

Camino Primitivo (The Primitive Way)

This visit to the tomb of the Apostle marked the launch of the Camino de Santiago and the devotion of Alfonso II, nicknamed the Chaste, helped to establish the cult of the Saint. After this first pilgrimage to Compostela, the monarch ordered the construction of a church, the first dedicated to Santiago, and financed the monastery of San Paio de Antealtares. To this day, the original layout of this route is maintained, which year after year gains followers.

Where does the Camino Primitivo start? The Primitive Way begins in Oviedo, the Asturian capital, to run through the west of the Principality of Asturias through towns such as Grado, Salas, Tineo or Pola de Allande.

The entrance to Galicia is through A Fonsagrada, in Lugo, after crossing the Acebo, the mountain area that separates Asturias from the Galician community. This step will be one of the hardest stages for the pilgrim who travels this Camino de Santiago. Lugo is one of the key points of this Route in Galicia, allowing the pilgrim to feel the heritage and history of this city of Roman origin.

How many stages does the Camino Primitivo have? With just over 300 kilometers, the Primitive Way is usually done in 13 or 14 stages, linking the last 3 with the French Way, specifically in Melide.

One of the hardest Jacobean Routes

The Primitive Way is one of the hardest Jacobean Routes, with stages that alternate ascents and descents, passing through mud roads and trails, typical of the mountains and inland. The beauty of the landscape and the existence of a correct and continuous network of hostels and accommodation means that every day more pilgrims choose it.

The Route also has good signage and runs along tracks that cross the green landscapes of this beautiful Asturian-Galician area. There is hardly any contact with roads with high traffic and the day-to-day passes mostly in the middle of nature and through rural and mountain areas.

For pilgrims by bicycle it is one of the most demanding routes and with the worst cyclability. The mountain bike becomes the pilgrim's best friend on this itinerary in which he will encounter a good number of difficulties, especially in the autumn and winter months.

From Oviedo **the backpack transport service is available on the Camino Primitivo.**

Since 2015, the Camino Primitivo was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO along with the Camino

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del Norte, thus adding to the historical, patrimonial and cultural importance of the French Way.

Way of San Salvador

The Camino Primitivo has a variant that makes Oviedo a destination point. It is the Camino de San Salvador, which connects León with the Asturian capital through the Cantabrian mountain range. Its origin dates back to the Middle Ages, when many pilgrims, upon reaching León, decided to deviate on their way to Santiago visiting the relics of the Cathedral of San Salvador, in Oviedo. And, from there, continue through the Primitive Way to Santiago. From those days we have been left with a saying that many devotees sing to travel both routes: "Whoever goes to Santiago and does not go to Salvador, honors the servant and leaves the Lord" .

How to get to the starting point?

How to get to Uviéu/Oviedo by train:

There are trains from Madrid, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Valencia or León to Uviéu/Oviedo. You will find all details at [Renfe](#).

How to get to Uviéu/Oviedo by bus:

The bus station of Uviéu/Oviedo is at Calle Pepe Comen, a central location close to the railway station. You can call +34 902 499 949 for more details. There are coaches arriving from different places in Spain with [Alsa](#).

How to get to Uviéu/Oviedo by plane:

The closest airport to Uviéu/Oviedo is the Aeropuerto de Asturias, located in Castrillón, 47 kilometres away from the city. Airlines such as Iberia, Iberia Express, Air Europa, Air Nostrum, EasyJet, Evelop, TAP Portugal, Volotea and Vueling Airlines operate from this airport. There are regular buses from the airport to the city operated by [Alsa](#).

How to get to Uviéu/Oviedo by car:

To get to Uviéu/Oviedo by car you have to follow the toll highway (autopista) A-66 linking the city with other towns such as Avilés and Xixón/Gijón. You can also access the A-8, the toll-free highway, from this road.

Asociaciones del Camino de Santiago

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