

## Cycling the Camino Frances update Dec20

### General

The ECF (European Cycling Federation) have published a proposed route for EV3 (EuroVèlo 3) cycle route across northern Spain. This is intended as a pilgrim route for cyclists and in many places it follows the road route described in this guide. However when crossing the meseta between Burgos–Frómista and again after Carrión de los Condes (stages 8,9,10) it partly follows the rough track of the Camino route. In other places, in order to avoid busy roads, it makes substantial deviations from both recognised routes. This is particularly the case between Nájera and Burgos (stages 5,6,7) and in parts of Galicia (stage 17). When the missing sections of the A12 motorway between Santo Domingo de la Calzada–Burgos and the A54 in Galicia are completed and draw-off the heavy traffic, it is likely that these deviations will be re-routed closer to the road route. At present the only section waymarked EV3 is around Burgos, but it is expected that this will be expanded in the next few years.

### Stage 11

A remodelled motorway junction on the southern outskirts of León has caused a slight diversion of both the Camino and road routes.

*p154 Camino route* After crossing over bridge at **Alto de Portillo** summit, continue on opposite side of road. Bear R, passing roundabout R and follow track beside road over motorway. At next roundabout, turn L and R over first exit then continue ahead beside main road. Where track ends, re-join original route by joining main road (Ave Madrid) and following this into **Puente del Castro**.

*p158 Road route* After passing under bridge at **Alto de Portillo** summit, follow main road ahead over roundabout, motorway bridge and second roundabout into Ave Madrid and re-join original route descending through **Puente del Castro**.

### Stage 12

Leaving León, a continuous cycle track has been constructed through **Trobajo del Camino**.

*p169/170 Road route* At second roundabout, join cycle track R and follow this crossing first exit and continuing beside Ave Párroco Pablo Díez over railway bridge into **Trobajo del Camino**. Where cycle track ends, turn R (Pl la Ermita) before small chapel. At end, turn L and R (Calle de la Fuente) then first L (Calle la Para). Go ahead over three crossroads then turn L (Dr Vega Fernández) at fourth. At end turn R, re-joining original route along main road.

Between **La Virgen de Camino** and **Hospital de Órbigo** the original route mostly uses sendas beside the N120 main road. The recommended walking route has been diverted away from the main road along the alternative route mentioned on p162 using quiet roads and gravel tracks through the fertile irrigated land of the **Páramo** and this is now the preferred route for Camino route cyclists. The road route still follows the N120.

*p162 Camino route* After forking L in **La Virgen de Camino** join cycle track L of road. 150m before first road junction turn L on track through scrubland. At T-junction turn L onto quiet road then go-ahead over roundabout (second exit, sp Fresno del Camino) and cross two motorways, one over, one under. Go uphill through edge of **Fresno del Camino** (9km, 876m) ([refreshments](#)) then descend into open country. Cross railway bridge then turn R into **Oncina de la Valduncina** (11km, 868m) ([albergue](#), [refreshments](#)). Turn L in village (Calle Real) and at end of village fork L on gravel track beside childrens' playground. Ascend through scrubland, then emerge on asphalt road and continue through fields to **Chozas de Abajo** (16.5km, 862m) ([refreshments](#)).

Fork R (Calle Real) at beginning of village then after short section of dual-carriageway fork L. Go-ahead over crossroads and continue through fields to **Villar de Mazarife** (21km, 866m) (**albergue, refreshments**). Go ahead (Calle León) over crossroads to reach mini-roundabout (PI Media Villa) in village centre. Continue ahead (Calle Camino) then dogleg R and L over staggered crossroads (sp La Milla del Páramo). After 4km go ahead over main road onto gravel track and follow this bearing L then R across Canal General del Páramo irrigation canal. Continue through fields then turn R into **Villavante** R (30.5km, 837m) (**albergue, refreshments, station**).

Go ahead over mini-roundabout (Calle la Iglesia) and follow this through village. Fork L (Calle la Carballa) beside water tower and cross railway. Bear L then join gravel track parallel with railway. Follow this bearing R away from railway to reach motorway embankment. Fork R on rough track beside motorway, then emerge on road and turn R over bridge. After 250m, turn L onto gravel track. Cross irrigation canal and turn L beside Mondeléz factory that produces Kraft Philadelphia cheese. Follow road circling factory then turn R at T-junction. Go ahead (Ave de la Constitución, sp San Pedro de Pegas) at roundabout then fork L (Calle del Órbigo). Turn L to re-join original route over **Puente de Órbigo** bridge (35km, 821m).

### **Stage 18**

*A new motorway junction has blocked the road route before Santiago airport. In addition a new ramp has replaced steps on the descent from Monte do Gozo making it possible for cyclists to follow the Camino route.*

*p226 Camino route* From **Monte do Gozo** cycle ahead downhill, then where road turns sharply R, continue ahead onto new concrete ramp that snakes down hillside. At bottom emerge beside road and re-join original route by following track L of road over motorway and railway bridges.

*p231 Road route* After Amenal ascend steeply through woods to reach roundabout. Turn L (second exit) then follow track bearing L beside new motorway. Follow this past end of airport runway, re-joining original route.

*p231 Road route* From **Monte do Gozo** cycle ahead downhill, then where road turns sharply R, continue ahead onto new concrete ramp that snakes down hillside. At bottom emerge beside road and re-join original route by following track L of road over motorway and railway bridges.

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