

## UPDATES FOR THE CAMINO DEL SURESTE GUIDEBOOK-by Lewis Roxby Mairis

I first walked this route in autumn of 2015 and walked it in its entirety in order to write these updates for the published guidebook in spring of 2018. There have been many changes made to the route and information as given in my book.

One more thing I would like to mention and that I can't stress sufficiently, call ahead for accommodation and key information if and when you are due to arrive in a place over the weekend or later than about 14.00 weekdays. Sometimes keys are locked up in the ayuntamiento/town hall and there is not always a way to gain access to them.

OK, in Alicante. The basilica is open 10.30-12.00 and 18.00-19.30 if you want a sello from there and a peek at that 1 meter scallop shell..

The route out of Alicante: that junction at Oscar Esplar still wasn't signed so be on the lookout at that point although the fountain was operational this spring.

I used Hostel X this year and that is very close to the railway station where the Camino turns L on its way out. From this hostel make your way to the railway station and go just a little further to the junction near El Corte Inglés and here turn R to join the Camino route by the roundabout with the fountain.

To turn R to walk towards the cemetery look for the big red & yellow building ahead, R on the junction, the shop is signed Muebles Anticrisis.

Where we once had major headaches with the blocked bridges we now have a different route thus doing away with that problem entirely. Instead of turning L for foot pilgrims we now follow what was originally the bicycle route so at this junction KSO-well signed. Stay on the tarmac road and immediately after crossing a bridge over railway lines turn L to walk alongside the railway. At a crossroad KSO. This part has ever-changing surfaces so tarmac, grit, gravel and back to tarmac et al. Reaching the end of this road, tarmac at this point, turn R then almost immediately turn L. This leads us to the ermita.

The Portacabin mentioned as being a useful place to stop due the shade offered was still there in 2018.

For the 2 options that lead us to Orito, option 1 has an extremely steep and awkward section leading down from the chapel. Slippery when wet. It isn't particularly well signed but follow the black bins down the rocks with loose stones and slippery gravel sections. It gets better the further down you get.

In Orito. 2018 call Raul: 655364394. Euro 15. Microwave but no kitchen.

The albergue mentioned as being in Orito (as opposed to the monastery) is actually the one in Monforte del Cid. Contact the ayuntamiento. Open all year.

Walking through Monforte del Cid. To clarify, the first set of steps are on the RHS. Here KSO to follow the winding road that becomes Calvario (signed as such further along). Reaching a blue street sign, Calle Canonigo Miralles, are the steps to the L. There is a VERY faint arrow. Option 2-to Petrer: The part signed as Camino Rural, the dual carriageway was mostly closed off to traffic but yellow arrows were still clearly visible. Further along this part, we reach Loma Bada. To clarify, where the track meets the road our route crosses more or less straight over the road to continue almost immediately out of Loma Bada towards Petrer. In Petrer contact the local police: 965376061. The albergue is directly opposite one side of the church and is close to the ayuntamiento. It is free. On our way to the albergue the books tells us to turn R and this leads to Plaza Baix. Correction: yes, turn R then R again at the bar

on the corner, ahead and R. This is not signed but it leads us to the plaza and the ayuntamiento.

Route out of Petrer & easy walking distance from the albergue should you want a supermarket is the large Carrefour mentioned in the guide book. Arrows faded or obliterated. In the town there are 2 completely different sets of arrows too. Some go to the R others say KSO. I kept straight on. Going R would mean skipping useful facilities.

The route to the Carrefour supermarket is thus: facing the church, the Plaza de Baix, go round the church L to Calle la Fuente/del Font, north & also L, to the roundabout. L at the roundabout and at the end of this street, Calle L'Horta, turn R for supermarket, on your RHS. The arrows are visible again from this point. Until you reach a crossroad. The fingerpost is twisted so unclear and the arrow is extremely faint and could fade away in no time at all. Turn L here and soon you should see our arrows again. At the electricity substation, now tarmaced, are 2 sets of arrows. One follows the tarmac road and the other takes the goat tracks across country. There aren't many arrows but enough to get us across. It leads to a wider track down to our R.

This route now meets the track coming from Elda so the route has changed somewhat. Both routes now come out by the bridge where the Elda track entered Sax so follow the route description from there. Yellow arrows mark the way.

Sax: possible acogida. Contact the local police on 966968350. Said to be open all year.

Villena. Hotel Salvadora has singles for euro 30 with the same excellent breakfast I enjoyed in 2015. It is badly signed through town. Follow the directions in the guidebook if you are stuck. At the church turn L, north-west. There is a plaque on the RHS on the first house, number 5.

Leaving Villena we have a small park on our LHS and we bear R-see street sign, Calle La Virgen here.

The official route now goes to and through Caudete not Yecla and is signed from Villena to Caudete and from Caudete to Montealegre.

For Caudete (and an albergue for pilgrims) follow Avenida de la Constitución NNW. Pass the Plaza de Toros on your LHS and continue to a roundabout where R is to Madrid and straight ahead is for Alicante. Follow the Alicante road for now, for the service road. We move away from the motorway and take the exit marked camino cortado between the service road and the main Yecla-Caudete road. Further along turn L. At an area with chalets KSO. After a couple of kilometers cross the railway lines and cross diagonally. At the next fork, about 5 minutes further along, turn R, cross the road then KSO. Cross the road diagonally again and KSO to a tunnel to cross the rails then turn R towards the cypress trees. KSO. After passing a barn turn L towards the Santuario de Nuestra Señora la Virgen de Gracia. Continue for about a kilometre to reach a main road, the Villena-Caudete road. Turn R towards the sanctuary. Using the zebra crossing cross the road and KSO for Avenida Virgen de Gracia and thus into Caudete. Continue on this road all the way to the ayuntamiento. Arrows lead us to the albergue from here. Call 655406144. It is recommended that you call at least a day before your arrival. Another number to try is 657200242.

However, you may prefer to go via Yecla so here are the updates for that route. The route leading through the industrial area has newly painted yellow arrows that are easy to follow. They are largely on the LHS because most of the lampposts on which they are painted are on that side. Take the first L at the back of the red-topped unit to follow them. At the end of the street turn R, still signed. Before the main road continue following the arrows L by a zebra crossing. Once in Yecla itself, take Calle La Rambla to the second street after the police

station where on the LHS is Calle Historiador Miguel Ortuno and on the R is a building with a tiled inset, La Mallorquina, but there is no street sign. This is Calle San Pasqual where Hotel Avenida is to be found. Euro 40 for a twin room, en suite. Quite a price increase. Camino Real, for the Camino, is the street before the police station.

From Caudete: leave Plaza Santa Ana where the albergue is situated for Calle de la Ermita as far as the Puerta de San Luis. Follow a wide track to the R until the fork where we take the L for Avenida Castilla La Mancha. After arriving at the main road turn to the R after just a few metres. Cross the N-344 using the tunnel & KSO. We then follow the Montealegre road for about 2km before taking a track on the L. This is part of the Camino Anibal. KSO for about an hour when we turn L to Casa Alarcón-Vinos. Later leave the Comunidad de Castilla la Mancha for that of Murcia. Pass the ruins of Venta Gloria and later still cross the main Yecla road. Eventually we reach the Casa de los Hitos where the two routes meet. Follow directions as per the route from Yecla from this point.

From Yecla: new route. Return to the Calle Real. From the Hotel Avenida and with your back to the hotel turn L then 1st L again. KSO at the first crossing (with San Ramon) and go down to Calle or Camino Real where we turn L again. From here there are yellow arrows. At the first fork take the R, C Carmen. At a crossroad KSO, C San Luis. At a junction with a small playground ahead and R, turn R and at the roundabout KSO. At the end of this street is a main road and, to the L on the corner, a fountain. Turn L here. Use the zebra crossing to walk along on the other side for our R turn off this road. We turn by the traffic lights where the Camino bears R from the main road. This is all well signed with arrows now. It is tarmac and tracks along this nice new route. When we reach the painted boulders it is the same route as per the guidebook as printed until we are road walking and there are arrows to KSO AND to turn R off the road. I walked the road, constantly looking for where the track that went R could come out. I saw neither sight nor sign of an exit that it could have been. If you took the R turn PLEASE add the route to this update. Thank you.

Arriving at the main road in Montealegre is Avenida Alcalde Sinforiano Montes as opposed to Calle Generalisimo.

Montealegre del Castillo: open all year and free.

There is a new route leaving Montealegre too with some really beautifully painted stones. It keeps us off the road most of the way although it is a small road to begin. The track off to the L of the road is very well signed onto nice tracks. You could take the original route on the main La Higuera road should you choose. The new route, as the hospitalero will mention, runs between the tractor showroom and a building that looks like a large barn or warehouse. It is signed though so don't worry about missing it. It is off the road heading out of the village. It comes out past the bus shelter in La Higuera so if you want a sit down break and shelter turn L on reaching the road. The new route is a cross country one and is really pretty. Sometimes you need to poke about in the greenery to find the signs painted on stones but they are there, hidden or otherwise.

Pétrola: the bar closest to the albergue was closed May 2018 but there are others as well as a small but reasonably well-stocked shop.

From Pétrola, when you reach the fork to decide whether to go to Chinchilla or more directly to Albacete. If you choose to go via Chinchilla you will bear R. You go under the first set of rails and over the second. There is only one track to follow so it is straightforward as far as the 3rd set of railway tracks. The Camino sign was well hidden but you turn R up to the road where we turn L onto that road to cross the rails. At the junction KSO to go under the A-road. There is a sign, zona militar, ahead and R. To the L here is the Camino, so ahead and

to the L. Soon after this is a T-junction. Turn R and go under the power lines. At the next crosstrack turn L towards a few buildings. We reach the main road and a junction. The Camino takes the higher road to the R whereas if you want the hotels take the lower road to the L. The hotels are side by side along this road on your L. POSSIBLE acogida: call the policia local 967260001 or 619283950.

