

 ENG

 Jacobeo 2021



CASTILLA Y LEÓN

es vida

A Practical Guide for Pilgrims

The Madrid Route

The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in
Castilla y León



**Junta de
Castilla y León**



Published by: Fundación Siglo para el Turismo
y las Artes de Castilla y León

Texts: Ángel Luis Barreda Ferrer
Hugo Mediavilla Mediavilla
José Angel Gallego Vazquez
Maria del Carmen Arribas Castrillo

Photographs: Centro de Estudios y Documentación
del Camino de Santiago.
Ángel Luis Barreda
Hugo Mediavilla

Design and layout: Capitán Quimera

Translation: Traductores e Intérpretes EURO:TEXT

Legal deposit: VA 449-2020

Last updated: JUNE 2020



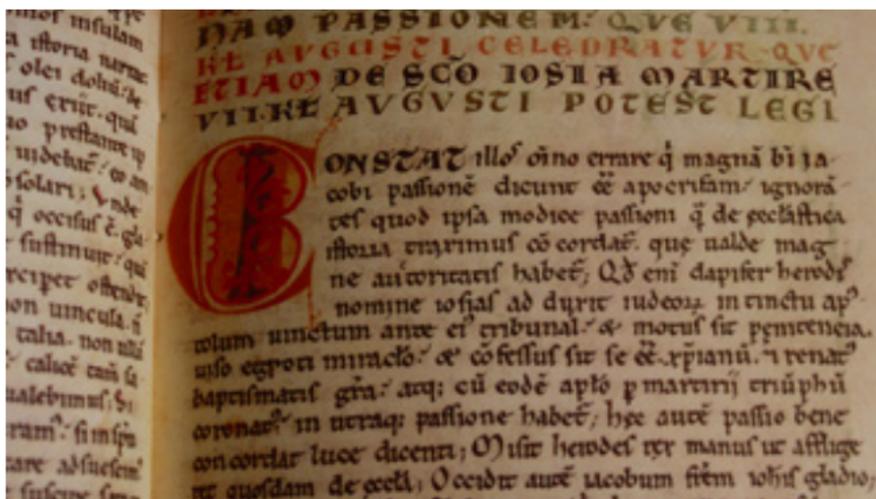
The Pilgrims' Route to
Santiago in Castilla y León

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



Junta de
Castilla y León

Presentation



Codex Calixtinus

This guide is an invitation to all those pilgrims, travellers and tourists wishing to follow the most modern of the traditional or historical Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago that have been shaped over a period of 1,200 years, beginning with the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle Saint James and whose popularity spread throughout Europe. This guide provides all the

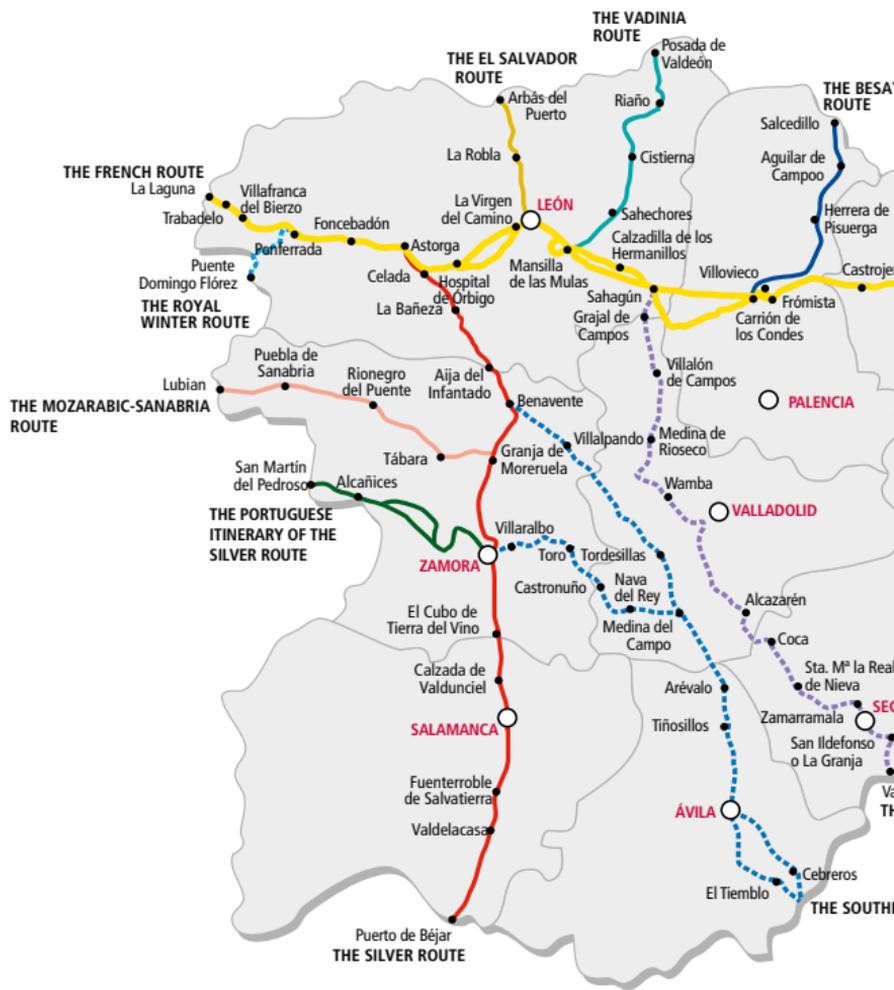
necessary information for those preparing to undertake the pilgrimage or the journey along the so-called 'Madrid Route'.

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





INDEX

- 7** What is the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago?
- 8** Practical tips for following the Route on foot
- 11** Practical tips for following the Route by bicycle
- 13** Information about the Pilgrims' Credentials and the 'Compostela'
- 15** The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Spain
- 18** The Madrid Route as part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago
- 22** Castilla y León: a trail steeped in art
- 26** Nomenclature
- 28** Itinerary table-list of contents
- 33** Itinerary
- 133** Non-Profit Hostels
- 135** Associations of Saint James
- 136** Useful addresses

MAPS.

What is the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago?



A pilgrim along the way



Architectural detail

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



Resting at the door of a hostel

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

Checking out the hostels and refuges for pilgrims is essential for those who wish to make use of this service. These refuges are only open to those making the pilgrimage entirely on foot, by bike or on horseback, without covering any stretches in a vehicle, and no prior reservations are accepted. Large groups of pilgrims are advised

to look for alternative accommodation, as the capacity of these refuges is limited.

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

Basic points for consideration when getting your gear ready:

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



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

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

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





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

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

It's not a good idea to carry large amounts of cash with you. Use your **credit cards** 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



The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago from Madrid

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

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

In this sense: You should consider visiting a specialist for a check up, as you will be mak-

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

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

Your cycling technique is also vital. You should train with expe-





rienced cyclists, who will advise you on questions such as the best cycling posture, how and when to change gear, pedalling rhythms, etc.

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



Pilgrims on bicycles

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)



(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

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

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 are to be handed in at





the so-called 'Pilgrim's Reception Office' at 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 (pietatis 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



The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, through pine groves. (Valdestillas)

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,





Signs in urban areas

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 number of publications such as the *Codex Calixtinus*, written by the

priest Aymeric Picaud and commissioned by Pope Calixtus II. As far as local influences are concerned, mention must be made of Bishop Gelmírez, who consolidated the See, turning it into an Archbishopric and was essentially responsible for designing and planning its future. He was helped in this task by the laws of Navarre, Castile, 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 Madrid Route as part of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago



Church of Nuestra Señora de Soterraña. Cloister (Santa María la Real de Nieva)

Of all the Pilgrims' Routes that lead to Santiago de Compostela, the one that starts from Madrid is undoubtedly one of the most recent incorporations. The work carried out by the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Madrid in researching, tracing and signposting an itinerary has enabled pilgrims to put into practice the recommendations offered by the Associations of St James for those that have already com-

pleted the better-known, traditional and historical routes, such as the French Route, and to try out new itineraries that depart from points that are closer to their homes - practically on their doorsteps - and which have resulted in the recent creation of this new route.

The Madrid Association began work on this project in the late 1990s, and coinciding with the last Holy Year in 1999, published an initial guide explain-

ing the background behind its creation and providing information about the various points on the Route. We turned to these forerunners of this pilgrimage route as they represented the finest source of information for what, back in 1999, was a project fired by their enthusiasm, but which today has become a reality that is a source of inspiration for growing numbers of

es of ancient Roman roads, experience the satisfaction of crossing the summit of Fuenfria, follow the footsteps of the Galician harvesters along the tracks that led to the fields of Castilla la Nueva before finally coming to worship the image of the Virgin of Sahagún dressed in pilgrim's attire and joining the traditional route that starts in Spain at Roncesvalles or Somport.



Sign in Ciguñuela



Signs along the way

pilgrims from both Madrid and other areas.

During this time, the Madrid Association has successfully promoted a previously little-used pilgrimage route yet which boasts an environmental heritage that is worthy of note and has delved deep to trace an itinerary which –even in its most superficial form– we are convinced will produce an immense feeling of satisfaction. Those that opt to follow this Route will find stretch-

Yet this new route is much more than this. It also echoes with the footsteps of foreign pilgrims dating back many centuries. Indeed, Nicola Albani, an 18th century Italian rogue, tells us of his adventures in a pilgrimage tale that is the object of modern day study.

As for the signposting of this Route with its characteristic yellow arrows, great care has been taken to keep the pilgrim away from tarmac surfaces. We are for-





tunate in that this occurs on only a very few occasions, and only when absolutely unavoidable.

In geographical terms, and in keeping with the work carried out by the Madrid Association, the Route starts in the Inner Plateau, crossing the Guadarrama Mountain Range before taking us across the Northern Plateau, where it links up with the French Route in Sahagún (León). Along the way, pilgrims, travellers and tourists will encounter clearly distinguishable areas: for the first fifty kilometres between the capital Madrid and the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountain Range, the landscape is dominated by a succession of plains and slopes which roughly follow the course of the River

Manzanares until crossing it for the last time just past the town of Manzanares El Real. This first stretch involves a gentle climb from 700 to 900 metres, but over the next forty kilometres we will reach a height of 1,080 metres at Mataelpino, before continuing up to 1,260 at Cruz de la Gallega in the province of Segovia. The highest point, Fuenfría Pass, stands at 1,796 metres.

From Cruz de la Gallega, the exceptional viewpoint that looks out over the Northern Plateau of Castile, the Route is a continuous descent as far as Segovia. From this provincial capital the Route continues through the so-called Tierra de Pinares, which takes its name from the pine woods that are dotted through-



Coca Castle and Palace



The Madrid Route



Monastery of La Santa Espina,
seen from outside the monastery wall

out this vast plain crisscrossed by rivers across the one hundred kilometres that separate the cities of Segovia and Valladolid. Once in Valladolid, we are faced with a succession of uplands separated by erosion valleys. Between the towns of Simancas and Medina de Ríoseco in the province of Valladolid the route is a gentle, almost unnoticeable climb that stretches out for over fifty kilometres across uplands and plains used for cereal farming. On this stretch the landscape is practically devoid of trees except for those that line the banks of the streams. The trees and small copses of

bushes and holm oaks, together with the odd pine wood, provide welcoming and cooling oases.

The final stretch of the Madrid Route runs between Medina de Ríoseco and Sahagún (León), lying in the heart of the region known as Tierra de Campos. Some seventy-seven kilometres of plain stretching out towards the horizon in the centre of the Northern Plateau, broken only by the church towers that rise up and the trees that line the banks of the rivers and streams of the Tierra de Campos region that crosses the provinces of Zamora, Valladolid, León and Palencia.



Castilla y León: a trail steeped in art



Dovecot in Peñafior de Hornija

The route from Madrid to Santiago offers us the chance to admire several styles of art and architecture of particular interest due to the variety of buildings: churches, monasteries, castles, palaces and a fine number of examples of civil architecture for public use. Nor must we forget the several stretches of Roman Road and even the brief section where the Route coincides with the towpath of the famous Castilla Canal.

The roots of this Route and the trails it follows lie in the layout of the ancient Roman roads, of which unfortunately very few stretches can still be seen today. One such example is to be found on the Fuenfría Mountain Pass. According to the Itinerary of

Antonino, this stretch coincides with the Route that linked Titulcia with Simancas. Yet undoubtedly, the Aqueduct in Segovia is one of the finest examples of Roman engineering.

These routes also offer a fascinating insight into the history of civil engineering, with several examples of Roman engineering such as the Valdestillas and Moral de la Reina bridges in the province of Valladolid, or several medieval feats of engineering in the same province such as the one in Puente Duero or the one in Simancas, although the majority date back to the 18th century onwards. Equally interesting are the many fine examples of military architecture. Highlights include the



Shrine of La Pedrosa (Berrueces)

magnificent Royal Fortress in Segovia, built between the 12th and 16th centuries, the stunning 15th century Mudejar Coca Castle, and Simancas Castle, built between the 14th and 16th centuries and which today houses the General Archives. Towards the end of the Madrid Route, in Grajal de Campos in the province of León, stands one of the last of the castles to be built in the 16th century to withstand the onslaught of modern artillery.

Yet in keeping with the other pilgrims' routes that lead to Santiago, it is religious architecture that dominates this itinerary, both in number and in sheer quality. Indeed, the Madrid Route boasts such outstanding buildings as Segovia Cathedral (16th century), begun by Gil de Hontañón, or the late 16th century Valladolid Cathedral, a Renaissance

masterpiece designed by Juan de Herrera.

There are many other superb churches to be admired on this route. The church dedicated to the Apostle Saint James in Medina de Rioseco (Valladolid) is undoubtedly one of the most noteworthy due to its size and the unsurpassable wealth of symbols of Saint James it contains. Other outstanding examples of Renaissance temples include the Church of Santa María, also in Medina de Rioseco, or the Church of El Salvador in Simancas. This latter church is actually of Romanesque origins, although all that remains of the original building is the tower. Some of the most exceptional examples of the Romanesque style include the Church of the Santo Sepulcro in Segovia or the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción





General view of Simancas

in Wamba, in the province of Valladolid, built between the 10th and the 12th centuries. As for Mudejar architecture, mention must be made of the Church of San Esteban in Nieva (Segovia) and the one dedicated to Saints Gervaise and Protaise in Santervás de Campos (Valladolid).

