

## VIEJO CAMINO

Viejo Camino is crossed by a number of traverse routes that connect(ed) the Northern coast, where landed many travellers who came by sea from the North of Europe, with the middle of Spain. All of those were, of course, also used by pilgrims on their way to Santiago. In order from E to W: Camino del Baxtán (Bayonne – Dantxarinea – Pamplona), Camino del Interior / Ruta del Tunel (Irún – Vitoria – Santo Domingo de la Calzada or Burgos), Camino del Valle de Mena / Camino de las Merindades (Bilbao – Balmaseda – Medina de Pomar – Burgos), Camino del Besaya (Santillana del Mar – Torrelavega – Reinosa – Carrión de los Condes), Ruta Vadiniense (San Vicente de la Barquera – Santo Toribio de Liébana – Mansilla de las Mulas), Camino del Salvador (Oviedo – León).

A note on *casas rurales*: more than half of casas rurales that you will see advertised only rent the whole house for a weekend or a week. As far as I could find out, I included mostly those that rent also rooms only (usually double) but be sure to phone ahead and confirm that they have spare! Those listed that are full-house only, are in those areas where other accommodation is scarce and are not in bold, only in italic. I think that casa rural in basque/euskara is *etxea*.

If there are two, the first name is always in castellano, and the second in euskara.

The sections that I haven't walked and so haven't checked, are enclosed in signs.

alb. = albergue, Apr = April, Aug = August, ave = avenue; b = bed, B = breakfast, bb = bunk bed, BB = bed & breakfast; C = century, c. = calle (street), ctra = carretera, CR = casa rural; d = double room, D = donation or dinner, Dec = December, dm = drying machine, dr = dormitory; E = east; F = fountain or Friday, Feb = February; H = hotel, h = hour, hol = holidays, HP = half pension, HR = hotel-restaurant, hrs = hours, Hs = hostal, HsR = Hostal-Restaurant; igl./igr. = iglesia (church), incl. = including; Jan = January, Jul = July, Jun = June; km = kilometer(s); L = left; m = meter(s) or mattress(es), M = Monday or museum, Mar = March, min = minute(s); N = north, No = number, Nov = November, NS = nustra señora; Oct = October; p = person, P = pension or palace, pl = plaza (square), pr = private (room with private bathroom) or pr = praza (Galician for plaza), PR = Pension-Restaurant; q = quadruple room; r = room, R = right, restau(s) = restaurant(s); s = saint or single room, S = south or Saturday, SA = straight ahead, Sep = September, sh = shared (room with shared bathroom), s/n = sine numero (without address number), Su = Sunday; t = triple room, T = Tuesday, Th = Thursday, TO = tourist information; W = west or Wednesday, w/ = with, wm = washing machine, ws = washing sink; @ = internet, © = credencial, pilgram passport or pilgram(s), € = euro(s), ⓘ = (tourist) information, ® = reservation. 0034 si dial code for Spain, 112 is emergency, 061 medical emergency.

The price shown after the number of beds or rooms is for a single person, if not otherwise indicated.

\*\*\* at accommodation mean: very nice reception (the most important star), kitchen (important for budget), historic building (just, er, my special interest)

\*\*\* at accommodation mean: nothing special about reception, no kitchen (but meals usually available and can be really good), modern building

Tina Balant (caminka) has did it so you can only enjoy it ;o)

**0km PAMPLONA - IRUÑA (F, wc, 459m)**

⌚ traditionally founded 75bc by Pompeius (name Pompaelo), 8C Moors, 778 Charlemagne routed Moors & dismantled walls > people helped kill his rearguard in Roncesvalles, 906 Sancho Garcés I king of Pamplona (ties w/ Carolingians), capital of kingdom of Navarra, 1087 ad abelgariam pauperum, urbs Pampilonia in 12C Liber sancti Jacobi, 1129 fuero (Et quod nullus homo non vendat pane nec vino ad rumeu, nisi in ista populatione.), here discovered 14C poem Cantar de Roncesvalles in medieval Spanish (about Roland), pampaluna in paese de navarra by anonymus pilgram from Avignon in 14C, Pampalone by Nompar de Caumont in 1417, Pampylyon by anonymus pilgram c. 1425, Pepelonia by Hermannus Künig von Vach in 1495, Pampalonia by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, Pampalona by Johannes Lange in 1526; **muralia** (NE corner, Portal de Francia once main entrance, view), 12-18C **catedral s María la Real** (neo-classical façade, site of roman citadel, 1295 french gothic cloister's S **Puerta de la Preciosa** by Maestro Esteban, grille enclosing Capilla s Cruz in cloister made from iron melted down from moorish tent chains captured at battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in 1212, 15C alabaster mausoleum of Carlos El Noble & wife, M in refectory w/ rostrum w/ scene of unicorn hunt & 12-14C woodcarvings, 14-15C cloister w/ Capilla Barbazán w/ 14C star vaulting, 1335 5-

chimneyed **kitchen**, M-F 10.30-13.30+16-19, S 10.30-13.30, **€4.40**), **M de Navarra** (16C *hospital de peregrinos*, beautiful 2-5C **roman mosaics**, 11C Arqueta de Leyre islam-inspired ivory casket, 12C **capitals**, historical **costumes**, 13-15C **frescoes**, courtyard w/ large 2C mosaic from roman villa of Liédena, T-S 9-14+17-19, Su 9-14, **€2**), baroque **s Cernín** (13C chapel), **H Perla** (Hemingway's lodging place), baroque **P de Navarra** (throne room, tours €), **paseo de Sarasate**, **2 bull-runners & bull** (w/ rolled-up newspapers, crn of Carlos III & Roncesvalles), **La Taconera** (parks & gardens around centre), **ciudadela** (summer free exhibits & concerts, 7-22, **free**); Jul 6-14 **fiesta Los Sanfermines** w/ bull running = *encierro* (Hemingway's *Fiesta, Sun Also Rises* 1<sup>st</sup> description), Nov 29 **s Cernín**

+0.3km **albergue municipal Casa Paderborn** (26bb, €6, ) , playa Caparoso 6, 211 712, 6dr, heating, 3 hot showers, 3 wcs, ws, wm+dm 3+2, B 2, walkers only, Mar-Oct 13h-22h. **albergue municipal Jesus y María** (114bb, €6, ) , c. Compañía, 222 644, 648/008 932, **16C iglesia**, drs w/ 6bb cubicles, heating, 12 hot showers, 8 wcs, ws, wm+dm 0.50+1, kitchen, incl. linen, locker 1, @, , closed Jul 5-14!, 12h-23h. **albergue parroquial s Cernín** (20bb, €), c. Florencio Ansoreaga, start of c. Mayor, part of **13C capilla**, obscure entrance behind railings, recep. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 1dr, 3 showers, 2 wcs, kitchen, May-Oct, overflow?. +1km **Backpackers hostel Hemingway** (28bb, BB © €15), c. Amaya 26 1° izq, 983 884, 5dr, wm+dm, kitchen (stove, microwave, fridge), @, , incl. linen, BB 2s/d €21-35/42-44, BB q/6 €20/19/p, ® © in 6b dr Su-Th €15. +0.3km **Casa Otano** (€15), c. s Nicolás 5, 227 036, 225 095, S off pl Castillo, D, © discount, s/d €15/30-45. **Hs Bearan** (18r, €38), c. s Nicolás 25, 223 428, **19C casa**, D, luggage room, , pr s/d/t €38/50/72. **H Eslava** (13s+15d, BB €41), pl Virgen de la O 7, 222 270, buffet B 7h-10.30, @, pr BB s/d €41/73, closed Dec 24-Jan 6. +1.3km **albergue juvenil Fuerte del Príncipe HI** (8-20b, BB €19), c. Goroabe 36, 291 206, in all 48d (all year 20b save 1<sup>st</sup> week Jul 8b for passing people), heating, wm+dm 2+1, microwaves, B 8h, D 21h, @, linen 2, summer pool, all year 9h-13h+14h-22h. **albergue polideportivo Ikastola Amaiur** (100m), c. Fuente Hierro, showers, wcs, Jul-Aug if needed. +2.5km **residencia juvenil los Abedules** (), c. Sadar 26, 981 200, s, heating, wm, kitchen, @, all year 9h-14h+16h-19h. **P Olga** (10r, €30), ave Pio XII 34, esc 2a, 4°left, 258 500, dogs. Budget **P, Hs, H** around s €40, prices for Jul 5-15 5-times higher!

coffee-flavoured caramels, **pinchos** = finger foods > calles s Nicolás (Bar-Restau Baserri (also D €10)) & Estafeta. **Bar s Nicolás** (basque D, c. s Nicolás 13), Restau Saraste (vegi, good, M-Th 13.45-16+20-23, F-S 13.15-16+21-23, c. s Nicolás 23), Restau Lanzale (fish & meat, desserts, M-S 13.30-15.30+21-23, c. s Lorenzo 31), Bar Ciudadela (upstairs balconies), Hong-Kong (4-course D, 12-16+20-24, c. s Gregorio 38). TO (pl s Francisco, 206 540), M-F 10-14+16-19, S 10-14, Jul-Aug also some Su. © in alb. Jesus y María, La Universidad de Navarra. N of town (bus 9 to Paseo Sarasate): Barcelona (5h, 3, €28), Bilbao (4h, 6, €44), Madrid (4½ h, 3, €52), Olite (40min), San Sebastián (2h), Santander (9h, 2, €37), Tudela (1½h), Vitoria (1½h), Zaragoza (2h). train station: tokens 7-10, lockers; bus station: M-S 6.15-21.30, Su 6.30-13.30+14-21.30, per bag.

⇒ The start to Irurzun is along a no longer maintained **GR 21 Camino/Ruta Ignaciana** (but still on *Cuenca de Pamplona y Valle de Ultzama* map given out in Pamplona TO; GR 9 shown on this map also doesn't exit anymore) which evokes the trip that Ignacio de Loyola made from Pamplona, where he was injured by French soldiers, to Loyola, his native village, in 1521.

From **alb. Jesus y María** head back to Calle Curia, SA down Calle Mercaderes, veer R in a little *plaza*, towards the church tower of **s Cernín/s Saturnino**, to Plaza Consistorial (a R turn into Calle s Domingo leads to the 16C *hospital de peregrinos*, now **M de Navarra**). Cross it, turn R at the end then veer L soon after. The railings you see ahead belong to **s Cernín**. Proceed SA and immediately duck into the middle of the three streets, Calle Mayor. When the houses

end in an open *plaza* (F), turn R to Calle Recoletas then continue SA across another *plaza*. At the end of the wall (L) turn L and descend through park and stairs to the main Bajada Estación. Turn R through a small gate in the impressive **Portal Nuevo**. (In the early dark morning the stretch to the river is not illuminated so the alternative is to keep on the road L and in a roundabout turn R down across Puente Plazaola.) then turn R after it to descend to the riverbank. Turn sharp L to a gravel track along río Arga. Reaching a bridge, cross this modern **Puente Plazaola** (F?) then turn L along the riverbank. Pass under a bridge with a half-circle on top then past romanesque **Puente s Engracia**. At the end of the street turn L then R across the main Ave Celayeta. Turn R when across then L to Calle Provincias. Cross a crossroad to reach the railway and turn R to follow it. Reaching a roundabout, turn L to a tarmac lane across a bit of a wild meadow then under a red bridge ahead; it's called *Antigua Vía del Plazaola*. Stick parallel to the railway, before a motorway (F) swing L to go under PA30 **motorway**, and in an intersection turn L along the railway again. Enter a park (F) and keep on the main two-colour lane through it, towards the end veering a little R to reach **4.5km** NA4106. (L across the railway is **+0.5km** BERRIOZAR (♂; H **Carioca** (ave Guipúzcoa 39, 0948/307 505).)

Cross NA4106 for a gravel road, pass *zona militar* (L), reach a T intersection and turn L to Calle s Esteban. There is some roadwork here so the route is currently blocked. It should veer R about 50m later, through a metal gate, up through a former military practice ground between some trees, and L on top to follow Calle s Águeda to **s Águeda** and NA4100 after it in **0.8km** **AIZOÁIN**. Cross NA4100. For now, keep SA on Calle s Esteban, passing a playing ground (F), turn R up NA4100 to the top with **s Águeda** (R) in **1km** **AIZOÁIN** (F, 450m). Turn L down Calle Camino Puente, ascend, go SA up in a roundabout, past a panadería, through a residential area, at the end L and R to a *plaza* with F, **casa consistorial** and **s Miguel** in **0.9km** **BERRIOPLANO** (F, 465m; ; romanesque **s Miguel** (on side door capitel w/ **s Miguel Excelsis**); down L on the other side of N240 is **HR El Torro** (d from €50, ctra Guipúzcoa km.5, 948/302 211, laundry?). After **casa consistorial** with an info board in front, turn R to cement Camino Cruz that runs along apartment blocks then a park (F) to a **stone gate** (L) and the ruined **Palacio de Berriosuso** with a tower (R) in **0.8km** **BERRIOSUSO - BERRIOGITI** (465m; very important in Middle Ages, **s Eulalia**). Turn L through the gate, down a gravel track across fields (the former railway). **GR 220** joins from the R, cross **río Juslapeña**, pass a turn-off for **+0.5km** **BALLARIÁIN** (R, where in the 12C the Order of **s John** had possessions), cross a tarmac road and NA4508 with **s Miguel**, where GR 220 goes R towards **+0.3km** **OTEIZA** (F, 495m; **s Juan Bautista**, monasterio **s Familia**), and the gravel road ascends to N240a. Turn R up (R side) and follow N240a up (513m) and down (507m), past the first turn-off for Sarasa, to a white house and a bus station on the other side of N240a, in **5.3km** **SARASA** (F, 550m; 1550 **s Martín**). Veer R up a parallel road (F in a park above) and when it bends R up, keep SA on a grassy track above N240a. It runs away from the road, keep along the R side of the lower field below 1500 **ermita s Barnabé**, afterwards it becomes an overgrown track/path, always keep SA. In a fork at the start of a descent, turn sharp R up a gravel track, veer L up in the next fork to steeply climb to a level track. Turn L to reach an electricity pylon, cross a meadow (no path) to the second electricity pylon (540m) then descend a steep grassy track/clearing SA. On bottom turn L (L is the motorway) then R, and L again on a gravel road with GR 220. About 10m later a **2.3km** path climbs R.

Here I propose an alternative to the disused GR 21 because it is in danger of being closed with landslides and crosses a crumbling viaduct that is, theoretically, off limits with a metal fence.

① former GR 21, via Irurtzun: Climb R up the small path into the scarce forest, it bends L to reach a track above and parallel to the motorway, cut into a hillside. Descend, cross a gravel road for a gravel track parallel to the motorway then fork R before houses (gas station). Continue on the gravel track, the former railway line again, pass **1.7km SARASATE** (R, 505m; ☺ 1750 s **Esteban**; here it's possible to go L and continue on N240a), a farm with some loose but ok dogs, go through a hill with a few landslides partly blocking the path then cross a crumbled overgrown **viaduct** in the scattered **1.6km GULINA** (F, 475m; ☺ 1550 s **Pedro**; GR21 here veers off R/N). A gravel track continues across fields until a tarmac road, turn L to N240a and turn R up it for 800m, on top passing a turn-off for *Aizkorbe*. In descent, before a R bend, veer R up a gravel road with a big rounded **milestone** and an **orange strip**, immediately passing a small white building; this is again the former railway. Lower down veer R to a gravel road with **views** of *Valle Arakil* to the W, and reach Irurtzun at its top (F, 496m; ☺ view of **dos Hermanas** rocky gap). After F turn L down past **cementerio** then past s **Miguel** down Calle s Miguel to N240a (F). Turn R under the arcades (☞ **tienda**), cross N240a, turn R then L down (☞ **tienda**) to the main crossroad in **3.6km IRURTZUN** (F, 484m; ☞ **tienda, panadería, pastelería** ⓘ + ⚡ ⓘ ☐; ⚡ **PR Machain** (10r, c. dos Hermanas 10, 948/500 003), **HR Plazaola** (48r, r €50-55, c. Aralar 8, 506 313, ☺)). Turn L down NA2410 Calle Aralar (keep L), cross **río Larraun** (438m) on a stone **puente**, go under the A15 **motorway** then turn L on NA2410, joining a local **orange PR**. Seeing a small cement passage from this road to the one on the R, cross NA2410 and go to this road, NA7502. Turn R on it, ascend (☺ view of **dos Hermanas**), and after the board for *Erxeberri* turn R down a gravel road. Fork L through the farm, turn L on NA7500 but soon turn sharp R to NA7501, signposted **Santiago Itxasperri**. Ascend past romanesque **3km ermita Santiago de Itxasperri** (F, in 1268 *Libro de Rediezmo* as *Issasperry, portadas* w/ geometric capitals) to a fork with an old house with the inscription *Egüiarreta* in front, in **0.5km EGUIARRETA** (). Fork L down, direction **casa rural**, facing a long old house with green shutters and doors (and a cameo of Virgin) turn L down a cement road, and follow this straight road through the couple of houses of **ITXASPERRI** (460m) and across **río Arakil**. Bend R before the railway, cross fields, leave orange which goes L across the railway to proceed SA past a big barn (R) then on a track that bends L and passes under the **railway** (can be watery) to up to NA2410. Join NA2140 R to the next crossroad, turn R under the **railway** again (L is a gas station with ☛ **snacks**) and the first building on the L, overgrown with ivy, is **3.5km CR Irigoen** in **28.7km VILLANUEVA DE ARAKIL - HIRIBERRI** (F, 448m).

② partly GR 220, via Errotz: ☛ Keep SA on the gravel road, joining **GR 220**, under A15 **motorway**, cross and turn L on N240a then veer R to NA7012 Calle Mayor to F in **0.5km ERICE DE IZA** (F, 495m; ☺ remains of 1150 **iglesia**). Veer R up, after 1950 s **Andrés** fork R up, R again before a white house with big windows, ascending a tarmac lane past a F with cypresses to **cementerio** with a **view** (550m). Before **cementerio** turn R to gently descend a series of paths into the valley ahead. On bottom leave GR 220 by turning R up a gravel road, fork L up and ascend through forest on *Camino Sanmigelagerri* to a big parking/rounding area (632m). At its end turn/veer R down a dirt track/road and follow this straight line through woods, soon joining a dirt road which later skirts some fields (R) and bends L then R at the

buildings of **Garroren Borda**. It becomes a gravel road along the edge of fields (L), join a cement road down and reach **casona** with *blason* and **F** in **5.4km ERROTZ (F, 450m; ⚠)**. Descend the road past **F**, SA between the big houses, round a white house, to a T crossroad with **F** and **s Babil**. Turn R down past **lavadero**, go over the **railway**, turn L in a T crossroad with NA7010, cross it via a crossing, go a bit further and turn R to NA7065 in the direction of **Urritzola**. Further S along NA7010, beyond the gorge and NS de Oskia were found remains of *calzada romana*. Cross **río Arakil** (425m) on a narrow stone **puente**, ascend a R bend, and there should be a R turn-off with *orange PR*. If not, continue up to the start of, turn R into it and reach **F** in a big *plaza* of **1.8km URRITZOLA (F, 488m; ⚡ NS Rosario)**. Cross the *plaza* SA and leave it next to an electricity tower, descending a cement then a dirt lane that ends on a dirt track (452m). Turn L then R on a tarmac road, pass a R turn-off and a R bend, then turn L to a dirt track with bushes on the L that gently ascends to a T crossroad. Turn L, fork L, in an intersection veer L to a dirt track that ends at **s Andrés** in **2.6km EKAI (512m)**. Round it, leave the village on NA7013, soon veer L, join NA2410, pass **ermita s Lorenzo** R in the fields then **1km ZUHATZU (430m; ⚡ s Martín, cimitero with ermita s Bárbara (R), in a crossroad head SA/L on NA7069, direction Satrustegi**, to a crossroad in the village, turn R on Calle s Miguel and end on a *plaza* with **F** and **s Martín** in **1km SATRUSTEGI (F, 476m)**. Turn L, out of the village fork L and follow this tarmac road to a crossroad. Turn R, go under A10 **motorway**, R past a gas station (gas, snacks), L under the **railway** and reach **1.2km CR Irigoien**, the first house on the L of **28.2km VILLANUEVA DE ARAKIL - HIRIBERRI (F, 448m)**. ☺?

**28.7km/28.3km VILLANUEVA DE ARAKIL - HIRIBERRI (F, 448m, 948) 🍔**

⌚ former seat of the community of Arakil; **casonas** (two w/ *blasones* w/ scallops)

🏡 **CR Irigoien\*\*\*** (6r, BB €21, © HP €27), c. s Martín 1, 600 102 Pili & Juan, S part of ground floor was once *tienda y taberna* & N part *farmacia*, wm, ®!.

⇒ After **CR Irigoien** fork R to Calle Mayor, in front of **s Martín** turn L, pass **casona** with **blason** with scallop shells, cross a *plaza* with **F**, and leave the village on Calle s Martín that after **regata Ardantzela** becomes a gravel road leading to a *plaza* with **F** and **s Esteban** in **2.2km IHABAR (F, 455m)**. Round the church to reach NA2410 Calle Mayor, with **F** across. Turn R to NA2410 till a roundabout, turn R to NA7563 Calle s Gregorio, pass **ermita s Gregorio**, enter the old village and follow NA7536 to where it bends L on itself in the middle of **2.8km IRAÑETA (F, 460m; 🏛; ⚡ mentioned 1319, in 1734 for 500 ducats bought itself town status, s Juan Bautista; 🏛 CR Baltegi (3r, d €80, 649/234 549, wm, kitchen))**. Keep SA/R, cross a small *plaza* and head on Calle s Miguel along the river to cross **río Arakil** on a stone **puente**. Go SA on a cement road, ascend, join NA2410 R and reach c1140 **1.9km s María de Zamartze** (L, 465m, recent excavations unearthed probable roman *mansio* mentioned in *Antonini Itinerarium* as *Aracaeli* on *Via Traiana iter XXXIV* from Astorga to Bordeaux & cemetery w/ skeletons w/ scallops, documented since 1563 (1143?), *capilla* w/ *portada* w/ geometric capitals, corbels, masons' signs & no roof, also pilgrim hospital & leprosary (furthest W building, now *monasterio*).

**D to dolmens & s Miguel de Aralar (~20km/8h45):** To the N of Huarte in Sierra de Aralar is, beside the famous s Miguel de Aralar, also a number of finely preserved dolmens which constitute only a part of the one of the most important megalithic complexes in the Iberian peninsula. A round PR passes 11 of them and you can stay the night in the very basic refugio in the mountains or ask for a bench in the 'picnic hall' in *santuario*. In the lower reaches of the Sierra are cave systems that are said to have once been home to fire-breathing dragons. Recent research showed that many medieval villages once dotted the lower reaches of the mountains.

After **s María de Zamartze** turn sharp L up a tarmac road signposted **San Miguel de Aralar**, joining **GR 282**. About 500m later, just after crossing a **stream**, a path veers L (not signposted or waymarked?) and starts climbing steeply through the forest. In the middle of the climb a signpost shows a small **D R** to **arból de la piedra**, a tree that has joined with a rock to be able to grow on the steep slope. Further up there is an **image of s Miguel** in iron. Here turn/veer L (W) to an unmarked path and after only 250m there is **dolmen de Artzabal** which is considered to be the best preserved in the whole Sierra de Aralar. It is not clear here if the route continues from this dolmen or you have to return to image of s Miguel and follow the path for another 200m to an intersection in a clearing before a group of larger trees! In any case, follow NW along the S border/ridge of the mountain, enjoying **views** of Sierra Andia, and in a bit over 1km reach **dolmen de Zubeinta**. Continue in the same direction but turn L off the path to see **dolmen Luperta** with a very well preserved tumulus. 2km further along the path is **dolmen de Olaberta** with a 3+m high mound in the middle of a beautiful forest. Pass a **dolmen** and another **dolmen** with a big mound, to arrive to a clearing with **refugio** and another **dolmen** in a poor state. To the N of refugio (1075m), near the road, is **dolmen Erbilleri**. 9km from Huarte, 17km from Villanueva.

**17km** **refugio** (2bb, free), at least one bunk, very simple & unkept!, wooden bunks w/ nothing on them, floor strewn w/ papers & stuff, open.

⇒ At the top corner of the clearing runs **Camino de Debata**, a stony track that starts at the road above then runs just to the N of the clearing and E towards **s Miguel de Aralar**. It passes **dolmen de Elurmenta** and **dolmen de Debata** then leads to the road which follow down R to **santuaria**.

**2.6km** **santuaria s Miguel de Aralar** (F?, 1220m; ; 626/030 234, refugio on benches in open 'picinc hall' just off parking lot; 1032 1st reference but on site of possibly 9C preromanesque sanctuary, intricate cobbled floor, end-12C enamelled **retablo**, original wooden statue of **s Miguel** encased in silver baroque shell, fantastic **views** S, 10-14+16-18/20, free tour, **€2**). **D**: above towers rocky **Artxueta** (1345m) with far-reaching **views** all around, even to the sea to the N in clear weather.

⇒ Descend a path from the parking lot to the cement road below, cross it and descend a path that, after touching the road again, zig-zags down a stony slope, crosses a forest, a clearing and another patch of forest. In a scrubland afterwards is a bit wobbly **dolmen de Otxopasaje** (< euskara otxo = wolf) then the path descends past the iron **image of s Miguel** and further down to the road and **6km s María de Zamartze**. You can also only climb to **s Miguel de Aralar**, 6km/2h from ermita de Zamartze (perhaps ask to leave the backpack?).

Continue on NA2410 with **GR 282** down to a **0.5km** crossroad at **puente medieval**. Across is the lovely **+0.2km HUARTE - ARAKIL** (F, 469m; tienda, carnicería + ; < euskara *ur arte* = between waters, 1268 *Huart*, 1366 *Uart de Valo d'Araquil*, from 1355 Nov 19 onwards planned in straight lines, 1461 *fuerro* by Juan II as *Buena Villa*, 1600 totally burned down).

### A across Sierras Andía and Urbasa:

① via san Donato/Beriarin to Puerto de Lizarraga: The shortest and steepest climb, it's called **PR kilometrico vertical** for a reason!, up to Sierra Andia is from Uharte. Stock on water as here is the only opportunity (3l at least)! Following **GR 282**, cross **puente medieval** across **río Arakil**, turn R into the first street, Calle Río, and follow it through **UHARTE - ARAKIL**

(469m), passing **F** and **s Juan Bautista** At the end turn L to Calle s Juan, go R under the **railway** and A10 **motorway**, and ascend SA paved Calle Ospitalalde. Pass a line of white parallel blocks and reach a white cement ramp of a swimming pool on the L. Leave GR and climb the ramp, pass an **1.2km** info board of this **PR** (it says **san Donato 5.6km/2h30**), to head SA up past picnic tables (last **F**, 491m). Climb a succession of meadows, twice cross a small wooden gate over a fence, then veer L to ascend a gravel road around an abandoned quarry. Fork and very soon reach a clearing called **Auzasoroburu** (652m) with a signpost. Fork L up a steep path that in a pretty much straight line climbs a beautiful forested slope, crosses a track then several scree where it begins to sway L to reach the steep meadows under the rock wall and finally **Uharteko portue** (1375m), the unrocky passage up to the plateau. Cross the fence there and turn R for a final, more gradual, climb along a wide path marked with scarce worn yellow strips and an occasional cairn, to 12-13C **s Donato** on top of **5.6km Beriain** (1493m;  **views**).

