  
682181175 (12 beds).  
✉ info@juntos-albergue.com
- 🏠 **"EN EL CAMINO"**  
C/JFrancos, 3  
979810284 - 619105168  
(62 beds).  
🌐 www.boadilladelcamino.com  
✉ albergue@boadilladelcamino.com



Gothic pillory and Church of La Asunción

### REST AREA:

Situated at the entrance to the municipality on the road from Itero, it includes an unusual waterwheel style fountain, as well as tables, benches and a wooded area.

## FRÓMISTA:

Altitude: 783 m  
Distance from Población  
de Campos: 3.8 km  
Kind of route: Way



Despite its population of just 770, this is an important point on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago due to its superb monuments, several of which have been declared **Assets of Cultural Interest**, and the fact that it marks the end of the sixth stage described in the *Codex Calixtinus*.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martín (11th century). 🏰 One of the world's finest examples of Romanesque architecture. Church of San Pedro (15th century). There is a small religious art museum with 29 Hispano-Flemish style panels corresponding to the high altarpiece of Santa María del Castillo. Church of **Nuestra Señora del Castillo** 🏰 (late Gothic). It currently houses a centre exhibiting 'Vestigia' – a multimedia project based on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Otero** (18th century). A 13th century image of the town's patron saint. **Canal de Castilla** (18th century). 🏰 One of the finest works of engineering from the Age of Enlightenment.



Church of San Martín

### 🏠 BETANIA

Avda. Ejército Español, 26-1ºB  
638 846 043 (9 beds)  
✉ betabetaniafromista@gmail.com

### 🏠 VICUS HOSTEL

Ingeniero Rivera 25  
617483264 (6 beds)  
✉ angelgallegoesteban@hotmail.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office. Casa del Esclusero.  
✉ 979 810 128 - 672 146 994  
✉ turismo@fromista.com  
🌐 www.turismofromista.com

### REST AREA:

Situated in La Teja, at the entrance to the town on the Astudillo Road. Facilities include a fountain, tables, benches and wooded area. There is a caravan area.

### ACCESSIBLE SECTION:

From Frómista to Población de Campos the route is accessible for disabled people.

### PILGRIM ACCOMMODATION:

- 🏠 **ESTRELLA DEL CAMINO**  
Español s/n  
653751582 (32 beds).  
🌐 www.albergueestrelladelcamino.com  
✉ albergueestrelladelcamino@hotmail.com
- 🏠 **PEREGRINOS MUNICIPAL HOSTEL**  
Calle Hospital, S/N  
686579702 (49 beds).  
✉ carmen-hospitalera@live.com
- 🏠 **LUZ DE FRÓMISTA HOSTEL**  
Avda. Ejército Español 10  
979810757 - 635140169  
(28 beds).  
🌐 www.albergueluzdefromista.com  
✉ luzdefromista@gmail.com





Hermitage of San Miguel

## POBLACIÓN DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	792 m
Distance from Revenga de Campos:	3.7 km
Kind of route:	Way
Distance from Villovieco:	2.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



A small village of just 13 inhabitants, it was renowned for its former bailiwick.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of San Miguel** (13th century). A small ogival Romanesque temple with a Gothic façade. **Parish Church of la Magdalena** (16th century). A three-nave church built in the Baroque style in stone, adobe and brick. **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Socorro** (13th century). A late Romanesque hermitage housing a 13th century image of the seated Virgin.

### REST AREA:

Situated next to the Hermitage of San Miguel, at the entrance to

the village on the Frómista Road. Facilities include a fine wooded area, tables and benches.

↑ (There are two signposted itineraries from Población de Campos: one runs along a country path that follows the River Ucieza to Villovieco and from there straight to the hermitage of La Virgen del Río in Villalcázar de Sirga; an alternative route follows the path running parallel to the local road passing through Revenga, Villarmentero and Villalcázar de Sirga).

## ↑ VILLOVIECO:

Altitude:	797 m
Distance from Villalcázar de Sirga:	7.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



**Link with the French Route: Villalcázar de Sirga.**

*A tiny village of just 75 inhabitants on the old French Route that went as far as Arconada. We can still see Calle de San Jorge, the street along which the French pilgrims entered the town from Población de Campos.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santa María** A Renaissance style temple built in stone and brick. 17th-century Main Altarpiece and other Plateresque altarpieces. Some



Panoramic view of Villovieco



Church of San Lorenzo

include allegories to the Battle of Clavijo. 16th century chest.

### REST AREA:

Situated next to the river, the facilities include a wooded area, benches and tables.

## REVENGA DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	792 m
Distance from Villarmentero de Campos:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



*A small village of just 151 inhabitants whose association with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago is reflected in the street known as 'La Francesa'. The site also features 16th-century Houses with Coats of Arms, one of which hosted Charles V overnight. A monolith dedicated to General Amor. Traditional wine cellars and a recent modern sculpture dedicated to the pilgrim are also notable highlights of the municipality.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Lorenzo** (12th-17th century). A single-nave Baroque temple with an interesting 18th century high altarpiece. Noble houses bearing coats of arms and family crests (16th century).

### REST AREA:

Situated on the Carrión road leading out of the village, this rest area has a fountain, tables, benches and wooded area. At the entrance to the village is an interesting nature interpretation area, planted with autochthonous species that can be found along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.

## VILLARMENTERO DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	793 m
Distance from Villalcázar de Sirga:	4 km
Kind of route:	Way





Pilgrims before the Church of Nuestra Señora la Virgen Blanca

Panoramic view of Villarmentero de Campos

A tiny hamlet of just 16 inhabitants yet which boasts a legendary tradition surrounding the life and relics of Saint Martin of Tours.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Martín de Tours (15th century).** A small single-nave church that conserves a superb unpainted Moorish coffered ceiling and a Plateresque high altarpiece.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### FOR PILGRIMS:

###### AMANECER HOSTEL

Camino Frances  
629178543 (19 beds).  
 albergueamanecer@gmail.com

#### REST AREA:

There is a pleasant area situated on the road leading out of the hamlet to Carrión. Facilities include a fountain, tables, benches, barbecues and welcome shade thanks to the huge stone pines, the finest examples of this species to be seen on the entire Route.

## VILLALCÁZAR DE SIRGA:

Altitude: 809 m  
Distance from Carrión de los Condes: 5.7 km  
Kind of route: Way



An important site on the Route, mentioned in the pilgrims' miracles immortalised by Alphonse XII 'the Wise' in his Cantigas. The village has 169 inhabitants and there is an impressive Gothic church with cathedral-like features.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of Santa María la Blanca (12th-14th century).** Gothic-style church, reminiscent of the Romanesque style, with three magnificent sepulchres in polychrome stone and a good altarpiece on Castilian panels from the 16th century, as well as a Gothic statue of the Madonna of Las Cantigas.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### FOR PILGRIMS:

###### DON CAMINO

La Ronda  
979888163 - 620399040  
(22 beds).  
 aureafederico@hotmail.com

###### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL

Plaza del Peregrino s/n  
979888041 (20 beds)  
 www.ordendemalta.es  
 delegación.castilla@ordendemalta.es

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Tourism Office. Plaza Mayor (Town Hall)  
 (+34) 979 888 041.

#### REST AREA:

There is an area on the side of the road leading from Frómista to Carrión with tables, benches and a wooded area.

## CARRIÓN DE LOS CONDES:

Altitude: 839 m  
Distance from Cervatos de la Cueva: 13 km  
Kind of route: Road/Way

Calzadilla de la Cueva: 17.2 km  
Kind of route: Way



This village is one of the most representative on the Camino de Santiago. Its 2,066 inhabitants and the thousands of people who visit this town each year enjoy a historical and artistic heritage that includes



Royal Monastery of San Zoilo

three monuments designated Sites of Cultural Interest. It was the residence of monarchs and capital of the famous County of Los Beni Gómez. It is also the hometown of the first Marquis of Santillana and Rabi Dom Sem Tob. In modern times, it has been the birthplace of Professors Fuentes Quintana, Ramón Carande and Carlos Ollero.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Royal Monastery of Santa Clara (13th century).** Founded by two of Saint Clare's companions, today we can still visit the Neoclassical church and a museum housing several works by Gregorio Fernández. Additionally, it hosts an exhibition of over 2000 Nativity scenes from around the world.  
**Church of Santa María del Camino (12th century).** Built in the early Romanesque style, the interior contains allusions to the Tribute of the Hundred Maidens and sev-



Hermitage of Belén

eral excellent Gothic sculptures. **Church of Santiago (12th century).** 🏰 The façade boasts one of the finest examples of Romanesque sculpture, and features a single image of the Pantocrator and a series of interesting figures on the archivolt. The interior houses the parish museum. **Real Monasterio de San Zoilo (11th and 16th century).** 🏰 This monastery belongs to the European Network of Cluniac Sites and has conserved some of its Romanesque features. Closely linked to the Cluniac order, it conserves some of its Romanesque features. The **Contemporary Art Museum**, which is also the Tourist Office, hosts numerous exhibitions throughout the year. It achieved artistic splendor during the Renaissance with the construction of the Plateresque cloister. The town boasts another dozen interesting churches and hermitages, including the Church of **San Andrés** (16th century), known as the

Cathedral of Carrión), the Church of **San Juan** (featuring an interesting Baroque main altarpiece, as well as side altarpieces), and the **Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Belén**, dating from the late 16th century, which houses a fine main altarpiece and an image of the titular Virgin, the town's patroness. It is located on a small hill and has beautiful views.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **Nª SEÑORA DE BELÉN SPIRITUAL HOUSE**  
Leopoldo Mª de Castro 6  
979880031 (93 beds).  
🌐 <http://www.rfilpenses.com>  
✉ [cdadecarrion@rfilpenses.com](mailto:cdadecarrion@rfilpenses.com)
- 🏠 **SANTA MARÍA PARISH HOSTEL**  
Clérigo Pastor, S/N  
979880031 (48 beds)  
✉ [viastellarum@gmail.com](mailto:viastellarum@gmail.com)
- 🏠 **ESPIRITU SANTO**  
Plaza San Juan, Nº 4  
979880052 (80 beds)  
✉ [espiritusanto@hijasdelacaridad.org](mailto:espiritusanto@hijasdelacaridad.org)
- 🏠 **SANTA CLARA**  
Santa Clara, No. 1  
979880837 (29 beds)  
✉ [sormicaela@hotmail.com](mailto:sormicaela@hotmail.com)

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Tourism Office.  
Callejón de Santiago s/n  
[turismo@carriondeloscondes.es](mailto:turismo@carriondeloscondes.es)  
☎ 979 880 932.  
Association of friends of the Way of



Christ Pantocrator of the facade of Santiago

Saint James of Palencia.  
Real Monasterio de San Zoilo.  
☎/Fax: (+34) 979 880 902.  
[info@bibliotecajacobea.org](mailto:info@bibliotecajacobea.org)

Centre for Tourism Initiatives on the Palencia Way of Saint James. Real Monasterio de San Zoilo.  
☎/Fax: (+34) 979 880 902.

### REST AREAS:

'El Plantío' Park. Located next to the River Carrión, 50 m from Plaza Mayor, it has tables, a spring, barbecues and a large poplar grove. There is also a small caravan park next to the sports centre.

➡ In Carrión we must once again choose between two alternative itineraries. The Pilgrims' Route takes us from Carrión de los Condes to Calzadilla de la Cueva along a path that is well off the N-120 road and therefore will not take us through any towns or villages. The alternative route runs along the N-120 road to Sahagún, passing through Calzada de los Molinos, Cervatos de la

Cueva, San Román de la Cuba, Pozo Urama, Villada, Pozuelos del Rey and Grajal.

### NEARBY:

Located in Calzada de Los Molinos, the town's name recalls its position along the Roman road known as the Vía Aquitana, which connected the towns of Astorga and Bourdeaux (France). The surname refers to the numerous flour mills that once existed in the locality, utilising the waters of the river and small streams. In the town you can see the Church of Santiago dedicated to the Apostle Santiago and, although small inscription dates the building to 1794,, its construction is earlier. It is a church with three naves separated by high cylindrical columns, and there are two main reasons to visit it. On the one hand, the well-crafted coffered ceiling in the area of the transept; and on the other, the two images of Saint James. One is located on the High Altar, having remained covered for a long time, and is a splend

piece from the 16th century attributed to Juan Ortiz Fernández. It stands out for representing the moor-slayer version of Saint James in rich clothing and a turban like an Arab emir. The other image, also of the moor-slayer, is an 18th century processional carving that also stands out because of the clothing depicted.



General San Martín House Museum

In the centre of the town, there is an area by the river with nice trees located behind the church. Near the town you can see the memory of the Monastery of Santa María de Benevivere, which has practically disappeared today

## CERVATOS DE LA CUEZA:

Altitude: 798 m  
Distance from  
San Román de la Cuba: 8 km  
Kind of route: Road



The N-120 road runs through this village of 185 inhabitants. The House of General San Martín is the sole Asset of Cultural Interest to be seen here. Of its ancient churches, only the brick towers remain.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of Santa Columba and San Miguel.** A colonial style church built in the mid-20th century at the request of the Argentine Republic in honour of General José San Martín. Al-

though he was born in Argentina in 1778, his ancestors came from this tiny municipality in the Old World. **The Mudéjar Tower** and surroundings of the San Miguel Tower. Here we can still see traces of the ancient parish of San Miguel Arcángel, and the stone foundations of the church that once stood here. **General San Martín House Museum.** This village is the birthplace of the grandparents and father of General San Martín, who played a key role in the independence of Argentina, Chile and Perú.

### REST AREA:

The entrance to this municipality has a large wooded area with concrete tables and benches, a barbecue and fountain.

### NEARBY:

Just 1 km from the urban centre is the Roman villa of Quintanilla de la Cueva, an important estate that reached its peak in the 4th century AD. It showcases beautiful mosaics and the precursors to the famous "glorias" or "glorietas," the hypococausts.

## SAN ROMÁN DE LA CUBA:

Altitude: 803 m  
Distance from  
Pozo de Urama: 3 km  
Kind of route: Road



A small municipality in the province of Palencia with 65 inhabitants.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church de San Juan Bautista.** It has a single nave. Particularly worthy of note in this 17th century single-nave church are the superb altarpieces that date back to the same period. **Traditional wine cellars.** The Plaza Mayor (main square) area.

### REST AREA:

The main square has a small but picturesque and relaxing landscaped area.

## POZO DE URAMA:

Altitude: 809 m  
Distance from Villada: 6 km



The birthplace of the famous Castilian landscape artist Juan Manuel Díaz Caneja, this hamlet has just 24 inhabitants.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santa María del Castillo.** The current building dates back to the second third of the 17th century. The three naves



Church of San Juan Bautista

are covered by a simple coffered ceiling. Inside, several baroque style altarpieces stand out.

### REST AREA

Situated on the right-hand side of the hamlet, with drinking water facilities.

