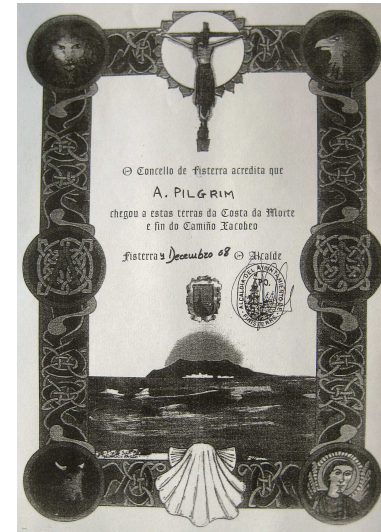


Confraternity of Saint James

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3. Finisterre

Santiago de Compostela to Finisterre and Muxía

Alison Raju

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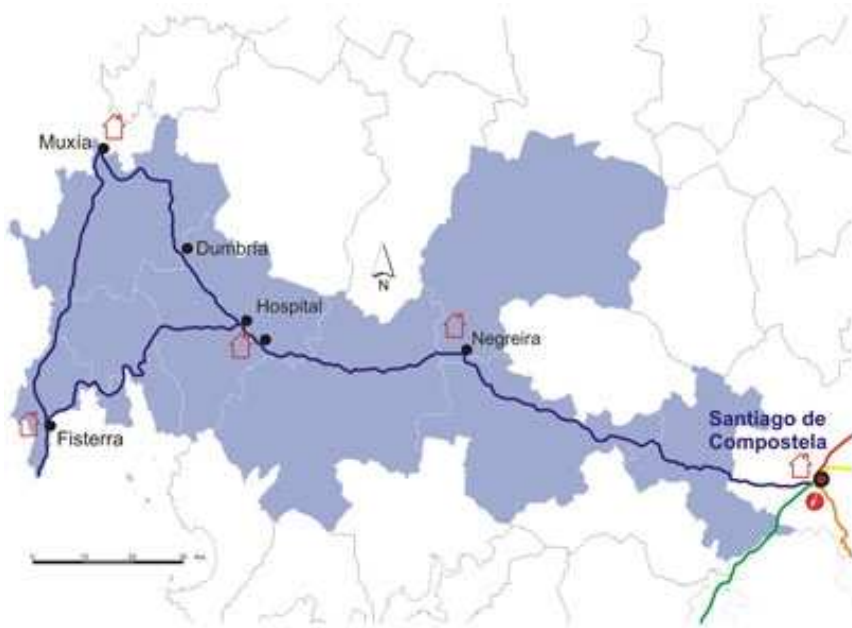
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FOREWORD

This is the eighth edition of the walker's guide to the route to Finisterre, describing the 89km waymarked route due west of Santiago which leads, in roughly a straight line, along footpaths, quiet roads and country lanes, to the "end of the earth." It also includes the 29km waymarked continuation to Muxía, both from Finisterre itself and direct from Hospital.

In the last few years the number of pilgrims who continue their journey from Santiago to the coast has increased very considerably and I would like to thank all those who have helped keep this guide up-to-date by sending in detailed comments and suggestions. I shall continue to welcome information from users, too, so that future editions can be amended where necessary.

Alison RAJU, Editor
January 2009



1km Buxán Turn L at junction with bus shelter then 50m later fork R up lane between *hórreos* and then KSO(R) uphill. KSO(R) on walled CT, with woods to either side. KSO, ignoring turns, till you reach a minor road at entrance to

0.5km Rial Cross over and KSO on other side, above hamlet. KSO. At junction with a large forest track coming from L KSO(R) downhill. Fork L 100m later on forest track, downhill all the time. Leave woods and continue on concrete lane in hamlet of **San Salvador**, passing *HR Dugium* (on L, 981.74.07.80). KSO at junction between *hórreos* KSO(R) at *cruceiro* and reach five-part junction with a more main road at entrance to

3km Hermedesuxo de Abaixo Cross over and KSO on road on other side. KSO(L) ahead by bus shelter 100m later then turn R 400m later by house #21 onto minor road marked "Fisterra/Escaselas." KSO(R) uphill at junction then turn L at next one, passing in front of church of

2km San Martín de Duio *Duio* (Latin *Dugium*) was the former Roman city where, according to medieval tradition, the disciples bringing *St. James'* body sought permission to bury it in this area. KSO. KSO ahead at junction by bus shelter and veer L downhill to main road. Turn R and continue on, past *cruceiro* (on L), to centre of

2km Finisterre/Fisterra See description on page 15.

Fork R downhill by *hórreo* if coming from the river (or turn R at bar and then fork L by *hórreo* if coming from *Bar Eiras*). Follow road down to church and then turn L *before* you reach a bridge. 200m later turn R up walled lane, veering L along side of hill. At T-junction of similar tracks and then, 100m later, turn R onto track just *before* a small bridge and continue alongside river. KSO(L) at junction then KSO uphill at next. Reach a concrete walled lane and turn R up it, uphill into

1.5km Canosa Turn R, turn L and then R again, steeply uphill, then R at top to leave village, all on concrete lanes. Turn *hard* L at top, up gravel lane, steeply uphill again, towards woods, and at top fork L along stony walled lane. At junction at end turn L (*this is the place where the variant route via the sea rejoins – yellow arrows only – in Finisterre-Muxía direction.*)

Turn R at fork 100m later and then L 50m after that. Turn L at next junction (of similar tracks). KSO ahead, ignoring turns, till you reach a road in the hamlet of

2.5km Padrís Turn R along it then, 100m later, turn R at junction, downhill (marked 'Praia do Rosto'). 250m after that, at bend, turn L onto gravel track, undulating through fields. Cross minor road and at next one 500m later turn R onto road in

1km Castrexe Veer L by bus shelter then KSO(L) down long, dead straight gravel track downhill then up. KSO uphill, ignoring turns, then, at T-junction at top, turn R along tarmac road. 200m later fork R onto minor tarmac road leading into woods. Continue gradually uphill and turn L onto another road by sawmill in hamlet of

INTRODUCTION

Finisterre ("Fisterra" in Galician) was the end of the known world until Columbus altered things and was the final destination of many of the pilgrims who made the journey to Santiago in centuries gone by. There are various explanations as to how this continuation came about (one such is that it was based on a pre-Christian route to the pagan temple of Ara Solis in Finisterre, erected to honour the sun) but it is also known that a pilgrim infrastructure existed, with "hospitals" in Bon Xesús, Cée, Corcubión, Finisterre itself and elsewhere.

There are also several Jacobean and other pilgrim references along the way. A *cruceiro* with a figure of Santiago in the village of Trasmonte, for example, the church of Santiago in Olveiroa, with a statue of St. James inside as well as on the tympanum outside, probable pilgrim *hospital* in the place of that name (apart from those already mentioned in Cée and Corcubión), the church of Santiago at Ameixenda, 2km south of Cée with a relic reputed to be of one of St. James' fingers, a large statue of San Roque in pilgrim gear in the church of San Marcos in Corcubión, a statue of St. James in the church of Santa María das Areas in Finisterre with a cemetery chapel that formerly belonged to its pilgrim hospital and two references to San Roque in place names: the *Encrucijada* or *Alto de San Roque* at the top of the hill leaving Corcubión and the *San Roque* area at the entrance to Finisterre. Then, 3km from Muxía, on the route direct from Hospital, you pass the Capilla San Roque, with a statue of San Roque Peregrino inside, with a wound on his right leg, an angel/child and dog at his feet, a stick and wearing a pilgrim hat with a scallop shell on it.

After pilgrim accounts of their journeys along the *Camino francés* the route that those in the past most frequently wrote about was the continuation to Finisterre - Muxía. These came from various European countries and were in several different languages,

including the 17th c. Italian Domenico Laffi, four times a pilgrim to Santiago, who describes his visit to the church of Santa María das Areas, 2km before the “end of the earth” itself.