**14km**  **refugio ermita s Donato** (free), 2 tables & 3 benches, open.

⇒ Backtrack to **Uharteko portue**, but continue SA on a (only) drivable grassy track along the L side of the incredible promontory of **Sierra de Andía**. Be especially careful in mist or clouds as the carst landscape hides many surprises and the cliffs on both sides are high! Stick to this track as it winds up and down across the carst country and past grazing sheep and horses. When it becomes more drivable, pass a **pond**, the track becomes a dirt/gravel road that swings R through some rocks then descends across the vast pastures to a sizable gravel road. Turn L on it, joining **GR 282** (with scarce small dark red posts), and stick to it past **balsa Zuloa**, **balsa Larraga**, a shepherd's hut, bigger **balsa Sarasa**, before a final descent to NA120 at **15km/3h30 Puerto de Lizarraga** (1031m). 29km from Villanueva de Arakil - Hiriberri.

**15km/3h30**  **HsR Lizarragako Benta**\*\* (6r, s/d €50), 639/875 408 Pedro Miguel Lasu Elizalde, heating, *bocadillo* 4.5, D 12, whole 8b r €250.

② GR 282 via Unanu to Puerto de Lizarraga:  The more gentle climb below the cliffs of Sierra Andia is along **GR 282** all the way. Cross **puente medieval** across **río Arakil**, turn R into the first street, Calle Río, and follow it through **UHARTE-ARAKIL** (469m), passing **F** and **s Juan Bautista** At the end turn L to Calle s Juan (GR 282 info board), go R under the **railway** and A10 **motorway**, and ascend SA paved Calle Ospitalalde. Pass a line of white parallel blocks and reach a white cement ramp of a **1.2km** swimming pool on the L. Continue SA up past the last house, 200m later fork R but only 50m further fork L to a dirt track that steadily ascends through woods to **collada Arriurdin** (780m) then descends past two F? and a former quarry to a fork at the end of a meadow. Fork L down across another meadow, swing R up through woods to round a ridge then descend to the end of NA7102 in **7km UNANU** (**F**, 650m; ;  **ermita s Andrés**;  **CR Edronekooa** (5r, d €58, 0948/460 615, 669/950 493, **traditional casa**, heating, kitchen, B 7, vegi D, call for 1 night!). Turn L past **s Pedro** to a *plaza* with a , turn L up Beriainbidea Karrika that becomes an ascending gravel road, after a couple of hairpin bends passing **F** then swinging R and entering the woods below the cliffs of Sierra Andía. It levels

then ascends to the vast pastures of Sierra Andía. Pass **balsa Fuentefría**, **balsa Zuloa**, swing R, pass **balsa Larraga**, a shepherd's hut, bigger **balsa Sarasa**, and descend to NA120 at **14.7km Puerto de Lizarraga** (1031m). ↗?

**33km**  **HsR Lizarragako Benta\*** (6r, s/d €50), 639/875 408 Pedro Miguel Lasa Elizalde, heating, *bocadillo* 4.5, D 12, whole 8b r €250.

③ ⇒ Sierra Urbasa: Cross NA120 to continue on **GR 282** up W along a gravel road *Cami de s Adrián* that runs across pastures grazed by horses. Pass a shepherd's hut, later an old route cleaned of stones leading through the rocky wall on the R called **canal de Ollide**, and shortly after go R at a fork in raised **calzada** (some claim of roman origin, its L branch leads S across the finest stretch of **calzada** and shortly after to **+0.3km sima de Tximua**). Walk along more raised stretches of **calzada**, then the road descends in two quick bends and here turn R up a grassy lane that ascends to the edge of the wall and **ermita s Adrián** perched right at the very edge of **Sierra de Urbasa**. For its most spectacular peaks look back E.

**4.5km/1h10**  **refugio ermita s Adrián** (1113m, free), fireplace, stone bench, fairly clean, open?.

⇒ Follow a small path W atop the wall down to **portillo de Lizarraga** (1049m) with a metal gate then ascend a path (not the gravel road, it goes away S) along the ridge of encima de Lizarraga to **2.8km Baitza** (1183m). The descend is a bit more tricky, the path sometimes strays further away from the edge and sometimes there are sharp carst formations to cross. Look back to see a rocky outcrop with two **arcos de piedra**. The final grassy descent leads to **portillo de s Marina** (1020m). (A descent to Iturmendi: Here **PR-NA 130**, a good track, descends past **F fuente Santamarinako** (825m) and **F fuente Angiturrita** (725m, both dry in summer!) and **ermita s Pedro** to a *plaza* with an info board in **3.6km ITURMENDI** (534m). This way it's 14km from Puerto de Lizarraga to ALSASUA.) Ascend **PR-NA 130** to **3.3km ermita s Marina**.

**6.1km**  **refugio ermita s Marina** (1068m, free), used to be s Trinidad, fireplace, 2 stone tables & 4 stone benches, might be dirty, open.

⇒ ↗ A path follows the pastures along the edge of the ridge then on the edge of the more or less dense forest with lots of unusual **tree and rock formations** until **3km El Bargagain = Urbasa** (1153m) with a cross. (A descent to Alsasua: It should be **PR-NA xxx**. From the summit descend W still along the more or less open ridge. Before reaching the end of the open area, turn R down 'across' the wall into **forest** below. The zigzags down at first then bears gently R to a ridge and descends along it, passing a ruined **torre** before ending on the pastures above the valley. Follow the track along the ridge then, when it swings R, go SA on a path that squeezes through a line of trees then reaches a gravel track. Turn L here for 10m then turn R to a small path across a meadow, through a line of trees and along the edge of another line of trees (or across the fields) towards the motorway. Turn R when on a gravel track then L under A10 **motorway**. When the track makes a L bend, go SA on a path across fields to NA2410. Turn R then L in a crossroad, under the **railway** and reach the main leafy *plaza* with **3.5km ayuntamiento** in **6.5km+0.5km ALSASUA** (526m). 17.7km from Puerto Lizarraga.)

From **El Bargagain** (1153m) descend along the open then forested ridge W all the way to the end, passing three **menhirs**, and ending on NA718

at **2km/30min** **puerto de Urbasa/Olatzi** (895m; **dolmen** is now a pile of rocks before the sign for Urbasa). Turn L on NA718 for **+1.7km** **camping**. 17.3km from Puerto Lizarraga.

**5km+1.7km** **camping & alberque Biotza** (920m, 57bb, €12, HP €25), 948/391 004, dr, 8 hot showers, 8 wcs, wm, , cooking forbidden, , B 3 9h-10h30, D 10 20h30-21h30, safe, 4-6p bungalows w/ kitchen €96-124, 110pl, p €5.80, tent €6, 6 pr d BB €49, Feb-Nov 9h-22h.

⇒ NA718 descends in bends to Olatzi. Use it in bad weather. A little further from the small parking lot at the board for *Urbasa* veer R down a stony path that cuts a bend in NA718. Pass above a road bend and zigzag down to the next bend. Cross NA718 a little L to descend on a path to the next bend. Go L for about 50m and there is a path again, descending past quite spectacular (when watery) waterfall **Salto de Agua** in its own small *cirque*. Again cross NA718 and plunge into woods. Keep L (although R also leads to Olatzi, past **F** and more along NA718) and descend through the forest along arroyo Troskera till a gravel road/track coming from a quarry (L). Follow it SA, veer L before new apartment blocks on NA718 to pass behind them and reach **ermita s Sebastián** (15C Virgen de Belén). Continue SA on Calle Goienkale, go under NA2410 then SA on Calle s Ignacio to a *plaza* in **6.8km** Olatzi. Turn L on Calle Mayor, follow **todas direcciones** R, across A10 **motorway** and the **railway**, then immediately turn L to a parallel tarmac road, joining the main route.

? In the crossroad at **puente medieval** go R on NA2140 but immediately veer R to a parallel cement road. It makes R, L, R, L bend and joins a tarmac road. Go SA/L on it and keep SA in a crossroad where tarmac turns R, on a cement road. Fork L, join a tarmac SA and when nearing the **railway**, go over it via a **4.2km** footbridge. (Turning L then going under A10 **motorway** leads to **+1km** **ARRUAZU** (**F**, 495m; < euskara arru(g)a = square, market < roman-esque rua + euskara -zu = market place, mentioned 1377; (6r, d €45, 948/576 080, kitchen, B 4, D 10, extra bed 10)). Turn R after the footbridge and follow a white track across **río Arakil** (L are **cementerio** and **ermita s Antonio Abad**, here used to be the original settlement from before 1356) to the main *plaza* (**F**) in **7.6km** **LACUNZA - LAKUNTZA** (**F**, 489m; tienda, pastelería ; in Middle Ages through it run *bidarri* = road of stones which was probably a former roman road, in 1350 had 13 hearths, in 1351 infante Luis ordered the inhabitants to move to Etxarri but they were ordered to move back in 1356, 16C gothic **s Salvador** (by stonemasons Juan de Villareal & Juan de Bulano, ), 16C **picota** (pillar for public punishments), 18-19C **casas**). Cross it then follow Calle Uriz to join NA2410 R past the industrial zone to **iglesia** in **1.6km** Arbizu. 32.8km from Villanueva + up & down to Aralar monastery (only).

For **+1.8km** alb.-eco-camping turn L to NA7100.

**20.8km+1.8km ARBIZU** (?**F** at *iglesia*, 497m, 948),

1351 many inhabitants of the settlements surrounding Arbizu were ordered to move because of the insecure status of Castilla, 16C became town; **iglesia, casas**

**HR Olatzea** (11r, BB €70-95), c. Errota, 461 876, old windmill w/ original machinery, ⊕, minibar, safe, , BB s/d €70-95/92-114, 14h-23h. **HsR Izar-Ondo** (17r, €60), ave Pamplona 6, 460 062, 460 581. **+1.8km** **Eco-camping & alberque Arbizu** (20bb, €11), S on NA7100, 461 807, 1dr, , , pool, pet 2.60, 4-6b bungalows €67-88, 22pl, p €4.70-5.20, tent €5.90-6.40, all year.

farmacia.

⇒ Veer L before **iglesia**, past a bus station (L), and turn R at the end of *plaza* to Calle Urkia. When it ends, go a few steps further then descend the stairs, cross NA2410 and turn L on a grey gravel track parallel to NA2410. When it ends, take a path back to NA2410. Reaching the industrial zone, walk on a minor road to the L of NA2410, it becomes a track after the last buildings. When it reaches NA2410 again, turn L along it to a **2.6km** roundabout in Etxarri.

To go to **+1.8km** **alberque-camping** (23.4km from Villanueva), turn R to NA120 (L side) across the whole tree-lined main *plaza* (F at the end?), bend L, cross **río Arakil**, turn L after it then turn R to a minor road signposted **estación** and go under the **railway**. In a crossroad after it go SA, the road turns L, fork L and L again.

### **2.6km+1.8km ETXARRI ARANATZ (F?, 509m, 948)**

⌚ < euskara *etxe* = house + (*h*)*arri* = stone – stone house or in east dialects of euskara the shortening of *etxeberri* = new house, beg-12C *fuero*, 1251 mentioned igl. s María, 1312 founded a toll-free fortified bastide *Echerri* because these parts were full of small bands of criminals, 17-18C **casas** (particularly behind *iglesia*), 1636 **NS Asunción**, **Centro de cultura megalítica** (in camping)

**CR Urmendi** (d €60), c. s Pedro 1, 667/853 379, wm, kitchen (fridge, microwaves). **+1.8km camping & albergue Etxarri** (€11), paraje Dambolintxulo, 948 460 537, wm, , , pet 2.30, pool, tent €5.70, p €5.20, HP €25-29, Easter-Sep.

farmacia. ATM.

⇒ In a roundabout at the start of ETXARRI-ARANATZ turn R to NA120, pass the start of the main tree-lined *plaza*, at the end of the cobbled open space turn L and head into one-way Calle Kalamurtxel. It becomes a track along **río Arakil** then, shadowed by trees and bushes, across fields but still parallel to the river. Reaching a T intersection close to a house (L), turn L towards that house then turn R in the next T intersection (house now L), to a gravel track across fields that ends on a tarmac road. Turn R across **río Arakil** and after another stretch across fields turn L in a T intersection with a tarmac road. Follow the road, crossing the old bridge across **río Arakil**, under A10 **motorway** to **ermita Santiago** in **4.7km BAKAIKU (F, 519m)**; mentioned 1208, 17C **s Juan Bautista** (1216 inscriptions), **lavadero**). F is L past **s Juan Bautista** on NA2410. Keep SA on a gravel road that passes under NA2410 to reach the other nucleus of the village. Veer R/SA in the little *plaza*, pass three houses then turn R to a street past CR Angoiko. It becomes a cement/gravel road across fields and ends in the S tip of Iturmendi. Turn R, L in a T crossroad with Calle s Marina, and R when it ends in front of CR Txorralde, to a *plaza* with an info board in **2.8km ITURMENDI (534m)**; ⌚ < euskara *itur* = spring + *mendi* = mount, **lavadero**, **s Miguel**; **Apartamentos Elordi** (2-19b, c. Beltza 6, 948/467 806, 600/031 140, tradicional **casa**, kitchen (fridge, microwave), call for 1 night!). ↗? Turn L before the info board to Calle Consistorial, to the L of big **casona** with dove niches below roof, that soon leaves the village and as a gravel track ascends to Urdiain. Follow it all the way into the village, just before the big old houses passing, on the L, a new street with six identical houses. Keep SA till a house blocks the route, turn R and L after one house, and reach a bigger *plaza* in **1.7km URDIAIN (549m)**; **CR Erburu I & II** (2r+5r, c. Portuko, 0948/460 409, 675/467 591, **traditional casa**, wm, kitchen (stove, oven, microwave), call for 1 night!). ?↗ Before a tree towards the end veer L to Calle s Martin, fork R at a triangular patch of grass and the street becomes a gravel road across fields. Cross a **stream**, fork L, pass a house (L) then fork R. Cross two **streams**, pass a farm (L), cross a **stream**, pass a R turn-off and reach a proper intersection. Turn R towards the motorway, bends twice L and turn R towards the

motorway again. After a roundabout go over A10 **motorway**, across another roundabout and reach NA2410 in the industrial zone. ↗ Turn L, pass Hs Izelai behind which is Netto supermarket, cross NA2410 for the other side when reaching a crossing, and in a crossroad turn R to NA8505. Cross **río Burunda**, go under the **railway** and reach the main leafy *plaza* with **3.8km ayuntamiento**.

Alb. juvenil is SA on on Calle Zelai (**F**), a big pale yellow building on the L, with a small park in front. Ring the bell.

**13km+0.5km ALSASUA - ALTSASU** (**F**, 526m, 948) + @

< euskara *El Aliso* village + *sua* = fire, medieval *Alssaltssuu*, *Alsassua*, according to legend the first king of Navarra, Garía Jiménez, was crowned in ermita s Pedro nearby; 16C **NS Asunción, ermita s Juan Bautista, ermita Virgen de Erkuden**

**Hs Izelai** (25r, d €36-40), ave Pamplona 20, ZI Ondarria, 607/993 333, minibar, safe, + iva, all year 24h. **Hs Latxenea** (6r, d €50), pl Iortia 5, 564 761, 600/209 905, centre, B. **+0.5km alberque juvenil Hs s Cristo de Otadia**\*\* (70b, €16-17), c. Zelai 91, 564 814, 562 304, 0848/427 899, heating, w/m+dm 3+4, B 3.50 8h-9h30, D 9 20h30-21h30, linen 2.50, @, luggage room, sh/pr s €16/17, all year 8h-22h. **CR Erotazar** (5apparts, €65), Venta de Abajo 12, 562 617, 659/621 609, kitchen, pool.

supermercado Netto, panadería, tabacos. farmacia. banks & ATMs. @ in biblioteca.

⇒ Continue on NA8505 to a crossroad at the start of wide Calle Zelai with parking lots in the middle, and turn L to one-way Calle s Juan (**F** before it narrows). Cross A1 **motorway** into **0.8km ALTZANIA** (530m; **P Mendi** (12r, barrio Estación 9, 948/562 007)), go SA towards *Polígono Industrial Ibarria*, cross a roundabout, **río Altzania** (522m), go under the **railway** and immediately turn L to a tarmac road. Ascend, pass *guardia civil*, and an electricity tower, and turn sharp R. Before a gate turn L to a dirt/gravel road that makes a R and a L bend that ascends through the forest, cross a *portillo* and reach a dirt lane whit white-green stripes (620m). (D: **+0.1km** R is an enchanting **fuente de hierro** (**F**, 630m; euskara *Metaliturri*), a tiny yellow-red lake watched over by a small stone hut overgrown with green moss. It was much visited by the Capucins from Alsasua monastery). Turn L and follow **white-green** waymarks. Descend, keep down a gravel road that later becomes tarmac, passes the remains of **fuente de Orna**, where till the 14C existed a village (with 17 hearths with 85 inhabitants in 1290, it was abandoned in the 14C due to numerous attacks, fires and robberies and the inhabitants moved to the other side of the river which was more easily defended; the border between Álava and Gipuzkoa was known as *frontera de los malchechores* = frontier of bad-doers), crosses **río Burunda** (528m), and reaches a **3.9km** crossroad before the railway. (SA under the **railway** and A1 **motorway** leads to **+0.1km OLAZAGUTÍA - OLATZI** (**F** & dixi-wc at the far L of NA2410 at a playing ground, 541m; panadería +; < euskara *olatza* = place for gathering cattle or *ola* = iron-foundry, 1355 probably as *Villadefensa*, 1st definite mention in 1498, 16C fortified **s Miguel**; +1.5km **HR Valcarce** (20r, BB €32-42, ctra A1 km.396 - E along motorway & next to it, 948/564 513, safe, pets, 24h)).) Turn R to a tarmac road along the railway and in the next crossroad turn R again to a wide tarmac road parallel. Pass **ermita and fuente de Belén** (**F**), cross **río Burunda** (534m) and immediately turn L to a gravel road. Keep SA when white-green waymarks turn R, turn L in a T intersection, and the main *plaza* in **3km CIORDIA - ZIORDIA** (**F**, 545m; +; < euskara *zihaurri* = a plant abundant in the vicinity, 1462 possibly as *gaillurllidua*, **ermita NS de Milagros**). Cross it along the R side, then another *plaza* afterwards (**F**), leave it by veering R on NA7521 Calle s María, passing 17-18C **NS Asunción** and reaching a crossroad with a cut-down tree in the middle (**F**). Veer L, still on NA7521 Calle s María (L side). Reaching a crossroad after a beton wall with two benches (and before crossing **río Burunda**), turn R then L to a gravel road with 3.5 sign that crosses the border between Navarra and Álava, it becomes tarmac past an

industrial complex and reaches a crossroad with a tree, and **iglesia** L. Veer R up after the tree to a *plaza* with **F** and **lavadero** in **3.2km EGINO** (**F**, 570m; ). Turn L in the *plaza*, to a street behind a big white house (L) then veer R up an overgrown track with a very **faint white-red** waymark (the old GR 25). Ascend (632m; **view** of valley & ermita de Arandegi) and descend in this direction, ending on a tarmac road. (**D**: **+0.5km** R is **cueva Leze**.) Turn L down the road, joining **GR 25**, R in a T crossroad to A3012, leave GR 25 heading L in the next crossroad, at the start of the village veer L across grass to round the fortified **iglesia** of **2.1km ILARDUIA** (**F**, 575m).

**A via Araia:** Follow the yellow paved trail to the L of the road, cross a crossroad SA, and after a house (R) turn R past a yellow paved corner with a F?. Keep SA in this N direction, the street becomes gravel and after crossing a **brook** reaches a T intersection. Turn L, immediately cross another **brook**, then head on a SA gravel road across fields, slowly descending until it becomes tarmac (starting with a **humilladero**, on a small hill on the R is the tiny 12C **ermita s Juan de Amamio** (**capitals**), on the place of the former settlement Amamio) and reaches A3020 in Araia. Cross A3020, turn R, round a fine **casona**, cross **río Ziraunza** and reach 15C **s Pedro** in **3.6km** Araia. **Frontón** is next to s Pedro, **Txarrua** is L along Calle Iturbera. 33.7km from Puerto Lizarraga via Alsasua, 34.5km from Puerto Lizarraga via Puerto Urbasa.

**16km ARAIA** (**F?**, 600m, 945)

**frontón** (D, ) 304 006/566 **ayuntamiento**. **Hospedaje Txarrua** (© €20), Arbin-Arbinalde 1, 0669/724 651 Esther, 686/166 343 Susi, centre. **+0.7km CR Mendiakpe** (3r, €38), c. Salsamendi 22, 304 212, 646/104 584, N of Araia, heating, laundry 11, kitchen, B 4.50, s/d €38/48.

supermercado, panadería. farmacia. ATM.

⇒ back to the main route: Turn L along Calle Iturbera, after the last house (L), veer L and follow a gravel track that leads to **barrio IDUIA**. Don't bend L with the gravel but veer L on a dirt track which passes a shed then bends R. Go SA here, past a tree and along a line of bushes/trees, ascending towards two antennae on top of a hill. But 100m before reaching the top, veer L down a gravel track between trees which leads to A3012, it's barred at the end but there are stairs across the gate. Cross A3012 for A4020 to the main *plaza* in **2.2km AMETZAGA** (585m). Veer L to a gravel road that crosses **río Ametzaga** and reaches a corner of a tarmac street in an industrial zone. Go SA/R to the main street and turn R, ending in a roundabout at *Michelin* factory. Turn R and find a dirt track diagonally across an open space, it becomes gravel, bends R and ends on the end of a **3.9km** tarmac road. This is the main route which continues R to the end of tarmac then L along a straight gravel road across fields. **5.6km** to Salvatierra. (**D** to dolmen: Turn L across the **railway**, turn R then L through a gap in a fence, cross a grove and reach **+0.2km dolmen de Aizkomendi**.)

⇒ to and via Ruta del Tunél: Facing **s Pedro**, turn L, R, L and R to head on Calle Andra Mari and reach 18C **ermita Andra Mari** with **cementerio**. Next to it turn L to a straight gravel road across fields that towards the end ascends then bends R around a hill and keeps ascending

below a ridge (R). Almost reaching 12C **ermita ss Julián y Basilisa** where the disappeared settlement of Aistra was situated (pre-romanesque motifs), the road bends L and descends L to join a tarmac road and **Ruta del Tunél**. Descend to 16C **s Saturnin** and A3012 in **3.5km ZALDUONDO** (F, 605m; *Saldodon* in pilgrim documents, 16C **P de Lazarraga** (*blason w/ los Gizones* = euskara gentelman, 16C frescoes, M Entogr.)). Turn R on A3012, pass **P Lazarraga** then at **lavadero** and F turn L to A3018, direction **Ordoñana**, immediately passing a fancy little **park**. Follow this road, across **río Ametzaga**, gently up, past 17C **ermita s Millán** (605m) then down to a crossroad with a F? in **3.1km ORDOÑANA** (F?, 594m; 16C **NS Asunción**, **casa** w/ inscription *sui de Iván Ruiz de Ordoñana*). Keep on A3018, across **río Ordoñana**, join A3016 and reach **s María** in **2.9km SALVATIERRA** (606m; ). 26.1km from Alsasua via Araia, 9.5km from Araia.

Cross a small stone **puente** in front of *iglesia* then follow a yellow paved trail, turn L in a crossroad, 50m later turn R, veer L (don't turn L) past a *plaza* with yellow paving and a F, turn R in a T crossroad, cross **río Arakil** and ascend a dirt road to an intersection. Turn R to a dirt track and go straight across fields to a **1.9km** T crossroad. (R across **río Ametzaga** is **+0.5km** **ALBÉNIZ** (F, 570m; some think it's the same as Plinius' *les Albaneses*, along *Via Traiana iter XXXIV* from Bordeaux to Astorga, now under the railway & N1, with *mansio Alba*, an Arab text from 758 calls the inhabitants of this territory *varduli alabanensis*; two **molinos**, 16C **ermita s Juan**; **albergue s Francisco de Asís** (45bb), 945/262 452 *parroquia*, 261 676, cczaramaga@terra.es, 3dr, 2 hot showers, wcs, ?kitchen, D, for groups but call!, all year), **CR Beretxea** (5r, €40, c. s Juan 26, 304 832, 673/895 259, 675/743 828, 10-6b, wm+dm, kitchen 3, B 3.50, s/d €40/50-55)). Turn L in this crossroad to the train station and cross the **railway** via the platforms, following **orange** makrs. On the other side follow a tarmac road R up over A1 **motorway** and across A3138 to a *plaza* with F and **s Román** in **1km SAN ROMÁN DE SAN MILLÁN - DURRUMA DONEMILIAGA** (F, 605m; ; **s Román** (romanesque carved **pila** & **portada** w/ geometric decoration, roman spoliae); **HsR El Ventorro** (ctra N1 km.385, 945/304 372)). Cross the village gently up Calle Mayor, on top at **lavadero** and Gr 25 info board turn R up then down a tarmac road towards an industrial complex (with **HR Andamur** (45r, Parcela A, 0945/314 783, 304 044, wm)). Turn L on A3138 then turn R in the second crossroad (before the road is cut into a hill) down a minor tarmac road that goes under A1 **motorway**. Turn L in a T crossroad at the edge of **2km EGUILÁZ - EGILATZ** (600m; Hermanidad de Eguílaz was founded in 2/2 of 14C (1360 rules are preserved) as a defence alliance between 12 villages and towns that later became the province of Álava, **lavadero**, **s Pedro**) and in 200m reach the parking space for the beautifully preserved **dolmen de Aizkomendi** (euskara = mountain of the axe, accidentally discovered in 1830, many Neolithic and Bronze Age graves were found inside). Pass the dolmen and its mound on the L, going through the grove, exiting it via a gap in a fence onto a gravel road. Turn R then L, go the **railway**, and reach the end of the tarmac road. Turn L to a gravel road across fields, through a small forest and through **MEZKIA** (F, 595m) where it becomes tarmac A4007. Ascend to a crossroad, turn R then immediately L down, then undulate in a straight line to A3016. Turn L, joining **Ruta del Tunél**, pass the former **hospital s Lázaro y s Magdalena** (L with *blazon*, now private property), cross **río Zadorra** (600m), pass an old sunken **fuente**, veer R up in a roundabout, to Calle Portal Ula, then turn L up the first street to **s María**, F and **wc** in a park after it. Continue SA on Calle Mayor, past 16-17C **Casa Azkarraga** (No 9), to Plaza s María with **P Mari** in **5.8km** Salvatierra. 25.5km directly from Alsasua, 26.1km via Araia and back to main route.

