The Camino Portuguese in Galicia



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Full set of maps, photos, historical background, and credits available in Spanish at:

http://www.amigosdelcamino.com/attachments/article/541/orb_porr_cast.pdf

Alternative route for people with disabilities available at: http://www.caminador.es/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/GUIAx2-TUI-REDONDELA.pdf

Photographs availables at: https://plus.google.com/photos/102765965873321294723/albums/590350827011656 8769?authkey=CPm3kLmZgO25Ew

ROUTE DESCRIPTION



The entire path described here is easily traveled and safe for hikers, bikers, and horsemen. A parallel pathway has likewise been identified for disabled people and wheelchair users, and can be downloaded from the AGACS website. As outlined in the introduction, the new camino is about 500 meters longer than the existing route through the industrial park and along the N-550. It uses earthen pathways over about 40 percent of its length.

After descending from St. Columba of Ribadelouro and crossing the historic Orbenlle bridge, the camino climbs moderately up to a road that leads to the village of Orbenlle. Here we take an old dirt road up to the left, almost to the first houses.

This is where the new route leaves the old industrial path. The path descends gently along the route of the old Camino Real, now lined with lush native vegetation. After a short walk we reach A Ponte Bararco, (a bridge, possibly 18th century) across the Louro river, a 100-meter stretch described long ago as "a superb Wintertime passage."

The route shifts northward toward Gándaras, and passes beneath a high-voltage line. The path then makes a slight westward turn onto a pleasant dirt road that passes vineyards first and later forest. The surface turns to asphalt when it crosses into the Monte neighborhood of San Xurxo de Mosende parish. (A path to your right leads to the hamlet of Xe de Baixo). Keep straight on past the villages of Vides and Cruceiro and on to another lovely "Winter Passage" bridge known locally as "Paso Botante".

The camino continues along a good dirt road bordered by greenery and pine trees to the paved road into Centeáns and San Campio. Here on a northward heading we pass Quintela, a lovely pocket of rural calm with only an occasional passing tractor to disturb the peace. Farther on we reach the first houses of Centeáns, in the parish of Santiago de Pontellas with its ancient "Cross of the Dead." A little farther on, the camino intersects the old Royal Road to Vigo, a crossroad marked with one of the most beautiful cruceiros in the region.

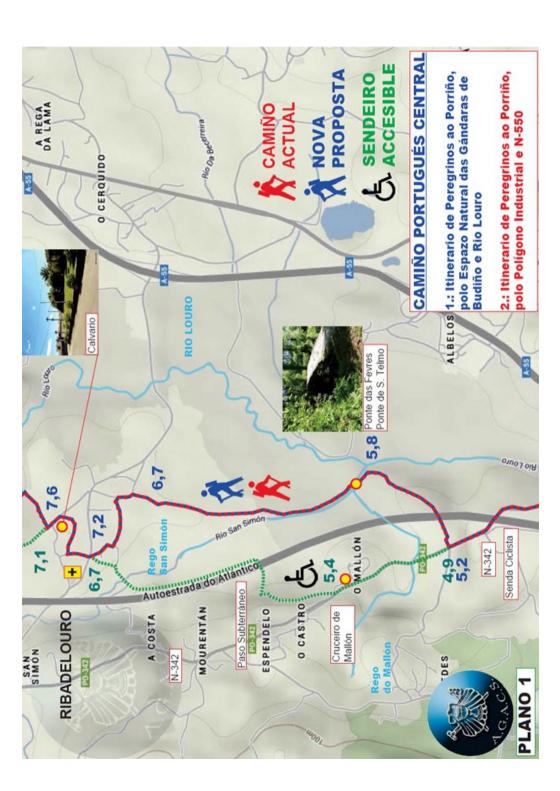
The Royal Road to Vigo and the new pilgrim itinerary travel the same path until the pretty Cruceiro Esmoleiro de San Campio, and its well-tended playing-field and chapel dedicated to the saint. Beyond the field is the historic and disquieting Quinta of the Inquisition.

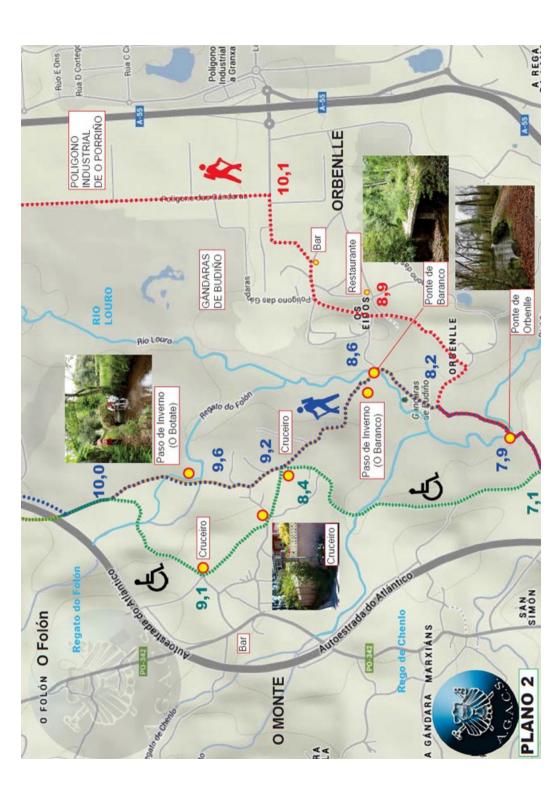
Here the two routes again split apart. We continue eastward through a pretty area along a local road that joins Ceneáns with the roundabout of Torneiros. From there, using a handy hiking/biking path created by the Porriño council, we can reach a clean, safe earthen path that runs along the banks of the Louro River. This scenic trail takes us right to the door of the Albergue de Peregrinos de Porriño and the PO-133 highway that runs through the town center. Here the new alternative route ends, and the Camino Portuguese returns to the path laid-out in existing maps and guides.

