

## The Camino de Santiago de Compostela — Getting Started

The following includes a short list of websites and resources that can assist you with your initial preparation and general understanding of the many paths that make up the Camino de Santiago.

### Forums

Camino de Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage Forum: Probably the best camino forum site, run by Ivar Rekve with nearly 50,000 members and counting — [www.caminodesantiago.me/](http://www.caminodesantiago.me/)

### Associations (just a few of the many throughout the world)

Canadian Company of Pilgrims — [www.santiago.ca/](http://www.santiago.ca/)

The Confraternity of Saint James — [www.csj.org.uk](http://www.csj.org.uk)

The Irish Society of Friends of St. James — [www.caminosociety.ie](http://www.caminosociety.ie)

American Pilgrims on the Camino — [www.americanpilgrims.com](http://www.americanpilgrims.com)

The Confraternity of St. James South Africa — [www.csjofsa.za.org](http://www.csjofsa.za.org)

The Confraternity of St. James Norway — [www.pilegrim.no](http://www.pilegrim.no)

Nederlands Genootschap van Sint Jacob — [www.santiago.nl](http://www.santiago.nl)

### Guide Books (a sample of a few good English guides)

A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino De Santiago by John Brierley

A Village to Village Guide to Hiking the Camino De Santiago: Camino Frances: St Jean - Santiago - Finisterre by Anna Dintaman and David Landis

Pilgrim Tips & Packing List Camino de Santiago: What you need to know beforehand, what you need to take, and what you can leave at home by S. Yates and Daphne Hnatiuk

The Pilgrimage Road to Santiago: The Complete Cultural Handbook by David M Gitlitz and Linda Kay Davidson

Seven Tips to Make the Most of the Camino de Santiago: Second Edition by Cheri Powell

### Recent Films

Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago: February 2013 - Now on DVD

The Way: September 2011 - Now on DVD

### General Information Websites (just a couple of the many websites on the Camino)

Mundicamino: Great Spanish multi-language site with detailed stage information and maps on 30 different routes that finish in Santiago — [www.mundicamino.com](http://www.mundicamino.com)

Jacobeo: A multi-lingual informative site — [www.jacobeo.net](http://www.jacobeo.net)

## **Transportation links for Getting There and Back**

Alsa National Express: National bus company for Spain — [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

Conda S.A.: Spanish buses from Madrid to Pamplona — [www.conda.es](http://www.conda.es)

Renfe: Spanish railway — [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

SNCF: French railway — [www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

For advance booking and purchase of train tickets from outside of Europe.

For France and Spain: — [petrabax.com](http://petrabax.com)

For France only: — [en.voyages-sncf.com/en](http://en.voyages-sncf.com/en)

Ryan Air: Discount flights in/out of Santiago & Spain — [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

easyJet: Discount flights in/out of Santiago and Spain — [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Santiago Airport — [www.aena-aeropuertos.es/csee/Satellite/Aeropuerto-Santiago](http://www.aena-aeropuertos.es/csee/Satellite/Aeropuerto-Santiago)

Madrid Airport (Alternate to London/Paris) — [www.madrid-mad.com](http://www.madrid-mad.com)

Madrid Metro — [www.metromadrid.es](http://www.metromadrid.es)

Paris Airport — [www.aeroportsdeparis.fr](http://www.aeroportsdeparis.fr)

Paris Metro — [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

## **While in Santiago de Compostela**

The Pilgrim Office in Santiago de Compostela — [www.peregrinossantiago.es](http://www.peregrinossantiago.es)

The Pilgrim Tourist Office in Santiago de Compostela — [www.santiagoturismo.com](http://www.santiagoturismo.com)

## **Personal Accounts**

There are hundreds of blogs, videos, published journals and books of individual accounts of walking the camino, so many so that it would take a lifetime to either read them all. Just search using Google, selecting blogs, video, or books, and any time and/or any country as search parameters to find them.

## **Beyond the Camino Francés or French Route**

For those pilgrims ready to venture on, there are numerous routes in Europe to consider and explore. One site to check out is: The Pilgrim Route Database. Peter Robin's original database of routes has been moved to open source GitHub and the new database offers information on more than 300 pilgrim trails in Europe — <http://pilgrimdb.github.io>