




The Santiago Pilgrimage
route in the Jacetania area



The best-known trail of the Santiago Route in Aragon is the one which follows the course of the Aragon River in a north-south direction from its source in Somport through the accidental landscapes of the high Pyrenees, crossing forests and meadows, waterfalls and gorges until it veers suddenly in a right angle as it passes Jaca. From there onwards, the river meanders in a westerly direction towards the Canal de Berdun valley before reaching the Yesa reservoir. At this point, the route is obliged to negotiate another section of rough, verdant terrain.

The river and the trail now enter Navarre, where the former joins the Ebro River and the latter continues towards Puente la Reina (Navarre), where it joins up with the other four main trails of the French Santiago Route.



These beautiful landscapes are dotted with architectural gems. In the past, the Santiago Route was one of the first gateways for the introduction of romanesque architecture. Jaca Cathedral became the model which was emulated along the length and influence of the route. In addition to this singular monument, there are other examples of this fascinating style on or near the main trail, such as San Adrian de Sasabe and Santa Maria de Iguacel, San Vicente de Aruej and San Andres de Abay, San Juan de la Peña and Santa Cruz de la Seros, San Juan de Maltray and San Jacobo de Ruesta. Witness to other ages are the prehistoric dolmens, the vestiges of Roman times, the large Gothic and Renaissance houses and the baroque and neoclassical churches. In addition to these, other more modern forts and buildings are worthy of note, such as the Jaca Citadel, built in the 16th century, or the Canfranc Railway Station. Once in Navarre, following what continues to be the Aragonese route, there are still more sites which are worth a visit, such as the Leyre Monastery, Sangüesa, Obanos and Eunate.

The villages along the way are of a sober and traditional style, often with ancient towers. Some have suffered changes in the form of new residential areas and others show the sad scars of the forced migration of their inhabitants. But they all bear witness to an immemorial and permanent human presence on this route, which has seen so many passers-by over the centuries - pilgrims on the route to a Galician Land's End, to the exalted tomb of the Apostle Saint James, who doubtless enjoyed the hospitality of the peoples of this land on this Aragonese section of the Compostelle route.



SOMPORT - JACA

31,7 Km





SOMPORT
1640 m

7,4 Km

CANFRANC - ESTACIÓN
1200 m

4,2 Km

CANFRANC
1190 m

4,9 Km

VILLANÚA
980 m

6,8 Km

CASTIELLO DE JACA
921 m

8,4 Km

JACA
820 m

Itinerary



From Somport head towards Candanchu along the N-330 and then leave the road, taking a left turn after a few metres, to follow the course of the Aragon River to the Santa Cristina Bridge. A downhill track continues to the N-330 at Puente del Ruso, and a difficult path follows the left bank of

the Aragon River before reaching a surfaced track to a camping site. Soon after, take a left off the N-330 and cross the Aragon River again via a footbridge. After approximately 1 km, cross the river once again and enter Canfranc-Station on the N-330.

After a little more than 4 km. along the left bank, cross the river again over a stone bridge to arrive at Canfranc Village. Proceed through the village on the «Sirga», at the end of which it is necessary to turn left over a medieval bridge next to the cemetery. Villanua is 2 km away. Proceed for 1.5 km to a picnic area, from which a path leads round a children's summer camp and onto a local road which serves the village of Borau. A short while later you find yourself again at the N-330 and after 2kms you enter Castiello. Cross the road to take the track to La Garcipollera, and after following the river, cross under the N-330 at the Torrijos Bridge and continue along a track that runs between the road and the river until you reach Jaca's Avenida de Francia.

Facilities and services

Canfranc Station: Hostel, Bar, Restaurant,
Hotel, Tourism office. Doctor's surgery

Canfranc Village: Hostel, Bar, Restaurant

Villanua: Hostel, Hotel, Bakery, Bar, Restaurant

Castiello de Jaca: Hotel, Bar, Restaurant

Jaca: Hostel, Tourism office, Hospital,
All services.



