

The Camino Portugués - Spain

Planning your journey - Albergues

1	Valença or Tui – Redondela	30 kms
2	Redondela – Pontevedra	20.5 kms
3	Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis	21.1 kms
4	Caldas de Reis – Padrón	17 kms
5	Padrón – Santiago	23.9 kms

Language

When you reach Spain you are entering Galicia where there are two languages spoken: Spanish and Galician (Gallego). Gallego is closer to Portuguese in many ways but both have equal status in Galicia. Most people in towns speak both languages but in the countryside Gallego is more commonly used. Place-names on sign-posts may be in either language although Gallego is now more common.

International Phone codes

For Spain: 0034

How to find a place to stay

The internet is now a rich source of information on accommodation. So too is the local Tourist Office which will have a list of accommodation of different prices and they may also express an opinion on the most suitable. Whilst many pilgrims want to book in advance to be sure of a bed and to avoid trailing around hostels with a rucksack at the end of a hard day's walking, there are bargains to be had if you arrange or check in at the last moment. If you are going to do this however make sure you avoid any local fiestas.

You should check out in advance how to get to the Tourist Office or town centre from your point of arrival at the airport/bus station.

Waymarking

When you cross into Spain there are granite waymarks with a blue tile with an arrow as well as occasional yellow arrows.



Definitions for this guide:

KSO – keep straight on

Fuente – drinking fountain

Lavadero – In Spain a communal facility for washing clothes

How the distance numbers work

Throughout the guide three numbers appear together – the first is the distance you have walked since the last number recorded. In brackets the first number is the total you have walked since your departure from Porto and the second is total number of Kilometres to Santiago from Porto.

Valença

Valença also known as Valença do Minho has a population of under 15,000 people. Valença is a walled town of Roman origins located on the left bank of the Minho River. One of the four gates into the town is the Porta de Santiago. Also within the Fortress a Roman milestone marks the XLII mile of the road connecting Braga to Tui.

The most interesting things to visit are mainly inside the Fortress that looks down on the Minho River and across to Spain. The main entrance is the Porta do Sol.

From the Fortress you can look down on the bridge which connects Portugal with Spain.

Where to stay:

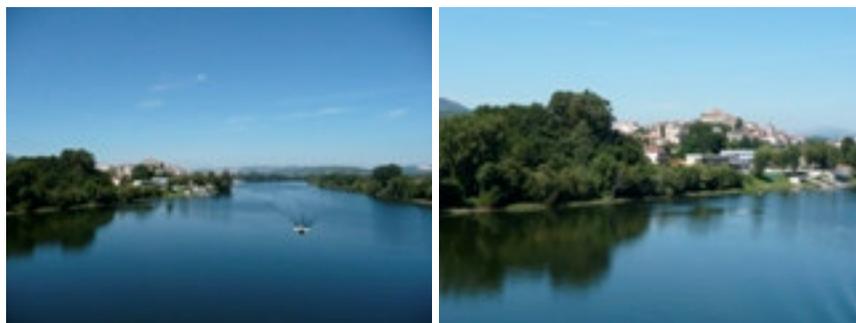
Valença – Albergue de São Teótonio, Av. Dos Bombeiros

50 beds

Tel 251 809 506

Details of other accommodation at the Tourist Office: see below.

Valença - Tui



Spain getting closer crossing the bridge to Tui

Remember to change your watch + 1 hour to Spanish time

KSO ahead at the roundabout and go downhill passing the Valença Tourist Office on your Left, **sello available**. Pass the Spanish Consulate on your Right. Go down the bottom of the hill and cross the bridge over the River Minho by way of a pedestrian walkway. At the end of the bridge enter Spain and the town of Tui. Turn Right at the end of the bridge. KSO and at a junction yellow arrows go to the Right past the Parador then the waymarked route loops back to join the road you are on – the Avenida Portugal. If you are not going to the Parador you can KSO the Avenida Portugal with scallop shell tiles on the pavement until a yellow arrow indicates a Right turn up to the **Cathedral and albergue** in:

Tui - 3.3 kms (128/240.5 kms)

Tourist Office

Tel 986601789 Fax: 986601789
Calle: Edif. Área Panorámica, Colón,2
C.P.: 36700
E-mail oficina.turismo.tui@xunta.es

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 09:30 a 13:30 and from 16:30 a 18:30
Saturday from 10:30 to 12:30

Where to stay

The Albergue

Located just below the Cathedral slightly off route. Go to the left of the cathedral, pass the police station and the Albergue is on the right side of the street. It does not open until 5pm and you may have to telephone the hospitalero. There are two dormitories, good showers and toilets, a small sitting out area / drying clothes area to the rear and a kitchen.

