

ViadelaPlataGuide.net

Walking Guide to the
VIA DE LA PLATA
and the
CAMINO SANABRES

Gerald Kelly
2025 Edition

Cover image

The cover image was painted by Pedro MB Cabral who has published a beautiful book of paintings he made while walking the Vía, if you're interested in buying it you can contact him at pmbcabral@gmail.com

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Sevilla / Seville

ACCOMMODATION Seville is an all-year major tourist destination and there are lots of backpacker hostels and hotels ranging from cheap to outrageous. The establishments mentioned here are popular with pilgrims. **Easter week and the week of the Feria de Abril**, which takes place one or two weeks after Easter, are extremely busy, if you are planning to be in Seville during this time you will need to arrange accommodation well in advance, expect to pay far more than the normal price.

Triana Backpackers is on Calle Rodrigo de Triana, in Triana, across the river from the city centre. This well-run and friendly hostel has dorm beds at the pilgrim price of 16€ and is popular with pilgrims and backpackers (so possibly noisy). You must phone or email to get this price and it's only for your first night. Also singles 25€, doubles 40€. If you're cycling you can contact them about having your bike delivered there a few days before you arrive. They can also arrange bike hire. More information and booking on 954 459 960 or from their Website www.trianahostel.com/en Email sevillatriana@gmail.com

The Nomad Hostel is also popular with pilgrims. Dormitory beds from 22€, singles 60€, doubles 80€. It's at Calle Itálica 1, corner of Calle O'Donnell. Website www.thenomadhostel.com Tel 608 862 153

Hotel Simón, at Calle Garcia de Vinuesa 19, about 120m from the cathedral, has been recommended by several pilgrims, it has double rooms from about 53€.

Tel 954 226 660, website www.hotelsimonsevilla.com

Hospedería Convento de Santa Rosalía at Calle Cardenal Spínola 8, in the northern part of the city centre near the Alameda. Traditional pilgrim accommodation. Singles from 30€. Must be booked in advance. Tel 954 383 209

INFO The city of Seville has a population of 701,000. It is the capital of the Province of Seville and the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Because it's a big city it has everything you're likely to need in the way of shops, cafés and restaurants, banks, pharmacies, etc., but very little in the way of pilgrim-orientated services. For example, there is no dedicated pilgrim albergue.

CREDENCIALES (pilgrim passports) are available from the following places: the very helpful and friendly **Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Sevilla**, at Calle Castilla 82, which is on the Camino as it passes through Triana. Opening hours vary, please check their website www.viaplata.org under *Atención al Peregrino*. **Librería Diocesana / Diocesan Book Shop** in the Archbishops Palace on Plaza Virgen de los Reyes, beside the cathedral on the **Giralda** (the tower) side. Go to the main entrance to the Archbishops Palace and it's on the right, 09:00 to 14:00, Monday to Friday. **Hotel Simón** and **Triana Backpackers** (details above) also sell them. If you're going all the way you'll probably need more than one for all those stamps. Credenciales are available on the Vía from larger municipal and religious albergues in major towns and cities, but if you think you'll need more than one it might be easier to buy them in advance. If you'll be in Seville at a weekend and you're in a hurry to start walking it might be better to get a Credencial in advance from (for example) your national Camino association.

EQUIPMENT if you need to do some last-minute equipment shopping there's a **Decathlon** outdoor shop in the city centre near Las Setas on Calle Martín Villa.

SIM CARDS if you need a **SIM card**, from Hotel Simón walk 20m towards the cathedral and on your left is a shop, **Photo & Phone**, which sells them. Mobile



operator **Labara** has good plans for international calls and data: www.lebara.es
Vodafone www.vodafone.es and **Orange** www.orange.es now also do pre-paid plans aimed at visiting foreigners, they have several shops around town.

PILGRIM MASS (Misa del Peregrino): every morning at 08:30 in the cathedral, enter by the door on Avenida de la Constitución.

BE AWARE Unfortunately, Seville is a big city and a tourist destination so there's a certain amount of opportunistic thievery and pick-pocketing, especially of mobile phones.

FOOD Seville has a big tapas culture and many bars around both Triana and the city centre have good selections. • If your preparations for the Camino includes eating like a horse and you like fried seafood of all types, then you should try the Plato Variado in **Abacería Alborea** on Calle Jacinto, in Triana. • The kiosk on the corner on the city side of Triana bridge does good **churros y chocolate**. • Recommended for tapas is **Bodega Dos de Mayo** on Plaza de la Gavidia, it's very popular so best to arrive early (ie. 20:00). • North of the cathedral area is **Alameda de Hércules**, it's popular with locals for its large variety of places to eat, drink and let your hair down. The following are recommended. Good for tapas and an amazing veggie burger is **Restaurante Arte y Sabor** (there's a tapas bar with the same name, don't get them mixed up). Cheap but good take-away pizza slices from **Pizza de Pezzi** on the corner of Calle Barco.

SIGHTS Seville is a historic city whose architectural heritage reflects the cultural influences of Roman, Islamic and Christian civilisation. The **Tourist Office** opposite the main entrance to the Cathedral has tourist maps and information about the various sights. The highlights are the **Catedral de Santa María de la Sede**. Completed in the 16th century it is said to be the largest cathedral in the world. It is mostly Gothic with a mix of other influences. Its bell tower, **La Giralda**, was originally the minaret of a mosque. **Christopher Columbus'** remains are buried here having been brought from Cuba in 1903. The **Alcázar Palace and Gardens** were built as a home for the rulers of Muslim Al-Andalus. The palace is considered to be the best example of Mudéjar architecture in existence. Its walled gardens, with their extensive use of flowing water, are a beautiful example of the type of garden design introduced to Spain by the Moors. Both these sights are extremely popular with tourists and queues to buy tickets can be very long. You can avoid the queues by booking online at www.lacatedraldesevilla.org and www.alcazarsevilla.org The **Plaza de España**, completed in 1928 for the **Ibero-American Exhibition**, is a graceful example of early 20th century Renaissance (arches) and Mudéjar (brickwork) revival architecture. It and its adjoining park are a nice place to relax on a sunny afternoon (recently the park has become the target of pickpock gangs, so keep phones, wallets, etc., safely out of sight). Besides the major historic buildings, Seville is also a great city for walking around, soaking in the architecture and atmosphere of its narrow streets, and getting hopelessly lost. Just walk east or north from the cathedral. **Las Setas (The Mushrooms)**, because it looks like huge mushrooms is a modern wooden construction slap-bang in the middle of the historic city. It's on Plaza de la Encarnación a few minutes north of the cathedral. The river through the centre of Seville, the **Guadalquivir** ('big river' in Arabic), may look impressive but it's actually an isolated branch of the main river which you will cross on the Camino before Camas.