Places of interest

SOMPORT PASS

- Remains of the Sta Cristina Hospital, one of the most important hospitals of medieval times, built during the reign of Pedro I.

CANFRANC STATION

- The Internacional Station, inaugurated by King Alfonso XIII along with the railway tunnel that crosses the Pyrenees.

VILLANÚA

- San Esteban Church (X-XI century polychrome sculptures of the Pilgrim Apostle Santiago and the Virgin Mary)
- Witches' Cave (Cueva de las Güixas), Güisas, Letranz and Diez-campanas megalithic dolmens. Pilgrim's bridge.

CASTIELLO DE JACA

- Retains various remains of the pilgrim route, including elements of original paving, the remains of the Romanesque church of Sta Juliana (modified in the 16th century), the inn at the mill and a pilgrim bridge.
- Santa Maria de Iguacel:- considered the first European Romanesque building in Aragon. Its present aspect is due to the restoration ordered by Count Sancho Galindez in 1072.

JACA

- The Cathedral is the most important monument in the city. Built at the end of the 11th century, it is a shining example of Aragonese Romanesque. The Chapter Museum (Museo Diocesano) houses one the most important collections of medieval frescoes in the world.



- The Benedictine Convent dates from the 16th century although it retains vestiges of its Romanesque origins, in particular the entrance and the tomb of Doña Sancha, daughter of Ramiro I. The church of Santiago, with its many and varied works of art, built by Sancho Ramirez in 1088 still welcomes and blesses pilgrims, while the Old Hospital, built in 1540, continues to accommodate them.

JACA - ARRÉS

25, 5 Km



A

JACA
820 m

16,3 Km

SANTA CILIA
649 m

6,2 Km

B

PUENTE LA REINA
650 m

3 Km

9 Km

ARRÉS
620 m

BERDÚN
668 m



Itinerary



Avenida de la Constitución, in the centre of Jaca, leads straight to the Monte Pano (or Morocones) path and out of town, with views of the Aragon River in the distance. After a short while you come to the Atarés gully which is usually easily crossed (if the water is too high, a detour via the N-240 is necessary). On arrival at the old «Venta de Esculabolsas» (presently a hotel/restaurant), cross the new

access road to San Juan de la Peña and after 1.5 km you encounter the Binacua road (where the diverted route to San Juan de la Peña joins the main route). Enter Santa Cilia on a surfaced track and after approximately 1 km, continue along the path which runs on the right and parallel to the main road, until you come to Puente la Reina 4.5 km later. From Puente la Reina de Jaca there are two possible routes which run parallel to the right and left banks of the Aragon River respectively:

OPTION A: Do not cross the bridge into Puente la Reina de Jaca. Instead, follow the Huesca road (also the N-240) and after 400 m take a right-hand turn towards Arres and continue on that route for 3 km.

OPTION B: This route starts at km. 303 of the N-240 and coincides along most of its length with the main road. It is the best option for pilgrims travelling by bicycle.



Facilities and services

Santa Cilia: Hostel, Bar, Camping Site

Puente la Reina: Restaurant, Hotel, Red Cross,
Baker, chemist

Arres: Hostel

Berdun: All services. Doctor's surgery



Places of interest

- On the way to Santa Cilia and having taken the San Juan de la Peña detour, you arrive at Santa Cruz de la Seros, one of the best examples of the popular Pyrenean architectural style.



- Church of Santa María, (11th century). This was a benedictine convent until the 16th century, when the nuns moved to the one in Jaca.
- The chapel of San Caprasio, (11th century). A small and exquisite example of the Lombard Romanesque style.
- The Monastery of San Juan de la Peña - the first monastery, founded between the end of the 9th and beginning of the 10th centuries, was dedicated to St John the Baptist. However, it was not until the 11th century that it became influential as the first pantheon of the Aragonese kings.