Parador

32 rooms, 4* Hotel
Telephone: +34 986600309 / 986600300
Fax: +34 986602163
<http://www.parador.es>
tui@parador.es

Hotel Colón Tui

45 rooms, 3*
Telephone: +34 986600223
Fax: +34 986600327
<http://www.hotelcolontuy.com>
info@hotelcolontuy.com

Hostal Generosa

Street Calvo Sotelo, 37
Telephone +34 986600055

A quaint hostel with showers/bathrooms in the hall and some triple rooms.

Tui – Redondela 30kms (Porriño with albergue 14.5 kms - Cabaleiros with albergue 22.3 kms)

Leaving Tui

Follow the waymarks from the Cathedral down to the Rúa Antero Rubín. KSO under an archway passing a church on your Right. KSO until waymarks indicate a Right turn which after a little leads into the Plaza San Bartolomé with the church of that name of the far side. Leave Tui by passing along a lane with the church on your Left.

KSO down until you come to the bridge over the Rio Louro. Turn Left before the bridge and follow the waymarks until you come to the main road, the N550. Cross over and KSO until you pass the church of Our Lady of the Way on your Right. Shortly after this cross the motorway. KSO this road for approximately 1.5 kms. The route has been disrupted in this area due to road works and there are signs apologising for this – however waymarking remains clear.

After approximately 1.5 kms turn Right at a waymark showing the distance 109.278. Cross the bridge over the motorway and follow the path on the other side until you come to the **Cruceiro San Telmo** where legend has it that the Saint fell sick and died of a fever on returning from a pilgrimage to Santiago in the 13th Century. **5 kms (133/240.5 kms)**

KSO the path going through the village of A Madalena and at the end of the village by 5 crosses turn Left and then Right and KSO until you come to a bridge. KSO the track which eventually becomes a minor road at Orbenelle. **3.5 kms (136.5/240.5 kms)**

Follow the waymarks Right passing a bar/shop on your Left and a bar in front of you. Shortly turn Left and KSO ahead for approximately 3kms. At the end of the straight stretch veer Right then Left and go down to a **pedestrian bridge** on your Right over the **railway. 3 kms (139.5/240.5 kms)**

On the other side KSO. There is a handy bar on your Left and other bars and restaurants on this straight stretch. Also on this road you will pass the 100 kms distance to Santiago. On the Right side of the road you will pass a fuente with drinkable water then a small roadside chapel.

Tui – Porriño

Approximately 1.5 kms before the entrance to Porriño pass on the RH side of the road the **Church of the Virgin of the Way**. There is a statue of **San Roque Peregrino** on the wall on the Left inside. The figure is wearing a Hat, scallop shell, stick and has a dog. There is the traditional depiction of a wound on the Saint's left leg.

Porriño 3.3 kms (142.8/240.5 kms)

Porriño

Porriño is a small town and has a good range of shops, farmacias and banks. There are also a number of hostals, hotels and restaurants. If staying here there is an **Albergue**. To reach it in the town centre you turn Left to go to the albergue with 40 beds and facilities for disabled people. To reach it turn left at the five lamps roundabout, cross the rail tracks and the Rio Louro and the albergue is between the river bank at the motorway to Vigo

Alternative accommodation includes:

Hostal Louro

Avda. Buenos Aires, 6

Telephone: +34 986330048

Hotel Parque ***

Servando Ramillo, 6

Telephone: +34 986331604

to the road.

Eventually turn Left off the road and go over the Ponte Rio Loura.