It has always been possible to walk there avoiding main roads but, although numbers have increased very considerably in the last few years, at present only a relatively small percentage of those who make the pilgrimage to Santiago continue on to Finisterre. This was initially due to lack of information and route-finding difficulties but now that the entire route has been well-waymarked and that there are *refugios* and other accommodation at convenient intervals along the way, those who feel their journey would be incomplete without continuing to the “end of the earth” will find it much easier to do so. And as indicated above, pilgrims in past centuries also continued on to the *Santuario de Nosa Señora da Barca* in Muxía, 29km further up the Atlantic coast, to the north of Finisterre. This route is also waymarked, both directly from Hospital and from Finisterre and both options are described here. (See page 17 regarding the proposed footbridge over the Río Castro between Lires and Baosilbeiro.)

Continuing to the coast on foot is definitely worth the effort. Finisterre is the real end of the journey, both in the physical sense and in the religious and historical one. You will pass a number of interesting small churches, *pazos* (large Galician country houses), fountains, *cruceiros* (wayside crosses) and old bridges along the way, apart from (if you have already walked to Santiago) the now familiar *hórreos* (raised granaries, frequently very long), as well as (in season) a lot of very large, very bright blue hydrangeas, and the scenery is often beautiful. It is a very peaceful route and, as there are still relatively few walkers, the route is quite different from the often motorway-like *Camino francés* before Santiago in July and August. It does rain a lot in this part of Spain, of course, and it is often misty in the mornings, but on the walk to Finisterre (and especially if you continue on to Muxía), you will have the opportunity to see something of the real Galicia, away from the big towns.

a) **Stepping stones option** Turn R almost immediately you enter the village onto a small tarmac road leading into the woods. KSO, descending gradually at first and then more steeply, and some 800m after Frixe, when you see a houses through the trees, *fork* (not turn) R into woods, alongside wall on L to start with. (In wet weather continue along road to *Baosilbeiro*). KSO ahead (i.e. 3rd from L but not marked) at crossing of similar tracks then turn L at bottom along lane coming from R (maybe waterlogged) and KSO down to

1.5km Baosilbeiro Lugar *consisting of a single house*. Continue ahead down shady lane, passing to R of house, veering L and then R down to banks of the *Río Castro* 300m later. Wade across and then fork L up lane on other side. Continue on concrete lane, veering L. Turn L along street in **Lires**.

b) **Road bridge option** In bad weather or if you think the river will be too high KSO ahead when you enter Frixe, veering L and then R through it and then forking L uphill to continue to “main” road by church. Turn R here (*bar/shop on other side, does sandwiches*) and KSO on road to cross bridge over the *Río Castro*. 200-300m after that turn R at junction marked “Pontenova” then turn L at next T-junction shortly afterwards. Reach **Porcar** (a small hamlet), Veer R and then L through it, uphill, to a bus shelter at another T-junction. Turn R here along a very minor tarmac road with woods to either side and KSO for 2km till you reach the centre of **Lires**, emerging on the road to the side of *Bar Eiras*.

0.5m Lires 2 bars (*one, As Eiras, does food and has rooms: 981.74.81.80, 3 CL (“casas de labranza” – bed and breakfast): Casa Raúl (981.74.81.56), Casa Lourido and Casa Jesús (981.74.81.58). Many interesting hórreos. Church of San Estevo.*

indicating a RH fork below the road and through woods leading up to the entrance to Xurarantes. However, if you can't see it, continue on the road and 2km from Muxía reach a junction and fork R uphill (on the same road) then turn 2nd L uphill at a T-junction (the path through the woods joins here from your R), passing a fountain (on R with a cross), in

4km Xurarantes Fork L onto concrete lane in hamlet, slightly downhill then, 100m later, turn R onto wide CT, leading past an industrial building on R, uphill into woods. Turn R at junction 400m later then 2nd L 50m after that, up wide, sunken lane uphill. (Ignore the turning to *hard* L when you reach the top.) KSO and then KSO(L) at fork shortly afterwards, when track levels out a bit. KSO, ignoring turns, downhill, until you reach a tarmac road. Turn R along it, then turn L at junction 250m later. Continue on road to

5km Morquintián *Romanesque church of Santa María.* KSO(R) through hamlet at fork and continue ahead past *cruceiro and fountain (both on L) at end.* KSO on road for 1.5km to

1.5km Guisamonde KSO at road junction with bus shelter and 50m later fork L up grassy paved lane between *hórreos* (may be boggy). 100m later turn R onto gravelled walled lane and KSO, gently downhill all the time, ignoring turns, until you reach a road. Cross over and continue on other side (staggered junction). KSO, leading downhill, as concrete lane at end, to village of

2km Frixe *Bar/shop on road, 500m away, Romanesque church of Santa Leocadia.*

Join road leading through village but then, until the footbridge is ready, you will have to decide whether to try for the stepping stones or take the road alternative (3km longer).

How long does it take? Allow at least three days, preferably four, to walk to Finisterre, with possible overnight stops in Negreira, Olveiroa, either Cée or Corcubión and Finisterre itself, plus a day for the (recommended) continuation to Muxía. The actual walking is not hard but there are a lot of climbs and descents.

Waymarking The route is waymarked with the familiar yellow arrows and they lead you from the first one by the Carballeira de San Lourenzo in Santiago, all the way to Finisterre/Muxía. The route is also marked with concrete bollards with both the blue and yellow stylised ceramic shell familiar from parts of other *caminos* (and whose rays normally indicate the direction you should take). Many of these marker stones also give the distance remaining to Finisterre while others show the number of kilometres still to go to Muxía.

Maps Some maps are available in Santiago bookshops, such as the 1:250.000 map of Galicia (published by the Xunta de Galicia) and the relevant sheets (*hojas*) of the IGN's 1:25.000 series of the Mapa Topográfico Nacional de España: 94-IV (Santiago), 94-III (Negreira), 94-I (A Baña), 93-II (Mazaricos), 93-I (Brens), 92-II (Corcubión) and 92-IV (Fisterra). For the Finisterre-Muxía section you will need 67-IV (Touríñan) and 67-II (Muxía) (*hojas* 93-1, 93-2 and 92-2).

The Xunta de Galicia's booklet *Camino de Santiago en Galicia: Camino de Fisterra-Muxía* (with versions in Castilian, Gallego or English) gives historical and other information but only *very* brief route-finding information, and is available from their tourist office (not the municipal one) in the Rúa do Vilar in Santiago, near the cathedral.

Route description The route-finding information given in this guide is not divided into daily stages but runs continuously, thus enabling the pilgrim to cover the distances he or she prefers each day. Each section begins with the distance walked from the previous one and, before giving directions for walking that part of the route, provides a description of any practical facilities such as shops, bars, restaurants and accommodation, and brief details of churches and other monuments of particular interest. Place names appear in the text in **bold type**.

Abbreviations have been kept to a minimum: CD = cash dispenser, CT = camino de tierra (earth road), FB = footbridge, FP = footpath, KSO = keep straight on, KSO(R) or KSO(L) = KSO on road that veers/turns that way, L = left, R = right, rte = restaurant, // = parallel to, > = becomes.

Spellings of place names may vary: in Galician on signposts, for example, and/or in Castilian on maps. (This applies particularly to places beginning with or including **b** or **v**, e.g.

Baosilveiro/Baosilbeiro/Vaosilveiro.) If versions given in this guide appear inconsistent at times, this is because they are based on those seen on street and place-name boards and signposts encountered along the way, not on those found on maps or in other guide books (and for this reason the Galician term is often the one provided).

Glossary The following short list may come in useful: *aldea* = hamlet, *Casa do Concello* = town hall, *corredoira* = walled lane, *cruceiro* = wayside cross, *embalse* = reservoir, *fonte* = fountain, *hórreo* = (raised) granary, *hospedaje* = *pensión*, *igrexia* = church, *lugar* (here) = "place known as," *mosteiro* = monastery, "*ollo o can*" = "beware of the dog," *ponte* = bridge, *porta* = door, gateway, *porto* = mountain pass, port, *praia* = beach, *praza* = (public) square, *rúa* = street.

