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Sevilla / Seville

SLEEPING

Seville is an all-year major tourist destination and there are lots of backpacker hostels and hotels ranging from cheap to outrageous. The establishments mentioned here are popular with pilgrims. Easter week and the week of the Feria de Abril, which takes place one or two weeks after Easter, are extremely busy, if you are planning to be in Seville during this time you will need to arrange accommodation well in advance, expect to pay far more than the normal price.

Triana Backpackers is on Calle Rodrigo de Triana, in Triana, across the river from the city centre. This well-run and friendly hostel has dorm beds at the pilgrim price of 15€ and is popular with pilgrims and backpackers (so possibly noisy). You must phone or email to get this price and it's only for your first night. Also singles 25€, doubles 40€. If you're cycling you can contact them about having your bike delivered there a few days before you arrive. They can also arrange bike hire. More information and booking on 954 459 960 or from their Website *www.trianahostel.com/en* Email *sevillatriana@gmail.com*

The Nomad Hostel is also popular with pilgrims. Dormitory beds from 22€, singles 60€, doubles 80€. It's at Calle Itálica 1, corner of Calle O'Donnell. Website *www.thenomadhostel.com* Tel 608 862 153

Hotel Simón, at Calle Garcia de Vinuesa 19, about 120m from the cathedral, has been recommended by several pilgrims, it has double rooms from about 53€. Tel 954 226 660, website *www.hotelsimonsevilla.com*

Hospedería Convento de Santa Rosalía at Calle Cardenal Spínola 8, in the northern part of the city centre near the Alameda. Traditional pilgrim accommodation. Singles from 30€. Must be booked in advance. Tel 954 383 209

INFORMATION

The city of Seville has a population of 688,711. It is the capital of the Province of Seville and the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Because it's a big city it has everything you're likely to need in the way of shops, cafés and restaurants, banks, pharmacies, etc., but very little in the way of pilgrim-orientated services. For example, there is no dedicated pilgrim albergue.

CREDENCIALES (pilgrim passports): are available from the following places: the very helpful and friendly **Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Sevilla**, at Calle Castilla 82, which is on the Camino as it passes through Triana. Opening hours vary, please check their website *www.viaplata.org* under *Atención al Peregrino*. **Libreria Diocesana / Diocesan Book Shop**, it's in the Archbishops Palace on Plaza Virgen de los Reyes, beside the cathedral on the **Giralda** (the tower) side. Go in the main entrance and it's on the right, 09:00 to 14:00, Monday to Friday. Credenciales also available from **Hotel Simón** and **Triana Backpackers** (details above). If you're going all the way you'll probably need more than one for all those stamps. Credenciales are available on the Vía from larger municipal and religious albergues in major towns and cities, but if you think you'll need more than one it might be easier to buy them in advance. If you'll be in Seville at a weekend and you're in a hurry to start walking it might be better to get a Credencial in advance from (for example) your national Camino association.

EQUIPMENT: if you need to do some last-minute equipment shopping there's a **Decathlon** outdoor shop in the city centre near Las Setas on Calle Martín Villa.

SIM CARDS: if you need a **SIM card**, from Hotel Simón walk 20m towards the

cathedral and on your left is a shop, **Photo & Phone,** which sells them. Mobile operator **Labara** has good plans for international calls and data: *www.lebara.es* **Vodafone** *www.vodafone.es* and **Orange** *www.orange.es* now also do pre-paid plans aimed at visiting foreigners.

PILGRIM MASS (Misa del Peregrino): every morning at 08:30 in the cathedral, enter by the door on Avenida de la Constitución.

EATING: Seville has a big tapas culture and many bars around both Triana and the city centre have good selections. Recommended for tapas is **Bodega Dos de Mayo** on Plaza de la Gavidia, it's very popular so best to arrive early (ie. 20:00). If your preparations for the Camino includes eating like a horse and you like fried seafood of all types, then you should try the Plato Variado in **Abaceria Alborea** on Calle Jacinto, in Triana. The kiosk on the corner on the city side of Triana bridge does good **churros y chocolate**.

CULTURE: Seville is famous for *Sevillanas* singing and dancing. If you'd like to experience it there are many places around town where you can, the following are recommended. **Casa Anselmo** on Calle Pagés del Corro, in Triana, kicks off about midnight. It's far more authentic than the tourist shows in the city centre, free in but drinks are pricey. Best to reserve because it's become very popular. Tel 606 162 502. If you prefer a more come-as-you-are vibe you may prefer **La Carbonería** on Calle Céspedes, deep in the old city. Shows kick off about 21:00 but if you want a seat with a view you'd be best to get there well before that. It's fairly freestyle and the format and quality varies according to who shows up on the night. A more expensive but highly recommended option is **La Casa de la Memoria**, on Calle Cuna. Shows here are more like operatic performances delivered by professional performers. They generally do two show a night, 19:30 and 21:00. Tickets from their website *www.casadelamemoria.es*. There are also frequently **street performances** in the streets around the cathedral and on Plaza de España.

BE AWARE: Unfortunately, Seville is a big city and a tourist destination so there's a certain amount of opportunistic thievery and pick-pocketing, especially of mobile phones.

WALKING NOTES

The Vía begins outside the main door of the cathedral, turn right to follow the tram tracks along **Avenida de la Constitución**, then at the corner of the cathedral turn left on to **Calle García de Vinuesa**, then first right on to **Calle Jimios**. This becomes **Calle Zaragoza**, which you follow through various twists and turns until it intersects with **Puerta de Triana**, where you'll see **Café de Indias** on your left. Now turn left and continue straight to cross **Triana Bridge** (Puente de Isabel II). Once across the river turn right after the **Mercado de Triana** along **Calle San Jorge** and **Calle de Castilla**. Where the Camino crosses Ronda de Triana, to the left is a **Carrefour supermarket** that opens at 08:00 working days, otherwise 09:00. 150m further you'll come to a modern square where there's a monument to the Vía de la Plata marking 1000km to Santiago (it's a bit late now to start wondering if what you're doing is a good idea). Walk up the steps to the right which bring you to a main road. Walk anticlockwise around the roundabout, crossing two busy roads (traffic is dangerous here) then turning right on to a footpath and left down to a large, run-down carpark where you veer right and then left to cross the narrow bridge across the main branch of the Guadalquivir. **This route is marked with yellow arrows but they're easy to miss in the city. Once outside the city they become easier to spot.**

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3.3km from the cathedral, just after crossing the narrow bridge over the main branch of the Guadalquivir, you have the **option** to continue straight to pass through the suburb of Camas, or to go right along the bank of the river (muddy after wet weather) and bypass Camas. Don't let the grimness of this first part get you down, things improve once you're out of the city.
It's 6km to Santiponce, from the point where the routes divide regardless which way you go.

RIGHT / RIVER ROUTE 5.3km

Walk along the banks of the river for 1.3km then follow a lane as it veers left. In 1.5km you'll pass under an elevated motorway then continue straight under railway tracks and another motorway, then right to join a main road which you follow to the left to a roundabout where you rejoin the left route and turn right towards Santiponce. This route passes through some run down, deserted areas and not everyone will feel comfortable walking it on their own. You may encounter cute donkeys and unfortunately also loose dogs.

LEFT / CAMAS ROUTE 5.2km

1.5km to Camas from where the routes divide. Shops, cafés, bank, pharmacy. **Cafétería Mas** on the Camino on the right on **Calle José Payán** opens at 07:30 every day. In Camas turn right at the roundabout with the fountain in the middle on to **Calle José Payán** and follow this until you come to the **Church of Santa Maria de Gracia** where you take the street to its left, also called **Santa Maria de Gracia.** From here the Camino continues straight along the side of a busy main road through suburbs and industrial areas, through two roundabouts until after 3.3km at a roundabout you come to where the two routes rejoin. You continue straight towards Santiponce.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN 1km BEFORE SANTIPONCE

9.5km / 2h37m to:

Santiponce

SLEEPING

Private (12, 19€) *Italica Hostel*, go right of Bodeguita Reyes down Calle de la Iglesia, at the square you will see it opposite. Free tea - coffee and snacks. Tel 636 678 376 Open early

Como en Tu Casa, on Calle Giraldillo, go down Calle Fleming where the Camino turns left at a roundabout, then turn left. Rooms from 25€ per person. Positive reports. Tel 609 412 038

Hotel Anfiteatro Romano, on the Camino on the right a little past the town, has been recommended by many pilgrims, it has double rooms from about 50€. Website www.hotelanfiteatroromano.es Tel 955 996 704

INFORMATION

Along the Camino you will find **shops**, **cafés**, **banks**, **pharmacies**.

Bodeguita Reyes, right on the roundabout, does good food.

Also good reports of restaurant **Aldaki Tapas**.

WALKING NOTES

Continue north along the main road through Santiponce, after 2.2km turn right at a roundabout and under the motorway and then veer left where the Camino leaves the road and continues (at last) on a quite lane through fields. There's a stream you need to ford which may be difficult after rain. In 2019 the local Amigos put a steel beam across the stream just downstream of the ford however it won't be safe to use if the water is flowing quickly.

Occasionally after prolonged heavy rain this stream can be badly flooded. Fortunately there is an alternative route which branches left 380m before the stream (sometimes there is a temporary signpost here but since it's the only possible left turn on a long straight road it would be hard to miss). Follow this road passing a farmhouse on your right then passing under the motorway, veer left and right to join a main road. Here you turn right and follow the road (veering right) all the way to Guillena. This detour adds about 3km to the day's walk (better than a muddy drenching or worse!)

Before Guillena (on the normal route) the yellow arrows direct you to turn sharp left towards the main road, bringing you past the private albergue, Albergue Luz del Camino. It is possible to go right at this point but it will mean fording another stream which can be difficult and muddy. The description of the route through Guillena is based on the assumption that you turned left.

12.8km / 3h29m to:

Guillena

SLEEPING

Private (23, 14€ with breakfast) *Albergue Luz del Camino*, on the Camino on the left, on Calle Federico García Lorca. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Positive reports. Website *albergueluzdelcamino.es* Tel 665 068 222 Open 11:00

Hostal Francés, continue on the main road when the Camino veers rights towards the church. Singles from 25€, doubles 45€. Their restaurant does a Menú de Peregrinos. Website *www.hostalbarfrances.com* Tel 955 785 177 or 639 594 496 or 625 663 508

INFORMATION

Shops, **banks**, **cafés** on or near Avenida de Andalucía, the main road through town and the road the Camino arrives on. If you continue straight on this road you'll pass **Hostal Francés**. Further on you'll come to a roundabout, go right here for a **Mas supermarket,** open all day and a **pharmacy**. **Café La Alacena** next door to Mas opens at 06:30. **Banks** on Plaza España and Calle Fleming.

WALKING NOTES

Leaving town continue past the municipal albergue on Avenida de la Vega and then first right down a road to a ford which you cross (if the water's too high there's a bridge to your left) and then up the slope to the right then veering left, then 1.5km to a roundabout where you veer left through an industrial area and eventually into open country. Just before Castilblanco the Camino veers left at a roundabout and follows **Avenida España** through town. Continue straight at this roundabout for the municipal albergue.

18.2km / 5h43m to:

Castilblanco de los Arroyos

SLEEPING

Municipal (30, donativo, March to October) *Albergue Municipal*, continue straight where the Camino branches left at the roundabout, it's just past the *Repsol* petrol station on the right. It may be staffed during busy times by volunteer hospitaleros from various countries, otherwise ask for the code to open the door at *Repsol*. Basic kitchen. Loads of space with a big balcony. Tel 955 734 811 Website *www.alberguecastilblancodelosarroyos.blogspot.com.es* Open 12:00

Private (7, 15€) *Albergue La Posada de Escardiel*, at Calle Pilar Nuevo, 15. Follow the Camino through the town until near then end, after a small roundabout it's on the left. Laundry facilities. New in 2022. Tel 641 024 128

The palatial **Hotel Castillo Blanco**, is on the right 1km before the village, singles from 30€, doubles 40€, pilgrim prices. Website *hotelcastilloblanco.com* Tel 955 734 523

Casa Salvadora is highly recommended, it's on the Camino in the centre of the village at Avenida de España 43, cosy singles from 17€, doubles 30€. Tel 615 500 963 or 615 500 962

Casa Ana on Calle León Felipe, to the left of the Camino at the church. House for rent 25€ per person minimum 2 people. Tel 610 653 622

Casa Rural Callejon de la Mora on Callejón de la Mora, pass the Municipal and turn right at Café Macarena, it's a short distance up on the right. Singles 25€, doubles 50€. Tel 647 603 116

INFORMATION

On or near the Camino as it passes through town there are **shops**, a **bakery**, a **bank** and a **pharmacy** (both opposite the entrance to the church), **post office**, and **cafés**. **Spar supermarket** with a good selection on Avenida del Puente in the centre of the village to the right of the Camino after Casa Salvadora, a bit hidden away.

Casa Macarena does food and seems to be popular, it's on the main road.

Café Mancilla, beside Casa Macarena, opens about 04:00.

WALKING NOTES

You can either follow the Camino or the main road through Castilblanco, the both end up in the same place. The Camino then continues north along the main road towards Almadén. This road isn't usually busy.

There are no facilities of any sort on this stage and you should not be wandering out of Castilblanco without enough food and water to see you through to the end.

Continue on the road (SE-5405) for 16km until you come to a place known as **Finca el Berrocal** where you will see arrows pointing through a gate on the right into the **Parque Natural Sierra Norte.** From here it's unpaved paths to Almadén. If the main gate is closed there's another pedestrian gate to the right which may be open (it is not visible from the road). Keep some high-energy food or drink in reserve for the last couple of kilometres where there's a steep hill which ascends abruptly about 100m. Alternatively you can follow the road all the way to Almadén, it's slightly longer but an easier climb.

28.5km / 8h40m to:

Almadén de la Plata

SLEEPING

Private (10, 13€) *La Casa del Raloj*, on the Camino going through the village on Plaza del Reloj. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Website *www.eulate.net/ruraltellez* Tel 692 552 659 Open 11:00

Municipal (16, 10€) *Albergue Municipal*, follow the Camino through the village until you see the Albergue Municipal

signs. It's on Calle Puerto de la Cruz, a few minutes walk from the Camino. Phone number or instructions on the door. The hospitalera comes around later to stamp Credenciales. Kitchen.
Hostal Casa Concha, veer left from Plaza de la Palmeras. Singles from 25€, doubles 35€. Tel 954 735 043 or 659 459 938.
Hostal El Romeral, when you see Casa Concha on the right turn sharp left. Singles from 35€, double 45€. Website www.elromeral.net Tel 653 647 444 or 954 735 453

INFORMATION

Follow the Camino past the distinctive old town hall with its purple tower, through Plaza del Reloj, then veering left to Plaza de la Palmera. Here standing with your back to the pharmacy, the **supermarket** is up the street on your right and the **bank** is up the street on your left. **Café El Raloj** and **Café La Morena** open early. Restaurant **La Murilla**, on the Camino beside the church, is good, as is **Restaurante El Molino** which is just across the main road.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino is abundantly (if not always clearly) signposted through Almadén with signs and yellow arrows. If in doubt when leaving town aim for the bull ring on the hill to the north, the Camino passes it to its left.

