



*physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual wanderings*

# Jane V. Blanchard



## A Peek at the Remarkable Camino de Santiago:

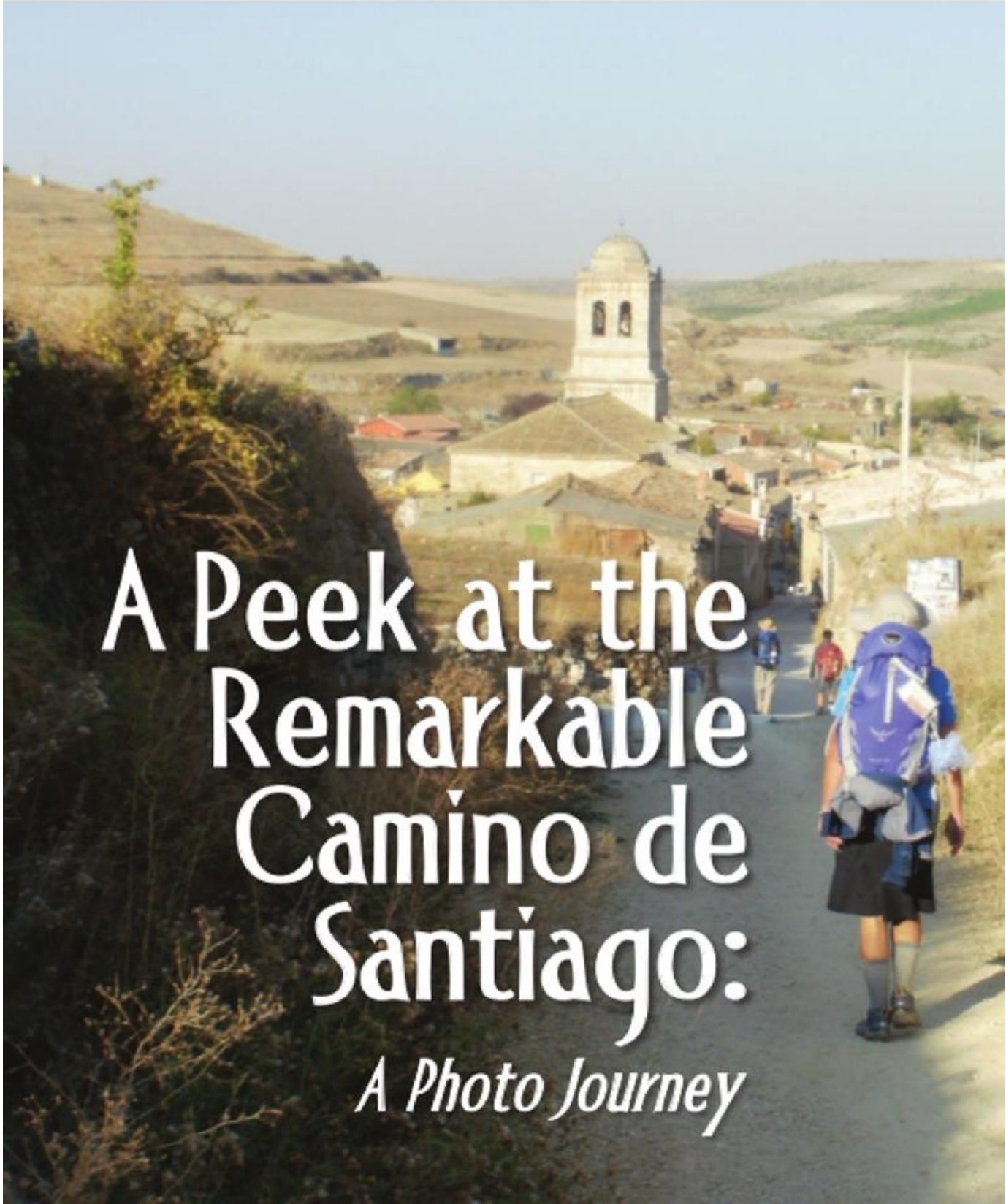
*A Photo Journey*





*physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual wanderings*

**Jane V. Blanchard**



**A Peek at the  
Remarkable  
Camino de  
Santiago:**

*A Photo Journey*



# **A Peek at the Remarkable Camino de Santiago: A Photo Journey**

**Jane V. Blanchard**

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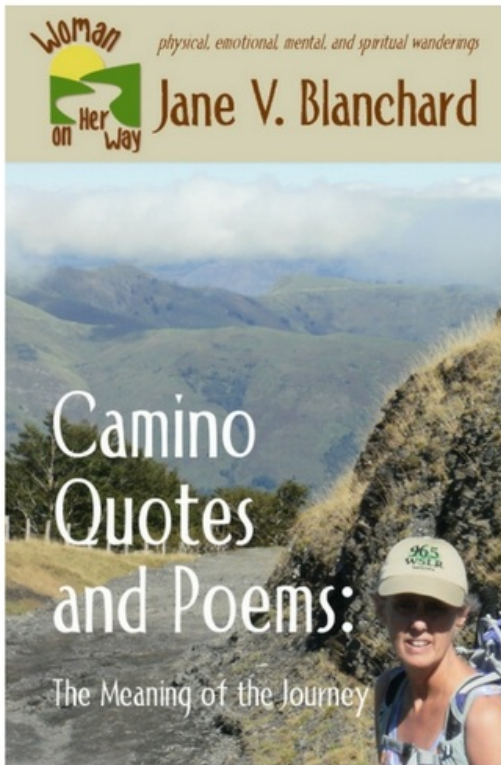
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First published August 9, 2016. Rev.1.0

Revised June 26, 2018 Rev. 2.0



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LIKE TO BE ON THE CAMINO.**



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# **Dedication**

To past, present, and future pilgrims of the Camino de Santiago.

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## To my readers

Thank you for taking a peek at the remarkable Camino de Santiago. If you are feeling any pre-Camino jitters, I hope this photo essay will ease your fears. If you are contemplating your own pilgrimage, I hope these pictures will lure you into setting a date.

Since the 9th century, Catholics have pilgrimaged to Santiago de Compostela to visit the tomb of St. James the Great, one of Jesus' twelve apostles. Traveling from all over Europe, pilgrims created a network of trails that lead to Santiago. The most famous of these trails is the Camino Francés. Traveling east to west, it traverses four Spanish regions: Navarra, La Rioja, Castile and León, and Galicia. Since the Council of Europe has designated this path as a Major Cultural Itinerary, the Camino attracts many modern-day pilgrims who hike the trail for nonreligious purposes.



*Camino Francés crosses four regions of Spain*



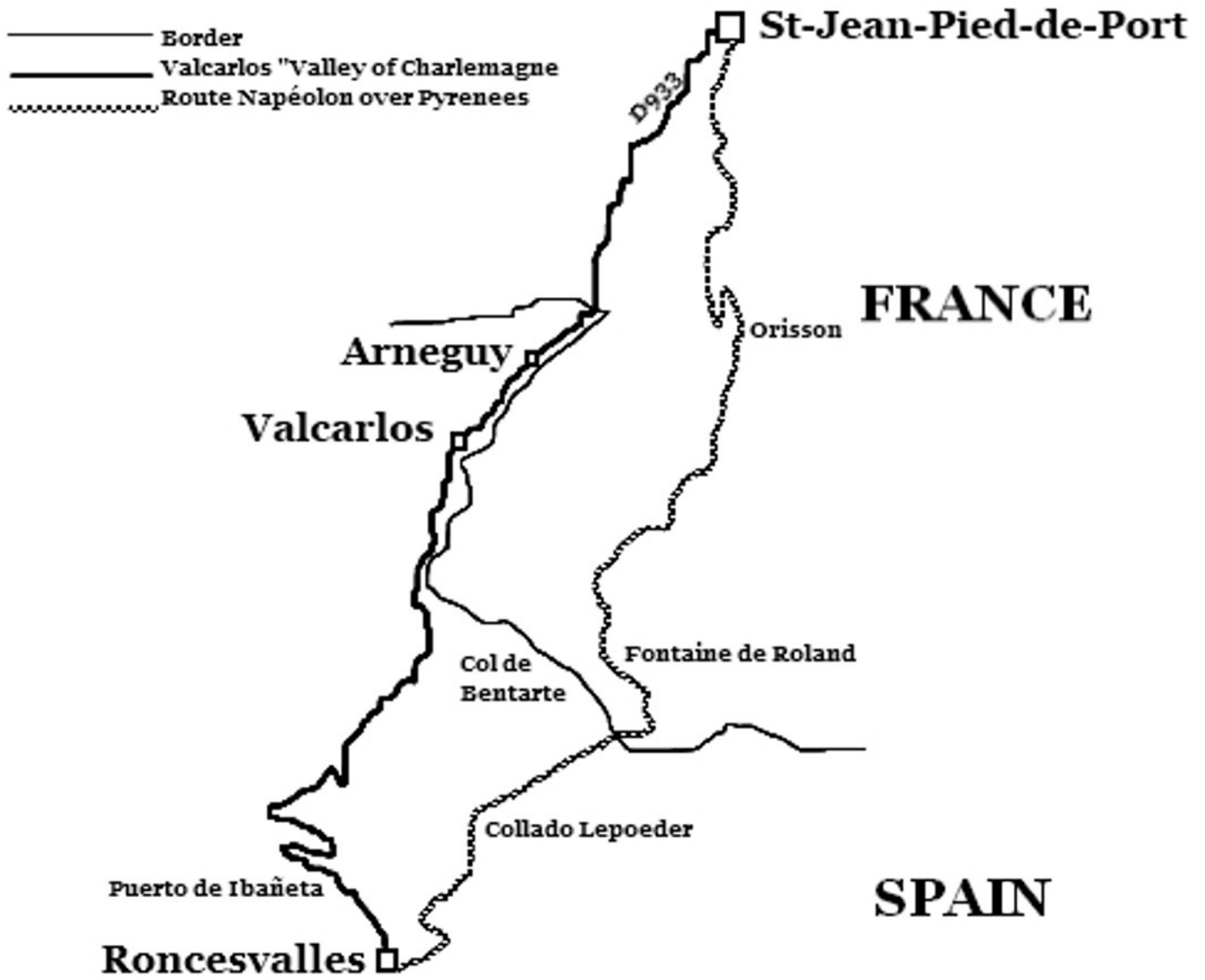
In 2011, my husband and I walked the 500 miles across northern Spain in forty-three days. This photo essay reflects our daily mileage and provides a glimpse of what you can expect to see along the way. Enjoy!

If you are interested in reading about my journey and the stories of women I met along the Camino, please see my book, [Women of the Way: Embracing the Camino](#).

If you are preparing your first pilgrimage, [Camino Tips: How to get the most out of "The Way"](#) will help you turn your trip into a legend.