NEIGHBOURHOODS **Triana** is on the opposite side of the river from the city centre, it's a colourful neighbourhood which hasn't yet lost its soul to mass tourism.

Santa Cruz is the historic area to the east of the cathedral. Its narrow, winding alleyways reflect the streetscape of a medieval city. If you like modern architecture you may enjoy a visit to the site of **Expo 92**, much of it unchanged and slowly falling to pieces from when it was abandoned when the Expo ended. It includes a life-size model of an Apollo rocket. It's in the area around La Isla Mágica, across the river from the city centre, north of Triana.

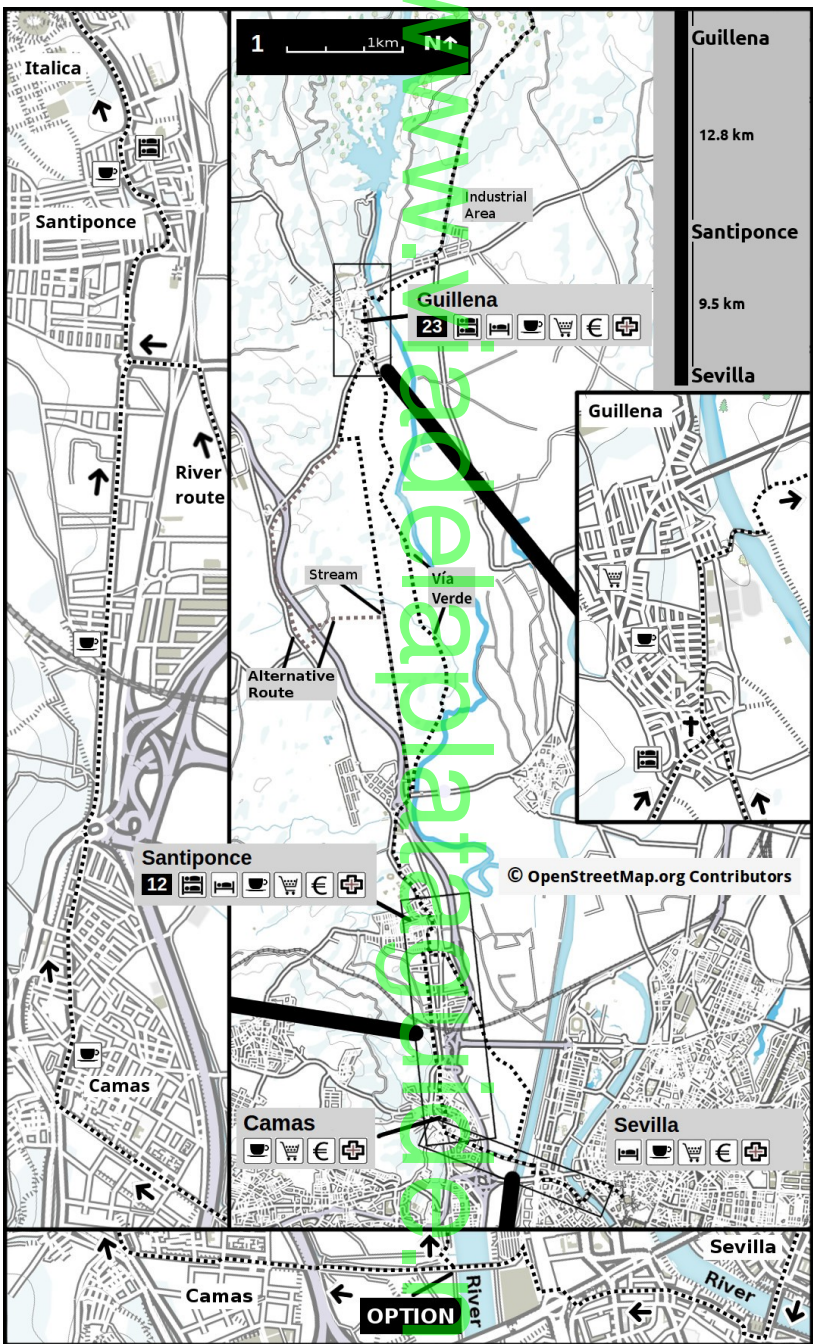
CULTURE Seville is famous for *Sevillanas* singing and dancing. If you'd like to experience it there are many places around town where you can, the following are recommended. **Casa Anselmo** on Calle Pagés del Corro, in Triana, kicks off about midnight. It's far more authentic than the tourist shows in the city centre, free in but drinks are pricey. Best to reserve because it's become very popular. Tel 606 162 502. If you prefer a more come-as-you-are vibe you may prefer **La Carbonería** on Calle Céspedes, deep in the old city. Shows kick off about 21:00 but if you want a seat with a view you'd be best to get there well before that. It's fairly freestyle and the format and quality varies according to who shows up on the night. A more expensive but highly recommended option is **La Casa de la Memoria**, on Calle Cuna. Shows here are more like operatic performances delivered by professional performers. They generally do two shows a night, 19:30 and 21:00. Tickets from their website www.casadelamemoria.es. There are also frequently **street performances** in the streets around the cathedral and on Plaza de España.

