

OUTDOOR

The Way is the Goal

Raimund Joos



Camino de Santiago St. Jean - Santiago - Finisterre



Tips for Pilgrims on Bike



Volume 23e

Outdoor Guidebook

Raimund Joos

Camino de Santiago

St. Jean - Santiago - Finisterre



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I am glad to be able to now accompany you, the English-speaking fellow pilgrim and thank you for the trust placed in me to assist you as a pilgrim's friend in the form of this small guidebook wishing you...

Bon camino! Ultreja

Your Raimund Joos

P.S.: Important: Do not miss reading the chapter "The use of this Outdoor Guide".

Preface of the Translation Team

Dear English-speaking pilgrim friend,

If you are hopefully about to embark your journey on our Way with open eyes and an open heart, you will soon experience it yourself: this Way is full of strange coincidences, not to mention miracles, and you will no longer be a passive onlooker, but also a unique, integral and living part of it – day-by-day and step-by-step. Just like you, we, too, were on this Way as pilgrims, looking for orientation. As you most likely will, we also met many friends and helpers throughout the Way, and the book you are now holding in its first printed English edition, crossed and accompanied our respective paths in the original German version. Initial requests, jokingly, from our English-speaking pilgrim friends that we should convince the author to translate the book into English "incidentally" became, in the true meaning of the Way, serious when an inconspicuous email from Raimund reached all of us through different ways and delays...

The Way to the translation which is now lying in front of you was sometimes bumpy and difficult, but still an enriching experience because it allowed us to relive the beloved Way one more time from a new perspective - passing on our grateful pilgrim's experience and thus allowing us to become a part of this wonderful Way. Our "procedural path" initially consisted of weekly Skype sessions, along with Raimund. Anke and Rip would initiate their translation, and Raimund and Angela followed at a distance with their infinite complaints, corrections, and alternative proposals. However, this translation of the guide of the Camino Francés is not the original German text itself, which we translated as closely as possible. Nor is it the Way itself, as this you ultimately will only uniquely experience for yourself...

We hope that, in spite of the challenges with our work, we are able to hand you a guiding support on your Way. As the Way is the destination, this work, in spite of all our efforts, is still far from perfect and our work still has not reached its final target. As fellow pilgrims, we ask for your feedback – please write to us about where you see an issue and where we can make corrections or improvements.

We wish you all the best on your Way – Bon Camino!

Angela Sánchez-Martín, Rip Dylan and Anke Weinandy



Making a pilgrimage on the Way of St. James ... is always international (rj)

Appreciation

The pilgrim guide you are holding was initially created in 1996 by our fellow pilgrim Michael Kasper and regularly updated through 2004. Michael Kasper lived in Northern Spain from 1991 until his death in 2005 after a severe illness. Thanks to his lifetime achievement as a travel book author, the Way of St. James gained increasing acknowledgment in the German-speaking Region and beyond. Although most sections of this travel book's text have been changed since his death, many of the descriptions concerning art and culture of The Way still essentially stem from his pen.

Thank You

First of all, I would like to thank the hard-working translators and editors Anke Weinandy, Rip Eric Dylan and Angela Sánchez-Martin who, through their combined effort, made the publishing of this work possible. A special thanks to Clara and Laurie. The two North American pilgrims, Clare Raska and Laurie Reynolds, happily volunteered to edit and make suggestions about the translation. A big thank you, as well, to all the photographers willing to hand me their photographs from the Way. They are Silvia Schubert, Donald Walter, Stefan Vossemer, Gerhard Treiber, Reinhold Großelohmann, Christian Stadler, Rainer Köfferle, Karin Graef, Barbara Rufer, Jean F. Walhain, Priscilla Zhang and Ingeborg Käthner.



Travel Information from A to Z

Accommodation

Hotels, Boarding Houses and Guest houses

On the Way you will find many hotels, hostels, (smaller hotels) and boarding houses. A detailed description of all the possibilities would burst the seams of this pilgrims' guide. Under the symbol you will find hints where you can inquire for accommodation, and approximately how high the price is. However, the prices can change very quickly and drastically, depending on the season. In general, the tourist information offices are always the appropriate place to consult. The costs normally start at € 20 per person, and occasionally slightly less.

The Web page www.gronze.com, so far only in Spanish, offers in addition to the description of refuges the addresses and prices of boarding houses and hotels on the Way to internet affined pilgrims. The link www.booking.com also leads you to their descriptions but with different language options on the upper menu bar. Here you get an (airbrushed) insight into the accommodation, and can book it.

www.gronze.com www.booking.com

Pilgrims' Refuges – the *albergues*

The typical pilgrim's accommodations are the pilgrim's refuges, of which there are about 260 just on the main route alone. They are marked in this pilgrim guide with ; emergency accommodations, on the other hand, are marked with . Information on pilgrim's refuges is essential for St. James pilgrims and accordingly takes considerable space in this pilgrim's guide.

