



Fostering the enduring tradition of the Camino

Camino *portugués*

General Description: The Camino portugués follows the Atlantic coast of northern Portugal and Galicia. 240 km from Porto in Portugal northward via Tui, Pontevedra and Padrón to Santiago. You must start from Tui (110 km) on the Portuguese-Galician border or further south to earn a compostela.

Waymarking: The route is well waymarked although in a variety of styles. From the cathedral in Porto northward, the route is well marked with traditional yellow arrows. In addition however there are blue arrows pointing southward in the direction of Fatima. The northernmost 50 or 60 km in Portugal also have the red and white markings of a GR route, GR11-E9 in this case. Once in Galicia, at Tui, the familiar yellow arrows are plentiful and are supplemented by the kilometer posts of the Xunta de Galicia giving directions and the distance to Santiago.

Terrain: Being a coastal route, the path does cross numerous river drainages as they approach the Atlantic resulting in a series of ups and downs. Generally the route is through agricultural land but this is interspersed with pine and eucalyptus forests. The route generally follows the important transportation route up the coast and so is never very far from these roads. Still the path has for the most part been laid out to avoid contact with major highways, the exception being the entrance to and exit from cities and towns.

When to go: Portugal and Galicia naturally have a climate dictated by their proximity to the ocean and as such have changeable maritime weather. There is generous rainfall which at times can be prolonged and heavy. June, July and August are the months with the least rainfall but these are of course the months with the greatest potential for hot, humid weather. September might present the best compromise. Climate tables for [Porto](#) and [Pontevedra](#).

Accommodation: There are a number of pilgrim-specific albergues in both Portugal and Galicia. In addition there are the usual assortment of hotels, hostales and pensiones/fondas in cities and towns of any size. Being a coastal area this is a destination for summer vacationers and pressure on accommodations becomes heavy in these months.

Guidebooks: [The Confraternity of Saint James](#): A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Portugués by John Brierley. The [Wise Pilgrim](#) series.

Internet links: The blog "[Life – One Big Adventure](#)" by an Australian pilgrim has a very good "nuts and bolts" description of her walk on the *portugués* in the spring of 2016. [The Confraternity of Saint James](#) has an overview of the Camino portugués. The [Xunta de Galicia](#) has a section with extensive information on that portion of the [Camino portugués within Galicia](#) including history, tourism, albergues, other services and Santiago itself. The site of the [Amigos del Camino Portugués a Santiago](#) focuses on the portion of the route in Galicia, that is, from Tui (click on the large shell image). The site of the [Associação dos Amigos do Caminho](#)

[Português de Santiago](#) has a fair amount of information and a nice photo gallery. Be sure to click on the little book icon below the right end of the menu graphic.

Other remarks: The Camino *portugués* has a long history and was traveled by Isabel, the Queen of Portugal (1271-1336). And of course it is interesting for its position of being part of the connecting path between Santiago and Fatima, two of the most important Catholic shrines.

Rev 03/25/18