

The Camino Português

In 1998 the Confraternity of Saint James published the first English language guide to the Camino Português prepared by Francis Davey and Rod Pascoe. Since then, there have been changes to the route and increasing numbers of pilgrims have chosen this way to Santiago.

The tourist authorities in Portugal provide details of various pilgrim routes to Santiago in Portugal. This Guide is a new edition and describes the route known as the Camino Real or Camino de Lima from Porto, through Ponte de Lima to Valença and then across the border into Spain at Tui and on to Santiago.



Source Centro de Estudos Galegos

The Confraternity of Saint James in the United Kingdom

The Confraternity of Saint James in the UK is the largest and oldest English speaking association of pilgrims.

The Confraternity promotes the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and provides support and services to pilgrims.

Amongst these services are: Practical Pilgrim Days where around the country they provide an opportunity for potential pilgrims to learn more, a regular members' bulletin, and a bookshop and library. The Confraternity also promotes research and provides a bursary to young people undertaking research into the movement around St James and they also offer help to elderly, frail or disabled people who might otherwise be unable to undertake the pilgrimage.

The Confraternity publishes guides to many of the routes to Santiago and also runs two refuges for pilgrims at Gaucelmo (on the Camino Francés) and Miraz (on the Camino del Norte).

See more at www.csj.org.uk

The CSJ can also provide a Pilgrim Record for members - www.csj.org.uk/how-to-get-a-credencial

Introduction

“Santiago has the privilege of having been, throughout the whole of the Second Millennium, the great confluence of the European road network along which the preaching of the Gospels spread, which is the basis for the civilisation of this old continent.

We may, therefore, say that the Ways to Santiago are the common denominator in European culture. Therefore, in a Europe which more than ever wishes to see itself strong and cohesive, speaking in one voice in all its languages, these

routes which are public places for convergence and harmony, should be respected and promoted. On them, any Pilgrim feels like a citizen of the world, allowing him to acquire perspective on his convictions in an ecumenical atmosphere of openness and tolerance.

Into this complex network of Jacobean routes coming from all the corners of Europe are threaded those which begin in Portugal and these are as many as the actual opportunities for access from each locality to the Apostle's tomb. However, out of all of them, the royal Oporto-Barcelos-Valença road has a particular importance, as here almost all the others come together, reinforcing this road as the backbone of the Portuguese Ways to Santiago."

From the Guide to the Caminho Português published by the Associação dos Amigos do Caminho Português de Santiago.

St James in Portugal

In Portugal there is a long history of devotion to St James and St Roch, the patron Saint of Pilgrimage. Representations of both Saints and other monuments and buildings related to the Jacobean tradition are to be found everywhere along the pilgrim roads to Santiago de Compostela. Many of these are in prominent positions, well known and easily seen. Others, however, are well kept secrets, hidden away in locked churches, high up in the sculptures or stained glass of great cathedrals or simply insignificant ruins.

St James appears in various guises. As St James the Apostle (Santiago Apóstol) he is portrayed as a Saint with halo and book and very occasionally his sword of martyrdom. As a pilgrim (Santiago Peregrino) he usually wears a hat with a scallop shell at the front, a cloak often decorated with scallop shells and carries a staff, gourd and text. As the "Moor slayer" (Santiago Matamoros) he is seen riding a white charger and brandishing a large sword with Moors cowering at his feet. There is also a hybrid version of St James the Apostle and St James the Pilgrim. Lastly there are statues of a seated St James with scroll and book, leaning on a tau (a short t-shaped staff) such as in Santiago Cathedral.

It is hoped that this Guide alerts pilgrims with an interest in Jacobean history and iconography to the existence and location of images of St James, St Roch and of other figures and buildings in the Jacobean tradition along the Camino Português which they may wish to see. The list is not exhaustive and we welcome more information from pilgrims about Jacobean images both ancient and modern.

Source: Alison Raju et al



Setting out on the Camino Português

Statistics – Pilgrims walking or cycling the Camino Portugués

2000: 1512 pilgrims
2001: 1982 pilgrims
2002: 3278 pilgrims
2003: 3612 pilgrims
2004: 15846 pilgrims (Holy Year)
2005: 5508 pilgrims
2006: 6467 pilgrims
2007: 8110 pilgrims

(Source: La Oficina de Acogida al Peregrino of Santiago de Compostela)

Internet resources

<http://www.caminhoportuguesdesantiago.com/EN/caminho.php>

The web site of the Association of the Amigos of the Caminho Português.

The useful parts of the guide are in Portuguese and English. The web site refers to the Guide published by the Amigos with strip maps and a description of the route. The stages recommended are long and the information on accommodation is incomplete. There is a good gallery of photographs.

<http://www.caminhoportugues.org/>

A useful site with resources for a number of routes to Santiago. It has maps (which may not be very useful) of the stages of the Camino Portugués and GPS coordinates.

http://www.amigosdelcamino.com/php/upload/GUIA_ESPANOLreduc.pdf

Another Guide to the route published by the Galician Amigos Association in Gallego and Spanish. There are quite useful maps of the stages of the route

www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com

With the largest English speaking interactive pilgrims' forum.

http://www.santiago-compostela.net/ingles/index_ci_en.html

For photographs of the route

<http://www.mundicamino.com/>

With much information and graphic profiles

www.turgalicia.es

Go to: publications – Mapas de Galicia – Mapas Camiños de Santiago
For a map of the routes in Galicia

Go to: publications – and then Aloxamentos 2008 for a list of registered hotels and hostales – the index covers the main points on the route

Do you need a map?

The waymarking is very good throughout this route and many people walk it without the aid of maps. For those who wish to download maps for each stage these are available here:

http://www.amigosdelcamino.com/php/upload/GUIA_ESPANOLreduc.pdf

or

http://www.caminhoportuguesdesantiago.com/EN/mapa_website.php

Go to Days of the Way

For map enthusiasts there is a complete set of IGN 1:50,000 maps of Spain which are available for download as PDF files:

http://www.ign.es/ign/en/IGN/cartoteca_MapTopo.jsp

Also many pilgrims like to know when they will be walking uphill and how high they will be going, others prefer a surprise. If you wish details of the elevations you will encounter along the route print out this helpful summary provided by the Amigos who run the albergue at Rates:

<http://alberguerates.com.sapo.pt/Files/Perfis.pdf>

Planning your journey - Albergues

The location of suitable accommodation is always the determining factor for pilgrims planning their journey. On the Camino Francés for example there are many albergues and hostales. So much so that often it is possible for pilgrims to set off in the morning and just stop when they get tired. Accommodation on the Camino Portugués is much less frequent but more albergues and hostels exist now than ever before with more facilities planned for the future. This gives pilgrims some flexibility. You can walk the Camino Portugués in shorter or longer stages or a combination of both. There are also a number of Quintas mentioned in this guide. These are country houses which offer accommodation and are usually quite expensive.

