

Camino vocab

Note: this is “survival Caminoese”. It contains no explanations of grammar except to say that Spanish, like other Latin languages, has masculine and feminine versions of many nouns and adjectives. Masculine versions usually end in *o* and feminine in *a*, eg.

Una chica – a girl
Un chico – a boy

Accommodation: Although the Spanish word *albergue* is the most common word for hostel, on the Camino you will occasionally see the word *refugio*. These two words have the same meaning in the context of the Camino.

Donativo or *La Voluntad* are used to describe a hostel which asks for a donation rather than a fixed payment. These hostels continue to exist thanks to the generosity of pilgrims.

The word *hostal* means a cheap hotel, often with shared bathrooms, *casa rural* means a guesthouse in a rural area, *parador* means a posh hotel in a historic building and *hotel* has basically the same meaning as in English.

Eating/drinking: The terms *café* and *bar* are used more-or-less interchangeably in Spain. Generally, bars sell coffee and *café*s sell alcohol. Both also often serve hot food. Similarly, something calling itself a *restaurant* may be more-or-less identical to the *café* next door, sometimes with a separate dining area generally called *el comedor*. Hence, what’s what often boils down to what the sign above the door says. In the guide the word *café* is used throughout.

Menu guide

Menú del Día – Lunchtime Menu (from about 1300 until about 1500), usually includes a starter, a main course and a desert. Wine or water is often also included. Coffee is usually extra.

Menú del Peregrino – Pilgrim Menu, usually served from 1900 – so a lot earlier than normal evening meal time in Spain. Similar to the *menú del día* but often poorer quality.

Platos Combinados – a single plate with a mix of different things. Typically meat, chips, eggs, a small salad, etc.

Frito – Fried
Asado – Roasted
A la Brasa – Grilled

Primero or entremés – Starter

Ensalada Verde – Green Salad (lettuce, tomatoes, tuna)
Ensaladilla Rusa – Russian Salade (potatoes, peas, tuna, mayonnaise)
Macarrones – Pasta, usually with some kind of sauce. Nobody goes to Spain for the pasta.
Sopa – Soup (verduras – vegetables, pollo – chicken, lentejas – lentils, etc.)
Judias Verdes – Green Beans

Segundo – Main Course

Cocido – Stew
Patatas – Potatoes
Patatas Fritas – Chips (or French Fries)

Patatas Bravas – Fried potatoes with a spicy sauce
Jamón – Ham
Jamón Serrano – Cured Ham
Pollo – Chicken
Huevo – Egg
Hígado – Liver
Cordero – Lamb
Embuchados – Lamb intestines
Pescado (del Día) – Fish (of the Day)
Chuleta de Cerdo – Pork Chop
Pulpo (en su tinta) – Octopus (in its ink)
Pulpo a la Gallega – Boiled Octopus
Costilla – Pork Cutlet
Ternera – Beef
Solomillo – Sirloin
Lacón – Shoulder of Pork
Chorizo – Cured smoked sausage
Salchicha – Sausage
Croquetas – Fried potato dumpling type things, sometimes with a meat filling
Paella – Rice with seafood and/or chicken

Tierna – Tender
Poco hecho – Rare
Al punto – Medium
Muy hecho – Well done (of meat)

Postre – Dessert

Arroz con Leche – Rice Pudding
Cuajada – Creamy substance often served with honey
Natillas – Custard
Fruta – Fruit
Helado – Ice Cream
Tarta – Tart, comes in various flavours
Pudding – sweet, goopy substance, no English equivalent
Mousse – Mousse
Flan – Crème Caramel

Pan – Bread
Vino – Wine
Agua – Water
Gaseosa – Soft drink/Mineral/Soda
Aceite de Oliva – Olive Oil
Sal – Salt
Ajo – Garlic

Vaso or Copa – Glass
Taza – Cup
Tenedor – Fork
Cuchillo – Knife
Cuchara – Spoon
La Cuenta – The bill (check)

Almuerzo – Lunch

Soy vegetariano/vegetariana – I’m a vegetarian. The queen of Spain is a vegetarian, so don’t accept second class treatment!
Sin – Without, *sin carne* – without meat, *sin atún* – without tuna

Breakfast

Desayuno – Breakfast, usually fairly Spartan
Café con Leche – Coffee with steamed milk
Colacao – Hot chocolate made from milk

Magdalena – Sweet Bun (like a small muffin)
Croissant – Croissant
Napolitana – Chocolate Danish/Croissant
Pan con Aceite – Toast with Olive Oil
Tostadas – Toast normally served with butter (mantequilla) and jam (mermelada)