Should you wish to get in contact with them via e-Mail or visit their website (when available), the following sites can be very helpful: www.gronze.com and www.caminodesantiago.consumer.es/albergues. However, you should not place too much credence on the information presented there as the source of the description also leads back to the owners, who show their property at its best. Meanwhile, some boarding houses now call themselves "pilgrim refuges". As well, listing of the "mini-" and "**pseudo-refuges**" would be too numerous for this book which is why, regrettably, a choice had to be made on standard criteria for inclusion in this guide reflecting general consensus on the Way. Refuges, listed in this guide, are legally recognized accommodations which can daily host a minimum of 10 pilgrims for a regular accommodation rate of no more than € 13, and which are located a maximum 500 m distance from the Way. Exceptions are made for locations in France and on routes without many refuges, as well as for special reason.

The upper limit of € 13 per pilgrim per night is the standard price cap. Consider, as well, that at different locations of the Way you can get a single room in a boarding



Refuge of the monastery San Julián in Samos (rg)

house for merely € 15. Additional criteria for the listing of a refuge in this guide include transparent pricing as well as accessibility. Openness of the refuge to every pilgrim as well as the author's (preferably) surprise research visits are important factors. The pilgrim refuges can be roughly divided into three groups.

Public Refuges

Public refuges (sp: *albergue municipal/albergue público*), listed in this book are often named "community refuges" or "city refuges". You can only stay for the night if you have a pilgrim's credential and you walked the whole way from the last town you stayed at, carrying your own backpack. You can usually only stay for one night unless you are ill, in which case they may allow a few more nights. The beds are issued at arrival of pilgrims.

Some public refuges are run like parish refuges (☞ below), based on donations. Most, however, ask for a contribution of about € 6. Especially Galicia has a multitude of public refuges (sp: *albergue Xunta de Galicia*) which are described in greater detail on page 214. Many public refuges are relatively simply-equipped, as reflected in their price, but this does not mean that they cannot provide good shelter to a modest pilgrim.

Parish Refuges and Other Parish Facilities

The parish refuges (sp: *albergue parroquial*) generally follow the concept of the above-described public refuge; however, are usually financed through donations of pilgrims, which should correspond to the value offered. Some, however, do ask for a firm amount for the overnight stay. They are naturally also open for non-Christian pilgrims. Many parish refuges can veritably honor the claim of true charity; and they are, in my opinion, an indispensable heart of the Way, whose early Christian principles must be fostered and vigilantly protected (☞ p. 109). This is especially pertinent to my concern that on the Way of St. James an increasing number of parish facilities are cleverly used in various ways under religious guise; ultimately to realize financial interests and gain power. Some parish refuges are under the leadership of hospitaleros who are linked to the controversial, and in Spain wide-spread, Opus Dei.

Private Refuges

By far, most refuges nowadays are in private hands and if nothing else is declared in the particular refuge description, it is generally a private one. Refuges of this kind (sp: *albergue privado*) are (also) declaredly based on a commercial concept. Except for a few black sheep, these refuges are usually relatively well-equipped and frequently offer quite an authentic pilgrims' atmosphere at that. They are usually a little more expensive. In addition to the overnight stay in the dorm, an increasing number of private pilgrim refuges also offer individual rooms at very good rates (from € 13 per person). The price for a simple overnight stay in a dorm normally runs between € 5 and 10. In very rare cases, and especially at the beginning and end stages of the Way, an overnight stay can cost more. ✗ Quite often, a simple breakfast and/or a dinner menu is offered at the private refuges starting at € 8, that is in rare cases also vegetarian (☞ p. 42). Although one cannot judge in general, it has to be mentioned that the choice and quality of food often cannot be compared with that of restaurants.

A growing number of private refuges, in the true sense of spiritual and life-practicing openness and broadening horizons of the pilgrimage, pursue innovative spiritual and/or ecological concepts and are guided by, among others, Eastern religions and philosophies.

Refuge Rules, Equipment and Reservation

In general, refuges **close** between 10 pm and 11 pm to ensure restorative rest during the night. In the morning, pilgrims usually must have left the refuge between 7:30 am and 9 am. The seasonal opening hours differ. Some refuges are open year-round while others only from Easter to the end of October, or only during summer months. If you travel in winter, be sure to check, based on information in this guide and by asking at the last-visited refuge about which refuges are open further along the Way.

Many refuges are led by volunteers, the so-called *hospitaleros voluntarios*, who themselves have experience on the Way of St. James and have been trained in the care of pilgrims. Often you get to encounter exceptionally interesting personalities among them.

Hot showers are nowadays normal; and it will be separately pointed out, should that not be the case. Many pilgrim refuges have **kitchens** that can be used to prepare food and where you often find plates and simple condiments such as salt, spices etc. Unfortunately, there are rarely plates in kitchens of Galician refuges. Often in refuges there is the opportunity to eat together. It is not rare to see menus offered in private refuges. In public and especially in parish refuges there is often group cooking, praying and eating under the guidance of the hospitalero. This often happens on a donation basis.

In many refuges there are **T washing machines as well as dryers**. In most cases, the cost per use is € 3. Increasing numbers of refuges also offer lockers.