Overall plans might be:

1	Porto – Vilar do Pinheiro	18 kms
2	Vilar do Pinheiro – Rates	21 kms
3	Rates – Barcelos	15 kms
4	Barcelos – Ponte de Lima	33.5 kms
5	Ponte de Lima – Rubiães	20.5 kms
6	Rubiães – Valença or Tui	20 kms
7	Valença or Tui – Redondela	30 kms
8	Redondela – Pontevedra	20.5 kms
9	Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis	21.1 kms
10	Caldas de Reis – Padrón	17 kms
11	Padrón – Santiago	23.9 kms

1	Porto – Vilarinho (or Vila do Conde)	27 kms
2	Vilarinho – Barcelos	27 kms
3	Barcelos – Ponte de Lima	33.5 kms
4	Ponte de Lima – Rubiães	20.5 kms
5	Rubiães – Valença or Tui	20 kms
6	Valença or Tui – Redondela	30 kms
7	Redondela – Pontevedra	20.5 kms
8	Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis	21.1 kms
9	Caldas de Reis – Padrón	17 kms
10	Padrón – Santiago	23.9 kms

The route out of Porto is almost entirely on the road. At times these roads are busy and **considerable care** needs to be taken. Some pilgrims choose to arrive in Porto and then take the Metro (or a bus) to Vila do Conde to join the route at Vilarinho.

From Tui - Redondela the existence of albergues at Porriño 14.5 kms or Cabaleiros 22.3 kms gives an

option to break that 30 km stage.

Similarly, in the stage from Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis which is 21.1 kms, there is an albergue provided by the Concello de Barro 12kms or in Brialllos approximately 4 kms from Caldas de Reis 17kms. **NB** There is no albergue in Caldas de Reis at this time

Towards the end of the journey some pilgrims may choose to walk a stage of 28 kms from Caldas de Reis (through Padrón) to the albergue in Teo leaving only 13 kms to walk next morning into Santiago for the Pilgrims' Mass at 12 noon in Santiago.

Road walking

Throughout the Camino Portugués the route is sometimes on very busy roads. This is especially the case in the early stages. Great care has to be taken. Pilgrims should:

- Remember the traffic drives on the Right in Portugal and Spain
- Wear bright clothing and/or a fluorescent arm band
- If walking before full daylight or at dusk also attach a bicycle reflector or lamp to both front and back (or use your torch)
- Take **GREAT** care at some road crossings remembering the direction in which the traffic is travelling

Language

English speaking pilgrims who do not speak Portuguese may be very surprised that many people in Portugal speak English very well; much more so than in Spain.

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

However in both countries it is still a good idea to either take a phrase book or to learn basic phrases which you may need along the way.

International Phone codes

For Portugal: 00351

For Spain: 0034

How to find a place to stay

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

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

Travelling by bus or taxi on the Camino

The bars along the route have telephone numbers for local taxis and information about buses.

Waymarking

In Portugal the route is marked thoroughly and thoughtfully by yellow arrows showing the direction to take and often crosses showing the way NOT to go.

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



Food and water

On the Camino Portugués you are never far from a café/bar where you can obtain food and drink. In fact you may be surprised how many you encounter!

There are also fuentes (fountains) along the way where you can top up water bottles. However ensure that the water is drinkable. If necessary ask a local.

There are one or two stretches however where there is no bar or fuente for some distance – these are described in this guide.

Detours

This route is steeped in history and there are many places of interest off the route.

The internet and both Portuguese and Spanish Tourist Offices are a great source of information.

Rather than recommend particular detours if pilgrims find places of interest which they think other pilgrims may visit we will be happy to incorporate details in this guide. Let us know!

Definitions for this guide:

KSO – keep straight on
Fuente – drinking fountain
Lavadero – In Spain a communal facility for washing clothes
Lavandería – In Portugal a communal facility for washing clothes
Residencial – a hostel in Portugal
Pousada da Juventude – Youth Hostel
Bombeiros – Firemen/firestation
Cruceiro – a wayside cross

How the distance numbers work

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

How to get there

Porto Airport, Pedras Rubras, Maia (+351) 229 432 400 is about 11 km from the city centre. There are regular flights from and to almost all major worldwide cities. There is an airport bus available from outside the terminal which takes you to Praça da Liberdade (city center) or will drop you off at the Pousada da Juventude. A similar taxi trip will cost over 20 Euro.

The Metro line connects the Airport to the city centre, offering a fast and peaceful ride into the heart of the city, for less than 2 euros.

Ryanair run the cheapest flights from [London Stanstead](#) and [Liverpool](#).

TAP flies from most European airports but tends to be more expensive.

Porto

Porto also Oporto in English, is [Portugal's second city](#) and the regional capital. The city is located in the estuary of the [Douro river](#) in northern Portugal. The largest city in the region, Porto is considered the economic and cultural heart of the entire region. The city, which had an estimated population of about 240,000 (2008), lies at the centre of the [Greater Metropolitan Area of Porto](#), with a population of just over 2.0 million people.

The historic centre of Porto was declared a [World Heritage Site](#) by [UNESCO](#) in 1996.



Arriving in Porto:

Map of the Metro:

<http://www.metroporto.pt/document/827457/868376.pdf>

Map of Porto

<http://www.portoturismo.pt/downloads/mapadacidade.pdf>

Full list of accommodation:

<http://www.portoturismo.pt/index.php?m=3&s=7>

Tourist Office

There are three tourist offices in Porto all of which are signposted. Below is the address of the main office – there is also one adjacent to the Cathedral.

There is no longer a Pilgrims' Office in Porto.

Tourist Offices do not issue Credenciales – these are available only at the Cathedral.

Tourist Office

Rua Clube dos Fenianos, 25
4000-172 Porto

Tel 223 393 472

E mail turismo.central@cm-porto.pt

Website www.portoturismo.pt

The Tourist Office will provide you with:

- A map of the city
- A long list of accommodation of all levels showing where they are on the map
- Details of possible pilgrims routes to Santiago de Compostela including details of Pilgrim accommodation available along the way
(The “maps” are linear and the details of accommodation are also listed in the on-line version of this guide.)

