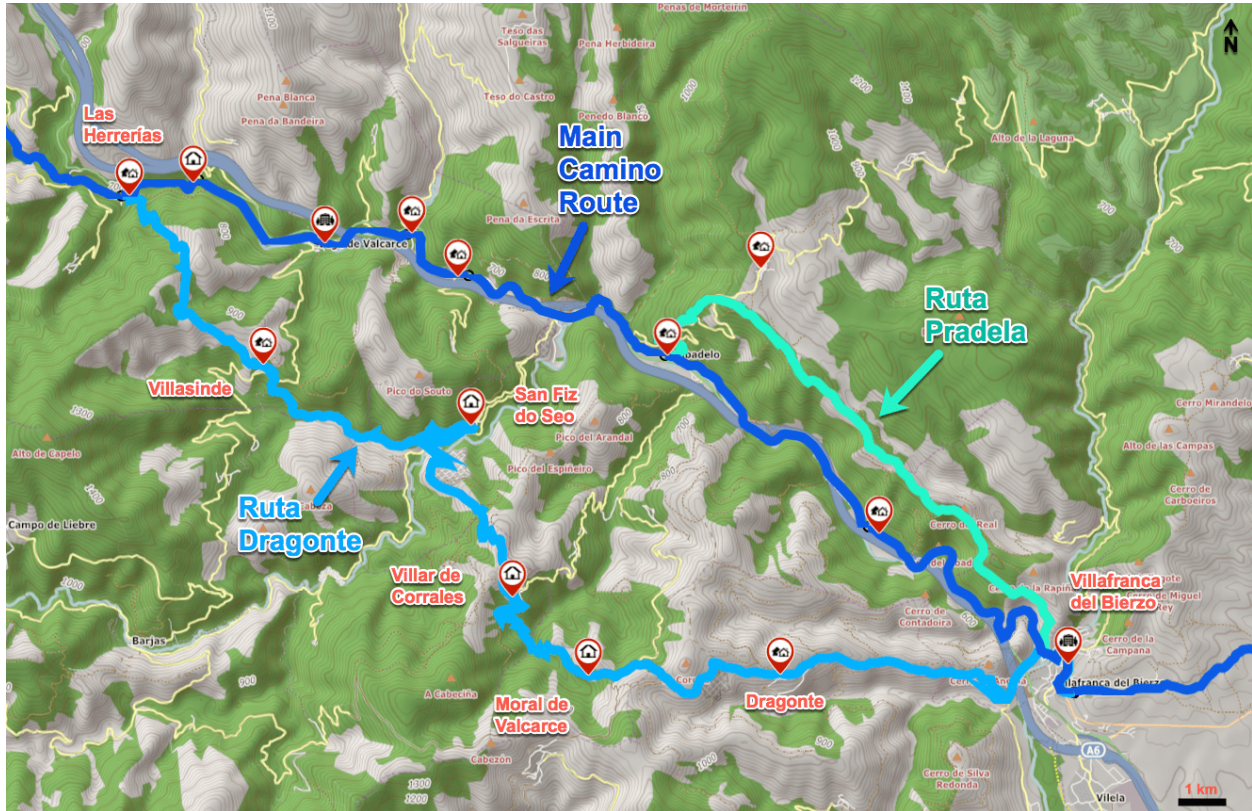


Welcome to the Trekopedia guide to the...

Ruta Dragonte



An optional path on the Camino Francés between
Villafranca del Bierzo & Las Herrerías

v1.0 - May 2018

Copyright © 2018

The Trekopedia Team

www.trekopedia.com

dragonte@trekopedia.com

Introduction

Route Options from Villafranca del Bierzo

The *Ruta Dragonte* is one of three alternate paths of the Camino Francés departing from the town of **Villafranca del Bierzo** in the province of León, Spain.

The **main route** runs through a valley, mostly following alongside highway A-6. The overwhelming majority of pilgrims opt to walk that way. It is definitely the easiest option: relatively flat, unchallenging, nearly impossible to get lost, and has the advantage of being shared by hordes of other pilgrims so you'll always have company.

A second variant, often called *Ruta Pradela* after a village it passes, runs up and alongside the hills and ridges to the right / northeast of the main route before rejoining it in the village of **Trabadelo**. Walked by only a small percentage of pilgrims (perhaps 5%), this 11.6 km / 7.2 mi option has some steep ascending (515 m / 1,690 ft) and descending (479 m / 1,552 ft), offers some nice views, and provides a brief respite from the crowds. It's a great option for those who want something a bit more challenging and scenic.

The 26.4 km / 16.4 mi *Ruta Dragonte*, on the other hand, follows a path to the left (south / southwest) of the main route ascending and descending three steep mountains, sometimes along remote 'backcountry' paths, before rejoining the main route in the attractive village of **Las Herrerías**. You'll climb over 1,500 m / 4,900 ft and descend almost as much, most of it fairly steep, and pass through a handful of remote hamlets. There are no

accommodation options along this entire path, so unless you are camping you need to do it in a single day.

