

The Camino Guide – Camino Francés

How to use this guide....

How to calculate distances

Places with pilgrim accommodation have a heading like this:

22 Zubiri

The number on the left is the distances in kilometres from the last place with pilgrim accommodation. Use these numbers when calculating the length of stages. Other distances given in the text are only indicative.

Distances are hostel to hostel if there is only one hostel listed. Otherwise they're an approximation of the midpoint between hostels in a given place.

When two branches of the Camino rejoin the heading will be without a distance because this will vary depending on which branch you took. In these cases the distance will be given like this:

12km to Los Arcos

Formatting of information

Information is presented in the following text formats:

Information about the route and things you will meet between hostels are given in this format. Distances given in this format should be ignored when calculating distances between hostels.

Other information is in this format.

The following information is given about hostels: **whether it is private, religious, etc. (how many people it sleeps, the cost, opening dates – if none given then it's open all the time) its name, location.** Any other relevant information about the hostel. eg.

Private hostel (24, 10€, March to October) Albergue Zaldiko, on the right after you cross the bridge to enter the village.

When the Camino splits you will see a divider like this before the description of each branch:

LEFT ROUTE – 11KM

When the two branches rejoin you will see:

LEFT AND RIGHT ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

On the Camino....

Waymarkings

A map is not necessary on the Camino Francés. The route is marked by yellow arrows in such abundance that it is difficult to get lost. If you do manage to stray you will soon be accosted by complete strangers offering directions – or for non-Spanish speakers – to point you in the right direction.

In recent years some towns and cities have introduced "official" waymarkings – and obliterated the yellow arrows. These are usually (but not always) in the form of metal shells set into the ground.

Assumptions

Some of the hostels on this Camino are basic. However, unless otherwise stated, all of them have the following:

- Beds with mattresses
- Toilets
- Showers with hot water
- Drinking water
- Basic laundry facilities

If they have a kitchen or laundry facilities it will be mentioned. Laundry facilities means a washer and dryer.

Pilgrim hostels only admit people who have a Credencial and who are travelling by a permitted means (foot, bicycle, horse). In most of them lights-out is 2200. You must be inside by then or you may have to sleep outside.

Except on the last 100km, if it doesn't say that there's a shop/restaurant/café in the town/village then assume there isn't. Likewise, always assume there is no place to buy food or drinks between hostels. Even if there are shops and cafés never assume they'll be open (especially outside of peak season).

Notes

Hostels are listed in the order in which you will encounter them if you are walking the Camino from east to west.

Occasionally (and mostly in Galicia) private hostels operate high-season and low-season pricing. However, there have been instances of the high-season prices being charged in winter and for this reason only the high-season price is given in the guide.

Placenames used in the guide are those most commonly used on the ground. In France the French version is used rather than the Basque (*St Jean Pied de Port* instead of *Donibane Garazi*). Likewise in Navarra, which is officially bi-lingual, the Spanish is used (*Pamplona* instead of *Iruña*). In Galicia in recent years all new signposting is only in Galician, so all names are given in that language (*Alto do Poio*, etc.). Occasionally more than one version of a placename is in common use, in these cases both alternatives are given in the heading (*Fisterra / Finisterre*).

In winter many hostels close despite the fact that they claim to be open all year. This applies especially to small hostels and private hostels. So during December, January, February and March you will find many hostels closed which are listed in this guide (and other sources of information) as being open all year. However, even in winter larger towns usually have at least one open hostel and failing that there's always at least one enterprising individual to fill the gap. If you're stuck try asking in shops and cafés about alternative accommodation.

Measurement units

All distances are given in the metric system (kilometres and metres) and all times are given in the 24 hour clock (0900 = 9am, 1800 = 6pm). Most people walk an average of 4km an hour.

Version Control:

June 2011: new hostel in Roncesvalles, Villamayor de Monjardín

May 2011: San Juan de Ortega, Burgos, Boadilla

April 2011: Tardajos, Zubiri, Logroño, Ventosa, Burgos

March 2011: Various updates between Pamplona and Burgos including a new hostel in Ciriñuela and the youth hostel in Grañón.

January 2011: Municipal hostel Villava, Pamplona

December 2010: Santiago correction and new font (Verdana). New hostel in Melide.

August 2010: updates to Finisterre Camino including new hostels in Negreira, Vilaserio, Cee, Finisterre.

July 2010: Multiple updates (too numerous to mention) following my Camino 2010.

New hostels in: St Jean Pied de Port, Mañeru, Rabé de la Calzadas, Villalcázar de Sirga, Villares de Orbigo, Villafranca del Bierzo, La Faba, Portomarín, Palas de Rei, San Lázaro, Santiago, Torres del Río .

May 2010 update hostel Azofra.

April 2010 new over-flow hostel in Sahagún, two new hostels in Negreira. Update Municipal Hostel in Pamplona. Update San Bol.

March 2010 Misc price, services and route updates for the entire Camino. New hostels St Jean, Zubiri, Logroño, Viana, Sotés, Villambistia, Burgos, Hontanas, Rabé de la Calzada, Itero del Castillo, Frómista, Mansilla de la Mulas, San Martín del Camino, Foncebadón, Portomarín, Mongrade, Castañeda.

February 2010 Rabanal del Camino, La Virgen del Camino, change 'washing' for 'laundry', Melide, Negreira, Mercadoiro, Logroño, Santiago Seminario Menor opening for March, Lires river crossing, Honto.

January 2010 Additional route information for Pamplona, Burgos, León, Astorga, Ponferrada and Camponaraya. New hostel in Santiago. Melide hostel closed for renovation.

December 2009 Various updates Fisterra/Muxía, new hostels in Belorado, Pamplona, Samos, Portomarín, Maroñas and Fisterra. Change price format to Spanish style (eg 5€).

November 2009 Updates to Torres del Río, Logroño, Cirueña, El Burgo Ranero, Valverde de la Virgen, Trabadelo, Laguna de Castilla, Villafranca Montes de Oca, Marcadoira, Arzúa, all Xunta hostels will cost 5€ from 01/01/10

For older update history see the website.

St Jean Pied de Port

Municipal hostel (24, 8€ breakfast included, mid-March to mid-November) up *rue de la Citadelle* near the top of the hill on the left. If it's not open ask in the Pilgrims' Office.

Private hostel (18, 8€, April to September) *L'Esprit du Chemin* on *rue de la Citadelle* opposite the Pilgrims' Office. Communal evening meal, where pilgrims introduce themselves, and breakfast. They can also do you a picnic to take with you. Very positive reports for this hostel run by Dutch volunteers. Better to reserve in advance from their website www.espritduchemin.org

Private hostel (25, 10€) *Sur le Chemin – Au Chant du Coq* on *rue de la Citadelle*, just down from the Pilgrims' Office.

Private hostel (11, 15€) *Refuge Ultraia* at 8 *rue de la Citadelle*. Kitchen. Breakfast. Run by two ex-pilgrims. Reservations from their website: www.gite-pelerins-ultraia.fr

Private hostel (20, 12€) *Auberge le Chemin vers l'Etoile* on *rue d'Espagne* which is down the bottom of *rue de la Citadelle*. Laundry facilities, kitchen. They do evening meals and breakfast. Info: www.votregite.com

Private hostel (15, 15€) *Refuge Esponda* on *Place du Trinquet* in the centre of town. Kitchen.

The town has all the facilities you're likely to need. There is a wide variety of accommodation ranging from hostels to luxury hotels. Many hostels are on *rue de la Citadelle* in the old town which is about a 10 minute walk from the railway station. A town map outside the railway station is useful to get your bearings. The Pilgrims' Office *Accueil St Jacques* is also on *rue de la Citadelle* near the top. They can give you a *Credencial*, information and advice on weather conditions and help finding accommodation, etc. Open until 2200 in summer. If it's not open ask in the municipal hostel.

There's a *Champion* supermarket and a bank on *Avenue du Jaï Alai*, on *Place du Général de Gaulle* there's a *tourist information*, a pharmacy and a bank.

There are two routes between St Jean Pied de Port and Roncesvalles. The right route goes through the valley via Valcarlos and the left route goes over the mountains via Orisson. In winter it's important to ask in St Jean about weather conditions. Both routes are difficult in snow or high winds and the left route is often impassable in winter.

Leaving St Jean walk down *rue de la Citadelle*, under the arch at the river and up *rue d'Espagne*, continuing straight under another arch and up a hill for about 100m until you reach a junction with a small sign on a lamppost indicating the two routes.

RIGHT ROUTE – 25KM – VALCARLOS

After turning right on to this route continue straight to the main road which you follow to the left for about 500m until there is a signposted turn to the right down a side road. Follow the signs for Valcarlos/Luzaide and Roncevaux (French for Roncesvalles).

10km Arnéguy, this village (almost like a Basque Berlin) is divided by the the Spanish/French border. Shops, restaurant and café.

Between Arnéguy and Valcarlos there are two options either to go on the road *carretera* or via the village of Ondarolle. The road is less strenuous but also less attractive.

Entering Navarra and Spain

13 Valcarlos / Luzaide

Municipal hostel (24, 10€ with breakfast) on *Plaza de Santiago* on the ground floor of the school. Kitchen with microwave and coffee machine. If it's closed ask somebody in the village or call 948 790 189.

Shop, cafés, hotels and bank. There's an information point on the right on the main road.

Off-road parts of this route may be difficult in snow in which case it's advisable to follow the main road.

Ascending 800m and descending 100m to arrive in Roncesvalles after 12km from Valcarlos.

LEFT ROUTE – ROUTE NAPOLÉON – 26KM

There is a waymarked off-road alternative for the first stretch up towards Honto. To follow it take a right where the two routes divide and after about 400m take a left on to a small road. ATTENTION! This junction may not be properly signposted and if you miss it you'll end up in Valcarlos.

Ascends 300m to ...

4 Honto / Huntto

Private hostel (20, €13) *Auberge Ferme Ithurburia* to the left of the Camino. They have a bar and do an evening meal and breakfast. It's advisable to reserve (France) 05 59 37 11 17.

Ascends 250m to ...

3 Orisson

Private hostel (18, 30€ with evening meal and breakfast, April to October) *Refuge Orisson*. It's advisable to reserve in advance. They also do an evening meal. Telephone 05 59 49 13 03 or mobile 06 81 49 79 56 website: www.refuge-orisson.com Their café does snacks during the day. During peak times they rent spaces in tents.

Ascends 650m to the summit before descending 500m to Roncesvalles.

Entering Navarra and Spain

There are two options when descending into Roncesvalles, the one to the left is quite a steep descent, while the one to the right descends more gently, along a gravel road, but is slightly longer.

19km to Roncesvalles

LEFT AND RIGHT ROUTE REJOIN IN ...

Roncesvalles

Monastery hostel (183, 10€) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Roncesvalles* in a newly renovated part of the monastery, opened in March 2011. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. Opens at 1300. Stupendous, modern facilities. The old *Albergue Itzandegia* will still be used as an overflow.

Everything is grouped around the monastery. The Pilgrims' Office *Oficina de Información al Peregrino* is through one of the doors to the right of the main entrance to the monastery. They can give you a *Credencial*.

Two restaurants do pilgrim menus. During busy periods these restaurants operate an unusual system, you're supposed to go to the restaurant of your choice earlier in the evening to reserve for a specific time and to pay.

3km Burguete several cafés on the main street and off it but signposted, one where the Camino turns right, another one (also a bakery) is a little further on (after the Camino turns right), open for breakfast. Several guesthouses, a bank and a pharmacy.

The Camino takes an abrupt right turn at the red Santander sign. Then it's 3km more to Espinal, café, bakery and shop on the main street. And 6km more to Viskarret, café on main square, shop on your left when leaving the village. 2km to Linzoin where there's a community café which seems to only open in the evenings.

Parts of this stretch have been "improved" by being turned into a concrete path making it tiring to walk on and impossible in icy weather.

9km and 300m descent to...

22 Zubiri

Private hostel (24, 10€, March to October) *Albergue Zaldiko*, on the right after you cross the bridge to enter the village.

Private hostel (57, 20,50€ with breakfast, March to November) From the bridge, continue straight to the church and turn right on to the main road, *Avenida de Roncesvalles*, the hostel is on the right. Laundry facilities. They do an evening meal.

April 2011, the Municipal Hostel is reported closed for renovations ~~Municipal hostel (52, 6€) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Zubiri*. Continue along *Avenida de Roncesvalles* and it's on your left after about 200m. Kitchen, coin-operated internet and coffee machine.~~

Bar Baserri, on the square in front of the church does a pilgrim menu as does the restaurant, *Gau Txori*. To get to *Gau Txori* continue straight from the municipal hostel, away from the village, for about 400m until you reach a major road junction, it's opposite. The cafeteria in the sports centre *Polideportivo* may also do a pilgrim menu. You'll pass it on the way from the municipal hostel to *Gau Txori*.

The Camino turns left just before the bridge and doesn't actually enter Zubiri.

The route to Larrasoña is a couple of kilometres shorter if you walk along the main road. Advisable after wet weather.

The Camino by-passes Larrasoña.

5 Larrasoña

Municipal hostel (72, 6€) *Albergue de peregrinos del Concejo de Larrasoña* on *Calle San Nicolás*, near the church. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Mixed reports.

A café in the village may do meals – irregular opening hours.

Again the main road offers a shorter alternative towards Trinidad de Arre, if you choose to walk on the road be careful not to miss the place where the Camino crosses below the church of Zabadalika (this has changed recently).

