






☐ **To err is human, to forgive, divine.**
Alexander Pope



29 117.4 km (72.9 ml) – Santiago

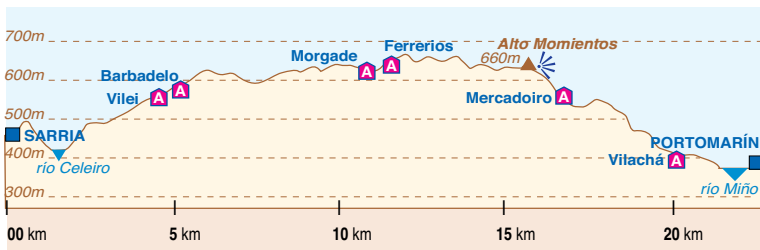
SARRIA – PORTOMARÍN

	---	11.4	---	50%
	---	10.7	---	48%
	---	0.6	---	2%
Total km		22.7 km		(14.1 ml)

 (^940m + 4.7 km = **27.4 km**)

Alto  Alto Momientos 660m (2,165 ft)

<   > Barbadelo **1** **3.7** – **5** **4.5** km. Morgade **12.4** km. Ferrerios **13.8** km. Mercadoiro **17.3** km. Vilacha **20.4** km.

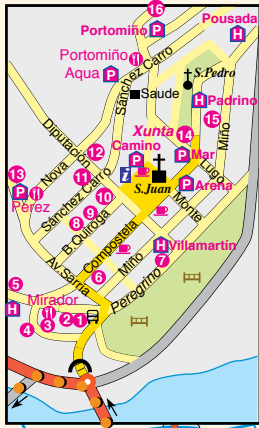


☐ **The Practical Path:** The majority of today's stage is on lovely woodland paths and gravel tracks. Apart from the bare flanks around the high point on the Peña do Cervo at Momientos (above Portomarín) much of the remainder is along forest paths and tree-lined lanes. So we have good shade from the sun or shelter from the driving rain. We will pass through many small hamlets that seem to blend seamlessly one into the next. Several new cafés offer refreshment stops along the way.

☐ **The Mystical Path:** Two ancient Orders occupied opposite sides of this river but their strongholds are long gone – buried under the floodwaters of the dam built to serve the insatiable demands of a new generation. We cannot live in the past and we try in vain to live with the idea of some future golden age. The only place we can truly inhabit is the present. The rest is fantasy; some painful some pleasurable.

☐ **Personal Reflections:** "... I reflect on the extraordinary revelation of the third secret of Fátima. We are all fallen angels struggling to find our wings so that we can fly back home to the Divine. If God is my Father what does that make me and, by extension, all my fellow brothers and sisters? We each share the same Identity and the same Inheritance. And so I come full circle, back to the place where I began and to the realisation that the only way out... is in. External authority is flawed and must collapse. The Voice for God is within and urges each one of us, as children of one God, to become the authors of own awakening ..."

0.0 km **Sarria Centro** from albergue **1** in Sarria head up c/Mayor past the church of Santa Mariña with its sombre medieval pilgrim murals and past the town hall (left) *Casa do Concello* with basic tourist information. Next we pass the intimate *Praza da Constitución* with its albergues, cafes and restaurants and towards the top of the street (left) Church of St. Saviour *Igrexa de San Salvador XIIIthC* with its



2.3 Centro PORTOMARÍN

Vilachá 3.1 Casa Banderas A

Moutras 3.4 Mercadoiro

Mesón Mirallos A Casa Cruceiro 1.4 FERREIROS **Gonzar 16.6 km**

Morgade 3.1 Casa Morgade

Peruscallo 3.0 Panadería

Molino de Marzán A

Café X 2.5 Baxán A Granxa de Barreiros

Casa Nova C Rente 5 Carmen

Santiago Pombal 3 4 Xunta BARBADELO 3.7 Barbadelo Vilei Barbadelo & Café Vilei

Albergue Mayor Centro 0.0 1A SARRIA Ferreiros 13.8 km

Pop. 13,500

primitive Romanesque tympanum over the main door (see photo opposite). St. Anthony's pilgrim Hospice stood opposite (now courts of Justice) and here we turn right to pass the ruins of the Sarria castle *Fortaleza de Sarria* (left) only one of the 4 original towers remains. The castle was



destroyed during the uprising of the peasantry against the aristocracy in the 15th century known as the *Irmandiños*. We pass a stone *cruceiro* (right) with fine views back over the town and up past the country market *Campo da Feira* (left) which has existed here since the 14th century and down to the plateresque façade of the *Mosteiro da Madalena* [0.7 km] (also provides *credencial*) originally instituted in the 13th century, later coming under the Augustinian rule. We finally head down past the cemetery and *Capela de San Lázaro* to cross the road and río Celeiro over the medieval **Ponte Áspera** [0.5 km] 'Rough Bridge' which describes its coarsely cut stone. A path now winds between river and railway before crossing the line in *Santi Michaelis* under road viaduct to cross a stream and climb up through delightful ancient woodland to join the road in **Vilei** an extension of **Barbadelo** [2.5 km].

3.7 km Barbadelo Vilei Alb. ① Casa

Barbadelo Priv.[68÷12]+ €9-12 © 982

531 934 with garden and swimming pool. ②

108 km Priv.[12÷5]+ €8-29 © 634 894

524. ③ **O Pombal** Priv.[12÷1] €9 © 686

718 732. 200m off route below *Igrexa de*

Santiago XIIthC Romanesque with a fine

tympanum and statue of St. James. Pilgrim

mass at 19:00 (check notice board). [The

area is known locally as *Mosteiro* in

reference to a monastery founded here as

early as the 9th century]. ④ **Barbadelo Xunta**. [18÷2] €6 © former school house on

village green [0.7 km]. Behind the albergue is a summer cantina and at the top of

the lane (200m off route) ⑤ **Casa de Carmen** Priv.[26÷3]+ €9-35 © 982 532 294

in restored 17thc farmhouse with terrace and private chapel *Capela de San Silvestre*.