3 kms (147.8/240.5 kms)

Pass a resting place with the Fonte Maria Magdalena on your Left and then begin rising steadily to a village with a bar in:

Cabaleiros - 3.7 kms (151.5/240.5 kms)

Cabaleiros has a new **albergue** on the route if you wish to break your journey here. There is a bar opposite.



Cabaleiros - Redondela

KSO rising gently for 2 kms on paths and minor roads. Follow a waymark up a path to the highest point at Monte Cornedo. **2 kms (153.5/240.5 kms)**

In this stretch the route by passes the Capela de Santiaguíño, set in the park. It is the focus of the annual local pilgrimage, the romería. The Church, restored in 2003 has a modern Santiago Matamoros over the main door. The figure is wearing a hat with scallop shell, one scallop shell on each lapel, brandishing a sword, banner and sitting on a prancing horse but unlike other older depictions has no dead or cowering moors.

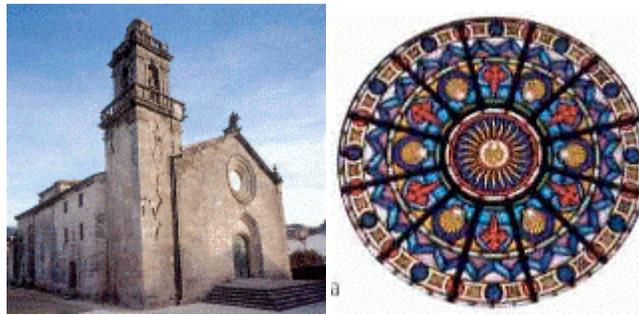
Pass a recreation area on your Left and a Roman Milario (Milestone) shortly after this. KSO gently downhill until you reach the road at the **Panadaria O Parque** with a fuente on your left. **1 kms (154.5/240.5 kms)**

KSO the road passing the Casa Figueron on your Right. Shortly after this turn Right and almost immediately Right again at a **restaurant**. **1 kms (155.5/240.5 kms)**

KSO this path gently downhill passing a picnic area and shortly there are views of the river in the distance. KSO downhill at times on minor roads more steeply for about 2 kms.

Turn Left on a main road for just over 0.5 kms and then turn Right to enter:

Redondela - 2.5 kms (158/240.5 kms)



Iglesia de Santiago, Redondela

Inside the church there is a figure of Santiago Apóstol over the main altar and out side the figure of Santiago Matamoros freestanding over the main door. The rose window over the main door has 6 scallop shells alternating with 6 Santiago swords plus a central scallop shell.

Accommodation

Albergue – 56 beds and is on the route near the Church of Santiago – follow the arrows. Two large dormitories, showers and toilets, living room and library. Small kitchen and reportedly limited drying facilities. The albergue does not open until 5pm but there have been reports of it opening much earlier. The albergue closes at 9.30pm.

Other accommodation:

Although there is a range of restaurants, banks etc, surprisingly for this busy town there is only one hostel 1km from the centre namely the reasonably priced Hostal Brasil 2 (Tel 986 402 251) You will see it up to your Right as you approach the junction to turn Left into Redondela. Therefore at the junction turn Right to reach it.

There is another, the Hotel Antolin (formerly called the O Pear) situated some distance from Redondela at the beach, the Playa de Cesantes Tel 968495409 www.hotelantolin.com/ubicacion.htm

Redondela - Pontevedra

Leaving Redondela

Leaving Redondela from the Albergue turn Right and go up past the Rúa do Adro towards the 16th Century Church of Santiago. Turn Left into the Rúa do Cruceiro. KSO under the railway line and cross

over the main road. Follow the waymarks along minor roads and paths until you reach the main N550 at **the Hostal Jumboli**, Tel 986 495066 Offers a discount for pilgrims.

3 kms (161/240.5 kms)

Cross the road carefully and shortly turn Left uphill to a fuente and picnic area on your Right.

Shortly after the fuente turn Left and keep on tracks and minor roads rising steadily and then downhill until you come back to the N550.

