

## 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 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 pilgrim hostel, on the Camino you will occasionally see the word *refugio*. In the context of the Camino these two words have the same meaning.

*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 often also serve hot food. Similarly, something calling itself a *restaurante* may be more-or-less identical to the *café* next door, sometimes with a separate dining area generally called *el comedor*.

## 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, gooey 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 skies  
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