Both the *Ruta Pradela* and *Ruta Dragonte* are challenging paths. The primary difference is that the *Dragonte* has 2.3 times the distance and 3 times the total ascent and descent. Because of the higher elevations, the views from the *Dragonte* are much nicer than the *Pradela*.

Road Less Travelled

Only a wee, tiny, infinitesimal percentage of pilgrims follow the *Dragonte* — it is definitely the road less travelled. Indeed, it is entirely possible that you won't see another pilgrim the entire way. Locals will assume you are lost and try (sometimes emphatically) to point you back to the main route. Other pilgrims will assume you are just crazy.

Pilgrims who walk the *Dragonte*, though, frequently describe it as their favourite part of the entire Camino. It is a beautiful, rewarding route with outstanding views the entire way of both the rugged mountainous terrain and of attractive villages dotting the landscape in the distance. It provides a deep sense of tranquility, isolation, and harmony. And it is a great way to experience true rural Spain, offering a nice contrast to the rest of the Camino.

In-depth, Painstakingly-Researched, and Comprehensive History of the *Dragonte*

The *Dragonte* was apparently a common path used by travellers in medieval days to avoid 'toll booths' in some of the communities along the main route. Some accounts claim the route was also used by Templar Knights when policing the region. (And thus ends this in-depth, painstakingly-researched, and comprehensive history of the *Dragonte*.

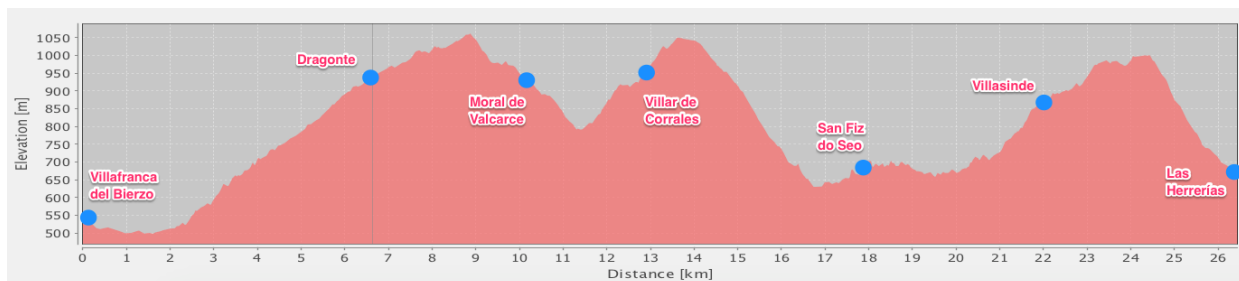
You're welcome... 🙏)

Trail Suitability

Today, the *Dragonte* is a challenging option that is most suitable for those who are fit, have some experience with hill walking, are comfortable in remote locations, and have eyes that can handle the strain of constant beautiful views. It's not for everyone. But if you are up to the challenge and looking for a peaceful, scenic, and memorable alternative to the main Camino route then the *Dragonte* is very much worth considering.

Elevation Profile

Here's an elevation profile chart showing a cutaway view of the route:



If the sight of this chart makes your heart palpitate in anticipation, then maybe the *Dragonte* is for you. If your heart is seizing up in fear, then maybe the main Camino route would be a better alternative. There is no shame in staying alive!

Characteristics

Here's what you can expect on the *Ruta Dragonte*:

Distance & Elevation Changes:

Distance: 26.4 km / 16.4 mi

Ascent: 1,534 m / 5,033 ft

Descent: 1,399 m / 4,590 ft

Terrain:

Brace yourself for near-constant ascending / descending as you traverse three mountains.

The trail surface is highly varied, ranging from quiet mountain roads to woodland trails to literally walking *along*, not just across, a stream (not deep – ankle depth if not outright dry).

Roughly the first 40% of the route is along paved rural roads. After that there's a mix of unpaved roads, tracks, off-road paths, stream-walking, and passing through villages. Up until recently, some of the off-road sections were through thick bush but those sections are (mostly) much better cleared. You should be able to leave your machete at home now... 😊

While it is not normally an issue to walk in the streams, keep in mind that during / after heavy rainfall the streams may be running much faster. The steep descent to **Las Herrerías** can be slippery and muddy in wet conditions.

Difficulty:

Strenuous. There is nothing technically difficult about the *Dragonte* – it is just long, remote, and, um, 'hilly'. It's also more 'backcountry' than is usually found elsewhere on the Camino Francés. If you are fit and used to hill-climbing, you shouldn't have any problem.

Seasonality:

Can be done all year, though significant caution is warranted in winter as would be the case with any mountain hiking.

Waymarkings:

Moderate. Pathfinding was historically poor for this route but has been notably improved in recent years. Patrick Eibergen (founder of the *Friends of Dragonte* Facebook group) and hospitalero Matt Sanchez painted yellow arrows in 2016 (thanks, guys!!). The local government put up shiny new metal signposts in many parts of the route in 2017, though regrettably not in the more remote sections where they are actually most needed. Patrick Eibergen may be adding / refreshing some yellow arrows in summer 2018.

