

The Camino Guide – Camino de Baztan

How to calculate distances

Places with pilgrim accommodation have a heading like this:

22 Zubiri

The number on the left is the distances in kilometres from the last place with pilgrim accommodation. Use these numbers when calculating the length of stages. Other distances given in the text are only indicative. In places where pilgrim accommodation is scarce information is also given about hotels.

Distances are hostel to hostel if there is only one hostel listed. Otherwise they're an approximation on the midpoint between hostels in a given place.

When two branches of the Camino rejoin the heading will be without a distance because this will vary depending on which branch you took. In these cases the distance will be given like this:

12km to Los Arcos

Guide format

Information is presented in the following text formats:

Information about the route and things you will meet between hostels are given in this format. Distances given in this format should be ignored when calculating distances between hostels.

Other information is in this format.

The following information is given about hostels: **whether it is private, religious, etc. (how many people it sleeps, the cost, opening dates - if none given then it's open all the time) its name, location.** Any other relevant information about the hostel.

eg.

Private hostel (24, 10€, March to October) Albergue Zaldiko, on the right after you cross the bridge to enter the village.

Waymarkings

From Bayonne the Camino de Baztan is marked with small (about 5cm long) yellow signs in the form of an arrow with the mussel shell symbol and bearing the words *Voie du Baztan*.

In Spain the route is marked by the usual yellow arrows, however, in less abundance than on the Camino Francés.

Placenames

The areas this Camino passes through are traditionally bilingual or in the case of Bayonne, trilingual. In the text the Basque and French or Spanish placenames are given. The most commonly used is given first.

Assumptions

Some of the hostels on this Camino are basic. However, unless otherwise stated, all of them have the following:

- Beds with mattresses
- Toilets
- Showers with hot water
- Drinking water
- Basic washing facilities

If they have a kitchen or washing facilities it will be mentioned. Washing facilities means a washer and dryer.

If it doesn't say that there's a shop/restaurant/café in the town/village then assume there isn't. Likewise, always assume there is no place to buy food or drinks between hostels. Even if there are shops and cafés never assume they'll be open (especially outside of peak season). Bear in mind that shops in rural Spain usually open from 0900 until 1200 and again from 1700 until 2000 and that these times vary. They are also usually closed, or have greatly reduced opening times, on Sunday and Monday.

Measurement units

All distances are given in the metric system (kilometres and metres) and all times are given in the 24 hour clock (0900 = 9am, 1800 = 6pm). Most people walk an average of 4km an hour.

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Version Control:

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Getting there...

There are train connections to Bayonne from all over France and from Spain via Hendaye. There are flights into nearby Biarritz Airport from all over Europe. See the *Getting There* document for the Camino Francés for more detailed information.

Some people choose to start in Ustaritz instead of Bayonne. Ustaritz is easily reachable by local bus or by the St Jean Pied de Port train.

Bayonne / Baiona

If you need accommodation in Bayonne a woman called Véronique Miramon who lives just beside the cathedral takes in pilgrims. €23 for dinner, board and breakfast. Mobile 06 87 30 45 15.

The Camino begins from the Cathedral. Walk down rue de Pilori to the rive Nive and turn right. You'll now follow the river along a surfaced path more-or-less all the way to...

14 Ustaritz / Uztaritze

Guesthouse *La Petite Auberge* telephone 05 59 93 00 25.

There are cafés and a pizzeria in the village. On the way out there's a supermarket.

Follow the Camino through the village veering right shortly after the Hôtel de Ville / Herriko Etchea. The waymarkings are stuck on the back of a stop sign. This is where the Camino de Baztan turns right and the route to St Jean Pied de Port turns left.

Follow the road out of the village until the Camino turns left through a green gate.

About 1km before Souraïde there is a crossroads with no waymarkings. Turn right here.

The Camino turns sharp left just before Souraïde.

8 Souraïde / Zuraïde

Village-vacances le Renouveau (mid-April to mid-October) offers pilgrim accommodation in holiday apartments, if space is available. It's not possible to reserve in advance. Phone before mid-day on the day of your arrival: 05 59 93 84 75. Kitchen.

Hotel Hôtel Bergara 44€ for a single including breakfast, telephone 05 59 93 90 58. They have a restaurant.

Small supermarket in the village near the roundabout.

There's a nice climb out of Souraïde

6km Ainhoa cafés. Turn left on to the main street and follow it for a few hundred metres until the Camino veers off to the right.

2km Dancharia / Dantxarinea. Spanish border. Cafés and shops. Recent road building have obliterated any waymarkings. From the disused border post continue straight up the main road through several roundabouts until you come to a house on the right with a sign which says Exposition au Cloître. Now take the track down to the right and continue straight.

Just before you arrive in Urdax, before a bridge over a stream, there are yellow arrows urging you to turn left, ignore them and continue straight across the bridge towards the village.

12 Urdax / Urdazubi

Monastery hostel (26, 4€) in the building beside the church. There's usually a phone number on the door of the monastery. Kitchen.

There's a small shop on the square in front of the monastery. *Restaurante La Koska* does excellent (if slightly pricey food, and only during the day), you'll pass it on the way in. The café up a slight hill from the church does good tapas and opens in the morning.

Another nice climb out of Urdax.

10 Amaiur

Municipal hostel (8, 5€) Above the medical centre to the left of the Camino on a square in the centre of the village. There are far more beds but only eight are given over to pilgrims. Phone 948 45 32 92. Part of a community centre which seems to be a fund-raising venture for a Basque nationalist group.

There's a bar in the village which does food but which is closed on Mondays.

5 Ariskun

Several hotels such as *Casa Gontxea* 42€ for a double room, in the centre of the village, phone 948 45 34 33 or email info@gontxea.com

5km Elizondo has cafés, shops and banks. Stock up here because there are no shops until Villava!

21 Berroeta

Municipal hostel (20, 4€) Near the church. Phone 948 58 51 04. Kitchen.

3km Almandoz, the shop here closed in 2010 and the bar only open at weekends and presumably only in the evening.

5km Venta de San Blas, café/restaurant at the top of a serious climb. The owners are very friendly and if they're closed and you're stuck you can always knock.

The hilly nature of the terrain means that this part feels longer than it actually is so give yourself plenty of time. Flooding possible after rain.

8km Lantz

21 Olagüe

Municipal hostel (20, 4€) The woman who has they key lives at number 80 on the main road through the village opposite the bus stop. Phone 948 30 70 24.

There is a café by the bus stop but it doesn't seem to open very often.

There is a couple of different routes but they all follow the River Ultzama either on the west bank or following the road on the east bank. If you follow the road there are cafés and filling stations.

7km shortly before Ostiz the Camino crosses to the west bank of the river.

8km Ostiz café, again irregular opening hours. You can cross the river here too via a ford which will be impassable after rain.

22km to Villava where this Camino joins the Camino Francés.

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* Tell people about the Camino Guide. The more people use it the better.

* Send us your feedback and experiences. We love to hear from fellow pilgrims.

* Also, most valuably, send us any information which you think is missing from this guide and any corrections, updates and suggestions.

This guide is being constantly updated so check back before you travel for the latest version.

Information is available on our website at www.caminoguide.net and also access to our other services like our guide to Camino Spanish and menu translator.