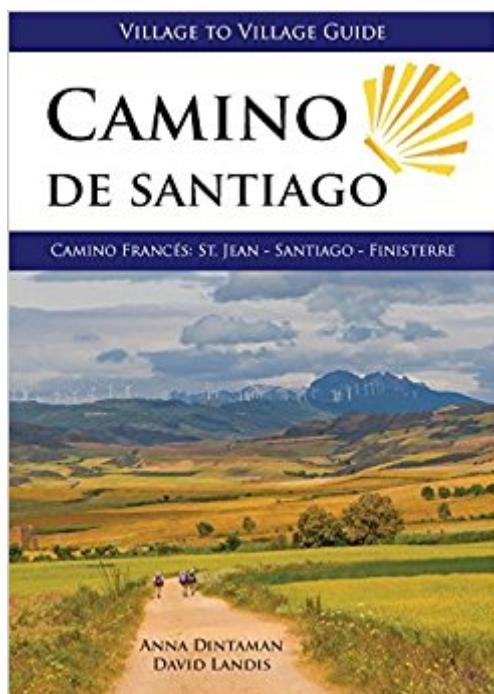


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# Camino De Santiago (Village To Village Guide): Camino Frances: St Jean - Santiago - Finisterre



## **Synopsis**

Now fully updated in 2017, 20% lighter and 30% thinner! This Village to Village Guide to the Camino de Santiago is a comprehensive guidebook to walking the Way of Saint James, from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago de Compostela (the Camino Frances), and also the Camino Finisterre to Muxia and Finisterre. This Camino guidebook includes full-color detailed topographical stage maps of each day's walk with free GPS files online; 135 detailed stage, city and town maps (now easier to read); essential practical information on transport, accommodations and services. It includes detailed listings of pilgrim hostels (albergues) and private accommodations in each town, including prices, amenities, number of beds, contact information, open dates, and more. There are regional introductions to the different areas along the Camino including information about traditional foods, flora and fauna, and local culture plus overviews of dozens of medieval pilgrim sites, with information about the historical context of the pilgrimage.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Village to Village Press, LLC; 4th Revised edition edition (April 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0984353380

ISBN-13: 978-0984353385

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.1 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 131 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,542 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Travel > Europe > Spain > General #16 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Running & Jogging #18 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides

## **Customer Reviews**

Anna Dintaman is a guidebook writer and hiking pilgrimage expert, who has worked in nonprofit development and responsible tourism initiatives, especially with the development of the Jesus Trail and other routes in the Holy Land. Anna's trekking experience includes Torres del Paine in Patagonia and various trips on the Camino de Santiago, though her favorite outdoor adventure spot is still her home area in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Anna studied religion and anthropology, as well as NGO management and is currently based in Jerusalem. David Landis designed and cofounded the Jesus Trail in 2007. David is an experienced outdoor adventure specialist whose

hiking repertoire includes trails as varied as Everest Base Camp and other trails in the Himalayas, Camino de Santiago in Spain, the Saint Paul Trail in Turkey, the Inca Trail in Peru, Torres del Paine in Patagonia and the Israel Trail. In 2004, he embarked on a round-the-world trip that took him to over 40 countries on four continents. He was based in the Middle East for almost a decade, and has been instrumental in developing thousands of kilometers of trails across five countries in the region. David Landis and Anna Dintaman have been working together since 2007. Their research for the book involved hiking thousands of kilometers in the Galilee, walking the 800-km length of the Camino Frances in Spain multiple times, visiting countless historical and religious sites, and holing up in libraries surrounded by a fort of research materials. They were married in May 2010, and had a son Silas in 2015. Their most recent book, *Hiking the Camino de Santiago*, is available in print and Kindle formats. They are currently based in Harrisonburg, VA. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I may be one of the first people to use this new book, because it was released just days before my wife and I started our own Camino. We did the first 11 days of the Camino de Santiago starting in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France, and ending in NÃƒÂjera, Spain. We'll continue from there next year. I liked this book so much that I decided to take it with us as our only guide book, and I was glad I did. First impression: it's beautiful! Stunning photos, great maps, and directions that make sense. I especially like the detailed list of albergues in each town, complete with prices and icons showing their amenities. The book covers the entire route all the way to Finisterre and Muxia, with daily stages of around 25km (15.5mi) per day. You can, of course, finish your day anywhere you like, but the stages often end in the larger towns with more options for places to stay and eat, as well as resources such as pharmacies, ATM machines, etc. Each stage begins with an overview including the distance, difficulty, average number of hours, and a breakdown of the percentage of time you'll spend on paved vs. unpaved pathways. It then includes a description of what you'll be facing that day, along with an elevation chart and a map showing all towns and the amenities you can expect to find there (albergues, food, shopping, etc.) It then walks you through each town you'll be visiting, and describes points of interest as well as warnings for things to watch out for (like the lack of water between Valcarlos and Roncesvalles). Each town has a sidebar with a listing of places to stay, each with its price, contact details, and amenities (food, washer, dryer, kitchen, WiFi, number of beds, etc.) Maps are also included for the larger towns, with all places to stay marked on the map. We always found it easy to understand the differences between the albergues, and to find them once we arrived in the town. The book also includes a lot of nice information in the introductory