Note, though, that pathfinding is nevertheless still more of a challenge on this route than on typical Camino routes. You need to stay more alert for waymarkings and may need to refer to our maps more frequently. However, in combination with the maps below and the walking notes, you shouldn't have too much problem.

As an extra precaution, take our **TrailSmart** mobile app with you which shows you your current position relative to the trail plus has built-in yellow arrows pointing the way to go (along with lots of other Camino content!). TrailSmart is free with no advertising or other nonsense (see the blurb later in this guide for info on TrailSmart).

Communities, Accommodation, & Amenities:

The *Ruta Dragonte* begins in the town of **Villafranca del Bierzo**, which has a full range of accommodation and services, and finishes in the village of **Las Herrerías**, which has an albergue and F & B available.

Here are the communities along the *Dragonte*:

Community	Distance	Amenities
Villafranca del Bierzo	Start	Full range of accommodations and services.
Dragonte	6.7 km / 4.2 mi	Has water fountain
Moral de Valcarce	10.1 km / 6.3 mi	Has water fountain
Villar de Corrales	13.0 km / 8.1 mi	Has water fountain
San Fiz do Seo	17.8 km / 11.1 mi	May have water spigot — not confirmed yet
Villasinde	21.8 km / 13.6 mi	Has bar (rarely open)
Las Herrerías	26.4 km / 16.4 mi	Has albergue and F & B.

There are no accommodation options available along this section, other than at the two endpoints. *If you aren't camping, you will need to complete it in a single day.* While a distance of 26.4 km / 16.4 mi may not seem overly challenging, when you factor in the elevation changes the 'effective' distance is well over 40 km / 25 mi. It is very doable and the rewards are fantastic, but it should not be undertaken lightly by those not used to the distances and hill-climbing involved.

Other:

There are some huge, impressive chestnut trees along this path.

Duration:

This varies wildly depending on the hiker, ranging from 5 hours for

those ~~with bionic legs and inhumane lungs~~ who are super-fit and in a hurry to 8+ hours for those ~~still trying to kick that two pack a day smoking habit~~ needing more frequent rest breaks and periodically stopping to take in the view. Error on the side of caution and give yourself plenty of time for this section — besides, it is too beautiful to rush through it!

Safety, Hazards, & Annoyances

Weather

Traversing mountains and backcountry trails requires more care and caution than most parts of the Camino. Always be alert to weather conditions, which in mountains can change rapidly and with little warning.

Isolation

Keep in mind that much of the *Ruta Dragonte* is remote and isolated; you'll see few other people for long stretches. It is advisable to walk with someone else and to carry a basic first aid kit.

Dogs

Don't be surprised to encounter dogs in and near the villages. Not all of them will be of the "Cuddles" variety; some will look a tad more "Cujo". They are usually more of a nuisance than a genuine threat but as always caution is warranted. Wave your hiking poles if necessary. Keep in mind they are usually just being territorially protective and warning you off – give them a wide berth so that the dog does not perceive you as a threat to itself or to whatever it is guarding (livestock, property, etc.).

Bugs

Bugs can sometimes be a pest on the route. Waving your hiking poles at them might make you feel better, but probably won't help. Bring some repellent.

Creek / Runoff

If there's been heavy rainfall recently it is possible that the creek after **Moral de Valcarce** will be running higher than usual. Also, in a couple of other locations normally-dry stream-beds / paths might be doing double-duty as run-offs – this is especially the case for the steep path descending to **Las Herrerías**.

Umbilical Cord

Expect cell phone reception to be spotty to non-existent over much of the *Dragonte*.

Waypoints & Walking Directions

Alrighty, then, let's get going!