The **@ internet** can today (unfortunately) be found in nearly all refuges. The computer with an internet connection can be used for a fee, donation, or free. Quite often, the use of Wi-Fi (WLAN) is possible and, with few exceptions, free. When choosing your refuge, though, consider that especially unlimited WLAN often affects the pilgrims' atmosphere very negatively since there is much less direct communication taking place among the pilgrims. Some alternative refuges already rid themselves of their WLAN because of this reason. Consider carefully if you would like to intentionally renounce the use of your **cellphone** or at least your **smartphone** during the time on the Way of St. James. Also, the option of silencing your smartphone by setting it on flight-mode is not too bad. By doing so, you can bravely test whether you still can live without your digital data binky respectively the internet, or are already addicted to it. The Way of St. James actually offers an ideal opportunity to renounce technology and instead experience and once again enjoy the difference between a virtual and real tangible existence (p. 22).

Reservation of beds is generally only **possible** in private refuges as well as in youth hostels (rarely described in this guide), student homes, and boarding houses. On the other hand, public refuges often described as "urban" or "municipal" refuges, as well as parish refuges, basically **do not** allow reservations. Only in rare cases when the refuge does not follow that rule, will it be explicitly marked with the sign . Whether the refuges will actually honor the reservations and which exact seasonal and deadline conditions apply, unfortunately cannot be further detailed in the individual refuge description due to space limitations in the book.

The Camino Aragonés

Coming from the southern French Arles, the Way of St. James Via Tolosana crosses the French-Spanish border on the 1,632 m-high pass of Somport, and merges into the Aragonean Way of St. James, the "Camino Aragonés". The 166.9 km-long way is one of the most famous "feeders" to the Camino Francés. However, as the name already indicates, it is not a byway of the Camino Francés, as explained in this book. This beautiful way is worthwhile, especially because of the truly awesome view of the Pyrenees and associated historical places, and it is appreciated for its solitude. The choice of refuges, which cost on-average as much as those on Camino Francés, is adequate and the pilgrim finds the next refuge, many of which still offer a very original atmosphere, at most after 19 km.

☺ **The crossing of the Pyrenees** and also the border between France and Spain is surely a unique experience, but also a special physical challenge. As well, the visit of the charming French city Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port is worthwhile. You should carefully plan your crossing of the Pyrenees, to avoid running into the danger of becoming exhausted on the first day already. More explanations are available on page 55.

Travel to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port

The most economic arrival would be by plane (e.g. with Ryanair via London) to Biarritz (Fr.) or to the more distant Pau or Lourdes (Fr.). There are also inexpensive flights to Santander or Bilbao (Spain); however, from there to the starting point of the Way of St. James it's a bit further.

The site ☐ www.rome2rio.com can give you valuable suggestions for planning the journey although this search engine does not have all the bus/train connections and does not provide Ryanair flight information. For finding and booking bus connections within Spain, the sites ☐ www.alsa.es/en and ☐ www.movelia.es/en can be helpful.

From Biarritz you take a train, a bus, or a cab (about € 17) into the neighboring town Bayonne, where, by the way, you can also stay at a  small pilgrims' refuge (☐ www.albergue-bayonne.com). The approx. 2 hour-long train ride from Pau to Biarritz costs, depending on the connection, about € 10 to 17. From Bayonne, a train travels for 52 km through a very attractive scenic route to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in about 1 h 15 min (about € 10.10 one-way).

On all connections mentioned here, several trains operate per day; their travel time and pricing varies a bit. Alternatively, there is the possibility for an arranged carpool and cab from Biarritz to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, either by meeting spontaneously, or

over the page ☎ www.beilarri.info/en/node/191, which then costs a total of about € 135 for 4 people. Usually less expensive is a ride on Express Bourricot, where you pay € 18 per person (if, for example, a group of 6 people is formed) for the route from Biarritz to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. The transfer from Pau to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, however, will cost you a minimum of € 23. The driver Caroline speaks English and Spanish with a very lovely French accent. The service is scheduled to be offered year-round. You can find further information and sign-up at ☎ www.expressbourricot.com (✉ (00 33) (0)661 960 476 and ✉ apcaroline@hotmail.com).

If you want to start in Roncesvalles or Pamplona, it is often much easier to approach from the western side of the Pyrenees. For some time now, buses have been regularly operating between Pamplona and Roncesvalles, which makes an arrival at the Pamplona airport an interesting alternative. Read more about this on page 60.

 **Minibus, cabs and transfer services between Pamplona, Roncesvalles and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port.** Besides the public buses described below, only cabs operate from Pamplona to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, costing about € 140 from Pamplona and about € 50 from Roncesvalles. In the opposite direction, the Express Bourricot transport bus leaves with up to 6 pilgrims for mostly affordable prices. Depending on how many pilgrims participate in the ride, a transport for the route Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port – Roncesvalles costs between € 10 and 40. Interesting could also be the transport service of the refuge/boarding house Viscarret (☞ p. 63).