As is widely known, monasteries and convents have a long-standing tradition of sharing close ties with pilgrimage routes, and the Madrid Route is no exception, boasting a large number of examples of this type of architecture in a wide range of styles and run by various congregations of monks and nuns. In Segovia, for example, we can admire the 15th century Convent of San Antonio el Real, and the Monastery of Santa María del Parral, which dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries. Other notable examples include the Monastery of Nuestra Señora de la Soterraña, built between the 14th and 15th centuries, in Santa María la Real de Nieva, in Segovia; the Royal

Monastery of San Benito (14th century) and the Former Convent of the Nuns of the Military Order of Saint James (15th century), also known as 'Las Francesas', situated in the city of Valladolid; the Monastery of La Santa Espina (12th-18th centuries) in La Santa Espina (Valladolid); the Convent of San Francisco (17th century) and the Convent of Santa Clara (16th century), in Medina de Rioseco (Valladolid); the Convent of Santa Clara (18th century), in Grajal de Campos (León); and last but not least, the Monastery of San Pedro de las Dueñas (12th-15th centuries), in San Pedro de las Dueñas (León) and the 13th century former Franciscan Convent of La Peregrina, and



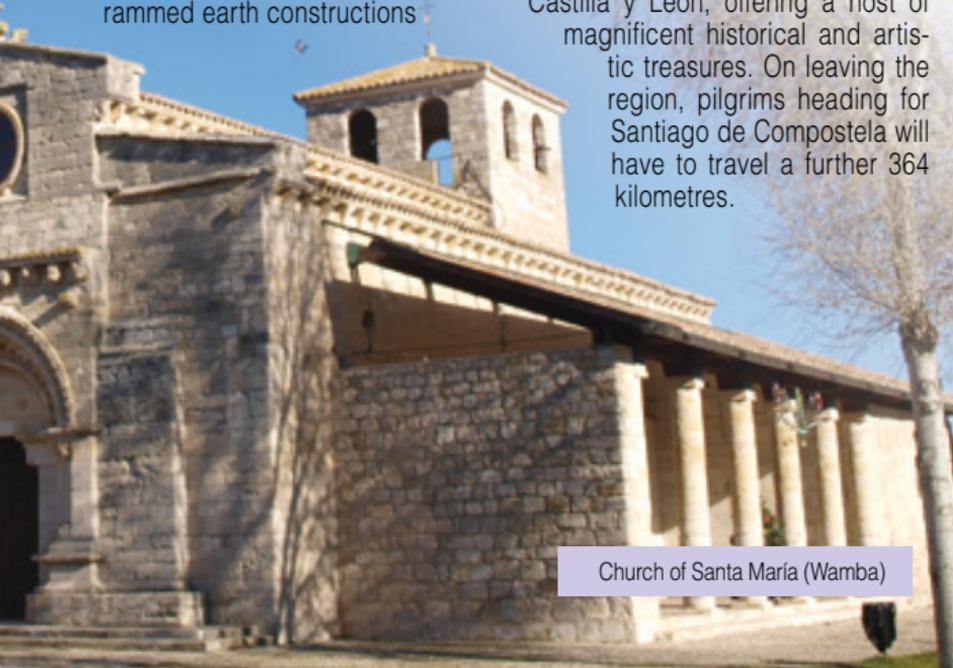
the former Monastery of San Benito (11th-17th centuries) in Sahagún, León.

This Route also boasts many fine examples of civil architecture. Among the palaces to be seen along the way, mention must be made of the Royal Palace in Valladolid, that of the Marquises of Grajal in the municipality of Grajal de Campos in the province of León, and naturally the magnificent La Granja de San Ildefonso Palace in Segovia with its celebrated collection of fountains. In sharp contrast to these stately buildings built by royalty and the nobility, we can also find examples of traditional popular architecture, characterised by the use of materials such as stone in mountain areas, wood in those areas dotted with forests such as Tierra de Pinares in Segovia, or rammed earth constructions

– either brick or adobe - in the region known as Tierra de Campos.

In addition to these constructions, brief mention must also be made of those 'transportable' works of art housed in the Colegio de San Gregorio National Museum in Valladolid, a unique and truly outstanding showcase. Nor should we forget the crafts that have traditionally been considered 'lesser' art forms, such as wrought metalwork, gold and silver work, ceramics, engraving and furniture.

In short, the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to Santiago from the Spanish capital to the point where it links up with the French Route in Sahagún in the province of León stretches out for a total of 325.3 kilometres, 241.5 kilometres of which take us through Castilla y León, offering a host of magnificent historical and artistic treasures. On leaving the region, pilgrims heading for Santiago de Compostela will have to travel a further 364 kilometres.



Church of Santa María (Wamba)

Nomenclature

MELGAR DE ARRIBA

Town

Altitude: 735 m
 Distance from Arenillas
 de Valderaduey (León): 8 km
 Kind of route: Way



Services

(A few metres from the
Sanctuary of...

Branch route starts

Link with the French Route:
Burgos

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

- Madrid
- Segovia
- Valladolid
- León
- Galicia





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
MADRID						
0	0	689.4	730	3,266,126	Madrid	34
10.8	0	678.6	740	238,756	Fuencarral	35
12	0	666.6	760	47,722	Tres Cantos	35
11.9	0	654.7	883	50,752	Colmenar Viejo	36
15.6	0	639.1	908	8,840	Manzanares El Real	36
7.3	0	631.8	1080	1,811	Mataelpino	37
7.1	0	624.7	1203	2,972	Navacerrada	38
5.5	0	619.2	1188	7,026	Cercedilla	38
8	0	611.2	1796		Puerto de La Fuenfría	39
SEGOVIA						
5.6	0	605.6	1140	173	Valsaín	39
4.5	4.5	601.1	1100	5,267	San Ildefonso o La Granja	40
13	17.5	588.1	1002	51,683	Segovia	42
3	20.5	585.1	1010	560	Zamarramala	44
5	25.5	580.1	948	241	Valseca	45
4	29.5	576.1	870	179	Los Huertos	45
9	38.5	567.1	875	79	Añe	45
6	44.5	561.1	950	28	Pinilla de Ambroz	46
5	49.5	556.1	907	476	Santa María La Real de Nieva	46
2	51.5	554.1	844	265	Nieva	47
10	61.5	544.1	800	2,686	Nava de La Asunción	48
7	68.5	537.1	785	1,659	Coca	49
10	78.5	527.1	764	111	Villeguillo	51
VALLADOLID						
18	96.5	509.1	739	640	Alcazarén	52
16	112.5	493.1	699	1,609	Valdestillas	53
8	120.5	485.1	976	1,126	Puente Duero	54

Partial km	km in Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
0	0	0	725	294,101	Valladolid	55
6.2	126.7	478.9	690	5,242	Simancas	57
6.3	133	472.6	830	381	Ciguñuela	58
7	140	465.6	788	328	Wamba	60
7	147	458.6	800	298	Peñaflor de Hornija	61
0	0	0	820	107	Monasterio de La Santa Espina	62
9.3	156.3	449.3	840	217	Castromonte	63
8	164.3	441.3	772	100	Valverde de Campos	64
5.5	169.8	435.8	735	4,643	Medina de Rioseco	64
0	0	0	772	95	Berrueces	67
10	179.8	425.8	719	55	Tamariz de Campos	68
9	188.8	416.8	764	158	Moral de La Reina	69
8	196.8	408.8	775	226	Cuenca de Campos	70
5	201.8	403.8	786	1,606	Villalón de Campos	71
7	208.8	396.8	802	34	Fontihoyuelo	72
10	218.8	386.8	765	111	Santervás de Campos	73
6	224.8	380.8	735	157	Melgar de Arriba	74
LEÓN						
8	232.8	372.8	829	50	Arenillas de Valderaduey	75
3.5	236.3	369.3	813	223	Grajal de Campos	75
0	0	0	795	66	San Pedro de Las Dueñas	77
Continuing on the French Route						
5.2	241.5	364.1	816	2,153	Sahagún	78
5	192.5	359.1	822	189	Calzada del Coto	79
8	0	0	816	137	Calzadilla de Los Hermanillos	80
5.1	197.6	354	855	193	Bercianos del Real Camino	81
7.8	205.4	346.2	878	215	El Burgo Ranero	82
5	214	337	851	228	Villamarco	83
12.8	218.2	333.4	830	231	Reliegos	83

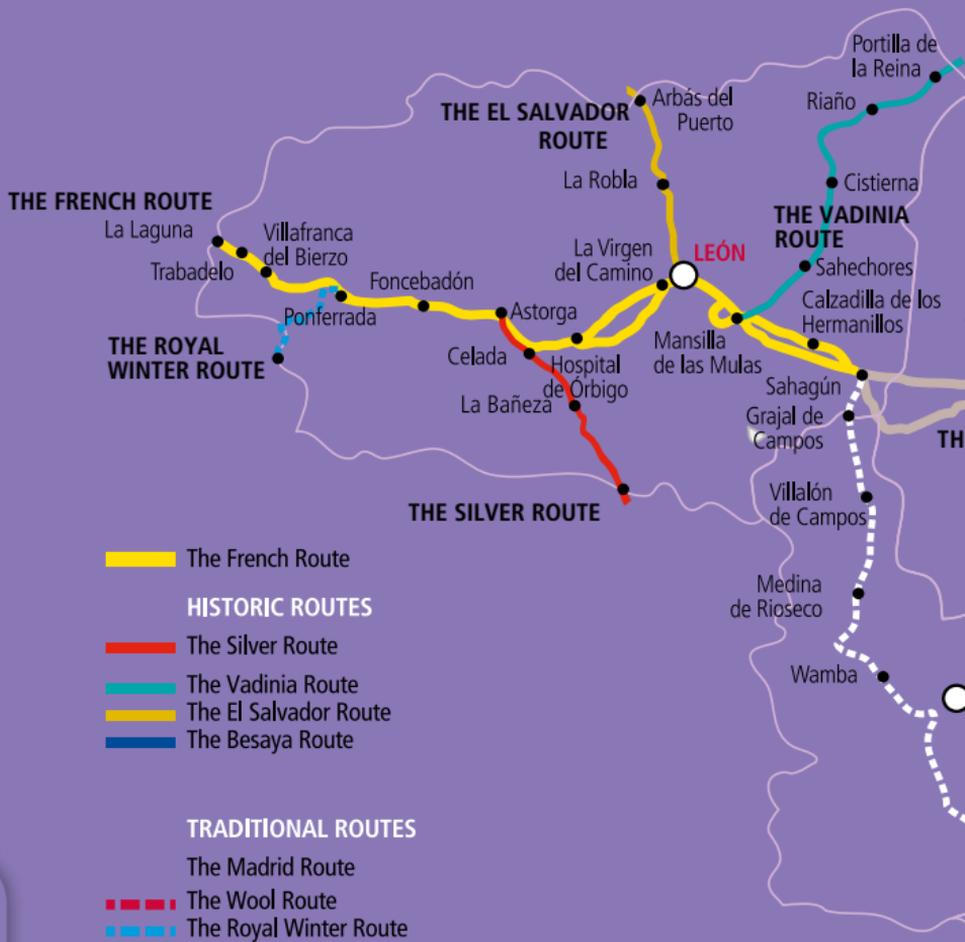




Partial km	km in Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
3	0	0	796	127	Mansilla Mayor	86
2	0	0	802	95	Villaverde de Sandoval	87
1	0	0	801	16	Nogales	88
4 4	227.2	324.4	800	85	Villamoros de Mansilla	88
2	229.2	322.4	804	223	Puente de Villarente	89
4.4	233.6	318	850	203	Arcahueja	89
1.5	235.1	316.5	855	275	Valdelafuente	90
3.5	238.6	313	820		Puente Castro	90
3	241.6	310	838	118,612	León	91
3.7	245.3	306.3	837	20,673	Trobojo del Camino	93
4.1	249.4	302.2	850	5,044	La Virgen del Camino	94
1.9	0	0	897	522	Fresno del Camino	95
2.5	0	0	900	70	La Aldea de la Valdoncina	95
8	0	0	924	272	Robledo de la Valdoncina	96
14	0	0	896	48	Estación de Villadangos	96
1.7	0	0	860	39	Oncina de la Valdoncina	96
5.9	0	0	886	89	Chozas de Abajo	97
3.9	0	0	860	351	Villar de Mazarife	97
9	0	0	875	226	Villavante	97
2	251.4	300.2	887	190	Valverde de la Virgen	98
2	253.4	298.2	910	517	San Miguel del Camino	99
8 2	261.4	290.2	890	777	Villadangos del Páramo	99
5	266.4	285.2	870	342	San Martín del Camino	100
11 3.5	277.4	274.2	823	786	Hospital de Órbigo	101
2.2	279.6	272	834	267	Villares de Órbigo	102
2.7	282.3	269.3	816	146	Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias	103
8.1	290.4	261.2	845	1,024	San Justo de la Vega	103
4	294.4	257.2	869	10,632	Astorga	104
2.4	295.4	256.2	865	131	Valdeviejas	105
2	296.4	255.2	802	112	Murias de Rechivaldo	106
4.8	301.2	250.4	997	47	Santa Catalina de Somoza	107

Partial km	km in Castilla y León	km remaining to Santiago	Altitude	Inhabitants	Town	Page
4.2	305.4	246.2	1013	27	El Ganso	107
6.5	311.9	239.7	1149	74	Rabanal del Camino	108
5.7	317.6	234	1439	27	Foncebadón	109
4.1	321.7	229.9	1145	0	Manjarín	110
6.9	328.6	223	1200	51	El Acebo	110
3	331.6	220	920	42	Riego de Ambrós	110
4.3	335.9	215.7	595	637	Molinaseca	111
4.4	340.3	211.3	555	813	Campo	112
3.6	343.9	207.7	541	40,689	Ponferrada	112
4.8	348.7	202.9	530	1,378	Columbrianos	114
2.8	351.5	200.1	513	2,735	Fuentes Nuevas	115
2	353.5	198.1	492	2,945	Camponaraya	116
5.7	359.2	192.4	483	4,224	Cacabelos	117
3	362.2	189.4	528	38	Pieros	118
4.1	366.3	185.3	509	2,181	Villafranca del Bierzo	119
5	371.3	180.3	542	32	Pereje	121
5.5	376.8	174.8	578	106	Trabadelo	121
3.3	380.1	171.5	580	19	La Portela de Valcarce	122
1.4	381.5	170.1	605	40	Ambasmestas	123
2.2	383.7	167.9	631	210	Vega de Valcarce	124
1.7	385.4	166.2	690	20	Ruitelán	125
1.1	386.5	165.1	675	32	Herrerías	125
1	387.5	164.1	790		Hospital	126
2.6	390.1	161.5	917	29	La Faba	127
2.3	392.4	159.2	1100	25	La Laguna	127
GALICIA						
2.4	0	156.8	1330	23	Cebreiro	128
40	0	116.8	450	8,795	Sarria	128
23.5	0	93.3	320	442	Portomarín	129
24.5	0	68.8	565	998	Palas del Rey	130
15	0	53.8	457	4,678	Melide	130
17	0	36.8	389	2,764	Arzúa	131
36.8	0	0	260	97,260	Santiago de Compostela	131





-  The French Route
- HISTORIC ROUTES**
-  The Silver Route
-  The Vadinia Route
-  The El Salvador Route
-  The Besaya Route

TRADITIONAL ROUTES

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

● Suggested stopping places

○ PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

INFORMATION:

www.turismocastillayleon.com



Junta de Castilla y León



Itinerary

Madrid 34

Segovia..... 39

Valladolid 52

León..... 75

Galicia 128



Madrid

MADRID:

Altitude: 730 m

Distance from Fuencarral: 10.8 km



Rather than spending time detailing the many sights of Madrid, we will focus on several of the temples with close ties with the Apostle Saint

*Saint James that are worthy of mention include the Church of Santiago el Mayor, part of the **Convent of the Nuns of the Military Order of Saint James**, situated on calle Quiñones and founded in the late 16th century, or the **Chapel of El Cristo del Buen Camino** in the crypt of La Almudena Cathedral which offers assistance to*



Church of Santiago



Interior of the Church of Santiago

*James and that could provide an excellent starting point for our pilgrimage. The **Church of Santiago** or **San Juan Bautista**, standing in Plaza de Santiago, is just a stone's throw from Plaza de Oriente and the Royal Theatre. The current church was built in 1811 on the ruins of a 13th century temple, which in turn had stood on the site of an ancient mosque. Other sites associated with*



Plaza de Ramales with Jacobean cross



pilgrims and blessings before they set off on their journey to Santiago.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

Albergue Petrus (Asoc. de Corea). Finisterre, 20.

☎ 653 954 145. (20 beds)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Información Turística de Madrid:

☎ 91 578 78 10

turismo@esmadrid.com

www.turismomadrid.es

www.esmadrid.com

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Madrid. Carretas

14, 7, B-1. 28012. Madrid.