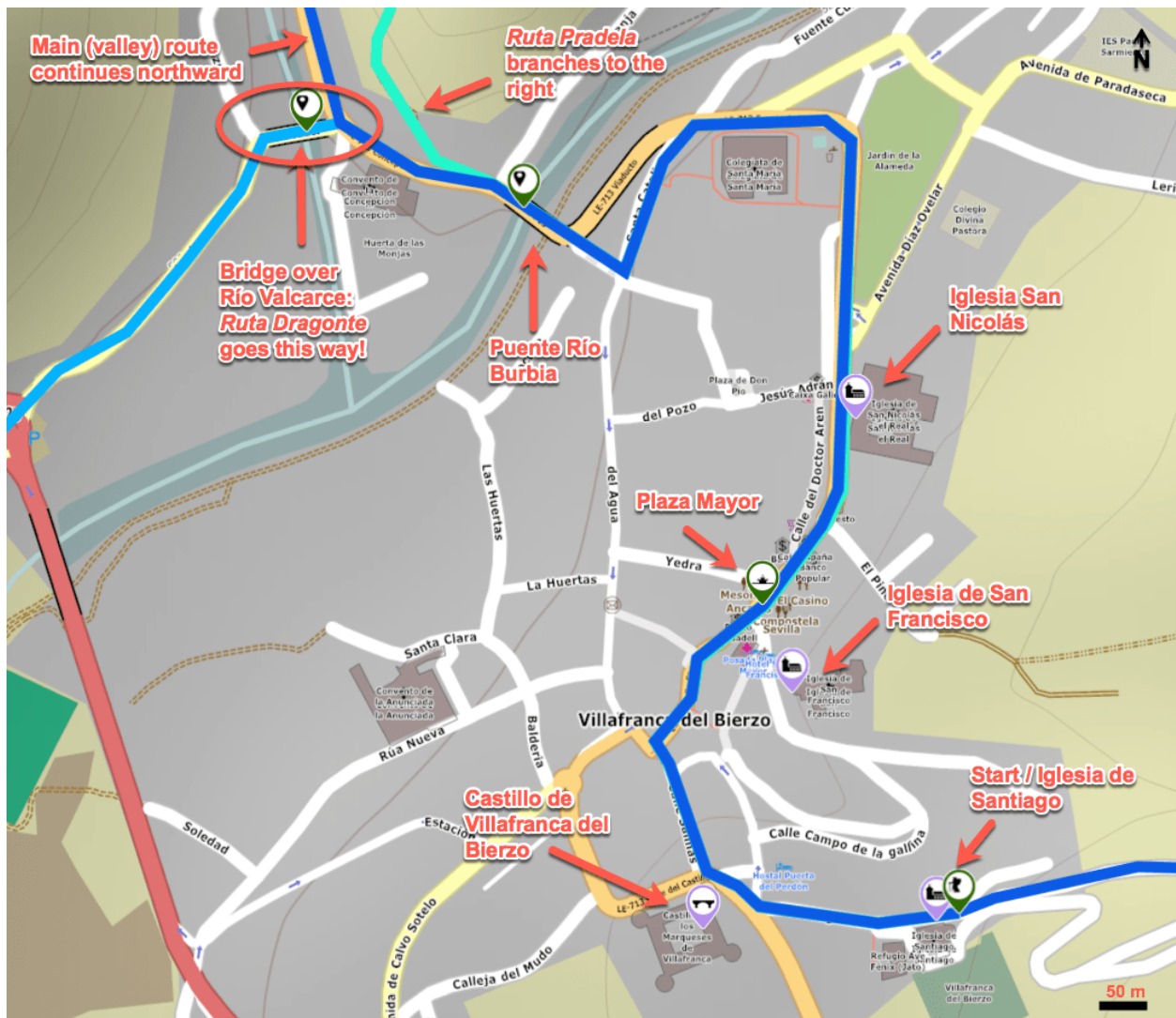
Map tips:

1. The maps and elevation chart in this guide have been embedded over-sized. You can zoom in quite a ways before they begin to pixellate.
2. Use the contour lines to see elevation changes. We use a contour interval of 20 m (65.6 ft) and we follow the standard convention of displaying index contour lines every 5 lines (index contour lines are slightly thicker / darker).

1. Villafranca del Bierzo to Dragonte

This 1st portion of the route, about 6.7 km / 4.2 mi, takes you through **Villafranca** and then most of the way up the first mountain to the rural village of **Dragonte**. It follows paved roads the entire way though once out of Villafranca you'll see very few cars. The ascent is quite steep. However, since the road is paved the footing is excellent. It's just steep, steep, steep.

We treat the trailhead for **Villafranca** as being the road junction by the municipal albergue, adjacent to the 13th century **Iglesia de Santiago** (with its beautiful *Puerta del Perdón* ("Door of Forgiveness") on its north side. Thus, the *Dragonte* starts with a walk through the attractive town of Villafranca. In the map below, you're starting at the lower-right.



Map 1a - Departure from Villafranca del Bierzo (scale 1:4,000)

Notable waypoints / highlights are:

[Start] Villafranca del Bierzo Trailhead - From **Iglesia de Santiago**, follow the road W.

[180 m / 594 ft] Castillo de Villafranca del Bierzo - Turn R at the 16th century castle and then R again onto *Calle Salinas*, go down the stairs, then R one more time onto *Calle Puente Nuevo*. As an alternative exit from **Villafranca**, you could also go via *Calle del Agua*, bypassing **Plaza Mayor** —

it is a much more direct route though not the 'official' path.

[460 m / 1512 ft] Plaza Mayor - Town square, lined with cafés, bank machines, and retail outlets. Down the road branching to your R out of the plaza is **Iglesia de San Francisco**, dating back to 1213 with major reconstruction in Gothic style in the 15th century. Legend has it that it was founded by St. Francis of Assisi. Pass through the plaza, continuing NNE / N.

[570 m / 1868 ft] Iglesia San Nicolás - 17th century church, housing **Albergue-Hospedería San Nicolás el Real**. Continue N past the tree-lined park on your R, veering L as the road curves around **Colegiata de Santa María**. Follow the Colegiata's walls onto *Santa Catalina*, then turn R into the narrow alleyway of *Cuesta Zamora*, go up the stairs and cross the bridge over the *Río Burbia*.

[1.2 km / 0.8 mi] Puente Río Burbia - Shortly after this bridge is where the three options out of Villafranca diverge. The main Camino route, heading to **Pereje** along the valley, stays on LE-713 as it curves N. The option via **Pradela** ascends up the cobblestone road branching to the R. This section, ascending to **Dragonte**, turns to the L at the next junction (with **Hostal Restaurante Casa Mendez** at the corner).