Porto is a large city and the details of hotels and hostels (called Residenciales in Portugal) are readily available on the internet.

The list for pilgrims provided by the Tourist Office lists three places which provide accommodation for pilgrims:

Pousada da Juventude (Youth Hostel)
Rua Paulo Gama
No 551

Take bus 207 to the bus stop – Pousada da Juventude

Tel 226177257
Call Centre 707 23 32 33 – for bookings for the national network of Youth Hostels

Web site: www.pousadasjuventude.pt – for on line booking

In some Pousadas da Juventude a discount is offered to Pilgrims with Credencial

Bombeiros Voluntários Porto
Rua Rodrigues Sampaio no 145
4000-425
Porto

Tel 223 322 787

Has 2 beds which may be available for pilgrims with Credencial late in the day

Casa Diocesana
R.Arceidiago Van Zeller 50
4050-621
Porto
Tel 226056000
This is a hotel by the river – call them for charges



Porto - Vilar do Pinheiro

Leaving Porto



The first yellow and blue arrows

With your back to the West door of the Cathedral proceed down the Calçada de Pedro Pitões as indicated by the first yellow arrow.

Note the blue arrow in the opposite direction to Fatima you will see these throughout the route in Portugal.

Pass on your Right the offices of Porto Tours located in a **medieval tower**.

At the bottom of this short street turn Left and then immediately Right. Go through another short street, the Largo do Dr Pedro Vitorino. Ignore other marks and follow the yellow arrow down the steps at a sign for the Igreja dos Grilos on the left. Note that here yellow arrows are marked on kerbs and low on walls.

At the bottom of the steps cross the Largo do Colegio past the Igreja San Lourenço and turn Right into the

Rua de Sant' Ana. KSO until the junction with the Rua da Bainharia and turn Left and then Right and cross the busy Rua Mouzinho de Silveira follow the yellow arrow on the kerb.

KSO up the Right side of the Largo de Santo Domingos. Follow the yellow arrows Right into the Rua das Flores. At building number 69 follow the arrows Left into the Rua do Ferraz and pass the former Pilgrims' Office on your Left.

KSO uphill and turn Right into the Rua da Vitória. At the junction with the Rua dos Caldeiros turn Left and KSO to the top of the hill. Turn Right into the square Campo dos Mártires da Pátria.

Cross the main road with the Torre dos Clérigos on your Right and cross through the Right hand corner of the park opposite, the Jardim de João Chagas. Walk down to the corner of Campo Mártires da Patria passing to your Right the back of the Administration Building of the University of Porto. Shortly with the statue of Ramalho Ortigão 1836 – 1915 on your Left turn Right into the Praça de Parada Leitão. Pass along the side of the University building on your Right to the Praça de Gomez Teixeira with a fountain to your Right. The Carmelite church Igreja do Carmo (actually two churches!) decorated with traditional blue tiles is opposite.

Cross and KSO ahead into the Praça de Carlos Alberto. KSO Left and soon pass gardens on your Right with a war memorial. KSO into the Rua de Cedofeita a **pedestrianised shopping zone**.

KSO the Rua de Cedofeita until the crossroads with the Rua Álvares Cabal. KSO ahead at this junction and soon cross over the Rua da Boavista into the Rua do Barao de Forrester passing under the railway line and ahead to the Chapel at Largo da Ramada Alta. Turn Right with the sign for Braga facing you and immediately Left passing the chapel on your Left. Follow the road round to the Right into the Rua de Nove Julho. Cross the busy Rua de Egas Moniz and go through 2 tunnels under apartment blocks and then turn Left and follow the road down to Rua Oliveira passing a Cruceiro on your Left. KSO this road to a crossroads with the blue tiled church of Carvalhido on your Right and KSO into the Rua de Carvalhido which becomes the Rua do Monte dos Burgos a long road through the outskirts of Porto.

Pass on your Left the **Hospital da Prelada**. Go under the city bypass and pass the city campsite **Parque de Campismo** on your Left.

KSO across the busy Estrada da Circunvalação into the Rua do Sexo. KSO passing a **Cruceiro** on your Left into the Rua de Recarei. **7 kms (7/240.5 kms)**

KSO ahead passing under the motorway and the road becomes the Rua de Gondivai. KSO the road which crosses the railway line to reach Arjujo with a small chapel on your Right.

Porto - Vilar do Pinheiro

Shortly pass a large enclosed stone cross and follow yellow arrows to the Right down the Travessa D. Frei Manuel Vasconcellos to cross the river at the bottom.
2 kms (9/240.5kms)

At the main road go straight across cross **VERY** carefully. Be extremely vigilant for fast cars. You need to find a break in the traffic to cross the barrier in the middle of the road to proceed to the opposite side.

KSO steadily uphill on the other side until you pass a zoo on your Left and a blue tiles church, the Igreja da Maia on your Right. **2 kms (11/240.5kms)**

Follow the arrows slightly downhill to a main road turning Left and then Right at **two bus stops and a fuente** which is very popular with the locals.

Proceed ahead under the motorway in the direction of Guarda and follow this road until you reach a square with a small chapel. Go Left at a sign for the Zona Industrial Maia I. KSO following the yellow arrows until reaching a crossroads at the Banco Espirito Santo and KSO ahead. At a crossroads with a **sign to Mosterio** you can either follow the route ahead or turn Left for food or lodgings.

If you turn Left shortly there are a number of bars/restaurants and if you wish accommodation turn Left at the main road and shortly come to the Residencial Santa Marinha on the Left in:

Vilar do Pinheiro - 7 kms (18/240.5 kms)

Where to stay

Residencial Santa Marinha

Tele 22 927 15 20

E mail RMarinha@hotmail.com

Single room 25 Euros

Room shared by two 45 Euros

Room shared by three 55 Euros

Having eaten or slept retrace your steps to the sign for Mosterio and rejoin the route. KSO through Mosterio in about 1.7kms passing a **Cruceiro** on your Right in the **main square**.
Vilar do Pinheiro - Vilarhino

KSO through Vilar in around a further 1km and join the N306 turning Right onto it. KSO through Gião until you eventually come to a crossroads with a sign indicating a left turn to Fajozes in around 3.6 kms. At this sign KSO ahead past the Quinta do Alferes. At the crossroads with a sign to the Museu Agrícola and Vairão KSO until you come to the main crossroads where the N306 crosses the N104 in:

Vilarinho - 9 kms (27/240.5 kms)

Where to stay

If you wish to sleep in the small 4 bedded albergue with showers turn Right at the cross roads and KSO until you reach the Farmacia with sello and keys to the albergue which is a short distance away.