*The continuation from Muxía to Finisterre is waymarked in **both** directions – there and back – but economically. That is, there is only one stone at each manoeuvre, set at an angle to indicate the way to go, so you will need to watch out carefully at turns etc. The marker bollards have the shell **upright** on this route but have no kilometre indications, simply "Fisterra-Muxía" (or "Muxía – Fisterra"), according to where these two places are situated.*

Take food and water with you – the only places with any facilities are Lires (2 bars, one with food and rooms, 3 casas rurales) and Frixe (bar/shop on road).

Note: a footbridge over the Río Castro, 500m after Lires, is due to be built during the winter/spring of 2008/2009, to replace the existing stepping stones, which are frequently completely submerged in wet weather. In very dry weather you can cross without difficulty though it is recommended that you put your boots in your rucksack to avoid them dangling and unsteadying you and wearing sandals to have a better grip than you would with bare feet. Sticks(s) recommended. The water is very clear and not very deep when the stepping stones are visible but watch out for the current, which is very strong. However, a longer, road alternative is available and is described later.

With your back to the church of *Nosa Señora da Barca* and the sea, fork R along a wide, unpaved road (sea to your R). This > the *Rúa Atalaia*, a very long street. KSO along it right to the very end, passing a small square on the way. Continue ahead along another street (short, unnamed) and then along the pedestrianised walkway by the sea, leading to a plaza with a modern sculpture in the middle. Cross it and continue L ahead up the *Avenida Doctor Toba*, which leads you out of the town, alongside the sea.

KSO, passing football ground on R. 1km later pass turning to "Praia de Lourido" (a beach) and look out for yellow arrows

3km Muxía *Small coastal town with all facilities, founded in the 12th c. and whose main activities are fishing and bobbin lacemaking. Romanesque parish church of Santa María, many interesting old houses in town centre. Refugio at start of town, in Rúa Infesta.*

Pass tourist office (on L) – you can enquire here about the *Muxiana* (certificate of pilgrimage) and then turn *hard* L opposite the *Casa Rectoral* (#34) and continue along the *Rúa Encarnación* then turn *hard* R at *cruceiro* to parish church. Pass to R of it and continue on paved walkway, high up, descending, at end, to the

1km Santuario de Nosa Señora da Barca *The church's name derives from the stone boat in which the Virgin Mary is said to have journeyed there in order to encourage St. James in his preaching and evangelising in north-west Spain. The church dates from the 12th c. and contains a large Baroque altarpiece inside, with a Gothic statue of the Virgin Mary, reputed to have been brought there in a boat guided by two angels. The Santuario is the focus of one of the most popular romerías (local pilgrimages) in Galicia, held each year on the first Sunday after 8th September.*

You can return to Santiago (or A Coruña) by bus twice a day, one in the early morning, the other early afternoon, with a third, later, service on Sundays. Buses leave from *Bar Día y Noche* on the seafront.

* * * * *

Linguistic hints One or two clues may help you equate the Galician word to the Castilian (i.e. "Spanish") ones you already know. (*Gallego* in Castilian, *galego* in Galician, is sometimes described as "Portuguese with Castilian spelling".) For example:

- dropping intervocalic consonants (media/meia, salud/saude, arena/area)
- e > ei (cruceiro/cruceiro)
- j > x (junta/xunta, Jesús/Xesús)
- l > r (playa/praiá, plaza/praza)
- ue > o (puerta/porta, fuente/fonte, puente/ponte)

Accommodation (in *hostales*, *pensiones*, *hospedajes*) is available in Negreira, Olveiroa, Cée, Corcubión, Estorde, Sardiñeiro, Finisterre itself, Lires and Muxía.

There are now *refugios* in Negreira, Olveiroa, Corcubión, Finisterre and Muxía, all run by the Xunta de Galicia, who charge a standard 3€ per person per night. However, you should be aware that now they have started operating a fixed charge a portion of this fee goes towards public liability insurance and, as a result these refugios, will not accept any more pilgrims than the official number of beds they provide (and this ruling is strictly enforced). There is therefore no longer the opportunity to sleep on the floor or on a mattress that there used to be when the establishment in question was officially full. With the ever-increasing number of pilgrims walking on to Finisterre and Muxía this obviously causes problems in the busy months, particularly in isolated places like Olveiroa.

A private refugio has also been reported in Santa Mariña, run by the owners of Bar Antelo (on the main road) in a building next door. It is also possible to sleep in the old school in Vilaserio (no facilities).

Please note that if you want to stay in the refugios you will need your *credencial* (pilgrim passport), normally the one you used to walk/cycle to Santiago. Note, too, that the refugios in Finisterre and Muxía are **only** available to those who walk or cycle all the way there from Santiago – **NOT** to those who arrive by bus.

Food You will pass some shops and bars along the way but it is better to take at least some reserve supplies with you.

Fisterrana This is a certificate of pilgrimage given by the *Concello* (town hall) in Finisterre to those who have completed the route and have had their *credenciales* (pilgrim passports, from the route they walked prior to Santiago) stamped at intervals along the way. You can make enquiries about this in the *refugio* in Finisterre.

A similar certificate (*Muxiana*) is also available for those who have walked on to Muxía, whether from Finisterre or directly from Hospital, and is issued either by the tourist office or the refugio in Muxía.

As on the other *camino*s a **stick** is very useful, for brambles, wet grass, testing boggy terrain and for frightening (but not hitting!) DOGS.

1km Moraime *12th c. church of San Julián, former Benedictine monastery.*

Turn R up steps and turn L on road uphill. Turn R uphill. Reach minor road at top at junction, cross over and go straight ahead, uphill into woods to the

1km Capilla San Roque *Statue of San Roque Peregrino inside, with wound on left leg, angel/child and dog at his feet, hat (with shell) and stick.*

Fork L onto CT, pass in front of chapel (*now restored*). Track > tarmac road when houses start. Reach junction and turn R. Turn L at junction 100m later, then L at fork, then fork L at last house onto wide walled lane, descending steadily.

Pass concrete building and watch out for arrows on the ground 20m later, then fork L down FP (*view over to Muxía, L, as you go down*). Continue downhill, veering L, to continue along walled lane. This leads downhill, turns R by eucalyptus woods and reaches road by the *Praia de Espiñeirido* (a beach). Turn L.

Pass (smart) bar/restaurant on R and then, opposite a 2nd one, turn R onto sandy track (marker stone 2,278). 250m later fork L, pass between two sets of boundary posts and KSO on FP to road ahead. Then either:

a) *To go directly to the refugio:* fork R up grassy slope on other side of road, uphill to large block of flats at the beginning of the *Rúa Infesta* (*not marked at start*) and the refugio is in a modern building on the left. To continue from there go downhill, turn first R and then L onto the *Paseo Marítimo* and continue as described below.

b) *To continue into the town:* turn R and KSO, continuing ahead when it > the *Paseo Marítimo* (*HS/Rte La Cruz on L at start, 981.74.24.73*). Fork L onto *Avenida López Abente* (*named after a local poet*) and then continue along the *Rúa Real* to a square with a fountain and continue ahead on the *Rúa Virxe da Barca*.

4km Quintáns *2 bars, shop, fountain, Rte Plaza (981.750.452) also has rooms.* Cross road and fork L down street. KSO(L) at turn and KSO(L) ahead at junction, pass barn and reach minor road. Turn L along it. Continue ahead at crossing on CT between fields. Reach a road, turn L and almost immediately turn R down walled lane, forking R and R again downhill. KSO ahead at crossing, pass a *very long hórreo (with 22 pairs of legs...)* and turn R at 2nd *cruceiro* into hamlet of

1.5km San Martiño de Ozón *Church with Romanesque apse, site of former Benedictine monastery. Note capitals under eaves of apses at rear of building.*

Pass church (*shady seats – good place for a rest, fountain*). KSO to end of village and after last (industrial) building on R turn L uphill. 1km later fork R uphill, steeply, then almost immediately turn R steeply uphill. KSO(R) at 2 left forks and KSO through woods. KSO. *Sudden view of the sea as you descend and then a view of Camariñas across the bay.*

Just before you reach a minor road turn L and then L again along it. Join road coming from back R at end of **Merexe** and KSO for 2km to outskirts of large village of

4km Os Muiños *So-named because of the large number of mills there in the past. Bar, rte, shop, Aparthotel Los Molinos (612.709.625), panadería, farmacia.*

KSO ahead at junction at entrance to village then turn R at junction in centre, veering L, then turn R over bridge and reach a main road at a junction (*bar to L*) where road divides for Cée/Corcubión and Muxía.)