2.5 kms (163.5/240.5 kms)

Cross the road **VERY carefully** to the Left side and walk facing the traffic hugging the verge. KSO for some 0.7 kms. Take a loop off to the Left and rejoin the N550 to cross it this time with a crossing on your Left. Follow the road round to the Left into the centre of Arcade with its Iglesia de Santiago. Follow the arrows and reach a handy **bar** on your Left. **1.5 kms (165/240.5 kms)**

Follow the waymarks through Arcade to the arched bridge over the Rio Verdugo with a beach and swimming area on your Right. At the end of the bridge turn Left and almost immediately Left again rising steadily between houses. After just over 1 km you come to the main road. The original route used to cross straight over continuing down to the historic Ponte Nova. However the route has temporary waymarks at this time due to what appears to be flooding. Follow these waymarks Left and after approximately 0.5 kms turn Right passing between factory buildings. Shortly turn Left rejoining the original path.

You will now go uphill steadily for approximately 4 kms on substantial sections of bouldered paths. KSO until you go through a small hamlet and then begin the descent into Pontevedra. Reach a useful fuente on your Right, the Fuente de Montes de Figueirido. **6 kms (171/240.5 kms)**

KSO downhill on minor roads with occasional stretches of rocky paths and 2.5 kms later reach the outskirts of Pontevedra at the **Capela de Santa Marta, Tomeza** on your Right. **2.5 kms (173.5/240.5 kms)**

Redondela - Pontevedra

Follow waymarks along a straight road passing a play area on your Right with three modern sculptures: a hórreo, a scallop shell with the cross of Santiago and a figure representing Christ, Santiago and Our Lady the Pilgrim. **1 kms (174.5/240.5 kms)**



KSO and after approximately 1 km at a roundabout with cafés before and after KSO ahead. There is a waymark and yellow arrows immediately on the other side of the roundabout. Follow this road round to the Left, go under the bridge and veer Right. Pass the **Hostal Peregrino** on your Left and the **modern albergue** on your Right. **2.5 kms (177/240.5 kms)**

This is a modern purpose built **Albergue** on the route approximately 1.5 kms before the centre of the town. Open time advertised as 5pm but this may vary. It has one very large dormitory and also one smaller. It has a well equipped laundry with coin operated machines and a well equipped kitchen. There are showers and toilets and a large sitting / dining area as well as ample room to sit outside. There are vending machines with snacks and drinks. The albergue closes its doors at 10 pm.

KSO passing the railway station on your Right. Cross the road and take a road slightly down Left parallel with the main road. This will bring you out at the Rúa Virgen del Camino at the end of which turn Left and immediately Right. KSO into the Praza Peregrina with the impressive **Santuario de la Peregrina** in:

Pontevedra 1.5 kms (178.5/240.5 kms)

Pontevedra

Pontevedra is a town of some 80,000 inhabitants and has all transport links, restaurants, banks and so on.

The churches, architecture and Museum contain many depictions of St James, St Roche and Our Lady the Pilgrim as shown above at the Santuario de la Peregrina.



Sanctuario



La Peregrina

The tourist office is just a short distance from here. Go along the Rúa Michelena and then Left into the Calle Xeneral Gutierrez Mellado No 3.

Tourist Office
Tel 986850814

Email: oficina.turismo.pontevedra@xunta.es
Web site: <http://www.turismoenpontevedra.es/>

Opening hours

Winter

Monday - Friday 09:30 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 18:30

Saturday: 10:00 to 13:30

Summer

Monday - Friday 09:30 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 19:30

Saturday 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 19:30

Where to stay

Parador – 986 855800

Hotel Galicia Palace ****, Av Vigo 3, - 986 864 416

Hotel Dabarca ***, Calle Palamios, - 986 869 723

Hotel Rúas *, Padre Sarmiento 20, - 986 846 416

Hostals and Pensions

Hostal La Paloma **, Rúa da Pomba, 11 - 986 844 210

Casa Maruja , Av Santa María 12, – 986 854 901

Pensión Lago, Cobián Roffignac, 18, – 986 840 418

Pensión Santa Clara, Santa Clara 31, – 986 855 701

Pensión Atlantico, Padre Fernando Olmedo, 38, 986 861 551

Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis 21.1 kms, Albergue Concello de Barro 12kms or Albergue in Briallos approximately 4 kms from Caldas de Reis 17kms. NB There is no albergue in Caldas de Reis at this time

Leaving Pontevedra

Leave Pontevedra from the Praza Peregrina into the neighbouring Traza Ourense. Keep to the Left along the Rúa Soportales and at the next small plaza head over Right to the Rúa Real. KSO towards the river and to cross turn Left and then immediately Right and cross the **Puente del Burgo**.