13.9km / 4h22m to:

El Real de la Jara

SLEEPING

Private (10, 11€) *Alojamiento del Peregrino*, shortly after entering the village on the right. Kitchen, laundry facilities, nice terrace. Good reports. Tel 654 862 553
Private (12, 13€) *Alojamiento Molina*, on the Camino past Plaza España at Calle Real 70. Sunny patio. Each dorm has 2 or 3 beds. Tel 610 026 132
Hostal Rural La Encina after passing Alojamiento del Peregrino, at the bottom of the street turn left and follow the signs through an industrial park. Singles from 25€, doubles 40€. Café / restaurant, reportedly good food. Noisy night club nearby at weekends. Website www.hostallaencina.es Tel 625 998 300
Alojamiento Turístico Mari Carmen, near the church, has rooms from 30€. Tel 609 971 340

INFORMATION

Cafés and **a bank** on the Camino as it passes through Plaza España and Calle Real. Avenida 28 de Febrero, which is left of the Camino from Plaza España, has a shop, more cafés, another bank and the post office.
The café in **Casa de la Cultura** on Avenida 28 de Febrero has also been recommended for food.
Bar **El Montero**, also on Avenida 28 de Febrero, has good tapas.
Restaurante Casa el Capote de Galloso also does good food, especially carrillada / pork cheeks, continue along Avenida 28 de Febrero and it's on the right.
Café El Chati on Plaza de España opens early.

WALKING NOTES

1.3km you cross a stream which marks the border with the **Autonomous Community of Extremadura.**
10.4km from the stream to the A-66 motorway, where there is a **24 hour service station**, shop with a good selection of regional products, café, ATM. In the same place is **Hotel Leo** with luxurious singles from 40€, café / restaurant. Tel 924 517 048. Be careful crossing the various roads around the motorway. Yellow arrows are a bit scarce here, at the roundabout take the road under the motorway signposted Monesterio.

20.0km / 6h24m to:

Monesterio

SLEEPING

Parish (14, 10€) *Albergue Parroquial de Monesterio*, on the Camino on the left, at Avenida Extremadura 218. Kitchen. Nice albergue, modern and clean with good facilities. Tel 924 516 097 (no reservations)
Municipal (50, 12.50€) *Albergue Las Moreras*, on Calle Ronda Segura de León, signposted left from the Camino, about a 10 minute walk from there. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Website www.alberguemonesterio.es Tel 679 587 435 Open 12:00
Hotel Moya on the left, singles 35€, doubles 45€. Café / restaurant. Website *www.hotelmoya.es* Tel 637 766 793 or 924 516 136
Hostal El Pilar on the Camino to the right at Calle Gallego Paz. Singles for 30€, doubles 45€. Website hostaldpilar.com Tel 656 876 475
Hostal Extremadura further along on the right, singles from 15€, doubles 30€. Good value. Tel 924 516 502
Hotel Leo, on the way out of town on the left. Singles from 48€, doubles 62€. Café which opens early. Website hotelleo.es Tel 924 516 428 (not to be confused with the other Hotel Leo).

INFORMATION

Cafés, **shops**, **banks** and **pharmacies** are all to be found along the Camino as it follows Avenida Extremadura through town. **Supermarket** just past the parish albergue on left.
Bar Naranjo, opposite Hotel Moya, opens early.
Restaurant **Mesón Casa Juan,** near the parish albergue has been recommended.
Bar El Cono, past the parish albergue on the right, has also been recommended for food.
El Melli, also past the parish albergue opens early with freshly made, country style churros.
Good reports about restaurant **el Rinconcillo** which is near the end of Avenida Extremadura, on Plaza de Triana.

WALKING NOTES

Some misleading waymarkings on this stretch – follow the yellow arrows in preference to any 'official' markings (ie. the metal boxes), however there are places where the yellow arrows are scarce in which case you'll have to rely on the metal boxes. If you can't find any markings remember that you need to head north towards Fuente de Cantos which is intermittently visible on the horizon way before you get there.

21.0km / 6h04m to:

Fuente de Cantos

SLEEPING

El Zaguan de la Plata, at Calle Llerena 40, from the Camino turn right at the church. **Unfortunately not currently operating as an albergue.** Apartments for 2 to 6 persons, kitchen, laundry facilities. Variable pricing from 50€. Website *www.elzaguandelaplata.es* Tel 924 500 999 or 678 277 716
Hostal Vicenta, continue past El Zaguan de la Plata, at the square veer right on to Calle Isabel la Católica to the end then turn left. Singles 15€, doubles 24€. Café / restaurant. Old and a run down. Tel 611 617 641

INFORMATION

Small **shop** and **pharmacy** near the church. **Dia supermarket** on Calle Carriceros, left of the Camino. **Cafés** and several **banks** and a **post office** on Calle Llerena (right at the church) and on Plaza Zubaran (at the top of Calle Llerena).
Restaurante El Gato, does a good

pilgrim menu, continue straight up Calle Llerena to the main road and turn left. **Restaurant Venta del Gato**, which is on the opposite side of the main road, is also good.

6.3km / 1h44m to:

Calzadilla de los Barros

SLEEPING

Municipal (14, 10€) *Albergue Municipal*, on Calle Ermita, where the Camino veers right at a small square continue straight on to Calle Manuel Galván, then the second right. Go to the Ayuntamiento for the key, outside office hours phone. New in 2022. Tel 634 518 382 or 924 584 754

Hostal Los Rodríguez is on the main road 600m off the Camino to the right from the main square, it has singles from 15€, doubles from 30€. Check ahead for Fridays and Saturdays. Café / restaurant. Tel 924 584 808 or 675 610 787

INFORMATION

The Camino passes through the main square, Plaza España, where there is a **shop**, a **bank** and the Ayuntamiento. A little further on is another **shop** and a **pharmacy**.

WALKING NOTES

1.9km after Calzadilla, the Camino turns left, this route can be flooded after rain. There is an alternative left turn at the main road 500m after this one.

14.7km to Puebla de Sancho Pérez

Puebla de Sancho Pérez: Shops, cafés, banks, all on the Camino. However they take their siesta very seriously. **Café Abadia**, left at the church, is usually open. **Hostal el Monte**, has been recently recommended, it's on Calle San Antonio, signposted to the right 420m. Singles 22€, doubles 36€. They also have a restaurant which is also reported good. Tel 670 222 267.

Hostal el Monte in Puebla de Sancho Pérez has singles from 22€. Turn right at the beginning of the town. Tel 924 575 581

4km to Zafra.

Between here and Zafra there used to be two routes you could chose from however recently the right route (through the railway station) has been reported closed.

The Camino to Zafra goes along the side of a road for 2km before it forks left for a while and rejoins the main road near Albergue Van Gogh. (You can also ignore the left fork and continue along the road all the way.)

18.3km / 5h06m to:

Zafra

SLEEPING

Amigos del Camino (30, 12€ with breakfast) *Albergue de la Asociación de Amigos del Camino / Van Gogh*, on the Camino on the right before you come to the town centre. Laundry facilities. In a wonderfully preserved traditional old house. Tel 924 969 123 or 617 846 551 Open 12:00

Private (18, 12€) *Albergue Convento San Francisco*, follow the Camino through the town centre until you see it to your left. Laundry facilities. Evening meal, breakfast. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Friendly. Tel 680 663 806

Hotel Las Palmeras in the centre of the town on Plaza Grande, Singles from 40€, doubles 55€. Website www.hotellaspalmeras.net Tel 924 552 208

INFORMATION

Dia supermarket on the Camino on the left just before the Amigos albergue. Other shops, cafés, banks, pharmacies, etc. all on the Camino as it winds its way through Zafra's beautiful town centre.

La Barca near the Amigos albergue, does platos combinados and local wines - both excellent.

Restaurante La Rebotica on Calle Boticas, comes highly recommended, although it's not cheap.

WALKING NOTES

From the Amigos albergue the Camino runs straight up **Avenida de la Estación,** diagonally across **Plaza España** then down pedestrianised **Calle Sevilla,** to the centre of town at **Plaza Grande,** which it crosses on to **Calle Tetuán** before turning right on to **Calle Conde de la Corte** and then veering left and, close to the municipal albergue, right on to **Calle Ancha** then **Calle San Francisco,** straight across a roundabout towards a tower, la **Torre de San Francisco,** and from there into open country.

4.4km / 1h24m to:

Los Santos de Maimona

SLEEPING

Municipal (6, 8€) *Albergue Turístico*, on Calle Maestrazgo. Kitchen. During the week get the key from the Tourist Office, on Plaza de España. Tel 924 544 801. When they're closed go to the Policía Local on Avenida de la Constitución. Good reports. Tel 924 544 294 or 924 544 801 Open 13:00

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives on Plaza España opposite the church. To the right is a café, **Asociación de Agriculturos**, easy to miss. Beside it is the **Ayuntamiento** with a **Tourist Office** and a **public toilet**. On the Camino just past the church there's a **shop**, **banks and** a **pharmacy**. **Coviran supermarket**, after the church continue straight and take the first street on the right (no street name visible), it's down there 50m on the left.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino arrives in front of the church on Plaza España, and then passes to its left. Thanks to the local Amigos for their massive yellow arrows!

Albergue La Almazara is 900m off the Camino to the right. From there you can follow an alternative route, which avoids walking on the main road, and rejoins the main Camino before Villafranca. The distance is about the same.

7.6km / 2h10m to:

La Almazara (turnoff)

SLEEPING

Private (28, 15€ with breakfast) *Albergue Turístico La Almazara*, on the right branch of the Camino before Villafranca. Run by an ex-pilgrim and situated in open countryside in a beautifully restored olive factory. Café / restaurant. Swimming pool. Bike storage. Doubles 60€. Excellent facilities. Website *www.albergueturisticolaalmazara.com* Tel 924 986 181 or 669 964 546

INFORMATION

Café.

7.7km / 2h01m to:

Villafranca de los Barros

SLEEPING

Private (18, 14€) *Albergue Extrenatura*, on Calle Carvajales, right of the church on Plaza España. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Singles 25€, doubles 45€. Website *www.alojamientoextrenatura.es* Tel 656 314 025 Open 12:00

Hotel Diana on Calle Lepanto, turn left at Mercado Municipal. It has nice singles for 35€, doubles 45€, triples 75€. Website *www.hoteldiana.es* Tel 924 520 502

Casa Perín, follow the Camino through town until you get to Plaza de la Coronada, where there is a church on

your left, it's on your right on the corner. Singles for 30€, doubles 44€. Tel 646 179 914

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives in town at Plaza Mercado with the **Municipal Market / Mercado Municipal** on the corner on your right. Turn left here on to **Calle Lepanto**, which is the town's main street, with two **supermarkets**, **cafés**, **banks** and **pharmacies**.

Hotel Diana has a good restaurant with a pilgrim menu and a café which is open from 07:00.

WALKING NOTES

Some dead-straight Roman road walking on this part.

If this stage is too long for you there is the option to detour to **Almendralejo**. To get there turn left on a good quality unpaved road about 1km after the beginning of the long straight stretch. Almendralejo has all facilities. Good reports of **Hotel Los Angeles**, on Calle Macarena. Singles from €35, doubles 45€. Website www.hlangelesalmendralejo.com Tel 924 670 319 Good Menú del Día in **Cafetería Andana**, on Calle San Blas. For a shorter route from here to Torremejía walk north along the main road, when you come to the motorway use the bridge to get to the other side and follow the unpaved road which runs parallel to the motorway on the right.

27.5km / 7h14m to:

Torremejía

SLEEPING

Private (26, 16€) *Albergue Rojo Plata*, on Calle José de Espronceda, signposted from the Camino. Check in in Café Bar Rojo on the main road on the left, the albergue itself is a short distance away. Website *albergue-rojo-plata.com* Tel 658 854 372

Hotel Milenium on the main road near the supermarket, singles 25€, doubles 40€. Café / restaurant. Website www.hostalrestaurantemilenium.es Tel 924 341 095

INFORMATION

There are **cafés** and a small **shop** on the main road and a **Dia supermarket** in the same building as **Hotel Milenium**.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino continues on or near the main road for 6.6km north of Torremejía until a sign indicates to join a path on the right. From here it's a more-or-less straight run into Mérida.

15.4km / 4h05m to:

Mérida

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 10€) *Molino de Pan Caliente*, turn left after crossing the Roman Bridge / Puente Romano, the albergue is past the new bridge, to the left of the road beside the river. Contact details posted on the door. Tel 682 514 366 Open 11:30

Centrally located **Hostal Senero** at Calle Holguín 12, has been recommended, singles from 33€, doubles 40€. Tel 924 317 207. Website *www.hostalsenero.com*

Hotel Aquaforum at Calle Sagasta 10, has been recommended. Doubles 43€. Website aquaforumemerita.com Tel 647 224 473

INFORMATION

Mérida, with a population of 57,000, is the capital of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura. All facilities are available. **Supermarket** on Calle Jesé R Mélide, open seven days. **Banks** on Plaza de España and along Calle F Valverde Lillo which runs north from it. Restaurant **Mesón El Pestoreje** on Plaza de España has excellent tapas and raciones.

Vegetarian restaurant Shangri-La on Calle Sagasta has been recommended. Closed Sunday to Tuesday.

For Vegan food (and cats) **Casa Tierra** has also been recommended, it's also on Calle Sagasta, very near Shangri-La. Closed Monday.

Also good reports of restaurant **Casa Nano** on Calle Castelar.

Leaving town on the Camino, **Bar Acueducto** opens at 06:30 (07:00 on Sundays). A few metres further on to the left is a **24h pharmacy**.

WALKING NOTES

6.1km to Proserpina, cafés. Pass straight through a roundabout and take a left fork signposted as a cul-de-sac. Then follow a footpath which skirts the reservoir until it rejoins the road and continues north.

After Proserpina the Camino follows a small road for 4km until, at a point clearly marked with yellow arrows on a tree, it goes left on to a sandy lane, just before the road turns right over a bridge. The Camino then continues on unpaved lanes until El Carrascalejo.

13.8km / 3h59m to:

El Carrascalejo

SLEEPING

Municipal (24, 12€) *Albergue Municipal*, in a renovated building on the right after you turn left at the church. Kitchen. Modern facilities. Tel 618 979 583 or the number on the door, or just go to the café next door.

INFORMATION

Café that does food beside the pilgrim albergue.

2.6km / 0h45m to:

Aljucén

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 12€) *Albergue San Andrés*, follow the Camino to the right after the square, it's a little up the hill on the left. Kitchen. Go to **Bar Kiosko El Parque**, down the hill on the left, for the keys. Tel 691 231 248 or 680 885 329

Termas Aqua Libera, on the Camino on the left, is a Roman-themed hotel with Roman restaurant, Roman baths and Roman massages. Details from their website www.aqualibera.com

Casa Rural Mérida, on the Camino on the right, has doubles from 55€. Website www.casaruralmerida.com Tel 657 392 901

INFORMATION

The food in café **Kiosko El Parque** is reported good and it opens for breakfast, closed Tuesdays. There's a **small shop / bakery** on the same street as the municipal albergue, open 10:00. Hotel **Termas Aqua Libera** allows entry to its Roman baths for pilgrims for 10€.

WALKING NOTES

Leaving Aljucén follow the main street (Calle Mayor) north for 330m until the Camino takes a right turn on to another road which it follows for 1km until it joins a bigger road to the left for 400m before turning right on to an unpaved lane.

14.1km from leaving the road to the right turnoff to the Basilica de Santa Lucía del Trampal.

If you're interested in architecture and historic sights you may enjoy the detour to the **Basilica de Santa Lucía del Trampal**. It's 4km off the Camino on a path to the right. From the basilica you can continue 4.5km along quiet roads to Alcuéscar.

If your destination is **Albergue Turistico Los Olivos** then 700m

past the turnoff for the Basilica you'll see a sign pointing **LEFT** towards Puerto de la Herrerias, follow this and it brings you there in 1.3km. At this point the **Camino goes RIGHT** bringing you directly to Alcuéscar in 2.8km.