Albacete: I can recommend Hotel Atiénzar, Calle Carmen 49. Tel: 967210595. This is VERY close to the Camino. Look to your L whilst walking along the Paseo de la Cuba. Other hotels close to the Camino are: Hotel Principe, Hotel Castilla & Hotel Albacete. They are all around euro 30. It is also possible to stay at a hostel for the homeless if they have a spare bed. Ask at the ayuntamiento. It provides meals as well.

La Gineta: Contact the local police or the ayuntamiento for the key for the pilgrim accommodation. The albergue itself is no longer open although accommodation is available BUT you MUST call ahead if you are due to arrive later in the day, at weekends or festivals.

La Roda: Open all year except during the bull festival for one week in August. If Antonio-630440215-is unavailable call the police-967444092-and they will arrange things.

Minaya: Calle Grande. Turn L for C Calvario and just follow this. Keeps it simple.

Minaya to El Provencio: Option 1) For your information, the first road is the A-43, the 2nd is the N-310. After the main road is a potential problem. There are Don Quixote posts along this part of the route but be alert because after the San Clemente 12km post is a R turn that we DO NOT TAKE. Our arrow is further along the track so KSO. Looking to the R that we don't take there is a really faint yellow cross. The R is the Ruta Don Quixote only.

El Provencio: accommodation open all year. The bar where in 2015 I had an early coffee was closed for business May 2018.

Las Mesas: Call José Antonio on 673235271. Available all year.

La Puebla de Almoradiel: I was told that there is no accommodation here but I do question that. If you want to try I suggest you call the police or the ayuntamiento at LEAST a day ahead and see what they say. Don't rely on it though.

On the way to Don Fadrique after some trees where directly ahead you encounter two almost parallel tracks. You will see a patch of trees ahead too: this is in fact the perimeter fence of somebody's land or garden. It isn't signed. Take the LHS track to pass the trees ahead with them on your RHS. Camino signs continue from those trees.

La Villa de Don Fadrique: There is a Dia supermarket along C de Lillo. Look L and it is visible at the end of the road. Also, by the big green door and gate leaving town there is now an arrow L towards the road. To walk on tracks instead KSO here-also signed.

Leading into Villacanas is a fork leading us on a different route into town. At this fork take the R, signed, towards but not to a main road. Go R here and then to a roundabout. Just before the roundabout take the track to the LHS and cross the road. Follow the fingerpost sign L to walk on a road, NW at this point, and this leads directly to the footbridge and thus into Villacanas. Footbridge looking well maintained now.

Tembleque: Hotel La Posada had a euro 28 price for a pilgrim, May 2018. There is also a Casa Rural: 686952827. Also a route change: At the roundabout by the ermita don't follow the CA-410 through town. Look instead for the arrows pointing us towards the church on a pathway R immediately after the roundabout. At the church are two sets of shells/arrows, to its R and to its L so clockwise and anticlockwise. Look for Calle Hospital off from the church and soon afterwards look for Calle Villanueva de Bogas off to the R.

Villanueva de Bogas-the Hostal Torres is now closed. For the albergue call José Luis before you reach the ayuntamiento because the albergue is closer to where we enter the village as is José's house where we sign in. Available all year.

Almonacid de Toledo. HAS a bathroom. Try to call a day ahead. Available all year and is part of the outdoor public swimming pool.

For option 1. Leaving town, turn R at the church, Calle Toledo. KSO to pass a bar/restaurant and to a junction with Stop signs.(The first R is Calle Eras.) Bear L here to a roundabout. This is the Nambrocca road. For option 2. Do not turn R at church but KSO & pass the ayuntamiento. Take the first R after the ayuntamiento then the first L, Calle Angel. Signed from here.

At the Ermita de la Virgen de la Oliva bear R. It isn't obvious. Later on at a rest/picnic area there is a cross track take the track to the R. It wasn't signed.

Approaching Toledo and by that hotel, hook a R in front of the hotel and then bear L, cross a little bridge and aim for the roundabout. You can go to the junction as per the guidebook instead. There's really nothing in it.

Entering Toledo: after the bridge into the city, steps can be seen to the R. Lots of steps. Start ascending and you will see steps both straight ahead and to the L. KSO here. Pass the bar and aim for the yellow-ish structure ahead by the escalators. Turn L here for Zocodover.

Leaving Toledo and aiming for Bisagra: make your way back to the escalators and that yellow-ish structure. Keeping the lower part of the city on your RHS turn with the road, to your L, keeping with the walls as the road slowly descends. Keep R to keep following this road down where a fork has a L going upwards. Continue descending and following only this road to pass the towers on your LHS and the lower city is to your R. The road swings R so keep going with it.to the city gate. This is Bisagra. Walk through this gate to leave Toledo.

At the roundabout with the piece of machinery in its centre there are alterations to the road. Take the 2nd exit going round to the R.

By the point where we are aiming for the Vega de la Cruz and Dehesa Bergonza there is a Camino fingerpost pointing to the R. Don't do that. Yellow arrows direct us the the L. This is where we go.

At the Ermita de Cambrillos go R and R and KSO. It isn't signed until further along.

Rielves: another number to try is 646408883. Open all year.

Novés, leaving town, from the church and with it on your RHS, KSO, Calle Iglesia. Pass a bar and a park. At the junction with a main road turn L towards the ayuntamiento. Cross the plaza diagonally R to find Calle Carrera and leave town from this street.

Not far into the walk leaving Novés is an unsigned fork. Take the L. Later, don't be surprised by the fork where we take the R on a track signed also as privado.

In Quismondo, at the church, take Calle Castilla la Mancha then 1st R which is Patricio Puebla.

Before entering Escalona, where the book tells us the Camino is signed to the R and descends. Correction: we first turn L and then R to descend.

In Escalona: the Guardia Civil no longer take care of registration nor do they have the key.

Pilgrims now need to contact the Policia Local on 925780092. There is a police office just off Plaza Infanta signed for the ayuntamiento and Tourist Office. Look for Calle Santa Maria when reaching the big square. It is to your R as you enter the plaza. Also available in Escalona is Hostal Mirador: 925780728.

Leaving Escalona and by that farmacia the road sign is for Aldea en Cabo not Aldea del Cano as stated on the book.

Cadalso de los Vidrios: contact Javier, the local police or the ayuntamiento. Javier: 649862595. There is a lovely new albergue here right next to the church. Euro 5. All year. Leaving Cadalso, turn L at the ayuntamiento for Calle de la Iglesia. The albergue is along here so if you stay there obviously skip this direction. However, there are also shells on the street after C de la Iglesia if you are passing the town hall. That is onto C Pedro Álvarez. Take your pick.

Taking the longer route from Cadalso, NOT the road way. Turning off the track to go down where we the large rocks to the RHS of the wide track point us to turn L off it. Pick your way down to the lower part of this area. I first went down this way in autumn and it was no problem. In 2018 I went in spring and the vegetation was waist high and the markers at the bottom of the descent invisible. My apologies. However, there is some confusion anyway. I couldn't find a rock with a marker so turned to the R and followed a minor track as far as a wider and more obvious track. BUT the arrows didn't appear until a long way after I began from that point and were extremely faint. An old route? It makes me wonder if going L would have been better but when I tried that I saw no indication of which way to take at a fork not far from the bottom of that field. I rather suspect that going L and then forking R might work so if you have time and inclination to try do let us know what happened. Thanks. Turning R did bring me out at the all important main road eventually and to be honest I was checking for other ways out of that area (possibly from the R fork mentioned above) but saw nothing. I could have missed something though. I am not infallible. The Camino is signed loud and clear as soon as the main road is reached from the R turn at the bottom of this hill.

Cebreros: La Pizzara now costs euro 8.

Between Cebreros and San Bartolomé: After crossing the second stream and climbing we reach a wider track. There is also a very ill-defined track on the other side of the track we meet. Cross the wider track diagonally here.

Leaving San Bartolomé: from the ayuntamiento do a quick R then L for Calle Iglesia. Another number worth trying in San Bartolomé: 920270041. The accommodation, in the medical centre, is available all year. From the ayuntamiento to the medical centre, make your way to the church and turn L. Walk to the bottom of the short hill and turn R. A little further along on the LHS is the centre. Key from the ayuntamiento. For the Camino turn R at the church. Just before Tornadizos de Ávila the asphalt road is reached and we cross UNDER it to the first houses.

Between Tornadizos and Ávila is on tracks almost all of the way now. NOTE: on approach to Ávila it looks like a R turn from the track. That leads to a main road without any arrows. KSO at that turn no matter what the arrow seems to be telling you. The lump of concrete it is attached to has been moved. Stay on the track and do not cross what is to all intents and purposes a field to that main road. Just a little further along on our track there is another arrow for us.

Ávila-you have walked all the way from Avenida Juventud and climbed to the walls. The arrows would now have us enter the gate ahead of us as soon as we reach the walls. For the original and rather beautiful grand entrance take the walkway R here and with the walls immediately on your L following the walls until reaching the Puerta Alcázar. Ávila is the best preserved walled city in the world with 8 gateways, the 2 most impressive being the Alcázar and that of San Vicente. The walls were begun in 1090.

Leaving Ávila, that 3-way is now signed to stay on the RHS. Option 1 is now marked with a yellow cross so even they don't want you to try that way. It's official. No longer considered to be an optional Camino route.