SANTA CILIA

- Church of San Salvador (rebuilt in the 17th century). It has a very beautiful altarpiece featuring an impressive painting of the Saviour Ascending to Heaven.
- In the 15th century, the monks of San Juan de la Peña built the Casa Palacio, or Clavero house, which would serve as a storeroom and pantry for the monastery.

PUENTE LA REINA DE JACA

- A principal crossroads on the Santiago Route. As far back as the Middle Ages, it was a popular stopping and eating place for pilgrims due to its large number of inns.

ARRÉS

- Gothic Castle/Fortress; two beautiful 15th and 16th century towers remain.

ARRÉS - ARTIEDA

18 Km







Itinerary



OPTION A: Keeping the Aragon River on your right, continue to the Pardina del Solano farm. Less than 3 km further on, the track crosses the Martes access road and after another 6 km of fields and hills you arrive in the village of Mianos. Taking the track on the right, carry on for 2.5 km to the village of Artieda

OPTION B: After another 5 km of broad, cereal-growing plain known as "la Canal de Berdun" you arrive at the limits of the Jacetania area, which are also the borders of the provinces of Huesca and Zaragoza. During the course of the next 16 km on the N-240, now in the province of Zaragoza and before the reservoir, there is a left-hand turn in the road, which leads to Sos and Ejea. This road links back to the Option A itinerary. If you continue along the N-240, you get to the Sigües turn-off.



Facilities and services

Artieda: Hostel, Bar

Ruesta: Hostel, Camping site

Sigües: Bar, Shop





Places of interest

MARTES

- Church of the Assumption. Restored, with a single nave and a square bell tower

MIANOS

- Church of Santa Ana, late gothic with adjacent bell tower (16th century).

ARTIEDA

- There are vestiges of the Roman Way which crossed the Canal de Berdun, the Forao de La Tuta and Campo Royo, where pottery shards, mosaics and ruins of small towns have been found. Also, the 12th century church of St Martin with its slim, square tower attached to a vaulted nave and romanesque apse.



BERDÚN

- Its gothic church, dedicated to Santa Eulalia, dates from the 16th century and contains a baroque organ. The entrance to the main square is one of three original gates which in the past gave access to the walled fortress of the village.

SIGÜÉS

- Romanesque church dedicated to San Esteban (12th century). Ruins of a walled enclosure which belonged to the ancient Hospital of Santa Ana.

ARTIEDA - SANGÜESA

27,5 Km

G.R.
65.3

Ruesta (Albergue)
Santiago





B

SIGÜÉS
668 m

ESCÓ

TIERMAS

SANGÜESA
400 m

A

ARTIEDA
620 m

RUESTA
550 m

UNDUÉS
DE LERDA
630 m

8,5 Km

9 Km

10 Km



Itinerary



OPTION A: Cross the road and proceed for 1 km to the C-137. With the exception of one small section, the route proceeds along this road for the next 7 km (towards Sos) to the village of Ruesta. Exit this village via the spring and the Santiago chapel. Before reaching the road, there is a right turn which leads in a westerly direction and which after 11 km leads to Undués de Lerda. After 2 km you pass the Navarran/Aragonese border and shortly after this, you come to the Canal de Bárdenas road. 7

km straight ahead lies the town of Sangüesa.

OPTION B: From Sigües, you continue past the abandoned villages of Esco and later Tiermas, which sits on a hill above the shores of the reservoir, at the foot of which there is a camping site. The numbering of the kilometres on the road



changes at the provincial and autonomous border between Navarre and Aragon, and km 340 (the last of the Aragonese route), gives way to km 52 (the first of the route in Navarre). The village of Yesa is 4 km away and it is here that you find the left turning for the Castle of Javier (3 km) and Sangüesa (13 km) and slightly further on, on the right, the turning for Leyre (4km).



Facilities and services

Ruesta: Hostel, Camping site

Undués de Lerda: Hostel, Bar, Shop

Sangüesa: All facilities. Doctor's surgery



Places of interest



RUESTA

- Village church dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption; a coarse construction built on the slope of a hill. There are also two large and asymmetrical quadrangular towers which are the monumental vestiges of what must have been the original fortified citadel.