☎ 91 523 22 11.

www.demadridalcamino.org

FUENCARRAL:

Altitude: 740 m

Distance from Tres Cantos: 12 km



This district, lying in the north of Madrid, was annexed to the capital by

decree on 10 November 1950. The origins of the town date back to the 12th century, although today it is simply another of the many districts that make up the capital, characterised by its considerable commercial resources.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish of San Miguel Arcángel.
Valverde Shrine.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Información turística de Madrid:

www.turismomadrid.es

www.esmadrid.com

TRES CANTOS:

Altitude: 760 m

Distance from

Colmenar Viejo: 11.9 km



Work on building this modern town started back in the 1960s with the idea of creating an administrative district. Today it has become a residential town and the site of a large business and technology park



Pilgrims on horseback



Town Hall



ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:
Albergue Municipal. ☎ 91 293 80 00.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
Ayuntamiento. ☎ 91 293 80 10.
www.trescantos.es

COLMENAR VIEJO:

Altitude: 883 m
Distance from
Manzanares El Real: 15.6 km



This town, situated in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountain Range, boasts sites of immense ecological value. Parts of this municipality are included in the Cuenca Alta del Manzanares Regional Park, and boast spectacular landscapes scattered with rocks, hills, flat peaks and granite crags. This region is dotted with holm oak woods, as well as thyme bushes, heather and broom.



Altarpiece in the Basílica



Interior of the Basílica of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

WHAT TO SEE:

Chapel of San Francisco. Traditional municipal corn store. Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios. Chapel of Santa Ana. Shrine of Santa Ana. Shrine of Nuestra Señora de La Soledad. Basílica of La Asunción de Nuestra Señora.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Información turística

☎91 845 31 36

www.colmenarviejo.com

MANZANARES EL REAL:

Altitude: 908 m
Distance from Matalpino: 7.3 km



This historic town was founded back in 1247 by livestock farmers from Segovia and was declared a royal domain by Alphonse X. It lies at the head of the river from which it takes its name, next to the Santillana Reservoir, named after Don Inigo López, the first Marquis of Santillana, born in Carrión de los Condes in the province of Palencia, yet who ruled over



Manzanares el Real Castle

these lands and played a key role in their history. This town, the site of recently discovered prehistoric settlements, is particularly worthy of note for its superb natural setting and its flora and fauna, forming an irresistible blend of cultural, tourist and natural elements.

WHAT TO SEE:

Ethnographic and Archaeological Museum. Ancient castle. The Mills. Castle of the Mendoza Family in Manzanares el Real. Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves. Shrine of La Virgen de la Peña Sacra. Ancient bridge. Renaissance fountains. Santillana Reservoir

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo Municipal.
Del cura, s/n. ☎ 91 853 00 09
www.manzanareselreal.org

MATAELPINO:

Altitude: 1,080 m
Distance from Navacerrada: 7.1 km



This town, nestling on the slopes of Mount La Maliciosa and with the Los Porrones Mountain Range and Mount La Pedriza rising up in the east, lies within the boundaries of the Cuenca Alta del Manzanares Regional Park. The top of the hillock offers stunning views of this rocky landscape. This breath-



The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago through the province of Madrid

taking setting, and those of the surrounding towns and villages, will undoubtedly spur on all those pilgrims with a love of nature, despite the particularly demanding characteristics of this stretch of the route.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church dedicated to San Sebastián. Shrine of San Isidro Labrador

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Junta Vecinal ☎ 91 857 30 47.
www.elboalo-cerceda-mataelpino.org



NAVACERRADA:

Altitude: 1,203 m

Distance from

Cercedilla: 5.5 km



Nestling in the heart of the *Guadarrama Mountain Range*, this town is practically surrounded on all sides by plains bordered by mountains. Its name refers to the 'enclosed' site on which it has been built up, chosen by its original settlers as ideal winter grazing ground for their cattle. It lies in the north-east area of Madrid, and is surrounded by spectacular scenery. Today it has become a popular spot for residents of both the Spanish capital and Segovia, thanks to its magnificent sports facilities, as well as its excellent climate and mouth-watering gastronomy.

WHAT TO SEE:

Navacerrada Reservoir. Parish Church of La Natividad de Nuestra Señora. Shrine of San Antonio.



Roman road along which pilgrims walk



Church of La Natividad

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza de los Angeles, 1. ☎ 91 856 00 06.

www.aytonavacerrada.es

CERCEDILLA:

Altitude: 1,188 m

Distance from

Puerto de la Fuenfría: 8 km



It is situated in the foothills of the *Guadarrama Mountain Range*, in the area known as 'the seven peaks'. In addition to its long-standing tradition as a livestock breeding area, in recent times it has also become a major tourist attraction thanks to its privileged setting and stunning landscapes, where pilgrims and tourists alike will admire the truly breathtaking scenery.

WHAT TO SEE:

Roman Road. Church of San Sebastián. Shrine of Santa María.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎91 852 5740.

Oficina de Turismo Municipal.

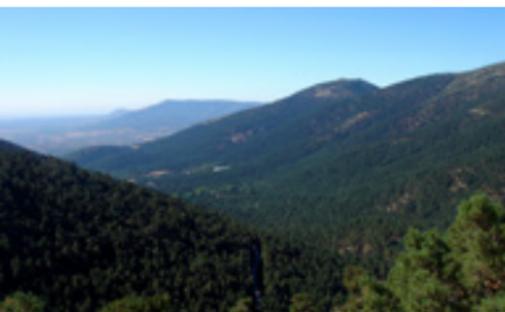
☎91 852 37 04. www.cercedilla.es

Segovia

PUERTO DE FUENFRÍA:

Altitude: 1,796 m

Distance from Valsáin (Segovia): 5.6 km



Puerto de la Fuenfría

Situated in the Guadarrama Mountain Range this spot marks the boundary between the Autonomous Community of Madrid and the province of Segovia. It stood on a Roman road that continued to be used until 1788 when the Navacerrada Mountain Pass was opened. From then on it would practically only be used by the Galician labourers on their way to Castilla la Nueva to work on the harvest. Today we can still see several stretches of the XXIV Way, part of the Itinerary of Antonino that linked Titulcia with

Septimancia (Simancas), as well as the ruins of the Post House built on the orders of Philip II and known as 'Casa Eraso'.

This route to Santiago de Compostela starting from the capital of the Autonomous Community of Madrid enters the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León via Fuenfría Mountain Pass, a breathtakingly beautiful spot surrounded by pine woods and the site of heavy snowfalls in winter. The route down forms part of the province of Segovia, taking pilgrims towards Valsáin.

VALSAÍN:

Altitude: 1,140 m

Distance from La Granja de San Ildefonso: 4.5 km

Kind of route: Way



This is the first town on the Route in the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León. This village, which has a population of only 173, belongs to the municipality of San Ildefonso-La Granja and is located in Montes de Valsáin, an area of great environmental and economic wealth thanks



to the native pine trees. In 1552, Philip II commissioned the architect Luis de Vega to build a palace here, but unfortunately it was burnt to the ground in 1697.

WHAT TO SEE:

 Ruins of the Royal Palace of Philip II (1552). Both the Palace and the surrounding buildings were declared Assets of Cultural Interest in 1931.  Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario. The Valsaín Royal Sawmill, set up under the patronage of the monarchy in 1884. Originally the wood was processed using steam-driven machinery.

IN THE NEARBY:

En las cercanías, concretamente en la localidad de La Pradera de Navalhorno se encuentra el Albergue turístico Areva Valsain.



AREVA VALSAIN

Ctra. Navacerrada, 7



921 434 472 - 635 620 400
(30 beds).



www.areva-valsain.com



areva@areva-valsain.com



40,87498, -4,019

SAN ILDEFONSO OR LA GRANJA:

Altitude: 1,100 m

Distance from Segovia: 13 km

Kind of route: Way



Royal Palace

El Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, which currently has a population of 5,267, dates back to the time of Phillip V, the first monarch of the Bourbon dynasty in Spain. In 1720 he purchased a large plot of land where he would later build his palace, set in spacious grounds that are noted for their monumental fountains. The paraphernalia of court life soon required the construction of a series of additional, emblematic buildings such as the Princes' House, the Guards Corps Barracks, the Royal Mews, the Collegiate Church or the Servants' Quarters. This site has been declared a Historic Site.



WHAT TO SEE:

 **Royal Palace.** Work began in 1721 on what was to become a fine example of European palace architecture, set in magnificent grounds that are reminiscent of those to be seen at Versailles. The majestic 18th century fountains are equipped with pumps that make use of gravity to create jets that rise up to 40 metres, just like the original ones. The Palace rooms and grounds have jointly been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest under the Monument Category. **The Royal Collegiate Church of La Santísima Trinidad (16th century).**

The interior is noted for the chapel that houses the tombs of Philip V and Isabelle of Farnesio.  **La Granja Royal Glass Factory.** Built in 1770. The Glass Museum covers an area of more than 16,000 sq. m and offers numerous exhibitions displaying glassware, lamps, casts and a wide selection of tools and machinery used in the glass industry. 

Bauer House. Situated at 8, Calle Cervantes, this noble house was built to accommodate the stewards of the king's chamber.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **CAMINO DE LIS**
Rinconada de los Dolores, 6
 676 927 100 - 921 470 984
(32 beds).
 www.alberguelagranja.es
 info@alberguelagranja.es
 40,90468, -4,00818



Glass factory

-  **PUERTA DEL CAMPO**
Ctra. De Riofrio, km 1.3
 921 471 861 (348 beds).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Oficina de Turismo del Real Sitio de San Ildefonso. Plaza de los Dolores, 1.
 921 473 953.

REST AREA

Robledo Recreation Ground

NEARBY: It is well worth visiting Ríofrío Palace, situated just 12 km from San Ildefonso. Built in 1752 on the express wishes of Philip V's second wife, Isabelle of Farnesio, it was used as royal hunting lodge. Today it houses a hunting museum.





Pilgrim's rucksack



Segovia Aqueduct

SEGOVIA:

Altitude: 1,002 m

Distance from Zamarramala: 3 km

Kind of route: Urban stretch



After making our way down from Fuenfría Pass we come to the first of the large cities of Castilla y León that lie on this route. Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage City, is definitely worth visiting. It has a population of 51,683 and boasts an extensive heritage, the best-known example of which is undoubtedly the world-famous Roman Aqueduct. The city is also renowned for its mouth-watering gastronomy, the hallmark of which is the tender roast suckling pig. Although this was an important site during the Roman period, the origins of the city of Segovia, like its name, which means 'city of victory', date back to the days of the Celts. The provincial capital has a vast array of monuments.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Aqueduct.** Situated in Plaza del Azoguejo, this is the landmark of the city. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it is believed to date back to the end of the 2nd century CE. Spanning a length of 776 metres from the San Gabriel sand trap to the Plaza de Avendaño, it is the most important Roman civil engineering work in Spain. Built without the use of mortar to join the 20,400 granite ashlar stones, the aqueduct rises up some 28,10 metres.

 **Santa María Cathedral (16th century).** This was the last Gothic cathedral to be built in Spain. The interior houses a total of 18 chapels, one of which is dedicated to the Apostle Saint James. It conserves the cloister of an earlier cathedral that was destroyed in 1520 during the War of Communities.

 **Segovia City Walls.** Although the walls were already standing when Alphonse VI of Castile conquered



the city from the Moors, he decided to extend them, creating a perimeter of 3.5 kilometres, guarded by a total of 80 towers, with five gates and several doors. Today we can still see the gates of San Cebrían, Santiago and San Andrés. 🏰 **Segovia Royal Fortress.** The first written reference to this royal palace, which stands on the top of a rock between the rivers Eresma and Clamores, dates back to 1122. This was the favourite residence of both Alphonse X the Wise and Henry IV, and it was from here that Isabella the Catholic left to be crowned Queen of Castile in Plaza Mayor. Today it houses Segovia's General Military Archive and the Royal School of Artillery Museum. 🏰 **Monastery Church of Santa María del Parral (16th century).** Particularly worthy of note is the stone image of Saint James the Pilgrim in the interior. 🏰 **Church of San Justo (12th century).** This church was built on the site of a shrine dedicated to the Christ of the Gascons, whose articulated Gothic carving is associated with several miracles. The interior houses a magnificent collection of Romanesque friezes. 🏰 **Church of San Martín (12th century).** Although it was built in the Romanesque style, this church is of Mozarabic origin. The west door is one of the finest

examples of the Spanish Romanesque style. 🏰 **Church of San Millán.** With a layout reminiscent of Jaca Cathedral, this is one of the city's oldest churches, built between 1111 and 1124. 🏰 **Romanesque Churches of Santa Columba and La Santísima Trinidad.** 🏰 **Church of La Vera Cruz.** Standing on the slope leading up



Alcazar and bridge

to Zamarramala, its origins are believed to be associated with the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. A stroll around the city will also reveal a host of medieval palaces such as Ayala Berganza, Casa del Sello de Paños, Lozoya Tower or Casa de los Picos. Art lovers should not miss the chance to marvel at the treasures on display in the **Esteban Vicente Museum of Contemporary Art** 🏰.



Church of Santa Águeda

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



DUERMEVELA HOSTEL

Gascos, 7



921 047 004 - 691 282 445
(19 beds).



www.duermevelahostel.com



reservas@duermevelahostel.com



40,93008, -4,1161

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo de la Junta de Castilla y León. Plaza Mayor, 10.



921 460 334



oficinadeturismodesegovia@jcyll.es

Oficina de Turismo de Segovia
Centro de Recepción de Visitantes.
Plaza Azoguejo, 1.



921 466 720



info@turismodesegovia.com

REST AREA

Situated in Alameda de la Fuencisla, on the way out of Segovia in the direction of Zamarramala.

ZAMARRAMALA:

Altitude: 1,010 m

Distance from Valseca: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



Today Zamarramala has become an annexe of Segovia. With a population of 560, it conserves its village look and feel. Famous for its Las Águedas Festival, declared an event of interest for regional tourism, it affords superb views of the provincial capital.

WHAT TO SEE:

Stone Cross and Shrine of San Roque. Parish Church of Santa Águeda. This church was dependent on the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and the Order of Malta.



Tower of the Church of La Asunción



VALSECA:

Altitude: 948 m
Distance from Los Huertos: 4 km
Kind of route: Way



By this stage the landscape has changed. The mountains have given way to gently rolling hills and the vegetation has been replaced by fields planted with crops. This village of just 241 inhabitants was referred to as 'valle seco' or 'dry valley' in documents dated 1247.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (18th century). This cruciform church featuring a dome over a pendentive transept boasts a Neoclassic high altarpiece and interesting silverwork. **Shrine of San Roque (1601).** Shrine of **El Humilladero (1526).** Situated on the Carbonero de Ahusín road.

LOS HUERTOS:

Altitude: 870 m
Distance from Añe: 9 km
Kind of route: Way/Track



This small village of 179 inhabitants has a privileged location. Formerly known as Sancta María de los Huertos, it nestles in a small valley next to the River Medel. Sheltered from the cold, it does true justice to its name and is the site of numerous 'huertas' or orchards.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. A Gothic church dating back to the 16th century, although it underwent several alterations dur-



Parish Church of La Asunción.

ing the Baroque period. **Shrine of La Virgen de las Vegas (12th century).** Situated just a couple of kilometres outside the village. The image it is named after was stolen in 1980.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 921 490 576.

AÑE:

Altitude: 875 m
Distance from Pinilla Ambroz: 6 km
Kind of route: Way/Track



Añe is a small village in the province of Segovia with a population of 79. Here we can see an unusual brick church that appears to have





Church of San Juan Bautista



Church of San Juan Bautista

been 'mutilated' on the side facing the road. It's well worth taking the time to go up to El Soto Viewpoint and admire the stunning views, especially at sunset.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Juan Bautista. The origins of this church date back to 1408, although it underwent major alterations at later periods.

REST AREA

There is an ancient ash tree wood with a recreation area just off the route.