[Hadrian's Wall Path, Walking into History](#) is the story of my walking 80 miles across northern England and visiting the famous wall that separated the then most northern boundary of the roman empire from the fierce Scottish tribes.

# The Pyrenees



## St-Jean-Pied-de-Port

Distance: 27 km (16.7 m) from Roncesvalles, Spain, over the Pyrenees to St-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France (hereafter called St-Jean).

Desiring to see both the Pyrenees and the Valcarlos valley, my husband Dennis and I walked counter to the way most pilgrims did the Camino through the Pyrenees. We started in Roncesvalles, Spain, walked over the Pyrenees on the Napoleon Route and returned the following day through the valley on the Valcarlos Route. The highest point is the Col de Lepoeder at 1,450 m. (4757.2 ft).



*Way sign on the Napoleon Route. Because we were walking the route "backwards," we had to guess which was the way to St-Jean.*





*Fountain before crossing the border into France. There is a Basque inscription on the fountain: "Bidea - Iturria - Bizia," which translates in "The Way - The Source - The life."*



*The majesty of the Pyrenees*



## Valcarlos Valley

Distance: 11 km (6.8 m) from St-Jean, France, to Valcarlos, Spain, plus an additional 8 km (5 m) getting lost.

Having learned the importance of carrying food on the first day's walk (we "bonked" from not having enough), we purchased sandwiches in St-Jean before setting off for the route through the Valcarlos Valley. At the Pilgrims Office, we received a map, but it did not provide enough details and we missed a crucial right turn after Ondarolle France to cross over into Spain. As we were heading east, we were unconcerned about the route until we started getting low on water and the surroundings became very desolate. Trail angels stopped to give us water and take us back down the mountain to the turnoff point. Exhausted, we decided to spend the night in Valcarlos (Luzaide) and finished the walk to Roncesvalles on the next day.



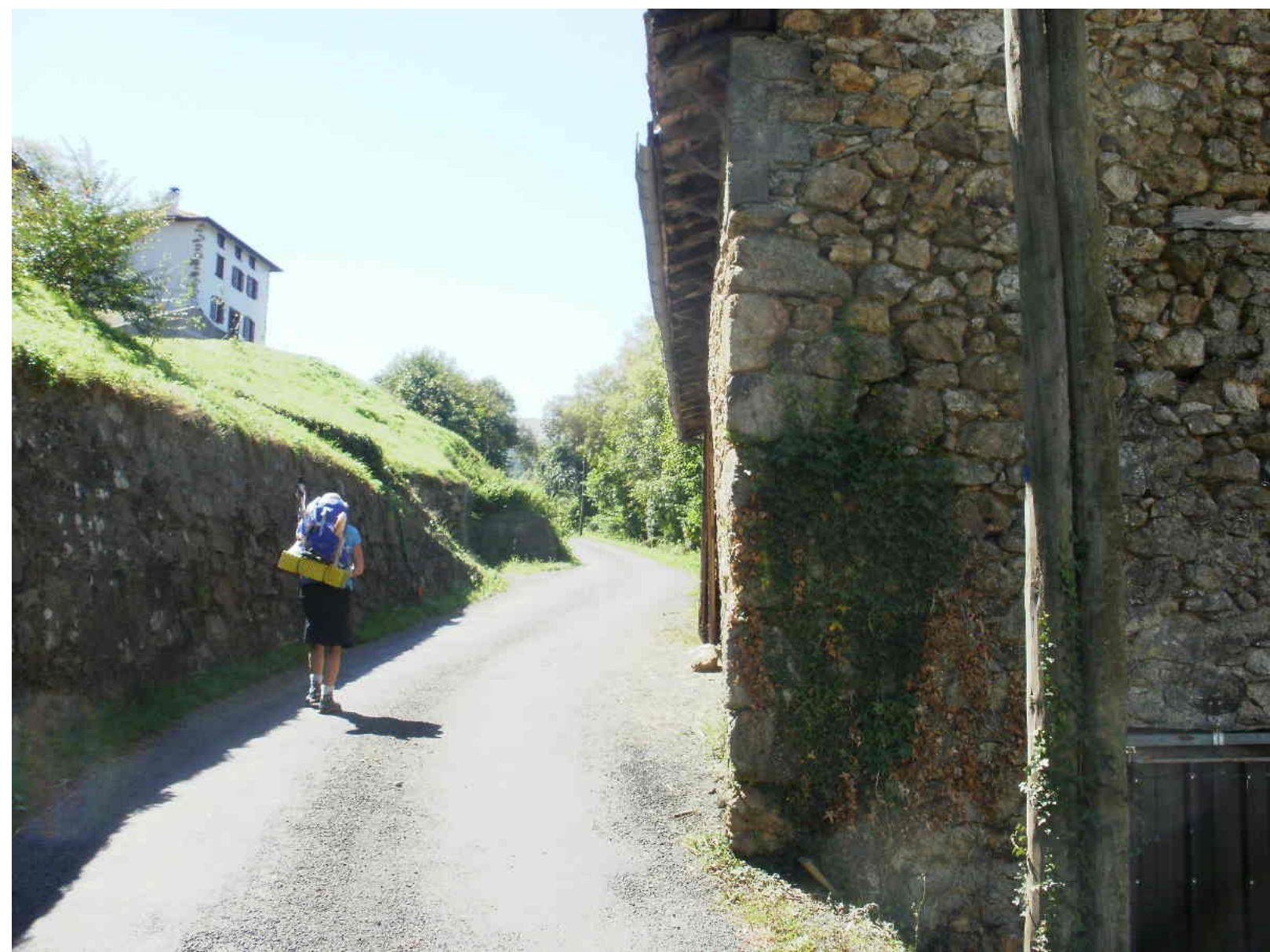


*Ondarolle, a mountain village*



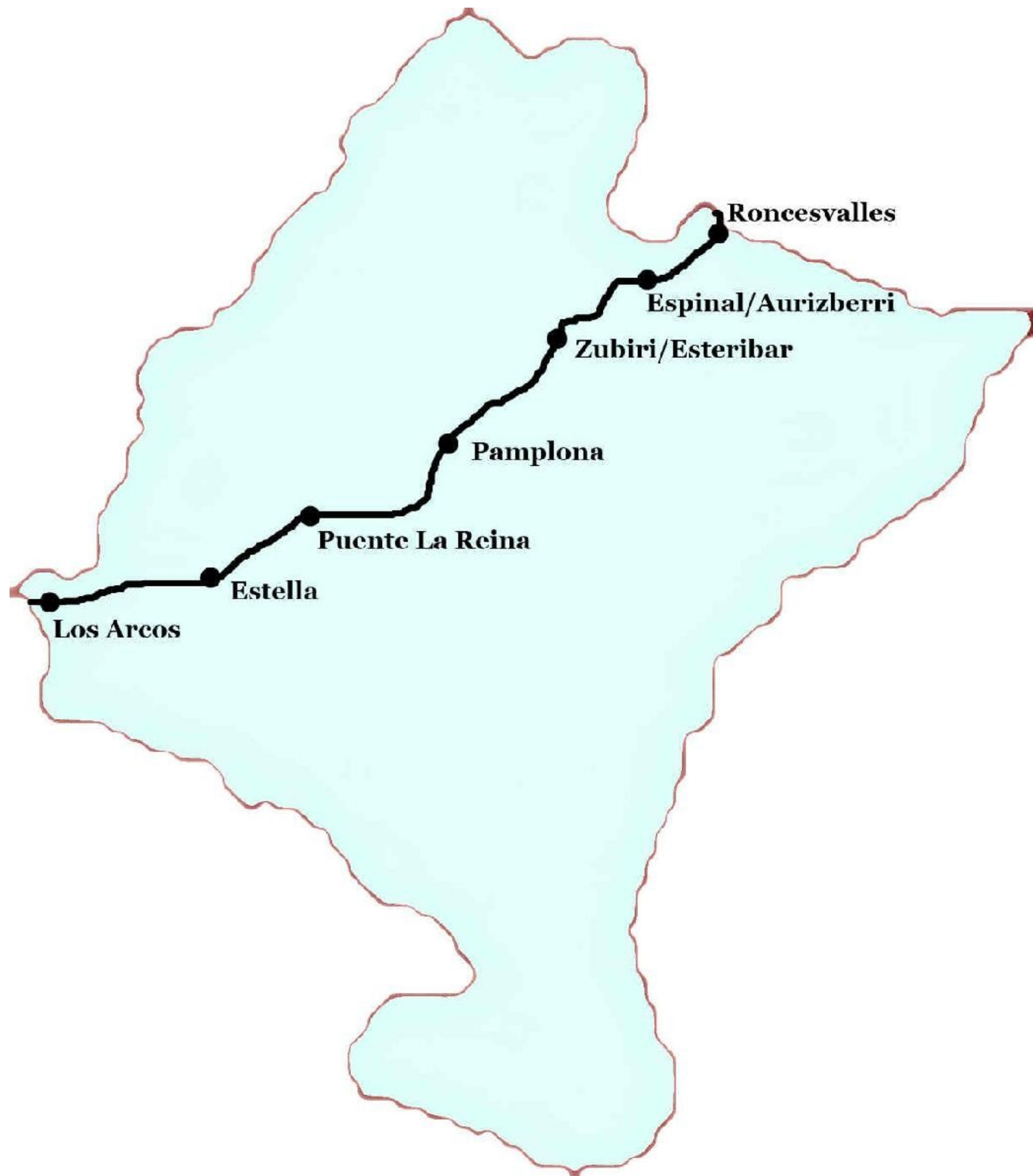
*Note the yellow trail indicator on the right pole, which we missed and ended up walking back up into the Pyrenees.*