 **The Public bus between Pamplona and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port.** Conda, ☎ www.conda.es, has been operating between 15. Mar to 31. Oct, depending on the season, one to three times daily, from the bus station in Pamplona past Roncesvalles to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. The ride takes about 1.5 to 2 hrs. and until 2015 cost about € 15 to 20 from Pamplona and about € 10 from Roncesvalles. These routes are again planned for 2015. Bookings can sometimes be made on ☎ www.alsa.es/en or ☎ www.movelia.es/en.

From the train station in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, walk well over 500 m straight ahead towards the old town where you reach 30 m after the  refuge Gite Izaxulo on the town map on page 55 a main street.

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (baq: Donibane Garazi)

↑ 163 m pop. 2,000        

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port is a typical pretty small Basque town; you can comfortably visit its old town and citadel dating from the 17th century in 1 to 2 hours.

1 Tourist information: Place du Générale De Gaulle, here also accommodation service  (sgl from € 40, dbl from € 50), ☎ (00 33) (0)559 370 357, ☐ Mon to Sat 9 am -12 pm and 2 pm – 6 pm, Jul and Aug Mon to Sat 9 am – 7 pm, Sun 10 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 5 pm

- 1 Pilgrims' information:** Rue de la Citadelle 39, ☎ (00 33) (0)559 370 509, 📧 depending on the time of the year and the volunteering: approx. 7:30 am – 12:00 am and 1:00 pm – 5 pm and shortly after arrival of the last trains from Bayonne; more infrequent in winter.
- 😊** If you still do not have a pilgrims' credential, you can get it for € 2 at the **pilgrims' information office**. Here you also receive updated information on the Way and receive information about overnight stays in bed and breakfasts 🏨. Internet access @ is also available. The pilgrims' information office is run by volunteers of the French Pilgrims' Brotherhood.



Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (rj)

- 🏡 Public refuge.** The refuge Vieille Navarre is the oldest and first refuge of this town and is located in the Rue de la Citadelle Nr. 55 exactly in front of the ① Gate of Santiago, the traditional entrance gate for St. James pilgrims who followed the Way of St. James through France. The refuge, run by volunteer hospitaleros, is located in the pleasantly renovated old stone house of the traditional Pilgrim Accommodation; it is simple, but clean and offers 28 beds in 3 rooms, dining room with microwave and a terrace with a nice view. In the Pilgrims' Information Center beneath the refuge, where you also check in, you can wash and dry clothes for € 2 ea. 🚹 T per. ☎ (00 33) (0)559 370 509, 📧 year-round 2 pm until 10 pm, nightstay including breakfast € 10