11 Villava

Parish hostel (36, 6€) *Hermanos Maristas / Trinidad de Arre* in the building on your right as you cross the bridge over the river *Ultzama*. Kitchen. The hostel is in a beautiful, old building and has a nice, enclosed garden. They have a special arrangement with the local retirement centre *Centro de Jubilación* to provide a pilgrim menu. The retirement centre is on *Plaza Consistorial*. Follow the Camino markings towards Pamplona, the square is on your left after about 300m. Excellent food and very good value.

There is also a municipal hostel in Villava on *Calle Atarrabia*, however, as of January 2011 it is reported closed until further notice. The municipal hostel in Huarte, a couple of kilometres off the Camino, is still open but there have been mixed reports.

On the Camino through Villava there are shops and several cafés, which open for breakfast, a bank, a pharmacy and a municipal swimming pool.

In Trinidad de Arre another route called the Camino de Baztán joins the Camino Francés. The Camino de Baztán starts at the cathedral in Bayonne and takes about six days to arrive at this point. It is reported to be fully waymarked and there are a number of pilgrim hostels and other accommodation available. More information will be posted here as it becomes available.

It's suburban streets from here to Pamplona. All services available.

There are a number of possible ways to enter the city, the most popular crosses Puente de la Magdalena. When you come to the river (just after a roundabout with a fountain in the middle) turn right along a footpath at the side of the river which you follow straight until you see a "zig-zag" bridge,

which is the quickest way to Casa Paderborn, or continue straight along the riverbank to Puente de la Magdalena.

4 Pamplona

Private hostel (26, 5€, April to October) *Casa Paderborn*, run by German volunteers. Beside the river, turn left immediately after *Puente de la Magdalena*. Garden.

Municipal hostel (114, 5€, 16 January to 23 December, closed during San Fermín) *Jesús y María* on *Calle Compañía* near the cathedral. Kitchen. This hostel replaces the old one near the *Ayuntamiento*. Since April 2010 it is under the management of *Aspace*, an organisation which offers employment to people with special needs.

Youth hostel (96, 5€, Easter and 15 July to 15 September) *Albergue Juvenil Fuerte del Príncipe*. On *Calle Goroabe*, a little off the Camino. Laundry facilities and kitchen.

Private Hostel (30, 19€ including breakfast and towels) *Hostel Hemingway* on *Calle Amaia 26* in the new city not far past the bullring. Kitchen, internet and Wifi, laundry facilities. This hostel is open to everybody but this price applies to pilgrims with a *Credencial*. Tel 948 983 884 Web www.hostelhemingway.com

This is the first of the major cities through which the Camino passes, all services are available.

Café Iruña on *Plaza del Castillo* is a good place for coffee or tapas or their *menú del día*. Several restaurants on *Calle San Nicolás* do a cheap *menú del día*.

internet on *Calle Curia*. Tourist information on *Plaza San Francisco* gives out free maps of the city with the route of the Camino marked on it.

The famous running of the bulls *encierro* takes place here during the *San Fermín* festival from 7 to 14 July. During this time this otherwise pleasant and beautiful city becomes *Backpacker Hell*. The hostel may also be unavailable for pilgrims because the city rents it out to tourists at inflated prices.

If you need to forward excess luggage there's a Post Office *Correos* on *Paseo Sarasate*, just south west of *Plaza del Castillo*, open Monday to Friday 0830 to 2030 and Saturday 0930 to 1400. It can be forwarded to *poste restante* in Santiago, ask in the post office. A private travel agency in Santiago called the *Camino Travel Center* receives forwarded luggage. For details see their website www.caminotravelcenter.com

Leaving Pamplona you will pass through the campus of the University of Navarra which was founded by Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer who also founded *Opus Dei*. Further out near the edge of the city you will pass through the campus of the private University of Navarra which was founded by Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer who also founded *Opus Dei* (G). If you want to gain an insight into this organisation you can make a short detour to visit the statue of La Virgen del Camino. Turn right off the Camino when you see the CIMA building and, crossing the major road junction, pass between it and the building to its right and continue for 200m until there's a footpath going down to the left, follow this and you'll pass the grotto on your right. To rejoin the Camino just continue on this path down the hill.

If you get lost leaving Pamplona head for the Ciudadela fortress and the corner of Avenida del Ejército and Avenida del Pío XII. The path through the park is the Camino. Follow it out of the park on to Calle de la Fuente del Hierro.

Check out the CaminoGuide.net full guide to the Camino Francés at www.caminoguide.net/full

5 Cizur Menor

Order of Malta hostel (27, 5€, June to September) *Albergue Sanjuanista* beside the church on your left as you enter the village. Kitchen.

Private hostel (52, 7€) *Albergue Roncal* a little further up, turn right at the crossroads. Nice garden, kitchen, internet, vending machines for coffee, drinks and snacks.

The restaurant *Asador El Tremendo* in the hotel at the crossroads does a pilgrim menu. There's a small shop with limited stock on the Camino in the village.

Ascends 350m and descends 250m over the next 12km.

6 Zariquiegui / Zarikiegi

Private hostel (16, 10€ with breakfast, Easter to September) *El Albergue de Zariquiegui* on *Calle San Andrés*. Laundry facilities, microwaves, internet. Run by a friendly Spanish lady who provides TV-dinner type evening meals.

There are sometimes refreshments for sale at the top of the hill.

6 Uterga

Private hostel (18, 10€) *Camino del Perdón* on the left. Café and restaurant with pilgrim menu downstairs. Friendly hostel with good food.

2km Muruzábal, café / restaurant. Here you have the option of going right to go straight to Óbanos or left to go via Eunate.

RIGHT ROUTE – 3KM

This brings you straight to Óbanos

LEFT ROUTE – 5KM

2 Eunate

Religious Hostel (12, donativo, January to November) *Santa María de Eunate*. Right beside the church. Also evening meal and breakfast. Strong religious vibe.

The church at Eunate is open: January, February and November 1030 to 1430; March, April, May, June and October 1030 to 1330 and 1600 to 1900; July, August and September 1030 to 1330 and 1700 to 2000;

December closed. Monday closed.

This is the point where the Camino Aragonés, which enters Spain over the Col de Somport, joins the Camino Francés.

LEFT AND RIGHT ROUTE REJOIN IN ...

3 Óbanos

Private hostel (36, 5€, April to October) *Albergue Usda*. Near the church, signposted from the Camino. Kitchen with microwave and a courtyard with a fig tree.

Two restaurants with pilgrim menu, one opposite the hostel and another on a nearby street corner. Bakery and shop on the square in front of the church.

There are two routes to get to Puente la Reina. Leaving Óbanos there are steps down to the left, you can go that way or continue straight ahead. For Albergue Jakue go straight ahead parallel to the road.

3 Puente la Reina

Private hostel (92, 9€ with breakfast, April to September) *Albergue/Hotel Jakue* on the side of the main road into town. In the basement of a hotel with café and restaurant. Newly renovated. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. Excellent, eat-all-you-can buffet-style evening meal 11€. Also breakfast.

Religious hostel (100, 5€) *Padres Reparadores*, near the church as you enter the town. Kitchen, garden, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (100, 8€) *Santiago Apóstol* straight up the hill after you cross the bridge leaving town. Café. Swimming pool in summer. Evening meal 8€. Breakfast 4€. Laundry facilities. Spacious dorms.

The Camino passes along *Calle Mayor* where you will find a café/bakery on your left which is open for breakfast, several bars and restaurants which do pilgrim menus and several shops. Banks on the main road.

5 Mañeru

Private Hostel (12, 10€ including breakfast) *Lurgorri* on *Calle de Esperanza*. Kitchen.

Café nearby.

3 Cirauqui

Private hostel (28, 10€, mid-January to mid-December) *Maralotx* behind the church. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They do dinner for 10€. Excellent reports.

Bakery, bank and shop on Camino.

6 Lorca

Private hostel (14, 7€, Easter to mid-October) *Albergue de Lorca* on the right. Has a café downstairs, laundry facilities, kitchen and free internet. They do a pilgrim menu.

Private hostel (36, 8€, April to October) *La Bodega del Camino* on the left. Friendly café and restaurant downstairs does a pilgrim menu. Laundry facilities, internet, massages.

Both hostels have cafés. Drinking fountain beside the playground on the left. Leaving the village on the left there are vending machines selling drinks and snacks much cheaper than in the cafés in the village.

5 Villatuerta

Private hostel (30, 10€ with breakfast) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Villatuerta* on *Calle Rebote* to the right of the Camino. Beautiful newly renovated hostel. Does evening meals and breakfast. Kitchen and laundry facilities. Massages also available. Cats and a dog in the hostel.

The café of the sports centre entering the village and *Bar Rebote* do food. Bakery, bank.

3 Estella

Municipal hostel (104, 7€ with breakfast) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Estella* on your left as you enter the town. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. The breakfast isn't great.

Parish hostel (30, donativo) *Albergue Parroquial San Miguel*. Turn right over the bridge just before entering the town and follow the signs. Kitchen, internet.

Private hostel (30, 5€ with breakfast, June to September) *ANFAS* run by a local association for persons with special needs. On *Calle Cordeleros*. Turn right over the bridge just before entering the town and follow the signs. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Youth hostel (120, 12€, April to October) *Albergue Juvenil Oncineda* continue straight from the Municipal until you come to a roundabout, the hostel is at the end of *Calle del Mosaterio de Irache* which is to your right. Kitchen and laundry facilities. They may do dinner and breakfast.

Estella is a big town with all services available. There are several restaurants on the main square. The restaurant *Alday* just across the hump-backed bridge from the municipal does a good pilgrim menu and a café/bakery on *Calle Julio Ruiz de Alda* is open for breakfast. There's a Tourist Information Office on *Calle San Nicolas* straight on from the municipal.

2 Ayegui

Municipal hostel (80, 6€) Albergue San Cipriano. On *Calle Polideportivo*, in the sports centre. Evening meal 9€ and breakfast 3€. Good reports.

Cafés, shops and bakery nearby.

1km to Irache where you can stock up on free wine.

The Camino splits shortly after Irache. Distances are from Ayegui. A large number of arrows try to encourage you to take the right option, doubtless painted by some of the business owners in Villamayor.

RIGHT ROUTE – 19KM

7 Villamayor de Monjardín

June 2011, the Parish Hostel is reported closed because its roof fell in. ~~Parish hostel (25, donativo, April to November) Albergue parroquial Santa Cruz on your right as you enter the village.~~ Kitchen. Breakfast. Good reports.

Religious hostel (20, 4€, sometimes closed in winter) Hogar de Monjardín run by a very earnest Dutch evangelical protestant group, up steps on your right as you pass the church. They do an evening meal 8€ and breakfast 4€.

There's a café which claims to open every day.

12km to Los Arcos

LEFT ROUTE – 19KM

This route bypasses Villamayor de Monjardín and passes instead through some stunning countryside and the village of Luquín, where there is a café by the swimming pool with irregular opening times, arriving in Los Arcos after 19km.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN 10KM

FROM ...

Los Arcos

Private hostel (44, 7€, February to December) Casa de Austria or *La Fuente* on a street to the right of *Calle Mayor* entering the town. Kitchen, breakfast 3€ (with black bread!).

Private hostel (30, 6€) Casa Romero on your right on *Calle Mayor* a little further down. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Municipal hostel (70, 4€, Easter to October) Isaac Santiago after crossing the bridge it's on the right. Run by Belgian volunteers. Garden, kitchen, internet, massages.

Private hostel (20, 9€) Casa Alberdi a little past the Municipal hostel on the right hand side. Laundry facilities, basic cooking facilities.

Entering the town you come directly on to *Calle Mayor*. Tourist Information off *Calle Mayor* on the right near the *Ayuntamiento*. On or near the square on the main road are several restaurants and banks, *Mesón de Gargantúa*, which is opposite the main entrance to the church does a good pilgrim menu. *Café Abascal* underneath *Hotel Monaco* on *Plaza del Coso* does decent food and is open for breakfast. A small shop opposite the main entrance to the church opens in the evening.

6 Sansol

Private hostel (10, 5€) Albergue Arcadi y Nines on *Calle Taconera* to the right of the Camino. Kitchen.

There's a café and a restaurant which does a pilgrim menu.

1 Torres del Río

Private hostel (54, 7€) Casa Mariela, to the right on the Camino. Laundry facilities. They have a restaurant which does a pilgrim menu and breakfast.

Private hostel (82, 10€) La Plata de Oca. On the Camino on the left. Recently reopened. They have a café and a restaurant and open for breakfast. Laundry facilities.

Private hostel (26, 7€) Albergue Casa Mari, up the hill from the main square on *Calle Casas Nuevas*. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet.

Café on left as you enter the village, small shop to your right near *Casa Mariela*.

12 Viana

Municipal hostel (54, 6€, mid-March to mid-October however in winter there may be a phone number on the door of somebody who can let you in) Alberguería Andrés Muñoz down a street to the left near the end of the town. Kitchen, internet. Cramped dorms and 3-level bunks. Coffee and snacks from machines.

Parish hostel (15, donativo, June to September) Albergue Parroquial de Viana, in the church building, entrance from the square *Plaza de los Fueros* beside the church *Iglesia Santa Maria*. Kitchen. Communal evening meal and breakfast. Prayer service in the church (participation is not optional).

There are shops, cafés and restaurants, and a bakery (open early in the morning) on the Camino between the church and the municipal hostel. The restaurant of the hotel *Palacio de Pujadas* does an excellent pilgrim menu. A café on *Plaza de los Fueros* is open early.

The church is usually open and is worth a visit for its statue of Mary Magdalene.

