

|  | <i>Camino del Norte</i>   | <i>Camino Frances</i>  |
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| Trail markings<br>( <i>yellow arrows</i> or <i>scallop shell</i> ) | Enough in overall although sometimes there may be a lack of markings for a while which makes it easy to get lost if you don't pay attention. In the region of Galicia (last 200 km) the signaling is excellent. | Excellent signaling all the way.   |
| <i>Path</i>  | Sometimes you are walking on paved roads which may be useful to avoid the mud but it harms and burn the feet and joints much more than the natural paths. No paved roads in Galicia.                            | Most of the times you are walking on non-paved roads and natural paths.  |
| <i>Pilgrims' hostels– Albergues</i>                                | Most of them are very basic and small (around 20 beds) and sometimes they are very distant between each others (sometimes more than 30 km). Good quality in Galicia.  | In general, they have better quality although you may find some too big (i.e. 150 – 200 beds). Normally, there is an albergue or more in every village (every 10 km aprox.).                                   |
| <b>Number of pilgrims.</b>   | Rarely more that 30 starting a day during summer which is the busiest period. Although lately it is becoming more and more popular very quickly. This is a good choice if you want to walk alone.               | In summertime, there may be far more than 200 <i>pilgrims</i> starting everyday which makes it very busy but also you get to know many interesting people.   |
| Weather  | Very changeable and wet (Atlantic weather) In summer, warm but not hot in the days and cool in the nights. You may get some clouds and rain but in overall  | From May to October, very dry and hot during daytime (it often reaches more than 40 degrees Celsius at noon in July and August) although it may be chilly during the nights. In winter time, very cold (bellow |

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|                              | <p>the temperature is perfect for walking and the weather is lovely. The rest of the year, very rainy and cool. If you don't like to walk under a burning sun in summer, this may be your best choice.</p> <p>Best time of the year: July and August.</p> | <p>0 Celsius is very common). With the exception of Galicia (last 150km) which has a Atlantic weather similar to El Camino del Norte.</p> <p>If you don't like a cloudy sky but prefer a bright blue one with a big sun above you, this may be your best choice.</p> <p>Best time of the year: From May to October, especially May, June and September.</p>  |
| <b>Nature and landscape.</b> | <p>High snowed mountains on one side and the sea on the other side. Very green and full of forests. Many nice beaches that have escaped the civilization and tourism where you can have a pleasant bath. It is really a natural paradise.</p>             | <p>Very varied. Firstly, you have to cross the high mountains range – Pyrenees –, which is full of forests and green prairies. Then, in Navara and Rioja regions, the landscape is hilly and full of vineyards (people usually says it is very similar to Tuscany landscape).</p> <p>Afterwards, in the region of Castilla, the landscape becomes completely flat (it is a high plateau around 900 meters above sea level). It is full of cereal and sunflower fields. It is very deserted and isolated but very charming.</p> <p>Then, in Leon province it becomes hilly and green again with more vineyards and forests. And finally in Galicia, it is full of forests and green prairies again.</p> |
| <b>Art</b>                   | <p>Many interesting beautiful cities and towns very rich in art. <i>San Sebastian, Bilbao, Castrourdiales, Santander, Santillana del Mar, Comillas, San Vicente de la Barquera, Llanes, Rivadesella, Villaviciosa, Gijon, Luarca, Mondonedo.</i></p>      | <p>Unique cities, cathedrals and castles all along the way. Just to mention some of them: <i>Pamplona, Estella, Logrono, Najera, Sto. Domingo de la Calzada, Burgos, Fromista, Carrion de los Condes, Leon, Astorga, Pongferrada.</i> It is a museum as a whole with the best romantic art in Europe. You can find unbelievable pieces of art in every little village.</p>   |
| <b>Gastro-</b>               | Very varied and   | Very varied and excellent.   |

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| <i>nomy</i>  | excellent.  |   |
| <i>Wines</i> | Not so rich in wines as <i>El Camino Frances</i> but cider in Asturias is nearly a religion and there I have drunk the best natural cider ever. | Excellent wines all along the way. <i>La Rioja, Navarra, Bierzo, Ribeiro and Albarino</i> are the most famous. You can find unbelievable cheap wines of the best quality. |
| <i>Cost</i>  | Around 30-35 euro a day.  | A budget of around 25-30 euro a day.  |