## 23.7km SALVATIERRA - AGURAIN (F, wc, 605m, 945) ☺ + ⚡ ⓘ

⌚ 1205 village *Reja*, 1256 fuero by Alfonso X on site of village *Hagurahin*, 1368 becomes *villa realenga*, 1564 plague & fire almost obliterated it, pilgrims from the N entered by Puerta s María; **murallas** w/ **puertas**, fortified end15-beg16C **s María** (on site of temple, 1795 S *portico* w/ **wooden keystone**, outside defensive galery, 1530 lower *coro* w/ portret medallions & Santiago, 1587+1664 *retablo mayor*), **casas** w/ **blasones**, **Casa de Diezmos** (lower N part w/ small beg-16C door w/ *blason* that signifies that here tolls & grain were collected), **pl s Juan** (marketplace since 1256), fortified end15C-beg16C **s Juan Bautista** (baroque *portada*, defensive galery, it is said that pilgrims used this *iglesia* to go around town to avoid tolls); 🎭 Feb **Ronda s Agueda** (carnival w/ *porreo* & *la sorgina* masks), Oct **feria de ganado** (more than 610 yrs old)

🏨 **PR José Mari**\*\*\* (© €15), c. Mayor 69, 300 042, D 10, © sh s €15, all year.  
+0.05km **albergue de peregrinos** (床位), c. Fueros 11, should open in 2013, ask in TO.

🏪 Eroski, panaderías, tabacos. + farmacia, centro de salud, clinica dental. ⚡ banks & ATMs. ⓘ TO (302 931), very friendly & very well stocked, till 20.

⇒ The part from here to La Puebla de Arganzón is part of **Ruta del Tunel** or **Camino Vasco del Interior**, linking Irun and Santo Domingo de la Calzada or Burgos, and is marked with **wooden posts & signposts**, **small yellow posts** and **yellow arrows**.

Keep on Calle Mayor throug the old town, passing 16C **Casa García de Zuazo** at No 46, 1582 **Casa Luzuriaga y Oquéruri** at No 42, end-16C **Casa Diaz de s Cruz** at No 40, end14C-beg15C **Casa de las Viudas** at No 34, 18C **Casa Zabalarte** with ⓘ, across arcaded Plaza s Juan with **s Juan**, down Portal del Rey to a semi-round *plaza* with a monument in the middle. Turn R, in between the semi-circular buildings, down A3100 Calle Fueros (R side). After some trees (R) turn R down to +0.05km **albergue** in a small low bulding in front of the football field.

After this crossroad corss Calle Fueros to follow it on the L side. Round the first roundabout (with a swastika-shaped park) on the L side and head along a red paved track parallel to the road. Round the next roundabout on the L, too, then walk on the grass along the road (there might be now a small road here). In the next roundabout with groups of small trees turn L then R in the following one. Passing *Epsilon Paifinger* building turn L, signposted **Gazeo 1.2km**, go under A1 **motorway** and follow a gravel road across fields that leads to **s Martín** in 3.8km **GAZEZO** (F, 590m; ⌚ 13C **s Martín** (14C *frescoes*, open only at 13h30 on TO tour)). Keep SA (F), join the main A4111 which veers L, cross a **stream** then turn R to a minor tarmac road leading to **s Román** in 2km **EZKEREKOTXA** (580m; ⌚ 16C **s Román** (12C façade, 13C apside w/ decorated *window* w/ sculpted *capitals*, stone renaissance *retablo*)). In the main *plaza* after *iglesia* turn L with the main road and leave the village S, slightly ascending towards the railway. Turn R before it and the road ascends in a R bend around a hill. Meander up and down between hills, cross a road, and start a delightful stretch along a gravel road parallel to the railway. It becomes tarmac, passes a long bridge over the railway then goes up and down several small hills, all the while the L view is dominated by the hill Castillo de Henaio which was the site of an Iron Age fort, and a medieval *castillo* and *ermita*. Cautiously cross A3112 to continue on the same minor tarmac road. In a T crossroad turn L (D: R is +0.1km 13C **santuario NS de Aiala** (porch w/ four arches, corbels (plants, *scallop shell*), decorated window w/ *portraits*, 14C Virgen Andra Mari)) but only 40m later 6.4km turn R to a gravel road.

⚠ For Algeria-Dulantzi keep SA, over the **railway** and in this direction across to the traffic lights on A3110 to +1.5km **s Blas**. ⚠?

## **12.2km+1.5km ALGERÍA - DULANTZI** (560m, 945) +

founded 1337 by Alfonso XI; 14-16C **s Blas** (baroque *retablo*)

**albergue de peregrinos** (8b, €4, , c. Ronzapil, 635/711 173, 620/532

036, 1dr, hot shower, wc, ws, microwave, , for © call, call ahead!, Mar-Oct 13h-22h. **P Casa Antolín** (20r, €37), c. Fortaleza 9, 400 553, B 2, D 9, s/d.

tienda, panadería. restau near *albergue* offers to pilgrims *platos combinados* for €5. + farmacia. ATM.

⇒ Follow the gravel road, called *Camino de los Romeros*, across fields and a **canal**. Seeing 12C **ermita s Juan de Arrarain** on the L (one of the oldest romanesque edifices in Álava, worn capitals, corbels w/ *musicians*), veer L down past it on a tarmac road, go over the **railway** and cross A3110, go to and turn R to Ave Burgelu (**F**; don't bother with a new F R in a *plaza*, it's dry) to the central *plaza* with a **pillar** in **2.3km ELBURGO - BURGALU** (**F**, 540m; ; founded 1337 by Alfonso XI, **s Pedro** (12C foundations); *HR Olaona* (ctra. N1 km.364, 945/307 033)). Veer L, L again to Calle Mayor and keep SA to a fork after the village. Veer R to a minor tarmac road that ascends and becomes gravel/dirt on top. In an intersection with a tree (L) veer R to a wide road on the L side of a ditch (a pedestrian gravel track along a former railway line also leads to Estíbaliz, a bit shorter, too) then turn L in a T intersection. Descend to **2.3km** an intersection.

**A** via Estíbaliz: Go SA, the gravel road bends R past the new settlement of **ESTÍBALIZ** and reaches **0.9km monasterio de Estíbaliz** (mentioned in 10C, 13C Virgen, 13C *pila bautismal* called *Porte Speciosa*). Round the monastery to head SW (**F**) on the former railway line between the forested slope (R) and the fields (L). On google it looks possible continue on a track in this direction past the other side **ESTIBALÍZ** to a gravel road where turn L and reach A3106 in Argandoña. Turn R to the crossroad with A4120 below **s Columba** in **1.9km ARGANDOÑA** (548m).

Turn L down to reach **s Andrés** in **0.4km VILLAFRANCA** (550m; mentioned in 11C, **s Andrés** (plateresque façade)). Turn R before it and cross the main *plaza* for A4120, following it out of the village. It becomes gravel, follows a former roman road, and leads to the crossroad with A3106 (**F** R up) in **1.1km ARGANDOÑA** (**F**, 548m; 13C **s Columba** (façade w/ *capitals*)). Turn L down A3106, go SA across a roundabout to the former main road that ascends then descends to A132. ( The old option has become fields. Before A132 turn R to a dirt track that rises across fields. When it turns L, turn R instead, and walk along the edge of two fields to a forest. Turn L before the forest to a dirt track that descends to **1.4km ASCARTZA** (530m). Turn L through it then R at the end to reach A132 and cautiously cross it for A2130. Very cautiously cross and turn R up then down A132. In the first crossroad turn L to A2130, direction **Vitoria-Gasteiz Sur**, pass a turn-off for *cementerio* and a big shed (L), then turn R up a dirt/tarmac track across fields, past a long pale green warehouse (L). Turn L in a T intersection at the end on A4117, at the start of Arcaya pass the remains of **termas romanas** and **NS Natividad**, to a crossroad with **F** in a mini park in **4.9km ARCARAYA** (**F**, 520m).

The new diversion avoiding the E new suburbs goes N (I made the description after a wikiloc route and am not sure it's the same as the official route!): Fork R and follow this road to after it crosses a **stream**. Turn L off to follow this stream under the **railway** to a big roundabout ahead. Veer L to Calle Bruselas, in the next roundabout turn L to Calle Arkaia, following it SA through the new suburb of colourful apartment blocks of **barrio de Salburua**,

to the very end in front of brick apartment blocks on Calle Astronomos. Turn R to reach a roundabout, turn L to Ave Santiago and stick to it, crossing to the R side on the way, all the way to the old centre, passing  **Eroski**, **F** (both R side), and *hospital de Santiago* (named after 1420 hospital de Santiago) (L after it is **+0.1km P Paz**), after which it becomes ascending Calle Portal del Rey. Cross one more crossroad then turn R to narrow Calle Nuevo Dentro. Again cross one crossroad then turn L up Calle s Ana, between two red building (a few paces further is **s Idelfonso**). Pass a **mural**, a modern dark wooden edifice and right after **P Arrieta-Maestu** with **M Naipes** and **M Arqueología**.

For **+0.1km alb.** turn R here into Calle Cuchillería, it's on the L in a narrow red building.

One block further up turn R to Calle Escuelas that ends on Plaza s María with **4.4km catedral s María** in Vitoria-Gasteiz. 

Fork L with A4117 then fork R. The route becomes gravel and ascends the slope of **Alto de las Neveras** (535m). On top, pass the metal gate and descend in the same direction, in view of the new suburbs of Vitoria, **barrio de Larrein**. There is some major new construction here and the waymarking is absent! Descend to the closest street, cross it and go a little L to continue down to Calle Maiz on bottom. Turn R, in a roundabout turn L up Calle Puente Amestoy, cross **arroyo Errekaleor** then wide Blvd Salburua (R is a bridge) and continue on Calle Antonio (**F** at playing area). At the very end a pedestrian track leads SA, turn R in a T intersection (**F**) then L along the railway (don't cross it). Join Calle Iparragirre and reach a **2.6km** pedestrian overpass over the railway. Cross over the **railway**, turn L on the street you come to, bend R with it, at the end cross a small park and reach traffic lights. Turn L across Calle Florida then Calle Trianas, ending at a brick apartment block to the R of round **Plaza de Toros**. Follow Calle Florida to the R of the apartment block (SA), cross Calle Pio XII, turn R across both parts of Calle Florida (L is a park) then veer L to Calle Angulema with tramway tracks (R side). Follow the tramway tracks into Calle Independencia (at start R is **+0.05km P Paz**) then leave them when they bend L, and go SA on the pedestrian tree-lined part of Calle Independencia. At the end fork R past ornate  (L, behind is **wc**), SA up the steps, across Calle s Francisco (L are 1787-1802 **Los Arquillos** and **s Vicente**) and into narrow Calle Cuchillería, entering **Casco Antiguo**. Pass **Casa de Cordon** then **P Arrieta-Maestu** with **M Naipes** and **M Arqueología** to a crossroad right after.

For **+0.1km alb.** turn R here into Calle Cuchillería, it's on the L in a narrow red building.

Turn L up Calle s Ana for one block, turn R to Calle Escuelas and reach Plaza s María with **4.4km catedral s María** in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

#### **4km+0.1km VITORIA - GASTEIZ (F, wc, 525m, 945)**

 ancient basque town *Gasteiz*, < perhaps euskara *beturia* = height, founded 1181 by Sancho VI as *Nueva Victoria*, 1200 incorporated in Castilla, 1431 became city, 1482 *fuego*, 1492 Jews expelled, *Victoria* by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, 1522 while residing in Casa del Cordón Adriano de Utrecht received news of becoming pope, *Victoria* by Johannes Lange in 1526, 1813 Napoleon defeated in battle here – Beethoven composed commemorating piece, 1980 capital of Basque Country; **Casco Antiguo** retains gothic layout, **s Idelfonso** (14C Cristo was very popular w/ pilgrims), 1781-90 **pl España** (enclosed arcaded square built for markets outside city walls), 15C **s Vicente** (in 13C built beside castle but both knocked down & only church rebuilt), 1860-1 **torre s Vicente** (former tower known as 'old tower', in 1854 military optic telegraph was fitted inside, €1), 14-16C **s Miguel** (mentioned 1181, 14-15C **portada**, niche where

*machete* was kept (upon which city's trustees would be sworn in), 16C star vault w/ **blasones** of wealthy tradesmen & noblemen, 1556 Capilla de Virgen Blanca w/ mid-19C Virgen), 16C **P Villa Suso** (arcaded courtyard), 15C **Casa del Cordon** (15C **portadas**, middle of which is surrounded by Franciscan rope motif, 13-15C **torre** rests on thick wooden base & has main hall w/ star-studded vault, office hrs, **free**), **M Naipes** (16C **P Arreita-Maestu** = Bendaña built over medieval **casa-torre** w/ fine arcaded courtyard, presses, matrixes & **14-20C** playing cards, T-F 10-14+16-18.30, S 10-14, Su 11-14, **free**), **M Arqueología** (dolmens, huge *fibuale*, roman sculptures (wonderful crude tombstone), medieval artefacts (pierced scallop shells), T-F 10-14+16-18.30, S 10-14, Su 11-14, **free**), 14C **catédral s María** (W **portada**, inner **façade** w/ sculptures & keystone w/ s Rocque in pilgrim regalia, defensive corridors & galleries, leaning & distorted pillars, 11-14+17-20, tour **€3/free**), 15C **El Portalón** (merchant's house & hostel, now restau, fine wooden half-timbered-and-brick façade), 1547 **convento s Cruz** (**portada** w/ monumental *Pasión*), 15-16C **casa-torre Iruña** (M Ciencias Naturales), 1524 **P Montehermoso** (**water reservoir** w/ underground entrance), 13-14C **s Pedro** (arrow-hole & turret remain of thick W town wall into which it was built, because of this main polychrome gothic **portada** (w/ Santiago) was facing E), **M Faroles** (painted stained glass, lanterns), 1860 **secuoya gigante** (in front of colegio Urkide), 1911 **Casa Pando-Argüelles** (**cupola** of blue tiles & orange stars), 1866 **Casa Fournier** (where Heralcio Fournier installed his 1st playing cards factory), **M Armería** (prehistoric lances, medieval arms from excavations, 16C african arms), **M Bellas Artes** (mid19C-mid20C basque art)

🏨 +0.1km **P La Paz**\*\* (35r, €25-30), 139 666, mini-fridge. +0.1km **albergue de la Catedral** (90b, © €10), c. Cuchillería 87, 275 955, **19C buildings**, 17dr+r, heating, wm, kitchen, incl. linen, towel 3, @, 💼, safe, left luggage, HI 5% off, d/dr €20-25/18-25, © €10. **P Araba II** (€30), c. Florida 25, 232 588, 628/994 458, charming, s/d €30/42. **HR América** (), c. Florida 11, 130 506, B, D from 10. **H Desiderio** (21r), c. Colegio s Prudencio 2, 251 711, old centre, pr. **H Dato & Dato 28** (€35-38), c. Dato 28, 147 230, excentric art-deco decor, s/d €35-8/49-70, all year 24h.

🏪 **Eroski**, **El Corte Ingles**, **Día**, panaderías, tabacos. ✉ farmacias, clínicas dental, hospital. 💳 banks & ATMs. 📞 TO (161 598), Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago (144 794, c. Zapatería 85). 📩 M-F till 20h30.

⇒ With the back to the main **portada** of **catedral s María**, turn L to Calle Martínez, pass **hospital s María** at the R corner of the **plaza**, the view of 11C **muralla** with **porta**, 1530-41 **P Escoriza-Esquibel**, and at **P Montehermoso** turn R past a little park and down the stairs of Calle Soledad. On bottom turn L and round **s Pedro** then turn L on Calle Siervas de Jesús. Pass Plaza Provincia with 1833 **P Provincia** and follow the street to the vast **Plaza Virgen Blanca** (F, was medieval marketplace). Cross a street and veer R to pedestrian Calle s Antonino, passing **s Antonio** but keeping to its R side to continue on a pedestrian lane along **Parque de la Florida** (wc) with **parlamento vasco** (with some material of the demolished **convento s Clara**) and exotic trees. Keep SA along another park with then at its very end go under the **railway** and turn R to paved tree-lined Paseo Vitoria, passing 1901 **Casa Zuloaga** (L), 1901 **Casa Jacquecas** (R), **M Armería** (L), 1902 **Villa Sofía** (R), and **M Bellas Artes** (R). Pass the big leafy **Parque de El Prado** and at the end, opposite **s Familia**, veer L to tree-lined Paseo Cervantes which becomes Ave s Prudencio when bending R up at the second stadium. Go SA/a bit R down a roundabout after an **arch** then, at the end of the trees, turn L to **s Prudencio** in **3.7km ARMENTIA** (F, 559m; ☺ until 1087 seat of bishophry, 12C **basílica s Prudencio** (romanesque **façade**, decorated window, corbels (incl. pointy-hooded hybrid normally seen in manuscripts), **portico**, gothic **pila**), **cruceiro**). At

*basilica* veer R to a wide paved street to the R of a house, then turn R (50m L is F) up Calle Hospitaleros. It ascends to a T crossroad (F R), turn R then L in a roundabout, to A4163. Keep on this road parallel to N102 to Gometxa. At the start of the village turn R then L in a crossroad before the last house, up past a playing area, to medieval **igl. de Transfiguración** and the main *plaza* (F) of **4.2km GOMETXA (F, 550m; ☺ documented in 11C, where once stood ermita de Santiago is now iglesia)**. Turn R to a tarmac road above fields (and trees), it becomes gravel after passing a basketball field. Fork R, undulating across fields and keeping SA in all intersections till A4102 leading to Ariñez on the L, where a battle between the troops of king Pedro I de Castilla and his brother don Enrique de Trastámar took place. Cross it for a tarmac road that soon becomes gravel. Keep SA in all intersections, cross a chain of low hills and descend to A4103 and **s Esteban** in **4.7km SUBIJANA DE ALAVA (F, 575m; ☺ s Esteban (15C façade), 18C P Simón de Anda y Salazar** (a famous seafarer, *blason* w/ elephant)). Veer L up a street to end on A4103 and turn L up again, joining **GR 25**, and passing **P Simón de Anda y Salazar** and F at the end of the village. Cross a metal gate and ascend a gravel road. After a grove (L) reach a small building and an intersection where GR 25 goes SA. Turn R up a dirt track, signposted **La Puebla 7.3km** and joining **GR 282**, and gradually ascend the main track up to a **ridge**. Cross a grassy track for a path SA down, ignore white camino poles leading R (a short-cut avoiding Villanueva?), and stay on **GR 282** that swings L up to **1.5km Portillo de s Miguel** (749m). GR goes L here. Descend SA an unmissable stony orange path that lower down goes under electricity lines and on bottom becomes a grassy track across a field. Keep SA on it, to the R of a stone wall, to Villanueva. Turn L down cement Calle Real, to a fork (F, **Ivadero**). L up is **s Pedro** in **3.4km VILLANUEVA DE LA OCA (F, 540m; ☺ s Pedro (romanesque painted geometric *portada*))**. Descend the stairs, turn L then R to the main BU-V-7422. 2km later pass under A1 **motorway**, go across a roundabout to a road along a **lake** (R), pass under the **railway** and enter La Puebla. The main street SA, Calle Santiago, leads to the *plaza* with F, **5.5km NS Asunción**, and a bar-tienda.

For **+0.1km albergue** turn L after *iglesia*, R on Calle Cercas, and it's at the end of grey stone houses, with a small plaque on façade.

### **22km+0.1km LA PUEBLA DE ARGANZÓN (F, 485m, 945) ☕ ⓘ + ⚡**

☺ 1191 *fuero*, Popula de Arganson eyn steetgen by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, of major strategic importance because of routes crossroad; gothic **NS Asunción (portadas**, huge 16C *retablo*, 14C NS Antigua), **murallas**, 16C **hospital de los Peregrinos de s Juan** (medieval origin, functioned till 1950) & 16C **ermita NS de la Antigua**

🏨 **H Argnazón Plaza** (9r, €48), pl Mayor 1, 373 038, 653/722 001, 19C **caseron**, ☺, €65 w/ kitchen, B 4.50, ☺ 10% off, pr s/d €48/58-65. **albergue de peregrinos**\*\* (12b, D, ☺), c. Cercas, 373 006, 5dr, hot shower, wc, ws, microwave, ☺, horse paddock, key in *ayuntamiento* or ask for Vicente, all year. **P Pili** (27b), ctra N1 km.333, 373 088, 629/832 460. **Hs Palacios** (25b), ctra N1 km.333, 373 030.

🏪 tienda (till 24h), panadería. ✫ farmacia. 💲 ATM.

A to Santo Domingo de la Calzada on waymarked Ruta del Tunél (51km): 10km BERANTEVILLA (*escuela-ayuntamiento* (13m, 620/941 607, ☺, all year)) – 7km SALINILLAS DE BURADÓN (*alb. Bodega* (20b, 657/735 034, ☺, all year), CR Areta (9b, €10, kitchen, 657/735 034)) – 11km HARO (*alb. de peregrinos* (28bb, €5, 677/321 806, all year)) – 19km SANTO DOMINGO (*alb. Abadía Cisterciense* (33bb, D, May-Sep), *alb. Casa del Santo* (210bb, D, all year)).

A to Burgos on waymarked Ruta del Tunél (107.7km): 18km MIRANDA DE EBRO (*alb. juvenil HI Fernán González* (114b, €11.50, Jan 2-Dec 23 but closed 3 x 2

weeks/year)) – 16.7km PANCORBO (*alb. parroquial*) – 23.4km BRIVIESCA (*albergue* (2bb), *P Casa Cuevas* (12b, 947/592 079)) – 19.8km MONASTERIO DE RODILLA (*alb. en monasterio, H Picón del Conde* (947/594 355)) – 28.5km BURGOS (*alb. juvenil HI Gil de Siloe* (108b, Jul-Aug 15), *alb. Emaus* (20bb, D, Easter-Oct), *alb. Casa del Cubos* (180bb, €3, all year), *alb. Santiago y s Catalina* (18bb, D, Apr-Nov)).

⇒ There are two choices from here to reach río Ebro: ① via Salinas de Anaña and Espejo to Baños de Sobrón to join Ruta del Ebro, ② continue on Ruta del Tunél to Miranda de Ebro and there join Ruta de Ebro (waymarked throughout).

① **via Salinas de Anaña & Espejo:**

⇒?☒ *Albergue* in Espejo closes Aug 11-Sep 2!. At the start of **NS Asunción** turn R to Calle Iglesia, head SA down paved A3322, cross **río Zadora** on a stone **puente** (480m), a **stream**, pass a small stone house with an orchard and turn L to a straight tarmac road across fields, ?signposted **Campo de Futbol**. Cross a **stream**, entering Castilla, then after a big field 600m later turn R to a gravel road which later bends L (first at a couple of trees), crosses a gravel track and ends in a T intersection. Turn L, cross A3310 and veer R up to **NS Asunción** of **5km ANTEZANA DE LA RIBERA** (595m). Turn R before *iglesia*, pass through a house, keep L in a curve (along the old houses) then fork L, to a gravel road that doesn't descend to A3310 and follow the edge of a field. Ignore a L veer-off into the forest, then a track veering R onto the fields. The gravel road bends L at the corner of a long field, leading into the forest but ascending only gently. It crosses a shallow valley with a field below R, a more pronounced ridge, a low ridge, another more pronounced ridge, descends across a broad ridge above fields and reaches a R turn-off towards a village. Turn R down to this gravel road and reach a T crossroad (F?) in **3km HEREÑA** (505m; ☺ *iglesia*). Turn L on the road, up then down, veer R down a gravel road, cross **río Bayas** on a stone **puente**, turn L to go under AP68 **motorway** and, still under the motorway, fork R. Pass under the **railway** then turn R along it. The track turns L after 150m, ascends, turns R 100m further, bends R then L and ascends to a T intersection. Turn L and follow a track to the R of a slight ridge to a tarmac road (T crossroad) at the first houses of **2.3km CAICEDO-SOPEÑA** (605m). Turn R on the road, fork L up and reach *iglesia* in **3.1km CASTILLO-SOPEÑA** (600m). Keep on the narrowed tarmac road to the last house where it becomes a track. Fork R under electricity lines, pass along a field then enter a forest and fork L/SA. Ascend, on **top** (700m) cross a wide long clearing then descend, join a gravel road and reach Paul. Keep SA through the village to *iglesia* in **2.6km PAUL** (640m; 🏠 **Cabaña Rural** (20-28b, d €70, 678/428 258, wooden cabins, 4 cabins w/ 5-7b, kitchen, B 3, 5p €95-105, all year)). Turn R before *iglesia* and L on A2622 for 100m. Turn sharp R to a dirt road, and almost immediately veer L, then ascend in a wide L bend then up a shallow valley, passing under electricity lines before reaching a T intersection. Turn R, above the electricity lines, to a ridge, fork L here and ?gently descend through scarce forest to the main ridge. About 200m later turn L up a dirt track/road that climbs the ridge to the top of **Atalaya** (986m). Descend the ridge in the same direction on the other side, all the way down to **collada** (831m) where a dirt track branches off R. From here the dirt road passes under the rocky ridge (R) and descends to a lower **collada** (747m) with an intersection. SA should lead a path that descends to the R of a steep rocky ridge ahead into Añana. If not, there is a track to the L of this ridge that starts across a small field, and after the rocky ridge a path veers off R to join the path on the other side. Follow Calle Mercado past the main **plaza** with **ayuntamiento** then Calle

Solana and turn R on A2622 Calle Real to reach **s María** (F) in **5.6km SALINAS DE AÑANA - GESALTZA-AÑANA** (F, 580m; ⓘ; ⚡ casas, 13+16C **s María de Villacones**, 17C **P Zembrana-Herrán, convento s Juan de Acre** (on site of former pilgrim hospital, still working), 120ha of **salt fields = salinas** in **Valle Salado** (placed at different heights that show primitive – and natural – salt extraction based on water evaporation, possible to 'work' (May15-Oct12 for 1h, €4), tours winter 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, summer 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, Jan2-Mar+Oct13-Dec24 M-F 10-13, S-Su 10-16, Apr-Oct12 10-14+17-20, 1h tour €4; ⚡ ?H Rural). 19.3km from La Puebla.

To Espejo follow **GR 1**. (From the main *plaza* turn R and follow Calle Mercado back NE. After the last house veer L with the tarmac road and 100m later turn L to a gravel road. In a T intersection turn R then L in the next intersection.) At **s María** (F), facing W on A2622, veer R up a street then turn R in a wide intersection. GR 1 joins from the R then turn L 200m later, to a gravel road. Follow the most gravel road as it meanders between fields and patches of scrubby. Meeting a tarmac intersection turn L on the tarmac road, following it until it makes a L bend. Turn R to a gravel track and veer R 70m later. The track bends L and, at the end turn R. This track leads to A4319. Cross it for a path that climbs to a street where turn L to reach **NS Asunción** of **5.4km TUESTA** (F, 549m; ⚡ 12-13C **NS Asunción** (magnificent *portada*, 1300 Virgen)). Turn R to the main *plaza*, turn L for 50m then R to a gravel/tarmac Camino Espejo practically SA across fields into Espejo. Reaching **2.3km** A2625, turn R, cross it, veer R in the direction of **Barrio** on Calle Salazar and follow it to **s Salvador** (F). **+0.15km albergue** is 150m further.

