

A Practical Guide for Pilgrims

The Silver Route

The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in
Castilla y León





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The Pilgrims' Route to
Santiago in Castilla y León

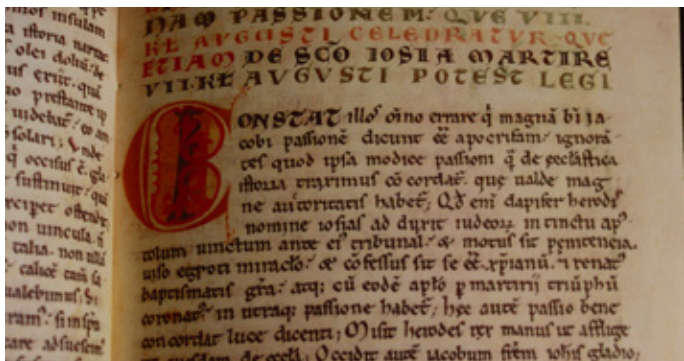
**The Silver Route:
A Practical Guide for Pilgrims**



**Junta de
Castilla y León**



Presentation



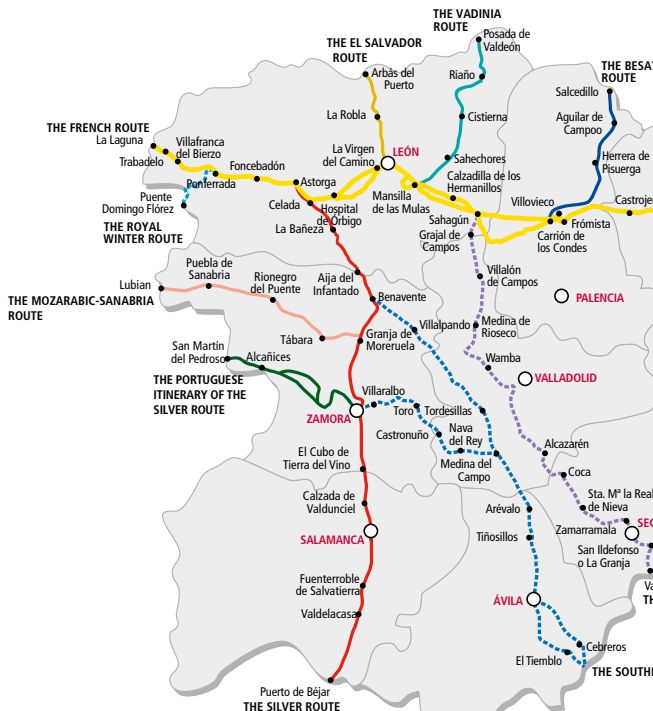
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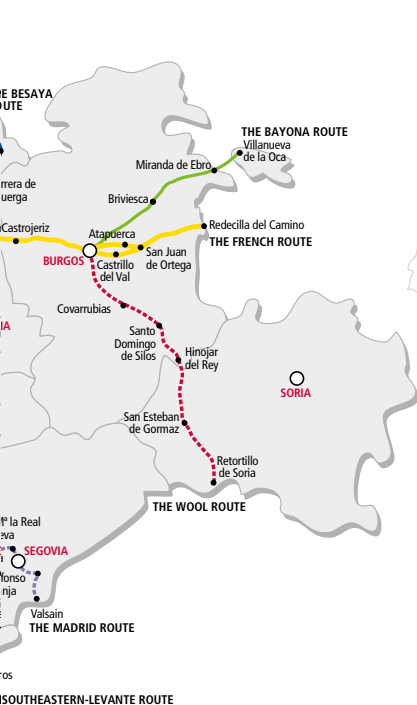
This guide is an invitation for pilgrims, travellers and tourists to cover one of the most historical routes on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: the 'Silver Route' (Vía de la Plata). The guide provides basic information for preparing the pilgrimage or journey.

The Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago are truly exceptional itineraries. Some of them amass over a thousand years of history, and they all pass through villages, towns and cities of immense historical and artistic value, as

well as offering the chance to discover a wealth of spectacular landscapes, and to share experiences with the peoples that live along the routes and that have for many centuries offered assistance and hospitality to travellers. The Route also offers many other aspects that are well worthy of consideration such as a rich and varied gastronomy, or the conservation and chance to discover the many ancient tales, legends and customs that still live on in many areas along the way, despite the inexorable passing of time.







THE FRENCH ROUTE

HISTORIC ROUTES

- The Silver Route
- The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route
- The Mozarabic-Sanabria Route
- The Bayona Route
- The Vadinia Route
- The El Salvador Route
- The Besaya Route

TRADITIONAL ROUTES

- The Madrid Route
- The Southeastern-Levante Route
- The Wool Route
- The Royal Winter Route

● Suggested stopping places

○ PROVINCIAL CAPITALS





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Route and mediaeval bridge



Pilgrim next to a spring

What is the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago?

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

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

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

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



Practical tips for following the Route on foot

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

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

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

ready to undertake longer stages. You could also include the odd rest day, or alternate longer stages with shorter ones, making them coincide with places you



Pilgrims in front of a sculpture

would particularly like to spend longer visiting. This will provide you with rest periods, but will not break your rhythm.

On the Silver Route you have to take into account, particularly during the summer, how important it is to avoid the hottest times of the day. Always bear in mind that this is a route with parts that cover many kilometres and there are long stretches with no fountains since the distances between villages tend to be long. You should always carry at least

one litre of water with you, and probably more in summer.

Checking out the accommodation centres and refuges for pilgrims is essential for those who wish to make use of this service. These refuges are only open to those making the pilgrimage entirely on foot, by bike or on horseback, without covering any stretches in a vehicle. Nevertheless, in some private accommodation centres the rules are not as strict. Large groups of pilgrims are advised to look for alternative accommodation, as the capacity of these refuges is limited.

Basic points for consideration when getting your gear ready:

Your **rucksack** will be your travel companion for a good number of hours, so it needs to be comfortable and light. In particular, it should be anatomical and have waist and chest straps and pockets on the sides and at the top. Packing your rucksack tidily and

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

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

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



Pilgrims in the province of Zamora



Trainers are an option in summer if your boots should prove uncomfortable.

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

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

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

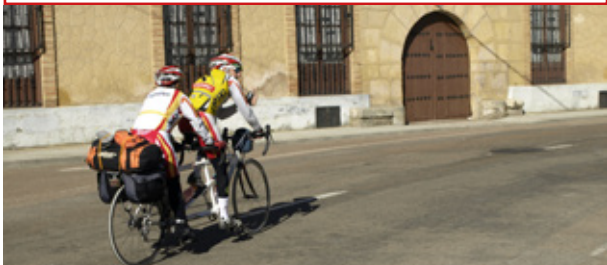


it useful to carry a small diary or notebook to write down your impressions or include the many and varied stamps you will find along the Route. Remember that it is 'compulsory' to include the stamp of the refuges you stay at on your pilgrim's credentials.

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

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

Practical tips for following the Route by bicycle



Cyclists along the way

Prior to starting the route, draw up a plan detailing the total kilometres to be covered and the distances per day. Make the pilgrimage with enough calm and time to enable visiting the sanctuaries and other key locations along the route. Unlike other routes or itineraries for the pilgrimage to Santiago, the Silver Route provides you with the chance to ride mountain bikes on a number of Roman roads or traditional cattle tracks.

If you are not a seasoned cyclist remember during your physical training that covering many kilometres every day requires painstaking preparation.

In this sense: The possibility of visiting a specialist doctor be-

forehand could help you with your physical preparation as a precaution against the imminent and prolonged strain to be undertaken. A medical check-up is therefore highly recommendable.

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

Once the physical planning has been done check the mechanics of the vehicle. A good service beforehand by an expert is essential. The mobile parts of the bicycle must be in perfect condition. The bike must have a rational combination of cogs and chain rings





Travelling by bike



Pilgrims' bicycles

which allow cycling pilgrims to apply comfortable gear ratios adapted to their strength.

Your cycling technique is also vital. It is therefore recommended that during your training sessions that you are accompanied by those who are experienced in the use and enjoyment of bicycles. They are in the best position to provide you with advice on the posture to be adopted, the way and exact moment when the gears should be changed, the pedalling rate, etc.

As for carrying your luggage, the best idea is to use saddlebags that can be tied to the back wheel and handlebars. Remember that the less weight you carry, the better it will be for your bike and you.

Choose your clothing carefully too. It's a good idea to use rela-

tively skin-tight clothes in bright colours, as they will reduce wind resistance and make it easy for drivers to spot you sooner. Try not to have anything hanging or loose that may get caught up in the moving parts of your bicycle.

A toilet bag, a sleeping bag and a tracksuit or normal clothes are also essential for when you eventually dismount.

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

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



Silver Route Credentials

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

resulted in serious financial hardship for the medieval pilgrims.

The credentials are granted by the Church, the Friends of the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago Associations, the brotherhoods or other institutions duly authorised to this effect by Santiago Cathedral. They are issued prior to the start of the Route or at the starting point by the organisations listed above. It is advisable to take a letter or document that identifies the applicant. The credentials entitle those that have covered at least the last hundred kilometres of the Route on foot or horseback, or the last two hundred kilometres by bike, to obtain the certificate known as the 'Compostela'. Issued by Santiago Cathedral, it certifies that the pilgrim has successfully reached Santiago de Compostela and has done so for religious reasons. The documents will be delivered to the so-called "pilgrim reception office" on Rúa do Carretas nº 33. The credentials must include the stamps proving that the pilgrim has completed



the various stages and stretches of the Route each day, although in the case of the last 100 kilometres, two stamps per day are required.

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

Originally the Compostela was written on parchment, and included a text of varying length certifying the pilgrim's visit to the Cathedral '...has devotedly visited this holy Temple with true Christian sentiment (pie-

tatis causa)...', as well as making a specific reference to the Apostle St James, the 'sole and exceptional' patron and protector of Spain ('...Our Patron and Protector of the Kingdoms of Spain...'). For some time now it has been printed on paper, featuring the characteristic border of oak leaves and scallop shells – the traditional emblem of Saint James, with the pilgrim's name written in Latin. The document is signed at the bottom by the Pilgrims' Canon, who is in charge of the Pilgrims' Office. Originally, the Compostela would in theory have been signed by the Archbishop, although common practice was for the canon responsible for the pilgrims to sign it on his behalf.

Many pilgrims have asked for the Compostela to include not only the date of arrival in Santiago, but also the place where the pilgrimage started, the date and the kilometres covered. The Pilgrims' Office has decided to issue a certificate with this new information for all applicants. Furthermore, to avoid long queues to collect the Compostela, the Pilgrims' Office has opted for a formula whereby group managers can apply for the Compostelas for their groups using a particular form.

The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Spain



Signs on the Silver Route



The Route through Bercianos de Valverde

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

would rapidly spread throughout Christendom.

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

Pilgrims began making their way to the site across northern Spain,



Plaza Mayor in Salamanca

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

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

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

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

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

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

After passing through Jaca on the Aragón side and Pamplona, the

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

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

The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago eventually enters Galicia, a region which Picaud would aptly define as being rich in forests, 'with pleasant rivers, meadows and superb apple trees, offering excellent produce and crystal-clear fountains...' The Pilgrims' Route enters the province of Lugo across the mountains of Cebreiro, making its way to the heart of the region known as A Ulloa, immortalised by Emilia Pardo Bazán in her novel entitled 'Los Pazos de Ulloa', on the border with the province of A Coruña. The Route then progresses through Melide and Arzúa before reaching its final destination, Santiago de Compostela.





The Silver Route as part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago

Although the French Route is the most renowned of all the St. James's Routes, and the routes pilgrims may take to Santiago de Compostela which has historical supremacy of all the existing routes, today, as was the case centuries ago, there are also other routes that lead to Compostela. These itineraries merit just as much consideration as the most historic and best-known routes due to both their 'reliability' and popularity with thousands of pilgrims and tourists who follow them in search of their ultimate objective: Santiago de Compostela.

These two premises, historical roots and current use, come together in the so-called Silver Route which this guide will discuss in more detail. Nevertheless, it is worth taking an important point into consideration at the outset. The chosen itinerary for the pages of this book is the one which is usually followed by pilgrims and, as such, although being aware of and acknowledging other routes, ours starts in Seville (Hispalis) and ends in Astorga (Astúrica Augusta)



Signs on the Silver Route

where it will join the 'French Route' on its way to the final destination of Santiago de Compostela. With this in mind, Granja de Moreruela (Zamora) is the starting point of an itinerary which uses the Silver Route as a connecting point and is known as the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route. It takes pilgrims through the region of Sanabria up to Lubián, the last village in Castilla y León. From there the itinerary goes through Galicia crossing the province of Orense and covering a section through the city of La Coruña until reaching Santiago de Compostela.

When the pilgrimage to Santiago was at its most popular, and became a real religious and social event, the regions in the south of the Iberian Peninsula had not been reconquered and, as such, events related to St. James did not exert significant influence on many of these regions which we intend to cover. The presence of pilgrims in the villages and throughout the landscapes of which the Silver Route is comprised came at a later date. Its inclusion as one of the pilgrims' routes came at a time when the pilgrimages to the apostle's tomb were no longer enjoying their golden age, a phase that we can place mainly between the 10th to 13th centuries. Nevertheless, there were pilgrims in later centuries who took advan-

tage of this route that had been widely used by travelling traders both for reasons of personal safety and because it was along this route that there were many other paths taken by merchants, travellers and pilgrims who used it as a communication channel between the south, the Mediterranean area and the north of the Peninsula.

It is possible that this desire to communicate with the north-western Iberian Peninsula, lower Extremadura and the Guadalquivir Valley was pursued from prehistoric times although it did not acquire great significance and organisation until the time of the Roman Empire. The Romans were true forerunners in communications during the days of the Empire. This historic route was consolidated by the Romans when Mérida (Emérita Augusta) and Astorga (Astúrica Augusta) were united, key cities in the life of Roman Hispania. The construction of this ancient Roman road was started shortly before the birth of Christ, during the reign of the emperor Augustus, and was completed during the reigns of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian.

According to almost all researchers, the name 'Silver Route' is a popular name, given above all in the provinces of Salamanca and Cáceres. It would appear to have





Arabic roots since they referred to this route as silver (cobbled road) to distinguish it from mud roads. It is easy to assume that the evolution of the Arabic term led to the current name. This acceptance of 'wide road' for some or 'paved road' perfectly described the section from Mérida to Salamanca which was exactly like this, whilst between Salamanca and Astorga the road was made of mud and gravel. However, although the main road has to be confined to between Mérida and Astorga, it is worth bearing in mind that towards the south and from the capital of Lusitania, Mérida, it linked up with Seville (Hispalis and Italica), capital of Baetica, in the Guadalquivir Valley, whilst in the north from Astorga it connected with another road which, along the Cantabrian Mountains, ran towards Oviedo (Lucus Asturum) and Gijón (Gigia).

This historical backdrop of the area through which these old Roman roads run became pilgrims' routes many centuries later and it must be remembered that today's pilgrims to Santiago do not always follow the same itineraries according to the traditional and historic Silver Route. Reasons in conjunction with practical and organisational reasons have led to the disappearance of routes and given way to some variations.

In the region of Andalusia various routes merge to join the main one which, for the purposes of this guide, starts in Seville, known as Hispalis in ancient times. This large city, today a busy capital and the administrative centre of this Spanish Autonomous Community, developed determining facets as an influential hub during the rule of the Almohads. The archaeological remains discovered show the strength and refinement of this Moorish city on the banks of the Guadalquivir. Today it is one of the main attractions for both tourists and pilgrims who start their journey at the Alcazar of Seville, a palace that belonged to Moorish aristocracy and which is renowned for its magnificent rooms and patios. The Cathedral is the largest Gothic Christian temple in Spain and features a unique belfry known as the Giralda Tower, originally the minaret of the great mosque. A tour through Seville reveals districts as typical and unique as Triana or Santa Cruz. Visitors should also take the time to explore such emblematic buildings as the Gold Tower, the Archbishop's Palace and the Casa de Pilatos, as well as the outstanding urban recreational areas such as María Luisa Park or the banks of the River Guadalquivir which is navigable right up to this stunning city.

From Seville Cathedral, the point at which pilgrims usually mark their own starting point, there is a total of 731.5 kilometres to Astorga, the point on the itinerary at which this route merges into the French Route. From there it is a further 257.2 kilometres until reaching Santiago de Compostela and completing a total route comprising 988.7 kilometres. With regard to the route known as the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route, pilgrims are faced with the challenge of a route covering 149.2 kilometres from Granja de Moreruela in Zamora up to the border with the province of Orense and, once in the

region of Galicia, a further 224.1 kilometres until reaching the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. This totals 373.3 kilometres from Granja de Moreruela to the destination in Santiago.

The pilgrim or tourist who decides to undertake this route will pass through a varied and changing landscape. However, it must not be forgotten that during the summer this is a route which can be fraught with tough demands given the lack of water which, in conjunction with the distances between villages, requires good forward planning.



Old Monastery of Granja de Moreruela



Castilla y León: a trail steeped in art



As we have already mentioned, there are few routes in Spain whose history places so much emphasis on Roman civilisation as the Silver Route. There are innumerable vestiges from the world of art which the pilgrim discovers en route through the places marked by this route. Although the list is seemingly endless, it is worth highlighting those in Castilla y León which have their own seal of

quality and are endorsed by history. In many cases, these examples are found along the pilgrims' routes and, in others, along parallel tracks or alternative roads. There are various Roman remains which are worthy of mention. In the area of Béjar is the well-known Malena Bridge and the remains of the Roman Road, the number of milestones which still mark the distances to be covered or the quarries and towns which can be found en route. In Salamanca a stop should be made at the City Wall, the Roman Bridge and the various pieces held in the Archaeological Museum of the city whilst in the Museum of Zamora the Roman mosaics featured are a must.

Centuries after this communication corridor was opened from the west of the peninsula, Romanesque art was introduced by Christians settlers who prospered in these parts. This encouraged the use of semicircular arches in many villages where the churches are reminiscent of medieval times as well as a good number of Romanesque monuments of exceptional quality such as the



Church of Santa Marta de Tera

Monastery of Nuestra Señora de Moreruela (12th century). Even today, its remains are worth admiring as they bring to mind what was one of the most relevant Cistercian spiritual centres in an attempt to colonise the depopulated parts of Zamora and has now bestowed on us a unique work of art.

This same art is particularly prevalent in the capital city of Zamora and outstanding both for the quantity and quality of the pieces it safeguards. During the *mansio Occelum Durii* Zamora was under Roman control and known as 'the enclosed treasure' during the era when its cathedral or the churches of Santiago del Burgo, San Juan de Puerta Nueva, San Cipriano, Santa María la Nueva, la Magdalena etc., were built, to name but a few representative examples of what is considered

as being the most important Romanesque group found in one city anywhere in the world.

Nor should the Temple of Santa María del Azogue be overlooked. It is the most outstanding monument of Benavente. Although its construction was started during the Romanesque period, it was developed during the Gothic and was completed at the height of the 16th century.

Along the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route there are three Romanesque monuments of outstanding interest. The parish church of Santa Marta de Tera is located alongside the former monastery and contains a group of exceptional capitals and a very well-known image of Saint James the Apostle dressed as a pilgrim. The medieval tower of the parish church of Mombuey is surprising-



ly high and reminds us of its Templar past. Moreover, throughout the regions of Sanabria and La Carballada there is a little group of small churches and, above all, belfries and stunning Romanesque steeples. Special mention must also be made of the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora del Azogue in Puebla de Sanabria. It dates back to the late 12th century, the period from which the capitals, buttresses and the doorway still survive.

Also within the historical-artistic context, the Silver Route is home to fortresses and castles which emphasise the important role played by the area both during times of war and in the design of the border systems during times of peace. It is therefore highly recommended to visit the ruins of the small Roman fort which has withstood the passage of the centuries atop a small hill in the village of Calzada de Béjar or the ruins of what used to be the castle and the medieval walled city of Castrotrafe, close to Fontanillas de Castro, showing sections that look over the region's grain fields. It is also worth stopping off and resting in Benavente to discover the Caracol Tower, which has been converted into a Parador Nacional which is what remains of the impressive palace-castle of the Pimentel Family built during the early 16th century



ry and featuring a mixture of both Gothic and Renaissance styles. Along the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route it is worth taking note of the Castle of Puebla de Sanabria and its walled group dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries.

The Silver Route boasts the full range of architectural styles, and it is therefore hardly surprising that the Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Official Gazette of 12/19/2001) declared it an Asset of Cultural Interest in the historic site category under the name 'Calzada de la Plata' (Silver Road). These diverse architectural styles can be appreciated both on the outside of these buildings, with their typical, and at times, curious belfries, and on the inside where the visitor, whether tourist or pilgrim, stands in awe whilst viewing pieces of

great interest and exceptional value.

Reference should also be made to some cities that are home to outstanding buildings. Salamanca is the site of the greatest variety of architectural styles, ranging from Roman art (let's not forget that Salamanca was referred to as 'little Rome') through Romanesque, the exceptionally outstanding Old Cathedral with its spectacular dome, up to the Renaissance with a series of works of unique value and the today's modern era with interesting examples of new architectural styles.

However, it is not only art from the great periods that is worthy of attention. Those passing through these regions can feast their eyes on other places and works of interest such as the cylindrical marble posts or milestones that still feature inscriptions with the name of the emperor or reigning power who commissioned their construction and that are dotted over the landscape. The dovecots, typical constructions

made of adobe and rammed earth which housed these birds (an important part of the daily diet of these peoples) are also worth taking time to view. Some places still have the typical wine cellars, an essential element of the wine-producing industry of the past.

Against this historical and artistic backdrop, the Silver Route comprises a total of 722.5 kilometres from its starting point in Seville to Astorga. Of this total, 301.8 kilometres pass through Castilla y León between Puerto de Béjar and Astorga covering different and varied landscapes. From here the pilgrim can join the French Route to reach Santiago de Compostela after more than 257 kilometres.

Church of Mombuey



Nomenclature

VALDELACASA:

Town

Altitude: 964 m.

Distance from Fuenteroble

de Salvatierra: 7,8 km.

Kind of route: Way



Services



(A few metres from the
Sanctuary of...

Branch route starts

Link with the French Route:
León

Link with Main
Itinerary

ABCD

Town on the Main
Itinerary

ABCD

Town on an alterna-
tive branch route



ABCD

First town on the
alternative branch



ABCD

Last town on the
alternative branch




ABCD

Town where the branch
route rejoins the itinerary



REGION COLOURS

 Itinerary before rea-
ching Castilla y León
(Andalucía/
Extremadura)

 Salamanca

 Zamora

 León

 Galicia

 Portugal





Asset of Cultural Interest



Hostels and accommodation centres



Fountain



Bar



Restaurant



Accommodations



Supermarket



Bank



Chemist's shop



Red Cross/
medical centre



Bicycle repair
shop



Campground



Information
point



Horse
stalls

Types of hostels on the Route



Superior tourist hostel for the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago



Tourist hostel for the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago



Superior tourist hostel



Tourist hostel



Itinerary table-list of contents

Partial Km	Km in Castilla y León	Km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
ANDALUCIA						
0	0	988.7	7	690,656	Sevilla	34
22.2	0	966.5	28	8,946	Guillena	35
19	0	947.5	328	4,168	Castilblanco de los Arroyos	36
29.5	0	918	448	1,531	Almadén de la Plata	36
16.6	0	901.4	465	1,617	El Real de la Jara	37
EXTREMADURA						
42.6	0	858.8	582	4,784	Fuente de Cantos	38
26.1	0	832.7	508	16,615	Zafra	38
38	0	794.7	330	32,925	Almendralejo	39
26.4	0	768.3	219	58,656	Mérida	40
38.4	0	729.9	488	2,646	Alcuéscar	41
39.4	0	690.5	459	95,343	Cáceres	41
45	0	645.5	362	945	Cañaveral	42
28.5	0	617	304	937	Galisteo	43
49	0	568	524	753	Aldeanueva del Camino	43
9	0	559	705	776	Baños de Montemayor	44
SALAMANCA						
4	0	555	850	370	Puerto de Béjar	45
9.3	9.3	545.7	796	86	Calzada de Béjar	45
9	18.3	536.7	803	74	Valverde de Valdelacasa	46
3.5	21.8	533.2	964	214	Valdelacasa	47
7.8	29.6	525.4	951	248	Fuenterroble de Salvatierra	47





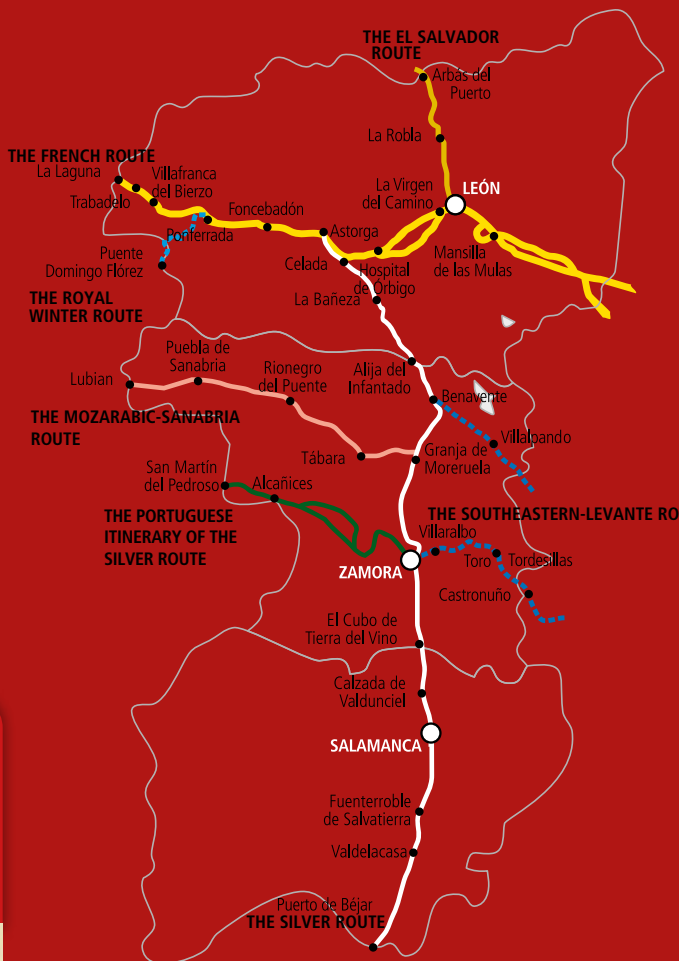
Partial Km	Km in Castilla y León	Km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
10.5	40.1	514.9	979	15	Navarredonda de Salvatierra	48
19.1	59.2	495.8	977	249	San Pedro de Rozados	49
4.5	63.7	491.3	940	224	Morille	50
10.5	74.2	480.8	823	248	Miranda de Azán	50
9.8	84	471	802	143,978	Salamanca	51
6.3	90.3	464.7	819	993	Aldeaseca de Armuña	55
5	95.3	459.7	826	276	Castellanos de Villiquera	56
4.2	99.5	455.5	801	676	Calzada de Valdunciel	56
ZAMORA						
19.9	119.4	435.6	840	320	El Cubo de Tierra del Vino	58
13.2	132.6	422.4	766	115	Villanueva de Campeán	59
3.6	136.2	418.8	762	104	Casaseca de Campeán	60
4.9	141.1	413.9	713	142	San Marcial	61
6.6	147.7	407.3	720	456	El Perdigón	61
2.1	149.8	405.2	708	156	Entrala	62
6.2	156	399	649	61,700	Zamora	62
6.6	162.6	392.4	701	923	Roales del Pan	64
12.2	174.8	380.2	690	603	Montamarta	65
11.8	186.6	368.4	718	87	Fontanillas de Castro	66
3.8	190.4	364.6	703	105	Riego del Camino	66
6.2	196.6	358.4	730	277	Granja de Moreruela	67
8.5	205.1	349.9	714	259	Santovenia del Esla	68
5.8	210.9	344.1	711	194	Villaveza del Agua	69
2.6	213.5	341.5	712	258	Barcial del Barco	70
3.7	217.2	337.8	701	264	Villanueva de Azoague	71
5.2	222.4	332.6	744	18,095	Benavente	71
8.2	230.6	324.4	716	160	Villabrázaro	73



