

☐ **Death – the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening.** *Walter Scott*

19 120.9 km (75.1 miles) – Santiago

TUI – PORRIÑO

	---	6.5	---	28%
---	---	8.3	---	61%
---	---	3.6	---	11%
Total km		18.4 km		(11.4 ml)

▲ 19.4 km (+^ 200 m = 1.0 km)

Alto(m)▲ San Campio 75 m (246 ft)

< A H > None

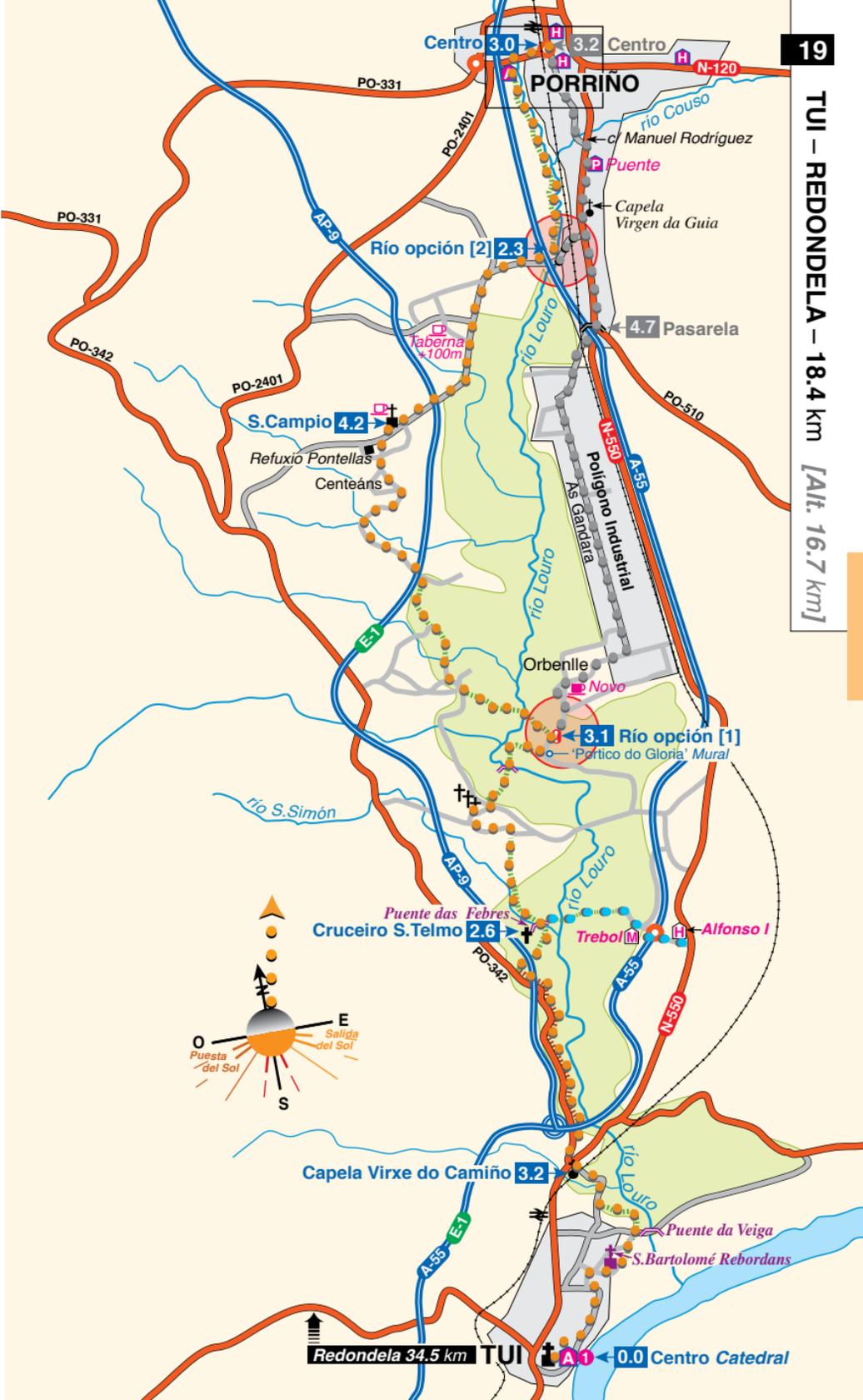


The Practical Path: A challenge today is the stretch of main road entering the industrial town of Porriño. However, a new route along the rio Louro avoids the slog through the main industrial area. This recommended alternative is longer and so the original stage to Redondela has been shortened into these two more relaxed stages. Many pilgrims start their pilgrimage in Tui so a stopover in Porriño allows those just starting out time to acclimatise body and soul to the rigours of the way. If you started further back in Lisbon or Porto and decide to continue to Redondela note there is a very steep climb *up* and *down* around Monte Cornedo at the end of a long day. Porriño now has several modern pilgrims hostels and good facilities serving the industrial town of 18,500, largely employed in the granite products.

☐ **The Mystical Path:** When we live as though each day is our last we start to fully live in the present. "Each moment becomes a whole lifetime, a universe unto itself... Our priorities change; our hearts open, our minds begin to clear... we watch all life in transit and what matters becomes instantly apparent: the transmission of love, the letting go of obstacles to understanding, the relinquishment of our grasping, of our hiding from ourselves." *Who Dies? Stephen Levine*

☐ **Personal Reflections:** "... around me everything is silent but for the babbling brook. The isolated cross marks the spot where a saint died and my inner silence is broken with thoughts of death. Like the busy waters of the little stream, I too, will return to the Source. My body, like the Earth's, is already half way through its life-span. Body and Earth, both will dissolve back into the dust from which they were made. Only what is perfect and formless is eternal and created by the Source of Love. All else is impermanent and ephemeral. Even the sun will die..."