Snacks

Tapas – snacks served in bars, usually displayed on the counter
Pinchos – word for tapas used in Navarra and the Basque country (sometimes also written in Basque – Pinxos)
Raciones – same as Tapas but bigger
Bocadillo – (also occasionally Bocata) Sandwich, usually served in an enormous bread roll
Empanada – Pie with tuna, meat or vegetables filling
Queso – Cheese
Aceitunas – Olives
Tortilla – Spanish Omelette
Tortilla Francesa – French Omelette
Tortilla de Patata – Spanish Omelette with potato
Tortilla Española – Spanish Omelette with ham and onion

Fruta – Fruit
Manzana – Apple
Naranja – Orange
Plátano – Banana
Uva – Grape

Frutos secos – Nuts
Cacahuete – Peanut
Chocolate – Chocolate
Sardina – Sardine
Atún – Tuna
Carne – Meat

Verduras – Vegetables
Lechuga – Lettuce
Tomate – Tomato
Cebolla – Onion
Zanahoria – Carrot
Seta – Wild mushroom usually with garlic

Drinks

Cerveza – Beer (more commonly in bars you would ask for “una caña” which means a draft beer). Sometimes they haven’t got draught in which case you’ll get *un botellín* a bottle.
Vino Tinto – Red Wine
Vino Blanco – White Wine
Vino Rosado – Rosé
Tinto de Verano – Red wine, lemonade, lemon, ice
Clara con Limón – Beer with lemonade
Sidra – Apple cider
Hielo – Ice

Café (or Café Solo) – Espresso
Café con Leche – Coffee with Steamed Milk
Café Cortado – Espresso with a dash of milk
Colacao – Hot chocolate
Té – Tea (although Spain is NOT a tea-drinking nation)
Azúcar – Sugar

Directions

Derecha – Right (a la derecha – to the right)
Izquierda – Left (a la izquierda – to the left)

Todo recto – straight ahead (sometimes just *recto*)
Iglesia – Church
Flecha (Amarilla) – (Yellow) Arrow
Puente – Bridge
Carretera – Main Road
Lejos – Far
Cerca – Near
¿Dónde esta...? – Where is...?
¿Cuántos kilómetros? – How many kilometres?

Facilities

Tienda – Grocery Shop, also sells alcohol (you’ll also see them called *Comestibles* and *Alimentación*)
Panadería – Bakery
Pastelería – Cake shop
Frutería – Vegetable/fruit shop
Supermercado – Supermarket
Farmacia – Chemist / Pharmacist
Tabacos – Cigarettes
Periódicos – Newsagents
Fuente – Drink Font
Agua Potable – Drinking Water
Agua No Potable – Water not fit for human consumption
Autobús – Bus
Pueblo – Village/Town
Ciudad – City
Cerrado – Closed
Abierto – Open

Health

Centro de Salud – Health Centre
Médico – Doctor
Ampolla – Blister
Hospital – Hospital

Weather

Cubierto – Overcast
Chubascos – Showers
Despejado – Clear skys
Frío – Cold
Heladas – Frost
Lluvia – Rain
Niebla – Fog
Nieve – Snow
Nubes – Clouds
Tormenta – Storm
Variable – Changeable
Viento – Wind
Hoy – Today
Mañana – Tomorrow

Days of the week

Lunes – Monday
Martes – Tuesday
Miércoles – Wednesday
Jueves – Thursday
Viernes – Friday
Sábado – Saturday
Domingo – Sunday

Travel

Aeropuerto – Airport
Estación de Trenes – Train Station

Horario – Timetable
Billete – Ticket (airplane, train, bus, etc.)
Sólo Ida – One way
Ida y Vuelta – Return
Autobús – Bus
Estación de Autobuses – Bus Station
Parada de Autobuses – Bus Stop
Taxi – Taxi

General phrases

¿Cuándo? – When?
¿Qué? – What?
¿Por qué? – Why?

La llave del Albergue – the key of the hostel
¡Qué calor! – It's hot (bizarrely, Spanish people begin to complain about the heat as soon as the temperature goes above 20 degrees)
¡Qué frío! – It's cold (ie. Under 20 degrees)
Hay... – there is... Very useful word. Any of the following Spanish phrases can be a question or a statement.
Hay pan? Do you sell bread?
Hay bocadillos? Do you sell sandwiches?
Hay una tienda en el pueblo? Is there a shop in the village?
No hay... - there isn't... *No hay pan. I'm sorry, I've sold out of bread.*
Cuánto? How much/many?
Cuánto cuesta? How much does it cost?