Gotarrendura now has a BAR! The closing day is advertised as such in the albergue in Ávila. Other numbers to try in Gotarrendura are: 618879650 & 689764807. Usually there is a number on the door to call though.

Leaving Gotarrendura: to simplify, take Berlanus to the church and go round on its RHS to the track. The slight detour for the plaque on the wall of the ayuntamiento is made by following Calle Mayor and the other set of arrows. But never fear, Gotarrendura is a tiny place and I would have thought it is truly difficult to get lost.

Leaving Hernansancho there is an unmarked fork. Bear L to keep a little away from the road. Tiñosillos-there is NO ALBERGUE here and in fact no accommodation available at all.

Arévalo: The key for the sports hall is in police office in the ayuntamiento. Not obvious to find. When you are following the route through town and see an impressive arch on your RHS go through it and you will see the ayuntamiento there. Available all year. The police will register you, give you a sello and take you to the sports hall.

Arévalo to Palacios de Goda-the route now no longer crosses the main road. It stays entirely on the LHS of it. Leaving town we cross to a red pathway on our R, signed. We then walk on the old road to a roundabout. Cross the main road and turn R parallel to the main road but well off it.

Into Palacios de Goda: enter by a big green house on the RHS and Calle del Espina-yes, the old route has been reinstated. This takes us to Calle Estación and Calle Arévalo.

In Palacios de Goda, Calle del Caño goes R at the farmacia then 1st L to the church and ayuntamiento. At Plaza Mayor cross diagonally by the ayuntamiento. Turn L at Calle del Oro then KSO at all junctions. The pilgrim accommodation in Palacios de Goda is the polideportivo.

Having left Palacios there was one unmarked fork. This is a R for us to KSO.

San Vicente de Palacio. An interesting situation as there are 2 totally different routes marked to come in here. One set comes in from the A-6 to the R of the village (the old route). This way you pass the only bar. It is also a shop, restaurant and petrol station as it happens. I highly recommend the menú del día. However, I came into San Vicente the other way. After passing the church turn R towards the ayuntamiento. Our arrows see us through the village but not to the ayuntamiento. Take either the first or second R after the church, it doesn't matter which. For the petrol station from the ayuntamiento head along the only road that heads out of town so KSO with the town hall on your LHS and more or less KSO, generally in a westerly direction. Once you leave the village it is to be seen on your LHS. It isn't as far as it may sound here. It takes mere minutes. If the ayuntamiento is closed I was told to try the bar in this petrol station for the key. I suggest you call ahead if you intend or expect to arrive out of hours for the ayuntamiento.

Complications leaving Medina del Campo. The tunnel has disappeared. Truly. It wasn't there. My timing was awfully unfortunate too because a Guardia Civil car was passing as I was following the arrows to cross a road over the A-6. I was told categorically to go back and walk alongside the A-road on its LHS. It is feasible and no trouble but is not the Camino. You will have to cross the A-6 further along-it is obvious-then later cross back over just before entering Rueda. Again it will all become obvious. However, for the Camino, follow the arrows that now do NOT direct us off a track on the LHS of the main road. They direct us to cross over to a track on the opposite side of this road. If you make it to the opposite side of

the A-road at the fork bear L. At the next cross track KSO and at a staggered cross track KSO too. Just keep an eye on the traffic and the arrows and get off the road as soon as you see that Camino sign to the RHS once across the A-6 leaving Medina del Campo.

Rueda: go to the ayuntamiento for the key for the Casa Cultural which has no showers but it will be explained that you can go to the sports hall for one. An extra number to try here: 983868001.

Tordesillas: Call Antonio on 637068628. Or the numbers in the book for the police and TO. Open all year. My guidebook is now on the Tordesilla Albergue web page I am delighted to be able to announce!

The slight detour via the tiny hamlets between Tordesillas and Valdetronco makes it a much more pleasant walk than walking alongside the motorway all the way there. Take the first short section along by the motorway then bear R where there is a raised area, possibly to avoid flooding although it doesn't work as such. It was very boggy and waterlogged. Make your way up to an unused road. It is Camino signed. Follow the arrows taking us at an angle of 90 degrees from the motorway and to a roundabout where we go L to where there are 2 tracks. Take the R, ascending. Leave Villavieja del Cerro and reach an unmarked fork. Take the R here. Later, at the unmarked cross track, KSO. Leaving the second hamlet there is a fork where we take the R. There is a sign but it was well hidden.

Valdetronco numbers to add to the list: 669161669 & 685135055.

After Valdetronco, at the petrol station there is a cafeteria. Most welcome.

Leaving Mota del Marqués, the book should read BEAR left rather than turn left for Calle San Juan.

Having left Mota cross the A-6 & we are heading for Villardefrades. There is a petrol station to the L of the Camino. Good place for a break as there is a cafeteria and toilets we can use. This is a good 2 hours into the day's walk.

Later you will see the village of Villardefrades ahead and to your R. The Camino track reaches an asphalt road and the Camino continues so KSO unless you want to go into the village. There are only one or two very faint arrows through the village so keep your eyes open. Turn L almost as soon as you enter the village so as to pass the old church. However, the facilities are further along the road we walk in on so KSO for the next main road then go back to the church to continue.

Walking from Villardefrades I saw a cross track and checked the track coming up from my L. It had a Camino arrow but I later found that the routes do not meet. If you don't go into Villardefrades the route is as per the guidebook. If you do go into Villardefrades read on. Arrows are rare and faint when they are there. There is a T junction well into the walk with no indication of where to go. Turn L here. You may or may not see a village in the distance. That is San Pedro. We enter where there are no arrows but at the asphalt road turn L and keep walking until you reach the triangleabout where the arrows are and where the pilgrims who skipped Villardefrades enter this village. If you have one of the abundant San Pedro maps don't be fooled. The junction you need isn't as close as the map suggests. It is not to scale. It will take a few minutes but you will get there. Turn R at the triangleabout and keep following the arrows. If you intend staying here keep going until you reach the ayuntamiento. The albergue is an annex of it. Call Rodrigo 983723056 or 630116841.

Another number to try is: 6267724776. Correction: the albergue is on Calle Santos Vallejo.

Villalpando: the albergue was closed June 2018. Call ahead to check the situation.

San Esteban del Molar: there is now no accommodation at all in this village.



Benavente: the albergue is closed November until February inclusive. Entering Benavente, that track leading from the roundabout gets waterlogged so in wet weather just turn R to the N-road and then L when you reach it. Follow this road and it will get you to the roundabout with the bull on it.

Buen Camino. I really do hope you enjoy this route.

## **CAMINO del SURESTE- ALICANTE to SANTA MARTA de TERA.**

### **CAMINO SANABRES - SANTA MARTA de TERA to SANTIAGO. May 2018**

I walked the Sureste and Sanabres to Santiago in April/May 2018, using the Confraternity's guides. Although the Sureste guide is dated 2017 and based on a 2015 walk, there have been numerous changes. However, these comments are not meant to replace the Guide, only to improve the information therein. From Benavente to Santa Marta the signing clearly describes the route as the Camino del Sureste and I have included comments on this section.

Initially I was a little intimidated by the density of the Guide text, compared to the usual CSJ format, but it is excellent in instruction on entering and leaving the larger towns and cities. Frequently the signing stops at the entry to a town or village and only starts again at some point on the other side.

The Camino seems to have been remarked recently with a new idea, used especially in the south, of painting the arrows on a patch of blue paint. This makes the arrows very distinctive. Many times I found the Guide 'lost itself' in the micro detail at locations, but suspect it was drafted before the current excellent signing. Some of the distances quoted I found suspect, but I think this is due to re-routing without re-measuring.

At various locations the Guide offers minor options, (I am excluding major options). I found at all times only one route marked, so ignore the text and follow the signs. In the south and La Mancha the signing by conchas was haphazard with no consistent use of either end of shell. Towards Toledo and after, the hinge end, (the Asturian way), was prevalent. The Guide only makes passing reference to the Camino Levante, which runs close to or shares the same route as the Sureste. Therefore this camino offers a valid alternative in places.

The Sureste is not a regularly used camino. In 25 days to Santa Marta I met and spoke with only 18 other Peregrinos. Consequently the accommodation en route is not used frequently and consists of basic small facilities. The Hospitaleros request that you contact them the day before with an estimated time of arrival and ring again on arrival. This enables them to rearrange their day. Often they go in earlier to turn heating and water on, so you can have that welcome shower. This saves on their running costs, so if you alter your plans please notify the Hospitalero.

Many of the albergues operate on a donativo system. Alojamiento provided by the local Ajuntamiento or Concello is often stated as free, but please ask if it is 'donativo'. If, as I found several times, there is in fact a donativo box in the accommodation, please give - after all what is €5 a night. When I reached Santiago I heard distressing reports from several sources about people equating the term 'donativo' with 'free' and not giving anything. On the more remote caminos like the Sureste, the church room, the polideportivo, the spare room in a Health Centre, is the only accommodation available. If these were closed it would not be possible to walk the camino, except perhaps with a tent.

Please note that bars and restaurants frequently only serve food until 15.00, sometimes 16.00. Shops normally opened in the evenings. The route passes through many very small

villages which remain asleep until midday. Even if they have a bar it is invariably closed, so the chance of a morning coffee is virtually nil. It is always wise to carry food with you.

The Sureste route runs through across rural Spain, often with long distances between centres of habitation. If you cannot walk more than 30-35Ks a day then think again about this route.

