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**THE TUNNEL ROUTE**  
**IRÚN to SANTO DOMINGO de la CALZADA**

**by**

**Tony Roberts**  
(assisted by Judith Leigh)  
and  
**Eric Walker**

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Large house	Caserío
Palacio / Manor House / Farmhouse	Jauregi
Hostel	Aterpéa
Hotel/Hostal	Ostátua
Cross	Gurutzé
Church	Elíza
Street	Kalé
Road, path or trail	Bidé
District	Auzóa
River (large) / (small)	Ibaia / Erréka
Mountain	Mendi
Valley	Larran
Health Centre	Osasún Zentrua
Red Cross	Gurúitze Górria
Tourist Office	Turísmoa Bulegóa
Town Hall	Údaletxéa
Municipal Police	Údaltzaingoa
(Old) City centre	Hirigúne (historikoa).

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I will be happy to try to answer any queries about this route and to give any further assistance, insofar as I am able. In return I would be grateful for any feedback, which would help me to keep this guide up to date.

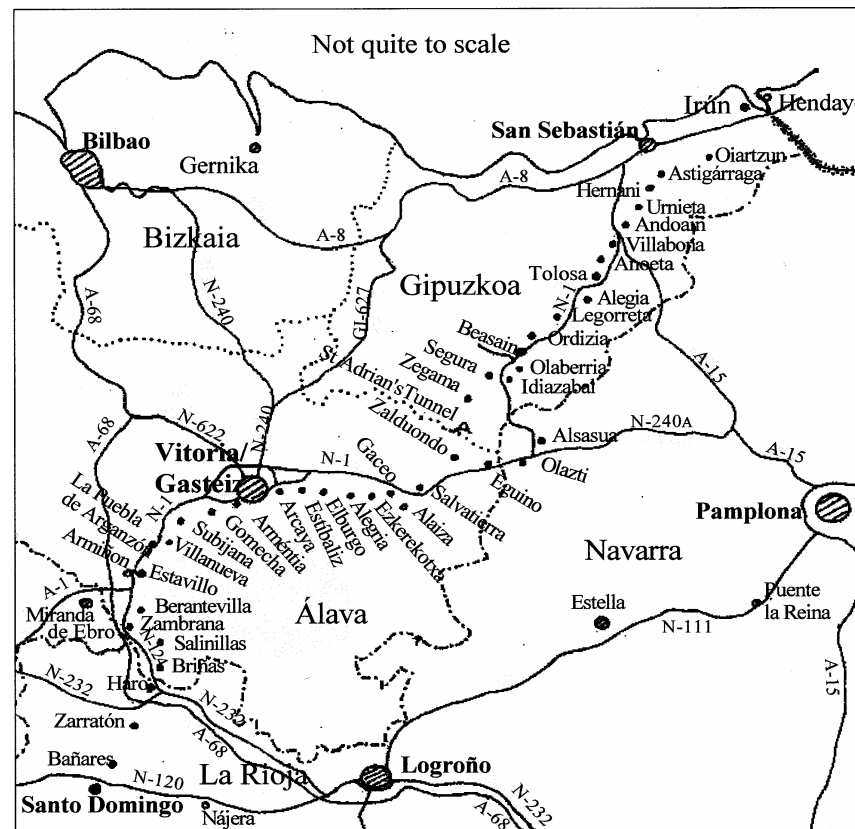
Tony Roberts, March 2009

### Contact for 'Los Caminos del Norte'

For information on other booklets in the 'Los Caminos del Norte' Series, contact Eric Walker on Tel 01274 562559.

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### LOCATION MAP



(© C.A Roberts, January 2002)

The Tunnel Route, approx 200kms long, starts in Irún, a border town in the NE corner of the Basque province of Gipuzkoa. It winds over wooded hills to Hernani and Urnieta before following the narrow, high-sided but commercialised valley of the Rio Oria to Beasain. From here, it becomes more and more rural as it passes via the ancient towns of Segura and Cegama. It continues through woods up to and beyond St Adrian's Tunnel, and descends to the flatter fields of Alava Province before tracing its way along the *Camino de los Romanos* towards Vitoria. The route continues SSW from Vitoria, along rural roads and tracks, through undulating and, sometimes, steeply hilly countryside to the Rioja vineyards and the Ebro valley around Briñas, Haro and beyond, before joining the *Camino Francés* in Santo Domingo.

INTRODUCTION

IGN www.sigpac.mapa.es/fega/visor can be navigated to inspect maps at 1:25000 scale.

Mapas Militares Serie L, 1:50,000 Sheet Nos. 21-8: 21-9: 21-10:22-7 : 22-8: 22-9: 23-6: 23-7: 24-4:24-5 : 24-6, 24-7, 25-4 and 25-5.

Military maps are available from: The Map Shop, 15 High Street, Upton-on- Severn, Worcestershire, WR8 0HJ Tel. 01684 593146 Fax. 01684 594559

A debt of gratitude is also owed to Linda (Almeria University), Maria Teresa (Lizargarate), José Ignacio (El Portal de la Rioja), various officers of the Spanish Municipal Police, Tourist Office assistants and all those other nameless people who have assisted with direct contribution to or feedback on this guide. Nor must I forget my friends, Manu and Sorkunde, who helped me to compile the Glossary below.

GLOSSARY OF BASQUE WORDS:

Table with 2 columns: English/Context and Basque. Rows include: Basque lands (Navarre + three Fr provinces) Euskal Herria; I'm sorry; I do not understand Euskera Barkátu, ez dut Euskéraz ulértzen; Pardon / excuse me Barkatu; Hello (Kaixo (polite), (Áupa or Épa (familiar)); Goodbye Agúr; See you later Geroárte; Until we meet again Uréngoárte; Please Mesédez; (No)Thank you (Ez) Eskérrrik ásko; Yes Bai; No Ez; How are you? Zer modúz; Very well thank you. And you? Óndo or Óngi. Éta zu?; Good morning / afternoon Egunón; And to you. Alan ekárri

General comment

It is noted, particularly between Irun and Tolosa, that two sets of waymarking exist. One appears to be the 'informal' set of painted yellow arrows and/or blobs provided by the Association of Friends of the Camino, while the other is a 'formal' set of wooden wayside markers, wooden finger posts and round metallic plates provided fairly recently by the Local Authority. The two sets are usually coincident, but there are places where they are at variance. It will be up to the individual to decide which route to follow, but it does appear that the 'formal' route is designed to take pilgrims along paths which might in some cases be longer but less rigorous and safer in terms of difficulty of terrain and/or separation from traffic.

Currently, there is on-going large scale redevelopment to the east and southwest of Vitoria, a City which does not, for whatever reason, provide waymarking through its streets. I have attempted to describe two routes through or around the City and hope that my descriptions will help the traveller navigate his/her way past any 'difficult' sections.

This guide will be out of date by the time it is published, and the authors and publishers accept no liability for any information found to be incorrect at the time of its use. The accuracy of any guide relies primarily upon feedback from those who have used it. Any additional information, and/or details of any appropriate amendment or correction, which would enable this guide to be kept up to date, would be appreciated. This can be achieved by contacting either The Confraternity or Tony Roberts (see contact details on P56).

Note for walkers

Waymarking is generally good with the exception of the passage through and around Vitoria. However some markers may be difficult to spot so a watchful eye must be kept at all times. Two pairs of eyes are always better than one.

Note for cyclists

Some sections of this Route are not suitable for cyclists. Included in this guide is a Section for Cyclists containing suggested possible alternative routes.

Note on place names and maps

Where they are known, both the Basque (B) and the equivalent Castilian (C) place names are given. The name believed to be in more common use, is given first, and its equivalent is given, in brackets, second.

## ALTERNATIVE CYCLISTS' ROUTE FROM VITORIA TO BERANTEVILLA

From the City Centre, follow the **Paseos Florida, Senda and Fray Francisco** as far as the junction with **Portal de Lasarte** and **Elvira Zulueta**. Turn left down **Portal de Lasarte**, keep straight on at all intersections and follow the A-3102 towards **Lasarte**.

When and if it becomes possible to use the route via **Arcaya**, and the new the **Paseo**, you should turn left along the A-3102 road to **Lasarte** when you reach **Portal de Lasarte**.

Keeping straight on at all intersections, go on through **Berrosteguieta** and up through the **Montes de Vitoria**, where **Wellington** deployed his troops in the battle of **Vitoria**. You pass **Doroño** (on your left) after descending from the **Montes**, and you come to a junction with a road going off to the right.

(The road to the right is a less used road and climbs up to and follows the crest of the hill as it passes through the tiny hamlets of **Golernio, Busto de Treviño** and **Cucho** on its way to the roundabout at its junction with the BU-744.)

The road straight on (now the BU-742) winds along the valley floor to meet the BU-741 in the vicinity of **Treviño**, a hillside village with at least two bars. If you do not want to access **Treviño** on your left, turn right along the BU-741 towards **La Puebla**. After about 2km, you will reach a roundabout. Here, you turn left along the BU-744 (later to become the A-3122 / L-121) to

**Berantevilla** **29.0km**

## CYCLISTS' ROUTE from HARO to HERRAMÉLLURI

This links up with the cycling route from **Santo Domingo** to **Burgos**, which is described on Page12(?) of the Confraternity of **St James'** booklet, 'The Cycling Pilgrim on the Camino Francés'. While following this route would mean missing out **Santo Domingo**, it avoids much of the climbing through the **Montes de Oca**, but still visits **San Juan de Ortega**.

### Haro

From the **Plaza Castañares de Rioja** take the **Avenida Sto Domingo** (to the right of the Bullring), and follow this road (**L-111**) to

**Casalarreina**, **6.0km**

At the cross roads in **Casalarreina** go west along the **N-232** to

**Tirgo**, **3.5km**

Do not swing right with the N-232 in the centre of the town, but go straight on along the **LR-201** and follow this road through **Cuzcurruta del Rio Tirón** and **Ochánduri** to reach the small town of

**Herramélluri**, **2.7km**

## ACCOMMODATION LIST

### General guide to abbreviations

H*	Hotel, one star
HR*	Hotel Residencia, one star (No restaurant)
HS*/HS**	Hostal one / two star
HSR*/HSR**	Hostal Residencia, one / two star (No restaurant)
R/H	Restaurant/Hostal
F/P	Fonda / Pension
A/T	Agroturismo (Nekazalturismo), (Farm / Guesthouse)
C/R	Casas Rurales, (Country Homes)
Alb Mun	Albergue Municipal (Municipal Hostel)
Ref.	Refugio de Peregrinos (Pilgrim Refuge)

### Approximate prices in January / February 2009

€	
H**/**	55/90 per dbl rm per nt
HR/HSR**	40/60 p.d.r.p.n.
H*, P and F	35/50 p.d.r.p.n.
P and F	30/45 p.d.r.p.n.
A/T )	35/60 p.d.r.p.n.
C/R )	

Inc IVA With bathroom  
Inc IVA With bathroom  
Inc IVA With bathroom  
Inc IVA Share bathroom  
Exc IVA With bathroom

Differential high/low season rates may apply. "High season" can vary, but is normally from approximately 1 May to 8 September, but sometimes only from 1 July to 31 August.

Some establishments may be prepared to allow pilgrims some reduction in the room charge. It will not hurt to make a polite enquiry.

Even though brochures might indicate that some A/Ts and C/Rs do not provide breakfasts and evening meals, it is always worthwhile asking about their availability. Efforts are sometimes made to help those on foot, who are "passing through". Use of a kitchen is also a possibility.

### Albergues (Aterpeak)

While these exist in several towns, they were not provided primarily for the use of pilgrims. They are akin to the English Youth Hostel and are often prebooked for parties of children on organised activity outings. You are advised to telephone, prior to the day of arrival, to explain your situation as a Santiago pilgrim and, hopefully, attempts will be made to find accommodation for you.

**Elburgo** 3.0km  
and, perhaps, make the recommended detour to

**Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Estíbaliz** 2.5km  
before continuing on to

**Argandoña** and 1.1km  
**Ascarza.** 2.7km

It is recommended that, from Ascarza, you continue along the A-132, turn left along the N-104 at Elorriaga and follow it over a roundabout along Portal de Elorriaga, Avda de Santiago and Portal del Rey into the City centre.

To avoid the City Centre, proceed as above along Portal de Elorriaga, but turn left at its junction with Bulevar de Salburua. Follow this, around a roundabout and under the railway, to the elongated roundabout referred to in the Walkers' section. Go to its bottom end and turn right along Venta de la Estrella.

**Vitoria-Gasteiz.** 5.5km  
Follow the walkers' City Centre route out of the City.  
(For alternative route from Portal De Lasarte to Berantevilla, see later).

**Armentia** (from the Centre) 3.5km  
Here, if the new Paseo del Peregrino is open, you should follow it and go straight over the roundabout at its end to join the A-4163 to Gomecha. If it is not, turn right along Camino de Armentia, go down to the dual carriageway which is the N-102, turn left along it and go as far as the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout where you turn left then immediately right to rejoin the walkers' route to

**Gomecha** to 2.6km  
**Subijana de Alava.** 4.5km

The N-1 has to be used (see walkers' guide).

**La Puebla de Arganzón.** 9.5km  
Follow the walkers' route onto the N-1 south but continue beyond the turn for Pangua etc and on to the next roundabout (near a service station).  
Turn left for Burgueta. It is just beyond the bridge under the new A-1 that you rejoin, once again, the walkers' route.