*The town of Valcarlos.*

# Navarra





# Roncesvalles

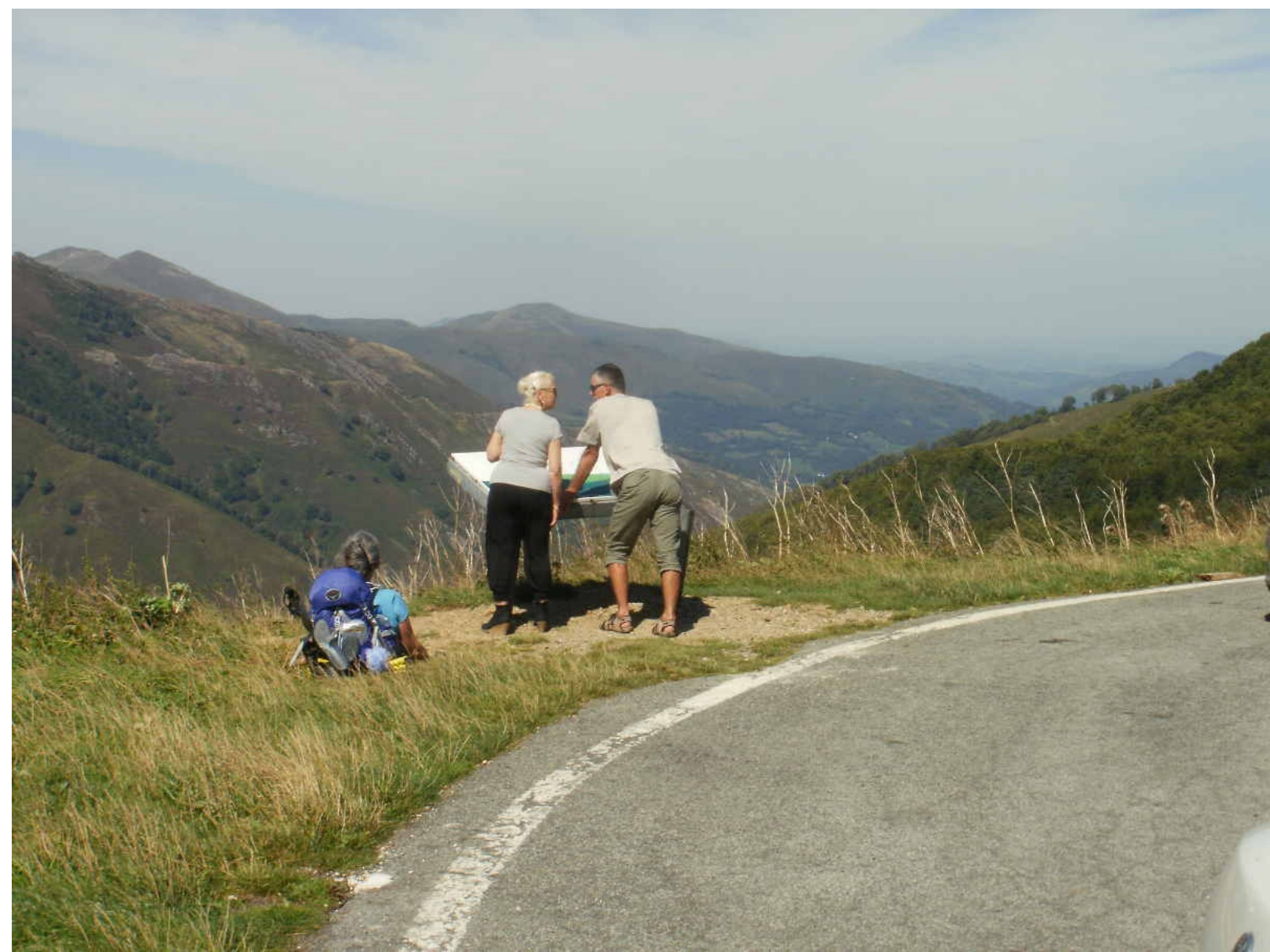
Distance: 14.5 km (9 m) from Valcarlos to Roncesvalles.

It was mid-morning by the time we left Valcarlos, sore and stiff from two days of climbing the Pyrenees.



*First shell sign seen in Spain*





*Panoramic vista*





*Monument commemorating the death of Roland (Aug. 15, 778)*



## Espinal/Aurizberri

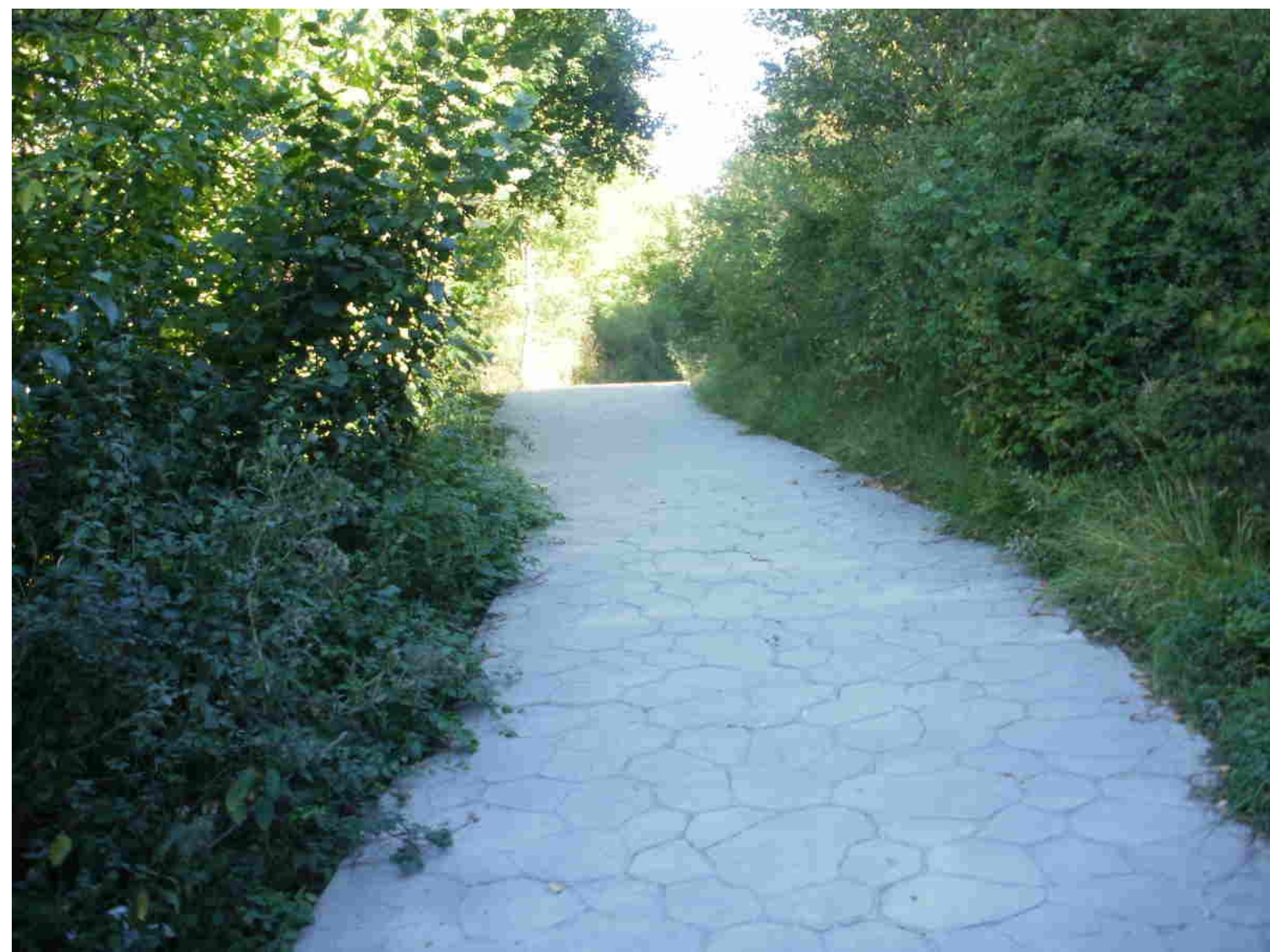
Distance: 6.8 km (4.2 m) from Roncesvalles to Espinal, plus 2.5 km (1.5 m) to campground.



**SANTIAGO DE  
COMPOSTELA 790**



*Leaving Roncesvalles. Approximately 490 miles to Santiago de Compostela.*



*Would the Camino be paved all the way?*





*A typical Camino path*



# Zubiri

Distance: 10.5 km (6.5 mi) from Espinal to Zubiri



*Camino village*



*I wonder where the left boots went?*





*Dinning room at the albergue El Palo de Avellano (The Hazel Stick) in Zubiri*

# Pamplona

Distance: 22 km (13.6 m) from Zubiri to Pamplona.



*The medieval bridge that crosses the river Arga is known as the "Rabies Bridge."*





*Colorful door and flower box*





*Olives*





*Entrance into the "old city" of Pamplona, the capital of Navarra*



*Square that is the starting point for the Fiesta de San Fermin (the running of the bulls).*



## Alto de Perdón

Distance: 13.1 km (8.1 m) from Pamplona to Alto del Perdón.



*Monument to Koks Frans, a Belgium pilgrim who died here.*



*Typical Camino de Santiago street, Zariquiegui*





*Vicente Galvete's cast-iron sculpture on Mount of Forgiveness reflect the centuries-old Camino.*

# Puente la Reina

Distance: 12.7 km (7.9 m) from Alto de Perdón to Puente la Reina.



Obanos, Spain





el altar todo de los puros  
 o de una cosa  
 en el pueblo de Barro,  
 en este rincón,  
 pasando a la comarca de las Salinas.  
 En estos tiempos  
 todos los peregrinos,  
 moraban las calles  
 de esta noble villa de Barro.

Este elemento conlleva  
 a un homenaje  
 a través de un  
 gra con el nombre  
 de la villa y un  
 parte de su historia



Naifuean barroa denera bi bide nagusirik,  
 ude baltatu Aragoitei daturonak  
 eta baltatu Aragoitei bide dener,  
 dener Euzkara ibroa guretatara auzonak,  
 eta Euzkara guretatara biltatu eta  
 Barroa bide aldaka  
 iun berka berria paratua,  
 bi bidek dena dener bat egitea diti,  
 Barro herria  
 eta Salinas elkarrean unuan  
 gure bideak berria guretik  
 Barro herri noble  
 eta dundakiko herriak berria  
 biltzen ari.

Eskutua ber  
 egun berria aldaka auzonak biltzen eta  
 berria guretatara berria  
 guretatara biltzen.