Entering La Rioja

9 Logroño

Municipal hostel (98, 5€) Albergue de Peregrinos de Logroño. Follow the Camino, it's shortly after crossing the bridge on *Calle Rua Vieja*. Patio, kitchen and laundry facilities. Recently renovated and under the management of the city council.

Parish hostel (30, donativo, July to September) Albergue Parroquial de Santiago. On *Calle Barriocepo*, continue straight on *Calle Rua Vieja*, veering right until you come to the church of *Iglesia de Santiago el Real*. Communal evening meal.

Private hostel (40, 10,50€) Puerta del Revellín on *Plaza Martínez Flamarique*, turn left after crossing the bridge into town, ask for restaurant *El Alboro*, it's next door. New hostel. Laundry facilities, microwaves.

Youth hostel (92, 10€) Albergue Juvenil de Logroño on *Calle Caballero de la Rosa*, a bit out of the way. If all else fails phone 941 291 145.

Logroño is major city with all facilities. It is well-known for its pincho/tapas bars which are concentrated on *Calle del Laurel*, and nearby streets, not far from the municipal hostel. From the cathedral walk along *Calle de los Portales* about 50m and veer left and then right. Each bar specialises in two or three different pinchos, so shop around until you find something you like. Tourist Information on the Camino, public library opposite (*La Gota de Leche*) with free internet including printing. Supermarkets and fruit and veg market on the way out of town.

This is where the Camino del Ebro, which follows the River Ebro from the Mediterranean coast, joins the Camino Francés.

12 Navarrete

Riojan Friends of the Camino hostel (40, 5€) Albergue de peregrinos de Navarrete follow the Camino through town and it's on your right under the arches. Kitchen.

Private hostel (16, 10€) El Cántaro follow the Camino until you see it in a side street on your left. Microwave, laundry facilities. They also rent private rooms.

Several restaurants do pilgrim menus. Shop, bakery, banks on or near the Camino. *Hotel Rey Sanchos* does a good pilgrim menu.

The church is usually open. It is extremely bling bling.

Before Ventosa there is a sign for *Albergue de Peregrinos Bodegas Fernando J Rodriguez* 1300m off the Camino. However, at this time no further information is available.

Sotés is about 1300m off the Camino.

Private hostel (18, 15€ with breakfast, May to October) *Albergue Bodegas Fernando J. Rodríguez*, on *Calle Conde de Garay*, in Sotés. Laundry facilities. Phone 670 053 229.

A sign-posted alternative route allows you to by-pass Ventosa and shorten the way a little.

8 Ventosa

Private hostel (50, 8,50€) *San Saturnino* friendly, recently renovated, hostel with kitchen and laundry facilities. Reported very welcoming. They have a very well stocked shop and encourage pilgrims to cook and dine together.

The old hostel in this village is now in disuse.

A restaurant in the village *Mesón San Antón* does a pilgrim menu. There's also a café, a shop and a bakery.

9 Nájera

Municipal hostel (90, donativo) *Albergue de peregrinos de Nájera* on *Plaza de Santiago*. Cross either bridge and turn left until you see it on your right. Kitchen, internet. 90 beds in one cramped dorm.

Private hostel (10, 7€) *Albergue de Peregrinos La Judería* after the bridge turn left on to *Calle Mayor*, continue on this until it becomes *Calle San Marcial* it's on the right. The hostel has a café and restaurant, a few minutes walk away, which does a pilgrim menu and breakfast.

Nájera is a sizeable town with all facilities.

6 Azofra

Municipal hostel (60, 6€) *Albergue Municipal* on a street to the right just past the square. Superb, purpose-designed building with kitchen, laundry facilities, two beds per room, internet. From the point-of-view of sheer luxury this is one of the best hostels on the whole Camino. Less salubrious overflow accommodation around the corner.

Parish hostel (16, 3€) *Albergue Parroquial* beside the church on *Calle del Sol*, which branches to the left as you're entering the village.

There are two restaurants on the main street that do pilgrim menus. There are also two expensive shops.

9 Cirueña

Private hostel (14, 10€) *La Virgen de Guadalupe* signposted from the Camino. They do a communal evening meal and breakfast. Simple prayer service in the church.

Private hostel (14, €10) in Ciriñuela, which is about 500m to the right of the Camino just as you pass the golf course. Signposted. They have a café/restaurant.

Golf club and café in the new development. In the village itself is a café which does nice snacks, it's about 200m off the Camino to the left. Signposted.

7 Santo Domingo de la Calzada

Convent hostel (40, 5€, May to September) *Albergue del Abadía Cisterciense Nuestra Señora de la Anunciación*. Run by Cistercian nuns on your left on *Calle Mayor*. Kitchen and laundry facilities.

Religious hostel (83, donativo) *Casa del Santo* on your right further up *Calle Mayor*. Two kitchens. Newly renovated in 2009 with excellent facilities. When all hostels are full they allow pilgrims sleep in the old albergue.

This is a sizeable town with all basic services. Día supermarket on the left entering the town. Laundromat on *Calle Mayor*.

7 Grañón

Parish hostel (40, donativo) *Hospital de peregrinos San Juan Bautista*. In a room adjoining the church. Communal evening meal and breakfast. Sleeping on exercise mats on the floor. Run by volunteers with help from pilgrims. A unique hostel. If the hostel is full pilgrims are sent to a nearby youth hostel which is a little off the Camino.

Youth hostel (40, 6€) *Albergue Juvenil Virgin de Carrasgueda*. About 1km south of the village. They sometimes do evening meals.

Bar Sindicato opposite the church does good-value meals and is a nice place to wile away a hot afternoon. Shop and bakery which opens early on *Calle Mayor* beside the church.

Entering Castilla y León

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4 Redecilla del Camino

Municipal hostel (40, donativo) *San Lazaro*. Opposite the church. Kitchen and laundry facilities and a café.

Tourist information at the entrance to the village. Café.

You can avoid the climb to Vitoria de la Rioja by walking along the busy main road.

4 Vitoria de la Rioja

Private hostel (12, 5€) *Acacio & Orietta* on *Calle Nueva*. Communal evening meal and breakfast. Run by a very welcoming Brazilian couple.

Drinking fountain (and possibly ice cream) in the main square.

3 Vilamayor del Río

Private hostel (52, 6€) *San Luis de Francia*. 200m to the right of the Camino at the start of the village. Evening meals (prepared using home-grown vegetables) and snacks.

Sleazy-looking "night club" on the main road, in case you're feeling adventurous.

5 Belorado

Private hostel (100, 5€) *A Santiago*. To the right of the Camino before entering the town. Restaurant, laundry facilities, swimming pool, internet.

Private hostel (62, 5€) *Cuatro Cantones*. On *Calle Hipólito López Bernal* on the Camino in the centre of town. Kitchen, laundry facilities, swimming pool, internet, snoring room. They have a restaurant which specialises in barbecued chicken.

Private hostel (22, 5€) *Caminante*. On *Calle Mayor*. Kitchen and laundry facilities.

Private hostel (40, 14,50€ with breakfast) *El Corro*. On *Calle Mayor*. Kitchen and laundry facilities.

Parish hostel (25, donativo) *Refugio Parroquial de Belorado*. Kitchen. Run by Swiss volunteers. Cool.

Private hostel (6, 24€ / 40€ for two people) *Casa Waslala* on *Calle Mayor*. Private rooms. They also do evening meals and breakfast. Laundry facilities, free WiFi. They organise tours to the monasteries of *San Millán de la Cogolla* and *Santo Domingo de Silos*. Tel: 647 102 254

Restaurants with pilgrim menus, supermarket, cafés and banks on *Plaza Mayor* in front of the church.

5 Tosantos

Parish hostel (30, donativo) *Albergue del Camino de Santiago en Tosantos*. Sleeping mats on the floor. Communal evening meal and breakfast. Very welcoming. There may be a tour during the afternoon to visit the troglodyte church in the rockface north of the village. They organise a thoughtful ceremony for pilgrims in the evening where everybody reads a note left by an earlier pilgrim explaining why they were walking the Camino. Can be a real eye-opener.

Behind the hostel on the other side of the main road there is a café *El Castaño* which is open during the day and which does snacks and also sells basic groceries.

2 Villambistia

Private hostel (26, 6€, closed on Tuesdays) *Albergue de San Roque*, on *Plaza Mayor*. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. They have a café / restaurant.

2 Espinosa del Camino

Private hostel (10, 15€ with evening meal and breakfast) *La Campana*. Mixed reports about the quality of the welcome.

4 Villafranca Montes de Oca

Municipal hostel (38, 6€) *Albergue de Villafranca Montes de Oca*. On the left on the treacherous main road. Kitchen.

Private hostel (18, 10€) *Albergue San Anton Abad*, new hostel on the Camino on the way out of the village, in the same building as a hotel. Microwaves. Café / restaurant reported good.

Café, shop, pharmacy and bakery in the village. The restaurant *El Pájaro*, does an evening meal which is hit-and-miss. This is a favourite stop for the truck-driving confraternity, however, they seem to limit their consumption to Cognac and coffee.

The Montes de Oca consist of a series of small but steep ascents.

12 San Juan de Ortega

Monetary hostel (58, 6€) *Albergue del Monasterio*. On your right just after passing the church. Basic facilities.

A café on the right does food from about 1200. Besides the café there's nothing here.

There are two routes from here to Burgos. The alternative one outlined here is waymarked but little-used and devoid of accommodation. It passes through the following villages: Santovenia de Oca, Zaldueño, Ibeas de Juarros, Castrillo del Val, San Medel, Castañares, Villayuda and then to Burgos.

4 Agés

Private hostel (38, 5€ / 12€) *El Pajar de Agés*. On *Calle Paralelo Del Medio*, although the cheaper (and perfectly adequate) accommodation is in another building a short distance away. The 12€ package is in higher-quality accommodation and includes breakfast. Kitchen and laundry facilities.

Municipal hostel (36, 7€) *San Rafael*. On the same street as *El Pajar*. It also has a café and restaurant. They also sell basic groceries. Internet.

Private hostel (6, donativo) *Casa Caracol*. On *Calle La Iglesia*. With evening meal and breakfast. A very special hostel, one of the gems of the Camino.

The café and restaurant of the municipal hostel are open to everybody. There's a small shop in the café at the bottom of the main street.

3 Atapuerca

Municipal hostel (36, 8€, March to November) *El Peregrino*. On your right as you enter the village. Nice rooms with six beds. Kitchen. They also have double rooms.

Private hostel (24, 5€) *La Hutte*. Up the road to the right directly after Municipal hostel. Mixed reports. The restaurant in this hostel does a pilgrim menu.

There is a café and bakery on the main square which is usually open for breakfast. There's another bakery on the right leaving the village.

Tourist information on the main square organises tours to see the nearby archaeological digs which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3km off the Camino to Olmos de Atapuerca.

Municipal hostel (32, 7€, March to January) *Albergue de Olmos de Atapuerca*. Kitchen.

6 Cardeñuela Ríopico

Municipal hostel (12, 3€). On *Calle Santa Eulalia*. Basic hostel.

There is a café in the village which sometimes does food.

2km Orbaneja Riopico, café

There are several options when entering Burgos. About 1km after Orbaneja and shortly after crossing over a motorway you can go right and enter an industrial zone in Villafria, from where you can follow the yellow arrows or get a bus into the city. Alternatively, you can go left, walking past the airport to a village called Castañares and a major road which you can cross at the pedestrian crossing to your left. Continue straight through a small park with a children's playground to your left and a basketball court to your right, straight along a small road which swings right at the entrance to a factory and keep going until you cross a river. Now turn right and follow the path parallel to the river which turns left to pass under the road. Now you can follow the river for a pleasant, shady walk all the way to the city. This route passes through a little-frequented nature reserve and some people may feel uncomfortable on their own.

You'll pass a beach where you can swim.

13 Burgos

Religious hostel (16, donativo, Easter to October) *Casa de Peregrinos Emaús*, depending which route you followed into Burgos either cross the bridge to the south bank of the river at *Paseo del Rey* or, if you're following the river, turn left on to *Avenida de Castilla*, then left on to *Calle de San Pedro de Cardeña*. A little bit difficult to find but a nice alternative to the impersonal municipal hostel.

Municipal hostel (130, 4€) *Albergue Municipal de Burgos* on *Calle Fernán González*, signposted from the 'official' Camino into town. Up the hill from the cathedral on the opposite (north) side to the main entrance. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. Large, impersonal, modern mega-hostel.

Religious hostel (18, donativo, March to November) *Albergue de Santiago y Santa Catalina - Divina Pastora*. On *Calle Lain Calvo*. Laundry facilities, internet. Mixed reports.

Burgos is a major city with all services.

There are numerous restaurants on and near the square opposite the cathedral however for cheaper (less touristy) options try the streets off *Plaza Mayor*.

Finding your way out of Burgos can be a bit complicated. The best thing, if you lose the arrows, is to find the river and walk west. You'll come to a footbridge and at its southern end is the entrance to a park at the corner of Paseo de los Comendadores. Veer right on to Avenida de José Maria Vilacián Rebollo and then straight on to Calle de Villadiego veering right on to Calle de Benito Pérez Galdós (sign pointing to Los Guindales). From there follow the arrows.

9 Tardajos

Municipal hostel (12, donativo with breakfast). To your left after the Camino turns left off the main road.

Two restaurants on the main road do pilgrim menus, the one called *Pececitos* is good. There's also a shop and a bakery. Also a new café opposite the Municipal hostel.