[1.4 km / 0.8 mi] Bridge Over Río Valcarce - Cross the bridge and follow the paved road SW. Don't be surprised if some locals try to wave you back to the main Camino route – they will be assuming you are heading this way in error.

In the map below, you're starting from the right.



Map 1b: Ascending to Dragonte (scale 1:15,000)

[2.1 km / 1.3 mi] LE-5112 Junction - Follow the narrow paved road that ascends to your R. There is a sign at the junction for the village of **Dragonte**. The road is very quiet – you won't see much traffic. However, because it is narrow stay alert anyway; for much of it there are no shoulders and due to twists and turns drivers don't have good visibility. The road is quite steep. Your reward, though, is some very nice views to your L through the entire ascent.

[5.9 km / 3.7 mi] Junction East of Dragonte - Keep to your R at this Y-junction, following the road that is still ascending.

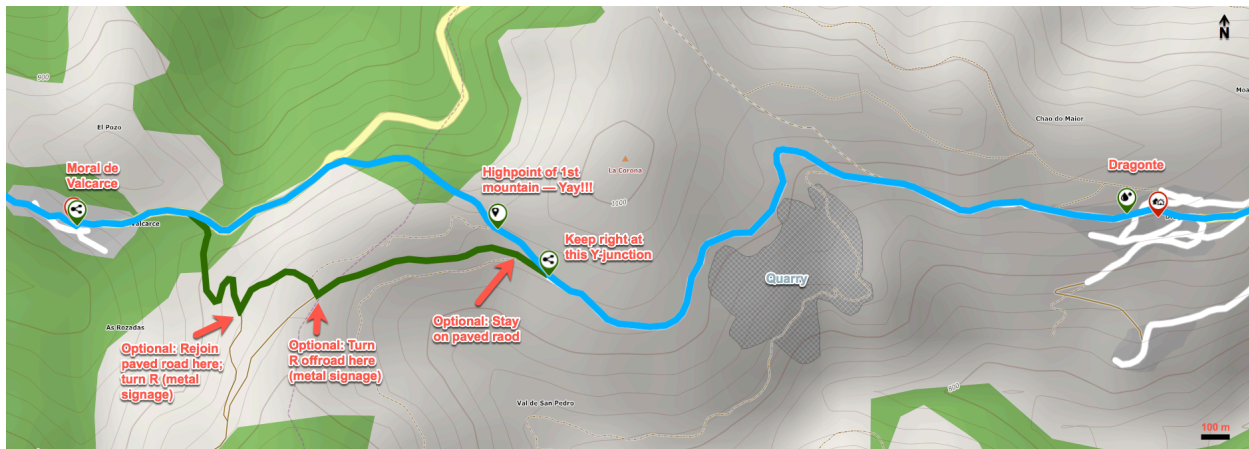
[6.7 km / 4.2 mi] Water Fountain in Dragonte - This is the village of **Dragonte**, after which this Camino variant is named. There are no accommodation or services here, but there is a water fountain available (generously built by the people who own **Albergue Leo** in **Villafranca**).

2. Dragonte to Moral de Valcarce

You're not quite at the top of your first ascent yet, though you are getting close. This 2nd portion of the route, 3.4 km / 2.1 mi long, finishes the initial ascent from **Dragonte** and descends partway to **Moral de Valcarce**. Top-up your water bottle(s) at the fountain on your R and continue

through and out of the village following the paved road W and then winding S / SW, still ascending, eventually passing around the rim of a quarry on your L.

In the map below, you're starting from the right.



Map 2: Dragonte to Moral de Valcarce (scale 1:8,000)

Notable waypoints / highlights are:

[8.7 km / 5.4 mi] Junction West of Dragonte - Keep to your R veering onto and following the rough path that is ascending more steeply, passing through bush / scrub. Note that you can also continue along the paved road — the new metal waymarking signage actually shows a turnoff a little further ahead, cutting to your R off the road to go through bush / scrub for a bit and then rejoining the road with another R. That road merges (to your L) with the paved road into **Moral de Valcarce**. You can see the optional path shown in green on the map above.

[8.8 km / 5.5 mi] Highpoint (1st peak) - At about 1,060 m / 3,805 ft. Start descending, fairly steeply, passing through some woodland / brush and then merging onto a paved road, heading SW with nice views to your R.

[10.1 km / 6.3 mi] Moral de Valcarce Junction - This is the village of **Moral de Valcarce**. There is a water fountain available here.

3. Moral de Valcarce to Villar de Corrales

This 3rd portion, 2.9 km / 1.8 mi long, continues your descent of the first mountain and takes you part way up the second mountain to the village of **Villar de Corrales**.

For many people, this is the most confusing part of *Ruta Dragonte* — stay alert for the yellow arrows and make more frequent references to these maps. In particular, stay alert for the junction (see below) where you need to make a sharp R turn.

***Tip:** If you have our TrailSmart app, take advantage of its built-in 'yellow arrow' feature that shows you which direction to walk based on your current position, plus compare your position with the route shown on TrailSmart's interactive map.*

In the map below, you're starting from the lower-right.