## VILLADA:

Altitude: 749 m  
Distance from  
Pozuelos del Rey: 2 km



This municipality, with a population of 914, pays rightful tribute to its most illustrious sons, Carlos Casado del Alisal and José Casado del Alisal. In recent years the traditional festival to celebrate the annual pig slaughter has become a tourist attraction.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Fructuoso (16th century).** Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 1983, the





Statue of St James  
in the Church of San Fructuoso

interior contains a 13th century Gothic image of Christ. **Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción de Santa María.** This 18th century temple houses a 16th century pieta. **Hermitage of Santo Cristo de la Era.** (17th century). **Hermitage of la Virgen del Río.** (18th century). **Parish Museum.** Home to a large collection of relics and other exhibits of considerable value.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **JACOBEAN HOSTEL JULIÁN CAMPO AND JOSÉ SANTINO**  
Calle Ferial Nuevo 8  
979844005 - 669906172  
666 501 410 y 635 434 273  
(20 beds)
-  [www.villada.es](http://www.villada.es)
-  [ayuntamiento@villada.es](mailto:ayuntamiento@villada.es)

#### REST AREA:

This municipality has several centrally-located gardens such as the park on the Villamar Road

and a parking area for caravans next to the hostel.

#### POZUELOS DEL REY:

Altitude:	810 m
Distance from Grajal de Campos (León):	6 km



*This small town of 16 inhabitants is in the district of Villada, on the border between the provinces of León and Valladolid.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santiago Apóstol.** Particularly worthy of note is the polychrome wooden main altarpiece. The upper section features three superb carvings that depict the Flight from Egypt, known by local residents as the 'Borriquilla', and images of Saint James and Saint John.

#### GRAJAL DE CAMPOS (LEÓN):

Altitude:	813 m
Distance from Sahagún (León):	5.2 km



**Link with the French Route: Sahagún.**

*This walled village in the province of León with a population of 223 is famed for the battles that were fought in this land inhabited by knights and noblemen. Traces*

*remain of an ancient hospital that tended to pilgrims making their way to Santiago de Compostela. The Convent of La Virgen de la Antigua was abandoned during the French occupation.*

*Grajal de Campos has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest under the Historical Sites category. The castle and the palace have also been declared Assets of Cultural Interest.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Palace of the Condes de Grajal.**

 One of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture. It stands out for its innovative concept of the palace as a villa or Renaissance stately home within the context of architecture in 16th century Spain and León. **Church of San Miguel.** Standing adjacent to the palace, this 16th century temple has three naves and a Romanesque brick façade. The chancel dates back to the same period as the palace, whilst the plasterwork domes are 17th century. This church boasts a wealth of outstanding objects including images, altarpieces and valuable gold and silver items. **Castle-Fortress.** 

The first written mention of this castle dates back to the year 967, and it is known to have played an active role during the War of Communities. It was built by the Marquises of Grajal. **Mozarabic redoubt.** Practically the entire village is riddled with passageways and sites that

indicated that this was once a major Mozarabic settlement. **Virgen de las Puertas,** Hospital of Santa María, dating back to the 1550s. **Convent of the Franciscans of Alcántara,** built in 1607.

#### CALZADILLA DE LA CUEZA:

Altitude:	858 m
Distance from Terradillo de los Templarios	6.8 km
Kind of route:	Way



*Pilgrims reach this tiny hamlet of just 48 inhabitants via the Roman road known locally as 'La Parva' from the former Abbey of Benevívere, whilst tourists will arrive via the N-120 road.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Martín.** Worthy of note is the Renaissance high altarpiece from the chapel of the Hospital of Santa María de las Tiendas which was abandoned during the Disentailment. **Traditional wine cellars.**

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **CAMINO REAL HOSTEL**  
Mayor Segunda  
79 023 068 - 662 399 539  
(40 beds).
-  [www.alberguecaminoareal.es](http://www.alberguecaminoareal.es)
-  [infoalberguecaminoareal@alberguecaminoareal.es](mailto:infoalberguecaminoareal@alberguecaminoareal.es)



**LOS CANARIOS HOSTEL**

Mayor  
659976894  
(9 beds).  
ilcm8@hotmail.com

**MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF CALZADILLA DE LA CUEZA**

Mayor N° 1  
670558954 (36 beds)  
municipalcalzadilla@outlook.es

**REST AREA:**

On the way out of the village, just a few metres from the main street, there is an area with benches, a fountain, planted with tall black poplars and flowering almond trees. Adjacent to this area is a small children's playground.

**NEARBY:**

Pilgrims can visit the Roman town of **La Tejada**, a Roman settlement dating from the 4th century and located 2 km from the village.

**LEDIGOS:**

Altitude: 889 m  
Distance from Terradillos de los Templarios: 3.1 km  
Kind of route: Way



It has a total of 63 residents and a **parish church dedicated to Santiago**. Of interest are the sculptures and paintings dedicated to the patron saint as 'apostle, pilgrim and knight'. It has two hostels:



Traditional wine cellars

**LA MORENA HOSTEL**

Carretera, 3  
979065052 - 655877305  
(51 beds).  
www.alberguelamorena.com  
info@alberguelamorena.com

**"EL PALOMAR"**

Las Huertas  
642899234 (45 beds).  
alberguepalomar@gmail.com

**TERRADILLOS DE LOS TEMPLARIOS:**

Altitude: 913 m  
Distance from Moratinos: 3.3 km  
Kind of route: Way



*As its name indicates, this small hamlet of 68 inhabitants belonging to the municipality of Lagartos was once under the jurisdiction of the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. Legend also has it that this was the site where the last Knights Templar buried the goose that laid the golden eggs.*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of San Pedro.** A modest brick temple with a single nave and presbytery marked by a semi-circular triumphal arch. Noteworthy is the 14th-century Gothic image of the Crucified Cross.

**ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:****"LOS TEMPLARIOS"**

Crta. Burgos-Terradillos, S/N  
979065968 - 667252279  
(51 beds).  
www.alberguelostemplarios.com  
alberguelostemplarios@hotmail.com

**JACQUES DE MOLAY**

La Iglesia N° 18  
657165011 (46 beds).  
jaquesdemolay@hotmail.com

**REST AREA:**

Situated close to the private hostel, in the shade of several black poplars and holm oaks, facilities in this small area include benches, tables, a barbecue and fountain. Continuing along the Pilgrims' Route for a further one and a half kilometres from Terradillos, we come to another rest area with wooden tables and benches in a spot shaded by a row of black poplars on the banks of a stream crossed a little further on by a small bridge. Following this path for another kilometre brings us to a lay-by for drivers next to the N-120 road with artificial stone benches and tables in a landscaped setting planted with ornamental trees.



Church of San Pedro

**MORATINOS:**

Altitude: 860 m  
Distance from San Nicolás del Real Camino: 2.6 km  
Kind of route: Way



*A tiny municipality of just 18 inhabitants whose close ties with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago are reflected in the name of street known as the Royal Street or French Road (Calle Real or Calzada Francesa).*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of Santo Tomás.** This single nave brick temple has a flat roof and diminished dome over the presbytery.

**ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:****MORATINOS HOSTEL**

Real  
979061466 - 628257160  
(9 beds).  
www.alberguemoratinos.es  
info@hostalmoratinos.es

**SAN BRUNO HOSPITAL**  
 Ontañón N° 13  
 672629658  
 (17 beds).  
 ✉ brunobernoni@gmail.com

#### REST AREA:

Although there is no specific spot, pilgrims making their way through this village can rest in the shade of the portico built at one side of the church and which has wooden benches. Close to the square is a small brick fountain.

### SAN NICOLÁS DEL REAL CAMINO:

Altitude: 840 m  
 Distance from Sahagún: 7.4 km  
 Kind of route: Way



According to history, this small village of 41 inhabitants that boasts a regal name, annexed to Moratinos and the last point on the

*Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in the province of Palencia, was the site of a hospital run by the Canons of Saint Augustine, dedicated mainly to the care of lepers.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Nicolás Obispo.** This brick temple has a single nave covered by an underpitched barrel vault and diminished dome. Worthy of note is the Baroque high altarpiece.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠 "LAGANARES"  
 Nueva, 1  
 979188142 - 629181536  
 (20 beds).  
 ✉ laganares@yahoo.es

#### REST AREA:

Pilgrims usually stop at the small landscaped area next to the church, which has a fountain and artificial stone bench.



Church of San Nicolás Obispo

# León

## SAHAGÚN:

Altitude: 816 m  
 Distance from  
 Calzada Del Coto: 5 km  
 Kind of route: Way



*This town, situated on the banks of the Cea, is a major milestone on the Pilgrims' Route and the end of the seventh stage described in the Codex Calixtinus. It has a population of 2153 and close ties with the Monastery of San Benito. Its wealth of artistic heritage includes six monuments that have been declared Assets of Cultural Interest.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Arch of San Benito.** Ruins of the monastery whose history is inextricably linked with that of the town. **Church of La Trinidad (13th century, 16th-17th century).** Although since 1964 this has no longer been a place of worship, today it houses the tourist office, the pilgrims' hostel and the Carmelo Gómez Cultural Centre. **Church of San Juan de Sahagún (17th century).** The interior conserves the remains of Saints Facundo and Primitivo. The high altarpiece is



Old Monastery of San Benito

the work of Matías de Arriba whilst the altarpieces on the transept are attributed to Lucas González. **Church of San Tirso.** 🏰

Its current appearance is the result of later alterations carried out during the 16th and 18th centuries. Built in the Mudejar style, it is considered to be the prototype for other similar constructions in the Sahagún area. **Parish Church of San Lorenzo 12th-13th century.** 🏰 This three-nave church was built in the Mudejar style and has a rectangular tower. Next to the church stands the Chapel of Jesús with bas-reliefs by Juan de Juni. **Monastery of the Benedictine Mothers.** Site of a museum with an interesting collection of gold and silver work and religious paintings, as well as a magnificent 16th century monstrance by Enri-



que de Arfe (16th century) and the tomb of Alfonso VI of León and Castile. **Nuestra Señora La Peregrina.**  This hermitage houses a magnificent image of the Virgin dressed as a pilgrim dating back to the 17th century and the work of the Andalusian sculptress known as 'La Roldana'. Former Franciscan convent made of brick and with Arabic arches. It has 15th century Moorish plasterwork in the chapel of Diego Gómez de Sandoval. **The Virgin of the Bridge (12th century).** This brick building is the first hermitage on the Pilgrims' Route in the province of León. The interior has a carving of the Virgin. A traditional procession to the hermitage takes place each year on 25 April. **Canto Bridge.** A sturdy bridge built in 1085 on the orders of Alphonse VI on the site of an earlier Roman bridge. Three medieval barrel vault arches across the River Cea lead us out of the town. **Monastery of San Facundo and San Primitivo:**  The clock tower is all that remains of this large former Benedictine abbey.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **EL LABRIEGO**  
Doctores Bermejo y Calderón, 9  
622646136 - 987782123  
(19 plazas).  
 alberguesellabriego.com  
 reservas@alberguesellabriego.com



Church of San Lorenzo

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR SUMMER PILGRIMS

Arco-La Herrería, S/N  
987781015  
 www.aytosahagun.es

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR WINTER PILGRIMS

Antonio Nicolás, 55  
987780001 - 662147431  
 www.villadesahagun.es  
 info@sahagun.org

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Tourist Information Office.  
Arco, 87.  (+34) 987 781 015.  
oficinadeturismo@turismosahagun.com  
<https://www.turismosahagun.com/>

### NEARBY:

**Monastery of San Pedro de las Dueñas.** We advise tourists and pilgrims alike to take a 5 kilometre detour off the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago to visit this monastery which, according to Father Escalona, was founded in the year 973 and that soon came to form part of the pow-



Church of San Esteban

erful Benedictine Abbey of Sahagún. The highlight of the interior is undoubtedly the Crucifix by the great Baroque master sculptor Gregorio Fernández.

### CALZADA DEL COTO:

Altitude:	822 m
Distance from Bercianos del Real Camino:	5.1 km
Calzadilla de los Hermanillos:	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



*The first part of the current name of this village of just 189 inhabitants and that was formerly known as Villa Zacarías comes from the Roman road and the second part from its dependence on the monastery at Sahagún. Tradition and modernity stand side by side in this municipality which features adobe buildings and ancient doors that rub shoulders with freshly painted façades and new brick constructions.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of San Roque.** Church of San Esteban (17th century). Built of brick and rammed earth, it features a sturdy and slender tower. Inside it contains an 18th century Baroque altarpiece with several fine images. **Medieval wine cellars,** excavated under the clay; they stand as a beautiful area still used today.


### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

#### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL SAN ROQUE

La Era, s/n (36 plazas)  
987781233 / 674587001  
 roblemirador@hotmail.com

### REST AREA:

There are two, one in the village and another three kilometres away, near the Hermitage of Ntra. Sra. de Perales de Bercianos del Real Camino.

 (From Calzada del Coto there are two possibilities. Follow the compacted dirt track which, after just over 30 kilometres, takes you to Mansilla de las Mulas via Bercianos del Real Camino, El Burgo Ranero and Reliegos. This more popular option allows pilgrims to stop at the rest areas with benches that line the route every few kilometres. Alternatively, we can follow the 'Pilgrims' Road' along the ancient 'Via Trajana' which will bring us to Mansilla de las Mulas via the Valdelocajos Plain and Calzadilla de los Hermanillos, the only village on this route, and the abandoned station of Villamarco).



## ↑ CALZADILLA DE LOS HERMANILLOS:

Altitude:	816 m
Distance from Mansilla de las Mulas:	24 km
Kind of route:	Way



### Link with the French Route: Mansilla de las Mulas

*In order to reach Calzadilla we must follow the ancient road known as the Trajan Way from Tarragona to Astorga, crossing the Valdelocajos pastureland before coming to this village with its traditional adobe and sand wall buildings. Today the village has a population of 137.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores.** It has a single nave. The chevet stands out slightly from the rest of the building. Inside, the presbytery boasts a Baroque altarpiece presided over by an image of the Virgin (15th-16th centuries). The church takes its name from a typical composition representing the pieta or the Sixth Sorrow of Mary. **Church of San Bartolomé** (16th-17th century alterations). The highlights of the interior include the 16th century Calvary and a fascinating high altarpiece crowned by the valuable, almost life-sized polychrome carving of Saint Bartholomew overcoming the devil and the coats of arms of the Marquis of Villasante and the Lord

of the Manor, Juan de Vozmediano. Next to the church, there is an area that has been opened as the Roman Roads Interpretation Centre.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **VIA TRAJANA**  
Calle Mayor, 55  
☎ 987337610 (20 beds).

### REST AREA:

There is a rest area some six kilometres outside Calzada del Coto, just after Valdelocajos. Facilities include a fountain and a space where pilgrims can seek shelter from the heat, cold or rain in a setting of black poplars and several ornamental trees. The Pilgrims' Fountain in Calzadilla de los Hermanillos stands in a large wooded area with tables.