PINILLA AMBROZ:

Altitude: 950 m

Distance from Santa María la Real de Nieva: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



Since 1969 this village has formed part of the municipality of Santa María la Real de Nieva, which can

be glimpsed on the horizon. The unusual name of this tiny hamlet of just 28 inhabitants appears in documents dating as far back as 1204 as 'penilla de Ambrosio'.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Juan Bautista. Renaissance. **La Peña.** A hill offering exceptional views.

SANTA MARÍA LA REAL DE NIEVA:

Altitude: 907 m

Distance from Nieva: 2 km

Kind of route: Road



Santa María la Real de Nieva is one of the historic sites on the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. This village of 476 inhabitants is the centre of the judicial district and numerous services, as well as boasting a valuable heritage that is well worth discovering.





Cloister of the Church of Nuestra Señora de Soterraña



Church of Nuestra Señora de Soterraña

It was founded by Catherine of Lancaster following the miraculous appearance of the Virgin of La Soterraña before a shepherd in 1392.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Church of Nuestra Señora de Soterraña** (begun in the 15th century). The façade, cloister and the actual church have been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in the Monument category. It has an 18th century altarpiece featuring a statue attributed to Berruguete and oil paintings on the panels dating back to the 16th century. The interior houses the tomb of Queen Blanca of Navarre. Next to the church stands the cloister of an ancient monastery, built during the transition from the Romanesque to the Gothic style. The most outstanding features are the capitals narrating scenes from the Bible and providing an insight into 15th century Castilian society.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

 921 594 036.

NIEVA:

Altitude:	844 m
Distance from Nava de la Asunción:	10 km
Kind of route:	Way



The municipality, with a population of 265, is a typical village in the Segovia countryside. It is surrounded by pine trees and numerous vineyards, and visitors will enjoy tasting the excellent locally made wines. Another outstanding feature of this village is the 'Pino Morgas', a landmark pine tree whose branches spread out over a recreation area.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Esteban (late 12th century). Built in the Romanesque-Mudejar style, it has a





Church of San Esteban



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

semi-circular brick apse. It was altered in the 17th century and a porticoed gallery was added to a second nave. Yet the most outstanding feature is undoubtedly the superb Romanesque capitals.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 921 594 259

REST AREA

'Pino Morgas' Recreation Area. Situated 200 metres outside the village.

NAVA DE LA ASUNCIÓN:

Altitude: 800 m

Distance from Coca: 7 km

Kind of route: Way



This town of 2,686 inhabitants and modern traces was founded centuries ago, as it belonged to the Coca Town and Land Association, made up of nine villages and known as 'La Cuadrilla de Nuestra Señora de

Engullán'. King Charles III granted Nava de la Asunción the title of Town, thereby conferring upon it the right to impart justice. The surrounding landscape is truly spectacular, with the village emerging like an island from out of an ocean of pine trees. Its most illustrious residents include the Barcelona-born poet Jaime Gil de Biedma who spent his childhood and youth here, as reflected in many of his poems. In return, the village pays an annual tribute to this writer through its firmly consolidated International Poetry Award.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (18th century). This church was built over the ruins of a Romanesque temple, whose tower can still be seen today. The altarpiece dates back to 1740 and is the work of Segovia-born sculptor Manuel Suárez. **The Bishop's**



Fray Fountain. Standing in Plaza del Caño, this fountain was built in 1683 on the orders of Bishop Sebastián de Arévalo y Torres. This Franciscan friar, who was born in the town, had made a solemn promise to build a fountain should he become a prelate. **Casa del Caño (1757).** Featuring a coat-of-arms on the façade, it was here that the member of Spain's Generation of 1950, the poet Jaime Gil de Biedma, spent long periods on holiday. **Shrine of El Santo Cristo de la Expiración (16th century).**

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 921 580 036.



The Bishop's Fray Fountain

REST AREA

Town Park, with large wooded area and a fountain.

COCA:

Altitude: 785 m

Distance from Villeguillo: 10 km

Kind of route: Way



The town of Coca, site of the ancient city of Cauca (which in the Celtiberian language meant elevation or rise), is a municipality of 1,659 inhabitants situated at the confluence of the rivers Eresma and Voltoya. Its location allowed it to occupy a privileged position, as this natural crossing point was destined to form part of roads and trading routes. It was the birthplace of the Emperor Theodosius the Great, who christianised the Empire.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Coca Castle and Palace.** A historical and artistic monument built in 1453 on the site of an older fort under the orders of Alonso de Fonseca. Essentially Mudejar in style and built mainly of brick, the keep was once used as a prison for members of the nobility such as the Duke of Medina-Sidonia. 

Tower of San Nicolás (18th century). Built in the Mudejar style. Hos-





Church of Santa María La Mayor



Coca Castle and Palace

pital of Nuestra Señora de la Merced. Despite being dated 1442, it is possible that the origins of this hospital go back several centuries earlier as it may have been used by the early pilgrims travelling to Santiago from Madrid.  **The Town Walls.** Although Roman in origin, they were altered during the Middle Ages. Today a 200 metre section is all that remains of these ancient walls that once surrounded the town. **The Town Gate or Archway** (12th or 13th century). Mudejar. **Pre-Roman Boars.** Three Pre-Roman figures of animals carved in granite that were used to protect livestock from predators. **Church of Santa**

María La Mayor (1520). Stand-

ing in Plaza Mayor, this is a cruciform Gothic church dating back to the early 16th century with a ribbed vault. It stands out for being the only remaining church of the eight that the town used to have. Inside are the tombs of the illustrious lords of the Fonseca family, some of which are attributed to the mastery of Bartolomé Ordóñez. **Shrine of Santa Rosalía** (18th century). Today this shrine is privately owned.

Also highly recommended is a visit to the remains of the Roman road, the sewers, the building and the spring with five spouts and the ruins of the Church of San Nicolás.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

LA FÁBRICA DE PAN

Avda. Icona, 109

 687 967 430 (38 beds).

 mmuñoz@copese.net

 41,2, -4,452

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística

Near the Castle.  921 586 227

ayuntamiento@coca.es

VILLEGUILLO:

Altitude: 764 m

Distance from

Alcazarén (Valladolid): 18 km

Kind of route: Way



The last village in Segovia on the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, it has a population of only 111. Nestling among pine woods on the lowlands that run parallel to the River Eresma, it is also the site of a monolith bearing an unusual inscription intended to spur pilgrims on their way: 'Hacemos camino al andar' (Our footsteps trace our own path).

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Pedro Apóstol.

The tower dates back to the 15th–16th centuries and the simple façade is built in the Renaissance style. It is typical of the Baroque churches to be seen in this area, characterised by their chuff brick-



Church of San Pedro de Villeguillo

work with a bonded wall cladding. It has three naves and a gallery at the front. The central nave has a faux vault over the presbytery. The interior contains a fascinating collection of silverwork. The former municipal corn store, built in 1790.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

 921 583 104 - 638 154 916

 aytovilleguido@gmail.com

REST AREA

Municipal Children's Playground, with a fountain and a black poplar wood.



Valladolid

The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León



Church of Santiago

ALCAZARÉN:

Altitude: 739 m

Distance from

Valdestillas: 16 km

Kind of route: Way



The municipality of Alcazarén, which has a population of 640, is considered the cradle of Mudéjar culture and is the first town in Valladolid on the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. This small village is irregularly structured.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Parish Church of Santiago.** Built in the Romanesque-Mudéjar style, various alterations were made to this church in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is typical of the churches built in the Tierra de Pinares area. The semi-cylindrical structure rises up from masonry foundations and the three floors are decorated with semi-circular arches, all aligned vertically. There is an interesting apse dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Inside, the high altarpiece, dedicated to the Apostle Saint James, is particularly worth our attention.

Church of San Pedro. All that remains is part of the 13th century head of the church and the 14th century tower. This is currently used as a cultural centre.

Shrine of



Church of San Pedro



El Cristo del Humilladero (18th century). Built in the Baroque style, the most outstanding features inside this shrine are the vaults and the unpainted altarpiece. **Town hall (18th century).** **Ancient bridge (early 17th century).** Spanning the River Eresma.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de turismo.

Hospital, 6-7. ☎ 983 609 174
ayto.alcazaren@dip-valladolid.es.

VALDESTILLAS:

Altitude: 699 m

Distance from

Puente Duero: 8 km

Kind of route: Way



The vast number of trees grown for the timber industry earned this area the name of 'Woodchip Valley' or 'Valle de las Astillas', from which the current name of Valdestillas comes. It is an elongated village of 1,609 inhabitants that emerged along the road and whose hamlet is entirely concentrated on the left bank of the River Adaja. The river is crossed by a bridge whose cutwater and arch date back to the days of the Romans. Another interesting feature of this town is that during the Modern Age it boasted one of the most famous inns in the Kingdom of Castile, mentioned by Cervantes in his works During the last journey of Charles V,



Pilgrims on the Madrid Route

on his retreat to Yuste, the monarch spent a night at its famous inn in November 1556.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María del Milagro (18th century). This church conserves traces of earlier days such as the unusual polygonal-shaped apse. The high altarpiece is 17th century Baroque, and is dedicated to the patron saint, Saint Mary Miracle, represented by a dressed carving and whose feast day is celebrated in May. **Shrine of El Cristo del Amparo.** This is a small temple with a belfry and semi-circular entrance. Inside is a 17th century figure of Christ. **Cemetery Shrine.**

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 983 551 485.

ayuntamiento@valdestillas.gob.es

REST AREA

El Tamarizo, just outside the town, on the Portillo Road.



↑ PUEBLO DUERO :

Altitude:	976 m
Distance from Simancas:	6.2 km
Kind of route:	Way / Urban stretch
Distance from Valladolid:	11.8 km
Kind of route:	Way



Puente Duero has been a district of Valladolid since 1960. Located almost a dozen kilometers away from the city on the Pisuerga, it has a total of 1,126 inhabitants. It is named after the medieval bridge that crosses the River Duero and was traditionally a stopping point or post house where travellers could change their horses. It is also the location of one of the most active Associations of Saint James on the Madrid Route: the Asociación Jacobea Vallisoleтана (Ajova), which runs the town's pilgrims' hostel.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María. More commonly known as the Church of La Virgen del Duero, it is topped by a belfry. **Medieval bridge.** The original bridge was blown up by French troops in 1812. The current one, built in the mid-19th century, conserves the original design featuring a base made up of sturdy stone pillars, and cutwaters with balustrades to protect pedestrians. Traffic over



Medieval bridge

the bridge is regulated by traffic lights, as it is not wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass at the same time and its humpback shape impedes a full view of the other side.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Asociación Jacobea Vallisoleтана (AJOVA). Calle Real, 105.

☎ 678 318 188

www.ajova.es

↑ Despite having to make a detour of some 11.8 kilometres from Puente Duero, it is well worth taking the time to visit Valladolid. Capital of the kingdom during the reign of Philip II, it conserves a vast wealth of historical, artistic, cultural and culinary heritage that is guaranteed to surprise and delight pilgrims.





General view of Puente Duero



Cathedral of Santa Maria de la Asunción

↑ VALLADOLID:

Altitude:	690 m
Distance from Puente Duero:	11.8 km
Kind of route:	Urban stretch/Way
Distance from Simancas:	14.1 km
Kind of route:	Urban stretch/Way



Link with the Madrid Route: Puente Duero or Simancas

Valladolid, with a population of 294,101, is the seat of the Courts of Castilla y León. Although its roots lie in the Roman period, it was not until several centuries later that it became a site of major political and historical importance. It is the birthplace of kings: Henry IV of Castile, known as Henry the Impotent, Philip II, who granted the town its city charter in 1596, and Philip III. It was also here that the Catholic Monarchs were married and Christopher Columbus died. It was also the site of the Royal

Chancellery before Phillip III turned it into the capital of Spain (17 century), a status that it subsequently lost to Madrid. The 16th century would mark the true artistic awakening of the capital of Castilla y León. Clear proof of this are the many Assets of Cultural Interest in this city, several of which are included in the following list.

WHAT TO SEE:

-  **Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa María de la Asunción** (16th century). Designed by Juan de Herrera, this temple remains unfinished. Inside, particularly worthy of note is the Chapel of Saint Peter, which boasts a superb 17th century image of a mounted Saint James. Currently, you can visit its only tower, presided over by the sculpture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
-  **Church of Santa María la Antigua.** The current temple is Gothic in style and also boasts a magnifi-



cent Romanesque tower. The Church of San Martín also has a Romanesque tower.  **Royal Monastery of San Benito** (14th century).  **Convent Church of San Pablo** (15th century). The façade of one of the city's most emblematic buildings reflects the transition from Late Gothic to Plateresque.  **Royal Church of San Miguel and San Julián** (16th century). This church conserves a 17th century image of Saint James by Gregorio Fernández. Church of **San Juan de Letrán**. The origins of this church lie in a hospital-shelter founded in 1550. **Church of Santiago**. Work on the current church began in 1490. The high altarpiece dates back to 1700 and features sculptures by Juan de Ávila.  **Convent of Nuestra Señora de**



Church of Santiago

Las Angustias (16th century).  **Penitential Church of La Vera Cruz** (16th century) This church houses several of the principal statues that are taken out in procession



Plaza Mayor and Town Hall

during Valladolid's Holy Week, which has been declared a Festival of International Tourist Interest.  **The Colegio San Gregorio National Museum**. This museum boasts a large collection of sculptures ranging from the Late Middle Ages to the 19th century, including works by some of the greatest sculptors of these periods. **Columbus House Museum**. Built in honour of this explorer, who died in Valladolid in 1506.  **The Patio Herreriano Contemporary Art Museum**. Officially opened in 2002 by the King and Queen of Spain, this museum houses 903 exhibits displayed in eleven rooms, providing an extensive insight into Spanish contemporary art from 1918 to the present.

Visitors should also take the time to explore the streets and squares of Valladolid, admiring its many other churches, palaces, theatres, buildings, parks and urban sculptures, etc., not to mention the romantic gardens of Campo Grande park.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

CENTRO SAN VIATOR

Paseo Juan Carlos I, 12
 983 230 430 - 669 549 944
(54 beds).

 www.centrosanviator.es
 info@centrosanviator.es
 41,65363, -4,7319

THE BOOK FACTORY ALBERGUE URBANO

Juan Mambrilla, 9, Bajo 1
 983 181 102 (50 beds).
 info@thebookfactoryhostel.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística de Valladolid. Pabellón de Cristal. Acera de Recoletos s/n.
 983 219 310.
oficinadeturismodevalladolid@jcy.l.es

 From Valladolid we can retrace our steps back to Puente Duero (11.8 kilometres), before continuing a further six kilometres to Simancas. Alternatively, we can make our way directly from Valladolid to Simancas, a distance of some 14.1 kilometres, either via the Camino de las Berzosas, or by taking the local VA-9801 road.

Both routes, neither of which are signposted, will bring us to the medieval bridge in Simancas.