19.4km / 5h37m to:

Alcuéscar

SLEEPING

Religious (12, *donativo*) *Los Esclavos de Maria y los Pobres*, in a monastery on the main road on your left before the town, visible from the Camino. Grim. Run by very old-school volunteer hospitaleros. Tel 661 256 990 Open 13:00

Hostal Los Olivos, is 1.3km off the Camino before Alcuéscar, beside a big **Repsol petrol station**. Café / restaurant. Private rooms from 15€. It looks like a bypassed truck stop, which is what it is. The rooms smell funny and on no account should you drink the tapwater, but it's cheap and the food is surprisingly good. To get back to the Camino, go right and then right again to follow the old N-630 for 100m, then turn right on to an unpaved road. From here you can continue straight to Alcuéscar in 3km, or follow a Camino waymarking left along an old Camino route. Tel 661 256 990

INFORMATION

On Avenida Constitución (passing café Alta Cuesta on your left) on the right there's a Chinese **shop** with long opening hours which sells basic groceries. Further up turning left on to Calle Virgin del Rosario is a **pharmacy**, and further again turning right on to Calle Hernandez Pacheco, there's a **Dia supermarket** and a **bank**.

Restaurant / café **Alta Cuesta** does food and they open early.

Restaurant / café **El Cortijo** has also been recommended. It's on Calle Almeida Corrales, left off Avenida Constitución.

Continue up Calle Hernandez Pacheco and turn right on to Calle Real to **Churrería Maria** which opens early.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino turns sharp left just after the monastery.

8km to Casas de Don Antonio, the Camino bypasses the village.

Casas de Don Antonio. There's a **café** in the Centro Social (behind the Ayuntamiento) which also sells bread, and a **pharmacy** nearby.

7km to Aldea del Cano, the Camino bypasses the village which is a little to the right.

15.0km / 3h55m to:

Aldea del Cano

SLEEPING

Municipal (9, 6€) *Miliario del Verdinal*, ask in Restaurante Las Vegas for the key, it's right next door. Kitchen, laundry facilities. 9 beds, 4 mattresses. Beautiful albergue. Tel 927 383 004

Casa Rural Via De La Plata has singles from 35€, doubles 50€. Tel 666 431 420

INFORMATION

Restaurante Las Vegas does a good menú del día and opens at 08:00. The **Hogar de Mayores** café next to the albergue has *vino de la tierra*, local unaged wine, and tapas. There are several small **shops**, two on the street directly across the main road from the albergue, of which **UDACO** has a good selection, and another on Calle Nueva. **Pharmacy** on the square in front of the church.

11.4km / 3h05m to:

Valdesalor

SLEEPING

Municipal (14, 6€) *Albergue Municipal*, at the beginning of the town on the left. Microwaves and laundry facilities. Keys from the Town Hall / Ayuntamiento or as posted beside the door. Tel 927 129 711 or 655 661 370

Hostal Posada de la Plata at the northern end of the town on Calle Fernando de Magallanes. Singles 30€, doubles 40€. Tel 610 748 928 Open early

Alojamiento el Miajon de los Castuos, on Calle Pedro de Valdivia, has doubles from 50€. They also have a small café and a shop.

INFORMATION

Turn left after the albergue, then first right on Calle Pedro de Valdivia is a **café** and a **shop**, second right on Calle García de Paredes is another **shop**. Left past the church for another **café**. The restaurant at the **Repsol** petrol station past the village on the main road has been recommended, it opens early (closed Tuesday).

WALKING NOTES

From Valdesalor continue north on the right side of the main road. Waymarking isn't great here but basically, the Camino meanders parallel to this road for 5.4km then it heads off into open country before arriving into the suburbs of Cáceres.

11.6km / 3h19m to:

Cáceres

SLEEPING

Private (40, 18€) *Las Veletas*, at Calle General Margallo 36, follow the Camino past Plaza Mayor and the Iglesia de Santiago, after 400m it's on the right. Laundry facilities. Singles 26€, doubles 32€, triples 42€. Very good reports. Website *www.alberguelasveletas.es* Tel 681 258 701 Open 12:00

Hotel Don Carlos on Calle Pizarro has singles from 45€, doubles 60€. Tel 927 225 527

Vargas Figueroa Hostel has been recommended. It's on Calle Cuesta de la Compañía, in the old city, a few minutes walk from Plaza Mayor. Breakfast, bicycle parking. Dorms 23€, doubles 50€. Website *vfhostelcaceres.com/en/home* Tel 927 760 149

Pensión Carretero on Plaza Mayor (very near Restaurante Los Arcos) has nice singles from 30€, doubles 40€. Good reports. Tel 927 247 482

INFORMATION

Cáceres, with a population of 96,000 people is the second largest city in Extremadura (after Badajoz). It has all facilities. There are several **supermarkets** on or near the Camino entering the city (on the way out of the city there are none). In the centre (but NOT on the Camino) there are **supermarkets** on Calle Ceres and on Calle Moret. At the north end of Plaza Mayor is a pharmacy. From Plaza San Juan, down Calle San Pedro are banks, with more banks on Avenida de España. On Calle Pintores is a **City Decathlon** and several other shops selling hiking gear and shoes. The **Tourist Office** is in the old city opposite the cathedral.

Restaurante Los Arcos on Plaza Mayor underneath Pensión Cartera, is decent enough for the price.

Restaurant Centro, also on Plaza San Juan has a good, moderately priced menu with local specialities.

If you feel like splashing out **Enoteca La Maestra** also on Plaza Mayor is good, if a little pricy.

Restaurant El Figón de Eustaquio on Plaza de San Juan serves good quality local cuisine.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino turns right at Plaza San Francisco and enters the walled old city from the east. At the cathedral it turns sharp right. **If you want to go to Plaza Mayor and the part of the city with cafés, shops, etc. then continue straight here along Calle Arco de la Estrella**. After the cathedral the Camino leaves the

old city on to Plazuela de Santiago where we pass Iglesia de Santiago and veer left and continues north out of the city along Calle de Zapatería, passing to the left of the bullring, from where you can easily pick up the waymarkings.
Between here and Casar de Cáceres the Camino has been rerouted to follow a slightly longer route which avoids the busy main road. Watch out for where it branches left off of Avenida de las Lavanderas just before where the dual carriageway ends.

12.3km / 3h29m to:

Casar de Cáceres

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 6€) *Albergue Municipal*, follow the Camino into town until you see the **Town Hall / Ayuntamiento** on your right, the albergue is on your left. Ask in **Bar Majuca** or **Bar El Siglo** for the keys, or the **Tourist Office** across the square. Kitchen, laundry facilities. The first room suffers from being too close to the toilets with their noisy extractor fan. Possibly also earplugs needed at weekends due to the town's riotous night-life. Tel 669 961 887

Albergue Rural Ruta de la Plata is on the left at the beginning of the town, it bills itself as *El Albergue* however it's more a hotel than an albergue. Singles from 30€, doubles 60€. Tel 661 178 430

INFORMATION

Dia supermarket on the Camino on the way into town. **Cafés**, **shops**, **banks** and a **pharmacy** on the Camino near the municipal albergue.

Bar Majuca is friendly and does excellent food.

Bar El Siglo has also been recommended.

Churrería Borges on Calle Barrio Nuevo opens at 06:00, from the door of the municipal albergue pass through the arch opposite and take the first left, closed Tuesday.

WALKING NOTES

Continue north along the main street to leave town. After 1.9km, where there's a small round building with a pointed roof, take the right fork here.
Restrictions due to AVE works are now finished so the Camino has returned to its old route down to the reservoir. The track here is in use by regional trains, but not yet high-speed ones.
21km to the turnoff for the albergue at Embalse de Alcántara. If you're continuing to Cañaveral, immediately after the second bridge leave the road and follow a steep path up to the right. To get to the albergue at Embalse de Alcántara stay on the road. **This albergue has been closed since 2021, as of late 2023 there is no news of when it will reopening. Please see updates.**

The guest house on the main road, **Alcántara, Pesca, Evasión**, has single rooms for 25€ and doubles for 40€, breakfast included. However, they prefer dealing with groups and may be reluctant to open for individuals. Tel 927 090 510. Website *www.alcantarapescaevasion.com*
ALTERNATIVE: From Embalse you can continue on the road (N-630) all the way to Cañaveral (slightly shorter).

33.0km / 9h33m to:

Cañaveral

SLEEPING

Private (20, 15€) *Albergue Cañaveral*, on the Camino on the right. Modern facilities. Restaurant (open when there's enough pilgrims). Singles 25€, doubles 35€. In winter phone to check availability. Website *www.hostelcanaveral.com* Tel 669 402 446 or 655 351 976 Open 12:00

Posada La Campana is on the main square near the Ayuntamiento / Town Hall. Singles 44€, doubles 55€, triples 77€. Café / restaurant. Website www.posadalacampana.com Tel 616 569 434

Hostal Málaga, on the Camino near the end of the town. Singles from 25€, doubles 40€. Café / restaurant which is probably best avoided. Tel 927 300 067

INFORMATION

The Camino follows the main road through town. Along it you will find cafés and a shop. There's another shop, several more cafés and banks to the left of the Camino near the church and along Calle Real.

The evening meal in **Restaurante Asador** has been recommended, it's on the Camino.

Churrería Los Arcos opens at 07:00, it's on the Camino on the right.

Petrol station on the Camino a little past the town.

WALKING NOTES

There is some confusion about the route immediately after Cañaveral. Following the main road north until you see yellow arrows directing you on to a lane on the left. (There are signs for other hiking routes around here 'Caminos Naturales' – do not be tempted to follow them!) This ascends gently at first and then more steeply before descending to a road which you cross and veer right to pass through the car park of a strip joint (**El Puerto,** does not give pilgrim discounts and in any case doesn't open until long after your bedtime), then veering left to follow the yellow arrows on a path through a wood.
Over the following stages there are several villages which are described as (turnoff). These are villages which have a pilgrim albergue but which are not on the actual route of the Camino. The distances given is the distance to the point on the Camino where you turn off to get to the village in question, not the actual distance to the village. The distance of the village from the Camino is given in the route description (see below for Grimaldo). Getting back to the Camino from one of these villages is described with the detailed information for the village.
The village of Grimaldo is 650m off the Camino to the right at an abundantly signposted junction.

8.0km / 2h32m to:

Grimaldo (turnoff)

SLEEPING

Municipal (12, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, on the right on the main road beside Bar Grimaldo (ask there for the key). Laundry facilities. Nice, simple albergue in a pleasant village. Tel 650 848 181 Open early

La Posada de Grimaldo has been highly recommended as an alternative to the pilgrim albergue. It does a special pilgrim price of 30€ per person, breakfast included. It's a little past the albergue on the same side. In a historic building with sumptuously decorated rooms. Website *www.laposadadegrimaldo.es* Tel 616 931 745 or 676 026 458

INFORMATION

Cafés. **Bar Grimaldo** does good *platos combinados* and opens in the morning. To get back to the Camino from Grimaldo, from the albergue walk up through the village for 620m to a road junction where you take a left. This brings you under the motorway and back to the Camino.

WALKING NOTES

The village of Ríolobos is 4km off the Camino to the left. The place where your turn off is clearly signposted.

7.8km / 2h13m to:

Ríolobos (turnoff)

SLEEPING

Private (25, 15€) *Camping Las Catalinas*, turn right when you come down the hill into the village, it's beside the main road. Café / restaurant. They do an evening menu and breakfast. If you chose to stay here the friendly and helpful hospitalero may be able to drop you back on the original route in the morning. Website *www.campinglascatalinas.es* Tel 605 824 086 or 927 451 150

Casa Rural Abuela Máxi has singles 25€ in an apartment with kitchen. Website abuelamaxi.com/peregrinos Tel 670 733 093

INFORMATION

In the village there are two small **shops**, **cafés**, a **bank** and a **pharmacy**, all near the church. In the park beside the albergue is an enormous duck pond. From Ríolobos you can return to the Camino by continuing past Camping Las Catalinas, for 4.4km along the road until you rejoin the Camino where it leaves the road to the left. From there it's 6.3km to Galisteo.

WALKING NOTES

4km after the turnoff for Ríolobos you cross a canal and then turn right on to a road which you follow for a short distance until the Camino goes left on to a lane. 5.7km to the turnoff for San Gil. The village of San Gil is 2.4km off the Camino, it has a shop, cafés and a pharmacy.

San Gil. Bar **Las Pizarras** does good tapas and meals, it is on the main road at the end of the village. **San Gil also has a municipal albergue which has been closed since before Covid**. From San Gil you can continue on an alternative route to Carcaboso completely bypassing Galisteo. Like the other route it's all road walking.

11.4km / 3h11m to:

Galisteo

SLEEPING

Private (8, 15€ with breakfast) *Albergue Turístico de Galisteo*, on Calle Viña de Egido, up the alleyway to the right of Bar Los Emigrantes. Microwaves. Under the management of the owner of Camping Las Catalinas in Ríolobos. If this albergue is full they'll provide free transport to and from Ríolobos. Tel 927 451 150 or 605 824 086

Hostal Los Emigrantes above Bar Los Emigrantes, facing you when you arrive in the village. Singles 20€. Tel 691 468 323

La Pensión del Parador, on the Camino on the way out of town, has nice double rooms for 38€, including breakfast. Tel 645 986 793.

INFORMATION

Where you arrive in front of **Bar Los Emigrantes** the Camino turns up to your left. Further up the hill to the right of the Camino in the walled town through Puerta del Reys there is a small **Spar supermarket** and a **pharmacy**. Also in the walled town on Plaza de España there's a **shop**, a **bank** and a **bakery**.

Cafétería Las Picotas, on the Camino on the left at the start of the village, does decent food.

Bar Los Emigrantes has also been recommended.

WALKING NOTES

From **Cafétería Las Picotas** walk up the hill towards the walled town and continue walking with the town walls to your right to the other side of the old town from where you should be able to pick up the waymarkings which lead steeply downhill and across an old bridge over the Río Jerte, straight through a roundabout, under the motorway and then right at another roundabout to follow the paved road north towards Carcaboso. 6km Aldehuala del Jerte. Café, shops.

11.0km / 3h01m to:

Carcaboso

SLEEPING

Private (11, 13€) *Albergue de Peregrinos Señora Elena*, continue up the main road. Laundry facilities, kitchen with microwaves. A little run down. Tel 659 774 580 or 927 402 075

Municipal (30, 15€ with breakfast) *Albergue Majalavara*, signposted to the right of the Camino on Calle Los Militarios. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Nicely renovated old school building. Good reports. Website *majalavara.com* Tel 640 281 337 Open 10:00

September 2023: closed, still no opening date, see updates

Hostal Ciudad de Caparra (ajoining Restaurante Cáparra) has singles 25€, doubles 44€. Good reports.

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives into town on the main road, along which you will find **cafés** and a small **supermarket** next to a small park on the right. Further up on the left is a smaller **shop** with longer opening hours. **Pharmacy** up a street on the right.

Restaurante Cáparra, on the main road up from Señora Elena, does an excellent menú del día, and meals in the evening.

WALKING NOTES

Leaving Carcaboso pay careful attention to waymarkings at the various road junctions. 1.3km from the village there is a point where previously there were two routes which divided here for about 2km. Nowadays the Camino continues straight at this point.

Between Carcaboso and Aldeanueva del Camino things are a bit confusing because the available accommodation is all off the Camino. Your options, if you start from Carcaboso, are basically the following: (1) Walk 18.6km to Oliva de Plasencia where there is an albergue and a guest house. (2) Walk 18.2km to Cáparra and arrange to be picked up there by one or other of the hotels. (3) Walk to Cáparra then follow the road to Hostal El Avión for a total of 23.4km. (4) Walk through Cáparra and then take the road to Hostal Asturias or Hotel Jarilla for a total of 28.7km.

