

Reading List

An internet search will unearth a boatload of info about the Camino. This is a compilation of Camino readings by some PHL area folks who are participating in our group. It is an eclectic list of readings and websites for those thinking about journeying one the various routes to Santiago and for returned wayfarers interested in poking through some of the seemingly endless stories of the Camino on the Internet. What! Your favorite isn't on the list? Then send me harrycerino@yahoo.com the info and I'll include it.

From Lois Evans:

- Brierley, J. (2013). *A pilgrim's guide to the Camino de Santiago*. Scotland: Camino Guides.
- Rupp, J. (2005). **Walk in a relaxed manner: Life lessons from the Camino**. Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books. [While I had this on my TO DO list, I didn't actually read it til AFTER the Camino; I think in retrospect, that was the best way to appreciate it.]
- Carson, A. (1995). **Plainwater: Essays and poetry**. New York: Vintage Books [it is Part V, *The Anthropology of Water*, in which the poet richly and thoughtfully describes some of her experiences on the Camino]
- Perlman, I. (2012). **The Way**. Self-published by Izar Perlman. In this ebook, the author describes his experience of the Camino, mostly driving in a car, but interesting none the less, and gives access to a wonderful set of photos at <http://fast-change.com/way/>
- Jen, S. (2012). **The slacker pilgrim guide to the Camino de Santiago**. Self-published by Smashwords.com [another ebook personal experience, some helpful hints]
- Kelly, G. (2013). **Walking guide to the Camino de Santiago: History, culture architecture**. Self-published by Smashwords. [I downloaded the first few pages; this MAY be good, but I didn't buy it...seemed repetitive of Brierley]
- MacLaine, S., (2011). **The Camino: A journey of the spirit**. New York: Atria Books. And yes, I did read Shirley MacLaine's *The Camino*—on line...J a little goofy, but instructive none the less.
- I also read Bill Bryson's **A walk in the woods** in preparation for the experience [inner and outer] of the walk and enjoyed it very much.
- Marly Camino is the tour guide we used and we cannot recommend it enough. They are Madrid-based, and offer several options, including a self-guided/supported Camino. They respond quickly to any questions, regardless of how goofy J , via email. <http://marlycamino.com/> We took the Camino lite package, which had us walking about 117 k from Sarria to Santiago, enough to earn the certificate! The longest day was 12.5 miles; we had two nights in each of 4 different restored manor houses so we didn't have to pack/unpack daily.

From Harry Cerino & Jan Albaum

- Ashmore, Jean-Christie. (2011). **Camino de Santiago: To Walk Far Carry Less**. available via www.WalkFarMedia.com A good inspiration and plan outline to skinny-down the things to on the Camino. Jan & I brought even less stuff.
- Powell, Cheri. (2010) **Seven Tips to Make the Most of the Camino de Santiago**. available R.C. Linnell Publishing. A thoughtful combination of history, managing your expectations, and various things to think about as you plan a Camino venture.
- For those of you interested in journeying the Camino del Norte here are some resources that can be obtained from the on-line bookshop at the Confraternity of St James website a www.csj.org.uk
 - **Los Caminos del Norte**. Eric Walker & Chris Lennie. CSJ, London, 2013. 12 pp (introduction and map). (Pilgrim Guides to Spain #4) A summary of the northern [routes](#) to Santiago.
 - Camino del Norte / UK-Version (Table Calendar 2014 DIN A5 Portrait) - Author: Vossemer Stefan [Calendar] £16.06
 - **Los Caminos del Norte, A: Ruta de la Costa, 1:Irún-Villaviciosa** Eric Walker & Chris Lennie. CSJ, London, 2013. 96 pp. (Pilgrim Guides to Spain #4A1) This guide covers the first half of the Ruta de la Costa, from Irun to Villaviciosa along the coast
 - **Los Caminos del Norte, A: Ruta de la Costa, 2:Villaviciosa-Gijón-Arzua** Eric Walker. CSJ, London, 2010. 88 pp. (Pilgrim Guides to Spain #4A2) This guide covers the second half of the Ruta de la Costa, from Villaviciosa -Gijon along the coast to Ribadeo, and its inland continuation via Mondoedo to Arzua on the Camino Frances
 - **Los Caminos del Norte, F: Camino Primitivo** Chris Lennie & Eric Walker. CSJ, London, 2013. 68pp (Pilgrim Guides to Spain # PGS4F) This guide covers the Camino Primitivo from Villaviciosa to Oviedo and then via Tineo and Fonsagrada, Lugo to Palas del Rei.
 - **The Northern Caminos** Laura Perazzoli & Dave Whitson. Cicerone Publishing, reprinted with updates 2013.
 - **The Northern Ways to Santiago**, The Basque Government May 2012.
 - **Internet links:**The [Confraternity of Saint James](#) has an overview of the Camino *del Norte*. One section of [Jacabeo.net](#) is concerned with the Camino del Norte. (Spanish) As always, [MundiCamino](#) is a good source. [Click](#) on your language and then the route. ([Multiple languages](#)) There is a [site](#) maintained by Peter Walker that has good material on the [Camino del Norte](#). The [Xunta de Galicia](#) has a section with extensive information on that portion of the

