

SALAMANCA ON THE VIA DE LA PLATA



Follow the footprints



Back in the third millennium before Christ were the first metallurgical eras that got the western lands of both high plains in contact with what is now Andalusia, following a route that normalized the Roman world by giving it the necessary infrastructure.

According to some, the name Via de "la Plata" (Silver Way) comes from the Latin or Arabic word of the same meaning - "paved road" and through the centuries became the large western peninsula hub, both in terms of movement of people and business trade or cattle transhumance. In fact, it was erected as a pilgrimage route to Santiago since the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle in the early ninth century, and would come to be known as the "Camino del Sur" (The Southern Way), among other names.

Declared as an Artistic Historic Monument in 1931, the southern half of the Salamancon section of the Via still keeps part of its Roman legacy, allowing the walker to make out part of its route: a sewer, a large number of milestones, and finally, the great ancient Roman bridge of old Salamanca whose city map still sketches its first road network.

If the importance of walking is because of the communion with the landscape, diverse and entertaining is the one who directs his steps via our St. James way. In this manner, the Sierra de Bejar region will welcome the pilgrim with its splendid chestnut greenery and the cheerful sound of its streams before sending the pilgrim off to the flattest and serene lands in the Salvatierra, Campo de Salamanca and La Armuña regions. In these last ones, chestnut gives way to oak, Holm oak, and to cereal fields, in this place where the woods become flat and the horizon is intensely far off.

CAMINO DEL SUR



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5th Stage

Calzada de Valdunciel - Salamanca / Zamora Provincial boundary (16.5 km)

Well-equipped with necessary food and liquids, the pilgrim will advance through work fields and a recently created road, following the highway on its left side, it can be travelled without interruption except for the Rivera del Cañedo pass that must be done through the road to the provincial boundary. The Zamora province is entered in this manner with the first obligatory rest in El Cubo de la Tierra del Vino.

4th Stage

Salamanca - Calzada de Valdunciel (17.1km)

Salamanca, a World Heritage city, home to two universities, one of them the oldest in Spain, two cathedrals with fifty buildings designated as Cultural Interest Assets, is worth visiting in two short day trips leaving time free for artistic solace, before embarking on the way again. Leaving the city, in the shadow of the stadium and the road junction, the pilgrim must pay attention and not neglect the arrow that will take him away from the pavement, to the left and after the last roundabout, to go through well-walked farm tracks. Calzada de Valdunciel, whose very name connects the memory to the Camino passage and the countless devotees who had passed through here doing the Camino to Santiago, will be the last town to be passed through on Salamancon lands.

Hostel:

Calzada de Valdunciel - +34 923 310 016

3rd Stage

San Pedro de Rozados - Salamanca (19.5km)

Given the forces that accompany it, the previous stage may well end where it is marked, San Pedro de Rozados, or rather in the nearby Morille, just four kilometers away. There may be two reasons for the last: on the one hand, for rest, and, on the other hand, to follow an alternative route that brings the walker away from a highway with a narrow shoulder, where a beautiful landscape of rolling oak farms is being entered into as a prior step to the flat fields where cereals are grown. Whatever the option chosen, road or path, the Aldeatejada municipality is the threshold to enter the Zurguen valley, where it follows the last visible trace of the Roman Via de la Plata runs, and continuing on to the incomparable and golden Salamanca.

Hostel:

Salamanca - +34 652 921 185

2nd Stage

Fuenterroble de Salvatierra - San Pedro de Rozados (28,6 km)

The livestock roads that were served by the cattle transhumance mark out the day fully from start to finish. The absence of trees allows for the observance, seen ahead and behind of how the rolling Roman road is immersed in the livestock gully until it narrows, becoming an animal track. After bridging the Dueña mountain, near the former site of the Sentic "mansio", a Santiago Cross is raised there by the popular devotion indicated, at par, the greatest height between Mérida and Astorga and the midpoint of the Camino between ella and Santiago. The oak and the Holm oak entertain a walk made tough due to the absence of any town except for the hamlet of Calzadilla de Mendigos, (Beggars Road) whose name seems to recall those who passed through it.

Hostels:

S. Pedro de Rozados - +34 600 758 487

Morille - +34 699 179 786

1st Stage

Cáceres / Salamanca provincial boundary - Puerto de Bejar - Fuenterroble de Salvatierra (30.8km)

Hidden in the wooded hillside, the Puerto de Bejar site opens the Salamancon door as the Roman Caecilio Vicus "mansio" once did, that was located around here. The first Roman footprints were left here with its route's old stones and miliario milestones, and they accompany the pilgrim until reaching the "la Malena" bridge. Further on, along the Bejar Road, the walls of the fort guarding the Cuerpo de Hombre river valley and the plains of Sangusin are still standing. These will bring you to the towns of Valverde de Valdelacasa, the former Ad Lippos, and Valdelacasa to reach Fuenterroble de Salvatierra, where the Camino makes a stop with a small diner, hostel, theme park, and refreshing products of the cowboy fields.

Hostels:

Puerto de Bejar (opening soon)

La Calzada de Bejar - +34 923 416 573 / +34 646 410 643

Valverde de Valdelacasa - +34 680 119 824 / +34 648 401 608

Fuenterroble de Salvatierra - +34 923 151 083