Barro-Elizak  
 Barro-Elizak  
 Barro-Elizak



Este elemento conlleva a un homenaje a través de un gra con el nombre de la villa y un parte de su historia

The Camino Aragonés joins the Camino Francés





*A Romanesque six-arched bridge, Puente la Reina*



*Church of the Crucifix, Ponte la Reina*

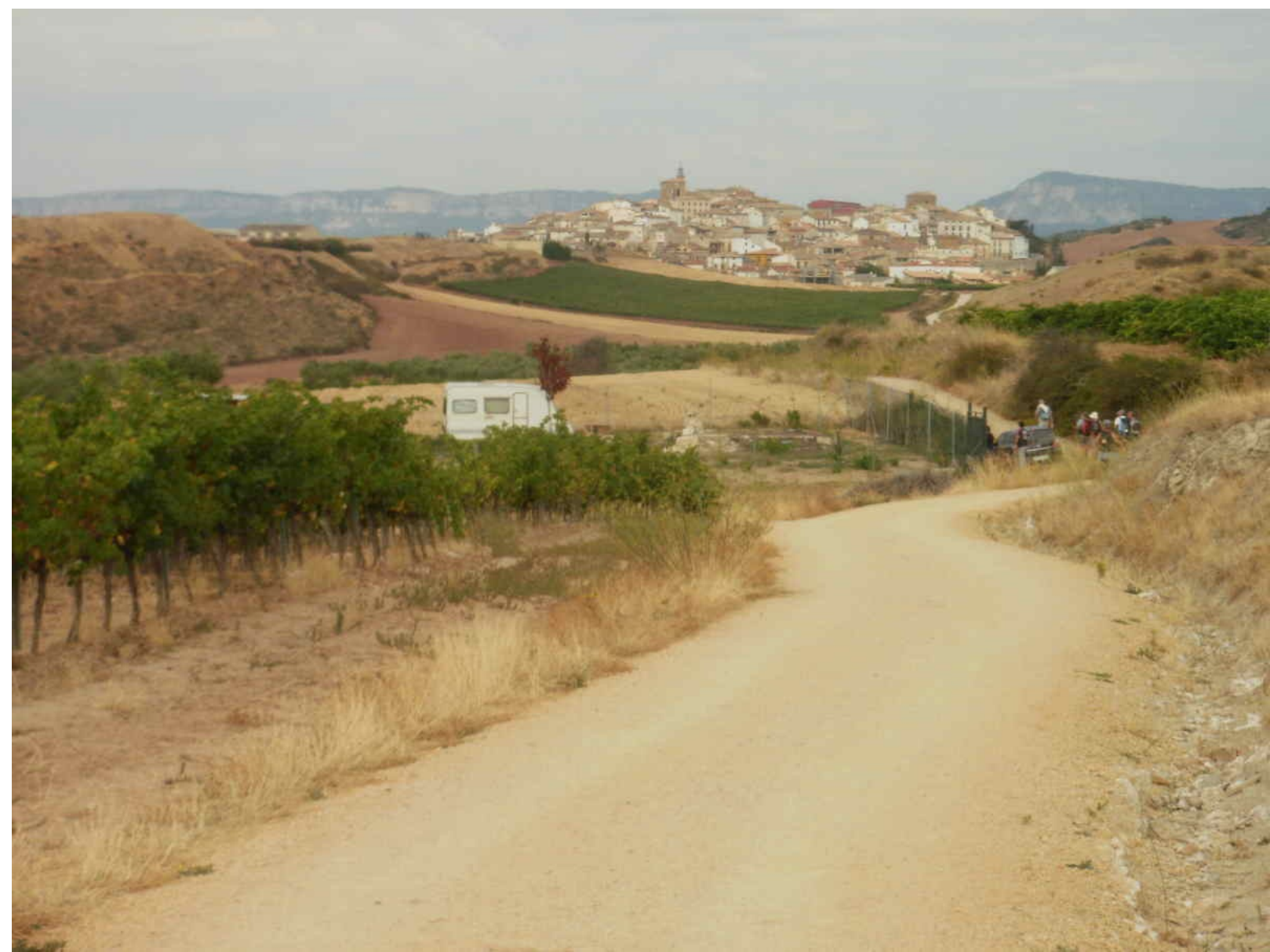


## Estella

Distance: 21.1 km (13.11 n) from Puente la Reina to Estella.



*Mañeru fountain*



*Approaching Cirauqui (Basque word for "nest of vipers")*





*Calle Portal, Cirauqui*





*Typical hay bales*



*Pilgrim weather vane*





*Chapel of San Miguel*



*San Miguel Church, Estella*







*San Miguel Church, Estella*

## Los Arcos

Distance: 20.1 km (12.5 m) from Estella to Los Arcos.

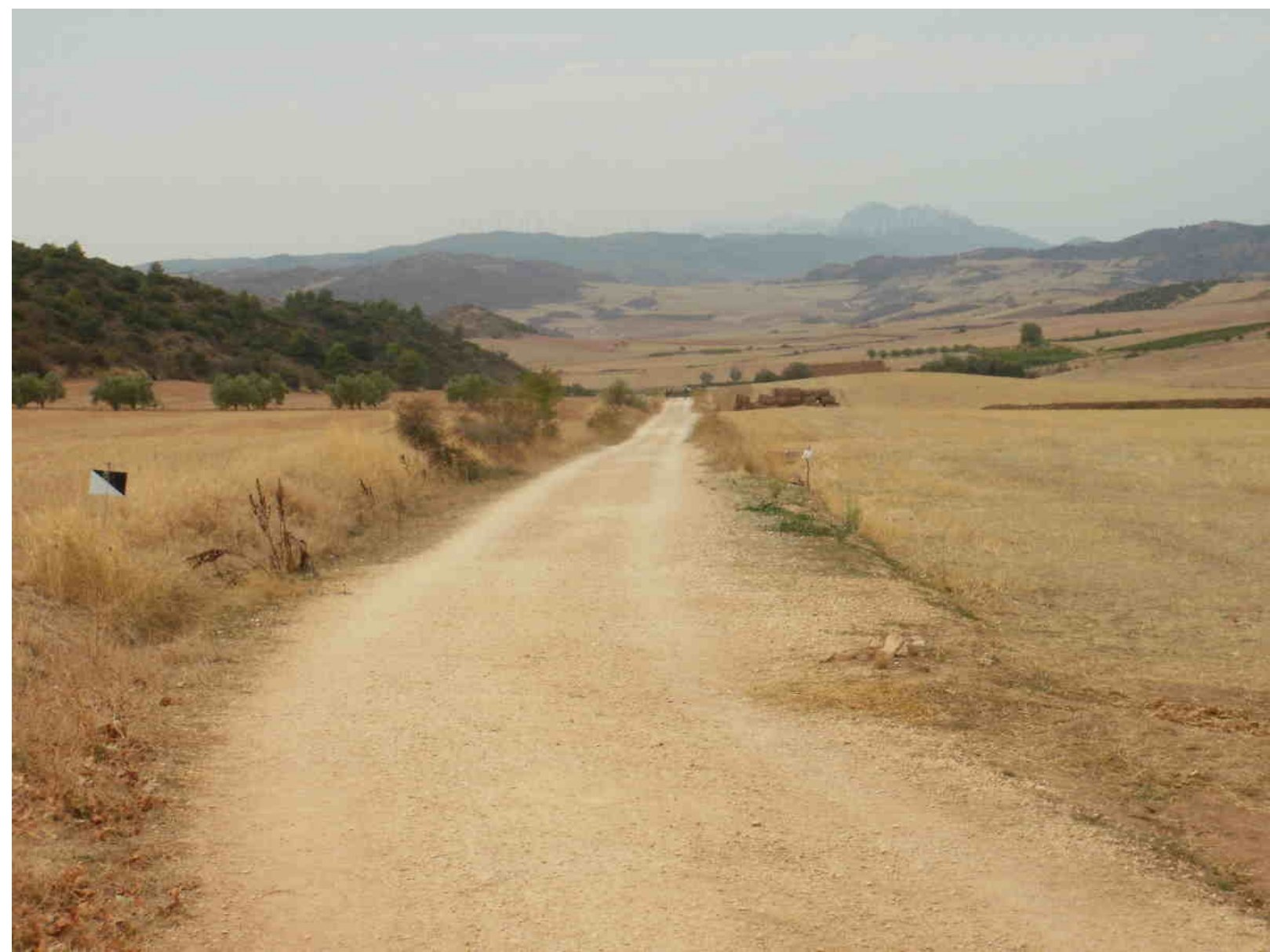


*The Benedictine monastery, Santa Maria la Real in Irache, Spain*





*The Fuente de Irache offers the pilgrim a choice of water or wine.*



*Approaching Los Arcos*



# La Rioja



# Logroño

Distance: 29.8 km (18.5 m) from Los Arcos to Logroño.



*Church of Santa María la Real, Los Arcos*





*Landscape showing Iberian Range*



*La Rioja vineyards*





*San Sol*



*Landscape near Viana*







*La Rioja Shell marker*



*Festival of San Mateo (wine harvest), Logroño*



# Navarrete

Distance: 11.9 km (7.4 m) from Logroño to Navarrete.



*The ruins of the 12th century pilgrims hostel San Juan de Acre, Navarrete*



*Navarrete*





*The Osborne bull is about 14 meters (46 feet) tall and is a cultural Spanish symbol.*

# Nájera

Distance: 16.9 km (10.5 m) from Navarrete to Nájera.