Map 3: Moral de Valcarce to Villar de Corrales (scale 1:8,000)

Continue through and out of **Moral de Valcarce** along the road heading WNW / NW, still descending.

[10.8 km / 6.7 mi] Trail Y-Junction - Keep to your L at this Y-junction, following a cow path.

[11.0 km / 6.9 mi] Trail Junction - **Easy-to-miss!** The cow path you've been on continues ahead whereas you should make a sharp R turn to head down towards the stream.

[11.4 km / 7.1 mi] Lowpoint / Stream Walk - This is the lowpoint between the first two mountain peaks. It is also where you walk along (in) a rocky stream. It's not normally deep, typically only up to your ankles (if that). Note, though, that after rainy weather or spring melt-off it can be higher. Turn R and follow the stream for less than 100 m / 325 ft (you'll see an old stone building with a yellow arrow on it near the start of this stretch), then exit the stream to your L. Shortly thereafter you'll start the steady, moderately steep ascent up the second mountain along a nice chestnut-lined path with **Villar de Corrales** being about two-thirds of the way up.

[13.0 km / 8.1 mi] Villar de Corrales Junction - This is the village of **Villar de Corrales**. Again, there's no accommodation or services but there is a fountain.

4. Villar de Corrales to San Fiz do Seo

This 4th portion of the route, 4.8 km / 3.0 mi long, finishes the ascent of the 2nd mountain and then steeply descends it, continuing past the valley low-point to the hamlet of **San Fiz do Seo**.

In the map below, you're starting from the lower-right.



Map 4: Villar de Corrales to San Fiz do Seo (scale 1:15,000)

From **Villar de Corrales**, continue through the village along the road heading NW.

[13.6 km / 8.5 mi] Highpoint (2nd peak) - At about 1,046 m / 3,432 ft. Multiple paths meet at this location. Continue straight ahead, NNW, descending into the second valley along a winding / zig-zagging path. This stretch can be slow-going as the path is rocky / uneven and quite steep.

[15.0 km / 9.3 mi] Multi-Trail Junction - Multiple trails meet at this junction. Keep to your L, heading initially WSW and then curving NW, still descending steeply through scrub on a decent-quality track. You'll wind your way around a quarry.

[16.9 km / 10.5 mi] LE-5110 Junction / 2nd Valley Lowpoint - This is the lowpoint of the 2nd valley. Turn R onto the paved road, heading NE / E, ascending moderately. Stay alert for traffic as you'll be walking directly on the road. Keep an eye out for the next junction on your L (narrow ascending road), which takes you into **San Fiz do Seo**.

[17.3 km / 10.8 mi] Turnoff to San Fiz do Seo - Keep L here to start ascending to **San Fiz do Seo**. As an alternative, you can continue following LE-5110 down into the valley (about 4.5 km / 2.8 mi) to **Trabadelo**, **La Portela de Valcarce**, or **Ambasmestas** (all of which are on the main Camino route) where you can overnight.

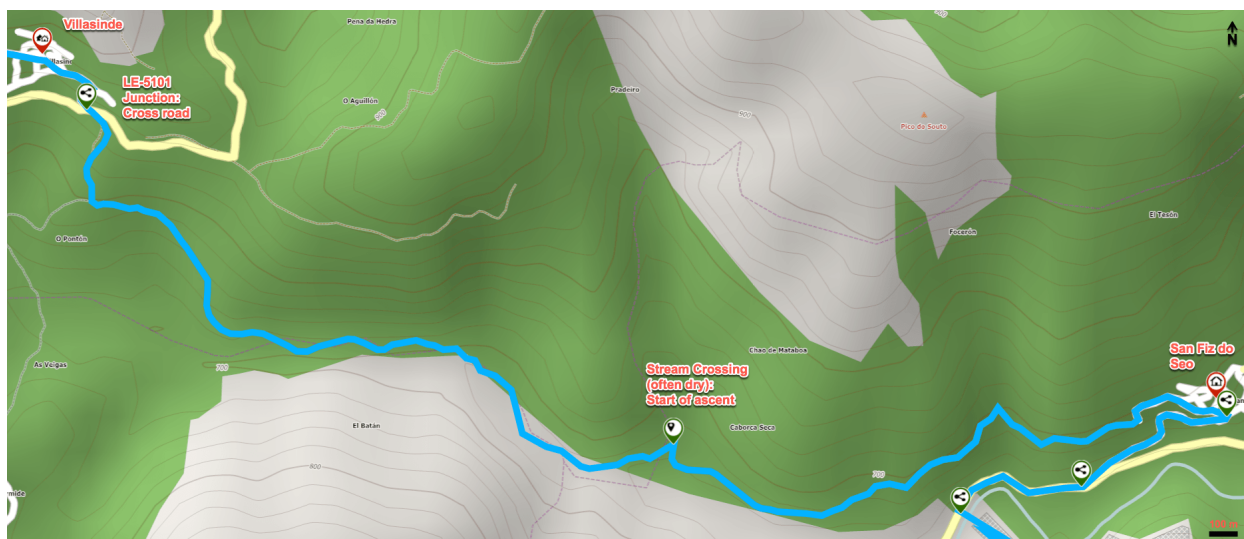
[17.8 km / 11.1 mi] San Fiz do Seo Junction - This is the village of **San Fiz do Seo**. There may be a water spigot connected to the tiny community centre, located in the small plaza in front of the church (can anyone confirm this for us?).