0.0 km **Tui Catedral** Proceed via Praza do Concello s/o at *café Ideas Pergrinas* past *café Central* into rua das Monxas & *Convento das Clarisas* through the nun's tunnel *Túnel das Monxas* (see photo next page) down calle Tide into rua Antero Rubín to the ancient [F.] (below the overpass) to the XIVthc **Convento Sto. Domingo** [the Dominicans have been associated with this site since 1330] s/o under the archway (simulating an earlier medieval gateway) past **Albergues San Clemente** (left) and **Santo Domingo** (right) turning right> (sign Praia da Areira) into Praza San Bartolomé one of the oldest suburbs of Tui with the XIthc



Romanesque monastic church of St. Bartholomew **San Bartolomé de Rebordáns [1.1 km]**. (*Recent excavations in the area have unearthed Roman and Visigothic ruins. The finely carved cruceiro dates from 1770*). We now leave the town behind and turn down onto path to the medieval bridge over the rio Louro **Ponte da Veiga** which we do *not* cross but turn <left along the ancient Via Romana XIX. The camino has been realigned (to avoid crossing rail tracks) and meanders in a wide loop *under* the railway and over the main road [!] **N-550** to the Virgin of the Way **Chapel [2.1 km]**.



3.2 km **Capela da Virxe do Camiño.**

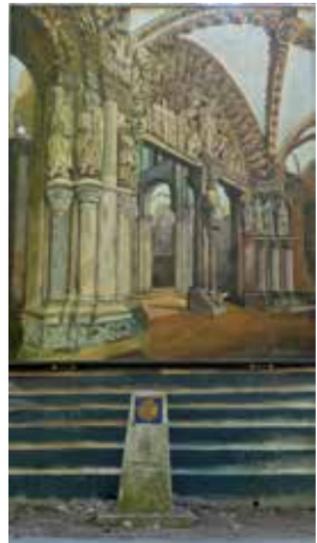
The camino crosses the new motorway A-55 along a dedicated pilgrim track with timber safety barrier. We follow this all the way *under* the AP-9 [1.9 km] and 200m later we turn right> [0.2 km] [!] *back over* the motorway to enter a densely wooded section that is low-lying and can be wet and muddy after rain to emerge at an isolated glade by the river and wayside **cross [0.5 km]**.



