

STAGE 9

From Sigüeiro to Santiago

 DISTANCE
16 Km

 DIFFICULTY
LOW

 TIME
4:30 h

Short, very simple and attractive stage. With the advantage that the least interesting part is at the beginning and the beauty of the landscape increases as the pilgrim takes more and more steps. It has two ascents, at the start and after passing the town of A Sionlla. The first is a very gentle sustained slope over a kilometre and that is not at all difficult, with a section that crosses a pine forest that makes it more enjoyable. The second one, on the contrary, is very short and with a steep slope. But neither of them requires any special effort to get disheartened, as even children can do the walk without a problem. While the initial kilometres are dominated by single-family homes, the middle section is all forest and meadows. There is a third part, the entrance to the city of Compostela, through a neighbourhood whose greatest value is the church of San Caetano.



The statue of Margery Kempe. It is right where the medieval bridge of Sigüeiro starts, and it remembers, as its plaque says, the first known woman who walked the English Way. She left Bristol, made a pilgrimage to Compostela and returned safely to her country. All this in June and July 1417. Margery Kempe was a mystic who wrote a book entitled "The book of Margery Kempe", considered the first autobiography in the Anglo-Saxon literary world.

THE HOSTEL. Check all accommodations at www.caminoingles.gal



A Ulloa bridge, at the entrance to Sigüeiro

In Sigüeiro there is no public hostel, but there is a good private offer, with two hostels and four

AGENDA

Civil protection: 112

Health emergencies: 061

Guardia Civil: 065

Weather forecast:
www.meteogalicia.gal

Santiago Tourist Office
Rúa Vilar, 63. Tel.: 981 555 129

Galicia Tourist Office (Santiago)
Mazarelos, 15. Tel.: 881 866 397

Oroso Town Hall
Plaza de Isaac Díaz Pardo, 1, 15888 Sigüeiro
www.oroso.gal
Tel.: 981 691 478

Santiago Town Hall
Plaza del Obradoiro, 1. 15705
www.santiagodecompostela.gal
Tel.: 981 542 300

pensions, and another one off the way. In Santiago the possibilities are simply huge, and there are establishments for all tastes and pockets, from humble pensions and tourist homes to the luxurious and more than five times centenary Hostal de los Reyes Católicos, a historic hospital for pilgrims.



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Church of San Caetano

■ The nucleus of **Sigüeiro** was a tiny hamlet in medieval times, just a few huts on either side of the bridge that spans the **river Tambre**. Today this centuries old work, the upper part of which was modified not so long ago, still fulfils its function and sees how pilgrims pass by. Once they set foot on the other side, they have left the municipality of Oroso and find themselves in the municipality of Santiago.

■ The pilgrims must walk on the pavements on the right hand side of the main road. The signposting is good, and just before the petrol station (15.479 km) the pilgrim turns off to the right to carry out a constant zigzag along small tracks. The landscape is far from solitary, as houses appear here and there, with very small villages such as A Caluba (14.861 km) or Vila de Marantes (14.412 km), crossing the motorway by a bridge between one and the other. The pilgrims' feet are grateful for the next stretch of land.

■ This trend will continue for the next four kilometres, which will end in a long, gentle descent: Vila Fernández (13.038 km), Cortos (12.351 km), Lameira (11.820 km), Vilasuso (10.412 km)... are places that the walker passes leaving the national road 550 in sight, on the left and at a respectable distance. For a few metres the pilgrim will follow this national road along the hard shoulder, to turn right at **A Sionlla** (9.462 km), a symbolic point where the second part of the stage begins.

■ Forest and more forest. That is what awaits the pilgrim, who is going to leave the peak of this small mountain on the right, which in reality is nothing more than a steep hill. And although the pilgrim is not thinking of reaching the summit, he should know that a **castro** was built there. That is, a prehistoric village, which makes it more than two thousand years old.

■ The forest is getting thicker and thicker, although it does not make walking difficult at all.

There is also no way one get lost since there will hardly be any crossroads. A poster with a witch and the name **Enchanted Forest** adds even more mystery to the atmosphere. It is, without a doubt, the most beautiful stretch of the whole stage, which at a certain point passes next to a place where it is possible to recover one's strength, and although it cannot be seen, there is a sign.

■ A short and steep descent (6.762 km) is there as a foretaste of having to cross fields and meadows on a path, which in turn is the notice that the start of the city of Compostela awaits. In fact, the pilgrim crosses the industrial area of Tambre (nowadays this passage through the industrial area has been excellently humanised) to enter the city, cross the entrance avenue and start the last descent towards the **church of San Caetano** to the **historic quarter** and the **cathedral**, the pilgrim's goal since he started in Ferrol or A Coruña.