5. San Fiz do Seo to Villasinde

On this 5th portion of the route, 4.0 km / 2.5 mi long, you'll begin the ascent of the 3rd and final mountain peak, taking you to **Villasinde** about halfway up. The path is partially along tight trails that can be a bit overgrown. People have had problems finding their way through this stretch — stay alert for trail signs and check your position against the map.

From **San Fiz do Seo**, veer your L and continue through the village along the road heading sharply uphill to the W. You'll see some bee-houses near the trail after departing the village – whacking them with a stick just to see what happens is *not* recommended! The path is relatively flat initially as it winds WSW from the village.

In the map below, you're starting from the lower-right.



Map 5: San Fiz do Seo to Villasinde (scale 1:8,000)

Key waypoints are:

[19.6 km / 12.2 mi] Stream Crossing (often dry) - Short stream walk / crossing (though often dry) just before the ascent of the third mountain.

[21.8 km / 13.6 mi] LE-5101 Junction (at Villasinde) - This is at the entrance to the village of **Villasinde**, the fifth and final village you come to on the *Ruta Dragonte*. Cross over LE-5101 and continue up the narrow laneway on the opposite side (with the stone wall beside you), veering L through the village heading WNW. There is a rarely-opened bar operated by a friendly local named Celia available in the village. Try asking around for her and she may open up for you.

6. Villasinde to Las Herrerías

This 6th and final portion of the *Ruta Dragonte*, 4.6 km / 2.8 mi long, completes the ascent of the 3rd mountain and descends, quite steeply, into **Las Herrerías**.

Depart from **Villasinde** and continue NW along a track through fields and woodland.

In the map below, you're starting from the lower-right.



Map 6: Villasinde to Las Herrerías (scale 1:15,000)

[23.4 km / 14.6 mi] Trail Junction - Continue ahead, across the intersecting path at this junction. As an alternative to the path to **Las Herrerías** described here: if you follow the intersecting path to the L it will eventually loop around to the village of **San Julián**. From there, you can descend to **Las Herrerías**. We haven't tried that approach yet, but it might be worth exploring.

[24.4 km / 15.2 mi] Highpoint (3rd peak) - At approximately 1,000 m / 3,281 ft. Multiple paths meet at this location. Continue straight ahead, NNW, N, and then NW, descending steeply mainly along an old cow path (watch where you step – the cows sometimes leave little surprises behind for you). Note that during / after rainy weather this path is a run-off for

rain water and can be slippery and muddy.

[26.4 km / 16.4 mi] Las Herrerías Trailhead - When you come into **Las Herrerías**, bear L merging with the main Camino route. **Albergue Las Herrerías** is on your L, a couple of houses up the hill.

Shortcuts

There are several ways to cut short the *Ruta Dragonte* to re-connect to the main route going through the valley. Each of the villages on this route has connecting rural roads / paths to one of **Trabadelo**, **La Portela de Valcarce**, or **Vega de Valcarce**.

For example, you could follow the *Dragonte* until just before the ascent to **San Fiz do Seo** and then follow LE-5110 down into the valley to **Trabadelo**, shaving about 5 km / 3.1 mi off the total distance. This is worth keeping in mind if you find yourself tiring more than expected. You could continue on the *Dragonte* the next day or, if your legs are very annoyed at you, you could simply join the main Camino route through the valley.

Keep in mind that there are many non-Camino routes and trails running through these mountains. You'll sometimes see signs for other routes.

Friends of Dragonte (Facebook Group)

If you have questions about the *Dragonte*, want to share your own photos and experiences walking the route, or simply want to stay in touch with others interested in it, drop by the *Friends of Dragonte* Facebook group. Started by serial pilgrim Patrick Eibergen, it's a friendly, helpful place. Highly recommended.

Got suggestions on other Dragonte-related resources — websites, Facebook groups, blogs / trip reports, and so on? Send them to us and we'll include them in a future version of this guide.

Conclusion / Contact Details

That's it! You've completed the infamous, challenging *Ruta Dragonte* and have joined a fairly exclusive club. We applaud you! 🙌 We hope you had a great walk.

Please help us improve our content for the *Dragonte* by sending us geo-located photos we can use for reference purposes (we won't post or use them in any way without your explicit permission). If you recorded your walk, send us your GPS track. Any notes, comments, corrections, or suggestions on things we should add would also all be much appreciated!

We hope this guide has been helpful for you. Have a great Camino and drop us a line (whether you walk the *Dragonte* or not). We always enjoy hearing from other pilgrims — when we can't be on the Camino ourselves, we live vicariously through others! 😊

You can reach us via:

Web: trekopedia.com

Email: dragonte@trekopedia.com

About Us

We're the Trekopedia Team. Our passion is walking, hiking, cycling, and

just plain exploring interesting regions of the world. We enjoy researching trails, writing up our findings, and sharing it with the rest of the world.