The Guide to the Camino Mozarabe, which is supposed to be a 2011 update of the original 2005 edition, is hopelessly out of date. More information is required, so if any of those peregrinos who have recently walked it and were perhaps frustrated at the lack of information, this is the opportunity to contribute and assist others.

### **CAMINO del SURESTE - ALICANTE TO SANTIAGO**

**Alicante - Novelda.** (I walked to Novelda and cannot comment on the route to Petrer).

The text 'lost' me at the tunnel after the cemetery. After the tunnel keep on the road climbing to a low gap in the ridgeline. Immediately after the gap the camino crosses over the new AVE rail line and then turns sharp left to drop down to a gravel road running beside the railway to a cross-roads. Here proceed ahead, past silos, bearing left to cross over the AVE line again. At this point it may seem you are heading in the wrong direction, but have faith in the signing! Keep on the narrow road, through a hamlet, before the road swings right and left to reach a widespread unnamed urban area. At a carr etera there is a short right and left dog-leg, before coming to a fork with a wooden carved Camino de Santiago sign. Take the right fork to another fork with a large blue 'Camino de la Altura' sign. Take left and later cross over a motorway, (approx. 18Ks from Alicante), to head across rough natural land to a ridge. The camino then skirts the hill with the chapel on top to come to an asphalt road. Turn left, (right to visit the chapel), and follow the road and signs to Orito.

The route to and through Monforte is road and straightforward. After Monforte at the roundabout the bifurcacion is clearly signed. Take the road to Novelda, (footpath), for 1K to another roundabout. Here cross to the right and over to a red cycle track by a large industrial building. Follow the track to the left and then a small road behind the building and to a roundabout on the edge of the town. Here take Calle Medico Enrique Sala, keep to the LHS, to the next cross-roads. A pedestrian barrier will force you to the left to a crossing over the wide dual road. Here there is a kerb sign, 'camino ahead' or 'albergue left'. If going to the albergue carry on left along Perez Galdos to a roundabout and take right which is Ave de la Constitucion. The albergue is in an apartment block at no 96 on the LHS. (6 beds in 3 rooms, kitchen etc). NB the albergue **IS NOT** at Calle Sargento Navarro. The tel contact nos are the same, (Snr. Paco).

#### **Noveldo - Sax**

No problems until entering Elda when the arrows disappear along calle Maestro Eliso Verdu. Just keep going, past a red caged 5 aside pitch to the next roundabout. Take right onto Calle Virgen Remedios for about 500m and at the second traffic lights turn right and immediate

left onto Calle la Purisima. You can see the church but the Plaza de Ayuntamiento is before it.

From the Ayuntamiento there is a Sureste wall tile directing you along a side street, before turning right to come to a carretera. Here a tile suggests you cross over and down, however turn right up to a jct, to turn left where the road to Sax crosses over the river - there is an arrow on a lamp post. After this arrows are scarce but follow the Guide to the hospital. If you get lost just ask for the hospital, where the 6 palms are clearly seen and the arrows begin again. On the track north of the road after the hospital, beware the indistinct path is on the **RIGHT not left**. This leads to the Sax road where you can choose to follow the camino or use the road which is not that bad.

### **Sax - Villena - Yecla - Montelagre or Sax - Villena - Caudete - Montealegre (Caminos Lana and Anibal)**

At Sax there is an option briefly referred to. If you wish to continue on the Sureste then carry on to Villena and Yecla. If you wish to walk via Caudete, as I did, then I suggest you stay in Sax to even up distances. **However please note that the section from Caudete to Montealegre is across an isolated area with no highways or facilities and is 35Ks long. If you cannot walk 35Ks in a day then do not take this option.**

Hotel Fuente el Cura has a Peregrino rate of €25 for a single room with good breakfast. Also the reception desk will provide an information sheet, (in Spanish), of the route Villena - Caudete - Montealegre.

### **Sax - Caudete 29Ks**

No problems to Villena and through to the Hotel Salvadora. Just after the Hotel on the LHS pavement there is a camino sign at the base of a telephone exchange box. This points to Yecla left down Calle de la Virgen, or ahead along Ave Constitucion to Caudete. Carry on over several roundabouts to the last one and follow arrows clockwise around to take a road running north beside the motorway. This is the Camino Lana which runs to Burgos. At a group of commercial buildings there is a **very clear** bifurcacion sign. Turn left for Caudete and carry on along tracks through cultivated land, eventually coming to an attractive church at the edge of Caudete. Cross the road and take a paved wide 'pedestrian only' type road which goes to the centre and Plaza de la Iglesia. The wonderful Hospitalero, Snr. Miguel will pick you up from there and take you to the Albergue at Plaza de Santa Ana 2. tel 655406144. (8 bunks, 1 shower/wc, kitchen.) Snr. Miguel will provide you with info re the Camino de Anibal to Montealegre and a street plan of Albacete marked with the camino route through it.

### **Caudete - Montealegre Camino de Anibal 35Ks**

Make sure you have enough food and water to last the day. This camino is well signed and the route out of Caudete is easy with Snr. Miguel's help. It is asphalt for about 3Ks, then a series of gravel tracks or roads or earth tracks over cultivated land. Basically the route heads west towards an isolated hill shaped like an iron. After about 22 Ks the camino meets the Sureste at Casa los Hitos, before proceeding to the carretera at Casas de Almansa. From here there is a mixture of side track, 3Ks of road, before the camino takes a track on the left. NB at the first jct after leaving the road, there is no sign, but turn **RIGHT**.

The albergue in Montealegre is at Calle Fuente Alamo - 8 beds, shower, 2 wcs, but no kitchen. Tel nos are Policia Local 625416273 or Hospitalero 967336001. If you arrive before 15.00 go straight to the Ayuntamiento, where you will be booked in.

A restaurant, Casa Alonso, on the carretera opposite the albergue does platos combinados from about 19.30 and is open very early in the morning. There is also a supermarket beside the nearby garage.

### **Montealegre - Petrola**

No problems even with 7Ks of asphalt. After this is a pretty walk climbing to the Alto Parque Eolico Cueda complete with the ubiquitous wind turbines, but with panoramic views. Soon after is a sign 9.84Ks to Petrola and a long 6K straight! The keys to the albergue are available at Calle San Bernabe 19 from Snr. Damien - the tel. nos are still valid. The albergue is a room next to the church with 4 bunks and 3 mattresses. There is no shower but a wc and basin, but is adequate for a night. Café Barnaba close by does food at around 18.30 and is open early in the morning. A panaderia and autoservicio are also close by. The panaderia closes at 14.30 and the autoservicio opens again in the evening at 18.00.

### **Petrola - Albacete 35Ks**

The Guide refers to a direct route to Albacete which was disrupted by AVE works. I walked this route and can confirm it has been reinstated and marked. It is shorter than going by Chinchilla, **but is still around 35Ks with no facilities. If you cannot walk this distance in a day take the Chinchilla option.**

From Petrola take Calle Nueva out of the town past the chattering birds at the Laguna. At Finca La Galana the signs direct you left and a further arrow on a pylon directs you further. At Horna after turning onto the small road, the signing is clear to take a LHS track which then follows a line of pylons. At Finca Manzanares, carry on to the trees and bear left - there is an arrow on a wall 30m further on. Proceed as per the Guide to the bifurcacion. Here there is a clear sign to Chinchilla, the castle on a hill can be seen ahead. To the left a VP notice has had ALB freshly painted on it with an arrow, (approx. 13Ks from Petrola).

From the ALB sign head along a track to a bridge with black sides that goes over a single line railway. From here follow a track to an underpass on the nearby AVE line which has clear arrows on it. Go through the underpass and turn left. Continue to the next bridge and cross over this. On the barrier on the RHS at the other end are faint arrows directing you down and back along a track towards the AVE line. This turns left and runs along the AVE line as a service road and is the route for about the next 10Ks.

After about 5Ks there is a small industrial complex on the LHS, but a faded arrow directs you along the service road, (Chinchilla station, mysteriously unused can be seen ahead). After about another 5Ks the track meets a road which goes through an underpass to the hamlet of Poza de la Pena. However, proceed ahead and after about 2Ks there is a 'Coto Privado' sign with a white arrow pointing along a side track. Ignore this as there is also a faded yellow arrow again directing you along the service road.

Continue to another bridge. Follow the track to the left and continue for about 30m and there is a proper camino sign. **Do not cross the bridge!** The sign directs you right towards a hill RHS of a farm. Here for reassurance there are posts with about 8 arrows on them and yes they all point in the same direction! Albacete can be seen. Carry on over a strange landscape until the path climbs and turns sharp right. About 100m on there is a galvanised metal post with an arrow on it. **STOP RIGHT THERE.** At the base of the post is an upright stone, the other side of which is an arrow directing left. This I think is the meeting point of the route from Chinchilla and the signing is for that direction.

