



## Camino Accommodation

There are different types of accommodation available on the Camino, and the type that you choose will depend on your personal preference and your budget allowance. Some pilgrims choose to stay in one type of accommodation right through their Camino while others use them all. There are no rules governing how you walk your Camino, however it is good to know the difference between each type of accommodation. One thing is for certain, they are a great place to meet people!

- Albergues (also known as Refuges)
- Pensiones, Hostales, Casas Rurales
- Hotels

## Albergues

**Municipal albergues** are sponsored by local xunta and staffed by volunteers. These are often the most inexpensive albergues but may not be the most comfortable. Some municipal albergues are housed in former schoolhouses. Overflow in the busy summer months can sometimes be accommodated in public sports buildings. The volunteers who staff these albergues ask for a small fee in exchange for a bed. Municipal albergues are a great place to meet future pilgrim friends and as a result, they can fill up quick.



*Municipal Albergue in Logrono*

**Parochial albergues** are operated by religious institutions such as monasteries, convents or local churches. Many of these accommodations are offered on a donation basis or for a low fixed price. You will find that many parochial albergues offer a communal meal which adds to their charm. (A word of advice: donativo does not mean free!)



*Parochial Albergue in Granon*

**Association albergues** are operated by various pilgrim associations around the world, for example, Albergue Guacelmo in Rabanel or Albergue Paderborn in Pamplona. They are often staffed by volunteers who have walked the Camino before and want to give back to the Camino. Association albergues are supplemented by donations, so are often offered on a donation basis or a low fee.



*Albergue Guacelmo in Rabanel*

**Private albergues** provide with single beds, and bunk-beds, but many also have options for single and double rooms. These rooms cost more, but they provide some privacy for pilgrims who prefer this type of accommodation. They are owned and run by private individuals or groups. Private albergues often offer more comfortable accommodations with “extra” offerings such as meals, wash/dryer, internet, wifi, etc. Some private albergues are owned by former pilgrims.



*Albergue Turistico San Jose en Negreira*

Some albergues are very up-market in their standards, with lovely bathroom facilities and very clean dorms. As soon as the pilgrim leaves in the morning, the bed is changed before another pilgrim arrives. A large proportion of albergues have cooking facilities and you can have breakfast before you leave if you wish. A lot of albergues will provide you with clean sheets and a pillow case and there is the option to use a blanket at night if it is cold. Some albergues charge a fee.

## Pensiones, Hostales, Casas Rurales

Hostals along the Camino route are rather like 2- or 3-Star hotels. Accommodation for a single person consists of a private room with en-suite bathroom. There is always hot water for showering, and they provide the basics in terms of shampoo and soap. You also won't need your sleeping bag. This type of accommodation is particularly useful when staying in a large city or when you want to take a rest day from walking. Some hostals may call themselves hotels, and because of their up-market facilities and decor, get away with it. These are a pleasure to stay in. Others go simply by the name, and do not resemble hotels in any way. So, don't be fooled by a hostel's name if you are looking to stay in a real hotel; check it out first.

The hostals rarely have kitchen facilities for pilgrims but provide meals or tapas for pilgrims for a fee. To be sure, check with the hostel before checking in. In the same vein, they will not provide facilities for washing clothes so you may need to make alternative arrangements.

List of Accommodation on the French Way:

<https://www.caminodesantiago.me/community/resources/%E2%80%99Call%E2%80%9D-albergues-on-the-camino-frances-in-one-pdf.10/>

Maps: [Gronze.com](http://Gronze.com)

[Rome2Rio](http://Rome2Rio): Great website for working out how to get from A to B.