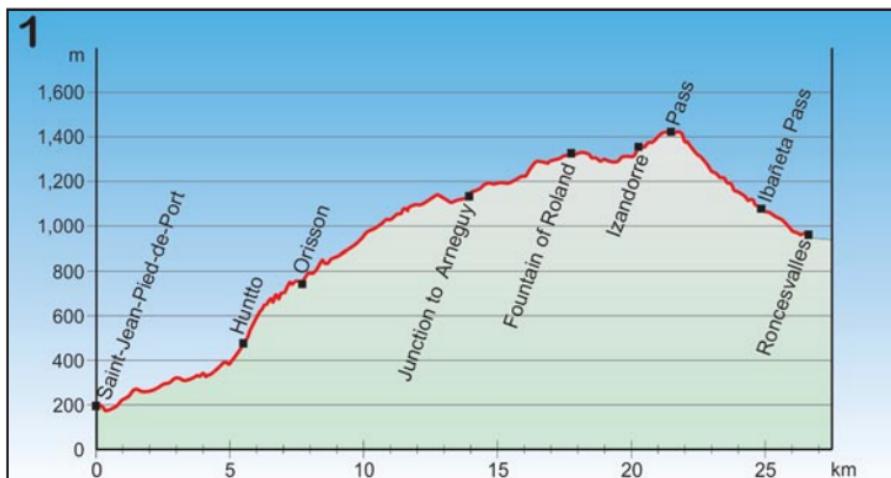
-   **Bellari** (formerly L'Esprit du Chemin). The pleasant, lovingly decorated private refuge is located in the Rue de la Citadelle 40.  Normally, you can only stay here overnight if you take part in the contemplative communal dinner, and therefore, late-arriving pilgrims are essentially undesired. Lunch package for € 4, 18 beds in 4 rooms, nice terrace, garden. ☎ (00 33) (0) 559 372 468, 📅 16. Mar to 1. Nov 2:30 pm to 10 pm, half-board € 30
-   **Auberge du Pelerin.** Well-maintained private refuge in the Rue de la Citadelle 25. 43 beds in 6 rooms of a newly-furnished spacious old stone house. Nice garden and terrace, simple eating room, dinner € 14, breakfast € 5, ☎ **T**, **C** free, @. ☎ (00 33) (0) 678 446 210, 📅 20. Mar to 20. Oct from 3 pm to 10:15 pm, € 17
-  **Izaxulo.** Opened in 2015, pleasant modern roomy refuge. A dorm with 10 spots. Two rooms with 4 beds each, small kitchen, small common area,  2 dbls for € 52, ☎ **T**, **C** free, @. ☎ (00 33) (0) 684 331 205, breakfast € 4, 📅 15. Mar to 15. Oct 3 pm until 10:30 pm, depending on room size, € 16 to 20
-  **Esponda.** Comfortable peripherally-located refuge in the Rúa Trinquet 9. 14 beds in 2 well-maintained, nice spacious rooms, kitchen. ☎ (00 33) (0) 679 075 252, 📅 year-round from about 2 pm, if no one is there, choose a bed or call, € 15
-  **Ultreia.** Friendly private refuge of a French pilgrim couple in the Rue de la Citadelle Nr. 8. 11 beds in 2 well-kept dorms and  2 dbl (from € 44) in an old renovated house. Common room with fireplace, good kitchen with food staples. Breakfast € 5. @. ☎ (00 33) (0) 680 884 622, 📅 25. Mar to 15. Oct, 3 pm until 10 pm, € 16 to 17
-  **Le Chemin vers l' Etoile** (formerly Sous un Chemin d'Etoiles). In the Rue d'Espagne 21, in a roomy house. 48 beds in 5 rooms, dining room with microwave, menu for € 12, breakfast € 1, @. ☎ (00 33) (0) 559 372 071, 📅 Mar to Nov all day, € 16
-  **Zuharpeta.** 14 beds in a clean, well-furnished room, nice garden. Dbl for € 36, breakfast € 5.50.  Menu € 12. **C** free, @, ☎ (00 33) (0) 559 373 588 or (0) 621 300 305, 📅 15. Mar to about 30. Oct, € 12.50
-  **Compostelle.** 26 beds in 9 rooms ( partly dbl) of an authentic older, maintained spacious house on the street, kitchen, common room, spin-dryer. ☎ (00 33) (0) 559 370 236 or (0) 684 977 078, 📅 Apr to Oct all-day, € 12.50 to 15
-  **Parish refuge (Kaserna).** This simple, but decently-maintained refuge with a personal atmosphere is located in the Rue d'Espagne 43, and offers 13 beds in two well-kept rooms; small inner yard ( also page 109). Since 2013 you will find frequently-switching volunteer hospitaleros working here, who also cook for or with the pilgrims. The hospitality is often appraised. ☎ (00 33) (0) 559 376 517, 📅 Apr. to about Oct. 3 pm to 10 pm, about € 20 including half board.
-   **La Coquille Napoléon.** (As described in the following text it is located on the Way of St. James Route de Napoleon, 1 km away from the town center). The small but awesome refuge of a friendly English-basque family is very nice and located in a calm area. The balcony offers an awesome view, 10 nice sleeping cabins in a dorm, rosé wine for reception, two little dogs, pilgrim-parrot Moko and garden with a donkey, microwave. Breakfast € 3, dinner € 12.  On demand pilgrims can be picked-up in front of the pilgrims' office free and get a ride back into the city. @ ☎ **T**. ☎ (00 33) (0) 662 259 940, 📅 always, overnight stay € 15

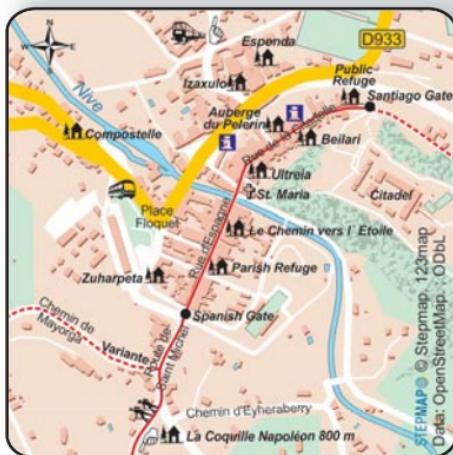
① Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port is called **Donibane Garazi** in Basque and is the capital of Nether-Navarra, one of the seven historical Basque Provinces which stretch across the French and Spanish side of the western Pyrenees and along the coast of the Bay of Biscay. In the Middle Ages, Nether-Navarra formed a union with Spanish Navarra. When, in 1512, the kingdom was occupied by the Union of Castile and Aragon, only the Navarrean area on the French side remained independent; and its capital was Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. From that point on, this small Pyrenean kingdom remained under French dependency until the crowns of Navarra and France merged. The Way of St. James in Nether-Navarra and in Spanish Navarra, touches the eastern border areas of the **Basque-speaking area**. Basque is the oldest Western European language, a pre-Indo-European language – probably the last remnant of the languages used thousands of years ago by the first Europeans.

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port - Huntto

5.4 km

① **Navarrese Way or Camino Francés.** By the way, you can heatedly debate whether you are already walking on the Camino Francés or still on the Navarrese Way. In most cases, the Way after Saint- Jean- Pied- de- Port is allocated to the Camino Francés, which is debatable from the traditional point of view. Another point of view is that the Navarrese Way and the Aragonean Way (☞ p. 50) do not merge until just prior to Puente la Reina to become the Camino Francés. To avoid placing ourselves between these viewpoints, we will call the first part of the Way "The Way of St. James through Navarre".



