

Camino de Invierno (The Winter Way)

This route initially followed an ancient Roman road as the historic alternative for a more accessible entry point to Galicia. This is a good option for rainy weather and snow, although pilgrims increasingly favour this route in the spring and summer when it is lush and green.

Ten stages to Santiago

The Winter Way runs for 263 kilometers through the valley of the river Sil. It is a beautiful itinerary, full of nature and attractive landscapes, which the pilgrim usually does in 10 or 11 stages.

The Camino de Invierno is less crowded than other routes, and, therefore, the walk will be quieter and in solitude. It does have, however, good signage and a network of hostels and accommodation in the final stage of each section.

Besides, this Camino runs through the valley of El Bierzo, and is the only Camino going through the four Galician provinces: it enters Galicia through Valdeorras, in the province of Ourense, to move into the South of Lugo and from there to Pontevedra and A Coruña. The landscape on the way is its best asset: you will be walking through the Médulas (an amazing Roman mine), you will meander along the Canyons of the river Sil or climb to the Alto do Faro - all of those are unique experiences for pilgrims.

Cities like Ponferrada or Monforte

In addition to its impressive landscapes, the Winter Road passes through cities full of history such as Ponferrada. Before leaving, the pilgrim will be able to surround himself in Ponferrada with the Templar past, visiting its castle and its well-kept old area.

In Galicia, Monforte de Lemos stands as the main town on this Winter Way. With a great railway tradition, Monforte has a rich cultural heritage that well deserves a stop on the Camino. The College of the Piarist Fathers, the convent of the Poor Clares or the current Parador are some of the many attractions it offers.

How to get to Ponferrada?

Here you have different options to reach **Ponferrada**, the starting point of the Winter Way.

- **How to get to Ponferrada by train:** From Madrid, there are two trains to Ponferrada departing from Chamartín station. They are the "Regional" and the "Atlántico", you can check prices and timetables at [Renfe](https://www.renfe.es) (Ph: 902 240 202).

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El Camino

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[elcaminoconcorreos.com](https://www.elcaminoconcorreos.com)

- **How to get to Ponferrada by bus:** There are buses from different Spanish cities and towns arriving at Ponferrada's bus station daily. You can check the different routes and timetables calling +34 987 401 065. Other connections are available from León (+34 987 211 000).
- **How to get to Ponferrada by car:** There are 114 kilometres from León to Ponferrada, it takes one hour and a quarter by car, driving on the A-6, then on the AP-71 and going past Astorga. From Madrid to Ponferrada there are 390 kilometres, you need 3 hours and 40 minutes on the A-6.
- **How to get to Ponferrada by plane:** The closest airport to Ponferrada is in [León](#), with daily flights from Madrid and Barcelona. From there, you can take a taxi to the city (around 14 Euros) and then other means of transportation to Ponferrada.

Asociaciones del Camino de Santiago

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