## BERCIANOS DEL REAL CAMINO:

Altitude:	855 m
Distance from El Burgo Ranero:	7.8 km
Kind of route:	Way



Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Perales



*The splendid name of this small village of just 194 inhabitants refers to the repopulating of this area with natives of Bierzo. In the year 966 it was given to the Monastery of Sahagún by Doña Palla and her children.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of la Virgen de Perales "La Perala".** It was attached in the 12th century to the Hospital del Cebreiro. This simple brick temple with a belfry is a popular place of worship throughout the region. A traditional procession takes place here every year on 8 September. **Parish Church of El Salvador (17th century).** It crumbled a few years ago. **Hermitage of San Roque.** A simple construction made of adobe walls from the 18th century. The tower-viewpoint, which has a telescope used for astronomy.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **LA PERALA**  
Camino Sahagún  
☎ 685817699 - 685817699  
(56 beds).
- 🏠 **SANTA CLARA HOSTEL**  
Travesía Comuni3n, 2  
☎ 605 839 996/ 605839996  
(20 beds).  
✉ alberguesantaclara@hotmail.com
- 🏠 **BERCIANOS 1900**  
Mayor, 49  
☎ 620648471 (20 beds).



Typical house in El Burgo Ranero

- 🌐 www.bercianos1900.com
- ✉ marta@bercianos1900.com
- 🏠 **EL SUEVE**  
Calle La Iglesia, 21-23  
☎ 987784139 - 625322021  
(9 plazas).  
✉ elsuevebercianos@gmail.com

### REST AREA:

At the end of the town, there is a renovated area with tables and chairs near the 'Oasis del Camino de Santiago'.

## EL BURGO RANERO:



Altitude:	878 m
Distance from Villamarco:	9.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This village sprang up around the pilgrimage trail, and was thought to have been founded or repopulated by a certain 'Ranarius', although others claim that it was used as a*



'ranarius', which means a hippodrome close to the water. Today the municipality has a population of 215.

 **EBALO**  
La Fe, 24  
 6779490521



### WHAT TO SEE:

Where the Hermitage of El Santo Cristo de la Vera Cruz once stood, there is now a modern-style cross erected 'In Memoriam' and similar to the one on Plaza Mayor.

**Parish Church of San Pedro.** A modest church that could have been more important had it conserved the beautiful Romanesque sculpture of the Madonna that is today kept in the Cathedral Museum of León. Its religious heritage includes the Processional Cross made of silver, an Isabelline monstrance, also made of silver, dating from the 19th century and a Renaissance altarpiece from the second half of the 16th century. The influence of the Monastery of Sahagún can be seen in a monument dedicated to Fray Pedro del Burgo, who came from the town and was abbot in the 15th century.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

 **LA LAGUNA**  
La Laguna, 12  
 987330094 - 607163982  
(29 beds).

 **EL NOGAL JACOBAN HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION**  
Fray Pedro, 42  
 667207454  
 jelnogal@yahoo.es

### REST AREA:

There are several rest areas due to the fact that there are no towns and villages on this stretch of the Route, the second longest after the section between Carrión de los Condes and Calzadilla de la Cueva. After travelling 4.5 kilometres we come to a wooded area with benches. There is also a rest area at Villamarco and another one just before Reliegos.

### VILLAMARCO:

Altitude:	851 m
Distance from Reliegos:	5.4 km
Kind of route:	Way



Pilgrims do not usually go through Villamarco today, al-



Church of the Inmaculada in Villamarco

though the town is mentioned in the cartulary of the Cathedral of León in 985, confirming its existence. A way known as 'Carresantiago' goes through the town, and its name refers to the fact that there were times when the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago ran through it, as a 'track' of the Cañada Real Leonesa.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Church of La Inmaculada, a modern construction. It conserves the tower from 1902. Hermitage of El Cristo del Amparo. It is a small, quadrangular space divided into two sections with a nave and the altar. The space is accessed through a semicircular arch. It has Baroque shapes and typical Mudéjar materials.

### RELIEGOS:

Altitude:	830 m
Distance from Mansilla de las Mulas:	5 km
Kind of route:	Way











Three Roman military roads once converged at this spot, which today has a population of 221 and forms part of the municipality of Santas Martas. It is traditionally held to be the site of the Roman city of Pallantia, which Ptolemy named 'Paelontium'. This hamlet features the adobe houses that are part of León's traditional ar-

chitecture. A popular saying goes 'From Reliegos to Mansilla is the league of Castile', which is the old Castilian distance of 5,572.20 m.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Cornelio and San Cipriano.** A beautiful Gothic carving from the depopulated village of Escarbayosa is preserved inside. Also of considerable value are the Baroque carvings of Saint Anthony the Abbot, Saint Lazarus dressed as a pilgrim, the patron saints Saint Cornelius and Saint Cyprian, and the Christ that presides over the head of the church.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **LA PARADA HOSTEL**  
La Escuela  
 987317880 - 678769932  
(44 beds).  
 [www.alberguelaparada.com](http://www.alberguelaparada.com)  
 [alberguelaparada@gmail.com](mailto:alberguelaparada@gmail.com)
-  **LAS HADAS HOSTEL**  
Real  
 987317915 - 620547454  
(21 beds).  
 <https://alberguelashadas.com>  
 [alberguedelashadas@gmail.com](mailto:alberguedelashadas@gmail.com)
-  **LA CANTINA DE TEDDY**  
Camino Real, S/N  
 987190627 (9 beds).
-  **VIVE TU CAMINO**  
Real, Nº 56  
 610293986 (18 beds).





- GIL**  
 Cantas, 28  
 987317804 (12 beds).
- MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF RELIEGOS**  
 Albergue Don Gaiferos, 1.  
 658656860 / 619591396  
 teresaqr@outlook.com

## ↑ MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS:

Altitude:	802 m
Distance from Villamoros de Mansilla:	4 km
Mansilla Mayor:	3 km
Kind of route:	Way



A village of some 1593 inhabitants, with a medieval layout and diagonal crosses, located on the banks of the river Esla. It is



Tower of San Martín

an important point on the eighth stage of the route to Santiago recorded in the *Codex Calixtinus*. It was granted a municipal charter by King Ferdinand II of León in 1181, who also built the fortified curtain walls that surround it. It has been considered a Historical-Artistic Site since 1931 and the walled area has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Interesting remains of the walls, gates and five external watchtowers. **Parish Church of Santa María (18th century)**. Its atrium was used for holding council meetings. It has three naves and a transept. The interior has an 18th century Baroque altarpiece with three sections and a large attic. There is also a fascinating collection of ancient images from churches that are no longer standing. **Church of San Martín (13th century)**. Happily restored,



Walls of Mansilla de las Mulas

today the building houses a cultural centre. It has a single nave and the presbytery is marked by a pointed triumphal arch over three tombstones. The remains of the Mudejar coffered ceilings are also worthy of note. The main façade features a simple front dating back to the transition to the Gothic period, flanked by capitals with pairs of single-headed lions. **Provincial Ethnographic Museum**. Situated in the former Convent of San Agustín, founded by the Castilian Admiral Fabrique Enriquez in 1491 and donated to the Augustine Order in 1500. This three-storey building occupying more than a thousand square metres houses the province's ethnographical heritage: a collection of more than 3500 objects classified according to various themes. **Sanctuary of the Virgen de Gracia**. Home to the image of the Patron Saint of Mansilla, and therefore a popular place of worship in this area. It houses an extremely beautiful image of the Virgin with Child, restored by the sculptor Victor de los Rios after it was damaged in a fire in the late 19th century.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- GAIA HOSTEL**  
 Avda Constitución, 28  
 699911311  
 alberquedegaia@hotmail.com



Church of San Miguel

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipality of Mansilla de las Mulas. Plaza del Pozo, 12  
 987 311 800  
 registro@ayto-mansilla.org.

Association of Friends of the Way of St James of Mansilla.  
 Casa de Cultura San Martín.  
 Plaza de San Martín, 1.

### REST AREA:

Eight hundred metres from Mansilla is an area with tables and benches. In Mansilla itself, just a short distance from the campsite and in the nature spot on the banks of the Esla known as Fuente de los Prados, there is a large wooded area with tables. Half a kilometre outside the municipality is another area which also has tables and benches.

### NEARBY:

In this area we highly recommend taking the 'Monastery Route', offering visitors to Mansilla the chance to take delve



deeper into the art and history of the area, touring the monasteries where medieval pilgrims would find a host of reliquaries to worship and a place to rest. These visits begin at the Monastery of Santa María de Gradefes, passing by the Monastery of San Miguel de Escalada and the ruins of the Monastery of San Pedro de Eslonza.

**▶** A kilometre and a half after leaving Mansilla de las Mulas and crossing the waters of the Esla, you can follow an alternative route, especially recommended for tourists, noted for its artistic interest. This route passes through: Mansilla Mayor, Villaverde de Sandoval, the site of the famous Monastery of Sandoval, and Nogales. From there we recommend heading back to the traditional route in Villamoros de Mansilla).

### ▶ MANSILLA MAYOR:

Altitude	796 m
Distance from Villaverde de Sandoval:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



One kilometre outside Mansilla in the direction of León (N-601), a left-hand turning along a local road will bring us to this picturesque village with a population of 135, part of a

municipality that also includes Villaverde de Sandoval, Nogales and Villamoros de Mansilla. This village inevitably evokes memories of Father Segundo Llorente, a missionary in Alaska renowned for the saintly good works he carried out throughout his lifetime.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Miguel.** Late Gothic style. The exterior is plain and contrasts with the interior, which has a magnificent Mudejar-style coffered ceiling in the central nave, presbytery and sacristy. The latter two are decorated in Renaissance and Baroque styles, respectively. Also worthy of note is the Renaissance altarpiece by Domingo Llamazares and the sacarium by Juan de Juni.

### NEARBY:

[www.rutadelosmonasterios.com](http://www.rutadelosmonasterios.com)  
Reservations required: 601 633 650

### VILLAVERDE DE SANDOVAL:

Altitude	802 m
Distance from Nogales:	1 km
Kind of route:	Way



The earliest mention of this spot, situated five kilometres southeast of Mansilla on the right bank of the River Esla, refers to a place called Saitu Novali, and dates



Monastery in Villaverde de Sandoval

back to 1142 when Alphonse VII gave it to Count Ponce de Minerva and his wife Estefanía. They would later donate it to the Cistercian monks of La Santa Espina, who founded the Monastery of Santa María in 1171.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Monastery of Santa María de Sandoval (12th century).** This Cistercian monument, which has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, stands close to the confluence of the rivers Esla and Porma. It exerted a tremendous influence over the entire region, holding vast amounts of land and immense power as a result of several royal donations. This monastery burned down twice (in the 15th and 17th centuries) and fell victim to the Confiscation of Mendizábal, being totally abandoned in 1835. The monastery has a central cloister, church and refectory. Only the left wing of the cloister remains, where visitors can see the semicircular arches of the library and former sacristy. The late 12th century church is a fascinating blend of Romanesque

and Gothic architecture. The well-conserved cruciform church has three naves, a transept and three semicircular apses.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further details please visit the website: [www.monasteriodesandoval.com](http://www.monasteriodesandoval.com)

### ▶ NOGALES:

Altitude:	801 m
Distance from Villamoros de Mansilla:	4 km
Kind of route:	Way



### Link with the French Route: Villamoros de Mansilla

Rarely mentioned in the guides to the Pilgrims' Route, despite the fact that it lies on the detour that took us to Villaverde de Sandoval.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Simón (16th century).** A small yet interesting temple. The most outstanding feature is the unglilded natural wood altarpiece dedicated to the patron saint and its curved barrel vault. The belfry tower was rebuilt during the 1930s.

(We now return to the Route most frequently taken by modern-day pilgrims, following the itinerary described below from Villamoros de Mansilla.)



## VILLAMOROS DE MANSILLA:

Altitude:	800 m
Distance from	
Puente de Villarente:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



This municipality of 85 inhabitants was formerly known as Villamoros del Camino Francés, as the French Pilgrims' Route to Santiago constitutes the main street of the town. It is first referred to as Villamoros in 1173, as it belonged to the jurisdiction of Villalquite, and also in the document signed by King Ferdinand II ordering the repopulation of Mansilla.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Esteban.** The interior contains several 16th century painted panels and sculptures as well as a tabernacle in the style of Juni. **Archaeological Site of Lancia.** This major archaeological site is situated



Church of San Esteban

in the Villasabariego Hills, just before the town of Villamoros. Long considered to be the site of the city of the Astures known as Lancia, it dates back to between the 1st and 2nd centuries BCE and the 5th century CE. The earliest remains uncovered correspond to the Lower Palaeolithic Age. A further set of polished axes correspond to the Neolithic Period. Excavation work has also uncovered items from the Roman occupation, including Italic Terra Sigillata pottery and coins featuring the faces of the emperors from the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- SAN PELAYO**  
Romero (Puente Villarente)  
 650918281 - 615459919  
(54 beds).  
 alberguesanpelayo@hotmail.es

### PUENTE DE VILLARENTE:

Altitude:	804 m
Distance	
to Arcahueja::	4.4 km
Kind of route:	Way



This town of 219 inhabitants stands out for its bridge, which made an impression in the 12th century on Aymeric, who described it as 'huge', and the history of its hospital, which ensured that a donkey, recog-



Pilgrims on Villarente Bridge



Church of Santa María

*nised as the first ambulance for pilgrims, was always ready to transport the sick to León.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**El Puente de Villarente.** In the 14th century, a flood caused this bridge across the River Porma to break into two, washing away several of the pillars. Although it no longer boasts the original twenty arches, it does however retain all its former glory and prestige. **Villarente hospital.** Founded in the 16th century by the Archdeacon of Triacastela, Canon of León Cathedral. It is characterised by its sober façade and projecting eaves. The hospital was dedicated to Nuestra Señora La Blanca. **Parish Church of San Pelayo.** Inside, there is a carving of the patron saint (16th century), which, although in Castilian style, shows a certain Flemish influence.

### REST AREA:

There are rest areas for pilgrims on either side of the Roman

bridge. The first is a quiet spot away from the hustle and bustle of the town, whilst the second is closer to the various amenities available to visitors. In addition, the banks of the River Porma also offer a range of facilities including toilets, barbecues and benches and tables.

### ARCAHUEJA:

Altitude:	850 m
Distance from Valdelafuente:	1.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



*Through Arcahueja, a village of 203 inhabitants, and Valdelafuente, we look out from Alto del Portillo, a vantage point that allows us to admire the banks of the River Torio and the hamlet of León. We can no longer see the ancient 15th century stone cross that once stood on this spot, part of the municipality of Valdefresno, as it was transferred to the capital to replace the one that originally stood in Plaza de San Marcos.*



## WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María  
Modern construction.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

### LA TORRE

La Torre, N° 1  
987205896 - 669660914  
(27 beds).  
www.alberguetorre.es  
info@alberguetorre.es

## VALDELAFUENTE:

Altitude: 855 m  
Distance from  
Puente Castro: 3.5 km  
Kind of route: Way



Valdelafuente, with 275 inhabitants, belongs to the Municipality of Valde Fresno, like Arcahueja. The road that leads us here blends antiquity with industrial modernity. Along the way, new

buildings and warehouses have been erected, reminiscent of the immediacy of the populous city of León.