At the end of the bridge cross straight over the road and shortly turn Left and then Right into the Rúa da Santiña. KSO and the road becomes the Rúa Gandara. From here the route is very straightforward moving through leafy paths and minor roads. You will pass a fuente on your Left. Pass under the railway, KSO until you reach the Iglesia Santa Maria de Alba with a **large cemetery** and two modern camino related sculptures. **3.8 kms (182.3/240.5 kms)**

Continue for approximately 0.5 kms and turn Left onto a main road. Pass under the bridge and follow the road round for a further 0.5 kms passing the Capela San Caetano on your Right. Cross the road carefully looking out for waymarks and KSO up a more minor road.

Continue as before on country paths for approximately 3 kms until you cross the railway line at a **marked crossing. 4.2 kms (186.5/240.5 kms)**

Continue up on the other side to the small village of San Amaro with the Bar Meson do Pulpo which does simple meals. **0.6 kms (187.1/240.5 kms)**

Redondela – Briallos – Caldas de Reis

There is also another bar with food in a further 2 kms but there are **no** other facilities on the route until Caldas de Reis.

Continue on the route passing the Bar Pulpo on your Right and almost immediately pass a rest area and the Fuente San Mauro. KSO for 1.5 kms and cross the road onto a track. Soon turn Left and then Right onto a road. KSO for approximately 0.5 kms reaching a Cruceiro featuring Santiago on your Left and blocks of stone on your Right. **2.6 kms (189.7/240.5 kms)**

In the next stretch you will see a sign off to the Right to the **Albergue** provided by the **Concello de Barro**. 12 kms approximately.

The albergue is a few hundred metres from the route and was opened in the Holy Year 2004. It has 40 places on mattresses – no beds, showers and hot water. The Protección Civil de Barro has the key, tel 686938785.

From the Cruceiro follow the road round with the rail bridge on your Left until you are walking right beside it on your Left with the line high above.

Turn Left onto a main road which crosses the river then turn Left. After 2 kms reach the N550 at the sign for the Parque Natural Ria Barosa and a **bus stop** on your Right. 3.9 kms **(193.6/240.5 kms)**

Turn Left onto the road which crosses the Rio Agra and turn Left onto a path. Rejoin the main road briefly before turning Left again onto another path with a sign for **Briallos Albergue** 1km and a waymark with the distance 47.289.

Briallos – Caldas de Reis



Albergue at Briallos

The route comes back to the N550 at the roundabout at:

Briallos - 1.4 kms (195/240.5 kms)

Entering Briallos follow signs Left to the Albergue which is just a few hundred metres away.

The albergue is a modern purpose built facility with 24 beds and cooking facilities. There is a restaurant offering a Menu del Dia and a shop approximately 1.5 kms away.

To keep on the route at the roundabout follow the path parallel to the main road on your Right. Rejoin the main road briefly after 0.5 kms before turning off Left at the Capela Santa Lucia. KSO this path for 2kms until the Fuente and Cruceiro at Tívo. **2.6 kms (197.6/240.5 kms)**

KSO for another 1 km rejoining the main road briefly again passing the Iglesia Santa Maria on your Left. Follow the arrows down a quiet street Left after the church before rejoining the main road and passing the Ayuntamiento on your Right and crossing the Río Umia. Turn Left after the bridge onto the Rúa Laureano Salgado. Pass the Hotel Dávila on your Left with a public fuente with thermal waters used by the public. KSO into the Rúa Real until you reach the Puente Romano in:

Caldas de Reis 2 kms (199.6/240.5 kms)



Pilgrim bathing feet in thermal waters

Caldas de Reis

Caldas de Reis is a small town famous for its thermal waters and many older people go there to "take the waters". There is a hot spring (above) for public use outside the Hotel Dávila. The town also boasts the Church of St Thomas à Becket, the only Church in Galicia dedicated to the English Martyr.

