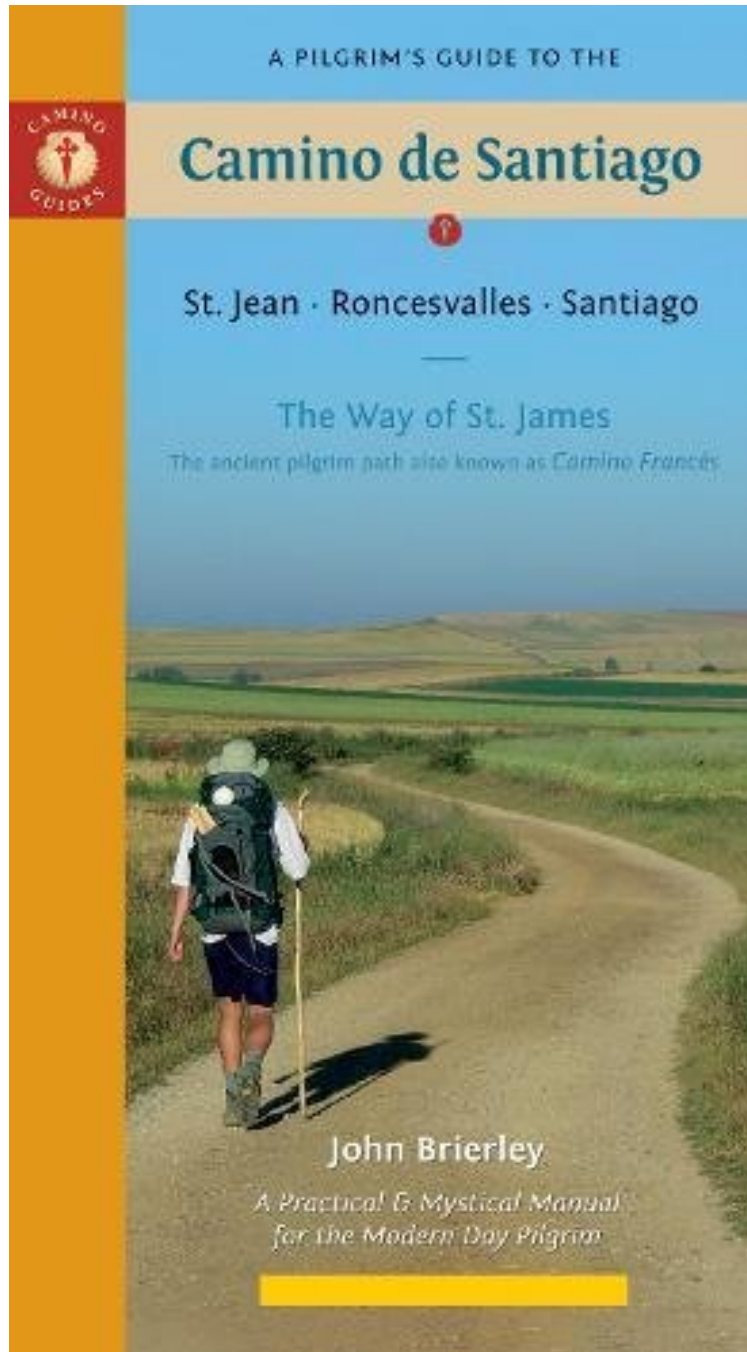


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John Brierley

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago: St. Jean Roncesvalles Santiago (Camino Guides)*:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Get yourself a copy of Brierley now! By Leslie N. Patino When I decided to walk the Camino, one of the first bits of advice I got from two veteran pilgrims, who didn't know each other, was, "Get yourself a copy of Brierley now." I'm finally leaving tomorrow! I was going to hold off on writing a review until after I came back, but I've been reading and referring back to "Brierley" for the last three months and can't imagine preparing without the book. My copy is already marked up and dog-eared. I've photocopied the map on the back inside cover and the 33 Stage Summary on page 43 for family and friends. The only possibly negative thing I've heard about the book came from a pilgrim who walked the Camino last fall. She and her husband said it was indispensable but that so many people carried Brierley that those towns and villages he suggested for spending the night were often heavily crowded in the evenings. As a Spanish teacher, I recommend Brierley's bilingual checklist and basic phrases for anyone who isn't fluent in the language. I like his attention to outer and inner preparation. His invites the reader to introspective/spiritual reflection in a general way that almost anyone can be open to. I expect my "Brierley" is going to come home in six weeks considerably worn. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Like raving about the Auberge in a town where the ... By DT My husband and I hiked the Camino this Spring, using this book as our guide. First, it's too heavy to be carried for 485 miles. My husband looked forward to his daily ritual of tearing out the pages for that day and discarding them. Second, there were too many times that information was missing and/or incorrect, including some routing information, water font locations, and accommodation information. Brierley's ratings for accommodations often seemed to be slanted in ways that won't make a difference to a normal pilgrim, like raving about the Auberge in a town where the mayor was particularly "friendly to the Camino". Finally, pilgrims shouldn't even follow his recommendations as to the towns in which to stay (i.e., the towns at the end of each stage), as that leads to over-crowding of the accommodations and missing some great stops. This book needs some serious editing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If I had to choose one book, this would be it. By areel I did not realize how good of a book this was until I was walking across Spain. I would not take the journey without it. It adds to the experience and was worth its weight. Maps are not necessarily to scale and some of the inclines seem to have been left out. It seemed that most every one on the trail was carrying this guide book. It is a good book. The descriptions of the albergues and hostels were not as good as the German guide book- which has been translated into broken English. So we used this one to plan our daily hikes and descriptions of the city and then we used the other one to help us decide where to sleep that night. This book also did an excellent job explaining the history, and the whys and hows of what you will be seeing along your way. (This enriches the trip.) He takes some time to address the personal or spiritual journey as well. (Just so you know, the spiritual side of the journey can get crowded out.) So it is nice to have a reminder and a re-entry point to the spiritual journey.

Now updated to include newer maps and photos and lighter in weight to support carefree traveling, this comprehensive guidebook to the Camino de Santiago and its offshoots contains all the information needed by modern-day pilgrims wishing to walk the sacred Way of St. James. Overview route planners plus daily stage maps and detailed town plans help sojourners with all the advance preparation they need. The maps feature contour guides to help distinguish the terrain that will be crossed each day, while full information on all pilgrim hostels, as well as details for alternative accommodation, allow travelers to plot adequate nightly stopping points. All reference information is accompanied by helpful spiritual guidelines to support the seeker's inner journey as well as the outer pilgrimage. Otherwise known as the Camino Francés, the main route covered in this volume is the most popular sacred route through Spain, from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago.

About the Author John Brierley is a former chartered surveyor who promotes business sabbaticals and pilgrimages as a way to reappraise life's purpose. He is the author of several collections of maps and guides to the Camino de Santiago and the Camino Portugés.