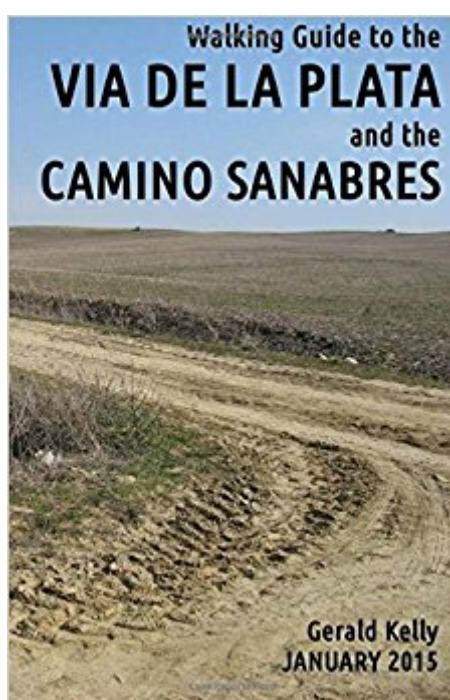


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# Walking Guide To The VIA DE LA PLATA And The CAMINO SANABRES: From Seville To Santiago And Astorga



## Synopsis

Please note, that this is the old edition of this book. The new edition (published May 2016) is now available. You can find it by either going to my Author's Page (see link below) or by searching for Walking Guide to the "Via de la Plata and the Camino Sanabres Second Edition". The Vía de la Plata was originally a Roman Road linking Asturias in the north of Spain with the port of Cadiz in the south. Its name, which means The Silver Route, dates from Roman times when it was used to transport silver from the mines of Asturias to the Mediterranean port of Cadiz and onward by ship to Rome. Beginning in the 9th century, as Santiago de Compostela was becoming known as a Christian pilgrimage site, it also began to be used by pilgrims travelling to and from the tomb of St James the Apostle. In the 1980s the revival of the Camino Francés as a walking route renewed interest in the Vía de la Plata. Numbers of pilgrims increased slowly over the years peaking at 14,197 in Holy Year 2010, and since then constant at about 9,000 a year. In contrast to the Camino Francés, the busiest times on the Vía de la Plata are spring and autumn. The extreme summer heat in southern Spain makes June, July and August the preserve of a small number of hardy souls. Today the Vía de la Plata has become a popular alternative to the Camino Francés for people looking for solitude and a more authentic Camino experience (with its accompanying difficulties). This guide covers the Vía de la Plata from Seville to Astorga, and the Camino Sanabrés, which branches from the Vía de la Plata and arrives in Santiago through southern Galicia. People often use the term Vía de la Plata to refer to the combination of these two routes. This new edition, updated in January 2015, includes the following information:

- Updated and improved maps
- Notes on the towns and villages you'll pass through
- Route descriptions and distances
- Pilgrim accommodation
- Services: shops, restaurants, banks, etc.

It also covers the Caminos de Finisterre and Muxía, west of Santiago. I started writing this guide after I came back from walking the Vía de la Plata from Seville to Santiago via Astorga in the winter of 2009, and finished it after returning to walk the Camino Sanabrés in 2012. Preparing for my walk I had been unable to find any reliable information in English about the routes and accommodation along them. This didn't deter me and I managed fine with a print out of accommodation from a Spanish website and some Google maps of the towns with the route sketched on them. However, if I hadn't known Spanish I would have been lost and I probably wouldn't have even attempted this walk. Based on my experience I decided to try to make information more widely available in English. I started by making the guide available as a free download from my website. Thanks to the positive feedback and encouragement I received from other pilgrims who used it, I decided to try publishing it on (with the addition of maps). This has enabled me to bring the information to a far wider audience - not free, but for a fair

price. From the beginning I appealed to pilgrims to send me updates and corrections to help me keep the information up-to-date. Many people responded, and this, together with online resources, allowed me to keep track of new hostels and route changes. This system isn't perfect and I would prefer (in fact I would love!) if I had the time and money to walk the VÃ- a every year and do the updates as I go along. But I don't, and given the small number of English-speaking pilgrims walking this Camino, it's unlikely this, or any other guide, will every make enough money to cover a full, yearly update (such as the German guides manage).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I am planning to walk the Camino via de la Plata in May 2014 and have been looking for a guide book that included this route. The book doesn't seem as extensive as others that refer to the Camino Frances but I found it easy to understand although I am not sure how good the maps are that accompany each section. I liked the fact that it gave details of how far you need to walk to find villages with cafes, ratings for the pensions etc. It looks fairly up to date so the prices etc shouldn't have changed too much for next year. It also indicated how long each section takes to walk. Overall I was pleased with my purchase and have recommended it to my friends in the USA who will join me on the walk. (I am from Australia)

I've walked the Camino De Santiago and part of the Via De La Plata. Gerald Kelly's Guide to the Via De La Plata is the best I've read. He provides very accurate information . The distances are accurate. Good discriptions of Hostels, Villages, Towns and Landmarks are included. Walking the Via De La Plata is easily visualized when reading this guide. I purchased the Kindle edition to save

weight. I expect the print version may add more weight to your pack than you would like. I'll be taking this guide with me when I walk the Via De La Plata.

Gerald Kelly did a good job on this book. I have the January 2015 edition. One thing I like about this book is the fact that the author is keeping it up-to-date with inputs from pilgrims walking this route. The size is good, weight is good, easy to follow, overall a good guide to keep handy in your backpack.

Probably the best paper guide out at the moment, there are apps out now which are better if you have an android or iphone. Not sure if I can share the link here but I will try.  
<http://www.independenttrip.com/caminos-de-santiago>

The book gives useful information about the route and accommodation but is totally and systematically under rating the distances between towns. Likewise, almost no info regarding basics re the towns you go through so better supplement with other material

Guidebook that has all the important infos.

third trip, want to walk a trail not as busy as Frances. this sounds perfect for the short time I can spend.

I don't like it very much, too short without explanations

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