



Fostering the enduring tradition of the Camino

Camino de Madrid

General Description: The Camino de Madrid is a modern construct laid out to allow *madrileños* to reach the Camino *francés* and Santiago on a designated path — 321 km from Madrid through Segovia to Sahagún where it joins the [Camino francés](#).

Waymarking: The route is extensively waymarked throughout with yellow arrows.

Terrain: The route is almost exclusively on footpaths and along *Cañadas* (historic drove roads) and only rarely on paved roads. The Camino de Madrid can crudely be broken into three sections. The first 100 km, from Madrid to Segovia, the route climbs through the Sierra de Guadarrama with at least one 8 km stretch with an 8% grade. From Segovia to the Río Duero the terrain is mostly flat. From the Duero to Sahagún where the Camino *francés* is joined, the route is typical *meseta*. The route is almost entirely on footpaths and along historic sheep driving routes (*cañadas*), rarely on roads.

When to go: From Madrid to Segovia through the Sierra de Guadarrama the terrain is mountainous with snow possible until May. Elsewhere the weather is like that encountered on the Camino *francés* between Burgos and Astorga — extremely hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. Climate charts for [Madrid](#), [Segovia](#) and [León](#).

Accommodation: Where to stay. Adequate accommodation, indeed a quite remarkable amount considering the route passes through so few towns and villages. Hotel/*hostal* accommodation at intervals of 30 km except over the Sierra de Guadarrama (one alpine chalet near the summit only) and between Simancas and Sahagún — only two places with hotels/*hostals* on the *camino* itself but a couple of places with *hostals* are on the *carretera* 8 km to the east. There is a limited amount of free or donation-based or inexpensive pilgrim *refugios*. There are very few campsites — and wild camping in pine forests is not recommended because of the risk of fire.

Guidebooks: The Confraternity of Saint James [Camino Pilgrim Guides: Camino de Madrid 2019/2020](#) (2020). The [Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Madrid](#) publishes a comprehensive [guidebook](#) in Spanish.

Internet links: The Confraternity of Saint James has an [overview of the Camino de Madrid](#). The [Asociación de los Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Madrid](#) has a huge amount of information on the Camino de Madrid including news and reports on events related to the Caminos in general. (Spanish) The Camino de Santiago forum has a [section dedicated to the Camino de Madrid](#).

Video links: From the Camino video series produced by the Spanish television channel TVE:

[Camino de Madrid](#), 0:28:10, Spanish, 2004

Other remarks: The Camino de Madrid is a very quiet and peaceful route. The number of *peregrinos* is very small, but you are likely to find others in the albergues. Very little of the route is on paved roads and it affords the opportunity to walk ancient Roman roads and on the medieval *cañadas* (sheep driving routes). The route can be easily cycled almost the entire distance. It almost defies belief, but within minutes after leaving the Castellana (the very busy Madrid street where the first arrows are located) you are off road and in the countryside. The route will take you through some of Madrid's suburbs, like Fuencarral and Tres Cantos, but there is almost no road walking except for crossing through the towns themselves. Once away from Madrid, the route does not pass through major centers, except for the historical city of Segovia with its Roman aqueduct, cathedral, castle and many Romanesque churches. A detour to visit Valladolid is recommended and is easy to accomplish via bus from either Puente Duero or Simancas.

The RENFE *cercanías* (commuter) trains run as far as Cercedilla, for those wanting to avoid some early stages. But the entire route from Madrid is walkable and pleasant. You may get a credencial and your first stamp in the Church of Santiago ([La Real Parroquia de Santiago y San Juan Bautista](#)) located at the [Calle Santiago 23](#) in central Madrid, near the Royal Palace and not far from the Plaza Mayor and the Puerta del Sol.

Some of this information has been extracted from the expansive route descriptions offered by the Confraternity of St. James ([csj.org.uk](#))

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