



The Way of St. James

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WHAT IS THE WAY OF ST. JAMES?

It is a very old network of roads crossing western Europe to reach a destination: Santiago de Compostela, one of Christendom's Holy Cities; its Cathedral and the Apostle James' tomb.

AND WHAT IS WALKING THE "CAMINO"?

This is also the name used for the great adventure of the 21st century: the unique experience of travelling along the Way of St. James, just as millions of pilgrims have done since the 9th century for various reasons. The historic importance of this pilgrimage—possibly the most outstanding and profoundly experienced religious and cultural phenomenon of the Middle Ages—was recently recognised by UNESCO, which declared it a World Heritage route.

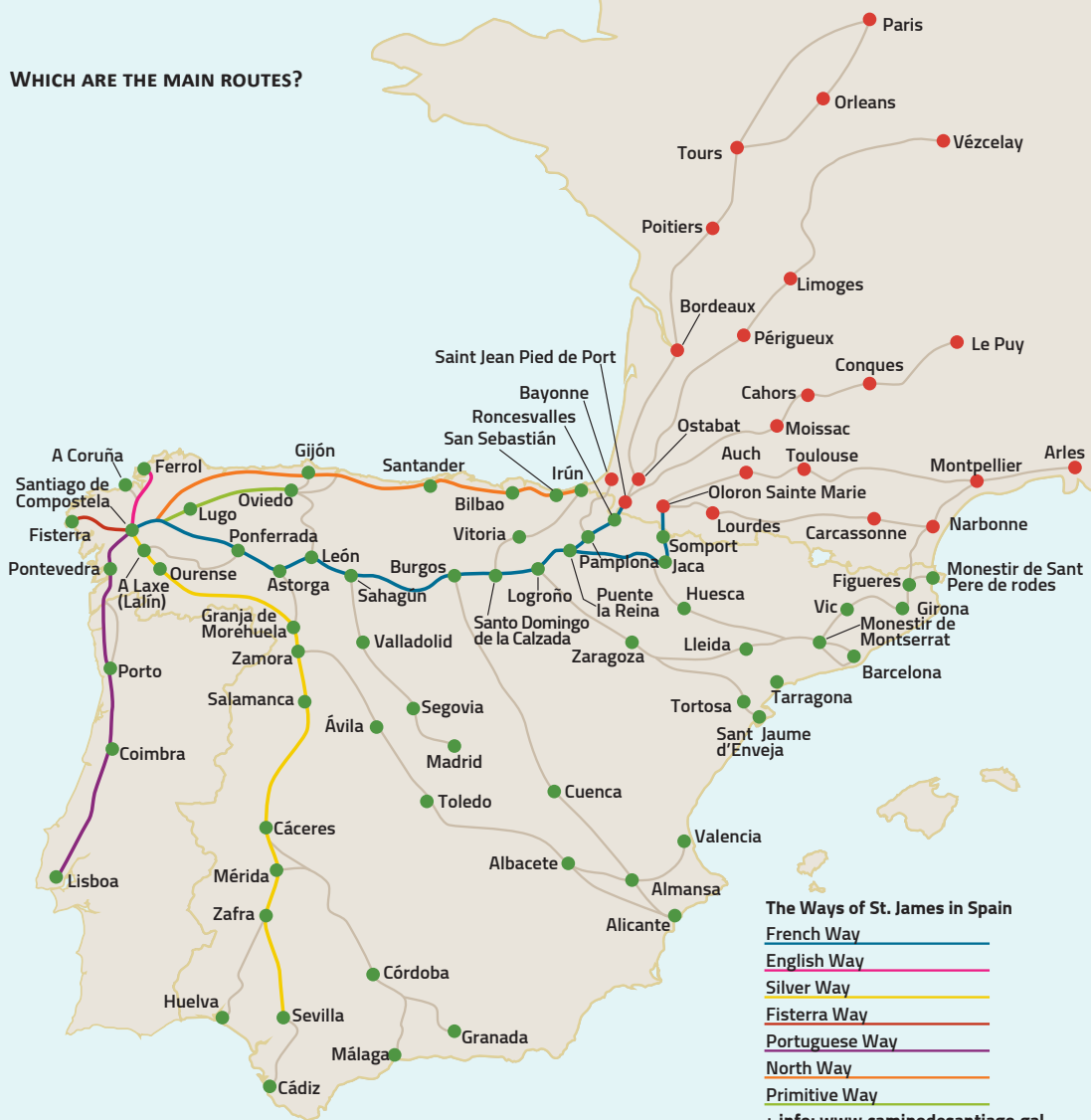
WHY GO ON THIS PILGRIMAGE?

There are numerous reasons for going on this pilgrimage. Since the Middle Ages, believers have sought salvation through penitence; others went on the pilgrimage to complete a sentence and a few did so on behalf of others to earn money.

After the decline experienced by the pilgrimage from the 15th century onwards, due to plagues and religious wars, there has now been a genuine revival of the phenomenon. During the last Holy Year in 2010, 270,000 pilgrims came to Santiago motivated by their faith, a desire to explore the world, their interest in the route's heritage, culture, sports and as a personal challenge.



WHICH ARE THE MAIN ROUTES?



WHAT IS A HOLY YEAR?

It is a singular privilege that was first granted to the Cathedral by Pope Callixtus II around the year 1122, and confirmed by Alexander III in 1179. Thanks to it, during the year in which July 25th, St. James' Day, falls on a Sunday, the grace of the Jubilee and plenary indulgence may be obtained in the Church of Compostela.