Partial Km	Km in Castilla y León	Km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
8.5	239.1	315.9	741	151	Maire de Castroponce	73
LEÓN						
6.8	245.9	309.1	720	489	Alja del Infantado	75
3.5	249.4	305.6	722	81	La Nora del Río	76
2.6	252	303	723	101	Navianos de la Vega	77
3.5	255.5	299.5	750	86	Genestacio de la Vega	77
2	257.5	297.5	750	295	Quintana del Marco	78
3.3	260.8	294.2	760	191	Villanueva de Jamuz	78
2.8	263.6	291.4	768	143	San Juan de Torres	79
4.2	267.8	287.2	772	85	Santa Elena de Jamuz	80
5	272.8	282.2	770	10,095	Bañeza (la)	81
6	278.8	276.2	799	279	Palacios de la Valduerna	82
15	293.8	261.2	800	118	Celada	83
4	297.8	257.2	869	10,632	Astorga	84
Continuing on the French Route						
2,4	295,4	256,2	865	131	Valdeviejas	85
2	299.8	255.2	802	112	Murias de Rechivaldo	86
4.8	304.6	250.4	997	47	Santa Catalina de Somoza	87
4.2	308.8	246.2	1013	23	El Ganso	87
6.5	315.3	239.7	1149	74	Rabanal del Camino	88
5.7	321	234	1439	27	Foncebadón	89
4.1	325.1	229.9	1145	0	Manjarín	90
6.9	332	223	1200	51	El Acebo	90
3	335	220	920	42	Riego de Ambrós	90
4.3	339.3	215.7	595	637	Molinaseca	91
4.4	343.7	211.3	555	813	Campo	92



Partial Km	Km in Castilla y León	Km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
3.6	347.3	207.7	541	40,689	Ponferrada	92
4.8	352.1	202.9	530	1,378	Columbrianos	94
2.8	354.9	200.1	513	2,735	Fuentes Nuevas	95
2	356.9	198.1	492	2,945	Camponaraya	96
5.7	362.6	192.4	483	4,224	Cacabelos	97
3	365.6	189.4	528	38	Pieros	98
4.1	369.7	185.3	509	2,181	Villafranca del Bierzo	99
5	374.7	180.3	542	32	Pereje	101
5.5	380.2	174.8	578	106	Trabadelo	101
3.3	383.5	171.5	580	19	La Portela de Valcarce	102
1.4	384.9	170.1	605	40	Ambasmestas	103
2.2	387.1	167.9	631	210	Vega de Valcarce	104
1.7	388.8	166.2	690	20	Ruitelán	105
1.1	389.9	165.1	675	32	Las Herrerías	105
1	390.9	164.1	790	39	Hospital	106
2.6	393.5	161.5	917	29	La Faba	107
2.3	395.8	159.2	1100	25	La Laguna	107
GALICIA						
2.4	0	156.8	1330	23	Cebreiro	108
40	0	116.8	450	8,795	Sarria	108
23.5	0	93.3	320	442	Portomarín	109
24.5	0	68.8	565	998	Palas del Rei	110
15	0	53.8	457	4,678	Melide	110
17	0	36.8	389	2,764	Arzúa	111
36.8	0	0	260	97,260	Santiago de Compostela	111



 The French Route

HISTORIC ROUTES

 The Silver Route

 The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route

 The Mozarabic-Sanabria Route

 The El Salvador Route

TRADITIONAL ROUTES

TRADITIONAL ROUTES

 The Southeastern-Levante Route

 The Royal Winter Route

● Suggested stopping places

● PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

Itinerary

Andalucía 34

Extremadura 38

**Castilla
y León**

Salamanca 45

Zamora 58

León 75

Galicia 108



Andalusia



Cathedral



River Guadalquivir

SEVILLE:

Altitude 7 m
Distance from Guillena: 22.2 km



This is where the two routes with the name Silver Route start from the south to the north of the country. The Silver Route as a Roman and trade route and the pilgrims' route which ends in Santiago de Compostela. Seville, the capital of Andalusia, is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. It is the source of splendid legends such as the one alleging that it was Hercules himself who founded the city. It played an extremely important role during the Roman Empire and also during the era of the Visigoths and underwent significant expansion when the power of

Al-Andalus was at its peak. Following the Reconquest, the Christian monarchs provided it with a vast range of comforts and privileges and trade converted it into an appealing city highly attractive for business.

The list of buildings and monuments to visit is endless. After all, this is a city with a wealth of monuments, the most emblematic of which date back to a very different period, and it is currently one of the most important cities in Spain.

WHAT TO SEE:

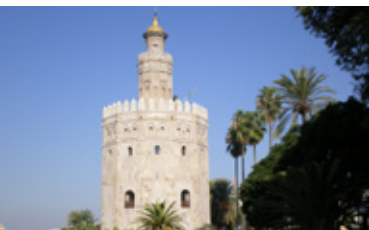
Cathedral, the Alcazar of Seville, the Gold Tower, Plaza de España, the Archbishop's Palace, María Luisa Park and the popular districts of Triana and Santa Cruz.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Avda. de la Constitución, 21 B.

☎ 954 221 404.



Gold Tower

Oficina de Turismo.

Plaza de San Francisco, 19.

☎ 954 595 288

Oficina de Turismo de la Provincia.

Plaza del Triunfo, 1.

☎ 954 210 005 - 954 787 578.

www.turismosevilla.org

Asociación Amigos del Camino

de Santiago Vía de la Plata.

Castilla, 82- Local.

☎ 954 335 274 - 696 600 602.

www.viaplata.org

GUILLENA:

Altitude 28 m

Distance from Castilblanco
de los Arroyos: 19 km



The historical background of this village ranges from prehistoric

times to high medieval times. As such, there are megalithic tombs from the Bronze Age, Roman vestiges and other pieces from the Visigothic era. However it was during the Moorish occupation when it gained strategic importance for the defence of accesses to Seville with raids by the Castilian Monarchs Ferdinand III the Saint and Alphonse X the Wise.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Granada, Parish Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Bullring, the Town Hall, Plaza de España and the Cortijo Torre de la Reina.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal.

Next to the sports pavilion. (20 beds).

☎ 672 373 099



Church of La Virgen de la Granada





Albergue La Luz del Camino.
Federico García Lorca, 8. (14 beds).
☎955 785 262 - 600 117 234

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.
Concepción Soto, 65 (Las Pajanosas).
☎955 781 055. www.guillena.org

CASTILBLANCO DE LOS ARROYOS:

Altitude: 328 m
Distance from
Almadén de la Plata: 29.5 km



The history of this village dates back to the Roman Empire, as reflected in the major remains discovered here. The naturally-made road through this area made it a natural link with the Roman road which, according to the Antonine Itinerary, was prepared during the mid-2nd century CE by Emperor Hadrian, whose route was well-documented during the medieval era following the course of the River Viar.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Escardiel, Church of Divino Salvador and Shrine of San Benito.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal. (28 beds).
☎955 734 811

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Oficina de Turismo.



Shrine of San Benito

León Felipe, 24. ☎955 734 811.
www.castilblancodelosarroyos.es

ALMADÉN DE LA PLATA:

Altitude: 448 m
Distance from
El Real de la Jara: 16.6 km



Although the origins of the village date back to ancient times, the most interesting vestiges correspond to Roman times and the Moors. It was indeed during the Moorish era that it was given the name Al-Madin, meaning mine, to which 'de la Plata' (of Silver) was added due to it being on this itinerary. Its local history, economy and the popular buildings, which were dwellings for the miners of blue marble and silver, were primarily characterised by mining activity.

WHAT TO SEE:

Former Town Hall (Clock Tow-



Landscape



Panoramic view of El Real de la Jara.

er), current Town Hall, Church of Santa María de Gracia and La Traviesa Necropolis and Bronze Museum

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal. (68 beds).

☎954 735 082 - 653 516 009.

Albergue La Casa del Reloj.

Plaza del Reloj, 9. (6 beds).

☎622 175 519

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.

Plaza de la Constitución, 6.

☎954 735 082 - 625 140 625.

www.almadendelaplata.es

EL REAL DE LA JARA:

Altitude: 465 m

Distance from

Fuente de Cantos: 42.6 km



The history of this village gained importance during the Moorish Empire and in particular in the year

1148, with the arrival of the Almohads, given that they set free the Caliphate of Córdoba and this was when it was named 'Xara'. Its location on a slope, among undulating landscape, surrounded by hills to the north and the south, encouraged an elongated town structure.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle of El Real de La Jara, Castle of Las Torres, Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios and the Parish Church of San Bartolomé.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal El Realejo.

Pablo Picasso, s/n. (32 beds).

☎954 733 007.

Albergue privado.

Pablo Picasso, 17. (12 beds).

☎654 862 553.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.

Párroco Antonio Rosendo, s/n.

☎954 733 007

www.elrealdelajara.es

Extremadura

FUENTE DE CANTOS:

Altitude: 582 m
Distance from
Zafra: 26.1 km



According to some archaeological finds in the village its historical origins date back to ancient times. It was mainly documented during the first half of the 13th century by the war chronicles of Christian armies. The expansion and consolidation of the village owes its importance to the Order of Saint James and trading activity had already become significant during the Middle Ages. Francisco de Zurbarán (1598-1664) was born in this town.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Granada, Shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Hermosa, Convent of the Carmelites, Shrine of San Juan de Letrán, Shrine of Nuestra Señora de La Aurora and Santo Cristo, Shrine of San Isidro Labrador and the Hospital and Shrine of El Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Turístico Vía de la Plata.
(31 beds). ☎ 924 500 397

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.
Plaza de la Constitución, 1.
☎ 924 500 225.
www.fuentedecantos.es

ZAFRA:

Altitude: 508 m
Distance from
Almendralejo: 38 km



With important historical roots during the era of the Christian Reconquest it was conquered twice by Alphonse IX and Ferdinand III the Saint who transferred the town to the Order of Saint James. Prior to this, however, Zafra was already an important centre during the Celtic era and during



Plaza Mayor



the Roman Empire. Zafra has, for many centuries, been known as 'the town of fairs' in the region of Extremadura, being one of the towns with the most deep-rooted tradition in chivalry and illustrious ancestry.

WHAT TO SEE:

Palace of the Dukes of Feria, Convent of Santa Clara, Casa Grande, Hospital of Santiago, Plaza Grande and Plaza Chica, City Wall, Jewish Quarter, Plazuela, Collegiate Church of Candelaria and House of the Ajimez.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Turístico

Vía de la Plata en Zafra.

Ancha, 1. (22 beds).

☎691 537 283 - 665 962 628.

Albergue de Peregrinos de la Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Zafra. (30 beds).

Avda. de la Estación, 17.

☎617 846 551 - 924 962 123.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago Vía de la Plata en Zafra.

☎606 194 582.

Oficina de Turismo.

Plaza de España, 8.

☎924 551036.

www.zafra.es



Church of La Purificación in Almendralejo

ALMENDRALEJO:

Altitude: 330 m

Distance from Mérida: 26.4 km



The city is known as the capital of the Tierra de los Barros and referred to as the city of romanticism and cordiality. Although its monuments have brought it renown, from the perspective of tourism, it is its wineries which are well-known, not only for the quantity of the wines produced but also for the different products from its vineyards: gin, anisette and other regional liqueurs. It was commended to the Order of Saint James and the most outstanding part of its history was between the 14th and 16th centuries.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of La Purificación, Church of Santiago, Shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Piedad, Shrine of San Antonio, Wine Sci-



ence Museum, Monsaluz Palace, Bullring, Museum of Carolina Colorado and Devotional Museum

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

Mérida, 11. ☎924 670 507.

www.almendralejo.es.



Roman bridge over the River Tagus

MÉRIDA:

Altitude: 219 m

Distance from Alcuéscar: 38.4 km



Its origins date back to the Roman Empire. Mérida is renowned for being the settlement for veteran soldiers from the V and X legions. It was even referred to as one of the 16 most important cities in the Roman world. Both by virtue of its vast heritage and the history in which it is steeped, its archaeological treasures have been recognised as a World Heritage Site.

WHAT TO SEE:

Roman Theatre, Roman Amphithe-



Roman Theatre

atre, National Museum of Roman Art, House of the Mithraeum, Circus or Hippodrome, Aqueduct of San Lázaro or Rabo de Buey, Aqueduct of Los Milagros, Roman Dam of Proserpina, Reservoir of Cornalvo, Roman Bridge over the River Albarregas, Arch of Trajan, Temple of Diana, Bridge over the River Guadiana, Archaeological Site of Morerías, Co-cathedral of Santa María, Museum of Visigoth Art, Basilica of Santa Eulalia and Portico of the Forum

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Molino de Pancaliente.

Avda. de José Fernández López, s/n. (22 beds).

☎646 216 341

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo del Teatro Romano. Avda. José Álvarez Sáenz de Buruaga. ☎924 330 722.
www.turismomerida.es

Oficina de Turismo de la Puerta de la Villa. Santa Eulalia, 62.

☎924 380 191.

www.turismomerida.es



Delegación de Turismo.
Centro Cultural Alcazaba.
John Lennon, 5. ☎924 380 162.
www.turismomerida.es

ALCUÉSCAR:

Altitude: 488 m
Distance from Cáceres: 39.4 km



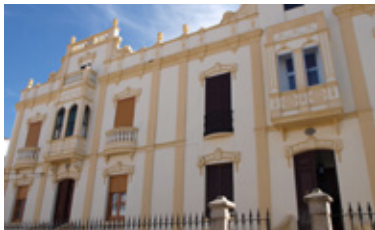
The history of Alcuéscar is similar to the other towns visited in that it has Roman roots and was occupied by both the Moors and Christians. It was founded during the middle of the 9th century approximately. During the reign of Alphonse III of León the town was one of the objectives of the Reconquest although this had to be postponed until the middle of the 13th century. The Order of Saint James played an important role in converting this town into a granary for storing the product on which taxes were paid.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of La Asunción, Basilica of Santa Lucía del Trampal, Shrine of El Calvario, the village fountains.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Casa de Beneficencia de los Esclavos de María y de los Pobres.
Avda. de Extremadura, 2.
(12 beds). ☎651 323 466.



House of La Encomienda

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza de España, 1.
☎927 384 002.
www.alcuéscar.es

CÁCERES:

Altitude: 459 m
Distance from
Cañaveral: 45 km



This village is steeped in history. Its origins could even date as far back as the upper Palaeolithic Age. Although it was Roman, it evolved during medieval times as the leading town of one of the kingdoms of Taifa and during the Reconquest as the settlement for the Order of Saint James. Many of the palaces and stately homes which can be seen today were built after the 14th century which is when the nobility established itself in the city. It is also worth highlighting the palaces and convents which were built in the centuries following the Conquest





Convent of Santa Clara



Tower of the House of the Cáceres-Ovaldo Family

of America. It has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

WHAT TO SEE:

Palaces, Plaza Mayor, the Tower of Bujaco, the Co-cathedral of Santa María, the Convent of San Pablo, the Church of Santiago de los Caballeros, the Jewish Quarter and the Provincial Archaeological Museum

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal: Ciudad de Cáceres. Avda. de la Universidad, s/n. (70 beds).

☎927 102 001 - 670 360 552

Albergue Turístico Las Veletas. General Margallo, 36. (40 beds). ☎927 211 210

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo. Plaza Mayor, 3. ☎927 010 834. www.turismoextremadura.com

Oficina Municipal de Turismo. Olmos, 11. ☎927 247 172. www.turismo.ayto-caceres.es

Patronato de Turismo de Cáceres. Palacio Carvajal. Amargura, 1. ☎927 255 597 www.turismocaceres.org

CAÑAVERAL:

Altitude: 362 m
Distance from Galisteo: 28.5 km



The first reliable references made to this village appeared during the 16th century at which time it was indicated as being an area of transit for transhumance farmers. The population of the village, primarily living from agriculture and farming was transformed, in part, during the 19th century when industrial and business activities gained in importance. The landscape is characterised by vegetation typical of Mediterranean forests dominated by cork oak and rockrose.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa Marina, Shrine of San Roque, Shrine of El Cristo del Humilladero and Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Cabezón.



Landscape



Arch of Cáparra

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Hostel Cañaveral.

Avda. Doctor Luis Boticario, 12.
(23 beds).

☎ 669 402 446 - 655 351 976

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Real, 14.

☎ 927 300 006 - 927 300 106

www.cañaveral.es

GALISTEO:

Altitude: 304 m

Distance from Aldeanueva
del Camino: 49 km



The village is located on top of a hill on the left bank of the River Jerte. The monuments which line its streets reflect its importance during the Moors' occupation as well as during the era in which it was the ruling administrative village along with other towns in the area. The Palace of the Duke of Montellano y del Arco still remains.

WHAT TO SEE:

Almohadian Wall, Roman Bridge,

Bridge of the King and Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Galisteo. Viña de Egido. (8 beds).

☎ 927 451 150 - 605 824 086.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

Plaza de España, 1.

☎ 927 452 002.

www.ayuntamientogalisteo.es

ALDEANUEVA DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 524 m

Distance from
Baños de Montemayor: 9 km



Trade in this village became important during the Roman Empire and due to the continuous attacks during the invasion of the Moors it was destroyed and depopulated. It rose from the ashes when the kingdoms of Castile and León were divided culminating in the village having two centres, one





Pilgrims on the Silver Route



Travelling by bike

pertaining to Castile and the other to León. Agriculture and livestock raising were the basis for survival and nowadays the town's flagship product is the famous paprika of which more than one million kilos are produced per year.

WHAT TO SEE:

Roman bridges, Church of San Servando and Church of Nuestra Señora del Olmo.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal Aldeanueva del Camino.

Las Olivas. (10 beds).

☎927 484 048 (Ayuntamiento).

Albergue La Casa de mi Abuela.

Alcázar, 4. (20 beds).

☎927 479 314 - 692 531 587.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

Severiano Masides, 18.

☎927 484 048.

www.aldeanuevadelcamino.es.

BAÑOS DE MONTEMAYOR:

Altitude: 705 m

Distance from Puerto

de Béjar: 4 km



The oldest surviving accounts of this municipality date from Roman times and are related to its hot springs and the Roman road, of which two large sections are still preserved, located at the north and south entrances of the town.

WHAT TO SEE:

Spa, Roman road and baths, Parish Church of Santa María (16th century) Church of Santa Catalina (15th century) and Silver Route Interpretation Centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Montemayor

Vía de la Plata s/n.

☎927 488 012

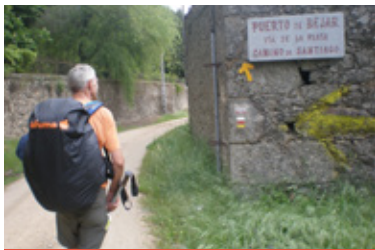
Salamanca

PUERTO DE BÉJAR:

Altitude:	850 m
Distance from	
Calzada de Béjar:	9.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



Puerto de Béjar is the first municipality in Salamanca through which the Silver Route passes. Nevertheless, pilgrims do not go through it. It is characterised by the popular architecture typical of the area, but the route to Santiago is on the left of the village. This small and beautiful spot with a mere 370 inhabitants is located on a crag as you come up from Béjar along the Cantagallo road or from Baños de Montemayor (Cáceres).



Puerto de Béjar

dalena Bridge. This construction formed part of the old road the remains of which can still be seen in areas nearby. **Shrine of Santa Bárbara**, various Roman milestones, Silver Route under the viaduct, the Historical Garden and the Reserve of Nuestra Señora del Carmen.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Ascensión. This church dates back to the late Middle Ages. Its tower, Baroque in style, was added at a later date and inside it has an outstanding Neo-Baroque coffered ceiling. **Shrine of El Humilladero.** This is a small Baroque temple in simple lines with a Baroque altarpiece where the Cristo de la Piedad is worshipped. **Mag-**

CALZADA DE BEJAR:

Altitude:	796 m
Distance from	
Valverde de Valdecasa:	9 km
Kind of route:	Way



Calzada de Béjar is a small village of 86 inhabitants. It is grouped around a church and has only two streets, which is typical of these villages



Panoramic view of Calzada de Béjar from the forest

along the route. Its main street is the Roman Road around which there are old houses with balconies decorated with flowers. On top of a small hill there is an old Roman fort which was used to control the route. The landscape of the area is mountainous intermingled with meadows and hills against an extremely beautiful backdrop.

WHAT TO SEE:

Small Roman Fort (3rd-4th centuries CE) 🏰, Ducal Palace (16th century), Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. The church has a Latin cross floor plan and was restored between the 18th and 19th centuries.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠 ALBA-SORAYA

Baños, s/n

☎ 646 410 643 - 923 416 573
(28 beds).

📍 40,40925, -5,81722

REST AREAS:

There are two, one next to the accommodation centre and the other in the centre of the village, in the square.

VALVERDE DE VALDELACASA:

Altitude: 803 m

Distance from Valdelacasa: 3.5 km

Kind of route: Road



A tiny village with small houses and a population of only 74. Granite, abundant in the area, is the usual material used for building and is even used to build the walls running along the path. The Route is lined by trees on both sides flanked by pastureland along a path sprayed with the plentiful water running down the hills from Béjar Mountain Range. The king of the trees is holm oak and this area is also home to many vineyards.



Church of Santiago in Valverde de Valdelacasa

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santiago. Baroque in style, it has stunning features such as its doorway and the steeple. The image inside the church of Saint James the Moorslayer is outstanding.

REST AREAS:

On the way out of the village next to the bar.

VALDELACASA:

Altitude:	964 m
Distance from Fuenterroble de Salvatierra:	7.8 km
Kind of route:	Way



With a population of 214 residents, Valdelacasa is one of the largest municipalities on this part of the itinerary northward bound along the Silver Route. Some of the houses have an excellent structure, even the most modest ones have lintels, pedestals and benches at the door. As in the rest of the area, granite is the principal building material. The landscape still has lots of forest, although less luxuriant than during the previous stage. When covering this part of the Silver Route there are several Roman milestones, cylindrical marble posts that mark the distance left to cover and which are located on the edge of the pilgrim's path.



Tower of the Church of El Dulce Nombre de María

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of El Dulce Nombre de María. The church was extended and restructured between the 16th and 17th centuries.

REST AREA:

There is a rest area with tables and benches at the entrance to the village.

FUENTERROBLE DE SALVATIERRA:

Altitude:	951 m
Distance from Navarredonda de Salvatierra:	10.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



Herding forms the basis of the origins of this village with a mere 248 residents and it is one of the most





important spots on the Silver Route through Salamanca. Granite loses out to slate as the main building material. The route is straight, flat and your gaze is lost in the distance among the trees. Next to the church, the most outstanding monument in the vicinity, there is a well-cared-for area with information panels and various milestones, headstones and a section of Roman road.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María la Blanca.

This magnificent Gothic structure from the 15th century has a solid tower which has been restored. The building has three naves, three entrance doors, the main doorway and two side doors one of which is a door of pardon and enables the pilgrims who cannot reach Santiago due to illness to be granted indulgences. The magnificent altarpiece inside the church is its outstanding feature, attributed to Churriguera and dating back to approximately 1710. **Shrine of El Santo Cristo del Socorro.** This is a small building of popular tradition with a granite wall. It has only one nave and a small steeple as a belfry. **Park dedicated to the Silver Route.** This educational centre provides information on the route, its structural technique, etc.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago. Vía de la Plata.



Church of Santa María la Blanca

Larga, 37. ☎923 151 083.

✉aviaplata@hotmail.com

REST AREA:

Next to the church, beside the park dedicated to the Silver Route.

NAVARREDONDA DE SALVATIERRA:

Altitude:	979 m
Distance from San Pedro de Rozados:	19.1 km
Kind of route:	Road

This tiny village with only 15 inhabitants pertains to the town council of Frades de la Sierra, homeland of the poet José María Gabriel y Galán, and forms part of the route which leads from Fuenterroble de Salvatierra to San Pedro de Rozados.

SAN PEDRO DE ROZADOS:

Altitude:	977 m
Distance from Morille:	4.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



It is the biggest municipality in the Charro countryside and has a population of 249. It is a region characterised by holm oak and meadows which is ideal for large numbers of cattle, especially the autochthonous species Morucha, and also for the farms which breed fighting bulls. The village is located on a hill and its most noteworthy features are picturesque houses which are joined to each other. Attention is drawn to the name of the village which, according to some locals, is related to a nearby meadow that injured and wounded people used to go through in the belief that they would be healed. If this is the case, the first thing that comes to mind is the presence of pilgrims on their

way to Santiago since the road passed very close by the village houses. Pilgrims to Santiago today take old paths far from busy roads and the new motorways that now go through the area.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro. This church dates back to the 17th century when stone was the dominant material for building. It has a steeple with 4 sections and its belfry still works manually.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

 **ALBERGUE MUTATIO ELENA**
Concejo, 3, Bº
 923 344 024 - 609 278 013
(10 beds).
 elenagh1970@hotmail.com
 40,79001 -5,73771

REST AREA:

At the entrance to the village, next to the swimming pools, there is an area of greenery with water and benches.