**Burgueta.** 3.6km  
This section is passable in dry weather, but a little pushing may be involved.  
Follow the track for the 2km (approx.) to the 6-way crossroads.  
Instead of taking the walking route down the *Camino de los Peregrinos*, you can take the better surfaced road, to its left, which will veer left (east) before it swings west again to enter the top of

**Estavillo** (Estanillo(C), Estabelu (B)). 3km  
Refer now, to the Walkers' Route (P41/42), which will guide you to

**Berantevilla.** 5.5km  
Out of the village, do not turn left towards the cemetery but continue straight ahead for about 1.75km to the main road, where you turn left along the **N-124** and head south to

**Beasain**

H**	Igartza, Oriamendi Kalea, 41A	943 085240
H*	Salbatore, Barrio Salbatore	943 888307
A/T	Lizargarate, 20210 Lazkao (3km off route)	943 881974

**Olaberria**

H**	Zezipione, Herriko Plaza, Olaberria	943 885829
A/T	Borda, Errekalde (4.5km off road route, and 1.5km off scenic route)	943 160681

**Idiazabal**

R/H	Zepai Jatetxea, 20213, Idiazabal	(943 187723 943 187198)
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**Segura**

A/T	Ondarre Baserria, 20214 Segura	943 801664
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**Zegama**

HS*	Ostatu Jatetxea, Zegama 943	801051
A/T	Arrieta Haundi (Transport from and to Zegama by arrangement)	943 801890
C/R	Dinti Barrera	943 421958

**St Adrian's Tunnel**

	Alb. Municipal.	943 582076
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**Salvatierra**

CH	Jose Mari, C / Mayor 73	945 300042
CH	Merino, Pza de San Juan, 3	945 300052
	Albergue de las Claretianos	945 300214
	Albergue de las Clarisas	945 300062

**Alegria-Dulantzi**

P**	Poker, Fortaleza 9,	(945 420328 656 790643)
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**Santuario de Estíbaliz**

	Refuge	(945 250510 945 293088)
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**Vitoria/Gasteiz**

H**	Dato C/Eduardo Dato 28	945 147230
H/S**	Florida, Manuel Iradier, 33.	945 260675
H/R*	Amarica, C/ Florida, 11.	945 130506
H/R*	Achuri, Rioja, 11.	945 255800
P**	Araba, C/ Florida, 25.	945 232588

**Subijana**

H***	Ruta de Europa, (1.7km off route on N-1)	945 361416
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the crossroads in Ugaldetxo and up to join a road, which, by turning left along it, will lead you through the hills to

**Astigárraga.** **8.5km**

Here, you join the road from San Sebastián, after which you can **either** follow the walkers' route into Hernani over the 'new' Rio Urumea bridge, **or** follow the route via Portu Auzoa/ El Puerto to bypass Hernani centre.

**Hernani.** **3.25km**

At the roundabout at the top of the hill after crossing the railway bridge, turn left to access the Plaza Mayor. With care, you can follow the walkers' informal route from the Plaza Mayor to the railway bridge at

**Urnietta.** (via El Puerto) **2.5km**

(via Hernani centre) **3.5km**

Do not cross the bridge, but continue straight on, keeping the railway on your right. Follow the road in front of the Kaiko works round the 'U' bend to the right to cross over the railway tunnel and access the walkers' route. Follow it up to the commercial premises, and continue on down to the GI-131, i.e. do not turn left by the vehicle yard. Turn left along the GI-131, and then left again to access the Industrial Estate service road.

It is thought not impossible to follow the waymarked walkers' route from here all the way via

**Andoain,** **4.0km**

**Villabona and** **5.5km**

**Anoeta to** **4.0km**

**Tolosa.** **2.8km**

Follow Calle Gorosabel and Avenida de Araba out along the old N-1 to Venta Aundi. Not long after, the road swings left under the new N-1. Turn right after the bridge to follow the new cycle/pedestrian piste to

**Alegia/Alegria de Oria,** **4.75km**

**Legorreta,** **5.75km**

**Ordizia,** **5.0km**

**Beasain and** **2.5km**

**Segura to** **7.0km**

**Zegama.** **5.1km**

The GI-2637 continues from the Church in the town centre to start its long climb towards the head of the valley.

Shortly the lane leading to the tunnel of San Adrián climbs off to the right to start its journey over the Sierra de Urquilla, but unfortunately you will have to stay with the road.

Your route, however, is very well graded and, although the incline is long, it makes for very pleasant riding through the trees. In addition, there are some quite exceptional views, especially that from a large rocky pinnacle, which is on the left of the road as you approach the top of the pass, otherwise known as the

Before reaching the Spanish town of Irún, pilgrims had the problem of crossing over the wide Río Bidasoa, which forms the border between France and Spain at this point.

On the banks of the Bidasoa in Hendaye was situated the Monastery or Priory of Zubernoá (Subernoá-(C)). This not only provided a pilgrim hospital, the Priory-Hospital of Santiago (Note--Santiago **not** Saint Jacques although still in France), but also, as was recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a boat service, which crossed the river to arrive at the old Roman port area (the *barrio de Santiago*) of Irún. Later, a wooden bridge built by the Prior crossed the main channel of the river to one of the *joncaux*, or large, low-lying, reed covered islands which were formed in the river. The pilgrims were then able to make their way across the adjoining *joncaux* to reach the opposite bank.

Present day pilgrims can just about follow the route early pilgrims took through Hendaye, by leaving **Orio** via the **Rue d'Orio** to reach the **Boulevard de l'Empereur**. Turn left to follow this boulevard, pass near **Errondenia** (which is to the left), and later **Chourionia** (which lies to the right). Here, continue straight forward along the **Rue des Réservoirs** to the crossroads, where the road to the right, the **Rue de Irandatz**, is followed to the next major road junction. At this junction the **Rue de Santiago** should be taken. This is followed until, nearer the river, the **Rue Priorenia** can be found leading down to the river itself.

The name Priorenia is our clue to the sites of the former Priory of Subernoá's Hospital de Santiago and the church of St Jacques de Zubernoá, which were destroyed by the Spanish Invasion under General Ventura Caro in 1793. The one remaining relic from the church is the baptismal font, which today is sited in the Parish Church of St Vincent in the centre of Hendaye.

In 1801 the lands were bought on behalf of Etienne Pellot, a notorious corsair who had the large house, the Priorenia, built there for his eventual retirement.

In 1813, when the area was under the occupation of the British, the Duke of Wellington visited the house, the war damage to which, by then, had been repaired by, and at the expense of the British. Today, very little remains of it.

## THE WALKERS' ROUTE

Normal script.....Waymarked Routes

*Italic script.....Alternative Routes*

From the Hendaye Ville railway station, it is possible to use the Eusko Tren to get to Paseo de Colón (Columbus Paseo), but if you follow the road through the Border Crossing Control, then cross the International Bridge (Puente de Santiago) and pass in front of the parade of shops, you will spot the first formal

**Haro. 3.75km**

All facilities available including Pilgrim Refuge.

From the Plaza de la Paz, take the **Calle Arregal** to the **Plaza de la Cruz**. From here, follow **Calle la Ventilla** to **Plaza Castañares de Rioja**. Out of this Square lead the Avenida Sto Domingo (to the right of the Bullring), and the **Avda San Millán** (to the left of the Bullring). It is this latter Avenue that you must take—it is the **N-203** to Zarratón (and to Santo Domingo).

Shortly, you will pass the Bodegas Paternina on your right and continue on to a bridge over a motorway. Having crossed it, turn immediately right and follow the farm road parallel to the motorway.

After about 325m, turn left to follow another track as it rises to the southwest. Eventually, having ignored all side turnings, you will reach the top of the ridge. You then pass under some HT wires and swing left (south), before crossing the Pancorbo to Haro/Logroño road (N-232). There is a pedestrian footbridge over to your right if you should need it.

The farm track continues south, and you can see Zarratón directly ahead of you. After 500m, the track turns right (west), and after a further 250m, left (south) down the stem of a T-junction, with Zarratón once again straight in front of you. Follow this track to its end, bear right and look on your left for a grassier, but rutted track in a shallow cutting. This will lead you down into the sometimes wet and muddy wash lands of the Rio Zamaca, before taking you up again to link with the road from Casalarreina, which will take you past the church and into

**Zarratón. 8.5km**

Bar / Restaurant, Shop, Fountains (one is incorporated into the Memorial to Maestro Pinedo).

Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

Where the road from Casalarreina joins the main street (N-203 from Haro), turn right and follow it for about 170m until it veers left at an open area with a central planting plot at the southwest end of the village. Cross this open area to its far right corner, and you will find a concrete road, which rises towards the fields behind it. It will lead you to a grassy track along an embankment, which rises on its right.

This track, which bypasses Cidamón and San Torcuato, passes a farmhouse known as Madrid, (beware of dogs on the loose) and crosses a local road as it makes its way to rejoin the N-203 approximately 750m before

**Bañares. 6.0km**

Bar / Restaurants, Shops, Clinic, Fountain.

Two Churches of the Holy Cross (one 12<sup>th</sup> century and the other 16<sup>th</sup> century).

down the valley, ignore all lanes which lead off to left and right and continue along it as it winds up the valley. After having walked about 3.75kms in total, you will see a vehicle compound on your right and pass the point where the 'formal' route joins the road you are on.

After a double S-bend, you come to a point where the road makes a sharp bend to the right (north). Here, you will see straight ahead, a cement surfaced track.

Turn left off the road and follow the track up past a scrap yard on the left and past a farm on your right. On more level ground amongst trees at the top of the ensuing rise, go straight over a junction with other tracks, and then, as you continue forwards, you will get a clear view of Gurrutze and the route ahead.

A steep descent followed by a short but equally steep ascent brings you out at a roundabout opposite a convenient bar, and close to the Hotel at

**Gurrutze. 7.5 km**

Bar, Accommodation.

Turn left to follow the main (GI-2134) road for 50m, and then turn right to walk downhill on a local road. You swing left down to a track which follows a stream before veering left and rising to reach a cemented track. Keep following this track up and round to the left as others join you from the right. You will come to a wider local road. Turn right to follow it through the woods and past a left turn down to some houses. Just after this, take a left fork to descend steeply down San Juan Kalea (St John St), past several stone crosses, to its junction with the town centre bypass road on the northeast side of

**Oiartzun (Elizalde-(C)). 2.1 km**

Shops, Bars, Clinic, Buses, Accommodation.

Mentioned by Pliny. Roman mines. Pre-Christian burial mounds and cromlechs can be found in the area.

On the opposite right hand corner of the crossroads you have just reached is the emblazoned *Casa de Cultura*, formerly the Hospital of St John, in which there is a Tourist Information Office, a Library and a Museum. You can obtain a sello from the Library on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

Continue down over the crossroads and past the Library and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Church of San Estéban beyond it (which has a 17th century altar) and behind which used to stand the Chapel of the Hospital of St John. A few metres more will bring you into the Plaza Mayor. Do not go left into the Plaza, but keep straight on and slightly right to find **Manuel Lekuona Etorbidea** (opposite a handy bar), which leads immediately left off the exit road at the South West corner of the Plaza. By ignoring all side turnings, this road will eventually take

From the centre of the village, take the L-121 (west) to rejoin the route, which emerges at the T-junction 300m west of the village. Continue W for a further 100m and find the road to the left, which leads to the cemetery.

*If you wish to visit the above-mentioned Ermitas, continue along the L-121 to its junction with the N-124, in the vicinity of which they are located. To rejoin the Way, go south (left) along the N-124 to Zambrana, turn into the village and find the church, which will guide you to the large rectangular water trough and the waymarked route described later.*

If not visiting the Ermitas, turn left towards the cemetery and follow the track to the right of the cemetery and up the hill to its rear. Turn right up a grassy lane, which continues to climb. Ignoring any paths which come in from the left, you contour the lower slopes of the ridge and gradually descend again towards cultivated fields, which the route borders for a while. It then veers steeply up the hill to the left, before turning right to pass along the lower edge of a rectangular stand of nut/fruit trees towards a tall electricity pylon. Turn left to walk up along the far side of the stand of trees to the ridge, where you will find a distinct track descending steeply towards

### **Zambrana.** **3.2 km**

One bar (no food) on main N-124. No accommodation. Bus stop.  
Parish Church of Santa Lucia with double arched portico in the old village centre.  
Sello in Church or, if closed, next door.

Entering the village, you will pass a new development with sports field on your right. Waymarks will guide you to the Church. When you reach the church on your right, continue forward to a junction near a large rectangular water trough / *abrevadero*. Here you will turn right then immediately left. Soon, the road continues as an agricultural road, which leads south from the southeast corner of the village. It crosses a secondary road before reaching the ruined **Venta de Molino**, shortly after which, it brings you out onto the N-124.

Turn left along the N-124 and follow it through a shallow defile, and past some disused quarry buildings / plant, which are near Km post 34. About 250m further on, take the track off to the left. (If you reach a petrol station with bar / restaurant facilities, you have gone about 300m too far.) The track climbs gently round to the left over the lower slopes of Monte Cabrera until it swings to the right to bring you to a *lavadero* at the end of a road on your right, which gives access to the East Gate of

At the pylon, I turned right then right again to make my way down past the distribution post to a water meter housing, 30m further on, at a crossing in the path system. Here I took the path to the left, which led me across a small stream just before a wooded track along which I turned right. After about 60m, the track bore left down a steep narrower trail which had been gouged out by flows of water. This led down into the valley and across a larger stream to a T-junction. (*It is probable that a 'formal' route has been signed to avoid this possibly treacherous descent.*) I turned right along the valley, and followed the track alongside the stream, without deviation, to where a 'formal' marker pointed me off to the right. This was the start of the climb up to the bar/restaurant (closed on Wednesdays) about 100m before reaching the Ventas to Astigárraga road in

### **Frantzesillaga.** **8.0 km** Bar / Restaurant and Bar.

Turn right along this road and after a few metres you will see an open area on your left accommodating a *Probadero* (a cobbled area c.23m long x 6m wide, where the strength of pairs of bulls is tested in a form of time trial, by having them drag a large, extremely heavy piece of rock over the cobbles). Turn left here and follow the well-defined track to merge with another track coming from your left. This track leads you to a farmhouse, just beyond which is a crossroads. Your route is the road going to the right. The road swings left as it passes a track going off to the right (which you ignore) and then reaches an entrance to a seemingly disused compound on your left. As you reach this entrance, you will see ahead of you, an earth trail. Follow it up and around the hill until it emerges onto a concrete road. Turn right along it for about 75m and take the left fork up to a T-junction 15m ahead of you.