12km to Dehesa Ventaquemada, turnoff for Oliva de Placencia

The village of Oliva de Plasencia is 6.6km off the Camino to the right along a sometimes busy road.

12.0km / 3h40m to:

Oliva de Plasencia (turnoff)

SLEEPING

Private (15, 20€) *Albergue Turístico San Blas*, with the Ayuntamiento at your back, cross the square and take the street to the left, then right and right again, it's there on the right, on Calle Real. Kitchen. Tel 647 563 450 or 947 563 450

Casa Rural Vía Caparra on Calle Torre. Singles 30€, doubles 40€. Website *www.viacaparra.com* Tel 620 007 490 They may collect from Ventaquemada or Cáparra.

INFORMATION

Shop beside the Casa Rural, **café**, **pharmacy** beside the Ayuntamiento.

Bar Cáparra does very expensive food. It's at the eastern edge of the village in a low building, easy to miss.

From **Oliva de Plasencia** you can follow a quiet road which will take you to Cáparra in 6.4km (signposted).

WALKING NOTES

6.2km to Cáparra Roman City. At the **visitors centre** in Cáparra

there are **public toilets and vending machines** for snacks and drinks (you will need coins and the building isn't always open). The visitors centre is 300m from the Camino, turn right at the arch itself or shortly after it.

Hostal El Avión is in **Villar de Plasencia**, 5,2km off the Camino from **Cáparra** along a quiet road (CC-11.2). They may provide a pick-up service from Cáparra. Singles 40€, doubles 60€. Tel 652 779 448. To get back to the Camino from **Hostal El Avión** either retrace your steps back to Cáparra or walk north along the **Vía Verde**.

On the Camino after Cáparra there are several rivers which you cross using stepping-stones and which may be extremely difficult to cross during periods of wet weather. Please ask advice locally and don't attempt dangerous river crossings – especially if you're on your own. If it has been raining a lot your best bet may be to go to Oliva de Plasencia and follow the minor road north from there until Hostal El Avión and follow the **Vía Verde** (see below) from there.

There is now a **Vía Verde** (combined cycling and walking track build along the route of an old train line) which starts in Plasencia and finishes past Puerto de Béjar, running parallel but not along the same route as the Camino. It passes beside Hostal el Avión, Hostal Asturia and Hotel Jarilla, then close to **Aldeanueva del Camino** before taking a detour around **Hervás**, a beautiful town with one of the best-preserved Jewish quarters in Spain, and continues from there to **Baños de Montemayor** and **Puente de Béjar** (important to note, it doesn't actually go through those towns, it passes close by them). If you stay in one of the off-Camino hotels this can be an alternative way to rejoin the Camino, without involving any backtracking. It's also a good alternative if it's been raining a lot.

The **Vía Verde** runs very close to all three hotels. It is literally right beside **Hostal El Avión**. To get to it from **Hostal Asturia** cross the road and walk through the enormous lorry park and pass to the left of some buildings. To get to it from **Hotel Jarilla**, from the rear of the hotel cross about 100m of open ground. **NOTE**: there a point 2km north of Hotel Jarilla where the Vía Verde intercepts a route which brings you straight back to the Camino before Aldeanueva, there's not much to choose between this and following the Vía Verde to Aldeanueva. **8.2km** after **Cáparra, turn off for Hostal Asturias and Hotel Jarilla**. Where the Camino runs along the side of a straight road you'll see yellow writing pointing right. Both hotels are 2.3km from this point on the other side of the motorway.

Hotel Jarilla, across the road to your left. Singles 30€, doubles 50€. Café / restaurant with good food. Website www.hoteljarilla.com Tel 927 477 040

Hostal Asturias has singles 32€, doubles 60€, a café / restaurant. They may pick up from Cáparra on request. Under new management. Tel 927 477 057 or 663 968 927.

PLEASE NOTE: the hotels which pick pilgrims up from the Camino do so as a courtesy to pilgrims, they are not in any way obliged to bring you back to the Camino the next morning.

After the turnoff for Hostal Asturias / Hotel Jarilla, in 4.9km you will pass underneath the motorway then immediately see signs pointing left to ford a river. This river is often too big to ford, in which case you should cross the river on the bridge on your right and continue on the road until you rejoin the Camino. You will pass under the motorway three more times before Aldeaneuva.

26.3km / 7h34m to:

Aldeanueva del Camino

SLEEPING

Private (26, 13€) *La Casa de mi Abuela*, on Calle Alcázar, cross over a stone bridge and just after the Ayuntamiento veer right. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Private with 3 beds 39€, 4 beds 52€. Website *www.lacasademiabuela-albergue.com* Tel 692 531 587 or 630 410 740

Hostal Restaurante Montesol, on the Camino beside the main road at the end of the village. Singles 30€, doubles 40€. Café / restaurant. Tel 927 484 335

INFORMATION

A **shop**, a **bank** and several **cafés** on the Camino. For the main road turn left at the square (where you see LiberBank on the right), when you come to the main road the **supermarket** is to the right and the **pharmacy** is to the left.

Bar Sebas has probably the best menú del día of the whole Vía, turn left at the main road.

On the left at the square is **Churrería El Mercao** which opens at 08:00.

WALKING NOTES

Follow the Camino north through the village to where it joins the main road, at a roundabout (motorway service station café open 24h, to your left), cross over the motorway and veer left. The Camino to Baños is along the side of the road, although there are some places where you can walk a little off the road. About 2km out there's a bollard which urges you to veer right on to a lane, ignore it and stay on the road. 5.1km café.

9.5km / 2h57m to:

Baños de Montemayor

SLEEPING

Private (12, 15€) *Albergue Turístico*, to the right of the Camino as you walk through town, at Calle Castañar 42. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Breakfast. Nice garden. Tel 655 620 515 or 635 453 540 Open early

Emedos Albergue on Calle Don Victoriano, which is left at the Ayuntamiento. Singles 18€, doubles 40€. Good reports. Tel 616 239 919

Hotel Glorieta, on the main road to the left of the Camino. Singles 50€ with breakfast. Café / restaurant. Website www.hotelrestaurantelaglorieta.com Tel 927 488 018 or 638 181 801

INFORMATION

On the main road are **cafés** and **restaurants**, a small **supermarket** that sells everything, a **pharmacy** and a **bank**. The town centre is east of the main road. On the Camino, opposite the Town Hall / Ayuntamiento, is a small shop and further along it are cafés and a churrería.

Bar Carlos on the Camino near the Ayuntamiento is friendly and does excellent food.

Also excellent food in **Restaurante La Peña** on the main road opposite the bank.

WALKING NOTES

Turn sharp left after the Ayuntamiento and follow the Camino as it winds its way through the village before joining the Roman road up the side of the valley towards the pass.

3km with a 200m ascent to Puerto de Béjar. **Entering Castilla y León**. Shortly after comes Peñacaballera, café and a petrol station with a small shop. Shortly after the petrol station

the Camino turns left away from the road. The pilgrim albergue at Puente de Béjar is to the right at this point.

3.1km / 1h16m to:

Puente de Béjar

SLEEPING

Amigos del Camino (16, *donativo*, March to October) *Albergue de Peregrinos de Puerto de Béjar*, a little to the right of the Camino at the point after the petrol station where it leaves the main road. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Staffed by volunteers. Tel 652 506 189 or 683 610 660

El Jardin del Conde on the Camino on the left shortly after where it leaves the main road. Café / restaurant. Singles 59€, doubles 61€. Nice rural setting. Tel 603 790 273

INFORMATION

Some limited food available from the **petrol station shop**.

Restaurant **La Pequeña Estación** is in the nearby old railway station, in 2023 they were only opening at weekends and not in the winter. Tel 605 880 052

The railway line here is the same **Vía Verde** mentioned before.

WALKING NOTES

Beautiful walking through rolling hills to...

9.3km / 2h51m to:

Calzada de Béjar

SLEEPING

Private (28, 12€) *Alba y Soraya*, on your left as you enter the village. Comfortable, spacious albergue. Fireplace, laundry facilities. The friendly owners live in the village. Evening meal and breakfast on request. Private rooms, singles 20€, doubles 30€. Website alojamientosalbasoraya.com Tel 646 410 643 or 606 958 145

Casa Rural Jorge at the start of the village has been recommended. It has singles 28€, doubles 43€, triple 53€, breakfast included. Evening meal. Tel 636 075 086 or 923 416 542

Also recommended by pilgrims is **Calzada Romana**. It's on the Camino near the end of the village on the right. Singles 25€, doubles 40€, triples 45€. Breakfast. Website *en.calzadaromana.com* Tel 696 112 340 or 923 403 228

INFORMATION

Café to the left of the Camino behind the church.

8.9km / 2h25m to:

Valverde de Valdelacasa

SLEEPING

Municipal (22, 12€) *Albergue Santiago Apóstol*, to the left of the Camino, on Calle Real. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Two private rooms. Ask in the café for the key. Tel 696 368 046

INFORMATION

Café which does good food, on the Camino at the end of the village.

WALKING NOTES

3.6km to Valdecasa, café which does food in the **Centro de Día**, turn right at the main road, it's about 300m on the right.

2km after Valdecasa there is a junction with a lot of confusing yellow arrows. Basically you have two options, either continue on the road or take the lane which goes left at a right angle, this seems to be the 'official' Camino. Both routes bring you to Fuenteroble in approximately the same distance.

11.8km / 3h35m to:

Fuenterroble de Salvatierra

SLEEPING

Religious (70, donativo) *Albergue Parroquial Santa María*, walk through the village and it's on your right at a junction. Look for the massive white cross. Sometimes a communal evening meal and breakfast. Website *alberguedefuenterroble.wordpress.com* Tel 923 151 083

Casa Rural Arrieros Familia Garcia has single rooms from 25€. The owners live on the Camino at the start of the village however the guest house is a short walk away. Website www.casaruralarrierosfamiliagarcia.com Tel 636 213 491 or 923 151 071

INFORMATION

Cafés on the Camino, **shop** a little to the left, signposted. **Pharmacy** on the Camino on the right.

Mesón el Pesebre does tasty meals from about 18:00. It's on the Camino.

Food in **Café José** has also been recommended. It's also on the Camino.

WALKING NOTES

There are two possible routes here. They divide 11.8km after Fuenterroble at a gate / cattle grid with a sign which says **Dueña de Abajo**. The two routes rejoin in the village of Morille.

The **RIGHT ROUTE** passes through **Pedrosillo** (albergue, cafés, shop) and has a total distance (Fuenterroble to Morille) of 29.8km.

The **LEFT ROUTE** passes through **San Pedro de Rozados** (albergue, café) and has a total distance (Fuenterroble to Morille) of 32km.

THE RIGHT ROUTE

From where the routes divide to Pedrosilla is 6.5km.

18.4km / 5h17m to:

RIGHT Pedrosillo de los Aires

SLEEPING

Municipal (10, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, walk up Calle Iglesia to the church, pass to its left then turn left on to Calle el Sol, you'll see the Ayuntamiento in front of you, pass it to the right, the albergue is basically behind it on Calle Consejo. Kitchen. Tel 629 129 647 or 609 107 381

INFORMATION

Café Meson Lucia by the swimming pool on the left at the beginning of the village does OK food. There's another bar behind the church and yet another near the albergue, neither of which serve food. There is a small **shop** with no sign, from Café Meson Lucia turn left, at the next corner is a grey house with a balcony, ring the bell and if they're open they'll respond. They sell everything you need to cook for yourself in the albergue (this is an option worth considering).

WALKING NOTES

5.2km to Monterrubio de la Sierra.
6.3km to Morille.

THE LEFT ROUTE

From where the routes divide to San Pedro is 16.3km.

Walk uphill along an unpaved path, passing to the right of the windmills on the top of **Pico de la Dueña** (1,145m, highest point on the Camino so far). Then steeply downhill on another rough path before joining a road.

San Pedro de Rozados is a little off the Camino to the left. Follow the road if you wish to continue to Morille.

28.3km / 8h12m to:

LEFT San Pedro de Rozados

SLEEPING

Private (12, 10€, April to October approximately) *Albergue Mari Carmen*, on Calle de Oriente, ask for the key in VII

Carreras restaurant. Basic, neglected. Tel 923 344 075

Hotel Rural VII Carreras, on Calle Corpus Cristi, turn right on to Calle Rodera then right again. Singles 35€, doubles 40€, triples 60€. Café / restaurant. Website *www.turismoruralviicarreras.es* Tel 923 344 075

INFORMATION

Shop.

Hotel Rural VII Carreras has a **café / restaurant** which does food of variable quality.

WALKING NOTES

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN MORILLE

RIGHT 11.5km / 3h18m
LEFT 3.9km / 1h01m to:

Morille

SLEEPING

Municipal (24, 6€) *Albergue Municipal*, just to the left of the Ayuntamiento. Keys from Bar Marcos or call the number on the door. The albergue is spread over two buildings, which one they open first depends how many pilgrims are around. Tel 659 928 010

INFORMATION

Cafés. **Bar Marcos**, which is to the left of the Camino, does food.

WALKING NOTES

10km to Miranda de Azán, which is 250m to the right of the Camino. Cafés which all open about 10:00. However, **no pilgrim albergue** (despite the rumours!)
Approaching Salamanca you'll pass under a road on to an urban street, past a roundabout and into a park where you turn right and walk with a stream on your left. You will see a yellow arrow telling you to cross a footbridge to the right, ignore it and continue to follow other yellow arrows with the stream on your left through a tunnel under a railway line, past a petrol station and straight along a street until you see the Roman bridge over the river Duero which you'll cross to the city proper.
9.5km to Salamanca
Once over the bridge, cross the road and continue right uphill to the point where the right turn to the municipal albergue is indicated with a metal Camino sign set into the ground with the letter 'A' for 'Albergue'.

19.6km / 5h29m to:

Salamanca

SLEEPING

Municipal (18, donativo) *Casa la Calera*, follow the metal plates in the ground after crossing the bridge and climbing the hill into the old city. Those with 'A' point to the albergue. Kitchen. Excellent albergue run by permanent staff and volunteers. It usually opens at 16:00 however in off-peak times you may need to call a number on the door. If you arrive early you may be able to drop your backpack off between 12:00 and 13:00. Tel 652 921 185 Open 16:00

Hotel Condal, on Plaza de Santa Eulalia two minutes walk from Plaza Mayor. Good location and excellent value for a tourist city. Singles from 37€ and doubles 47€. Tel 923 218 400. Website *www.hotelcondal.com*

Hostal Granada at Calle Fray Luis de Granada 12, a few minutes walk north of Plaza Mayor and near the Camino leaving town. Singles / doubles from 35€. One of the better budget options. Tel 923 622 977

INFORMATION

Salamanca, with a population of 228,000 is the largest city and capital of the Province of Salamanca. The Camino passes right through the city centre, close to the most important sights, banks, pharmacies, places to eat, etc.

Follow the Camino past the Cathedral, on the left is **Croissantaría Paris**, which opens about 08:00 with coffee and freshly baked pastries. A little further on the right opposite Casa de la Concha is a **Carrefour supermarket** which opens 7 days. Then on the left **La Tahona de la Abuela** which does excellent empanadas (Galician pies with a variety of fillings, such as tuna and chorizo). Just before Plaza Mayor is **Café La Platea** for drinks and cheap tapas.

Excellent tapas and (also excellent) Menú del Día in **Restaurante Don Quijote** on Calle Serranos.

A little more expensive but very much iconic is **Mesón Restaurante Cervantes** in the south east corner of Plaza Mayor, www.mesoncervantes.com

Café / Bakery Granier, on the Camino **after Plaza Mayor** also has nice pastries. A little further on on the right at a roundabout is **Cafetería Toscano** which opens at 07:30, closed Tuesday.