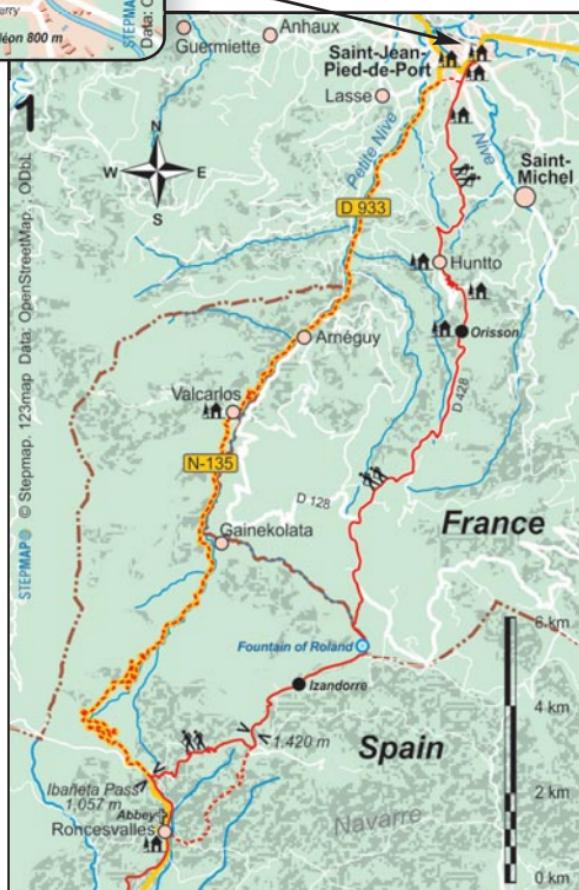


Your Way over the pass.

The Way over the pass is doable, but a few overenthusiastic pilgrim novices will already ruin their feed for an extended period while heading over the pass on the first day. If the weather is bad, the route can become very uncomfortable. You should therefore think carefully about how to approach this stage, especially if you are not used to hiking. Also, there may be a problem re-

supplying with affordable food up to-, in-, and after Roncesvalles. Therefore, closely read the following pages up to Burguete (the next larger town) and then think about a suitable strategy for you.

At any rate, if the weather is bad or during the cold season, a crossing of the pass over the Route de Napoleon is not advised. In this case, it is better to skip (for now) crossing on foot, or at least choose the alternative route along the country road (☞ p. 59). Snow, fog, and dawn/dusk can bring low-visibility and, at this height, make the way quite hazardous.



If you are considering crossing the pass in one run, it is recommended that you head out early and further have some hiking experience. In case of doubt do not push it, but rather make a stop at Huntto or Orisson so as to continue more easily and safely over the pass on the next day. This way, you not only have time to enjoy the first few days, but also slowly get used to hiking.

 For cyclists, the ascent over the Route de Napoleon is, in spite of the 15 km-long asphalt road, very exhausting because it runs extremely steeply uphill. Anyone who is not confident of doing this should instead take the country road ( p. 59).

 Take enough supplies because you will not find a store until Roncesvalles and/or Burguete. The next money machine you will find in Burguete.

 You leave Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port from the Santiago Gate, passing the pilgrims' refuges over the Rue de la Citadelle downhill. After crossing the river you reach Rue d'Espagne. After a total of 500 m, you pass the Spanish Gate (Port d'Espagne). If you continue 100 m further you reach a street crossing where you now have to decide which way to follow.

If you want to follow the country road, meaning the simple route; proceed to the right into the street Chemin de Mayorga. However, the higher, but also prettier Way leads to the left; first into the Route de Saint Michel, and then immediately half-right up into a smaller town road, which initially leads 200 m very steep uphill (Another 100 m further it leads to the left 250 m to the touristy refuge Zazpiak Bat  only conditionally to be described a pilgrims' refuge. ☎ **T**, ☎ (00 33) (0)675 783 623, ☐ Apr to Oct, overnight stay normally only with half board possible for € 35). However, the Way of St. James leads further straight ahead uphill and after another 400 m, exactly where the way lowers itself a bit again, you find the small refuge  La Napoléon on your right-hand side. You keep on going another 4.1 km on the small, lightly used country road on a mostly slight incline until, after a last steep incline, you pass through **Huntto**  493 m between the buildings of the Gîte "Ferme Ithururia" (5.4 km). To the left is a traditional tavern with a bed and breakfast, and to the right the new accommodations of the pilgrims' refuge.

 **Private Refuge** with 17 beds in four well-maintained rooms with up to 5 beds and a bathroom/each, kitchen for fee of € 1, breakfast: € 6, half board: € 36 to 39. The neighboring building has very passable dbls with half-board from € 84 and sgl from € 50. Menus about € 18, ☎ **T** (reserve early!), ☎ (00 33) (0)559 371 117, ☐ always, € 16 to 18

Huntto - Orisson

2.3 km

The asphalt road initially continues further but after 300 m it turns half-left onto a steep field lane ( If you are on a bike  or in **rainy weather**, it is best to follow the

country road for another 1.5 km until the Way of St. James again merges with the lane.) The Way of St. James winds uphill for 1 km and then again reaches the same asphalt road (here ♦ watering place). After 100 m the small refuge Kayola is located on the left and after a further 900 m on the asphalt lane you reach the refuge Orisson (km 2.3).