*Vineyards*





*Waypost*



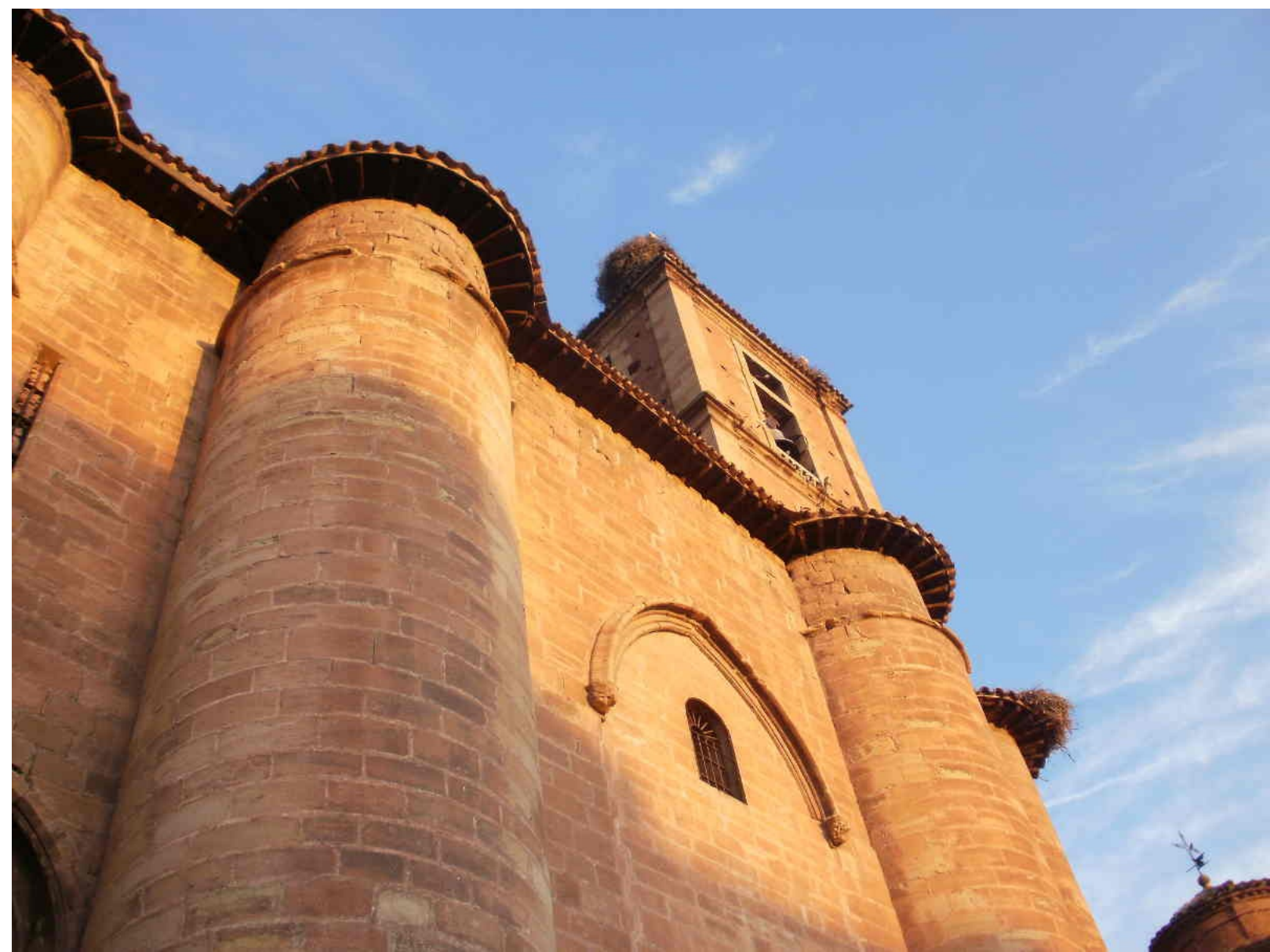


*Pilgrim statue leaving Ventosa*





*San Saturnino of on the outskirts of Ventosa*



*Stork nest on Santa María la Real of Nájera*



# Azofra

Distance: 5.8 km (about 3.5 m) from Nájera to Azofra.



*Leaving Nájera*



*Azofra*





*Azofra*

# Cirueña

Distance: 10 km (6.25 m) from Azofra to Cirueña.



*Albergue Virgen de Guadalupe in Cirueña*



# Grañón

Distance: 12.8 km (8.0 m) from Cirueña to Grañón.

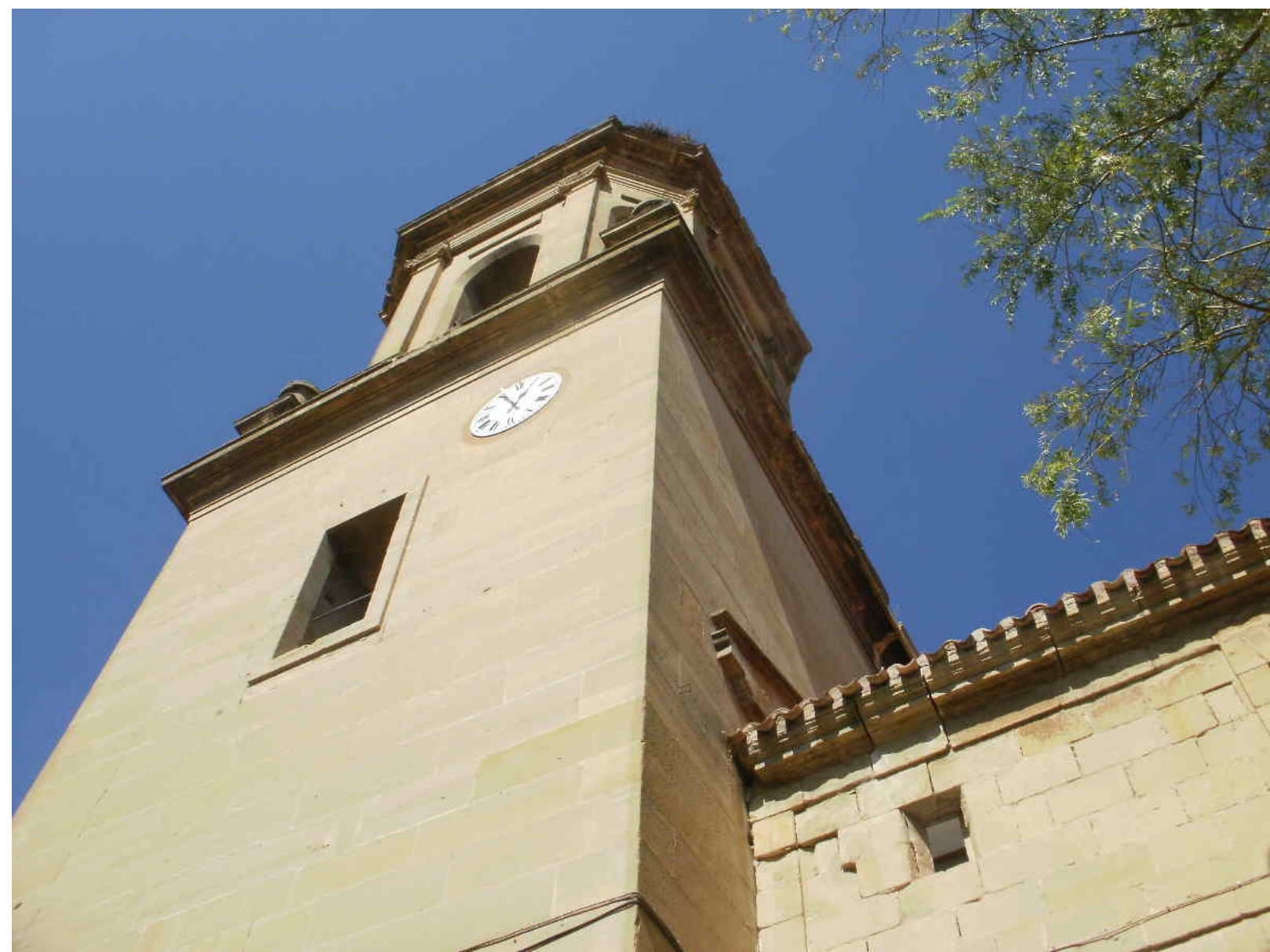


*Wildflowers*



*Santo Domingo de la Calzada*





*The albergue San Juan Bautista is located below the bell tower of this church in Grañón*



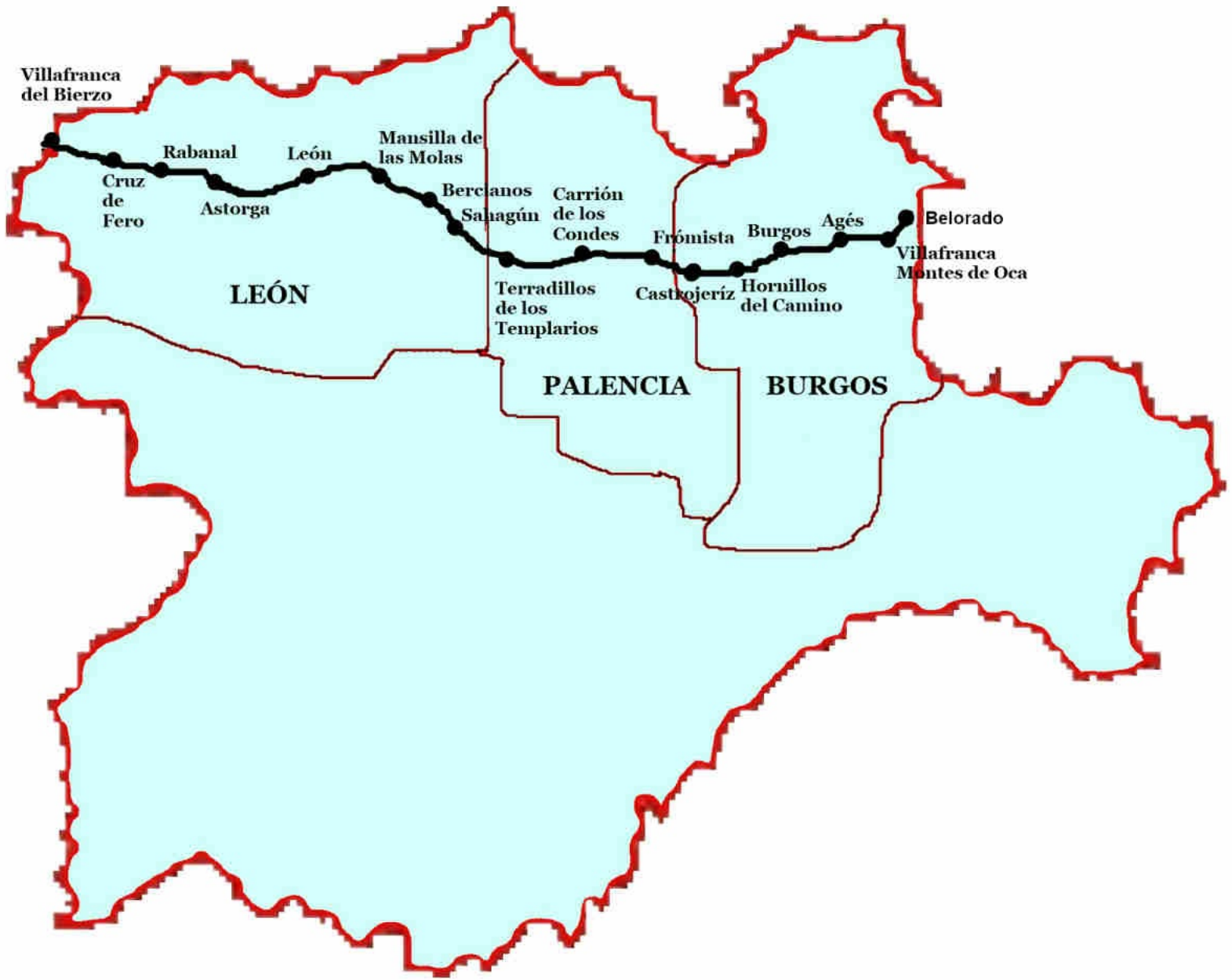
*Grañón*





*Leaving Grañón*

# Castile and León





# Belorado

Distance: 14.9 km (9.25 m) from Grañón to Belorado.





*Entering the region of Castile and León*



*The landscape in late September*





*Santa María La Mayor in Belorado*

## Villafranca Montes de Oca

Distance: 11.1 km (6.9 m) from Belorado to Villafranca Montes de Oca.



*Monasterio S. Felix de Oca*





*Hotel/Albergue San Anton Abad*



Sign describing the Montes de Oca



## Agés

Distance: 16.1 km (10 m) from Villafranca Montes de Oca to Agés.



*Monte de la Pedraja 1936 Memorial commemorating the 300 people murdered during the Spanish Civil War.*



*Shriveled sunflowers*





*Agés*



# Burgos

Distance: 19.5 km (12.1 m) from Agés to Burgos.



*Alto de Motagrande*





*Wild ornamental grass*



*Arco de Santa Maria*



## Hornillos del Camino

Distance 20.8 km (12.9 m) from Burgos to Hornillos del Camino.