At the T-junction you will see a stony path rising directly opposite you. Follow this up the hill to a circular car park/turning area. To the right of this as you approach it, is a track, which leads you to the summit of **Santiagomendi**, where is situated the Ermita de Santiago. (A pity the key is kept 2km away). However, on a good day, you can delight in the splendid panorama and the picnic benches available here. (There is a tap with, reputedly, drinking water on the approach to the Ermita on the corner of a small building).

Follow the tarmacked road down from the summit past the entrance to the first parking area and past the end of Ermita Bidea. Immediately after this, turn left to follow the waymarked road serving the radio repeater station, the house and two disused cottages above you. Having passed the two cottages, the road peters out into an earth track, which forks left up to the radio station, and right along the route you must take. Follow this track for about 250m to come to where you are 'formally' directed to the right and along a narrow grass path, which swings

Town Hall 1 or 2 days in advance (between 0900 and 1400) if you want to use the Casa del Peregrino. Collect sello and keys for C del P from TH.

It was a walled town in the middle ages. The Parish Church of the Assumption in C/de Santiago was originally fortified and has a gothic entrance.

The old bridge over the Arganzón is worth seeing.

Near the exit of the town is the Ermita de Nuestra Señora de la Antigua with massive columns in the apse and a pointed arched tower. The former Hospital of San Juan Evangelista forms part of the same building.

From the parish church, go south past the sports hall, past the Ermita de Nuestra Señora to the next crossroad, where there is a bus stop on the near left corner. Here you will turn left and go up over the railway. While at the upper level, you will see slip roads left and right, up from and down to the now little used southbound carriageway of the N-1. Take the right hand slip road, which is signposted to Burgueta, and follow the N-1 south for approx 1.5kms. The marked Way will then take you left towards Pangua, San Formerío and San Estéban and under the motorway. Immediately after the motorway, you will turn right and walk parallel to it for 1.0km before reaching a T-junction. There is a service station and bar/restaurant to the right via a bridge under the motorway, but your way is marked to the left. This road will lead you eastwards to

#### **Burgueta.**

**4.2 km**

Sello available in the Community Centre opposite the Church

Fountain and water trough near the swimming pool, where, reportedly, you can find a telephone.

Parish Church of San Martín, (altered over the years), with 13th century portico, a tower with three arched openings and a cobbled ichtys in front of the portico.

On entering the village, follow the hairpin road round to the left to access the church and the main square with the water troughs at a crossroads. Turn right at this crossroads to take the road going SW. This will lead you down to the new residential area (San Andrés), where you will go straight across a crossroads.

If there has been no further development in the interim, the metalled road ahead will finish abruptly after 30m or so, and revert to its original status as an agricultural road. This you will follow for about 2km until you come to a 6-way crossing. The main track going 2<sup>nd</sup> left becomes metalled and is recommended if you want to visit the bar/restaurant (open every day except Mondays) at the top of the village. The track straight ahead goes to an aircraft radio beacon. The waymarked track is the one going 3<sup>rd</sup> left downhill towards 10 o'clock. This is part of the old “*Camino de los Peregrinos*,” a now improved track, which winds down to the lower end of

#### **Here you can EITHER:**

*bypass Hernani by turning left at this crossroads to follow a road parallel to the river on the left, through the barrio known as El Puerto (so called, because it was the highest point to which the river was once navigable).*

*Follow this road for about 500m, after which, you will see on your right, just before you cross a small bridge over a stream, the house, Lonja, standing on what is a large triangular traffic island. Immediately over the bridge, a ‘formal’ marker directs you right alongside the stream.*

*It is only a short road and at its end on the left, just before the last house, is a narrow access to a paved single track road running parallel to the railway. After following this road for about 500m, you will reach the spot, where you are joined by the ‘informal’ route from Hernani town centre as it emerges alongside a stream from under the railway bridge on your right.*

#### **OR:**

**go into the town** by going straight on to Hernani Railway Station via the service road accessing the apartment blocks. Your route takes you under the railway, to the left and then to the right up a multi-flight of steps, across a road, through an arch and along an alley into the old part of the town, where a yellow arrow sends you (left) up one of the narrow streets into the Plaza Mayor of

#### **Hernani.**

**8.5 km**

Railway, Buses, Shops, Banks, Bars, Restaurants, Accommodation, Police Station for advice and sello, Chemist.

From the Plaza Mayor, go through the archway at its southeast corner and make your choice.

You can **EITHER** follow the ‘formal’ waymarks down the flights of steps to the left to a road which will take you under the railway and on to the bridge over the stream in **Portu Auzoa/El Puerto** (see above),

**OR** follow the ‘informal’ waymarks straight along the road for about 400m until you come to a road turning off left between a standing for refuse bins and a small park. Go left up the steps and path parallel and to the right of this side road, (or follow the access road if cycling). Follow the path round to the right at the top of the park and, at its end, having rejoined the side road, immediately take the left fork. After passing the cemetery on your right, the road descends to a T-junction where you turn right. Continue downhill and turn left to go under the dual carriageway bypass. Continue forward and turn left immediately after crossing the first bridge you come to over a stream. Follow the stream under a

Eskibel and Gomecha roads (A-4163) from here, continue along the N-102. Shortly afterwards on the left, you might be able to access the **dog pound**. If you can, go through the compound to access the A-4163 at its junction with the A-4101 for Eskibel. Here and to your left, you will notice the continuation of the proposed Paseo del Peregrino, but you will turn right to follow the A-4163 past a **shooting range**, a **roundabout** on the N-102 and a **bar/restaurant** alongside a **service station**.

If you cannot access the dog pound, continue along the N-102 to the next **roundabout**, where you can turn left then right along the A-4163 and go past the **bar** and **service station** before reaching

<b>Gomecha (Gometxa (B)).</b>	<b>Via N-102</b>	<b>3.0 km</b>
	<b>Via Paseo del Peregrino</b>	<b>2.6 km</b>

No facilities.

Parish Church of the Transfiguration. Some consoles and the base of the font remain from the medieval building.

There used to be a hermitage dedicated to Santiago.

Turn right by the church along a track which heads SW. After about 2.25km, you will come to the road from Ariñez (situated away to your right on the N-1). Cross this secondary road and continue along the track to arrive at a water trough a few metres away from a low stone wall on the other side of the road on the eastern edge of

<b>Subijana (Subillana (C)) de Álava.</b>	<b>4.5km</b>
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No facilities, but if you want to use the Hotel Ruta de Europa, it is situated 1.7km down the road to the new A-1.

Parish Church of San Estéban (16<sup>th</sup> century), with tower separate from church. The Casa-Palacio, the 1710 birthplace of Simón de Anda, who earned his fame in Spanish history by defeating the English fleet in the Philippines before becoming Captain General of the Islands.

In the past, two routes out of Subijana were waymarked, but now, only the hill route is marked due to the construction of Autovia A-1 which has resulted in the closure of a length of the former N-1. However, a local farmer described a route along the valley by which walkers and cyclists could get to La Puebla. Since the hill route is impassable by cyclists, I will describe them both.

***The valley route.***

*Turn right at the stone wall and go down the hill towards the church. Turn left at the end of the wedge-shaped play area to pass to the right of the church.*

two roads off to the right to Aduna. (where you can turn right if you intend to stay at the A/T in Aduna). After about 1km more, you will arrive at a T-junction. Here at the northern end of the Aduna Bridge go right to access the rest / picnic area. The Way lies along the road around the rest area taking you directly into the centre of

<b>Villabona.</b>	<b>5.3 km</b>
Bars, Restaurants, Shops, Railway Station, Health Centre.	

On reaching a T-junction with roundabout in the centre of the town, you will see a bar opposite, and, diagonally left, a church with clock and bell tower. Follow the road under the railway bridge to the left of the church, cross a secondary watercourse, and you will come to the main bridge over the River Oría itself. Do not cross the river, but turn right along a neighbourhood road / walkway parallel to it, and through the suburb of Ubera. (There is a bar on the right along here). Continue on past a children's play area on your left, and join the road, which comes over the river from your left. It swings left to take you straight ahead, and parallel to the railway lines on your right.

Eventually, after about 2km, this road will take you over a level crossing and become narrower. Continue to follow it. It passes back under the railway and runs not far from the river before turning right under a brick railway arch. Almost immediately you come to an urban thoroughfare. Here, you turn left and follow the road up the hill to join San Juan Kale, which you follow left into the centre of

<b>Anoeta.</b>	<b>4.0 km</b>
Bars, Restaurants, Buses, Railway Station, Shops,	

Just after a bar on your right and a restaurant on your left, you reach a bridge over the railway. Don't cross it, but take the road to Hernialde to the right. Follow this for about 500m before turning left to pass under a low bridge under the railway. Turn right along the now only moderately used former main road and follow it parallel to the Oría to

<b>Tolosa.</b>	<b>3.0 km</b>
Café / bars, Restaurants, Accommodation, Railway Station, Buses, Shops, Town Hall and Police Station for sello, Chemist.	

When you reach the bridge over the R Oría, carry straight on over the small Plaza de Filipe Gorriti and follow the street furthest left – Emperadore – to the Church of Santiago in Plaza Andre Maria. Continue on down Emperadore to the River but do not cross the bridge. Turn to the right of the covered market along

It is the principal town of the province of Álava (Áraba(C)) and also the seat of administration of the whole of the Basque Autonomous Region (Alava, Viscaya, Guipuzcoa and parts of Navarra). This is in spite of the fact that there are fewer speakers of the Basque language in Álava than in the other regions.

The Tourist Information Office is in Plaza de General Loma at the junction of Paseo de la Florida and C/ San Antonio (i next to building No22 on the map).

Sellos are obtainable from the Old Cathedral of St Mary, the Town Hall and the Tourist Information Office. It should also be possible to get one from any of the other churches in the city.

Leave the **Plaza de la Virgen Blanca** (Also known as La Plaza Vieja) by its southwest exit along the **Paseo de la Florida**, passing the park of the same name, which is on your right. This becomes the **Paseo de la Senda** before passing under the railway. Immediately after the bridge, fork right along the **Paseo Fray Francisco de Vitoria** passing the **Museo de Armeria** and keep straight on to go past the **Parque del Prado**, which is also on your right. When the **Capilla de la Sagrada Familia** is reached, the avenue bends to the left and becomes the **Paseo de Cervantes**. Follow this past the **Sports Stadium** on your left and eventually veer right into the **Avenida San Prudencio**, at the start of which you will spot a waymark. About 250m after passing over a bridge over a road below you, you will link up with the route through the outskirts, which joins you from your left, just before **Calle Uleta**, which goes left at a crossroad.

## 2) The Route via the outskirts.

In the absence of the proposed walk/cycle way straight ahead, turn left along the dual carriageway and follow it to what can only be described as a very large elongated roundabout. It is at the junction with this roundabout that the proposed walk/cycleway is proposed to debouch. Straight ahead, over the end of the roundabout, you will see and follow **Calle Venta de la Estrella** up to and around a small roundabout. Continue along Calle Venta d/l Estrella by means of the footpath on its left to another larger and more complicated roundabout. Here, you will find yourself under a pylon.

Straight ahead of you, you will see a continuous set of three zebra crossings and you will notice a cycle facility incorporated with them. Follow the crossings and you will see the cycleway and a pedestrian walkway entering a wooded Parkway.

This is the start of a Paseo, with shops and bars situated one or two streets over to the right of it. By following the Paseo and by keeping straight ahead at all junctions and crossings you will ultimately reach the Avenida San Prudencio immediately below a crossroad, where, going left is

a narrower street past the Police Station in the town centre. Keep following this road. It will lead you along the west bank of the Oria, and into the centre of

**Beasain.** **2.5 km**  
Shops, Café / bars, Restaurants, Railway Station, Town Hall / Police Station for sello and assistance. Accommodation, Post Office, Chemist.

From Beasain to Segura, you have a choice of routes.

## 1) The Scenic Route via Olaberria and Idiazabal (Not suitable for cyclists)

Having entered Beasain along Kale Nagusia and gone as far as the Police Station in the Market Hall arcade, which is on your right under a bandstand, turn left opposite the far end of the arcade and go down the pedestrian precinct and across the river bridge. You will then be at a road junction, where the GI-120 road leads off (opposite you) to Lazkao via an underpass under the railway and the N-1. Follow this road to the far end of the underpass, and turn right up the slip road to the N-1 for San Sebastián.