Holy Years thus take place with apparent irregularity, separated by intervals of six, five, six and eleven years. The first ones of the 21st century were 2004 and 2010. 2021 will be the 120th Holy Year in the history of Compostela Holy Years, starting from the first one in 1182.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



Campus Norte USC

Río Sarela

Barrio de San Lourenzo

Fisterra
Way

Campus Sur USC

Parque da Alameda

Cidade
Histórica

Ensanche

Train station

Río Sar

Barrio da Pontepedriña

Barrio de Conxo

Portuguese
Way

Portuguese
Way



Bus station

English Way

French Way

Barrio das Fontiñas

Parque de Bonaval

Barrio de San Pedro

Parque de Belvís

Brañas do Sar

Barrio de Sar

Silver Way

HOW DO THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF ST. JAMES ENTER THE CITY?

French Way

- 01 Monte do Gozo
- 02 Igrexa de San Pedro
- 03 Convento de Bonaval
- 04 CGAC
- 05 Porta do Camiño
- 06 Igrexa de Santa María do Camiño
- 07 Igrexa das Ánimas
- 08 Igrexa de San Bieito do Campo
- 09 Praza de Cervantes
- 10 Praza da Inmaculada
- 11 Mosteiro de San Martiño Pinario
- 12 Praza do Obradoiro
- 13 Catedral de Santiago

Silver Way

- 14 Cidade da Cultura de Galicia
- 15 Colexiata de Sar
- 16 Convento e Igrexa das Mercedarias
- 17 Arco de Mazarelos
- 18 Igrexa da Universidade
- 19 Facultade de Xeografía e Historia
- 20 Praza de Abastos
- 21 Museo das Peregrinacións
- 22 Praza das Praterías

Fisteria Way

- 23 Hostal dos Reis Católicos
- 24 Pazo de Raxoi
- 25 Igrexa de San Froitoso
- 26 Oficina del Peregrino
- 27 Carballeira e pazo de san Lourenzo de Trasouto

Portuguese Way

- 28 Mosteiro de Santa María de Conxo
- 29 Igrexa do Pilar
- 30 Parque da Alameda
- 31 Rúa do Franco
- 32 Colexio de Fonseca

English Way

- 33 Convento do Carme
- 34 Convento de Santa Clara
- 35 Porta da Pena
- 36 Igrexa de San Martiño Pinario
- 37 Igrexa de San Miguel
- 38 Casa de la Troya

WHAT IS THE PILGRIM CREDENTIAL?

It is a booklet issued by the diocese of origin's Pilgrimages Delegation, by the parish or by the local Association of Friends of the Way of St. James, which is stamped for pilgrims by hostels along the route to certify the stages they have completed on foot, horseback or cycling. It is a requirement in order to obtain the "Compostela" certificate at the end, as well as to use the network of hostels.

WHAT IS THE "COMPOSTELA"?

It is the certificate issued by the Pilgrim Office to certify that the route has been completed due to spiritual reasons. It is given to pilgrims that cover the last 100 kilometres on foot or horseback, or last 200 kilometres in the case of cyclists. In both cases, they have to present the official Pilgrim Document provided by the Catholic church, with one or more daily stamps from the hostels or parishes visited along any of the routes.

WHAT IS THE PILGRIM MASS?

A daily Pilgrim Mass is celebrated at Santiago Cathedral's high altar; it is attended by travellers from all over the world, who give thanks for the experiences they enjoyed along the way and for finally attaining their goal. Consult schedules.



WHAT DO PILGRIMS FIND IN SANTIAGO?

According to UNESCO, Santiago de Compostela is “an ideal city which is overflowing with history and timeless.” In addition to its legendary beauty, the city offers a thousand-year-old experience in welcoming, lodging and catering to all its pilgrims. Its wise hospitality, its safety, small size and simple everyday life make it a friendly, charming and human city, easy to understand and get around, where everyone finds their own place. There is always something to do in Compostela. The lively university atmosphere, the cultural events, gastronomy, shopping, nightlife and traditional festivals, such as that of the “Apóstol,” are unforgettable experiences to all those coming here.



WHERE TO STAY IN SANTIAGO?

Santiago has two public hostels for pilgrims and several private establishments similar to the ones along the route.

Public Hostels

San Lázaro

San Lázaro, s/n (no number). 15820 Santiago de Compostela
Tel: (+34) 981 571 488
80 beds. 20 min walking to the old town.

Monte do Gozo

Rúa do Gozo, 18 (Airport road).
15820 Santiago de Compostela
500 beds. 25 min walking to the old town and 3 min by car.

Tourist pilgrim hostels:



OTHER SERVICES

Main Tourist Information Office (Turismo de Santiago)

Rúa do Vilar, 63

(+34) 981 555 129

www.santiagoturismo.gal

info@santiagoturismo.gal

Open all year.

Tourist Office

Xoán XXIII Coach Terminus

(+34) 981 576 698

Open all year.

Galician Tourist Office (Turismo de Galicia)

Plaza de Mazarelos, 15 (ground
floor).

(+34) 881 866 397 / 8

www.turismo.gal

ot.santiago@xunta.gal

Way of St. James Information Desk

Rúa Carretas, 33 (ground floor).

(+34) 881 866 393 / 4

www.caminodesantiago.gal

informacion.xacobeo@xunta.gal

Pilgrim Office

Rúa de Carretas, 33.

(34) 981 568 846

www.oficinadelperegrino.com

Cathedral of Santiago

Sacristy: (+34) 981 583 548

Cathedral Foundation:

(+34) 981 569 327

www.catedraldesantiago.es

Open all year.

Civil Defence

Emergencies 112



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