## PUENTE CASTRO:

Altitude: 820 m  
Distance from León: 3 km  
Kind of route: Way

Today the *Castrum Iudearum* (Jewish fortified settlement) merges into the outskirts of León, and can be considered yet another district of this large, crowded city. Indeed, practically nothing remains of its famous Jewish quarter or the synagogue that was the oldest and most important in León during the Middle Ages. In 1037 Ferdinand I donated the quarter to the Church of León, whilst in 1197 Alphonse IX gave it to León Cathedral.



Romanesque paintings of San Isidoro



Cathedral

## REST AREA:

Next to the river and the footbridge.

## LEÓN:

Altitude: 838 m  
Distance from  
Trobajo del Camino: 3.7 km  
Kind of route: Way



We enter León via the district known as Puente Castro and the footbridge across the River Torío. This royal and curial city, full of all kinds of facilities, as the famous Aymeric Picaud once defined it, combines history, art and heritage. Founded in the year 68 as a settlement for the Legio VII Gemina Pia Felix, until the 3rd century it was the principal military and political centre in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula. Certain areas of this bustling city, which has a population of 118,612, have been declared Historic Sites, and its monuments also include nine Assets of Cultural Interest.

## WHAT TO SEE:

**The Cathedral.** It was built in the 13th century in true Gothic style on the foundations the Roman baths

and the Royal Palace of Ordoño II. Highlights include the 125 windows with more than 1900 metres of stained glass panes. The 15th century walnut choir stalls have a total of 76 seats. At the entrance to the museum, visitors will be able to admire the 16th century cloister. **Royal Basilica of San Isidoro.** It was declared a royal basilica by Ferdinand I and is dedicated to Saint Isidore of Seville. The Royal Pantheon contains the remains of at least 23 monarchs of León and the decorated vaults dating back to around 1160 have earned it the name of the 'Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art'. The Library and Museum are of particular interest. **Casa Botines.** Designed and built in 1891 by Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí. **San Marcos.** Currently a Parador Nacional, it was a pilgrims' hospital in the 12th century before being transferred to the Knights of the Order of Saint James. In the 16th century it was destroyed and rebuilt. Particularly worthy of note is the monumental Plateresque façade. The church is built in the Gothic style. **Church of Santa Ana.** This is the first church we encounter on entering the city of León, just before Calle Barahona. **Church of the Market.** Built



Church of San Juan Bautista



Puente Castro







Casa Botines Gaudí Museum



Parador Hotel of San Marcos

in the 12th century in Plaza de Santa María del Camino, also known as Plaza del Grano or 'Corn Square'. **The Walls** 🏰 A Roman enclosure that preserves in good condition the section located between the Cathedral and San Isidoro.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS**  
Avda. Alcalde Miguel Castaño, N° 4  
987215060 - 637439848  
(70 beds).  
🌐 www.alberguescapuchinos.org  
📧 gestion.leon@alberguescapuchinos.org
- 🏠 **SANTO TOMÁS DE CANTERBURY**  
La Lastra, 53  
987392626 (51 beds).  
🌐 www.alberguesantotomas.com  
📧 info@alberguesantotomas.com
- 🏠 **UNAMUNO**  
San Pelayo, 15  
654638302 (86 beds).  
🌐 www.albergueunamuno.com  
📧 albergue@residenciaunamuno.com
- 🏠 **ALDA CENTRO LEÓN HOSTEL**  
La Torre, 3-1ª dcha  
987225594 (20 beds).
- 🏠 **CHECK IN LEÓN**  
Avda. Alcalde Miguel Castaño, 88

- 📞 987498793 (40 beds).  
🌐 www.checkinleon.com  
📧 info@checkinleon.es
- 🏠 **COVENT GARDEN HOSTEL**  
Ancha, N° 25  
601082002 (18 beds).  
🌐 www.hostelcoventgarden.es  
📧 reservas@hostelcoventgarden.es
- 🏠 **GLOBETROTTER URBAN HOSTEL**  
Paloma, N° 8  
633789095 (46 beds).  
🌐 www.globetrotterhostel.es  
📧 info@albanyleon.com
- 🏠 **LA MADRIGUERA HOSTEL**  
La Virgen Blanca  
987037886 - 987037883  
(14 plazas).  
🌐 www.lamadriguerahostel.com  
📧 info@hostelleon.es
- 🏠 **LEÓN HOSTEL**  
Ancha, 8  
987079907 (20 beds).
- 🏠 **MURALLA LEONESA**  
Tarifa, 5  
623038025 - 987177873  
(69 beds).  
🌐 www.alberguemurallaleonesa.es  
📧 info@alberguemurallaleonesa.com
- 🏠 **NAMA HOSTEL**  
Calle Matasiete 2, entrada Ramiro III  
637642276 (8 beds).  
📧 info@namasuites.com

- 🏠 **PALACIO DE JABALQUINTO BY QUARTIER**  
Juan de Arfe  
620428758 - 620428758  
(88 beds).  
🌐 quartierleon.com  
📧 recepcion@quartierleon.com

- 🏠 **PALACIO REAL**  
La Rúa, 22  
887880015 (132 beds).  
📧 reservas@palaciorealhostel.es

- 🏠 **ZENTRIC HOSTEL**  
Legio VII  
636946294 (20 beds).  
🌐 www.zentrichostelleon.es  
📧 info@zentrichostel.com

- 🏠 **HOSTEL REFUGE HNAS. BENEDICTINAS (CARBAJALAS)**  
Plaza S<sup>ta</sup> M<sup>ra</sup> del Camino, s/n  
987252866 / 680649289  
(132 beds)  
🌐 www.alberguesleon.com  
📧 sorperegrina@hotmail.com

- 🏠 **RÚA 35**  
Rúa, 35.  
666 139 873  
📧 ruta35@hostelleon@gmail.com

- 🏠 **ALEA HOSTEL**  
Cardenal Landázuri, 3.  
623195545  
🌐 www.aleahostel.com  
📧 apartamentosmbell@gmail.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourist Information Office of León.  
Plaza de la Regla, 2.  
📞 987 237 082.  
oficinadeturismodeleon@jcyl.es.

Pulchra Leonina Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James.  
Avda. Independencia, 2, 5° Izq.  
📞 (+34) 987 260 530.  
caminosantiagoleon@yahoo.es

## TROBAJO DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	837 m
Distance from La Virgen del Camino:	4.1 km
Kind of route:	Way



*Traditionally a farming town, today it is a service centre where trade and industry represent the major source of income for the current population of 20,673 inhabitants. Indeed, it is the most densely populated area in the municipality of San Andrés del Rabanedo and essentially a dormitory town for the nearby provincial capital. In addi-*



Hermitage of Santiago in Trobajo del Camino



tion, *Trobajo* has recovered a number of elements related to its links with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: these include the opening of the *Hermitage of Santiago*; the decision to once again feature two scallop shells (traditional pilgrims' symbols) on the municipal coat of arms and the renaming of one of the streets 'Calle de los Peregrinos'; as well as the recent construction of a monument to pilgrims in the town centre.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Hermitage of the Apóstol Santiago (18th century).** Although it was built in 1777, the origins of this hermitage date back much earlier. Particularly worthy of note in the interior is the 19th century image of St James the Moorslayer. **Parish Church de San Juan Bautista.** A small rectangular building that no longer conserves any traces of the original early medieval temple. Indeed, successive alterations have done away with a number of elements of interest such as the four stained glass windows and the wooden coffered ceiling.

**Monument to the pilgrim.** This monument was erected on Calle Párroco Pablo Díez in 1993 and contains an exact replica of the 'Mirador de la Cruz' cross. There is also a stand offering special information for pilgrims.

### REST AREA:

Plaza del Peregrino on Calle Párroco Pablo Díez offers a number of facilities for those wishing to rest.



Statue of the Madonna of the Shrine

## LA VIRGEN DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	850 m
Distance from	
Valverde de la Virgen	2 km
Fresno del Camino	1.9 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This village belongs to the municipality of Valverde de la Virgen and has a population of 5044. The houses are huddled around the Hermitage of La Virgen del Camino which is well-known throughout the province as a popular place of worship and pilgrimage.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Sanctuary of the Virgen Way.** Church of the Dominican Fathers. Designed by the architect and Dominican Friar Francisco Coello de Portugal, it is a harmonious blend of concrete, wood, stone and glass, in keeping with the modern trends in religious architecture of the 1950s. Highlights

include the façade featuring thirteen Modernist style bronze images sculptured in 1961 by José María Subirachs. The 16th century Virgin of La Piedad takes pride of place on the Baroque altarpiece, which dates back to 1730.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

DON ANTONINO Y DOÑA CINIA

Avda. Padre Eustoquio, 16

987 302 800 (40 beds).

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipal Office of La Virgen del Camino. Avenida Pablo Díez. (across from the shrine).

(+34) 987 302 213.

### REST AREA:

The area known as 'La Fuenteña' has tables, a fountain and trees.

On leaving La Virgen del Camino there is a choice of two routes taking us across the uplands of León to the banks of the Órbigo. The more popular of the two runs along the N-120 Road, taking us through Valverde de la Virgen, San Miguel del Camino, Villadangos del Páramo, San Martín del Camino and Hospital de Órbigo. The alternative route heads for Fresno del Camino and from there offers another two options: the first, and particularly recommendable for pilgrims, goes through Oncina de la Valduncina, Chozas de Abajo, Villar de Mazarife and Villavante before

coming to Hospital de Órbigo. The other option runs parallel to the railway and goes through La Aldea de la Valduncina, Robledo de la Valduncina and Estación de Villadangos, where it links up with Villadangos del Páramo.

## ↑ FRESNO DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	897 m
Distance from	
Oncina de la Valduncina:	1.7 km
Idea de la Valduncina:	2.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



### WHAT TO SEE:

In this town, with a population of 522 inhabitants, you can visit the **Church of San Andrés (18th century)**. This church boasts an interesting Renaissance altarpiece presided over by an image of Saint Andrew. The upper section features an intriguing reproduction of Saint Isidore on horseback slaying the Moors.

## ↑ LA ALDEA DE LA VALDUNCINA:

Altitude:	900 m
Distance from	
Robledo de la Valduncina:	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



*A tiny hamlet that forms part of the municipality of Valverde de la Virgen with a population of just 67.*

## ROBLEDO DE LA ALDONCINA:

Altitude:	924 m
Distance from Estación de Villadangos:	14 km
Kind of route:	Way



The ancient church was associated with the Order of Saint James and its mother church of San Marcos in León. The current church is a modern construction although the interior houses a 17th century altarpiece that has recently been restored by Castilla y León's Historical Heritage Foundation, and features two sculptures of Saint Peter and Saint John the Baptist.

## ESTACIÓN DE VILLADANGOS:

Altitude:	896 m
Distance from Villadangos del Páramo:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way

**Link with the French Route:** Villadangos del Páramo.

This is a small village built around the railway station. Part of the municipality of Villadangos del Páramo, it is situated a couple of kilometres from the town of the same name, which offers the services and amenities for the area. The route taken by pilgrims who choose this

option is approximately one kilometre from this railway village.

## ALDONCINA DE LA VALDONCINA:

Altitude:	860 m
Distance from Chozas de Abajo:	5.9 km
Kind of route:	Way



With just 39 inhabitants, this is the smallest settlement in the municipality of Valverde de la Virgen. The route takes us along its main street.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Bartolomé**, former hermitage known as San Bartolo. In recent years it has undergone extensive alterations, and the belfry, one of the area's landmarks, was rebuilt in brick in 1926.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

- EL PAJAR DE ONCINA**  
Calle Arriba Nº 2  
☎ 677567309 (8 beds)  
✉ elpajardeoncina@gmail.com

- DOMUS ONCINAE FABIA Y ADRIANO**  
Real, sn y Real, 7  
☎ 606803957/ 656475026 (63 beds)  
🌐 www.domusoncinae.com  
✉ reservas@domusoncinae.com



Spire of the Church of San Bartolomé



Typical house in Chozas de Abajo

## CHOZAS DE ABAJO:

Altitude:	886 m
Distance from Villar de Mazarife:	3.9 km
Kind of route:	Way



This tiny hamlet of 89 inhabitants forms part of the municipality of Chozas de Abajo.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Martín de Tours.**



Monument to the pilgrim

## VILLAR DE MAZARIFE:

Altitude:	860 m
Distance from Villavante:	9 km
Kind of route:	Way



### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church dedicated to Saint James** boasting a six panel altarpiece. Three of the panels relate tales of the Apostle (two describe the removal of his body to Galicia and the third the Battle of Clavijo)

### ACCOMMODATION

#### FOR PILGRIMS:

- TÍO PEPE**  
El Teso  
☎ 987390517 (22 beds)  
🌐 www.alberguetiopepe.es  
✉ informacion@alberguetiopepe.es
- SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA**  
Leon, 33  
☎ 987390192 (54 beds)  
🌐 www.alberguesanantoniodepadua.com  
✉ alberguesanantoniodepadua@hotmail.com

### REST AREA:

The park has a fountain, trees and benches.



## ↑ VILLAVANTE:

Altitude:	875 m
Distance from Hospital de Órbigo:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



### Link with the French Route: Hospital de Órbigo

Villavante, with 226 inhabitants, is a farming and ranching town today. Every year, on the first Sunday in August, it is the venue of a bell ringers' festival.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of Las Candelas.** Although there is an inscription on the lintel of the door indicating the year 1695 as the beginning of its construction, at present only the sides of its cross-shaped floor plan date from the end of the 17th century and the rest is a construction from 1905. The rest of the building dates from 1905. The interior houses several images and carvings of intricately subtle and immense beauty such as the Ecce Homo or the Virgin of El Rosario. **Virgin of the Rosary.** There is an intriguing legend surrounding this dam that dates back to the days of Almanzor. This earth dam that restricts the flow of the river was built in the 17th century and today is the site of two ancient mills known as 'de Chinelas' and 'de Galochas'.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠	<b>SANTA LUCÍA</b>
	Doctor Velez, 17
☎	987389105 (28 beds).
🌐	www.alberguesantalucia.es
✉	alberguesantalucia@hotmail.com

👉 (We now return to the Route that is most popular with modern day pilgrims and from La Virgen del Camino follows the itinerary described below)

## VALVERDE DE LA VIRGEN:

Altitude:	887 m
Distance from San Miguel del Camino:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This municipality is situated on the N-120 Road. It has a population of 190 and until 1911 was known as Valverde del Camino.*



Spire and storks' nests

Pilgrims along the way San Miguel del Camino

## WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santa Engracia** Rebuilt in 1961, all that remains of the original church is the bell-fry at the head of the building, made up of two sections and which provides a nesting place for numerous storks.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠	<b>LA CASA DEL CAMINO</b>
	El Jano
☎	987303455 (20 beds).
✉	1pelutorre@gmail.com

## SAN MIGUEL DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	910 m
Distance from Villadangos del Páramo:	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This municipality, which has a population of 561 today, was first*

*documented in 1177, when it was mentioned that some of the town's residents became vassals of the Monastery of San Marcos de León.*

## WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Arcángel San Miguel.** The interior once held a 15th century image of Saint James which today can be seen in León Museum. **Cruz de Santiago.** An allegorical monolith, the work of Manuel Alonso de Quintanilla, made from stone and farming implements. The Cross is made up of four railings of Roman origin.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠	<b>LA CASA VERDE</b>
	Travesía La Estación, 8
☎	646879437 (8 beds).