There is also the Capilla San Roque at the end of the town. Inside there is a free standing wooden polichrome statue of San Roque peregrino. Outside there is a stone figure of San Roque similar to depictions of Santiago only with a dog.

Caldas de Reis

This is a small town and the tourist office and accommodation are all within a few minutes walking distance.

Tourist Office

Rúa - Paseo de Román López s/n

Tel 986540002

E mail caldasdereis@cegamp.es

Hotel Cruceiro

Fermín Mosquera, 44

Tel 986 540165

Hotel Sena

Calle Juan Fuentes, 99

Tel 986 540596

Hotel Lotus

Calle Dolores Mosquera, 57

Tel 986 540602

Hotel-Balneario Acuña

Calle Herrería, 2

Tel 986 540010

Hotel-Balneario Dávila

C/ Laureano Salgado, 11

Tel 986 540012

Caldas de Reis – Padrón 17 kms (or Teo + 11kms)

Leaving Caldas de Reis

Cross the Puente Romano and KSO passing the Capilla de San Roque with a fuente on your Left. Cross the main road carefully and proceed up Right side to veer Right when indicated.



Bridge leaving Caldas de Reis

KSO country trails for about 4 kms passing under the rail bridge high above. Cross the N550 after another 1km.

On the other side a short distance to the Left is the Café Esperon and a little further the Café Antonio and the Hotel Casa Alta. Follow the waymarks through the village until you reach the **church and square** in **Santa Mariña de Carrecedo 5.4 kms (205/240.5 kms)**



Caldas de Reis – Padrón

Continue up through the village past the school on your Left. About 1 km later cross the main road continuing on the other side until you reach the A7 motorway – approximately 8 kms from departure. Turn Left over the motorway bridge and the route continues immediately to the Right on the other side. **The Bar Pardal** is in sight just off the Route after the Right turn.

From the Right turn KSO leafy paths for 1.5 kms and just before the main road turn Right to meander for almost 2 kms. This section is not well waymarked at this time. However simply stick to the main path with no major turns and come out at the **small bridge** over the **Río Valga. 4.1 kms (209.1/240.5 kms)**

Turn Right over the bridge passing a rest area on your Left. Follow the road round the village of Valga with the Fonte de San Miguel on your Right and the Church of that name on your Left. Follow the road round and shortly turn Left into a path. Some 3.5 kms later cross over the main road and continue up on the other side to **Infesta. 4.5 kms (213.6/240.5 kms)**

KSO down the Rúa Coengos passing the church of San Xulián on your Left. Cross the railway line and on your Left pass under the road turning Right on the other side KSO to the **bridge** over the River Ulla.

KSO over the bridge and then veer Left onto minor roads which will take you along the banks of the Río Sar, under the road bridge, past the football ground on your Right and into the market square. **2.4 kms (216/240.5 kms)**

The route goes through Padrón by the Rúa de Castelao which leads you to the Igrexa Santiago in:

Padrón - 0.6 kms (216.6/240.5 kms)

Padrón

The small town of Padrón is situated some 20 kms or so from Santiago and is rich in the tradition of St James. It is here that he is said to have begun his ministry and it is also here that it is said the boat carrying the body of St James back to Spain was tied up. Legend has it that the boat carrying the Saint's body was tied to the stone called the Pedrón is displayed under the altar of the Church of Santiago. The church also contains sculptures and paintings of both Santiago and St Roque On Santaguiño Monte there is a statue of St James preaching. To get there is a steep climb accessible up steps between houses 13 and 15 on the road to Noia.

The home of Padrón's most famous daughter, the writer Rosalía de Castro is now a museum. It is situated beside Padrón's train station.



The Pedrón



House of Rosalía de Castro

Albergue

With the Igrexa Santiago facing you turn Left to go over the bridge to the albergue situated just below the impressive Convento de Carmen. The albergue has one large spacious dormitory upstairs, toilet/showers and a well equipped kitchen/dining room downstairs. Small sitting out/clothes drying area to the rear. The albergue closes at 10 pm.