chapters, including a history of the Camino, when to go, how to get there, visas, the various types of places to stay and eat, costs, safety issues, packing lists, and lots more. This information is expanded even further on the book's extensive web site, including links to many of the sites and places to stay that are listed in each stage. Since many people seem to be using John Brierley's book, "A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago", I'll make a few quick comparisons. The distances between places are different than in the Brierley book. This book resets the distance to zero at the beginning of each stage, and then shows the cumulative distance until the end of the stage. 0.0, 3.2, 6.8, 12.0, 18.5, etc. Whereas Brierley shows the distance from place to place and not the cumulative distance. 0.0, 3.3, 1.5, 2.7, etc. I like this book's way better, at least if your stages mostly line up with the book's. If you end up staying at a town that's not at the beginning of a stage though, your numbers will be off a bit the next day. That happened to us occasionally, but it wasn't a big problem. This book is 2.8 cubic inches (46 cu cm) larger and 3.4 ounces (96 g) heavier than Brierley's. Partly because it includes Finisterre and Muxia, but mostly because the general tone of the writing is much more relaxed and less terse, with larger pictures. Although it's a bit wider than Brierley's, I had no problem carrying it in a side pocket of my pants so it was always available. And since we were only doing the first 11 days, I removed the last two thirds of the pages to cut down on weight -- the authors suggest doing exactly that actually, for pages you've already used along the way. I carefully compared the directions for the multiple paths leading into Burgos, and both books cover all the details about equally well -- I feel certain I could find my way with either one. But there's no question that I prefer the tone of this one. One of the best items on the book's web site is a downloadable GPS track of the entire Camino, including alternate pathways. I imported the data into the fantastic "GPS Kit" iPhone app and then cached the maps near the paths. I was then always able to see at a glance where we were in relation to the marked pathway, as well as the distance and direction to any point on the map -- all without a data connection. Overall I was quite happy with our time with this book on the Camino, and I'll be taking it next year when we continue. I definitely recommend it.

I bought three different guides for the Camino. This guide actually makes sense and discusses each section in adequate depth. It was very user friendly. Two guides we bought were practically worthless as they did not flow from place to place and were very complicated. We especially liked the small maps of all pertinent areas and the altitude depictions. Well done!

I hiked the Camino September-October of this year (2013). My friends were all jealous of my guide

and were referring to it quite often. It is a complete guide to the Camino. The listings of the albergues and hotels available in each town were accurate as were the prices and descriptions. The history and lore noted was great fun, and the photos were fantastic. The book kept me inspired and I planned and was invaluable on my walk. After giving a Camino presentation at church this evening, I gave a copy of Hiking the Camino de Santiago to a fellow parishioner who is interested in walking. This will truly inspire her. Thank you for such a great guide.

This is THE book to have if you plan to walk the Camino. We purchased the previous edition and since we will finish walking our last 150 miles this May we wanted the most up to date version. Much of it is the same as the first edition but I trust that all information regarding lodging, restaurants and even attractions along the way have been rechecked for authenticity of current information. My only suggestion might be to have it printed on stock or paper that weighs a bit less. This is a great effort and walking the Camino would be a much more troubling experience without it!

Every guidebook to the Camino de Santiago has certain features in common--a route description broken into 29-32 stages, functional maps, accommodation listings, and historical blurbs on spots along the way. At this point, the distances between villages are roughly standardized and most stages are loosely in sync. Quite simply, any guide (or app, for that matter) could do the job pretty well. What makes Anna and David's guidebook stand out to me is the visually striking design, which maximizes the efficiency of each page without sacrificing any bit of appeal. The color coded stages make for easy navigation, while the accommodation icons help you to quickly assess whether a particular hostal has the amenities you seek. The content packed in around the margins--elevation profiles for all stages inside the front cover, a quick breakdown of pavement/trail in each stage under the heading, and even translations of place names--all add value without adding pages. And the maps! The maps are among the best you'll find in any pilgrimage guidebook, with excellent representation of each stage as a whole, complemented with zoomed in shots of each town. For those who have used a previous edition of this guide, it's worth noting that they have continued to reduce the size; per their website, the 2017 edition is 20% lighter and 30% thinner than the 2016 version. Finally, the guidebook is backed by a very helpful website, where it's possible to find updates and direct links to the accommodations included in the book. Disclosure: I was given a copy of the 2017 edition by David, but I purchased a previous edition of the book (and will likely purchase another edition at some point down the road).

All I can say is that EVERYONE on the Camino wanted to borrow my book!!! It was THE BOOK! I took the pilgrimage in the summer of 2014... would have been lost without this guide. Definitely try to fit in the recommended places (they are indicated with a star). BUEN CAMINO!!!

OMG! This book is exactly what I needed for my Camino trip! It's compact and filled with detailed information for anyone planning their trip, including what to pack, how long each segment is and what grade in elevation to expect, plus great information about each and every village along the way!!!!

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