SIMANCAS:

Altitude:	725 m
Distance from Ciguñuela:	6.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



The ancient Roman town of Septimanca lies on the road that linked Emérita Augusta (Mérida) and Cesaraugusta (Zaragoza). During the Middle Ages it was a strategic defence point on the River Duero. Today, the town of Simancas has been declared a Historical Site, boasting a rich heritage and streets that are lined with numerous noble houses. Today it has a population of 5,242.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Castle (15th century).** Today it is home to the Simancas General Archives. The Catholic Monarchs took possession of this castle and Charles V used it as a prison. It was reformed by Juan de Herrera in the 16th century, who gave it its current appearance.  **Church of El Salvador (16th century).** This church conserves the 12th century Romanesque tower. The high altarpiece is by Berruguete, and features a 16th century image of Saint James the Pilgrim, as well as a further altarpiece dedicated to





Church of El Salvador



Simancas castle

the Apostle. One of the true treasures of this church is the relief of the Pietá by Francisco de la Maza, considered to be one of the finest works by this pupil of Juan de Juni. **Former hospital** (16th century). A brick building whose façade features a semi-circular stone arch. The hospital is believed to have been founded by Diego Bretón of Simancas in the late 16th century to provide care for impoverished strangers and the town's orphans. It closed sometime around 1840. Visitors to this town will also be able to admire the 17th century coats-of-arms that decorate the façades of numerous buildings, as well as the  **Jurisdiction Column** that recalls the secular disputes between the city of Valladolid and the town of Simancas regarding the power of the latter to impart justice. Simancas also boasts numerous other tourist attractions such as the Town Hall, with its Ne-

oclassical façade; the viewpoint over the River Pisuerga; the ancient  **medieval bridge** whose origins date back to the days of the Romans; and the  **Zumacales Megalithic Tomb**.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo de Simancas. Miravete, 11 (Plaza del Archivo)
 983 590 123.
 ayto.simancas.turismo@dip-valladolid.es.
 www.aytosimancas.es

REST AREA

Several parks along the banks of the River Pisuerga, just a short distance from the Route.

CIGUÑUELA:

Altitude:	830 m
Distance from Wamba:	7 km
Kind of route:	Way



On the way to Los Montes de Toro-





The road to Ciguñuela



General view

zos, we come across Ciguñuela, a small village of just 381 inhabitants. In the four-level tower of its Church of San Ginés, a beacon guides the way for pilgrims over these kilometres through the grain fields. The stone houses and 16th century church are sufficient reason to visit this municipality, which also has a well-equipped municipal pilgrims' hostel.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Ginés (16th century). Alterations were made to the church in the 17th and 19th centuries. It has a single nave, a transept and chapel on the Evangelist side. Its slender tower was formerly used to send and receive messages from the watchtower in Simancas and the castles of Peñafior de Hornija and Castromonte. Inside, next to a fine altarpiece by Esteban Jordán, there is a 16th century figure of Christ attributed to Gil de Siloé

and a polychrome statue of Mary Immaculate dating back to the second quarter of the 17th century. The figure of the Apostle Saint James is represented in two statues: mounted and as a pilgrim. Shrine of El Humilladero.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

 **LA CASA DEL MAESTRO**

Del Medio, 42

 983 593 000 (17 beds).

 41,64052, -4,85705

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

 983 593 000 - 649 838 519

ayuntamiento@cigunuela.gob.es

REST AREA

Approximately one kilometre before reaching the town, travellers along the Route will come to a magnificent black poplar wood, with benches and a fountain.

WAMBA:

Altitude: 788 m

Distance from

Peñaflor de Hornija: 7 km

Kind of route: Way



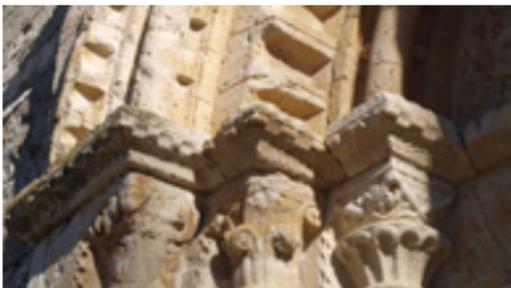
This village of 328 inhabitants is named after the Gothic nobleman Wamba, who was declared king in 672 on the spot that is today the site of the municipal rest area, at the time known as Gérticos, following the death of Recesvinto. Tradition has it that both King Wamba and Recesvinto were buried here, although their remains were moved to Toledo during the reign of Alphonse X. In the 12th century the village was ruled over by the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Interestingly, this is the only municipality in Spain whose name begins with a W.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Church of Santa María.** This is one of the oldest churches in the province of Valladolid. The head and transept are Mozarabic and date back to the 10th century, whilst the remainder of the building was rebuilt in the 12th century in the Cistercian style by the Knights Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Saint John. The interior houses valuable Mozarabic friezes, Gothic tombs and an altarpiece attributed to the



Church of Santa María. General view



Church of Santa María. Romanesque capitals

master sculptor Becerril. Yet perhaps the most surprising feature of this church is to be found in the courtyard next door: an inner temple with more than 3,000 monks' skulls, converted into an ossuary for the Sovereign Order of Saint John.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo. Plaza Mayor, 1.

 679 142 730.

ayto.wamba@dip-valladolid.es

REST AREA

El Plantío recreation ground, next to the swimming pool and on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.





Church of El Salvador



Landscape, Valley of El Hornija

PEÑAFLOR DE HORNIJA:

Altitude:	800 m
Distance from La Santa Espina:	7 km
Kind of route:	Way
Distance from Castromonte:	9.3 km
Kind of route:	Way



Peñaflor de Hornija is an excellent location from which to admire magnificent views over the River Hornija Valley. In its day it was a strategic defence point, and for this reason it has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Today the village has a population of 298. It essentially marks the start of the region known as Montes de Torozos, whose particularly striking landscape will accompany us for several kilometres.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Parish Church of Santa María de la Expectación.** This church dates back to the early 13th century, although major alterations were made at a later date. Access to this single nave temple is via a small 13th century doorway. It has a barrel

vault with transverse arches placed closely together. The chancel was built a century later, and is covered by a lierne vault and houses a carving of Saint James. **Shrine of El Santo Cristo de las Eras** (16th century). Standing in Plaza Mayor, this 16th century building features a portico and an early 17th century crucifix, attributed to Francisco de Rincón. **Church of El Salvador.** Now in ruins, this Romanesque church dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The spot known as Eras de Pinilla is also the site of Roman ruins. Visitors will enjoy strolling round the village and admiring the buildings which recall its noble past.

REST AREA

Situated on the actual Route, just a few meters outside the town, in a wooded spot known as Casa del Tenadillo.

 From Peñaflor de Hornija we can make our way directly to Castromonte, some 9.3 kilometres away. However, it is well worth taking a slight detour to visit the **Monastery of La Santa Espina.** The turning is situated at Casa



del Tenadillo. This Cistercian monastery, lying some 7 kilometres away, preserves a relic that is said to be a thorn from Christ's crown.

↑ LA SANTA ESPINA:

Altitude:	820 m
Distance from Castromonte:	6 km
Kind of route:	Way



Link with the Madrid Route: Castromonte.

La Santa Espina, annexed to the municipality of Castromonte, is one of the 800 villages created during the 1950s by the Spanish Colonisation Institute for Countryside Development. However, the most important feature of this village is its monastery, although following the Disentailment, a series of events would lead to the loss of most of its works of art. Fortunately, it would receive a new lease of life following the creation of a farm run by the De La Salle Brothers which, in the mid 20th century, became a school for farm managers. Today the building is owned by the Junta de Castilla y León.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Monastery of La Santa Espina.** Standing in the River Bajoz Valley and founded by Princess Sancha, the sister of Alphonse VII, this Cistercian monastery was built in



Front of the church. Monastery of La Santa Espina

1147. The 12th century head of the church, the vestry and the chapterhouse are the oldest parts of the monastery. The large church has three naves separated by cruciform columns. The Florid Gothic funerary chapel of the Vega family dates back to the 15th century. The Chapel of the Holy Thorn, housing the relic from which this monastery takes its name, is situated on one side of the transept. The chancel was extended in the 16th century and the cloister and main façade were added in the 18th century. The hostel was founded in the 16th century, although it was rebuilt two centuries later following a fire. **Country Life Interpretation Centre.** Owned by the Aperos del Ayer Association.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Opposite the Monastery.

☎ 983 565 193 - 654 658 336.

turismolasantaespina@hotmail.com





Interior cloister

REST AREA

In the meadow just outside the village and next to the reservoir, on the route heading towards Castromonte.



In order to reach Castromonte, the best option is to take the forest path that leads to the spectacular River Bajoz Reservoir offering ample shade for travellers, before following the course of the river on a pleasant walk that will bring us to Castromonte.



CASTROMONTE:

Altitude:	840 m
Distance from Valverde de Campos:	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



Beside the River Bajoz, this small village of 217 inhabitants, made of stone, is a vestige of a historic past when it was a walled estate of Don Juan Alonso de Albuquerque, divested by King Peter the Cruel. Castromonte takes its name

from the ancient castro or fortified settlement set up here by Roman legions. Just outside the village is the ancient Fuente Sayud spa, from which the firm Castrovita obtains its mineral water.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of La Purísima Concepción (16th century). This church is made of ashlar stones from the neighbouring quarries. It is characterised by the sturdy buttresses that support the bare wall structure. It has three wide naves with large arches that support the 16th century groin vaults. The high altarpiece shows 16th century images of the Stations of the Cross and Mary Immaculate and God the Father on the pediment that crowns the altarpiece. **Shrine of El Cristo de las Eras**. Built in the Baroque style, this is a striking site that stands out due to its traditional architecture.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Constitución, 1.
☎983 566 666.

REST AREA

There are fountains in the spots known as Fuente Toro and Fuente Panaderas.





Church of La Purísima Concepción



Church of Santa María.

VALVERDE DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	772 m
Distance from Medina de Rioseco:	5.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



This small village of just over 100 inhabitants once boasted a Cistercian monastery, founded in 1176, although today it can no longer be seen. Standing on the traditional railway line known locally as the 'Tren Burra' (Donkey Train), today its principal sources of income are agriculture and livestock farming.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María (16th century). The single nave of this stone church is divided into four sections covered by a ribbed vault with lunettes, except for the transept, which features a lierne vault and a pointed triumphal arch. Inside, there is a 14th century polychrome wooden crucifix. The high altarpiece dates back to the first half of the 18th century, and

is the work of the Valladolid-born sculptor Alonso del Manzano. **Shrine of La Cruz.**(17th century). **Stately Home of the Marquis of Monreal** (18th century). This privately-owned home is in excellent condition, as are the walls and the gateway topped by a lintel leading into the inner courtyard.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎983 700 302.

ayto.valverde@dip-valladolid.es.

MEDINA DE RIOSECO:

Altitude:	735 m
Distance from Tamariz de Campos:	10 km
Kind of route:	Way
Distance from Berrueces:	9.5 km
Kind of route:	Way/Road



The town of Medina de Rioseco, with a population of 4,643 and declared a Historic Artistic Site, is perhaps the town on the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to



Santiago with the most heritage per square metre. It was in 1424 when Alonso Enríquez and his wife, Juana de Mendoza, established their admiralty here, entailing their estates to their descendents. This was followed by a period of economic and artistic prosperity for the town, which was granted a city charter by Philip IV. In the 15th century it became a major trading centre and although its heyday has long passed, it has managed to conserve intact the charm and flavour of these traditional towns. The Castilla Canal, with the Campos Branch Canal flowing into its basin; its Holy Week celebrations, declared of National Tourist Interest; and its delicious cakes and pastries are just a few of this town's attractions that pilgrims and tourists alike should take the time to discover.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Church of Santa María de Mediavilla** (12th century). This church boasts an intriguing altarpiece by Esteban Jordán which Juan de Juni also worked on. The 16th century Chapel of the Benavente Family is the jewel in the crown of Medina de Rioseco's many artistic treasures. The funerary chapel is decorated entirely in plasterwork and is attributed to the Corral de Villalpando brothers. It also has a magnificent altarpiece by Juan de Juni, and a superb figure of Mary Immaculate.  **Church of Santia-**

go de los Caballeros (1533). Work on this church began under the orders of Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón, although other architects would also intervene at later stages, which explains the variety of styles that can be observed. In addition, this church boasts the largest collection of icons related to the figure of Saint James to be found anywhere in Spain. Scenes from the life of Saint James are featured on the three magnificent façades, the altarpiece by Churriguera and on the decorated vaults. There are also a number of elements associated with the Apostle such as the Cross of the Order of Saint James or the pilgrims' symbolic scallop shell. 

Convent Church of San Francisco (late 15th century and early 16th century). Founded by Admiral Enríquez, today it houses a modern and highly-innovative religious art museum. It contains exhibits of great value such as clay pottery objects by Juan de Juni, 17th century Spanish-Philippine ivory items, as well as a large collection of gold and silver work, the highlight of which is the superb 16th century monstrance by Antonio de Arfe. Also worthy of attention is the outstanding high altarpiece, the stone side altarpieces and the galleries with their elaborate plasterwork decoration. **Church of Santa Cruz.** This Herreran style





Church of Santiago



The Castilla Canal

temple was built in the late 16th century. Today it houses the Holy Week Museum, displaying the statues which are taken out in processions during Passion Week dating from the 15th century to the present day, the work of Castilla y León's finest image sculptors. The exhibits also provide an insight into the experiences and traditions of the brotherhoods that take part in these deeply-rooted and unique religious celebrations, which have been a permanent feature of life in this region since the 15th century.  **Walled city gates.** Three of the original seven gates in Medina de Rioseco's walls can still be seen today. Visitors to the town should take the time to stroll along the porticoed Rúa Mayor, and tour the Castilla Canal on the electric boat Antonio

de Ulloa and the San Antonio Flour Factory, today a fascinating tourist attraction.  

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

ALBERGUE DEL CANAL DE CASTILLA

Nave II de La Dársena del Canal de Castilla.

 983 701 923 - 983 427 174 (50 beds).

 www.provinciadevalladolid.com

 canal.castilla@dip-valladolid.es

 41,87953, -5,04728

ALBERGUE SANTA CLARA Santa Clara, 1

 983 701 446 (26 beds).

 41,87953, -5,04728

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Centro de Recepción de Visitantes del Museo de San Francisco.

Paseo de San Francisco, 1.

 983 720 319.



Centro de Recepción de
Visitantes del Canal de Castilla.
Paneras del Canal s/n.
☎983 701 923.

Asociación Amigos del Camino de
Santiago de Medina de Rioseco.
Casilla del Puente Mayor, s/n
(Carretera N-601)
☎605 041 394

REST AREA

Duque de Osuna Park and the
Castilla Canal Recreation Ground
(situated on the Route)

↑ On leaving Medina de Rioseco there are two signposted routes: the first takes us through Berrueces de Campos to Moral de la Reina, bypassing Tamariz de Campos. This first option is an alternative route; the second, and more recommendable option, chosen by the majority of travellers, is to take the detour along the Castilla Canal. A pleasant seven kilometre walk by the cooling waters and under the shade of the trees brings us to the seventh lock which has been restored to raise and lower the electric boat, allowing it to navigate the stretches of water on different levels. From here the Route takes pilgrims to the village of Tamariz de Campos.

↑ BERRUECES:

Altitude:	772 m
Distance from	
Moral de la Reina:	6 km
Kind of route:	Way



Link with the Madrid Route: Moral de la Reina.

Located along National Road 601, which connects the cities of Valladolid and León, this small village of 95 inhabitants has a great heritage of traditional architecture in which adobe and mud are the main constructive elements. According to some experts, 'Berrueces' comes from the term 'berruecos', which means crag or rock. It is thought to be of Celtic origin or to come from the first settlers in Iberia. At all events, the first recorded mention of the name Berrueces dates back to around 1251.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro Apóstol (16th century). The church conserves a large number of statues from between the 16th and 18th centuries. According to a written contract dated 1585, the main altarpiece is attributed to Pedro de Bolduque and his nephew, Mateo Enrique. There are also paintings in the style of Juan de Borgoña. The baptistery conserves a baptism font from the 16th century. Under the choir, the Christ of La Buena Muerte by Alejo de Vahia and an Immaculate Con-





Church of San Pedro.