PLACE NAME *Hisbaal is the oldest known name for Seville, this was Latinised into Hispal and later as Hispalis, which later became Sevilla. During the period of Muslim rule it was called Hims al-Andalus, a reference to the city of Homs in modern Syria.*

The Vía begins outside the main door of the cathedral, turn right to follow the tram tracks along **Avenida de la Constitución**, then at the corner of the cathedral turn left on to **Calle García de Vinuesa**, then first right on to **Calle Jimios**. This becomes **Calle Zaragoza**, which you follow through various twists and turns until it intersects with **Puerta de Triana**, where you'll see **Café de Indias** on your left. Now turn left and continue straight to cross **Triana Bridge** (Puente de Isabel II). Once across the river turn right after the **Mercado de Triana** along **Calle San Jorge** and **Calle de Castilla**. Where the Camino crosses Ronda de Triana, to the left is a **Carrefour supermarket** that opens at 08:00 working days, otherwise 09:00. 150m further you'll come to a modern square where there's a monument to the Vía de la Plata marking 1000km to Santiago (it's a bit late now to start wondering if what you're doing is a good idea). Walk up the steps to the right which bring you to a main road. Walk anticlockwise around the roundabout, crossing two busy roads (traffic is dangerous here) then turning right on to a footpath and left down to a large, run-down carpark where you veer right and then left to cross the narrow bridge across the main branch of the Guadalquivir. **This route is marked with yellow arrows but they're easy to miss in the city. Once outside the city they become easier to spot.**

3.3km from the cathedral, just after crossing the narrow bridge over the main branch of the Guadalquivir, you have the **option** to continue straight to pass through the suburb of Camas, or to go right along the bank of the river (muddy after wet weather) and bypass Camas. Don't let the grimness of this first part get you down, things improve once you're out of the city.

It's 6km to Santiponce, from the point where the routes divide





regardless which way you go.

RIGHT / RIVER ROUTE 5.3km

Walk along the banks of the river for 1.3km then follow a lane as it veers left. In 1.5km you'll pass under an elevated motorway then continue straight under railway tracks and another motorway, then right to join a main road which you follow to the left to a roundabout where you rejoin the left route and turn right towards Santiponce. This route passes through some run down, deserted areas and not everyone will feel comfortable walking it on their own. You may encounter cute donkeys and unfortunately also loose dogs.

LEFT / CAMAS ROUTE 5.2km

1.5km to Camas from where the routes divide. Shops, cafés, bank, pharmacy.

In Camas turn right at the roundabout with the fountain in the middle on to **Calle José Payán** and follow this until you come to the **Church of Santa Maria de Gracia** where you take the street to its left, also called **Santa Maria de Gracia**. From here the Camino continues straight along the side of a busy main road through suburbs and industrial areas, through two roundabouts until after 3.3km at a roundabout you come to where the two routes rejoin. Continue straight towards Santiponce.

RIGHT AND LEFT ROUTES REJOIN 1km BEFORE SANTIPONCE

9.5km (2h37m) to: Santiponce

ITALICA HOSTEL

Private | 12 beds | 19€ | Go right of Bodeguita Reyes down Calle de la Iglesia, at the square you will see it opposite. Free tea - coffee and snacks. Tel 636 678 376 Open early

Como en Tu Casa, on Calle Giralddillo, go down Calle Fleming where the Camino turns left at a roundabout, then turn left. Rooms from 30€ per person with breakfast. Kitchen. Positive reports. Closed July and August. Tel 609 412 038

Hotel Anfiteatro Romano, on the Camino on the right a little past the town, has been recommended by many pilgrims, it has double rooms from about 60€. Website www.hotelanfiteatroromano.es Email reservas@hotelanfiteatroromano.es Tel 955 996 704

INFO Along the Camino you will find **shops, cafés, banks, pharmacies.** •

Bodeguita Reyes, right on the roundabout, does good food. • Also good reports of restaurant **Aldaki Tapas**.

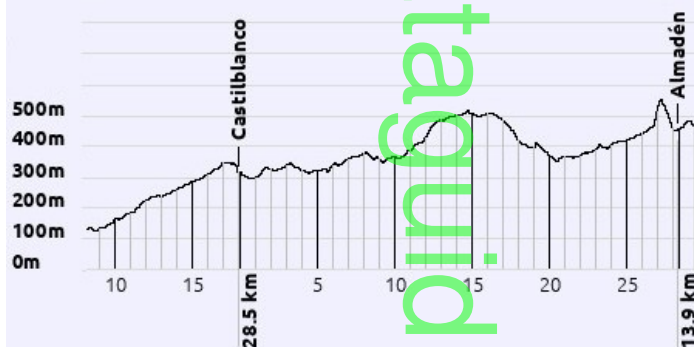
SIGHTS The newly restored **Monasterio de San Isidoro** in Santiponce can be visited (free for pilgrims). They have a sello (stamp). It's a little off the Camino on the right, signposted. The **Teatro Romano** is a couple of minutes off the Camino, by Bodeguita Reyes take Calle la Iglesia, then right on to Calle Claven, then left at the end. The ruins of the Roman city of **Itálica** are just to the left of the Camino to the north of Santiponce. This is the birthplace of the Emperors Trajan whose rule brought the Roman Empire to its greatest geographic extent, and also of Hadrian, best known for the construction of the wall which marked the northern limits of Roman control in Britain. Open 09:00 to 15:00, closed Mondays. Entry free to EU citizens, others 1.50€.

Continue north along the main road through Santiponce, after 2.2km veer right at a roundabout and under the motorway and then veer left where the Camino leaves the main road.

In late 2023 construction of a new **Vía Verde** (greenway) was completed from here to Guillena. It veers right after you leave the main road 2.5km after Santiponce. Camino signposting at this point now indicates both routes. LEFT (or straight ahead) is the original route and RIGHT is the new **Vía Verde**.

Following the new right route it's 9.7km to Guillena. The route is well waymarked the whole way. There are bridges or pedestrian stepping stones across any streams. This is the best route after rain or if you're cycling. (Although it isn't entirely immune from flooding.)

Following the old left route it's 9.5km to Guillena. There's a stream you need to ford which may be difficult after rain. The local Amigos put a steel beam across the stream just downstream of the ford, however it won't be safe to use if the water is flowing quickly. Fortunately there is an alternative route which branches left 380m before the stream (sometimes there is a temporary signpost here but since it's the only possible left turn on a long straight road it would be hard to miss). Follow this road passing a farmhouse on your right then passing under the motorway, veer left and right to join a main road. Here you turn right and follow the road (veering right) all the way to Guillena. This detour adds about 3km to the day's walk (better than a muddy drenching or worse!)