Tourist Office

Rúa: Avda. Compostela,
Tel 627210777

Web site <http://www.ayuntamientodepadron.com>

Email correo@padron.dicoruna.es

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 10:00 to 13:30 and 16:00 a 20:00 (July to September) and 19.00 the rest of the year.

The Tourist Office lists the following accommodation:

Hotel Chef Rivera. Calle Enlace parque, 7 Tel 981 81 14 54

Hotel Rosalía. Calle Maruxa Villanueva Tel 981 81 24 90

Hotel Scala. Pazos Tel 981 81 13 12

Casa Huéspedes Grilo Av. Camilo J. Cela Tel 981 81 06 07

Pensión Cuco Avda. Compostela,16. Tel 981 81 05 11

Pensión Calle Salgado Araujo Tel 981 81 09 50

Pensión Flavia Campo da Feira, 13 Tel 981 81 04 55

Pensión Milargosa. Picaraña Tel 981 80 31 19

Pensión Glorioso. Picaraña. Tel 981 80 31 81



Pilgrim Statue in Padrón

Padrón – Santiago – 23.9 kms, Albergue at Teo 11kms

Leaving Padrón

From the Igrexa Santiago follow the arrows to the Rúa Dolores. Pass the Palacio de Quito on your Left, the bus station and then reach the church of Santa Maria de Iria. **1.2 kms (217.8/240.5 kms)**

Follow the arrows passing behind the church and cross the railway line. KSO joining the main road, turning Right onto it. KSO through the roundabout and pass the Hotel La Scala on your left. Cross the road at the garage Talleres Casar and veer Right onto a path. Follow the route through peaceful and picturesque hamlets for more than 3 kms. Eventually pass a tall factory building off to your Right and walk parallel to the railway line. Turn Left onto the N550 and KSO with the Escravitudi train station on your Left. **5.1 kms (222.9/240.5 kms)**

Pass in front of a church on your Right. Immediately after the church turn Right up a lane and reach the church of Santa Maria de Cruces. KSO through woods and after approximately 2.5 kms come out at the N550 again. Pass the Pension A Milagrosa with café/bar on your Left. (9kms)

Padrón – Teo -Santiago

Pension*** A Milagrosa/Café Alfonso
Tel 981 803 119
Mobile 616 266 266

Pilgrim Price – Individual 25 Euros, shared 40 Euros

(Like the albergue at Teo this hostel may be useful to pilgrims wishing a short day before departing for Santiago and the Pilgrims' Mass the next day)

KSO to the main road and turn Right. KSO to the corner and cross following waymarks off to the Left passing through Faramello. Shortly after the end of the village turn Left and proceed up to the sign for the albergue at:

Teo - 4.6 kms (227.4/240.5 kms)

The route turns Left at the sign for the Albergue. Follow this undulating road until you reach Rúa de Francos village square in about 1 km. Cross the square and turn Right down a path behind the Casa Rural. In approximately 1km cross the rail bridge and continue into **O Seve.3 kms (230.5/240.5 kms)**

The route turns Right then Left just before the main road. However on the main road ahead there are 2 bars on either side of a Farmacia and 20 meters to the Left there is a Restaurant.

Continuing on the route KSO for 0.5 kms crossing the bridge over the Rio Tinto.

Shortly after the bridge the route goes through leafy country lanes for approximately 2.5 kms until you come to a major junction with a roundabout. At this time there are temporary waymarks for a short distance taking the route Right towards the roundabout then across the road and Left on the other side. Follow the waymarks turning Right through country roads eventually turning Left through a small hamlet to join a main road. Turn Right and KSO until you come to Novo Milladoiro a new suburb of modern apartment blocks with the **Capela da Madolena** seen between flats to your Right. **3.8 kms (234.3/240.5 kms)**

Teo - Santiago

At the top of the hill veer Left and pass a School for Infants on your Right and a Polideportivo (sports complex with cafeteria) on your Left. There is major building going on in this area and the route ahead may seem confused, but keep dead straight ahead to the trees you can see ahead to pick up waymarks again on the **Rúa do Esquio**.