### **27km+0.15km ESPEJO** (F, 500m, 945) ⚡ ⚡ ⚡

⌚ through it passed important roman road between *Vindeileia* (Puentelarrá) and *Flaviobriga* (Bilbao); medieval **casa-torre**, **casa-torre señorial de Salazar**, **casa-palacio de Salazares**

⌚ **+0.15km albergue juvenil HI Jorge Diez Elorza** (42bb, BB €19), c. Salazar 24, 181 988, 351 150, 6dr, heating, hot showers, wcs, ☺, D 9, linen 3, ⚡, pool, Feb-Aug 11 + Sep 2-Dec. **+0.8km CR El Molino** (6r, d €58), ctra Bilbao 5, 351 326, 670/053-324, **18C watermill**, B 5, @, ⚡, + iva.

⌚ tiny tienda. ⚡ ATM.

⇒ After **s Salvador** (F) turn R across **río Omecillo** and turn R. In an intersection turn L to pass in front of a row of new houses and follow a gravel road that passes a riverbend, fork L, cross a **stream** and reach an intersection. Go SA to a track between scrubs, cross A4326 for a gravel road, always SA, till a fork before some houses. Veer L to reach stone **puente** in **4.1km BERGONDA** (480m). Don't cross the river but continue along it. After crossing a more pronounced valley with electricity lines above then passing an enclosed group of small houses with grey roofs (R), veer R to a track then 100m later veer L to a path/track that runs at the foothills to the R of a narrow long field. It then ascends through scrubby and bends R. In a T intersection turn L to a gravel track that passes an electricity tower, swings R and runs above A2122. Continue SA on a track until it swings sharp L to A2122. Turn R on A2122, round a riverbend and cross to a walkway when it starts on the R side. Pass the first houses of Baños then turn R in a crossroad where the walkway ends. Follow the tarmac road above A2122, past a ?former hotel, until there are steps leading back to A2122. Continue on the road, pass **H Parque del Ebro** on its parking space (F), cross A2122, then, at a traffic lights, veer L down a road signposted **Zona de hoteles de Sobrón** to **HsR Durtzi** in **6.9km BAÑOS DE SOBRÓN** (483m; see below). ⚡?

② Ruta del Tunel + Ruta del Ebro:

⇒ Continue on Calle Santiago, pass **hospital s Juan** and **ermita NS Antigua** then turn L up, signposted **Vitoria**, go over the **railway** and turn R immediately afterwards, signposted **Pangua**. Join a bigger road and keep paralleling the railway. At a board for the gas station turn L, go under A1 **motorway**, immediately turn R to an unused tarmac road, turn L up a tarmac road and follow it to Burgueta. Turn sharp L up Calle Iglesia (info board), pass **s Martín** and end on a *plaza* (F) in **4.5km BURGUETA** (F, 545m; ☺ **s Martín** (13C portada)). Turn R down then leave the village up a narrow tarmac road. Gently ascend to a multiple intersection (560m) with a **view** S. Veer L across the intersection, down a stony track that was once **calzada romana** and **calzada de los peregrinos**. It leads past an ancient dry spring and **lavadero** to a T crossroad in **2.2km ESTAVILLO - ESTABELU** (530m; ☺ once had hospital, **casas** w/ **details**, 15C **s Martín** (façade), **ermita s Roque**). Don't go into the village but descend R the main tarmac road. It quickly becomes wide new A4160 and soon bends L. Here the route splits at a **0.15km blue board**. L branch goes to Berantevilla and ends in Santo Domingo de la Calzada, and the R branch goes to Armiñón and ends in Burgos.

Go R down along A4160, following **yellow arrows**, **wooden mojones**, and **GR 1**, pass under all of A1 **motorway** bridges then turn L in the second roundabout, entering the village on Calle Real and reaching a porticoed *plaza* (F) of the once important strategic **1.1km ARMIÑÓN** (F, 410m; ☺ 1099 *fuero*, had many hospitals, 16C **s Andrés**, 17C **P Montoya Urbina**, old **molino**). Turn R, cross fine 9-arched **puente medieval** across **rio Zadora** (405m), go under the **railway** and leave GR 1 by forking L up a gravel road. In a fork on top there is another **0.8km** split in the route (505m); the new entry to Miranda goes L.

L entry to Miranda (my guess, as it crosses a confusing new motorway junction): !↗ Fork/turn L to a gravel road that later descends towards a motorway. Turn L before it, to A4304 alongside, go under the **railway** and before **rio Zadora** turn R to go under **N-I** and its access road. A4304 bends back R along N-I, swings L before the railway, goes under A1 **motorway**, passes **dolmen de Ribaguda** and ends on a *plaza* in **3.5km RIBAGUDA** (460m; ☺ **NS Asunción**). Turn L between a shed with a big metal door and a white shed, to A4157 Calle Real that runs along **rio Zadora**, past a ruined romanesque **s Martín** in **1.4km LACORZANA** (465m; ☺ mentioned in 1099 *fuero* of Armiñon, 14C **torre de Hurtado de Mendoza**), under AP68 **motorway**, and about 300m later reaches a R turn-off before **lago de Lacorzana**. Turn R to this gravel road, round the lake and when practically ending in it, turn R to a track W across fields, entering Castilla y León, towards a big road. Go under this Calle Ircio, following this track Calle Olivo to a long *plaza* in **3.2km BAYAS** (465m; ☺ 904 mentioned **castillo**, 16-17C **s Ana**). Go to its end and turn/veer L to cross SA a new residential area **POBLADO DE LOS ANGELES** (460m), the street is called Poblado Ence-Manzana 2. At the end turn R on Calle A and follow it across two roundabouts, **rio Bayas** (445m), third roundabout, to the fourth **1.2km** roundabout with a dolmen/stone gate.

For **+0.1km** **albergue** turn L to Ave Europa, follow it to a crossroad before it bends R, turn L to Camino Anduva, and turn the first R.

Veer L to Calle Ciudad Vierzon, at the end turn R to Calle Aleixandre, in the next crossroad turn L to Ave Argentina, before **Parque Cabezón** turn R, round its corner and turn R into the next street, Ave Castilla. Follow it for four

blocks when it becomes Calle Fleming, turn L to Calle Estación, pass **Parque Machado** (wc & ⓘ on the R) and end in a big crossroad with **1.6km tri-colored sculpture** in Miranda. **0.2km puente Carlos III** is SA. 18km from La Puebla. ☺?

Keep SA up (560m) then down an old cobbled road, turn R before a motorway then turn L to go under AP68 **motorway** and continue across fields, the route becomes a street in Rivabellosa, follow it a short stretch past **cementerio** to a T crossroad at **NS Rosario**. Turn L on A4339 to big Plaza s Martín in **3.7km RIVABELLOSA** (480m; ⓘ +; ☺ mentioned 1099, here in 1463 approved legal documents *Cuaderno de Leyes y Ordenanzas* by which Álava was governed for centuries, 16C **P Sáenz de Santamaría**, 16-17C **NS Rosario** (14C Virgen), gothic **ermita de Magdalena** w/ 16C hospital; ⚒ **H Julia** (4r, c. Alfonso VI 41, 945/355 042, ☺), **H-and-go Miranda** (c. Diego Martínez 1, 356 824)). Turn R down A3312 Calle s Prudencio, go over the **railway** then **rio Bayas** (465m) on 1628 **puente**, and reach a crossroad with A4131. Turn L to A4341 and 150m later, closest to the river, turn R to a dirt track, there is no waymark!. In a T intersection turn L to another dirt track that 100m later passes the last waymark or signpost till Miranda, **Miranda 2km**, goes over A1 **motorway** then along the edge of fields descends to the new industrial area in the N of Miranda. Turn R then L to a roundabout and turn R in it, following the wide street to the start of a low big blue building, ⚒ **Leclerc** (with **wc**). Turn L down Calle Jerea before it, continue SA on Calle Tibes, at the end turn R to Calle s Teresa, pass **F** (L), at the end turn R on N-I, cross it before a roundabout then go under the **railway** (**F**). Calle Vitoria ascends past ⚒ **supermercados** to a big crossroad with a **5.6km tri-colored sculpture** in Miranda. **0.2km Puente Carlos III** is R, past **s Spiritu**. 18km from La Puebla.

To go to **+1.2km alb. juvenil**, cross the crossroad on the L side, to reach light brown stone-and-glass bulding, round it on the L and cross Calle Ronda at its other end. Veer R to Calle río Ebro with a **locomotive** on the R. At its end veer R across the end of a park and down a few stairs to a dirt promenade along río Ebro. Turn R and follow it for 200m, till a long grey building, the *albergue*.

### **18km+1.2km MIRANDA DE EBRO** (**F**, wc, 455m, 947) ⚒ ⓘ + ⚒ @ ⓘ ☺

☺ 1099 *fuerro*, Meranda by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, in 12C had medieval bridge destroyed in 1775 and replaced in 1780 by Puente Carlos III; 1862 **estación ferrocarril**, 13C **s Spiritu** (mentioned 1099, **portada** w/ man throwing another into monster's jaws, decorated **window**, corbels w/ **portraits**), pl Machado w/ **totempole** w/ pilgrim wish, 16C **rollo/picota**, 1540-50 **Casa Urbina** (w/ turrets), 1580-90 **Casa Cadenes** (**portadas**), 1523-71 **s María** (on site of hospital del Chantre), 16-17C **convento s Francisco**

⌚ **HR Tudanca** (120r), ctra N-I 9, 311 843, ☺, pets, s/d/t, 24h. **H Achuri** (€52), c. Estación 86, 347 272, s/d €52/60-65 + iva. **+1.5km albergue juvenil HI Fernan González\*\*** (114b), c. Anduva 82, 320 932, pr r 2-7p, heating, ☺ 10h-20h, kitchen (microwave, fridge), B 7h30-9h30, D 20h30, incl. linen, closed Jan 1-15, May 1-16, Nov 5-20, 24h.

⌚ **Leclerc**, **Dia**, **Arbol**, small tiendas without fruits & veggies open Su till 12h/14h, panaderías, tabacos. + farmacias, hospital. ⚒ banks & ATMs. @ in TO & *biblioteca*. ⓘ TO (320 303), *sello*, very little info on GR 99, M-F 11-14+16.30-19.30, Su 11-14.

⇒ You are now on **GR 99 Ruta de Ebro**, following it (more or less) until Puente Arenas. The first part to Puentelarrá is its N variant.

From *albergue* head back along río Ebro, keeping on its pedestrianized bank all the way past Miranda, passing under **Puente Carlos III** (456m), the **railway** and **N-I** (**F**) where it becomes a path that joins Camino Pinos. After the houses it becomes

a dirt road, fork L up and head across the plains when the river turns L. Turn R on a tarmac road and end on BU535. Turn L over AP1 **motorway** then veer R in the first crossroad (L was a late roman necropolis of **Villa de Cabriana**). Pass factories (R), cross back to Basque Country, and ascend a tarmac road to a house on top of Comunión. Descend past **cruz** and romanesque **s Cornelio y Cipriano** to A3312 Calle Mayor and turn L to a *plaza/crossroad* in **4.8km COMUNIÓN - KOMUNIOI** (F, 478m; **bola-toki**). Turn/veer R to Calle Cruz, pass **cementerio**, it becomes a straight tarmac road that later ascends to A4321. Turn R up, pass a playing area at the start (F), bend L with the road and reach a fork with **torre reloj** on the L, in **2km SALCEDO - SARATXU** (F, 527m; in roman times through ran *Via Aquitana* from Cabriana, remains of **calzada romana**, **ermita s Pedro** (necropolis), **s Esteban**). Veer L past the **torre reloj**, Calle Reloj, at a pale house fork R down a gravel road, cross a **stream**, and reach a **0.7km** fork.

A via dolmens: Turn R up a gravel road. L in the first intersection is **0.5km dolmen de la Lastra**. Continue SA up past **1km dolmen de la Mina**, on top turn L down A4332 then R down after a house with a blue lower part of the wall to reach Calle Real in **3.4km LECIÑANA** (F, 543m).

Fork L down a dirt road, joining **GR 1**, which becomes a track then an overgrown old route between fields and joins A4332 at the start of **2.4km LECIÑANA DEL CAMINO - LEZIÑANA** (543m; **igl. Santiago**), on the medieval 'salt' route from Salinas de Añana to Ebro and Castilla. Go SA up to the main *plaza* then turn L up Calle Arco which swings L up to **collada** (565m) then descends into a valley (535m). After a **stream** veer R with **GR 1 (Caicedo 1.1km, Fontecha 3.8km)**, up a gentle grassy track, in a R bend keep SA up a path along a field then above a fenced off pasture, to a stone house on top (570m). Descend a cement road, fork R down Calle Campos, turn R on A323 (dry F) and reach the main *plaza* (F) of **1.9km CAICEDO DE YUSO - KAIZEDO BEHEKOA** (F, 565m; **NS Asunción**, **bola-toki** (*boules álaves-style*), close by N is 10C **necrópolis de La Magdalena**). After F turn L to gravel Calle Calera, past a ruined **casa** with **blason**, fork SA down then veer L down past ruined **ermita s Miguel**. Fork R at a ruined house, cross **arroyo Caicedo** (545m), ascend to a high point (560m) and descend an **old route** with cart marks that becomes a descending gravel/dirt track. Fork R to keep terracing above fields to the start of Fontecha. R up is **igl. Santiago**. Descend Calle Fuente to **lavadero** and F (L), turn sharp R to Calle Lago and in the next crossroad with signposts leave GR 1 that heads N to Salinas de Anaña to continue on GR 99 only. Turn L, cross a **stream**, and ascend to A2122 Calle Real in **3.1km FONTECHA - ITURRIESTARIA** (F, 494m; **+**; < euskara unda-etxea = house of the path, through went roman *Via Aquitania*, mentioned in 1099, romanesque **igl. Santiago (portada)**, 15-16C **torre Conde de Orgaz** (w/ **palacio**), **torre Condestable**), guarded by two towers on the hills on either side. Cross A2122 then veer L down Calle Lucarini. Before it becomes gravel is F, fork R down and end at the first houses and the main road in **1.8km PUENTELARRÁ - LARRAZUBI** (F, 469m; **+**; due to its strategic position important in Middle Ages, mentioned 860, remains of **puente romano**), 16.4km/3h45 from Miranda de Ebro. Turn L across **río Ebro**, back to Castilla, then sharp R in an **0.3km** intersection (where the alternative joins), to a gravel road. Fork L then ascend SA across all interesections (D: in the second one R is **+1km** 8-9C **necrópolis de s María de Tejuela** (340 antropomorphical graves of disappeared village were discovered, only few visible & **edículo**) to the *plaza* (F) of **2.4km VILANUEVA-SOPORTILLA** (F, 531m). Turn R up and leave the village due N on a straight tarmac road that ends almost at Ebro. Turn L down a dirt road that heads a little backwards and down to the ruins of **molino de Camajón**

(484m) whose **channels** were cut out of rock itself. Veer R up an old cobbled road that runs under a vertical **rock wall** of Monte de la Villa and flank the river till a spring (**F**) enclosed in ornate ironwork and a footbridge. Cross **río Ebro** (495m) back to Basque Country, turn L across a covered parking lot to an info board and a road of **4.6km** Baños. 23.2km from Miranda, 11km from Espejo.

Turn L for **+0.1km** HsR Durtzi.

### **23.2km/6h//11km+0.1km BAÑOS DE SOBRÓN (F, 483m, 945)**

⌚ its medicinal waters were known since 13C,

🏡 **HR Durtzi**°°° (10r, €25), La Presa 12, 359 078, *plato combinado* 10, s €25.

H Parque del Ebro (30r), La Presa 1, former baths. 🏜

### **GR 99 Ruta del Ebro (onwards, one route):**

⇒ Veer L up to a street above the hotels to A2122. Follow A2122 L past the **dam** and the last of its structures and ?☒ veer R up a dirt and muddy road that marks the start of the zigzag climb to Sobrón.

#### **2.5km SOBRÓN (F, 678m)**

🏡 **CR Natura** (6r, €35-42), barrio Sobrón Alto 1, 676/260 250, 609/900 403, lovely half-timbered **casa**, 2-17b, heating, wm, kitchen 7, B 3, pet 1, call for 1 night!, s/d €35/45-50.

⇒ Turn L before the ruined **iglesia** to a dirt track that gently ascends across some meadows then a forest. Fork R then turn R to a path that climbs up the slope, swings L at the top then swings R and ascends some more along the **slope** (to about 1080m). It then descends into a valley, crosses **arroyo Torca Sakana** (1030m) and climbs the other side. Reaching a **high point** (1095m), cross into Castilla, descend the other side. Cross one track then join a gravel road. It soon swings L and gently descends. It makes a sharp R bend and descends along a slope, passing across two valleys then zigzagging into the third. Follow the stream but leave it before it plunges into a ravine and ascend its L slope. The road swings abruptly R and after crossing the **stream** again reaches the gentler foothills. In an intersection go SA and ☒? keep SA level then down to the start of San Martín. Veer L up Calle Fuente to **F** in **11.4km** **SAN MARTÍN DE DON (F, 537m;** ⌚ probably from 14C, hospital disappeared in 18C, 17-18C **casas blasonadas**, 1562-1651 **convento s Miguel de clarisas**). As Calle Fuente starts to descend, turn R up then down a gravel track, Camino s Martín, W across fields. Fork R to a dirt track (A: forking L with the main track then turning R up tarmac past the **monolits**, then L in a crossroad also leads to Mijaralengua) ?☒ then turn L and R ☒? on tarmac, passing **palomar** on a rocky outcrop then descending past **s Pedro** to **F** in **3.1km** **MIJARALENGUA (F, 523m;** ⌚ in 14C *Becerro de Behetrías* as *Misuera Luenga, s Pedro (capitales)*). Continue descending Calle Real, at the last house fork R down a cement lane that on bottom at an abandoned source becomes a dirt track. Ascend, descend across **arroyo Valles**, after a house fork L up a grassy tarmac road, head R across meadows, turn R on BU530 to pass a crossroad, turn L at its end then turn R to a dirt road that becomes a street to the main **plaza (F)** in **1.9km** Barcina. 16.4km from Sobrón, 32.9km from Espejo.

**16.4km/32.3km BARCINA DEL BARCO** (F, 521m, 947) ⓘ

⌚ = cultivation field, in 14C mentioned Confradía de s Cruz de la Riba, 16C *Bercina de la Riba*, in 17-18C had *hospital para pobres*; **s Martín**

🏡 **P Alvi** (5r, €16), estados unidos 2, 358 400, heating. **PR Los tres hermanos = Rosales** (6r, €20), ctra Miranda 4, 358 500, heating.

⇒ After F turn L and follow this street out of the village, down towards the river. It becomes cement after **lavadero** and dirt after a house, but at the house veer L to a path. Cross a **stream**, ascend, longe a field, turn L down to continue along Ebro for 100m then veer R up to longe the upper field. Cross **arroyo Aguabuena** and after a ruin fork L to a grassy track that leads to a tarmac road. Turn L into **1.9km PANGUSIÓN** (F, 528m; < perhaps diminutive of latin *pago* = village or *pago de yuso* = the lower village, mentioned 1073, 16C **s Acisclo**). Ascend the road past **lavadero** (F), **iglesia**, F, to a fork before a stone wall. Turn R up a tarmac road that in descent becomes more or less straight across fields, cutting a bend of the river. When it bends L, veer R to a dirt track down then along Ebro to end on a tarmac road. Turn L on it then, past a big white building, turn L to a gravel track with two stones blocking its access, that undulates past a **panorama** (of Frías and Montes Obarenes) along río Ebro to a **3.6km** tarmac road.

To go directly to **+0.4km albergue**, turn R up then L on BU530, it's the isolated building on the L after 300m.

Turn L down, cross a **stream**, turn R up, cross a **canal** and reach an **0.3km** intersection. To continue go SA.

To go to Quintana turn R and follow a dirt track up to F at the start of Quintana. Go a bit further to turn L on the main BU530. **+0.8km Hs Valle Tobalina** is 200m L. But **+1.3km albergue** from here is 400m R on BU 530. 25.4km/7h25 from Baños de Sobrón.

**5.5km+1.3km QUINTANA MARTÍN GALÍNEZ** (F, 541m, 947) 🏡 ⓘ +①

⌚ 11C origin; 16+18C **s Tomás, ermita s Roque**, 15C **casa-torre de Salazar**

🏡 **+0.4km/1.3km albergue municipal Valle de Tobalina** (50b, BB €21, HP €27), BU530, 759 868, 659/095 302, 605/773 764, 3dr, F, D 10, incl. linen, towel 3, ⚑, pool. **+0.8km HsR Valle de Tobalina\*** (14r, €30), BU530, 358 740/750, s/d €30/.

🏪 alimentación, panadería, carnicería. + farmacia, centro médico. ① TO (358 702), well stocked, M-S 10-15.

⇒ There are many GRs and PRs in this area, follow the waymarks carefully! Continue on a gravel track up. When it bends R, turn L to a dirt track, cross **canal de Iberduero**, turn R for about 100m then turn sharp L down a dirt track. Almost at Ebro, turn R to a path that follows it then ascends to BU520. Turn L, cross a small cement **canal** then turn L down a dirt track (R is a track fork) towards Ebro. It bends R at the river and reaches a picnic spot. Veer R up a path along the bank then climb to a terrace and follow it, passing source **los Gaderos** (F) and some houses to end on BU520. Cross it and climb a wooden staircase that leads to a path that leads to a **viewing point** from where a path L down, signposted **fuente**, leads to another source (F) then continues as a grassy lane up to a tarmac road. Turn L up to reach an info board (F further on R in the main *plaza*) in **3.3km MONTEJO DE SAN MIGUEL** (F, 549m; ⌚ monasterio s Miguel mentioned 1084, , **M etnográfico** (bread oven, *boules*, Jul15-lug15 M-S 12-14+18-20, Su 12-14), **ermita s Miguel**; 🏠 **El Mirador de Merindades** (7r, €45, c. Escuelas 3, 947/358 518, 620/298 557, B 5, D 18, s/d €45/60-75, all year)). Turn sharp L down cement

Calle Eras, past **Casa de Indianos** then a parking lot, fork R level and follow a path R along the riverbank. It sticks close to the river, past **fuentes de Salud**, through a narrow passage below rocky walls of this **canyon**. Once in the open, in a fork with confusing signposts (white-green PR goes SA), go L down some dilapidated stairs to continue on a path along Ebro to the magnificent 9-arch 143m-long **3.8km puente medieval de Frías** with probably a 14C tower in the middle, for collecting the toll, on the crossroad of important *calzadas romanas* between Meseta and Cantabrian coast, and La Rioja (R up is **Jardín Botánico**; **Camping Frías** (207pl, €4.55+€5, ctra Quintana km.3, 357 198, hot showers, wm, D, , pet 3.55, pool, all year)). Cross it (515m) and head SA a wide cobbled road (**F**), forking R at **capilla**, that ever more ascends below the stunning rock wall, to an info board then a crossroad at the start of Frías. Leave GR 99 to turn L up BU520 to a corner of **convento s Francisco** with PR signposts and a telephone booth in **1km/10min** Frías, also the start or finish for *PR-BU 15 Raíces de Castilla* which goes S to Poza de la Sal (and on to Briviesca?). A bit further on is **F**. 13.4km from Barcina.

### **8km FRÍAS (F, 576m, 947)** +

town mentioned 867, castillo in 10C, 1201 *castello de Fridas*, 1202 *fuero*, 1435 city, still the smallest city in Spain spectacular 12C+15C **el castillo** (15C Torre del Homenaje was the last defense, 16-17C Torre del Reloj, residential quarters w/ 12-13C **capitals**, 10.30-14+16-20, 5p tour €3, **€1.50**), 13C **muralla** w/ three **puertas**, half-timbered **casas colgantes**, **P Salazar**, 12+14C **s Vitores**, 14-16C **s Vicente** (capilla Visitación (grille, plateresque tombs), 16C *reredo* by John of Burgundy, plateresque *portico*, 1591 *blason* of López de Frías family), 18C **convento s María de Vadillo** (also served as hospital); Su closest to Jun 24 **medieval El Capitán**, 1<sup>st</sup> week Aug **semana medieval**

**CR Casa Pili** (3r, €26), c. s Francisco 22, 358 565, **casa**, B, s/d €26/54. **+0.7km CR La era de Vadillo** (4r, BB €55), c. s María Vadillo 32, 358 737, 654/948 729, E of town near convento Vadillo, **stone casona**, 10b, extra bed 10, BB s/d €55/68.

Spar, panadería, carnicería. farmacia. ATM. (358 011).

⇒ To Quintanaseca follow **white-yellow PR-BU 64 Siguiendo el Ebro**. Veer R up (570m) cobbled Calle s Francisco with **CR Pili**. It is an old route zigzagging up to a **ridge** (585m) with **view** back to Frías then follows the rock wall up to a **0h20 collada** (650m) to the L of the rocky La Barga. Keep SA along the L edge of this narrow field (maybe there is a path on its L edge when the wheat is ripe?), and leave it for a track next to a stone mound shortly after it widens. A path then descends through pine forest, on bottom turn R on a forest track, cross a **stream** and head across fields to a tarmac road in **3km/0h40 QUINTANASECA (F, 555m;** since 13C Frías' 'suburb', romanesque **s Martín** (visigothic **window**, **relief**)). Turn L up and join **GR 99** again. Cross the village, at the end of the plain ascend across **collado de la Cucharera** (600m) into the valley on the other side. Turn L in a T intersection, follow a gravel road along the foothills of Peña Dehesa (R) to BU-V-5311 and turn R on it, to the start of Cillaperlata. Here you can choose between two alternatives.

**A via ermita Encinillas** (also **GR 85**): ? Turn sharp L to a path along the riverbank. After a while it veers L from the river and gently ascends towards **ermita**. Turn R off it to reach **+0.2km ermita de Encinillas**. 150m later join a dirt track that leads to BU-V-5311 and turn R on it. Cross **río Ebro** and turn R on N629, but after! a power plant 300m later veer L up a tarmac then gravel road that leads across **puente románico** then ascends R, the last part

is a flight of stairs, to N629 and **s Vicente** in Trespaderne. This last part is the same as the next day's start. The distance is pretty much the same. ↵?

The main route follows BU-V-5311 straight through **4.9km CILLAPERLATA (F, 539m; ⚡ NS Covadonga)**, with **F** in the main *plaza*, down and across the narrow bridge/dam over **rio Ebro**. On the other side turn L then fork R to a track *Camino de Castrillo* (at the start **view** of *cuevas* below Cillaperlata). When it goes L, veer R up a path through fine pine forest that later joins the track R, this one becomes a gravel road but before it ascends to BU530, turn L to a dirt track along the river that ends on N629. Cross it.