TAMARIZ DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	719 m
Distance from	
Moral de la Reina:	9 km
Kind of route:	Way/Road



Tamariz de Campos is a small village of only 55 inhabitants whose documented history dates back to the 11th century, although the municipality is presumed to be older. With just over a hundred inhabitants, this tiny village stands on the banks of the River Sequillo, a short distance from the Castilla Canal. The heyday of this village would come in the 16th century, following the construction of the Church of San Juan, and in the 18th century it formed part of the dominions of the Count of Benavente.

ception by the school of Gregorio Fernández are of particular interest. **Shrine of La Pedrosa** (18th century). Standing on a small promontory, it offers excellent views over the Tierra de Campos region. The building is made of rammed earth, adobe and stone, and has a central and two smaller side naves. Inside is a statue of the Virgin which is cherished by the locals. The interior conserves a statue of the Madonna for which local people feel great devotion and her feast day is celebrated on the third Sunday of September.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.

Plaza Capitán Pérez Revuelta, 3.

☎ 983 700 002.

REST AREA

In the area around the Shrine of La Pedrosa, on the Pilgrims' Route heading for Moral de la Reina.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Pedro (18th century). All that remains of the original Romanesque church is the rough ashlar stone façade with pairs of columns with capitals decorated with leaves and balls and three staggered semi-circular arches. The current building is modest in appearance, with three naves covered by groin vaults. **Church of San Juan** (16th century). The ruins of the Renaissance tower, the façade and several brick walls are the only elements that remain standing of this once magnificent





The Castilla Canal at Tamariz de Campos



Church of San Juan. Renaissance front in ruins

church.  **The Castilla Canal** with locks 6 and 7.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza San Pedro.

 983 760 517.

ayto.tamariz@dip-valladolid.es

REST AREA

At the seventh lock on the Castilla Canal, just outside the village.

 **MORAL DE LA REINA:**

Altitude: 764 m

Distance from

Cuenca de Campos: 8 km

Kind of route: Way



Moral de la Reina is proud of its surname that testifies to the fact that it once boasted a royal fortress. At the entrance to the village there are two small bridges whose origins proba-

bly date back to Roman times and that cross the Madre Stream. Today, 158 inhabitants of this small village make their living from agriculture and livestock farming.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Santa María.The front section of this church dates back to the 15th century, and the entrance portico is decorated in the Gothic style. Inside is a Baroque altarpiece created in 1749 by local sculptors from Medina de Rioseco Rafael de Sierra and Pedro de Bolduque featuring a 16th century image of the Assumption. **Ruins of the Church of San Juan.** A 15th century building noted for its Mudejar tower. This village also boasts interesting examples of the popular architecture of the Tierra de Campos region, especially the typical rammed earth and adobe dovecots.



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento.Plaza Mayor, 13.

☎983 710 001.

ayto.moral@dip-valladolid.es

CUENCA DE CAMPOS:

Altitude: 775 m

Distance from

Villalón de Campos: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



Lying in a hollow, this municipality has just 226 inhabitants. With its many porticoed buildings, it is typical of the towns and villages to be seen in the Tierra de Campos region. The fact that it once boasted three parishes, San Mamés, San Juan Bautista and San Pedro, gives us some indication of its former splendour. This is an ideal spot for pilgrims to take a well-deserved rest. Its many resources and services make this one of the most hospitable and welcoming villages on this stretch of the Route.

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Parish Church of Los Santos Justos y Pastor.** (Mudéjar from the 16th century). The three naves are covered by a superb coffered ceiling. The Mannerist high altarpiece in the central nave was created by Pedro Bolduque and gilded in 1621. It is made up of two sections featuring various images. There is

also a figure of Saint James the Pilgrim.  **Church of Santa María del Castillo.** Built in the Gothic style. No longer used as a place of worship, this building today houses a cultural centre. Particularly worthy of note are the apse and the horseshoe arch over the main door, both in the Gothic-Mudejar style. **Ruins of the Convent of San Bernardino de Siena (Order of Saint Clare).** The former Palace of the Duke of Frías. This building is in extremely poor condition with practically only a skeleton remaining. **Town Hall.** Built in the 18th century, it underwent alteration work a century later. It stands in Plaza Mayor, surrounded by several noteworthy rammed earth buildings that are porticoed in the traditional style of the Tierra de Campos region. **Shrine of San Bernardino de Siena.** Situated on the outskirts of the municipality, on the road to Villalón, this 17th century building



Arcades



Church of Santa María del Castillo



Plaza Mayor

underwent several later alterations and houses a considerable number of votive offerings.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ayuntamiento. Plaza Mayor, 1.

☎ 983 740 006.

VILLALÓN DE CAMPOS:

Altitude: 786 m

Distance from Fontihoyuelo: 7 km

Kind of route: Way



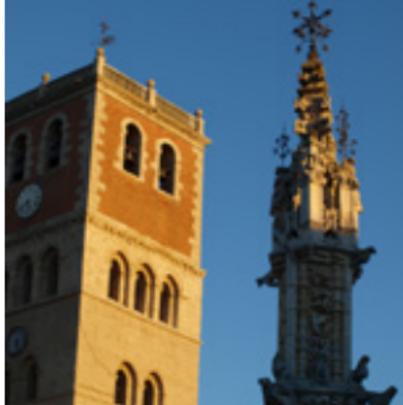
With a current population of 1,606, the 'villa del alón', which means 'villa of the land', became very important in the 13th century for the organisation of fairs. During the 15th and 16th centuries it was the site of an important cattle market, run by the Pimentel family, Counts of Benavente, and wielded considerable power and influence over the entire region. The jurisdiction column was erected in 1523 in order to assert its primacy.

WHAT TO SEE:

Jurisdiction Column. This Gothic-Renaissance style column was

made from stone left over following the construction of Burgos Cathedral. It is a National Artistic Monument. **Church of San Miguel** (13th-14th centuries). An outstanding example of Gothic-Mudejar architecture. Particularly worthy of admiration are the coffered ceiling and the organ. It has four naves, three of which date back to the time of construction, whilst the fourth was added in the 16th century. **Church of San Juan Bautista** (15th century). Noteworthy features include the coffered ceiling in the presbytery and the paintings on the high altarpiece, attributed to the master artists Polanquinos. **Church of San Pedro** (18th century). The interior houses an image of Christ of Health, a 13th century carving situated on the Rococo altarpiece. **Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Las Fuentes** (18th century). Standing against a backdrop of natural springs, this building houses a magnificent Gothic figure of the Virgin dating back to around 1500. Visitors should take the time to stroll around the streets, admir-





Pinnacle of the Jurisdiction Column and tower of San Miguel

ing the colonnaded houses and to taste the popular local cheese.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo.

Plaza del Rollo, 2.

☎ 983 740 011.

REST AREA

Just outside the municipality,



Church of San Pedro.



Spring

close to the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de las Fuentes.

FONTIHOUELO:

Altitude: 802 m

Distance from

Santervás de Campos: 10 km

Kind of route: Way



The name of this village comes from the ancient Fuente Foilolo or Fonto Foyolo (spring in the hole) as it nestles in a hollow. In the 15th century it was the seat of the Master of Santiago and the jurisdictional region of Carrión, as well as the Cabeza de Vaca family. Today, the village has 34 inhabitants.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Salvador. This cruciform, single nave church is an eclectic mix of styles. The high altarpiece is Classicist in style, dating back to the 17th century. **Ruins of the Church of San Juan.**

SANTERVÁS DE CAMPOS:

Altitude: 765 m

Distance from

Melgar de Arriba: 6 km

Kind of route: Road/Way



Originally known as *Villa Citti*, its name was later changed to *Santervás*, a variation of *San Herbás* (*Gervaise*), the first abbot of the Monastery of *Sahagún*, which is located just a short distance from this municipality. *Santervás de Campos* was the birthplace of *Juan Ponce de León*, who discovered *Florida* and founded *San Juan de Puerto Rico*. Today the village has a population of 111.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Los Mártires San Gervasio y San Protasio. This was the first temple to be built in the Castilian Romanesque-Mudejar style. The most outstanding features are the three apses - the central apse is made of stone, whilst the two side ones are brick, as is the rest of the temple. These apses were built during the last quarter of the 12th century and are decorated both on the outside and inside with blind arcades, denticulated friezes and other ornamental motifs. The interior contains a crucifix dating back to the same period.



Church of Los Mártires San Gervasio y San Protasio

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

ALBERGUE SANTERVÁS DE CAMPOS

Costanilla, 6

 983 785 196 - 655 261 581
(18 beds).

 42,21772, -5,1006

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo

Plaza Ponce de León, 6.

 983 785 196 - 619 252 457
turismosantervas@gmail.com
ayuntamiento@

santervasdecampos.gob.es

REST AREA

This area, which has a fountain and is set in a black poplar wood, is situated outside the village on the way to *Sahagún*.





Monument to Ponce de León



Church of Santiago

MELGAR DE ARRIBA:

Altitude:	735 m
Distance from Arenillas de Valderaduey (León):	8 km
Kind of route:	Way



*This is the last municipality on the Madrid Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in the province of Valladolid. This small village situated on the banks of the River Cea has a population of 157 inhabitants. The first settlers arrived here in the 10th century on the orders of Count Hernán Menzales, who granted it a series of privileges. There are several theories regarding the origins of the name of this village: some claim it is of Hebrew or Celtic origin, whilst others opt for ancient Greek or even the Latin terms *medica* or *merga*. Bird lovers will delight at the numerous species to be seen*

in the area around the village, especially the great bustard, the world's heaviest flying bird.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Miguel. Inside, the Gothic high altarpiece is presided over by a superb statue of Saint Michael the Archangel. **Ruins of the Church of Santiago.** All that is left of this 15th century Mudejar building are several ruins and the bell tower which offers stunning views over the fields of Castilla on the banks of the rivers Cea and Valderaduey.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de Turismo. Ayuntamiento Plaza Mayor, 1. ☎983 785 003.
www.melgardearriba.com
ayuntamiento@melgardearriba.gob.es

REST AREA

Recreation ground. Situated just outside the village, it also has a picnic area.



León

ARENILLAS DE VALDERADUEY:

Altitude:	829 m
Distance from Grajal de Campos:	3.5 km
Kind of route:	Way



After making our way through the province of Valladolid for 146.3 kilometres of the 325.3 that separate Madrid from the French Route, we now come to the first village on our itinerary in the province of León: the tiny hamlet of Arenillas Valderaduey, which has a population of



Church of Santo Tomás (apse)

little more than 50. Although we are now in a new province, we still haven't left the Tierra de Campos region, to which this rural enclave in the Cea-Campos area of León belongs. Indeed, despite having crossed the boundary into a new province, the landscape and popular architecture remain unchanged.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santo Tomás Apóstol (17th century). Although essentially Baroque in style, it conserves a 12th century Romanesque apse. **Shrine of El Cristo del Humilladero.** The interior of this Mudejar building houses an image of the Christ from which it takes its name.

GRAJAL DE CAMPOS:

Altitude:	813 m
Distance from Sahagún (León):	5.2 km
Kind of route:	Way
Distance from San Pedro de las Dueñas:	4 km
Kind of route:	Road



This walled village in the province





Palace of the Counts of Grajal



Grajal de Campos castle

of León with a population of 223 is famed for the battles that were fought in this land inhabited by knights and noblemen. From the year 960 onwards it was the site of a bustling market. Today, its wealth of heritage reminds us of its past splendour and prosperity. Examples include traces of a hospital for pilgrims making their way to Santiago de Compostela and the Convent of La Virgen de la Antigua which was abandoned during the French occupation.

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

WHAT TO SEE:

 **Palace of the Counts of Grajal.** One of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance architec-

ture. It stands out for its innovative concept of the palace as a villa or Renaissance stately home within the context of architecture in 16th century Spain and León. Gil de Hontañón was involved in its design, which mirrors the layout of the Episcopal Palace in Alcalá de Henares. **Church of San Miguel.** Standing adjacent to the palace, this 16th century temple has three naves and a Romanesque brick façade. The chancel dates back to the same period as the palace, whilst the plasterwork domes are 17th century. It boasts an immense heritage made up of images, altarpieces and valuable items of gold and silver work. 

Castle-fortress. The first written mention of this castle dates back to the year 967, and it is known to have played an active role during the War of Communities. It was



Apse of the church of the monastery



Interior of the church of the monastery

built by the Marquises of Grajal.

Mozarabic Stronghold. Practically the entire village is riddled with passageways and sites that indicated that this was once a major Mozarabic settlement.

SAN PEDRO DE LAS DUEÑAS:

Altitude: 795 m

Distance from Sahagún

de Campos: 4 km

Kind of route: Way



With only 66 residents, San Pedro de las Dueñas is a small hamlet in the town of Sahagún de Campos and marks the end of this Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. The village grew up around the large Benedictine monastery, where to-

day pilgrims may rest in the hostel run by the monks.

WHAT TO SEE:

Monastery of San Pedro de las Dueñas. According to Father Escalona, this monastery was founded in the year 973 for monks belonging to the nobility, although it soon came under the control of the powerful Benedictine Abbey of Sahagún. Work on the monastery church began during the Romanesque period, although it would not be completed until much later, which explains the numerous features from other periods such as the Mudejar and Gothic elements. The highlight of the interior is undoubtedly the Crucifix by the great Baroque master sculptor Gregorio Fernández.

Continuation of the itinerary along the French Route

↑ SAHAGÚN:

Altitude: 816 m

Distance from

Calzada Del Coto: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



This town, situated on the banks of the Cea, is a major milestone on the Pilgrims' Route and the end of the seventh stage described in the Codex Calixtinus. It has a population of 2,153 and close ties with the Monastery of San Benito. Its wealth of artistic heritage includes six monuments that have been declared Assets of Cultural Interest.

WHAT TO SEE:

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



Old Monastery of San Benito

tributed to Lucas González. **Church of San Tirso.**

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



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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

EL LABRIEGO

Doctores Bermejo y Calderón, 9

 622 646 136 (20 beds).

 alberguesellabriego.com

 reservas@alberguesellabriego.com

(Temporarily closed)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística
Arco, 87.  987 781 255.

 otsahagun@hotmail.com.



Church of San Lorenzo

NEARBY:

Monastery of San Pedro de las Dueñas. We advise tourists and pilgrims alike to take a 5 kilometre detour off the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago to visit this monastery which, according to Father Escalona, was founded in the year 973 and that soon came to form part of the powerful Benedictine Abbey of Sahagún. The highlight of the interior is undoubtedly the Crucifix by the great Baroque master sculptor Gregorio Fernández.

CALZADA DEL COTO:

Altitude: 822 m

Distance from Bercianos del Real Camino: 5.1 km

Calzadilla de los

Hermanillos: 8 km

Kind of route: Way



The first part of the current name of this village of just 189 inhabitants and that was formerly known as Villa Zacarías comes from the Roman road and the second part from its



dependence on the monastery at Sahagún. Tradition and modernity stand side by side in this municipality which features adobe buildings and ancient doors that rub shoulders with freshly painted façades and new brick constructions.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

REST AREA:

There are two rest areas: the first is situated next the hostel and other is three kilometres away, close to the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Perales de Bercianos del Real Camino.

↑ (There are two possible itineraries from Calzada del Coto: the first follows the compact dirt track for just over 30 kilometres to Mansilla de las Mulas, passing through Bercianos del Real Camino, El Burgo Ranero and Reliegos. This more popular option allows pilgrims to stop at the rest areas with benches that line the route every few kilometres. Alternatively, we can follow the 'Pilgrims' Road' along the ancient 'Via Trajana' which will bring us to Mansilla de las Mulas via the Valdelocajos Plain



Church of San Esteban

and Calzadilla de los Hermanillos, the only village on this route, and the abandoned station of Villamarco).