Church of San Pedro



Meadows in San Pedro de Rozados





MORILLE:

Altitude:	940 m
Distance from Miranda de Azán:	10.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village of 224 inhabitants is located at an intersection of riverbanks and livestock transit and is made up of Morille, the site of its administrative headquarters, and the areas of La Regañada and Monte Abajo. The latter is the last village that the pilgrim goes through before reaching the city of Salamanca. It has a Roman bridge lauded by the best poets of the 18th century. From its gullies and cattle tracks it is possible to discern the unmistakable towers of Salamanca from a hill at a height of 1,160 metres. Once past the village, pilgrims can feast their eyes on a panoramic view.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of El Salvador. Its only nave is covered by rafter and knuckle trusses which replace a former nave. The chancel is from the 16th century and still has the ceiling from that era. It features a steeple with two bells. **The Centre for the Promotion and Study of the Silver Route** is dedicated to promoting, disseminating, studying and researching the Cañada Real (Royal



Church of El Salvador

Cattle Track) and the Route to Santiago de Compostela.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



BUENAESPERANZA

Finca Buena Esperanza, s/n



923 170 185 (39 beds).



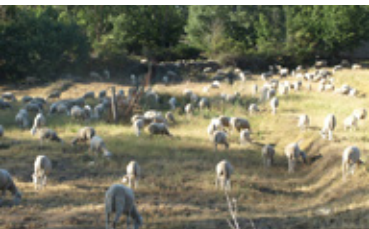
40,80727, -5,69756

MIRANDA DE AZÁN:

Altitude:	823 m
Distance from Salamanca:	9.8 km
Kind of route:	Way/Urban stretch



This is a village of Moorish origin located just over nine kilometres from the city of Salamanca and accessible from the Béjar road. Separated by a few hundred metres from the Pilgrims' Route, it witnessed the start of the battle of the Arapiles (22nd July 1812). It is said that on the Pico Miran-



Cattle track

da, located to the left just on the outskirts of the village, the third allied division commanded by the Duke of Wellington defeated the French regiments from the Thormières division. The village forms part of the merino pastoral track of the Roman road and it is an area of transit for livestock between the south of the province, or Extremadura, and the north, essentially León. The landscape which opens out to the pilgrim and the tourist is that of the Castilian plain, an unwaveringly straight horizon which is only interrupted by some holm oak trees which provide much-needed shade when it gets hotter. As a piece of archaeological information, some time ago a dig bordering with Yecla de Yeltes and Sotoserrano uncovered remains from a Roman city.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Cristóbal. Ruins

of the shrine. Church of Nuestra Señora. This dates back to the 16th century and has one nave over transverse arches. An altarpiece inside the church from the 18th century follows the style of those by Churriguera.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza del Toral, s/n.
☎ 923 133 811.

www.mirandadeazan.com

SALAMANCA:

Altitude:	802 m
Distance from	
Aldeaseca de Armuña:	6.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



A vibrant, contemporary university city that never sleeps. With a population of 143,978, Salamanca is always ready to embrace visitors and share its wealth of heritage, culture, young atmosphere and local cuisine. The city has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988.

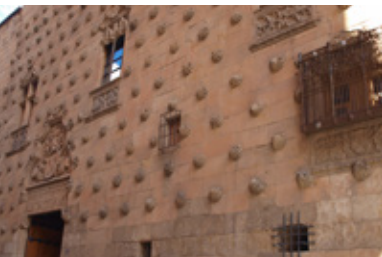
When you stroll through its monumental streets, a must-see attraction is its Plaza Mayor, one of Spain's largest, most beautiful squares and a leading Baroque monument of urbanism and peninsular architecture. The silhouette of the cathedrals presides over the Salamanca skyline. Casa de las



Conchas is among the most popular palaces in Salamanca and one of the best examples of Spanish Gothic civil architecture.

The historic university building is one of the most important build-

Visiting its museums and collections is an enjoyable experience for all. Along with weights and measures, radios with unique sound, cars and travel stories, glass, enamel, chryselephantine



Casa de Las Conchas



Church of Santo Domingo

ings in Salamanca and a jewel of Spanish Renaissance art. The Roman bridge, La Clerecía, the Convent of San Esteban, the Palace of Anaya and the numerous churches and convents are other places where the visitor must stop.


In addition to its heritage, or perhaps as a consequence thereof, Salamanca has been and is a city of Culture, and since it was the European Capital of Culture in 2002, it has experienced a great boom. It is a historic city, but also modern and avant-garde, with a varied and high-quality range of cultural attractions.

figures and fantastic contrivances where shadows dance, they contain all the care, respect and affection for inventions that were icons of the modernity and progress, and that have become 'machines with hearts'.

WHAT TO SEE:

Plaza Mayor. 🏰 This is the prototype of the Baroque square of the 18th century. It was built between 1729 and 1755. **Casa de Las Conchas.** 🏰 This building is Gothic in style with Plateresque features. It was started in 1493. **New Cathedral of La Asunción de la Virgen.** 🏰 This cathedral is Gothic in style

and has a floor plan like a basilica culminating in a large ambulatory. The **Old Cathedral**,  is adjacent to it and Romanesque in style with interesting medieval paintings and a magnificent high altarpiece.



most impressive cloisters from the Renaissance. The church and the cloister of **San Esteban**  are, likewise, jewels from the Renaissance, where the elaborately decorated façade is outstanding.




University Courtyard



Plaza Mayor

From the group, the outstanding feature on the outside is the Tower of El Gallo. **University**.  Tradition dictates that you have to find the frog on its beautiful facade which is Plateresque in style. **La Clerecía**. This building is considered as one of the prime works of Spanish Baroque. **Church of San Benito**. The church has a Gothic structure in which its doorway stands out in the centre of the depiction of the Annunciation. **Convent of Úrsulas**. The style of the convent is late Gothic. Inside it is possible to visit the tomb of Archbishop Fonseca. **Convent of Santa María de las Dueñas**.  Its inside safeguards one of the

Other noteworthy monuments declared Assets of Cultural Interest are the following:  **San Bartolomé College-Anaya Palace**, **Orellana Palace**, **Market of San Juan**, façades of the **Figueroa Palace (Casino)**, **Convent of Los Capuchinos**, building of the **Calatrava College**, **Church of San Juan de Barbalos**, **Church of San Cristóbal**, **Roman Bridge over the River Tormes**, façades of the **Garci-Grande Palace**, **Façade of the House of Las Muertes**; **Tower of El Aire** or **Fermoselle Palace**, **House of Saint Teresa**, **Convent of Santa Clara**, **Church of la Vera Cruz**, **Church**



Cathedral

of Santo Tomas Canturiense, Tower of El Clavero, House of La Salina, Church of La Purísima Concepción, Church of San Marcos, Church of San Martín, Church of Santiago, Escuelas Menores, Church of San Julián, Church of Sancti Spiritus, House of the Abarca Family, Church of San Polo, Palace of Monterrey, College of Los Irlandeses, Convent of Santa María de la Vega, Convent of Santa Úrsula, House of Dona María la Brava, Royal College of La Compañía de Jesús, Ruins of the Convent of San Antonio, the Royal Alcazar of San Juan. Moreover, Salamanca also has other Assets of Cultural Interest such as the Herreros de Anaya Jurisdiction Column and the Cathedral District or the Old Quarter of the city in the category of Historical Site.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



REVOLUTUM HOSTEL

Sánchez Barbero, 7



923 217 656 (48 beds).



www.revolutumhostel.com



info@revolutumhostel.com



ERASMUS HOME

Jesús, 18



923 710 257 - 923 710 257
(44 beds).



www.erasmushome.com



erasmus@erasmuscafe.com



40,96482, -5,66943



ALBERGUE SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD

Paseo Carmelitas, 46



923 225 477 (58 plazas).



administracion@trinitarias.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Turística de Salamanca.

Plaza Mayor, 32. ☎ 923 218 342.

www.salamanca.es

información@turismodesalamanca.com



Milestone on the way



Church of San Juan Bautista

Centro de Iniciativas Turísticas de Salamanca.

Plaza de los Sexmeros, 1.

☎923 211 797.

ALDEASECA DE ARMUNA:

Altitude: 819 m

Distance from Castellanos de Villiquera:

5 km

Kind of route:

Way



The first settlers here were the Celtiberians followed by the Romans. It was later repopulated by Moriscos and Jews as well as by Castilians and Galicians. Today, the village has 993 inhabitants. It is known that this area was particularly favoured by monarchs between the 13th and 14th centuries. Most of Aldeaseca de Armuña was influenced by the Church Cathedral of Salamanca

and it was where the clergy from Salamanca spent the summer. This small village which is currently dependent on the municipality of Villares de la Reina can be considered as the dormitory town of the nearby city of Salamanca.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa Cruz. It was constructed during the 16th century, has only one nave and a beautiful vestibule where a beautiful Baroque-like doorway projects. The inside has a Mozarabic chapel with an interesting example of Mudejar trusswork typical in Salamanca and a choir or gallery, Classicist work dated around about 1607. The high altarpiece is from the 17th century and a side chapel carved by Martín de la Haya in 1559 is particularly noteworthy. Its robust church has a spectacular square



belfry. The Renaissance-like door of the small cemetery is also worth mentioning.

CASTELLANOS DE VILLIQUERA:

Altitude:	826 m
Distance from Calzada de Valdunciel:	4.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village has 276 inhabitants distributed over its three main areas: Mata de Armuña, Carbajosa de Armuña and Mozodiel de Sanchiñigo go back to the era of the repopulation during the early 12th century. Agriculture with large areas of cereal crops is the main activity of its inhabitants, who have seen that its close proximity to Salamanca has enabled urban development to take place with the construction of individual houses. Nevertheless, it continues to have streets reminiscent of the Route as shown by the Calle de la Calzada, where today's pilgrims walk.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. Gothic style (16th century), it still has its nave, the doorway and the tower, all of which were the work of Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón. The chancel and the sacristy date back to the

first third of the 17th century and are the work of Pedro Gutiérrez. The altarpiece is outstanding with paintings from the 16th century with pristine Renaissance carving such as the Virgin with the Child and Saint John the Baptist.

CALZADA DE VALDUNCIEL:

Altitude:	801 m
Distance from El Cubo de Tierra del Vino:	19.9 km
Kind of route:	Way/Track/Way



This village rises up within the region of La Armuña with 676 inhabitants and has very close ties to the Silver Route as the first part of its name indicates. Its economy is centred on agriculture with a significant number of small food and agricultural industries. Their legumes are famous. Its rural fabric has, in recent times, undergone change with modern buildings which rival the areas formerly reserved for milestones and pontoons. The 'Fuente Buena' ('good fountain') has been recently refurbished and has a parapet and funeral stele from the 3rd century BC. Owing to its association with St James, special mention must be made of the coat of arms with two quarters: a milestone and a shell of St James.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa Elena. The whole church dates back to the 16th century. It has only one nave with simple wooden saddle trusses over large transverse arches. Worthy of mention inside the church is the altarpiece dating back to the 18th century in Churrigueresque style and the gallery at the base over lowered arches. It features a beautiful atrium with a Baroque-like doorway. There are also interesting remains of what must have been the former church in Romanesque style from between the 12th and 13th centuries. **Plaza de Los Miliarios.** This square has a row of large stones (pontoons) which were used as a pedestrian walkway to cross the river. **Interpretation Centre of the Historic Routes.** Set up in the former yard of the Council.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



ALBERGUE 'LA CASA DEL MOLINERO'

Ruta de la Plata, 10

☎ 689 008 562 (13 plazas).

✉ mteresaehijos@gmail.com

📍 41,520, -5,4210

REST AREAS:

There are two rest areas, one near the accommodation centre and another in the place known as 'La portilla', after leaving the urban



Roman milestones

area along the pilgrims' route. This is a picnic area with tables and barbecue.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

☎ 923 080 733

www.calzadadevaldunciel.es



Church of Santa Elena

Zamora

EL CUBO DE TIERRA DEL VINO:

Altitude:	840 m
Distance from Villanueva de Campean:	13.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



El Cubo de la Tierra del Vino is the first village in Zamora which the Silver Route goes through. This municipality ensconced in the plateau has near to 320 inhabitants and although part of its name refers to wine there are hardly any vineyards left in the area due to the phylloxera plague during the 19th century even although there are still various wineries that emphasise its wine-producing past. The village is located in what was a Roman mansio called Sibariam

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán. It was rebuilt during the 1940s although it still has its original steeple. Opposite the church is a stone cross from 2005 with a replica of the statue of St James the Pilgrim in the Church of Santa Marta de Tera and a plaque from

the Ramos de Castro Foundation which identifies this village within the pilgrimage itinerary. Visiting the 'Ancient subterranean wine cellars.'

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



FERNANDO Y MERCE

García De La Serna, 3
980 577 371 - 615 295 690
(12 beds).



mialberguefym@gmail.com



41,25542, -5,71216



TORRE DE SABRE

Travesía Ermita, 1
697 759 418 - 633 424 321
(20 beds).



torredesabre.wix.com/cubodelvino



torredesabre@gmail.com



41,25542, -5,71216

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.
Plaza Conde Retamoso, 15.
980 577 301.

REST AREAS:

Next to the church there is a park which offers a lot of shade and upon leaving the village the pilgrim will find a spacious area with shade, fountains and benches.





Cross in front of the church (El Cubo)

VILLANUEVA DE CAMPEÁN:

Altitude:	766 m
Distance from	
Casaseca de Campeán:	3,6 km
Kind of route:	Way



The path from El Cubo is red gravel and starts along the fields of Monteconcejo and Brochero to



Old Convent of San Francisco

run along between vineyards and holm oak trees. The municipal area of Villanueva de Campeán is small, with only 115 residents, and located in the foothills of La Esculca mountain. Before entering the village, the pilgrims pass the ruins of a Franciscan convent which, although dating back to the 13th century, was originally renovated during the 16th century. The village stems from that time.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María del Soto (13th century). It has only one open-roofed nave and a chancel. It had a small semicircular arch door clearly influenced by the Romanesque. The steeple was built in 1794 by Manuel de Sipos. During the first quarter of the 17th century another steeple was built and yet another in 1793. **Convent of San Francisco del Soto.** The monastery was founded in 1406 by Franciscan tertiaries under the title of Nuestra Señora de la Paz, popularly known as Santa María del Soto. From then on, the monastic building was always known as the Convent of El Soto. As from the second half of the 18th century it slowly began to deteriorate and currently a Renaissance doorway projects from the building which still has some images.



ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



VILLANUEVA DE CAMPEAN

Callejón Del Señor, s/n



696 445 337 - 722 160 163

(10 beds).



aytovillanuevacampean@gmail.com



VIA DE LA PLATA

Calzada, 19



630 980 967 (21 beds).



41,35462, -5,77076

REST AREA:

The area next to the church is specially intended for pilgrims.

CASASECA, DE CAMPEÁN:

Altitude: 762 m

Distance from San Marcial: 4.9 km

Kind of route: Way



The pilgrims do not actually go through the village although they do go through the municipal area. The name of the village is explained by the local landscape: the term 'casa' originates from the Latin homonym and refers to an inhabited construction, whilst 'seca' originates from the Latin 'siccus' referring to a lack of water, no moisture and finally, 'Campeán' is derived from the Latin 'campus' which means field and describes an extensive plain outside the area inhabited.



Church of San Isidoro de Sevilla

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Isidoro de Sevilla. Its construction is prior to the date on which its elegant steeple was built during the 17th century. It has a floor plan with only one nave, with five sections and a small transept. The high altar-piece is Baroque in style and features images of the Saints Idelfonso, Attilanus and Isidore whilst the sides depict Saints Agatha and Lucia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Casaseca de Campeán. Consistorio, 1

☎ 980 560 828.

REST AREAS:

There is an outdoor picnic area which also has a barbeque as well as a park next to the bus stop.



Signs



Church of San Félix

SAN MARCIAL:

Altitude:	713 m
Distance from El Perdigón:	6.6 km
Kind of route:	Way



San Marcial is a small village dependent on El Perdigón, located in Tierra del Vino, a region in Zamora which has 142 inhabitants and where the Dalmatia Route passes through.

WHAT TO SEE:

The Roman bridge known as the Bridge of El Andaluz. The Valley of Campeán has been crossed by three bridges for more than two thousand years. One of these is known as the Bridge of El Andaluz, under which the Mesta Cattle Track, originating in León, runs.

EL PERDIGÓN:

Altitude:	720 m
Distance from Entrala:	2.1 km
Kind of route:	Way



To the south of Zamora and Tierra del Vino there is a famous village which, perhaps for being so small and compact, was given the name El Perdigón (pellet). Its wine cellars were painstakingly excavated from underground at a depth of between six and seven metres, and out in the open countryside, thus giving the village deserved renown. It still bears the hallmark of its wine-making past today with a factory producing eau-de-vie. Historically, this village had close ties to the figure of the Viscount of Garcigrande and there are various houses in the village with stone coats of arms which highlight the relevance of its past.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Félix (16th century) Temple with three naves whose highlight is the funerary chapel of Precentor Don Pedro López de Peralta, covered with a ribbed vault. The high altarpiece, with 19 Gothic panels with Renaissance touches, is truly outstanding.



ENTRALA:

Altitude:	708 m
Distance from Zamora:	6.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



The Route goes through the municipal area although not directly through the village the name of which is derived from the fact that it is just outside Zamora. It is the last village the pilgrim goes through on the Silver Route before reaching the capital of Zamora. It can already be seen at this point in spite of there still being some distance to cover before actually reaching it.

WHAT TO SEE:

The parish church of the village was built recently and has replaced the former building. Next to the current building there is a stone cross which has been moved.

ZAMORA:

Altitude:	649 m
Distance from	
Roales del Pan:	6.6 km
Kind of route:	Way/Urban stretch



This little town of 61,700 inhabitants was important as a stopping place on the Silver Route during the Roman Empire. It was the site of an *occelum durii*, a Roman *mansio* on the Route from where a road branched off to Zaragoza, *Cesaraugusta*, via




Monument to Holy Week

Toro. This stop en route is referred to in the Antonine Itinerary and its name corresponds to the 'little eye or the girl of the Duero's eyes.' The walls surrounding the city and the good defences it had, in addition to the abundance of cultivated land and the importance of trade, meant that monarchs were attracted to this area during medieval times. Its location on a hill and alongside the River Duero made it easy to build a city wall. Hence the name given to Zamora of the well defended.

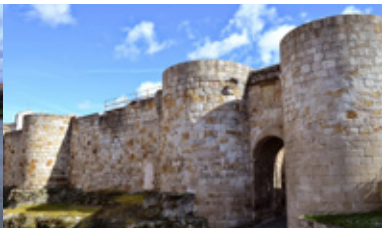
WHAT TO SEE:

Zamora is considered as the city of Romanesque art since it is the capital city with the most buildings in this style. Amongst others it is worth mentioning: **Cathedral of La Transfiguración.**

 Romanesque building from the 12th century with a cloister from the 17th century and choir from the 16th century. Its Byzantine stone dome is the highlight and its architectonic influence is reflected



Bridge over the River Duero



Medieval walls


in the Cathedral of Salamanca and in the Collegiate Church of Toro. **Church of Santiago de los Caballeros** or also known as **Church of Santiago el Viejo**. 🏰 It dates back to the 11th century. Legend has it that it was in this church that the knight El Cid was supplied with arms. **Santa María la Nueva**. 🏰 With Romanesque remains from the 12th century, its outstanding feature inside is the 'Yacente', a piece from the 17th century attributed to Francisco Fermín, a pupil of Gregorio Fernández, and the Mutiny of the Trout of 1168 which started the fire in the building. Next to this church is the Holy Week Museum, a celebration declared as being of international tourist interest. **Santa María de la Horta**. 🏰 Inside this Romanesque building it is possible to view a beautiful altarpiece dating back to the 16th century and attributed to the master of Toro. **Church of San Pedro and San Ildefonso**. 🏰 The remains of Saint Attilanus, first

bishop of Zamora, are kept inside this church. The building is Romanesque and underwent considerable restoration during the 15th century. **Church of San Cipriano or San Cebrián**. 🏰 It still has some of the oldest reliefs in the city. **Church of San Juan de Puerta Nueva**. 🏰 With a Gothic transept from the 16th century, its chancel is dominated by an altarpiece by Juan de Montejo. It is in one of the side chapels where the famous Virgen de la Soledad is revered, a piece by Ramón Álvarez from Zamora. Amongst the civil architecture it is worth highlighting that known as **Casa del Cid**, 🏰 built next to the city wall during the 11th century. **The Castle, Former Royal Fortress** 🏰, with a magnificent view over the meadow. **Romanesque city walls** from the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. In order to discover in more detail the artistic heritage of the city of Zamora some of its palaces are a must for visitors. Amongst those worthy of mention is that of



Cathedral of La Transfiguración

the Counts of Alba y Aliste or that of Los Momos, as well as taking time to see some of the Museums of Zamora, the Ethnographic museum of Castilla y León, or the Holy Week Museum. The city is also home to a wealth of monuments of which we highlight the following as being Assets of Cultural Interest: Church of San Isidoro, Church of Santa Lucía, Church of San Leonardo, Church of El Espíritu Santo, Main Theatre, Church of Santa María Magdalena, Church of Santo Tomé, Church of San Claudio, Fine Arts Museum, Doorway of Doña Urraca, Church of Santiago del Burgo, Church of El Santo Sepulcro, Cloister of the Corpus Christi, Church of San Esteban, Church of San Frontis, Convent of San Francisco. Moreover, as a historical site, the Old Quarter and the extension of the Historic Site are Assets of Cultural Interest.

 **The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route starts at Zamora.**

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de la Junta de Castilla y León. Príncipe de Asturias, 1.

☎ 980 531 845.

oficinadeturismodezamora@jcyl.es

Turismo Diputación de Zamora.

Plaza Viriato, s/n. ☎ 980 536 495

www.turismoenzamora.es

Oficina municipal de turismo

Pza. de Arias Gonzalo, 6.

☎ 980 533 694

ROALES:

Altitude:	701 m
Distance from Montamarta:	12.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village pertains to the El Pan region and has 923 inhabitants. It was repopulated by the monarchs of the Kingdom of León in the so-called line of the Duero between the 10th and 12th centuries. It is known for its industrial, farming and agricultural activity. Pilgrims reach Roales using tracks along which, once again, there are ancient milestones amongst which it is worth highlighting those at the entry to and exit from the village.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. It dates back to the late 15th or early 16th centuries. The high altarpiece shows the image of Saint Sebastian, patron saint of the village.



Plaza Mayor de Roales



Shrine of Nuestra Señora del Castillo

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 538 670
Plaza del Ayuntamiento, s/n.

REST AREA:

Parque de la Vega.
Located in Camino de la Vega.

MONTAMARTA:

Altitude: 690 m
Distance from
Fontanillas de Castro: 11.8 km
Kind of route: Way/Road



Village with 603 inhabitants located on the banks of the reservoir of the River Eslla and which is reached by following thousand-year-old tracks. It is also known as the village of the storks. This is a peaceful place surrounded by nature and the traditional gastronomy is based on local produce. Upon leaving the village, after crossing a small medieval bridge, and on a raised hill, pilgrims will come across a shrine to La Virgen

del Castillo. There is also a monument in the village to the popular 'Zangarrón', a typical figure during local festivals who goes out onto the streets at New Year and Epiphany. For the first part of the day he runs through the streets asking for pocket money, which he then places in his strange-looking shirt.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of Nuestra Señora del Castillo (16th century). Located alongside one of the branches off the Ricobayo reservoir. Its north-facing wall has some corbels, the oldest remains in Romanesque style. The style is Renaissance and inside there is carving of the Virgen del Castillo, patron saint of the village. **Church of San Miguel Arcángel (16th century).** There is a simple Romanesque baptismal font and a lovely steeple with balcony, weather vane and storks' nests. There is a sculpture dedicated to the Zangarrón, an ancient mask worn by



the young people in the village on New Year's Day and Epiphany. **Monastery of Los Jerónimos.** It is only the main façade that remains of this important monastery.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 980 550 112.

REST AREA:

Municipal picnic area. This is an area with poplar trees, a fountain, tables and benches.

FONTANILLAS DE CASTRO:

Altitude:	718 m
Distance from	
Riego del Camino:	3.8 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village with 87 inhabitants is located on a hill next to the former Silver Route overlooking the Ricobayo Reservoir on the course of the Esla. This is a simple place located next to a former fortified town of which very little remains in the middle of the countryside and that the pilgrims will be able to see whilst following their route which runs alongside.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of the Inmaculada (18th century). In the chancel of this humble church there is a series of altarpieces with carvings dat-



Ruins of the Castle of Castrotrafe and boundary stone on the Silver Route

ing back to 1762. **Castle of Castrotrafe.** 🏰 The ruins of the town and the castle, known as Zamora La Vieja. When the Ricobayo has little water in it, it is possible to see the bridge that joined Castile and Galicia.

REST AREA:

An area of greenery for resting with tables and benches.

RIEGO DEL CAMINO:

Altitude:	703 m
Distance from	
Granja de Moreruela:	6.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



Alongside the River Esla the Route follows dry paths next to cereal crops. This village of only 105 residents was considered the outpost in the Lampreana lands on the Silver Route. Like the entire area, it had a great hospital tradition thanks to the char-

ity practiced by the Hieronymite monks. The path goes along the road which crosses the village and divides it in two.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Cristóbal (16th century). The church is located in a pleasant area of greenery. It belonged to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem until the late 19th century. It has only one nave covered in vaulting and a coffered ceiling. There is a beautiful Baroque altarpiece inside. It still has an attractive and elegant steeple with two sections.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 588 114
Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1.

GRANJA DE MORERUELA:

Altitude:	730 m
Distance from Santovenia de Esla:	8.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



The village, which has 277 residents today, started as a farm tied to the monastery of Moreruela, located approximately 3.5 km from the inhabited centre. Pilgrims pass close to the monastery, contemplation of which is deeply moving. All that remains of what was once an important Cistercian monastery,



Spire of the Church of San Cristóbal

spiritual centre of the north of the province of Zamora from the 12th century, is the impressive transept which gives a good idea as to the size of the original monastery. There are also ruins of what were the extensive monastery facilities.

