

- . **Top 12 albergues** for atmosphere on the Camino Frances – not for upmarket standards - in no particular order (as voted by members of a pilgrim forum)
- . \*Beilari – St Jean Pied de Port – wonderful start with caring owners, communal meals and blessing. Book this one ahead.
- . \*Granon – sleep on mattresses in the bell tower of a church – sing for your supper – pilgrim blessing (Open all year)
- . \*Tosantos – sleep on mattresses - pilgrim blessing in the attic chapel – pray for pilgrims who have left a prayer request (not sure of opening times)
- . \*Arroyo San Bol - 1000yr old medicinal spring at the back, fantastic communal dinner. (Open April – mid October)
- . \*Convento San Anton – magical, basic albergue in the ruins of the San Anton convent (Open to end of September)
- . \*Hospital San Nicolas - – sleep in the loft of a restored church – communal meal cooked by Italian hospitaleros, pilgrim blessing includes washing of pilgrims feet (late June to mid-September)
- . \*Bercianos – ancient straw and mud house, watch the sunset before being allowed to have a communal dinner
- . \*Manjarin – Atmospheric albergue run by Tomas the Templar - basic, no running water, electricity or toilet. Sleep in a stone barn on mattresses – stay for the Templario blessing and ceremony at 11am. (Open all year)
- \*Villafranca del Bierzo - Ave Fenix run by the Jato family for almost 30 years – Jesus Jato is a healer. (Open all year) Can book ahead.

\*Ruitelin – Gregorian chants, Shiatsu massage, healing

\*San Xulian – Family run, classical music and great food

\*Samos – ancient Benedictine monastery, pilgrim blessings, open all year