2 Rabé de las Calzadas

Private hostel (8, 8€, April to September) *Albergue Santa Marina* new hostel on the left of the Camino beside the church. They do an evening meal.

Private hostel (24, 8€) *Albergue Liberanos Domine.* Laundry facilities. Newly renovated. Evening meal and breakfast.

Two cafés which do food near the Camino.

8 Hornillos del Camino

Municipal hostel (50, 5€, March to January). To the right of the Camino near the church. Kitchen.

A new hostel, *Albergue Sancti Spiritus* is due to open sometime in 2010. Anybody got any updates?

The shop on your left as you enter the village does sandwiches and cold drinks. There's a café a little further up opposite the hostel which does snacks and meals.

5 Iglesias / San Bol

Private hostel (12, 5€, April to October) *Albergue de San Bol.* To the left of the Camino in an isolated valley in the Meseta. Recently renovated and now equipped with electricity, hot water, showers, toilet, etc. Evening meal provided (donativo). Run by volunteers. Previously run by volunteer hippies and renowned as a party hostel of ill-repute, you could bring your grandmother to the new *San Bol* without any fear of scandalising her.

5 Hontanas

Private hostel (30, 5€, March to October) *el Puntido.* On the right opposite the church on *Calle La Iglesia.* They have a café downstairs which does a pilgrim menu. Laundry facilities.

Municipal hostel (55, 5€) Further down the street from the other hostel on *Calle Real*, also on the right. Run by women from the village on a rota. Kitchen. In a nice, recently renovated building. They have more beds in another building when this is full.

Private hostel (14, 5€, April to October) *Albergue Santa Brígida*, also on *Calle Real.* Washing facilities, kitchen.

There are several cafés and at least one other restaurant which does a pilgrim menu.

For several kilometres after Hontanas the Camino runs parallel to a quite country road. In bad weather walking the road is by far the better option.

6 San Antón

Private hostel (12, donativo, July to September) *San Antón.* In the ruins of an old monastery. Basic. Sleeping area is outside under an awning. Communal evening meal by candle-light.

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3 Castrojeriz

Private hostel (40, 6€) *Camino de Santiago.* In the camping site to your left. They have a café and restaurant which does a pilgrim menu and laundry facilities.

Private Hostel (26, 7,50€ with breakfast, March to October) *Casa Nostra.* On *Calle Real de Oriente.* On the Camino. Kitchen and laundry facilities. Reports of poor hygiene.

Municipal hostel (30, donativo with breakfast) *San Esteban.* Follow the Camino to the *Plaza Mayor*, the hostel is up steps to the right. Bright, airy, pleasant atmosphere. Internet. Powered by solar energy.

Municipal hostel (28, donativo with breakfast) *San Juan.* On *Calle del Cordón.* Basic facilities. Cramped, dark dorms. A last resort.

Shop, baker and bank around *Plaza Mayor.* The café / restaurant *La Taberna*, which is on the Camino, on *Calle Real de Oriente*, about 200m before *Plaza Mayor* does an excellent pilgrim menu. They also open for breakfast, do tasty bocadillos and have internet access.

The village of Itero del Castillo is about 1500m off the Camino.

10 Itero del Castillo

Religious hostel (12, donativo, summer only) *Ermita de San Nicolás.* In an isolated spot to the left of the Camino just before the bridge leading to *Itero de la Vega.* Run by volunteers from an Italian organisation who practise a ritual washing of feet for pilgrims. The building is a very old pilgrim hostel which has been restored. Evening meal (by candlelight because there's no electricity) and breakfast provided. Good reports.

Municipal hostel (12, donativo) *Albergue de Itero del Castillo.* In the village of Itero del Castillo, on *Plaza del Ayuntamiento*, about 1500m off the Camino.

A café in the village does food.

1 Itero de la Vega

Private hostel (7, 4€) *Fitero.* Guesthouse and restaurant at the entrance which has limited dorm accommodation. They do a pilgrim menu.

Private hostel (18, 5€) *Albergue de Itero.* On *Calle de Santa Ana.* Follow the sign to the left in the village. Laundry facilities, kitchen. They also do meals.

Municipal hostel (20, 5€) *La Mochila* On the square beside the church. Easy to miss, look for a door with a sign saying *Refugio.*

There are several shops around the village and one well-stocked supermarket. Few pilgrims stop here but it's actually quite pleasant.

8 Boadilla

Private hostel (16, 7€) *Putzu.* On your left just before entering the village. New hostel with bar. Mixed reports.

Municipal hostel (12, 4€) on you left, in the same building as a bar. Basic.

Private hostel (48, 7€, March to October) *En El Camino* Near the church. Nice garden, very small swimming pool, restaurant and laundry facilities. They do breakfast and an evening meal. Good reports.

Cafés and nothing else in the village.

6 Frómista

Private hostel (40, 17€ with evening meal and breakfast) *Albergue Canal de Castilla*, on *Calle La Estación.* At the start of the town, through a tunnel under the railway tracks, then left. Laundry facilities. They also do an evening meal and breakfast.

Municipal hostel (56, 7€, February to Christmas) *Albergue de Frómista*, near the church of San Martín. Mixed reports.

Private hostel (34, 7€, all year except Christmas) *Estrella del Camino* on *Avenida del Ejército Español* beside *Hostal Camino de Santiago*. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Brand new hostel – good early reports. If it's closed ask in the *hostal* next door for the key.

There is a small supermarket on a street off the square beside the church of *San Martín de Tours*. There is also a bakery and a bank.

4 Población de Campos

Municipal hostel (22, 3€). On your left as you enter the village. Kitchen. If it's not open ask for the key at the bar *Los Cigüños* at the other end of the village. This bar also does a pilgrim menu.

There are two bars one of which is also a small shop. A new guesthouse beside the hostel has a restaurant.

After Población, just before crossing a small bridge, the Camino divides to rejoin in Villalcázar de Sirga.

RIGHT ROUTE – 10KM

This route follows the río Ucieza and is a quieter and more pleasant option. It passes through the village of Villovieco (where there's a bar). Then crosses the river and continues along its bank for a few kilometres until you come to a bridge and a large house that is being renovated, turn left and follow the paved road to Villalcázar.

LEFT ROUTE – 10KM

This route goes along the side of a road.

6 Villarmentero de Campos

Private hostel (24, 5€). On the right at the entrance to the village. Kitchen, café, restaurant, laundry facilities.

4km to Villalcázar de Sirga

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

Villalcázar de Sirga

Municipal hostel (20, donativo, April to October) on *Plaza del Peregrino*. Between the main road and the church. 1€ for a hot shower. ● **Private hostel (26, 7€)** *Albergue Tasca Don Camino*, on *Calle Real*, on the way out of the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

There is a shop and a bakery in the village.

5 Carrión de los Condes

Convent hostel (32, 6€) *Convento de Santa Clara*. In a magnificent old building on your left entering the town. Welcome drink on arrival.

Convent hostel (70, 8€) *Albergue privado del Espíritu Santo*. On *Calle San Juan*. Turn left where the Camino crosses the main road. Private rooms and a nice patio.

Convent hostel (60, 5€) *Parroquia de Santa María*. Turn right after the church and the hostel is down *Calle del Clérigo Pastor* in front of you. Run by a community of Benedictine nuns who go out of their way to welcome pilgrims.

The town has all basic facilities. There's an information stand where the Camino crosses the main road and a café opposite which opens for breakfast. *Cafetería Los Condes* on *Plaza Mayor* does good, if a little expensive, *platos combinados*. In summer you can swim in the river.

You should not leave Carrión without enough food and water for a long walk.

17 Calzadilla de la Cueva

Private hostel (80, 6€) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Calzadilla*. On your left entering the village. Laundry facilities, small swimming pool. Big, cramped dorms. The *hospitaleros* are very helpful, especially to young female pilgrims.

Café around to the left of the hostel does good food and opens for breakfast. Same proprietor as the hostel.

6 Lédigos

Private hostel (52, 6€) *El Palomar*. On *Calle Ronda de Abajo*. Kitchen and laundry facilities. They also have a café and do meals.

3 Terradillos de Templarios

Private hostel (52, 7€, March to October) *Los Templarios*. On your left before the village. Laundry facilities. Snacks, evening meal.

Private hostel (55, 7€, closed Christmas) *Jaques de Molay*. On your right as you walk through the village. Swimming pool in summer, laundry facilities, internet, restaurant that does evening meal and breakfast.

Café and restaurant in hostel *Jaques de Molay*.

An alternative route follows the main road straight to Sahagún.

6 San Nicolás del Real Camino

Private hostel (22, 7€) *Alberguería Laganares*. On your left as you walk through the village. They do snacks and a pilgrim menu in their restaurant and (sometimes) breakfast. Internet and laundry facilities. A warm welcome in a beautifully renovated building. The dorms are small and because few pilgrims stop here you'll often have a dorm to yourself.

There's also a second restaurant in the village.

7 Sahagún

Private hostel (80, 7€) *Viatoris*. Just after crossing the railway bridge on *Travesía del Arco*. Microwaves, laundry facilities and internet.

Municipal hostel (95, 4€) *Albergue Municipal de Peregrinos de Cluny*. On your right just after crossing the railway bridge in a converted church. Kitchen, laundry facilities. An over-flow municipal hostel is now available with 20 beds and a kitchen.

Convent hostel (14, donativo, April to October) *Albergue de las Madres Benedictinas*. Follow the Camino through the town and it's on the left.

A new private hostel, *El Labriego*, is due to open in 2010.

Several restaurants in town do a pilgrim menu. There are shops and a bakery on or near the Camino.

An interpretive centre for the Camino called *El Centro de Documentación del Camino de Santiago* is due to open in 2010 with a library, exhibitions and art related to the history of the Camino.

Sahagún is a stop on the León-Madrid railway. Several trains a day in both directions.

The Camino de Madrid joins the Camino Francés here.

5km after Sahagún, just before Calzada de Coto, the Camino divides and continues on two separate paths until Reliegos.

The right route was a Roman Road whereas the left route is the original Camino Francés.

RIGHT ROUTE – 30KM

5 Calzada del Coto

Municipal hostel (24, donativo). *Albergue San Roque.* On the right at the beginning of the village. Ask for the key in café *Xanadu*. A flask of coffee is provided for breakfast. There is a shop (limited opening times) on your right as you walk through the village and a couple of cafés.

8 Calzadilla de los Hermanillos

Municipal hostel (22, donativo). On your left as you walk through the village. Kitchen.

There is a shop in one of the side streets near the main square. A restaurant at the entrance to the village on the right does a pilgrim menu and there's another café near the end of the village.

18km to Reliegos or 24km to Mansilla via an alternative route. Don't set off without adequate supplies for a long day's walking. There is no possibility to stock up on the way. The route runs entirely through open countryside parallel to the León – Madrid railway line. It is possible to cross over to the left route in several places. Do not cross the railway line unless you want to join the other route.

LEFT ROUTE – 31KM

Many parts of this route are gravel path along the side of a road. Tedious and demoralising.

10 Bercianos del Real Camino

Association hostel (45, donativo) *Albergue Parroquial de Bercianos.* Leaving the village on the left. Kitchen. Communal meal and breakfast.

There is also a café in the village.

8 El Burgo Ranero

Private hostel (30, 10€) *El Nogal.* On your left. Kitchen. Reported poor hygiene.

Association hostel (28, donativo, March to November) *Albergue Domenico Laffi.* On your right a little after *El Nogal*. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (20, 8€) *La Laguna.* To the right just after the other two hostels. Kitchen, laundry facilities, garden. There are two cafés / restaurants on the same street as the hostels which do pilgrim menus and open for breakfast. The one nearest *El Nogal* is OK. There's also a small shop in the village.

13km to Reliegos

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

Although another route may bring you straight to Mansilla.

Reliegos de las Matas

Municipal hostel (100, 5€). On *Calle La Escuela*. Good, modern facilities. Internet, kitchen.

There are cafés on the main square. *Bar Gil* does OK food but their pilgrim menu is worth avoiding.

6 Mansilla de las Mulas

Municipal hostel (70, 5€). On your left as you walk down *Calle del Puente*. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Private hostel (32, 5€) *Albergue El Jardín del Camino.* At the beginning of the town. Laundry facilities. Their café does food.

Several restaurants on *Calle del Puente* do pilgrim menus. A café on the square at the top of this street beside the *Ayuntamiento* opens for breakfast. Also around this square are banks and shops.

There are frequent buses to León in case you feel tempted to skip what is probably the most unpleasant part of the whole Camino.

Extreme care is necessary when crossing the bridge before entering *Puente de Villarente*. It's about 200m long, narrow and dangerous due to the amount of traffic on it. This situation will be improved when the new motorway is completed around 2012. The local authorities are planning to build a wooden footbridge in the meantime but no completion date has been given.

6 Puente de Villarente

Private hostel (24, 6€, March to October) *El Delfin Verde.* Cross the bridge and it's on the left. Kitchen and laundry facilities. They have a restaurant which does a pilgrim menu and breakfast.

Private hostel (64, 7€) *Albergue San Pelayo.* On *Calle El Romero*, after crossing the bridge take the second street on the right then the first left and walk about 100m. Kitchen, laundry facilities and internet. Fairly new hostel, excellent early reports.

4 Arcahueja

Private hostel (18, 7€) *La Torre.* Just beside the church. They have a café downstairs which does meals. Laundry facilities.

Some effort has been made recently to make the entry to León safer so please follow the signs carefully.

On the way into the city there's an information kiosk pilgrims. They have handy city maps.