## ↑ VILLADANGOS DEL PÁRAMO:

Altitude:	890 m
Distance from San Martín del Camino:	5 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This is one of the few places on the Pilgrims' Route where religious and festive activity is presided over by the figure of the Apostle Saint James. The church is dedicated to the Apostle, who is also the patron saint of the local festival.*





View of the door of the Church of Santiago

This was the site of the Battle of Villadangos in 1111, in which Alfonso I, the Battler, and Queen Doña Urraca, his wife, fought against each other and Alfonso Raimúrez, who was to become Alfonso VII, the Emperor, was miraculously saved.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santiago** (17th century). Worthy of note are the two polychrome bas-reliefs depicting the legendary victory of King Ramiro I of León over Abderramán II on the battlefields of Clavijo, thanks to the intervention of Saint James. Presiding over the central altarpiece is an image of Saint James the Moorslayer brandishing a sword and wearing a three-cornered hat.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### FOR PILGRIMS:

**MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF VILLADANGOS DEL PÁRAMO**

Plaza Mayor, 1  
☎ 987390003

#### REST AREA

Villadangos Lagoon, or 'the pond' as it is known locally, lies off the Benavides road on the way out of

the town. Today it is one of León's most important wetlands, boasting an extraordinary biological wealth and landscapes of spectacular beauty.

## SAN MARTÍN DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 870 m  
Distance from Hospital de Órbigo: 11 km  
Kind of route: Way



The municipality of 342 residents is distinguished in the distance by its curious, lollipop-shaped water tower. A dirt track brings pilgrims to this town which was mentioned in the donations made by Alphonse XI back in the early 13th century.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Martín.** A modern building built in the style of many similar churches to be seen throughout this area with an open portico on either side, and a stone and brick tower. The church



High altarpiece of the church

is presided over by a modern altarpiece that has reused interesting reliefs of the patron saint, San Martín de Tours, who shares his cloak with a pilgrim.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### FOR PILGRIMS:

**LA HUELLA**

El Peregrino  
☎ 640846063 - 640846063  
(49 beds).

✉ lahuelladelcaminoalbergue@gmail.com

**VIEIRA HOSTEL**

Avenida Peregrinos, S/N  
☎ 987378565 (44 beds).

**SANTA ANA**

Peregrinos  
☎ 654111509 (31 beds).  
✉ alberguesantaana17@gmail.com

#### NEARBY:

On passing through Puente de Órbigo we come to Hospital de Órbigo, which has a hostel:

**BnB PUENTE DE ÓRBIGO**

Regueron  
☎ 987374289 - 630149922  
(9 beds).

🌐 www.bnbcaminosantiago.com

✉ hola@bnbcaminosantiago.com

## HOSPITAL DE ÓRBIGO:

Altitude: 823 m  
Distance from Villares de Órbigo: 2.2 km  
Kind of route: Way



Bridge over the River Órbigo

Practically annexed to Puente de Órbigo, this village of 786 inhabitants is named after the pilgrims' hospital built by the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of Saint John. This enclave lies on the Cañada Real de la Plata, which links the livestock trails of Extremadura with the Babia region in León.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Gothic bridge from the 13th century**, known as Passo Honroso. Although the original structure was Roman, it has been restored on numerous occasions. A monument standing halfway across this bridge commemorates the battle fought for love by Suero de Quiñones, a knight of León in 1434. It has been an Asset of Cultural Interest since 1939 and is considered to be one of longest bridges on the entire Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. **Church of San Juan Bautista.** Like the ruins of the hospital, this temple, standing on the town's main streets, evokes the presence of the Knights Hospitaller. This imposing and well-cared for cruciform church has been rebuilt in modern style. The entrance boasts





a cross of the Order, similar in style to those to be seen in Navarre.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- VERDE HOSTEL**  
Fueros de León  
689927926 (28 beds).  
albergueverde@gmail.com
- SAN MIGUEL HOSTEL**  
Alvarez Vega, 35  
987388285 - 609723632 (30 beds).
- LA ENCINA**  
Av Suero de Quiñones, S/N  
987361087 - 606306836 (22 beds).  
www.complejolaribera.com  
segunramos@hotmail.com
- CASA DE LOS HIDALGOS**  
Alvarez Vega Nº 36  
699198755 (26 plazas)  
www.casadeloshidalgos.com  
info@casadeloshidalgos.com
- PARROCHIAL HOSTEL**  
KARL LEISNER  
Alvarez Vega, 32.  
987388444 - 661994238  
magotres@hotmail.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Municipality of Hospital de Órbigo.

Alvarez Vega, s/n.  
987 388 206.  
www.hospitaldelorbigo.com  
ayuntamiento@hospitaldeorbigo.com

### REST AREA:

There is a large wooded area with benches, tables and barbecues on the banks of the Órbigo upriver from the bridge

↑ (On leaving Hospital pilgrims have two options: the first is to follow the tracks that run parallel to the N-120 Road, taking us straight to San Justo de la Vega and which forms part of the traditional Pilgrims' Route; whilst the second is an alternative route that has appeared in recent years, taking us through the towns of Villares de Órbigo and Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias along farm tracks and paths which also eventually bring us to San Justo).

## VILLARES DE ÓRBIGO:

Altitude: 834 m  
Distance from Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias: 2.7 km  
Kind of route: Way



Church of Santiago

Opting for the right-hand or northern fork of these alternative routes will bring us to this town, along tracks that pass through fertile lands where tobacco, sugar beet and all types of vegetables are grown. This municipality has a population of 267 today.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santiago Apóstol.** This modern temple boasts several superb altarpieces where Count de Luna held the right of presentation. On the main altar, an image of Saint James the Moorlayer presides over the religious services.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- EL ENCANTO HOSTEL**  
Calle Santiago, 23  
987388126 - 682860210 (24 beds).
- VILLARES DE ÓRBIGO**  
El Arnal  
987132935 (26 beds).  
www.alberguevillaresdeorbigo.com  
info@alberguevillaresdeorbigo.com

## SANTIBÁÑEZ DE VALDEIGLESIAS:

Altitude: 816 m  
Distance to San Justo de la Vega: 8.1 km  
Kind of route: Way



Continuing along this route, we come to this village of 146 inhab-



Panoramic view of Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias

itants. After crossing the road and irrigation channel, we make our way up and down a gentle hill for some two kilometres along a tarmac track.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of La Trinidad** Inside we can see interesting statues of San Roch the Pilgrim and Saint James the Moorlayer.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- CAMINO FRANCÉS**  
Real, 68  
611793957 (16 beds).  
alberguecaminofrances@gmail.com
- L'ABILLEIRU**  
Real, 44  
615269057 (14 beds).  
labilleirucaminodesantiago@gmail.com

## SAN JUSTO DE LA VEGA:

Altitude: 845 m  
Distance from Astorga: 4 km  
Kind of route: Way



The Stone Cross of Santo Toribio, Bishop of Astorga, indicates





Cross of Santo Toribio

that we are nearing this village of 1,024 inhabitants. According to Jovellanos, in the late 18th century it was the site of a flourishing industry for the production of habits for Franciscan monks.

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Cross of Santo Toribio**, Bishop of Astorga in the fourth century, where there was also a hermitage dedicated to the saint until the 17th century. **Church of os Santos Justo y Pastor (16th century)**. This church has conserved the statue of San Justo made by Gregorio Español in the 16th century. The altarpiece is a recent work by the local artist Sendo.

#### REST AREA:

Before entering the village, at the place called 'El Crucero', there is a large area with benches and shade, together with an interesting spring called 'Tengo Sed' ('I'm Thirsty') and a sculpture of a pilgrim. After passing the village, on the right bank of the river, there is a large area with trees, tables, benches and barbecues.

## ASTORGA:

Altitude:	869 m
Distance from	
Murias de Rechivaldo:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This bustling town of 10632 inhabitants is the hub of the Maragatería region and the point where two pilgrims' routes converge: the French Route and the Silver Route. Its history dates back more than two thousand years and its historical centre has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, as have a further four monuments. It lies in the fertile meadows of the River Tuerto in a privileged geo-strategic location.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Cathedral.** 🏰 Begun in the late 15th century and completed in the 18th century. It is a blend of styles: Flamboyant Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque. Highlights include the 11th century Romanesque Virgin of La Majestad, the high altarpiece by Becerra, La Inmaculada by Gregorio Fernández, as well as the pulpit and choir stalls. **Episcopal Palace.** 🏠

Designed by the architect Antonio Gaudí and built in 1887. It houses the Pilgrims' Routes Museum and its interesting collection of medieval sculptures and Roman epigraphy. **Roman Wall.** Restored in the 13th century. **Roman Ergastulum.** 🏠 The restoration of this Roman-era building includes its recovery and adaptation as a **Roman Museum**, which



Astorga Cathedral



Bishop's Palace by Gaudí

houses the numerous pieces recovered from local archaeological excavations. There is also a **Roman route**, organised by the Municipality, that traverses the city. **Sanctuary of Fátima.** The magnificent Romanesque capitals are not to be missed. The interior contains several superb examples of plasterwork of the Astorga School. **Municipality.** 🏠 A 17th century Baroque building. Work began under the orders of the master craftsman Francisco de la Lastra.

It is a fine example of civil architecture, comparable with the former León Town Hall or the Town Halls of Valderas or Ponferrada. **Con-**



Monument to the traveller

**vent of Sancti Spiritus.** A closed convent built in the 16th century. The altarpieces date back to the 18th century. **Church of San Bartolomé.** This is the oldest church in the city. Constant alterations have resulted in an eclectic mix of styles and artwork dating back to various periods: traces can be seen of Mozarabic, Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque elements. **Chocolate Museum.** Opened in 1994, it is located in a modernist palace built in 1912, once the factory and residence of a local chocolatier. The collection displays all the necessary elements for the artisanal and industrial production of chocolate as well as its consumption. It contains an interesting assortment of labels, posters, packaging, etc.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **LEA**  
San Marcos, 7  
☎ 640176338 (25 beds).  
✉ alberguemyway@gmail.com
- 🏠 **SÓ POR HOJE**  
Rodríguez de Cela, 30  
☎ 690749853 (9 beds).  
🌐 www.soporhoje.com  
✉ soporhoje.1@hotmail.com





Walls and Bishop's Palace

### SAN JAVIER

Porteria, 6  
 987618532

### SIERVAS DE MARÍA

Plaza San Francisco, 3. (148 beds)  
 987616034 - 618271773  
 www.caminodesantiagoastorga.com  
 asociacion@caminodesantiagoastorga.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office.  
 Plaza Eduardo Castro, 5.  
 987 618 222 - 635 682 049.  
 turismo@astorga.es

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Astorga and the region  
 Plaza de San Francisco, 3.  
 (+34) 618 271 773.  
 asociacion@caminodesantiagoastorga.com

### VALDEVIEJAS:

Altitude: 865 m  
 Distance to Murias from Rechivaldo: 1 km  
 Kind of route: Way



Taking the Astorga exit on the left side, we can visit the Hermitage of Ecce Homo, located in the town of Valdeiglesias. This municipality has a population of 131. It was constructed in the 16th century

along with a fountain that still generously offers its waters to the pilgrims who pass by.

### WHAT TO SEE:

In the village, there is the Church of San Verísimo, a saint martyred in Lisbon in the early 4th century. This town already had a pilgrim hospital in the 15th century belonging to the Brotherhood of Martyrs of Astorga.

### REST AREAS:

To the left of the route, beside the Ecce Homo shrine, there is an area with grass, shade, tables, benches and the shrine's nearby fountain.

### MURIAS DE RECHIVALDO:

Altitude: 802 m  
 Distance to Santa Catalina de Somoza: 4.8 km  
 Kind of route: Way



We are now in the heart of the large area known as Maragatería from where the Pilgrims' Route will take us into the Bierzo region. The itinerary runs along either side of the main street of this town of only 112 inhabitants, and there are several stone crosses marking the Pilgrims' Route. Since 1991 this small municipality has boasted a traditional puppet workshop, aimed at promoting the recovery of popular traditions.



Church of San Esteban


### WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Esteban (18th century). A belfry stands at the base. The entry is protected by a colonnaded porch. Inside is an image of San Roch the Pilgrim. Flour Mill (18th century).

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

 LAS AGUEDAS  
 Camino de Santiago, 52  
 987691234 - 636067840 (40 beds).  
 www.lasaguedas.com  
 lasaguedas@yahoo.es

### LA JUNTA VECINAL HOSTEL

Ctra. Santa Colomba, s/n.  
 638433716 (8 beds)

### REST AREAS:

There are several rest areas including La Huerta de La Taberna, situated opposite the local hostel which provides excellent shade, as well as benches and tables, and the popular area known as El Pino.

### NEARBY:

Although not actually on the Pilgrims' Route, from Murias it's well worth taking the time to visit the nearby municipality of Castrillo de los Polvazares. Declared a Histor-

ical-Artistic Site, it is the finest example of a Maragatería town, with Baroque and 19th century buildings and immortalised by Concha Espina in her novel 'La Esfinge Maragata'.

### SANTA CATALINA DE SOMOZA:

Altitude: 997 m  
 Distance from El Ganso: 4.2 km  
 Kind of route: Track



The village of 47 inhabitants grew from the Hospital of Yuso, whose remains were located on the site called Huerta del Hospital. This was the birthplace of Aquilino Pastor, Head Drummer of La Maragatería. A bust of said character by the sculptor Muñiz Alique has stood as a reminder of him since 1986.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María The interior houses the relics of Saint Blaise, the local patron saint.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

 EL CAMINANTE HOSTEL  
 Calle Real 2  
 987691098 (39 beds).  
 www.elcaminante.es  
 elcaminante.ctr@gmail.com

### REST AREAS:

There are rest areas for pilgrims offering tables, benches and wood-ed areas both at the entrance and on the way out of this small country village.





Entrance to the village via the Camino.



Street on the Route in El Ganso



Church of La Asunción

## EL GANSO:

Altitude:	1,013 m
Distance from Rabanal del Camino:	6.5 km
Kind of route:	Track



Back in the 12th century this was the site of both a hospital and monastery. Here we can still see several examples of ancient thatched roof dwellings, very similar to those known as pallozas.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of Santiago** The Chapel of El Cristo de los Peregrinos is situated in the atrium.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- LA BARRACA**  
Real, S/N  
☎ 987691808 - 628635819  
(10 beds).
- GABINO**  
Real, 9  
☎ 660912823 (24 beds).