To continue without visiting Trespaderne, descend L on a dirt track that follows the river to **puente románico**.

To go to Trespaderne, ascend R a dirt track, join N629 past 16C **5.1km s Vicente** with *torre*, through the arcades (**Eroski R**) and past a *plaza*, then head into middle of three roads, BU550, till **+0.8km José Luiz** on the L after **Spar**. 23km/5h from Quintana, 13km from Frías.

### **10.9km+0.8km TRESPADERNE (F, 554m, 947) ⚡ 101 + 6 @**

⌚ **lavadero** (w/ cobbled floor), **P los Medina de Cadiñanos**, ruined 15C **casona del Priorato**, **Centro interpretación arqueológica la Horadada** (ex train station on other side of río Nela, about various mostly medieval excavations in region)

🏡 **+0.8km HsR José Luiz\*** (27r, €28), ctra Bilbao 25, 307 293, 48b, B 5.50, D 18, +iva, s/d €28-30/38-40, all year. 🏜 **Camping Río Nela** (p €4.50, t €4.50), c. Zocilla, 308 649, hot showers, wm, 101, ⚡, pool, reported very bad, Mar-Oct.

⌚ **Eroski**, **Spar**, panadería, carnicería, tabacos. + farmacia, centro médico. 6 ATM. @ biblioteca (M-F 18-21).

⇒ Both **GR 85** and **GR 99** have the same route till Hoz de Valdivielso. Descend the stairs after **s Vicente** then a cement road to **puente románico** across **rio Nela** (535m). Continue on a tarmac road SA, across a wood factory's yard, to N629. Follow N629 R, past a power plant, a turn-off for *Cillaperlata* (BU-V-5311), go under the **railway** and through **desfiladero de la Horadada**. Then veer R up a dirt track that zigzags up to a plateau, veer L to an almost level path and follow it to **s Martín** in **3.2km TARTALÉS DE CILLA (F, 626m; ⚡ 12C s Martín (corbels))**. Pass it, go up through the village (**F** is L down; dogs) then continue ascending on a gravel road (D: A signpost signals the climb to **+0.2km** 7-8C **eremitorio s Pedro**, a small hermitage carved out of the rock.) to **collada de La Muñeca** (940m) then descend the same road SA/L to the crossroad with signposts (**F** also 50m R on a street up towards *iglesia*) in **7.6km TARTALÉS DE LOS MONTES (F, 731m; ⚡ 12C s Miguel (romanesque window))**. Turn L down the main tarmac road, past **lavadero** (**F**), through the small but beautiful **garganta de Tartalés**, complete with a short tunnel and an elegant **cascada del Fuerte**. When the road comes out of the gorge, reach signposts and a few meters further turn sharp L down a dirt track, across **arroyo Tartalés** and past ruined end12-beg13C **ermita NS Eras**, then down the length of the village, past two **F** and **casa** w/ two **torres**, to BU-V-5314 in **1.8km HOZ DE VALDIVIELSO (F, 598m; ⚡ iglesia)**. Continue on **GR 85 Ruta de los Sentidos**. Go SA down BU-V-5314, in a L bend veer R down a gravel road, at ruined **ermita s Roque** go L down, cross **arroyo Tartalés** (580m), ascend to an intersection, go a bit R to continue in the same direction on a dirt road, and in a L bend veer R up a dirt track that ends on BU-V-5314 (**F**) in **2.6km VALHERMOSA (F, 635m; ⚡ iglesia)**. Turn L, exit the village, and in a R bend of the road veer R up a

path with a stone wall. Go up and down a small **hill** (650m), join a dirt track, cross a dirt road, fork R then R up before a steep valley (no waymark), turn L down to cross **arroyo s Pedro** (635m), and climb up to the main street and c1470 **casona** in **1.9km ARROYO DE VALDIVIELSO** (F, 655m; **casas**, c1470 **casona** (portal w/ two *blasones* & inscription, wooden door), **iglesia**). Turn R up almost to the end of the village at F, turn L to a rising gravel track, fork R up then turn L down and reach the first houses and an info board (and a dry F) in **1.6km QUECEDO DE VALDIVIELSO** (640m; **P los Huidobro**). Turn R down a dirt track, after an orchard turn R up, cross a **stream**, pass F, on top turn L up to a dirt road and reach an intersection. Turn R up then up again to a dirt road track, *Camino de la Cubilla*. Ignore a dirt track L then a fork, fork L, descend into (610m) and climb out of a valley, up to a small **ridge** (620m), turn L down a gravel track, on bottom in a valley fork L, the track bends L and descends to BU-V-5314. Turn R, joining **GR 99**, about 200m later turn sharp R up a dirt track, at the end of an orchard turn L to a path that later ascends, crosses a track and reaches **s Pedro de Tejada** (597m; built on site of 9C *monasterio*, **portada** (reliefs of apostels & Last Supper, corbels of evangelists), decorated windows, **corbels** (amazing repertoir of animals, human figures & even human anatomy), polychrome mudéjar **coro**, 14C coat-of-arms of los Velasco, T-S 11.30-13.30+17-19, **€2**). Follow a cement road (F) L down to BU-V-5314 at the bridge (F) in **4.6km PUENTE ARENAS** (F, 572m; ). 33.9km from Frías.

#### **24.3km/5h45 PUENTE ARENAS (F, 572m, 947) + farmacia**

of romanesque origins, in 1506 here passed Catalina de Aragón, in 1556 Oct emperor Karl V, and in 1557 Felipe II; 16C old part + 19C new part, 12-17C **s María** (12C **portada**) opposite **antiguo hospital**

**CR Tipi** (2r, d €36), c. La Tranca 37 bajo, D, 303 130. **CR Tejada** (4r), c. s María 1, 615/511 944, **fine stone casona**, kitchen, call for 1 night!.

⇒ From Puente Arenas to Dobro follow **GR 85**. Cross **río Ebro** on 16+19C **puente** and continue SA on a gravel road, *Camino de El Almiñé*. After a gravel road goes off R it ascends to an intersecion where a **0.7km** track branches off R.

**A via Quintana:** Leave GR. Turn R to this stony track that leads to the edge of the plateau and the forest. Go SA into the forest, across the edge and L down a path, an old route, that descends to N232 where it is joined by BU-V-5314. Cross **arroyo Rojas** (585m) then turn L up a minor tarmac road, signposted **Quintana de Valdivielso**, to F and 17C **0.8km Torre s Martín** in Quintana. Turn R and follow the lower street all the way past 16C **s Millán** to the end of the village for both **+0.3km albergues**. Alb. Arte y Nature is a grand building on the R, alb. juvenil is at the end. 24.5km from Trespaderne.

#### **1.5km+0.3km QUINTANA DE VALDEVIELSO (F, 615m, 947)**

mentioned in 12C; **lavadero**, 15C **Torre de Loja** (gargoyles, lock)

**Torre de s Martín** (4r, €100), 699/511 542, 17C **palacio**. **alberque Arte y Natura Valdivielso\*\*** (30bb, €18), c. Icedo 42, 303 200, 652/641 079, **1883 caseron**, 2dr+3d, 2 showers, 2 wcs, B 5 8h30-9h, D 15 20h30-23h, incl. linen & towel, @, pool, BB d €65-72, dr €18. **alberque juvenil HI & turismo rural La Casa Grande** (66b, €19), c. Icedo, 303 096, 605/881 983, 17C **casona**, 19r, B 4.5, D 11, s/d/t €34/44/56, dr €19.

**panadería** (down on N232, open till 14h).

⇒ To El Almiñé is **PRC-BU 186**. Facing **F** and 17C **Torre s Martín** turn L, pass it then 17C **Casa del Inquisidor**, descend to and cross a **stream** (605m; R up is **Torre Loja**) then fork L, ascend and descend a dirt track/path called **Viejo Camino de Quintana**, cross **arroyo Rojas**, veer L then R and ascend to baroque **Casa de los Arce** then **potro de herrar** (wooden contraption to help shoeing horses) and **s Nicolás** in **1.1km EL ALMIÑÉ** (**F**, 650m; < arab or < el viñedo = valley of vineyards, 1333 *despoblado*, 1545 mentioned hospital, 12C **s Nicolás** (**portada** (geometric & plant design), carved **arcades** on **torre**, geometric **window**, **corbels** (animals, faces, grotesques), **pila**, frescoes (dragons)), 16C **Casa de Ruiz Feunte** (*blason*, gallery, balcons), 15-16C **Casa-torre de Ruiz Veñe** (original *blason*), 1707 **ermita s Sebastian**). Turn L up, joining **GR 85**.

¶ Keep SA up across fields and cross N232 for a minor tarmac road that ascends to **s Nicolás** in **2km EL ALMIÑÉ** (**F**, 650m). Ascend up through the village, passing **Ivadero** (**F**), **Casa de Ruiz Fuente** (**F**), **Casa-torre de Ruiz Veñe**, and **Casa Albergue** and **ermita del Alba** opposite, to the start of **PRC-BU 185** (till **ermita de Hoz**) and the beautifully preserved massive **calzada histórica**. The climb is gentle at first then it becomes steeper and quite demanding. Fork L when reaching a wider open area with some ruins, and on top fork R onto the **páramo** (plateau) of **La Mezorra**, the ruins of **Casa de las Lanas** and end-18C **3km ermita s Isabel de Hoz** (990m; somewhere 100m further is subterranean **fuente romano**). Take a gravel road W that reaches CL629 and turn R on it for 100m, to a dirt/grass track going off L (a round stone pillar on the R). Take it, it's signposted **Tudanca**, ascend to a **high point** (1045m) then descend to a T intersection facing the first house of Dobro. Turn R down and reach a **plaza** with **s Lucía** in **3km DOBRO** (**F**, 1020m; ; **H La Nogala** (8r, BB €45-73, c. Real 16, 947/619 491, 635/704 406, D, @, , BB s/d €45-73/68-141, 24h)). Pass **iglesia** on the R, turn R, L down past a wall, on bottom turn L then R to reach BU-V-5143 and turn R on it. Follow it W, leaving GR 85 after 1km. Already well in sight of Porquera, a L turn-off leads to **dolmen La Cotorrita** (**D** (signposted): Turn L to a wide dirt road, in a L bend turn R down a track, before reaching the lowest point turn L up a track that leads to **+0.7km dolmen de la Cotorrita** (round open tomb w/ roofed corridor.)). Continue in BU-V-5143, at the first building/garage veer R from it, keep SA, down a little at the end, to a T crossroad in **3.8km PORQUERA DEL BUTRÓN** (**F**, 995m). Turn L up a street, on top where tarmac turns L, turn R to a dirt/grassy track below **cementerio** and an old electricity tower (R), fork L and at a ruin cross another dirt track. Bends L, descend into a valley then swing R above an U valley, fork L down, L again on bottom, to reach a bend of a gravel road. Turn L down, it bends R down through a narrow valley then ascends to **2.3km CUBILLO DEL BUTRÓN** (960m). Go L down a cement street that bends L to BU-V-5143. Turn R and follow it past ruined **iglesia** and down, enjoying a **panorama** of Cañon del Ebro, to a L turn-off just past the third hairpin bend, it's a R one; don't go L on a dirt road in the bend!. (A: Follow BU-V-5143.) Turn sharp L down a wide white gravel road (with a wooden board) to a **4.7km** hairpin bend (695m). If not sleeping in Pesquera, continue L on the road, with **GR 99**.

Turn sharp R down a dirt track, joining **GR 99**, that descends above then along río Ebro to join BU-V-5143. Fork L, pass baroque **ermita s Antonio**, cross **puente medieval** over **río Ebro** (635m), ascend past **tienda/bar** to **cruceiro, s Sebastián** and **F**, and turn R up to **El Arco** in **3km** Pesquera. 23.5km from Puente Arenas, 21.9km from Quintana.

**23.5km PESQUERA DE EBRO** (**F**, 642m, 947) @

= place for fishing > latin *piscaria* = place rich with fish, mentioned 941; 16-18C **casas**

 **El Méson del Cañón** (), 571 439, . **CR El Arco**<sup>\*\*</sup> (7r, €42), c. Arriba, 571 378, B 3, D 10, free @, d/t/q €43/49/60.

 small tienda by owners of 1st bar across bridge (M-F 10-13+17-20.30, S 10-13, but may open on request).

A all the way along the river on **PRC-BU 2**:  Facing **s Sebastián**, pass it on the R and descend a path towards the river then R along its L bank. Pass a stretch under a rocky wall, **central electrica El Porvenir** (R), where the route becomes a dirt track, and a **cascada**. At a **4.3km/1h** footbridge (L) join with the main route. From Pesquera to Quintanilla along here is 10km. 

The route follows **GR 99** till Villanueva de la Nía, and to Orbaneja also **PRC-BU 1 & 2 Senderos Cañones del Ebro**. Backtrack, following **GR 99** and **PRC-BU 1**. Cross **río Ebro** (635m) on **puente medieval** and ascend a tarmac road R then BU-V-5143 R, till signposts where a gravel path veers L down, signposted **Cortiguera**. Undulate along the river then ascend to the hairpin bend of the wide white gravel road (695m).

Go R down, cross a **stream** (675mm), ascend and at signposts veer R to a dirt track. 100m later veer L up a path to the mostly abandoned village of **4.7km/1h CORTIGUERA** (F, 788m;  **CR Táalamo** (2r, d/t €50/66, 608/624 926, kitchen, B 4, D 12)). Veer L up to round its **iglesia**, before **lavadero-abrevadero** (F) and 16C **palacio** with **blasones**, turn R down a **path** with walls, bend L then ascend like on a balcony above the canyon, enjoying **views**. Join a dirt road for about 200m, veer R (847m) to a stony path through lichen-clad trees and zigzag down an old paved road, with **views** of the free-standing **mesa** with emrita ss Centola y Elena on top, to **s Eulalia** in **4.9km/1h20 VALDELATEJA** (F across río Rudrón, 667m; ;  **s Eulalia** (puerta from Siero's gothic **iglesia**, polychrome gothic statues from there, too), **baths**) in **Cañon del Rudrón**. Pass it and terrace the R bank above río Rudrón then río Ebro till a **5.5km** footbridge and cross **río Ebro** (648m). Turn L to a dirt road along the río Ebro's L bank, continually going up and down, passing **cascada**, **ermita NS Ebro**, later paralleling a canal that comes out of a tunnel before ending on N623 (gas station: **wc**,  tiny tienda w/ snacks & bread ). Turn L, cross **río Ebro**, immediately turn R down the first street of **5.5km QUINTANILLA DE ESCALADA** (F, 665m;  mentioned 1141, belonged to monasterio s Martín de Escalada, 1588 had 12 hearths, 16C **s Román**), along the riverbank past **lavadero** (F) and 1616 **ermita s Roque** that becomes an old paved road until it reaches a bridge with **1.5km+0.1km ESCALADA** (F, 667m, ; 20km from Pesquera;  in 9C founded by monasterio s Martín de Escalada; 17C **P de los Gallos** (w/ two **torres**), 16-17C **s María** (end-12C **portada** (instruments, perfume bottles, remains of frescoes));  **La Casona de Escalada** (7r, d €50-100, c. Real 3, 947/150 063, 606/414 668 Juan Carlos & Montse, **18C casa**, 18b, one room in total medieval theme, B 6, (medieval) D 16, , @, medieval activities, theme d €100, pr d €50-70), **CR Casa Lolo y Vicent** (14b, €55-130, c. Real 18, 150 063, **16C casona palacete**, wm, ?kitchen, B 6, D 14, , pr, M-F/S-Su €55-67/110-130)) and F on the other side. Continue on the same bank through forests and small meadows, first on a track then a path up and down across several brooks and under **El Castillo rocks** above L. Reaching a bridge, cross **río Ebro** (689m), ascend a path to BU613, turn L then sharp R up a wide path into Orbaneja, tucked in terraces under the canyon walls and through which springs a **arroyo** coming out of **Cueva del Agua** and with a **cascada** below. Follow the main street SA to a stream and L is **5.1km CR Abuelo**. **La Puebla** is on top of the village off GR.

### **25.1km/6h30 ORBANEJA DEL CASTILLO** (F, 705m, 947)

 founded by Arabs from Al-Ándalus, Christians & Jews, Templars built hospital s Albín for pilgrims, in 15C becomes **villa**; **Cueva del Agua** (€1.50), **casa-fuerte**, **Casa de los**

**Canes** (decorated w/ romanesque corbels), 16C **Casa de los Pobres** (hospital, first floor w/ huge kitchen without ?fireplace, scullery & rooms), 5 **molinos**

 **CR El abuelo\*\*\*** (5r+4r, €25), c. Caño 16, 571 464, wm, kitchen (stove, oven, microwave, fridge), s/d €25/32-36. **Centro Rural La Puebla** (7r, BB d €60), c. Iglesia 43, 571 455, 676/035 431, heating, B, D, , BB d/5 €60/118.

 bakery van calls about 13h45-14h, local w/ fruits & veggies in van till 14h+17h-.

D to the top of the canyon: It is worth climbing the little valley to the E of the village to the top of the canyon, to see the spectacular **views** back and the **cragged rock formations** on the other side of the canyon. Follow **PRC-BU 2** and **GR 99** in the direction of **Colzes, Turzo**.

⇒ Return back across **rio Ebro** (689m) then turn R to an up and down **path** along the river, with brooks and crumbling stone walls. After **central electrica del Tobazo** look L up to see the wide **cascada de El Tobazo**. Keep on a dirt then gravel road along the river then across fields to a bridge in **6.5km VILLAESCUSA DE EBRO** (685m;  **iglesia**). A dirt/gravel track further along the river leads to **puente medieval** in **SAN MARTIN DE ELINES - BARRIO DE ABAJO** (687m). Go SA on a road coming from the bridge to keep along the river, SA in an intersection, then on top of the initial ascent  turn L up a track (no waymark!) to reach a tarmac road, turn R and reach **s Martín** in **3.5km SAN MARTIN DE ELINES (F, 721m; ,  12C colegiata s Martín** (originally 10C benedictine monasterio w/ mozarabic influences, 12C **iglesia** (corbels (warriors, exhibitionists), **capitals**), 16C **claustro** w/ 13C **lapidarium** (**pilas**, 1183 sarcophagus of abbot Pedro, gothic sarcophagus of Caballo Peregrino), 17C round **torre**;  **parroquia** or house opposite);  **CR La Romanika de Fellini** (8r, d €60-80, c. Principal, 942/776 409, 32b, kitchen). In the crossroad at **s Martín** veer L then turn R before the last house, to a dirt road/track that at first gently ascends then descends to CA758 in **2.5km VILLOTA DE ELINES (F, 756m;  **iglesia**)**. Follow CA758 SA through the village (**F** at a playing ground), then SA in all intersections to  **12C NS Asunción** in **1.5km ARENILLAS DE EBRO (F, 707m)**. Turn R after it, the street bends L (**F**) then becomes a track after **cementerio**. Turn/veer R down a grassy track, go up past some benches and down towards Ebro. After a R upwards bend turn L to a path parallel to a grassy track (R) which it later joins. Follow it up to a tarmac road and turn R to Sv6201/CA757 crossroad at the stone **3.3km Puente de Rocamundo** (696m).

To go to Polientes, cross **rio Ebro**, on the other side go through a gap in a wooden fence, across grass (**F**) to a bar and a parking lot. Cross a **stream** for a dirt/paved track then a tarmac road to CA757 and **Sanpatiel** in **+1.2km** Polientes, the capital of Valderredible. To continue, backtrack to across the bridge and turn R.

**18.3km/5h+1.2km POLIENTES (F, 712m, 942)**   +   

 **M etnográfico** (), baroque **s Cristóbal**

 **+1.2km PR Sanpatiel\*\*** (21b, €30-40), CA272, 776 053, hairdryer. **H EI**

**Cuartelillo Viejo** (8r, BB €45-58), CA272 31, 776 151, 619/918 281, **18C casona**, B, free MTB hire.

**Posada la Olma** (20b, €40-52), pl Mayor, 776 027, 646/487 799, B, D. **Molino del alto**

**Ebro** (5r, €90-180), **16C casona**, B, D.  **Camping Valderredible** (€50), R on CA272 km.21, 776 138, 600/485 839, , , pool, tent €5.50, p €4, mobil 1r €50.

 supermarket (expensive, 10-14+17-20.30), panadería (expensive, till 14.30). + farmacia.  ATM.  TO (776 146), T-S 10-14+17-20, Su 11-14.

⇒ Go SA on CA757 for 100m then fork R to a minor tarmac road, pass **molino** () and turn R down a dirt track towards the river. (D: SA up is **+0.3km ermita de la Velilla**.) It parallels the river for about 500m then veers L away, fork L and ascend **Los Lomanos**. Join a gravel track L up to cross a **collada** (740m) then descend and

swing R, following this *Camino de los Abrojales*, it becomes tarmac R down to the main *plaza* (F) of **3.4km REBOLLAR DE EBRO** (F, 709m; ☺ 16C gothic **s Vicente** (decorated archivolts), S on little hill is +0.3km **igl. rupestre s María**). Turn R down, after the last house veer R down a path along a stone wall, cross a road at a bridge and follow a track along Ebro. It crosses fields and brooks (muddy) then swings L and zigzags up to and across CA756, cutting a bend, to end on CA756 again. Turn R up to a crossroad with signposts, and L up CA756 to F on top of **1.4km SOBREPENA** (F, 750m; ☺ 1567 **s Juliana** (fine views);  **CR La Coruja del Ebro** (5r, d €72-80, 657/761 017, 18b, wm, kitchen, d/t/q 72-80/€82-90/90-100)). Continue up, fork R down a gravel road that meanders gently up and down through meadows, crossings CA756. 100m before reaching CA754 (it's the road on the other side of a field) turn L up a grassy track that ends on CA754. Follow it L up to **s Martín** of **3.1km SOBREPENILLA** (788m; ☺ 13C **s Martín** (window w/ capitals)). After it fork R down through the village and continue on a gravel road, descending, swinging L into a valley (760m), then ascending practically SA to **1.7km OLLEROS DE PAREDES RUBIAS** (F, 801m; ☺ < tile production, medieval **ovens**, gothic **s Juan Bautista**). At the first house turn R to a dirt track that passes a small stone hut of **fuent** then descends, becoming a path, on bottom turn L up a gravel road and join PP6214 to the start of **1km CUBILLAS DEL VALLE** (F, 759m; ☺ **iglesia**). At the first houses turn L up a dirt track that runs to the L of the village then ascends L to a **collada** (809m) between the rocky Peña Castillo and tiny Puente las Palomas. It descends and ascends a valley then ascends to a **collada** (839m) below Monte el Casallo. Descend to a T intersection, fork L down a path with a wire fence, cross a wooden fence then cross **arroyo de Arrocastro** and go SA up to a cow stable (guard dog). Turn R to a wide dark grey gravel road, up then down to PP6211. In the first crossroad with an info board leave GR which goes R across Ebro (F across) and keep SA to PP6212. Turn R across **río Mardancho** and L to Posada in **5km Villanueva**. Here you leave GR 99.

#### **15.7km/4h40 VILLANUEVA DE LA NÍA** (F, 732m, 942) ☺ @

☺ 12C **s Juan Bautista** (corbels (animals, woman giving birth, erotic scenes)) w/ medieval **necropolis, casas**, 2 **casonas** w/ **blason** w/ scallops, **ermita Virgen del Monte** (above, views)

 **Posada El Cazador**°\* (6r, €24), 745 319, **casona**, heating, L 8.50, S-Su D 15, ☺, s/d €24/40.

@ in building on CA273, M-F 12-13.30, free.

⇒ To before Susilla follow **white-green SL-S 33 Ruta del Mardancho**.

Cross back over **río Mardancho**, following PP6212 towards **Berzosilla**. At the board for the end of **Villanueva** turn R to an almost straight tarmac then dirt track parallel to the river. Turn L up PP6211 then after a L bend veer R down a dirt track, immediately passing under electricity lines, which again parallels the river. When it crosses a tarmac road, SS-S 33 turns R across río Mardancho into **3km/45min+0.3km SUSILLA** (755m; ☺ **s Miguel**;  **CR Maté** (2apparts, d €55, 942/034 966, 619/880 784, kitchen)). Continue SA to a T intersection and turn L a gravel road. It ascends in two gentle R curves, becomes a track and in more bends ascends to a tarmac road. Turn R up, when spotting a wide dirt road on the L, hop to it till an intersection to go back to the tarmac road. Ascend (865m) then descend to CA273, turn L and follow it past **5.4km CASTRILLO DE VALDELOMAR** (F, 840m; ☺ romanesque **s Leocadia** w/ medieval **necrópolis rupestre**;  **CR La Torre** (4r, €50-200, 942/745 806, 626/826 839 Inma Fernández, **torre** documented since 13C, kitchen)). After F and opposite CR Torre turn L up a minor tarmac

road that soon becomes a dirt track, swings R and terraces above (855m) CA273 before descending to it. Turn L, pass **2km/25min** SANTA MARÍA DE VALVERDE (860m; ☺ up L is preromanesque +0.2km **igl. rupestre s María** w/ *necrópolis rupestre* (Nov-Feb T-Su 9.30-15.30, Mar-Oct T-Su 9.30-14.30+15.30+19.30, w/ *Centro de Interpretación* €3)), and when spottin a small building ahead to the R of CA273 (it's **humilladero Las Áimas**), turn L up a **0.6km/15min** a gravel road (D: continue on CA273 to **+0.4km** SAN MARTÍN DE VALDELOMAR (860m; ☺ 12-13C **s Martín** (window)), with a 10t sign road sign. After a SA stretch bend L then turn R up a well-driven orange dirt track that soon swings L and is joined by a grassy track then a dirt track (from San Martín). In an intersection turn R up for a good but short climb to a plateau above (915m), go SA in an intersection, join a good dirt track then PP6301 to **s Cruz** in **3.7km** POMAR DE VALDIVIA (963m; ☺ **s Cruz** (worn romanesque *portada* & corbels)). Continue on PP6301 out of the village, cross **río Rupión** (925m) and before a R bend turn L to a straight gravel road leading to the main *plaza* of **2km** BÁSCONES DE VALDIVIA (F, 915m; ☺ 15C **iglesia** (*portada*)). Go L down the main road, pass F, and cross and turn R on N627. Cross **arroyo s María** and another **stream** then turn L up a dirt track, immediately passing under electricity lines, leading to a tarmac road at the start of **2km** REBOLLEDO DE LA INERA (922m; ☺ **s Miguel** (window)). Cross it for a gravel road that descends to **s María** in **1.3km** RENEDO DE LA INERA (F L past *iglesia*, 880m; ☺ **s María** (worn *steps* from rock, *necrópolis rupestre*)). Immediately fork R then L to a gravel road, it becomes a dirt road, cross a bridge, fork R up a dirt track that then ascends and follows a tranquil valley to PP6201. Turn R and follow it to the start of **3.5km** VILLALLANO (F; ☺ probably of roman origins, gothic **s María el Mayor** (romanesque *pila*)). Veer R down Calle Mayor, at the end pass F, join PP6201 R, cross one branch of **río Lucio**, after a R curve veer R to an old overgrown tarmac road, at the end a path leads towards a bridge and up to PP6201, cross **río Camesa** (858m), go over **railway** and A67 **motorway**, SA past an industrial zone (R, HsR Olmos), when it ecns go SA across a roundabout to a bridge with iron railings across **río Cuérnago**, under N611 (F after), past tiny **s Andrés** (R), across medieval **puente de Portazgo** over **río Pisuegra**, through 18C **Puerta del Hospital** (next to 15C hospital founded by Francisco de Soto), turn L and reach arcaded Plaza España with **s Miguel** in **4km** Aguilar.