8 León

Municipal hostel (70, 6€). On *Calle Campos Góticos*. A short walk to the left where the Camino crosses *Avenida Fernández Ladreda* by the information kiosk. Large, impersonal, youth hostel in an ex-army barracks. Kitchen and laundry facilities, internet. Open 24 hours. You can stay for more than one night.

Convent hostel (180, donativo) *Albergue del Monasterio de las Benedictinas.* In the centre of the city on *Plaza Santa Maria*. Just to the right of the Camino. Breakfast included. The Benedictines, as always, put on a good show.

There are many restaurants and bars in the area between the convent hostel and the cathedral. *El Botijo* on *Plaza San Martín* does excellent tapas. Several cafés do breakfast on the way out of the city. There's a tourist information office hidden down *Calle del Cid* which is just off *Calle Ancha*. If you feel a need for bread that isn't white you might like to visit *Los Alemanes* German bakery on *Plaza Puente Castillo* near the cathedral.

There are several supermarkets on the way out of León. Unfortunately they don't open until around 0900.

The official Camino winds its crooked way around the tourist attractions of León. Don't worry if you end up lost. The easiest way to find your way out is to find the river and walk upstream until you come to the footbridge *Puentes San Marcos* which is just beside the square *Plaza San Marcos*. Cross the river here and it's straight all the way out of town.

8 La Virgen del Camino

Private Hostel (40, 5€, May to September) *Albergue Don Antonio y Doña Cinia.* Laundry facilities, kitchen. On *Calle Camino de Villacedre* to the left of the main road as you pass through the village. Signposted. Positive reports.

Several cafés on the main road do food and drink, there are shops, etc. Public toilets under souvenir shop opposite church.

Just after the village the Camino divides and continues on separate routes until *Hospital de Órbigo*. Cross the main road at the church and turn right, 100m further on the Camino

divides. The right route runs along the side of a busy main road. The left route passes through open countryside. There is a lot of confusing signposting at this junction. The right route follows the Roman road and is considered the original Camino.

RIGHT ROUTE – 26KM

5 Valverde de la Virgen

Private hostel (20, 8€ with breakfast) *La Casa del Camino*, on *Calle El Jano*, first right as you enter the town. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. Friendly welcome.

2km San Miguel del Camino, cafés, restaurants

9 Villadangos del Páramo

Municipal hostel (80, 3€) Kitchen. In the old school building to the right on a bend in the main road as you enter the village.

Cafés, a bank, a restaurant on the main road through the village.

5 San Martín del Camino

Private hostel (60, 3€) *Albergue Vieira* before the village. Laundry facilities, kitchen. Their restaurant does local specialities and breakfast.

Private hostel (80, 4€) *Albergue "Ana"* on the left of the Camino as you walk through the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities, evening meal and breakfast.

Municipal hostel (60, 3€) *Albergue de San Martín del Camino*. Kitchen, laundry facilities, large garden. Also on the main road, a little further on, on the right. Reported to be a bit run down.

The hostels in this village appear to be waging propaganda war on each other.

There is a café and a bakery in the village.

7km to Hospital de Órbigo

LEFT ROUTE – 27KM

2km Fresno del Camino, café. Then another 8km to Chozas de Abajo where there is a café about 400m off the Camino. Then 5km to...

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15 Villar de Mazarife

Private hostel (70, 6€) *Albergue San Antonio de Pádua*. A new purpose-built hostel with laundry facilities, evening meal, breakfast, internet. To your right just before the village.

Private hostel (50, 5€) *Albergue de Jesús*. To the left as you're entering the village. Kitchen, small swimming pool (complete with Viking ship!), coffee / snacks from vending machines. Mattresses on the balcony overlooking the courtyard provide extra places in summer.

Private hostel (26, 7€, February to December) *Albergue Tío Pepe*. Near the church. Bar downstairs does evening meal and breakfast, internet. Warm welcome.

In the village there 2 small supermarkets, 2 cafés and a bakery.

13km to Hospital de Órbigo. It's more-or-less straight all the way, ignore the many, many arrows pointing to the right, they're just trying to trick you into rejoining the other route or detour through the village of Villavante (presumably so you'll spend your money in the cafés there).

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

Hospital de Órbigo

Parish hostel (70, 4€) *Albergue Parroquial*. After crossing the bridge continue straight on the main street, it's on your right. Kitchen.

Private hostel (40, 7€, March to November) *Albergue San Miguel*. Also on the main street on the left. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet.

Several restaurants near the bridge do a good lunchtime menu and a pilgrim menu in the evening. Shop on main street.

Leaving the village the Camino divides. To the right it passes through the villages of Villares de Órbigo and Santibañez de Valdeiglesia. These two paths join again before San Justo de la Vega.

RIGHT ROUTE – 13KM

3 Villares de Órbigo

Private Hostel (36, ?) *Albergue Villares de Órbigo* just to the right of the Camino in the centre of the village. Kitchen, internet.

The village has a café and a pharmacy.

2 Santibañez de Valdeiglesia

Parish hostel (60, 6€, Easter to September) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Santibañez*. Kitchen. Up a street to the right before you past the church, on the left beside the village café which also serves as the (limited) village shop. Basic.

Café *Centro Social* beside the hostel. It's a local tradition to construct a *maize maze (Laberinto de Maís)*, maize is American corn) every summer. It's said to be the biggest in the world! It opens on 1 August.

5km to David's refreshment stand in a disused farm building to the right of the Camino and then 3km to San Justo de la Vega.

LEFT ROUTE – 11KM

This route is slightly shorter however it follows a busy main road for most of its course.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN JUST BEFORE ...

San Justo de la Vega, cafés.

3 Astorga

Private hostel (22, 6€) *Camino y Via*. On the right before entering the town, beside the railway tracks.

Municipal hostel (145, 5€) *Albergue de Peregrinos Siervas de María*. On the left on *Plaza San Francisco* just after you struggle up the hill into the walled town. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. New hostel with excellent facilities.

Private hostel (110, 7€) *San Javier* on *Calle Portería*, near the cathedral. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Wood burning stove when it's cold and a hearty breakfast available. The noise from the wooden floor in the dorm can make sleeping difficult.

Astorga is a large towns with all facilities.

In Astorga the *Vía de la Plata* and the *Camino Francés* converge.

Leaving town is a bit confusing so pay close attention. Following the Camino through town, at the cathedral veer left and walk down to the main road called *Avenida Madrid-Coruña*, now turn right and follow this road until, on your left, you see *Calle de los Mártires*. Follow this and it's straight all the way out of town.

5 Murias de Rechivaldo

Municipal hostel (20, 4€) Albergue de Murias de Rechivaldo. Laundry facilities, kitchen. To the left of the road that runs through the village.

Private hostel (40, 8€, Easter to November) Albergue las Águedas. On your right as you leave the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They do an evening meal and breakfast from 0600.

There are two restaurants and two cafés in the village.

4 Santa Catalina de Somoza

Private hostel (16, 5€) Albergue El Caminante. Just to the right of the church. Laundry facilities. Also a café which does a Pilgrim Menu and opens for breakfast.

Private hostel (20, 5€) Albergue San Blas. On the left on the main street. Laundry facilities. They have a café which does a Pilgrim Menu.

Municipal hostel (38, 3€) Down Calle La Escuela away from the main street. Basic hostel. If it's closed ask in *Hospedería San Blas*.

4 El Ganso

Private hostel (30, 8€, March to November) Albergue Gabino. New hostel on the main road near the church. Kitchen.

Café *Bar La Barraga* does good home cooking and regional specialities. It's on the road through the village, parallel to and to the left of the Camino.

The climb to Cruz de Ferro begins here. In the next 15km you'll ascend 500m.

7 Rabanal del Camino

Private hostel (34, 5€, April to October) Albergue Tesín. On your left as you enter the village. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Municipal hostel (40, 4€, May to October) To the left of the Camino on a square on the main road. Laundry facilities, kitchen. Laid-back vibe.

Private hostel (74, 5€) Albergue Nuestra Señora del Pilar. Beside the municipal hostel. Kitchen. They have a bar with a nice patio and do an evening meal and breakfast. The woman who runs the hostel is very friendly and helpful.

Religious hostel (66, donativo, April to October) Albergue Gaucelmo. On the left opposite the church in the centre of the village. Staffed by volunteers this hostel is run by the *Confraternity of Saint James*, a British organisation. There are cooking facilities and breakfast is provided.

There is a small shop in the village. A couple of cafés on *Calle Real* do Pilgrim Menus and open for breakfast.

The building beside *Albergue Gaucelmo* is inhabited by Bavarian Benedictine monks who established a monastery here in 2001. Following a series of disagreements with the local people, they were run out of town in August 2009 however they have now returned. The monks come from the St Ottilien Abbey in Bavaria, which has also been in the news recently... On some evenings there are Vespers with Gregorian chant in the evening in the small church opposite *Albergue Gaucelmo*.

6 Foncebadón

Private hostel (32, 7, February to November) Albergue Convento de Foncebadón. Their café does meals.

Private hostel (35, 8€) Albergue Monte Irago. Up the hill on the left. Kitchen. They do meals in their café (with vegetarian options) using produce from their own garden and also have a small shop. Hippie vibe.

Parish hostel (22, donativo, April to October) Albergue Parroquial Domus Dei. On the right at the end of the village. Kitchen. Run by volunteers.

A 2km after Foncebadón you will come to the Cruz de Ferro. If there's snow it will be easier to walk on the road where there's less chance of falling or of getting lost. The road passes within a few metres of the cross so you're unlikely to miss it.

Entering El Bierzo.

4 Manjarin

Private hostel (39, donativo) Just to the right of the Camino. Basic accommodation and an evening meal in this unique "environmentally friendly" hostel. No running water or heat.

Shortly after Manjarin you will pass over the highest point on the Camino Francés at 1,515m. Then the 900m descent to Molinaseca begins.

7 El Acebo

Municipal hostel (10, 5€, summer only) Albergue Elisardo Panizo. On the right just at the entrance to the village. Basic facilities.

Private hostel (18, 5€) Albergue Mesón El Acebo. On your left as you walk through the village. Laundry facilities. It has a café / restaurant downstairs which does local specialities. The café is open for breakfast. They own another building which they open when this one is full.

Parish hostel (24, donativo, April to October) Albergue Parroquial Apóstol Santiago. To the left of the Camino near the end of the village. Laundry facilities, kitchen. Good reports. Grocery shop on main street.

4 Riego de Ambrós

Municipal hostel (50, 5€, April to October) Albergue de Peregrinos de Riego de Ambrós. On *Calle Real* a little off the Camino. Kitchen.

A restaurant in the village does a pilgrim menu and a café does snacks.

There is a long and steep descent into Molinaseca. An easier alternative, if you don't like descents or if there's snow, is to walk along the road.

4 Molinaseca

Private hostel (56, 7€) Albergue Santa Marina. On the right after the old town. Laundry facilities. No kitchen but you can use the one in the municipal. They do breakfast.

Municipal hostel (40, 5€) Hospital de Peregrinos de Molinaseca. Just past the previous hostel on the left. Kitchen. In summer some of the places are outside under an awning. There are many restaurants in the town and shops, etc. However, in winter many of them may be closed. In summer you can swim in the river.

The route into Ponferrada is a bit confusing but it's more-or-less straight all the way.

8 Ponferrada

Religious hostel (210, donativo) Refugio de San Nicolás de Flüe. On *Calle de la Loma* on the Camino before the centre of the city. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet.

Several supermarkets near the hostel. Lots of restaurants, bars and shops in the town. Tourist Information hidden near the main entrance to the castle. *Restaurante La Fonda* on *Plaza del Ayuntamiento* does a good *menú del día*. There's also a café/bakery on this square.

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Getting out of Ponferrada is a little complicated. From the hostel cross the river and after about 200m veer right on to Avenida de las Huertas de Sacramento. Continue straight till you come to a bend and on the right Avenida de la Libertad.

10km to Camponaraya where there's a Día supermarket on the left at the start of town and shops, cafés, etc. on the main road through the village. The Camino in Camponaraya runs along a busy road, the length of the village and out the other side until at the gates of a factory if veers up to the left beside a picnic area.

16 Cacabelos

Municipal hostel (70, 5€, April to October) *Albergue de Cacabelos*. On the right when leaving town. Laundry facilities. Two beds per room arranged in a semi-circle around a church. Restaurants, bars and shops in the town.

From Cacabelos to Villafranca there are two options, either through the village of Valtuille de Arriba, where there's a café, or mostly along the road (shorter).

8 Villafranca del Bierzo

Municipal hostel (62, 6€, Easter to October) Down steps on your right before entering the town. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Private hostel (80, 5€) *Albergue Ave Fenix*. Just after the church on the left that you pass at the beginning of the village. Laundry facilities, internet. Evening meal and breakfast available.

Private hostel (32, 8€) *Albergue Viña Femita*. On the Camino, on the left just beside a mini-roundabout – easy to miss because it doesn't look like pilgrim accommodation. They also have a restaurant. Opened in May 2010, good early reports.

Private hostel (30, 8€, Easter to November) *Albergue de la Piedra*. Continue on the Camino through town, cross the bridge and continue on *Calle del Espíritu Santo*. It's on the right. Beautifully renovated hostel run by a young couple from Madrid. Kitchen, laundry facilities, free internet. Excellent buffet breakfast.

This is a sizeable town with all facilities.

Shops, cafés, restaurants with pilgrim menus and a bakery on *Plaza del Ayuntamiento*.

Leaving Villafranca del Bierzo the Camino splits in three (before coming to *Albergue de la Piedra*).