### REST AREA:

Just outside the village there is a 'modern' area with tables, benches and trees.

## RABANAL DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	1149 m
Distance from Foncebadón:	5.7 km
Kind of route:	Way



This is the end of the ninth stage described in the famous *Codex Calixtinus*. At the entrance to the village stands a huge oak known as the 'Pilgrims' Tree'. This was once an important stopping place on the Pilgrims' Route, with several hospitals and churches and the final stage before embarking on the climb up to Mount Irago. Today, the village has 74 inhabitants.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Chapel of the Bendito Cristo de la Vera Cruz.** This 18th century construction today presides over the cemetery. **Chapel of San José (18th century).** The interior has an image of the Apostle Saint James. **Parish Church of La Asunción.**

All that remains of the original 12th century building is the Romanesque apse with three bow windows. Slate and sandstone ashlar were used in the con-

struction of this fine example of rural Romanesque architecture. It has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- LA SENDA**  
Real, s/n  
☎ 620542247 (95 beds).  
🌐 [www.alberguelasenda.com](http://www.alberguelasenda.com)  
✉ [alberguelasenda@hotmail.com](mailto:alberguelasenda@hotmail.com)
- MUNICIPAL HOSTEL**  
Jeronimo Morán Alonso, S/N  
☎ 655274613 (32 beds)  
✉ [municipalrabanalbergue@gmail.com](mailto:municipalrabanalbergue@gmail.com)
- EL PILAR**  
Pza. Jerónimo Morán Alonso, s/n  
☎ 987631621

## FONCEBADÓN:

Altitude:	1439 km.
Distance from Manjarín:	4.1 km
Kind of route:	Way



The route from Rabanal to this spot takes us through a large mountainous area of woods and meadows. Today Foncebadón is practically deserted, with 27

residents. It was founded by the hermit Gaucelmo, who built the pilgrims' hospital between the 11th and 12th centuries.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Cruz de Ferro.** This is perhaps the simplest yet most emotive monument to be seen anywhere on the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago. Here we can see a 1976 reproduction of the original iron cross, which for security reasons is now kept in the Pilgrims' Routes Museum in Astorga.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- EL CONVENTO DE FONCEBADÓN**  
Calle Real, S/N  
☎ 987053934 (24 beds).  
✉ [elconventodefoncebadon@gmail.com](mailto:elconventodefoncebadon@gmail.com)
- LA CRUZ DE FIERRO**  
Real  
☎ 699752144 (34 beds).  
✉ [alberguelacruzdefierro77@hotmail.com](mailto:alberguelacruzdefierro77@hotmail.com)



Cruz de Ferro





**LA POSADA DEL DRUIDA**

Real, S/N  
696820136 (18 beds).

**MONTE IRAGO**

Real, S/N  
657404177

**PARROCHIAL HOSTEL  
DOMUS DEI**

Real, s/n (18 beds)  
✉ peregrinosflue@terra.com

**ACCESSIBLE SECTION:**

From La Cruz de Ferro and for a kilometre, the route is accessible for disabled people.

**MANJARÍN:**

Altitude: 1145 m  
Distance from El Acebo: 6.9 km  
Kind of route: Track



The first mention of this now abandoned town that once boasted a pilgrims' hospital dates back to 1180. Practically all that remains today is the cemetery. In appearance, it is similar to many of those towns to be found along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.

**ACEBO:**

Altitude: 1200 m  
Distance from Riego de Ambrós: 3 km  
Kind of route: Track



On entering this village of 52 inhabitants, a stone cross and the Hermitage of San Roque will greet travellers, who may slake their thirst in the fountain known as the 'Fuente de la Trucha'.



Cross belonging to Manjarín



Monument to the fallen pilgrim Heinrich Krause



Typical houses in Riego de Ambrós

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of San Miguel.** Inside, it houses a polychrome stone sculpture attributed to St. James. The figure is adorned with a tunic decorated with fleurs-de-lis. **Monument by Heinrich Krause.** This simple monument standing on the road leading out of the village was erected in 1988 in memory of this German pilgrim who died whilst cycling along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.

**ACCOMMODATION  
FOR PILGRIMS:****LA CASA DEL PEREGRINO**

Carretera de Compludo, S/N  
987057793 (95 beds).  
www.alberguelacasadelperegrino.es  
✉ lacasadelperegrino@gmail.com

**EL ACEBO**

Calle La Cruz 6  
987985000

**REST AREA:** In La Era Park.

**NEARBY:**

Although not actually on the Pilgrim's Route, a visit to the medieval blacksmith's at Compludo is highly recommended.  
987 695 421

**RIEGO DE AMBRÓS:**

Altitude: 920 m  
Distance from Molinaseca: 4.3 km  
Kind of route: Track



From this tiny village of only 42 inhabitants, which lies in a hollow, we can admire a landscape dotted with chestnut trees. This village lies at the point where the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, on its way to Molinaseca, leaves the Malpaso road.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of Santa María Magdalena.** This temple boasts a magnificent Baroque altarpiece, dating back to 1706 and the work of Pedro Santín. **Hermitage of San Sebastián.**

**REST AREA:**

Next to the parish church. It has tables, benches and a fountain.

**ACCOMMODATION****FOR PILGRIMS:****LOCAL COUNCIL HOSTEL**

Real, s/n  
987640376118 (28 beds).  
✉ valdcarrizo@gmail.com

**MOLINASECA:**

Altitude: 595 m  
Distance from Campo: 4.4 km



The medieval road takes us from Riego de Ambrós to Molinaseca across the two bridges known as the Puentes del Malpaso. Access to the town is via the Calle Real, which follows the Pilgrims' Route. This town has been declared a Historical Site and has 637 inhabitants.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of San Nicolás de Bari.** This Neoclassical building dates back to the 17th century and has three naves and a graceful tower. Inside, there is a magnificent Baroque altarpiece by Pedro Núñez de Losada. The superb sculpture of Christ





Medieval bridge in Molinaseca



Hermitage of La Quinta Angustia

on the Cross (1300-1340) is one of the most outstanding figures. **Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de la Quinta Angustia (18th century).** An eye-catching Baroque building crowned by a lantern. The high altarpiece presides over the presbytery and is attributed to the Galician artist Baltasar Seoane.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

##### COMPOSTELA

- La Iglesia
- 616066091 (32 beds).
- alberguecompostela@hotmail.com

##### SANTA MARINA

- Manuel Fraga
- 987453077 - 615302390 (48 beds).
- alfredomolinaseca@hotmail.com

##### SEÑOR OSO

- Calle Real 43
- 661761970 (16 beds).
- luckymiranda@hotmail.com

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Tourist Information Office.
- Town Hall.
- 987 453 085
- ayto@molinaseca.org

#### CAMPO:

- Altitude: 555 m
- Distance from Ponferrada: 3.6 km
- Kind of route: Track



*Today, it is a quiet town of 813 inhabitants with a semi-monumental setting around the main square. It is practically annexed to the city of Ponferrada.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**School Chapel.** An 18th century chapel built under the patronage of the Marquis of Campoalegre. **Parish Church of San Blas.** A 17th century temple standing on a mound and surrounded by olive trees. It has three naves and a west façade with a semi-circular arch resting on pilasters that



Stately home in Campo

support a fronton featuring a vaulted niche.

#### NEARBY:

Close to Campo it's well worth taking the time to visit the Church of Santa María de Vizbayo which was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 1982.

#### PONFERRADA:

- Altitude: 541 m
- Distance from Columbrianos: 4.8 km
- Kind of route: Urban stretch



*The capital of the Bierzo region stands in a rocky area at the confluence of the rivers Sil and Boeza. Today the city has a population of 40,689 and has expanded along the right bank of the Sil, forming a busy administrative and commercial city. The Knights Templar Castle is the only monument in Ponferrada to have been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Basilica of Nuestra Señora de La Encina.** Work began in the 16th century on this church, which was later raised to the status of a basilica. In 1958, the Virgin of La Encina was declared the patron saint of the Bierzo region. **Knights Templar Castle.** Ferdinand II of León repopulated the town and gave it to the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem in 1185, although the order was expelled in 1312. In 1924 it was declared a National Monument. The layout of the castle forms an irregular polygon. The main entrance to the castle has a silted drawbridge, and the façade features two fortified towers linked by a double rounded arch. **Clock Tower.** Built in the 16th century on one of the arches of the ancient medieval walls. The lower section is the oldest part, whilst the upper section dates back to 1693. It is topped by a capital with a slate roof. **La Reina Hospital.** A 15th century Baroque hospital founded by Queen Isabella the Catholic. This building has undergone extensive alteration work and today houses a health centre. **Church of San Andrés.** The original medieval church was replaced during the course of alteration work in later centuries. It has a magnificent tower topped with a pyramid-shaped roof. Inside is a Baroque altarpiece by José Ovalle and Andrés de Benavente





Knights Templar Castle



Panoramic view of Ponferrada





Basilica of La Virgen de la Encina





Hermitage of San Blas



and the 14th century image of the 'Cristo del Castillo'. **Church of las Concepcionistas.** Founded in 1524 by Don Álvaro Pérez de Osorio and his wife, it boasts a stone masonry façade. This superb single-nave church has a 16th century Mudejar roof. **Railway Museum.** Housed in the old station, it allows visitors to view various pieces, plans, and graphic material. It also displays the last steam locomotives that operated in Spain. **El Bierzo Museum:** This museum offers a detailed insight into the history of Ponferrada and El Bierzo Museum from the Palaeolithic Period to the early 20th century, and includes valuable exhibits of gold and silver work and a fascinating numismatics collection. **Luis del Olmo Radio Museum.** A large collection of wirelesses and the chance to learn about the history of the radio in Spain. **Municipality.** It bears similarities to the town halls of León and Astorga. This is a Baroque building with two side towers. It was designed by the Galician architect Pedro de Aren.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:


 **ALEA**  
Teleno, 33  
 987404133 - 660416251  
(18 beds).


 [www.alberguealea.com](http://www.alberguealea.com)  
 [info@alberguealea.com](mailto:info@alberguealea.com)

 **GUIANA HOSTEL**  
Avda Del Castillo, 112  
 987409327 - 609152037  
(102 beds).

 [www.albergueguiana.com](http://www.albergueguiana.com)  
 [info@albergueguiana.com](mailto:info@albergueguiana.com)

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourist Information Office.  
Gil y Carrasco, 4.  
 (+34) 987 424 236.  
[turismo@ponferrada.org](mailto:turismo@ponferrada.org)

Tourism Board of El Bierzo region.  
 (+34) 987 409 670.  
Avenida de la Minería, s/n,  
3ª planta.

Edificio Minero.  
 (+34) 987 423 551.  
[turismo@ccbierzo.com](mailto:turismo@ccbierzo.com)

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of El Bierzo  
Avda. del Castillo, 106  
(caseta de madera).  
 (+34) 987 419 283.  
[asociación@amigoscamnobierzo.org](mailto:asociación@amigoscamnobierzo.org).

### NEARBY:

From here we recommend a trip to the nearby Monastery of **Santo Tomás de las Ollas**.

### COLUMBRIANOS:

Altitude:	530 m
Distance from Fuentesnuevas:	2.8 km
Kind of route:	Road



*Traces of the ancient Pre-Roman fortified settlements can still be seen here. This annexe of Ponferrada has a population of 1378 and boasts several stately homes such as Tormaleo and Regalao, reminding us that Columbrianos was once a seat of power and wealth.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Esteban.** Standing a short distance from the town centre, this church dates back to 1778. The belfry was rebuilt in 1948 after it was struck by lightning, causing part of the structure to collapse. **Hermitage of San Blas.** This hermitage reminds us that this was once the site of a hospital providing care for ailing pilgrims. The interior boasts an 18th century image of the saint and a Baroque relief of the Virgin of La Encina. Also worthy of note are the **two images carved from the trunks of two elm trees**, which are common throughout this area. The first, standing in Plaza del Concejo, depicts a countrywoman carrying a basket on her head, a tribute by local sculptor Rixo to the female farm workers of the Bierzo region. The second is situated in Plaza de las Eras and represents a stork's nest and a child and reads 'Columbrianos'.



**ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:**

🏠 **SAN BLAS** (temporarily closed)  
San Blas, 5  
☎ 611614149  
(17 beds).

**FUENTES NUEVAS:**

Altitude: 513 m  
Distance from Camponaraya: 2 km  
Kind of route: Road



*Making our way along the Royal Route, and just four kilometres from Ponferrada, we come to Fuentes Nuevas, another annexe of Ponferrada with a population of some 2735. This is the site of Cantalobos, the first industrial estate to be built in the Bierzo region.*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Parish Church of Santa María** A rectangular church with a false cantilevered octagonal dome. There is a splendid chapel to the left of the nave. The high altarpiece stands out for the numerous caryatids and telamons surrounding the 18th century images of the Assumption, together with those of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Stephen. Also worthy of note are the Virgin of Las Candelas and the Crucifix on the water font. **Hermitage of the Campo del Divino Cristo.** Formerly "Ermita de La Vera Cruz", it has been completely lost. The original 'Hermitage of La Vera



Altarpiece in the Church of Santa María

Cruz' has completely disappeared, although the new modern hermitage is similar in size to the original and the belfry, built using stones from the original, is also similar and houses the original bell.

**ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:**

🏠 **NARAYA**  
Avda. Galicia, 506  
☎ 620256958/ 987459159  
(24 beds).  
🌐 [www.alberguenaraya.es](http://www.alberguenaraya.es)  
✉ [alberguenaraya@gmail.com](mailto:alberguenaraya@gmail.com)



Church of Santa María

**CAMPONARAYA:**

Altitude: 492 m  
Distance from Cacabelos: 5.7 km  
Kind of route: Way



*This village of 2945 inhabitants has been major reference on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago for many centuries and was mentioned for the first time in the late 15th century on Van Harff's Itinerary. It was apparently first inhabited when the neighbouring town of Naraya was abandoned. There is also documentary evidence of the first foreign pilgrim that passed through this village: Bishop Godescalco.*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Heraldic houses** bearing the coats of arms of the Quiñones and Uceda families, and the remains of the old priory of the Monastery of **Santa María de Carracedo**, **Parish Church of San Ildefonso**, **Chapel of the Virgin of Solitude**, and the recently opened **Vine and Wine Interpretation Centre**.

**REST AREA:**

On the way out of the town and next to a modern stone cross, there is an area with a fountain, benches, tables and pine wood trees. Next to the Hermitage of El Santo Apostol, on top of the hill, there is an area with oak trees, benches, tables and barbecues.