Turn left and carry on to the bridge over the motorway and then down to a crossroads. On the far right corner there is a tree with a faint arrow directing you ahead. Follow this road which runs parallel to the city for a few hundred metres to where a farm track joins it from the right. At this point there is a 'Coto Privado' sign with a small arrow on it pointing along the track - **NB this could be easy to miss**. Turn right along the track, past 2 arrows until you come to the first street in Albacete. Here there is an small arrow on a post pointing right. This is a point referred to in the Guide. If you want the Hostal Los Tres Reyes turn left. The leaflets supplied by the Amigos el Sureste recommend Hostal Atienzar at Calle Carmen 49, tel 967210595. This is located on the camino at the other side of the city and is good for a fast getaway the next day. I recommend you book ahead, especially if you think you will arrive on the weekend, when Albacete seems to become a regional social centre. So if you are going to the Atienzar, or just passing through Albacete, turn right, cross the road and continue to the roundabout. From here turn left along a wide pavement to another roundabout with a purple building with 'Hyper' on it on the far left corner. (This is the location on the bottom right of the street plan Snr. Miguel will have given you for those who walked via Caudete). Proceed ahead leaving the purple building to your left and continue to another roundabout, (Plaza Alberto Mateos). Take a narrow street, Calle Lozano, which is 3rd right going anti-clockwise - there is a restaurant on the corner. Proceed ahead and turn left into Calle Cruz - this is the street after Calle Herreros - and to Plaza Altozano where there is a Tourist Office Kiosk. Proceed ahead - Calle Cruz becomes Calle Martinez Villena - until you come to the Catedral San Juan Bautista on the LHS and the Ayuntamiento on the RHS. Turn right here and continue onto Calle Carmen. Hostal Atienzar is 3 blocks on the LHS at the corner with Ave Ramon y Cajal.

### **Albacete - La Roda**

From Calle Carmen turn left at the jct with Paseo de la Cuba and proceed ahead keeping to the left hand side, passing the locomotive on the RHS, to a roundabout. Turn right to cross Paseo de la Cuba and there is an arrow on the far kerb directing ahead along a road called Ave Cronista Mateos Sotos/ Calle Virgen del Pilar. At the end take the footbridge over the railway lines and follow the arrows, initially running parallel to the railway. The next part was another where I could not relate to the Guide text. Just follow the arrows and if these seem to be scarce it is because you are on the only option. You are soon out of the city and walking along an earth track running parallel about 50m from an AVE line. After about 11Ks when approaching a green sided bridge over the AVE line there is an underpass with small arrows on the wall. **There is no signing on the track so these may be easy to miss**. Go through the underpass and turn right to continue on the gravel track the other side of the AVE line to a jct where the camino follows a track to the left, diverging from the AVE. and which follows a power line. This takes you to La Gineta. No problems between La Gineta and La Roda, nor entering La Roda. The tower mentioned in the Guide is a good landmark as the Plaza del Toros and albergue is next to it. (5 beds and some mattresses, shower/wc and microwave). If you go back to the tower and turn right the restaurant Flor de Mancha is about 150m on LHS. Peregrino meal rate of €11 and open early in the morning.

### **La Roda - El Tobosa (Sureste or Levante?)**

The next section posed a problem for me as on the Sureste there are 4 stages with 2 'short' days. If you want to walk it in 3 days then 1 day will be 43Ks. The Camino Levante joins the

Sureste a Chincilla and uses the same route to Minaya before separating to El Toboso. I chose to walk the Levante to El Toboso because it was over 3 days with more equal distances. **However, again if you cannot walk 35Ks in a day keep to the Sureste and the Guide.** You may pick up a small folded illustrative map of the various caminos from the south east to Santiago, which shows the Sureste in green, the Levante in blue and merged sections in red. This shows a distance from La Roda to Minaya as 17Ks and Minaya to San Clemente as 34Ks. This is incorrect, the total distance La Roda - San Clemente is 34Ks.

### **La Roda - San Clemente**

The exit from La Roda needed some checking for arrows, but once out of the town the route to Minaya was straight forward. No bars were open in the centre, only the Hostal bar on the carretera N301. Here is the bifurcacion - keep walking past the garage on the N301 for the Sureste, cross over for the Levante. I saw no major sign indicating the bifurcacion only arrows indicating the Levante, **so if you intend to keep on the Sureste beware!**

It is a gravel track, crossing an interesting stone-walled landscape to Casas de los Pinos which has a bar in the centre. After the track becomes clay and claggy on the boots. Keys to the albergue can be obtained at the Oficina de Turismo opposite the Ayuntamiento on Plaza Mayor - tel 969301200. Open Apr - Oct 10-14.00 and 16.30 - 20.00. Nov - Mar 10-14.00 and 16 - 17.30. Located at Calle Carmen Martinez Arribas 6 in a small apartment. 3 beds and 2 mattresses, shower/wc.

Hostal Plaza Mayor 1, tel 969300003. Hostal Milan 1, Boteros 22, tel 969300708. Hostal Milan 2, Arrabal, tel 969301510. Restaurant Jacinta opposite Plaza de la Iglesias.

### **San Clemente - Las Pedroneras 24Ks**

Easy exit from San Clemente. At around 5K there are 2 white buildings on LHS with arrows also on LHS pointing to between the buildings. **Easy to miss arrows!** Turn left onto earth track and this joins gravel track further on. At around 13Ks there is an interesting ruined castle/farm. On entering Las Pedroneras after crossing the motorway there is a fork with an earth track leading to the right. There is no sign, but 50m down the track there is an arrow on a red post. There is another arrow further on, but after that, nada! I found the town to have a most antipathetic attitude to the camino, borne out by the lack of signing, not only in the town but on the next section to Moto del Cuervo.

Hostal El Bomba, on the N301, tel 967160022. Casa Mauricio - recommended, tel 610878574, opposite Centr Salud. Almost mini apartments at €20.

### **Las Pedroneras - El Toboso 31Ks**

The departure point is beside the Cruz Roja building on the N301. From here take a gravel track to La Pedernosa. There are many jcts but few arrows, just keep to what is the main track. After 6Ks on entering La Pedernosa and arrow appears to direct you right at a fork to proceed along a very long street - no signs. It ends at a jct with a road that bears right down to a main carretera, with Bar Miguel opposite. On the left is a street signed to Las Mesas which is on the Sureste. Turn left onto this street which is Av Constitucion, continue to where arrows direct you across open land, (Calle Manuel Langa?), to a fork with a road sign to Santa Maria de los LLanos. Take the road and follow signs to this - 6Ks. Walk through the town to the other end where arrows direct you right along a narrow asphalt road. Keep on this road, climbing to a hill about 2Ks on, where arrows direct you ahead on a track which runs parallel to a M/way. Shortly after there is a 3 way split, a track to the right, the

continuation of the existing track and a middle curved track between the 2. On the RHS almost hidden in bushes is a rock with a faint arrow on it. Take the middle curved track, this passes under a power line, (there is 1 arrow on a pylon pointing right), before dropping down and bearing right to run along a valley. On a hill ahead a group of white windmills can be seen. Continue on the track until the town of Moto del Cuerva can be seen, before passing through an underpass to the town, (5Ks). On the RHS a church has an aerial photo map showing the route of the camino through the town. From here the signing to El Toboso is good.

### **El Toboso - Don Fabrique 27Ks**

The bifurcacion shortly after El Toboso is clearly marked. I walked the option via Quintanar and there were no problems.

### **Don Fabrique - Tembleque 29Ks.**

This is another section that I had difficulty reconciling with the Guide text. At the approx. location 'green gated yard' there is a bifurcacion with an arrow directing left towards the carretera. However, there is also clear camino signing to Villacanas to proceed ahead along a track - **take this route.**

The signing is good all the way into Villacanas and over the new footbridge. Hostal Cerveceria, 925200914, 657834611 is by the bridge. Europa Hotel, tel 925160671, 605276007, Avenida La Mancha, is right at the next jct. Proceed ahead along Calle Mayor, past the Ayuntamiento and where it merges with a road from the right. Continue on past the park RHS and across the roundabout to a dual carriageway road. Carry on to the jct with Ave Tembleque by the 'Proma' building. Here turn **RIGHT not left**, (there are arrows), and continue on the carretera until the end of town sign. Here arrows direct you on to a track running parallel to the CM410. Continue to a 'no overtaking' sign, on which there is an arrow directing sharp right along another track. This runs parallel to a ridge of hills RHS, there are arrows at various jcts. Continue until approx. 400m before white and blue farm buildings with an Australian type wind pump. There is a track to the left with arrows on the topside of the concrete culvert. **Because they are on the topside they are difficult to see.** Take this track into Tembleque which can be seen ahead.

Hostal La Purisima has been closed for some years. The only hotel is La Posada, which is to the left as you cross Ave Andalucia to enter the town. This has peregrino rates at €44 for a double room - probably around €30 for a single. There are also 5 casas rurales.

### **Tembleque - Toledo**

This section proved problematic due to an uncertainty over whether accommodation in Almonacid de Toledo existed. I telephoned the day before several times and always got a recorded message asking requesting people to ring between 10 and 14.00. I did, several times the next day and only received the same message. Another peregrino had the same experience. In the end I did not walk to Almonacid. However, if anyone can confirm the accommodation exists please do it, because with no accommodation there is a big gap in the route necessitating a long day of at least 40ks.

From Tembleque there are 2 options:

- 1) Walk the Levante direct to More.
- 2) Walk the Sureste to Villanueva de Bogas and then the link route to More.

Both options are around 24Ks.



From More - Toledo it is around 40Ks and therefore walkable. Villanueva - Toledo is around 49Ks. Other options are to take a bus from More to Toledo, or a taxi to Almonacid and shorten the walk to Toledo to around 27Ks.

To leave Tembleque go to the church. Take Calle Hospital opposite and continue to the first cross roads. For the Sureste turn right into Calle Villanueva de Bogas, (left is Calle Tahona), and carry on, crossing Calle Ronda de Toledo. For the Levante carry on along Calle Hospital - it becomes Calle Pozo Bueno - and turn right at Calle San Anton. Walk to the Ermita san Anton and take Calle Mesa.

### **Tembleque - More. 24Ks**

I walked from Tembleque to Villanueva and then to More. From Villanueva proceed to the bridge referred to in the Guide and take the middle path. This arrives at ruins on RHS with a track running off left. Ignore this and proceed ahead to where a track merges from the left, bear right for 200m to the bifurcacion, which is clearly signed.