↑ The village remained divided into two parts by the road, and it is in this village that the section of the Silver Route known as the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route starts as it reaches Galicia through the region of Orense.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. Dating back to the mid-19th century, built in ashlar stone originating from the Monastery of Santa María de Moreruela and decorated with some images from the same site. **Ruins of the Monastery of Santa María de Moreruela.** 📍 Located on the banks of the River Esla, its tran-



Ruins of the Monastery of Moreruela

sept is outstanding with five semi-circular apses. It is a small, pleasant and fertile valley with plenty of water given its location on swampy land drained by Cistercian monks. **Quintos Bridge.** Built in stone in 1920, the wonderful harmony of its shapes and slender elegance are particularly appealing.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Cipriano Mangas, 2.
☎980 587 005.

REST AREAS:

Behind the accommodation centre and at the entrance to the village.

SANTOVENIA

Distance from
Villaveza del Agua: 5.8 km
Kind of route: Way



Between Granja de Moreruela and Santovenia are the Lagoons of Vil-

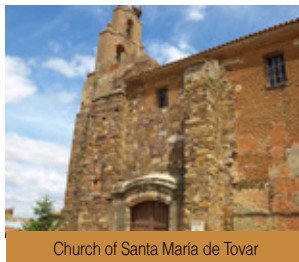
lafáfila. This is a magnificent natural area classified as a Nature Reserve. With more than thirty two thousand hectares they are the second wintering place for birds on the Iberian Peninsula after the Marshlands of the Guadalquivir. The pilgrim continues along the cattle track, far from traffic, until reaching this village with 259 inhabitants located on a hillside over the magnificent Esla Valley. This river course is the indisputable protagonist in this area and water has brought prosperity to such dry surroundings. The layout is elongated, and worthy of mention in the village is the parish church. Once again where water plays the leading role is its fountain and washing area which, more than a washing area, was a basin to provide water for the abundance of mules that were so typical during the 1940s and 1950s. The fountain has three taps. In the surrounding area there are remains from different periods: prehistoric, Roman, Visigothic or medieval.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María de Tovar. It has a half-orange dome and rose windows. Inside there is a carving of the Virgin which is worshipped every year on the first Sunday after 8 September.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza España, 2.
☎980 647 015



Church of Santa María de Tovar



Lagunas de Villafáfila

REST AREA:

On the way out of the village in the direction of Villaveza del Agua.

NEARBY:

Only a couple of kilometres away is Bretó, a village renowned for its parish church and a beautiful palace-like mansion from the 18th century.

VILLAVEZA DEL AGUA:

Altitude:	711 m
Distance from Barcial del Barco:	2.6 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village with 194 inhabitants is arranged longitudinally along the meadow and its characteristics are typical of the region of Benavente y Los Valles. Although

it has played an important role at some points in history, nothing today is reminiscent of the chronicles that tell of its medieval past. As an interesting piece of information, it is worth knowing that in a house in the village, next to the church, is where Alejandro Lerroux lived, President of the Government of the Second Republic of Spain from 12 September 1933 to 9 October 1933.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Salvador. The church has been restored on several occasions thus it has architectonic elements ranging from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. La Iglesia, 1.

☎980 641 212

REST AREA:

In the area around the church.



Pilgrim on the Silver Route

BARCIAL DEL BARCO:

Altitude:	712 m
Distance from Villanueva de Azoague:	3.7 km
Kind of route:	Way



This small village with nearly 258 inhabitants is located on a hill overlooking the wide and rich meadow through which the rivers Órbigo and Esla flow. This is the old Astura which lent its name to one of the most important nations of Hispania during pre-Roman times.

The irrigated land going through this area converted it into a small oasis before reaching Benavente. The location of the village is like a boat's keel which enables us to see, from one perspective, the land, the course of the rivers, the forests and horizons in their differing facets.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa Marina. Small, however with a beautiful and

unique tower which starts off as square and becomes octagonal halfway up. Inside there is an altarpiece with interesting paintings featuring different religious scenes, some of outstanding beauty and a lovely carving of St. James the Apostle, from the 16th century. Its slender semicircular arches make it exceedingly elegant.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

- ALBERGUE "LAS ERAS"**
Las Eras, 21
 980 640 073 - 980 640 073 (14 beds).
 barborox@hotmail.com
 41,93305 -5,66

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Ayuntamiento. Benavente, 1.
 980 640 037



Tower of the Church of Santa Marina

REST AREAS:

There are two rest areas in the two village squares.

REST AREA:

Park with benches and spring opposite the Town Hall.

VILLANUEVA DE AZOAGUE:

Altitude: 701 m
Distance from Benavente: 5.2 km
Kind of route: Urban stretch



A tiny town of 264 inhabitants, nicknamed Villanueva 'La Ciega' ('The Dead End') by its residents because the road ends here. Although this small village is located at the entry to Benavente urban life and the traffic associated with a large city are already perceptible.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. The church is known for its coffered ceiling and choir.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 7.
 980 632 310.



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

BENAVENTE:

Altitude: 744 m
Distance from Villabrazaro: 8.2 km
Kind of route: Road/Way



The city was very important during the Middle Ages as a result of being a crossroads, due to the role played by the Counts of Benavente and by virtue of its location between the valleys of the rivers Tera, Órbigo and Esla. As the axis of communications between Castilla, León, Asturias and Galicia, Benavente has become an important industrial and service city with a total of 18,095 inhabitants. From a historical perspective, the figure of the Monarchs of León, in particular Ferdinand II, is particularly relevant since they favoured the town with charters which went on to be ratified by other monarchs. Not many monuments have survived to the present day; however they do demonstrate the historical importance of the town, especially as from the 15th century when the countship passed to the Pimentels.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María de Azo-





Castle



Church of Santa María de Azogue

que. 🏰 It shows diverse artistic styles incorporated since the beginning of its construction in the 12th century, with three naves and five beautiful apses. **San Juan del Mercado.** 🏰

Romanesque style. The temple conserves three façades, and the highlight is the south-facing one because of its ample iconography on the subject of the Epiphany. **Hospital of La Piedad.**

🏰 Founded by the fifth Count of Benavente in the 16th century as a hospital for pilgrims, it has a beautiful Renaissance front and a peaceful patio. **Castle of Benavente.** Currently a Parador Nacional. It conserves its Torre de Caracol and a magnificent Morisco coffered ceiling. 🏰 Another recommended visit is the **House of Soledad González**, a 19th century modernist house used as a cultural centre today. A visit to the Casa Solita, a small bourgeois palace from the 19th

century, is also recommended. In the centre, Plaza del Grano is worth a visit and has buildings such as the **House of El Cervato**, currently the headquarters of the local government, the **House of Los Ramos** and the Palace of Los Condes de Patilla. The pilgrim and tourist are recommended to take their time and stroll along the Mota and the Viewpoint of Soledad González from where the valley of the River Órbigo and the fields of Benavente can be seen.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo. Former Town Hall. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 980 634 211

✉ turismo@benavente.es

🌐 www.turismobenavente.com

REST AREA:

There are plenty of spots to choose from on the banks of the rivers Esla, Órbigo and Tera.



Hospital of La Piedad in Benavente



Church of La Magdalena in Villabrázaro

VILLABRÁZARO:

Altitude:	716 m
Distance from Maire de Castroponce:	8.5 km
Kind of route:	Road



Villabrázaro, with only 160 inhabitants, traditionally served as a link between Galicia and the Court. To cross the river, the town councils of Benavente and Santa Cristina took turns in managing the operation of a barge. Given that it was an easy place to pick up passengers led to sales being popular. Today pilgrims take to local roads without traffic, which is pleasant for walkers during this comfortable and attractive part of the Route which is known for the lovely surrounding landscape.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of La Magdalena. This dates back to the 18th century and takes its name from the former place where it is believed that the original Villabrázaro was founded.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.
☎980 642 564.

REST AREAS:

The Park of La Manga is in the town centre. It has shade, trees, tables and fountains. There is also a rest area near the River Esla where pilgrims usually go for a swim.

MAIRE DE CASTROPONCE:

Altitude:	741 m
Distance from Alija del Infantado (León):	6.8 km
Kind of route:	Road



During Roman times, it was an important place of passage due to its close proximity to La Vizana Bridge, over which the Silver Route crossed the River Órbigo. Today this village has a population of 151.

Records of Maire de Castroponce's existence date back to 1183, when



the then-villa belonged to the Os-eira Monastery in Orense. There is subsequent evidence that the property was transferred in 1493 by the abbot of the Monastery to Rodrigo Alonso de Pimentel, count of Benavente.

It was one of the territories reconquered by the Kingdom of León, into which it was absorbed, so it was affected by the repopulation process undertaken by its monarchs. However, its second name, *Castroponce*, comes from the fact that it belonged during the Modern Age to the county of *Castroponce*, a title granted in 1670 to Fernando de Luján y Robles. During this era, Maire was part of the province of León.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María. The general floor plan and the transept are Romanesque. It has five beautiful semicircular apses with two doorways, also Romanesque, which were completed during the 13th century. **Vizana Bridge.** Going through the village, along the boundary between the provinces of Zamora and León, over the River Órbigo, is where this structure of Roman origin can be found although it was restored on several occasions after this thus giving it a medieval appearance. It offers us a refreshing image of being



Church of Santa María
in Maire de Castroponce

ensconced in a beautiful place where a village was founded that disappeared during the 19th century.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Dionisio García Carnero
☎980 650 111.

REST AREA:

It has an area of greenery with benches next to the Plaza Mayor.

León

ALIJA DEL INFANTADO:

Altitude:	720 m
Distance from La Nora del Rio:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Road



Church of San Esteban

This historical village was very important in the past and is currently a very attractive tourist destination by virtue of its numerous festivities and traditions. It has 489 inhabitants, and its ancient name, 'alixa', is of Greek origin and means 'point of contact between towns'. There was much written about the village between the 10th and 13th centuries and it even has remnants from Roman times. Even today it is possible to see interesting examples




Castle of the Pimentel Family

of popular architecture throughout the village.

WHAT TO SEE:


There are two districts which must be visited. In the feudal district the **Town Hall** is the most important building, the site of the **Plaza Mayor** and the **Church of San Verísimo**; the latter, documented as from the second half of the 12th century, has a Renaissance doorway and choir. It has impressive side buttresses on one of which a Roman capital is embedded. The powerful walled structure of the **Castle and Palace of the Pimentel Family**  also makes an interesting visit. Documented during the 10th century, it has remains from between



the 13th and 16th centuries. As for the typical district, the Jewish quarter, the most noteworthy building is the **Church of San Esteban**.  It is of Templar origin and has a beautiful coffered ceiling, a Mudejar jewel from the 16th century. Different architectonic styles are evident in this church which ceased to be a parish church in 1896. **The Jewish Quarter.** It had an important Jewish quarter. Currently, in the Plaza Mayor, a curious representation of a typical medieval village has been erected against the backdrop of the village castle.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo,
Casa Consistorial.

 987 667 154.

LA NORA DEL RÍO:

Altitude:	722 m
Distance from Navianos:	2,6 km
Kind of route:	Way



This is one of the three urban centres pertaining to the municipal area of Alija del Infantado along with Navianos and Alija. Located on a small hill, in the confluence of the rivers Órbigo and Jamuz, the history of this rural area of just under one hundred inhabitants has been lost



Bell of the Church of Santa María in Nora del Río

over time. It has Roman settlements on the land referred to as 'La Ermita' and the remains of an old bridge over the River Jamuz on the Silver Route. Indeed its position, between two rivers, and the existence of cattle tracks make it a paradisiacal landscape worth taking a moment to enjoy.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María. The panoramic view from its belfry emphasises how the fast-flowing Órbigo surrounds the village whilst Altoobar can be seen on the other side.



Church of Santa María de la Vega.



Church of Santa Marina in Genestacio de la Vega

NAVIANOS DE LA VEGA:

Altitude:	723 m
Distance from Genestacio:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



The path goes past the district of Navianos therefore the pilgrims do not enter the actual village. It is believed that the name Navianos de la Vega refers to women and men originating from Navia (Asturias) who, between the years 890 and 910, repopulated and settled on this land conquered from the Moors. In 1313 it was granted a charter thus converting it into an area of relative importance during the era when the old tracks of the Silver Route and the Cañada Real were in use. This transit point during the Roman Empire safeguards a district with a large number of mosaics, tiles and other materials.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María

de la Vega. It dates back to the 16th century. It has a magnificent steeple and a cylindrical tower attached to it. Inside there is a wonderful piece from the school of Gregorio Fernández, as well as the altarpiece.

GENESTACIO DE LA VEGA:

Altitude:	750 m
Distance from Quintana del Marco:	2 km
Kind of route:	Road



The name of this small village of barely 86 inhabitants originates, like so many others on the Silver Route, from a former Roman mansio.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa Marina. The building, with a circular tower, has a side portico and a slender steeple in two sections, with semicircular arches where the bells are kept. The altarpiece inside is Rococo in style and has twenty-two Gothic panels.

QUINTANA DEL MARCO:

Altitude:	750 m
Distance from Villanueva de Jamuz:	3.3 km
Kind of route:	Road/Way



The origin of the name of this village with 295 inhabitants is linked to the estate held around this area by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, a bust of whom still stands in the parish church. On the land known as Pago de las Villas a Roman villa was discovered in 1899 with mosaics, marble busts and other materials which today form part of the National Archaeological Museum's exhibits and that of León.



Tower of the castle

WHAT TO SEE:

Two churches with similar characteristics comprise the ecclesiastical heritage of the village: **the Parish Church and the Church of San Lorenzo**, both with large towers where storks can be seen nesting. **The Torreón Castle.** 🏰 Construction dating back to the 15th century commissioned by the Count and Countess of Luna. **Roman Villa of Los Villares.** 🏰 This is one of the most interesting archaeological finds from the 19th century. Particularly noteworthy is the tiling of Hylas and Nymphs (exhibited in the Museum of León) and a bust of Marcus Aurelius on top of the village church steeple.

REST AREA:

In the old schools there is an asphalted area with extensive shady areas.

VILLANUEVA DE JAMUZ:

Altitude:	760 m
Distance from San Juan de Torres:	2.8 km
Kind of route:	Road



It was the former capital of Valdejamuz. Its large meadow, thanks to the confluence of the rivers Órbigo and Jamuz, enables this village of 191 inhabitants to be one of the ru-






Castle on the Silver Route

ral areas with the most agricultural and farming activity. In the past it was a district where linen and woolen fabrics were woven. Its spirit of hospitality is brought to mind in the building that existed Calle Hospital where pilgrims and walkers were attended to. Moreover the existence of a Calle Rollo and Plaza del Rollo reminds us that this was a place where justice was imparted.

WHAT TO SEE:

Villanueva Castle.  Built during the 14th and 15th centuries, it was the headquarters of the primogeniture of Suero de Quiñones, the famous knight who played a leading role in medieval Jousting Tournament of Passo Honroso in Hospital de Órbigo (León) in 1434. **Church of San Cipriano.** The construction of the church was started during the 13th century although other elements were added at a later date such as its magnificent high altarpiece from the 16th century, one of the oldest in Bañeza or, more recently, the tower from the 19th century.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Santa Elena de Jamuz. Real, 23. ☎ 987 642 309

REST AREA:

The village has a rest area.

SAN JUAN DE TORRES:

Altitude:	768 m
Distance from Santa Elena de Jamuz:	4.2 km
Kind of route:	Way



The Route goes past the district without going through this small village with 143 inhabitants crossed by the River Órbigo. Although the Silver Route originally passed through this area, today the Route has been diverted from this village which is rich in maize fields and surrounded by Mount Castañón. It is located on a very fertile meadow which has a high production of beans, potatoes and beetroot. The village has a main street, Calle Real, where the Marquess of Castañón resided and which, prior to the division into plots, was a livestock trail.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Juan Bautista; it is a Romanesque church belonging to the Templars that was demolished in 1970. The current church is built on the same spot





Church of San Juan Bautista in San Juan de Torres

occupied by the previous one and the old belfry, in the shape of a steeple, has been maintained. **Celtic fortified settlement** located on the peak of a hill.

REST AREA:

In the village square there is an area with benches.

SANTA ELENA DE JAMUZ:

Altitude:	772 m
Distance from La Bañeza:	5 km
Kind of route:	Road



This village is today head of the municipality and has 85 inhabitants. Its origins are linked to a monastery that existed there in the 11th century and of which only its historical memory remains. In Santa Elena the traditional irrigation systems are still in use: water pumps and waterwheels for extracting water from the wells. They were of great importance in this

region with such a deep-rooted agricultural tradition and which was also an important manufacturing location for tiles and bricks.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa Elena. Building constructed in ashlar stone which has a Latin cross floor plan with transept. It has a slender steeple with three sections with a low belfry with semicircular arches. The interesting altarpiece inside is from the 18th century.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Santa Elena de Jamuz. Real, 23.

☎987 642 309.

REST AREA:

The village has a rest area.



Water Centre in Santa Elena de Jamuz



Church of San Salvador

LA BAÑEZA:

Altitude: 770 m
 Distance from
 Palacios de la Valduerna: 6 km
 Kind of route: Urban stretch
 Way/Road/Way



The hospital tradition of this city, which has 10,095 inhabitants today, dates back to 932, based on records of a hospital that tended to those who travelled to Santiago on the old Roman roads, just as they do today. The roots of this city go back to the Roman Empire when it was known as Bedunia. During the 10th century it was repopulated and went on to be named Vanieza. The importance of this place culminated during the 16th century due to its market, one of the most important in Castile and León. The famous saying 'Dios hizo el sábado, los monjes el mercado y los mercaderes la villa levantaron' ('God made Saturday, the monks the

market and the merchants raised the town') perfectly summarises the idiosyncrasy of the people of La Bañeza and the history of the town. Nowadays, amongst local horticultural products, it is worth emphasising its beans, which are renowned throughout the world.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María (16th century). It has a Latin cross floor plan, three naves and an unfinished tower from the 17th century. There is a Baroque altarpiece inside with the Pietà by Gregorio Fernández, one of the five by this artist and the last of these. **The Chapel of Jesús** is where some of the Holy Week floats are kept, amongst which the image of the Nazarene stands out,



Town Hall



a piece attributed to Luís Salvador Carmona. **Church of El Salvador.** The primitive construction was destroyed by Almanzor and rebuilt during the 17th century. It has a good high altarpiece dedicated to the patron of the temple. Monastery of El Salvador. This is a mixture of Romanesque and Renaissance remains given that it was founded during the 10th century and later underwent considerable restoration. Almanzor destroyed it during his invasion of this region. The Chapel of Las Angustias, with a single nave and built in the 16th century, houses a carving of the Virgin of Las Angustias, the recumbent Christ and the image of the Saint Potajero linked to the traditional festival of the same name, declared a Festival of Provincial Tourist Interest.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago "Monte Urba"
El Salvador, 17. ☎987 640 992.

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.
Fray Diego Alonso, 9
☎987 656 737.

REST AREAS:

There are various rest areas in the village.



Signs for pilgrims

PALACIOS DE LA VALDUERNA:

Altitude:	799 m
Distance from Celada:	15 km
Kind of route:	Way



According to history, the Bazáns, natives of Navarre, were the nobility of this region of Valduerna in León. Nevertheless, its past did not start at this point since it was in this region that King Alphonse V built his palace, hence it became known during the Middle Ages, an era during which it gained in importance as the king's palace. The road during the Roman Empire and the cart drivers' route in later centuries favoured the development of the village as it is today, eminently agricultural. Whilst walking, the pilgrim will find a Roman bridge over the River Turienzo in the middle of the countryside once past the village. This beautiful

construction has four arches and was restored late last century. Today, the village has 279 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Sanctuary of La Virgen de Castroterra. There is a curious procession as a result of the devotion shown in this region where those participating carry large banners to represent the municipalities of which the region is comprised.

Parish Church of San Pedro. This religious building is built in ashlar stone the outstanding feature of which is its graceful steeple with two sections of differing sizes, separated by cornices and decorated with the typical Herreran balls. This is where the bells are, held under semicircular arches. **Ruins of Bazán Castle.** 🏰 The only remains are its elliptical-shaped tower, a reminder of the place's importance.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Constitución, s/n.

☎ 987 665 671.

REST AREA:

In the area of Los Linares next to the swimming pool.

CELADA:

Altitude:	800 m
Distance from Astorga:	4 km
Kind of route:	Way



This is a small village with 118 inhabitants on the banks of the River



Fountain of La Noria, next to the church

Tuerto and which does not remind us in any way of the Imperial Road of Zamora which was to favour a significant development of these areas. From the height at which this village is located it is possible to see Astorga, whose towers and silhouette are gratefully viewed by pilgrims upon sensing that the end of the Silver Route is very close. A few kilometres away it will merge with the famous French Route which goes all the way to Santiago de Compostela. The most outstanding part of this section of the Route is the view.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Vicente Mártir. The walls of the nave, the Gothic doorway and the tower date back to the 16th century.

Continuation of the itinerary along the French Route



Astorga Cathedral



ASTORGA:

Altitude:	869 m
Distance from	
Murias de Rechivaldo:	2 km



This bustling town of 10,632 inhabitants is the hub of the Maragatería region and the point where two pilgrims' routes converge: the French Route and the Silver Route. Its history dates back more than two thousand years and its historical centre has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, as have a further four monuments. It lies in the fertile meadows of the River Tuerto in a privileged geo-strategic location.

WHAT TO SEE:

Cathedral.  Although work began on this cathedral in the late 15th century, it was not completed until the 18th century, which explains the overlapping of several styles of architecture, including Florid Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. Highlights include the 11th century Romanesque Virgin of La Majestad, the high altarpiece by Becerra, La Inmaculada by Gregorio Fernández, as well as the pulpit and choir stalls. **Episcopal Palace.**  Designed by the architect Antonio Gaudí and built in 1887. It houses the Pilgrims' Routes Museum and its interesting



Walls and Bishop's Palace

collection of medieval sculptures and Roman epigraphy. **Roman Walls.** Restored in the 13th century. **Roman Ergastula.**  Work on this Roman building included restoration activities and the creation of a **Roman Museum** that houses the vast collection of items discovered during the archaeological excavation of this site. There is also a **Roman trail**, organised by the local authority, which takes visitors around the city. **Shrine of Fátima.** The magnificent Romanesque capitals are not to be missed. The interior contains several superb examples of plasterwork of the Astorga School. **Town Hall.**  A 17th century Baroque building. Work began under the orders of the master craftsman Francisco de la Lastra.


It is a fine example of civil architecture, comparable with the former León Town Hall or the Town Halls of Valderas or Ponferrada. **Convent of Sancti Spiritus.** A closed convent built in the 16th century. The altarpieces date back to the 18th century. **Church of San Bartolomé.** This is the oldest church in the city. Constant alterations have resulted in an eclec-

tic mix of styles and artwork dating back to various periods: traces can be seen of Mozarabic, Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque elements. **Chocolate Museum.** Opened in 1994, it is located in a modernist palace built in 1912, once the factory and residence of a local chocolatier. The collection displays all the necessary elements for the artisanal and industrial production of chocolate as well as its consumption. It contains an interesting assortment of labels, posters, packaging, etc.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.


Plaza Eduardo Castro, 5.

 987 618 222 - 630 231 218.

turismo@astorga.es

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Astorga y Comarca.

Plaza de San Francisco, 3.

 618 271 773.

asociación@caminodesantiagoastorga.com

VALDEVIEJAS:

Altitude: 865 m

Distance from Murias

de Rechivaldo: 1 km

kind of route: Way



Taking the Astorga exit on the left side, we can visit the Shrine of Ecce Homo, located in the town of Valdeiglesias. This municipality has a population of 131. It was con-





structed in the 16th century along with a fountain that still generously offers its waters to the pilgrims who pass by.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

REST AREAS:

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

MURIAS DE RECHIVALDO:

Altitude:	802 m
Distance from Santa Catalina de Somoza:	4.8 km
kind of route:	Way



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



Church of San Esteban

WHAT TO SEE:

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LAS AGUEDAS

Camino De Santiago, 52



987 691 234 - 636 067 840
(40 beds).



www.lasaguedas.com



lasaguedas@yahoo.es

REST AREAS:

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

NEARBY:

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



Entrance into the village



Street on the Route in El Ganso

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

SANTA CATALINA DE SOMOZA:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

REST AREAS:

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

EL GANSO:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

	ALBERGUE GABINO
	Real, 9
	660 912 823 (24 beds).



Church of La Asunción



Panoramic view



LA BARRACA

Real, s/n



987 691 808 - 628 635 819
(10 beds).

REST AREA:

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

RABANAL DEL CAMINO:


Altitude: 1,149 m
Distance from Foncebadón: 5.7 km
Kind of route: Way



This is the end of the ninth stage described in the famous Codex Calix-

tinus. At the entrance to the village stands a huge oak known as the 'Pilgrims' Tree'. This was once an important stopping place on the Pilgrims' Route, with several hospitals and churches and the final stage before embarking on the climb up to Mount Irago. Today, the village has 74 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of El Bendito Cristo de la Vera Cruz. This 18th century construction today presides over the cemetery. **Chapel of San José (18th century).** The interior has an image of the Apostle Saint James. **Parish Church of La Asunción.**  All that remains of the original 12th century building is the Romanesque apse with three bow windows. Slate and sandstone ashlar were used in the construction of this fine example of rural Romanesque architecture. It has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.



Combination church and hostel in Foncebadón





Cruz de Ferro



Cross belonging to Manjarín

FONCEBADÓN:

Altitude: 1,439 m
Distance from Manjarín: 4.1 km
Kind of route: Way



The route from Rabanal to this spot takes us through a large mountainous area of woods and meadows. Today Foncebadón is practically deserted, with 27 residents. It was founded by the hermit Gaucelmo, who built the pilgrims' hospital between the 11th and 12th centuries.

WHAT TO SEE:

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



Monument to the fallen pilgrim Heinrich Krause

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



EL CONVENTO DE FONCEBADÓN I

Real, s/n
987 053 93 (24 beds).



LA CRUZ DE FIERRO
Real, s/n



679 152 512 (34 beds).



LA POSADA DEL DRUIDA
Real, s/n



696 820 136 (20 beds).