Urban stretch of Camponaraya

**CACABELOS:**

Altitude: 483 m  
Distance from Pieros: 3 km  
Kind of route: Road



*We reach Cacabelos by crossing the River Cúa which runs through the fertile lowlands of the Bierzo region. This Roman town, also the site of the ancient Ventosa Fortified Settlement, is referred to in ancient literature as Bergidum Flavium. It is also the centre of what is geographically known as the great valley of El Bierzo, and it currently has a population of 4224.*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

**Church of Santa María de la Plaza.** The Romanesque apse is all that remains of the original building, which was rebuilt in the 16th century. Inside is a 17th century Baroque image of the Virgin of La Asunción, of the





Hermitage of San Roque

Castilian School. **Sanctuary of Las Angustias.** Building with an 18th century façade. The interior of this building, which has an 18th century façade, houses an image of the patron saint, dressed in the style of 15th Castilian widows. Another unusual feature is the relief depicting Saint Anthony of Padua playing cards with the Christ Child. **Chapel of San Roque (15th century),** although well restored. **Cacabelos Archaeological Museum.** Definitely not to be missed when visiting this municipality, and considered the centre of the Bierzo region's flourishing wine industry. Set up in 1983 it houses numerous archaeological items, works of art and exhibits of ethnographic and anthropological interest. **El puente Mayor.** Built on the site of an earlier bridge, it has six ashlar vaults dating back

to the 16th and 18th centuries. It is one of the finest examples of this type of bridge to be found in the province of León.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- LA GALLEGA**  
Santa María, 23  
 987549476 (23 beds).  
 www.hostalgallega.com  
 hostalgallega@gmail.com
- MUNICIPAL HOSTEL**  
Plaza del Santuario, 9.  
 987547167 (70 beds)  
 alberguedecacabelos@gmail.com

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office. Museo M.A.R.C.A Las Angustias, 24.  
 (+34) 987 546 993.  
 turismo@cacabelos.org

### REST AREAS:

On the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago just before entering the municipality, in the area known as Campo de San Bartola.

### PIEROS:

Altitude:	528 m
Distance from Villafraanca del Bierzo:	4.1 km
Kind of route:	Road

*This small village of 38 inhabitants is characterised by gently rolling lands planted with vines, the typical landscape in this*

*part of the Bierzo region, which depends heavily on its flourishing wine industry. This village grew up around the 11th century parish church which was consecrated by Osmundo, Bishop of Astorga.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

To the left of **Castro Ventosa** and the village, on a small hill, stands the **Church of San Martín de Pteros**, with its Latin cross layout. This medieval church was consecrated by Osmundo, Bishop of Astorga, in 1086. The perimeter walls date back to this period, as do the northern façade and the foundation stone, whilst the rest of the church was built during the 16th and 17th centuries. Inside, particularly worthy of note is the splendid figure of Saint Martin on horseback and a Romanesque short canon carving.



Church of San Martin

### REST AREAS:

Situated one kilometre outside Cacabelos, just before reaching Pteros.

### VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO:

Altitude:	509 m
Distance from Pereje:	5 km
Kind of route:	Way

*This town forms part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and is located at the confluence of the rivers Valcarce and Burbia. It is the historical centre of El Bierzo par excellence and its artistic heritage includes six Sites of Cultural Interest and the designation of the old part of the town as a Historical Site. It was briefly capital of the fifth province of Galicia in 1822. The town today has 2181 inhabitants*

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Francisco.** Its 13th-century Romanesque front is worthy of particular mention, together with the Mudejar-style coffered ceiling above the nave. A fire in 1968 destroyed the church archives. **Church of Santiago.** Romanesque from the 12th century. The authentic treasure of this church is the Door of Pardon situated on the side façade facing north. It was restored in 1958 under the orders of the architect Ramón Cañas del Río. The Door of Pardon takes its name





Palace of the Marquis of Villafranca



Church of Santiago



San Nicolás el Real

because pilgrims who were unable to continue on to Compostela obtained and still obtain today the same indulgences as they do at the apostle's tomb. **Castle Palace of the Marquises.** 🏰 Rectangular-shaped, its construction began in the early 16th century. During the Peninsular War, it was affected by a great fire, but the original towers survived and it was refurbished in the middle of the 19th century. **Convent of La Anunciada.** Founded by the fifth Marquis of Villafranca, Pedro de Toledo y Colonna. It has a collection of Flemish paintings from the beginning of the 17th century, known as 'Los Ermitaños de la Anunciada'. **Convent of San José.** Founded in the 17th century by the Canon of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Don Luis de Castro, the interior boasts a splendid Baroque altarpiece, the work of José Ovalle, Andrés de Benavente and Isidro Valcarce. **Collegiate Church of Santa María.** 🏰 It stands on the site formerly occupied by the Monastery of Santa María de Cluniaco or Cruñego. Built

in the 16th century, it belongs to the late Gothic style with Plateresque elements. **San Nicolás el Real.** 🏰 This was once a Jesuit convent, but today it is run by the Paulist Fathers. It is of Italian Baroque style. Inside, it has a noteworthy Churrigueresque-style altarpiece, Baroque cloister and a statue of the patron saint of Villafranca: The Christ of La Esperanza. **Calle del Agua.** On this street we can admire the palaces of Torquemada and Álvarez de Toledo and the Chapel of Omañas. It is also the birthplace of Fray Martín Sarmiento and the novelist Gil y Carrasco. **Convent of La Concepción.** Founded by Don Pedro de Toledo and Doña María Osorio. For a brief period between 1868 and 1892 it was used as a prison, before being restored to its original use. **Monastery of San Francisco.** 🏰 Its 13th-century Romanesque front is worthy of particular mention, together with the Mudejar-style coffered ceiling above the nave, the Gothic upper end from the 15th century and chapels from the 16th. It is the burial place of interesting

characters, such as Gil y Carrasco, a Romantic poet from the 19th century. **Church of San Juan or San Fiz de Viso.** 🏰 Built on the site of a Roman cistern, it is in keeping with the rural Romanesque style of the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- 🏠 **VIÑA FEMITA (TEMPORARILY CLOSED)**  
Avda. Calvo Sotelo, 2  
📞 987542490 (32 beds).
- 🏠 **EL CASTILLO**  
El Castillo  
📞 987540344 - 622674676  
(16 beds).  
📧 www.elcastillovillafranca.es  
reservas@elcastillovillafranca.es  
soniacarbonel142@gmail.com
- 🏠 **LA YEDRA**  
La Yedra, 9  
📞 636586872 (18 beds).  
✉ alberguelayedra@gmail.com
- 🏠 **LEO**  
C/Ribadeo, N° 10  
📞 658049244 (24 beds).  
📧 www.albergueleo.com  
info@albergueleo.com

- 🏠 **LA PIEDRA**  
Espíritu Santo, 14  
📞 987540260 (20 beds).  
📧 www.alberguedelapiedra.com  
info@alberguedelapiedra.com
- 🏠 **VENECIA HOSTEL**  
Peña Picón  
📞 629206074 (14 beds).  
📧 www.alojamientovillafranca.es  
info@alojamientovillafranca.es
- 🏠 **SAN NICOLÁS EL REAL**  
San Nicolás, 4  
📞 987566529  
📧 www.sannicolaselreal.com
- 🏠 **MUNICIPAL HOSTEL**  
Campo de la Gallina, s/n  
📞 987542356 (50 beds)  
📧 www.villafrancadelbierzo.org/albergue  
turismo@villafrancadelbierzo.org

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourism Office  
Avda. Bernardo Díez Ovelar.  
📞 987 540 028.  
turismo@villafrancadelbierzo.org

#### REST AREA:

There is a pleasant rest area for pilgrims with tables and benches close to the municipal hostel.

#### PEREJE:

Altitude: 542 m  
Distance from Trabadelo: 5.5 km  
Kind of route: Way



*The first place we come to on leaving Villafranca and following the course of the River Valcarce along the N-VI Main Road is*





The Route through the area of Pereje

*Pereje, which still conserves part of its medieval layout. This small village, belonging to the municipality of Trabadelo, has a population of around 32 and a stunningly beautiful setting that forms its principal tourist attraction. In 1118 it was given to Cebreiro by Queen Urraca, and remained part of its dominions until the 19th century.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Pilgrim's Church and Hospital.** The construction of these buildings led to a major dispute between the houses of Cluny in Santa María de Cruñego de Villafranca and Aurillac del Cebreiro. It was so serious that Alphonse IX of León, Queen Urraca and Pope Urban II also became embroiled in the conflict. The hospital provided much welcome relief to those pilgrims unable to make the climb up to Cebreiro in snowy conditions.

#### REST AREAS:

A special hard shoulder has been created for pilgrims running parallel to the main road, which includes two modern rest areas with benches and tables.

#### TRABADELO:

Altitude:	578 m
Distance from Portela de Valcarce:	3.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



*At Trabadelo we rejoin the N-VI Main Road. This village was repopulated by Bishop Gelmírez and formed part of the domains of the Church of Santiago de Compostela. Today, this small town has a population of 32.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church of San Nicolás.** A simple yet impeccable church



Church of San Nicolás

housing a tiny medieval seated image of the Virgin and Child. The Baroque altarpiece is the work of López de Sisto. **Basilica of Nuestra Señora de La Asunción.** Despite being of secular patronage, it has an altar and altar stone.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### FOR PILGRIMS:

##### CRISPETA

Camino de Santiago, 1  
620329386 - 696978653  
(30 plazas).

osarroxos@gmail.com

##### CAMINO Y LEYENDA HOSTEL

Camino de Santiago  
602321154 (14 beds).

alberguecaminoyleyenda@gmail.com

##### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL OF TRABADELO

Camino de Santiago, S/N  
987566413 (28 beds).

##### CASA SUSI HOSTEL

Calle Camino de Santiago 25  
683278778 (10 beds)

alberguecasasusi@gmail.com

##### PARROCHIAL HOSTEL

La Iglesia, s/n  
624674904 (22 beds)  
www.albergueparroquialtrabadelo.com  
fcraya@hotmail.com

#### NEARBY:

In the town of **A Pradela de Trabadelo** there is a hostel:

##### LAMAS HOSTEL

Calella s/n. (10 beds)  
987 036 744 - 677 569 764  
miguellamaspra@gmail.com

## LA PORTELA DE VALCARCE:

Altitude:	580 m
Distance from Ambasmestas:	1.4 km
Kind of route:	Way



The River Valcarce as it runs past La Portela

*In the narrow valley of Valcarce, the name of this town on the route to Santiago is understood. Portela means "small pass" or "narrow pass" in Galician. It was originally known as Portela de Vallecanceris and formed part of the dominions of the Monastery of Carracedo. Today, this village has only 19 residents.*

#### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Juan Bautista.** Of modest merit and great simplicity. **The Portela forge.** Situated five kilometres outside the town, this is one of the best-conserved

blacksmith's in the Bierzo region apart from the one in Compludo. Built by Nemesio Fernández in the 19th century, the various facilities are all in excellent condition. Particularly worthy of note are the mansion, the coal cellar, the forge, the press and anvil, as well as the stables and mill.



Panoramic view of the town



Castle of Sarracin



Church of San Juan Bautista (Ruitelán)

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

### EL PEREGRINO

- 🏠 Camino de Santiago, 5.
- ☎ 987543197 (28 beds)
- 🌐 [www.laportela.com](http://www.laportela.com)
- ✉ [reservas@laportela.com](mailto:reservas@laportela.com)

## AMBASMENTAS:

Altitude:	605 m
Distance from Vega de Valcarce:	2.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



Just one kilometre from Portela, at the point where the Balboa River flows into the Valcárcel, lies this municipality with 40 inhabitants. Indeed, the name refers to this confluence. Remains of the ancient Roman road can be seen here.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Pedro.** A simple construction with a typical, local-style spire.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

### CAMYNOS

- 🏠 Antigua Ctra. Nacional VI, 43
- ☎ 629743124 (10 beds)
- 🌐 [www.camynos.es](http://www.camynos.es)
- ✉ [camynos@gmail.com](mailto:camynos@gmail.com)

### REST AREA:

Behind the church, next to the river is a pleasant spot offering welcome shade, a potable water fountain, tables, benches and a barbecue.

## VEGA DE VALCARCE:

Altitude:	631 m
Distance from Ruitelán:	1.7 km
Kind of route:	Way



The municipality of 210 inhabitants lies between the Veiga Fortified Settlement, of which no traces remain, and Castrosarracín, referred to by Aymeric Picaud in his guide as Castro

*Sarracenicum*, and founded in the 9th century by Sarraceno, Count of Astorga and Bierzo. It is the principle centre of population in Valcarce Valley and occupies a privileged spot.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Castle of Sarracín** 🏰. Located on an elevation that towers above the valley, as if it still wanted to protect the municipality, this building was constructed between the 14th and 15th centuries. It was built with slate masonry. Traditional 'palloza' round thatched dwelling and an unusual sculpture made from tree trunks that looks like a giant. **Church of la Magdalena**, Roman bridges, **Veiga Fortified Settlement**.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

### MUNICIPAL HOSTEL

- 🏠 Pandelo, s/h
- ☎ 601501687- 987543006 (64 beds).
- ✉ [alberguemunicipalvegadevalcarce@gmail.com](mailto:alberguemunicipalvegadevalcarce@gmail.com)

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Municipality of Vega de Valcarce. Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1
- ☎ 987 543 006 - 987 543 248
- [www.vegadevalcarce.net](http://www.vegadevalcarce.net)

## RUITELÁN:

Altitude:	690 m
Distance from Las Herrerías:	1.1 km
Kind of route:	Way



Very close to Vega is the small village of 20 inhabitants. It is Ruitelán, situated along the Camino de Santiago on the left bank of the Valcárcel River.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Parish Church de San Juan Bautista.** Built prior to the 15th century and covered with a stone barrel vault. **Hermitage of San Froilán.** Of considerable historical and anthropological interest, this building marks the spot where tradition has it that Saint Froilán, one of the patron saints of Lugo, spent the night in a cave after his donkey was devoured by a wolf.





## LAS HERRERÍAS:

Altitude: 675 m  
Distance from Hospital: 1 km  
Kind of route: Way



This spot is the *Salvaterra* described by Laffi and very possibly Aymeric's *Villaus*. In 1178, the Church of Santiago de Compostela set up a hospital here for the English. This small town has 32 residents today.



Roman bridge in Las Herrerías



Monument to the pilgrim



Pilgrims' spring

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Roman bridge of Santa Ana** This church boasts a nave covered by a spectacular ceiling with a coffered central panel and gables. The images on display in the interior include a 16th century figure of Christ and a Baroque statue of Saint Julian.

**Roman bridge** Crossing the River Valcárce, it was partially rebuilt during the 15th century. On leaving the town, just before the bridge, there is a modern, eye-catching fountain that replaced the former **Quiñones Fountain**, which, according to local tradition, is linked to Don Suero, the fearless contender at Passo Honroso.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**CASA LIXIA**  
Camino de Santiago  
987134915 (40 beds).  
www.casalixa.com  
info@casalixa.com

### REST AREA:

Situated on the road leading out of the town, the Fountain of Don Suero referred to above is set in an area offering welcome shade, as well as tables, benches and a barbecue.

### HOSPITAL:

Altitude 790 m  
Distance from La Faba: 2.6 km  
Kind of route: Way



The name of this tiny hamlet comes from the English hospital that is mentioned in documents dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, and which was used by the English King of the House of Plantagenet, Henry II, during his pilgrimage to Santiago.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Remains of the church and the pilgrims' cemetery can still be seen.