For **+0.4km** H Villa Aguilar cross the length of Plaza España, on the other end veer R then L to Calle Puente past **P los Villalobos-Solorzano** and turn the second R, Calle Huertas, it's in the next crossroad, on the L.

### **27.5km AGUILAR DE CAMPÓO (F, 892m, 979)**

☺ < *águilas* = eagles + latin *Campodium*, 1255 May 14 Alfonso X el Sabio declares it *Villa Realenga* (royal town, till 1332) in the first *fkuero real* of Castilla, 1252-1369 was one of the most populated region in Castilla with 262 localities, 1480 becomes property of Marqueses de Aguilar, 1517 Oct 22-26+1522 Jul 30-31 here stayed German emperor Karl V, 1522 Sep 6 returned from the world-journey with Magellan Juan Martín, one of 30 survivors who was born here; 13C **s Andrés** (former convent below *castillo*, *portada* separated from apside (capitals)), 13-16C **s Miguel** (visigothic origins, 13C *portada*, *pila*, 13C capilla del Cristo (end-12C Cristo de s Cecilia), 16C tomb of Pablo González, Jul-Aug 10-13+17-20, free), **M Parroquial** (T-S 12, Su 17), **Casa los VII Linajes** (gargoyles representing 7 sins), 15C **Casa del Cura** (dismantled, some windows & other parts in *casa parroquial*), 14C **Puerta Tobalina** w/ half-timbered **casas**, **casas blasonadas** (also one w/ scallops), 12C **muralla** (by Pedro I el Cruel) w/ 14C **puertas**, 12-14C **castillo** (970m, *view* of town, free), 12C **ermita s Cecilia** (mentioned 1041 as *Sancta Cecilia...in Aguilar*, window, **capitals** (one marvelous w/ chain-mailed warriors), *pila*, *alquerque*, Jul15-Aug T-Su 10-14+16-

18, free), puente Mayor, 15C monasterio s Clara (pastelería), 12-13C Monasterio de s María la Real (first mentioned in 1020 as a community of *fratres et sorores*, church consecrated 1222, sala capitular (capitals), claustro, stream underground, M Románico (capitals), winter T-F 16-19, S-Su 10.30-14+16.30-19.30, summer 10.30-14+16-20, €), sepulcro de Bernardo del Carpio

HsR los Olmos (30r, €40), polígono industrial, 123 505, s/d €40/. +0.4km HR Villa de Aguilar (25r, €35), c. Comercio 15, 122 225, s/d €35/. Hs Cortés Poza (11r), c. Puente 39, 123 055. Posada s María la Real (22r, BB €80), Monasterio s María la Real, D, safe.

supermercados. farmacia, centro de salud. banks & ATMs. TO (123 641), T-S 10.30-13.45+16-17.15, Su 10.30-13.45.

⇒ Here join Camino Olvidado or Camino de la Montaña from Bilbao to Villafranca del Bierzo, (mostly ok) waymarked with **yellow arrows**. Cross the length of Plaza España, at the end fork L through 17C **Puerta Cascajera** to Paseo Cascajera along río Pisuerga, passing and HsR Cortés. Before a bridge turn R through 14C **Puerta s Roque**, turn L, cross Ave Ronda, go through 14C **Puerta del Paseo Real** and follow Paseo Monasterio (two F) to the gates of **1.3km Monasterio de s María Real**. Turn R to reach P212, turn L (yellow arrow on rocks SA!), pass monasterio, and cross P212 to veer R up a no-exit street past some houses. It becomes a gravel track, cross a small bridge then CL626 for an ascending tarmac road in the direction of **Embalse de Aguilar** and a rough but short climb to the **top** (1080m). Walk above **embalse de Aguilar**, fork R up, at big pots veer L up then pass mesón *El Chili*. After a long straight descends the road bends L (945m) and starts ascending. Turn R up a gravel road that undulates to CL626. Cross it for PP2121 and reach **s Juliana** in **4.3km CORVIO** (940m; 12C Caorbio, 13C Caorboyo with *Sancta Iulianae*, 13C **s Juliana** (gothic portada)). Follow the main road up through the village and once past it, turn L to a gravel road signposted **necropolis rupestre**. On bottom fork L up to 8C **necropolis de Santiuste** (L) and ruined **eremita rupestre**. Continue on the main dirt road *Camino de las Tenadas*, R then L soon after *necropolis*, it bends L and after a long descend bends L again into a valley then ascends L to an intersection before **QUINTANILLA DE CORVIO** (950m). Turn R to a dirt road, cross a track then fork/turn L in a poorly visible and unmarked fork (don't go SA because this track bends R off later) and this track should lead to Matamorisca. Before reaching it, turn L up to its **s Juan Bautista** then descend the rock-cut stairs, cross **arroyo Mamellar** and ascend through houses to CL626 in **5.1km MATAMORISCA** (F, 1075m; romanesque **s Juan Bautista** (corbels, romanesque *pila*, 15C *frescoes*)). Cross CL626, ascend to the main part of the village and turn R at the end in a T crossroad (Calle Real). After it is joined by a street from the L, a dirt track turns L off and meets another street below. Veer L up then follow a dirt track, passing **ermita s Ana**, above and parallel to CL626. Cross PP2136 (arrows point L and longer!) for a gravel road and keep parallel to CL626. Join a bend of the former road, continue up a gravel road then down a dirt/grassy track. On bottom follow a grassy track along a field, soon it becomes dirt and ascends to CL626. Turn L and follow it down to a crossroad with board *Salinas*. Turn L, follow the road to a crossroad, turn L to Calle Renal behind bar and emerge on the big *plaza* with **F** and 16C **s Pelayo** in **6.4km SALINAS DE PISUERGA** (F, 1065m; supermercado ; romanesque **ermita de Quintanahernando**; HR Centro de Turismo Rural El Molino (15r, 979/120 130, 629/810 094, *molino de agua*, B 8, D 30, pets, d/t €135-155/159-198)).

Turn L after *iglesia*, cross 16C **puente** with 9 arches (and fabulously illuminated at night) across **río Pisuerga** and turn R after it to a gravel road along the river, *senda*

de los pescadores. Pass under the **railway**, at **F** in Barcenilla turn R and follow the R road through the village to **NS Asunción** in **3.5km BARCENILLA DEL PISUERGA** (**F**, 1055m; ☺ 16C **NS Asunción** (1799 inscription & stonemasons' mark, romanesque details & hexagonal *pila*). Follow PP2128 to the R of *iglesia*, it becomes Calle Real (**F**) through and to **s Lorenzo** in **1.2km QUINTANALUENGOS** (1060m; ☺ 1345 *la iglesia de Santa María en Quintana Ferrando, ermita*, gothic **s Lorenzo** (curious hexagonal *pila*), monumental baroque **P del los Velasco**;  **TR La Aceña** (6r, €35, c. Real, 979/870 264, 628/134 154, **stone casona**, B 3, D 10, s/d €35/45)). Round *iglesia* on the R on a small cement street, on top turn R and follow a tarmac track then a gravel road SA across pastures, joining **Ruta 1 BTT**. Fork twice R, parallel the river then go away across fields, reaching an info board at the **3.1km** bridge for Liguerzana. (D: Aross **rio Pisuerga** is **+0.1km LIGUERZANA** (**F**, 1075m; ☺ gothic **s Andrés, cueva de Allende** (interior lake);  **TR Casa Mediavilla** (6r, €29, c. Cortijo, 979/877 636, B 3.50, D 10, s/d/t €29/38-76/47).) Turn L before the river to a gravel road to **s Sebastián**, an info board and **F** in **2.6km VADO** (**F**, 1095m; ☺ **view** of W mountains). Back to **F**, go SA R down then L up with PP2129. At the start of a L bend, turn R across two branches of **rio Rivera**, continue on a gravel Paseo de Vado past a backwards fork. (D: **+0.1km** L back is the wonderfully ruined **ermita rupestre s Vicente** and its 8-9C **necrópolis**.) Enter the town, fork L to Ave Rosa Lima then Calle Barreda and reach Plaza Lafuente with **ayuntamiento** and **Hs Pineda** L, in **1.6km** Cervera.

For *alb. juvenil* turn R to Calle Sotelo with  and , cross arcaded **Plaza Mayor** with **+0.2km Hs Galería** on its R side, continue on Calle Barrio y Mier then Calle Labradores which joins with Calle **s Roque**. Pass Puente **s Roque** then cross **rio Pisuerga** on a curved iron footbridge. Turn L and follow the river, through a grove then across meadows, joining a gravel road (L) that leads to **+2.6km** *alb. juvenil*. Arbejal () is actually situated on *Camino Real* that connected Pisuerga with the N, and was the property of the Knights Hospitalers.

### **26.7km+2.6km CERVERA DE PISUERGA** (1005m, 979) @

☺ **M Etnográf. Padre Isla** (summer 10-14+17-20, €1), 17C **ermita Cruz**, **M Etnográf. Cantarranas** (mini bread oven, portable wc, clogs, Easter-Jun+Sep S-Su, Jul-Sep 14 T-Su 11-14+17-20, €2), ?16C **bolera municipal** (building for ball games), end-15C **Casa-P Gituérrez de Mier**, 16C gothic **s María del Castillo** (16C **vaulting**, 14C **Virgen**, 1495 Juan de Flandes' **retablo Adoración de los Reyes**, Jun-Oct F-Su, Jul-Sep 11-13.30+17-20, **free**), ruined **castillo**

 **Hs El Resbalón** (22r, €19-45), pl Lafuente 2, 870 612, 660/707 515, B 4, s/d €19-45/35-45, all year. **HsR Pineda\*** (10r, €25-30), paseo Valdesgares 1, 870 390, B 3, D 12, s/d/t €25-30/35-40/50-60, all year. **+0.2km HsR La Galería** (7r, €25-30), pl Mayor 16, 870 234, 659/996 668, s/d €25-30/36-48. **+0.6km CR Casa Goyetes** (6r, €29), c. Valle 4, 870 568, B 4, s/d €29/43, all year. **+2.6km albergue juvenil Arbejal HI** (54b, BB €19), Arbejal, 870 174, heating, wm, microwaves, @, pool, in summer full w/ schools, all year 7h-23h30. **TR Molino de Valdesgares** (5r, BB d €65-80), paseo Valdesgares 36, 871 029, 615/142 731, **18C molino del agua**, buffet B, D 15, , d/t BB €65-80/80-105, Feb-Dec.

 supermercados, tiendas, pastelerías, tabacos.  farmacia. ☺ ATMs.  TO (870 695), very friendly, summer 11-14+16-20. @ **Telecentro**.

⇒ Turn L to Paseo Valdesgares. When it ends at a purple board *Cervera* (*Pastas y horaldres* inscription on building R), cautiously cross CL624 for a minor road parallel and below CL624 on the other side. Cross stone **Puente de Valdesgares** across **rio Rivera** (1000m), pass **cruz roja** (Red Cross) and **capilla s Cristóbal** and end on the main CL626 (R side). After 1.4km, after passing under electricity lines in a rising L bend twice, veer R down a gravel track that soon

ascends. At a wire gate R veer L steeply up a dirt track to reach a cement/gravel track *Camino de Cantoral* that served a former mine. Turn R, very gently up the valley for 2km, somehow crossing a small swamp in the middle (try the R side at the stream and don't stand on one spot for too long), to the abandoned **coal mine** where the road ends. Veer R to a path, cross a wooden gate, the path widens and runs inside the forest edge. Reaching an open meadow, veer R to a small path along the forest edge and end on **4.8km PR Senda de La Tejeda de Tosante** and some beton remains. Behind is **F** (a water through). (D up **valle Tejeda de Tosante** (+4km/2h round): Turn R on *PR* and follow it first through a narrow **rocky passage** then along a stony path then a forest road up the valley with beautiful thick **yew forest**, some trees have 2m in diameter, and wildlife (roe deer).) Turn L up a stony road (not *PR!*) that ascends to a ridge, bends R up this ridge through oak forest (muddy in rain), go R up across a cattle gate and through a metal gate to an intersection under electricity lines. Turn R up a dirt road on a shallow ridge (1154m) then down to a T intersection. Turn L down, cross the **railway**, turn R on a dirt road and reach **s Ana** in **3.5km CANTORAL DE LA PEÑA** (**F**, 1110m; < *La Peña* = Rock, white limestone mountain to the N, roman *Campus Toralis*, 12+17C **s Ana** (romanesque **corbel** of pregnant woman perched on top of 1881 sundial, 12-13C **pila** w/ reliefs), territory across CL626 is called *El Hospital*; **CR Valle Tosande** (4r, 600/579 746, 607/797 338, two **casas**, **wm**, kitchen, call for 1 night!).) Veer L past it, fork R past an ingenious round **abrevadero** (**F**) and, before the first house, veer R down a dirt road. In an intersection turn L to a dirt track across fields between CL626 and the railway, turn L in a T intersection and cross CL7276 to 12-16C **s Vicente** in **1.8km CUBILLO DE CASTREJÓN** (1095m). Veer L, turn R on the last street of the village then turn L on CL626.

**A via Traspeña:** Ignore a gravel track R an turn R in a crossroad, to follow this tarmac road, across the **railway**, to 15C sculpted **cruz de término** on high pedestal, and veer L past **F** to **igl. de Transfiguración** in **3.4km TRASPEÑA DE LA PEÑA** (**F**, 1150m; end-15C **igl. de Transfiguración** (**portada** (Santiago, dragons, masks), capitals, **pila**, masons' marks, Jul-Aug T-Su 11-14+16-19, **free**)). Veer L then R (**F L**) on the main PP2249 which after leaving the village bends around the hill of La Peñillas and reaches a **1.5km** T crossroad.

**A ①:** To continue directly to Pisón, turn R to a gravel road, joining the main route, and at the end turn L to a tarmac road that ends on CL626 at **NS Asunción** (**F**) at the edge of **1.1km PISÓN DE CASTREJÓN** (**F**, 1157m).

**A ②:** Turn R and follow this road, at the start of Castrejón it bends L then R and ends on CL626 at **F** and bar in **1.3km CASTREJÓN DE LA PEÑA** (**F**, 1120m). Turn R on CL626 for **+0.3km CR Uncar** at the end of the village on the R. 24.5km from Cervera up and down Valle Tejeda and via Traspeña.

Follow CL626, passing **s Agueda**, to **F** and bar in **2.6km** Castrejón. **+0.3km CR Uncar** are at the end of the village on the R

### **12.7km CASTREJÓN DE LA PEÑA** (**F**, 1120m, 979) +

prehistoric & roman graveyards, roman *Campus Catriculonen*, 1st mentioned 1115; gothic **s Agueda** (**portada**, **capitals**)  
**La Paren de la Tila** (1r, d €60), 0637/794 212, 678/860 910, **wm**, kitchen, pets, all year.  
**+0.3km CRs El Uncar\*\*\*** (8r, €35), CL626 ctra Magdalena 1, 609/812 148, 619/755 027, kitchen (stove, fridge, microwave), s/d €35/65.

tienda (10-14+17-20), panadería (10-14), both hidden between houses. farmacia.

⇒ Turn R, signposted **Traspeña, Villanueva**, and follow this minor road L out of the village, continuing SA on a gravel road, to a T crossroad. Turn L to a tarmac road that ends in a crossroad with **NS Asunción (F R)** at the edge of **2.3km PISON DE CASTREJÓN** (F, 1157m; ☺ 13C **NS Asunción (portada** (Santiago, musicians), corbels (scallop, thinking man), masons' marks, *pila*, altar w/ monsters, Jul-Aug T-Su 11-14+16-19, **free**). Cross and turn R on CL626 (L side) and follow it up then down, veer L down an old bend, cross a **stream** (1115m), ascend a small rise then turn R to a gravel track that crosses the **railway**, in a T intersection turn L, pass brick **ermita s Isidro**, cross CL626, fork R to Calle s Pedro, fork L down and reach **cruceiro** and **s María** in **4km TARILONTE DE LA PEÑA** (1100m; ☺ 1070 In Tarilonte, in 14C *Becerro de Behetrías* described as *lugar solariego* = 'ancestral place', **s María (portada** w/ zigzags, 12C **reliefs**); ☺ **CR EI Encinar** (5r, 979/866 391, 666/846 866 Elena González Cosgaya, kitchen (stove, oven, microwave), call for 1 night!, all year). Past *iglesia* continue down, bending R to an **0.2km** intersection.

**A** (shorter): I propose this shorter alternative. Keep SA, fork R, descend to the railway and before it bend R to an intersection. Turn L across the **1.1km railway**, joining the main route.

Waymarking is a bit scarce for some time. Turn R, L in a T intersection, up (1140m) then down a tarmac road. After a white house turn L, pass a railway station and reach an **1.8km** intersection where the alternative joins. Turn R across the **railway** and immediately R down along it. Pass below the railway station R up, cross **arroyo Cubo** (1110m) and in the following fork veer R up a gravel road (no waymark; perhaps fork L? they join later) that goes back to the railway then veers L away, heading gently up then down across fields, joins a gravel road SA, crosses a **collada** (1185m) between two (forested) hills, steeply descends R to a T intersection on bottom. Turn L to a wide dirt road, cross **arroyo Villafría** (1140m) and fork R up a stony track into Aviñante. Follow the street L up then down and turn R in a crossroad to **F** and **s Magdalena** in **4km AVIÑANTE DE LA PEÑA** (F, 1040m). Veer L up past *iglesia* (L) then descend past and above a house (R), down an old route now a grassy meadow, and at the end make it down to a gravel road. Turn R down then L to a gravel road parallel to CL626. Before a L bend veer L down to stay along CL626 (R). Follow the gravel track along CL626 to a T intersection under electricity lines (past Santibañez on the R). Turn L, 50m later turn R and this tarmac road leads to P214. Turn R up to CL626 (services R) in **3.8km barrio LA ESTACIÓN** (F, 1070m; ☺ supermercado M-F 10-14+17-20.30, S 9.30-14+17-19, panadería ☺ + ☺; ☺ ruined cantabric *castro* S of village, roman encampment). Turn L, in a R bend before baroque **ermita s Cristo** turn L down a gravel road, immediately pass a L turn-off then reach a R turn-off. Turn R and follow this gravel road up and down, there is no waymark to point R but pass a warehouse, on top go SA/L, cross an intersection and in the second one turn R down across the **railway**, turn L, fork L up, go under CL626, turn L, ascend, at the end of the street turn L up and reach **NS Asunción (F)** in **3.9km VILLANUEVA DE ARRIBA** (F, 1110m; ☺ 15-17C **NS Asunción** (16C knight's tomb), **ermita s Roque**). Round *iglesia*, go down the other side, turn R down before a house then after it veer L to a path along a stone wall. Go SA across a *plaza* with **F** then the main road to a brick **F**. Turn L to Calle Real that continues as a gravel road, cross a tarmac road, to the central *plaza* (**F**) and **ermita s Agueda** in **1.9km MUÑECA** (F, 1142m; ☺ < Meneca = hill, promontory, **toll tower**, romanesque **s Eulalia (capitals**, 16C *pila*)). Turn L, cross CL626 (**F**) then the **railway**, and immediately turn R along it, up a dirt track above the railway. Join a gravel road (a new road is being built here and some ingenuity is needed) that later crosses the

**railway**, turn L to a dirt track and end on CL626. Turn L and follow it into Guardo. Reaching a purple info board *Guardo* (SA is H Edmundo), veer L/SA up Calle Iglesia, verring R past **s Juan Bautista** then veering L down the street then the stairs to Ave Palencia, turn R and reach a crossroad in **3.8km** Guardo.

Go SA on Calle Mayor, veer L to CL626 Ave Asturias and on the L, in a brick building with yellow *Schweppes* ground floor, is **+0.5km** P Garmar. 36.2km from Cervera (41.3km after blog), 23.5km from Castrejón.

**23.5km+0.5km GUARDO** (1124m, 979) + Ⓜ ✉

< perhaps latin *Bucca ad ardum* = difficult passage, 10C *Boardo* & *Boardo*, 13C *castillo de Guardo*, had monasterio s Quince; 16+18C **s Juan Bautista** (romanesque sculpted *pila*), 18C **casa grande = ayuntamiento, capilla s Cristóbal**

H don Edmundo (12r), c. Iglesia 29. **+0.5km P Garmar** (18r, €20), ave Asturias 17, 850 960, heating, B 2, D 7, reported so-so, s/d €20/30, all year. HR Montaña Palentina (12r, d €50-56), ave Asturias 150, 851 520, ☺, B 3, D 8, all year 24h. HR El Tramazal (15r, €38-43), ctra Magdalena, 850 769.

Supermercados, Arbol (till 21h), tabacos. farmacia, centro médico. banks w/ ATMs.

⇒ Turn L to Ave Castilla y León, pass brick **s Bá尔bara**, *supermercado*, cross 1759-88 **puente** across **río Carrión** and veer L down Calle s Isidro under the **railway**. It ascends, gos over another **railway** and reaches a roundabout (TO R but reported closed). Turn L to Calle Cerojal, signposted **Tanatorio**, ignore the first R turn-off then reach the second turn-off R, **1.6km** Calle Poniente.

Continue SA and at the end of Calle Cerojal is **+0.2km** albergue. 38.4km/42.9km from Cervera.

**1.6km+0.2km albergue municipal de Guardo** (55bb, €13), c. Cerojal, 653/608 166, 691/327 018, albergue@linumberco.com, showers, wcs, kitchen, B 3, D 7, linen 3, HP €21, BB €15, b €12, ®!, all year.

⇒ Turn R up Calle Cristo Amparo which is actually two flights of stairs then a street to a T crossroad with Calle Magdalena. Turn R up to CL626. Turn L up (no walkway!), pass a board *CL-626 León 81 Cistierna* 29 and at a sign for 60km speed cautiously cross CL626 to ascend a dirt road (with **R4** sign) through pines that turns L before a **basin** and ascends to 18C **1.4km ermita ss Carmen y Cristo del Amparo** (**F**, 1220m) which served as a hospice for pilgrims and travellers, for here ran the E portion of *Cañada Real Leonesa*. Pass it (R) on a tarmac road, in a T crossroad go SA on a dirt track under electricity lines that ends on CL626 and turn R down on it (L side). A straight stretch across a plain, down then up through forests, enters *provincia de León*, bends L with houses on the R (1125m) and nears the railway. Here veer L to a dirt road that crosses the **railway** twice and reaches **iglesia** in **4.5km LA ESPINA** (1130m). Pass it on the L, up through the village, join CL626 for 500m them then turn L up towards **Valcuende**. Ascend amidst oaks, level out (1160m), pass under electricity lines, descend, level out, descend, pass a cleared out belt closed off with a wire with many boards, and when the road makes a R curve in descent, about 1.5km from the turn-off, veer R down a dirt track (boards *acotado de setas M.U.P. 608 Valcuende* and below *coto privado de caza LE 10745*, muddy in rain) that descends to a multiple intersection (1115m). Go SA, crossing **Cañada Real Leonesa Oriental** (*cañada* is a transhumance route), and SA/L up a dirt track, following a VTT route and a gas line. Join a wide dirt road/clearing (1125m) and in a clearing fork, fork R steeply straight down the R clearing, continuing SA down a dirt track when the clearing goes

L. On bottom turn R, about 20m alter turn L down a stony track that crosses the **railway** then descends to a river. Turn L along it and reach LE232 (F). Turn R across **puente medieval** spanning **rio Cea** to a roundabout with CL626, **piedra triangular** and **ermita de Angustias** (L) in **7.3km** Puente Almuhey. 38.9km from Castrejón.

Turn R on CL626 (F), the second street R is **+0.3km CR Muria** and further on **+0.5km H Cea** opposite 17C **s Ignacio**.

**13.2km+0.5km PUENTE ALMUHEY (F, 975m, 987)**

⌚ probably of Mozarabic origins (Puente-Al-Mohay), once important crossing point which had hospital *para ayuda de los pobres, transeúntes y los que tengan necesidad* = 'to help the poor, travellers and those in need', *iglesia, molino* and *puente*, 13C **ermita de Angustias** (here was hospital *Puente Demuhey*, **window w/ cruz de Malta, portada**), **piedra triangular** (signifying the border of three jurisdictions)

**+0.3km CR La Muria\*\*\*** (6r, €25), Travesía el Cine 6, 648/060 298, wm, kitchen, !.. **+0.5km HR río Cea** (14r, €35), ave Ferrero 55, 703 521, 639/170 694, heating, laundry, pets, s/d €35/50-55, all year.

supermercado, libreria. farmacia. banks w/ ATMs.

⇒?⊗ Follow the valley of río Tuéjar = **Valdetuéjar** (< possibly *tejo* = yew which is plentiful here, it symbolises death, because it's poisonous, and immortality, because it's evergreen). Cross the roundabout to head SA on CV131-14 to the L of a low building with pillars, signposted **La Mata de Monteagudo**. Cross the **railway** and 200m later, after a power station and a house, turn R to a dirt road along a small beton canal that soon makes a L bend and runs parallel to CV131-14. In an intersection with houses turn L to tarmac Camino Soto (a crossroad with F is R on Calle Loma) and go SA on CV131-14 through **1.6km TARANILLA** (F R on Calle Plaza, 990m; ; ⌚ **igl. Santiago, ermita s Agueda**; (€48-58, La Loma 42, 987/716 060, D 10-15, d/t €48-58/54-66)). In a crossroad at the end of the village turn L to Camino Eras, turn R before a big warehouse and follow *Camino Rompidos* parallel to CV131-14. It bends back to CV131-14, turn L to a fork at the start of San Martín. Keep SA on Calle Real, to a crossroad with Calle Iglesia in **1.9km SAN MARTÍN DE VALDETUEJAR** (1000m; ⌚ **+0.2km** 12C **s Martín** (once may have had *hospital* for pilgrims, façade w/ **reliefs, corbels, capitals**)). At the end of Calle Real turn R up a cement street then turn L when reaching CV131-14, following it past **s Adrián** and F to a fork next to a nice stone **portal** (R) in **0.9km RENEDO DE VALDETUEJAR** (F, 1010m; ⌚ **P de los Prado** (very powerful, influential and cruel family that had certain water sources reserved solely for their horses' thirst - the valley was known as *Valle del Hambre* = Valley of Hunger, later they were known in Americas)). Veer L down Calle Fuente, cross **río Tuéjar**, following its other bank R up, before crossing **río Tuéjar** again to reach CV131-14 and **iglesia** in **3.4km EL OTERO DE VALDETUEJAR** (1040m). Turn L CV131-14 and when seeing a church peeking above the treetops, turn L up a tarmac road to **2.2km** 15-18C **santuario Virgen de la Valle = de la Velilla** (1100m; ; < latin *Vallulis*, founded by s Guillermo, on house L is **inscription Casa del peregrino, Santiago Matamoros statue, torre**; 12km till Cistierna). (D: A little furtner along a dirt track or CV131-14 is **+0.8km LA MATA DE MONTEAGUDO** (1110m; ; (5r, €48, 987/716 100, 636/597 142, B, D, s/d/t €48/65/80))). Leaving **Virgen de la Velilla** on the R, turn L in a T intersection to a dirt road and keep on this road through an impressive **oak forest**, ignoring all turnings off. It ascends the R slope of a valley, crosses **collada de las Vallejas** (1323m) then sticks to the L (S) slope of the mountain on the L. After a more pronounced side valley reach **collada de la Mata** (1345m) with a **reservoir** and a building. The R fork follows *calzada romana* to *Fuentes de Peñacorada* on *Ruta de las Legiones*. Veer L/SA, at a cattle shed go SA/R, round a ridge (L) then descend to

CV105-14 across **arroyo Fuentes**. Turn L down to the main **10.1km** CL626/N625 in the valley. Turn L to a road parallel to then join CL626/N621, joining **Ruta Vadiniense**. Keep SA on a side road then straight past a roundabout and when Cistierna starts, a walkway appears on the L. Pass and and stop when reaching a **3km** crossroad with Calle Padre Isla and Calle Valladores, with a richer building with the corner façade ending in four small turrets. 23.8km from Puente Almuhey, 18.5km after blog.