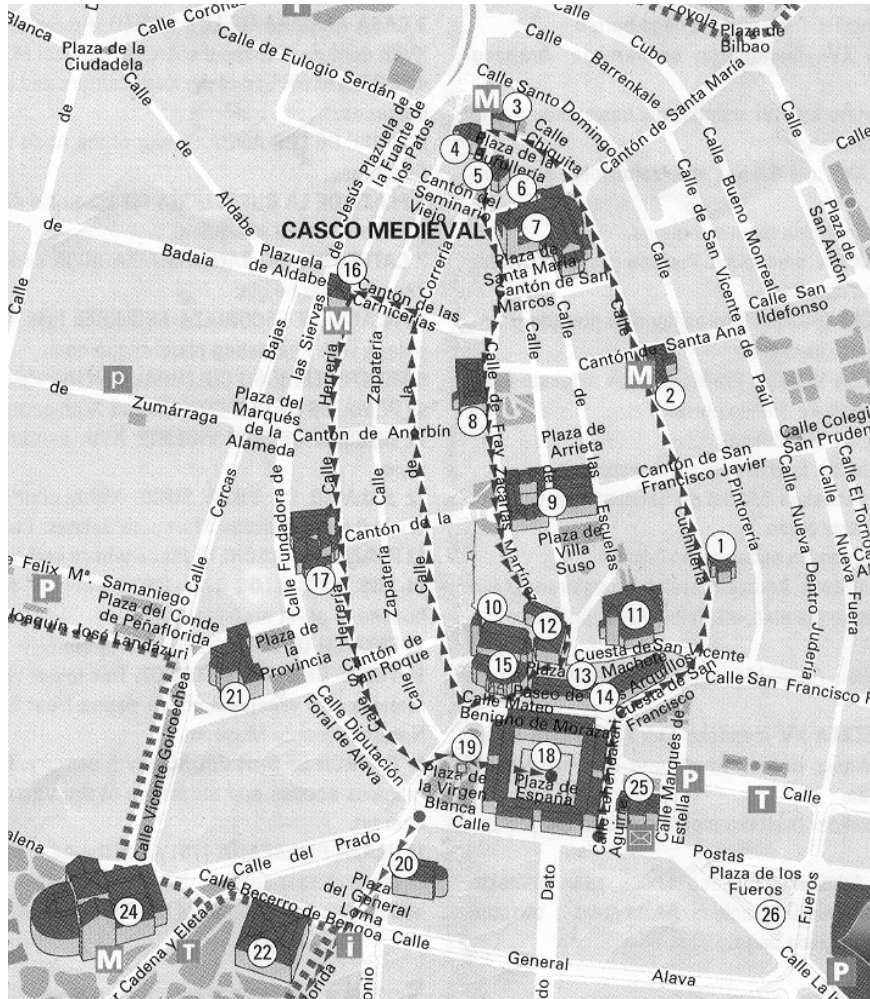
After a few metres you will turn left up a road signed to I.E.Institutoa and waymarked with white and yellow flashes and a red cyclist, which denotes a “sporting” route for unladen mountain bikes.

The road soon changes to a narrow concrete track and swings to the left as it climbs towards a farm on the left. On the right just before the farm, is a gate marked “Camino Particular” with the yellow and white blazes of the local trail on its right hand post. Pass through the gate, and climb the zigzag road to the top of the ridge. From the large house on your right, the route continues straight ahead, but now along a gravel track and its earth track extension. Follow this without deviation to where it veers right away from the woods and meets a distinct rural road. Turn hard left along it and keep straight on in front of Caserio Garitain, when its access drive forks to the right. Once past the Caserio, a tarmacked surface will take you directly to the Plaza Mayor in

**Olaberria.** **3.0 km**  
Hotel / Restaurant / Bars, Fountain, 17<sup>th</sup> century Church of San Juan Bautista.

Turn right between the hotel and the Church and follow the S-bend down to a roundabout. Here, the waymarked route goes right and follows the road downhill for about 500m before branching off left up into the fields and leading you thence to an Information Board in **Oyarbide**. However, the more direct route is to cross straight over the roundabout and take the fairly narrow road, which leads off between a house on the left and a larger bar/restaurant on the right. Take the left at the next fork, and you will soon be following a still narrower

## The Old City, Vitoria-Gasteiz



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## 2) The Direct Road Route from Beasain to Segura.

Having entered Beasain along Kale Nagusia and gone as far as the Police Station in the Market Hall arcade, which is on your right under a bandstand, carry straight on to the railway station. Continuing forward, you pass a 15th century Manor House / Museum (Palacio de Igartza), which is on the other side of the river on your left. Going straight on at all junctions, you go under a high viaduct and again straight on past the **Hotel Castillo in Iurre**.

Shortly after this, you pass some factory / workshops on your left, and see a road ahead of you, ramping upwards and swinging left to cross the N-1. This is your route. Cross the bridge and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> turning on the right, which is the service road fronting the commercial centre, which includes the Carrefour and Lidl supermarkets.

Follow this service road, which runs parallel to the N-1, to its end. You come to a roundabout feeding the N-1 where you will see a road going off to Idiazabal, which you follow. After about 500m, you reach another roundabout, (small bar on far side) from where you take the GI-2637 tourist route soon to pass under the N-1. The waymarked route passes the Ermita of the Holy Cross as it enters

## Segura

(from Idiazabal) **3.75 km**  
(by road from Beasain) **7.4 km**

Shops, Café / Bars, Tourist Office in Town Hall with very helpful staff and sello, Accommodation.

This interesting walled town was founded in 1256 on the orders of Alphonso X, King of Castile, as part of his defensive strategy.

The 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century Church of the Assumption (with bas-relief of Santiago Matamoros), the three Palaces (one of which is the present Town Hall), and the streets of the old town are now jointly designated as a National Monument to ensure the preservation of the town's medieval charm.

Continue up the main street, past the Plaza and follow the GI-2637 to

## Zegama.

**Alternative route to Zegama** for walkers who would prefer to take a slightly longer, but far more scenic route, to avoid 3.25 kms of busy road.

Please note, however;

- There is no waymarking on this route
- It is preferable to travel this route in at least pairs.

scallop shell, carved in a recess, to indicate the church's connection with the Way of St James.

From the church, take the signposted track across the fields to

**Argandoña. 1.2 km**

13th century Parish Church of Santa Columba, with semi-circular apse and a pointed arched doorway with four decorated columns.

Your route through the village brings you to the road, which comes from your right from Estíbaliz. Turn left along it, and follow it round to the right. A few metres further on, you will turn into the road going north to Zerio, and then go immediately left along a section of abandoned road for about 500m to its end. Here, the Way is indicated along the main Estella to Vitoria road, which has been running parallel to you on your left. Follow this road for about 2.0km to the 5-way junction at

**Venta de Askartza (Ascarza (C)). 2.7 km**

From here, take the road to Otazu, which is to the right of the road leading to the cemetery of San Salvadór. About 700m along this road is a right turn onto an agricultural road, which you will follow to the T-junction at its end, turn left and walk the remaining 300m into

**Arcaya. 2.0 km**  
Fountain.

As the village is approached, a left turn down the road to Otazu will bring you to the remains of some Roman baths near the village weighbridge.

The Parish Church of the Natividad de Nuestra Señora retains many romanesque elements as well as a great baroque altarpiece and a neo-classical tower.

Twin towered *Palacio* of the Barons of Arcaya.

Leave the village by the road, which goes SW initially. The Way crosses the Río Santo Tomás, and climbs a low ridge. At its crest, in October 2008, the way ahead was blocked, but by diverting into the field up on the right, not only could one see the large-scale development works which necessitated the block, but also a worn path down the slope. From the top, you can see a new single carriageway about 75m ahead and a new dual carriageway about 250m ahead.

It is proposed to provide a walk/cycleway down to and across the dual carriageway, but, for the meantime, make your way down to the

**Zegama (Cegama (C)).** (via alternative) 7.7 5km  
(via GI-2637) 5.4 km

Shops, Bars, Restaurants, Town Hall for sello, Accommodation, Chemist. Zegama is situated in the Goerri region of Gipuzkoa Province. Philip III declared it a town in 1615, but the French subsequently destroyed it in the Wars of Independence.

The 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> century Parish Church of St. Martin contains the mausoleum of General Carlista Tomas Zumalakárregi, and the 14<sup>th</sup> century Cross of the Ermita de Santa Cruz del Monte Aizkorri, which is thought to be the oldest cross in Gipuzkoa.

**Warning**

- Ideally, walkers should go in at least twos for this next section of the Way.
- There is about 8.5km of almost continuous climb from Zegama to the top of the pass, and there is an altitude difference of 800m. The severity of the climb is only marginally less than that of the mountain route out of St Jean Pied de Port
- The mountain pass ahead of you can be enshrouded in cloud. If you see it like this, you would be well advised to consider delaying your departure, or of investigating the logistics of an alternative route via the Puerto de Otzaurte. This is 6.5km further up the road after the turn-off for Iruetxeta, and approx. 5.5km from St Adrian's Tunnel via a well-marked and less arduous track.
- Would a taxi to the bar / restaurant at the Puerto be out of the question?

From the church, continue south along the GI-2637 road for about 1.5km and you will come to the right turn for the Apeadero de Zegama (railway halt). About 300m after this, you will see a narrow, concrete surfaced lane slanting up to the right, much adorned with yellow and other arrows, and signposted to **Iruetxeta**. Follow this lane, turning hard left at the next T-junction, and it will take you up through Iruetxeta, and past the Ermita de la Virgen de las Nieves. Do not be surprised to see the Ermita used for sundry other purposes of the adjoining caserío. Shortly after crossing the line of the railway tunnel, the lane reaches the caserío **Buenavista**. Here, the hard surface finishes. Your route turns left in front of the caserío, and then right immediately after it and up a hedge-lined earth track along the southeast edge of woodland.

After crossing a culverted watercourse, the track leads into an open area of scrub, where it continues over to the left up another track, which appears to be blocked by a fence / barrier a few metres further up. Negotiate this barrier and continue onwards and upwards through trees and bushes, until you pass between two stone pastoral huts, close on left and right hand.

Continue past the church to the central crossroads and turn left down towards the railway station. As you approach the railway, do not take the track over it, but turn right and follow the road parallel to it, with the station on your left. The route now takes you up and round the Alto de Chinchetru, through which the railway is tunnelled. However, when the road swings left over the tunnel, your route lies straight ahead along a gravel agricultural road (still parallel to the railway on your left). The track gradually drops until you reach the supports of a new bridge, which has replaced a level crossing. Here, you must turn right and continue forward, i.e. northwards, for about 200m (without crossing the bridge) before veering left in a roughly westerly direction to follow the *Camino de los Romanos*. This you follow without deviation to the next main road you reach.

To continue your Way, you will have to cross this road by turning right at the T-junction in the agricultural road to access the main road, and then, by walking about 100m left towards Alegria. You will then see your route continuing off to the right along another agricultural road.

*If you wish, you can divert off the Camino at this point to access the full facilities (including accommodation) of Alegria-Dulantzi, (C-B) 1.5km away, and visit the Church of San Blas, which has romanesque elements. You can rejoin the Camino by walking 1.3km out of Alegria to the Ermita de Nuestra Señora de Ayala (see below).*

If you have decided not to go into Alegria from this point, turn right and follow the agricultural road, for about 1.5km, until you reach a local road, which leads (left) to Alegria and (right) to the immediately adjoining access road to the

#### **Ermita de Nuestra Señora de Ayala. 6.5 km**

Formerly, it was the parish church of the area before the latter became depopulated. It is a beautiful building of 13th century construction with a barrel-vaulted nave of three spans, and a semicircular apse with carved consoles, one of which bears scallop shells. Outside is an unusual portico with four arches, three pointed and one rounded.

To the rear of the Ermita is a picnic area with a drinking-water fountain.

From the hermitage return to the agricultural road along which you have just come, go 10m past it, and, if you have decided not to access Alegria from this point, turn right along another agricultural road to continue along the *Camino de los Romanos* and then bridge a stream to reach the **Ermita of San Juan de Arrarain**. (Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it has a semicircular apse and vaulted ceiling. Some of the columns are decorated with scallop shells. At one time it provided shelter for pilgrims). Continuing on, you cross the railway line, the River Alegria and the Vitoria road, to arrive at a *lavadero* at the entrance to

This trail leads down to a well-maintained forest road, which comes down from the right. Turn left and follow it as it zigzags down to the tarmaced road at

#### **Zumarraundi (Zamarraundi (B)). 3.0 km**

The tarmaced road was constructed to serve the oil drilling station, which once existed here. Now, the vacated site provides a large car parking area with compacted earth surface for the benefit of ramblers, picnickers, etc. but no water fountain however.

Your route follows this road to Zalduondo. In the process, it joins the Araya to Zalduondo road (where you turn right), passes through some open ground before going over a cattle grid and a crossroads (where you continue straight ahead), passes the turning you would take if you wanted to visit the Ermita de San Julian y Santa Basilisa (0.5km off route) and passes (on your right) a chapel and calvary.

#### **Zalduondo (Zalduendo (C)). 5.2 km**

Bar / Restaurant / Fountains.

Parish Church of San Saturnino (15<sup>th</sup> century), with baroque altarpiece depicting the life and martyrdom of the saint, and a carving of Santiago in pilgrim's robe. Palace of Lazárraga, which has a 16th century plateresque door with ionic columns. The front elevation is emblazoned with a carved shield with flanking statues. It now houses a museum, which includes a section on the Camino de Santiago.

A notice board erected by the Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Álava shows the pilgrim routes through the province.

Go over the staggered crossroads, and leave the village by the road which heads in a SW direction.

At the exit to the village, the now by-passed medieval bridge of Zubizabal can be seen on the left, as can the cross, erected by the Lazárraga family, which marks the village boundary.

The road climbs over a long low ridge and later passes near the Ermita de San Millán, standing on a rise to the right of the road as it swings left and down to the village of

#### **Ordoñana. 3.0 km**

An old house, on the right as you enter the village, has a carved shield and inscription. Parish Church of the Assumption.

Carry on through the village and follow the road past the church and the sports

## PREFACE

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It was in 1997, unbeknown to each other at the time, that Eric Walker and I, our appetites whetted by John Durant's article in the Confraternity of St James' *Bulletin* of February 1995, decided to explore this route. Eric Walker cycled the route and I completed it on foot. We carried only Michelin road maps and the two guidebooks, *Dos Caminos a Santiago* and *Por Álava a Compostela*, which had been published in 1993 and 1992 respectively.