↑ CALZADILLA DE LOS HERMANILLOS:

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



Link with the French Route: Mansilla de las Mulas

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

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores. The head of this single-nave

church juts out slightly from the rest of the building. Inside, the presbytery boasts a Baroque altarpiece presided over by an image of the Virgin (15th-16th centuries). The church takes its name from a typical composition representing the pieta or the Sixth Sorrow of Mary. **Church of San Bartolomé** (16th–17th century alterations). The highlights of the interior include the 16th century Calvary and a fascinating high altarpiece crowned by the valuable, almost life-sized polychrome carving of Saint Bartholomew overcoming the devil and the coats of arms of the Marquis of Villasante and the Lord of the Manor, Juan de Vozmediano. Next to the church, there is an area that has been opened as the Roman Roads Interpretation Centre.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



VIA TRAJANA

Mayor, 55



987 337 610 (20 beds).

REST AREA:

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



Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Perales

BERCIANOS DEL REAL CAMINO:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of la Virgen de Perales 'La Perala'. In the 11th century it formed part of the Hospital of El Cebreiro. This simple brick temple with a belfry is a popular place of worship throughout the region. A traditional procession takes place here every year on 8 September. **Parish Church of El Salvador (17th century)**. It crumbled a few years ago. **Shrine of San Roque**. A simple construction made of adobe walls from the 18th century. The tow-



er-viewpoint, which has a telescope used for astronomy.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA PERALA

Camino de Sahagún, s/n



685 817 699 (20 beds).



ALBERGUE SANTA CLARA

La Iglesia, 3



605 839 996 (12 beds).



alberguesantaclara@hotmail.com



EL SUEVE

Calle La Iglesia, 21-23



987 784 139 (9 beds).

REST AREA:

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

EL BURGO RANERO:

Altitude: 878 m

Distance from Villamarco: 9.2 km

Kind of route: Way



This village sprang up around the pilgrimage trail, and was thought to have been founded or repopulated by a certain 'Ranarius', although others claim that it was used as a 'ranarius', which means a hippodrome close to the water. Today the municipality has a population of 215.



Typical house in El Burgo Ranero

WHAT TO SEE:

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

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA LAGUNA

La Laguna, 12



637 958 180 (28 beds).



Church of the Inmaculada in Villamarco

REST AREA:

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

VILLAMARCO:

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



Pilgrims do not usually go through Villamarco today, although the town is mentioned in the cartulary of the Cathedral of León in 985, confirming its existence. A way known as 'Carresantiago' goes through the town, and its name refers to the fact that there were times when the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago ran

through it, as a 'track' of the Cañada Real Leonesa.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

RELIEGOS:

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



Three Roman military roads once converged at this spot, which today has a population of 221 and forms part of the municipality of Santas Martas. It is traditionally held to be the site of the Roman city of Pallantia, which Ptolemy named 'Paelontium'. This hamlet features the adobe houses that are part of León's traditional architecture. A popular saying goes 'From Reliegos to Mansilla is the league of Castile', which is the old Castilian distance of 5.572.70 m.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Cornelio and San Cipriano. The interior conserves a superb Gothic carving





Pilgrims on horseback in the province of León

from the uninhabited village of Escarbayosa. Also of considerable value are the Baroque carvings of Saint Anthony the Abbot, Saint Lazarus dressed as a pilgrim, the patron saints Saint Cornelius and Saint Cyprian, and the Christ that presides over the head of the church.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA PARADA

La Escuela, 7



987 317 880 (44 beds).



LA CANTINA DE TEDDY

Camino Real s/n



987 190 627 - 622 206 128
(9 beds).



monteciber@hotmail.com



ALBERGUE LAS HADAS

Real, 42



987 317 895 - 691 153 010
(21 beds).



pedro.pereiro@gmail.com



ALBERGUE 'VIVE TU CAMINO'

Real, 56



610 293 986 (18 beds).



ALBERGUE GIL

Cantas, 28



987 317 804

↑ MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS:

Altitude: 802 m

Distance from

Villamoros de Mansilla: 4 km

Mansilla Mayor: 3 km

Kind of route: Way



This town of some 1,593 inhabitants has a medieval layout crossed diagonally. It stands on the banks of the River Esla and is a major stopping point on the eighth stage of the Route to Santiago described in the



Tower of San Martín



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Interesting remains of the walls, gates and five external watchtowers.

 **Parish Church of Santa María (18th century).** The town council would meet in the atrium of this church which has three naves and a transept. The interior has an 18th century Baroque altarpiece with three sections and a large attic. There is also a fascinating collection of ancient images from churches that are no longer standing. **Church of San Martín (13th century).** Happily restored, today the building houses a cultural centre. It has a single nave and the presbytery is marked by a pointed triumphal arch over three tombstones. The remains of the Mudejar coffered ceilings are also worthy of note. The main façade features a simple front dating back to the transition to the Gothic period, flanked by capitals with pairs of single-headed lions. **Provincial Ethnography Museum.** Situated in the former Convent of San Agustín, founded by the Castilian Admiral Fabrique Enríquez in 1491 and donated to the Augustine Order in 1500. This three-storey



Walls of Mansilla de las Mulas

building occupying more than a thousand square metres houses the province's ethnographical heritage: a collection of more than 3,500 objects classified according to various themes. **Sanctuary of La Virgen de Gracia.** Home to the image of the Patron Saint of Mansilla, and therefore a popular place of worship in this area. It houses an extremely beautiful image of the Virgin with Child, restored by the sculptor Victor de los Ríos after it was damaged in a fire in the late 19th century.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística.
Plaza Antonio Sacristán s/n
 987 310 012 - 987 311 800
registro@ayto-mansilla.org.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Mansilla.
Casa de Cultura San Martín.
Plaza de San Martín, 1.

REST AREA:

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

NEARBY:

In this area we highly recommend taking the 'Monastery Route', offering visitors to Mansilla the chance to take delve deeper into the art and history of the area, touring the monasteries where medieval pilgrims would find a host of reliquaries to worship and a place to rest. Examples of these sites include the Monastery of San Miguel de Escalada, situated some 12 kilometres from Mansilla on a local road to the right of the main road to León.

↑ (One and a half kilometres outside Mansilla de las Mulas and after crossing the River Esla, there is an alternative route that is particularly recommendable for tourists due to the many monuments of artistic interest, taking us through Mansilla Mayor, Villaverde de Sandoval, site of the famous Monastery of Sandoval, and Nogales. From there we recommend heading back to the tradi-



Church of San Miguel

tional route in Villamoros de Mansilla).

↑ MANSILLA MAYOR:

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



One kilometre outside Mansilla in the direction of León (N-601), a left-hand turning along a local road will bring us to this picturesque village with a population of 135, part of a municipality that also includes Villaverde de Sandoval, Nogales and Villamoros de Mansilla. This village inevitably evokes memories of Father Segundo Llorente, a missionary in Alaska renowned for the saintly good works he carried out throughout his lifetime.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

VILLAVERDE DE SANDOVAL:

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



The earliest mention of this spot, situated five kilometres southeast of Mansilla on the right bank of the River Esla, refers to a place called Saltu Novali, and dates back to 1142 when Alphonse VII gave it to Count Ponce de Minerva and his wife Estefanía. They would later donate it to the Cistercian monks of La Santa Espina, who founded the Monastery of Santa María in 1171.

WHAT TO SEE:

Monastery of Santa María de Sandoval (12th century).  This Cistercian monument, which has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, stands close to the confluence

of the rivers Esla and Porma. It exerted a tremendous influence over the entire region, holding vast amounts of land and immense pow-



Monastery in Villaverde de Sandoval

er as a result of several royal donations. The monastery burned down twice (in the 15th and 17th centuries) and fell victim to the Confiscation of Mendizábal, being totally abandoned in 1835. The monastery has a central cloister, church and refectory. Only the left wing of the cloister remains, where visitors can see the semicircular arches of the library and former sacristy. The late 12th century church is a fascinating blend of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The well-conserved cruciform church has three naves, a transept and three semicircular apses.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further details please visit the website at www.monasteriodesandoval.com



↑ NOGALES:

Altitude: 801 m

Distance from

Villamoros de Mansilla: 4 km

Kind of route: Way



Link with the French Route: Villamoros de Mansilla

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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

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

↑ VILLAMOROS DE MANSILLA:

Altitude: 800 m

Distance from

Puente de Villarente: 2 km

Kind of route: Way



This municipality of 85 inhabitants was formerly known as Villamoros del Camino Francés, as the French Pilgrims' Route to Santiago consti-



Church of San Esteban

tutes the main street of the town. It is first referred to as Villamoros in 1173, as it belonged to the jurisdiction of Villalquite, and also in the document signed by King Ferdinand II ordering the repopulation of Mansilla.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Esteban. The interior contains several 16th century painted panels and sculptures as well as a tabernacle in the style of Juni. **Lancia Archaeological Site.** This major archaeological site is situated in the Villasabariego Hills, just before the town of Villamoros. Long considered to be the site of the city of the Astures known as Lancia, it dates back to between the 1st and 2nd centuries BCE and the 5th century CE. The earliest remains uncovered correspond to the Lower Palaeolithic Age. A further set of polished axes correspond to the Neolithic Period. Excavation work has also uncovered items from the Roman occupation, including Italic Terra Sigillata pottery and coins featuring the faces of the emperors from the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

PUENTE DE VILLARENTE:

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



This town of 219 inhabitants stands out for its bridge, which made an impression in the 12th century on Aymeric, who described it as 'huge', and the history of its hospital, which ensured that a donkey, recognised as the first ambulance for pilgrims, was always ready to transport the sick to León.

WHAT TO SEE:

Villarente Bridge. In the 14th century, a flood caused this bridge across the River Porma to break into two, washing away several of the pillars. Although it no longer boasts the original twenty arches, it does however retain all its former glory and prestige. **Villarente Hospital.** Founded in the 16th century by the Archdeacon of Triacastela, Canon of León Cathedral. It is characterised by its sober façade and projecting eaves. The hospital was dedicated to Nuestra Señora La Blanca. **Parish Church of San Pelayo.** The interior has a 16th century image of the patron saint, sculptured in the Castilian style, although a certain Flemish influence can also be seen.



Pilgrims on Villarente Bridge

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

SAN PELAYO

Romero, 9

 987 312 677

 alberguessanpelayo@hotmail.es

REST AREA:

There are rest areas for pilgrims on either side of the Roman bridge. The first is a quiet spot away from the hustle and bustle of the town, whilst the second is closer to the various amenities available to visitors. In addition, the banks of the River Porma also offer a range of facilities including toilets, barbecues and benches and tables.

ARCAHUEJA:

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



Through Arcahueja, a village of 203 inhabitants, and Valdelafuente, we look out from Alto del Portillo, a vantage point that allows us to admire the banks of the River Torío and the hamlet of León. We can no longer



see the ancient 15th century stone cross that once stood on this spot, part of the municipality of Valdefresno, as it was transferred to the capital to replace the one that originally stood in Plaza de San Marcos.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santa María.
Modern construction.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



LA TORRE

La Torre, 1

☎ 987 205 896 (27 beds).

✉ info@alberguetorre.es

VALDELAFUENTE:

Altitude: 855 m

Distance from

Puente Castro: 3.5 km

Kind of route: Way



Valdelafuente, with 275 inhabitants, belongs to the Municipality of Valdefresno, like Arcahueja. The route that brings us to this spot is a mix of antiquity and industrial modernity, taking us past new buildings and industrial units, reminding us of the proximity of the large city of León.

PUENTE CASTRO:

Altitude: 820 m

Distance from León: 3 km

Kind of route: Way

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

REST AREA:

Next to the river and the foot-bridge.



Church of Santa María





Church of San Juan Bautista

LEÓN:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

The Cathedral.  It was built in the 13th century in true Gothic style on the foundations the Roman baths and the Royal Palace of Ordoño II. High-

lights include the 125 windows with more than 1,900 metres of stained glass panes. The 15th century walnut choir stalls have a total of 76 seats. At the entrance to the museum, visitors will be able to admire the 16th century cloister. **Royal Basilica of San Isidoro.**  It was declared a royal basilica by Ferdinand I and is dedicated to Saint Isidore of Seville. The Royal Pantheon contains the remains of at least 23 monarchs of León and the decorated vaults dating back to around 1160 have earned it the name of the 'Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art'. The Library and Museum are of particular interest. **Casa Botines.**

 Designed and built in 1891 by Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí. **San Marcos.**  Currently a Parador Nacional, it was a pilgrims' hospital in the 12th century before being transferred to the Knights of the Order of Saint James. In the 16th century it was destroyed and rebuilt. Particularly worthy of note is the monumental Plateresque façade. The church is built in the Gothic style. **Church of Santa Ana.** This is the first church we encounter on entering the city of León, just before Calle Barahona. **Church of El Mercado.**  Built in the 12th century in Plaza de Santa María del Camino, also known as Plaza del Grano or 'Corn Square'. **The City Walls.**  The section of the medieval walls between the Cathedral and San Isidoro are in an excellent state of conservation.





Romanesque paintings of San Isidoro



Cathedral

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Avda. Alcalde Miguel
Castaño, 4



987 215 060 - 637 439 848
(70 beds).



www.alberguescapuchinos.org



gestion.leon@alberguescapuchinos.org



**SANTO TOMÁS DE
CANTERBURY**

La Lastra, 53



987 392 626 - 629 757 899
(51 beds).



www.alberguesantotomas.com



alberguesantotomas@terra.com



42,578336, -5,550431



UNAMUNO

San Pelayo, 15



987 233 010 (86 beds).



www.albergueunamuno.com



albergue@residenciaunamuno.com



**ALBERGUE ALDA
CENTRO LEON**

La Torre, 3-1ºdcha



987 225 594 (20 beds).



Palace of Botines



GLOBETROTTER URBAN HOSTEL

Paloma, 8



659 873 763 (46 beds).



www.globetrotterhostel.es



gerencia@globetrotterhostel.es



LA MADRIGUERA HOSTEL

La Virgen Blanca, 59



987 037 886 (14 beds).



www.lamadriguerahostel.com



info@hostelleon.es



COVENT GARDEN HOSTEL

Ancha, 25



987 004 428 - 601 082 002

(18 beds).



info@hostelcoventgarden.com



LEON HOSTEL

Ancha, 8



987 079 907 (20 beds).





Puente Castro



Parador Hotel of San Marcos



ZENTRIC HOSTEL

Legion VII, 6 - 2ºI



636 946 294 (20 beds).



info@zentrichostel.com



MURALLA LEONESA

Tarifa, 5



665 577 273 - 622 696 205
(69 beds).



www.alberguemurallaleonesa.es



bernardovillamagna@gmail.com;
albergueleon@hotmail.com



CHECK IN LEON

Avda. Alcalde Miguel Castaño, 88



987 498 793 - 987 224 316
(40 beds).



alfonsan1964@gmail.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina de información turística de León. Plaza de la Regla, 2.

987 237 082.

oficinadeturismodeleon@jcy.l.es.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago Pulchra Leonina. Avda. Independencia, 2, 5º Izq.

987 260 530.

caminosantiagooleon@yahoo.es.

TROBAJO DEL CAMINO:

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



This town has changed radically over the last few years. Traditionally a farming town, today it is a service centre where trade and industry represent the major source of income for the current population of more than 20,673. Indeed, it is the most densely populated area in the municipality of San Andrés del Rabanedo and essentially a dormitory town for the nearby provincial capital. In addition, Trobajo has recovered a number of elements related to its links with the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago: these include the opening of the Shrine of Santiago; the decision to once again feature two scallop shells (traditional pilgrims' symbols) on the municipal coat of arms and the renaming of one of the streets 'Calle de los Peregrinos'; as





Shrine of Santiago in Trobajo del Camino

well as the recent construction of a monument to pilgrims in the town centre.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

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

REST AREA

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

LA VIRGEN DEL CAMINO:

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



This village belongs to the municipality of Valverde de la Virgen and has a population of 5,044. The houses are huddled around the Shrine of La Virgen del Camino which is well-known throughout the province as a popular place of worship and pilgrimage.

