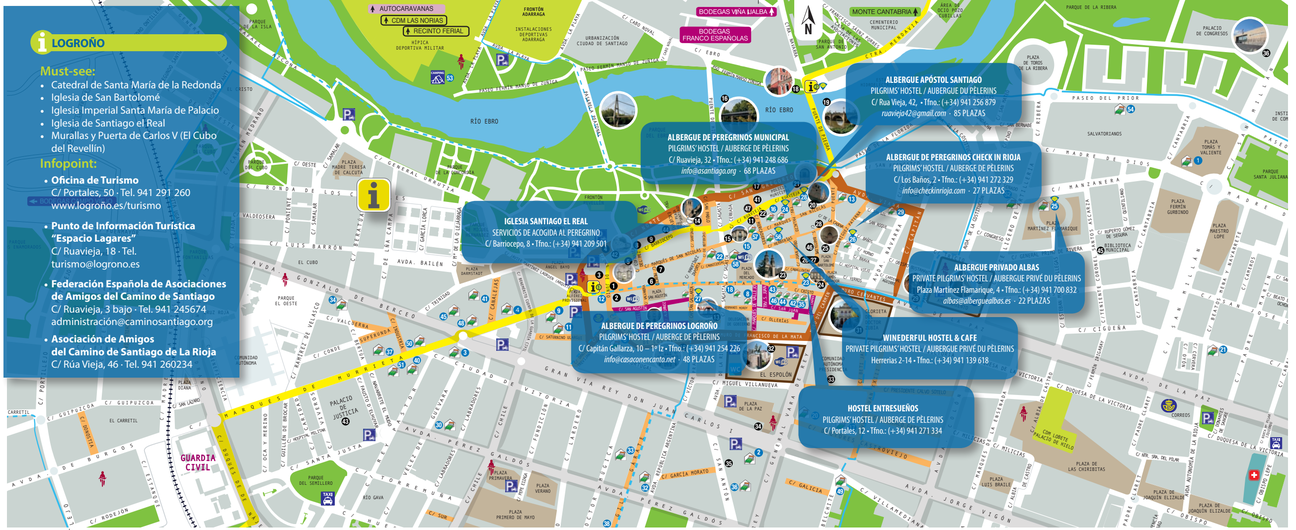
LOGROÑO
Must-see:
• Catedral de Santa María de la Redonda
• Iglesia de San Bartolomé
• Iglesia Imperial Santa María de Palacio
• Iglesia de Santiago el Real
• Murallas y Puerta de Carlos V (El Cubo del Revellín)
Infopoint:
• Oficina de Turismo
C/ Portales, 50 · Tel. 941 291 260
www.logroño.es/turismo
• Punto de Información Turística "Espacio Lagares"
C/ Ruavieja, 18 · Tel. turismo@logrono.es
• Federación Española de Asociaciones de Amigos del Camino de Santiago
C/ Ruavieja, 3 bajo · Tel. 941 245674
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PARQUE DE LA GRAJERA
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PLAZA VERANO
PLAZA PRIMERO
PLAZA DE LA VARA DEL REY
PLAZA DE LOS HUERTOS
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AVDA. DE LA PAZ, 11
AVDA. DE LA PAZ, 13
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From the 10th century, when the pilgrimage to Santiago started, the towns along the route benefited from the constant influx of people. Trade and development flourished in Logroño, thanks to commerce and the exchange of experience and knowledge.

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Many social, cultural, scientific, economic and even fashion-related aspects of the town were affected and enriched by the constant flow of people and, consequently, trade flourished in the town. Facilities and services, such as accommodation, shops, inns and hospitals, were provided to cater for the pilgrims' needs, enabling the city to transform and modernise itself continually.

In earlier times, years after Santiago was supposed to have walked the Route himself, the Camino de Santiago favoured the exchange of experiences, goods, skills and trades, as well as artistic trends and scientific discoveries. Today, El Camino still maintains its original role, and the cities and towns along its route continue to reap the benefits - not only through tourism and the hospitality industry, but also from the exchange of cultural and social influences.

The pilgrim approaches Logroño after coming down from Monte Cantabria. There is a great view of the city from the mountain, which was, along with Varea, the site of the original settlement. The name of Logroño evolves from 'illo-gronio', a combination of Latin and Celtic which means ford. On top of Monte Cantabria, pre-Roman archaeological remains of circular houses have been discovered, as well as hand-made pottery from around the 2nd century BC, which confirm that the settlement belonged to the Berones.

San Antonio is the first part of Logroño reached by pilgrims, who then carry on to the Stone Bridge (Puente de Piedra). From there it is possible to glimpse the Redonda Towers, both peaking out above the roofs of the houses in the Casco Antiguo (the Old town). Even before venturing further, the pilgrim's curiosity is aroused by the 19th century fielatos – old toll booths built to collect taxes from those who wanted to enter the city. Today, restored, the eastern one serves as the Pilgrims' Information Office.

Did you know that...?

The Puente de Piedra is one of the symbols representing Logroño, and has appeared on the city's coat of arms since 1285.