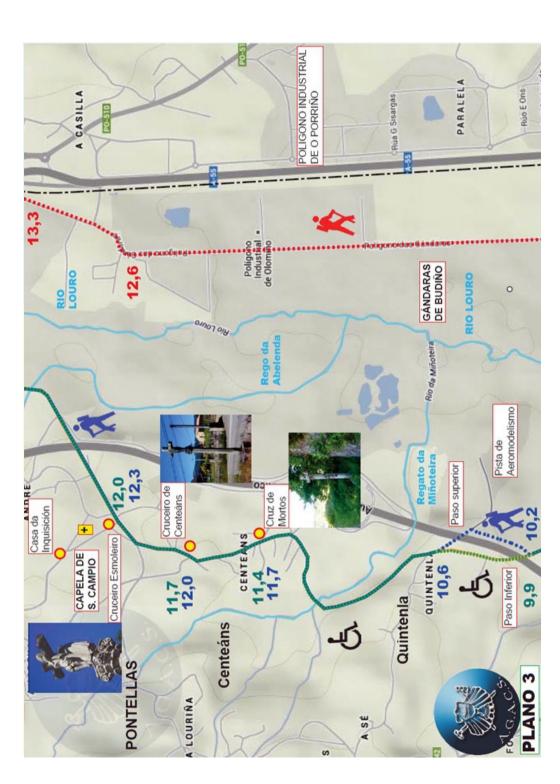


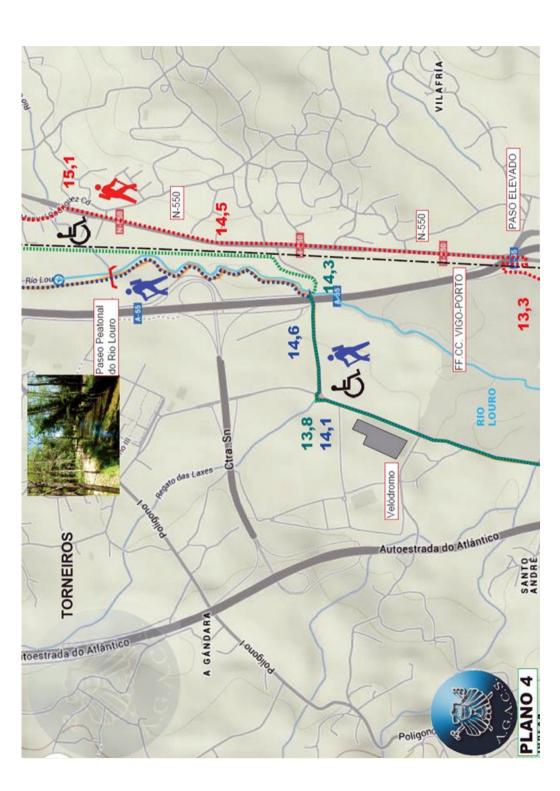
CARTOGRAPHY

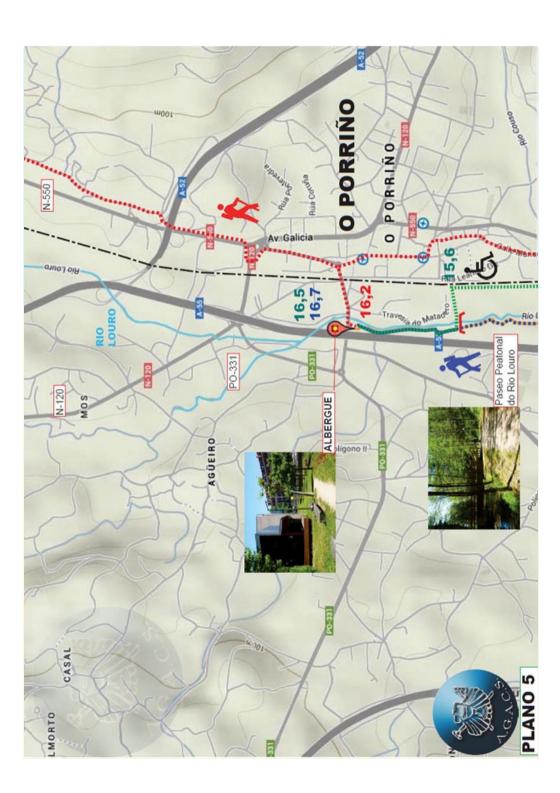












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