*Canal del Arlanzón*



*Rabe de las Calzadas*





*Rabe de las Calzada*

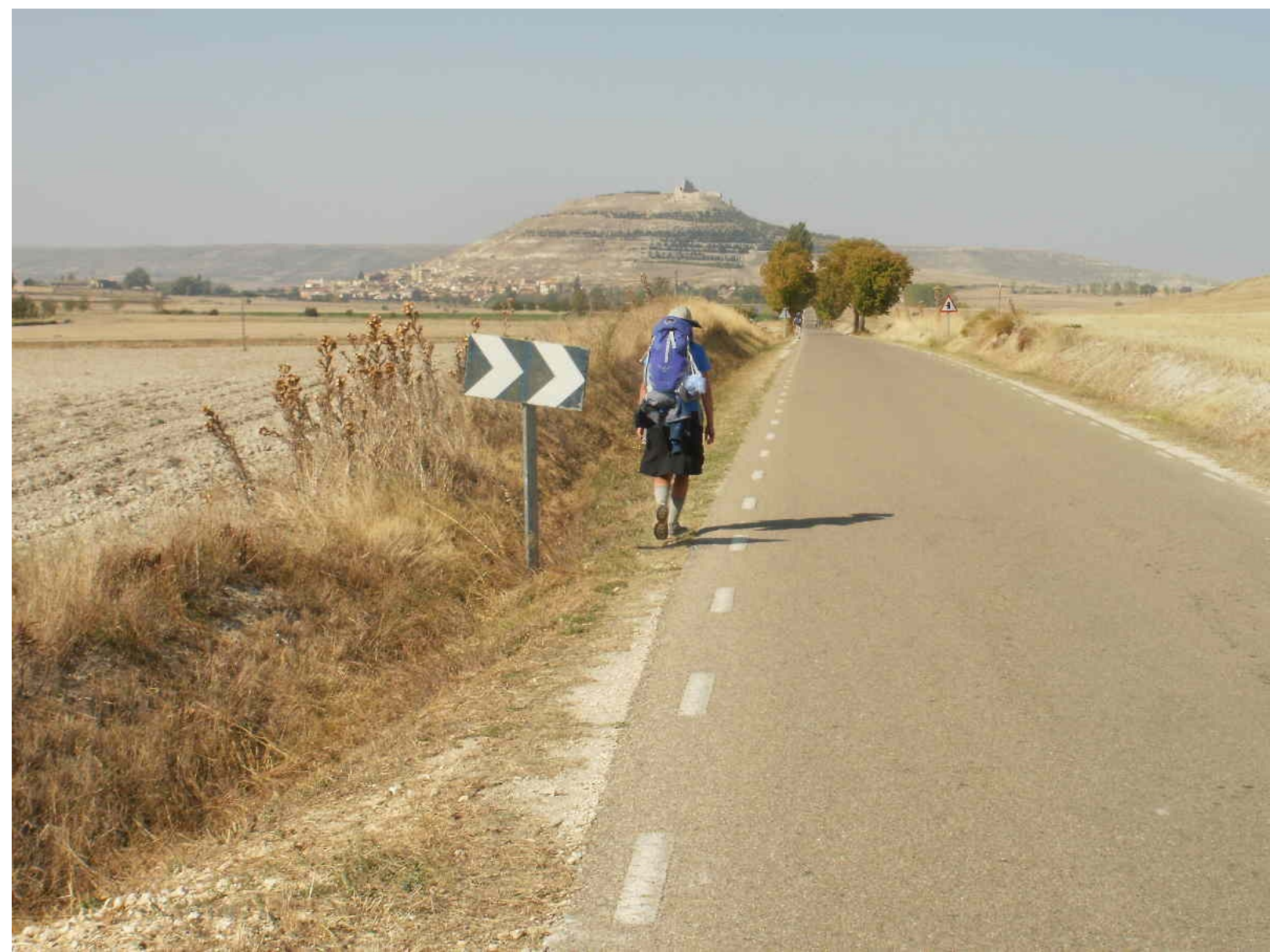
# Castrojeriz

Distance: 20.9 km (13.0 m) from Hornillos del Camino to Castrojeriz.



*San Bol*





*Castrojeriz*



*A splotch of color on the Meseta*



# Frómista

Distance: 23.9 km (14.9 m) from Castrojeriz to Frómista.

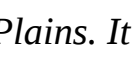


*Castrojeriz in background*



*11th century Romanesque church, San Martín, Frómista*





## La avutarda, reina del llano

La avutarda es la joya ornitológica de las comarcas cerealistas de Tierra de Campos, donde se concentra el grueso de su población ibérica, así como gran parte de sus efectivos europeos. Es un ave de gran tamaño y aspecto pesado, a pesar de lo cual resulta sorprendentemente ágil en el medio agrícola en el que se desenvuelve. Tan solo en vuelo llama la atención por su gran envergadura y por las grandes manchas de color blanco que luce en las alas.

Al principio de la primavera, los machos se reúnen en determinados oteros donde realizan una espectacular ceremonia de celo, con pavoneos que buscan atraer a las hembras. Tras la época de cría, es frecuente observar bandos numerosos de avutardas que nomadean por los campos, siendo la ZEPA Camino de Santiago uno de los mejores lugares para su observación.

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ESPECÍMENES DE LA AVUTARDA

La avutarda es un ave de gran tamaño y aspecto pesado, a pesar de lo cual resulta sorprendentemente ágil en el medio agrícola en el que se desenvuelve. Tan solo en vuelo llama la atención por su gran envergadura y por las grandes manchas de color blanco que luce en las alas.



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*This sign written in Spanish and Braille describes the Great Bustard – The Queen of Plains. It is Europe's heaviest bird and the biggest flying bird.*

# Carrión de los Condes

Distance: 18.9 km (11.7 m) from Frómista to Carrión de los Condes.



*Shepard with flock*





*Revenge de Campos*



*Approaching Carrion de los Condes*



## Terradillos de los Templarios

Distance: 25.8 km (16.0 m) from Carrión de los Condes to Terradillos de los Templarios.



*Leaving the province of Palencia*



*Terradillos de los Templarios*





*Bicycle pilgrims*



## Bercianos del Real Camino

Distance: 22.0 km (13.7 m) from Terradillos de los Templarios to Bercianos del Real Camino.



*Ermita de la Virgen del Puente*





*Arco de San Benito, Sahagún*



*In 2011, volunteers from the American Pilgrims of the Camino hosted this albergue.*



# Mansilla de las Mulas

Distance: 28.9 km (18 m) from Bercianos del Real Camino to Mansilla de las Mulas



*Earthen homes in Reliegos*



*Bar Elvis, Reliegos*





*Mansilla de las Mulas*

# León

Distance: 18.9 km (11.9 m) from Mansilla de las Mulas to León.



*Parador "Hostal San Marcos"*



# Villar de Mazarife

Distance: 21.2 km (13.2 m) from León to Villar de Mazarife.



*Villar de Mazarife*

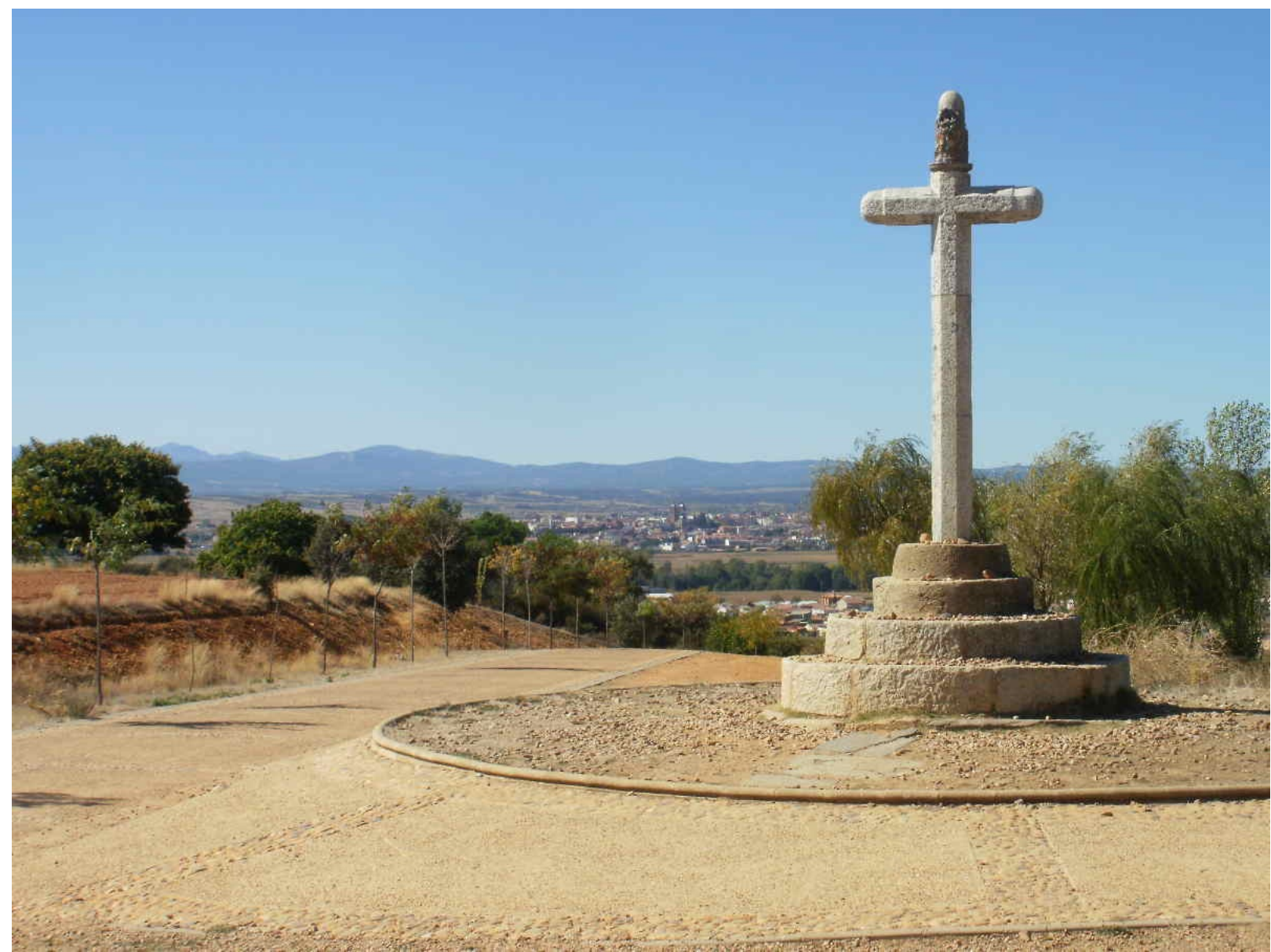
# Astorga

Distance: 28.9 km (18.0 m) from Villar de Mazarife to Astorga.