### REST AREA:

In the centre of the village, there is a large area with trees, tables, benches and barbecues.

### LA FABA:

Altitude: 917 m  
Distance from Laguna de Castilla: 2.3 km  
Kind of route: Way



Mention was made of this village of 29 residents as far back as 1252, albeit under the name of *Villa de Urz* or *Villa de Us*. It is just one of many villages scattered around these rolling hills covered with thick vegetation. The houses line the slope leading up to Mount Traviesa.

### WHAT TO SEE:

**Church of San Andrés.** Rebuilt in the 18th century.

## LA LAGUNA:

Altitude: 1 100 m  
Distance from Cebreiro: 2.4 km  
Kind of route: Way



With 25 inhabitants, this is the last village in the province of León and the end of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León. It is the prelude to the climb up to Cebreiro.

### WHAT TO SEE:

The spectacular landscape is its greatest attraction. Just a stone's throw away lies the 'mons Zeberium', Cebreiro, and the gateway to Galicia.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

**LA ESCUELA**  
Santiago, 5  
987684786 - 619479238  
(46 beds).  
baralbergueescuela@hotmail.es

# Galicia

## O CEBREIRO:

Altitude: 1330 m  
Distance from Triacastela: 22 km



Church of Santa María

Embedded at the top of the Cebreiro mountain pass lies this historic village with its ancient round thatched stone dwellings known as pallozas, perfectly suited to the harsh mountain weather conditions. This village forms a picturesque ethnographic site huddled around the Sanctuary of Santa María.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Monastery of Santa María de OC ebreiro (9th century) Pallozas.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta en O Cebreiro-Piedrafita.  
Edificio de nueva planta.  
☎ 982 367 026 / 679 190 876.  
(100 beds).

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tourist Information Office of the Concello de Piedrafita do Cebreiro  
☎ (+34) 982 367 103.

The Way of Saint James Information Office in O Cebreiro.  
☎ (+34) 982 367 025.

## TRIACASTELA:

Altitude: 662 m  
Distance from 18 km (via San Xil)  
Sarria: 25 km (via Samos)



Triacastela - whose name apparently derives from "three castros" (pre-Roman settlements) - is already mentioned in the Codex Calixtinus as the endpoint of one of the stages of the Camino Francés. Hospitality was provided here, and there was even a prison for pilgrims; remnants of all these can still be found.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santiago (18th century)



Convent of La Magdalena



General view of Portomarín

## ACCOMMODATION

### FOR PILGRIMS:

Triacastela Hostel  
Rúa do Peregrino s/n  
☎ 660 396 811 - 982 548 087 (54 beds)  
✉ lacasadelperegrino@gmail.com

## SARRIA:

Altitude: 450 m  
Distance from Portomarín: 23.5 km



It was in this major town on the French Route that King Alfonso IX died whilst making the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in 1230.

### WHAT TO SEE:

Old quarter. Parish Church of El Salvador. Hospital of San Antonio. Convent of La Magdalena. Remains of the Fortress. (14th century) Church of Santa Mariña (19th century)

## ACCOMMODATION

### FOR PILGRIMS:

Hostel of the Xunta en Sarria.  
Mayor, 57. ☎ 686 744 047.  
(33 beds).

Alma do Camiño Hostel.  
Calvo Sotelo, 199.  
☎ 942 876 768 (96 beds).

Monasterio de la Magdalena Hostel Avda. La Merced, 60.  
☎ 982 533 568 (110 places).

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Information Concello de Sarria.  
Vigo, 15. ☎ 982 530 099  
✉ turismo@sarria.es.

## PORTOMARÍN:

Altitude: 320 m  
Distance from Palas de Rei: 24.5 km



The original town of Portomarín disappeared under the waters of the reservoir that was built here in the 1960s. It was made up of the medieval boroughs of San Pedro and San Nicolás and boasted one of the best-known Roman-medieval bridges on the entire Pilgrims' Route. When the village was moved to its new site, care was taken to conserve several manor houses and the Romanesque churches of San Pedro and San Nicolás.



**WHAT TO SEE:**

Church of San Nicolás. Façade of the Church of San Pedro (1182). Casa del Conde (16th century). Berbetoros Palace (17th century). Staircase and Chapel of las Nieves. Other highlights include the stunning natural landscapes, Miño Bridge and the Ethnography Museum.

**ACCOMMODATION****FOR PILGRIMS:**

Portomarin hostel.  
Condes de Fenosa, s/n.  
(88 beds).

Ferramenteiro Hostel.  
Chantada, 3.  
☎(+34) 982 545 360. (130 places).

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Tourist Information Office of the Concello de Portomarin.  
☎(+34) 982 545 070.  
www.concellodeportomarin.es

**PALAS DE REI:**

Altitude: 565 m  
Distance from Melide: 15 km



This town takes its name from an ancient royal palace that was said to have stood in this area. The French Route leaves Palas via Campo dos Romeiros, a traditional meeting point for pilgrims, where they regrouped after forming spontaneous clusters along the way.

**WHAT TO SEE:**

Temple of San Tirso.

**ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:**

Hostel of the Xunta en Palas de Rei. Avda. de Compostela, s/n.

☎982 380 090 (66 beds).

Hostel of the Xunta O Mato. O Mato, Casanova (15 beds)

Xunta Pilgrims' Pavilion.

Lugar de Os Chacotes, s/n. (100 beds).

San Marcos Hostel.

Travesía de la Iglesia, s/n.

☎982 380 711 (71 beds).

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Information Office of Concello de Palas de Rei  
Avda. de Compostela, 28.  
☎(+34) 982 380 001.

**MELIDE:**

Altitude: 457 m  
Distance from Arzúa: 17 km



The stretch between Leboreiro and Melide is one of the most beautiful on the entire Pilgrims' Route. In Melide, it takes us through the centre of a town with deeply-rooted associations with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. It was repopulated in the 13th century on the orders of Alphonse IX.



Medieval bridge in Arzúa

**WHAT TO SEE:**

Church of San Pedro. O Cruceiro de Melide. Parish Temple. Romanesque Church of Santa María Archaeological Museum. Terra de Melide Museum and the Parish Religious Art Museum.

*bouring quarry and carry it to the limestone furnaces in Castañeda, Arzúa, thereby contributing to the construction of Santiago Cathedral.*

**WHAT TO SEE:**

La Magdalena Chapel.

**ACCOMMODATION****FOR PILGRIMS:**

Hostel of Xunta in Melinde  
Rua San Antonio s/n.  
☎981 507 275 (136 beds).

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Tourist Office in the "Terra de Melide" Museum  
☎981 507 998

**ACCOMMODATION****FOR PILGRIMS:**

Vía Láctea Hostel  
(120 beds).  
Santiago Apóstol Hostel.  
(72 beds).  
Don Quijote Hostel  
(50 beds).

Pilgrim Hostel of Xunta in Arzúa.  
Cima do Lugar, 6 (56 beds).  
☎(+34) 981 500 455.

**ARZÚA:**

Altitude: 389 m  
Distancia from Arca (O Pino): 18 km



In the past it was traditional for pilgrims leaving Triacastela to pick up a stone from a neigh-

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Information Office.  
Concello de Palas de Rei.  
Avda. de Compostela, 28.  
☎(+34) 982 380 001.





Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela



Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home)

## ARCA (O PINO):

Altitude: 280 m  
Distance from Santiago de Compostela: 20 km



*O Pedrouzo is the main centre of the parish of Arca (O Pino). A service-oriented population at the foot of the N-547, it offers a varied range of hostelry. Throughout the year, livestock fairs, gastronomic festivals, equestrian shows, and concerts of popular bands or folk music are organised here.*

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Arca Hostel, O Pino. Lg de O Pedrouzo - Arca s/n (124 beds). ☎649 880 954

## SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:

Altitude: 260 m

*Once past Monte del Gozo, we can delight at the site of the 'New Jerusalem' – and the capital of the Autonomous Community of Galicia – Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims reach the cathedral via the district of San Lázaro, Rúa de San Pedro, Porta do Camiño, Rúa das Casas Reais and Plaza de Cervantes, before entering the Cathedral – provided that it is not a Holy Year - through the doorway situated in Plaza de la Inmaculada.*

### WHAT TO SEE:

Convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval. Church of Santa María del Camino. Ánimas Chapel (17th century). Church of San Benito. Convent of San Paio de Antealtares. A fascinating religious art museum. Cathedral. Gelmírez Palace. Hotel Reyes Católicos. Pazo de Raxoi. San Jerónimo College. Fonseca College. Casa del Cabildo. Casa del Deán. Casa de los Canónigos. Monastery of San Martiño Pinario.



Portico of La Gloria



San Martín Pinario in Santiago de Compostela

Convent of San Francisco. Church of San Miguel dos Agros. Convent of San Agustín. Church of San Fiz de Solovio. Church of Santa María Salomé. Collegiate Church of Santa María la Real de Sar.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Xunta Pilgrim's Hostel in Pedrouzo-Arca O Pino. (126 beds). ☎(+34) 686 744 055.  
Xunta Hostel on Monte do Gozo. ☎(+34) 981 558 942. (800 places).  
San Lázaro-Santiago Hostel. Rúa de San Lázaro. (80 beds).  
Minor Seminary Hostel. Belvis, s/n. ☎981 031 768. (200 beds).

Fin del Camino Hostel. Rúa Moscova, s/n. ☎981 587 324. (110 beds)

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Pilgrim Information Office (Xunta de Galicia). Rúa do Villar, 30-32. ☎981 584 081  
Xunta de Galicia Tourism Office. Rúa del Villar, 30-32. ☎(+34) 981 584 081.  
Tourist Information Office of Santiago. Rúa do Villar, 63. ☎(+34) 981 555 129.  
Pilgrim Welcome Office. (S. I. Catedral) Rúa do Villar, 1. ☎981 568 846

For more information on Pilgrim Welcome in Galicia:





## Associations of the Way of St James

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Burgos.  
Fernán González, 28.  
09004. Burgos.  
Phone: 947 268 386  
asociación@caminosantiagoburgos.com  
www.caminosantiagoburgos.com.

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Palencia and Centre for Studies and Documentation of the Way of Saint James  
Real Monasterio de San Zoilo.  
34120. Carrión de los Condes (Palencia).  
Phone: 979 880 902.  
info@bibliotecajacobea.org  
www.bibliotecajacobea.org

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Mansilla de las Mulas.  
Casa de Cultura. Plaza de San Martín, 1. 24210. Mansilla de las Mulas (León).  
www.amigoscaminomansilla.com.

Pulchra Leonina Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of León.  
Avda. Independencia, 2. 5º Izq.  
24001 León  
Phone: 987 260 530  
caminosantiagooleon@gmail.com

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of Astorga and the Region.  
Siervas de María  
Plaza de San Francisco, 3.  
24700. Astorga (León).  
Phone: 987 616 034 and 618 271 773  
association@caminodesantiagoastorga.com  
www.caminodesantiagoastorga.com.

Association of Friends of the Way of Saint James of El Bierzo  
Caseta de Madera (al lado del Crucero)  
Avda. del Castillo 106  
24400 Ponferrada  
Phone: 987 419 283  
asociacion@amigoscaminobierzo.org  
www.amigoscaminobierzo.org



## Useful addresses

### REGIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

[www.turismocastillayleon.com/caminoscyl](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com/caminoscyl)

#### ÁVILA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

San Segundo, 17.  
"Casa de las Carnicerías". 05001 Ávila  
Tel. 920 21 13 87  
oficinadeturismodeavila@jcyl.es

#### BURGOS TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Plaza Alonso Martínez 7 bajo  
09003 Burgos  
Tel. 947 20 31 25  
oficinadeturismodeburgos@jcyl.es

#### LEÓN TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Plaza de la Regla, 2. 24002 León  
Tel. 987 23 70 82  
oficinadeturismodeleon@jcyl.es

#### PALENCIA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Mayor, 31. 34001 Palencia  
Tel. 979 70 65 23  
oficinadeturismodepalencia@jcyl.es

#### SALAMANCA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Pza. Mayor 32, 37002 Salamanca  
Tel. 923 21 83 42  
información@turismodesalamanca.com

#### SEGOVIA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Plaza del Azoguejo, 1. 40001 Segovia  
Tel. 921 46 67 20  
info@turismodesegovia.

#### SORIA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Medinaceli, 2. 42003 Soria  
Tel. 975 21 20 52 - Fax. 975 22 12 89  
oficinadeturismodesoria@jcyl.es

#### VALLADOLID TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Pabellón de Cristal  
Acera de Recoletos s/n.  
47004 Valladolid  
Tel. 983 21 93 10  
oficinadeturismodevalladolid@jcyl.es

#### ZAMORA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Príncipe de Asturias, 1. 49012 Zamora  
Tel. 980 53 18 45  
oficinadeturismodezamora@jcyl.es

#### REGIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

Castilla y León Promotional Tourist Office at Madrid  
Alcalá 105 28009 Madrid  
Tel. 91 578 03 24  
oficinademadridfundacionsiglo@gmail.com



## PROVINCIAL TOURIST INFORMATION

### **SOCIETY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BURGOS**

Consulado del Mar.  
Paseo del Espolón 14. 09003 Burgos  
Tel. 947 06 19 29  
[www.turismoburgos.org](http://www.turismoburgos.org)

### **PROVINCIAL TOURISM CONSORTIUM OF LEÓN**

Edificio Torreón  
Pza. de la Regla s/n. 24002 León.  
Tel. 987 29 22 79  
[www.turisleon.com](http://www.turisleon.com)

### **PALENCIA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL TOURISM SERVICE**

Plaza de los Juzgados s/n, bajo.  
34001 Palencia.  
Tel. 673 050 077  
[www.palenciaturismo.es](http://www.palenciaturismo.es).

### **BIERZO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Avda. de la Minería s/n 3º Edificio Minero.  
24400 Ponferrada (León).  
Tel. 987 42 35 51  
[www.turismobierzo.es](http://www.turismobierzo.es)



[turismocastillayleon.com](http://turismocastillayleon.com)



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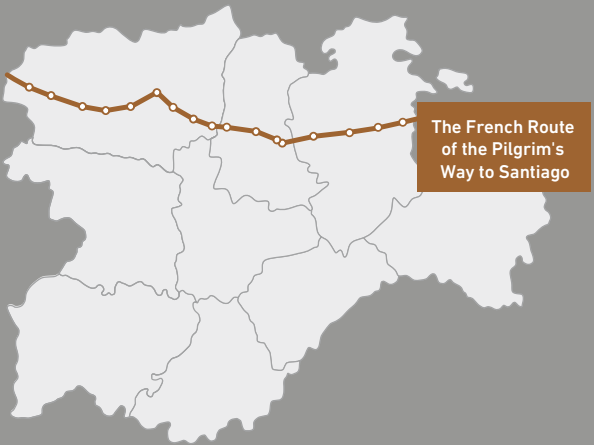
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Castilla y León**