Also on the Camino past Plaza Mayor is a **pharmacy** that open every day of the year.

Salamanca's **Central Food Market / Mercado Central de Abastos** is just to the east of Plaza Mayor. In its basement is a small bar which serves excellent tapas, south side entrance, down the stairs.

There's a big **Decathlon** outdoor equipment shop about a 40 minute walk from the centre, or get bus 20 to Santa Marta from Gran Vía, getting off at Leclerc supermarket. It's south east of the centre.

WALKING NOTES

Leaving Salamanca there are almost no waymarkings of any description. Luckily it's mostly straight all the way. From Plaza Mayor continue north along Calle de Zamora, then straight over a roundabout on to Paseo Torres Vilarroel, where there's a small shop / bakery that opens at 07:00, continuing straight to another roundabout where you veer left on to Avenida de Borgoña, then straight through another roundabout by a large Carrefour supermarket. Here the Camino crosses to the right side of the road and (just when you've abandoned all hope) Camino waymarkings appear again!
7km to Aldeaseca de la Almuña, turn left at a small park with a fountain (Plaza Mayor) and walk 100m to a café. Small supermarket a little further along the Camino on the right. The Camino crosses to the right side of the main road just after the village and then crosses it again to arrive to...
4.8km to Castellanos de Villiquera, café, shop by the church, pharmacy.

15.9km / 4h27m to:

Calzada de Valdunciel

SLEEPING

Private (12, 15€) *Albergue La Casa del Molinero*, follow the Camino through the village past the Town Hall / Ayuntamiento and it's on the right. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Breakfast. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Website *lacasadelmolinero.net* Tel 689 008 562

Municipal (8, 8€) *Albergue Municipal*, past Casa del Molinero then turn right after the community centre just as you're about to come back into open country. For the keys see the instructions on the door, or the door may just be open, in which case call the hospitalera to tell her you're there. Kitchen. Website *calzadadevalduncIel.es/peregrinos/albergue-del-peregrino* Tel 717 706 637 or 923 310 024

El Pozo is right at the Plaza on Calle Laguna. Basic single rooms from 25€. Tel

923 310 152
Casa Rural Mari Carmen, on the Camino on the left before the Plaza. Singles 25€, doubles 45€. Tel 923 310 101

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives on to Plaza de la Constitución. From here the albergues are straight on. For **cafés / restaurants, shops, pharmacy** turn right on to Calle La Laguna.
Restaurante El Pozo on Calle La Laguna, does good tapas.
The more upmarket **Restaurante Joaquín**, has good tapas and a full menu, including Platos Combinados, if you ask nicely. Follow Calle la Laguna to the main road and turn right.
The **ATM** of Unicaja is only available during office hours.

WALKING NOTES

5.2km cross under the motorway. After rain it may be necessary to follow a short detour to avoid getting your feet wet. It's clearly waymarked.

20.2km / 5h41m to:

El Cubo de Tierra del Vino

SLEEPING

Private (20, 18€ or 32€ with dinner and breakfast) *Albergue Torre de Sabre*, signposted to the right of the Camino before the village, on Calle Travesía de la Ermita. Laundry facilities. Evening meal, breakfast. Singles 30€, doubles 40€. Tel 633 424 321 or 697 759 418

INFORMATION

Shop on Calle Garcia de la Serna, left off the Camino. **Cafés**, **pharmacy** on the Camino.
Restaurante Casa Iván on Calle Mayor, has been recommended, new in 2022.

WALKING NOTES

Continue down El Cubo's main street, veer right at the church, cross the river and then take a left.

13.6km / 3h43m to:

Villanueva de Campeán

SLEEPING

Private (23, 12€) *Albergue Vía de la Plata*, on the Camino on the right. Laundry facilities. Microwave. Contact details on the door. Good reports. Tel 630 980 967 or 980 560 365
Posada Real del Buen Camino, on Calle Cruz 2. Doubles 76€. They also do meals and breakfast. Website *www.laposadadelbuencamino.com* Tel 620 235 322

INFORMATION

Café Bar Vía de la Plata on the Camino, does good food. Closed Mondays.

WALKING NOTES

4km to the **turnoff for San Marcial**, straight ahead where the Camino turns sharp right, 1km off the Camino. In San Marcial **Bar el Cruce**, on the main road, does food, open 10:00 or 09:30 at weekends, and there's a small **supermarket**. From San Marcial you can rejoin the Camino by following the main road north for 1.8km. The detour works out at about the same distance as following the Camino.
100m before where the Camino joins the main road is the right turn for **El Perdigón**, 1km off the Camino, where **Hostal Rural El Perdigón** has been recommended. Website www.hotelruralelperdigon.com Tel 679 495 499

18.4km / 4h54m to:

Zamora

SLEEPING

Municipal (36, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, on the Camino up the hill and around a sharp bend on the right. Kitchen. Excellent facilities. Tel 980 534 097 Opens at 14:00
Casa Mara has been recommended. It's on the Camino 800m before the bridge, Calle de Fermoselle 13. Singles 25€, doubles 40€, breakfast included. Tel 622 067 804 Open 12:00
Hostal Bajo La Murall, on Calle Feria, on the Camino after Plaza Mayor. Singles 35€, doubles 55€, triples 70€. Website www.bajolamuralla.es Tel 980 530 769

INFORMATION

Zamora has a population of 66,000 and is the capital and largest town in the Province of Zamora. It has all facilities. **Shops**, **cafés**, **banks** and **pharmacy** on the Camino on or near **Plaza Mayor**. The **Tourist Office** is near the cathedral. Running south off Plaza Mayor is **Calle de los Herreros** where you'll find many **tapas bars**. **Taberna la Salita** is good for slightly posh (but not expensive) tapas and local wines. It's on the right. Closed Sunday and Monday.
On the same street **Bayadoliz** has been recommended for food, although their cryptic menu may make ordering a bit random. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.
Zamora has a **Decathlon** outdoor store conveniently located near the Camino to the north of the city. Opens 09:30.
On the Camino on the left when leaving town (Calle de la Hiniesta) is a Café / Bakery, **Pan el Viso**, which opens every day at 07:30.
Zamora is a stop on the high-speed (AVE) train line between Santiago and Madrid.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino turns left and crosses Plaza Mayor diagonally and then goes down Calle de las Costanillas, veering left at the bottom on to Calle de la Feria then it continues straight across a roundabout. From there it's straight ahead on to Calle Morana then veering left on to Carretera Hiniesta. Then continue straight through another roundabout and walk on the right until the Camino leaves the road and continues on a lane. **NB. Another Camino goes west from here towards Portugal, a signpost marks the spot where the paths divide, be careful not to get the routes confused.**
7km to Roales del Pan, cafés and a small Coviran supermarket, follow the signs for Bar T&B. The municipal albergue here is closed, no plans to reopen it. After Roales you will begin to encounter the northern AVE route. A bridge has been built over the new tracks so no special detours are needed.

19.2km / 5h24m to:

Montamarta

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 5€, March to November) *Albergue Municipal*, in the old school building, to the right of the Camino before the village after passing under the main road. Kitchen. Tel 980 550 112 or the contact details on the door. Open 14:00
Casa Rural El Molino de Castilla 1914 in a renovated mill on the main road just before Restaurante Rosamari. They have a nice enclosed garden with a swimming pool. Singles 30€, doubles 50€, triples 75€. Recommended by several pilgrims. Website molinodecastilla.com Tel 655 014 076
Casa Rural El Tío Bartolo on Calle Carlos Pinilla, turn left for Corviran, then right, then left. Singles 25€. Tel 650 405 236

INFORMATION

The Camino joins the main road at the municipal albergue and then follows it north through the village. There's a **Coviran Supermarket** down a street to the left at the bus stop. **Bakery** on the Camino on the left.

Café / Restaurante Rosamari is very welcoming and does good food and excellent tapas and opens about 07:30, it's on the Camino near the end of the village. **Café El Pescador** to the left at Rosamari. Fairly new. Good reports for food. Good reports of the platos combinados in **Fisuk Bar y Parrilla**. It's on the main road on the right.

WALKING NOTES

When the reservoir is in flood you'll have to cross the road bridge and turn left towards a small church.

4.1km the Camino turns sharp right, crosses the motorway and then continues north. Continue straight here if you wish to **follow the N-631 which will bring you directly to Tábara in approximately 25km**, bypassing Fontanillas, Riego and Granja. It's reported to be road-side walking but with light traffic and through pretty countryside.

12.6km / 3h32m to:

Fontanillas de Castro

SLEEPING

Association (12, donativo) *Albergue Castroterafe*, on the main road at the north end of the village. Follow the Camino through the village past the church, where it turns left follow the signs for the municipal albergue. Wonderful volunteer run albergue with communal evening meal and breakfast. Tel 676 151 949

INFORMATION

Café on the main road 500m off the Camino, signposted before the village to the right, this cross-country detour through a field and a graveyard of old tyres, would be messy after wet weather.

WALKING NOTES

3.7km to Riego del Camino

Community café called **La Biblioteca** on Calle las Escuelas, not open in the morning and closed Wednesdays.

6.7km to Granja de Moreruela

10.3km / 2h47m to:

Granja de Moreruela

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 6€) *Albergue Municipal*, near the church, beside the main road. For the key go to café Tele Club, on the opposite side of the main road at the northern end of the village. Tel 980 587 183

Casa Rural Donde Victor Luna has singles 40€, doubles 60€, triples 80€, breakfast included. Reported to be fabulous! Website www.dondevictorluna.es Tel 665 874 773

Casa Rural Tio Quico from the main road pass the albergue and turn left on to Calle Dr. Damián González Galindo, it's on the right. Singles 25€, doubles 50€, quadruples 80€. Website *www.casadeltioquico.com* Tel 695 260 906

INFORMATION

The café **Tele Club** does substantial meals and opens about 07:00. There is a **shop** on the Camino beside the church and a **pharmacy** on the main road at the north end of the village.

WALKING NOTES

Behind the church is a sign which marks the point where the **Camino Sanabrés** divides left from the **Vía de la Plata** to follow a course through southern Galicia to Santiago.

The Camino Sanabrés

6.7km from Granja you will cross a **bridge called Puente Quintos over the river Esla**. Immediately after the bridge the Camino turns left off the road and follows the river for 1.1km before turning right just before the brow of a hill (where there is a good view of the river to the south). It then passes to the left of a ruined farmhouse and continues on unpaved roads to Faramontanos (care required on some parts near the river). After the bridge it is also possible to walk on the (fairly quiet) road all the way to Faramontanos.

11.5km from the bridge to Faramontanos de Tábara, shop, cafés and a pharmacy, all on or near the Camino. **Bar Nemesio**, on the Camino, does food.

The albergue **La Casa Azul y Amarilla** in Faramontanos is currently only operating part time. Please call ahead to check availability. Private, 4 beds, *donativo*, tel 692 643 223.

6.8km to Tábara. Approaching and leaving Tábara you will cross the AVE (high-speed train) tracks, however this does not interfere with the Camino route.

The Camino doesn't actually enter Tábara. Just before you arrive in Tábara you'll see arrows pointing right and the church up to your left. The arrows pointing right are the Camino continuing after Tábara. If you want to go to the village, head for the church.

25.3km / 7h07m to:

Tábara

SLEEPING

Private (14, 11€) *Albergue El Roble*, just off the main square, veering right. Café / restaurant, reported good. Singles 30€, doubles 50€, triples 65€, evening meal included. Website *www.turismoruralelroble.es* Tel 650 629 969 or 980 590 300 Open 10:00

Municipal (24, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, about 1km off the Camino. Cross Plaza Mayor diagonally and follow the signs. Run by a welcoming hospitalero who, in the style of traditional pilgrim hospitality, prepares an evening meal and breakfast. Accommodation is now in a new building with excellent modern facilities adjacent to the original albergue. Tel 637 926 068

INFORMATION

Small **supermarket** on the left on the main road where you arrive into town. Across the main road is Plaza Major and around it are a **pharmacy**, **cafés**, **banks**. The café of **Albergue El Roble**, just off Plaza Mayor, does food and opens for breakfast.

WALKING NOTES

10.2km after Tábara you have the choice of two routes. The right route goes through **Bercianos de Valverde**. The left route goes through **Villanueva de las Peras**. The distances given for both routes are from divide to rejoin.

RIGHT ROUTE 5.2km...

4.3km to Bercianos de Valverde from the point where the routes divide, **no facilities**. From here to Santa Croya de Tera is 8.4km.

LEFT ROUTE 5.6km...

3.8km to Villanueva de las Peras from the point where the routes divide.

14.0km / 3h55m to:

LEFT Villanueva de las Peras

SLEEPING

Private (7, 10€) *Albergue La Alameda*, on Calle La Alameda, to the right of the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Keys from Bar La Moña. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Tel 696 321 223 Best to call to check availability

INFORMATION

Cafés. **Bar La Moña** has a menú del día.

WALKING NOTES

9.4km to Santa Croya de Tera from Villanueva de las Peras.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN BEFORE SANTA CROYA DE TERA

Santa Croya de Tera, shops and a café. If you need to shop do it here, there is no shop in Santa

Marta de Tera.
The Camino goes immediately left after crossing the bridge to Santa Marta de Tera (although the yellow arrows had been repainted to send pilgrims through the village).

RIGHT 23.0km / 6h25m
LEFT 9.4km / 2h34m to:

Santa Marta de Tera

SLEEPING

Municipal (13, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, follow the signs from outside the church. Keys from the exhibition centre beside the church. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Nice, modern facilities. Tel 626 752 622 Open 10:00

INFORMATION

Café Bar Stop on the square opposite the church does bocadillos and platos combinados, it's not open in the morning and is closed on Sundays.

WALKING NOTES

ATTENTION! Since the closure of Casa Anita in Santa Croya de Tera, this has turned into an accommodation bottleneck with the albergue often filling up early in the day. You would be wise to get here early or to have a Plan B. One possible alternative is to walk west along the main road (N-525) for 5km to **Camarzana de Tera** where **Hotel Juan Manuel** has a warm welcome and singles from 35€ breakfast included. They also have a good restaurant. Website www.hoteljuanmanuel.es Tel 980 649 019. There are **cafés**, **shops** and a **pharmacy** nearby and you can rejoin the Camino in about 2km by walking west along the N-525 and turning left on to the ZA-105. This detour doesn't add much distance.

5.8km after Santa Marta the Camino comes to a main road at a gravel quarry. Turn left here and cross the bridge over the Río Tera. The Camino to Calzadilla continues to the right after the bridge.
Shortly before Calzadilla there is a set of confusing arrows pointing to the right. Ignore them and continue straight over the canal until you reach a paved road.

11.1km / 2h59m to:

Calzadilla de Tera

SLEEPING

Municipal (6, donativo) *Albergue Municipal*, continue straight past the **UDACO supermarket** uphill towards the top of the village. The albergue is upstairs in a building between the Medical Centre / Consultorio de Atención Primaria, and a children's playground. The door may be open, otherwise look for instructions. Tel 980 645 845

INFORMATION

The Camino passes more-or-less straight through the village until it comes to a canal where it turns left. At the beginning of the village you'll see a sign for **Café Bar Blanco** 700m to the right, reported good for food. Turn left here and walk straight uphill for a **UDACO supermarket**. Walk past the albergue about 100m with the playground on your right for the **bakery**.

WALKING NOTES

Be careful because there is some confusing waymarking in this area. You should follow the canal to Olleros. Whichever arrows you find in Calzadilla should being you to this canal.