Farmácia Rei

Tele +351 252 661610

Open Mon – Fri 9am – 8pm and Saturdays 9am – 12.30 and 14.30 – 7pm

When closed go back to the **Bomba Gasolina Repsol** for keys



Alternatives

There are regular buses to Rates 11 kms further where there is a much larger albergue.

Or

Take a short bus ride of 6kms (1.5 Euros) or a taxi to the picturesque Vila do Conde which has a number of hotels and hostales including two at the harbour. Be aware that several pilgrims report difficulty finding the way to the Camino from the metro stop, as marking is poor.

Tourist Office -Vila do Conde

Tel: 252 248 473

<http://www.cm-viladoconde.pt>

E-mail: turismo@cm-viladoconde.pt

There are hotels and hostales at all prices – for a full list e mail the tourist office. There are two reasonably priced establishments by the harbour:

Pensão Patarata 3.^a
Cais das Lavadeiras,
18 * 4480-789
Vila do Conde
Tel 252 631 894

Hospedaria O Manco d'Areia
Praça da República,
84 * 4480-715
Vila do Conde
Tel 252 631 748
Fax. 252 631 748



Harbour scenes in Vila do Conde

From Vila do Conde, the route is not well marked, almost until Arcos. It goes along the river in Vila do Conde, over the railway, past large grain silos to a T-junction. At that spot, turn Right and go around a curve into a more commercial area with cafes. At a roundabout (you will be able to see the church of Touguinho up the hill), you turn onto the Camino directly 45 degrees to the right. Go to the sign for Familcao, where you turn right over a bridge. This bit of highway requires some attention to safety. Past a crested doorway on the right, you turn Left on a road Graça and Junquiera. There is a left turn/curve in front of the church at Junquiera. A small (but dangerous at times) highway takes you through communities to the overpass over the new highway. To the right, after you cross, is a little park with Mesolithic mounds - very peaceful - and soon after you begin to see yellow arrows.

Vilharino – Ponte de Arco - Rates

From Vilarinho

Head straight across the N104 and KSO until after approximately 1km yellow arrows indicate a Right turn down a country lane taking a Left fork. Go down to the bridge over the River Ave. After crossing the bridge, it is a pleasant walk across and up through the village on a cobbled lane. 3kms from Vilarinho. **3kms (30/240.5 Kms)**

KSO the N306 and a crossroads with shrines on either side and signs to Prada and Vila do Conde KSO ahead past Casa do Alto after 0.5kms. KSO and after a further 0.5kms veer Right at the Bar Ondas into a cobbled lane Rua de S. Mamede **2 kms (32/240.5 kms)**

Pass through Boa Vista keeping a sharp lookout for yellow arrows. If the way ahead at Boa Vista is blocked simply follow the road down past the Church on your Right, turn Right onto the main road and after a short distance KSO ahead Right to rejoin the route at the Café Neta.

Pass under the motorway and after a short distance follow the yellow arrows along a country lane to your Right. KSO all the way down to the river and cross the Ponte de Arcos. **3 kms (35/240.5 kms)**

Where to stay

The 5 roomed luxurious Quinta São Miguel <http://www.quintasaomiguel.com/>

Either follow the road ahead into Arcos or follow the route to the Left and follow the arrows out of Arcos. Shortly join a track through woods. Cross over the main road at a timber factory and KSO veering Right at a fork. KSO this stony path for approximately 1.5 kms until you cross a **disused railway line** into Rates.

Rates - Barcelos

Follow the yellow arrows through Rates coming to the albergue in:

Rates - 4 kms (39/240.5 kms)



Oporto Cathedral

Oporto Cathedral (Portuguese: *Sé do Porto*), located in the historical centre of the city of [Porto, Portugal](#), is one of the city's oldest monuments and one of the most important [Romanesque](#) monuments in Portugal.

Construction of the Cathedral began around 1110 and was completed in the 13th century, but there is evidence that the city has been the seat of a Bishop since the 5th-6th centuries.

St James

The Cathedral has a number of images: In the Chapter House (2nd Floor) a 16th Century (with 18th Century additions) statue of Santiago Peregrino in polychrome wood. St James in Last Supper scenes in a painting in [ht](#) the Sacristy and bas relief in the Capela São Vicente. Also in the Sacristy a series of individual apostle

paintings with St James wearing robes depicted with staff and gourd, hat slung over his shoulders with scallop shell. In the Treasury St James appears in two sets of three engravings.

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beyond the albergue.

KSO passing a Cruceiro on your Left. Soon the road becomes a dirt track. KSO for approximately 3kms until you cross a main road with the village of Courel on your Left.

KSO for another 1km and turn right into Ferrado and after a further 1 km turn Right onto the main road. Shortly turn Right and then Left back onto a country lane. KSO and after approximately 1 km turn Left to join the busy N306. KSO passing the **Igreja Pedra Furada** on your Right. Café Restaurante Pedra Furada serves good pilgrim meals. **6 kms (45/240.5)**

KSO until a crossroads with a sign Left to Monteda Franqueira and Right to Góios – KSO following the road downhill passing the Chapel of Our Lady of the Way and a fuente. After approximately 1km turn Left and follow a cobbled lane into Pereira. At a cross roads with a Cruceiro KSO into Pedrêgo and continue into Ponté Gâos passing under the **motorway**.

Go through Pereiro and at a sign for Barcelos turn Right and at the Igreja Carvalhal turn Left and shortly Right. Follow the arrows through Porto Carreiro continuing on until rising up to the Capella da Santa Cruz which you pass on your Left. After a further 0.5 kms turn Right towards a roundabout. KSO passing car showrooms on your Right turn Right behind the showrooms along a path parallel to the motorway on your left. Shortly turn Left under motorway following the road Left then veering Right past the **cemetery** on your Right.