The Puente de Piedra is one of the four bridges in present day Logroño. Designed by the engineer Fermín Manso de Zúñiga, it was built between 1882 and 1884 on the site of a former bridge known as San Juan de Ortega Bridge, which had become

The cobbled street calle Ruavieja and its buildings remind us of ancient shops and places of worship in the old town, such as the shrine of San Gregorio (la ermita de San Gregorio) where the saint lived and died. (St. Gregory was sent to La Rioja by Pope Benedict IX). They transport today's pilgrims back to the times of leather sandals, wooden soles and the typical staff and short cape of the pilgrim.

Just a few metres ahead, the town council's Pilgrim's Hostel (Albergue municipal), occupying a former palace located at 32 calle Ruavieja, welcomes the pilgrims who seek a place to stop and rest to recover their strength before starting out again on the pilgrim's path to Santiago.

Some of the town's historic buildings are witnesses to the importance of both The Camino and the wine industry in the development of present day Logroño. Examples are El calado de San Gregorio (St Gregory's Cellar) – an amazing 30m long wine cellar –, Espacio Lagares – with an interesting collection of wine making equipment and infrastructure –, La Reja Dorada –a traditional artisan winery – and the Centro de la Cultura del Rioja – the international centre of expertise on the making of Riojan wine.

By following the scallop shells carved in bronze flagstones on the street, the pilgrim crosses calle Sagasta and enters Plaza de la Oca, where The Pilgrim's Fountain can be found. The Church of Santiago looks spectacular when seen from the small cobbled slope next to The Pilgrim's Fountain, which leads into the calle Barriocepo.

Did you know that...?

Legend has it that the Game of the Goose was invented by the Knights Templar and some people believe that their knowledge is hidden within the game. Some even think that the board conceals cabalistic codes and hidden treasures.

Some people also point out the similarity between the route to Santiago and the path followed in the Game of the Goose. In other words, they claim that the game is a guide without words for pilgrims who have a connection with the Order of the Knights Templar.

The Pilgrim's Fountain can be seen just before setting off up the small slope that leads to the Church of Santiago. Built in ashlar stone, the fountain is located at a slightly lower level than the Square. It has a lowered arch set between two pillars. The water that flows from its two taps provides fresh water for the pilgrims.

Seen from the small cobbled slope next to the fountain, the Church of Santiago looks spectacular. The pilgrims feel they are about to arrive somewhere special. The original temple, which was built by one of the Apostle's disciples in his honour, dates back to the year 844, but was unfortunately destroyed by fire around 1500. The church we see today was built mainly in the 16th century. The visitor has unparalleled views of the city from its 40m high Tower. Dominating its Renaissance façade are two sculptures of the Apostle Santiago – the Warrior (above) and the Pilgrim (below). He is also depicted above the High Altar.

Back outside, all the way along the calle Barriocepo, not far from la Plaza del Parlamento (Parliament Square), the pilgrim will find artisan shops, bars and restaurants.

The Riojan Parliament building is impressive, and dominates the small square it stands in. It used to be the Old Convent of La Merced (16th century). From the very early days, the old convent has been put to all kinds of uses: military quarters, hospital, prison and then, a convent again. It was in 1886, when Riojan politician Práxedes Mateo Sagasta was President of the national government of Spain, that the building became a cigarette factory – something which gave a great boost to the economy of Logroño. Today, only its chimney is preserved.

Did you know that...?

The three fleurs-de-lis were granted to the city by the monarch in 1523, as a tribute to and in recognition of the successful defence of the city against the French siege, in 1521.

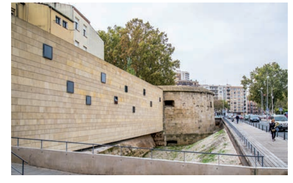
The former convent is nowadays divided into three distinct sections: the Parliament (el Parlamento), the Library (Biblioteca de La Rioja) and the Amós Salvador Exhibition Hall.

Just a few steps from the Parlamento, in the heart of the Old Town, are the Museum of La Rioja, the San Blás Market (Mercado de San Blas) and the boisterous calle Portales, which plays an essential role in the vitality and dynamic of the city.

The pilgrim walks through the Revellín Gate (Puerta del Revellín) and leaves the Old Town behind. The Revellín Gate, also known as the Gateway to The Camino in historical documents, is a city gate which was built in Logroño later than the old city walls (la muralla). It is believed to have been completed between 1522 and 1534, and is likely to have been built at the same time as the bridges that cross the moat.

Above the gate you can see the double-headed eagle, symbol of Emperor Charles V, along with two coats of arms of Logroño, in which there are already three fleurs-de-lis granted to the city by the monarch.

After walking through the Revellin Gate and having their Pilgrim Record (credencial) stamped at the Tourist Office – located in the building that was formerly occupied by the Trevijano Schools – the pilgrim will meander through the dynamic streets of a more modern city; and then follow the signs out of Logroño towards La Grajera Park.



La Grajera is an an area of extraordinary natural beauty surrounding a reservoir built in 1883 on what was a small lagoon, built to improve the irrigation of the local vegetable gardens. Today, this 427-hectare park, a natural paradise with a wide variety of plants, trees and animal species, is frequently used for leisure activities and sports. It is also used for teaching purposes and, among its facilities, there is a bird observatory. The footpaths and bridleways of La Grajera bid farewell to the pilgrims and point them onwards to Compostela. ●