RIGHT ROUTE – 11KM

The right route goes up a narrow, steep street just after crossing the bridge (may not be signposted due to vandalism) passing through beautiful hilly countryside before rejoining the middle route in Trabadelo. This route has a steep ascent and descent.

MIDDLE ROUTE – 10KM

The middle route continues straight ahead through the valley following the road. Passing through ...

5 Pereje

Municipal hostel (30, 6€, Easter to November) *Albergue de Pereje*. On the main road through the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

There is a small shop in the village and a café that does meals.

5km to Trabadelo

LEFT ROUTE – 30KM

The left route follows a path through beautiful hilly countryside to rejoin the Camino shortly before Las Herrerías. There may not be any food or drink available on this route. This route is sparsely waymarked.

RIGHT AND MIDDLE ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

Trabadelo

Private hostel (20, 6€) *Albergue Crispeta*. Just at the entrance to the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities. The café downstairs does evening meals and breakfast. Friendly welcome.

Municipal hostel (30, 6€) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Trabadelo*. On the Camino as it passes through the village after crossing the bridge. Laundry facilities.

There are two cafés a shop and a pharmacy on the Camino as it passes through the village. Alternatively cross the bridge to the left then left again to the truck-stop café – good value and local colour.

3 La Portela de Valcarce

Private hostel (60, 8€) *Albergue El Peregrino*. On the left just before the village. They also have a bar and a restaurant.

2 Ambasmestas

Private hostel (30, 5€, May to October) *Albergue Das Ánimas*. Turn left shortly after you enter the village and cross the bridge over the river. The hostel is on your left. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

The restaurant in the village does an excellent pilgrim menu and there's a shop.

1 Vega de Valcarce

Private hostel (50, 5€) *Albergue do Brasil*. On the right of the road before you come into the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They do a Brazilian evening meal and breakfast.

Municipal hostel (84, 4€) *Albergue de Vega de Valcarce*. Up the hill to the right as you walk through the village under a motorway bridge. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Several restaurants in the village do pilgrim menus, there are also shops, a bakery, a pharmacy and banks.

2 Ruitelán

Private hostel (38, 5€) *Pequeño Potala*. On the right as you enter the village. Laundry facilities, internet. They also do an evening meal and breakfast.

In the next 10km you'll ascend 600m.

1 Las Herrerías

Private hostel (29, 5€, April to October) *Refugio en Herrerías*. On the left on the Camino. Laundry facilities. They do an evening meal and breakfast.

LEFT ROUTE REJOINS HERE

4 La Faba

Religious hostel (35, 5€, April to November) *Albergue de Peregrinos de la Faba*, beside the village church. Follow the sign up to the right before entering the village. Kitchen. Run by German volunteers. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Excellent hostel in a beautiful location.

Private hostel (19, donativo, closed in winter) *Albergue Vegetariano*. To the left of the Camino in the village. Mattresses on floor and communal vegetarian evening meal. Run by a German gentleman.

There is a small shop and a café in the village.

2 Laguna de Castilla

Private hostel (35, 8€, Easter and July and August)

Albergue la Escuela In the centre of the village. Kitchen. The café in the same building does meals and breakfast. Friendly.

Entering Galicia

There are very few municipal hostels in Galicia. Instead you will find Xunta hostels which are funded directly by the Government of Galicia. Xunta hostels always have kitchens but, for reason which will not be speculated upon here, they are rarely usable – ie. The cooker doesn't work, there are not utensils, etc. For this reason Xunta hostels which have unusable kitchens (ie. most of them) are listed here as having no kitchen.

3 O Cebreiro

Xunta hostel (80, 5€) Albergue do Cebreiro. Follow the signs through the village. Laundry facilities.

There are restaurants, cafés, shops and tourist information in the village.

Leaving O Cebreiro the waymarkings are a bit vague. You can either walk past the municipal hostel and on the official Camino through the forest, or walk down to the road before you come to the municipal hostel and follow it.

2km to Liñares, café, shop

6 Hospital da Condesa

Xunta hostel (18, 5€) Albergue de Hospital da Condesa. On the Camino. Kitchen.

There is a café in the village which does food but which is not always open.

3 Alto do Poio

Private hostel (50, 5€). Enquire in the café *Puerto*, the hostel is to the rear. Basic. Very basic.

Café *Puerto* does snacks and the café / restaurant across the road (which also now claims to be a pilgrim hostel) does meals.

4 Fonfría

Private hostel (40, 7€, open from April) Albergue A Reboleira. On the left in the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities. *Albergue A Reboleira* has a café which does breakfast and a good pilgrim menu. There's another café at the end of the village (only open in summer).

600m descent to ...

9 Triacastela

Xunta hostel (56, 5€) Albergue de Triacastela. To your left as you enter the town. Laundry facilities. A bit run-down.

Private hostel (40, 9€) Complexo Xacobeo. On your left in the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They have a restaurant a little further down on the same street which opens for breakfast and does an excellent pilgrim menu.

Private hostel (27, 9€) Albergue Oribio. Also on the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (38, 9€) Albergue Aitzenea. Down a street to the right near the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (36, 7€, February to November) Albergue Berce do Caminho. Laundry facilities, kitchen, free internet. There's a very well-stocked supermarket on the corner opposite *Albergue Aitzenea*. Cafés and restaurants on the main street including the restaurant of *Complexo Xacobeo* which opens for breakfast and does an good Pilgrim Menu.

In Triacastela, at the bottom of the main street *Avenida del Caudillo*, the Camino divides. The right route goes to Calvor and on to Sarria. The left route goes via the monastery at

Samos.

RIGHT ROUTE – 15KM

Long stretch with no shops or cafés.

Shortly before you come to the Calvor you'll see Bar Franco which does good food, especially Caldo Galego.

14 Calvor

Xunta hostel (22, 5€) Refugio de Peregrinos de Calvor. On the left at a roundabout before the village. Kitchen.

1km to Aguiada

LEFT ROUTE – 20KM

Follow the road for 4 km as far as San Cristob do Real where the Camino branches to the right.

12 Samos

Religious hostel (90, donativo) Albergue del Monasterio de Samos. The entrance to the hostel is at the opposite side of the monastery to the main entrance.

Private hostel (14, 8€, closes Christmas to New Year) Albergue A Cova do Frade. At the corner of *Calle Salvador* opposite the monastery. Laundry facilities. They have a restaurant and café.

Private hostel (18, 6€) Albergue Casiña de Madera. Opposite the monastery, up *Calle de San Salvador*. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Several restaurants around the village do a pilgrim menu. There are banks, tourist information, shops and bakeries.

There are two possible routes from Samos to Sarria. Both begin by following the main road for about 3km until there is a signposted split. Go right to follow paths through open country to Aguida. This route passes through beautiful countryside but is sparsely waymarked. It passes through the villages of Pascais, Gorolfe, Veiga, Sivil, Calvor and Perros. Go left to follow the road directly to Sarria.

8km to Aguiada

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN ...

Aguiada

Private hostel (20, 8€, closed over Christmas and New Year) Paloma y Leña. After the village to the right of the Camino. A new, purpose-built hostel. Laundry facilities. They do a communal evening meal (with vegetarian option) and breakfast.

A café in the village does good food.

Sarria is the main starting point for people who are just walking the last 100km. During the summer you will notice a sudden increase in the number of fresh-looking people energetically (an often noisily) passing you by.

From this point on the density of cafés has reached the point where there are few places where you can walk for more than about an hour without passing one. For this reason no attempt has been made to mention all of them.

5 Sarria

Private hostel (15, 9€) A Pedra. Just to the right of the tourist information office you pass entering the town. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Xunta hostel (40, 5€) Albergue de Peregrinos de Sarria. On your right after ascending a flight of stairs. Laundry facilities. Newly renovated.

Private hostel (58, 10€) Albergue Internacional. On your left on the Camino. Laundry facilities.

Private hostel (40, 10€) Albergue O Durmiñento. On the right on the Camino.

Private hostel (42, 7€, March to October) Los Blasones. On the right on the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (32, 8€) Albergue Don Álvaro. On the left on the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (23, 6€, only in summer) Albergue dos Oito Marabedís. To the left of the Camino on *rúa Conde de Lemos*, follow the signs. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Sarria is a major town and all facilities are available. Tourist information on the right at the entrance to the town. All but the first hostel are on or near *Rúa Maior*. Supermarket and fruit shop on *Calle de Matias López* which is down the hill to the right past the municipal hostel.

4 Barbadelo

Xunta hostel (18, 5€) Albergue de Barbadelo. Just to the right of the Camino.

Private hostel (6, 10€) Albergue O Pombal. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

A guesthouse near the hostel does a good evening meal.

7 Morgade

Private hostel (16, 8€, Easter to October) Albergue Casa Morgade. Kitchen.

2 Ferrerios

Xunta hostel (22, 5€) Albergue de Ferreiros. Just to the left of the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (10, donativo) O Mirallos, at the end of the village above café *O Mirallos*.

There are two cafés on the Camino in the locality of which *O Mirallos*, does an excellent pilgrim menu and opens for breakfast.

5 Mercadoiro

Private hostel (32, €9) Albergue Rural Mercadoiro. New hostel with a café and restaurant which does regional specialities. Laundry facilities. Good early reports.

3 Portomarín

Private hostel (34, 10€, February to December) Albergue O Mirador. On your left as you climb up towards the town. Has a café which does meals and breakfast. Internet, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (110, 10€) Albergue Ferramenteiro. Beside *O Mirador*. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet.

Private hostel (35, 9€) Albergue El Caminante. On *Rúa Sánchez Carro*, turn left at the church.

Private hostel (22, 10€) Albergue Porto Santiago on *Rúa Diputación*, turn sharp left up the hill before the church. Kitchen, laundry facilities, WiFi, vending machines.

Xunta hostel (100, 5€) Albergue de Portomarín. Up the street to the right of the church then it's on the left. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Municipal hostel (, 5€) Albergue Municipal, opposite the Xunta hostel.

Private hostel (8, 10€, Easter to October) Albergue Manuel. On *Rúa do Miño*, continue straight past the Xunta hostel. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Several restaurants around town do a pilgrim menu, there's a good supermarket, an internet café and banks on *Rúa de Fraga Iribaene*, which leads from the bridge up to the church. The restaurant in *O Mirador* does good food.

8 Gonzar

Xunta hostel (20, 5€) Albergue de Gonzar. To your left as the Camino passes along the main road. Kitchen.

Private hostel (26, 8€) Casa García. Beside the church. In a beautifully renovated farm house.

Casa García has a café that does good food.

5 Hospital da Cruz

Xunta hostel (22, 5€) To the left of the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Luxuriously renovated. A restaurant nearby does meals.

1 Ventas de Narón

Private hostel (22, 8€) Albergue O Cruceiro. Follow the sign, it's 80m from the Camino. They have a café which does meals. Laundry facilities.

Private hostel (18, 9€) Albergue Casa Molar. On the Camino on the right. They have a café that does meals.

Xunta hostel (22, 5€) Albergue de Ventas de Narón. Leaving the village at the side of the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Both *Albergue O Cruceiro* and *Albergue Casa Molar* have cafés.

3 Ligonde

Xunta hostel (24, 5€) Albergue Escuela de Ligonde. On the Camino on the right.

1 Airexe

Xunta hostel (18, 5€) Albergue Airexe/Ligonde. On the Camino on the right. Laundry facilities.

Café *Conde de Waldemar* does good food. It's across the road from the hostel.

2 Lestedo

Private hostel (10, 10€, April to September) Albergue A Calzada. On the Camino on the left. Kitchen.

6 Palas de Rei

Xunta hostel (100, 5€) Os Chacotes/Pavillon del Peregrino. To your right about 1km before the town. Laundry facilities. New hostel with several large dorms.

Municipal hostel (45, 5€) Albergue Municipal. To the left just after the Xunta hostel. Opened June 2010.

Private hostel (100, 10€) Albergue-Mesón de Benito. On *Calle de la Paz* which is just to the left of the Camino when entering the town. Newly opened in 2010. Laundry facilities, internet, restaurant, café, kitchen with microwaves.

Xunta hostel (60, 5€) Albergue de Peregrinos. On your left just before crossing the main road in the town. Laundry facilities. Old and slightly run-down.

Private hostel (152, 9€, Easter to October) Albergue Buen Camino. A little further down from the Xunta hostel, across the main road on the left hand side. They have a café downstairs which does meals and is open for breakfast.

Several restaurants in the town do a pilgrim menu, On the main road, turning right off the Camino in the centre of the town, there are a couple of supermarkets, banks and a pharmacy. There's also a café which does meals near the Xunta and Municipal hostels 1 km before the town.

3 San Xulián do Camiño

Private hostel (16, 10€) O Abridadoiro. On the Camino on the left. They do a communal meal in the evening.

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1 Mato

Private hostel (17, 10€) *Casa Domingo*. On the Camino on the left. Laundry facilities. They do a communal meal in the evening and breakfast. Good reports.

2 Casanova

Xunta hostel (20, 5€) *Albergue de Casanova-Mato*. Just to the right of the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities. A nearby restaurant will deliver an evening meal and breakfast – ask the *hospitalera*.

10 Melide

Xunta hostel (169, 5€) *Albergue de Melide*. On *rúa San Antonio* just to the right of the Camino after the main crossroads. Reopened after renovation July 2010. Laundry facilities.