Kayola. Small, idyllically-located private refuge in a country house with 10 beds in a dorm and one dbl for € 15. Kitchen, fire place and pretty view (☞ for further information and meals see Refuge Orisson, which runs this refuge). Overnight stay € 15

Refuge Orisson. Private refuge with 28 camp beds in 3 rooms in a charming house a little reminiscent of a mountain cabin. From the terrace you have a pretty view on the surrounding landscape. Under the terrace you find another 10 beds in a very simple, slightly tight room. Only overnight stays with half board are possible. Bread rolls for € 4 to 5. Early reservation is recommended. ☎ 00 33 (0)559 491 303 or (0)681 497 956, refuge.orisson@wanadoo.fr, ☑ 1. Apr to 15. Oct, incl. half board for € 35!

Orisson - Roncesvalles

18.1/18.9 km

Because of adverse weather and light conditions the itinerary is sometimes not clear, here is an exact description of the route.

You hike another 4.1 km uphill on the seldom-used paved narrow road, then it leads to the right to another asphalt road which you follow further uphill.

Nearby, a figure of the Virgin Mary is also located.

1.8 km further, an asphalt road splits to the right into the valley to Anreguy, where the road runs from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Pamplona. Should you get surprised by snow in winter or spring, you can safely keep on walking here, which however would mean a long detour because you would have to again head down into the valley to cross the Pyrenees over the country road.

1.9 km after that, next to a Way pilgrims' cross (where pilgrims leave mementos), it leads half-right on a mountain path. It goes uphill for 700 m and then 1 km slightly down- and uphill until you reach an abundant spring on the way: the ↑ 1.340 m-high Fountain of Roland. 150 m after that, a stone marks that you have reached Spanish Navarra (km 9.7). Now it goes 1.6 km mainly slightly-downhill, then the Way inclines again for 800 m and reaches the very small hut (shelter) of Izandorre, which is located close to a wooden pole (Nr. 44) which was placed there for orientation. Then, it again goes 1.1 km steeper uphill and then another 600 m further until you connect with an asphalt road next to the wooden pole Nr. 74, and reach the pass, at ↑ 1.420 m the highest point of your Pyrenees crossing (km 13.8). You immediately leave the asphalt to the right. After only 50 m on a steep downhill, there are two

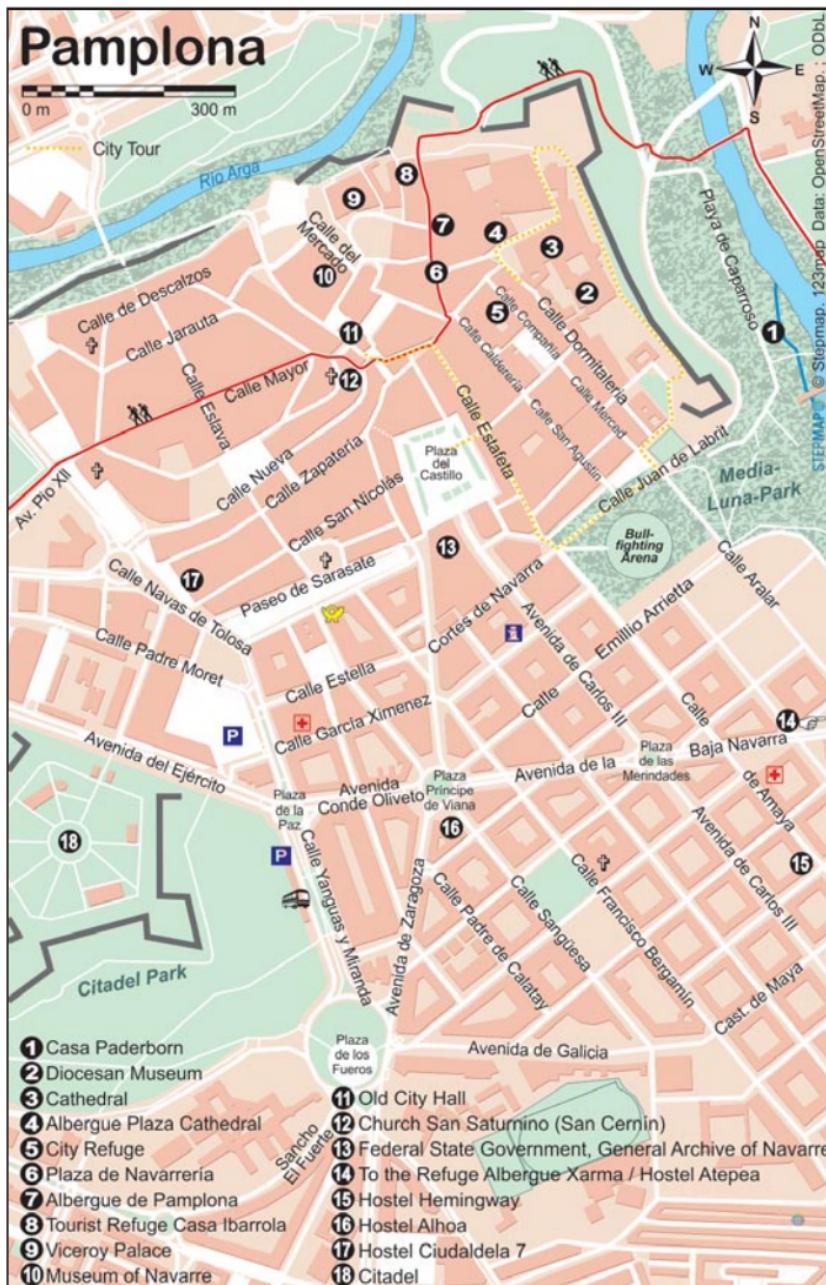
possibilities: either continue straight ahead and down on the very steep and stony hill through the forest 4.2 km directly to Roncesvalles (km 18.1), or go to the right, first in the direction of the sign pointing to Aztakarri and then you choose a very small, but recommended detour.