2.6 km Cruceiro San Telmo – also known as the bridge of Fevers *Ponte das Febres*. Here San Telmo fell sick and died of a fever in 1251 on his way back from a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. A cross marks this mournful spot *Aqui enfermo de Muerte San Telmo Abril 1251*. ▲

[Option: *Detour 1.3 km* ●●●●● by woodland path to **Hotel Alfonso I** €35 pilgrim price © 986 607 060. *Directions: From S. Telmo proceed s/o (right) on path and over río Louro by pasarela [0.1 km] turn right and s/o to asphalt road and turn right to **Motel Trebol** [0.7 km] €35 © 986 607 087 Booking.com. Proceed over motorway to Hotel Alfonso I [0.5 km] return the same way*].

▲ Continue over bridge on waymarked route along forest track (there are several local walking routes around the river valley but stick to the yellow arrows). We wind our way up onto the asphalt road at **Ribadelouro [1.5 km]** *Café Casa Cultural* (left) 'last chance saloon' before Porriño suburbs. S/o through the hamlet of **A Magdalena** turning <left past *Calvario* and imm. right> down onto path through woodland over medieval stone bridge *puente Orbenlle*. Shortly afterwards the open cast mines of Porriño appear on the horizon heralding the intense industrial activity ahead. Continue up to the road to **mural of the Portico de Gloria [1.4 km]** [!]. This is the only reliable waymark for the new scenic route that avoids the soulless slog through the Industrial estate. Continue up to path <left [0.2 km]. Sign for scenic route left may have been obliterated (again) and you will note arrows on the road have



been erased with black paint. This is an unfortunate but all too common attempt to disguise or remove options for commercial gain. It occurred in the medieval period and we come across it again as we enter Porriño.

3.1 km **Opción [A]* Orbenlle.** Original route through the industrial suburbs or [1] new scenic route along the course of the rio Louro (1.7 km longer).

For the original shorter road route: Continue s/o at option point [A]* and follow the waymarks into **Orbenlle** [0.6 km] *Bar O Novo Cazador* last break before the soulless trek through the long straight stretch of industrial estate *polígono industrial A Gandara de Porriño*. Continue to footbridge *pasarela* [4.1 km] over the rail.



4.7 km **Pasarela** cross onto the N-550 past the chapel to the Virgin of the Way *Capela A Virxe da Guía* and *Hotel Puente* turning <left at next traffic lights *Semáforo* into Calle Manuel Rodríguez Cd over rio Couro into Porriño town passing the XVIthc *Capela San Sebastian* with [F.] (right) and *Capela San Benito* and [F.] (left) past the *Igreja Santa María* into the main street *la calle principal Ramón González* and past the impressive stone façade of the *Casa Consistorial* to the central fountain *Fonte y Parque do Cristo* and the steps leading up to the *Igreja Bom Cristo* (right) and s/o past the minerals museum *Museo Municipal de Minerals* to the central roundabout *Praza Central*. Plaza [1.0 km]:



3.1 km **Centro** where the recommended route joins from the left.

For the new alternative route over the rio Louro (avoids the industrial area of *As Gándaras*) turn <left at option point. [!] Watch carefully as waymarks at the start may have been removed. Once you enter the woodland waymarks become obvious and appear at every turn on the maze of paths and country lanes ahead. [Blacking out of yellow arrows also occurs at the next option point [2] and would deprive you of a tranquil riverside path into the centre of Porriño]. To take this more scenic route turn <left onto a woodland path over rio Louro *punte Baranco* (see photo) and up to a series of quiet country roads that wind their way over the AP-9 to pilgrim 'rest' area *Refuxio Pontellas* (often closed) adj. *Capilla de San Campio*.



4.2 km **Capilla San Campio** to the side of the church is a *café* (weekends only): The route now heads back over the AP-9 to the *Velodromo Municipal* [1.3 km]. Here up left 200m off route is the *Bar Taberna*. Continue over roundabout and under A-55 to *option point [2]* [1.0 km].

2.3 km Opción [2] Puente. As we emerge under the A-55 there is an option to keep s/o over the river and rail to join the road route along the N-550. The sign to the join the recommended river path (left) may have been removed. However you can't get lost if you simply follow the delightful river path *paseo fluvial* keeping the river on your right (see map) all the way to the albergues in Porriño [2.4 km].