Veer L to Calle Padre Isla, cross SA the main *plaza* with **ayuntamiento** (ask for key) and to head into Calle Parque Infantil next to *Tallero*, the next *plaza* with **ermita s Guillermo** cross diagonally L to go up Calle s Guillermo that starts at the corner of *ermita*, and **+0.4km** albergue is about 50m further on the R; telephones on door.

### **23.1km+0.4km CISTIERTNA (F, 945m, 987)**

< possibly from thermal spring called *Jagariz* in arab and a cistern, *aljibe*, nearby, in 10C documented *monasterio s Fecundo y Primitivo*, 1122 built s María and next to it hospital *para pobres y miseros peregrinos*, flourished from coal mines; **s Cristo Rey** (16C *retablo*), **M Ferrocarril**

**+0.4km albergue de peregrinos s Guillermo\***° (15b, D, , c. s Guillermo 18, phones on door, 6r, 4 showers, 4 wcs. (), c. Rivas, 700 080. (d €60), c. Esteban Coral 5, 702 031, 701 025, minibar. (), ave Constitución 43, 700 041, D, pool. (17r, BB d €40), c. Eras 28, 700 624, 638/794 254, ⊙, D 9, BB d/appart €40/50.

sweets, *queso de pata de mulo* (mule foot cheese), trout soup, *jijas* (marinated pork w/ garlic & red pepper). farmacia. banks w/ ATMs. Jul-Sep. M-F 8.30-14.30, S 9.30-12.30.

A to Mansilla de las Mulas or Puente Villarente on waymarked Ruta Vadiniense (59km): 23km GRADEFES (F, *albergue municipal* (987/333 153, kitchen, all year)) – 36km PUENTE VILLARENTE (*albergue Delfín Verde* (24b, €6-7), *albergue s Pelayo* (64b, €7, all year)) or 36km MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS (*albergue municipal* (46bb, €4, all year)).

⇒ From *albergue* backtrack to the main *plaza* (F), veer L to Calle Eras, reach N625 and cross it SA. Till after Puente de Mercadillo is the same as **Ruta Vadiniense**. Continue on N625 to the second proper crossroad (garden across L) and turn R to Calle Eras. Go under the **railway**, turn L before *polideportivo*, to a gravel road that passes **molino de Gaudalio** and **cruz del Molino**, turn R in a T intersection, R on a tarmac road and cross the famous **Puente del Mercadillo** (< *mercados* = markets held here) across **río Esla** (923m) and turn L up with the road (R are the remains of **hospital**). The road levels. Leave Ruta Vadiniense at signposts **BTT 1 Yugueros 4.9km** and **C° de la Montaña**, veering R up a dirt road. It ascends, on top goes under the **railway** and ends in a crossroad (F) in **8.1km YUGUEROS** (F, 1080m; 16C **s Salvador** (capitals, 12C Virgen, 1553 *retablo*)). Turn L on CV130-6 through the village, cross the **railway** and reach a blue 50km sing.

A: Veer R to a gravel/dirt track *Camino de Oceja a Yugueros*. It crosses the **railway**, ascends a narrow valley across **la Peña** ridge (1130m) then follows its N wall, through a forest, to Calle Real (F behind a house L) in **2.6km OCEJA DE VALDELLORMA** (F, 1100m). Turn R up then L before **iglesia**, to Calles Fuente then Eras that leads to Calle Real in La Ercina. Turn L down Calle Real and in the first crossroad turn R down to **1.3km albergue**.

**12km LA ERCINA** (1100m, 987)

**albergue Multiaventura** (30bb), c. Ayuntamiento 1, 805 315 (office phone in Trabajo del Camino), 648/032 831 Toño, info@tesonserviciosdeportivos.com, heating, showers, wcs, kitchen. **CR El Nogal** (d €60), 987/712 093, 679/312 994, B, D.

⇒ Continue on the street, at the end turn L down, ? fork R down towards **Sobrepeña**, after a chimney (R) start ascending and about 700m later a gravel track veers L, immediately forking. Veer L to it and fork R up, cross a small rise then a low **collada** (1141m) and then it's all down on the main dirt track till across **río Lostilla** and joining a **PR** till it goes off L. The valley opens, the track meanders a bit but keep on it until CV130-12. Turn R and follow this minor tarmac road across **río Losilla** then bigger **1.9km río Colle** (1000m) at the start of Losilla.

Keep on CV130-6, up to **ermita s Roque** then down to the crossroad in **3km LA ERCINA – barrio ESTACIÓN** ( +).

For **albergue**, turn R up Ave General, under the **railway**, past **M Etnograf.**, fork R up, singposted **albergue**, then turn L down to **+0.7km albergue** in **LA ERCINA**.

**11.1km+0.7km LA ERCINA** (1100m, 987)

**+0.7km albergue Multiaventura** (30bb), 805 315 (office phone in Trabajo del Camino), 648/032 831 Toño, info@tesonserviciosdeportivos.com, heating, showers, wcs, kitchen. **CR El Nogal** (d €60), 987/712 093, 679/312 994, B, D.

⇒ ? Continue on CV130-6, up through and down to **F** in **4km ACISA DE LAS ARRIMADAS** (**F**, 1110m). Continue on the road, past **abrevadero** (**F**), leave the village, and at the sign for a bumpy road veer L to a grassy track *Camino Viejo de la Iglesia*. Fork R level/down back in the direction of the road then more or less parallel it up and down to **s Marina** (8-10C origin, possibly Templar site, *pila*, scallop, two **cruces esculpidas** that are said to have belonged to Ordenes de Santiago and Templarios, 13C *torre*, 16C *retablo*). On the other side of CV130-6 is a territory called *La Sierra* which is the site of a former *cantera*, stone quarry, that supplied stones for most of the houses that still stand today. Descend a cement ramp R, turn L on CV130-6 and descend it to a fork in **2km BARRILLOS DE LAS ARRIMADAS** (**F**, 1050m; **casa** (said to belonged to Templars)). Fork L up, past **abrevadero** (**F**) then 1880 **NS Remedios**, bend twice R with the tarmac and after the second bend, veer L down a dirt/gravel track *Cordel de la Varga* used for transhumance. Turn L on CV130-6 then immediately veer R down to a gravel track *Camino de los Rocinos* which after crossing the (new bypass road and) **railway** undulates to Calle Real in Devesa. Turn L to romanesque **igl. Virgen del Rosario** (**F**) in **2.4km LA DEVESA DE BOÑAR** (**F**, 995m; **torre la Colegulata**). After it and at the huge game **Ludo** painted on tarmac, veer R down CV130-12 Calle Real and follow it to across **río Losilla** then bigger **1.9km río Colle** (965m) at the start of Losilla. ?

A via San Adrián: Turn R after **río Colle**, to a tarmac track then a path along the river that ascends and joins CV104-20 (which starts on the other side of *iglesia* of La Losilla) into **0.8km SAN ADRIÁN DE BOÑAR** (970m; **s Adrián** (of the former monasterio de s Adrián y s Natalia founded by Conde Guisvado y Leuvina, *iglesia* consecrated 920, here held council in 929, 10C founding **inscription** (E wall), geometrical corbels, 12C **inscription**, 12C **S portada**), **hot spring**). Backtrack on CV104-20 to the last house, with brick lines around windows and doors and a small green fence in front, and before it turn R up a dirt track then a path that ascends to a

**collada** (1001m) then descends to a T intersection. Turn L, R in another before the railway and join **1.3km** the main route and **BTT 1**.

? Continue on CV130-12 to **iglesia** at the start of **0.3km LA LOSILLA (F, 960m; ~~Casa Hilario~~ (4r, BB €56, travesia Real Cimera 1, 987/734 302, 660/470 623, s/d BB €56/76, min 2 nights!, all year, currently closed)). After it fork R between houses, pass F, join Calle Real and at the last houses fork R on Calle Eras (not across the railway) that parallels the railway. After an estate ↗ a **0.6km** gravel road joins from the R, pass under **1.4km** CL626 and follow **Camino de los Rocines** L and R along the outskirts of LA VEGA DE BOÑAR (1075m; ~~s Julián y s Basilisa~~ (1305 document speaks of the exemption from tolls for *homes e mugeres pobres e a los romeros que vienen y llegan* = 'poor men and women and pilgrims who come and go')). After 16C **ermita s Roque** join CV3141 (a gas station across it), past F, Spar, to a crossroad with a lamp in the middle in **1.4km** Boñar. 25.1km from Cistierna on main route.**

### **14km+0.4km BOÑAR (F, 985m, 987)** ☀ ⚡ + @ ☎

⌚ < latin *balneare* = to bath > *Bañar* > Boñar, mentioned 924, 11C Boniare, Buennar, Boniar, in 13C Alfonso X reconstructs pilgrim hospital & bridge 1km N of town whose tax went to hospital; **casona** in calle Concordía (**concha** in *blason*), **s Pedro** (Maragato striking the bell), **milenario negrillón** (huge dry elm tree) ruined 8-11C **castillo**, +1km N 13C **puente** w/ 13 arches near hot spring La Calda

🏨 **Hs Nisi** (), c. Rodríguez 3, 735 210. **+0.1km CR El Negrillón** (4r, €30), pl Negrillón 12, 735 164, 639/104 366, 2 houses, kitchen, s/d €30/40. **+0.3km CR Las Caldas de Boñar** (€25), c. Mateo 6, 696/700 959, B, all year. **TR Pico Cueto** (6r, €40), c. Corredera 43, 735 693, 689/064 514, kitchen, B 8, s/d €40/60. **HsR Ines**\*\*\* (€20), ave Constitución 64, 735 086. **alberque El Soto** (90b, BB €20, HP €28), c. Soto 10, 735 474, 671/201 316, kitchen, ☀ 12h-24h, L, D. **Camping El Soto** (369pl, €12), c. Soto, 741 713, shower €, wm, Jun15-Sep15.

Spar, Dia, panadería, tabacos. + farmacia. ⚡ ATM.

⇒ In a fork after the crossroad veer L to LE331, signposted **Puebla de Lillo**, pass **Hs Ines** in a red apartment block (R) and Spar **supermercado** behind it, after a red house (R, Spar 50m on) turn L to CV104-17 Calle Soto towards **Barrio de las Ollas, Camping**, pass **0.4km alberque** in the first complex on the R, parks, cross **río Forma** (975m), turn L to a gravel track along the river, before the railway turn R up a path, L up CV104-17 and ascend to 12C **s Juan Bautista** in **1.7km BARRIO DE LAS OLLAS (F, 1010m)**. After it pass F, fork R, also following **BTT 1** (till La Vecilla), veer L up a stony road that zigzags up a slope to a beton reservoir (1040m). Go SA/L down a dirt track. In the next intersection on top of another ridge keep SA down then turn L down in a T intersection. 50m later turn R (broken waymarks and confusing arrows!) and follow a dirt road up, down, up, down, up, to the end across the **railway**. Turn R afterwards to the old tarmac road that goes back to the new CL626. Turn R on it for 25m then turn L down a tarmac then gravel road that leads to a T intersection. Turn R to a dirt road which in a while comes back to CL626. Turn L and follow it to the second crossroad. Turn R down, signposted **centro urbano**, fork L down and reach a house (not *palacio* which is 50m further) with a round **torre** in **5.8km OTERO DE CURUEÑO (F, 1040m; 16C P Alvarez Acevedo** (w/ round *torre* & 7 *escudos*), romanesque **iglesia**). Turn sharp L down a dirt/muddy track, pass F and end on CL626. Turn R, cross **río Curueño** (1005m) and reach the main crossroad with 18C **NS Asunción** in **1.6km** La Vecilla. 32.7km from Cistierna on main route.

### **8.7km+0.5km LA VECILLA DE CURUEÑO (F, 1012m, 987) ↗**

⌚ 12C mentioned **torreón**, 1584 **La Avecilla**; 16C **fortaleza Alvarez de Acevedo**, ruins of **castellón de Aviados**, **M de gallos de pluma**

🏨 +0.5km **alberque HI & camping s Catalina** (25b, €9-20), Granja s Catalina, 741 212, heating, free hot showers, wm, B 2, ⚡, pets only in tents, perhaps can accommodate horses, tent €6, p €2.10, HP €18, *alb.* all year?, May-Oct.

🚏 around train station, bread-van calls in the village. ⚡ around train station.

⇒ A that avoids some of CL626: Round **iglesia** and follow CV130-3, direction **Santa Coloma**, past a **plaza** (F) and 12-14C round **torreón** then bar. Cross **arroyo Aviados** and the road makes a L ascending bend; L here are **cementerio** and behind **0.5km alberque**. Opposite their access road, turn sharp R down a gravel road, signposted **Campohermoso**. It flanks the edge of a forest, fork R into the fields, in a L bend keep SA/R a dirt/grassy track along the river, and again keep SA/R. The track bends R across **arroyo Aviados** (1035m) and over the **railway** to ascend to CL626. Turn L through **2.1km CAMPOHERMOSO** (1070m).

?☒ Turn R up with CL626, under the **railway**, to a crossroad on top (R are both **hostales** and F), in **1km LA VECILLA DE CURUEÑO – barrio ESTACIÓN** (F, 1040m; 🏠 panadería, carnicería, tabacos ⚡ + farmacia ⚡; 🏠 +0.1km **Fonda Orejas** (c. Estación 6, 741 397), **+0.2km HsR Las Hoces** (8r, c. Estación 27, 741 233)). There follows a 9.5km slog on CL626, up then through ☒? **1.1km CAMPOHERMOSO** (1070m; ⚡ **igl. Santiago**), up and down to a turn-off for La Valcueva. Veer R towards **La Valcueva**, up to **iglesia** in **4.7km LA VALCUEVA** (1035m; ⚡). Pass below it and follow the road down through **0.7km PALAZUELO DE LA VALCUEVA** (1025m) and past its **iglesia** back to CL626 and follow it to a turn-off L where a street goes across a bridge in **1.1km ROBLES DE VALCUEVA** (995m; 🏠 Arbol ⚡ ☐ on CL626; 1752 *Robles de el Concejo de Vega de Zervera*).

A via ermita: ?☒ Veer L to this street over a bridge, Travesía el Campo?, and before reaching its end at a wooden info board and benches, turn L then R to Calle Eras, then R to Calle Llana. Cross LE311 for a tarmac then gravel road a little to the R, signposted **ermita de Boínas**. Follow the road past the lovely **ermita de Boínas** (romanesque Virgin, relief), which is thought to be the only remaining building of the disappeared medieval village of Godinas, mentioned in 1161 as *Godinas*, **ermita** mentioned in 15C when the village was already abandoned. Turn R before it to follow río Torio to CL626 and turn L across **2.2km río Torio**. ☒?

Continue on CL626 through Robles de Valcueva, across **1.4km río Torio**, over two **railways**, joining **BTT 1** for a long straight stretch to a parking lot with an info board and F in **1.7km ROBLEDO DE FENAR** (F, 1038m; 1042 *fuero*, s **Torcuato** (*portada*, romanesque corbels, capitals)). Veer L to a minor tarmac road, cross a **stream**, pass s **Torcuato** with **cementerio**, a picnic stop (F), and reach CL626 at the start of **0.7km SOLANA DE FENAR** (1040m; ⚡ s **Cristóbal**). Continue on CL626 to a crossroad after the bar Dingo in **1.5km CANDANEDO DE FENAR** (F, 1070m; ⚡ bar Dingo famous for *patatas con congrio*; ⚡ remains of roman village; **ermita del Cristo, caño de s Miguel**; 🏠 +1km **HsR El Valle** (11r, ctra Candanedo-Matallana, 987/578 426/7)). Turn L down Calle Corillo to a **plaza**, turn R, the street bends L down (F), pass a football field and before the railway turn R to a black dirt road/track parallel to it. A new railway/road is in construction here so the route may be blocked! It crosses the railway to parallel its other side then veers away. In

an intersection go a bit L to continue on the same track to a cleared area with **abrevadero** L. Turn R down for 20m then turn L along an artificial slope. Reaching a gravel road at the heaps of carbon, turn R down between them, cross the **railway** then turn L to a road that ends on CL626. Cross it for a sidewalk, go SA in a roundabout, under a bridge, veer R down a fork (towards **Barrio Las Eras**), it bends L, go over the **railway** on a footbridge, R down, turn L to Calle Iglesia and reach Calle Mayor with ① L in **7.2km** La Robla, which is on **Camino del Salvador** linking León and Oviedo. 29.9km from Boñar, 31.5km via track after La Velilla and ermita Boínas.

For **+0.6km** **albergue** turn R on Calle Mayor, at white apartment blocks turn L across, **albergue** is the red building on the R, with wrought-iron gate and a porch.

**21.2km+0.6km LA ROBLA (F, 990m, 987)**

< *robla* = contract or latin *roborare* = to reinforce (in the context of medieval jurisdiction); **Roque**, 14C **ermita de Celada** (romanesque Virgen)

*Hs Ordoñez de Celis* (), c. Ramon y Cajal 5, 572 342. **P Mundo** (), c. Ordás 9 bajo, 570 733. **+0.6km albergue de peregrinos** (16bb, D, , parque la Huerga, 659/093 647, 1dr, 4 hot showers, 4 wcs, kitchen (stove, oven, microwave, fridge), free lockers, ®!, 12h-22h.

*Día, Arbol*, panaderías, carnicerías, tabacos. farmacia, consultorio médico. banks w/ ATMs. ① *sello* in TO (572 202) inside *ayuntamiento*, 10-14.

A to León on Camino del Salvador: 28km LEÓN (**albergue Benedictinas** (142bb, D, all year), **albergue municipal** (70bb, €4-13, all year), three summer **albergues juveniles** (250b, BB €20)).

⇒ Pass **albergue** on the street running past it, before N630 turn L and parallel it to a roundabout. Turn R (or over a yellow bridge), joining the **0.45km** main route. The next days are a bit tricky because of the lack of accommodation. The recommended stages are La Robla – 32.1km Pandorado – 23.8km Fasgar – 19.7km Igüeña, with two days sleepig in Pandorado (CR Resthy which will set you back €120 for two nights + €30 for transport down and up the valley to Fasgar. Be prepared for the expenses shock! The other option is to go from Pandorado to Colinas del Campo Martín Moro which is 36.5km with a hard descent at the end of a long day and phone ahead for beds as there are only CRs in Colinas. Also, for Igüeña phone ahead to CR as the hostal is closed.

⇒ Cross Calle Mayor then the big Plaza Constitución (F), cross a street and head SA on CL626 past two orange appartement blocks. In a roundabout go over N630 on a **0.5km** yellow bridge to keep SA on CL626, following **Ruta El Fontañán, La Magdalena**, cross **río Bernesga** and reach a roundabout. (It looks like now it's again possible to go SA on Calle Ramón y Cajal, before it ends veer R to a path then the stairs down and under the **railway** to continue on the same street to the fourth roundabout.) Turn R up in the roundabout, in the next go L, over the **railway**, SA in a roundabout and R in the fourth roundabout. Follow CL626 past F at the end of a long parking lot in **1.3km LLANOS DE ALBA (F, 980m; ; ermita s Lucía, NS Asunción (romanesque portada))** then cross it for its L side, pass **NS Asunción**, and leave the village. In a roundabout veer L down, pass playing area (F) then **s Pedro (F)** in **2.2km SORRIBOS DE ALBA (F, 1030m)** and ascend to CL626. Stick to CL626 until a turn-off for **Olleros** and here veer R down. On bottom cross **arroyo Remedio** (1060m) L and steeply ascend Calle Real to **iglesia (F)** in **2.3km OLLEROS DE ALBA (F, 1100m)**. Continue up Calle Real past **ermita de Entresierra** to the last house (L, 1100m). After it turn sharp L down a dirt track, on bottom turn R to a grassy track, cross a **stream** (1090m) and start steeply then more gently ascending to CL626. Turn R up, cross **collada de Olleros** (1208m), in descent veer R across a wide tarmac area then steeply down a minor tarmac road towards a village ahead. Upon reaching an enclosed area (SA is **+0.5km**

SANTIAGO DE LAS VILLAS), turn L down a gravel track, after a basket/football field veer R (confusing arrow pointing L) to a grassy track, ↗ go L on CV129-6, pass F (where Calle Campo joins from the L), veer R and reach the main crossroad with a fountain in the middle in **4.6km CARROCERA** (F, 752m). After the fountain turn L to Calle Vega that curves R then joins with another road and becomes flanked with pines. Cross a tarmac road and continue on a grassy track at the foot of a slope. At one point it makes an S and is later flanked with trees. Reaching a tarmac road (at a warehouse R), turn L down then turn R on the main street to reach 1903-14 s María Magdalena of **2.5km OTERO DE LAS DUEÑAS** (F, 1010m; ⚡ tienda ⓘ; ☺ founded in 9C, 1030-35 *in locum pridictum in uilla que vocavit Autero*, 13C **monasterio de s María** (founded 1240 by doña María Núñez de Guzmán, a relative of the king, keeps one of the most important archives in León)). ↙? Keep SA, past a grand derelict **estate**, across **arroyo Piedrasecha**, then, at a triangular sign with 150m, veer R up a path along a stone wall that then as a dirt track above CL626 descends to it. ↗ The route crosses CL626, rounds the industrial zone, longes a huge waste hill, goes under AP66 **motorway**, turns R on a tarmac road and turns L at a house with a red cross (SA, on CL626 is **2.5km(15.9km)+0.9km Hs Crucero** in A MAGDALENA). A tarmac road crosses fields, bends R before a football field then L after it, crosses **río Luna**, fields and ends on LE493. Turn L to a crossroad (F) in **1.8km CANALES**. But because of the major construction works stay on CL626. ↙? Turn R on CL626, pass **HsR s Lucía** (14r, d €60, CL626 km.80, Los Avezales industrial zone, 987/581 437, 630/079 737, B, D, w/ jacuzzis, ⚡), go under AP66 **motorway**, and reach **Hs Crucero** in **2.2km** A Magdalena.

**15.6km+0.9km A MAGDALENA** (1000m, 987) ⚡ ⓘ +

**HsR El Crucero** (12r, €15-20), CL626 ctra León-Cabosalles 36, 581 024, B 2.50, D 10, s/d €15-20.

⚡ autoservicio, panadería, carnicería, tabacos. + farmacia, centro de salud.

⇒ Continue on CL626, pass ⚡ autoservicio, **iglesia**, veer L with LE493 across **río Luna**, in the direction of **Villablino por Omaña, Riello**, pass ⓘ and a crossroad with a F in **1.4km CANALES** (F, wc, 980m; ⓘ ⓘ (TO (wc, very friendly, summer 10.30-14); ⚡ CR La Rasa (5r, €25, c. Florentino Diez 23, 987/806 180, D 9 when available, call for 1 night!, s/d €24/32)). Keep on LE493 until veering R to the main *plaza* (F) of **3km QUINTANILLA** (F, 1030m). Turn R and ascends a street which soon becomes dirt. Turn L up in a T intersection and skirt the foothills through scrubland, towards the village ahead. In a T intersection turn R up wide grassy former route **Cordel de las Marines** (*cordel* is also a transhumance route) till the start of Bobbia. Turn L down a gravel then tarmac road through **1.2km BOBIA** (1080m; ☺ **iglesia**) to LE493. Turn R up, pass a quarry, descend, go through **2.5km SOTO Y AMIO** (1064m), ascend and descend to a crossroad. Turn L to CV128-24 towards **Villaceid**. At the start of a long L curve, turn R up a dirt track, immediately passing under electricity lines, and gently ascend to **collada de la Cerca** (1056m; R hill in bushes hides celtic **castro**). Descend, the track becomes grassy and keeps roughly straight, getting nearer LE493. Before joining it it veers L away, across **río Oterico**, to the main tarmac street in **3.6km OTERICO** (1040m). Cross the main street, ascend grassy track, turn R up a gravel track that runs below **iglesia** and **cementerio**, go R in an intersection towards a white house, and end on LE493 at a gas station. Turn L up then down, cross **río Ceide**, soon a walkway starts (⚡ tienda), and reach **iglesia** in **2km RIELLO** (1050m; ⚡ 10-14+17-20 ⓘ + ⚡ w/ ATM), where starts the land of Omaña (< roman *homus manium* = people called by Romans *dioses*; ⚡ CR La Panera del Conde (2r, €20, c. dos de Mayo 3, 987/261 060, 652/818 073, w/m, kitchen, pets), CR El Trillo (909/292 682)). Go SA on LE493, direction **Villablino**, pass a bus station (R) and veer R to the upper road to the R of trees. Pass a pink house (R)

to stay on LE493, a turn-off for *Robledo* (tienda), cross **río Ariegos** (1035m), and in ascent turn R up to the L of a warehouse with a big green door. There is a confusion of paths and tracks in the first 200m of the ascent, and very few badly visible waymarks. 20m later veer R up a grassy track/path, following it up for the next 50m then go R across a long pasture with a barely visible path. In about 200m the path becomes clearly visible, go up into the forest and in the forest go R up a sunken lane covered in dry leaves which later widens. On top veer R on a dirt track that heads to LE493 in Pandorado. Turn L up, pass 12C **ermita NS de Pandorado** and reach **CR Resty** on the R in **2.8km** Pandorado at the start of **EI Valle Gordo**. 32.1km from La Robla.