Pilgrims report an alternative way, which takes you into Barcelinhos and avoids the busy N-306. This alternative begins at the crossroads described above, at the point of the sign indicating Left to Monteda Franqueira and Right to Góios. Instead of continuing straight ahead, turn left at the sign for Monteda Franqueira. You will go through eucalyptus trees and come to the Church of Our Lady. It is on a ridge with a large cross and views of the Atlantic. Follow the road down into Barcelinhos, which is on the outskirts of Barcelos, and rejoin the camino

You are now on the outskirts of Barcelos, Barcelinhos with the Chapel of Our Lady of the Bridge. Follow the arrows straight ahead and after 0.5 kms turn Left at the end and rise up into Barcelos. Follow arrows to the main square with the tourist office on your Right open 10am – 6pm in:

Barcelos 9 kms (54/240.5 kms)

Barcelos

A town with all facilities: banks, farmacias, shops, restaurants and a good range of accommodation. There is a huge open air market on Thursdays.

Barcelos is the home of the legend of the Miracle of the Cockerel which led to the cockerel becoming the national symbol of Portugal. This is a very similar legend to that of Santo Domingo de la Calzada on the Camino Francés. The legend is that a pilgrim was accused of theft who had been condemned to death by the judge. The pilgrim declared his innocence and claimed that if he was hanged a dead cock would come alive as proof of his innocence. The judge at dinner was astonished when the roasted cock on the plate before him suddenly jumped up alive. The judge rushed to the gallows to find the pilgrim alive through the assistance of St James.

The legend is also commemorated by the granite 14th Century Cruceiro de Galo with Santiago holding up the hanging pilgrim.

At the Church of Our Lady of the Bridge on the way into Barcelos you can still see the footbaths used by pilgrims resting on the way.

In the Igreja do Bom Jesus there is a statue of Our Lady the Pilgrim (Nuestra Señora de la Peregrina) dressed in cape, satchel with scallop shell, hat with three scallop shells, gold stick with gourd, carrying the child Jesus.



Templo do Bom Jesus - Barcelos

Tourist Office Barcelos

Tel: 253 811 882

<http://www.cm-barcelos.pt>

E-mail: turismo@cm-barcelos

Where to stay

There is an albergue here. As you approach the bridge, it is in the Centro Folklorico, and opens at 2 pm.

Many private options include:

Name	Address	Contact
Hotel do Terço	Rúa de S. Bento – Ed do Terço 7 www.artereo.com	253 808 380 infor@artereo.com reservas@artereo.com
Hotel Bagoeira	Av. Dr. Sidónio Pais 495 www.bagoeira.com	253 809 500 reservas@bagoeira.com
Residencial Arantes	Av. Da Liberdade 35	253 811 326 residencialarantes@sapo.pt
Residencial D. Nuno	Av D. Nuno Álvaro Pereira http://www.residencial-dnuno.com	253 812 810 residencial-dnuno@clix.pt

Barcelos – Ponte de Lima

Leaving Barcelos

With the Tourist Office on your Right facing you is the church the Templo do Bom Jesus immediately

behind which Left is the reasonably priced **Residencial Arantes** (above) which is on the route.

As you prepare to leave Barcelos keep in mind that there are **no bars or shops** to buy refreshments until you reach Aborim some 11 kms away.

Leaving Barcelos pass the Templo do Bom Jesus on your Right then the Residencial Arantes and KSO the Avenida da Liberdade following yellow arrows. At a roundabout, with a statue of a firefighter, pass to the Right side of the road. KSO to a second roundabout and turn Left passing over a main road. At the next roundabout follow the yellow arrows. KSO and then take the second Right to the Rua de S. Mamede. KSO this road until you pass blocks of flats on your Left. Turn Right at a T intersection at the school then Left. KSO until you turn Left at a small chapel and KSO into Vila Boa. **3 kms (57/240.5 kms)**

KSO passing a fuente and lavanderia and pass a Cruceiro on your Right. KSO down and cross the railway and turn Right onto a sandy path through trees. Watch carefully for arrows and turn Left at the first fork after approximately 1km.

Pass the Chapel of the Holy Cross on your Right and KSO through trees passing a **fuate** on your Left – this is a good place to top up water bottles.

Shortly begin a gentle climb until you turn Left into Portela. At the restaurant Fada D'Agua go Right upstairs and then Left passing the church and Cruceiro and turn Right onto the main road N204. KSO until turning Left at a sign into Quintas. **6 kms (63/240.5 kms)**

Barcelos – Ponte de Lima

Shortly turn Right onto a track which becomes a cobbled lane leading to the modern Parish Church of Aborim. Follow the arrows along the side of the church then down through a square in front passing a Cruceiro on your Left. Turn Right across the railway and the turn Right again. The route goes to the Left but if you wish refreshments (the first since Barcelos) KSO to the Café Bar Oliveira opposite the Aborim Railway Station. There is a **shop beside the bar. 1.5 kms (64.5/240.5 kms)**

Return to the route and follow yellow arrows for approximately 2.5 kms then turn sharp Right off the road onto a track leading down to a stone bridge and an ideal paddling or swimming area. After the bridge veer Right and KSO at a fork. After approximately 1 km veer Left at another fork. Go up to and cross the N308. Continue on a track on the other side eventually going down to a school building on your Right. Pass a fuente with a seat on your Right and a **Camino signboard.**

KSO passing 3 crosses and 2 further fuentes veering Right on the road at first. The road becomes a path through woods then a road again. Follow it to the junction with the N204 with 2 bush shelters and the **Chapel of San Sebastian. 6 kms (70.5/240.5 kms)**

Cross the road and pass the chapel on your Right and KSO for approximately 2 kms until the crossroads at Lugar do Corgo.

If you turn right here, in about ¾ km you arrive at Casa de Fernanda, Lugar de Corgo. Tel. 984 589 521. Two private rooms and a cabin with 10 beds. Very friendly; good meals.

If you are not interested in stopping at Casa de Fernanda, at the crossroads KSO and shortly turn Left onto a track crossing a road approximately 1 km later and KSO. Follow yellow arrows Right and follow the road until you turn up Left and then Right towards the Parish Church of Vitorino which you have been able to see for some time. At the church turn Left and the route continues ahead at a roundabout. The **Café Viana** and shop is a few steps down to your Right. **4.5 kms (75/240.5 kms)**

KSO uphill and shortly turn Left onto a track. Continue on this for just over 1km to Portela. Turn Right at the main road and shortly afterwards at the sign for Facha turn Left. KSO following clear waymarking with yellow arrows. Pass the Quinta de Albergaria which has accommodation <http://www.quintadealbergaria.com/>

Some time later pass a chapel on your Right with a shrine to St James on your Left.