WHAT TO SEE:

Shrine of La Virgen del Camino. Church of the Dominican Fathers. Designed by the architect and Dominican Friar Francisco Coello de Portugal, it is a harmonious blend of concrete, wood, stone and glass, in keeping with the modern trends in religious architecture of the 1950s. Highlights include the façade featuring thirteen Modernist style bronze images sculptured in 1961 by José María Subirachs. The 16th century Virgin of La Piedad takes pride of place on the Baroque altarpiece, which dates back to 1730.



Statue of the Madonna of the Shrine

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

DON ANTONINO Y DOÑA CINIA

Avda. Padre Eustoquio, 16

 987 302 800 (40 beds).

 42,578986, -5,641629

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de La Virgen del Camino. Avenida Pablo Diez. (across from the shrine).

 987 303 431.

REST AREA:

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

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

Chozas de Abajo, Villar de Mazarife and Villavante before coming to Hospital de Órbigo. The other option runs parallel to the railway and goes through La Aldea de la Valdoncina, Robledo de la Valdoncina and Estación de Villadangos, where it links up with Villadangos del Páramo.

FRESNO DEL CAMINO:

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



WHAT TO SEE:

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

LA ALDEA DE LA VALDONCINA:

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



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

ROBLEDO DE LA ALDONCINA:

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



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

ESTACIÓN DE VILLADANGOS:

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

Link with the French Route: Villadangos del Páramo.

This is a small village built around the railway station. Part of the municipality of Villadangos del Páramo, it is situated a couple of kilometres from the town of the same name, which offers the services and amen-

ities for the area. The route taken by pilgrims who choose this option is approximately one kilometre from this railway village.

ALDONCINA DE LA VALDONCINA:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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



Spire of the Church of San Bartolomé

CHOZAS DE ABAJO:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of San Martín de Tours.

VILLAR DE MAZARIFE:

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



WHAT TO SEE:

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



Typical house in Chozas de Abajo



Monument to the pilgrim

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

TIO PEPE

Teso De La Iglesia, 2
636 794 889 (22 beds).

SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA

León, 33
987 390 192 (54 beds).
✉ alberguesanantoniodepadua@hotmail.com

REST AREA:

The park has a fountain, trees and benches.

↑ VILLAVANTE:

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



Link with the French Route: Hospital de Órbigo

Villavante, with 226 inhabitants, is a farming and ranching town today. Every year, on the first Sunday in



August, it is the venue of a bell ringers' festival.

WHAT TO SEE:

Church of Las Candelas. Although the inscription on the lintel over the doorway puts the start of building work at 1695, in actual fact only the two side sections of this cruciform church date back to the late 17th century, whilst the remainder was built in 1905. The interior houses several images and carvings of intricately subtle and immense beauty such as the Ecce Homo or the Virgin of El Rosario. **Cerrajera Dam.** There is an intriguing legend surrounding this dam that dates back to the days of Almanzor. This earth dam that restricts the flow of the river was built in the 17th century and today is the site of two ancient mills known as 'de Chinelas' and 'de Galochas'.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

-  **ALBERGUE SANTA LUCÍA**
Doctor Vélez, 17
-  987 389 105 (28 beds).
-  alberguesantalucia@hotmail.com

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

VALVERDE DE LA VIRGEN:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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



Spire and storks' nests

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

LA CASA DEL CAMINO

El Jano, 2

 987 303 455 (20 beds).

SAN MIGUEL DEL CAMINO:

Altitude: 910 m

Distance from

Villadangos del Páramo: 8 km

Kind of route: Way



This municipality, which has a population of 561 today, was first documented in 1177, when it was mentioned that some of the town's residents became vassals of the Monastery of San Marcos de León.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

LA CASA VERDE

Travesía La Estación, 8

 646 879 437 (8 beds).



Pilgrim along the way, San Miguel del Camino

VILLADANGOS DEL PARAMO:

Altitude: 890 m

Distance from

San Martín del Camino: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



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



View of the door of the Church of Santiago



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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

REST AREA

Villadangos Lagoon, or 'the pond' as it is known locally, lies off the Benavides road on the way out of the town. Today it is one of León's most important wetlands, boasting an extraordinary biological wealth and landscapes of spectacular beauty.

SAN MARTÍN DEL CAMINO:

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



High altarpiece of the church

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

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of San Martín. A modern building built in the style of many similar churches to be seen throughout this area with an open portico on either side, and a stone and brick tower. The church is presided over by a modern altarpiece that has reused interesting reliefs of the patron saint, San Martín de Tours, who shares his cloak with a pilgrim.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

ALBERGUE VIEIRA
Avda. Peregrinos, s/n
 987 378 565 (44 beds).

ALBERGUE SANTA ANA
Avda. Peregrinos, 12
 654 111 509 (31 beds).

martinez_sonia@hotmail.com



Bridge over the River Orbigo

NEARBY:

On passing through Puente de Órbigo we come to Hospital de Órbigo.

HOSPITAL DE ORBIGO:

Altitude: 823 m

Distance from Villares de Órbigo: 2.2 km

Kind of route: Way



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

WHAT TO SEE:

13th century Gothic Bridge,  known as Passo Honroso. Although the original structure was Roman, it has been restored on numerous occasions. A monument standing halfway across

this bridge commemorates the battle fought for love by Suero de Quiñones, a knight of León in 1434. It has been an Asset of Cultural Interest since 1939 and is considered to be one of longest bridges on the entire Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. **Church of San Juan Bautista.** Like the ruins of the hospital, this temple, standing on the town's main streets, evokes the presence of the Knights Hospitaller. This imposing and well-cared for cruciform church has been rebuilt in modern style. The entrance boasts a cross of the Order, similar in style to those to be seen in Navarra.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

ALBERGUE SAN MIGUEL

Alvarez Vega, 35
 987 388 285 - 609 723 632
(30 beds).

ALBERGUE VERDE

Avda. Fueros De Leon, 76
 689 927 926 (28 beds).
 www.albergueverde.es
 albergueverde@albergueverde.es

LA ENCINA

Avda. Suero De Quiñones, s/n
 987 361 087 - 606 306 836
(22 beds).
 segunramos@hotmail.com

CASA DE LOS HIDALGOS

Álvarez Vega, 36
 677 681 014 (22 beds).
 segunramos@hotmail.com



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Oficina Municipal de Turismo.

Alvarez Vega, s/n.

☎ 987 388 206

ayuntamiento@hospitaldeorbigo.com

REST AREA:

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

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

VILLARES DE ÓRBIGO:

Altitude: 834 m

Distance from Santibáñez

de Valdeiglesias: 2.7 km

Kind of route: Way



Opting for the right-hand or northern fork of these alternative routes will bring us to this town, along tracks that pass through fertile

lands where tobacco, sugar beet and all types of vegetables are grown. This municipality has a population of 267 today.

WHAT TO SEE:

Parish Church of Santiago Apóstol.

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:

🏠 **EL ENCANTO**

Santiago, 23

☎ 987 388 126 - 682 860 210
(24 beds).

🏠 **VILLARES DE ÓRBIGO**

Arnal, 21

☎ 987 132 935 (26 beds).



Church of Santiago



Panoramic view of Santibáñez de Valdeiglesias



Cross of Santo Toribio

SANTIBÁÑEZ DE VALDEIGLESIAS:

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



Continuing along this route, we come to this village of 146 inhabitants. After crossing the road and irrigation channel, we make our way up and down a gentle hill for some two kilometres along a tarmac track.

WHAT TO SEE:

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS:



CAMINO FRANCÉS

Real, 68



679 152 512 - 987 361 014
(16 beds).



bln_182@hotmail.com

SAN JUSTO DE LA VEGA:

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



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

WHAT TO SEE:

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





Astorga Cathedral



Bishop's Palace by Gaudí

REST AREA:

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

ASTORGA:

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



This bustling town of 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



Monument to the traveller



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 Foncebadoón 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 Santin. **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	
Columbianos:	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 Columbianos 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 Camponayara

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 geographical-ly 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.



VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO:

Altitude: 509 m

Distance from Pereje: 5 km

Kind of route: Way



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

 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 VALCARGE:

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

AMBASMETAS:

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 Sarracin . 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 Sarracin

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 Zeberri-um', 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).

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



Medieval bridge in Arzúa

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) 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.

Virgen de Las Vegas (Peregrinos Camino de Santiago)

Paso de La Fuente, 2
40490 Los Huertos. Segovia
Tel.: 921490576
loshuertosayto@gmail.com

Albergue de Peregrinos Sin Fin Lucrativo de Puente Duero

Camino Aniago.
47152 Puente Duero-Esparragal
Valladolid
Tel.: 678318188

Albergue de Peregrinos Sin Fin Lucrativo de Peñafior

Calle Hospital 4
47640 Peñafior de Hornija
Valladolid
Tel.: 983565102
ayto.peñafior@dip-valladolid.es

Albergue de Peregrinos Sin Fin Lucrativo Santa Clara

Calle Santa Clara 1
47800 Medina de Rioseco.
Valladolid
Tel.: 983700982

Albergue de Peregrinos Sin Fin Lucrativo de Villalón

Calle San Juan
47600 Villalón de Campos.
Valladolid
Tel.: 983740011
aedl.villalon@dip-valladolid.es

Albergue Municipal de Peregrinos "Verano"

Arco-La Herreria, s/n
24320 Sahagun. León
Tel.: 987781015

Viatoris

Travesía del Arco, 31
24320 Sahagun. León
Tel.: 679977828
aaocho@hotmail.com

Albergue Municipal de Peregrinos de Invierno

Antonio Nicolas, 55
24320 Sahagun. León
Tel.: 987780001
info@sahagun.org

Asociacion Hospederia Jacobea El Nogal

Fray Pedro, 42
24343 Burgo Ranero (El)
León
Tel.: 667207454
jelnogal@yahoo.es



**Ebalo**

La Fe, 24.
24343 El Burgo Ranero. León
Tel.: 677490521

Albergue Municipal de Reliegos

Zapardiel Segunda, 13
24339 Reliegos. León
Tel.: 987317801

Albergue Gaia

Avda Constitución 28
24210 Mansilla de Las Mulas. León
Tel.: 699911311
alberguedegaia@hotmail.com

Albergue Municipal de Villadangos del Paramo

Plaza Mayor, 1
24392 Villadangos del Paramo. León
Tel.: 987390003

San Javier

Porteria, 6
24700 Astorga. León
Tel.: 987618532

El Pilar

Jeronimo Moran Alonso, s/n
24722 Rabanal del Camino. León
Tel.: 987631621

Monte Irago

Real, s/n
24722 Foncebadón. León
Tel.: 695452950

El Acebo

La Cruz, 6. 24413 Acebo. León
Tel.: 987695074

Rubi

Avda. Fraga Iribarne, s/n
24413 Molinaseca. León
Tel.: 987453146

San Nicolás El Real

San Nicolás 4.
24520 Villafranca del Bierzo. León
Tel.: 987566529

Casa Susi

C/ Camino de Santiago 25.
24523 Trabadelo. León
Tel.: 679319062
alberguecasasusi@gmail.com

Ultreia

La Faba. 24000 La Faba. León
Tel.: 630836865

Associations of Saint James

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Segovia
Phone number: 663 495 992.
caminodesantiaogosegovia@hotmail.com

Asociación Jacobea Vallisoletana (Ajova)
C/ Real, 105.
47152. Puente Duero (Valladolid)
Phone number: 678 318 188.
contacto@ajova.es
www.ajova.es

Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Medina de Rioseco
C/ Corro de Santa María, 6.
47800. Medina de Rioseco (Valladolid)
Phone number: 605 041 394.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino del Sureste de Valladolid.
Plaza Mayor, s/n.
47120. Mota del Marqués (Valladolid)
Phone number: 669 474 348
acasse-va@hotmail.com

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Mansilla de las Mulas.
Casa de Cultura San Martín 1
24210. Mansilla de las Mulas
www.amigoscaminomansilla.com

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago Pulchra Leonina de León.
Convento Santa Maria de Carbajal
Pza. Santa María del Camino, 11 (Pza. del Grano) 24003 León
Phone number: 677 430 200
caminosantiagoleon@yahoo.es

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Astorga y Comarca. Siervas de María.
Plaza de San Francisco, 3.
24700. Astorga (León).
Phone number: 987 616 034 and 618 271 773.
asociación@caminodesantiagoastorga.com
www.caminodesantiagoastorga.com.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago del Bierzo
Caseta de Madera (al lado del Crucero). Avda. del Castillo, 106
24400 Ponferrada
Telefono: 987 419 283
asociacion@amigoscaminobierzo.org
www.amigoscaminobierzo.org



Useful addresses

REGIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE ÁVILA

San Segundo, 17.
"Casa de las Carnicerías". 05001 Ávila
Tel. 920 211 387
Fax. 920 253 717
oficinadeturismodeavila@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE BURGOS

Plaza Alonso Martínez 7 bajo
09003 Burgos
Tel. 947 203 125
Fax. 947 276 529
oficinadeturismodeburgos@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE LEÓN

Plaza de la Regla, 2. 24003 León
Tel. 987 237 082 • Fax. 987 273 391
oficinadeturismodeleon@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE PALENCIA

Mayor, 31. 34001 Palencia
Tel. 979 706 523 • Fax. 979 706 525
oficinadeturismodepalencia@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE SALAMANCA

Pza. Mayor, 32. 37002 Salamanca
Tel. 923 218 342 • Fax. 923 263 409
información@turismodesalamanca.com

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE SEGOVIA

Plaza Mayor, 10. 40001 Segovia
Tel. 921 460 334 • Fax. 921 460 330
oficinadeturismodesegovia@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE SORIA

Medinaceli, 2. 42003 Soria
Tel. 975 212 052 • Fax. 975 22 1289
oficinadeturismodesoria@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE VALLADOLID.

Pabellón de Cristal
Acera de Recoletos s/n.
47004 Valladolid
Tel. 983 219 310 • Fax. 983 217 860
oficinadeturismodevalladolid@jcy.es

OFICINA DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA DE ZAMORA

Príncipe de Asturias, 1. 49012 Zamora
Tel. 980 531 845 • Fax. 980 533 813
oficinadeturismodezamora@jcy.es

REGIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

Oficina de Promoción Turística
de Castilla y León en Madrid
Alcalá, 105. 28009 Madrid
Tel. 91 578 03 24 • Fax. 91 781 24 16
oficinademadridfundacionsiglo@gmail.com





PROVINCIAL TOURIST INFORMATION

TURISMO PROVINCIA DE SEGOVIA

Pza. Mayor 9. 40001 Segovia
Tel. 921 466 070. Fax. 921 460 492
internet: www.segoviaturismo.es
info@segoviaturismo.es

TURISMO PROVINCIA DE VALLADOLID

Angustias 44. 47003 Valladolid
Tel. 983 427 259. Fax. 983 427 150
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
turismo@dip-valladolid.es

CONSORCIO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO DE LEÓN

Pza. de la Regla s/n. 24003 León.
Tel. 987 292 279. Fax. 987 235 250.
Internet: www.turisleon.com.
consorcio.turismo@dipuleon.es

CONSEJO COMARCAL DE EL BIERZO

Avda. de la Minería s/n 3º Edificio Minero.
24400 Ponferrada (León).
Tel. 987 423 551 – 987 424 722.
Fax. 987 423 575.
Internet: www.ccbierzo.com.
info@ccbierzo.com



My experiences on the Route



A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.





INFORMATION:
www.turismocastillayleon.com



CASTILLA Y LEÓN

es vida



turismocastillayleon.com



[castillayleonesvida](https://www.facebook.com/castillayleonesvida)
[visitcastillayleon](https://www.facebook.com/visitcastillayleon)



[cylesvida](https://twitter.com/cylesvida)



[cylesvida](https://www.instagram.com/cylesvida)



**Junta de
Castilla y León**