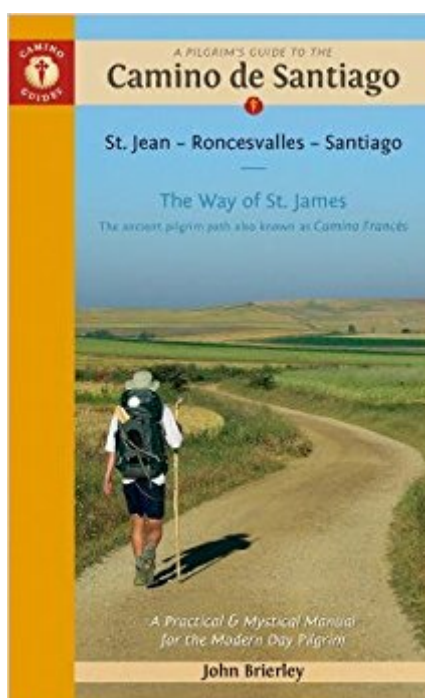


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# A Pilgrim's Guide To The Camino De Santiago: St. Jean - Roncesvalles - Santiago (Camino Guides)



## Synopsis

Now updated to include newer maps and photos - and lighter in weight to support carefree traveling - this comprehensive guidebook to the Camino de Santiago and its offshoots contains all the information needed by modern-day pilgrims wishing to walk the sacred Way of St. James. Overview route planners plus daily stage maps and detailed town plans help sojourners with all the advance preparation they need. The maps feature contour guides to help distinguish the terrain that will be crossed each day, while full information on all pilgrim hostels, as well as details for alternative accommodation, allow travelers to plot adequate nightly stopping points. All reference information is accompanied by helpful spiritual guidelines to support the seeker's inner journey as well as the outer pilgrimage. Otherwise known as the Camino Francés, the main route covered in this volume is the most popular sacred route through Spain, from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Brierley is a former chartered surveyor and the author of *A Pilgrim's Guide to Camino de Santiago*, *A Pilgrim's Guide to Camino Finisterre*, and *A Pilgrim's Guide to Camino Portugués*. He lives in Frampton-upon-Severn, UK.

See my review at [www.co.uk](http://www.co.uk), or read it below: John Brierley's guides to the Camino are by far the best I have encountered. I tested about six other guides when I first ventured on the Camino Frances in

2010, and found no rival for Mr. Brierley's book. Since then I have used his "Camino Portugues" guide in 2011, the "Camino Finesterre" guide in 2012, and again the "Camino Frances" in 2013. By then the 2010 edition had proved quite outdated, particularly with respect to lodgings information, and I welcome the new updated 2015 edition, which I am going to use in my planned 2015 or 2016 trip. The slightly more compact size and the additional individual town maps will surely make it even handier. I have only one reservation to make with respect to Mr. Brierley's recommendations: His placing the "Route de Napoleon" as the recommended route for crossing the Pyrenees on the first day from St. Jean Pied de Port. The authentic pilgrims route had always been the Valcarlos/Arneguy route with its connections with the Charlemagne saga and its numerous villages are well equipped to cater to the needs of pilgrims. The "Route de Napoleon", on the other hand, has only one 18 bed albergue, and what is worse - is extremely steep and dangerous, particularly in poor weather. While I was walking the Valcarlos route in September of 2013, a woman fell to her death from a precipice on the Napoleon Route, and two other ladies almost did the same. So beware! Otherwise, as I have stated above, Brierley's guide is the best Camino guide a pilgrim could wish for.

This guidebook is the most common one and very helpful. There are apps that can also be useful and if you are going to get an app, spend the money and buy the more expensive app. You will not always have wifi and may not have data, so the book will give you something to go by. .

Very comprehensive guide. Easily fits in your back pack and has detailed maps for each segment of the Camino de Santiago.

Chock full of valuable information on body, mind and spirit topics, as well as detailed stages for a 31-day walk over the entire 500 mile pilgrimage. This book is integral in planning my trip next year. A must read!

I read through about 1/2 of this in detail in preparation for making the Camino with 2 of my young-adult kids. Then I realized that part of the camino is to take what is given along the way, so I stopped reading all the details. But I did use this to plan our time-line so I could buy round trip plane tickets and be comfortable that we'd make it. We'll definitely be taking this with us so we'll know a little about what we'll be getting into each day.

Brierly has this printed on high gloss, high density paper and it weighs a ton. He also publishes a book of maps that has a lot more value, because it's just the maps. Buy both. Read the guide book before you leave and take notes. You can dump all of the salient info into a spread sheet and print one sheet. But the maps are great, and handy. I ended up buying the Michelin map book also, and it is very handy, lightweight, and really you need both maps... Trust me. The Michelin map has all kinds of info about the towns but it's in easily decipherable symbols, instead of text, such as whether or not there is an albergue, a train station, a farmacia, a tienda, a hotel, etc. It also gives a trail profile above the map so you can see the elevations you will encounter which is great for planning. But the Michelin looks like a map, is a real map... The beauty of the Brierly maps is that John has walked the Camino lots of times and knows the trails, the off highway trails.... so you need both map books... I started out with the guide book and after the first day I tore off the front half of the book and threw it away, and I did that every day after I had covered that ground. When I got to Burgos, ten days in, I bought the michelin map and a small spanish english dictionary, and those two things together weighed less than the remaining brierly! It's full of good info, so buy it and pull the good info out, but leave it at home.

I walked the 500 mile Camino in 2012 and this is the bible for people that walk the French Way. I would estimate that 1 in 4 people have this book because it is so helpful. Every night I would analyze my next day of walking: 1) How far to the first cafe, I preferred to reach one in 7 km for breakfast, 2) How far to walk to the Albergue I wanted to stay, 3) How many beds in the Albergue, 4) What do people say about the Albergue, 5) What was the terrain for the day, 6) Are there markers I should keep a look out for, 7) When leaving the Albergue and it is dark, what is the direction or is there a turn. I got lost many mornings in the dark and I would pull out the book and it would show me my error and get me back on track. I'm going to walk the last week of the Camino in 2014 with my daughter, sisters and Mom. This is from Sarria to Santiago. It is 60 miles and it will be fabulous. I bought an extra book for them to review. NOTE: New Albergues open all of the time, do not buy the book too early because you want the latest release to have the latest information when you take your journey. Having an older version to read and learn is fine but take the newest release when you embark. May you find what you are looking for when you walk the way to St. James.

The gold standard of Camino Frances guidebooks. Pilgrims from other countries often used my Brierley to figure out where they were and how to get to where they were going. Worth every penny.

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