Fork R downhill here. KSO(R) downhill at next fork then, 350m later, fork L up paved grassy lane uphill. Cross main road and go up paved FP on other side to church of

Leaving Santiago 260m From the *Praza do Obradoiro* in Santiago and with your back to the cathedral, pass in front of the *Hostal de la Reyes Católicos* (on your R), go down the slope in front of its garage (this is the *Costa do Cristo*), then down some steps and along the *Rúa das Hortas* ahead. (*Many of the older houses on this street have scallop shells in the stone lintels above the doors*). Veer R at the end into *Rúa Campo das Hortas* and turn L at traffic lights to cross *Rúa do Pombal* via pedestrian crossing. Continue ahead down *Rúa do Cruceiro do Gaio* (the first of two streets in front of you) and then along the *Rúa da Poza de Bar* (unnamed at start); this then becomes the *Rúa de San Lourenzo*.

At the *Carballeira de San Lourenzo (a small, shady park with seats, a fountain and a lot of old oak trees)* there is the first *camino* tile and clear yellow arrows. Here you can either:

a) KSO ahead to visit the (former Franciscan monastery) church of *San Lourenzo de Trasouto (normal visiting hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-1 & 4.30-6-30, otherwise open at Mass times)* and then retrace your steps, crossing the *Carballeira* diagonally alongside the monastery garden wall (on the *Costa do Cano*) and veering L to pick up the *camino* ahead or:

b) turn R (coming from the cathedral) down the *Roblada de San Lourenzo* (signposted "Sanatorio"). Shortly afterwards veer L down a cement road (*Corredoira dos Muiños*) leading you downhill to cross the bridge over the *Río Sarela* in hamlet of

1.5km Ponte Sarela 195m *The first house by the bridge has a sign "Parroquia de San Fructuoso, Lugar de Puente Sarela" (the old buildings by the bridge were tanneries and the mills used to power them). From here for the next 7km to Ventosa, in order to avoid the main road, the route is extremely fiddly, with constant changes of direction. This section, as far as Negreira is, in fact, fairly built up and industrial, but this is mainly hidden from the camino.*

Turn L on other side of bridge, KSO(L) at fork along the bottom of two lanes, gently uphill, and cross stream by small stone FB and stepping stones. KSO ahead uphill on other side. KSO(L) at fork shortly afterwards and KSO at crossing 200m later, uphill through a meadow. Go under telegraph wires and veer L uphill to reach minor road by modern houses. ("*Casa Lauriña*" to L = *Casa Rural*, info. welcome.) Turn L downhill (*good view over to Santiago cathedral over to L on a clear day*) and 300m later on turn R (by house #53) up a tarred lane uphill.

This continues as a walled lane through eucalyptus woods, gently downhill all the time. KSO(L) at fork then KSO(R) at another junction 400m later. KSO(R) when track joins from back L then turn L downhill at staggered crossing and then turn L at a crossing at the bottom 250m later. Turn R onto minor road then 80m later at KSO(L) at a staggered crossing. Cross small river, KSO(L) at two junctions then turn R at a 3rd (still on minor tarred road), veering R 300m later to a crossing with a "stop" sign. Turn L and reach a five-point road junction with bus shelter in hamlet of

2km Piñeiro 170m Turn R in front of a modern *hórreo*, veering R. KSO(L) at fork, turning L and then R to a very minor tarred road. Turn L along it for 300m, crossing small river on the way then, 50m before a bigger road and a "stop" sign, turn R uphill on another minor road which then > a CT. When this > a gravelled road and turns sharp L, turn R onto track into woods, veering 2nd R on clear forest track. KSO along this, ignoring turns. Cross very minor tarred road and KSO ahead, gently downhill all the time, then KSO(R) ahead at junction.

KSO ahead all the time, ignoring turns, till you reach the edge of the woods. KSO ahead, on tarmac road, KSO(L) at junction, and 300m later reach T-junction with "stop" sign. Turn L to bus shelter then immediately turn *hard* R down lane (*note hundreds of scallop*

KSO at "stop" sign and continue to main (Cée-La Coruña) road, crossing bridge over *Río Fragoso*. Cross over (*very carefully*) and KSO ahead up walled lane on other side, with eucalyptus woods to either side. 400-500m later, just before a minor road (to your L), turn R along another walled lane, into woods. KSO, ignoring turns, keep to LH side of wall, turn R at end and 50m later (marker stone 20,416) turn L on lane alongside another wall (on R), turning R, L and R, downhill, to minor road in

3km Trasufre *A lot of hórreos, small church of N-S de Arantazu/Virxe do Espiño.*

Turn R and KSO on road, veering L past *cruceiro* and church (to your R). Turn L at junction and then R by bus shelter. KSO, cross bridge over *Río Castro* and 60m later turn R behind houses in **Cadeiro**, up wide CT, veering L uphill. Turn R at T-junction of similar tracks 500m later turn L 75m afterwards and then turn R 60m after that. Continue ahead until you reach the village of

2.5km Senande *2 bars, shop/tabaco.* KSO(R) on "main" road coming from back L to square with seats and then turn L onto minor road marked "Agrodosio/Vilastose/Casanova." Pass turning to *Agrodosio* (on your L) and then KSO(L) ahead at junction marked "Vilastose" then KSO(R) at entrance to hamlet of **A Grixá** (marker stone 16,134). *Cruceiro opposite.* Pass church of *San Cibrán de Vilastose* (on L) and its separate bell tower (on R). Turn L on road at end of hamlet, *noting house on RH corner with large hórreo (with 9 pairs of legs) on its roof(!).*

KSO on road then 250m later turn R onto walled lane, then L at fork 150m later, leading towards woods. KSO ahead at first crossing and at second 700m later.

At next junction, 650m after that, take *second* of 2 LH forks, onto wide walled lane. KSO, undulating, to outskirts of village, then turn R downhill to junction and KSO ahead to school and church (*seats, shade*) in

HOSPITAL – MUXÍA 27km

In this section the direction to proceed is indicated by the rays of the "shell" on the bollards (and which indicate the number of kilometres remaining to Muxía). (Note: as this section is only waymarked in one direction – towards Muxía – it is more difficult to follow in reverse.)

Hospital 330m *A village likely, given its name, to have had a pilgrim hospital here in centuries gone by though no evidence remains.*

At marker stone 29.730 turn L into road by bus shelter.

Continue to *Bar Casteliño* (bar, rte), cross main road and continue on old road to junction with two marker stones: "Fisterra 28.807, Muxía 27.005."

Fork R here on road (marked "Dumbría 4"), go down hill and 1km later, just before a bend, turn L down gravel track downhill. Cross a small river by a solid granite FB and veer L on old track that > a walled lane (i.e. short-cutting bends in road). Return to road again, cross over and continue on wide, similar track (*good views*), descending gradually and veering L to return to road after 500m. Turn R along road for 300m then turn hard L down forest track veering R downhill into hamlet of **Carizas** by large *hórreo* on R. Turn R here onto a very small tarmac road then R again at "stop" sign 500m later. Return to "main" road at entrance to

5km Dumbría *Several bars, supermarket bank (+CD), Bar "O Argentino" (below bank) does meals and has rooms (981.74.40.51).*

Turn L, passing sports ground and shady sitting area and then Baroque church of *Santa Eulalia* and two-sided *cruceiro* (note *hórreo* with 8 pairs of "mushroom-style" legs and two crosses on top). Continue through the town and turn L by *Centro de Saude* (health centre)

shells on side wall of house #8), veering L. Fork R at junction and 200m later on turn R at road junction (football pitch to L ahead) and cross the

3.5km Bridge over Río Roxos 155m Pass picnic area on L then KSO(L) at fork. 200m later turn R uphill. 500m after that, shortly after an industrial building on R, turn R when road bends L, into woods. Turn L at T-junction 200m later, along walled lane. KSO to minor road at entrance (to L) to village of **Roxos**. This is the **Alto do Vento**, 178m, bar/mesón opposite.