12.8km (3h29m) to:

Guillena

ALBERGUE LUZ DEL CAMINO

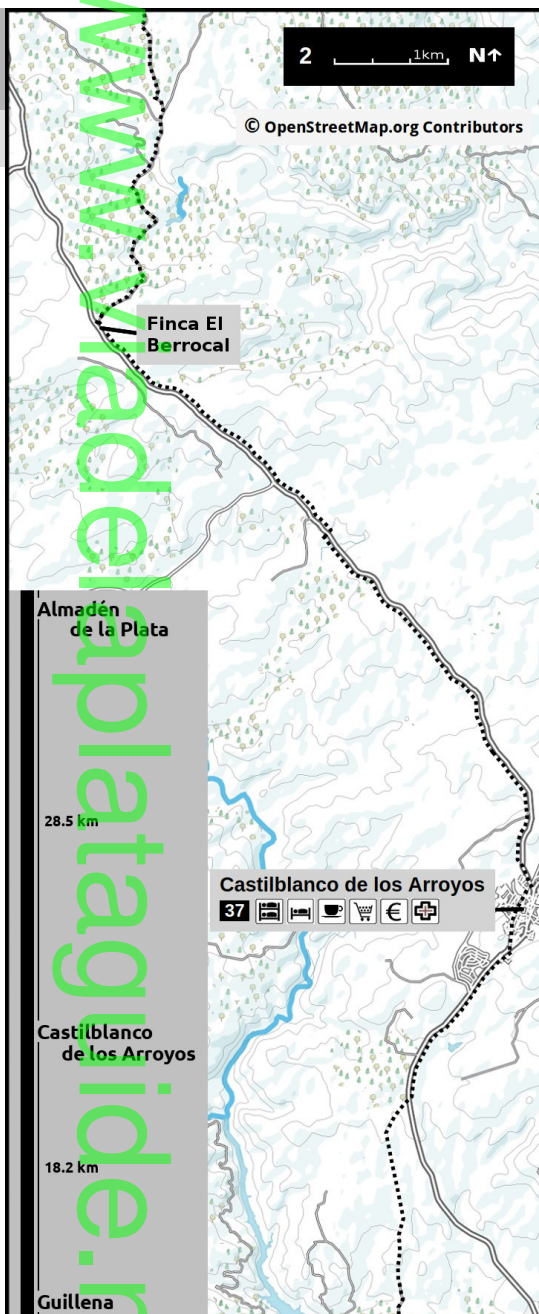
Private | 23 beds | 16€ | On the Camino on the left, on Calle Federico García Lorca. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Positive reports. Website albergueluzdelcamino.es

Tel 665 068 222 Open 11:00
Hostal Francés, continue on the main road when the Camino veers rights towards the church. Singles from 25€, doubles 45€. Their restaurant does a Menú de Peregrinos. Website

www.hostalbarfrances.com
Tel 639 594 496 or 625 663 508

INFO Shops, banks, cafés on or near Avenida de Andalucía, the main road through town and the road the Camino arrives on. If you continue straight on this road you'll pass **Hostal Francés**. Further on you'll come to a roundabout, go right here for a **Mas supermarket**, open all day and a **pharmacy**. **Café La Alacena** next door to Mas opens at 06:30. **Banks** on Plaza España and Calle Fleming.

Leaving town continue past the municipal albergue on Avenida de la Vega and then first right down a road to a ford which you cross (if the water's too high there's a bridge to your left) and then up the slope to the right then veering left, then 1.5km to a



roundabout where you veer left through an industrial area and eventually into open country.

Just before Castilblanco the Camino veers left at a roundabout and follows **Avenida España** through town. Continue straight at this roundabout for the municipal albergue.

18.2km (5h43m) to: **Castilblanco de los Arroyos**

ALBERGUE MUNICIPAL

Municipal | 30 beds | donativo | February to November except July and August |

Continue straight where the Camino branches left at the roundabout, it's just past the *Repsol* petrol station on the right. It may be staffed during busy times by volunteer hospitaleros from various countries, otherwise ask for the code to open the door at *Repsol*. Basic kitchen. Loads of space with a big balcony. Tel 955 734 811 Website www.alberguecastilblancodelosarroyos.blogspot.com.es Open 12:00

ALBERGUE LA POSADA DE ESCARDIEL

Private | 7 beds | 17€ | with breakfast | At Calle Pilar Nuevo, 15. Follow the Camino through the town until near then end, after a small roundabout, it's on the left.

Laundry facilities. Email laposadadeescardiel@gmail.com Tel 641 024 128

Palatial **Hotel Castillo Blanco**, is on the right 1km before the village, singles from 30€, doubles 40€, pilgrim prices. Website hotelcastilloblanco.com Tel 955 734 523

Casa Salvadora is highly recommended, it's on the Camino in the centre of the village at Avenida de España 43, cosy singles from 17€, doubles 30€. Microwave. Laundry facilities. Tel 615 500 963 or 615 500 962

Casa Ana on Calle León Felipe, to the left of the Camino at the church. House for rent for max 4 people, 25€ per person minimum 2. Kitchen. Tel 610 653 622