- [Camino del norte within Galicia](#) including history, tourism, albergues, other services and Santiago itself. And the site santiago-compostela.net has a good overview and a huge collection of photographs.
- **Video links:** From the Camino video series produced by the Spanish [television channel](#) TVE:
 - [Camino del Norte, part 1](#), 0:27:04, Spanish, 2004
 - [Camino del Norte, part 2](#), 0:27:51, Spanish, 2004
 - The organization Where Is Asturias has two videos on the part of the *norte* within Asturias: [The Coastal Route in Asturias](#) and [The Route of Saint James Familiarization Trip](#).
 - **Websites.** With maps and additional material
 - <http://caminodesantiago.consumer.es/los-caminos-de-santiago/del-norte/>
 - <http://www.jacobeo.net/>

From Jay & Nanie Flaherty about the Camino in France

There are four major pilgrim routes in France, all of which lead to the southwest corner of France, where they connect with the Camino de Santiago de Compostelo. North to south, the routes in France are:

- Tours Way, Via Turonensis (GR 656) - the least developed, southwest of Paris, along the west coast above Bordeaux
- Vezelay Way, Via Lemovicansis (GR 654) - southeast to southwest of Paris
- Le Puy Way, Via Podiensis (GR 65) - the most popular, through south central and then southwest France
- Arles Way, Via Tolosana (GR 653) - the longest, along the Mediterranean Coast and then inland to the Pyrenees

Because French trails are not heavily traveled and not as well-marked as the Camino in Spain, maps and guidebooks are needed. The trails pass through many ages of history: Cro-Magnon cave paintings, Roman settlements, Medieval villages, the Hundred Years War, and WWI and II. Walking is less pilgrim-focused than on the Camino, though the departments in the south of France are starting to recognize pilgrim activities by improving way markings and providing pilgrim information about shrines and churches. While there are fewer pilgrim accommodations, there are extensive bed and breakfasts ("chambre d'hotels") and farmhouse rooms ("gites"). Of course, the French foods and wines are superb.

Here are useful materials for planning and then doing a pilgrim walk in France:

Planning

- There are two good websites describing pilgrim walking in France. The more complete, listing many pilgrim routes and then giving day-by-day accounts of walking

these routes, is www.walkinginfrance.info. Another useful site is www.backpack45.com, which describes the Arles (GR 653) route as well as other helpful information on pilgrim walks.

- A good pilgrim walking tour agency is www.icietlanature.com. The author of this site is an experienced walker and an English speaker. She is particularly useful for organizing custom walks. There are a number of websites that offer packages for walking pilgrim routes in France. An extensive one is: www.caminoways.com.

Accommodations

- "Miam Miam Dodo" guidebooks for accommodation information on French Pilgrim routes (GR 65, GR 653, etc.) are the best source of information for accommodations and food sources catering to pilgrims. All versions of the guidebook are shown on the website: www.chemindecompostelle.com. The guidebooks can be ordered through Amazon.Fr with direct shipment to US.

- Trip Advisor (www.tripadvisor.com) has good coverage of accommodations along the pilgrim routes, with detailed information on location, price and traveler experiences, as well as on lodging and restaurants not covered in the Miam Miam Dodo guidebooks.

- Most French towns have a Tourist Information ("TI") office, where you can find useful information on accommodations, as well as bus and train schedules, free maps, visitor information, and announcements of special events like markets and fairs. The easiest way to access individual TI's is to google the "town name and tourist information", for example, "Conques tourist information."

Maps and Guides

- The best maps for walking in France are the IGN maps published by the French government. For specific trails, the 1:25,000 series are the most useful. These maps are available through Amazon.Fr. Another good source of maps as well as European walking materials is Stanfords in London: www.stanfords.co.uk.

- "Topoguides" are a combination of maps and route descriptions for French walking trails, including the Pilgrim routes. They are designated by walking route number, e.g., "Topoguide 65, Grande Randonnee 65." The publisher site is www.ffrandonnee.fr. Topoguides can be purchased through www.Amazon.Fr as well as through Stanfords.

- "The Way of St James France", by Alison Raju, Cicerone Press. English language guidebook for the Le Puy route (GR 65). Cicerone Press (www.cicerone.co.uk) is one of the most comprehensive publishers of English-language guidebooks for walking throughout Europe.