

- 1) Bus #12 from Plaza Santa Domingo in Leon does not go to Carabajal. The driver directed us to an ALSA bus just around the corner. It did go to Carabajal, avoiding 8 km of plodding through suburbs of Leon.
- 2) In Cabanillas, the albergue was locked and the hospitalero, whose phone number and address were on the door, was not home! Just when we were despairing, we found that the man living across the road from the albergue had the key. There is a very good fuente in the village square, just before leaving the Camino to go to the albergue.
- 3) In La Seca, we found the bar closed after walking the 400 metres into the town; a local who looked like a very regular patron could not advise us when it might be open. We saw him later arriving by car at the very friendly bar in Cascantes, which has a sello.
- 4) As the 2013 guide advised, the information office in the ayuntamiento is happy to ring ahead to the Posada Embrujo in Poladura la Tercia to secure a meal there -dinner at 7 p.m. is the only option. We thought we would need to get them to ring the hospitalero to have the albergue open, but they advised us (correctly) that it was already open. The hospitalero comes round at 6 p.m. to issue sabanas, provide sellos and collect money.
- 5) In Peredilla, the cafe opposite the Hermitage Buen Suceso now closes on Friday, so if (as we were) pilgrims are depending on it for breakfast, they need to be aware that on Fridays they should get something in La Robla. There is a very good fuente outside the Hermitage.
- 6) In Buiza, the alternative to walking into the village to try to find hospitalero Angel is to ring on 987 597 031 or 679 860 372; you can wait in the shade of the albergue porch for him to come and open up. There is a fuente on the way out of the village next morning.
- 7) It is a bit confusing arriving at Poldura de la Tercia. After the climb over the mountain you reach what seems to be the village but there is no sign of an albergue or a Posada, then the arrows lead you out of the settlement. It turns out that Poldura is another three-quarters of a kilometre, either along the waymarked path or the tarred road.
- 8) The Posada does an evening meal if it has been booked in advance, a very reasonable three courses (soup, meat, salad and fruit) for 8 euros, but it is a take-away meal that you have to eat back at the albergue.
- 9) A very good fuente just outside the albergue, allowing pilgrims to fill water bottles for the long climb the next day.
- 10) The path down from the highest point on the next day's walk to Pajares crosses a few small streams that require rock-hopping or wading.
- 11) The 2013 guide suggests taking the path left just past the disused parador at Puerta de Pajares, but we found that path dangerous (as a sign in Spanish warned: peligroso!). As the 2017 guide warned, the path to Pajares from the bend in the N630 is very muddy, but it is not dangerous. It connects with a rural road that returns to the N630 about a kilometre from Pajares. The Camino branches left at this point and makes a long detour to the village, but it is much easier to walk the last section into Pajares on the road. There is a wide shoulder on the left for part of the way, then a footpath on the right that passes a very good fuente.
- 12) The bar in the village is prepared to do platos combinados as well as meals - a good alternative if you arrive late for lunch and don't want a big evening meal.
- 13) There is no easy way to get from Puente de los Ferrios to Campomames. The road is busy with little room on the side, while the path over the hills is overgrown and blocked in places by fallen trees, necessitating serious clambering. Pilgrims who are not purists should consider getting the train the two stops to Campomames.
- 14) The amigos' alternative Camino from Campomames to Pola da Lena is a lovely walk along the river - much better than walking along the road. There is the option of going up a steep hill to see the pre-Romanesque church of Santa Cristina, if you happen to be passing during the hours it is open: 11-1, 4.30-6.30. Pilgrims who get the train to Campomames will find the riverside path indicated by a yellow arrow as they walk from the station toward the town.
- 15) While the 2013 guide said the path through Mieres was not well marked, the markings are now clear, yellow arrows and Asturias scallop shells; the route through the town to the albergue is as described in both the 2013 guide and the 2017 update.
- 16) The hospitalero at Mieres is now Julio, telephone 663 680 715.