### **More - Toledo. 40Ks**

Take note that the Dia store is not on the main road Calle Toledo, but on Calle Villaminaya itself. Bear left along this street until the fork referred to in the Guide. There is a not too distinct arrow on the wall directing right. At Macaraque, (5.5Ks), conchas direct you to the church, the Guide takes a short cut.

The camino continues passing a ruined castle on a hill LHS, until it meets the LM4019. Turn left here and walk the 1K into Almonacid, until an arrow on the back of a 'Stop' sign directs you left into Calle Cruces. NB the fountain clearly states 'agua no potable'!!

After Almonacid only option (2) is signed. Continue past the Ermita along a gravel track which runs parallel to a ridge before bending left to a covered rest area - 6Ks. From here there is a right turn to continue towards Nambroca which can be seen to the right. There is a fork with no sign, but continue straight and after 100m there is a Ruta de Don Quixote post LHS.

After passing through the centre of Burguillos, Calle Layos is 2nd right at the roundabout and continue as per the Guide, but the gravel track is asphalt. In Cobisa at Plaza de la Concordia, cross diagonally to the left onto Calle Julian Muro. After the bridge over the CM40 continue for about 1K to a track LHS with a Don Quixote post stating 'Toledo 6Ks'. Turn left here and follow the track down through open country to where it meets a road descending from the left. Bear right and continue down to where the rout doubles back RHS and descends to the carretera which runs along the side of the river opposite the city of Toledo. There are no overt signs here, but cross the road and turn right to walk along the footpath An arrow on the back of a road sign can then be seen. Continue for 2-3 Ks to the old bridges providing entry to the city, but, enjoy the magnificent views. You will probably arrive in Plaza Zocodover where the Tourist Office is on one corner. The Albergue de Juvenil is nearby and it is recommended to book beforehand. The Warden is very helpful and thoughtfully tries to put all peregrinos in the same dormitory.

### **Toledo - Escalona**

For this section the Guide is misleading. It refers to an option to Noves using a busy carretera via Villamiel which seems to be around 33Ks. **Take note that the Tourist Office city map, top left, shows this route along Avda de Barber as the Camino de Santiago.**

My advice is to ignore this route completely. Instead the other route out of the city using Avda Carlos 3 offers 2 options, as both the Sureste and the Levante use this route, before they split shortly after Rielves. The options are to walk a short day, (25Ks) and stop at Rielves, then walk a longer second day to Escalona, (34Ks), using the Sureste, or walk a longer first day to Torrijos, (32Ks), then a short second day to Escalona, (25Ks), using the Levante. The bifurcacion after Rielves is clearly marked.

In Rielves do not ask for the Albergue. The accommodation is called Sala de Peregrinos or Sala de Paraquial and is a room next to the church. There are 4 bunks, but only a wc with basin with laundry sinks in another small room. However it is adequate for a night. At the corner of Calle Escuelas and N 403, where the Guide states 'turn right' there is a bar which offers a menu until 16.00 and is open at 05.30 in the morning. There is also an autoservicio opposite the Ayuntamiento. The albergue in Torrijos is superior, tel 925770301 and 678405919, but as I walked the Sureste I cannot comment on the route.

From Toledo the signing is good until the petrol station where you turn left. An arrow is on a telephone exchange box RHS about 100m further on. At the roundabout, about 20m after crossing the road from the right, look right and there is a finger post giving camino instruction to take a track to the right. **Do not carry on along Carretera de la Peraleda and cross the large girder bridge.** The track runs beside the Rio Tajo. After Finca Monterrey the gravel road passes through open country which is different to La Mancha. At a jcton a left hand bend with a sign ahead to Estivel camino signs point in both directions. Bear left to continue on the track as book route merge again later.

In Quismondo the Ayuntamiento is on Plaza de la Libertad. I suggest going there as the bars are there. To leave, take Calle Hipolito del Castillo until it meets the N road. Here turn left past Hostal Euroquismondo, cross the road and take the first right where there are clear arrow signs. On reaching Escalona after crossing the bridge, take the ramp up to the gate. If the Tourist Office kiosk is shut continue for about 100m as the Ayuntamiento is RHS. You will be booked into the albergue there and a street plan, as the albergue is on the other side of the centre in a school next to the Guardia Civile on Avda Penaful - CM5005. When passing through an arch, La Puerta de San Miguel, turn left for the albergue, proceed straight ahead from the Sureste and right for the Levante.

### **Escalona - Cebreros**

The Levante also offers an option to Cebreros. It is possible to walk to San Martin de Valdeiglesias, (27Ks), and then to Cebreros, (17Ks), or even on to San Bartolome de Pinares, (36Ks).

San Martin: Hotel Casa de Labranza, Calle Arco 3, tel 918611653 or Hacienda la Coracera, Calle Pilar 11, tel 918613491

Otherwise follow the Sureste and it's 2 options. Using option 1 it is possible to walk to Cebreros in 1 day, (41Ks). Option 2 requires a night in Cadalso.

From Escalona it is 5Ks to Parades de Escalona and I took the direct route to Cadalso. This climbs over high ground, but the track is susceptible to flooding in bad weather. It is an easy

walk on the M542 into Cadalso and after crossing the M507 Calle Hornabajo becomes Calle Real and leads to the Ayuntamiento.

There is accommodation in the Polideportivo - go to the Policia Locale in the Ayuntamiento.

New signing with concha tiles has created confusion with the Guide advice on leaving the town and the 2 route options. Calle Real is signed as the Camino Sureste. From the Ayuntamiento conchas direct up Calle Real and beyond, where it becomes Calle San Anton. At a jct with a road from the left, arrows pointing along this road to the jct can be seen. This is Avda Luis Maria de Borbon. If you want to take the longer route to Cebreros proceed ahead. If you want the shorter route by road, turn left into Avda Luis Maria de Borbon and continue against the arrows to where it becomes Avda San Martin de Iglesias and then onto a roundabout. This is the reverse of the Guide advice. At the roundabout proceed ahead and follow the arrows to the road leading downhill.

I walked the shorter route and although by the side of a road it is not as bad as it sounds. Toros de Guisando was interesting and worth a long rest break. After, continue for about 1K to a jct with another road and turn left. Cross the road and shortly after take a track to the right, which is well signed and a lovely country route leading to a series of 3 Roman bridges. Cebreros can be seen and the track becomes a concrete road rising towards the town. Just before, the route takes a track to the right to climb higher before merging with a reconstructed Roman road.

Hostal Draco is now an expensive hotel.

Hotel El Castrejon is signed at the entry point and is closeby. It does peregrino rates of €46 for a double and €30 for a single with a good breakfast. Calle Canos 10, tel 918630044.

Albergue Pizarra seems to be about 2K on the other side of the centre, however there was no response to telephone calls.

### **Cebreros - San Bartolome de Pinares. 19Ks**

For me the walk to San Bartolome was one of the highlights and delights of the Sureste. Consequently I cannot think why anyone would want to take the highway route. However, if it is required then note the road is **AV503 not AV504**.

Take Avda de la Constitucion from Plaza Espana as far as the Museo A Suarez. Here Calle Iglesia Viega branches off left and arrows lead you to a climbing track which crosses the AV503. Take a signed path that climbs up to Puerto de Arrebatacapas. Cross the road and follow another signed path that runs along a fir tree lined shallow valley, before it turns right and left to climb higher, out of the trees, to an open area. The views are wonderful. The route comes to a finger post on a track that crosses the path. Head left along the track and immediately an arrow on a stone RHS directs you along a path diagonally to the right. **This is easy to miss. Do not continue along the track.** Further arrows are on random stones so they do not form a straight line.

After cresting a hill a small road and bridge can be seen below. There are no arrows and the path veers to the left. Head for a spot just to the right of the bridge and gates in the fences enable you to cross the road. Follow more arrows on stones/rocks, climbing until you meet a wide gravel track. Turn left along the track to a jct with an asphalt road. Turn right and walk along the road for about 1.5Ks, until the route takes a track to the open area on the right. More sporadic arrows direct you in a direction parallel to the road. It is best to keep close to the road, because the route eventually emerges onto the road at the point

described in the Guide. From here if you take the 4K road option, the village that can be seen on the opposite side of the valley is not San Bartolome!

The albergue is in a room on the top floor of the Consultorio, (Centre Salud), the keys are at the Ayuntamiento. If this is closed try Bar El Rincon nearby, which offers a menu until 15.00. There are 6 beds, microwave, and showers are in a separate building, (turn right out of the front door, right at the next road and it is a white building on the LHS).

### **San Bartolome - Avila 27Ks**

Follow the arrow opposite the albergue to Calle Iglesia and then right to the church.

Opposite is an arrow with 'salida' which leads on to Calles Paloma and Barco and the well signed route to El Herradon.

**NB. After El Herradon when the route leaves the road it crosses fields and open areas which can be wet and muddy. I walked it at the end of April after a dry spell and it was still wet. If there has been persistent rain, my advice is at El Herradon climb to the AV503 and take the road to the Puerto del Bocqueron.**

At the Puerto del Bocqueron there is a gate RHS. Go through this and climb to the ridgeline beyond, after which the route becomes gravel track to Tornadizos and then to Avila. The albergue is well equipped - 10 beds - and is located on the other side of the city outside the walls.

### **Avila - Gotarrendura 23Ks**

Cross the river using the pedestrian bridge, turn right, cross the roundabout and take the middle road which leads to the 4 posted view point. Just after, on the wall RHS, is an arrow directing ahead on the hard shoulder. You keep to the hard shoulder for the next 2 Ks.