These guidebooks had several shortcomings. Both were good on background information, but only went as far as the Alava/La Rioja boundary between Briñas and Haro and *Por Alava* dealt only with the route from the Tunnel onwards. Neither publication was sufficiently detailed adequately to describe the off-road paths to which they referred.

It was this shortcoming that prompted Eric to return to Spain in 1998 to walk some of those parts of the route that he had not been able to travel on his bicycle. He wanted to produce a guidebook for this route that would form part of a series of guidebooks, for walkers and cyclists alike, covering *Los Caminos del Norte*. (c.f. Page 54 post).

He compiled a 'Proof Copy' of his initial brief 'Tunnel' guide as a forerunner to a more satisfactory guide to be produced later, but then, having learned of my walking experience, sent it to me requesting my observation and comment.

Having discovered many alterations in the route when I walked the route again with my companion, Judith Leigh, in September 2000, I accepted the task of compiling what would be the more satisfactory guide. The first Tunnel Route Guide was published by the Confraternity of St James in 2002.

This updated edition of the Guide is based on my findings along those stretches of Camino I have been able to visit over the past year and on feedback gratefully received in respect of other parts. Unfortunately, I have not been able to rewalk the whole of the route, so apologies are tendered for any current discrepancy.

Tony Roberts, March 2009

**STAGE / DISTANCE PLANNER**

Town , City or Village	Acc om	Waymarked kms	Alternative kms	Stage kms
Irún	Yes	0.0	0.0	
Gurutze	Yes	7.5	7.5	
Oiartzun	Yes	2.1	2.1	
A/T Arraspine	Yes	11.5	11.5	
Hernani	Yes	5.0	3.5	
Urnieta	Yes	3.5	3.5	
Andoain	Yes	4.0	4.0	
Villabona	Yes	5.3	5.3	
Anoeta	Yes	4.0	4.0	
Tolosa	Yes	3.0	3.0	
Legorreta	Yes	10.5	10.5	
Itsasondo	Yes	3.0	3.0	
Beasain`	Yes	4.5	4.5	
Olaberria	Yes	↓	3.0	
Idiazabal	Yes	↓	3.7	
Segura	Yes	7.4	3.75	
Zegama	Yes	5.4	7.75	
Tunnel	Yes	7.5	7.5	
Zalduondo	No	8.2	8.2	
Salvatierra	Yes	6.0	6.0	
Alegria	Yes	12.4	12.4	
Estíbaliz	Yes	6.5	6.5	
Vitoria	Yes	10.15	↓	
Armentia		3.5	12.9	
Subijana	Yes	10.3	10.3	
La Puebla	Yes	8.3	8.3	
Berantevilla	No	11.7	11.7	
Salinillas	Yes	9.5	9.5	
Briñas	Yes	4.75	4.75	
Haro	Yes	3.75	3.75	
Sto Domingo	Yes	19.5	19.5	
TOTAL		198.75	201.9	

Welcome  
 Good afternoon / evening  
 Goodnight  
 Sleep well  
 Bon voyage

Bar  
 Bar/Restaurant  
 Cider bar  
 Toilets  
 Water  
 Milk  
 Coffee (white)  
 Coffee (black)  
 Coffee (with little milk)  
 Cider  
 Beer (in bottle)  
 Beer (draught)  
 Beer (v small glass)  
 Wine  
 Glass of red wine  
 Fountain  
 The water is (not) drinkable

Bon appetit  
 Breakfast  
 Lunch  
 Dinner  
 Meat  
 Chicken  
 Ham  
 Pork  
 Beef  
 Fish  
 Omelette  
 Chips  
 Stew  
 Bread  
 Bakery  
 Cheese  
 Egg  
 House

Óngi etórri  
 Arrátsaldéon  
 Gabón  
 Óndo ló egín  
 Ondo ibíli

Tabérna (Edaritégi)  
 Jatetxéa  
 Sagardotégi  
 Kómunak  
 Úra  
 Ésnea  
 Káfe esnéa  
 Káfe útsa  
 Káfe ebákia  
 Sagárho  
 Garagárho  
 Káña  
 Zurító  
 Árdo  
 Ardo beltza  
 Iturria  
 Ur (ez) édarjerría/édajarría

Ón egín  
 Gosári  
 Bazkari  
 Afári  
 Haragi  
 Óillo  
 Úrdaiázpikóa  
 Txerríki  
 Behíki  
 Arraina  
 Tortilla  
 Frijítuak  
 Sálda  
 Ogía  
 Akindegi  
 Gázta  
 Árrautz  
 Etxé

Place names in Spain can be quite confusing. The name of the parish is often used in some literature, yet this name does not appear on many of the maps, especially the older versions of the 1:50,000 Mapas Militares.

Parishes are usually made up of a number of *barrios*(C) or *auzoak*(B), i.e. districts, and the church for the parish may also be in a barrio, which bears a different name: e.g. the Parish Church of Múgica (Múgica-(B)) is in the barrio of Ugarte.

On some newer issues of the military maps, the parish name is overprinted in purple ink, but this is not always obvious, and it can take a careful study of the map to see it.

The Michelin Roadmap No 442 is quite helpful in that you can locate the route within its wider surroundings, but the best maps to use are the IGN maps which can be viewed at scales of up to 1/20000 on [www.sigpac.mapa.es/fega/visor](http://www.sigpac.mapa.es/fega/visor)

#### **Note on language**

Although the Route takes you through the Basque Country, you will find that you will not be expected to speak *Euskera*, and that *Castellano* is an accepted means of communication. However, the *Euskadek* (*Vascos*) are justifiably proud of their heritage, and if you were to use only one or two Basque words, they would appreciate your recognition of their language. Accordingly, a short glossary of hopefully useful Basque words is given at the end of this guidebook.

#### **Note on accommodation**

This route does not yet have the full pilgrim Refugio / Albergue infrastructure of the Camino Francés, and pilgrims have to rely chiefly on the Hotel / Agroturismo / Casa Rural network. Since beds in these establishments may in relatively short supply, it might be appropriate to ring ahead to confirm availability. It is necessary to ring ahead to arrange accommodation in the few refugios that have been opened during the last few years.

Accommodation costs are generally 50% higher in the Pais Vasco than in other parts of North Spain. You should budget accordingly, and, perhaps, travel in twos or fours if you want to keep costs down.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.**

The Authors acknowledge and thank the authors and publishers of all the following books and publications to which reference has been made, and whose contents have helped in the production of this Guide:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Dos Caminos a Santiago</i>   | Carlos Pérez de Uralde, J.A.Lecanda y N.Azurmendi. Published by Dept de Comercio, Consumo y Turismo del Gobierno Vasco.  |
| <i>El Camino de Santiago</i>  | Mercedes Reig. Published by Turespaña, Secretaria General de Turismo.  |
| <i>Por Álava a Compostela en Las Rutas de Europa</i>  | Alfonso Maria Abella and Garcia de Eulate. Published by Dpt de Cultura, Diputacion Foral de Alava.                       |
| <i>The Santiago Way through The Basque Country.</i>   | Fernando Imaz. Published by the Autonomous Community of Euskadi.   |
| <i>Hendaye</i>  | I'Abbé Michelena. Publisher unknown. Text supplied by Bibliotheque Hendaye.  |
| <i>Goierri Mendiz Mendi (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed), Naturaleza, Huella, e Historia a traves de 53 Recorridos</i> | Published by Gobierno Vasco in association with Gobierno de Navarra and Région Aquitaine.                                |
| <i>Guia de Pequeños Hoteles y Alojamientos en el Medio Rural</i>  | Published by Los Departamentos de Industria, Comercio y Turismo de los Diputaciones Forales de Alava, Bizkaia y Gipuzkoa |
| <i>Michelin Guide to Spain</i>  |  |
| <b>MAPS</b>   |  |
| <i>Michelin Map No. 442</i>   |  |
| <i>Mapa Provincial 1:200,000.de Álava, Guipúzcoa and Vizcaya</i>  | Published by Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica (CNIG)  |

<b>Irún:</b>		
HSR**	Irún, Zubiaurre 5,	943 612283
HSR**	Lizaso, Aduana, 5-7	943 611600
HS**	Machinvente, Paseo de Colon, 21	943 621384
P**	Los Fronterizos, Estación, 7	943 619205
P**	Bidasoa, Esatacion 14	943 619913
Ref	C/Lucas de Berroa 18	?
<b>Gurutze</b>		
HR*	Gurutze Berri	943 490625
<b>Oiartzun</b>		
A/T	Arri Gain, Iturriotz, 20180, Oiartzun.	943 491104
	Camping Oriden (4.5km off route)	943 490728
	Madrid / Irún Road, Km 476.	
<b>Errenteria</b>		
A/T	Anarre Zarre, Zamalbide Zona, Errentaria	943 523751
<b>Astigarraga</b>		
A/T	Arraspine, Santiago Mendi, 20115, Astigarraga	943 331319
A/T	Artola, Santiago Mendi, 20115, Astigarraga	(943 557296 637 035679)
C/R	Buenavista, Ermana Berri, 2	943 330205
<b>Hernani</b>		
P	Zinko Enea, Kale Nagusia 57-1	670 390897
P	Txoko, (unstaffed)	(608 770602 943 557557)
<b>Urnieta</b>		
A/T	Montefrio, Goiburu Bailara	943 557158
P**	Villa de Urnieta, C/Dendategi 4.	943 333866
<b>Aduna</b>		
R/H	Benta Jatetxea, Barrio Elbarrena	943 693094
A/T	Zabale, Goiburu, 20150 Aduna	943 690825
<b>Villabona</b>		
A/T	Alustiza, Amasa	943 690361
A/T	Urresti, Amasa	943 690444
<b>Tolosa</b>		
	Albergue Municipal, off Hernialde Rd	943 650036
H	Hostal Oyarbide, Plaza Gorriti, 1	943 670017
P	Karmentxu, Korreo 24	943 673701
H	Urrutitxo, Kondeko Aldapa, 7	943 673822
<b>Legorreta</b>		
R/H	Hostal Izarra, Ctra. Nacional-1, No16	943 806044
<b>Itsasondo</b>		
H**	Izaskun, Kale Nagusia, 13	943 880012

**Zambrana. 4.3km**  
Continue along the N-124, through the town (Julia's Bar on left).  
Approximately 1.75km further on, you will see, on your left, the ruins of **Venta de Molino** and, very shortly after, the point where the walkers' route joins the road on which you are now travelling towards Salinillas.  
**Note** If you feel that pushing your bicycle up the first steepish slopes after leaving the N-124 (just after the quarrying plant) might be a bit too much for you, continue along the road, down past the service station / café / bar, and take the tarmacked road further on (on your left), which is clearly signed to **Salinillas de Buradón** (Buradón Gatzaga(B)). **6.0km**  
In view of the dangerous descent on the Walkers' route, that route is not recommended and you may wish to avoid Salinillas altogether. If you do wish to visit it, you should make your way back to the N-124 and turn left to go through the new road tunnel, constructed to facilitate traffic through the Conchas of Haro. When you reach **El Portal de la Rioja**, turn left along LR-132 to access **Briñas**. Join and follow the walkers' route to **Haro**, to the **motorway bridge** on the N-203. **5.0km**  
**3.75km**  
It is recommended that, from here, you should continue to follow the road to Zarratón. However, if the ground is very dry, if your bicycle is very sturdy, and if you are not averse to a bit of pushing, you should be able to manage the walking route as far as the point where the track takes the left turn down the rutted cutting into the valley of the Rio Zamaca just before Zarratón. At this point, continue straight ahead, and you will come to a concrete piste leading down to the Casalarreina-Zarratón Road, where you turn left and follow the road into **Zarratón. 8.5km**  
With care, the walking route should be manageable from here, but you have the alternative of following the road (south) via **Cidamón** and **San Torcuato** to **Bañares,** (via road) **6.5km**  
from where you take the road to **SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA. 4.5km**

### La Puebla de Arganzón

HR**	Arganzón Plaza, Plaza Mayor 2	(945 373470 (629 504370)
HS**	Los Palacios, Ctra Madrid / Irún, Km333	945 373030
HS*/P.	Pili, Ctra Mad'd / Irún, Km334	945 373088
Refugio	C/ Cercas 6 Tel Town Hall 0900 – 1400	945 373006

### Salinillas de Buradón

A/T,	Areta Etxea, C / Mayor, 17	(945 274757 (941 337275)
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### Briñas

H/R	Portal de la Rioja,	941 311480
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### Haro

P.	La Pena, C / La Vega, 1-2 <sup>nd</sup> .	(941 304101? (941 310022? (941 311506?
P.	Aragon, C/La Vega 9.	941 310004
P.	Conchas, (?Address?)	941 310287
P.	Maño, (?Address?)	941 310229
Ref	Calle Juan Carlos I, 23	(677 321806 (627 602124

### Santo Domingo

See Pilgrim Guide No 1-“The Camino Francés”

## IRÚN to SANTO DOMINGO de la CALZADA

(via Saint Adrian's Tunnel and Vitoria-Gasteiz.)

### THE APPROACH TO IRÚN

Many pilgrims from the north crossed the mouth of the Gironde to the Pointe de Grave and then made their way South by following the coastal route via St Vincent de Tyrosse (on the **N-10**) and then through Ondres, Tarnos and St Esprit de Bayonne to St Jean-de-Luz.

In St Jean-de-Luz they walked round the bay to Socoa to find the preferred route to Hendaye along *la Crête des Collines*.

This roughly corresponds to the present day road that turns inland from Socoa and passes through Kalitcho, travelling up the valley of the Ruisseau (Unxin-(B)). The route gradually edges up the northern slopes of the valley to reach the ridge, which it then follows towards Hendaye. Eventually it descends through Orio into Hendaye (Hendaia (B)) itself.