ACCESSIBLE SECTION:

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



MANJARÍN:

Altitude:	1,145 m
Distance from El Acebo:	6.9 km
Kind of route:	Track



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

ACEBO:

Altitude:	1,200 m
Distance from Riego de Ambrós:	3 km
Kind of route:	Track



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Miguel. The interior houses a stone polychrome sculpture of Saint James wearing a tunic decorated with fleur-de-lys. **Monument to Heinrich Krause.** This simple monument standing on the road leading out of the village was erected in 1988 in memory of this German pilgrim who

died whilst cycling along the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA CASA DEL PEREGRINO

Ctra. De Compludo, s/n



987 057 793 (95 beds).



lacasadelperegrino@gmail.com

REST AREA:

In La Era Park.

NEARBY:

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



987 695 421

RIEGO DE AMBRÓS:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

REST AREA:

Situated next to the parish church, this rest area has tables, benches and a fountain.

MOLINASECA:

Altitude: 595 m

Distance from Campo: 4.4 km



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Nicolás de Bari. This Neoclassical building dates back to the 17th century and has three naves and a graceful tower. Inside, there is a magnificent

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



COMPOSTELA

La Iglesia, 39

☎ 987 453 057 (32 beds).

✉ alberguecompostela@hotmail.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística.
Casa consistorial.

☎ 987 453 085.

ayto@molinaseca.org



Medieval bridge in Molinaseca



Shrine of La Quinta Angustia





Stately home in Campo

CAMPO:

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




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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

NEARBY:

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

PONFERRADA:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Basilica Nuestra Señora de La Encina. Work began in the 16th century on this church, which was later raised to the status of a basilica. In 1958, the Virgin of La Encina was declared the patron saint of the Bierzo region. **Knights Templar Castle.**



Ferdinand II of León repopulated the town and gave it to the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem in 1185, although the order was expelled in 1312. In 1924 it was declared a National Monument. The layout of the castle forms an irregular polygon. The main entrance to the castle has a silted drawbridge, and the façade features two fortified towers linked by a double rounded arch. **Clock Tower.** Built in the 16th century on one of the



Castle of the Knights Templar



Panoramic view of Ponferrada

arches of the ancient medieval walls. The lower section is the oldest part, whilst the upper section dates back to 1693. It is topped by a capital with a slate roof. **La Reina Hospital.** A 15th century Baroque hospital founded by Queen Isabella the Catholic. This building has undergone extensive alteration work and today houses a health centre. **Church of San Andrés.** The original medieval church was replaced during the course of alteration work in later centuries. It has a magnificent tower topped with a pyramid-shaped roof. Inside is a Baroque altarpiece by José Ovalle and Andrés de Benavente and the 14th century image of the 'Cristo del Castillo'. **Church of Las Concepcionistas.** Founded in 1524 by Don Álvaro Pérez de Osorio and his wife, it boasts a stone masonry façade. This superb single-nave church has a 16th century Mudejar roof. **Railway Museum.** Visitors to this museum, situated in the former railway station, can admire a large collection of objects, maps and explanatory panels, as well as the last steam engines to

run in Spain. **Bierzo Museum.** This museum offers a detailed insight into the history of Ponferrada and Bierzo from the Palaeolithic Period to the early 20th century, and includes valuable exhibits of gold and silver work and a fascinating numismatics collection. **Luis del Olmo Radio Museum.** A large collection of wirelesses and the chance to learn about the history of the radio in Spain. **Town Hall.** This Baroque building with two side towers reminds us of the town halls of León and Astorga. It was designed by the Galician architect Pedro de Aren.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



ALEA

Teleno, 33



987 404 133 - 699 065 061
(18 beds).



teleno33@gmail.com



42,546721, -6,582271



ALBERGUE GUIANA HOSTEL

Avda. Del Castillo, 112



987 409 327 - 609 152 037
(102 beds).



guianahostel@gmail.com



Basilica of La Virgen de la Encina



Ponferrada Town Hall

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística.

Gil y Carrasco, 4.

☎ 987 424 236.

turismo@ponferrada.org

Patronato de Turismo de la
Comarca de El Bierzo.

Avenida de la Minería, s/n,
3ª planta.

Edificio Minero.

☎ 987 423 551.

turismo@ccbierzo.com

Asociación de Amigos del
Camino de Santiago del Bierzo.

Avda. del Castillo, 106
(caseta de madera).

☎ 987 419 283.

asociación@amigoscaminobierzo.org

NEARBY:

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

COLUMBRIANOS:

Altitude: 530 m

Distance from

Fuentesnuevas: 2.8 km

Kind of route: Road



Traces of the ancient Pre-Roman fortified settlements can still be seen here. This annexe of Ponferrada has a population of 1,378 and boasts several stately homes such as Tormaleo and Regalao, reminding us that Columbrianos was once a seat of power and wealth.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Esteban. Standing a short distance from the town centre, this church dates back to 1778. The belfry was rebuilt in 1948 after it was struck by lightning, causing part of the structure to collapse. **Shrine of San Blas.** This shrine reminds us that this was once the site of a hospital providing care for ailing pilgrims. The interior boasts an 18th century image of the saint and a Baroque relief of

the Virgin of La Encina. Also worthy of note are the two images carved from the trunks of two elm trees, which are common throughout this area. The first, standing in Plaza del Concejo, depicts a countrywoman carrying a basket on her head, a tribute by local sculptor Rixo to the female farm workers of the Bierzo region. The second is situated in Plaza de las Eras and represents a stork's nest and a child and reads 'Columbianos'.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



SAN BLAS

San Blas, 5



675 651 241 - 625 562 553
(17 beds).

FUENTES NUEVAS:

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



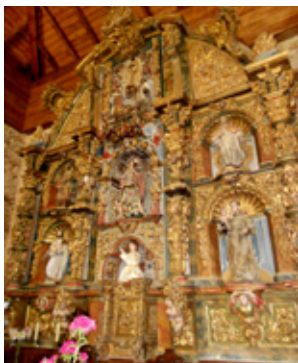
Making our way along the Royal Route, and just four kilometres from Ponferrada, we come to Fuentes Nuevas, another annexe of Ponferrada with a population of some 2,735. This is the site of Cantalobos, the first industrial estate to be built in the Bierzo region.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María. A rectangular church with a false cantilevered octagonal dome. There is a splendid chapel to the left of the nave. The high altarpiece stands out for the numerous caryatids and telamons surrounding the 18th



Shrine of San Blas



Altarpiece in the Church of Santa María



Church of Santa María



Urban stretch of Camponaraya

century images of the Assumption, together with those of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Stephen. Also worthy of note are the Virgin of Las Candelas and the Crucifix on the water font. **Shrine of El Campo del Divino Cristo.** The original 'Shrine of La Vera Cruz' has completely disappeared, although the new modern shrine is similar in size to the original and the belfry, built using stones from the original, is also similar and houses the original bell.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



NARAYA

Avda. Galicia, 506



987 450 357 - 659 189 621
(24 beds).

CAMPONARAYA:

Altitude: 492 m

Distance from Cacabelos: 5.7 km

Kind of route: Way



This village of 2,945 inhabitants has been major reference on the Pil-

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

WHAT TO SEE:

Houses bearing the family crests of the Quiñones and Uceda families and the ruins of the ancient priory of the Monastery of **Santa María de Carracedo.** Parish Church of San Ildefonso, Chapel of La Virgen de la Soledad, and the recently opened Grapevine and Wine Interpretation Centre.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



ALBERGUE LA MEDINA

Avda. Camino De Santiago, 87



667 348 551 - 615 019 591
(18 beds).



alberguelamedina@gmail.com



Shrine of San Roque

REST AREA:

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

CACABELOS:

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



We reach Cacabelos by crossing the River Cúa which runs through the fertile lowlands of the Bierzo region. This Roman town, also the site of the ancient Ventosa Fortified Settlement, is referred to in ancient literature as Bergidum Flavium. It is also the centre of what is geographicaly known as the great valley of

El Bierzo, and it currently has a population of 4,224.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María de la Plaza. The Romanesque apse is all that remains of the original building, which was rebuilt in the 16th century. Inside is a 17th century Baroque image of the Virgin of La Asunción, of the Castilian School. **Sanctuary of Las Angustias.** The interior of this building, which has an 18th century façade, houses an image of the patron saint, dressed in the style of 15th Castilian widows. Another unusual feature is the relief depicting Saint Anthony of Padua playing cards with the Christ Child. **Chapel of San Roque** (15th century). Extensive restoration work has been carried out on this chapel. **Cacabelos Archaeology Museum.** Definitely not to be missed when visiting this municipality, and considered the centre of the Bierzo region's flourishing wine industry. Set up in 1983 it houses numerous archaeological items, works of art and exhibits of ethnographic and anthropological interest. **Mayor Bridge.** Built on the site of an earlier bridge, it has six ashlar vaults dating back to the 16th and 18th centuries. It is one of the finest examples of this type of bridge to be found in the province of León.



ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA GALLEGA

Santa María, 23



987 549 476 (23 beds).



www.hostalgallega.com



hostalgallega@gmail.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Museo M.A.R.C.A

Las Angustias, 24.



987 546 993.

turismo@cacabelos.org

REST AREAS:

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

PIEROS:

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




This small village of 38 inhabitants is characterised by gently rolling lands planted with vines, the typical landscape in this part of the Bierzo region, which depends heavily on its flourishing wine industry. This village grew up around the 11th century parish church which was consecrated by Osmundo, Bishop of Astorga.



Church of San Martín

WHAT TO SEE:

The cruciform Church of San Martín de Pieros stands on a mound situated to the left of the Ventosa Fortified Settlement and the cluster of houses.  This medieval church was consecrated by Osmundo, Bishop of Astorga, in 1086. The perimeter walls date back to this period, as do the northern façade and the foundation stone, whilst the rest of the church was built during the 16th and 17th centuries. Inside, particularly worthy of note is the splendid figure of Saint Martin on horseback and a Romanesque short canon carving.

REST AREAS:

Situated one kilometre outside Cacabelos, just before reaching Pieros.

VILLA FRANCA DEL BIERZO:

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



This town forms part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and is located at the confluence of the rivers Valcarce and Burbia. It is the historical centre of El Bierzo par excellence and its artistic heritage includes six Sites of Cultural Interest and the designation of the old part of the town as a Historical Site. It was briefly capital of the fifth province of Galicia in 1822. The town today has 2,181 inhabitants

WHAT TO SEE:


Church of San Francisco.  Its 13th-century Romanesque front is worthy of particular mention, together with the Mudejar-style coffered ceiling above the nave. A fire in 1968 destroyed the church archives.

Church of Santiago.  12th century Romanesque. The authentic treasure of this church is the Door of Pardon situated on the side façade facing north. It was restored in 1958 under the orders of the architect Ramón Cañas del Río. The Door of Pardon takes its name because pilgrims who were unable to continue on to Compostela obtained and still obtain today the same indulgences as they do at the apostle's tomb.

Castle Palace of Los Marqueses.




Palace of the Marquis of Villafranca

 Rectangular-shaped, its construction began in the early 16th century. During the Peninsular War, it was affected by a great fire, but the original towers survived and it was refurbished in the middle of the 19th century.

Convent of La Anunciada. Founded by the fifth Marquis of Villafranca, Pedro de Toledo y Colonna. It has a collection of Flemish paintings from the beginning of the 17th century, known as 'Los Ermitaños de la Anunciada'.

Convent of San José. Founded in the 17th century by the Canon of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Don Luís de Castro, the interior boasts a splendid Baroque altarpiece, the work of José Ovalle, Andrés de Benavente and Isidro Valcarce.

Collegiate Church of Santa María.  This church stands on the site of the former Monastery of Santa María de Cluniaco or Cruñego and was built in the 16th century in



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

upper end from the 15th century and chapels from the 16th. It is the burial place of interesting characters, such as Gil y Carrasco, a Romantic poet from the 19th century. **Church of San Juan or San Fiz de Viso.** 🏰 Built on the site of a Roman cistern, it is in keeping with the rural Romanesque style of the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠 LA PIEDRA

Espíritu Santo, 14
987 540 260 (20 beds).

📞 987 540 260 (20 beds).
🌐 www.alberguedelapiedra.com
✉ info@alberguedelapiedra.com

🏠 EL CASTILLO

El Castillo, 8
📞 987 540 344 - 606 863 078
(16 beds).

🏠 LEO

Ribadeo, 10
📞 658 049 244 (24 beds).
✉ gallegomaria77@gmail.com



Church of Santiago



San Nicolás el Real

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo
Avda. Bernardo Díez Ovelar.
☎ 987 540 028.
turismo@villafrancadelbierzo.org

REST AREA:

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

PEREJE:

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



The first place we come to on leaving Villafranca and following the course of the River Valcarce along the N-VI Main Road is Pereje, which still conserves part of its medieval layout. This small village, belonging to the municipality of Trabadelo, has a population of around 32 and a stunningly beautiful setting that forms its principal tourist attraction. In 1118 it was given to Cebreiro by Queen Urraca, and remained part of its dominions until the 19th century.

WHAT TO SEE:

Pilgrims' Church and Hospital. The construction of these buildings led to a major dispute between the houses of Cluny in Santa María de Cruñego de Villafranca and Aurillac del Cebreiro. It was so serious that Alphonse IX of León, Queen Urraca and Pope Ur-



The Route through the area of Pereje

ban II also became embroiled in the conflict. The hospital provided much welcome relief to those pilgrims unable to make the climb up to Cebreiro in snowy conditions.

REST AREAS:

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

TRABADELO:

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



At Trabadelo we rejoin the N-VI Main Road. This village was repopulated by Bishop Gelmírez and formed part of the domains of the Church of Santiago de Compostela.



Today, this small town has a population of 32.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Nicolás. A simple yet impeccable church housing a tiny medieval seated image of the Virgin and Child. The Baroque altarpiece is the work of López de Sisto. **Chapel of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.** Despite being of secular patronage, it has an altar and altar stone.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

CRISPETA

Camino De Santiago, 1
987 566 529 (30 beds).

ALBERGUE MUNICIPAL DE TRABADELO

Camino De Santiago, s/n
987 566 413 (28 beds).



CAMINO Y LEYENDA

Camino De Santiago
622 224 862 (14 beds).



NEARBY:

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



ALBERGUE LAMAS

Calella s/n
987 036 744 - 677 569 764
(10 beds)



miguellamaspra@gmail.com

LA PORTELA DE VALCARCE:

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



Once in the narrow Valcarce Valley, travellers will understand the reasoning behind the name given to this village on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: in Galician, the word *Portela* refers to a narrow pass. It was originally known as *Portela de Vallecanceris* and formed part of the dominions of the Monastery of Caracedo. Today, this village has only 19 residents.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. With limited merit and great simplicity.



Church of San Nicolás



The River Valcarce as it runs past La Portela

Portela Blacksmith's. Situated five kilometres outside the town, this is one of the best-conserved blacksmith's in the Bierzo region apart from the one in Compludo. Built by Nemesio Fernández in the 19th century, the various facilities are all in excellent condition. Particularly worthy of note are the mansion, the coal cellar, the forge, the press and anvil, as well as the stables and mill.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



EL PEREGRINO

Ctra. Nacional VI



987 543 197 (26 beds).



42,660083, -6,917824

AMBASMESTAS:

Altitude: 605 m

Distance from

Vega de Valcarce: 2.2 km

Kind of route: Way



This municipality of 40 inhabitants is located just one kilometre from Portela, at the spot where the Riv-

er Balboa flows into the Valcárcel. Indeed, the name refers to this confluence. Remains of the ancient Roman road can be seen here.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



CAMYNOS

Ctra. Antigua Nacional VI, 43



609 381 412 (10 beds).



www.camynos.es



camynos@gmail.com



EL RINCÓN DEL APÓSTOL

Ctra. Nacional VI, 1, A



987 543 099 - 656 945 201

(16 beds).



www.elrincondelapostol.com



jlagof@terra.es

REST AREA:

Behind the church, next to the river is a pleasant spot offering welcome



Panoramic view of the town





shade, a potable water fountain, tables, benches and a barbecue.


VEGA DE VALCARCE:

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



The municipality of 210 inhabitants lies between the Veiga Fortified Settlement, of which no traces remain, and Castrosarracín, referred to by Aymeric Picaud in his guide as Castro Sarracenicum, and founded in the 9th century by Sarraceno, Count of Astorga and Bierzo. It is the principle centre of population in Valcarce Valley and occupies a privileged spot.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle of Sarracín  Located on an elevation that towers above the valley, as if it still wanted to protect the municipality, this building was constructed between the 14th and

15th centuries. It was built with slate masonry. Traditional 'palloza' round thatched dwelling and an unusual sculpture made from tree trunks that looks like a giant. **Church of la Magdalena**, Roman bridges, **Veiga Fortified Settlement**.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

SANTA MARÍA MAGDALENA

Ctra. Antigua N-VI, Esq. Carqueixede, 2
695 258 364 (15 beds).

EL PASO

Antigua N-VI
628 104 309 (28 beds).

EL RINCÓN DE PIN

Ruitelán, 6
987 561 350 - 616 066 442 (15 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Vega de Valcarce. Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1
987 543 006 - 987 543 248
www.vegadevalcarce.net



Castle of Sarracín

RUITELÁN:

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



The tiny hamlet of Ruitelán, with a population of 20, lies close to Vega next to the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on the left bank of the River Valcárcel.



Church of San Juan Bautista

WHAT TO SEE:

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

LAS HERRERÍAS:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa Ana. This church boasts a nave covered by a spectacular ceiling with a coffered central panel and gables. The images on display in the interior include a 16th century figure of Christ and a Baroque statue of Saint Julian.
Roman bridge. Crossing the River Valcárce, it was partially rebuilt during the 15th century. On leaving the town, just before the bridge, there is a modern, eye-catching fountain that replaced the former Quiñones Fountain, which, according to local tradition, is linked to Don Suero, the fearless contender at Pasos Honroso.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



CASA LIXIA

Camino De Santiago, 35
608 528 715 (40 beds).
www.casalixa.com
info@casalixa.com





Roman bridge in Las Herrerías

REST AREA:

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

WHAT TO SEE:

Remains of the church and the pilgrims' cemetery can still be seen.

REST AREA:

In the centre of the village, there is a large area with trees, tables, benches and barbecues.

HOSPITAL:

Altitude	790 m
Distance from La Faba:	2.6 km
Kind of route:	Way



The name of this tiny hamlet comes from the English hospital that is mentioned in documents dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, and which was used by the English King of the House of Plantagenet, Henry II, during his pilgrimage to Santiago.



Fuente de la Trucha

LA FABA:

Altitude:	917 m
Distance from	
Laguna de Castilla:	2.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



Mention was made of this village of 29 residents as far back as 1252, albeit under the name of Villa de Urz or Villa de Us. It is just one of many villages scattered around these rolling hills covered with thick vegetation. The houses line the slope leading up to Mount Traviesa.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Andrés.

Rebuilt in the 18th century.



Pilgrims' hostel

LA LAGUNA:

Altitude:	1,100 m
Distance from Cebreiro:	2.4 km
Kind of route:	Way



With 25 inhabitants, this is the last village in the province of León and the end of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León. It is the prelude to the climb up to Cebreiro.

WHAT TO SEE:

The spectacular landscape is its greatest attraction. Just a stone's throw away lies the 'mons Zeberrium', Cebreiro, and the gateway to Galicia.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA ESCUELA

Santiago, 5



987 689 700 - 629 181 702
(46 beds).



raferma@raferma.e.telefonica.net



Pilgrims' spring

Galicia

CEBREIRO:

Altitude: 1,330 m
Distance from Sarria: 40 km



Church of Santa María

Embedded at the top of the Cebreiro mountain pass lies this historic village with its ancient round thatched stone dwellings known as pallozas, perfectly suited to the harsh mountain weather conditions. This village forms a picturesque ethnographic site huddled around the Sanctuary of Santa María.

WHAT TO SEE:

Sanctuary of Santa María de O Cebreiro (11th century). Pallozas.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta en O Cebreiro-Piedrafita.

Edificio de nueva planta.

☎ 982 367 026 / 679 190 876.
(106 beds).

Albergue de la Xunta en Hospital da Condesea Piedrafita. Escuela unitaria rehabilitada.

☎ 982 161 336. (22 beds).

Albergue de la Xunta en Triacastela. Edificaciones tradicionales y dos pabellones de nueva planta. ☎ 982 548 087. (56 beds).

Albergue del Monasterio de Samos (optional route through Samos).

☎ 982 546 046. (70 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística del Concello de Pedrafita do Cebreiro. ☎ 982 367 103.

Información Xacobeo en O Cebreiro. ☎ 982 367 025.

SARRIA:

Altitude: 450 m
Distance from Portomarín: 23.5 km



It was in this major town on the French Route that King Alphonse IX died whilst making the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in 1230.



Convent of La Magdalena



General view of Portomarín

WHAT TO SEE:

Old Quarter. Parish Church of El Salvador. San Antonio Hospital. Convent of La Magdalena. Ruins of the 14th century fortress. Church of Santa Mariña (19th century).

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta en Sarria. Mayor, 57. ☎ 686 744 047. (41 beds).

Albergue Alma do Camiño.

Calvo Sotelo, 199.

☎ 942 876 768. (96 beds).

Albergue Monasterio de la Magdalena. Avda. La Merced, 60.

☎ 982 533 568. (110 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Información Concello de Sarria.

Vigo, 15. ☎ 982 530099.

turismo@sarria.es.

PORTOMARÍN:

Altitude: 320 m

Distance from

Palas de Rei: 24.5 km



The original town of Portomarín disappeared under the waters of the reservoir that was built here in the 1960s. It was made up of the

medieval boroughs of San Pedro and San Nicolás and boasted one of the best-known Roman-medieval bridges on the entire Pilgrims' Route. When the village was moved to its new site, care was taken to conserve several manor houses and the Romanesque churches of San Pedro and San Nicolás.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Nicolás. Façade of the Church of San Pedro (1182). Casa del Conde (16th century). Berbetoros Palace (17th century). Las Nieves Chapel and Staircase. Other highlights include the stunning natural landscapes, Miño Bridge and the Ethnography Museum.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Portomarín.

Condes de Fenosa, s/n. (114 beds).

Albergue Ferramenteiro.

Chantada, 3.

☎ 982 545 360. (130 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Información del Concello de Portomarín.

☎ 982 545 070.

www.concellodeportomarin.es



PALAS DE REI:

Altitude: 565 m
Distance from Melide: 15 km



This town takes its name from an ancient royal palace that was said to have stood in this area. The French Route leaves Palas via Campo dos Romeiros, a traditional meeting point for pilgrims, where they regrouped after forming spontaneous clusters along the way.

WHAT TO SEE:

Temple of San Tirso.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta en Palas de Rei. Avda. de Compostela, 19.
☎982 380 090. (60 beds).

Albergue- Pabellón de peregrinos de la Xunta.
Lugar de Chacotes, s/n. (112 beds).

Albergue San Marcos.
Travesía de la Iglesia, s/n.
☎982 380 711. (71 beds).



Medieval bridge in Arzúa

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Información Concello de Palas de Rei.

Avda. de Compostela, 28.

☎982 380 001.

MELIDE:

Altitude: 457 m
Distance from Arzúa: 17 km



The stretch between Leboreiro and Melide is one of the most beautiful on the entire Pilgrims' Route. In Melide, it takes us through the centre of a town with deeply-rooted associations with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. It was repopulated in the 13th century on the orders of Alphonse IX.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro. Melide Stone Cross. Parish Church. Romanesque Church of Santa María. Archaeological Museum. Terra de Melide Museum and the Parish Religious Art Museum..

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta en Melide
Rua San Antonio s/n.
☎981 507 275. (156 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo en el museo "Terra de Melide"

☎981 507 998

ARZÚA:

Altitude: 389 m

Distance from Santiago
de Compostela: 36.8 km



In the past it was traditional for pilgrims leaving Triacastela to pick up a stone from a neighbouring quarry and carry it to the limestone furnaces in Castañeda, Arzúa, thereby contributing to the construction of Santiago Cathedral.

WHAT TO SEE:

Chapel of La Magdalena.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Via Lactea. (120 beds).

Albergue Santiago Apostol
(72 beds).

Albergue Don Quijote. (50 beds).

Albergue de Peregrinos de la
Xunta en Arzúa.

Cima do Lugar, 6 (50 beds).

☎981 500 455.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Información
Concello de Palas de Rei.
Avda. de Compostela, 28.
☎982 380 001.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:

Altitude: 260 m



Once past Monte del Gozo, we can delight at the site of the 'New Jerusalem' – and the capital of the Autonomous Community of Galicia – Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims reach the cathedral via the district of San Lázaro, Rúa de San Pedro, Porta do Camiño, Rúa das Casas Reais and Plaza de Cervantes, before entering the Cathedral – provided that it is not a Holy Year – through the doorway situated in Plaza de la Inmaculada.

WHAT TO SEE:

Convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval. Church of Santa María del Camino. Ánimas Chapel (17th century). Church of San Benito. Convent of San Paio de Antealtares. A fascinating religious art museum. Cathedral. Gelmírez Palace. Hotel Reyes Católicos. Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home). San Jerónimo College. Fonseca College. Casa del



San Martín Pinario in Santiago de Compostela





Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Cabildo. Casa del Deán. Casa de los Canónigos. Monastery of San Martiño Pinario. Convent of San Francisco. Church of San Miguel dos Agros. Convent of San Agustín. Church of San Fiz de Solovio. Church of Santa María Salomé. Collegiate Church of Santa María la Real de Sar.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Peregrinos de la Xunta de Pedrouzo-Arca-O Pino. (126 beds). ☎686 744 055.

Albergue de la Xunta en el Monte do Gozo. ☎981 558 942. (800 beds).

Albergue San Lazaro-Santiago. Rua de San Lázaro. (80 beds).

Albergue del Seminario Menor. Belvis, s/n. ☎981 031 768. (200 beds).

Albergue Fin del Camino. Rua Moscova, s/n. ☎981 587 324. (110 beds)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Información al peregrino (Xunta de Galicia).
Rúa do Villar, 30-32.
☎981 584 081.



Portico of La Gloria



Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home)

Oficina de Turismo de la Xunta de Galicia. Rúa del Villar, 30-32.
☎981 584 081.

Oficina de Turismo de Santiago. Rua do Villar, 63. ☎981 555 129.

Oficina de acogida al peregrino (S. I. Catedral) Rua do Villar, 1.
☎981 568 846

The Mozarabic-Sanabria Route



Remesal, on the Sanabria Route

The origins of this route are not associated with the Apostle Saint James. Instead, it represented a communications link between the ancient kingdoms of León and Galicia rather than a specific route for pilgrims. Nevertheless, it is well-known that pilgrimages are made on many of the itineraries, especially those with important monasteries or places holding relics of saints and martyrs.