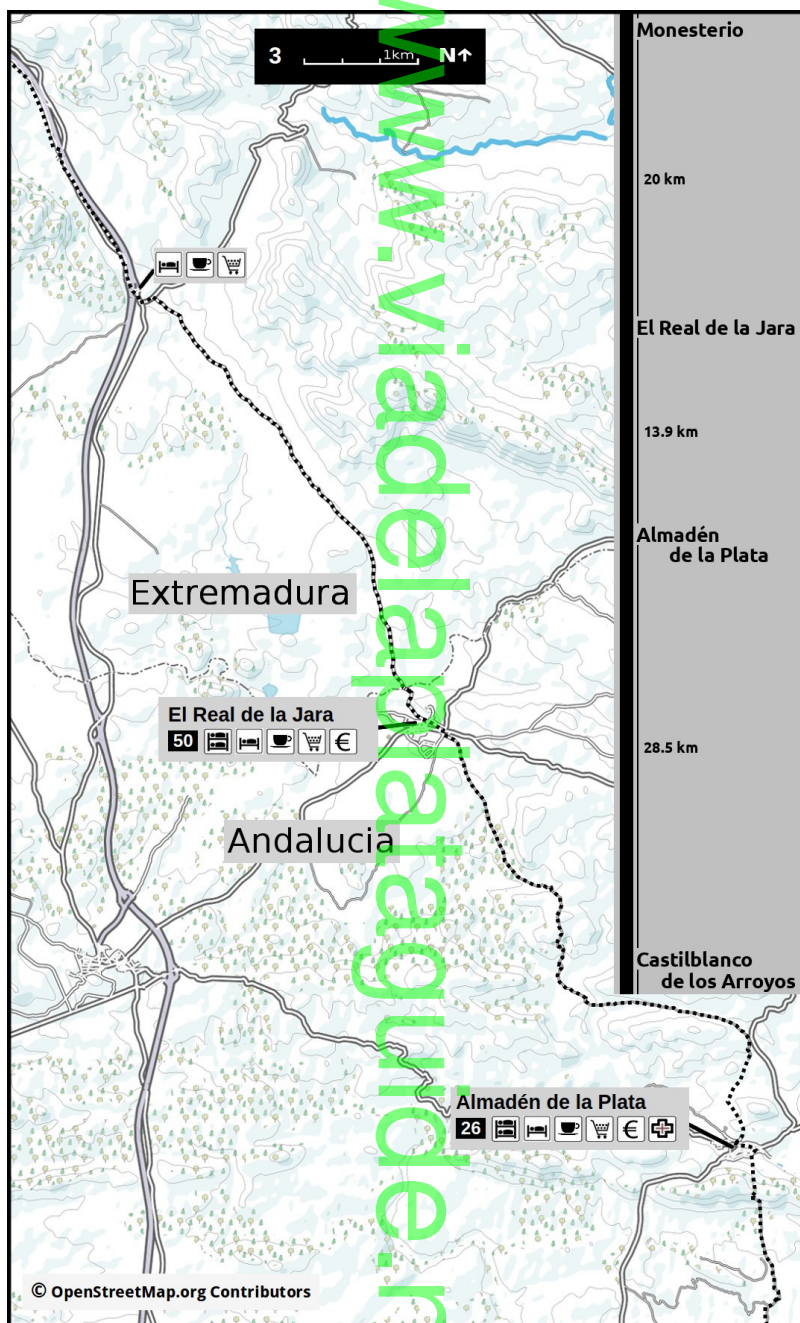
Casa Rural Callejon de la Mora on Callejón de la Mora, pass the Municipal and turn right at Café Macarena, it's a short distance up on the right. Singles 25€, doubles 50€. Tel 647 603 116

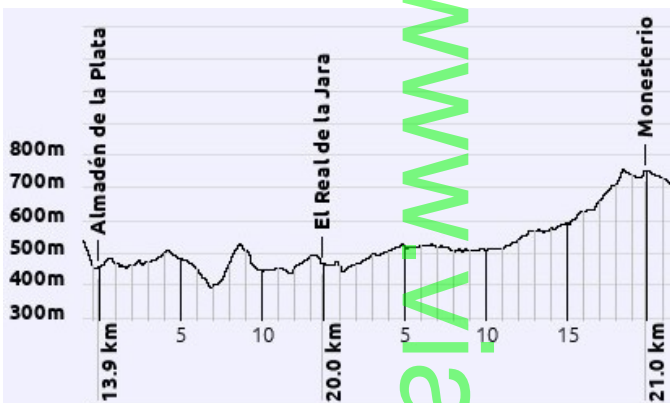
INFO On or near the Camino as it passes through town there are **shops**, a **bakery**, a **bank** and a **pharmacy** (both opposite the entrance to the church), **post office**, and **cafés**. **Spar supermarket** with a good selection on Avenida del Puente in the centre of the village to the right of the Camino after Casa Salvadora, a bit hidden away. • **Casa Macarena** does food and seems to be popular, it's on the main road. • **Café Mancilla**, beside Casa Macarena, opens about 05:00.

You can either follow the Camino or the main road through Castilblanco, they both end up in the same place. The Camino then continues north along the main road towards Almadén. This road isn't usually busy.

There are no facilities of any sort on this stage and you should not be wandering out of Castilblanco without enough food and water to see you through to the end.

Continue on the road (SE-5405) for 9km until you veer right on to a recently constructed walking path which continues parallel to the road for 7km to **Finca el Berrocal** where you arrive at the entrance into the **Parque Natural Sierra Norte**. From here it's unpaved paths to Almadén. If the main gate is closed there's another pedestrian gate to the right which may be open (it is not visible from the road). Keep some high-energy food or drink in reserve for the last couple of kilometres where there's a steep hill which ascends abruptly about 100m. Alternatively you can follow the road all the way to Almadén, it's slightly longer but an easier climb.





28.5km (8h40m) to: *Almadén de la Plata*

LA CASA DEL RALOJ

Private | 10 beds | 13€ | On the Camino going through the village on Plaza del Reloj. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Website www.eulade.net/ruraltellex Tel 692 552 659 Open 11:00

ALBERGUE MUNICIPAL

Municipal | 16 beds | 12€ | Follow the Camino through the village until you see the Albergue Municipal signs. It's on Calle Puerto de la Cruz, a few minutes walk from the Camino. Phone number or instructions on the door. The hospitalera comes around later to stamp Credenciales. Kitchen.

Hostal Casa Concha, veer left from Plaza de la Palmeras. Singles from 25€, doubles 35€. Tel 954 735 043 or 659 459 938.

Hostal El Romeral, when you see Casa Concha on the right turn sharp left. Singles from 35€, double 45€. Website www.elromeral.net Tel 653 347 444 or 954 735 453

INFO Follow the Camino past the distinctive old town hall with its purple tower, through Plaza del Reloj, then veering left to Plaza de la Palmera. Here standing with your back to the pharmacy, the **supermarket** is up the street on your right and the **bank** is up the street on your left. **Café El Raloj** and **Café La Morena** open early. Restaurant **La Murilla**, on the Camino beside the church, is good, as is **Restaurante El Molino** which is just across the main road.