KSO past Quinta do Sobreiro (no accommodation) on your Left and eventually come out on a road at Quinta de Bon Gosto on your Left. Go down to the main road and turn Right passing the Café Bar O Moinho on your Left. KSO and after the Pastelaria turn Left onto a minor road with a sign for Bouças/Polidesportivo. Shortly turn Right onto a country road.

KSO passing through Anta and then Bouças and at a shrine honouring San Antonio go Left and KSO into Lugar do Paço. **9 kms (84/240.5 kms)**

Pass a Cruceiro on your left then a bar and the small Chapel of San Francisco. KSO to Ponte de Barros. **1 kms (85/240.5 kms)**

KSO crossing the bridge and turn Left past a bandstand and church on your Right. KSO parallel to the river Lima passing under a bridge and past a Chapel with a wayside pulpit. The Hotel Imperial is on your Right. KSO to the old stone bridge in:

Ponte de Lima - 2.5 kms (87.5/240.5 kms)

Ponte de Lima

A town with all facilities but no dedicated Pilgrim accommodation although there is a youth hotel which offers discounts for pilgrims. There is a good range of shops, hotels, shops and restaurants.

Ponte de Lima is well located on the banks of the River Lima and has had a huge market twice per month since 1125.

Named after its Roman/Medieval bridge Ponte de Lima is a picturesque town and was a favourite stop for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. It remains so today.

Construction of the medieval bridge is documented to have been started in 1368. It is 277 meters in length and 4 meters in width, with 16 large arches and 14 smaller ones. On the opposite side of the river is the Roman bridge built for military use between Braga and Astorga.

Churches to visit are the Igreja de S. Francisco and Santo Antonio dos Capuchos. There is also the Terceiros Museum featuring ecclesiastical, archaeological and folk treasures.

Tourist Office

This is well signposted in the town

Paço do Marquês
4990-063 Ponte de Lima
Tel +351 258 942 335
info@rtam.pt
<http://www.rtam.pt>

The Tourist Office's website is also in English and lists accommodation available.

Ponte de Lima has an albergue, across the Roman bridge and just beyond the Capela de Sto. Antonio da Torre Velha. It is very pleasant, well-located, and well-appointed. Opens at 4 p.m.

Also comfortable and convenient:

Hotel Spa InLima
Rua Agostinho José Taveira, Lote 6
4990-072 Ponte de Lima
Tel: 258 900 050; Email: info@inlimahotel.com

Also comfortable and convenient:

Hotel Merceria da Vila
Rua Cardenal Saraiva

A cheaper option recommended:

Pensão Residencial São João
Largo de S. João
4990-049
Ponte de Lima

Tel 258 941 288
E Mail jalbertoalves@sapo.pt

Also available for pilgrims with a Credencial:

Pousada da Juventude
Rua Agostino José Taveira
4990-062
Ponte de Lima

Tel 258 943 797
Call Centre 707 23 32 33
Web site: www.pousadasjuventude.pt

Reservations can be made on-line or by calling the call centre number

50 beds including dormitory accommodation for 11 Euros per person and also twin rooms with and without facilities. Prices change with the season.

There is a 10% discount for Pilgrims with a Credencial – membership of the Youth Hostel Association of Portugal is not necessary although this also attracts a 10% discount.

Ponte de Lima – Rubiães

Leaving Ponte de Lima

Cross the medieval bridge passing a church on your Right and a little further also pass a café on your Right. Turn Right immediately after the café down a lane. KSO for approximately 2 kms and then cross the N202 continuing on a cobbled path on the other side. KSO following yellow arrows passing under the motorway for just over 1 km until you reach the Igreja Arcozelo and Centro Social. Soon after the church veer Right along a narrow bouldered path. KSO following arrows for 1.5 kms until you reach a road and the bridge over the Rio La Bruja. Follow the road round then turn Left into winding tracks and lanes for just over 1.5 kms. The path goes under the motorway. Follow arrows Left and Right and cross the Rio La Bruja via broad girders replacing the **collapsed bridge**.

Follow the path up for approximately 2 kms until you reach the road. Turn Right and immediately Left and KSO for 0.5 kms until you come to the sign for Revolta and Valinhos Valada. **9kms (96.5/240.5 kms)**

Turn Left and immediately encounter a small chapel and a useful shop/bar opposite. KSO rising steadily until you reach a roadside fuente after approximately 2kms. **This is a good place to top up water supplies for the 4kms climb ahead.** The route ahead is well waymarked with yellow arrows but is steep in parts with stony paths. There are places to rest – make use of them.

After 3 kms from the fuente you will come to a wayside cross with good views. After a further 1 km you reach the top having turned Right then Left.

Turn Right to begin a descent of 1 km until you cross a stream. There is a further 0.5 km to the first hamlet and you pass a Cruceiro in a further 0.5 kms then a further 0.5 km to an old bridge over a stream. Follow the arrows across two roads reaching **the Pensão San Roque** after 1 km. **10.5 kms (107/240.5 kms)**

Pensão São Roque - O Resposo Do Peregrino

Tel 251 943 692

Comfortable and cheap en suite rooms. Transport is organised for dinner in a local restaurant and a simple breakfast is provided.

The route is well waymarked for a further 1 km to the large modern albergue in:

Rubiães – 1km (108/240.5 kms)



Albergue in Rubiães

Two large dormitories, lounge, large sitting out area and a small kitchen. There are two restaurants within a kilometer or so.

Web site: <http://www.cm-paredes-coura.pt/cultura/csantiago.php>

Tel 251 943 3472/917164476

500 m before the Rubiães albergue, on the Camino, is the Quinta das Leiras. Ana, the owner is very friendly and helpful. Free shuttle to restaurants. Open April-October. Tel. 967 813 689. Email ajdias133@sapo.pt.

Rubiães – Valença/Tui

Leaving Rubiães

From the albergue follow the yellow arrows along the main road turning sharp Left onto a track. KSO crossing a Roman bridge. Turn Right and KSO until you reach the main road in approximately 200 meters.

Cross the road at a café/bar and go up the side of it. KSO rising steadily on paths and lanes for 3kms until you come out at a junction with a bar facing you. Turn Right at the bar and pass in front of a church on your Left. Turn Left and KSO up the side of the Church. After less than 800 meters, rejoin the road on the Right for 100 meters, then Right down a paved road. After 150 meters, go Left onto the cobblestone lane. After 1 km, turn Left onto the paved road. If one or two points in this section are confusing the yellow arrows are never far away.