In this specific case, we know from royal chronicles that it was the itinerary followed by Alphonse IX during the spring of 1225 or that in 1506 Philip the Handsome met Ferdinand the Catholic in the village of Remesal in Zamora, after travelling from Santiago and going south

to Orense and Puebla de Sanabria. Centuries later, reference is made to pilgrims around about the mid-18th century who used the itinerary. At this point they were indeed making a pilgrimage to Santiago. To consolidate this itinerary, now relating to St James and pilgrimage, it is worth taking note of some pilgrims' hospitals in Santa Marta de Tera, Rionegro del Puente, Verín, Monterrey and Orense. Along the same lines, mention should also be made of the founding of the Brotherhood of Los Falifos in Rionegro del Puente, linked to the sanctuary of Virgen de la Caballada, dedicated to 'the repair of paths in poor condition for the comfort of the poor pilgrims who make their way to Santiago de



Crossroads on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, in Granja de Moreruela

Compostela to visit the temple of the Apostle Saint James'.

Modern historians have done a great deal of work to locate the roots of this Route with regard to St. James. Although late compared to old paths and the more traditional routes followed, nobody can doubt its past history, gratefully recovered by groups of volunteers and Associations of Saint James who have managed to bring this itinerary back into the limelight in recent years. Finally, it must be said that today it has more than acceptable coverage and there is a wide range of accommodation centres and services for pilgrims which make it completely viable and even well-used by those making their pilgrimage along the Silver Route. In Granja de Moreruela they turn in search of Santiago de Compostela, following these paths

which, in the past, were also used by a considerable number of Galicians who headed towards Castilla to find work on the land. It was the rural world which at that time dominated economic life with reaping, ploughing and other trades, which have since disappeared, by those who used part of the Royal Route restored in the past by the Marquess de la Ensenada.

On the pages to follow we will describe this itinerary village by village and mention will be made of important religious monuments as well as the interesting popular architecture to be found. The hospitality of the inhabitants in the area, and the beautiful and surprising landscapes, entice you to discover it without the masses to be found on other more traditional and historical routes.

Itinerary table-list of contents

Partial km	km in Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
ZAMORA						
0	0	373.3	730	277	Ganja de Moreruela	117
18.5	18.5	354.8	714	344	Faramontanos de Tábara	118
7.5	26	347.3	744	762	Tábara	118
14	40	333.3	738	62	Bercianos de Valverde	119
2.5	42.5	330.8	756	99	Villanueva de las Peras	120
4.5	47	326.3	729	300	Santa Croya de Tera	120
2	49	324.3	726	182	Santa Marta de Tera	121
4.5	53.5	319.8	777	491	Camarzana de Tera	122
6.5	60	313.3	750	163	Calzadilla de Tera	123
2	62	311.3	783	163	Olleros de Tera	124
8	70	303.3	807	13	Villar de Farfón	125
6.5	76.5	296.8	810	151	Rionegro del Puente	126
8.5	85	288.3	894	340	Mombuey	127
5	90	283.3	903	7	Valdemerilla	128
3.5	93.5	279.8	908	65	Cernadilla	129
2	95.5	277.8	900	44	San Salvador de Palazuelo	129
3.5	99	274.3	920	50	Entrepeñas	130
3	102	271.3	965	136	Asturianos	131
3.5	105.5	267.8	907	130	Palacios de Sanabria	131
2.5	108	265.3	1,000	18	Remesal	133
2.5	110.5	262.8	950	26	Otero de Sanabria	134
3.5	114	259.3	990	24	Triufé	135
4	118	255.3	960	1,189	Puebla de Sanabria	135
10	128	245.3	1,000	28	Terroso	138
2	130	243.3	960	146	Requejo	138
11.6	141.6	231.7	1,260	32	Padornelo	139
3.7	145.3	228	1,100	30	Aciberos	140
3.9	149.2	224.1	1,024	163	Lubian	141
GALICIA						
23.5	0	200.6	985	1,308	La Gudiña	143
34.4	0	166.2	475	468	Laza	143
20.1	0	146.1	660	328	Vilar del Barrio	144
35.3	0	110.8	139	307,841	Orense	144
21.6	0	89.2	555	2,191	San Cristovo de Cea	145
33.5	0	55.7	552	9,780	Estacion de Lalin	146
35.4	0	20.3	140		Puente Ulla	146
20.3	0	0	260	97,260	Santiago de Compostela	147





Itinerary

Zamora 117

Galicia 143

Zamora

GRANJA DE MORERUELA:

Altitude: 730 m

Distance from

Santovenia de Esla: 8.5 km

Kind of route: Way



The village with a population of 277 started as a farm tied to the monastery of Moreruela, located approximately 3.5 km from the inhabited centre. Pilgrims pass close




Church of San Juan Bautista

to the monastery, contemplation of which is deeply moving. All that remains of what was once an important Cistercian monastery, spiritual centre of the north of the province of Zamora from the 12th century, is the impressive transept which gives a good idea as to the size of the original monastery. There are also ruins of what were the extensive monastery facilities.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. Dating back to the mid-19th century, built in ashlar stone originating from the Monastery of Santa María de Moreruela and decorated with some images from the same site.

Ruins of the Monastery of Santa María de Moreruela.  Located on the banks of the River Esla, its transept is outstanding with five semi-circular apses. It is a small, pleasant and fertile valley with plenty of water given its location on swampy land drained by Cistercian monks.

Quintos Bridge. Built in stone in 1920, the wonderful harmony of its shapes and slender elegance are particularly appealing.



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Cipriano Mangas, 2.
☎980 587 005.

REST AREAS:

Behind the accommodation centre and at the entrance to the village.

FARAMONTANOS DE TABARA:

Altitude:	714 m
Distance from Tábara:	7.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



It is located on the slopes of the Cavernas Mountain Range, next to the La Burga Stream. Its proximity to the Regional Reserve of Sierra de la Culebra makes this village with 344 inhabitants a magnificent location for observing wildlife and for hiking. In the surrounding area, the relief changes between mountainous and flat, forming a kind of plain. There is an abundance of different flora. The most common tree species are holm oak, pine, quejigo or ash. From the perspective of popular architecture the wine cellars are particularly outstanding. They are spectacular buildings with a triangular façade and robust wooden doors.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martín. Although dating back to the 13th century, it has subse-



Quintos Bridge

quently been restored. It has a steeple with a triangular finish and only the one nave finished with a flat transept and supported by two strong buttresses. **Quintos Bridge.** This pontoon construction crosses the River Esla. It has nine arches, each of which has a span of ten metres and a total length exceeding one hundred metres. Its construction dates back to 1920 and is made entirely of stone.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 595 053.

REST AREAS:

Matafios recreational area with benches, barbecues, fountains and tables. Moreover, the village has different landscaped areas with fountains and benches.

TÁBARA:

Altitude:	744 m
Distance from	
Bercianos de Valverde:	14 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village has 762 inhabitants and pertains to the region of Tierra del Pan. Although it was inhabited during the Roman Empire there are no remains to prove it. There is a market every Saturday of the year thus demonstrating the leading trade activity of this region. The village features typical constructions such as ovens and wine cellars as well as an old mill which still operates.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María. 🏰

It was consecrated in 1132. It was in this same year that the tower, at the base of the building, and the side walls were built. The building has three naves with a transept and two side doors. The tower is surrounded by arches styled as porticos. **Church of Nuestra Señora de La Asunción.** From the 16th century. Popularly known as 'the convent', since it has been the centre of worship for many congregations. In 1991 an access was discovered to the Crypt of Nuestra Señora de La Asunción. The crypt has Romanesque arches and is covered with vaulting over attached columns which do not reach the ground and is supported on corbels typical of Cistercian architecture. **Marquess of Tábara Palace Doorway.**

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 590 015

REST AREA:

In the La Folguera recreational area with benches, shade and water.

BERCIANOS DE VALVERDE:

Altitude:	738 m
Distance from Villanueva de las Peras:	2.5 km
Kind of route:	Way

This small municipality in the region of Los Valles barely has 62 inhabitants most of whom are senior citizens. This tiny village is distributed over four streets and set in an irrigated valley thus making this spot a haven of peace and tranquillity. The most outstanding



Church of Santa María



flora includes holm oak, rockrose and poplars amongst other tree species. After having crossed the village, and the River Castrón, the route goes through a pleasant poplar grove.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Pelayo. It has a modern atrium and its steeple, with only one section and built in rustic stone. It can be accessed via an exterior flight of steps. Wine cellars.

REST AREA:

Next to the health centre there is a landscaped area with shade and benches.

VILLANUEVA DE LAS PERAS:

Altitude:	756 m
Distance from Santa Croya de Tera:	4.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village is located in the Valley of Valverde, on the banks of the Castrón, a very small river which has water throughout the year. We are now in the region of Benavente y Los Valles in Zamora. The municipality currently has a population of 99 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of La Virgen de La



Signs along the way through Bercianos de Valverde

Asunción. The most outstanding feature of the building is the large stone arch on which the access stairs to the simple steeple are located under the hallway and Renaissance in style. The apse is square and has buttresses.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA ALAMEDA

Alameda, 21



980 590 346 (7 beds).



41.9359, -5.97871

REST AREAS:

In the square there is an area with benches and shade.

SANTA CROYA DE TERA:

Altitude:	729 m
Distance from Santa Marta de Tera:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



The village with just over 300 inhabitants is located on the right-hand bank of the River Tera, on a vast meadow with plenty of water. As an additional piece of information, on the outskirts of the village there is an entire neighbourhood which has evolved thanks to the concentration of traditional wine cellars. For many years there has also been an association dedicated to the recovery of the donkey species indigenous in Zamora and León.

After crossing the bridge over the River Tera this village is left behind as we continue on our way to Santiago de Compostela.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish church. Its baptismal font from the 16th century emphasises the age of the church, as does an original piece of art from the 15th century. In 1672 the Brotherhood of La Vera Cruz was established.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 645 312.

REST AREA:

At the exit from the village next to the river there is a recreational area with benches, fountain, shade, tables and even the possibility of going for a swim.

SANTA MARTA DE TERA:

Altitude:	726 m
Distance from Camarzana de Tera:	4.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This is an interesting village in Zamora which is reached after going uphill and crossing the River Tera which continues for the next few kilometres. In spite of having a mere 182 inhabitants, this rural area is worth stopping in to visit one of the most interesting Romanesque churches on the entire itinerary.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa Marta de Tera 🏰 It was built during the 12th century. The church, which formed part of a former monastery dating back to the 10th century, has a Latin cross floor plan, square apse, beautiful capitals and a checker pattern. Saint James the Pilgrim is depicted in its south doorway wearing a haversack with a shell and a crook in his right hand whilst using his left hand to wave. This image symbolises the extension of the Silver Route. The outside of the church, harmoniously proportioned, is stunningly beautiful and the checker pattern, arches and decoration of the eaves and cornices is particularly enchanting. Signs of the former monastery can be seen in a





Statue of St James on the front of the church

building from the 17th century that has recently been restored.

REST AREAS:

In the park, next to the square, there is a landscaped area with shade, benches and water.

CAMARZANA DE TERA:

Altitude:	777 m
Distance from Calzadilla de Tera:	6.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



The village is located in the northwest of the province of Zamora and is one of the municipalities found in the valley of

the Tera. The municipal districts of Cabañas de Tera and San Juanico el Nuevo depend on it administratively, as well as the Ward of Santa Marta de Tera. With little more than 500 inhabitants, tourists can enjoy a visit to the ethnography exhibition showing tools and implements that are typical in the area. Near to the bridge which links this area to the neighbouring Pumarejo de Tera there is a very well-cared for river beach with basic facilities for enjoying the pristine water of the Tera. As in other parts of Sana-bria, there is evidence of the existence of the Brotherhood of Los Falifos, who traditionally provided assistance for pilgrims en route to Santiago de Compostela.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. There is a magnificent Baroque altarpiece inside. Shrine of La Trinidad or of El Padreterno. The beautiful altarpiece is worthy of mention. Late Roman villa 🏰. The works of the road between Benavente and Mombuey in 1861 uncovered the foundations of a building with mosaic paving and other remains in the area known as Huerta del Barrero. In 1939, new paving was discovered on agricultural land near the village.




Tower of the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

CALZADILLA DE TERA:

Altitude:	750 m
Distance from Olleros de Tera:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way




Its name refers to the route followed by Roman Road Number Seventeen on the Antonine Itinerary (Iler to Bracara Asturicam, Braga-Astorga). It is located on the flat land of the valley of the Tera which is irrigated by the river, with which it shares its name, through two irrigation channels which provide water for linseed crops, poplar groves and the wetlands of the river bank. The municipality also has a vast area of high hillside with holm oak and oak and lower hillsides with rockrose and pastureland. It currently has a population of 163.

Part of the mosaics discovered were given to the Museum of Zamora. A mosaic and the walls that formed part of the peristyle of a Roman villa were found more recently. **El Castro Archaeological Site.**  This uncovered remains of a Roman villa with some mosaics along with some artefacts from the Iron Age.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

 980 649 006.

REST AREA:

In the square there is a small garden with benches and shade.

WHAT TO SEE:

Former Church of Las Santas Justa y Rufina. This Romanesque church is dedicated to the Saints Justa and Rufina from Seville, patron saints of the village. It has deteriorated considerably and has a belfry with an outside access. **Shrine of La Virgen de la O.** This building was restored recently and still has an image of the pregnant Virgin. The parish



Bell tower of the old Church of
Las Santas Justa y Rufina

temple underwent work recently and is still dedicated to the Saints Justa and Rufina. The temple has a Baroque altarpiece from the 18th century that was transferred from the former church.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎ 980 645 845

REST AREA:

On the way out of the village there are some benches but no shade.

OLLEROS DE TERA:

Altitude:	783 m
Distance from Villar de Farfón:	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



The municipal district of Calzadilla de Tera, with a population of 163,

boasts lush vegetation thanks to the river. The farmland is used to cultivate typical dry crops: wheat, barley and rye, as well as those associated with irrigated land: potatoes and corn. This area is the ideal habitat for the proliferation of abundant game animals amongst which the most important are hare, deer, partridge and quail. Houses built using mud and straw are typical for this area.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Miguel. Built during the Baroque period, it has since undergone considerable restoration. It has a steeple with two sections. **Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Agavanzal.** It is located outside the urban area with only one nave and a Latin cross floor plan. The heraldic coat of arms above the doorway is outstanding. Locals celebrate each 11th September with a devout procession in honour of the image of Nuestra Señora de Agavanzal.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA TRUCHA

La Fuente, 44 (6 plazas).



☎ 980 644 767



✉ ollerina@hotmail.com



Shrine of Abaganzal



Pilgrims' Route

VILLAR DE FARFÓN:

Altitude:	807 m
Distance from Rionegro del Puente:	6.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village belongs to the nearby municipality of Rionegro with a mere 13 inhabitants. The floods caused by the water stored in the reservoir of Nuestra Señora del Agavanzal nearby destroyed all of its old mills that were in an area of outstanding beauty.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Pedro. This cruciform church has a single

nave and a straight transept. There is a depiction of Saint James in the doorway. Inside the altarpiece features an image of Saint Peter dating back to the 18th century. The steeple with one section is also outstanding. **Former horse stocks.** This structure, which is no longer used, in spite of its good condition, was used to hold horses, donkeys and even cows whilst they were being shod.

REST AREAS:

There is an area in the Plaza Mayor with benches and tables. Likewise, alongside the headquarters of the Asociación de Jubilados there is a meadow with a fountain.



RIONEGRO DEL PUENTE:

Altitude:	810 m
Distance from Mombuey:	8.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



Rionegro, with 151 inhabitants, belongs to the area of La Carballeda, a neighbour of the well-known Sanabria area, with which it is often confused. Located on the banks of the River Negro, tributary of the Tera, this village, which is the birthplace of the founder of Caracas, Diego de Losada, lies between valleys formed by the La Culebra and La Cabrera Baja Mountain Ranges. The municipality is surrounded by holm oak trees and oak stands in an environment where the construction, for hydroelectric purposes, of the dam of Nuestra Señora de Agavanzal has altered both the landscape and its climate.

WHAT TO SEE:

Sanctuary of La Virgen de la Carballeda. The building, property of the Brotherhood of Los Falifos, also known as Los Farapos, is built over a small chapel of Romanesque origin. The building was enlarged between the 14th and 15th centuries and completed during the 18th century. Its most outstanding feature is the spectacular tower measuring over 20

metres high built in ashlar stone dating back to the 17th century. The separation between the three naves was achieved using four sharp arches and over very short pillars with two attached semi-columns. Inside is an image of the Virgen de la Carballeda, patron saint of the region. She is mainly worshipped during the festival on the third Sunday of September by holding various religious acts and a fair. **Parish Church of Santiago.** A fire destroyed virtually all of the church. Only the access to the belfry via stairs and the steeple finished in a triangle remain. **Bridge over the River Negro.** This is where the village name is derived. **Losada Palace.** This is the birthplace of the founder of Caracas, Diego de Losada. The palace was restored in 1992 to be transformed into a cultural centre which has a library, tourist information and the rooms of the Ethnographic Museum.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



"VIRGEN DE LA CARBALLEDA"

Santuario De La Carballeda
Ctra. Nal. 525. Km, 49



606 383 753 - 98 0652 084
(28 beds).



mozarabesanabres@gmail.com
carballeda@wanadoo.es

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo. Palacio de Losada.

980 652 003.



Shrine of La Virgen de Carballeda

REST AREA:

Picnic area alongside the river, with barbecues, tables and spacious areas in the shade.

MOMBUEY:

Altitude:	894 m
Distance from Valdemerilla:	5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This town, which belonged to the Order of the Temple, currently has 340 inhabitants. Of its splendid past only the Romanesque church remains, dating back to the 13th century with a tower which is also Romanesque projecting up between the roofs of the village.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción or Santa María.

Romanesque construction dating back to the 13th century with significant restoration work during the 18th and 19th centuries which shaped its current features. The building has only one nave and a Latin cross floor plan and the tower which is particularly outstanding. This Romanesque watchtower from the 13th century has a defensive appearance attributed to the Order of the Temple. Its structure is made of masonry and comprised of three sections. Two sides of the tower are finished in an arch cornice over modillions with balls, flowers and human figures. The third has hollows which open out



Romanesque tower of the
Church of Santa María

to the wall for fitting the bells. The entire structure of the tower has a rather peculiar, original and elegant appearance and acts as a reference point for pilgrims.

REST AREA:

There is a park near the church offering shade, a fountain, benches and small trees.

VALDEMERILLA:

Altitude:	903 m
Distance from Cernadilla:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This municipal district under the Town Council of Cernadilla has only 7 inhabitants and three streets that make up its urban structure. The pilgrim or tourist who comes to this village can read the following inscription 'This village embodies peace and everything is relative. Here, few people are a crowd'. Moreover, this place is known for 'The legend of the stone of San Tirso'. Legend has it that some thieves who tried to steal the stone at the base of the saint could not leave the village with their loot since the horses were unable to pull the cart.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Lorenzo. This Romanesque building has a beautiful and slender belfry with an access staircase on the outside. The dominant feature inside is the magnificent altarpiece, whilst outside it is the rustic corbels which in the



Typical house and Church of San Lorenzo

past held the former eave. It was altered during a restoration campaign in 2000, when it recovered some of its past splendour.

CERNADILLA:

Altitude: 908 m
Distance from
San Salvador de Palazuelo: 2 km
Kind of route: Way



This village includes the municipal districts of Valdemerilla and San Salvador de Palazuelo. It must have had a magnificent past as can be ascertained from the large number of noble homes made of stone. Over time, these constructions have been modified to meet the needs of the rural area, which has just 65 residents today.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of La Purificación de la Virgen or Las Candelas. The building in the village centre was built between the 17th to 18th centuries. The presbytery is covered with a ribbed star vault. It has three naves and its façade is neo-Romanesque with some Gothic features. The lower part of the belfry is square and becomes octagonal towards the final section which is crowned with a dome finish.



Church of La Purificación and cemetery

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

☎980 644 424.

REST AREA:

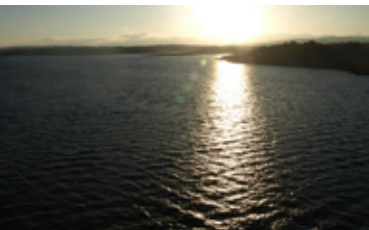
In the village square there are benches, gardens and shade. The fountain is approximately 300 metres away.

SAN SALVADOR DE PALAZUELO:

Altitude: 900 m
Distance from Entrepeñas: 3.5 km
Kind of route: Way



Just like the old villages en route to Santiago de Compostela with their houses lining the Route, this municipal district of only 44 inhabitants has a linear structure featuring many modern houses and new buildings. The nearness of the village to the reservoir of Cernadilla has un-



Reservoir

ENTREPEÑAS:

Altitude:	920 m
Distance from	
Asturianos:	3 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village in the region of La Carballeda, located beside the Cernadilla reservoir and forming part of the municipality of Asturianos, allows pilgrims and tourists to view a landscape where chestnut trees begin to dominate. In any of these villages, it is traditional to hold the popular magosto, a typical festival which consists of collecting chestnuts to then prepare them for eating in various ways. Although the traditional method is to roast them, it is also a typical dish to soak them in honey or eat them boiled with milk. Today, it is a small town of 50 inhabitants.

doubtedly contributed to this new urban expansion. Some of the walks around the village allow both visitors and locals to enjoy a varied range of tree species.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of La Transfiguración del Señor. This construction has a large and square tower at the base of the church which is accessed using stairs outside. The church has two Romanesque doorways, with a semicircular arch and only one nave. The crossing, transept and the chapels date back to between the 17th and 19th centuries. **Shrine of El Cristo.** It is located in the unpopulated village which bears the same name and is the oldest proof of the existence of this rural area. **Shrine of Santa Lucía.** Just like the other shrine it has been restored.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. In spite of having suffered a devastating fire, from its Baroque period it still has some cylindrical pillars and the centre doorway, formed by a basket-handled arch framed with pilasters and completed with a triangular pediment. The baptismal font is made from the one piece of stone and dates back to the 16th century. **Shrine of the Santa Cruz.** The typical calvary can be found ap-





Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Entrepeñas)

proximately three hundred metres outside the village.

REST AREAS:

There is a fountain in the square from which pilgrims can drink. The area also has benches and greenery that provides shade.

ASTURIANOS:

Altitude:	965 m
Distance from	
Palacios de Sanabria:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Road



The name of the municipality is reminiscent of the reconquest. It is said that it was the Asturians who settled in this part of Sanabria that belongs to the region of La Carballeda. Amongst the nature found in the area there are magnificent hundred-year-old walnut trees under which shade can be sought in the summer, although they block the view of the parish church. It has a population of 136.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of Nuestra Señora del Carmen. Although characterised by exterior simplicity, there are various Baroque altarpieces inside dating back to the 18th century. **Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.** Located outside the urban centre, the inside is impressive and has images from different periods. The large Gothic baptismal font has been relocated next to the altar supported on a square pedestal with balls. The side altarpieces are Baroque from the 18th century, creating a sense of balance and decorated with intricate designs. One of them shows a canvas with the Mexican Virgin of Guadalupe.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 626 023.

REST AREAS:

In the square there is a landscaped area with benches and shade whilst near the church there is an area with benches, tables and shade.

PALACIOS DE SANABRIA:

Altitude:	907 m
Distance from	
Remesal:	2.5 km
Kind of route:	Way





Font of the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

This town, which belongs to the electoral district and area of Sanabria, has a population of 130 and three municipal districts. The first settlements are located along the course of the small river which crosses the municipality which had 4 mills and various textile mills for weaving. In the past, the inhabitants concentrated their economy on the production of vegetables, the breeding of livestock and fishing. Currently the municipality produces a great deal of honey. Another important aspect of this area are its doves-cots which, unlike those that pil-

grims and tourists see in Tierra de Campos, are built using masonry in dark tones and covered with slate.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of La Virgen de la Encarnación. It is also known as the Santísimo Cristo de la Piedad. This building of extraordinary beauty, and located in the higher part of the village, is one of the oldest buildings built between the 15th and 16th centuries. In spite of having been restored on many occasions, there are some features that are typical of the Romanesque in León, such as the buttresses, small windows and the basilica shape. It has three parallel naves and an altar covered by an impressive stone dome. The transept has a Baroque altarpiece with the depiction of Jesus Christ. **Church of San Mamés.** Built in 1816, it has a Latin cross floor plan surrounded by a stone wall. The steeple, built in ashlar stone and Renaissance in style, has a graceful tower finished as a hexagonal pyramid and which is accessed from outside via a spiral staircase. **Village fountain.** Located in the centre of the village it dates back to 1940. The water flows through a small



Church of San Mamés

iron pipe protected by an enormous arch. Any residual water is used to irrigate nearby pastures. **Fountain of La Fragua.** This simple structure is almost hidden between the thicket and, made of stone, it is next to a small stream which divides the village in two alongside the Route.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.
☎980 626 012.

REST AREA:

In the square next to the church is an area for relaxing with benches and a fountain.

REMESAL:

Altitude:	1,000 m
Distance from	
Otero de Sanabria:	2.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



The simplicity and peacefulness of the surroundings due, in part, to its small population of 18 inhabitants, are the outstanding features of this municipal district of Palacios de Sanabria. It is one of the jewels waiting to be discovered in the region of Sanabria with large houses with balconies bedecked with flowers during the summer.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine. There is a small natural stone construction on a farm dating back to 1506. This building, which has a small steeple, was the backdrop to a meeting between Ferdinand the Catholic and Philip the Handsome to settle the succession in the government of the Kingdom of Castile, in the hands of Joanna, after the death of Isabella the Catholic.

REST AREA:

Next to the shrine there is an area for resting with benches, a fountain, trees and shade.





Shrine of Santa Marta.



Shrine of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios

OTERO DE SANABRIA:

Altitude:	950 m
Distance from Triufé:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Road



This municipal district of 26 inhabitants belonging to the municipality of Palacios de Sanabria has a longitudinal layout. During the Middle Ages the town was comprised of two neighbourhoods: Otero de Suso and Otero de Yuso, according to a parchment from the year 1167 held in the National Historic Archive which documents the donation by King Ferdinand II to the Royal Monastery of San Martín de Castañeda.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santo Tomás Apóstol. This is a large construction with a basilica floor plan, three naves and a square tower finished in an octagonal shrine. It is worth emphasising the reliefs of the main doorway and the Renaissance altarpiece in polychromed wood which covers a surface of 60 square metres. **Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios.** This is located on a raised area which dominates the course of the River Tera. The church, Baroque in style, is outstanding due to its two slender towers measuring 25 metres high on either side of the doorway. Inside, the pillars are square and, like the rest of the

structure, they are made of granite ashlars and slate masonry. The shrine to the Virgin is elevated over the level of the church with a small space as a crypt underneath. **Medieval Fountain.** This is located at the entrance to the village and has an arch.