1.9km / 0h30m to:

Olleros de Tera

SLEEPING

Private (6, 18€, April to September, closed Wednesdays) *Albergue La Trucha*, attached to Café Bar La Trucha, on the right on the Camino. In a disused section of the bar complete with 1970s decor. Basic. Tel 673 910 592 Open 14:00 Guest house **Casa Julia**, walk past the church and cross the main road on to Calle Otero, then right on to Calle de las Eras, it's at the top on the left. Kitchen. Singles 25€, doubles 40€. Tel 630 787 997

INFORMATION

Small **shop** beside **Bar Torero**, on the same street as the albergue. **Café Bar La Trucha** (which has the albergue) does a good pilgrim menu and sometimes plates of locally made chorizo.

WALKING NOTES

Continue through the village, cross a main road on to another road, pass to the left of a concrete structure and walk towards a church 1.4km in the distance. From this church you'll walk through open country for 2.6km before arriving at a dam, **Embalse de Agavanzal**. Approaching the dam there is a sign on the road indicating bicycles to go left (BICIS), this is a slightly easier but longer alternative to the walking route which involves a bit of scrambling around in the mud after wet weather.
Cross the dam and turn immediately left.

7.9km / 2h17m to:

Villar de Farfón

SLEEPING

Private (4, *donativo*, April to October, outside that time call to confirm) *Albergue Rehoboth*, on the Camino leaving the village on the left. Run by a South African family who have dedicated themselves to missionary work. Kitchen. Evening meal and self-service breakfast. Reservations accepted. See their Website *www.pilgrimmission.org* Tel 647 297 390 Open 08:00

INFORMATION

Albergue Rehoboth treats passing pilgrims to tea or coffee and biscuits.

6.1km / 1h43m to:

Rionegro del Puente

SLEEPING

Municipal (30,10€) *Albergue de Peregrinos Virgen de la Carballeda*, to the right of the main road after crossing the bridge. The key can be had from Asociación Gastrónomica or Bar Palacio. Kitchen. In a renovated medieval pilgrim albergue. Tel 980 652 005

INFORMATION

The restaurant **Asociación Gastrónomica / Me Gusta Comer** has been highly recommended by many pilgrims, open lunchtime and evening, closed Wednesdays.
In late 2023 work was progressing on a new community café, it's right beside the albergue (the other two cafés have closed.)

WALKING NOTES

3.6km, roadside café, **El Empalme**, 260m along a minor road to the left of the Camino, open from 09:00, closed Mondays.

9.0km / 2h35m to:

Mombuey

SLEEPING

Municipal (8, donativo) *Albergue de Mombuey*, on Calle la Iglesia, where the Camino turns left from the main road towards the church. For the key ask in the house which is behind you to the left when you're facing the albergue door. Microwave. Tel 980 642 711
Hotel La Ruta just before the village on the right. Café / restaurant which does a Menú del Día. Singles 30€, doubles 45€. Tel 980 642 730

INFORMATION

Mombuey has all facilities. On the Camino are **cafés**, **shops**, **banks**. **Dia supermarket** right up Calle Panaderos

from the Camino. On the main road a little past where the Camino turns left towards the church, a **pharmacy** and a **bakery**.

WALKING NOTES

After Mombuey the Camino follows close to the main road for 2.2km before crossing the motorway. Watch out for rabbits and deer.
5km from Mombuey to Valdemerilla.
3.5km to Cernadilla. This municipal albergue is closed.
1.9km to San Salvador de Palazuelo. This municipal albergue is closed.

3.4km Entrepeñas

Azul Sanabria, to the left of the Camino. Can accommodate groups of three: one person 35€, two persons 50€, three persons 60€. The same people own **Las Peñas del Corredor** with singles 25€, doubles 40€. Kitchen. Open March to November. Tel 676 653 466

Casa Rural el Cuco, at the end of Entrepeñas on the right, has doubles from 50€. Evening meal and breakfast. Website *www.casaelcuco.es* Tel 664 245 298

Be careful not to miss the left turn leaving Entrepeñas.

16.9km / 4h53m to:

Asturianos

SLEEPING

Municipal (22, 6€) *Nuestra Señora de la Asunción*, in the Sports Centre / Polideportivo, follow the signs through the village and up the hill. Ask for keys in the Sports Centre Bar. Tel 679 819 360 Open 14:00

INFORMATION

Shop and **pharmacy**, both left where the Camino joins the main road. The café in the **Polideportivo** also does meals.

Bar Meson El Carmen, on the main road, does a menú del día.

WALKING NOTES

Off-road sections between Asturianos and Puebla de Sanabria may be muddy and flooded after rain.
3.4km to Palacios de Sanabria, cafés and pharmacy. **Bar Mirador,** on the main road, is usually open for breakfast. To rejoin the Camino cross the main road from Bar Mirador and veer left uphill.
2.6km to Remesal.
2.9km to Otero de Sanabria.
2.5km to Triufé.
3.5km to Puebla de Sanabria.

14.8km / 4h12m to:

Puebla de Sanabria

SLEEPING

Private (34, 12€, April to October) *Albergue Casa Luz*, on the left on the Camino as it enters the town. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Good reports. Website *www.alberguecasaluz.es* Tel 619 751 762

Hostal San Francisco, on Calle Venta la Galvana, up the street to the right opposite Albergue Casa Liz, has singles from 30€, doubles from 50€. Tel 654 127 160 Reception down the street in the bar of the same name.

INFORMATION

Puebla de Sanabria is a large town with all facilities. Shops, cafés, pharmacy on the Camino near where it enters the town. Across the bridge and up the hill to the left are bakeries and banks and **Bar España** which is excellent for tapas and usually opens at 08:00 for breakfast.

El Mesón Remate has also been recommended, as has **Restaurante Tierra de Lobos**, on the Camino before the albergue.

Peubla de Sanabria has two railway stations, the old one has direct regional trains from Valladolid passing through Zamora, the new one is a stop on the Madrid to Santiago AVE line.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino through Puebla follows the main road and turns right immediately after crossing the bridge. Follow this road around the old town until it crosses another bridge, now continue straight for 1km until the Camino turns abruptly left and continues on a path beside a river for 2.5km before rejoining the main road. If this path is flooded following the road (N-525) all the way is a good alternative.
9.8km to Terroso from Puebla de Sanabria. This village lies on a long (but scenic) meander which can be avoided by following the road.

12.3km / 3h37m to:

Requejo de Sanabria

SLEEPING

Municipal (20, 5€) *Albergue Municipal*, past the roundabout there's a pharmacy to the right, the albergue is behind that. Basic but comfortable. Contact information on the door. Tel 647 948 186

Private (22, 15€) *Albergue Casa Cerviño*, on the left beside the main road, after the roundabout. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Private rooms, 20€ per person. Website *www.albergue-sanabria.com* Tel 686 024 213 Open 12:00

Hotel Mar Rojo next door to Casa Cerviño. Singles/doubles 50€. Café / restaurant. Website www.marrojo.es Tel 980 622 446

INFORMATION

Two small shops, cafés, pharmacy, all on the Camino.

The café / restaurant in **Hotel Mar Rojo** is good and opens in the morning at 07:30.

Restaurante Tu Casa, about 800m up the main road west of the village, has a good value traditional Menú del Día in an old fashioned ambiance, lunchtime and evening.

WALKING NOTES

The construction of the high-speed train from Madrid to Galicia is completed and the long years of detours to the route of the Camino in this area are finished. The good news is that the new route is off-road all the way to Padornelo. The bad news is that it's a bit longer than if you follow the road (N-525).
Follow the Camino through Requejo and continue straight past the cemetery and up the river valley towards the pass. After 4.3km you will come to a clearing where the AVE passes to your left on a viaduct. Veer right uphill on an unpaved road, after 400m turn sharp right (almost doubling back on yourself) up a construction road which zigzags its way up to beside the main road in 2.6km. Continue with the main road to your right. You will pass underneath several flyovers and zigzag several times before reaching the pass at A Canda in 2.7km, where there is a monument (Beware of some contradictory signs here indicating an alternative route). The altitude here is **1,365m** and it is the **highest point of the Camino Sanabrés (and the entire Camino from Seville to Santiago)**. From the monument continue downhill to cross the motorway again. Then follow the road into Padornelo.
1.5km to Padornelo from the pass.
Padornelo has a café, **Bar Silva.**
400m after Padornelo, **Hotel Padornelo** has a café which does good tapas and a good restaurant. Singles 30€, doubles 40€, triples 50€. Website *www.hotelpadornelo.com* Tel 652 077 319
Folow the main road after Padornelo for 2.7km until on the left you see a path leading downhill. This brings you to Aciberos after 700m. Parts of this path are prone to flooding so after rain it may be better to remain on the main road for another 700m and follow the road

down to Aciberos.
3.4km from Aciberos to Lubián.

17.9km / 5h58m to:

Lubián

SLEEPING

Municipal (16, 5€) *Albergue Municipal*, the first building on the right when you enter the village. Kitchen. Contact details on the door. Basic. Tel 980 624 003
Guest house **La Casa de Irene**, on the right straight after the Municipal Albergue. Doubles from 50€. Tel 679 138 616
Hotel Rural Val los Pigarros which is part of **Bar Javi** has nice singles 30€, doubles 50€, including breakfast. Go to Bar Javi to check in. Website alojamientosenlubian.es Tel 619 938 244
Guest house **Casa Mariana** on Avenida de Manuel Fabrega Coello has singles from 30€ and doubles from 50€. Good reports. Tel 980 624 050

INFORMATION

There's a small **supermarket** on the Camino, closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. At the top of the town on the main road are **Bar Javi** and **Bar Estrella**, both open about 08:00 and both have been recommended for food. To the west of them is the pharmacy.

WALKING NOTES

From the turnoff to the **Santuario de La Tuiza** (signposted), follow the paved road down to the bridge, past the recreation / sports area, and pass under the motorway. The Camino continues past the **Sanctuary** and then the 320m climb to **Portela de la Canda** begins. Parts of this stretch can be flooded after rain. It is possible to walk on the road: leaving Lubián follow the ZA-106 west for about 9km until it intersects with the Camino at **Portela de la Canda**, a few hundred metres after where the motorway enters a tunnel. Due to the meandering routes the road follows walking on the ZA-106 to this point would be about 9km compared to 6.7km on the Camino.
6.9km from Lubián to the pass, **Portela de la Canda**, at altitude 1,260m.
Welcome to Galicia!
1.5km from the pass to A Canda.
3.3km to Vilavella
Vilavella has two cafés, both a little off the Camino, the food in **Bar ON** has been recommended. Accommodation: **Hostal Porta Galega** is about 500m off the Camino to the right on the main road near Vilavella. Singles from 20€. Café and a good restaurant with local specialities. Website *www.hostalportagalega.es* Tel 988 425 593
3.5km to O Pereiro.
5.2km to O Cañizo.
4km to...

24.6km / 8h00m to:

A Gudiña

SLEEPING

Xunta (44, 10€) *Albergue de A Gudiña*, follow the main road until you see it on the left opposite a church, Capela do San Martiño. In a new building since 2021. Typical Xunta luxury. Tel 696 820 722 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** be careful when setting off from this albergue that you follow the yellow arrows for the **Laza** route. It is easy to end up on the Verín route if you turn left outside the albergue.
Hotel Bruma II on the main road 600m after the Xunta Albergue, on the left. Singles 39€, doubles 54€, triples 69€. Website hotelbruma.es Tel 676 966 312

INFORMATION

A Gudiña has all facilities. **Shops**, **cafés**, a **pharmacy** and **banks**, all along the main road.
Bar O Peregrino, on the Camino on the left, does good tapas.
Most of the town's **restaurants** are along the main road about 600m past the Xunta albergue. **Café San Francisco**, beside the Repsol petrol station on the right, does good food and opens early.
A little further on the left**, El Búfalo** has a good menú del día and other dishes.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino veers right off the main road on to Rúa Maior. After about 200m is the point where the Laza (right) and Verín (left) routes divide. **Only the Laza route is described here.** Very few people walk the Verín which is considerable longer.
7.7km to A Venda Da Teresa.
2.3km to A Venda Da Capela.
3.2km to A Venda Do Bolaño.
A steep 248m descent to Campobecerros.

20.3km / 6h28m to:

Campobecerros

SLEEPING

Private (20, 10€) *Albergue de Rosario*, signposted from the Camino. Look for the statue in local tradition dress outside. Tel 650 530 547 Open 11:00
Pension Rurale Casa Nuñez, go to Café Casa Nuñez. Singles 25€, doubles 35€. A bit basic. Tel 988 077 624 or 608 887 835

INFORMATION

Café Casa Nuñez does a good Menú del Día, including local specialities.

WALKING NOTES

3.1km to Portocamba.

8.4km / 2h41m to:

As Eiras

SLEEPING

Association (4, *donativo*, February to October - outside that time phone)
Casa Ultreia, on the Camino on the right. Kitchen. Opened in 2022 by the local pilgrims association who have been providing refreshments to pilgrims for many years. Tel 650 883 004 or 679 515 750
Guest house **Casa Terra Alma** has been recommended for accommodation and food. Website terra-alma.es Tel 659 128 097

INFORMATION

Association albergue lays out some refreshments for pilgrims.

WALKING NOTES

6.1km and spectacular scenery, to Laza.

6.1km / 1h52m to:

Laza

SLEEPING

Xunta (34, 10€) *Albergue de Laza*, a little outside the village. Go to **Protección Civil** to check in, they're on the right on the Camino. Kitchen. Tel 988 422 112 Open 12:00
Casa Blanco Conde which is just to the left where the Camino goes right towards the village, singles 35€, doubles 47€, triples 65€. Tel 609 787 178

INFORMATION

Shops, pharmacy, bank and bakery, all on or near the Camino. Several cafés do food.
Good reports of the food in **Restaurante Picota**.
Café **O Descanso do Peregrino**, to the left of the Camino on the main road as you're leaving the village, opens at 07:00.

WALKING NOTES

3.4km along a quite road to Soutelo Verde
3km to Tamicelas. Then a steep 380m ascent to Alberguería.

12.0km / 4h24m to:

Alberguería

SLEEPING

Private (24, 10€) *Albergue El Rincón del Peregrino*, on the Camino on the right, ask in the café **El Rincón del Peregrino** opposite for access. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Some groceries for sale. Tel 628 832 269

INFORMATION

Café **El Rincón del Peregrino's** walls are adorned with shells with all the names of the pilgrims who have passed through. This is a good place to try the local moonshine, Aguardiente, Hierbas, etc. Caution is advised. They also do sandwiches, etc. and some groceries. Closed Mondays.

7.5km / 2h12m to:

Vilar de Barrio

SLEEPING

Xunta (24, 10€) *Albergue de Vilar de Barrio*, on Avenida de San Fiz, in the centre of the village, just to the right of the square. Kitchen (yes a kitchen), laundry facilities. Open 12:00

Guest house **A Casa do Adelino** is a little to the right of the Camino before the town at Camino Vilar-A, 37. Doubles from 60€. Tel 609 635 762

INFORMATION

Shop, cafés. Bank on the Camino after the square. **Supermercado Claudio** has a good selection, at the southern end of the square on Rúa do Outeiriño.

Restaurant **Casa Carmiña**, which is across the road from the Xunta Albergue, is unmissable if you want to experience fine dining as it was in the 1950s.

Bistró don Manuel on the south side of the square has also been recommended.

WALKING NOTES

2.3km to Bóveda. Café a little off the Camino to the left.
800m to Vilar de Gomareite, café.
5.4km to Bobadela.
1.2km to Padroso.
Caution is advised on the final descent to Xunqueira de Ambía which can be slippery when wet.