### Puerto de Otzaurte. (Alt. 652m)

**8.0km**

Here, the very pleasant and helpful bar / restaurant is very welcome.

Continuing south from here, the main **N-1** has to be rejoined and great care has to be exercised due to the heavy volume of traffic.

Follow the N-1 downhill and take the first available exit for

**Alsasua (Altsasu (B)).**

**6.4km**

Passage to Zalduondo was described to me in 2000 by the local Police and has not been checked recently. Apologies are given for any discrepancy or error found in the description given in this guide.

Follow the exit road over the N-1 carriageways and into the town centre. Go down the main street passing the Town Hall on your right. Follow this road under a railway bridge and down to a T-junction, on the far right side of which is the **Restaurant “Iru Bide”**. Turn right and follow the road as it swings first to the left over the A-240 at a Renault showroom/garage, and then round to the right again. Continue on and go straight over a roundabout through the village of **Olazti**, and across another roundabout alongside which there is a **Club**. Shortly you will pass some factories and the **Hotel Iturri Murri**.

Carry on to another roundabout and, watching out for slits in the road surface, which are designed to prevent vehicular passage, follow a slip road up to the westbound carriageway of the N-1. After about 1km, take the exit to **Eguino** and pass in front of a Routier type restaurant popular with drivers.

Not far ahead of you is a crossroads with access (left) to N-1East and (straight on past a petrol station) to N-1West. At this point, you turn right into **Eguino**, follow the road through the village, and continue ahead to pass through **Ilárduya** and **Albéniz**.

Carry on until you reach another crossroads, where the road to the right goes to Araya. Here, you go straight ahead to

**Zalduondo.**

**16.5km**

Now, you can rejoin the walkers' route by turning left immediately after the church. You can follow it through

**Ordoñana** and

**3.0km**

**Salvatierra** to

**3.0km**

**Gaceo.**

**3.9km**

From here, you can make the recommended detour through Langarica and Alaiza. (It is well worth it). If you do not, proceed directly through

**Ezquerecocha** to

(from Gaceo) **2.0km**

**Ermita de Nuestra Señora de Ayala.**

**6.5km**

(You might have just completed the short detour to **Alegria**, which would have made this section a little longer). From here, you continue on to

waymarker only a few metres on the left on the far side of the roundabout in front of you on Avda de Iparralde. This will lead you to the Paseo del Real Unión, along Calle Santiago Kalea, around the Church of Nuestra Señora del Juncal (see below) and on to the Paseo de Colon. This is one of the main shopping streets of Irún, and in it or just off it, it is possible to find lodgings. If you want to go to the Refuge, follow Colon to the right (passing the Eusko Tren Station), turn right immediately after you cross the main railway and turn second left at a minor roundabout into Lucas Berroa. Otherwise, cross the road into the Plaza de San Juan where, beyond the car parks, you will see the *Casa Consistorial* or Town Hall of

**Irún.** (2km from Hendaye Ville Station) **0.0 km**  
Full facilities. Pilgrim Refuge (21 beds & Kit).

Most of the town was destroyed by fire during the Civil War, but, as can be seen, is now rebuilt.

In the C15th Church of Santa Maria de Juncal, is a black Virgin and Child dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (venerated by both mariners and pilgrims of old). There is also a 13th century Processional Crucifix.

Close to it, used to be a pilgrims' hospital dedicated to Santa Margarita, which the French destroyed in 1638.

In the town's outskirts is the fountain and hermitage of St Elena built on the remains of a former Roman Temple.

#### **A) Formal Route**

This is approximately 1.00km longer than the informal route but has the benefit of about 2.5kms of off-road walking.

As you exit the Town Hall after collecting a pilgrim stamp (sello), you will find Calle Mayor in front and diagonally left across Leon Iruratagoiena Kalea. Follow Calle Mayor until you can veer left into Calle Artaleku. This will lead you to Avda de Gipuzkoa. Turn left and follow it to a roundabout, where you take the exit for and follow Avda de Elizatxo. Further on, look on your left for Calle de Belitz and follow it to a T-junction, where you go left ultimately to go over the Autopista. At a junction the other side of the Autopista follow the signs to the right for about 500m before turning left. After another 2km, you should reach a vehicle yard and the GI-3452, where you turn right.

#### **B) Informal Route.**

Leave the Plaza de San Juan by Leon Iruratagoiena Kalea, to the right of the Town Hall (as you look at it), and head almost due south. Cross straight over a roundabout and keep straight on through a bridge under the Autopista to the district of Olaberria. Follow the road (GI-3452) parallel to a stream running

Follow the main street south, and the yellow arrows, will guide you round to the 16th century church (which adjoins that of the 12<sup>th</sup> century) to find a street at the side of a bar, which will take you to the southern outskirts of the town.

From here, you will take a farm road, which swings to the right over two or three riverbeds before heading straight for Santo Domingo, which you can now see ahead of you.

Before entering the town, you cross the by-pass road and turn left along what looks like an old railway bed. You will pass a white electricity tower and the bull ring before joining the Camino Francés into

**SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA.** **5.0km**

### **CYCLISTS' SECTION**

**(To be read in conjunction with the walkers' section)**

#### **Note**

In considering the degree of difficulty facing cyclists, assumptions have been made, that the "typical cyclist pilgrim" will be fairly fit, will be riding a sturdy, well-maintained machine, which is reasonably well laden, and that the paths and tracks etc are generally dry.

Routes alternative to the walking routes are suggested below, where it is thought that the "typical cyclist pilgrim" cannot reasonably manage the latter.

That being said, the co-authors of this section do not guarantee that, where no alternative route is suggested, the walkers' route will be passable on two wheels. Neither do they guarantee that the alternative route will be passable at all times and by all pilgrims. It must be left to the individual to plan and decide his / her own route as fitness, load, weather and any other circumstances dictate.

It is thought that the walkers' route can be followed from: -

<b>Hendaye Ville to</b>	<b>0.0km</b>
<b>Irún</b>	<b>2.0km</b>
<b>Gurrutze,</b>	<b>7.5km</b>
but you will need good brakes for the steep descent into	
<b>Oiartzun (Elizalde (C)).</b>	<b>2.1km</b>

Cross over the road and go down past the museum and Church to the "plaza," and leave it by means of the road going off to the right to **Ugaldetxo**, and which almost immediately passes a road turning off to your right. Go straight across

you across the Rio Oiartzun to the **Iturrioz** district, where you will come out to one side of another roundabout and opposite a small park.

Go up the street along the left wall of the small park and continue along it for about 400m to a house called **Toki Alai**. Here you will swing round to the right past an animal sanctuary and past an ornamental (not drinking water) fountain. After another 350m, you will see straight ahead of you 'caserio' **Estrataburu**, which may be partially hidden behind some trees. The road veers left here (to pass A/T Arri Gain 150m further on) and leads you to a right turn just beyond Estrataburu.

At the bottom of this local road, your route is signed left down a track to a watersmeet, which you cross by means of two small bridges. 50m further on, you fork right steeply up a hill, and, when you reach more open ground at the top, you veer left to follow the rear boundary fence of a house. Follow this fence round to the right until it debouches onto the concrete road onto which the house fronts. You follow this road to the left and round to the right as far as a minor junction where a stony track leads you up, hard left, to merge with another road. This road takes you up to a T-junction on the Esnao Soro ridge.

Here, you will see, straight ahead of you, a view of the valley you are going to cross, and the track you are about to follow. It leads along a fence on the right and an orchard on the left, bears right at the end of the fence and goes down and across a meadow. It bears left through woods down right to a farmhouse. Turn hard left to exit the farmyard and follow the drive to its junction with a road. Turn right along it for 50m or so to a T-junction with another road on the other side of a stream, which is bridged by two parallel pieces of concrete.

Straight opposite you is a field entrance, which gives onto a track going up left past a deserted building before it reaches another road. Turn right along this road, follow it for about 300m and then turn left up a concrete track signposted to **Anarre Zarra** (A/T), which you pass before reaching, on your right, **Oiarzabal Baserria Orereta**. At this point, you leave the concrete track for an earth track, which skirts woodland before it enters a corner of it. Here, there is a confluence of tracks, but go diagonally right to continue ahead along a wider track alongside a fence coincident with a local trail marked with white and yellow flashes. Continue following this track until you come to a small area of open heathlike land, about 100m before reaching an electricity pylon. Here, you might spot a cluster of yellow arrows on a distribution post about 50m over to your right. At the pylon, the local trail is signed straight on, as could be a 'formal' route. It must be noted that the writer did not see any 'formal' marker near the pylon, only a yellow arrow on its base pointing right. *(I think there must be a separation of 'formal' and 'informal' routes here, because feedback suggests that a new bar has been opened about 1.5km before Frantzesillaga. The bar could be in the hamlet about 250m beyond the pylon. There was no such bar on the informally marked route I followed.)*

### **Salinillas de Buradón (Buradón Gatzaga (B)).**

**6.25 km**

Café / Bar (often closed), some Shops, Swimming pool / leisure complex, (do not expect too much out of season), Accommodation, Fountain at East Gate.

Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception (15<sup>th</sup> century) with polygonal apse and a 17<sup>th</sup> century portico and tower. Hospital of Santa Ana.

The town is on the site of an Iron Age fort, which was later occupied by the Romans, whose salt exploitation gave the name *Salinillas*.

Swimming pool / bar / restaurant complex (open summer season only)

Go back out of the East Gate of the town, and turn right at the *lavadero*. Follow the waymarked route (which for this stretch of the journey is coincident with the GR91) up past the cemetery on your right and into the hills. You will follow a fairly wide earth track past a number of junctions up to a col at about 700m altitude, with the main summit of La Lobera away to the left.

At the col, two separate concrete Utility sheds indicate a **dangerous descent** ahead - 100m of descent in 350m of going. Take care down the route ahead, as it is rutted and covered with loose stones. It will lead you across an east-facing slope down the right hand side of a valley, and on through vineyards. You will eventually pass through a gap in a mound-like ridge where there is a blue notice board. Beyond the gap, the track swings right under some overhead electricity wires before reaching a junction of ways. The Camino is signed to the left and the GR91 straight on. If you intend to visit **El Portal de la Rioja**, continue along the GR91 since this will shorten the overall distance to be walked. Otherwise the Camino de Santiago will take you directly to the LR-132, where you go left to find the right turn into

### **Briñas.**

**4.75 km**

Bars. Restaurants. Shops.

Accommodation can be found at El Portal de la Rioja, a pilgrim-friendly Hotel/Bar/Restaurant 0.7km to the west of the town (see above).

Imposing Parish church of the Assumption with staircase and tower.

Make your way down past the church to the Rio Ebro. Turn right along the old road to Haro, running SW and parallel to the river. Follow it for about 1.6km, and turn left to cross the Ebro by the old arched, narrow Briñas Bridge, the parapets of which have been recently renovated. Turn right at its far end. Go past a memorial to those locals who fell in the Carlist Wars, and a farm. You will reach a ramp on / off the Haro / Vitoria road. Turn right down the ramp and follow the road round left past numerous *bodegas*, before turning right to pass under the railway bridge. Swing left to follow a tributary of the Ebro, and turn left over a bridge crossing it. Continue straight on up the **Calle Navarra** to the **Plaza de la Paz**, near which you will find the Church of St Thomas in

down to the right, ultimately to join a cement residential road near **Buenavista** (C/R), down which you turn left. After 100m, turn hard right and proceed downhill to **Artola Nekazaturismoa** and **Sagardotegia** at the junction with Iraultza Bidea. From here, it is about 4.5km into Hernani, if you follow the waymarking or 3.5km if you take a short cut - see later.

Follow Iraultza to the right for 50m or so and you will reach **Nekazaturismoa Arraspine Baserria** where a badly placed waymark on the back wall of the Baserria directs you left behind the house, down through the fields and past a *Monastegia* to **Astigárraga**. When you reach the next road, turn right and then left down a hill before joining the road from Oiartzun (Elizalde). Turn left, and after a few more metres you will merge with the main Donostia (San Sebastián (C)) to Hernani road. Very shortly, on your left, you will take the service road, which at first runs parallel to the main road, before connecting with a quieter road which will take you left into the **Ergobia** District. It will take you along **Oialume Bidea**, past the **Gurutzeta Sagardotegia** and a road going off to the left where there are direction notices for the above-mentioned Artola Baserria and Buenavista. The writer does not know whether there is any specific religious, spiritual or other reason, apart from the fact that a Barrio de Santiago exists there, why the route should have been waymarked the long way round through Astigárraga, rather than the shorter way down to Oialume Bidea.

*To take advantage of the shorter route, turn left around Artola instead of going right, and, at the next T-junction, turn right along **Oyarbide Bidea**. Follow it down to **Oialume Bidea** where you turn left along the waymarked route.*

Follow **Oialume Bidea** into **Mikel Arozamena Bidea**, and swing right to a T-junction where you go right before swinging left to rejoin the Donostia / Hernani road at a double roundabout system. Follow the footpath across the 1st roundabout and go under the high level bypass road. Cross the next roundabout and follow the road towards Hernani.

Here we meet another 'formal/informal' route variation. The 'formal' route continues directly into Hernani and does, over all, provide easier going for laden pilgrims. If you take this route, look out for the Bar Txoko (which might give you a lead into the Pension Txoko) before you walk up Calle Nagusia to the Plaza Mayor.

If you want to follow the 'informal' 'old' route, 50m towards Hernani from the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout, turn left along an unwaymarked path/road leading into the **Akerregi** industrial estate. Take the next turning to the right along the estate's central road and you will spot the 'informal' waymarks. Coming out of the estate, you will go straight over a roundabout, then over the "old" River Urumea Bridge before reaching a junction, where the road left is indicated as **Portu Auzoa**, and some apartment blocks stand immediately in front of you.