Turn R downhill, passing park on L (*seats*) into

2km Ventosa 130m Turn R by a bus shelter and KSO, veering L downhill on old road. Cross the road again (by another bus shelter) and KSO on other side (*a lot of new housing*). Pass between buildings, turn R and then turn R again at front of huge electricity pylon and continue down lane. Turn L onto very minor road then immediately L onto a bigger one, then 100m later at junction KSO ahead downhill into

2km Augapesada 60m *Mesón on R. Medieval bridge (recently restored), picnic area.* Just before road junction (signposted "Bertamirans 3") turn L onto paved lane past old (restored) bridge (*seats*) then continue onto road at "stop" sign. Cross over then turn R up uphill on other side (*bar/shop 50m further on, on L, after turning*) up small concrete road which then becomes a forest track. KSO at crossing (*2 handy seats on R*), continuously uphill.

When you reach a minor road 500m later (to L) turn R (*a 3rd seat on R shortly afterwards*). KSO, passing 4th seat and 5th (on L) just before the road (on L). Turn R here and continue on track uphill. Return to road by 6th seat and TV mast and turn R uphill along it. Pass 2nd TV mast and 200m later on R (by sign "Trasmonte – Santa María") pass a fountain (*seats*). 200m later begin to go downhill and enter

2km Carballo 260m Continue on road, passing a wayside cross on wall (R) and KSO at junction and continue to

1km Trasmonte 220m *Baroque church of Santa María and cruceiro (with figure of Santiago) to L. Bar.*

Continue on road, passing through hamlets of **Reino** and **Burgeiros**. KSO on road, turn L at junction and reach

2km Ponte Maceira 160m *Bar/rte. Picturesque village in two parts with stone bridge (five main arches) over the Río Tambre, constructed late 15th/early 16th c. and restored in medieval style in the 18th. Capilla de San Blas and large neo-medieval pazo on other side of bridge and several stone houses with armorial devices. (Romanesque church of Santa María de Portor 1km to north – tower visible from here.)*

Turn R over the bridge (*Calle del Puente Maceira*), turn L uphill at the end and 200m later fork L downhill by house #22. Turn L down minor road, // to river then, 100m before a “stop” sign, fork L down track into woods, to river, and go under arch of 19th c. bridge (*Ponte Maceira Nova, bar on other side*). KSO ahead on CT leading through fields, under modern road bridge (*the other road is now above you, to R*), returning to the road after 1km in

2km Barca 150m KSO on road for 300m, then fork R onto section of old road. Return to road again, cross over and then fork L (signposted “Logrosa”) past industrial buildings, uphill, ignoring turns to R or L. KSO(L) ahead to

1km Chancela 190m Pass entrance gates (L) to large *Pazo de Chancela (also known as Pazo de Capitán)* and KSO ahead, ignoring turns, following road down to a “stop” sign at the bottom of the hill. Turn L, pass large statue of pilgrim (L) and then pass 2nd statue (*of Minerva and the bulls*) and fountain, veering R uphill (*Avenida de Santiago*).

road and KSO along this for 2km into the town or KSO, slightly staggered, down a FP downhill, which then joins up again with the road and enter

3km Muxía *Small coastal town with all facilities, founded in the 12th c. and whose main activities are fishing and bobbin lacemaking. Refugio up on hill at entrance to town (to go there directly watch out for yellow arrows on road, marked “albergue,” leading you uphill to R at start of town). Hostal Cruz (981.74.24.73) on sea-front near entrance to town.*

Romanesque parish church of Santa María, many interesting old houses in town centre.

Continue ahead and after houses start road > *Avenida Doctor Toba*. Reach *plaza* with modern statue in the middle, cross over and KSO(L) along paved walkway then KSO(R) along short unnamed street. This continues as the *Rúa Atalaia*, a very long street. KSO along it, crossing a square part way, along to the end and then KSO ahead along wide CT leading *below Monte Corpiño* on the *Camiño del Pel*, so-named *because the existence of a nearby fountain allowed pilgrims to perform their ablutions (a symbol of purification) before entering the Santuario*. This track leads directly to the

1km Santuario de Nosa Señora da Barca *The church’s name derives from the stone boat in which the Virgin Mary is said to have journeyed there in order to encourage St. James in his preaching and evangelising in north-west Spain. The church dates from the 12th c. and contains a large Baroque altarpiece inside, with a Gothic statue of the Virgin Mary, reputed to have been brought there in a boat guided by two angels. The Santuario is the focus of one of the most popular romerías (local pilgrimages) in Galicia, held each year on the first Sunday after 8th September.*

You can return to Santiago (or A Coruña) by bus twice a day, one in the early morning, the other early afternoon, with a third, later, service on Sundays. Buses leave from *Bar Día y Noche* on the seafront.

1.5km Frixe Bar/shop (on "main" road) 500m away, Romanesque church of Santa Leocadia (also on road)..

Turn L and then almost immediately R, up concrete lane which then > a walled CT and then veers L. KSO in a straight line all the time, ignoring turns, and reach a tarmac road (*the road to Touriñan*). Cross over and KSO on gravel road on other side, through woods. KSO, in a straight line, very slightly uphill all the time, ignoring turns, for 1km approximately, after which tracks begin to descend. 200/300m later turn L by barn and then R alongside it, down grassy paved lane (*may be boggy*) and reach road in

2km Guisamonde Turn R then KSO at crossroads, on road uphill through woods. KSO for 2km, passing *cruceiro* and fountain (both on RH side) and enter

1.5km Morquintián Romanesque church of Santa María. KSO(R) on upper of two lanes, then KSO(R) on road at fork. 1km later reach T-junction where, once again, you have two options:

A. Turn R and 60m later turn up CT. *This option is 2km longer and goes alongside the sea via Marineto, Figueiroa and Lourido, marked only with bollards (no yellow arrows). Info. welcome.*

B. Turn R on road, then turn L 500m later up wide CT, uphill, veering L and then R (*very good views on a clear day*). Track levels out after a while. KSO along it. Track then veers R and begins to descend, gradually. KSO(L) at fork and continue to descend.

After about 2km turn R down wide track and then L some 800m later. Reach T-junction with concrete lane at first houses and turn L in

5km Xurarantes Turn R at minor road in hamlet, downhill. Pass fountain on L and 60m later turn R downhill to junction with bigger

1km Negreira 160m Small town with all facilities. Refugio (20+ places, with kitchen, 1km out of town (follow Camino waymarking). Hostal Mezquita, Rúa do Carmen 2 (in centre), Hotel Tamara**, Avenida de Santiago s/n (981.85.52.01, on main road to R on entering town) has special pilgrim rate (25€ single).

Turn L (signposted "Campo de Feria") down the *Carreira de San Mauro* and continue to bottom, passing under an archway linking the *Capilla del Carmen y Santa María* on R and the *Pazo de Cotón* on L, a medieval fortress restored in the 17th c. (*Modern statue on R is of the emigrante/segadora – itinerant harvester – figure, with a boy pulling at father's trousers through the window and mother and another child seated indoors.*)

Cross a bridge over the *Río Barcala* and at fork turn L uphill. (*Waymarks directing you to the R here, on road, miss out the church.*) 200m later, at next fork, either KSO(L) for refugio or bear R, marked "Negreira-Iglesia," to continue. Turn R at *cruceiro* to 18th c. church of *San Xulián* (otherwise take the 2nd R turn to pass in front of it.) Turn L up steps, go through a gate and turn R along a lane, continuing straight ahead onto tarred lane, on the level. When this bends *hard* R downhill KSO(L) ahead on RH of 2 // lanes on L, still on the level, then climbing gently, through eucalyptus woods, with road away to R below. Pass concrete (public services) building on R and KSO, reaching road (CP 56031) 200m later. KSO on road (uphill) for 500m, passing turning to *Cobas* (R) and turn R opposite bus shelter in

3km Zas/Xas 260m KSO along lane, passing tiny church (R), KSO(R) at fork, KSO(L) at next fork and 100m later KSO(R) again to end of village. Pass to L of house #21 then take LH of two grassy walled lanes at fork.