Continue to **Rente** [1.0 km] **CR Casa Nova** © 982 187 854 s/o along woodland

paths through ancient oak and chestnut groves and cross main road [0.7 km]:



2.5 km **Cruce Café Mercado Serra**. [Detour + 1.8 km Alb. **Granxa de Barreiros**

Priv.[46÷8]+ €10 +18 © 982 533 656 Ortoá LU-633]. S/o past [E.] to Alb. **Molino**

de Marzán Priv.[16÷1] €10 © 679 438 077. Cross road into **A Pena** and **Peruscallo**.

3.0 km **Peruscallo Panaderia Peruscallo**. S/o through **Corntiñas**, **Casal** and into

A Brea [2.1 km] passing ('old' km 99,5 now 101,996) into **Morgade** [1.0 km]:

3.1 km **Morgade Alb. Casa Morgade** Priv.[6÷1]+ €10+35 © 982 531 250 with

popular café (if busy continue to Ferreiros). Pass stone chapel and continue on

track down (through!) the Ferreiros stream. This is rural Galicia at her best; green

and often wet underfoot with the earthy smell of cow dung. Narrow laneways with

granite stepping-stones raised above flood levels provide a gentle climb up to:

1.4 km **Ferreiros Mesón Casa Cruceiro** the traditional edifice overlooked by

its ultra modern Alb. ① **Casa Cruceiro** Priv.[12÷1]+ €10-40 © 982 541 240.

(New 'official' waymark 100,746 km makes this the last chance for a *compostela*!)

Just below the café (left) ② **Ferreiros Xunta**, [22÷1] €6 ☎ 660 396 815 former schoolhouse set in leafy glade. [*Ferreiros means blacksmith*]. S/o past **Mirallos** [0.3 km] **Mesón Mirallos** ☎ 982 157 162 café (+ 12 bunk beds €-donativo 'unofficial') adj. the Church of Santa María and just beyond the ancient ✦ **Chalice Stone** up to the tranquil hamlet of **A Pena** [0.4 km] *Alb.* ♥ **Casa do Rego Priv.** [6÷1]+ €10 ☎ 982 167 812 with a warm welcome in 7 languages! Café *menú* and outdoor terrace. Up steeply to **As Rozas** [0.8 km] [*F.*] and the high point **Pena dos Corvos** 660m at **Cruce Momientos** [1.3 km] with fine views over the reservoir as we begin our descent into the río Miño valley and **Mercadoiro** [0.7 km]:



3.4 km Mercadoiro *Alb. Mercadoiro & café Bodeguiña Priv.* [32÷6]+ €10-40 ☎ 982 545 359. Popular café-restaurant with pilgrim menu in delightful hamlet with an official population of – one! Continue through **Moutras** and **A Parrocha**. [*off route left is the remote valley of Loio with the ruins of the Monastery of Santa María de Loio – birthplace of the Order of Santiago in the 12th century*]. The route crosses several country lanes into:



3.1 km Vilachá *Alb. Casa Banderas Priv.* [8÷1]+ €10+40 ☎ 982 545 391 Gordon Bell (founder of the South African association) who also provides dinner. *Los Andantes V.* popular pizzeria. Continue s/o to option [0.6 km]. The route now descends very steeply to the bridge spanning the deep Miño basin. Option ① Original route (fading waymarks) s/o at crossroads and first left along quiet country lane onto the quieter LU-613. For new routes turn down left [0.4 km]. Note both the next 2 options exit abruptly onto the busy LU-633 [*!*]. ② S/o for the short but steep and rough descent on narrow gorge (slippy when wet). ③ Turn left and then first right for the longer (+0.4 km) but less steep route. Both end up opposite a new albergue! [0.6 km] *Alb. A Fontana de Luxo* €15+35 ☎ 645 649 496 directly on the main road. [*Detour left +1.9 km H Meson do Loyo* €30 ☎ 982 545 012]. Turn right and cross bridge to **roundabout** [0.6 km] at Portomarín. [*To continue to Gonzar follow the road to the left over the second bridge (200m) see next stage*]. Or take the steep staircase in front, part of the original medieval bridge across the river Miño. These lead up to the arch and *capela de Santa María de las Nieves* which, along with several other historic monuments, were all removed to the high ground around Portomarín when the dam was built across the river to create the Belesar reservoir in 1962. [*The original bridge was of Roman origin and joined the district of San Pedro, with links to the Knights of Santiago, with San Nicolás (headquarters of the Knights of Saint John). The river formed a major strategic boundary*]. Climb the stairs for the first (lower) of 15 albergues [0.1 km] with fine views over the river and reservoir.

2.3 km Portomarín (*albergues av.* €10 Private rooms €30+) *alb.* ① **Pons Minea Priv.** [24÷2]+ ☎ 610 737 995. ② **Gonzar Priv.** [12÷1]+ ☎ 982 545 275 + bar with terrace. ③ **O Mirador Priv.** [27÷6] ☎ 982 545 323 + terrace & *rst.* **O Mirador** adj. ④ **Ferramenteiro Priv.** *[130÷1] ☎ 982 545 362. ⑤ **Folgueira Priv.** [32÷1] ☎ 982 545 166 down Av. Chantada – opp' luxury *H** **Ferramenteiro** €55-90 ☎ 982 545 361. The centre and main action is at the top end of town ½ km further on.