At the bottom of the hill leave the road and pass along a narrow cobbled path with a church on your left a little away. Come out at the **café/bar Central**.

7.7 kms (115.7/240.5 kms)

KSO paths and minor roads through woods following clear waymarking for approximately 4.5 kms. Cross the medieval bridge over the river Pedreira after approximately 3 kms and the Quinta Agroturismo after approximately 1km more. At the end of this 4.5 km stretch come out at a busy main road. Cross carefully and turn Right passing shops and restaurants. After a little turn left and follow a road parallel to the main road. Pass a bar then turn Left at another bar. Pass the Capela Bonfim on your Right. Pass the Casa do Diogo and continue Right at another chapel with a cross and lavanderia. KSO and pass under the railway line and at the bus station turn Right passing it on your Left. KSO with a railbridge ahead and at the junction turn Left and KSO until **the roundabout with a fountain** in:

Valença - 9 kms (124.7/240.5 kms)

Valença

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

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

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

Where to stay:

Valença – Albergue de São Teótonio, Av. Dos Bombeiros

50 beds

Tel 251 809 506

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

Valença - Tui



Remember to change your watch + 1 hour to Spanish time

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

Tui - 3.3 kms (128/240.5 kms)

Tourist Office

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

Opening hours:

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

Where to stay

The Albergue

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

Private albergue, El Camino. <http://www.orozo.com/albergueelcamino/>
Located in the center, 24 beds.

Parador

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

Residencial Val-Flores.

Av. dos Bombeiros V.
Tel. 251 824 106
Close to the albergue and across the street from the fortifications.

Hotel Colón Tui

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

Hostal Generosa

Street Calvo Sotelo, 37
Telephone +34 986600055

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

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

Leaving Tui

If you have stayed in the Parador, go Left to the river and follow the boardwalk to the end. Then turn Right and slightly uphill to an elaborate washing place. Then turn Right to join the Camino.

If you have stayed in the albergue, or in town, follow the waymarks from the Cathedral down to the Rúa Antero Rubín. KSO under an archway passing a church on your Right. KSO until waymarks indicate a Right turn which after a little leads into the Plaza San Bartolomé with the church of that name of the far side. Leave Tui by passing along a lane with the church on your Left.

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

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

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

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

On the other side KSO. There is a handy bar on your Left and other bars and restaurants on this straight stretch. Also on this road you will pass the 100 kms distance to Santiago. On the Right side of the road you will pass a fuente with drinkable water (reported not functioning in 2012) then a small roadside chapel.

The stretch through the industrial park going into Porriño is unpleasant. The Galician Amigos have waymarked an alternative that avoids that part, but it is 500 m longer. A very detailed explanation of the route from Orbenelle can be found in English on their website: http://www.amigosdelcamino.com/attachments/article/541/orb_porr_eng.pdf According to some Spanish language forums, this re-routing has angered some of the businesses along the old route, and you may find that the arrows have been covered up or re-painted. Updates appreciated.

Tui – Porriño

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KSO turning left at a junction with traffic lights passing a waymark with the distance 99 kms to Santiago.
From here you basically KSO passing a 16th Century Church on your Right then two more churches on your Left and reach the town centre in:

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Porriño 3.3 kms (142.8/240.5 kms)

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Porriño - Cabaleiros

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To follow the route KSO. In this stretch there are not many waymarks, and those that are there are faded, so take care. KSO the Rúa Ramirane to a large roundabout and KSO the other side. KSO passing under the motorway and immediately turn Right – the waymark is slightly obscured so look out for it.

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Go through a tunnel under the slip road (stay on the right side of the tunnel), veer Left and shortly come to an open area with the Fonte do Chan on your Left. **2 kms (144.8/240.5 kms)**

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Follow waymarks down to the N550 and cross it carefully turning Right. KSO the edge of the road for 7kms with one diversion Left passing a small chapel, a cross and the Fuente Santa Marta. Loop back to the road.

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

3 kms (147.8/240.5 kms)

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

Cabaleiros - 3.7 kms (151.5/240.5 kms)

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



Cabaleiros - Redondela

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

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

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

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

KSO this path gently downhill passing a picnic area and shortly there are views of the river in the distance. KSO downhill at times on minor roads more steeply for about 3 kms, heading towards a highly visible railway bridge in Redondela.

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

Redondela - 2.5 kms (158/240.5 kms)



Iglesia de Santiago, Redondela

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

Accommodation

Albergue – 56 beds and is on the route near the Church of Santiago – follow the arrows.

Two large dormitories, showers and toilets, living room and library. Small kitchen. There is a room to dry clothes, but it is very crowded and has limited ventilation, so your clothes may not dry. The albergue does not open until 5pm but there are repeated reports that it opens much earlier. The albergue closes at 9.30pm.

Other accommodation:

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

There is another, the Hotel Antolin (formerly called the O Pear) situated some distance from Redondela at the beach, the Playa de Cesantes Tel 986495409 www.hotelantolin.com/ubicacion.htm

Redondela - Pontevedra

Leaving Redondela

Leaving Redondela from the Albergue turn Right and go up past the Rúa do Adro towards the 16th Century Church of Santiago. Turn Left into the Rúa do Cruceiro. KSO under the railway line and cross over the main road. Follow the waymarks along minor roads and paths until you reach the main N550 at **the Hostal Jumboli**, Tel 986 495066 Offers a discount for pilgrims.

3 kms (161/240.5 kms)

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

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

1.5 kms (163.5/240.5 kms)

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

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

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

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

Redondela - Pontevedra

Follow waymarks along a straight road passing a play area on your Right with three modern sculptures: a horreo, a scallop shell with the cross of Santiago and a figure representing Christ, Santiago and Our Lady the Pilgrim. [Pilgrims report there is an alternative here to avoid some road walking. At the red sign to your Left, before the play area, turn Left and walk along the river. It emerges just beyond the roundabout and bridge mentioned in the next paragraph] **1 kms (174.5/240.5 kms)**

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

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

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

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Pontevedra 1.5 kms (178.5/240.5 kms)

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Pontevedra

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

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

Consider also a visit to the Basilica of Santa María, the forlorn ruins of Santo Domingo, and the stunning glasswork in the Igrexa de São Francisco.