REST AREA:

There are benches, shade and water next to the church in a small square.

TRIUFÉ:

Altitude:	990 m
Distance from Puebla de Sanabria:	4 km
Kind of route:	Way / Road



This is a tiny village of 24 residents in the region of La Carballeda, where pilgrims pass beside the church and can enjoy the view of the urban area where there are old houses made of granite and stone, following the rules of its traditional architecture. However, it also has more modern ones in which the inhabitants have spacious viewpoints decorated with all kinds of flowers during spring and summer.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Mauro. It was built in slaty stone and features a sim-

ple but robust steeple. The entrance to the building is accessed by a recently restored hallway.

PUEBLA DE SANABRIA:

Altitude:	960 m
Distance from Terroso:	10 km
Kind of route:	Road



The population has 1,189 inhabitants and has been declared a Historical Artistic Site. It is noted for its traditional architecture, houses with coats of arms and its cobbled



Church of San Mauro






streets. Located on a hill between the rivers Tera and Castro it boasts an excellent strategic position between Castilla, Galicia and Portugal. The River Tera divides the town into two parts: on one side the neighbourhood of San Francisco and on the other its historical site. After crossing the bridge over the river there are two alternatives. One takes us up a flight of steps to the stately castle, and the other along the road to the outskirts of the village. Puebla de Sanabria is, without any doubt, the most important town of those included on this Pilgrims' Route.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle of the Counts of Benavente.

 It was built during the mid-15th century in granite masonry. It is a protected square enclosure with unevenly distributed turrets. A large tower known as 'El Macho' rises from the centre and it has various floors. The fortress occupies a dominant position and offers a view over an exceptional landscape of the rivers Tera and Castro and the Candanedo stream. **Parish church of Nuestra Señora del Azogue.**

 It was built during the late 12th century, an era of which there are Romanesque remains in the side walls, in its only nave and in the gable end, with its western doorway



General view with castle and church

on which Romanesque figures are depicted dressed in medieval costumes to form the shaft of the columns and various capitals. There is a baptismal font inside with a conical appearance and built in granite during the 12th century with figures carved on its front. The tower is proud and does not really concur with the Romanesque simplicity of the original building. **Shrine of San Cayetano.** It was commissioned by the Ossorio family during the 18th century and has a beautifully decorated façade. There is a Baroque altarpiece inside with two splendidly decorated wreathed columns. **Convent of San Francisco.** This well-preserved old building represents a noble group, in spite of its modest appearance and lack of grandeur. **Town Hall**  This dates back to



Church of Nuestra Señora de Azogue

Castle of the Counts of Benavente

the reign of the Catholic Monarchs. It has two arcaded floors and two small elegant towers on both sides.

The Town Walls. These were built at the same time as the first castle. The walls of this impregnable defence were enclosed within bounds during the 12th and 13th centuries.

Historical Site of La Villa. 🏰 On the whole, the town represents a truly fortified bastion which played a crucial role in the past during an infinite number of battles. As soon as the river is crossed, heading towards what is nowadays the centre of the town, there is a steep street in the immediate vicinity of which are the most austere, yet beautiful façades.

NEARBY:

The Sanabria Lake Nature Park, the first to be declared a protected space in Castilla y León in 1978,

lies between the Segundera and Cabrera Mountain Ranges. This is a unique and extraordinary place. The wealth of its flora, the extraordinary diversity of its fauna, the purity of the crystal clear water of one of the few glacial lakes on the Iberian Península, and the indelible hallmarks of Quaternary ice reflected in the rocks offer a living lesson in glacial morphology. In the vicinity of the park is the Monastery of San Martín de Castañeda, restored to be used as a visitor centre or monitoring point for the nature park.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠 **ALBERGUE "CASA LUZ"**
Padre Vicente Salgado, 14
☎ 980 620 268 - 619 751 762
(32 beds).

🌐 www.alberguecasaluz.es
✉ info@alberguecasaluz.com



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo. ☎980 620 734.
www.puebladesanabria.org

REST AREA:

On the banks of the River Tera is the recreational area El Pinar offering a lot of shade, benches and water. There is also an area for swimming.

TERROSO:

Altitude:	1,000 m
Distance from Requejo:	2 km
Kind of route:	Way



This district of the municipality of Cobreros is undoubtedly a St. James's enclave par excellence and both popes and bishops have been amongst its admirers. After passing the church we reach the rural centre by leaving the old tracks to take to the modern asphalt of the streets. Today, the village has 28 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santiago. It is found before crossing the village and its steeple and outside staircase to the belfry are reminiscent of the Romanesque. The portico is formed by graceful columns which lead to a Renaissance doorway where there are two

coats of arms, one of which is true to pilgrim's tradition since it contains a pumpkin, staff and three scallops. Moreover, the door to the church is noteworthy for having nineteen shells.

REST AREA:

Next to the church there is an area with large trees offering plenty of shade. There are also a fountain and benches.

REQUEJO:

Altitude:	960 m
Distance from Padornelo:	11.6 km
Kind of route:	Way



This village of 146 inhabitants, located at the bottom of the Padornelo Pass, has historically been the passing place and access from the Castilian plateau to Galicia. The houses show the influence of popular Galician architecture, with structures in stone and wood particularly visible on balconies and stairs. The proximity of the Padornelo and La Canda passes have enabled it to shift the focus of its economic activity from agriculture and farming to the hotel and catering sector.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Lorenzo. It sits on a small hill from which practically the entire village can be seen. It is also worth mentioning the entrance portico, the pointed tower which flanks the steeple with three openings and a balcony for access to the bells. **Shrine of La Virgen de Guadalupe.** This is a Baroque construction depicting the Virgin on its façade. **Interpretative path of El Te-**



Monument to the pilgrim

jedelo. At over five kilometres long, this circular path provides access to the Forest of El Tejedelo. It covers an area of 139 hectares with a mixed forest of melojo oak, birch and with one of the most important colonies of yew trees, some newly planted, on the Iberian Peninsula.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



CASA CERVIÑO

Avda. Juan Seisdedos, 45



980 620 505 (20 beds).



www.albergue-sanabria.com



info@albergue-sanabria.com

PADORNELO:

Altitude: 1,260 m

Distance from Aciberos: 3.7 km

Kind of route: Way / Road



In this municipal district of Lubián, which has a population of 32, there are many buildings which emulate the typical style found in Sanabria, with thick granite walls and beams, wooden floors and corridors and slate roofs. In many of these houses it is usual to see enormous stone slabs on the sides of the roofs which in the past held down the straw. There are also 7 stunningly beautiful fountains that were renovated in 2008 by the local council.





Roman fountain in Padornelo



General view and church in Padornelo



Shrine of Santa Ana in Aciberos



WHAT TO SEE:

Romanesque church. It has a steeple and is still surrounded by a small cemetery. **Stone cross.** This can be found at the top of La Portilla pass which acted as the border between the Kingdoms of Galicia and Castile. **Roman fountain.**

REST AREA:

In the services area of the A-52,

next to the hotel, there is an area with benches and water.

ACIBEROS:

Altitude:	1,100 m
Distance from Lubián:	3.9 km
Kind of route:	Way



The name of this tiny village with only 30 inhabitants would seem



Monastery of Tuiza in Lubián



Tower of the Monastery of Tuiza in Lubián

to be linked with having been a 'holly tree spot'. The rural centre is left behind as the pilgrim takes to paths which go through forests of oak and heather to cross a small stone bridge.

century outside the village. **Bread ovens.** These ovens can be found in Plaza La Mayada and in the Porta de la Rosalía and date back to the 15th and 18th centuries respectively.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of La Virgen del Carmen.

This is set on a hill on the outskirts of the village and is a simple building with a small portico with three arches and a curved cement roof. In this church the atrium spaces are used as a cemetery. **Shrine of Santa Ana.** It features Baroque elements. **Water mills.** In Plaza La Mayada there is one dating back to the 15th century whilst there are two more dating back to the 18th

LUBIÁN:

Altitude:	1,024 m
Distance from La Gudiña (Orense):	23.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This mountain village between the passes of Padornelo and La Canda, which has a population of 163 inhabitants, is the 'capital' of the area. This is the last village on the Sanabria Route through Castilla y León and its buildings




have exterior staircases and balconies which are typical of the architecture in Sanabria. In this village the pilgrim will find the first of more than one hundred 'stones', all of which are different and the work of the sculptor Carballo, from Orense, and featured throughout this section of the route in the province of Orense.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Mamés.

The style is late Baroque, the belfry is decorated with balustrades and acroters. It is square and crowned with a stylised dome. Its four sunken pilasters form a central area in which its doorway opens. **Sanctuary of La Virgen de la Tuiza.**  This is a beautiful sanctuary, Baroque in style, built during the late 18th century using the material from the former shrine dedicated to the same virgin and built in 1508. Its tower is also Baroque and has stunning pinnacles. The cruciform church features openings and vaults. The doorway is the same as that of the local parish church. Inside is the Virgen de las Nieves, the patron saint of Alta Sanabria. **Fortified settlement of As Muradellas.**

 Dated around the 3rd century,

this Celtic village based on the Marraco culture takes the visitor into the past with remains such as ditches, standing stones and settlement walls. It is located 3 kilometres from the rural centre. The fortified settlement is comprised of two parallel ditches measuring 3 and 2 metres wide and has a field of standing stones with a width of 10 metres and a length of 23 metres. The wall of the fortified settlement is up to 4 metres high at some points. **Cortello dos Lobos.** Located at the top of the village, this is a trap dating back several centuries comprised of a high pen of up to 30 metres in diameter where a live goat would be left as bait to entice and capture wolves. Locals use this unique trap for wild beasts as the location for the 'Día do Corteño'. This is a dinner during which lamb is eaten and the evening is livened up with story-telling sessions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎ 980 624 003.

REST AREAS:

Rest area and Baño de la Tuiza, with benches, shade and greenery. There is also another area for relaxing in Alto de La Canda.

Galicia

LA GUDIÑA:

Altitude: 985 m

Distance from Laza: 34.4 km



La Gudiña is the land of saints. It was not for nothing that the people from here are the only ones to have been declared as such in the entire province of Orense: Sebastián de Aparicio and Francisco Blanco had their saintliness acknowledged due to their works in Mexico and Japan respectively. This village in Galicia is also renowned for the high quality of its meat and in the past for the extraction of wolframite.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Martiño, the Church of San Pedro, the Jurisdiction Column and the Chapel of A Barxa.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta de Galicia.

Rua do Toural, s/n. (26 beds).

☎609 566 485 - 696 820 722 -
988 594 006.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

☎988 594 003.

www.turgalicia.es; www.xacobeo.es



Cross

LAZA:

Altitude: 475 m

Distance from

Vilar del Barrio: 20.1 km



Administrative centre of the Council comprised of another 20 villages distributed between the mountain and the valley of the River Támega. The Holy Week celebrations and, above all, Carnival are known beyond the borders of Galicia. The Carnival or entroido as it is referred to locally, has become one of the most well-known throughout the entire Iberian Peninsula. Amongst the outstanding characters it depicts is the Peli-queiro, with an amazing outfit, the Morena and the Hormigas.



Church of San Juan

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church San Xoa de Laza.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de la Xunta de Galicia.

Rúa do Toural, s/n. (36 beds).

☎988 422 112

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎988 422 002.

www.laza.es.vg; www.turgalicia.es;

www.xacobeo.es

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Juan Bautista.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Vilar del Barrio. Avenida de San Fiz, s/n. (24 beds).

☎988 449 001 or 988 468 429.

Albergue de Xunqueira de Ambía.

Asdrúbal Ferreiro, s/n.

(24 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎988 449 001.

www.vilardebarrio.com;

www.turgalicia.es; www.xacobeo.es

OURENSE:

Altitude: 139 m

Distance from

San Cristovo de Cea: 21.6 km



The capital of the province had already made its mark during the Roman Empire. Its expansion is linked both to its geographical location and its gold reserves of which there were enough to justify the settlement of a military garrison.

WHAT TO SEE:

The Viaduct, the Chapel of Los Remedios, the Archaeological Museum, the Convent of San Francisco, the Church of La Santísima Trinidad, façade and door of the

VILAR DEL BARRIO:

Altitude: 660 m

Distance from Ourense: 35.3 km



Vilar is the capital of the council sharing the same name and belongs to the region of La Limia. From this point on the traditional granaries (hórreos) are in abundance and represent one of the examples of traditional popular architecture.



Cathedral of San Martín



Apse of the Church of Santiago in Ourense

Church of Santa María Nai, the former barracks, the Stone Cross in the Plaza de la Magdalena, the Parish Church of Santiago, the Old Bridge, the Fountain of Las Burgas, the Cathedral of San Martín, the Episcopal Palace, the Town Hall and the Plaza Mayor.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal.
Emilia Pardo Bazán, s/n.
(46 beds). ☎988 388 110.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.
☎988 366 064.

Oficina Provincial de Turismo.
☎988 391 085. www.ourense.es
www.turismoourense.com

Oficina de Turismo de la Xunta de Galicia.
☎988 372 020.
www.turgalicia.es;
www.xacobeo.es

SAN CRISTOVO DE CEA:

Altitude: 555 m

Distance from

Estación de Lalín: 33.5 km



This village is famous for its pantry, bread made using wheat flour, and for its group of ovens and houses. The Monastery of Oseira, located approximately 9 kilometres away, is one of the most outstanding buildings in the area.

WHAT TO SEE:

The Parish Church of San Facundo, the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de La Saleta, the Clock Tower and the Monument to the Baker.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Casa das Netas.
Santo Cristo, 5. (42 beds).
☎988 282 000.



Clock tower

Albergue de Castro, Dozón
(Pontevedra). (28 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎988 282 000.
www.concellodecea.com
www.turgalicia.es - www.xacobeo.es

ESTACIÓN DE LALÍN:

Altitude: 552 m
Distance from
Puente de Ulla: 35.4 km



The town of Lalín is the capital of the municipality which is distrib-

ed over 52 parishes. Its historical background is inextricably linked to the region of Deza.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martiño, Church of Los Dolores, Town Hall and the Galician Puppet Museum.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Bendoiro. Lalín.
(Pontevedra).

A Laxe, 26. (30 beds).

Albergue de Vedra. San Pedro de Vilanova. Vedra (La Coruña).
Outeiro, s/n. (32 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎986 787 060
www.lalin.org; www.turgalicia.es;
www.xacobeo.es

PUENTE DE ULLA:

Altitude: 140 m
Distance from Santiago
de Compostela: 20.3 km



The Route of St. James reaches Vedra via Puente de Ulla by crossing the River Ulla over a historic bridge which takes the pilgrim into the province of La Coruña.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María Magdalena.



Historical bridge over the River Ulla



Cathedral of Santiago

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

The hostel can be found approximately 3 kilometres after crossing the Puente Ulla, next to the Shrine of Santiaguño (Outeiro, San Pedro de Vilanova).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

☎981 814 612 - 981 402 263.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:

Altitude: 260 m



We reach Santiago by taking a former Royal Track from where the towers of the Cathedral can be seen. By following the River Sar we arrive at the Romanesque Collegiate Church of Santa María del Sar and enter the city through the gate of Mazarelos, the only one left standing of the ancient walls.

WHAT TO SEE:

Convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval. Church of Santa María del Camino. Ánimas Chapel (17th century). Church of San Benito. Convent of San Paio de Antealtares. A fascinating religious art museum. Cathedral. Gelmírez Palace. Hotel Reyes Católicos. Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home) San Jerónimo College. Fonseca College. Casa del Cabildo. Casa del Deán. Casa de los Canónigos. Monastery of San Martiño Pinario. Convent of San Francisco. Church of San Miguel dos Agros. Convent of San Agustín. Church of San Fiz de Solovio. Church of Santa María Salomé. Collegiate Church of Santa María la Real de Sar.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de peregrinos de la Xunta de Santa Irene-Arca. Next to the main road. (36 beds). ☎981 511 330.



Towers in Plaza del Obradoiro



View of the cathedral from La Alameda Park

Albergue de peregrinos de Santa Irene Privado. (15 beds).
☎981 511 000.

Albergue de Peregrinos de la Xunta de Pedrouzo-Arca-O Pino. (126 beds).
☎686 744 055.

Albergue de la Xunta en el Monte do Gozo. (800 beds).
☎981 558 942 Ext. 2618.

Albergue San Lazaro-Santiago (80).

Albergue del Seminario Menor. Belvis, s/n. (200 beds).
☎981 589 200 and 981 1562429.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo de la Xunta de Galicia. Rúa del Villar, 43.
☎981 584 081.

Oficina de Información Concello de Santiago de Compostela. Plaza do Obradoiro s/n. Pazo de Raxoi.
☎981 542 342 and 542 300.

Turismo de Galicia Ctra. Santiago-Noia, km 3.
☎981 542 527.

Información Xacobeo en Santiago. ☎981 572004.
www.xacobeo.es

The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route

This is an alternative itinerary included in the Silver Route starting in Zamora, before heading into Portugal and entering Galicia via Soutosancho. It then takes us through the towns of Verín and Orense and the Monastery of Oseira, as well as Estación de Lalín and Puente Ulla before finally reaching Santiago de Compostela. It covers some 390.4 or 383.9 km, depending on whether you take the detour via Villaflor or Cerezal de Aliste. Much of this itinerary runs parallel to the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route, which takes us from Granja de Moreruela in Zamora to the provincial capital of Orense in Galicia, where both itineraries converge into a single route as far as Santiago.

This has traditionally been an essentially trans-border itinerary, traced by travellers and traders alike, although down the centuries it has also been used by pilgrims. Since 2002, the Ramos de Castro Foundation has worked on the recovery and signposting of much of the Route in Castilla y León.

The objective was to link the lands of Muelas, Alba, Aliste and Tras-os Montes as well as other towns and villages that would create a trail leading us through Portugal via Braganza and eventually to Santiago de Compostela. Back in 1992, the Autonomous Government of Galicia had carried out a similar undertaking with the section of this itinerary within the Autonomous Community of Galicia. As a result, from the Portuguese region of Vinhaes, the Route heads directly for the Galician town of Verín, before linking up in the city of Orense with the extension of the Silver Route along the Mozarabic-Sanabria Route to form a single itinerary leading to the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

This itinerary takes us through the north-west of the province of Zamora and the regions of Alba and Aliste which even today continue to boast a vast ethnographic wealth set against a backdrop of woods, agricultural land and the harsh living conditions caused by the chalky soil – one of the causes



of the serious problem of depopulation this area has suffered.

The fortified Iron Age settlements uncovered by numerous archaeological digs indicated that the Astures were some of the earliest settlers in this region. They were later Romanised until the arrival of

the Visigoths who built the finest architectural jewel to be seen on this Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: the ancient Benedictine Monastery of San Pedro de la Nave, which today has been moved to the town of Campillo. Between the 13th and 16th centuries these lands were ruled over by noble families whose wealth and power increased thanks to the political and military 'activity that characterised these border regions of the kingdoms of León and Portugal.

With regards to the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, this region is noted for its pilgrims' hospitals. Despite their later appearance in comparison with other Pilgrims' Routes, these foundations provided assistance and shelter for travellers. Notable examples include San Pedro de la Nave, Alcañices or Sejas de Aliste, the latter two in the name of Saint Nicholas of Bari and Saint Jerome.

This itinerary offers the chance to discover lands characterised by a variety of gentle and harsher landscapes, but that are always worth taking the time to admire. A route that is rich in heritage, providing the chance to delve into history, savour the mouth-watering gastronomy and experience at first hand its secular traditions, as well as the hospitality and cordiality of its people.



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HISTORIC ROUTES

- The Silver Route
- The Portuguese Itinerary of the Silver Route
- The Mozarabic-Sanabria Route

TRADITIONAL ROUTES

- - - The Southeastern-Levante Route

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Zamora

ZAMORA:

Altitude: 649 m

Distance from

Roales del Pan: 6.6 km



*This little town was important as a stopping place on the Silver Route during the Roman Empire. It was the site of an *occelum durii*, a Roman *mansio* on the Route from where a road branched off to Zaragoza, *Cesaraugusta*, via Toro. This stop en route is referred to in the Antonine Itinerary and its name corresponds to the 'little eye or the girl of the Duero's eyes.' The walls surrounding the city and the good defences it had, in addition to the abundance of cultivated land and the importance of trade, meant that monarchs were attracted to this area during medieval times. Its location on a hill and alongside the River Duero made it easy to build a city wall. Hence the name given to Zamora of the well defended.*

WHAT TO SEE:

Zamora is considered as the city of Romanesque art since it



Church of Santiago de los Caballeros

is the capital city with the most buildings in this style. Amongst others it is worth mentioning: **Cathedral of La Transfiguración.**

🏰 Romanesque building from the 12th century with a cloister from the 17th century and choir from the 16th century. Its Byzantine stone dome is the highlight and its architectonic influence is reflected in the Cathedral of Salamanca and in the Collegiate Church of Toro.

Church of Santiago de los Caballeros or also known as **Church of Santiago el Viejo.** 🏰 It dates back to the 11th century. Legend has it that it was in this church that the knight El Cid was supplied with arms. **Santa María la Nueva.** 🏰

With Romanesque remains from the 12th century, its outstanding



feature inside is the 'Yacente', a piece from the 17th century attributed to Francisco Fermín, a pupil of Gregorio Fernández, and the Mutiny of the Trout of 1168 which started the fire in the building. Next to this church is the Holy Week Museum, a celebration declared as being of international tourist interest. **Santa María de la Horta.** Inside this Romanesque building it is possible to view a beautiful altarpiece dating back to the 16th century and attributed to the master of Toro. **Church of San Pedro and San Ildefonso.** The remains of Saint Attilanus, first bishop of Zamora, are kept inside this church. The building is Romanesque and underwent considerable restoration during the 15th century. **Church of San Cipriano or San Cebrián.** It still has some of the oldest reliefs in the city. **Church of San Juan de Puerta Nueva.** With a Gothic transept from the 16th century, its chancel is dominated by an altarpiece by Juan de Montejo. It is in one of the side chapels where the famous Virgen de la Soledad is revered, a piece by Ramón Álvarez from Zamora. Amongst the civil architecture it is worth highlighting that known as **Casa del Cid**, built next to the city wall during the 11th cen-

tury. The Castle, Former Royal Fortress, with a magnificent view over the meadow. **Romanesque city walls** from the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. In order to discover in more detail the artistic heritage of the city of Zamora some of its palaces are a must for visitors. Amongst those worthy of mention is that of the Counts of Alba y Aliste or that of Los Momos, as well as taking time to see some of the Museums of Zamora, the Ethnographic museum of Castilla y León, or the Holy Week Museum. The city is also home to a wealth of monuments of which we highlight the following as being Assets of Cultural Interest: Church of San Isidoro, Church of Santa Lucía, Church of San Leonardo, Church of El Espíritu Santo, Main Theatre, Church of Santa María Magdalena, Church of Santo Tomás, Church of San Claudio, Fine Arts Museum, Doorway of Doña Urraca, Church of Santiago del Burgo, Church of El Santo Sepulcro, Cloister of the Corpus Christi, Church of San Esteban, Church of San Frontis, Convent of San Francisco. **Moreover, as a historical site, the Old Quarter and the extension of the Historic Site are Assets of Cultural Interest.**



Holy Week Museum



Shrine in Valderrey

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de la Junta de Castilla y León. Príncipe de Asturias, 1.

☎ 980 531 845.

oficinadeturismodezamora@jcyl.es

Turismo Diputación de Zamora.

Plaza Viriato, s/n. ☎ 980 536 495

www.turismoenzamora.es

Oficina municipal de turismo.

Plaza de Arias Gonzalo, 6.

☎ 980 533 694

VALDERREY

Distance from

La Hiniesta:

3.8 km

Situated on the outskirts of the city, this village is renowned for its statue of Christ as well as the annual religious procession that dates back to 1720. On the Sunday after Easter Sunday a popular procession is held from the **Shrine in Valderrey** to Croix del Bosque Bridge to allow this Gothic image to bless the land and bring the

rain that farmers need to guarantee a successful harvest.

LA HINIESTA:

Altitude:

691 m

Distance from

Valdeperdices:

9.6 km



This village of just 316 inhabitants lies in the region known as Tierra del Pan. Like the residents of the provincial capital of Zamora, they celebrate a large religious procession in honour of the Virgen de la Concha, the city's patron saint. This annual event has been held ever since King Sancho IV discovered the religious image during a hunt. He also later built the church around which the village sprang up.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María de la Hiniesta. 🏰 Also known as Santa María la Real, this church is one of the



Porch of the Church of Santa Maria



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion.

finest examples of the Gothic style to be seen in the province of Zamora. Particularly worthy of note are the façade and the atrium, built during the reign of the Catholic Monarchs. The tympanum is divided into two sections: the upper section shows Christ with the Virgin Mary and Saint John, whilst the lower section depicts scenes from Christ's childhood and the Magi.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 552 003.

REST AREA:

Next to the church there is an area with trees and tables offering plenty of shade.

VALDEPERDICES:

Altitude:	715 m
Distance from	
Almendra:	2.5 km



The route takes us through spectacular landscapes dotted with ancient pine woods that line the traditional cattle track. It passes through the Palomares pastureland before reaching this village which paid tithes to San Pedro de la Nave in compliance with the orders of Alphonse III.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. A simple single-nave building, this modernised church features a two-sectioned bell tower which forms part of the rustic



Church of San Juan

stone wall, with openings that house the two bells. The storks' nest perched on top of the tower is a sight definitely worth seeing.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento San Pedro de la Nave-Almendra. ☎980 555 761.

REST AREA:

There is a small garden next to the church providing shade and drinking water.

ALMENDRA

Distance from
Campillo: 5 km



This village of Mozarabic origin today has almost 200 inhabitants

that work mainly in agriculture and livestock farming.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Juan. Perched on a hilltop, this church is typical of many to be seen in this area with its large, single-section bell tower, weathervane and openings for two bells. Both the bell tower and the rest of the church are built in rustic stone. The building is surrounded by an enclosure measuring over a metre in height.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento San Pedro de la Nave-Almendra. ☎980 555 761.

REST AREA:

There is an area in the square with benches and a table.