Proceed to the roundabout and follow arrows around it anti-clockwise to take the Segovia/Salamanca turn off. Continue to the next roundabout, but there is a slip road which bears right and descends. **Do not take this.** There is an arrow on the road directing you across the slip road and around to the road to Narrillos. Again there was only 1 route marked so ignore references to options.

At Gotarrendura there were directions to the albergue - 4 beds.

### **Gotarrendura - Arevalo 28Ks**

Hernansancho is 3.5ks from Gotarrendura **and now has an albergue, tel 920261028.**

The route bypasses Villanueva, so if you do not want to visit then carry on to El Bohodon

**NB. There is no albergue or accommodation in Tinosillos.**

At Arevalo there is peregrino accommodation at the Polideportivo - 6 bunks with shower/wc, but no kitchen. Go to Tourist Office, Arco del Alcocer in the centre, or the Policia Locale on the opposite site of the Plaza Real. The Polideportivo is located back about 1K along the route in, but you may get a lift in a police car!

### **Arevalo - Medina del Campo 33Ks.**

It is best to ignore the Guide and follow the arrows for the 1 route marked. After the Medina bridge walk up to a jct and arrows direct you along a wide Avda serving the industrial area. At a subsequent roundabout an arrow directs you across the Avda and roundabout to take the road coming from the left. Further on arrows direct you right onto a small road which takes you to Palacios de Goda. Here there may be accommodation in the Polideportivo but ring 983 825006 to check beforehand.

At San Vicente de Palacio a local man tried to persuade me to walk an old route, the initial markings of which can still be distinguished, however this may not be marked further on. Instead after Calle Doctor Crespo follow the principal arrows as indicated. In Medina del Campo I stayed at the Hostal Plaza, located on the Plaza Mayor, single room €25. Several restaurants are located in the Plaza.

### **Medina del Campo - Tordesillas 23Ks**

I could see no bifurcation sign at Plaza Santiago so make sure you take Calle Mondragon. This leads to a jct with a Repsol garage on the far side. Turn left into what is Avda de la Constitucion, although there are no street names, nor are arrows prevalent! However, carry on right to the end where the road rises to join the motorway. Here ignore the Guide and do the opposite. Walk up the road on LHS and cross over to the Valladolid access road and walk over the m/way bridge. At the far end cross the road and a finger post can be seen marking the route. At Rueda there is a Hostal and café at the entrance which was open early - others were not.

At Tordesillas after crossing the bridge follow arrows right and then left. The Tourist Office is then to your left for a sello. Carry on for the Plaza Mayor - the Ayuntamiento is on your right with the Policia Locale from where you get the key for the municipal albergue, (Snr Juan). The albergue at Tordesillas is the gem of this camino, a converted granary building, superbly renovated which provides 11 single beds on an upper floor and modern facilities below.

With the evident route change I estimated the distance to Tordesillas to be around 23Ks.

### **Tordesillas - San Pedro 43Ks**

With some inaccuracies and possible route changes I was able to walk this section in a day. From Tordesillas the route is only marked through Villavieja del Cerro and Bercero before coming to Vega de Valdetronco. soon after leaving this village there is hotel/restaurant which is open long hours. After it was a quicker walk to Mota del Marques.

After Mota del Marques cross the m/way at the bridge and turn right, the route runs beside the m/way for some distance before coming to a service station. Farther on the route swings left from the m/way. Shortly after there is an off-set cross roads with another track with ambivalent signs. Here proceed ahead, the next electricity pylon LHS has an arrow on it.

At Villarfrades the route bypasses the village, but if you wish to stay here the mobile number is now 667879897.

For the albergue, (6 bunks, shower/wc), in San Pedro contact Rodrigo on 630116841 or Maria 983723 097/625144776.

### **San Pedro - Villapando 17Ks**

On arriving at Villapando go to the Ayuntamiento to be booked into the albergue. The keys are available at the Hostal Athlanta which you pass on the way in. This also offers a menu until 15.30 and the bar is open 24 hrs for that early morning coffee. The albergue is located in an apartment closeby - 6 beds, shower/wc and kitchen.

### **Villapando - Benavente 29Ks**

In the centre of Cerecinos de Campos after crossing the bridge over the stream, turn left at the commercial building Harinerades Cerecinos. Continue until directed right, then a dog-leg right and left to continue along a track running parallel to the m/way.

At San Esteban again only 1 route is marked so follow the arrows. The route comes to a roundabout with industrial buildings on RHS. Go round the roundabout anticlockwise and take the road leaving the buildings LHS. At the end there is an steel footbridge over the m/way, cross over and note the arrow on the lamp post whilst descending the spiral. Follow track by m/way, then take the small road to pass under the motorway. After there is a long straight into Benavente, before coming to a roundabout. Proceed ahead over a rough path to a road - this is Avda Via del Canal. Go to the Tourist Office to book into the albergue, a disused railway station building with 12 beds, shower/wc, kitchen.

### **Benavente to Santa Marta de Tera 29Ks**

From the albergue head right along the road to where it bears right between an industrial building and the swimming pool. At the next bend left there is a mojon, continue until the N525. Turn right along a track which leads to Santa Christina de la Polvorosa - 3Ks. After crossing the bridge take 1st left to Mozar de Valverde. Continue past church to just before the end of town sign, then turn right into Calle Mozar. Continue on and then left as directed. After 5Ks of open country there is a white building with picnic area. Here there are 2 options roughly the same length before merging together further on.

After another 10Ks the route comes to the N525 and a closed hotel. Walk between the hotel and aqueduct to a jct 300m further on, where there is a hostel/bar opposite. After continue on the N525 for about 400m to where there is a mojon RHS. Cross and continue along a very rough track beside the road for 500m, before it converts to a gravel track. If very wet walk along the road until a crossover at a property with green gates.

Strama de Tera is 4Ks further. Here the route crosses the N525 and runs through the village to pass the Ermita de Cristo de la Vera Cruz.

After, the route comes to a road with an arrow directing right. Walk right for 150m to the next bridge, then left and right at mojons. Take a faintly visible track through bushes, bearing left before coming to an uprooted mojon. Follow the direction of the arrow and a faint grass track, partly overgrown, to a cairn of stones. Head across a patch of ground leaving the cairn LHS to a slab concrete bridge over a ditch. On the other side turn left along a track which ends at the N525. Climb the side embankment and continue along it to where it stops. Here walk on the hard shoulder until the side barrier ends and it is possible to use a side road.

Santa Marta now has a new albergue - 12 beds. **NB the large private albergue that was in Santa Croya on the Sanabres, 1K before Santa Marta is now closed. I believe the albergue at Calzadilla de Tera may also have closed, (comments please). This has put pressure on Santa Marta, so if you want a bed get there early, because there are few alternatives.**

There is a shop and a restaurant which does a menu at €15 and platos combinados.

The Camino Sanabres joins the Camino Sureste by the church. There are tours of the church in the evening - the church has what is regarded as the oldest stone sculpture in Europe of St James, which is about 1000 years old.

## **CAMINO SANABRES FROM SANTA MARTA de TERA to SANTIAGO**

**Be aware that the large private albergue at Santa Croya on the Camino Sanabres, 1K before Santa Marta is now closed. With reports of other albergues closed this has put pressure on the new municipal albergue at Santa Marta.**

### **13Ks Olleros de Tera**

There is an Albergue above a bar.

After Olleros and passing an Ermita the route approaches a dam. Shortly before at a sharp left hand bend with a mojon directing left, there are arrows directing along a path through the bushes. This is an attractive short cut, but be beware if the water level is high a low lying area may be flooded - but probably not April - Oct. The route is marked and at the end where you turn left at the road to reach the dam.

### **8Ks Villar de Farfon.**

There is a small 4 bed albergue run by a South African missionary, who also offers refreshments for a donativo.

### **6.5Ks Rionegro del Puente.**

The albergue is by the bridge.

### **8.5Ks Mombuey.**

The municipal albergue is on Calle de Iglesia. The keys can be obtained from the house opposite. The albergue has 11 beds, shower/wc and microwave. Hostal La Ruta is an alternative and offers a menu as do several outlets in town.

### **8.5Ks Cernadilla.**

There were reports that this albergue is closed. Check beforehand.

### **2Ks San Salvador.**

Again it is unknown if an albergue exists.

### **6.5Ks Asturianos.**

There is a 12 bed albergue. Bar Mirador opens early.

### **10Ks Puebla de Sanabria.**

Albergue Casa Luz is on the LHS of the main street.

At the roundabout before Puebla de Sanabria there is a traffic sign stating 'Requejo 11Ks'. Do not be tempted to take this unless you want to walk on asphalt all the way.

From Casa Luz walk across the bridge and turn right, continue past the hotel on RHS. Further on, LHS, there is a sign directing you down to a path by the river. Follow this until it joins the N525. Walk on the hard shoulder until you see a small arrow on the back of a traffic sign pointing right. I suggest ignore this as there is a track LHS of the road 100m ahead. Use this until you come to a track coming from the left which crosses a stream via a ford. There is a camino sign on the far side. I took this route and after 2 more posts it disappeared into nothing and I had to find my way to the N525 again. I recommend staying on the N525 for about 1K until you see a mojon on the RHS where the camino crosses the road. Turn right

here and follow the route through pleasant rural scenery. passing through Terroso and shortly after Requejo.

### **12Ks Requejo.**

When the route meets the N525 in Requejo turn right and walk to the roundabout. On the RHS is the municipal albergue - 20 beds, showers/wcs, no kitchen. 100m further LHS is the private albergue Casa Cervino, 20 beds, showers/wcs. Also Hotel Maite and restaurants.

