

Fostering the enduring tradition of the Camino

Camino Mozárabe (Granada)

General Description: The Camino mozárabe is a recently (1999) waymarked route which serves as a conduit for pilgrims from southeastern Spain. 396 km starting in Granada and leading northwestward through Córdova to join the <u>Vía de la Plata</u> at Mérida.

Waymarking: Well waymarked throughout with yellow arrows.

Terrain: Very strenuous from Granada to well past Córdoba at Alcaracejos after which the scenery turns to pasturage and agricultural land. Walking is mainly on old tracks and paths and some little-used roads.

When to go: Setting out on the Vía de la Plata in late June through August would be nigh unto suicidal. Southern Spain is HOT! September and October are reasonable except that you will be walking toward winter in the northern reaches. Following spring northward starting in April would be a good choice. Climate tables for <u>Granada</u> and <u>Córdoba</u>.

Accommodation: At present we have seen evidence of one one facility that identifies itself as an *albergue de peregrinos* and this is in Don Benito, almost all the way to Mérida where the *mozárabé* joins the Vía de la Plata. There are numerous facilities such as *casas parroquiales* and sports halls which generally have hot water, showers, heat and other amenities. Almost all settlements of any size will have hotels and *hostales*.

Guidebooks: Confraternity of Saint James: <u>The Camino Mozárabe or Vía de la Plata, Part</u> B, Granada to Merida (2009).

Internet links: The Confraternity of Saint James has an overview of the extension to Camino mozárabe. They also have a page on the Málaga extension. The Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Córdoba has a great deal of information on this routefrom Alcaudete (~80 km from Granada) through Mérida. The Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Granada (Spanish) has a little information and is under construction.

Other remarks: This is a very solitary route with very few peregrinos at the moment and some very long daily stages—up to 35 km. Well-thought out planning is a necessity. Just past Córdoba there are some shallow rivers that might require wading, depending on the weather.

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