TIERMAS

- Fragments of its thick walls remain along with the ruins of the Church of San Miguel. Roman baths exist within the ruins of the 19th century spa of Tiermas (Thermae romanas), one of the most important spas of its time

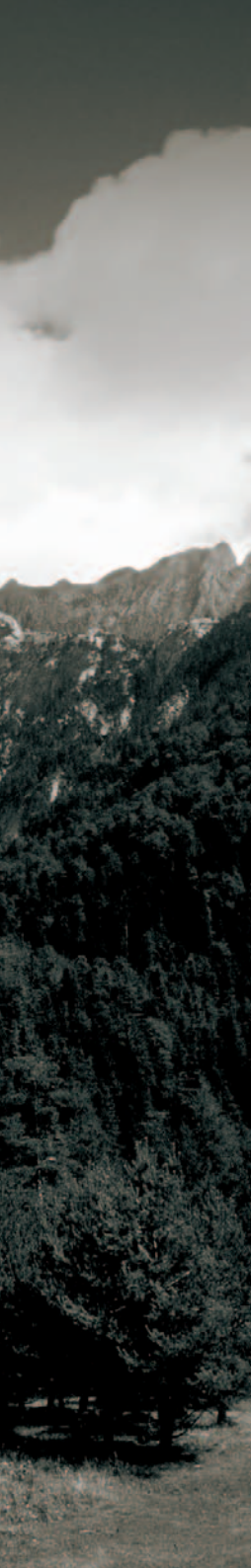


ESCÓ

- Church consecrated to the Archangel St Michael noteworthy for its fortified tower. The front section dates from the romanesque period although it was greatly modified throughout the 13th and 14th centuries.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE VIA
THE PUERTO DEL PALO PASS





*PUERTO
DEL PALO*
1261 m

SELVA DE OZA

SIRESA
882 m

HECHO
800 m

BINIÉS
668 m

BERDÚN
638 m



Itinerary



There is one other variation called the GR 65.3.3, Camino de Santiago via the Puerto del Palo pass. This beautiful route is an entry point to Aragon (Valle de Echo) from France, over one of the key Pyrenean passes. It runs through the Selva de Oza, past Siresa and Hecho, crossing the Sierra de los Dos Ríos lengthways, over the Foz

de Binies to arrive at Binies, and after this Berdún and Martes, where it links up with the GR 65.3.



Facilities and services

Siresa: Shop, Bar, Restaurant, Hostel

Hecho: All services. Doctor's surgery

Berdún: All services. Doctor's surgery





Places of interest



SIRESA

- Carolingian Monastery of San Pedro de Siresa (founded 833 AD). Almost definitely the first Aragonese monastery.

HECHO

- Village church dedicated to St Martin which contains four 18th century altarpieces. Ethnological Museum containing everyday implements and a varied collection of the local "cheso" traditional costume. There is a Centre for the Interpretation of Megalithic Monuments in the Pyrenees and the Hecho Valley
- In the Guarrinza valley there are a number of different prehistoric funeral monuments, including the one on the Corona de los Muertos, which is more than 9000 years old



BINIÉS

- 11th century Castle/Palace; opposite the castle stands the village church of San Salvador, in popular baroque style (17th century).

Telephones of interest

Canfranc Tourist Information Office	974 373 141
Jaca Tourist Information Office	974 360 098
Jaca Pilgrim's hostel	974 355 758
Santa Cilia Pilgrim's hostel	974 377 168
Arrés Pilgrim's hostel	974 348 129
Artieda Pilgrim's hostel	948 439 316
Ruesta Pilgrim's hostel	948 398 082
Undués de Lerda Pilgrim's hostel	948 888 105
Sangüesa Pilgrim's hostel	948 870 042
Cruz Roja de Jaca (Doctor's surgery)	974 361 101
SOS Aragón	112