Money

Banco – Bank
Cajero Automático – Cash Machine (ATM)
Cambio – Bureau de Change
Dinero – Money
Euros – Euros
Céntimos – Eurocents
Caro – Expensive
Barato – Cheap

Useful verbs

Verbs are the most difficult part of Spanish and the following is intended to give you a few forms which may come in useful rather than teach you how the verb system works.

Ser – to be (permanent states): soy irlandés (or irlandesa) – I'm Irish m/f
Estar – to be (temporary states): estoy cansado (or cansada) – I'm tired
Comer – to Eat
Beber – to Drink
Hablar – to Talk/Speak
Pagar – to Pay

Misc

Sí – Yes
No – No
Buenos días – Hello or simply Hola
¿Qué tal? – How are you?
Bien – Well
Buenas noches – Good night
Adiós – Bye
Hasta luego – See you later
Gracias – Thanks
Por favor – Please

Perdone – Excuse me/Sorry
Aquí – Here
Allí – There
La mañana – Morning
La tarde – Afternoon and Evening
Ayer – Yesterday
Hoy – Today
Mañana – Tomorrow

Grande – Big
Pequeño – Small

Cama – Bed
Habitación – Room (in hotel, etc.)
Baño – Bathroom
Ducha – Shower
Lavar – to wash (lavar ropa – wash clothes)
Cocina – Kitchen
Bota – Boot
Zapatos – Shoes
Servicios – Toilets (in bars, restaurants)
Más – More
Menos – Less
Medico – Doctor
Centro de Salud – Health Centre
Palo – Stick/Staff
Mochila – Rucksack
Botella – Bottle
Meseta – The Plains
Río – River
Montaña – Mountain
Lluvia – Rain
Nieve – Snow
Barro – Mud
Caliente – Hot
Frío – Cold
Bueno – Good
Malo – Bad
La entrada – The entrance
La salida – The exit
Más – More
Menos – Less/fewer
Hospitalera/Hospitalero – hostel warden
Mucho (m)/Mucha (f) – a lot *muchos kilometros*
Chica – girl, chico – boy
Rodilla – Knee
Se Vende – for sale
Oficina de Correos – Post Office
Lista de correos – Poste restante/general delivery
Sello – Stamp (letters and Credencial)
Credencial – Pilgrim Passport
Compostela – The certificate presented by the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago upon presentation of a Credencial with all the necessary stamps to pilgrims who say they did the walk for 'spiritual' reasons. If you say you say your motivations were non-spiritual you will receive a considerably less fancy 'certificado'
Fisterrana – like a Compostela but for walking the part from Santiago to Fisterra

Names for the Camino

The *Camino de Santiago* is known in English as *The Way of St James* or *St James' Way*. However, English speakers almost always refer to it by its Spanish name or just *The Camino*. It is

rarely called *The Way* in English.

In French the Camino is called *Le Chemin de St Jacques* or just *Le Chemin*.

In German it is called *der Jakobsweg*. German speaking pilgrims also sometimes use the word *Sternenweg* meaning the *way of the stars*.

In Basque it is known as *Donejakue Bidea*.

In Galician *O Camiño de Santiago* or just *O Camiño*. However you will also see *Ruta Xacobeá*.

Nationalities

The forms given are masculine however formation of feminines is very easy. If the word ends in:

- és or -es – add -a
- o – replace with -a
- e – replace with -a

Alaman – German (Alemania)

Belgico – Belgian (Bélgica)

Canadiense – Canadian (Canadá)

Escocés – Scottish (Escosia)

Estadounidense – US (los Estados Unidos / EE.UU)

Finlandés – Finnish (Finlandia)

Francés – French (Francia)

Galés – Welsh (Gales)

Holandés – Dutch (Países Bajos)

Inglés – English (Inglaterra)

Irlandés – Irish (Irlanda)

Italiano – Italian (Italia)

Polaco – Polish (Polonia)

Sueco – Swedish (Suecia)

Suizo – Swiss (Suiza)

Placenames

Spanish

Ciudad – City

Franco – a place colonised by people from France (Franks) or by tradesmen and traders who were free of vassalage to noblemen or the Church

Pueblo – Village

Valle – Valley

Villa – Town (only in placenames)

Basque

Berri – New

Iri – Village

Zabal – Plain, flat area

Zubi – Bridge