**Estavillo (Estanillo (C)/Estabelu (B)).**

**2.2 km**

Bar/Restaurant at top of village. Parish Church of San Martín with imposing 15th century gothic doorway.

If you have visited the bar, follow the road down through the village, diverting to visit the church if you wish to. At the bottom of the village, take the road to Armiñón, which leaves the village at its SW corner with the church high above your left shoulder. After 200m, the new road veers to the right to Armiñón, and beyond the crash barriers on the left, you can see an agricultural road leading straight ahead and parallel to the motorway.

**Here, you have an option,** You can **either** follow the "Camino de Santiago por la Rioja," **or** continue on to Burgos, which the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Miranda de Ebro suggest can be done in the following stages:-

La Puebla de Arganzón to Mirando de Ebro (Refugio in Yth Hostel)	22.3kms
Miranda de Ebro to Pancorbo (Parish Hostel)	16.7kms
Pancorbo to Briviesca (Pension)	23.4kms
Briviesca to Monasterio de Rodilla (Hotel/Restaurant)	19.8kms
Monasterio de Rodilla to Burgos	28.5kms

The latter option is not one, which the writer can describe owing to his lack of knowledge. However, if there should be any pilgrim(s) who can provide an account of this route, it would be gratefully received for inclusion.

Follow the agricultural road, and pass the *autopista* toll complex off on your right. You will come to a staggered crossroads, which doglegs to the right. Carry straight on here and straight across each succeeding crossing of ways, until this undulating route reaches the Rio Ayuda, about 3.6km further on, on the northwest outskirts of Berantevilla.

After crossing the river (not before), you can either take the track, which veers left into the centre of the village, or continue straight on to a T-junction, where you join the L-121 Treviño / Miranda road just to the west of

**Berantevilla.**

**5.5 km**

Bar (no food) and clinic at eastern end of the village. A Café / bar (closed on Wednesdays), opposite Church of the Assumption, sells a limited amount of provisions. Town Hall for information and sello is also opposite the church, but in the main street. No accommodation.

2km west, along the road to Miranda, is the Ermita of the Virgin of Lacorzanilla, erected in 1678 by Francisco de Montoya y Allende-Salazar. Close by it is the Ermita de San Antón.

railway bridge, cross the stream again and turn right to join the 'formally' waymarked road running parallel to the stream and the railway.

Eventually, you join a road coming from the left, close to Urnieta Station and, not long afterwards, you reach a road-bridge over the railway, leading into

**Urnieta.** (from centre of Hernani) **3.5 km**  
Bar, Trains, Shops, Accommodation.

*The more pleasant 'informal' route is to turn right over the bridge, and at its far end, double back on yourself (down to your left) to find a path to the right along the edge of a park. The path passes some allotment gardens before running into a service road that approaches you from the left over the railway. Turn left to cross the bridge and then right to follow the 'formal' route.*

The 'formal' route is straight ahead in front of the factory buildings on the left. After 400m you will reach another bridge over the railway on your right, where you are joined by the 'informal' route.

Keep straight on and turn right along a path bordering a heavy vehicle parking area close to a Kaiko milk products plant. At the end of the path, go up the steps, turn right along the road for 50m and take a paved track hard left. This rises gradually up and round to the left and then round to the right to join a service road in front of some commercial premises.

75m down this road, turn left on the far side of a municipal (?) vehicle depot down and along a track which will lead you to a service road in front of more commercial premises about 300m distant.

Follow this service road parallel to the GI-131 to its end, where a turning to the left will lead to a footpath up to the bed of a former railway. Turn right through the old tunnel (*not* St Adrian's), follow the paved track, continue on up the road to a roundabout and bear right to face the Church of St Martin of Tours in

**Andoain.** **4.0 km**  
Café / bars, Shops, Buses, Trains, Accommodation, Chemist.

If you cannot obtain a sello at St Martin's Church, you can do so at the Police Station, next door to the Church, where you can also get information about local facilities.

Turn left in front of St Martin's Church, which is next door to the Police Station. Follow the waymarked route along side roads parallel to the River Oría, before turning right to cross it on the road leading to Villabona. This is a busy road and you should proceed with caution as you follow it under a motorway and round, left, eventually to pass Benta Jatetxea, (with some accommodation), and one or

*Ignore the road to the left behind the church and go straight ahead along an agricultural road, ignoring the track which leads off to the right. Follow the track without deviation all the way down to the motorway, and turn left along the agricultural road which parallels it. Continue along this track past one bridge over the A-1 to a second bridge. Cross over the motorway by this second bridge and look for the still used section of the N-1 lower in the valley. This will take you to the roundabout where the hill route comes down from Villanueva de la Oca, where you turn right to take the old road into **La Puebla de Arganzón**.*

#### **The hill route.**

From the stone wall where you entered the village, take the lane, which rises to the left of it, and follow the lane up and left past the *Palacio*. Carry on to a more open scrubby area, where there are vestiges of an old fence to right and left of you. Here you turn right to follow a well defined track, which continues gradually up and around the hillside, through an opening in a wire boundary fence, past the site of a new prison (on your right) and through woodland before reaching a crossroads in the footpath system. Tracks go right and left, but you continue straight ahead into what appears to be a small glade.

You are now in an area, which was formerly a restricted military zone. Your path will immediately swing left (south) out of the glade to follow a path through scrubby woodland, before climbing to the highest point of this section (c.760m).

Here, the route is joined by a track descending from the ridge up on your left. Shortly, you will pass through a clearing in the scrub, and, not long after, you will follow the very steep, and loose stony track, which descends to the SW, and then S, before reaching some cultivated fields and a concrete bridge over a stream. The waymarker here is a bit ambiguous but you cross the bridge to follow the path alongside the stream, until you enter

**Villanueva de la Oca.** **5.0km**

No facilities apart from some seats by the fountain as you enter the village, where you might rest and refill your water bottles.

The Parish Church of San Pedro and its large tower stand on a small hill.

From the seats, walk up to the road junction in front of the church and turn right. This road will eventually lead you under the motorway to a roundabout on a now very little used N-1. Go round the roundabout to reach the minor road straight ahead which will take you into

**La Puebla de Arganzón.** **3.3 km**

*(valley route from Subijana)* **8.25 km**

Bars, Shops, Restaurants, Accommodation, Bus stop and Railway Station. Ring

Zerkania Kalea and, at its end, keep to the left of the Arch. 40m after the Arch and on your left, look for and follow a wide passageway under the buildings leading to the river. Turn right along the river to follow Zumalakarregi Ibiltokia and on past the bullring. Turn left over the next bridge and right immediately after it to follow the walkway along the river past the football ground. Keep following the river until you come to a tributary which forces the path left and leads you to a footbridge over the tributary. Cross the footbridge towards a large sports complex. A Camino direction arrow on the corner of the complex may point to the left. Ignore it and go right to follow a tarmaced track along the river in front of an area for/of redevelopment. This track will bring you to a road going under the N-1 above you to your left. Go under the bridge, and after it, turn right along a new pedestrian/cyclist way which you will follow, ultimately to link with the GI-2131 (old N-1) into

**Alegia (Alegria de Oria(C))** **4.75 km**  
Shops, Cobbler, Bar/Restaurants, Trains, Buses, Chemist.

Your way lies along the central thoroughfare of this old town, past the shops and church, and back onto the GI-2131, which you follow to **Icazteguieta** and beyond to

**Legorreta.** **5.75 km**  
Shops, Bars, Post Office, Tourist Information Office, Town Hall for sello, Accommodation, Chemist.

Just before Legorreta, at a point where the main road starts to climb to cross the railway, your route moves left off the GI-2131 and onto a local road,. The local road crosses the railway track and a river, before bringing you to the far side of the town centre, where you turn left along the main street. You are now, once again, on the GI-2131, which you will continue following to

**Itsasondo (Isasondo (C)).** **3.0 km**  
Bar/Restaurants, Accommodation.

About 500m after Itsasondo, and just before the road sweeps up and round to the left to cross over the railway on its way to link with the new N-1, you must take the GI-4761 road to the right, which is signposted to

**Villafranca de Ordizia / Ordizia.** **2.0 km**  
Bars, Restaurant, Shops, no accommodation.

Go straight over the crossroads by the memorial and the patioed bars, and on up

**Calle Uleta.** **From Pl de España 2.5 km**  
**From Start of Route 4.5 km**

Continue up the **Avenida de San Prudencio** to the top of the rise, where there is a multi-crossroads with a monument to, and statue of San Prudencio. (A cider bar is only a short distance up the 1<sup>st</sup> exit on the left). From the monument you continue straight on along the Avenida, taking in the view of the imposing 12th century (with 17th century rebuilding) **Basilica of San Prudencio** on the outskirts of

**Armentia.** **0.5 km**  
Accommodation. Bar. Shops?

San Prudencio, the Patron Saint of Alava, is a famous son of Armentia. It was originally a Roman town and later, in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, became the seat of the Archbishopric of Calahorra, which moved there when that area was threatened by the Moors.

The route ahead is currently (March 2009) affected by further large-scale development. The scheme includes the formation of a new Paseo (to be called Paseo del Peregrino) linking the end of Avenida San Prudencio with the newly constructed A-4163 to Gomecha. It is possible that this, when completed, could form part of the 'official' Camino.

*While there is a diversion around this area of redevelopment, the Camino might eventually be routed along the 'paseo' or other pathways crossing the area. Your objective is to reach the A-4163 which passes to the left of a **dog pound** on the left of the N-102 about 500 m ahead of you. (See below).*

Currently, a waymarker points you to the right at the top of Av San Prudencio and leads you down Camino de Armentia. The erstwhile route via C/Gurrutze Larrea has been (possibly temporarily) diverted down to the dual carriageway, the N-102, 100m further on. If the diversion is still in place, ignore the yellow arrow on the lamppost before the junction, which appears to point straight ahead, and turn left along the N-102. Approximately 150m ahead, the footpath "runs into" one entering the development area which is being "unofficially" used by locals. If you follow this, turn left where a path cuts down to a play area. Follow this path past the play area and up alongside the river, to the large roundabout at the end of the new Paseo del Peregrino. Here you can see and hear the **dog pound** over to your right. With your back to the Paseo, go straight over the roundabout and follow the road towards the pound.

If you cannot access the path past the play area, continue along the N-102 to a main **roundabout** a further 150m ahead of you. If there is no access to the

country road. Just past a farm on your left, as the road S-bends to the right, you will take another left fork and continue on to the Information Board.

Fork right at the Information Board to pass immediately in front of the imposing **Caserio Oyarbide** with its emblazoned front elevation, and take the road down into the valley.

From just past the Caserio, you will see away below you two white houses (which you will pass) and a light brown one to their right. Make your way down (past a fountain) to this brown one, which is emblazoned “**N. Barrena**”, and take the earth path to the left immediately opposite its flank wall. Where it forks up to the left into a field, follow it down to the right ignoring any ribbon or other livestock barrier. Only 15m or so further on is another narrower path, which goes off to the left. Follow this down to a stream, cross over the “bridge” and climb up along a rough track of stone slabs. This becomes a wider cement track before swinging left to pass between the houses **Antia** (on the right) and **Albitsu** (on the left).

Almost immediately after, you will see above your left shoulder, the 13<sup>th</sup> century **Ermita de Gurutzeta** dedicated to Nuestra Señora and containing a wooden statue purported to represent a young St James in pilgrim garb.

You now go up left to the Ermita and subsequently follow that road down to a T-junction alongside a battery chicken shed. Here you turn right and go down past the cemetery, to a T-junction in Idiazabal. Here, the waymarked route goes off to the left and avoids the town centre.

Turn right if you want to visit the Church and/or take advantage of the town’s facilities.

### **Idiazabal.**

**3.7 km**

Shops, Bars, Restaurants, Chemist, Health Centre, Accommodation.

St Michael’s Church with 13th century Romano-Gothic door, around which, the church was rebuilt in C17th. The retablo is 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The home of Idiazabal cheese.

If you go into the town centre, you will find, opposite the west door of the Church, another Information Board. This will help you visualise your way ahead.

From the Information Board, go south along the old N-1 for about 300m, to a minor crossroads with a wooden fingerpost pointing right to **Lobioko Begiratokia** (a viewpoint). Here, you rejoin the waymarked route by turning right to follow the finger. Proceed up and under the new N-1 to the viewpoint and its bench seats, close to a fork in the road. From here, the waymarks will lead you straight on and over the ridge, and then down to the GI-2637, where you go left along a pedestrian/cyclist way, straight on at the next roundabout and past the Ermita de la Santa Cruz into old **Segura**.