*Hospital de Órbigo*





*Crucero de Santo Toribio and the city of Astorga in background*



*Astorga*

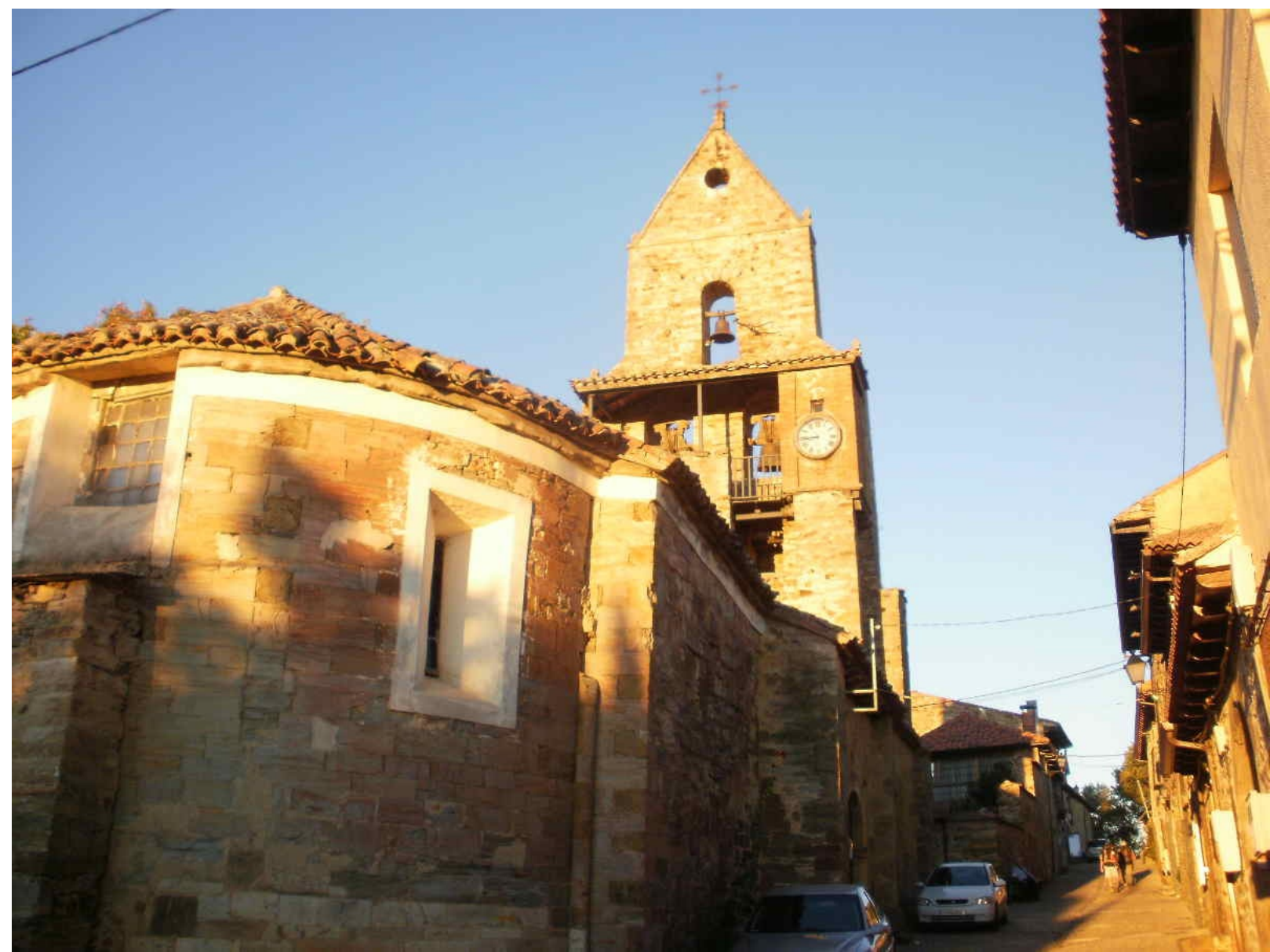


# Rabanal del Camino

Distance: 21.2 km (13.2 m) from Astorga to Rabanal Del Camino.



*Rabanal del Camino*



*Capilla de San Jose, Rabanal del Camino*





*Foncebadón*

# Molinaseca

Distance: 25.1 km (15.6 m) from Rabanal del Camino to Molinaseca.



*Cruz de Ferro*





*Manjarin*





*Molinaseca*



# Villafranca del Bierzo

Distance: 27.4 km (17.0 m) from Molinaseca to Villafranca del Bierzo.



*Ponferrada*





*Gourd garden*





*Columbianos*



*Camponaraya*





*Cacabelos wine press*

# Galicia



A map of Galicia, Spain, with a red outline and a light blue fill. A black line represents a route starting from Santiago de Compostela and ending at Pedrafita de Cebreiro. The route passes through several towns: O Pedrouzo, Arzúa, Melide, Palas de Rei, Portomarín, Sarria, and Samos.

O Pedrouzo

Arzúa

Melide

Palas de Rei

Portomarín

Sarria

Samos

Pedrafita de Cebreiro

**SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

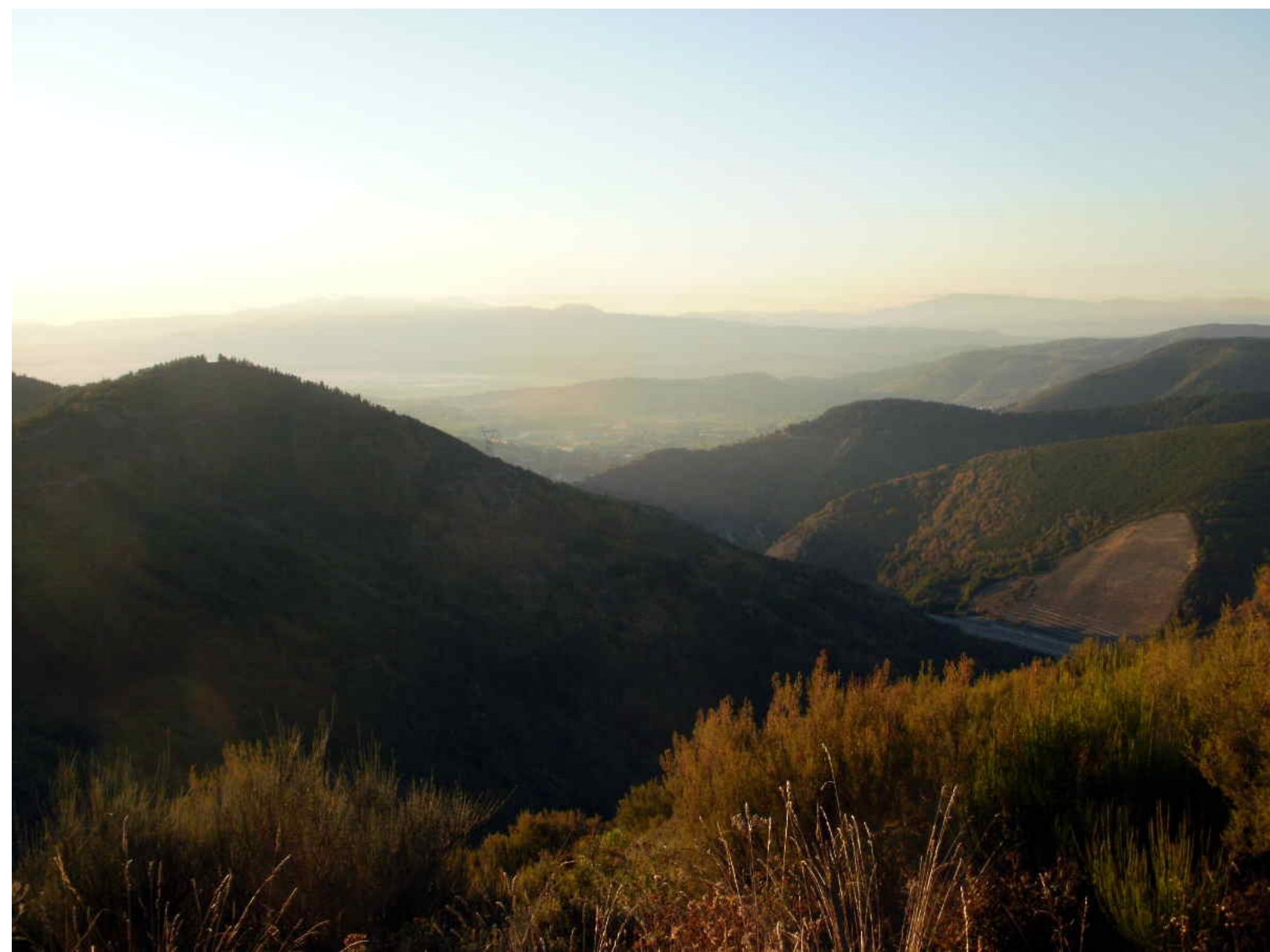


## Pedrafita do Cebreiro

Distance: 33.3 km (20.7 m) from Villafranca del Bierzo to Pedrafita do Cebreiro.



*Looking back at Villafranca del Bierzo*



*Sunrise in the Ancares mountain range*





*Charming building*



## Triacastela

Distance: 24.6 km (15.3 m) from Pedrafita do Cebreiro to Triacastela.