KSO(L) at a junction and KSO when a track joins from back L. KSO(R) at fork, then KSO(L) immediately afterwards on track coming from back L. KSO, then 200m later turn L. When you reach a T-junction (1.5km from Zas) near a main road over to your L in

Camiño Real (270m) turn R along earth lane. 300m later turn L down walled lane, gently downhill. At junction 300m later KSO ahead then KSO(L) at next. Cross a minor road 150m later and continue ahead on other side on what looks like a FP but is, in fact, a walled lane

This is a very old, historic route, completely overgrown and impassable till the late 1990s, becoming wider as you proceed, // to the "main" road all the time.

Cross another very minor road and KSO ahead, in a straight line all the time.

KSO when track joins from back L, veering R and then almost immediately turn L, again in a straight line ahead, // to road. Turn L at crossing 150m later. KSO(R) ahead when track joins from back L, becoming a walled lane leading downhill. KSO(L) ahead when track joins from back R and continue to very minor road in

22.5km Rapote 330m Cross over and continue on concrete lane ahead, turn L and then R through village to continue ahead at end down sunken walled lane downhill, ignoring turns, till you reach the bottom. Turn R then KSO(L) uphill on walled lane, ignoring turns till you emerge just below a minor road in

1.5km Peña/A Pena 260m Bar on road (turn L, R and L by first house; simple meals. If you go to the bar you can then stay on the road afterwards and rejoin the route in Porto Camiño – see below).

Otherwise (to continue): continue ahead (i.e. below road), KSO(R) ahead below church and turn L at *cruceiro* uphill then turn L again to road and turn R. KSO (this is **Porto Camiño**, a pass, 380m) for 400m on road then just after turning to *Xallas* (on L) turn R onto track and then immediately L ahead (on 3rd from L of the 4 tracks in front of you) by a concrete water tank. KSO(L) at fork and continue downhill, ignoring turns. Cross stream, veer R and then L uphill again and at a T-junction turn L. Return to road and turn R. 2km later, just before sharp LH bend, turn L down walled lane into

1.5km Lires 2 bars (one, *As Eiras*, does food & has rooms: 981.74.81.80), 3 CL ("*casas de labranza*" – bed and breakfast): *Casa Raúl* (981.74.81.56), *Casa Lourido* and *Casa Jesús* (981.74.81.58). Many interesting *hórreos*. Church of *San Estevo*.

Fork L at *cruceiro*, veering L, fork R uphill then turn L on the level by *hórreo* with 6 sets of "legs" (turn R here for the 2 bars and also to turn L for road option via *Pontenova****). Fork R onto concrete lane and then R again, which > a walled CT, leading down to the *Río Castro*. Cross over via the stepping stones and veer L on the other side to the *lugar* (consisting of a single house) of **Baosilbeiro**.

*****Detour via road bridge** (3km longer). To avoid having to wade across the *Río Castro* turn L in Lires up the road to the LH side of *Bar As Eiras* and continue for about 1.5km till you reach the edge of **Porcar** by a bus shelter. Turn L here, veering L then R through the hamlet and continue to a T-junction with *Pontenova* (a few houses) and the river ahead. Turn R here to a bigger road and then L onto it to cross the road bridge over the river. Continue for 400-500m more into the village of **Frixe** (bar/shop on R, does sandwiches) and then turn L by the church. Continue ahead, downhill, veering L then R through village till you reach the end and see the LH turn to *Baosilbeiro*. KSO ahead here and continue as described below.

0.5km Baosilbeiro The marker stones lead you up a lane straight ahead (L), then turn R uphill at bend (to L) into woods. KSO(L) at crossing of similar tracks (not marked), which leads you to a minor road where you turn L. However in bad weather the lane may be completely waterlogged so continue on the minor road ahead of you to the R (at *Baosilbeiro*) as the two options join up shortly afterwards again anyway.

KSO on minor road to the end of the village of

1km Padrís Turn L on road, then fork L along CT under electricity cables. This leads into the woods. KSO ahead in a straight line all the time, ignoring turns for 800m, then *fork* R in a small clearing along lane with walls to either side. 500m later veer R then L, then 100m after that you have two options, as the bollard indicates a RH turn but the arrows painted on it also indicate a LH turn. *The RH route goes through the village of Canosa, the LH one misses it out and goes straight to Lires, nearer the sea. This (LH) option is very pleasant on a nice day but in bad/misty weather is not worth it.*

A. Route via Canosa (*marked with bollards throughout*). Fork R here along walled lane. At end fork R, steeply downhill, down gravel lane towards village, leaving woods. Turn *hard* R at junction at the bottom, onto concrete lane, then turn L steeply downhill again, in

2.5km Canosa Turn L again, 2nd R and then L onto concrete walled lane, still downhill. Turn L at bottom onto CT, KSO(L) at next junction and KSO(R) at the next and continue alongside a small river (on your R). At junction by a bridge turn L then 100m later turn R at T-junction of similar tracks. KSO along side of hill (// to road over to your R) then veer R to road. Turn L along it for 200m to junction with a bridge to L and church to R and turn R uphill in **Lires**.

B. Route direct to Lires (*marked, rather sparsely, with yellow arrows*). *Splendid views on a clear day.*

Fork L here, along walled lane alongside edge of woods (*view of sea over to L ahead*). KSO ahead at first 2 junctions then fork L at 3rd. Descend to junction with short stretch of tarmac road, near sea. Turn R here then fork R onto CT, into scrubby woods, veering R and then leading downhill. Turn L at junction then R along very minor road alongside the *Río Lires*. Pass cemetery (R) and turn L to cross bridge over river and KSO(L) uphill by church in

4.5km Vilaserio 360m *Bar (on road) on R. Ask here if you want to sleep in the old school (no facilities).* Fork (not turn) R downhill behind bar and turn L on road. Pass turning (L) to *Pesadoira* and KSO on road, veering L up to cross roads and turn R into

2km Cornado 332m Turn L in the village then 150m later fork L uphill on earth road. At fork KSO(L) ahead till you reach a road (CP5604, KM18). KSO for 300m then turn L down lane. KSO, ignoring turns, gently uphill.

At top (marker stone 50,266) KSO ahead, gradually downhill, then 150m later fork L uphill on an earth road. At a fork KSO(L) ahead till you reach a road (CP5604, KM 18). Turn R here, KSO for 300m, then turn L down a lane. KSO, ignoring turns, gently uphill.

At the top (marker stone 50,266) KSO ahead, gradually downhill, then 150m later fork L at a fork uphill. At T-junction 250m after that turn R and fork L at fork after another 250m. (*Shell and "Maroñas" on one side of marker stone, "Neria" and shell on other.*) KSO at crossing, KSO at next, cross bridge over river and enter

5km Maroñas *Bar?* Turn L in centre of village, following road round and turn L at the end (a very long village), continuing on lane to "T" junction, then turn L to a *cruceiro* in centre of

1km Santa Mariña 330m. *12th c. Romanesque church.* Continue to L and turn R along lane to "main" road. Turn L and continue on road for 500m. *3 bars on R: first one may do simple meals; 2nd one (Bar Antelo) reported to have private albergue in building next door,) with 12 beds, 10€; 3rd bar after junction.* Turn R uphill (signposted "Bon Xesús & Guiema"). Continue on road for 3kms to two scarcely separated hamlets and turn L in the first one (**Bon Xesús, 371**). KSO uphill into the second (**Gueima, 388m**, with simple *cruceiro* on LH side of road) and turn R when you get to **Vilar de Xastro, 420m**, veering L, then:

a) *in good weather*: fork L up track along RH shoulder of *Monte Aro (555m)*, climbing steadily (*good views as you go on a clear day*). KSO at crossing 100m later, veering L (*views out over reservoirs when track levels out*) and veering R to junction 500m after that. Turn R then 100m later turn L, downhill, on unpaved road. Continue downhill. Part way down turn *hard* L. Veer R at bottom into **Lago**.

b) *In bad weather*: KSO(R) on road. *Views over the reservoir to R*. Turn L at T-junction 1km later. Continue uphill and KSO ahead at crossing at top. KSO(L) at fork. When you reach **Lago** turn R at crossing in village then turn R at junction. At next junction (with road coming from back L) you will meet up with the route coming over the Monte Aro. Turn L and continue out of the village on a very minor road.