KSO this road until the brow of the hill and Santiago lies before you Right and you have the first sight of the spires of the Cathedral in the distance which you will reach in approximately 1.5 hours more.

KSO and cross the motorway. Follow a minor road round to the Left. This section is marked with a modern sign with a pilgrim figure. Although you may feel as if you are walking in the wrong direction away from the Cathedral KSO this minor road until it becomes a stony path heading downhill. At the end it passes through a narrow gap between houses emerging onto a minor road with house number 35 on your left.

Follow this road until you come to the **railway**. To cross this turn Right and after a little Left over a bridge turning Left on the other side. Follow the road down to the Right.

Shortly pass over the Rio Sarela and follow the road up Right and under the motorway by pass. On the other side follow signs for the **hospital**. Head up hill passing the hospital on your Left and KSO towards a park and rest area ahead Left with a useful supermarket to the left. **4.2 kms (238.5/240.5 kms)**

The route continues through the park to the end passing two fuentes and then veering Right to join the road. KSO up the Rúa Rosalia Castro passing the Hesperia Peregrino on your Right. KSO until you come to the Capilla del Pilar on your Left. Turn Left up the steps at the Capilla then Right to walk through the park, the Alameda. At the end, at a set of traffic lights cross the road into the traditional Portuguese entrance to the city the Porta Faxeira. Take the second Left and turn into the Rúa Franco which leads straight to the Cathedral in:

Santiago - 2 kms (240.5/240.5 kms)

Congratulations

On arriving in Santiago:

The Pillar, the Hug and the Tomb

Each day pilgrims arrive at the Cathedral Square but their journey is not at an end, they still have things to do.

Entering the Cathedral each pilgrim first touches the Pillar depicting the Tree of Jesse where now you can actually put your fingers into grooves marked by centuries of hands. (closed for restoration in 2008)

Then to the back of the high altar to rise behind the statue of St James to give him the traditional "abrazo" - a warm hug in gratitude for a journey well made.

Then descending to the tomb of the Saint to give thanks for all that has been encountered on the long journey here.

Seal of approval - The Compostela

Pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela carry a Pilgrim Passport with them. They have these stamped everywhere they stop on the way. This document gives access to the network of refuges provided along the routes.

Beside the Cathedral is the Pilgrims' Office, at 1 Rúa do Vilar. It is just like Passport Control! There the Pilgrim Passport receives the final seal of the Cathedral of Santiago. Those pilgrims who have walked at least the final 100 kms or traveled by bicycle or on horseback at least the final 200 kms will have their name written in Latin on the Compostela, the certificate attesting to their pilgrimage.

Pilgrim Mass

Each morning around 11 am everyone starts to make their way to the Cathedral. It fills quickly and by noon it is standing room only. Rucksack bearing pilgrims mingle with camera toting tourists.

At the stroke of Noon the cantor intones the entrance antiphon such as: " Laudate Dominum, Omnes Gentes, Alleluia" and 1000 voices repeat "All people praise the Lord, Alleluia". The procession of priests enters, many still wearing their walking boots under their vestments. A long list is read detailing the countries from which pilgrims have arrived in the last 24 hours.

The Mass which follows is deeply moving, with different accents and languages contributing and from the Pilgrims a profound sense of thankful relief and celebration that the journey has ended.

For them perhaps... but even during Mass still they come...rising behind the altar and hugging the statue of St James.

Holy Smoke - The Botafumeiro

The Botafumeiro is the world's largest thurible weighing 80 kgs. Some say it was used as a medieval deodorant when the cathedral was full of pilgrims who hadn't washed for the duration of their journey. Others say that the billows of incense it produces symbolise the prayers of the pilgrims.

Nowadays the Botafumeiro is swung at the end of some of the pilgrim masses when a team of eight "tiraboleiros" operate a huge medieval mechanism to swing the Botafumeiro the height and length of the transept of the Cathedral.

Day is done

During many months of the year there is an Evening Service in the Cathedral from 9 – 10pm only for pilgrims who have travelled to Santiago by foot, bicycle or on horse back.