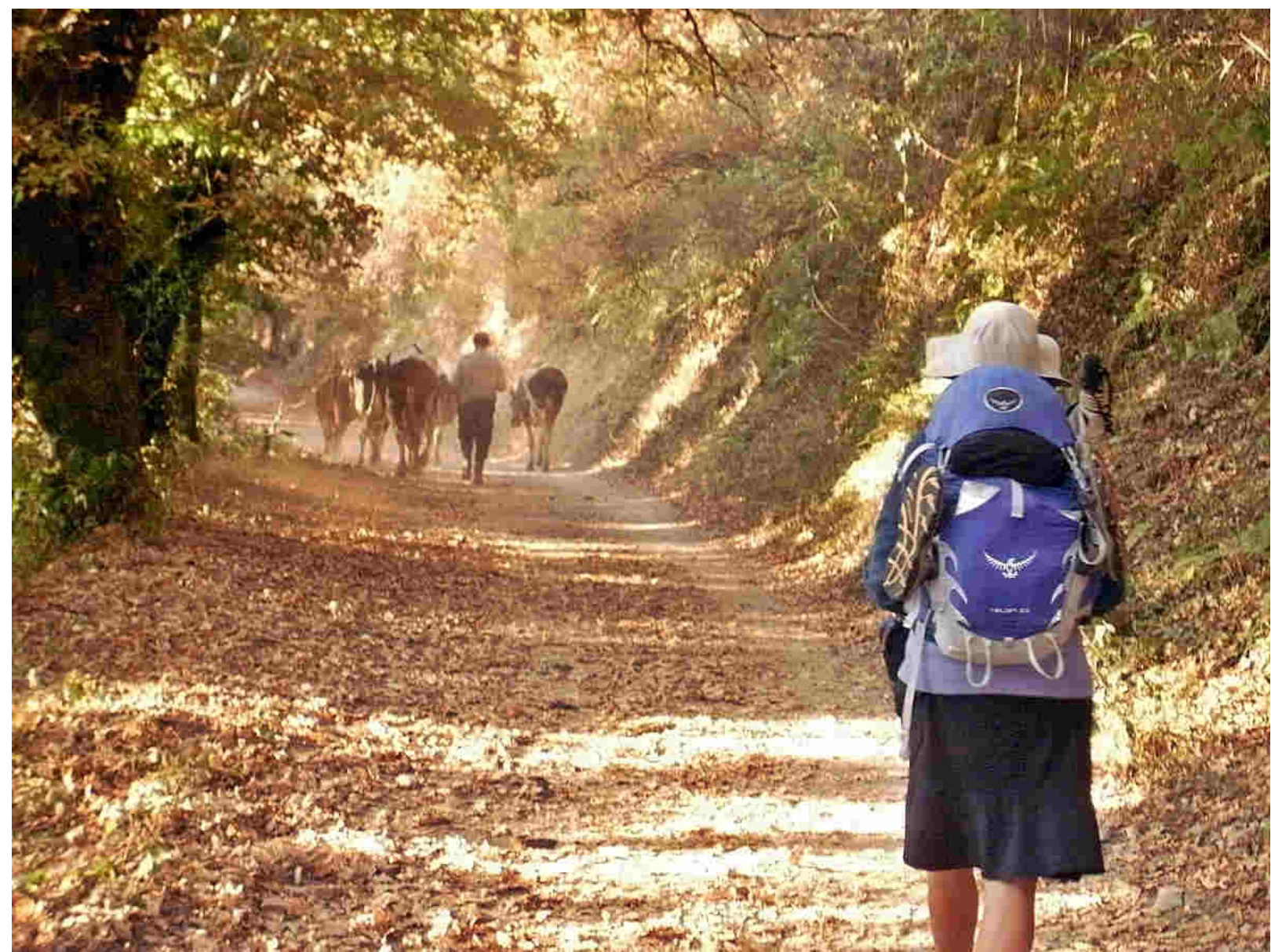
*Near Alto do Cebreiro. Altitude—1,300 m (4265 ft)*





*Descending from O Cebreiro*





*Bucolic scene*



# Sarria

Distance: 21.7 km (13.5 m) from Triacastela to Sarria.



*Mosteiro de San Xulián de Samos, an active Benedictine monastery in Samos*



*Morning break: café con leche or cocoa with croissant*





*Sarria*

# Portomarín

Distance: 21.2 km (13.2 m) from Sarria to Portomarín.



*100 Kilometer marker*





*Puncheon logs over riverbed*



*Portomarín*



## Palas de Rei

Distance: 24.1 km (15.0 m) from Portomarín to Palas de Rei.



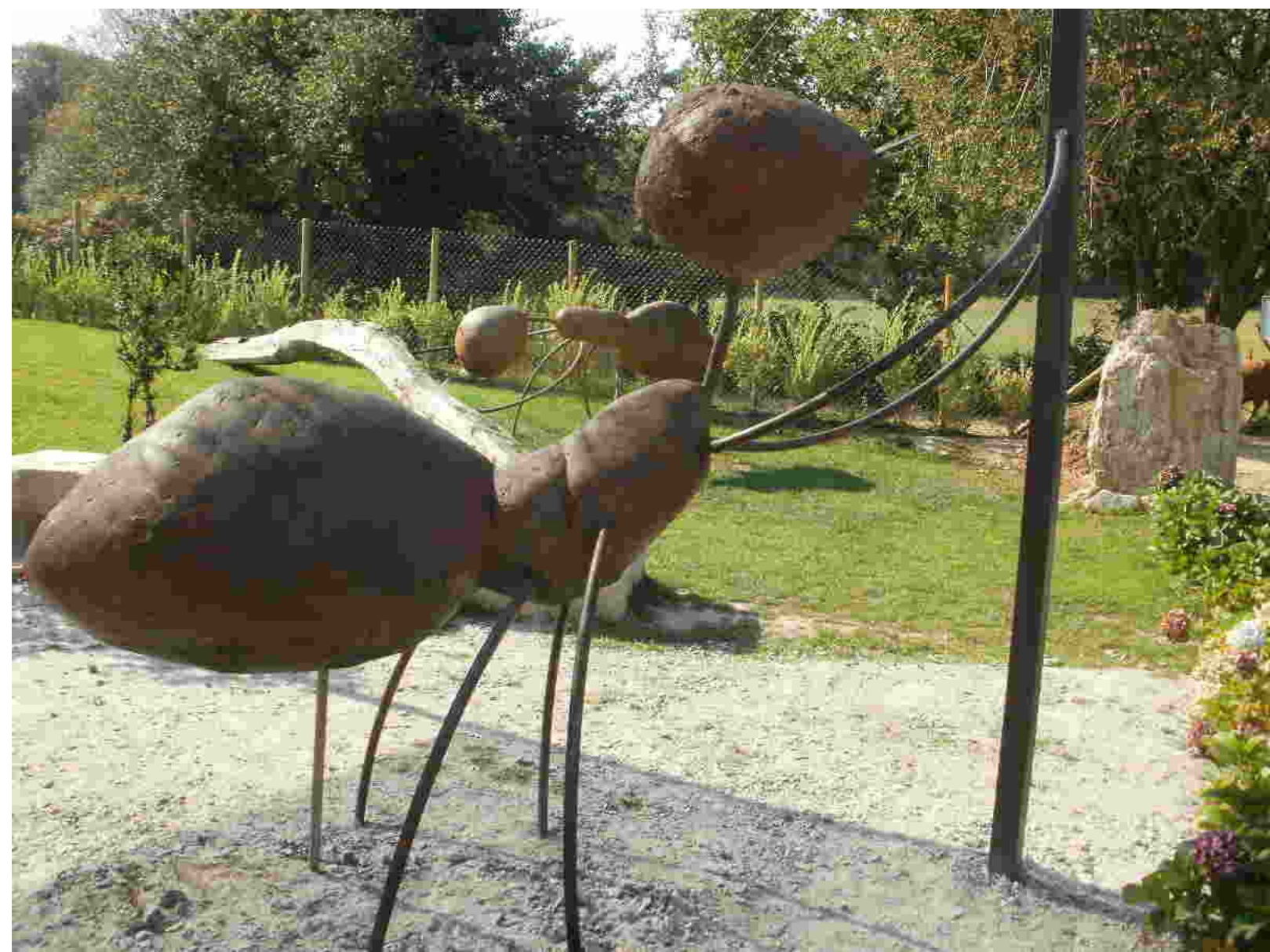
*Hórreo (granary)*





*Traffic on the last 100 kilometers*





*Albergue Paso de Formiga in Palas de Rei has ant sculptures in yard.*

# Arzúa

Distance: 27.9 km (17.3 m) from Palas de Rei to Arzúa.



*Hazy morning*





*Eucalyptus forest*



*Pilgrims in raingear*



## O Pedrouzo

Distance: 19.2 km (11.9 m) from Arzúa to O Pedrouzo.



*Only 15 miles to go*

# Santiago de Compostela

Distance: 18.1 km (11.25 m) from O Pedrouzo to Santiago de Compostela.



*Monte de Gozo*





*Santiago de Compostela*







*Cathedral Santiago de Compostela*



## Parting Words

Dear reader,

I hope you enjoyed this glimpse of the Camino de Santiago. My goal was to showcase the beauty of the Camino—all 500 miles of it—and, perhaps, entice you to walk the Camino.

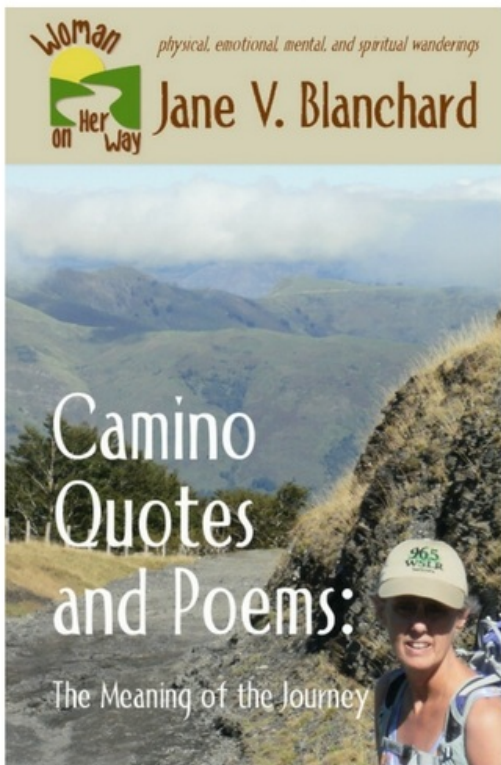
If you liked this photo essay, I would appreciate your helping me spread the word about the ebook. Please tell your friends about it. If you have time, please write a short review on the site where you purchased it. Your review could make a difference to readers trying to decide if the book is right for them.

If you are preparing for the journey, I hope you will consider my book, [\*Camino Tips: How to get the most out of "The Way."\*](#) If you would like to read about my journey and the discussions I had with other women pilgrims, please check out [\*Women of the Way: Embracing the Camino.\*](#)

If you are looking for a shorter European hike, I recommend Hadrian's Wall Path in northern England. It takes only 7 to 10 days to hike the 84-mile coast-to-coast path. You can read about my experience in [\*Hadrian's Wall Path: Walking into History.\*](#)

If you would like to read more about my adventures, please follow me [on my travel blog](#). Sign up for my newsletter to find out about upcoming trips, sales, or book releases.

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## About the Author

Jane V. Blanchard is the award-winning author of the "Woman on Her Way" series. Since she retired in 2011, she has visited sixteen countries by foot and by bicycle and written five books about her wanderings.

When she married in 1974, she joked with her husband Dennis about creating a lifetime of memories so they could have something to chat about when sitting in rockers in their old age. Now in her mid-60s, she is still creating memories, experiencing life as fully as possible, and looking forward to a long future. "I have to live long enough to write about all my adventures."

Besides having adventures and then writing about them, Jane enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

## The "Woman On Her Way" Books

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[Women of the Way: Embracing the Camino](#)

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