From Requejo it is necessary to walk 4Ks on the N525 until the route, (in May 2018), is directed left along a protected path that passes through an engineering works area. After a short distance the camino route is resumed.

### **7Ks Portillo de Padornelo /Padornelo**

NB for walk planning this is only 7Ks from Requejo not the 13Ks quoted in the Guide. The village is about 1K further on, with the hotel/café/garage another 800m. This is likely to be open at anytime.

After Padornelo the route basically runs either beside or on the N525 until the turn off RHS for Aciberos and Lubian - ZA106. However, in May 2018 there was a diversion to continue along the carretera leading disconcertingly towards the M/way. Then it takes a left track, drops down and doubles back under the M/way to then follow a lovely route into Lubian. This track could be very muddy in wet weather. The diversion may be about the same as the Guide route - 7Ks.

### **7Ks Lubian**

The albergue is at the entrance to the village - 16 beds, but 1 shower/wc, kitchen in accommodation which is a little cramped. A casa rural, Casa Irene, 687123752, does peregrino rates. Also Casa Pachaca, as per Guide.

**Because of its location Lubian is a 'pinch point' in the route due to a shortage of beds to supply the numbers funnelling in from the albergues before. Also the ratio of shower/wc per person of the albergue is above the regulation 11:1, all in accommodation which although clean, is cramped. I spent an uncomfortable night here 5 years ago in a packed albergue and decided to avoid Lubian this time. The normal staging is to walk to Puebla de Sanabria - Lubian - A Gudina. Thought should be given to walking to Requejo - Vilavella - Campobecerros.**

From Lubian the camino route takes a track that passes the Santuario de la Virgen de la Tuiza after 2Ks. Shortly after is a footbridge over the adjacent M/way to the ZA106. The route then drops down and becomes a rough path before climbing steadily to the Portela de Canda.

**NB. This section crosses several streams and in places becomes the stream itself where it passes along steep sided narrow parts. Consequently in wet weather the route may be impassable, or at best very wet and muddy. If wet thought should be given to taking the ZA106 from Lubian, or turning back and taking the footbridge to the ZA106.**

### **7Ks Portela da Canda**

The border with Galicia and Castile y Leon with good views.



#### **4.5Ks Vilavella**

On walking through the village, where the route turns left at a cross-road, turn right along Rua Praza, past the church to a road. Turn right again to walk up to the N525 and Hostal Porta Galega, by the garage - €20 for a single room, also a restaurant. NB. In May 2018 the O Carteiro opposite was closed.

The route after Vilavella is a path which drops down to a valley before climbing again. It also seems to be the course of a stream, although slabs of granite have been placed in the middle as a walkway. If very wet, consider taking the road to O Pereiro and then the 1K to rejoin the route in the village.

#### **3.5Ks O Pererio**

The hostel accommodation is almost 1K away on the N525.

#### **8.5Ks A Gudina**

For a wonderful walk across the 'roof' of Galicia it is recommended to take the option via Laza. Although the first 6ks to Venda de Teresa is on a small road the views are wonderful. After this the route goes off-road, climbs higher with views of the Embalse das Portas.

#### **15Ks Campobecerros**

There is a steep drop down to the village which has become a centre for the ongoing AVE works to complete the missing link between Ourense and Zamora. Walk through the village to Albergue Rosario, €8, 18 beds, showers/wcs, lovely terrace. Casa Nunez nearby offers a menu, but you have to compete with the mass of AVE construction workers. A nicer place, recommended, with superb food is Taberna Penaboa, which offers a menu both late afternoon and early evening and is also nearby. **The Penaboa is also the place to get your sello.**

#### **14Ks Laza**

There is a steep drop into Laza, after which you walk along a valley floor mainly on the road. At Tamiclas the route climbs steadily to Albergeria

#### **12Ks Albergeria**

Famous for the Rincon del Peregrino or Shell Bar. Opposite is a small albergue also run by the owner of the bar.

#### **8Ks Vilar de Barrio**

There is a modern 20 bed municipal albergue in the centre, open at 12.30. When you come to the jct at the central plaza turn right and the albergue is 100m LHS next to the farmacia.

#### **15Ks Xunqueira de Ambia**

Although initially on road it is a very pleasant walk to Xunqueira. The modern municipal albergue is on RHS as you enter the town - open 12.30, 24 beds, showers/wcs, kitchen. Also Albergue Casa Tomas, tel 637580772 in Plaza de San Rosendo.

**NB. For some reason the conchas on the mojons in Xunqueira are reversed until the route bears right off a road about 2Ks beyond. Also the 20Ks to Ourense are not the most**

**prettiest or enjoyable, so if you are short of time this section is one where taking a taxi to Ourense could easily be forgiven!**

### **20Ks Ourense**

The albergue is signposted at a roundabout in the city where the camino takes a different route. For the albergue take Rua Nsa Sra da Sainza, this becomes Rua Pena Trevinca and the albergue is part of the Claustro de San Francisco.

For the camino take the next road right, which becomes Rua do Progreso and continue into the centre. The Tourist Office, (sello), is RHS on Plaza Fuente del Rey, after the Correos Post Office LHS.

Carry on to the end of Rua do Progreso and the magnificent Roman bridge can be seen. Cross over the bridge to the other side. From here only the route to Cea via Quintela and Linares is marked. Follow the arrows past the train station and keep to the RHS. Continue on the road out of Ourense for several kilometres, until a fork with a bodega on the corner of the fork. Take the road to the right signed to Castro de Beiro and continue to a jct at a sharp right hand bend by Gomez Y Crespo. Proceed ahead on a small road which goes under the old rail line. The new AVE line passes overhead on a viaduct. Then comes a long climb on road to Cima da Costa with a bar on the top. After this is a pleasant walk using a mixture of gravel track and road to Cea.

### **21Ks Cea**

The albergue is in the centre.

NB. From Cea only the route to Castro Dozon is marked. Take the OU406 at the cross-roads in Cea with the OU187 - it is signed for Oseira as well as with conchas. It is road to Cotelas where, at a sharp RH bend, the camino goes straight using the OU402. Follow the route through Pinor, Arenteiro, Ponte and Carballeda until it crosses the new M/way. There is a new gravel track running alongside the M/way - **take this. Do not continue up the road although there are still arrows suggesting you do so.**

### **12Ks Castro Dozon**

There is a new 28 bed municipal albergue on a hill LHS of the N525 on the other side of the village.

### **19Ks A Laxe**

Follow the camino route across the busy road into the village and turn left. The modern 28 bed albergue is on the RHS.

### **6Ks Ponte Taboada and Taboada**

This bridge is one of the highlights of the route When the route climbs up to the N525 again it takes off left to follow a pleasant country route, although for long stretches this seems to be the same course as a stream. Therefore, if it is wet, at the point where the route leaves the N525, I suggest take the road for the remainder of the way into Silleda.

### **3.5Ks Silleda**

There are at least 3 albergues in Silleda now, all well advertised before and at the entry into the town. Try Albergue Olaia, tel 604037542, Rua Santa Eulalia.

To exit Silleda follow Rua Santa Eulalia down - there is 1 conch shell sign near the jct with Calle Venezuela - to a 'T' jct. Turn right and walk toward the N525. Just short of the jct on LHS, a mojon directs you down a track.

### **7Ks Bandeira**

Hotel Victorino, tel 986585330 charges peregrinos €10 for a bed. it is located on the camino on the main street.

### **13Ks Ponte Ulla**

There is an albergue in the centre. Also a large Dia supermarket, which surprisingly is open on Sundays, useful if you intend staying at the municipal albergue at Capilla de Santiaguina.

### **4.5Ks Capilla de Santiaguino**

A modern municipal albergue called San Pedro de Vilanova It is uncertain if this is the one referred to in some sources as 'Oureiro' or 'Vedra'. **There are no eating or drinking facilities here so you need to buy food in Ponte Ulla.**

### **6Ks Susana**

About 1k before Susana, where 150m before the N525, the camino route turns sharp right to run uphill parallel to the road there is the Albergue Reina Lupa - also a bar restaurant. **NB. With the delays to get a compostela at the Oficina de Peregrinos now a normal 2hrs, for those who have already experienced Santiago, it is worth considering staying here the night before and getting up early to walk the last 8Ks, arriving about 7am at the Oficina. The bonus is the first 10 get a voucher for a free lunch at the Parador Los Dos Reyes Catolicos. Also it frees up the day and it is possible to get the 9.00 bus to Fisterra or 08.45 bus to Muxia without having to stay a night in Santiago.**

You can take the N525 as a more direct route to Susana or rejoin the camino route. From here it is an undulating route passing the Capillas de Santa Lucia and Santa Maria do Sar. Eventually the new Cidade de Cultura de Galicia can be seen on the hill RHS. The route enters the outskirts and crosses the new AVE line, where there are the common modern memorials to the victims of the recent rail disaster. At the brow of a street the first sight of the cathedral can be seen. The route then descends to follow the Rua da Ponte do Sar. Cross the old bridge, then under the rail and road bridge, to continue uphill, passing Hostal Carballinosa to a 'T' jct. Turn left along Fonte de Santo Antonio to the Praza de Galicia. Turn right into Rua das Orfas and 2nd left - Canton do Toural - which should take you to Plaza do Toural - a Froiz supermarket is RHS. Go straight across and then 1st right into Rua do Franco - not Rua do Vilar- and this leads directly to the Obradoiro.

### **8Ks Santiago de Compostela.**

**Buen camino!**