The Camino is one of our favourites and we've been researching and writing about it since 2012, with current coverage of the Francés, Primitivo, Portugués, and the extension to Finisterre. We're adding more routes and alternative sections regularly.

We also publish *TrailSmart: Great Trails of the World*, a free mobile app for iOS and Android, which includes all of our Camino content.

Your genial hosts on the Trekopedia Team are Eugene, Dmitry, François, Sophia, Matthew, and Emma. We cover the trails that we love and are passionate about. We hope you find our coverage helpful and that you enjoy your time on the trails as much as we enjoyed walking and researching them.

TrailSmart: Great Trails of the World

Your friends on the Trekopedia Team are, well, nerds... 🧐

So, all of our trail research ends up in databases with everything organized, cross-linked, and geo-located. We've had mobile apps covering the Camino (and other trails) since 2013. Our latest and greatest app is *TrailSmart: Great Trails of the World*, which is free and available for both Android and iOS. We're working on printed / ebook guides as well.



In addition to multiple Camino routes, we have coverage of:

- West Highland Way (Scotland)
- Cotswold Way (England)
- Lycian Way (Turkey)
- Great Ocean Walk (Australia)
- Hadrian's Wall Path (England)
- Valleys, Trails & Churches of Cappadocia (Turkey).

The amazing Coast to Coast Trail in England is coming soon, with others being worked on.

Check it out:

iOS:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/trailsmart-top-trails/id1176218379?ls=1&mt=8>

Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.trekopedia.trailsmart>

Let us know what you think. We're working hard to improve the app and all of our Camino content, so your feedback is highly appreciated.

How You Can Help

Our 'Trekopedia' is a community-driven project. While we do extensive first-hand research ourselves, it is the amazing feedback we get from others in the Camino community that enables us to expand and improve our content.

You can make a huge difference simply by providing feedback. Send tips and corrections, point out typos, tell us about 3rd party resources, send us your photos, and so on.

If you'd like to help us improve our guide to the *Ruta Dragonte* or our general Camino content, any of the following would help us (and others) immensely:

Verify coordinates for locations – You can easily do this from inside our TrailSmart app when you are at that location. Just open up that location's 'details' screen in TrailSmart and then use the 'Feedback' button. The resulting email includes the coordinates of your current location. We can compare those coordinates with what we have in our database. Of course, you can use any other app that shows your current coordinates, too.

Help with points-of-interest / descriptions – Tell us about points-of-interest that should be included or help improve the descriptions / notes of those we already have. Describe the item, attach a photo if you have one, and send coordinates if possible. The more details you can provide, the better!

Send geo-located photos – If you are taking photos with your smartphone or digital camera, enable geo-location in your photos and then

send us as many photos as you can. We can use the geo-location information in the photos to help us refine the information on the route.

To enable geo-location on an iPhone go into the Settings app, tap on Privacy and then on Location Services. Make sure Location Services is enabled and then enable it specifically for the Camera app. Now all your photos will be geo-located! On Android, enable geo-location inside your camera app's Settings screen (you are looking for the "Save location" option).

Important: you have to enable geo-location *before* taking the photos! If possible, please send some notes / descriptions / captions to help give context to the photos.

We will only use the photos internally, for reference purposes — we won't publish them or post them anywhere without your explicit permission.

Send us your GPS tracks – If you recorded your own walk using GPS software, send us the GPS track. We will add it to our database of 'reference tracks'. We use these to help us spot potential problem areas along the trail that we might need to address in our own tracks. It also helps us refine our own tracks – GPS has inherent errors and one of the best ways of minimizing those errors is by 'averaging' multiple tracks.

Share tips & suggestions – Send us any tips / suggestions that you think would be useful for others doing the route. This includes both tips about the trail itself as well as suggestions about good online resources, trip reports, planning tools, and so on.

Thanks & Credits

This guide is only possible because we were able to build on the work of others. We are particularly grateful for the following sources of content, feedback, and expertise:

Greg Witters shared his GPS track for his recent walk of the *Dragonte* plus sent us lots of helpful notes.

Patrick Eibergen generously gave us permission to use his comments / notes posted on his *Friends of Dragonte* Facebook group and helped improve this guide.

Tina & Leon Eibert verified the details in the first draft of this guide during their walk of the *Dragonte* this spring. They sent lots of feedback and patiently answered many questions.

Several other people kindly provided us with additional information and resources — thanks! 🙌

Map Imagery

The map imagery used in this guide was created using theming / styling, tile generation, and annotations by the Trekopedia Team. The underlying data used to build the imagery was courtesy OpenStreetMaps (<http://www.openstreetmap.org>) and is © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Disclaimer

While much of the content in this guide has been compiled by the authors based on first-hand research, significant portions of the content are derived from information, resources, and feedback generously provided by members of the Trekopedia community. The authors cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

Maps, walking directions, and other content in this guide may include errors, omissions, or lame attempts at humour. Always use common sense and remain alert at all times while on trails and take suitable precautions before embarking.