6km Lago 340m 300m later turn L at T-junction. Continue on road for 400m and turn R downhill by bus shelter (marked "Corzón"). *Notice says that Casa Jurjo (Hotel, cafeteria, restaurant, 981.85.20.) in A Picota (Mazaricos) does special pilgrim price and is only 2.9km further on (i.e. don't turn R here if you want to go there)*. KSO(R) at junction then KSO(L) ahead at fork 700m later turn R then 250m later turn L. KSO on road and 700m later turn R. 300m after that turn L. KSO, following road round till you reach the small church of

3km San Cristovo de Corzón 286m Continue on road, past church with separate bell-tower, *cruceiro* and cemetery, then 100m later turn L. KSO, ignoring turns. Cross bridge over small river and KSO.

Reach "main" road in **Mallón (270m)**. Turn R, cross bridge over *Río Xallas* (and enter *Concello de Dumbriá*, leaving the *Concello de Mazaricos*) in

2km San Martiño de Duio *Duio (Latin Dugum) was the former Roman city where, according to medieval tradition, the disciples bringing St. James' body sought permission from the authorities to bury it in this area*

KSO, pass *lavadero* (L) and KSO ahead, gently downhill, // to sea and ignoring turnings. 800m after the church reach a T-junction and the hamlet of **Escaselas** (1km). Turn L. At crossing 100m later turn L at slightly bigger road and 500m later reach village of

2km Hermedeseuxo de Abaixo KSO then, at five-point junction at end of village, fork R ("one o'clock" style) ahead and KSO ahead, on concrete lane, through hamlet of **San Salvador** (600m). *HR Dugium (rooms, 981.74.07.80) on R*. KSO ahead, rising gently at first, then more steeply. Track joins from back L. KSO here but then fork L 100m later, gently downhill, ignoring turns. *Views of sea over to L, through trees*. Continue till you reach a minor road at entrance to hamlet of

3km Rial Cross over and KSO on other side along walled lane. KSO(R) ahead at junction shortly afterwards, // to sea over to your L. Fork L after first house in hamlet between *hórreos*, veering L onto tarmac road at entrance to

0.5km Buxán Turn R at junction 50m later and then watch out for RH turn by sawmill (*this is, in fact, waymarked, but is only obvious if coming from the other direction*). Turn R here onto CT into woods, gradually downhill, leading down to a tarmac road at a forked junction. KSO(L) here and then turn L down CT, steeply downhill (*sea over to L*) and then up, in a dead straight line. KSO(R) up lane at end and then veer R into

1km Castrexe Turn L onto CT, undulating through fields. Reach tarmac road at bend, turn R up it and 250m later, at top of hill, reach junction in hamlet of

FINISTERRE – MUXÍA

19

*The continuation to Muxía is waymarked in both directions – there and back – but economically. That is, there is only one stone at each manoeuvre, set at an angle to indicate the way to go, so you will need to watch out carefully at turns etc. The marker bollards have the shell symbol **upright** on this route but have no kilometre indications, simply "Fisterra - Muxía (or Muxía - Fisterra), according to where these two places are situated.*

Take food and water with you: the only place with any facilities are Lires (14km from Finisterre, with two bars, one with food) and Frixe (bar/shop).

Note, too, that until the footbridge over the Rio Castro is ready (work is scheduled to begin during the winter of 2008) you will have to remove your shoes/boots and wade across the river (500m past Lires) via the stepping stones. This is not a problem in very dry weather but when it has been raining they will be partly or wholly submerged. It is better to put your boots in your rucksack to avoid them dangling and unsteady you (and roll up your trousers if you are not wearing shorts) and it is suggested that you wear sandals to avoid slipping. The water is very clear and not very deep but watch out for the current, which is very strong. However, a longer, road alternative is also available and is described on page 19.

From the centre of the town of Finisterre retrace your steps to the *cruceiro* (where the walk into town along the beach ends) and then continue along the main road (*Calle de La Coruña*). Pass the town exit boards and then turn 2nd L uphill onto a minor road, passing the place-name boards for *San Martiño*. Veer R and then KSO(R) ahead, on the level, at fork by bus shelter. Pass cemetery and then church of

1.5km Ponte Olveira 270m KSO(L) at fork 100m after bridge (*bar – with info? – at junction*). KSO for 2km, passing farmacia (L) and the turning to *Santiago Oliveira* (R). KSO and then, opposite road KM22, fork L down minor road into

2km Olveiroa 286m (*Not to be confused with Oliveira, another village nearby.*) Village with several *hórreos* and interesting examples of vernacular architecture. Church of *Santiago* with statues of *St. James* inside and painted relief sculpture over front door. Refugio in centre of village (30+ places with kitchen and hot showers), 3 bars (all do food) and a *pensión* (reported expensive) with a restaurant.,

KSO through village (turn R for refugio) and 500m later turn L by *lavadero* (public clothes-washing facility), crossing small river then, at junction by telephone pylon, fork (not turn) L up small concrete road (near "main" road") uphill. 300m later fork R onto an earth road. When you reach telephone cables fork L up another track.

*From here to Cée is a very nice section, apart from the two large, belching carbide factories on the skyline, the first of which is just outside the village of **Hospital**. The camino undulates on a wide track high up, with the mountains all around and the *Río Hospital* below you to the L.*

Descend fairly rapidly, cross new stone FB over river and continue on FP on other side, uphill. Turn R at junction with another FP at marker stone 32,066, onto a wider track. KSO into

2.5km Logoso 295m *Small hamlet with only a few houses.* Continue to the end then take upper of two tracks, undulating, high up, across the shoulder of the mountain. Reach the top of the hill (*and a view of the carbide factory ahead, L*) and turn R onto unpaved road in

1km Hospital 330m *A village likely, given its name, to have had a pilgrim hospital here in centuries gone by, though no evidence remains.*

Turn L immediately and L again onto road by KM27 (P340A) towards the factory. (*Bar on L at top of hill does food.*) Turn R onto old minor road at marker stone 29,353, veering R to "main" road by factory and 100m later cross it. Here there is a double marker stone and you can either:

a) turn L to continue directly to *Finisterre* or

b) turn R for direct continuation to *Muxía* (27km), i.e. missing out *Finisterre* (see page 21).

For option a) turn L and KSO on road for 600m then turn R onto track which becomes old walled lane.

This is the old Camino Real, the beginning of 9km of drove road leading through the mountains to Cée, more or less in a straight line, and with splendid views all round on a clear day.

Pass marker stone 27,967 and KSO. KSO(L) at fork 100m later. Cross main road and KSO on other side. Pass marker stone 26,285 and KSO. Veer gradually L and KSO on wide *camino* with open vistas to all sides, "roof of the world" style. The *camino* turns L 1km later, at marker stone 25,883. Descend gradually, reach "T" junction 1km later and turn R.

When you reach marker stone 23,508 look out for your first view of the sea here on a clear day. Pilgrims of old – especially those from central France, Switzerland and parts of Germany – would have had their first view ever of it here!

KSO then turn L downhill 400m after that and 100m later reach

5km Santuario de Nosa Señora das Neves 270m *Small church in shady grounds (nice place for a rest), restored in 1997. The Fonte Santa, a fountain below the road to the L by the cruceiro is well known for its curative properties. A romería (local pilgrimage) takes place here annually, on 8 September.*

Continue for 2km more on road to the lighthouse. *Fountain – Fonte Cabanas – on R, halfway along). A rocky outcrop known as the "Piedras Santas," a possible focus of pre-Christian worship, is apparently to be found on the north shore of the peninsula.*

*Hospedaje O Semáforo (in former observatory and morse radio station) with room (expensive (981.72.58.69) and and restaurant, Bar O Refugio. Bronze sculpture of a pair of broken boots on rocks behind lighthouse in memory of a pilgrim who drowned here in the late 1990s (remember that all this section along the sea is known as the **Costa da Morte** – "death coast" because of the innumerable shipwrecks in times gone by). As the weather is often misty until about midday in this part of Spain you may well have better views from here in the late afternoon and evening.*

Return to Santiago by bus (from the *Rúa Real*, next to the refugio), 3 to 4 journeys a day, more frequently Monday to Friday than at weekends. Journey time 2 ½ to 3 hours, though the service is not always direct and you may have to change in Muros to connect (immediately) with another bus. Space permitting, it is also possible to take 1 or 2 bikes. The service is operated by Monbus/Castromil and you can check the times in Santiago bus station before you leave (the information counter there has printed timetables).