The Camino is abundantly (if not always clearly) signposted through Almadén with signs and yellow arrows. If in doubt when leaving town aim for the bull ring on the hill to the north, the Camino passes it to its left.

13.9km (4h22m) to: *El Real de la Jara*

ALOJAMIENTO DEL PEREGRINO

Private | 10 beds | 12€ | Shortly after entering the village on the right. Kitchen, laundry facilities, nice terrace. Good reports. Tel 654 862 553

LA CASA DEL CURA

Municipal | 28 beds | 15€ | At Calle Real 39, On the Camino past Plaza España. Kitchen, Tel 633 248 505 or 954 733 007. New in 2024.

ALOJAMIENTO MOLINA

Private | 12 beds | 15€ | On the Camino past Plaza España at Calle Real 70. Sunny patio. Each dorm has 2 or 3 beds. Tel 610 026 132

Hostal Rural La Encina after passing Alojamiento del Peregrino, at the bottom of the street turn left and follow the signs through an industrial park. Singles from 40€, doubles 50€. Café / restaurant, reportedly good food. Noisy night club nearby at weekends. Website www.hostallaencina.es Email hostallaencina@gmx.com Tel 625 998 300

Alojamiento Turístico Mari Carmen, near the church, has rooms from 30€. Tel 609 971 340

INFO Cafés and a bank on the Camino as it passes through Plaza España and Calle Real. Avenida 28 de Febrero, which is left of the Camino from Plaza España, has a shop, more cafés, another bank and the post office. • The café in **Casa de la Cultura** on Avenida 28 de Febrero has also been recommended for food. • Bar **El Montero**, also on Avenida 28 de Febrero, has good tapas. • **Restaurante Casa el Capote de Galloso** also does good food, especially carrillada / pork cheeks, continue along Avenida 28 de Febrero and it's on the right. • **Café El Chati** on Plaza de España opens early.

SIGHTS El Real's impressive castle is one of a series in the *Banda Gallega* defensive line which protected the northern limits of Al-Andaluz. Later it was used to defend against the Portuguese who had designs on this region. Today it is used as an outdoor theatre.

1.3km you cross a stream which marks the border with the **Autonomous Community of Extremadura**.

10.4km from the stream to the A-66 motorway, where there is a **24 hour service station**, shop with a good selection of regional products, café, ATM.

In the same place is **Hotel Leo** with luxurious singles from 50€, café / restaurant. Tel 924 517 048.

Be careful crossing the various roads around the motorway. Yellow arrows are a bit scarce here, at the roundabout take the road under the motorway signposted **Monesterio**.



20.0km (6h24m) to:

Monesterio

ALBERGUE PARROQUIAL DE SAN PEDRO

Parish | 14 beds | 10€ | On the Camino on the left, at Avenida Extremadura 218.

Kitchen. Nice albergue, modern and clean with good facilities. Tel 924 516 097 (no reservations)

ALBERGUE LAS MORERAS

Municipal | 50 beds | 12.50€ | On Calle Ronda Segura de León, signposted left from the Camino, about a 10 minute walk from there. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Doubles 45€. Website www.alberguemonesterio.es
Email info@alberguemonesterio.com
Tel 679 587 435 Open 12:00

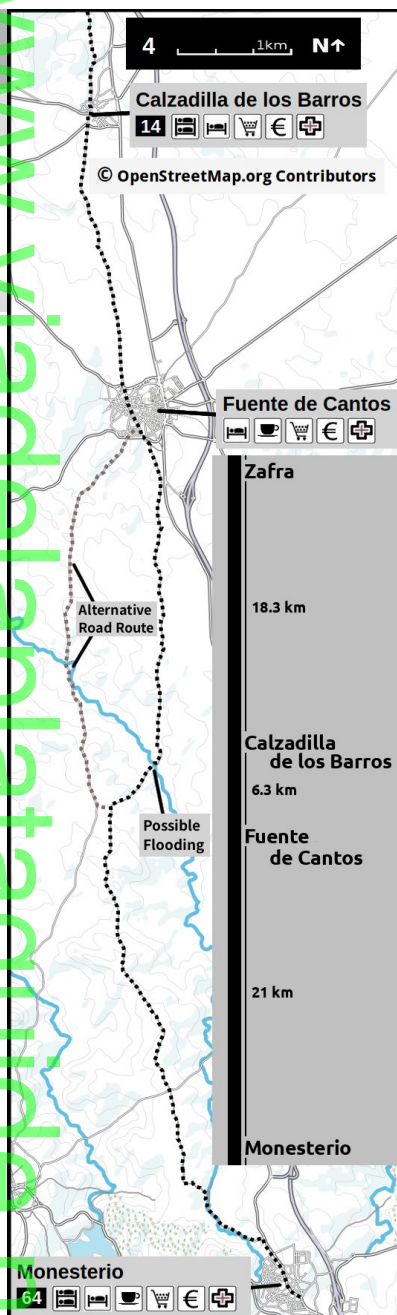
Hotel Moya on the left, singles 40€, doubles 50€. Café / restaurant. Website www.hotelmoya.es Tel 637 766 793 or 924 516 136

Hostal El Pilar on the Camino to the right at Calle Gallego Paz. Singles for 35€, doubles 50€. Website hostaldpilar.com
Tel 656 876 475

Hostal Extremadura further along on the right. Pilgrim price singles from 15€, doubles 30€. Good value. Tel 924 516 502 or 626 813 079

Hotel Leo, on the way out of town on the left. Singles from 48€, doubles 62€. Café which opens early. Website hotelleo.es
Tel 924 516 428 (not to be confused with the other Hotel Leo).

INFO Cafés, shops, banks and pharmacies are all to be found along the Camino as it follows Avenida Extremadura through town. **Supermarket** just past the parish albergue on left. • **Bar Naranjo**, opposite Hotel Moya, opens early. • Restaurant **Mesón Casa Juan**, near Las Moreras has been recommended. • **Bar El Cono**, past the parish albergue on the right, has also been recommended for food. • **El Melli**, also past the parish albergue opens early with freshly made, country style



churros. • A more expensive option but good reports about restaurant **el Rinconcillo** which is near the end of Avenida Extremadura, on Plaza de Triana.