14.2km / 4h11m to:

Xunqueira de Ambía

SLEEPING

Xunta (24, 10€) *Albergue de Xunqueira de Ambía*, modern albergue just to the right of the Camino before the village. Kitchen. Tel 988 436 069 Open 12:00

Pensión Turistico Casa Tomás, on Plaza San Rosendo. Microwave, laundry facilities. Café / restaurant with a menú del día, reported good. Doubles 36€, triples 54€. Website *pensioncasatomas.es* Tel 637 580 772 Open 12:00

The guest house **Casa do Souto** has been recommended, it's right of the Camino on to Camiño Lavandeiro the straight ahead to Praza de San Roque. Singles from 35€, doubles 45€. Evening meal, breakfast (must be requested in advance). Tel 669 851 544

INFORMATION

Cafés, a **Fina supermarket** and **pharmacy**, all along the main road through the village.

The restaurant in **Pensión Turistico Casa Tomás** has been recommended, open to non residents.

WALKING NOTES

The Camino follows the winding road through the village, past the church and then turns right following the signpost for **A Pousa**. Then after about 40m it veers left down a side road.
3.1km to A Pousa, café, supermarket.
4.3km to Ousende.
800m to Penelas, café, shop.
2.2km to Venda do Rio.
500m to Pereiras, café.
2.2km to A Castellana, café. This is where the suburbs of Ourense begin. At the beginning of the industrial zone are some information boards for pilgrims with maps. From here it's unpleasant suburban walking to the city centre.
2.2km to Reboredo, at the right turn on to Estrada ao Polígono, arrows urge you to go right up a hill on a narrow lane, you can either follow them or continue straight on Estrada ao Polígono. Soon afterwards, at a roundabout, you need to go left on to a minor road, Rúa do Cruceiro, rather than following the dangerous main road.
2.8km to Seixalbo, café.
2.5km to the **second roundabout** where the Camino veers left down Avenida de Zamora (2nd exit). Follow the Camino for the **Xunta Albergue**, for **Grelo Albergue** take Rúa Nosa Señora da Sainza (1st exit).

22.1km / 6h15m to:

Ourense / Orense

SLEEPING

Xunta (42, 10€) *Albergue de peregrinos de Ourense*, on Rúa da Barreira, take the left option at the roundabout before the city centre, walk about 700m on the right side of the street until you see steps leading down to the right (signposted Albergue). Walk down these and cross the small square at the bottom veering right. Continue up the hill on Rúa das Burgas and turn left at the top, the albergue is on the corner. They have Credenciales. If you are starting your Camino here you can sleep here if there is space at 18:30. This rule is strictly enforced. Beautiful kitchen, zero utensils. Open 13:00

Private (38, 15€ with breakfast) *Grelo Albergue*, continue straight at the roundabout where the Camino goes left and walk up Rúa a Peña Trevinca, it's on the left. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Website *www.grelohostel.com* Tel 988 614 564 or 698 171 725

Private (36, 18€) *Albergue Augas Quentes*, on Rúa Vicente Risco, after the Roman bridge take a right on to Rúa Mercado and then left. Kitchen with microwaves. Website *www.albergueaugasquentes.com* Tel 679 958 780 or 609 909 112 Open 16:00

Hotel Miño, at Rúa Papa Xuan XXIII, 2, after Praza Maior turn left off the Camino on Rua da Concordia, walk to the end and veer right. Singles from 32€, doubles 50€. Website hmourense.com Tel 988 217 594

Hostal Lido two doors up from Hotel Miño. Singles 40€, doubles 50€. Tel 988 213 600

Hostal La Rotunda is opposite the northern railway station (there are two, one south of the river and the main one to the north), singles from 35€, doubles 45€. Tel 988 607 759

INFORMATION

Ourense's population is 106,000 and it is the capital of Province of Ourense. It has all facilities. Along the Camino, there are cafés, **shops**, **pharmacies** and **banks**. Around the Xunta albergue and the nearby Praza Maior there are cafés, restaurants, banks, etc.

There's a good Menú del Día at restaurant **La Brava**, on Rúa San Miguel, right of the Camino a little past Praza Major. Also on Rúa San Miguel, **Restaurante Casa Toñita** has also been recommended .

A little to the left of the Camino after Praza Maior, on the corner of Rúa do Progreso and Rúa Papa Juan XXIII, is **Bar Montgre**, excellent place for breakfast, open 06:00.

WALKING NOTES

After crossing the bridge, 300m up the hill the Camino divides, the right route turns on to Avenida de Santiago, while the left route continues straight towards the (northern) railway station, visible up the hill. Both routes involve a steep climb to get out of the valley of the River Miño.

RIGHT ROUTE 22.5km

This route can get muddy and flooded after rain.
Turn right on to Avenida de Santiago which you follow for 700m, walking on the RIGHT otherwise you'll miss the waymarkings, until the Camino veers on to a minor road to the

right. After a short while you'll cross the main road again and continue steeply uphill. You'll cross another road and then there's a steep 250m climb over 2km.

ATTENTION! Fake yellow arrows will try to lead you towards the village of **Cambeo**. They're a slightly lighter colour than normal arrows, play close attention, they appear in the woods after the Camino flattens out. If you accidentally end up in Cambeo you'll have to follow the main road left to rejoin the Camino (ignore arrows urging you to continue north!)

12.3km from Ourense to Tamallancos, cafés.

1.1km to Bouzas, café.

5.1km to Viduedo, café, shop.

El Alojamiento Pazos is in the village of Pazos. To get there take a right turn on to a small road where the Camino crosses it 600m after Viduedo. From the Camino it's 550m. Doubles 40€, triples 60€. Including breakfast. If you wish to stay two nights they provide a shuttle service to and from Castro Dozón. Tel 619 445 640

2km to Casas Novas...

LEFT ROUTE 21.6km

Continue straight up the hill, walking on the right, when you see the **railway station** (station café opens 05:00) in front of you veer left and pass in front of it on to **Rúa Eulogio Gómez Franqueira**, from where you basically follow the yellow arrows on the right side of the street, along the side of a busy main road for 2.8km to Quintela, where, opposite **Bodegas Arnoya**, you take the smaller road which branches right. You follow this for 700m until, outside the showrooms of **Gómez y Crespo** (farm machinery manufacturing), where the road goes right, you continue straight. You pass under the new train viaduct to the tunnel under the old train tracks, push the button to get pedestrian priority and (with your torch lit, just in case some driver ignores the traffic lights) pass through the tunnel. After the tunnel the climb begins, 290m ascent over 2.2km.

11.8km from Ourense to Cima de Vila.

3.5km to Ponte Mandras, café a little after the village.

4.3km to Casas Novas...

LEFT AND RIGHT ROUTES REJOIN IN CASAS NOVAS

Casas Novas, from here it's 2km to Cea.

RIGHT 22.5km / 7h22m
LEFT 21.6km / 7h20m to:

Cea

SLEEPING

Xunta (40, 10€) *Albergue de Cea*, just to the left of the Camino at the start of the village, follow the signs. Kitchen. Not very clean. Tel 600 878 289

Casa Mañoso, at Rúa Campo da Feira, 6, to the right at Praza Maior then right again. Singles 45€, doubles 60€. Website www.casamanoso.es Tel 687 932 467

INFORMATION

The Camino leads straight up to **Praza Maior**, if you continue straight, veering left, up Rúa Melilla, at the top is Rúa Calvo Sotelo where there are a shop, cafés, including **Sol y Luna** which opens early, and a bank. Around Praza Maior are restaurants, various cafés, a bank and a pharmacy.

WALKING NOTES

There are two routes between Cea and Castro Dozón. The **right route** is the 'official' one and passes through **Oseira**. The left route is slightly shorter.

RIGHT ROUTE 19km

From **Praza Maior** go north on to **Rúa da Praza Maior** and cross the main road on to **Rúa de Lodairo** (past the Bread Monument) and follow the signs.

6km through open country to Pielas. Café, **O Toxo**, reported good.

8.6km / 2h42m to:

RIGHT Oseira

SLEEPING

Xunta (40, 10€) *Refugio del Monasterio de Oseira*, the albergue is behind the monastery, walk to the right when you're facing the main entrance. Modern albergue, opened in 2022. Tel 988 282 004 Open 13:00

INFORMATION

Two cafés, both of which do food, although neither opens in the morning and both are closed on Mondays.

The monastery can be visited as part of a guided tour in the evenings, details from the gift shop. You may also attend a prayer (Vespers) service with the monks.

WALKING NOTES

The walk to Castro Dozón begins with a 1.4km 170m steep climb over rocky ground.

6.4km to A Gouxa, café – not open mornings.

LEFT ROUTE 14.6km

From **Praza Maior** go north on to **Rúa da Praza Maior** and then at the main road turn left, walk for 140m then go right following the signs that say ***Oseira 9***, pass alongside the **Community Centre / Edificio Multiusos** and follow the yellow arrows.

1.8km to Cotelas, cafés.

In Cotelas, on the Camino on the right, guest house **O Refugio** with en suite rooms, singles 20€ and doubles 30€. Evening meals and breakfast in their café, open from 07:00. Tel 606 709 167

2km to Piñor, café, pharmacy. (a new Xunta albergue was due to open here late in 2023, see updates for Cea)

1.1km to Arenteiro, café.

1.2km to O Reino.

Restaurante Hostal Ateneo, turn left at O Reino and follow the OU-154 for 500m until the 2nd turn right which brings you down to the main road. Turn left onto the main road, it's 370m from here. Café / restaurant. Singles 20€, doubles 40€. Please call to reserve. Tel 988 403 203

8.5km to Castro Dozón. Care is necessary on this part because of faded and missing waymarkings.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN IN CASTRO DOZÓN

Castro Dozón, the municipal albergue here is closed and the building is now being used as a training centre for landscape gardeners.

Cafés. Small Coviran **supermarket** behind Bar Cantón opposite the park. **Pharmacy** on the main road just south of the village. Basic food also from the **petrol station** past the pharmacy.

From Castro Dozón it's 19km to A Laxe

4.4km north of Castro Dozón the Camino veers left away from the main road on to a minor one.

1.7km to Puxallos.

6.9km to Estación de Lalín, cafés.

A Taberna da Vento, just past the roundabout, first exit, does good food. Also café **A Estación**, just off the second exit, closed Mondays.

Hostal A Taberna De Vento, same building as the restaurant of the same name. Doubles from 40€. Website a-taberna-de-vento.marketinghotelero.top Tel 629 306 679

4.5km to A Eirexe, café. A new private albergue is current being built in A Eirexe. Please see updates.

2.3km to A Laxe.

RIGHT 29.4km / 9h32m
LEFT 33.5km / 10h41m to:

A Laxe / Bendoiro

SLEEPING

Xunta (28, 10€) *Albergue de Peregrinos*, cross the road to your right after passing beside a roundabout beside the motorway. In a modern spacious building. Microwaves. Needs a proper clean. Open 13:00

INFORMATION

Some basic groceries are available from the **petrol station** shop in the industrial estate across the motorway. **Pharmacy** to the right off the Camino 100m past the albergue.

On the Camino 300m past the albergue is a café / restaurant called **Ma. José** which does an excellent Menú del Día.

This is where the Camino de Invierno joins the Camino Sanabrés.

WALKING NOTES

2km to Prado, shop, pharmacy, café on the main road just to the right of the Camino.

4.8km at the beginning of an industrial zone where the Camino goes left, there is a sign pointing to a café 50m off the Camino. It's more like 150m.

9.7km / 3h10m to:

Silleda

SLEEPING

Private (60, 10€) *Albergue Santa Olaia*, in the centre of the town down an alleyway behind the church, Nosa Señora da Saleta. Laundry facilities. Website www.alberguesantaolaia.es Tel 619 521 475 or 679 508 709 Open 12:00

Private (20, 15€) *El Gran Albergue del Peregrino*, on Rúa Antón Alonso Río, also to the right of the Camino. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Singles 20€, doubles 35€, triples 60€. Tel 615 604 393 or 986 580 156 Open 11:00

Private (24, 15€) *Albergue Trabazo*, to the right of the Camino on Rúa Alfonso Trabazo. Laundry facilities, microwaves. New in 2022. Website www.alberguetrabazo.com Tel 722 129 401

Private (20, 10€) *Albergue Turístico Silleda*, on Rúa Venezuela, which is to the right of the Camino, ask in Bar Maril. Laundry facilities. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Website *www.albergueturisticosilleda.es* Tel 643 898 693 or 689 505 690 Open 12:00

Casas Novas, on the Camino on the right at the start of the town has also been recommended, singles from 30€, doubles 40€. Their café opens early. Tel 986 580 898

Hotel Ramos, further up Rúa Venezuela. Singles from 33€, doubles 40€. Website www.hotelramos.com Tel 633 325 154

Hostal González has been recommended. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Also good food. Tel 986 580 156

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives on the main road and follows it north through town. On or near the Camino are cafés, a **pharmacy** and **banks**. There are two **supermarkets** both to the right of the Camino on Rúa Emilio Elonso Paz. Friendly **Café Bar Maril** (part of Albergue Turístico) does a good evening meal and opens at 07:00.

WALKING NOTES

Follow the Camino along the main road north through the town to where it veers left on to a path.

6.9km / 1h56m to:

Bandeira

SLEEPING

Xunta (36, 10€) *Albergue de Bandeira*, on Rúa Lourdás, 200m to the right of the Camino just past the centre of the town. Signposted. Kitchen. Tel 670 502 356 Open 13:00

INFORMATION

The Camino arrives along the main road and then follows it north through town. On or near the Camino are **cafés**, **banks** and **pharmacies**. Around the corner from the Xunta albergue, is a **Dia supermarket**.

WALKING NOTES

Use one of the pedestrian crossings in town to cross to the right side of the street, otherwise you'll be crossing at a dangerous bend.

5.1km / 1h27m to:

Leiras

SLEEPING

Private (12, 15€, closed Christmas and New Year) *Casa Leiras*, on the Camino on the right. In a nicely renovated farm building. Communal evening meal with vegetarian options on request. Breakfast. Good reports. Run by a young Italian couple. Camping also possible. Tel 620 483 603 or 634 613 690

INFORMATION

Café.

WALKING NOTES

Steep descent to Ponte Ulla.

8.1km / 2h24m to:

Ponte Ulla

SLEEPING

Private (18, 15€) *Albergue O Cruceiro*, up steps to the right of the flyover after turning left after the bridge. Laundry facilities. They have a café / restaurant and private rooms. Good reports of albergue and restaurant. Singles 25€, doubles 45€, triples 60€. Website *www.ocruceiro.es* Tel 981 512 099 or 649 952 594 Open 10:00

A Taberna de Gundián, on the left a little after crossing the bridge. Singles 30€, doubles 50€. Tel 981 512 431

INFORMATION

Cafés, **Carrefour supermarket** a little to the left of the Camino just under the flyover.

Bar Restaurante Rios, near the bridge has been recommended (although it's been *temporarily closed* for a while now).

WALKING NOTES

The Camino goes up steps to the right just before the flyover.

4.3km / 1h42m to:

Outeiro

SLEEPING

Xunta (32, 10€) *Albergue de Outeiro*, in an isolated spot to the right of the Camino. Laundry facilities. Kitchen. Tel 689 352 875 Open 13:00

INFORMATION

No services available locally, you will need to stock up in Ponte Ulla.

WALKING NOTES

If you feel like treating yourself about 3.4km further along the Camino is a guesthouse which has been recommended, **Casa de Casal**, double rooms from about 60€. Website *www.casadecasal.com* Tel 981 503 227

7.9km / 2h22m to:

A Susana

SLEEPING

Private (14, 15€) *Albergue Reina Lupa*, beside the main road a short distance to the left of the Camino before the village, next to Bar Rosende. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Café / restaurant. Double rooms 45€. Website albergue reinalupa.com Tel 679 842 829 or 981 511 803 Open 12:00

INFORMATION

Cafés.