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with a cruceiro and has cafés and chiringuitos (snack bars) at points along it in summer. Or, if you want, and if the tide is suitable, you can walk along the beach itself (sea water good for tired, sore, blistered feet...).

When you get to the end of the *corredoira* (this area is known as **San Roque**) go up slope to wayside cross and *mirador* (viewpoint) and continue on LH side of the road. KSO along *Calle de Coruña* then down *Calle Santa Catalina*, veering R downhill into centre of town (port to your L).

4km Finisterre/Fisterra 24m *Small fishing port with all facilities. Modern refugio near port. Several hostales and pensiones, including Hospedaje López (981.74.04.49) and Casa Velay (981.74.01.27). From the town of Finisterre it is a further 3km to the lighthouse ("el faro") and the real "end of the earth."*

Church of Santa María das Areas ("St. Mary of the Sands," 12th c.), Capela do Bo Suceso (18th c.), remains of Eremita de San Guillermo (8th c.), Castello de San Carlos (18th c.),

To walk to the lighthouse: cross street and continue ahead up *Rúa Real* (refugio on LH corner) to *Plaza de la Constitución* then straight on down *Calle Plaza* to *Plaza de Ara Solis*. Turn R and then turn L in front of *Capilla do Bo Suceso* (note house to R with armorial device, cross and sundial). Continue along *Calle Ara Solis*, veering R uphill. Cross *Calle Manuel Lago Paris* and continue uphill to join C552 coming from back R and reach church of

1km Santa María das Areas *12th c. parish church of "Saint Mary of the Sands," Romanesque in part, with statue of St. James as pilgrim in the nave. Originally only a rectangular building, several side chapels were added later, including one built at the end of the 17th c. to house the Gothic statue of the Santísimo Cristo, the focus of an annual romería. Gothic cruceiro outside and a building which was formerly a pilgrim hospital. The church also had its own Porta Santa (Holy Door) and its own jubilee years. Open 10-13, 15-19 (summer only?).*

Turn R below the church, veering L then R uphill, ignoring turns. KSO. KSO at crossing, KSO(R) at fork. Pass RH turn and 100m later reach junction at marker stone 21,878. Turn L and 50m later KSO(R) at LH turn. 200m later reach the church of

3.5km San Pedro Mártir 310m *Small chapel set in a field, with its own fonte santa (water reputedly cures rheumatism, painful feet and verrucas...), focus of local pilgrimage and another good place for a rest (covered pavilion useful in bad weather). Turn R to visit then retrace your steps.*

KSO, ignoring turns, for nearly 2km, till you reach a square, pointed marker stone on your L (another good view of the sea from here), after which the *camino* start to descend. At a fork, with paved section to R and earth track to L, KSO(L), descending steadily. Veer R, turn L and descend steeply. (View of another belching factory below, in Cée.) Reach a minor road at marker stone 16,918 and turn L. Turn hard R immediately, downhill, R again at bottom to a *cruceiro* and KSO(R), after a "stop" sign, along "main" road (*Campo do Sacramento*), past old cemetery (on l). Fork L downhill. Veer L then go down some steps and turn R at bottom into *Rosalía de Castro*. At end reach the *Praza da Constitución* (trees, seats) and take LH far corner exit to church of *Santa María de Xunqueira*. Pass between this and the *Casa do Canello* and then turn L to cross grassed area with trees, cross canal and reach waterfront in

6km Cée 5m *Coastal town with all facilities and several hostales, including Hostal Vitoria, Hostal Galicia (on road to Corcubión). Hospedaje Grego (in Avenida Finisterre) is inexpensive and owner speaks excellent English.*

Church of Nosa Señora de Xunqueira (with Gothic section). 2km to south of Cée, in hamlet of Ameixenda on coast (in direction of Ezaro) the church of Santiago has a relic reputed to be one of the saint's fingers.

Continue (R) along the waterfront and then, when the road starts to go uphill, cross over and 200m later fork R up steep concrete street at the entrance board for *Corcubión*. KSO uphill, KSO(L) at a fork (the *Calle Rafael Juan* but not named at the start) and then continue along it when it > *Calle Antonio Porrúa*. Pass *Capilla del Pilar* (1931) and *fountain* (L) to small square (*Plaza de Castelao, seats, trees, taxi rank*). Leave by the top LH corner (the *Paseo de San Marcos*) veering L to 13th c. church of *San Marcos* (*large statue of San Roque in pilgrim gear in niche in RH wall*) in

1.5km Corcubión 12m. *All facilities. Refugio in former school, run by volunteers from the Amigos of the Galician association, 1km outside the town at the top of the hill in the direction of Finisterre. Very good reports. Bar Sirena has rooms. Church of San Marcos in "gótico-marinero" style. Many interesting old houses in the town centre, whose casco antiguo – historic quarter – is classified as a historic monument.*

Facing church door turn *hard* R up some steps and up the street ahead (*Calle de las Mercedes – note houses with armorial devices*) to another square (*Campo de Rollo*). Cross over, pass to L of walled garden and turn L between houses #11 and #12 up a narrow lane with high walls to either side. KSO(R) at fork. *Nice views back over the port as you climb.*

Turn L, uphill again, at T-junction with wider path. At next T-junction (in front of a house), turn L onto wider track, veering R to (tarmac) road in a hamlet. Turn R uphill and emerge at junction with the main road (C552), opposite a sports ground and the refugio, at the ***Encrucijada de San Roque*** (*trees, shady place for a rest, cruceiro and fountain on LH side – the Fonte de Vilar*).

Cross over and continue on an old road on the other side. At a junction KSO ahead down a FP. Continue along boundary wall (*fountain*) on R, downhill, down grassy lane, descending gradually. Return to road 500m later in hamlet of

2km Amarela 90m KSO on road for 400m till it bends sharp L then cross over and KSO(R) on section of old road. 80m later turn RT down wide grassy lane, reaching road again 100m later near sea. Turn R and KSO on road into

1.5km Estorde 50m *Nice beach, campsite (Camping Ruta Finisterre, closed in winter), Hostal Playa de Estorde, bars.*
KSO on road for 1km to

1km Sardiñeiro 20m *Another nice beach; shops, bars, Hostal Nicola has rooms (981.74.37.41). 18th c. church of San Xoán.*

Just *before* you enter the village, at end of section on old road, cross over, turn L onto old tarred road and then R between houses by village name board. This short-cuts a bend and then returns to the road. Cross over and fork L down *Rúa do Mestre Barrera* and return to road by *Hostal Nicola* (L). 200m later, by house # 31, turn R up *Rúa do San Xoan* (signposted to "Praia do Rostro" and church) then fork L immediately (*Rúa Nova*) and continue uphill (*Rúa de Fisterra*). At T-junction 200m after last house turn L up grassy walled lane uphill through eucalyptus woods.

KSO at crossing 600m later and at another (marker stone 7,627) and shortly afterwards emerge with a view out to sea and "the end of the world" on the second hill ahead of you. Veer R to return to road just past a lay-by with picnic area. Cross over and continue ahead downhill and then up (*quiet secluded beach 50m below you*) and return to road after bend (300m later).

350m after that (at marker stone 6,484) fork L down the *Corredoira de Don Camilo*. *This is a paved walkway, named after the Nobel prize-winning Galician novelist José Camilo Cela. It runs alongside the sea for 2km, tarmac at first, leading down to and then along the Praia de Langosteira (a beach). It continues all the way to the entrance to the town of Finisterre (2kms), ending at a viewpoint*