Some misleading waymarkings on this stretch - follow the yellow arrows in preference to any 'official' markings (ie. the metal boxes), however there are places where the yellow arrows are scarce in which case you'll have to rely on the metal boxes. If you can't find any markings remember that you need to head north towards Fuente de Cantos which is intermittently visible on the horizon way before you get there.

13.2km you'll cross a river which can flood after heavy rain. If it's impossible 2km back there is an unpaved lane to the left/south, follow this for 500m until it joins a minor road where you turn right. This road brings you to Fuente de Cantos.

From the river it's 7.8km to Fuente de Cantos - currently no albergue but several other places to sleep.

Small **shop** and **pharmacy** near the church. **Dia supermarket** on Calle Carriceros, left of the Camino, and a **Spar supermarket** on Paseo de Extremadura, near the main road. **Cafés** and several **banks** and a **post office** on Calle Llerena (right at the church) and on Plaza Zubaran (at the top of Calle Llerena).

Restaurante El Gato, does a good pilgrim menu, continue straight up Calle Llerena to the main road and turn left. **Restaurant Venta del Gato**, which is on the opposite side of the main road, is also good. The owners are brothers.

El Zaguán de la Plata, at Calle Llerena 40, from the Camino turn right at the church. **Unfortunately not currently operating as an albergue.** Apartments for 2 to 6 persons, kitchen, laundry facilities. Variable pricing from 50€. Website www.elzaguandelaplata.es Tel 924 500 999 or 678 277 716

Hotel La Fábrica at Calle Real 117, after the church turn right on to Calle Carmelitas and continue straight, when you see the main road ahead of you it's on the left. It has been recommended. Singles about 29.20€, doubles 41.40€. Café / restaurant. Website www.hrlafabrica.com Tel 924 500 042

Hostal Vicenta, continue past El Zaguán de la Plata, at the square veer right on to Calle Isabel la Católica to the end then turn left. Singles 17€, doubles 26€. Café / restaurant. Old and a bit run down. Tel 611 617 641

27.2km (7h47m) to: **Calzadilla de los Barros**

ALBERGUE MUNICIPAL

Municipal | 14 beds | 10€ | On Calle Ermita, where the Camino veers right at a small square continue straight on to Calle Manuel Galván, then the second right. Work days before 15:00 go to the Ayuntamiento for the key, outside office hours phone the number on the albergue door. Tel 924 584 745

Hostal Los Rodríguez is on the main road 600m off the Camino to the right from the main square, it has singles from 15€, doubles from 30€. Check ahead for Fridays and Saturdays. Café / restaurant. Tel 924 584 808 or 675 610 787

INFO The Camino passes through the main square, Plaza España, where there is a **shop**, a **bank** and the Ayuntamiento. A little further on is another **shop** and a **pharmacy**.

1.9km after Calzadilla, the Camino turns left, this route can be flooded after rain. There is an alternative left turn at the main road 500m after this one.

14.7km to Puebla de Sancho Pérez

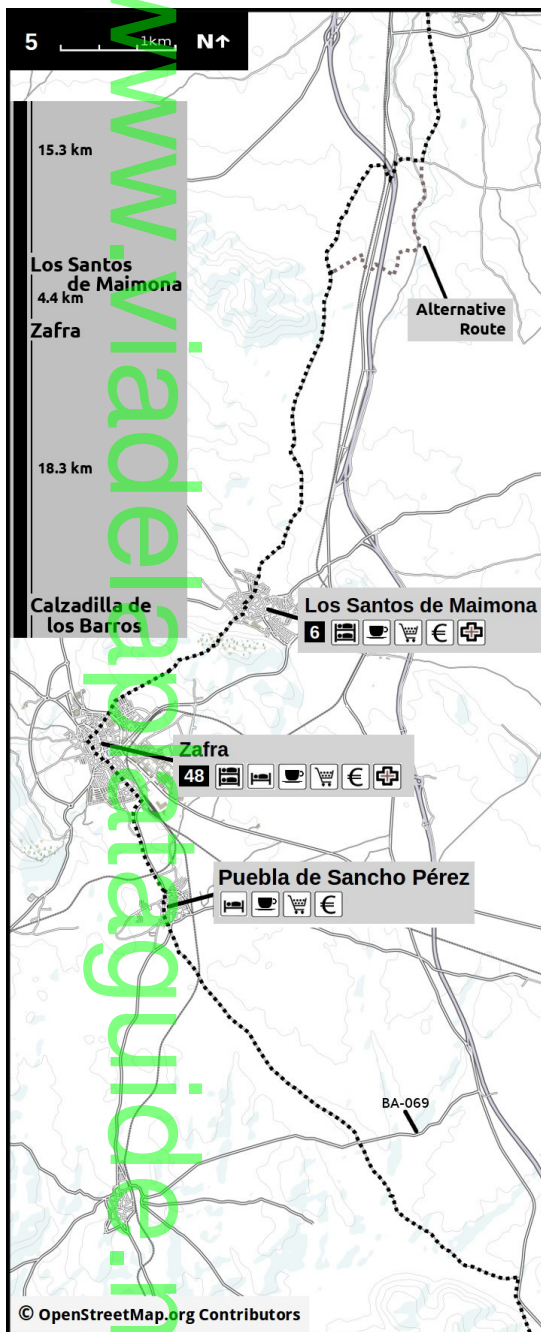
Puebla de Sancho Pérez: Shops, cafés, banks, all on the Camino. However they take their siesta very seriously. **Café Abadia**, left at the church, is usually open.

Hostal el Monte, has been recently recommended, it's on Calle San Antonio, signposted to the right 420m. Singles 22€, doubles 36€. They also have a restaurant which is also reported good. Tel 670 222 267 or 924 575 581

4km to Zafra.

Between here and Zafra there used to be two routes you could chose from however recently the right route (through the railway station) has been closed.