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

Tourist Office
Tel 986850814

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

Opening hours

Winter

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

Saturday: 10:00 to 13:30

Summer

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

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

Where to stay

Parador – 986 855800

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

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

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

Hostals and Pensions

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

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

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

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

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

Pontevedra – Caldas de Reis 21.1 kms, Albergue Concello de Barro 12kms or Albergue in Briallós approximately 4 kms from Caldas de Reis 17kms. NB There is now an albergue in Caldas de Reis.

Leaving Pontevedra

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



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

Continue for approximately 0.5 kms and turn Left onto a main road. Pass under the bridge and follow the road round for a further 0.5 kms passing the Capela San Caetano on your Right. Cross the road carefully looking out for waymarks and KSO up a more minor road. Pilgrims from 2012 report minor changes after Alba because of highway and railroad construction. But marking was good. More changes appear to be in store judging from the looks of the construction.

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

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

Redondela – Briallós – Caldas de Reis

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

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

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At the next stretch you will see a sign off to the Right to the **Albergue** provided by the **Concello de Barro**. 1.5 kms approximately.

The albergue is a few hundred metres from the route and was opened in the Holy Year 2004. It has 40

Places on mattresses – no beds, showers and hot water. The Protección Civil de Barro has the key, tel 686938785.

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

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

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

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Briallos – Caldas de Reis

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Albergue at Briallos

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

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Briallos - 1.4 kms (195/240.5 kms)

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

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

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

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

KSO into the Rúa Real until you reach the Puente Romano in:

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Caldas de Reis 2 kms (199.6/240.5 kms)

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Pilgrim bathing feet in thermal waters

Sign now clearly states that feet are not allowed in this fountain.

Caldas de Reis

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

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

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Caldas de Reis

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

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Albergue Posada Doña Urraca, Calle Campo de la Torre, 1. Tel 669 822 529. Albergue is just to the left over the Roman Bridge. It is on the Bendaña River. 36 beds and 12 mattresses.

Tourist Office
Rúa - Paseo de Román López s/n
Tel 986540002

E mail caldasdereis@cegamp.es

Hotel Cruceiro (recommended and with good food)
Fermin Mosquera, 44
Tel 986 540165

Hotel Sena
Calle Juan Fuentes, 99
Tel 986 540596

Hotel-Balneario Acuña
Calle Herrería, 2
Tel 986 540010

Hotel-Balneario Dávila
C/ Laureano Salgado, 11
Tel 986 540012

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

Leaving Caldas de Reis

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



Bridge leaving Caldas de Reis

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

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



Caldas de Reis – Padrón

Continue up through the village past the school on your Left. About 1 km later cross the main road continuing on the other side until you reach the A7 motorway – approximately 8 kms from departure. Turn

Left over the motorway bridge and the route waymarked immediately to the Right on the other side. **The Bar Parda** is in sight just off the Route after the Right turn.

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

In the hamlet of O Piño, in Valga, there is a new albergue. Phone number 638 943 271. It is to the left about 200 m off the Camino, just before the path descends toward the bridge over the Valga River. 80 beds, open all year.

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

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

In 2012, a municipal albergue opened in Pontecesures. 54 beds. Open all year. Approximately 100 meters from the albergue, the Mesa de Pedra offers food to pilgrims on a donativo basis. Lunch and dinner are offered. More information on the web: <http://mesadepedra.info/>

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

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

Padrón - 0.6 kms (216.6/240.5 kms)

Possible detour to Albergue in Herbón: Before crossing the bridge at Pontecesures, a red waymarker indicates the route to the Franciscan convent and to the highly praised Albergue at Herbón. It is about 2 kms off the Camino. Communal supper, donativo. Open June 1 through end of October. Breakfast is at 7:30 and dinner at 9:00 pm. Mass and pilgrim blessing at 8:00 pm. The turn-off for the monastery is right after you pass the church of San Xulian de Pontecesures, before crossing the bridge over the river Ulla. The marker puts you on a trail going up and then sharply to the Left, descending to a leafy path parallel to the river. Go under the high motorway bridge. The path emerges at a bridge with great views. Cross the bridge and turn sharp Left, and it will take you to the Albergue and Convent. You can continue the next day by walking directly away from the convent, under the motorway again, and following the yellow arrows to rejoin the Camino.

Padrón

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

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



The Pedrón



House of Rosalía de Castro

Albergue

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

Tourist Office

Rúa: Avda. Compostela,

Tel 627210777

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

Email correo@padron.dicoruna.es

Opening hours

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

The Tourist Office lists the following accommodation:

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

Hotel Rosalía. Calle Maruxa Villanueva Tel 981 81 24 90
Hotel Scala. Pazos Tel 981 81 13 12

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

Hostal Jardin, Calle Salgado Araujo 3, 981 810 641. Recommended. You must ring the bell.
Pensión Flavia Campo da Feira, 13 Tel 981 81 04 55
Pensión Milargosa. Picaraña Tel 981 80 31 19
Pensión Glorioso. Picaraña. Tel 981 80 31 81



Pilgrim Statue in Padrón

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

Leaving Padrón

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

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

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

[After Cruces, in 2012, pilgrims noted that there was a detour for railroad works. Instead of going straight on, the detour took you uphill and then through a forest and back down to PK15.79. This may or may not be permanent.]

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

Teo - 4.6 kms (227.4/240.5 kms)

Two places to stay, and two places to eat.

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

Pilgrim Price – Individual 25 Euros, shared 40 Euros

The municipal albergue in Teo has 24 beds and opens at 1 pm.

There is a bar, Casa Javier, about 100 m away, with home cooking. Also a restaurant on the highway.

Teo is a good stop for pilgrims who want a short day before departing for Santiago and the Pilgrims' Mass the next day.

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

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

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

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

[Pilgrims noted in 2012 that the stretch covered by the last paragraph is confusing because of the construction of a new roadway. Pay particular attention at the roundabout.]

Teo - Santiago

At the top of the hill veer Left and pass a School for Infants on your Right and a Polideportivo (sports

complex with cafeteria) on your Left. There is major building going on in this area and the route ahead may seem confused, but keep dead straight ahead to the trees you can see ahead to pick up waymarks again on the **Rúa do Esquío**.

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

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

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

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

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

Santiago - 2 kms (240.5/240.5 kms)

Congratulations

On arriving in Santiago:

The Pillar, the Hug and the Tomb

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

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

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

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

Seal of approval - The Compostela

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

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

Pilgrim Mass

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

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

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

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

Holy Smoke - The Botafumeiro

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

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

Day is done

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