Private hostel (30, 12€) *Albergue A Palpador*. Also on *rúa San Antonio*. Laundry facilities, kitchen. Mixed reports. The town has all facilities. There are several restaurants specialising in *Octopus/Pulpo Gallego*. *Pizzería Xoldra* on *Avenida de Lugo* does good pizzas.

7 Castañeda

Private hostel (6, 8€) *Albergue Santiago*. Laundry facilities. They do meals.

4 Ribadiso

Xunta hostel (62, 5€) *Albergue de Ribadiso da Baixo*. Across a bridge over a stream on your right. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

A holiday camp which is only open in summer about a 10 minute walk away has a bar and a simple restaurant.

■ **A cafe on the road to Arzúa is open early in the morning.**

3 Arzúa

Private hostel (50, 10€) *Albergue Don Quijote*. On the left on the main road. Laundry facilities, microwaves. All beds in one large dorm.

Private hostel (36, 10€) *Albergue Ultraia*. On the left on the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Good reports.

Private hostel (107, 10€) *Albergue Santiago Apostol*. On the right on the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They have a café which does a pilgrim menu and is open for breakfast.

Private hostel (60, 10€) *Albergue Vía Láctea*. 100m off the Camino close to the church. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Beautiful, newly renovated old building with a patio. Good reports.

Xunta hostel (46, 5€) *Albergue de Arzúa*. Veer left at the tourist information booth. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (24, 7€) *Albergue da Fonte*. Just past the Xunta hostel on the same street. Kitchen, internet. Friendly. The town has all facilities. Tourist information booth on Camino.

■ **This is the point where the Camino del Norte joins the Camino Francés**

17 Santa Irene

Xunta hostel (36, 5€) *Albergue de la Xunta en Santa Irene*. On the righthand side on the main road. Kitchen.

Private hostel (15, 12€) *Albergue Santa Irene*. On the left. Kitchen, laundry facilities. They do a communal evening meal and breakfast.

■ **The village of Arca lies a short distance off the Camino so if you want to sleep here be careful not to miss the turn.**

3 Arca do Pino / Pedrouzo

Xunta hostel (126, 5€) *Albergue de Arca do Pino*. Down a steep incline on the left shortly after entering the village. Kitchen, laundry facilities.

Private hostel (60, 10€) *Albergue Porta de Santiago*. On the Camino on the right. Laundry facilities. Watch out for their talking trailer!

Several cafés on the same street as the hostels do food and there's a café / bakery which opens for breakfast.

16 Monte do Gozo

Xunta hostel (500, 5€) *Albergue de Monte de Gozo*. On a hill overlooking the city of Santiago. On your left just after you pass the large metal monument. Kitchen, laundry facilities. During off-peak times it may be possible to stay for more than one night however you will have to bring all of your belongings with you each morning.

There is a cafeteria nearby for Pilgrims. The spires of the cathedral are visible from the Papal monument but you have to look carefully. However, they might be obscured by trees in summer.

2 San Lázaro

Religious hostel (80, 10€ for the first night and 7€ for subsequent) *Albergue San Lázaro*. To the right just after the church of San Lazarus. Deservedly popular hostel. Kitchen, laundry facilities. You can stay for a maximum of three nights.

Private hostel (30, 13€) *Albergue Santo Santiago*. To the right on the Camino. New private hostel with laundry facilities and internet.

Private hostel (50, 10€ for the first night and 9€ for subsequent) *Albergue Acuario en Santiago*. To the left of the Camino down a fleet of steps shortly after *Albergue Santo Santiago*. In the basement of a block of flats – but don't let that put you off. You can stay as long as you like. Friendly, welcoming hostel with a moderate hippie vibe and helpful staff. Laundry facilities, internet. Midnight curfew.

The café of *Hotel San Lázaro* does food and is open for breakfast. It's on the same street as *Santo Santiago* and *Acuario*.

■ **Although treated as a separate place here San Lázaro is really just a suburb of Santiago.**

■ **On the Camino on the way into Santiago there is a tourist information office (open from 0900 every day, June to September) which gives out very useful maps of the city.**

■ **It's surprisingly easy to get lost on the way into Santiago. If in doubt aim for the cathedral.**

2 Santiago de Compostela

Religious hostel (177, 12€, March to November) *Albergue Seminario Menor*. Laundry facilities, kitchen with microwaves. Off the Camino to the left, from *Praza da San Pedro* turn left on to *Rúa de Blevís* and follow the signs. You can stay more than one night but you must vacate the hostel between 0930 and 1330 and be back in the evening before 2200. You can reserve from their website. www.albergueseminariomenor.com

Private hostel (24, €15) *O Fogar de Teodomiro* on *Praza de la Algalia*, a few minutes north of the cathedral. Newly opened hostel. Kitchen, laundry facilities, internet. No curfew. Price includes towels and sheets. Reservations on their website or by phoning 981 582 920. Some negative reports. www.fogarteodomiro.com

Religious hostel (35, donativo, July and August) on *rúa dos Castiñeiros* which is north of *Praza do Obradoiro* along *rúa de San Francisco* and then veering right and then left. Newly opened in 2010 this hostel intends to provide a space of

tranquillity and reflection for genuine pilgrims. One night only but if you walk to Fisterra you can stay another night on your return. 2200 curfew. Evening prayer service. Outside of the summer months this building is used as a hostel for homeless people.

There are loads of cheap hotels and apartments for hire around the city. In summer expect to pay minimum 20€. People offering accommodation often wait around the entrance to the Pilgrims' Office or give out flyers in the streets around the centre.

There are two very helpful Tourist Offices, one for the city of Santiago and the other for Galicia, open all year on *Rúa do Vilar*. They can give you a free map of the city which is essential for finding your way and various other leaflets about sights and events. They also organise guided tours with different themes and mp3 audio guides. You can also get information here about the Camino to Fisterra. *The Pilgrims' Office / Oficina de Peregrinos*, which is where you go if you want a Compostela certificate, is also on this street.

An *internet Café* near the south end of *Rúa Nova* has printers so you can print boarding cards, etc. There is also internet access and printing (although not always paper) at the Municipal Library which is at the beginning of *Avenida de Xoan XXIII* very near the religious hostel described above.

The *Camino Travel Center* on *Rúa de San Pedro*, offers various services to pilgrims including luggage store, booking accommodation for groups, etc. Their website is www.caminotravelcenter.com

There are free meals for pilgrims in the *Hotel Hostal dos Reis Catolicos* which is to your left when you're standing on *Praza do Obradoiro* facing the cathedral. Only the first 15 in the queue are taken so during busy times you have to arrive early. Walk down the slope left from the hotel entrance to the entrance to the underground carpark and wait there. Meal times are, breakfast 0900, lunch 1200, dinner 2000. You must have a photocopy of your *Compostela* certificate to show you've completed the pilgrimage. Furthermore, you're only entitled to eat for 3 days after the date on your certificate. The food, which comes from the staff canteen, is OK.

If you're tired of tapas and you never really warmed to octopus, there are lots of kebab places around town. One that does excellent falafel is *Newroz* on *Rúa dos Bautizados*. They now have a new branch on the Camino just before Porto Do Peregrino.

In order to cope with the extra crowds during Holy Year 2010 the ecclesiastical authorities have decreed that the number of people allowed inside the cathedral at any time be limited and, for security reasons, no backpacks are allowed. The cathedral is open from 0730 until 2100, so you may want to plan to visit the interior at an off-peak time. A Choir Mass is held daily at 0930 and a Mass for Pilgrims is at 1200.

It's possible to do a tour of the roof of the cathedral costing 10€ at 1700 and 1800. It's very interesting. The commentary is in Spanish only but even if you don't understand anything it's still amazing to see the cathedral and the city from above. Enquiries and booking from the Cathedral Office which is just to the left of the cathedral entrance on *Praza do Obradoiro*. The cathedral also has a museum which can be entered from *Praza do Obradoiro*, it costs 3€ (with *Credencial*) and contains many historical items related to the cathedral and the Camino. The bus to Fisterra leaves from the main bus station and takes about three hours - an unpleasant experience for those who suffer from travel sickness.

It's not over yet, not if you regard Santiago to be the last major obstacle on the way to Fisterra!

So when you've had enough of city prices the way out is down the slope to the left of Hotel Hostal dos Reis Catolicos past where you queue for meals and straight ahead down *Rúa das*

Hortas and *Rúa da Poza de Bar*. It's signposted with yellow arrows from there on.

West of Santiago waymarkings are far less ubiquitous than on the Camino Francés and are mostly the (official) concrete post type with a scallop shell symbol on them and positioned at an angle which indicates the direction to follow. You may find this disconcerting at first. The general rule to keep in mind is that at each point where there is a choice of directions there will be a waymarking of some sort.

12km to Aguapesada, café. 3km to Trasmonte, café. 2km to Pontemaceiro, café. 2km to Chancela de Abaixo, café.

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21 Negreira

Private Hostel (8, 15€ with breakfast) *Albergue Turístico de Logroso* a short distance off the Camino to the left before entering the town. They also have private rooms and do typical Galician cuisine. Opened in 2010, good early reports. Telephone 981 885 820 or 646 142 554, website is www.alberguedelogrosa.com

Private Hostel (40, 9€) *Albergue Lua* on *Avenida de Santiago*. Laundry facilities, internet. Telephone 629 926 802. New hostel, good reports. Website www.alberguelua.com

Private hostel (50, 12€, March to November) *Albergue San José* on *Rúa de Castelao*, to the right of the Camino in the centre of the town. Kitchen. Website www.alberguesanjose.es

Xunta hostel (22, 5€) follow the Camino through the town, up a hill, through an archway and it's there on your left. *Rúa Patrocinio*. Basic.

Alternatively *Café la Mezquita* rents nice single rooms for 20€ *en suite*. Telephone 981 881 652. You'll pass it on your way through town.

With 2,000 inhabitants this is the biggest town you'll pass through between here and the coast. It has all facilities.

8km to A Pena, café which does food all day.

10 Vilaserío

Private hostel (30, 12€) *Restaurant Albergue O Rueiro*, on the Camino. They have a restaurant which does meals and breakfast. Telephone 981 893 561 or 659 568 139. Website www.restaurantealbergueorueiro.com

8 Maroñas

Private hostel (10, 10€) *Albergue Antelo*. In a place called *Aldea de Santa Mariña*. Laundry facilities. They do an evening meal and breakfast. Telephone 981 852 897 or 627 932 484. Poor reports.

15 Olveiroa

Xunta hostel (34, 5€) in the village signposted from the Camino. Kitchen.

There is a bar in the village and a restaurant however, if you arrive late there may be no food available.

6km after Olveiroa, shortly after a place known as Hospital (café), is the turn to the right which bring you directly to Muxía in 24km.

Direction MUXIA: 4km Dumbria, cafés, shops and a bank.

13 Cee

Private hostel (30, 12€) *O Camiño das Estrelas* on *Avenida Finisterre*, on the Camino. Laundry facilities, internet. Opened in 2010. They have a restaurant which gives discounts to pilgrims. Website www.alberguecaminodasestrelas.com

Telephone 981 747 575.

Cee has supermarkets, cafés, banks and lots of cheapish hotels.

8 Corcubión

Amigos del Camino hostel (20, donativo) *Albergue San Roque*, about 1km after the village at the top of the hill. Kitchen, laundry facilities. The only hostel run by this association in Galicia.

Cafés, shops and other accommodation in the village.

14 Fisterra / Finisterre

Xunta hostel (36, 5€) follow the Camino down into the town, when you see the harbour on your left the hostel is straight ahead of you on *Rúa Real*. Kitchen, laundry facilities. You can only stay in this hostel if you walked from Santiago. They can also issue the certificate of completion of this Camino.

Private hostel (30, 10€) *Albergue de Paz*, on *Calle Víctor Cardalda*. No curfew.

Private hostel (9, 10€) *Albergue O Encontro*, on *Calle del Campo*. Laundry facilities, kitchen.

Private hostel (30, €10) *Albergue do Sol* on *Calle Atalaya*. Laundry facilities, kitchen. Opened in 2010, good reports.

There's lots of other accommodation available from posh hotels to little old ladies who rent beds in apartments for 10€. You'll usually meet them around the bus stop. A nice place with panoramic views of the harbour is *Hospedaje Lopez* on *Calle de la Carrasqueira*, which is up a steep hill on your right as you follow the Camino into town.

Fisterra has lots of fish restaurants of varying quality near the harbour and shops, banks, etc.

The lighthouse is about 2km from the town walking south.

The bus stop for connections to Santiago is on the street just around the corner from the pilgrim hostel.

Finisterre to Muxía is 31km. However, the route is confusing and there are several possibilities, some along the coast and others further inland, so the distance will vary slightly depending on which one you take.

Leave Fisterra by the way you first arrived until you shortly come to a point where there's a stone cross and a path leads to the right down towards the beach, here you should continue walking along the main road until you come to *Hotel Playa Langosteira*, now turn left up a small road and at the top turn right and follow the waymarkings. This Camino can be a bit difficult to follow but generally it runs north all the way and is rarely more than a few hundred metres from the sea.

16km Lires has a café that does food.

Shortly after Lires there's a crossing over the río Castro which can be difficult after rain if the crossing stones are submerged. It's possible to avoid this crossing by following the road (AC-2301) east out of Lires towards A Pereira and then left towards Frixe.

Muxía

Xunta hostel (32, 5€) on a hill at the southern end of the town on *Rúa Enfesto*. Kitchen. Extraordinary, modern, purpose-built hostel. You can only stay there if you walked from Santiago or Fisterra and can show proof (stamp in Credencial or receipt from hotel). You can stay one night only. The town has all facilities. Many fish restaurants and cafés along the harbour. Beware tourist prices – eg. 5€ for coffee and *tostadas*. *Restaurante La Sirena* on *Calle de los Condes de Maceda* does excellent seafood for fair prices. The owner speaks German.