CAMPILLO:

Altitude:	735 m
Distance from	
Muelas del Pan:	10.3 km



The original village, which stood on the banks of the Esla, disappeared under the waters of the Ricobayo Reservoir. A new village was built on a nearby hill in 1930. The impressive church was moved there stone by stone prior to the flooding.





Church of San Pedro de la Nave



Church of Santiago Apóstol

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro de la Nave

 This is one of the most outstanding examples of 7th century architecture and one of the region's most important landmarks. It is undoubtedly one of the finest of the few remaining examples of Spanish Visigoth architecture. The original Greek cross layout was later converted into an abbatial church, with two rooms on either side of the presbytery. Despite its deceptively simple appearance, this is an superb example of Visigoth architecture, characterised by its horseshoe arches and the decoration on the friezes and capitals.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento San Pedro de la Nave-Almendra. ☎980 555 761.

REST AREA:

There is an area with benches and shade next to the church.

MUELAS DEL PAN:

Altitude:	780 m
Distance from Ricobayo de Alba:	3 km



This municipality, lying just a short distance from Ricobayo Reservoir, boasts a stunning landscape, the result of one of Europe's most ambitious civil engineering projects. Before reaching the town, pilgrims will make their way along paths that take them through magnificent holm oak woods. Although the route does not actually go through the village, it is well worth taking a slight detour to visit its sights of interest.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santiago Apóstol. This church still conserves parts of the original 12th century Romanesque construction and an altarpiece

depicting scenes from the saint's life. **Shrine of El Cristo de San Esteban.** Built inside a Pre-Roman fortified settlement, this small 16th century building houses a Romanesque-Gothic figure of Christ. It is also the site of a large annual religious procession held against the spectacular backdrop of the reservoir. **Neolithic figure.** Housed in the Town Hall, this figure is proof of the wealth of history this municipality possesses. **Archaeology and Pottery Museum.** Located next to the viewpoint offering magnificent panoramic views of the area, the museum workshops make this a particularly interesting visit.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 553 005.

REST AREAS:

There are several in the town. There is one situated next to the church, although the most appealing is located next to the reservoir bridge.

RICOBAYO DE ALBA:

Altitude:	725 m
Distance from Las Encruzadas:	2.5 km



The route leading to the town takes us around Esla Reservoir. The area



Bridge over the Esla reservoir

is dotted with ancient fords and fortified settlements reminding us that the Romans once inhabited these lands. It is also the site of a Roman bridge that once crossed the river but which today lies beneath the waters of the reservoir.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa Eulalia de Mérida. Part of the contents of this small, simple stone church were moved to higher spots to safeguard them from the sudden rises in the level of the River Esla. The structure is typical of many churches to be seen in the area, with its square apse, pyramid-topped single-section bell tower and a small atrium at the entrance. The chancel, formerly under the patronage of the Count of Alba y Aliste, was completely rebuilt in the mid-18th century, and features an altarpiece presided over by a simple image



Landscape

of the patron saint. **Bridge over the Reservoir.** A spectacular piece of engineering boasting Europe's largest arch measuring a total of 154 metres between the footings and 24 metres in height.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 553 005.

REST AREA:

There is an area with benches and tables in the spot known as 'the beach', next to Ricobayo Reservoir.



LAS ENCRUZADAS:

Distance from Cerezal de Aliste:	3.5 km
Distance from Villaflor:	4 km

Here the Route forks into two paths that run parallel before converg-

ing at Ceadea. From Las Encruzas one of the paths takes us on a 21 kilometre route to Ceadea via Cerezal de Aliste, Bermillo de Alba, Fonfría and Fornillos de Aliste, whilst the other leads to the same point but passing through Villaflor, Villanueva de los Corchos, Videmala, Castillo de Alba and Samir de los Caños on a 27 kilometre route.



Optional route
to Ceadea via Cerezal de Aliste.

CEREZAL DE ALISTE:

Altitude:	755 m
Distance from Bermillo de Alba:	5 km



The landscape around this town is typical of this region, and boasts



Church of Los Santos Justo and Pastor



Church of San Mamés in Bermillo de Alba

Spain's northern-most cork oak wood situated at a spot known as El Soferal. This area was also inhabited by the Romans who started the tin mining industry, traces of which can still be seen, together with the many Roman fountains that are scattered throughout the municipality.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Los Santos Justo y Pastor. The exterior is similar to many of the churches to be found in this area, characterised by the bell tower, small atrium and square apse. A graceful stone cross stands next to the church. Inside, the most interesting feature is the 18th century figure of Saint James the Moorslayer situated above the altarpiece which includes other figures dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

Cork Oak Interpretation Centre. Housed in the recently restored former priest's house opposite the

church, this centre pays tribute to this species of tree which is of major importance to the region in general and this town in particular.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 553 005.

REST AREAS:

There are several spots in the town offering travellers shade and fountains.

BERMILLO DE ALBA:

Altitude:	776 m
Distance from Fonfría:	5 km



This small town of just over 119 inhabitants was once inhabited by the Knights Templar. The name 'de Alba' comes from the fact that it once formed part of the domains of the Counts of Alba y Aliste. It was founded in 1449 by King Henry IV and was later handed over to Enrique de Guzmán.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Mamés. Although it originally dates back to the 18th century, this church has been altered on several occasions. The granite bell tower has three open-





ings and two bells. The interior has a basilica layout and the main altar is situated in the presbytery, at the head of the church.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Fonfría.

☎980 688 054.

REST AREA:

There is an area with benches next to the church.

FONFRÍA:

Altitude: 800 m

Distance from

Fornillos de Aliste: 5 km



This village of just over 169 inhabitants is the centre of the municipality of the same name. It is said that it was here that Saint Engrace was martyred in the 10th century, during the days of the Mozarabs. Today this village, which stands on the Cattle Track, still conserves several remains of traditional architecture.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María Magdalena. Although the interior houses a number of images dating back several centuries, as well as an 18th century monstrance and pro-

cessional cross, both in silver, the current church was built in 1971. The most outstanding feature of this stone building is the large stained glass windows.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 688 054.

REST AREA:

There are several benches in the square where the Town Hall is situated, as well as a number of fountains scattered throughout the village.

FORNILLOS DE ALISTE:

Altitude: 800 m

Distance from

Ceadea: 6 km



The name of this municipality evokes traditional arts and crafts. We are now in the heart of the area where the Cattle Track and Pilgrims' Route converge with the trail that leads from Villaflor to Ceadea.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Bartolomé. The tall, slender bell tower makes this church visible from several points around the town. The interior is



Church of San Bartolomé.



Transport boat along the Ricobayo Reservoir

noted for the 18th century Churrigueresque style high altarpiece featuring several sculptures and two reliefs that stand out for their magnificent expressivity - despite their rustic finish.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Fonfría.

☎ 980 688 054.

REST AREA:

Next to the former schools there is an area offering shade and benches.

↑ Optional route to Ceadea via Villafior.

VILLAFIOR:

Altitude: 720 m

Distance from

Villanueva de los Corchos: 3 km



This tiny hamlet of just over 14 inhabitants stands on the River Malo and also includes the 809 metre elevation known as Valdecuevo, making this one of the highest points in the region. Interestingly, it was not until 1998 that a road was built to link this hamlet with the villages on the other side of the reservoir, which meant Villanueva de los Corchos could only be reached by boat.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Boal. This modern church, dating back to just 2006, is the first to have been built in this hamlet. **La Barca Viewpoint.** This particularly beautiful spot offers stunning views of the reservoir and surrounding hills. It still conserves the boat which for many years was the only means of transport linking the hamlet with Villanueva de los Corchos. The small viewpoint includes a photographic exhibition



Ricobayo Reservoir from the village



Church of San Julián

depicting the history of this ferry service.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 553 005.

REST AREA:

There is a small garden with benches next to the church.

of El Piélago, today this municipality has 40 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Visitors will be able to admire the spectacular landscape of rivers and hills.

REST AREA:

There are benches offering shade next to the church.

VILLANUEVA DE LOS CORCHOS:

Altitude:	740 m
Distance from Videmala:	4 km



In this municipality the Pilgrims' Route takes us through the stunning scenery provided by the tail end of the reservoir along the Esla and Mate rivers. Despite the constant archaeological discoveries made at digs such as the Copper Age site

VIDEMALA:

Altitude:	799 m
Distance from Castillo de Alba:	4 km



This town stands on the border between the regions of Tierra de Alba and Tierra del Pan, although it actually forms part of the latter area. The entire area is crisscrossed with streams, making this an extremely fertile zone, renowned for its vegetable gardens and orchards.



Ruins of the Castle of Alba



Church of San Juan Bautista

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Julián. The bells, which were cast from the silver bell from the Shrine of Santa Bárbara, situated just outside the village, are noted for their unique sound.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 556 230

REST AREAS:

Next to the church. There is also a large open area next to the football field with trees and benches.

CASTILLO DE ALBA:

Altitude: 700 m

Distance from

Samir de los Caños: 9 km



Despite having just 4 inhabitants, this tiny hamlet is of considerable historical importance as it is the site

of an ancient fortified settlement which was later used as the base for a large fortress built during the reign of King Ferdinand II.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle of Alba 🏰 Plot of old Zamora noble lineage that belonged to the Templars. Stately ruins are all that remain today of this former irregular-shaped stronghold built in the 12th century and altered in the 15th century. Whilst in the 12th century it was controlled by the Knights Templar, in the 15th century it passed into the hands of Alvaro de Luna, and later would become the seat of the Counts of Alba y Aliste. **Parish church.** This single-nave church boasts a large and splendid atrium. It is topped by a single-section bell tower with openings for two bells and an exterior metal staircase.



FURTHER INFORMATION:
Ayuntamiento de Losacino.
☎ 980 596 484.

SAMIR DE LOS CAÑOS:

Altitude:	793 m
Distance from Ceadea:	7 km



This is one of the largest municipalities in the Aliste Region. All that remains of its past splendour are a number of traditional-style houses with magnificent façades. Today the Route takes us through lands where time seems to have stood still, scattered with traces of the Romans and the numerous water mills that can be seen along the riverbanks.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. Perched on a hill on the outskirts of the village, this church boasts a large and splendid atrium built in rustic stone. The choir wall forms the base for the bell tower that is typical of churches in this area. **Shrine of San Pedro Mártir.** This small ashlar stone church stands in the middle of the village has a small belfry with

a single bell and the doorway is topped by a semicircular arch.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



AGUSTINA

Plaza El Árbol, 13



980 688 115 - 619 691 063
(12 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎ 980 688 103.

REST AREA:

Travellers may rest in the square, which has benches, trees and a fountain.



CEADEA:

Altitude:	832 m
Distance from Arcillera:	3 km



The two branch routes described above converge in this village, which nestles in a slight hollow. Pic-



Church of San Saturnino

es of Roman pottery from a fortified settlement have been found on the outskirts of the village.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Saturnino. Standing on the side of the Route, on the way out of the village, it boasts an elegant portico and large bell tower topped by a pyramid and with openings for two bells. **Shrine of La Virgen del Rosario.** A small building standing in the centre of the village. It has a small portico flanked by two columns and a Baroque style belfry topped by pyramids.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Fonfría.

☎980 688 054.

REST AREA:

There is a park with grass and a fountain in the village centre, next to the shrine.

ARCILLERA:

Altitude:	820 m
Distance from	
Vivinera:	4 km



This village is known far and wide for its slate mines. This material can be seen in some modern constructions,



Church of San Pedro Protomártir

but especially in the older, more traditional buildings.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro Protomártir. Originally built in the region's traditional rustic style, this church underwent extensive alterations in 1920, although the two-section belfry with three openings and the square apse were conserved.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Fonfría.

☎980 688 054.

REST AREA:

There is a rest area with benches and trees next to the church.

VIVINERA:

Altitude:	820 m
Distance from	
Alcañices:	3 km



The Route leads us through silent woods and peaceful meadows to



Church of Santo Domingo de Guzman

this village of just over fifty inhabitants. Economic activity is based on agriculture and livestock farming, especially goat, sheep and cattle breeding.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán. The deceptively plain exterior of this church with its classic bell tower, contrasts with the interior which houses images dating back to the 17th century. However, the highlights of this church are undoubtedly the Gothic al fresco paintings, one of the few examples of this type of art to be seen in the province of Zamora. Showing various scenes from the life of Saint Dominic de Guzmán, they are situated on the wall facing the

high altarpiece and may date as far back as the 15th century. **'Pico de la Almena' Fortified Settlement.** This is a Celtic settlement protected by the streets that run down to the riverbank.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Alcañices.

☎ 980 680 001.

ALCAÑICES:

Altitude:	809 m
Distance from	
Sejas de Aliste:	10 km




This is the capital of the Aliste region and its administrative and historical centre. Over the centuries this settlement has been inhabited by the Celts, Goths, Romans, Arabs and Christians. Its heyday came between the 12th and 14th centuries, following its fortification by the Knights Templar. It was here that the Treaty of Alcañices was signed in 1297 between Ferdinand IV, King of Castile, who, still a minor, was represented by his mother, María de Molina, and King Dionysius I of Portugal.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. The construction date of this ancient church



Clock tower

of the Knights Templar can still be seen on the façade which features a pointed arch decorated with leaves, stalks and diamond patterns. The remainder of the church is Baroque in style. **Church of San Francisco.** Originally part of the former Franciscan convent, founded in 1547. The cruciform church is Renaissance in style and features Gothic vaults. The façade was rebuilt in 1907 and features a large two-section belfry. **Clock Tower** . This is all that remains of the ancient castles and town walls. **Ancient fountains.** A total of

7 fountains in various styles and dating back to several periods.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Convento de San Francisco, 30.

 980 680 368.

REST AREA:

There are several rest areas situated throughout the town.

SEJAS DE ALISTE:

Altitude: 759 m

Distance from Trabanços: 4 km



This village has 132 inhabitants and is situated in a fertile valley with views of Portugal only 13 km away. It boasts a wealth of fauna and flora, and is especially noted for its chestnut trees.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Lorenzo. Particularly worthy of note is the sturdy square tower that tapers off to a sharp point in a clear breakaway from the traditional church towers that can be seen in this area. Inside is a magnificent altarpiece depicting Saint Jerome. **Water mills.** Traditional constructions that remain in perfect working order that can be seen in the village itself as well as in



Old mill in Sejas de Aliste



Cross next to the Church of San Pelayo

the surroundings. A number of these buildings date back to the 16th century. **Archaeological Area of El Cerco.** Iron Age to Roman times.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Rábano de Aliste. ☎980 682 605.

REST AREA:

There is an area with tables, benches and trees on the road leading out of the village.

TRABAZOS:

Altitude: 741 m

Distance from
San Martín de Pedroso: 5 km



The centre of this municipality, Trabazos has a population of almost

385. The locals still recall the ancient rites of worship held in Cruz de la Baldanta, when they prayed for an abundant harvest.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pelayo. Built in the 18th century, it features an eclectic mix of styles. Particularly worthy of note is the square bell tower topped by a slate pyramid. A magnificent stone cross stands in the church square. **Shrine of La Soledad.** This shrine, together with the adjacent cemetery and a modern stone cross situated nearby, forms the setting for a traditional religious procession held on 8 May that draws the locals from neighbouring villages.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎980 681 085

REST AREA:

At the entrance to the village, next to the shrine, is a square with trees, benches and a fountain.

SAN MARTÍN DEL PEDROSO:

Altitude: 558 m

Distance from Bragança: 25 km




The landscape is dotted with alder trees and areas that were once flourishing fruit and vegetable plots on the slopes of Mount Pedroso, crowned by an ancient walled settlement. This landscape accompanies us as we make our way along the final stretch of the

Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León before reaching the Portuguese border.


WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martín de Tours. The most outstanding feature of this church is the sturdy single-section belfry topped with a cross and with two openings for bells. Inside it has a single nave with a coffered ceiling, square apse and a simple transverse arch. The altarpiece is presided over by an image of Saint Francis, who holds close associations with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.

Archaeological Site of the Hillfort of El Pedroso . This dates from the Copper Age.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento de Trabazos.

 980 681 085

REST AREA:

There is an area with benches, trees and a fountain next to the church.



Church of San Martín de Tours

**We now enter
Portugal**

Portugal

Three kilometres on from the International Bridge that takes us across the River Manzanas is the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de la Riberiña, built on the orders of Queen Isabella, the granddaughter of James I the Conqueror. The inhabitants of the towns and villages on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on both the Portuguese and Spanish sides of the border feel a special affection for this simple construction. The nearby village of Quintanilha is the first stopping place in Portugal offering services for pilgrims.

BRAGANÇA:

Altitude:	700 m
Distance from Vinhaes:	26 km



Braganza is the capital of the district of the same name. Visitors should take the time to tour this city which boasts a wealth of history and enjoys a privileged setting in the stunningly beautiful Montesinho Nature Park. One of Europe's oldest boroughs, visitors will enjoy strolling round its streets and squares which retain their medieval flavour, espe-



Fortress

cially in the upper section of the city, where the Citadel is located.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle. Citadel. Church of San Vicente. Church of Santa María. Princess Tower. Church of San Francisco. Church of San Benito. Braganza Cathedral. Military Museum. Episcopal Palace Museum. Montesinho Nature Park.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Pilgrims may stay at the headquarters of Braganza's voluntary fire brigade. There is also a youth hostel.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.
Avda. Cidade de Zamora.
☎00 351 273 381 273.

VINHAES:

Altitude: 669 m

Distance from

Segirei: 24.3 km



Founded in the 13th century, the town of Vinhaes is located in the area known as Tierra Fría or 'Cold Land' due to its scant population which is scattered around the barren mountains, oak woods and valleys filled with heather, alder and willow trees. Its principal attraction lies in the magnificent landscapes which can be admired from the top of Mount Cidadelha, with views over parts of the Montesinho Nature Park, whose untamed beauty is guaranteed to delight visitors.

WHAT TO SEE:

Convent of San Francisco de Asís.
Church of San Facundo. Castle ru-



Gate in the walls

ins. 17th century fountain. Chapel of San Antonio Viewpoint.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Pilgrims may stay at the voluntary firemen's building in Vinhaes.

SEGIREI:

Altitude: 550 m

Distance from

Verín: 24 km



Considered one of the major landmarks on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, this is the last milestone on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Portugal. This tiny hamlet is situated on a hillside that was once famed for its wine-making tradition. Remains of the first settlers in this area have been uncovered close by, and visitors can also see the ruins of a castle that remind us of its medieval past.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María. Local Residents' Oven. From Portugal, the Route now takes us back into Spain and the Autonomous Community of Galicia. The final destination of Santiago de Compostela is now just a few days away.

**We now enter
Galicia**



Galicia

VERÍN:

Altitude: 386 m

Distance from

Sandiás: 43 km



This is the first town in the province of Orense that sprang up around a Roman villa. The fortified settlement was eventually turned into the Castle of Monterrei, the site of many historic events. The town is renowned as the site of the famous meeting between King Philip the Handsome and Cardinal Cisneros in 1506, which laid the foundations for the governance of the Spanish Empire at the start of the modern era.

WHAT TO SEE:

Castle of Monterrei. Casa del Escudo. Church of Santa María la Mayor. Chapel of San Lázaro. Church of Santa María Gracia. Mercedarian Convent Church. Sanctuary of Los Remedios.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal.

Avda. San Lázaro s/n.

☎988 411 614. (26 beds).



Castle of Monterrei

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Avda. San Lázaro, 28.

☎988 411 614

SANDIÁS:

Altitude: 632 m

Distance from

Orense: 37 km



This village is situated in a mountainous area at a height that in some places exceeds 700 metres. This village of just over 200 inhabitants is dedicated essentially to growing potatoes and cereals and well as timber production.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Esteban.





Convent of San Francisco (Cloister)

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal.

Rúa de Cousa, 1. (20 beds).

☎988 465 001

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎988 465 001.

OURENSE:

Altitude: 139 m

Distance from

San Cristovo de Cea: 21.6 km



The capital of the province had already made its mark during the Roman Empire. Its expansion is linked both to its geographical location and its gold reserves of which there were

enough to justify the settlement of a military garrison.

WHAT TO SEE:

The Viaduct, the Chapel of Los Remedios, the Archaeological Museum, the Convent of San Francisco, the Church of La Santísima Trinidad, façade and door of the Church of Santa María Nai, the former barracks, the Stone Cross in the Plaza de la Magdalena, the Parish Church of Santiago, the Old Bridge, the Fountain of Las Burgas, the Cathedral of San Martín, the Episcopal Palace, the Town Hall and the Plaza Mayor.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Municipal.

Emilia Pardo Bazán, s/n.

☎988 388 110. (46 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.

☎988 366 064.

Oficina Provincial de Turismo.

☎988 391 085.

www.ourense.es;

www.turismoourense.com





Monastery of Oseira (San Cristovo de Cea)

Oficina de Turismo de la Xunta de Galicia. ☎988 372 020.

www.turgalicia.es;

www.xacobeo.es

SAN CRISTOVO DE CEA:

Altitude: 555 m

Distance from

Estación de Lalín: 33.5 km



This village is famous for its pantrigo, bread made using wheat flour, and for its group of ovens and houses. The Monastery of Oseira, located approximately 9 kilometres away, is one of the most outstanding buildings in the area.

WHAT TO SEE:

The Parish Church of San Facundo, the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de La Saleta, the Clock Tower and the Monument to the Baker.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Casa das Netas. Santo Cristo, 5.

☎988 282 000. (42 beds).

Albergue de Castro, Dozón (Pontevedra). (28 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎988 282 000.

www.concellodecea.com;

www.turgalicia.es;

www.xacobeo.es

ESTACIÓN DE LALÍN:

Altitude: 552 m

Distance from

Puente de Ulla: 35.4 km



The town of Lalín is the capital of the municipality which is distributed over 48 parishes. Its historical background is inextricably linked to the region of Deza.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martiño, Church of Los Dolores, Town Hall and the Galician Puppet Museum.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Bendoiro.

Lalín. (Pontevedra).

A Laxe, 26. (30 beds).

Albergue de Vedra. San Pedro de Vilanova. Vedra (La Coruña). Outeiro, s/n. (32 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. ☎986 787 060.
www.lalin.org;
www.turgalicia.es;
www.xacobeo.es

PUENTE DE ULLA:

Altitude: 140 m
Distance from Santiago
de Compostela: 20.3 km



The Route of St. James reaches Vedra via Puente de Ulla by crossing the River Ulla over a historic bridge which takes the pilgrim into the province of La Coruña.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María Magdalena.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

The hostel can be found approximately 3 kilometres after crossing the Puente Ulla, next to the Shrine of Santiaguño (Outeiro, San Pedro de Vilanova).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.
☎981 814 612 y 981 402 263.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:

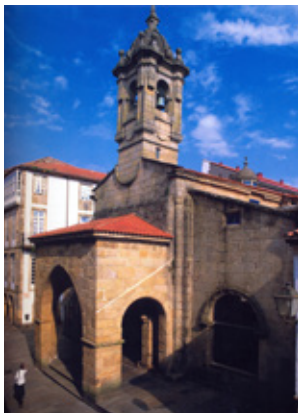
Altitude: 260 m



We reach Santiago by taking a former Royal Track from where the towers of the Cathedral can be seen. By following the River Sar we arrive at the Romanesque Collegiate Church of Santa María del Sar and enter the city through the gate of Mazarelos, the only one left standing of the ancient walls.

WHAT TO SEE:

Convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval. Church of Santa María del Camino. Ánimas Chapel (17th century). Church of San Benito. Con-



Church of María Salome





Plaza la Quintana, House of La Parra



Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home)

vent of San Paio de Antealtares. A fascinating religious art museum. Cathedral. Gelmírez Palace. Hotel Reyes Católicos. Pazo Raxoi (Galician country home). San Jerónimo College. Fonseca College. Casa del Cabildo. Casa del Deán. Casa de los Canónigos. Monastery of San Martiño Pinario. Convent of San Francisco. Church of San Miguel dos Agros. Convent of San Agustín. Church of San Fiz de Solovio. Church of Santa María Salomé. Collegiate Church of Santa María la Real de Sar.



Cathedral from Plaza del Obradoiro

Albergue Fin del Camino.
Rúa Moscova, s/n.
☎ 981 587 324. (110 beds)

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue de Peregrinos de la Xunta de Pedrouzo-Arca-O Pino.
☎ 686 744 055. (126 beds).

Albergue de la Xunta en el Monte do Gozo.
☎ 981 558 942. (800 beds).

Albergue San Lazaro-Santiago.
Rúa de San Lázaro. (80 beds).

Albergue del Seminario Menor.
Belvis, s/n. ☎ 981 031 768.
(200 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Información al peregrino (Xunta de Galicia).
Rúa do Villar, 30-32.
☎ 981 584 081.

Oficina de Turismo de la Xunta de Galicia. Rúa del Villar, 30-32.
☎ 981 584 081.

Oficina de Turismo de Santiago.
Rúa do Villar, 63. ☎ 981 555 129.

Oficina de acogida al peregrino (S. I. Catedral) Rúa do Villar, 1.
☎ 981 568 846

Non-Profit Hostels

If you use these hostels you will find that some are very modest. Embrace what is offered to you and appreciate the efforts of many people who work selflessly to help you. Help keep the hostels clean.

Vía de La Plata

Albergue de Peregrinos del C.s. "Puerto de Béjar"

Calle Estación 1
37720 Puerto de Bejar
Salamanca

Albergue Municipal Peregrinos "Ciudad de Zamora"

Cuesta San Cipriano
49001 Zamora
Tel.: 980509427
turismo@zamora.es

Albergue de Peregrinos de Montamarta

Carretera Villacastín A Vigo 261
49149 Montamarta. Zamora
Tel.: 980550112
aytomontamarta@yahoo.es

Albergue de Peregrinos de Fontanillas

Carretera Gijón - Sevilla N-630
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Albergue de Santa Marta de Tera

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Tel.: 980649050

Albergue "La Fragua"

Calle Reguero. 49325 Cernadilla
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Tel.: 980644424

Albergue Municipal Nuestra Sra. de La Asunción

Calle Castro Alto. 49325 Asturianos
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Tel.: 980626023
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Albergue Municipal de Peregrinos de Requejo

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Camino Portugués

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Associations of Saint James

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aviaplata@terra.es
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Fundación Ramos de Castro.
C/ Santa Clara, 33.
49002 Zamora.
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Asociación de amigos del Camino de Santiago Monte Urba Vía de la Plata.
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Asociación del Camino de Santiago de Astorga y su Comarca.
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Useful addresses

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