## **The Old City, Vitoria - Gasteiz**

### **Index to Street Plan: -**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Casa del Cordón –             | 15th C. Has a medieval tower and a gothic hall.                                       |
| 2 Palacio de Bendaña –          | 1525. Home of the Fournier Playing Card Mus.  |
| 3 Casa Armero d/los Gobeo –     | Late 16th C. Home of the Gobeo family. Now houses the Archeological Museum.           |
| 4 El Portalón –                 | Late 15th C. Originally a stagecoach inn. Now a restaurant.                           |
| 5 Tower of the Anda fam. –      | 15th C fortified house.   |
| 6 Plaza de la Brulleria –       | A 1985 square with traditional skittles piste.  |
| 7 Cathedral of St Mary –        | 14th C. Triple gothic portico and v. high nave.                                       |
| 8 Pal. de Escoriaza-Esquivel –  | 1540. Renaissance pal with plateresque door.  |
| 9 Palacio de Montehermoso –     | 1524. Now the Montehermoso cultural centre.   |
| 10 Remains of Old City walls –  | 12th C.   |
| 11 Church of San Vicente –      | 15th C. Example of Basque-gothic style.   |
| 12 Palacio de Villa Suso –      | 16 <sup>th</sup> C. Built on the original town walls. Now a Conference Centre.        |
| 13 Plaza del Machete –          | A place where oaths were taken over a machete.  |
| 14 Los Arquillos –              | Late 18th C. Gp of small squares surrounded by houses of interesting architecture.    |
| 15 Church of San Miguel –       | 14th C  |
| 16 Tower de Doña Otxanda –      | 1970 tower built on remains of a 15th C house.  |
| 17 Church of San Pedro –        | 14th C. Four religious scenes in tympanum and image of the Virgin in the mullion.     |
| 18 Plaza de España –            | 1791. A perfect square housing the main offices of the Town Hall on one of its sides. |
| 19 Plaza de la Virgen Blanca.   | Battle of Vitoria Monument at its centre.   |
| 20 Church of St Anthony.        |   |
| 21 Palacio de la Provincia.     |   |
| 22 Basque Parliament Buildings. |   |
| 24 New Cathedral of St Mary.    |   |
| 25 Post Office.                 |   |

At the top of the town, there is a fork with the road to the right signed to Zegama and that to the left to Laiotza. Take the left fork; swing right opposite the Information Office and then swing left to pass in front of the Franciscan Friary on your right. Carry on along the road and take the next fork to the right, which is signed to the '**Futbol Zelaia**'. Follow it past the Football Ground to where the road veers right and a narrower asphalted road goes more or less straight on. Follow this narrower road to where there are three ways ahead of you. Left and right are private, and the centre one is an earth track. Follow this steeply up past a house on your left, and straight on past another (**Caserio Pagamuño**) further up on your right.

**Caserio Pagamuño** is one of the last remaining complete examples of a traditionally built house in the area.

Ultimately, the track you are on leads to the Ermita de Santa Barbara but you will leave it to drop down into Kortaberria.

Carry on up the hill ignoring all minor side turnings until you sense that you are about to climb out of the woodland you are in. When the top cover begins to clear, you will come to a T-junction where the main track goes sharply left and a slightly narrower, but very well defined rutted track bears off due west downhill to the right.

This is where you turn right for Kortaberria. After following the track down for about 100m, you will pass under some overhead HT lines. A few metres later, the track will swing left to contour the hillside down and around until, eventually, after going right at the only fork you meet, you pass two white houses (100m apart) before meeting a tarmaced road. Turn right and follow it through its hairpin bends down to the village of Kortaberria. (Unfortunately the village is too small to support any refreshment or other facilities).

When you reach the first houses on the left, turn immediately left and up into the small square serving the group of houses. Keeping straight on, exit the square towards the fields and, a few metres on, find and follow a grassy track leading off to the right along a fence. This track will lead you up to, and will swing to the right along the northern edge of woodland before turning left to start its ascent through the woods.

The track up will zigzag once or twice before you come to a point where it swings hard left, but where a secondary distinct track angles off only slightly right and more steeply upwards. Take this secondary track. The steep section is only about 40m in length and ultimately swings left to join a much wider track at the top.

Turn right and follow it downhill past a derelict building on your right. After a couple of sharp bends, you will come to a house and the concrete lane which serves it. Carry on down the lane to reach a T-junction where you face the house 'Elorriñe'. Turn left and follow the road to its junction with the GI-2637. Turn left again and proceed with care as you walk the next 1.45 km into

## Dual Carriageway

1.1 km

At this point, you have a **choice**. You can take **EITHER** the route via **Vitoria city centre** **OR** the route through the **southern outskirts**. Neither route is waymarked, but it is pleasing to understand that, as part of the scheme of development, it is proposed to continue the above-mentioned walk/cycleway such that it goes north and south through a Parkway proposed to be provided on the Vitoria side of the dual carriageway as you approach it.

**NOTE:** To obtain visual help in recognising these two routes, go to [www.csj.org.uk/update-tunnelroute.htm](http://www.csj.org.uk/update-tunnelroute.htm).

### 1) The City Centre Route

In the absence of the walk/cycleway, turn right along the dual carriageway and, at the first roundabout, turn left. You will come to a bridge over the Errekaleor stream (onto which the proposed walk/cycleway is proposed to debouch). From this point, follow the road over the bridge to another dual carriageway. Cross over it and take the road (**Itinerario de Antonino**) which continues straight ahead in front of the high-rise blocks. At the end of this road, follow the pathway up through the greenway and then go right to reach the railway line and a pedestrian bridge crossing it. Do not cross the bridge but follow the railside track going left. You will pass over a dual carriageway (**Calle Jacinto Benavente**) and eventually joins **Calle Jose Maria Iparraguirre**. Follow this road along the railway to its junction with **Calle de las Trianas**. Turn right here, cross the bridge over the railway and pass the **new Bullring**. After 50m, at the traffic lights, turn left along **Calle Florida**, and follow it for about 200m to a small square. This you leave via the far right hand corner along the **Calle Angulema** to reach the **Plaza de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados**. Cross the square diagonally to find the **Calle de la Independencia**, which will bring you to the main Post Office not far from the **Plaza de España** (with its Town Hall and Police Station) in the centre of

**Vitoria-Gasteiz (C-B).**

(to Plaza de España) **2.5km**

From the Plaza de España you can easily access the Old City. (See map over)

In its early days, **Vitoria** was a strategically based village on a Roman trade route. It was granted a Fuero (Charter), by King Sancho VI (the Wise) in 1181 and was captured by Alfonso VIII in 1200. Alfonso X granted it a Royal Charter in 1271 and Juan II elevated it to city status.

**Caution is needed here**, for the obvious track goes off to the left. Do not follow it. On top of the bank in front of you is another track which you follow to the right. It snakes in an elongated S-bend over heath and through woodland, until it reaches a plateau where there is situated on your right, a long, low pantiled building with stuccoed walls and green painted shutters. You are also met by a track which comes to meet you from the opposite direction, and which turns to go to your left. At this point, before taking the said track to the left, it is worth taking a few steps along the track straight ahead of you, to enjoy the view of Zegama in the valley out of which you have just climbed. Your route will lead you yet higher through scrub and woodland to the

#### **Ermita de Santi Espiritu.**

**7.0 km**

A former *ermita-hospital* run by the Templars.

From the fence immediately ahead of you, you can see down in the dip to your left, a cafe/bar/albergue, which provides a 'sello' and accommodation (but ring first if you require accommodation). The building itself was originally a Police Station of the Mikaletes, the Gipuzkoan Provincial Police. As you cross the fence line, ignore the yellow arrows going to the right along the fence and proceed straight ahead along a clear path to

#### **St Adrian's Tunnel.**

**0.5 km**

The Tunnel is actually a large cave hollowed out of the hillside by the action of meltwater drainage in the dim and very distant past. From time to time in its history, it appears to have been used as a defensively fortified place of retreat. The remains of a more recent defensive wall, with a 4m high archway for mounted horsemen, can still be seen. Behind this rampart, and within the mouth of the cave itself, is the Ermita de San Adrián.

Enter the cave, and pass through the tunnel. Once through, you will find yourself walking along the remains of an original Roman *calzada*. Follow it as it climbs to the top of the pass 1km further on. Here, you will find yourself standing under an electricity pylon on the boundary line between Gipuzkoa and Álava, and your way ahead well indicated by the Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Alava. You will also see other footpaths, which follow the Aizkorri Ridge. Do not be tempted to follow them. You can always come back to do that.

At first, the path winds down through some rocks before descending steeply to a more obvious track, where you are guided left by a waymarker. After leaving this wider track for a narrower one on its right, you find yourself walking down the right hand side of a defile along a trail, which can be a bit muddy in the places where the occasional small stream crosses it.

#### **Elburgo (Burgelu(B)).**

**3.0 km**

No facilities, apart from a fountain, which is understood now to be connected to mains water. (The villagers drink the water despite an old "not drinkable" sign.)

Pass the pillar surmounted by an iron cross, and arrive at the 15th / 16th century Parish Church of San Pedro, which has a gothic font, a baroque altarpiece with a statue of Santiago, and, outside, a neo-classical tower.

Go past the buildings at the south side of the church along the agricultural road, which first of all crosses a stream and then comes to a fork. Take the right fork, and after about 1.2km you will reach a bollarded intersection with the bed of the former rail link between Villafranca (away on your left) and Estíbaliz (out of sight on a hill ahead and to your right).

#### **Alternative Route.**

*At this intersection, you can turn right to follow the gravel walkway through a cutting, and then, at another signposted junction of walkways, turn right to reach*

#### **Santuario de Ntra Señora de Estíbaliz.**

**2.5km**

*Café / bar and visitor centre. Limited pilgrim accommodation.*

*Founded in 932 it was both a fortress and a monastery, which came under the rule of the monastery of Santa Maria la Real de Nájera.*

*It is of Transitional Romanesque style, and was built on the site of a former building of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It is of latin cross plan, with three semicircular apses and a two arched tower over the door known as the "Speciosa". The doorway itself has four decorated archivolt.*

*The sanctuary is administered by the Order of San Benito, which holds daily services and is able to offer a limited amount of guest accommodation to pilgrims.*

*After visiting the sanctuary it is possible to rejoin the Camino*

**EITHER** *by retracing your steps to the last mentioned crossways, and continuing straight over it to follow the pathway down to the church in Villafranca (1.25km), where you will find the Camino signposted to the right, OR by taking the walkway alongside the road to Argandoña (1.75 km)*

If you are not visiting the sanctuary go straight ahead, across the bollarded crossway, and along the agricultural road, down into

#### **Villafranca.**

(from Elburgo) **2.6 km**

The Parish Church of San Andrés has an interesting plateresque doorway, and a

centre, after which it will bend to the right and then left as it passes the communal weighbridge. It will shortly be joined from the right by the road from Luzuriaga.

Another kilometre brings you to a road on your left, which goes to Mezquia, and, a few metres beyond that, is a private house, the former Hospital of San Lázaro y la Magdalena, which still carries on its façade the shield of Salvatierra, the inscription “S. MAR. MAGDALENA” and a relief of a container, which alludes to the one, filled with perfume, given to Jesus by the Saint.

Further on still, on the right behind a hedge, you might be able to spot the Cross of Ventaberri, whose spirally grooved column is surmounted by the figure of a weeping Mary at the foot of the cross.

Shortly after this you reach a roundabout on the north edge of the old town of

### **Salvatierra (Agurain (B)). 3.0 km**

Shops, Bar / Restaurants, Post Office, Accommodation, Tourist / Camino Information Office for sello, Chemist

The Fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, involving a large bonfire in the Plaza de San Juan, takes place on 15 August with, of course, much merrymaking Spanish style.

If you wish to see the wall paintings in the Church of St Martin in Gaceo (the next village), or those in the Church of Alaiza which are equally notable (see later), you are advised to contact the priest of St John’s Church or enquire at the Tourist Office for information regarding the possibility of access. During school holidays, there may be prearranged opening times for both churches.

To avoid the tolls which were charged in days of old, many pilgrims used to branch off to the right to follow the outside of the town’s west walls. (You can still take this route if you wish to avoid the town centre).

To go through the town, follow the arrows over the roundabout and up the road to left of the Church of Santa Maria. Cross over the road to join the walkway along the north wall of the Church, and then turn left in front of the Church and into the **Calle Mayor**, where you will be able to find a number of bars, restaurants and shops. This street will lead you to the main square and Church of St John and the nearby Information Office (open mid June to September).

From the square, continue south via **Portal del Rey**, turn right along the old main road (**Calle Fueros**) and continue past the waste disposal site, opposite which the alternative route emerges near the remains of the Cross of Arnicruz. Shortly after, you will come to a major junction with the *autopista* approach road. Keep straight ahead and follow the service road, fronting a large factory. Continue along the service road in front of the cement works (Agurain

Hormigones Mac S.A), and, ignoring any yellow arrows on the electricity pylon just after the works, move onto the main road verge on your right. Continue along this verge until you come to a service road, opposite a Same Tractors(?) outlet, which feeds the industrial estate. Turn left down this access road and then go right at the next roundabout along the main estate road. After about 650m or so, another road turns off left, and leads to the bridge/tunnel under the *autopista* through which the Way passes.

At this bridge, the tarmacked road reverts to a compacted gravel agricultural road and leads you to

### **Gazeo (Gaceo (C)). 3.9 km**

Fountain by weighbridge.  
Romanesque Church of San Martín (13<sup>th</sup> century) with beautiful wallpaintings.

Once past the church, turn left along the road to Alaiza. After 350 m, and before you reach the railway, your route is waymarked to the right.

*If, instead of turning right at this point, you continue for 3km straight ahead over the railway bridge, you will pass through **Langarica** and reach a T-junction. Here, a right turn followed by an immediate left turn for 500m will bring you into **Alaiza**, where you can treat yourself to a visit to its parish church. A key used to be kept at the first building (a farm) on your right as you drop down into the village. If you are as lucky as Eric Walker was, you might get a guided tour by the farmer’s son.*

*The church is famous for the Gothic murals in its apse and sacristy, which depict scenes from daily life, wildlife and many battles. One section includes this group of pilgrims which has become so well known by having been reproduced so many times in literature about the Camino.*



*If you take this diversion it will be necessary to return as far as Langarica and then branch left, making directly for Ezquerecocha.*

If you do not, turn right to take the narrow asphalt road through the fields to

### **Ezkerekotxa (Ezquerecocha (C)). 2.0 km**

Parish Church of San Román with 12<sup>th</sup> century portico. The octagonal apse has an interesting early Gothic window. There is also a statue of San Martín Laborador, and a bust of San Román with juvenile representations of San Rocco and San Sebastián on either side of him.