WALKING NOTES

4.5km to Piñeiro, cafés.

1.4km just before the suburb of Angrois you'll pass the bridge

over the railway track which was the scene of a train crash on 24 July 2013 in which 80 people died. 3.1km to Santiago Cathedral.

9.0km / 2h56m to:

Santiago de Compostela

SLEEPING

These albergues are in the historic centre, close to the cathedral.

Private (20, 20€) *O Fogar de Teodomiro*, on Praza de la Algalia, a few minutes north of the cathedral. From the Camino turn right on to Rúa de Algalia de Arriba and walk about 200m. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Noisy and other negative reports. Tel 881 092 981

Private (12, 22€) *Albergue Linares*, from the Camino turn right on to Rúa de Algalia de Arriba and walk to the top and it on the right on the corner. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Website www.linaresroomssantiago.com Tel 981 943 253 Open 13:00

Private (62, 22€, April to November) *The Last Stamp / El Último Sello*, just to the left of the Camino at Praza de Cervantes. Kitchen. Good reports. Website www.thelaststamp.es Tel 981 563 525 Open 14:00

Private (20, 22€) *Albergue Azabache*, on the left just before the cathedral. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Website albergueazabache.com Tel 692 105 603 Open 11:00

Private (50, 20€, March to December) *Albergue km 0*, on Rúa Carretas, the same street as the Pilgrims Office, from Praza Obradoiro go left in front of the Parador and turn right. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Website santiagokm0.es Tel 881 974 992 Open 12:00

Private (34, 19€) *Albergue Mundoalbergue*, two minutes walk west from Praza do Obradoiro, down the steps to the left of the Ayuntamiento and continue straight, on Rúa San Clemente. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Common room with fireplace. Website www.mundoalbergue.es Tel 696 448 737 Open 11:00

Private (20, 20€) *Albergue Blanco*, also down Rúa das Hortas to the end, then right, on Rúa Galeras. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Private rooms. Website www.prblanco.com Tel 699 591 238 Open 14:00

These albergues are outside the historic centre.

Private (26, 20€, March to November) *Albergue Meiga Backpackers* on Rúa dos Basquiños, same direction as Albergue La Salle, just a little further. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Some negative reports. Website www.meiga-backpackers.es Tel 981 570 846 Open 10:00

Private (24, 17€, May to October) *La Estación*, on Rúa Xoana Nogueira, near the railway station. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Website www.alberguelaestacion.com Tel 639 228 617 Open 12:00

These albergues are on or near Rúa dos Concheiros which the Camino follows before it enters the historic centre.

Private (22, 18€, March to November) *Albergue Santos*, on the Camino on the left. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Was *Viejo Quijote*. Tel 881 169 386 Open 11:00

Private (22, 20€, April to October) *Albergue Porta Real*, also on Rúa dos Concheiros. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Tel 633 610 114 Open 11:00

Private (24, 16€) *Albergue La Estrella de Santiago*, on Rúa dos Concheiros, on the left. Laundry facilities, microwaves. Website www.laestrelladesantiago.es Tel 617 882 529 Open 09:00

Religious (173, 19€, Easter to October) *Albergue Seminario Menor*, off the Camino to the left. From Praza de San Pedro turn left on to Rúa de Blevís and follow the signs. Kitchen, laundry facilities, shop. You can stay as long as you like but you must vacate the dorms between 09:30 and 13:30 and return before 00:30. Private rooms. Website www.alberguesdelcamino.com Tel 881 031 768 Open 13:30

INFORMATION

Santiago offers a wide variety of accommodation ranging from five star hotels to rooms in private apartments. The quality varies greatly and there have been reports of bedbugs in some of the cheaper options (not those mentioned here). Also, you're not imagining things, in some of the small hotels you'll get a room for the same price as a bed in private pilgrim albergue. Pilgrims mostly stay around the historic old city, rarely venturing to the new part of town, which in any case is rarely necessary because the old city has all the facilities you're likely to need. The following have been recommended for private rooms: **Hospedaje Mera** on Portal da Pena, from about 30€ for singles. Tel 981 583 867 **Bar Tita** on Rúa Nova has rooms from about 35€. Tel 981 583 867. **Seminario Mayor**, in the old monastery opposite the cathedral on Praza da Inmaculada, has 'flexible' pricing starting at about 30€ for single rooms, and a good buffet breakfast. You can reserve from their website: www.sanmartinpinario.eu Tel 981 583 009 **Café A Campana**, on Rúa da Moeda Vella, just off Praza da Inmaculada has rooms from 30€ for singles. Its location is excellent although not everybody will appreciate its 'Fawlty Towers' style of management. A **'Camino Fossil aka veteran pilgrim'** (SYates Ivar's Camino Forum) welcomes pilgrims in her home, details from her website www.egeria.house

General Information

In the same location as the Pilgrims Office is a **Left Luggage Office** for pilgrims, where you can leave your backpack while you're visiting the cathedral, 2€, open until 20:30, and an office to buy long-distance **bus tickets** and a **post office**. There's a helpful **City Tourist Office** on Rúa do Vilar, for good maps of the city, and various other leaflets about sights and events. They also organise guided tours with different themes, have MP3 audio guides and information about the **Camino to Fisterra / Finisterre**. On Rúa Nova is **Pilgrim House**, a US-run meeting space for pilgrims which provides services such as **printing boarding cards** and **laundry**. **Post Office** on Rúa do Franco. **Supermarket** on Praza do Toural, at the other end of Rúa do Vilar from the cathedral. If you used Ivar's luggage storage service then you can pick your things up from **Casa Ivar**, see www.casaivar.com for details. There's a **taxi rank** on Rúa de San Francisco, just off the Praza do Obradoiro, from where taxis will take up to four people to Finisterre for about 100€ (the exact price is down to your negotiating skills). The **bus to the airport is the 6A** (and not, repeat NOT the 6), you can get it from **Rúa do Hórreo**, past Praza de Galicia, it usually runs every 25 minutes and takes about 45 minutes, cost 1€, however please ask at the **Tourist Info Office** for the latest on timetable and route. A new **bus station** opened in 2021 replacing the old one, it's on the opposite side of the train station from the city and accessible via a pedestrian walkway.

The Pilgrims Office

The **Pilgrims Office / Oficina de Peregrinos** (or to call it by its correct name *Centro Internacional de Acollida ao Peregrino*) is where you go if you

want a **Compostela certificate**. It is on Rúa das Carretas, from Praza do Obradoiro standing facing the Parador walk left down the ramp and turn right, it's down the end on the left. It is open Easter to October 09:00 to 19:00, other times 10:00 to 18:00. Their website is *www.oficinadelperegrino.com*

THE CATHEDRAL

The **cathedral is open** from 07:00 until 21:00, entrance is through the door on Praza de Platerias. To avoid the crowds you may want to plan to visit at an off-peak time, early in the morning or in the evening. Embracing the statue of St James and visiting the crypt is from 09:30 to 13:30 and 16:00 to 19:30. A Choir Mass is held daily at 09:30 and a Mass for Pilgrims is at 12:00 and 19:30, at peak times be sure to arrive early. The **botafumeiro** is swung on holy days and 'according to a calendar of liturgical services'. It can also be swung on request, in exchange for a donation. You are no longer allowed to bring your backpack or other luggage into the cathedral, see luggage store above next to **Pilgrims Office**.The cathedral website has a wealth of information (in Spanish) catedraldesantiago.es

About this guide

This guide covers the **Vía de la Plata** from Seville to Granja de Moreruela and the **Camino Sanabrés**, which branches from the Vía de la Plata and arrives in Santiago through southern Galicia. For simplicity's sake we (incorrectly) use the term *Vía de la Plata* or just *Vía* to refer to the combination of these two routes.

I started writing this guide after I can back from walking the Vía de la Plata from Seville to Santiago via Astorga in the winter of 2009, and finished it after returning to walk the Camino Sanabrés in 2012. It has been updated and republished every year since then (except 2021). Preparing for my walk I had been unable to find any reliable information in English about the routes and accommodation along them. This didn't deter me and I managed fine with a print out of accommodation from a Spanish website and some Google maps of the towns with the route roughly sketched on them. However, if I hadn't been able to access information in Spanish I would have been lost, and I probably wouldn't have even attempted this walk. Based on this experience I decided to try to make information more widely available in English.

I started by making the guide available as a free download from my website, www.ViadelaPlataGuide.net. Thanks to the positive feedback and encouragement I received from other pilgrims who used it I decided to try publishing it on Amazon (with the addition of maps). This has enabled me to bring the information to a far wider audience.

I set out to create a source of the essential information someone will need to walk the Vía de la Plata in the traditional way, and this book is still bascially that, the *essential information*: distances, pilgrim hostels, places to buy food, places to eat, and notes about those places where the yellow arrows may not be sufficient for you to find your way.

PILGRIM ALBERGUES (HOSTELS)

The following information is given about pilgrim albergues: whether it is private, religious, etc., how many people it sleeps, the cost and opening dates (if none are given then it's open all the time), its name. This is followed by a description of how to find the hostel and any other relevant information.

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

- Electricity
- Beds with mattresses
- Toilets
- Showers with hot water
- Drinking water
- Heating (possibly not be very effective and may not be switched on)

If the guide says 'Laundry facilities' it means there's a washing machine and drier. If this isn't mentioned then the laundry facilities available are probably a sink where you can hand wash clothes.

Many hostels are not adequately heated and during the cold months (a period which varies according to latitude and altitude but means approximately November to March) it will be cold in those hostels. This underlines the necessity of having a good sleeping-bag. Not all hostels have a kitchen. Where the hostel has one and it is in working order, it's mentioned.

If you're first to arrive many hostels will be locked with a contact telephone number stuck to the door. For this reason having a mobile phone is essential. If you need to ring for the key and you don't speak Spanish try the following: *Estoy aquí a la puerta del albergue de peregrinos, ¿puede Usted abrirme la puerta?* – which means I am here at the door of the pilgrim hostel, can you open the door for me? The ideal response would be *sí, sí, cinco minutos / diez minutos* – yes, yes five minutes / ten minutes. However, the likelihood is the reply will be somewhat more verbose in which case the best thing to say is *no entiendo español* – I don't understand Spanish. And hope for the best. Don't let it worry you if you speak no Spanish, the person answering the phone is expecting calls like yours and even if you completely fail to understand anything they will hopefully assume you are waiting for them at the albergue door.

ROUTE INFORMATION, DISTANCES AND TIMES

Information about the route and things you will meet between hostels are given in this format:

```
4.5km to Piñeiro, cafés.
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Distances given in this format are NOT cumulative.

The **total distance** and **estimated walking time** between places is given in the place name heading. The total distance given here is the one you should use when calculating the distance between places.

The estimated walking time is calculated using the **Munter Method**. This method considers 1km walked = 1 unit, and 100m climbed = 1 unit. The time needed to walk this distance is the number of units divided by 4 (4 being kilometres walked per hour by an average walker over the course of a day). eg. *Walking 10km on flat terrain would take about 2h30m. Walking 10km with ascents totalling 200m would take about 3h00m (10+200/100)/4=3.* This is an estimate and is there to give you an idea of the difficulty of the terrain. If you don't find it helpful feel free to ignore it.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

The following information is given about facilities available in towns and villages:

- café / bar generally they serve food of some description during meal times (14:00 to 16:00 and 20:00 to 22:00)

- shop, for food and a variable range of other essentials

- bank, meaning an ATM / cash machine

- pharmacy

Albergues are listed first, followed by other accommodation, in the order in which you will encounter them (assuming you're walking from Seville). Please remember the following

If the guide doesn't say that there's a shop / restaurant / café / water source / bank / pharmacy (etc., etc.), then **assume there isn't and plan accordingly!**

Likewise, always assume there is no place to buy food or drinks between villages and that some villages have no facilities of any type.

Even if there are shops and cafés never assume they'll be open.

The text of this guide is not sprinkled with reminders to always make sure you're carrying enough food and water. It is up to you to plan your walking day in advance, and sometimes several days in advance, taking account of availability of places where you can restock and other factors such as public holidays and opening times.

OPENING TIMES

Bear in mind that shops in rural Spain usually open from about 09:00 until about 12:00 and again from about 17:00 until about 20:00. They are usually closed, or have greatly reduced opening times, on Sundays and Mondays and on public holidays. Outside of these opening times some basic food is sometimes available from the local petrol station.

The note about public holidays above also applies to cafés. Cafés don't always open in the morning and if they do it's rarely before 08:00. **When it says in the guide that a café opens early that means about 08:00**. Also cafés often close one day a week *por descanso*, it's often Monday. Restaurants server lunch from about 14:00 until about 16:00 and then dinner from about 20:00 until about 22:00. Unlike on busier Caminos you will rarely find establishments which serve food outside these times.

PHONE NUMBERS

Spanish phone numbers have nine digits. You always dial all nine. Numbers beginning with 6 and 7 are mobile numbers, 9 and 8 are fixed line. The **WhatsApp messaging app** is (almost) universally used in Spain and is very useful for contacting accommodation, etc.

WAYMARKINGS

Waymarkings are basic but functional. Everywhere you will find **painted yellow arrows** like on other Caminos. However, it's important to note that the arrows are sometimes far less frequent than on other Caminos and are sometimes only to be seen at points where there's a change of direction. So basically, if you don't see any arrows, keep going straight, but keep your eyes peeled.

Besides yellow arrows you will also see *official waymarking*. This varies by region and sometimes by villge. In **Extremadura**, as well as the yellow arrow, the Vía and the Roman Road are marked by blocks on the ground with a coloured tile on one side and a representation of the arch in Cáparra on the top pointing in the direction which you must follow. The tiles are coloured yellow (for the Camino) or green (for the Roman road) or bi-coloured where the Vía follows the Roman road.

In parts of **Castilla y León** you'll see stone pillars with the name of the Vía written in Latin and Arabic scripts - a reflection of the fact that this route was used by Mozarabic Christians from Andalusia.

In **Galicia** you'll find the ubiquitous concrete bollards with the shell symbol on a tile pointing, with its flat end, in the direction to follow, and the "distance to Santiago", which is best ignored.

In certain places you may find that several different kinds of waymarking co-exist and occasionally they may point in contradictory directions. **If in doubt, as a general rule, you should follow the yellow arrows.** This is not to say that the other waymarkings are wrong, just that the yellow arrows are painted by people who have walked the Vía recently and they are most likely to indicate the best walking route. The yellow arrows are also the waymarkings which are most likely to be up-to-date in the event of minor route changes.

Walking in summer

The extreme summer heat in southern Spain makes June, July, August and September the most difficult and dangerous time to walk the southern sections of this Camino (south of Salamanca). In recent years several people have died on the Vía while walking or cycling in hot weather. You should not attempt the southern sections of the Vía in summer unless you are used to and comfortable walking in temperatures of 40C and higher. Also, many bars and albergues take their summer holidays at this time.

North of Salamanca is a different matter. The climatic conditions which prevail here are largely similar to what you would encounter on the Camino Francés.

ABOUT ME

This guide is about the Camino not about me, but since people sometimes ask, my name is Gerald Kelly, I'm Irish. I started walking Caminos in 2004. I first walked the Vía in 2009 – Seville to Mérida in February, didn't meet a single pilgrim. I've been back most years since then. My hobbies are walking, technology (especially open source software), languages and walking.

EMERGENCY

The emergency services number for Spain is **112**. Also please consider installing the **AlertCops** app. It's available for Android and iPhone.

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