International group of pilgrims resting at the pass (rj)

☞ After a long day, you should especially pay attention that you do not damage your feet due to being on the last few meters, or because of blind ambition, or from panicking to reach the refuge before it's too late, and therefore cause long-term damage when just at the beginning of the pilgrimage. So do not miss the entry-point of the simpler detour to Roncesvalles because the direct way may indeed also be charming, but steep and partially stony, which is why a multitude of tired pilgrims have taken a fall here. Pay close attention to your feet now because based on experience, they can easily develop blisters on this decline.

The recommended detour soon leads to a small, lightly-used asphalt road to the right and 3.6 km downhill to **Ibañetapass** (↑ 1.057 m). This pass offers very charming views to the left down onto the Abbey of Roncesvalles. On the height of the pass,





Pamplona - Plaza del Castillo (sv)

Hostel Alhoa about 750 m from the Way of St. James in the Calle Sangüesa 2. This small cosy hostal offers mostly inexpensive pilgrim prices. ☎ 648 289 403. ↗ Albergue Xarma/Hostel Atepea about 750 m from the Way of St. James in the Avenida Baja Navarra, 23. This friendly individual accommodation is the closest to the atmosphere of a pilgrims' refuge. ☎ 948 046 449

(i) Pamplona was founded as a Roman settlement, probably by Pompeius. From the 9th century to 1512 Pamplona was the capital of the Kingdom of Navarra; even after integration into Spain, Pamplona remained the capital of the Navarra region (A brief historical introduction on Navarra will be given near Puente la Reina, where both Ways of St. James merge, ↗ Cizur Menor - Puente la Reina).

(i) ♀ X Botellón and Tapas. About 70 m before you leave the Way of St. James and turn left to the city refuge, you encounter the Plaza de Navarreria, where special "cultural events" take place on weekends - the *Botellón*. The consuming of alcohol on the street, the *botellón*, is as popular with the young people in Spain as it is forbidden. On the Plaza de Navarreria, however, this misbehavior is permitted as an exception. Likewise popular is the slow nocturnal feeding of the so-called "Tapas" or, as they are called here, "Pintxos". These are small bites (about € 1.50 to 3.50), which are temptingly displayed on the counters of the bars. If you want to participate, you are at the right place.

(i) San Fermín. Every year from the 6th to the 14th of July, the controversial festivities in the (dis-)honor of the patron saint of Navarra, San Fermín, take place in Pamplona. These were made world-famous by Ernest Hemingway and are renowned



especially for the morning “running of the bulls (*encierros*)”. The city refuge remains closed during the festivities. It is recommended to cross Pamplona during the time of the San-Fermín-Festivities during daytime, experience the (doubtfully) festive ambiance and continue on. You can, of course, leave your luggage for a few hours in the baggage check-in room of the bus station.

◆ **Cathedral with Diocesan Museum.** The Gothic cathedral dates to the 14th/15th century. Inside, especially the Alabaster coffin from the 15th-century King Charles III of Navarra and his wife, Leonore, is worth a visit. Also worthwhile seeing at the Diocesan Museum is, e.g., the gothic cloister (entrance 100 m to the right of the cathedral main portal into Calle de la Dormitallería.) Entrance is until one hour prior to closing.

◆ ☎ Apr to Oct Mon to Sat 10:30 am to 7 pm, rest of the year Mon to Sat 10:30 am to 5 pm,
Sun always closed, pilgrims € 3

↳ **Citytour.** You get a good impression of the city, if you go to the left from the cathedral, as shown in the city map, then behind the old city wall along to its end, and further to the right to the bullfight arena. On the street Paseo Ernest Hemingway, in front of the main entrance of the arena, a bust of the author, who was a lover of bullfights, is located. You continue through Calle Estafeta, through which bulls and runners run during the San-Fermín-Festivity. Pay attention to the holes in the ground at the side of the road crossings: here, the barriers for the running of the bulls are erected. Make a left onto Plaza del Castillo with pretty coffee shops and continue further to the charming baroque city hall dating from the 17th century and the quaint church San Saturnino (also San Cernín), from the 13th century.

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