Albergue 1 Peregrinos Xunta.[50÷2] €6 © 986 335 428 purpose built hostel on the river Louro (15:00–22:00) see photo. 100m left (visible under the A-55 bridge) is the new **Alb 2 Camino Portugués** on Av. Buenos Aires 42 (opens 11:30–22:00) also with all mod cons and massage facility. Continue into town over bridge and rail line past **P* Louro** €22–42 © 986 330 048 Av. Buenos Aires 6. S/o to **Banco Santander**, taxi rank and central roundabout [0.6 km] where the road route joins from the right.

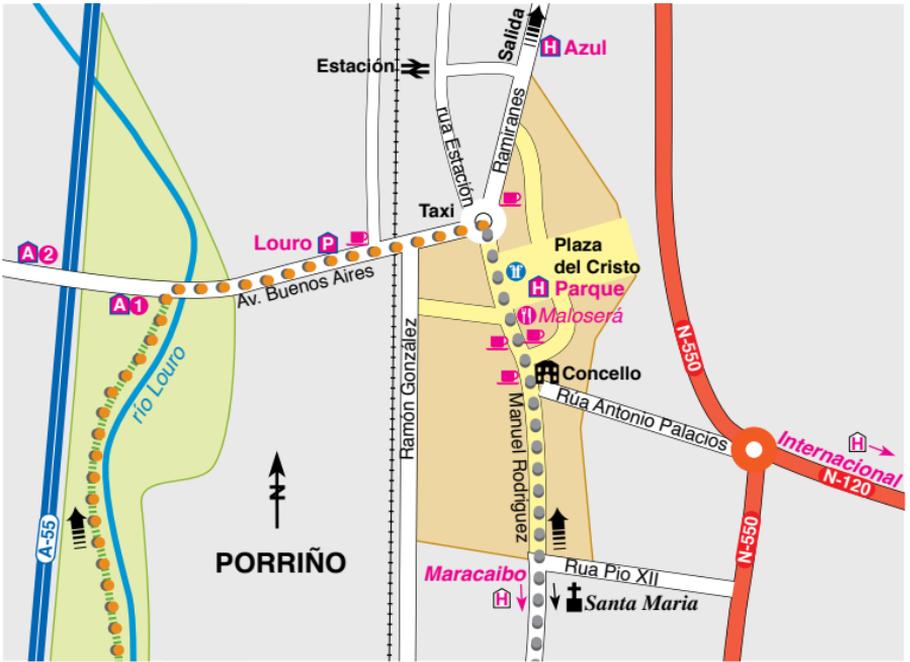


3.0 km Centro Rotunda ● The pedestrian town centre lies to the right.

☐ **Other Accommodation: Town centre:** **H* Azul** © 986 330 032 c/ Ramirás,38. **H***Parque** €40 © 986 331 604 Parque Cristo. **P Maracaibo** €40 © 986 330 901 c/ Manuel Rodríguez, 50. **Outskirts (+0.5km)** **H***Internacional** €38 © 986 330 262. c/ Antonio Palacios 99. **P* Rst. Puente** €30 © 986 348 094 Av. Domingo Bueno, 67 (road route). There is also a small retreat house located in a beautiful natural landscape (+6.0 km - free transport) **Alb. Casucho da Peregrina Priv.** [4÷1]+ €15(x4) / €20(x2) Jesús & Pili 986 687 201 at A Insua Parroquia de Atios.

Porriño has a variety of bars and restaurants: **Maloserá** on c/ Servando Ramilo (just off the Plaza del Cristo in the centre) is popular with pilgrims. A sprawling industrial town of 18,500 sandwiched between the río Louro and the motorway and the steep cliffs to the east where granite quarries provide much of the raw material for the intense industrial activity in the mining and finishing of granite for building and decorative purposes. **Museo Municipal de Minerais** opposite the Town Hall (see photo>).





REFLECTIONS:

Ponte da Veiga & Via Romana XIX