### **16.5km PANDORADO (1144m, 987) ⓘ**

HR **Pandorado** (7r, €70-75), LE493 km.47.50, 581 806, ☺, pool, s/d €70-75/90-110, all year. CR **Resty\*\*** (r €60), LE493 km.48, 580 722, 615/256 708, 3 CR, wm, kitchen (stove, oven, microwave, fridge), ⓘ closed M-T, free ride down to Riello for provisions, ride up or down valle Gordo €15 (both €30), ®!. **Cabañas y Veredas** (CR €100), c. Camino Real, 222 737, 689/147 639, 4 CR, wm, kitchen, pets.

⇒ Food! At **CR Resty** turn L down CV128-27 for a lovely descent into the valley of **río Omaña**, to the end of tarmac in **1.9km LA OMAÑUELA** (1045m; ☺ s **Salvador**; CR **Aguas Frías** (2r, €150, c. Real 12, 987/308 309, 639/546 562, 666/256 951, wm, kitchen (stove, fridge, microwave), call for 1 night!, all year)). Turn R to a dirt track amongst houses then the walls along the R bank of **río Omaña** that becomes a path and ascends towards Guisatecha. About 200m before the village it becomes overgrown but push on to LE493 in **2.1km GUISATECHA** (1060m; ☺ s **Marina**, remains of golden mines). Turn L on LE493, pass a big walled meadow and an info board, before a house with green doors veer L down a dirt track follow a dry stream to **río Vallegordo** then follows this one R to a T intersection with a house. Turn R up a dirt track, it meanders around the house (L), fork L/SA along a small valley, cross a meadow diagonally R (no path or track) to pick up a track to the L of a house (with chained dogs), in a T intersection turn sharp R up and end on LE493. Turn L, pass below **castillo**, cross **río Santibañez** and reach the crossroad with CV128-5 and CV128-6 in **1.9km EL CASTILLO** (1075m; ⓘ; ☺ ruined triangular 15C **castillo de Benal**, casa **hidalga**, 17C **ermita s Cristo** (built on pagan temple), in vicinity remains of roman canals and gold mining activity; CR only rented full & for S-Su)). Turn L to CV128-5 across **río Vallegordo** and immediately turn R to a tarmac street between houses and the river. Immediately turn L after the first house (a tree in a corner), to a gravel track past a football field then a dirt track that gently ascends to the foothills then bends R and follows them up the valley. Keep SA in forks, up (1085m) then down, after a **brook** turn R across meadows, cross **río Vallegordo** (1070m) and reach LE493 in **2km VEGARIENZA** (1075m; ⓘ; ☺ s **Señor** (gothic Virgen), casa **hidalga**). Turn L and follow LE493 (sidewalk on the R) to a crossroad in **2km AGUAS MESTAS** (1118m). Go SA across **río Omaña** on CV128-2 towards **Fasgar**. Follow the road past s **Pedro** then through the village to a crossroad towards the end (at bar) of **1.6km CIRUJALES** (F, 1105m; ☺; ☺ s **Pedro (pila)**). Turn L (F), cross **río Vallegordo**, turn R in a T intersection, to a dirt road along the river then up to a walled meadow. Turn R along it on a stony track, it ascends L before becoming grassy across pastures, bends L around more walled meadows, up then down and bends R down. Turn R before a stone wall, down across a small **canal** then **río Vallegordo**, turn L (F) to a dirt track and reach CV128-2 in **1.3km VILLAVERDE DE OMAÑA** (F, 1140m; ☺ mentioned 1735, s **María**). Turn L and stay on CV128-2, past wooden **el crucero de Marzán** (marks a crossroad of ancient

routes, although locals say it was erected after a workman repairing the road here was struck by lightning) and through **1.2km MARZÁN** (1150m; ☺ < possibly roman *Martius*, **s Cipriano** (possibly medieval origin, *pila bautismal*), **ermita s Cristo**). Continue on CV128-2. The blog description suggests a path/track alternative across pastures below but it's very difficult to navigate once in the middle of bushes and with disappearing paths (and big guard dogs) so I recommend staying on the road. If feeling adventurous, veer L down after a sign for narrow curves, in a R bend just before a dug-out area, not the first L turn-off. The road ascends, with **views** ahead, to **3.3km ermita s Ana**. ?✉ After it it might some time in the future be possible to veer L down a grassy track, crossing **río Vallegordo** (the bridge is now destroyed), ascending, crossing **río Vallegordo** again ☺? on **puente romano** and reaching a bar, **s María** and **capilla s Cristo** in BARRIO DE LA PUENTE. Pass above the church then turn R up to CV128-2. Keep on CV128-2 down, through **4.6km BARRIO DE LA PUENTE** (1205m; ☺ **hornos de pan**), up, through **2.5km POSADA DE OMAÑA** (F, 1242m; ☺ former *monasterio agustinos*), up, past **iglesia**, and later stone **puente romano** at the start of Vegapujín where CV128-2 becomes Calle Real. Follow it to F and **capilla** in **1.4km VEGAPUJÍN** (F, 1284m; ☺; ☺ famous *horreo la Fragua*, roman *molino, iglesia*). Veer L up a road between two stone walls, the original road, it becomes grassy and follows the river up to Fasgar. Keep along the river to the second bridge in **2.3km FASGAR** (F, 1350m; bar across first bridge mostly closed, bread van calls around 15.30; ☺ probably founded in 15C or 16C, 1735 Fasgar; popular **architecture**, four **puentes, iglesia**). Across are F and the end of CV128-2.

Keep SA on Calle Fuente then veer L up Calle Santiago that passes **ermita s Cristo** then becomes beton track Camino Piornalín up to antena then a dirt track up then down valle of Urdiales. On bottom fork L up (R is Valle Urdiales with *Pico Tambarón* in the background) and climb, passing **Las Fuentes** (F), to **3.1km collao de Campo** (1641m) where a **view** towards Campo opens. A fast zigzag descent ends right at **4.7km/1h30 ermita de Santiago Matamoros** (1484m) in **Campo de Martín Moro**, the birthplace of río Boeza, with a spring nearby (unrecommended to drink because of cattle grazing). Find a grassy track to the L of **ermita**, across muddy **brooks** on the L side of the river, which soon becomes a very stony and difficult path (the old paved route) ascending a bit before descending to a fork (1465m) where the ruins of a pilgrim hospital at **El Corral de las Yeguas**, once called *Villa Armenia*, and **fuente de Oscar** (F) are signposted R down. Ascend to a ledge (1475m), zigzag down to then along the river, crossing several **brooks** before bending sharply R and crossing **río Boeza** (1345m) on **ponton de las Palombas**. Ascend before swinging L down to cross **río Boeza** (1395m) on wooden **ponton de Suso**. Lower down, at a pasture, the path becomes a stony track, passes **fuente s Juliano** (F), and leads to **puente** in **8km/2h** Colinas del Campo.

### **36.5km COLINAS DEL CAMPO DE MARTÍN MORO** (1080m, 987) ⓘ

☺ mentioned privilegees by Alfonso IX de León, its name is the longest in Spain; popular **architecture**, **s Dorotea**

🏨 CR La Corte (2r), c. Río, 519 759, 677/256 950. CRs La Gortina & La Trallera (1r+1r, €45), 693 254, 519 566, 676/415 797. CR El Pardo (), 606/049 858. Granjas de Agroturismo (). ®!

⇒ Leave the village S on LE461 ( ⓘ), under the **arch** of an **ermita**, but soon veer R down Camino Urdiales, the former road, that descends to the R of CV127-1; fork twice level, L then R. Join the new road to Urdiales R down, cross **río Boeza** (1015m), then veer L level a gravel road that crosses **río Urdiales** in **Las Puentes** and then sticks to the R slope of the valley of río Boeza, passing F. In a fork where

the valley opens, veer L down and almost at the end L down again, to LE461. Turn R and follow it past **tienda** to a *plaza* (**F**) in Igüeña.

+0.1km **CR Begoña** is across the river, T then L up the first cement street, the big yellow house ahead.

**7km+0.1km IGUEÑA (F, 919m, 987)**

in 9C mentioned s María, in 1118 a property in *Igona* or *Igüeña* was given to monasterio s Leocadia near Quintana de Fuseros; **s María**, baroque **ermita s Barbara** (*bolsa* w/ scallop shell), **molinos**

+0.1km **CR Begoña\*\*\*** (3r, €30), c. Campanillo 9B, 666/662 750, 615/553 288, wm, kitchen (stove, oven, fridge), ®!. *albergue* is planned.

**tienda** (M-S 10-14+17-20).

⇒ Continue down LE461 along the river, following a **BTT** route. After an old bend (910m) leave the BTT route and veer R up a dirt track which swings N (940m) then descends. At a shed turn L down, before a meadow veer L down a path, cross a **arroyo s Martín** (930m), ascends, skirting a meadow then a black scree (940m) where it levels. Reach a sort of a track which descend a bit then ascends, and levels to a track intersection at the edge of a valley. Turn R up a tarck to a gravel road. Turn L, ascend around a valley then around a slope, descend then ascend another valley, reaching a **ridge** (1065m). Descend to a T intersection ( **view** of Quintana), turn L down for about 300m and before a L bend, turn R up a track that backtracks along a slope. Fork L down a path past a water trough into a valley, go L down this valley, R down along a stone wall, L around a green house, across **río Lera** (935m), up Calle Humerai and end on the **7.4km** main road in **QUINTANA DE FUSEROS** (950m; ; *quintana* were called places near roman military camps, in this case Legio V's at *Interamnium Flavium* with a defensive tower in *Toral*, destroyed in 457, first mentioned in 10C but probably inhabited by *griegos* sometime between 5C and 10C, who were looking and exploiting the gold deposits in the area, attested by numerous names with *yera*, *lera*, *era* < griego *iénai*, in 988 monasterio s Leocadia was given some property in Fuseros, destroyed by Almanzor in 997 then rebuilt by Templars who in 1178 received *solar arrasado de Interamnium* = a destroyed ancient place of Quintana, only in 14C name Quintana de Fuseros became predominant, **s Pedro**, N of the village are remains of **monasterio s Leocadia**; **CR El Caruzal** (5r, c. Fondevilla, 616/956 626, kitchen, all year)).

Water! Turn L down the main road, R up CV127-6, in a **0.4km** big crossroad with **F** turn L to a gravel road after the F. Keep on it, fork R up, after a weird fence fork R up again then stick to this gravel road up to an intersection. Turn R up a ridge to ascend to a **6.3km high point** (1082m) then go down to an intersection. Fork L but immediately turn R up to continue in the same direction on a ridge, staying on it to another **high point** (1074m), descend, steeply climb then descend across a former open mine ( **views**), the road becomes a track down then up to the R of a small summit, then finally down to a T intersection. Turn L down to another T intersection, turn L down again and after a long while the former road/track bends R into a valley. After it bends R, fork R up past a white water reservoir to come above *iglesia*. A barely visible path descends to 16C **ermita Santiaguino** above Labaniego, round it then descend its access road to a street. Turn R past a playing area and after it turn L down some stairs to the main road in **6.5km** Labaniego.

**20.6km LABANIEGO (800m, 987) all F were dry!**

here were 9C *monasterio & hospital de s Martíno*, now in ruins known as Tauron

 **casa** (), ask for Celemnte, no shower!. **CR El Sardón I y II** (2r+1r, €15), c. s Fructuoso, 650/785 815, ®!. CR Dora (2r, €19), c. Cristo, 512 756, 605/959 612, wm, kitchen, all year.

⇒ Cross the main road to go L og a white house, down a grassy track (mud, hidden stones). It bends L into a valley, cross a **stream**, ascend to a low ridge then gently descend to a T intersection. Turn R to a **1.1km** fork with a dubious arrow.

① via Bembibre to Ponferrada: Fork L, following **blue arrows in reverse**, soon a track joins from back R (from Arlanza), fork twice R down and end in a T intersection at **2.5km LOS LINARES** (655m). Turn L to a dirt road more or less along forest edge, R in a T intersection, then L at the end of a fence. On a tarmac road turn L up, under A6 **motorway**, over N-VI, to a crossroad with a lamppost with four lamps in the middle, at the bottom of the descent. Cross and turn R, pass +, turn L to Calle Martina, keep SA to Plaza s Bárbara with tree-lined *paseo* in the middle, turn R on it then turn the second street L (at a gap in the *paseo*), to tree-lined Calle Saldaña between brick and pick appartment blocks, at the end turn R and 50m L across the crossroad, is **3.4km HR Carmen** in Bembibre.

**7km BEMBIBRE** (653m, 987)      

⌚ < preroman *Paemeiobriga* = oppidum between rivers, roman town *Interamnium Flavium* was here or in surrounding area, 15bc inhabitants called *castelani paemeiobrigenses ex gente sesarorum*, repopulated 9-11C, 1198 *fuego* by Alfonso IX; **s Pedro** (romanesque origin), 19C **santuario** (patron Ecce Homo), **M Etnol.**, **s Esteban del Toral**, **casa solariega Rodríguez**

 **HR Carmen**\*\* (21r, €25-30), c. Reigada 59, 510 135.

🏪 tiendas, panaderías, tabacos, some open on holidays till 14h. + farmacias. 💳 banks w/ ATMs. Ⓛ TO (514 555), c. Lope de Vega 1.

⇒ I followed the old N-VI all the way, it's almost traffic-free until about 3km before Ponferrada, but very dull. Continue on Ave Villafranca past **HR Carmen** (L side), curving L to Calle Omarin through **SAN ROMÁN DE BEMBIBRE** (630m; ⌚ important paleolithic tools, possibly roman *Interamnium Flavium* on *Via Nova*, roman find *Edicto de Augusto*, had roman *puente*, 1826 mentioned *hospital*), L in a roundabout, joining N-VI (with almost no traffic). The sidewalk ends, reach a big rectangular board for the roundabout, facing away. After it turn L down a gravel road that runs parallel but below N-VI. It becomes a dirt road, and upon seeing a red modern milestone on N-VI (km.370), hop to N-VI to continue on it, cross the **railway**, and reach a crossroad in **5.6km VILLAVERDE DE LOS CESTOS** (600m; here found possible roman milestone, surrounded by roman gold mining). Turn L towards **Castropodame**, **Villaverde de los Cestos** then 100m later turn R to Calle s Esteban, a battered tarmac road across fields to a crossroad/*plaza* and **iglesia** in **2.3km ALMÁZCARA** (585m). Keep SA through the village, at the end of the old part, in another crossroad/*plaza*, veer L to Calle Caltada, 50m later veer R to Calle Salguerona which continues as Calle Gatinal between gardens, fields and forest edge. Join Calle Catzada (with checkered sidewalks) and reach a bridge in front of 16-17C **monasterio s Miguel de Dueñas** in **2.3km SAN MIGUEL DE DUEÑAS** (565m; ⌚ close is Castro Murielas, monastery founded 970-80 by conde Luna D. Gonzalo Bermúdez as San Miguel de Almázcarra, 1152 restored by doña Sancha w/ benedictine nuns from Carracedo, becomes cistercian & since known as San Miguel de las Dueñas;  **Hs Prieto** (c. Estación 18, 987/457 570, 629/980 075), **Hs Estación** (c. Estación), **hospedería del monasterio** (5b, 467 046)). ?☒ Turn R across a **rio**, turn L to Calle Agua and join **Ruta/Senda de los**

**canteros** in the direction of **Ponferrada** along the R bank of río Boeza, all signposted. After **M Celta** and the gardens the street becomes a gravel/dirt road that after a stretch through groves along the river reaches a clearing with meadows and a farm. Veer R to a grassy track along the railway, ascend, cross a dirt track to reach its higher course and turn L on it. But already after a R swing, veer L down a path that passes under electricity lines, plunges into a forest and reaches the start of a dirt track/road. A signpost points to a path that runs below it and descends to a **viewing point** above río Boeza steep valley. Swing sharp R then veer L down, to terrace on a path above the river then the railway and **embalse de Montearenas**. After crossing a tarmac road that leads down to a dam for a path to the L of an old triangle road sign, descend then level above **cañón de Boeza**, and the railway. Reaching a new construction ground, swing L down, go under the **railway** and descend ↘ to **7.5km/4h punte Boeza** (formerly known as *Paso de la Barca* = Passage of the Boats) on LE142 from Molinaseca to Ponferrada. Cross and turn R up, joining an alternative of **Camino Francés**. Before a factory on the L, veer L down a gravel road that passes a swimming pool, goes through waste grounds, becomes tarmac, veer R up and go over the **railway**. Veer L along a stone wall of **Virgen de la Encina** to **1.7km albergue (F)** in Ponferrada, with a big scallop shell on the wall.

### **20.5km PONFERRADA (F, 541m, 987) 🚶 ❾ + ⚡ ⓘ @ ✉**

👁 = Iron Bridge (*pons ferrata*), after 1082 when bridge was reinforced w/ iron, built by Osmundo, bishop of Astorga, *Ponsferratus* in 12C *Liber sancti Jacobi*, *ponferrato* in paese de Galicia by anonymus pilgrim from Avignon in 14C, *Pont Ferrado* by Nompar de Caumont in 1417, *Bonforat* by Hermannus König von Vach in 1495, *Munferar* by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, *Pontferat* in late-15C *Itinerarium de Brugis* on the route from Tours via Bordeaux to Santiago; **Castillo de los Templarios** (finished 1282 by Templars, only used for 30 yrs, one of largest fortresses in NW Spain, Templar crosses carved in stones, T-S 10.30-14+17-18, €3), 16C **basílica s María de la Encina** (Templar origins), **M del Bierzo** (fine 16C building, old prison, weaving tools & looms, T-Su 11-14+17-19, €2.50); 🌸 Sep 7 **Virgen de la Encina**

🏨 **albergue parroquial s Nicolas de Flüe\*\* (F, 180bb, D, 🌸), c. la Loma, 413 381, heating, 12 hot showers, 8 wcs, + outside showers & wcs, ws, wm+dm 3+2, kitchen (stove, fridge), @, 🌸, © 1, all year 14h-22h30. **HsR La Encina** (13r, €40-50), c. Comendador 4, 409 632, B from 7h30, s/d €40-50/53-63, 24h. **HsR Río Selmo** (17r, €30), c. río Selmo 22, 402 665, s/d €60/40.**

🏪 tiendas (on Su open small tienda w/ fruits, veggies & snack between apartment blocks about 200m from *albergue*), panaderías, tabacos, zapatero. @ pl Tierno. ⓘ TO (424 236), c. Gil y Carrasco 4, M-F 9-15+16-18, S 10-14+16-18, Su 11-14. Behind is the office of Amigos del Camino de Bierzo. ✉ M-F 8.30-14.30, S 9.30-13.

② via Congosto to Columbrianos then Cacabelos: ?↗ Fork R down, cross **río Noceda** (705m), ascend to a T crossroad, turn R then swing L up to CV127-7, with **igl. Santiago** opposite (50m R looks like *lavadero* with F), in **0.9km ARLANZA** (715m; 🏠 **CR La Escrita** (2-3b, €40, c. Potro, 619/644 632, heating, kitchen), **CR Los Madroños** (5b, c. Era, 679/901 319, heating, wm, kitchen)). Turn L down CV127-7, in a fork with a brick building in the middle veer R up LE159-2 Calle Encinona, on top of the climb turn sharp R up a dirt road with loose stones, climb a steeper short stretch to a more level area, veer L to continue up a **ridge** (751m) then veer L around a valley, forking L on the way, and ascend to LE159-2. Turn R down then up, past **ermita s Cristo**, and down into Losada. Reaching an unfinished stone-brick building with a board *Calle Concepción* (R), veer L on a short dirt track to a *plaza* (F La Pallarina) with a playing ground in **2.6km LOSADA (F, 745m; ❾; 🏠 ?**HsR Las Eras** (8r, €25, c. Era 1, 987/511 988,**

600/288 099, D, horses, pool, noone answered when I called repeatedly, s/d €25/35). Cross the *plaza* to continue on LE159-2 to the L of a pastel house, turn L in a crossroad with a fountain, pass Hs Eras (probably the last house on the L, opposite **capilla**), then keep on LE159-2, across two **streams**, to a long *plaza* with **lavadero-abrevadero** in **2.6km RODANILLO** (F, 708m; **s Benito** (*retablo, cruz*), **buzona**). Veer R to Calle Arriba (F and later F with *cruz*), towards the end (fork?) turn L along a red brick wall, cross LE114 to descend a gravel road which looks to be the main road between both villages. After crossing a **stream** fork L then go SA in a triple fork. In a fork in 500m veer R then keep on this road to a **high point** (775m) then bending L down to a crossroad already in the village. Turn R to Calle Ciprés to pass **s Tirso** in **5.4km COBRANA** (740m; **s Tirso** (in corner is granite cilinder, possibly roman milestone, but without inscriptions)). the street becomes Calle Olivos, at the end turn R down CV159-3 Calle Nogales then Ave Ponferrada which leads to **F La Colmena** at the start of Congosto. Veer L to Calle Cruz that leads to a crossroad with CV159-3 (again) and **iglesia** in **2.5km** Congosto.

#### **14km CONGOSTO** (F, 690m, 987)

on one of the historical routes from León to El Bierzo, *La Ruta de Bembibre o del Boeza*, itself based on roman *Via Nova* between Astorga and Cacabelos; **ermita s Cristo, casonas**

**CR Álvaro de Mendaña** (10b, €20), c. Era 7, 404 963, 657/036 817, wm, kitchen. **Vivienda Vacacional Alejandro y Alba** (4r, €15-20), ave Posada del Río, 607/516 414, S of village, wm, fridge, s/d €15-20/30-40, all year.

tienda.

D to santuario: In the centre turn R on CV159-3, go SA out of the village the veer R and zigzag up to **+2km santuario Virgen de la Peña** (medieval *ermita* converted to *hospital* for pilgrims, superb **view**). **albergue** (), **HR La Peña** (41r, €33-40), c. la Peña, 467 020, B 4, pool, s/d 33-40/-50-60.

⇒ Go SA on LE1593 Ave Posada Río, bending L and paralleling the lake. In a tarmac fork veer L up (R is *Club Náutico*) then pass the wind turbines' stocks (708m), and end a T crossroad. Turn R then veer R down towards **Oficinas**. Reach a fork at the start of **6km POBLADO DEL EMBALSE** (700m).

A to Ponferrada: Fork L, direction **Asprona**, pass a couple of buildings then a long building in the forest. About 150m after it veer L ?up a gravel track, cross a tarmac road and follow this track (it more or less parallels the tarmac road) till an oval **reservoir**. Round it and head on a (second) wide dirt road R that joins a tarmac road. Pass above A6 **motorway**, descend in **view** of Ponferrada and its surrounding mountains, go under N-VI, cross a road and descend a paved one-way Calle Pozo to the main *plaza* with **s Tomás** in **4km SANTO TOMÁS DE LAS OLLAS** (598m; ; < *alfareros* = potters, first & only reference in 1311, formerly *Entrambasaguas*, beautiful 10C mozarabic **s Tomás de las Ollas** (12C *portada*, triumphal arch shaped in horseshoe, apse w/ 9 horsehoe arches & 11-sided dome of adobe, **visigothic elements**, **pila**, key at No 7 opposite (doña Manuela), T-Su 10-14+16-20, **free**). Turn L to Calle Medio (the second from the *plaza*), at the end of the stone wall turn R down a tarmac lane, at the bottom turn L on a gravel track (a curious building below is the new **university**) and follow it SA to join Calle Medio R down. Cross Ave Monteanares for a dirt track to the R of a walled villa, Camino Barreras, turn R on a tarmac road for a few paces then turn L down, cross tarmac Camino Gato and head down a dirt track to the end of a street. Turn L to a dirt/grassy track along the houses that ends on an unofficial round dirt parking lot. Cross it to head on its access track that curves R

around a brick apartment block and ends on LE142 Ave Molinaseca (this is where the alternative Camino Francés comes into Ponferrada). Turn R, cross it for the other side at the first opportunity 100m later, veer L in a roundabout, and when you reach a big parking lot, turn L across to **1.9km albergue (F)** in **11.9km PONFERRADA** (F, 541m; + @ .

Fork R down to reach and cross **presa de Bárcena** (625m), pass through a **tunel** then follow the road up to a fork/T crossroad with a dry tree-stump in the middle. Veer on the L branch of the fork/crossroad, cross the road and head SA on a gravel road under electricity lines (at stop sign). Ascend to a triple fork on a **ridge** (727m) and here turn L up, signposted **Columbrianos**. After a straight stretch (SA up on top of the hill was once Castro s Andrés) the road bends L, descends, is an intersection go SA and after passing a building reach an intersection with a wide dirt road. The description from here to Columbrianos is a bit weird and makes a detour via San Andrés de Montejos, so I made a more direct route. Cross for a dirt track SA, descending through woods below Cerro del Castro (L). It ends in a T intersection at the start of the fields, turn R down, in an intersection before a motorway turn L to a tarmac road, go under A6 **motorway** and keep SA to s **Blas** ( view of Ponferrada & Montes Aquilinos). Turn R down, joining **Camino Francés**, cross CL631 at traffic lights for Calle Iglesia, pass **F** and reach Calle Real in **7.5km COLUMBRIANOS** (F, 535m; + @ ). From Congosto to albergue in **11.3km Cacabelos** (F, 485m; + @ ).

**24.8km CACABELOS** (F, 485m, 0987) + @

first mentioned in 10C in the donation by Bermudo II to monasterio de Carracedo, after earthquake its rebuilding, including s María, in 1108 is attributed to Diego Gelmírez, bishop of Santiago, from 1138 under jurisdiction of Santiago bishopry, *Carcavellus* in 12C *Liber sancti Jacobi*, *Cacanelhos* by Nompar de Caumont in 1417, *Kaeafelob* by Hermannus König von Vach in 1495, *Karkabelle* by Arnold von Harff in 1496-99, 5 *hospitales de peregrinos*: s Lázaro, Santiago, s Catalina, Alfonso Cabirto, Inés Domínguez; 15C **ermita s Roque** (M Parroquial, Jun 15-Sep 15 T-Su 11-13.30+18-20, free), 16C **s María de la Plaza** (town had two more iglesias in Middle Ages, s María de la Edrada & s María circa ponem, 11C abside), **M Arqueológico** (history, etnogr., quite interesting, May-Oct M-F 10.30-14+17-20, hol 10.30-14), **M del Vino**; May 15 **s Isidro**, Sep 1809 **Batalla de Cacabelos**

**albergue invierno** (14b), 670/809 265, school, no heating!, kitchen, ask at **policia or ayuntamiento**. **P La Gallega** (€25), c. s María 23, 549 355, D 9. **Hs s María** (€30), c. s María 20a, 549 588, B 4.50, pr s/d/t €30/44/57. **P El Molino** (€19), c. s María 10, 546 829, D 7. **HR Villa de Cacabelos** (34r, BB €40), ave Constitución 12, 548 148, 606/415 720, minibar, safe, pr BB s/d €40/60-150. **albergue municipal**\*\* (70b, €6, , pl Santuario de Angustias, 546 011, 617/909 991, site of former *hospital de Santiago*, d, 8 hot showers, 8 wcs, ws, wm+dm 3+3, ?kitchen, **F**, free @, , camping, May-Oct 12h30-22h.

tiendas, panadería. farmacia. banks w/ ATMs. @ **Hs La Gallega**.