The Camino to Zafra goes along the side of a road for 2km before it forks left for a while and rejoins the main road near Albergue Van Gogh. (You can also ignore the left fork and continue along the road all the way.)



18.3km (5h06m) to: **Zafra**

ALBERGUE VAN GOGH

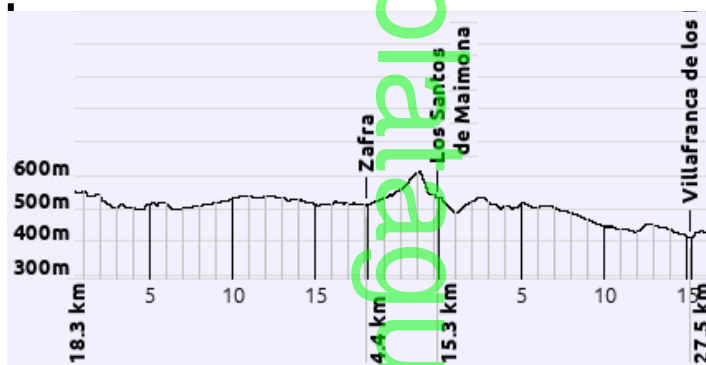
Amigos | 30 beds | 12.50€ | On the Camino on the right before you come to the town centre. Laundry facilities. In a wonderfully preserved traditional old house.
Tel 924 969 123 or 617 846 551 Open 12:00

ALBERGUE CONVENTO SAN FRANCISCO

Private | 18 beds | 15€ | Follow the Camino through the town centre until you see it to your left. Laundry facilities. Evening meal, breakfast. Singles 20€, doubles 30€. Friendly. Email conventosanfranciscozafra@gmail.com Tel 680 663 806
Hotel Las Palmeras in the centre of the town on Plaza Grande, Singles from 45€, doubles 55€. Website www.hotellaspalmeras.net Tel 924 552 208

INFO Dia supermarket on the Camino on the left just before the Amigos albergue. Other shops, cafés, banks, pharmacies, etc., all on the Camino as it winds its way through Zafra's beautiful town centre. • **La Barca** near the Amigos albergue, does platos combinados and local wines - both excellent. • **Restaurante La Rebotica** on Calle Boticas, comes highly recommended, although it's not cheap.

SIGHTS The centre of Zafra is a joy and it's worth taking the time to explore it. There are many beautiful buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries as well as the twin **Plaza Grande** and **Plaza Chica**, with their interconnecting passageway, the **Arquillo del Pan**, accessible from the north west corner of Plaza Grande, and the 16th century **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria**. • **La Torre de San Francisco** is all that remains of an extensive complex of religious buildings dating from the 15th century. • The hill you'll climb on your way to Los Santos is called the **Sierra de los Olivos**. It is a nature conservation zone famous for its orchids.



From the Amigos albergue the Camino runs straight up **Avenida de la Estación**, diagonally across **Plaza España** then down pedestrianised **Calle Sevilla**, to the centre of town at **Plaza Grande**, which it crosses on to **Calle Tetuán** before turning right on to **Calle Conde de la Corte** and then veering left and, close to the municipal albergue, right on to **Calle Ancha** then **Calle San Francisco**, straight across a roundabout towards a tower, **la Torre de San Francisco**, and from there into open country.

4.4km (1h24m) to: **Los Santos de Maimona**

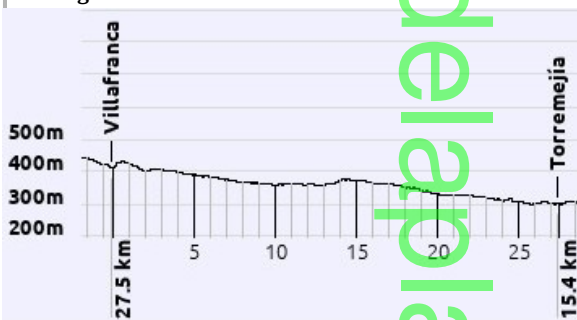
ALBERGUE TURÍSTICO

Municipal | 6 beds | 8€ | On Calle Maestrazgo. Kitchen. During the week get the key from the Tourist Office, on Plaza de España. When they're closed go to the Policía Local on Avenida de la Constitución. Good reports. Website piropoblanco.es Email oficinadeturismo@lossantosdemaimona.com Tel 924 544 294 or 924 544 801

INFO The Camino arrives on Plaza España opposite the church. To the right is a café, **Asociación de Agricultores**, easy to miss. Beside it is the **Ayuntamiento** with a **Tourist Office** and a **public toilet**. On the Camino just past the church there's a **shop**, **banks** and a **pharmacy**. **Coviran supermarket**, after the church continue straight and take the first street on the right (no street name visible), it's down there 50m on the left.

The Camino arrives in front of the church on Plaza España, and then passes to its left. Thanks to the local Amigos for their massive yellow arrows!

Albergue La Almazara closed at the end of 2023.



15.3km (4h11m) to: **Villafranca de los Barros**

ALBERGUE EXTRENAURA

Private | 18 beds | 15€ | **March to November** | On Calle Carvajales, right of the church on Plaza España. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Singles 25€, doubles 45€. This albergue has a history of closing without warning, better to call and confirm. Website www.alojamientoextrenatura.es Tel 656 314 025 Open 12:00

Hotel Diana on Calle Lepanto, turn left at Mercado Municipal. It has nice singles for 40€, doubles 50€. Website www.hoteldiana.es Tel 924 520 502

Casa Perún, follow the Camino through town until you get to Plaza de la Coronada, where there is a church on your left, it's on your right on the corner. Singles for 30€, doubles 45€, triple 69€, quadruple 80€. Kitchen, laundry facilities. Bike storage. Tel 646 179 914 or 679 082 948

INFO The Camino arrives in town at Plaza Mercado with the **Municipal Market / Mercado Municipal** on the corner on your right. Turn left here on to **Calle Lepanto**, which is the town's main street, with two **supermarkets**, **cafés**, **banks** and **pharmacies**. • **Hotel Diana** has a good restaurant with a pilgrim menu and a café which is open from 07:00. • **Restaurante Buiza** has been recommended. It's on the main road towards the north of town, in the same building as **Peña Cultural**