To get to the church on the waterfront walk north through the town and continue along the new paved road which will bring you straight there.

Buses to Santiago leave from beside the harbour.

To return to Santiago via the shorter route through Olveiroa follow the waymarkings south from the hostel. This will bring you to Hospital in 30km through Muíños, San Matiño de Ozón, Quintáns, Senande, Buxán, Dumbria and Hospital.

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*** Tell people about the Camino Guide. The more people use it the better.**

*** Send us your feedback and experiences. We love to hear from fellow pilgrims.**

*** Also, most valuably, send us any information which you think is missing from this guide and any corrections, updates and suggestions.**

*** This guide is distributed on a donativo basis. So if it was useful to you please consider making a small donation to help us improve it and keep it up-to-date: caminoguide.net/donate**

This guide is being constantly updated so check back before you travel for the latest version.

Information is available on our website at www.caminoguide.net and also access to our other services like our guide to Camino Spanish and menu translator, our guide to the Vía de la Plata and the Camino Aragonés and how to travel to and from various points on the Caminos.

What's in the CaminoGuide.net Guide to the Camino Francés?

The full guide comes in two books. The first book is the guide itself – all the information you'll need during your Camino is in this one, so you don't need to bring the other one with you.

Distances: between places with pilgrim accommodation.

Placenames: the meaning and origins of the names of villages and towns.

Accommodation: All the same up-to-date information about accommodation that you get in the free guide.

Sights: information about and the history of, the sights you'll see along the Camino.

History: a brief history of the towns and villages along the Camino, describing significant events and people and any legends associated with the Camino.

Services: All the same up-to-date information about services (shops, restaurants, tourist information, Internet, etc.) that you get in the free guide plus informations about local festivals.

Gastronomy: descriptions of the traditional dishes to watch out for in the different regions and recommendations on where to try them.

and wine before having a big bonfire into which they throw sticks to ask the saint to protect their animals.

For several kilometres after Montañas the Camino runs parallel to a quite country road. In bad weather walking the road is by far the better option.

6 San Antón

Saint Anthony.

Religious hostel (12, donativo, July to September) San Antón. In the ruins of an old monastery. Basic. Sleeping area is outside under an awning. Communal evening meal by candle-light.

The Camino passes under the pointed arches which previously connected the pilgrim hostel to the church of the monastery of San Antón which was built in the 14th century. The Monks used the cross symbol called Tau, for its similarity to the capital Greek letter T, several examples of which can be seen in the locality. The monastery is said to have housed the relics of San Antón, brought here from Constantinople (Istanbul) by a knight returning from the Crusades (G). They can be visited for free.

The monks of this monastery specialised in the treatment of *Ergotism*, also known as *Saint Anthony's Fire* because it causes a sensation of internal burning in its victims. The monks' treatments included amputations of extremities. Their unfortunate patients sometimes left wood or wax carvings of the part they had lost in the church to encourage heavenly intervention.

This disease, whose symptoms include gangrene, convulsions, hallucinations, spasms, diarrhoea, paraesthesia, itching, headaches, nausea and vomiting, is caused by eating a fungus which infects rye. In the middle ages rye bread was commonly eaten across Northern Europe but was unknown in Spain. For this reason, pilgrims suffering from this disease sometimes found themselves "miraculously cured" during their journey to Santiago.

3 Castrojeriz

From Latin *Castrum Sigerici. Castrum / defended place. Sigerici was the king who built the castle.*

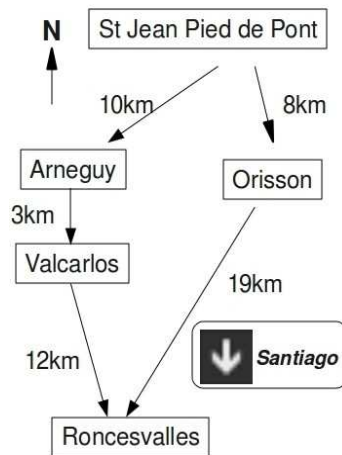
Private hostel (40, 5C) Camino de Santiago. In the camping site to your left. They have a café and restaurant which does a Pilgrim Menu and laundry facilities. ● **Private Hostel (26, 7,50C with breakfast, March to October)** Casa Nostra. On Calle Real de Oriente. On the Camino. Kitchen and laundry facilities. Reports of poor hygiene. ● **Municipal hostel (30, donativo with breakfast)** San Esteban. Follow the Camino to the Plaza Mayor, the hostel is up steps to the right. Bright, airy, pleasant atmosphere. Internet. Powered by solar energy. ● **Municipal hostel (26, donativo with breakfast)** San Juan. On Calle Cordón. Basic facilities. Cramped, dark dorms. A last resort.

Shop, baker and bank around Plaza Mayor. ● **Fiestas** Around the feast day of St John the Baptist 24 June with several days and nights of music, dancing, processions, etc. *El Ajo* during July weekends, festival themed around the garlic harvest. Early September *El Sejo* with more dancing, music, processions, etc.

The café / restaurant *La Taberna*, which is on the Camino on Calle Real de Oriente, about 200m before Plaza Mayor, does an excellent Pilgrim Menu. They also open for breakfast, do tasty bocadillos and have internet access.

Castrojeriz is another *pueblo calle* (G) with a long history of association with the Camino. In the middle ages its (very long) main street was lined with pilgrim churches, convents and hostels. ● The *Colegiata de Santa Maria del Manzano* is an impressive Gothic building with some Baroque-Rococo features. Its construction was begun in 1214, although the chapel dates from the 18th century. It houses a statue of *Santiago Peregrino* and *La Virgen del Manzano* or *Virgin of the Apple Tree*, the town's patron. It's at the beginning of the town, just to the right of the Camino. ● The ruins can still be seen on the top of the hill of the castle which used to dominate the landscape for miles around. It was built by the Visigoth king *Sigerici* (from whom it derived its name) in 760, although parts of an earlier Roman building were preserved. ● *Adobe* (or *mud*) the traditional building material of the *Meseta* (G) begins to make an appearance here. From here on these mud brick buildings will be common until they fade away as we near the

(images not to scale)



Routes: When the Camino splits there is a description of the different options and a simple diagram for easy comparison.

The railway line from Bayonne was completed in 1889 ending the towns geographic isolation.

There are two routes between St Jean Pied de Port and Roncesvalles. The right route goes through the valley via Valcarlos and the left route goes over the mountains via Orisson. In winter it's important to ask in St Jean about weather conditions. Both routes are difficult in snow or high winds and the left route is often impassable in winter. In mountainous areas weather conditions can change very quickly. Leaving St Jean walk down rue de la Citadelle, under the arch at the river and up rue d'Espagne, continuing straight under another arch and up a hill for about 100m until you reach a junction with a small sign on a lamppost indicating the two routes.

RIGHT ROUTE – 25KM – VALCARLOS

After turning right on to this route continue straight to the main road which you follow to the left for about 500m until there is a signposted turn to the right down a side road. Follow the signs for Valcarlos/Luzaide and Roncevaux (French for Roncesvalles).

10km Arneguy, this village (almost like a Basque Berlin) is divided by the Spanish/French border. Shops, restaurant and café.

Entering Navarra and Spain

Between Arneguy and Valcarlos there are two options either to go on the road *carretera* or via the village of Ondarrolle. The road is less strenuous but also less attractive.

13 Valcarlos / Luzaide

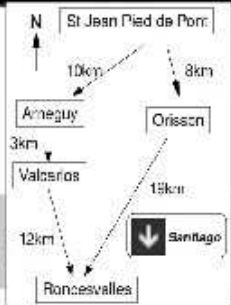
Valley of Carlos another name for Charlemagne (G) who passed this way. Its Basque name is *Luzaide* however officially it is called *Luzaide/Valcarlos* reflecting its location on the fault-line between multiple cultures.

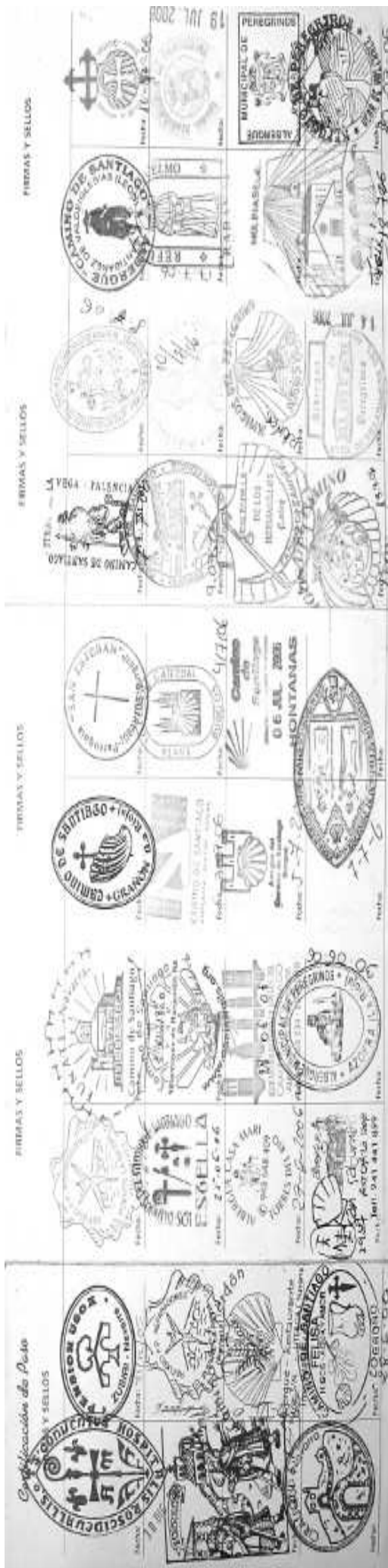
Municipal hostel (24, 10C with breakfast) on Plaza de Santiago on the ground floor of the school. Kitchen with microwave and coffee machine. If it's closed ask somebody in the village or call 948 790 189.

Shop, cafés, hotels and bank. There's an information point on the right on the main road.

This area has many fine examples of Basque farmhouses. These distinctive buildings have an area for farm animals on the ground floor with accommodation for people above.

Despite being in Spain, linguistically and culturally Valcarlos has more in common with the French Basque Country than with the Spanish Basque Country.





In addition to this

the second book contains background information about the Caminos. Including:

Planning and Preparation: advice on when to walk, which part to walk, what to bring (clothes, equipment, etc.), what not to bring (very important), travel to your starting point, internet resources and budgeting.

On the Camino: advice and information about what to expect on the Camino. Terrain, waymarkings, accommodation, food and drink, money matters, keeping in touch (telephone, internet, etc.), health – with advice on staying healthy and accessing the Spanish health service, Camino administration, etiquette and safety – staying safe and planning for any eventuality.

The Caminos: information about the other Caminos, a list of book about the Caminos (unfortunately, many of which aren't available in English) and Camino statistics with the most popular starting points, nationalities, routes and busiest months.

History: the aim of the History section is to give you an understanding of the historical background to the Camino and the role it played in the foundation of modern Spain and Europe. It contains a history of Spain and a history of the Camino from its beginnings to its revival in the late 20th century. There's also an account of life on the Camino in the middle-ages and the types of people who walked then, their motivations and the hardships and hazards they faced.

Society, Culture & Environment: gives a brief outline of the fascinating mosaic that is modern Spain, its politics, culture and peoples. The natural environment of northern Spain and the impact of the Camino on it. A description of the architectural styles and periods you'll see along the Camino.

Communicating: advice on making yourself understood and understanding others, with a Menu Guide to help you decipher menus and the most useful Spanish words and phrases for Camino life plus a few phrases in Basque and Galician.

Glossary: a concise reference for many Camino-related persons and things.

Why another guide to the Camino Francés?

After walking various Caminos and talking to a lot of people about their personal histories, I became fascinated by the phenomenon that is the Camino today, so out of step with the secular values which predominate in modern Europe. I was amazed at the friendliness of the natives and their goodwill towards pilgrims, the solidarity that exists between pilgrims of all ages and backgrounds and the sheer numbers of people who leave the comforts of their normal lives to undertake this journey – a lot less hazardous today than in the past, but nonetheless, difficult on many levels for people used to the squeaky clean convenience of modern life.

I was also fascinated by the history of the Camino. From its "doubtful" origins to the role it played in the *Reconquista* and the creation of modern Spain and Europe. Not to mention the architecture. The Caminos in Spain and France are littered with extraordinary historic buildings – sometimes in the middle of nowhere – which testify to its religious, cultural and political significance.

I wanted to create a guidebook which tries, objectively, to document and explain the Camino in its historical context while providing pilgrims with the most accurate and up-to-date information possible.

It's up-to-date

It's up-to-date because it's updated at the same time as the online guide, with information provided by pilgrims, and your copy is printed **individually for you when you place your order.**

How big it is? How much does it weigh?

Both books are A5 (148 x 211mm, 5.8 x 8.3 inches). They weigh less than 100g (4oz) each. It's compact and easily folded. In keeping with the minimalist nature of the Camino it just contains the information you need leaving out unnecessary things like photos and maps. The downloadable version can be printed two A5 pages on one A4 (or *letter*) page, so the guide section would print on 33 pages simplex and 17 duplex.

How much does it cost?

The printed version costs 9€ (plus p+p 3€). The download and print yourself version costs 4€.

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