

Cycling the Ruta Via de la Plata

On and off-road options on the Camino from Seville to Santiago and Gijón

ISBN: **9781786310125** (Short Code: 1012)

Publication Date: **16 Mar 2022**

Price: **£16.95**

Edition: **First**

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LAM with flaps , 224 pages

17.20 x 11.60 cm

Guidebook to cycling the Ruta Via de la Plata through western Spain, covering the 930km route from Seville to the coastal city of Gijón in around 2 weeks (14 stages). A pilgrimage variant, the Camino Sanabrés, to Santiago de Compostela is also described (16 stages in total). Empty roads and gentle climbs make the route accessible to a wide range of bikes and cyclists. With road and off-road versions, the guide describes how the best of both worlds can be combined for a perfect touring, hybrid or gravel cycling trip.

The Ruta Via de la Plata is one of Spain's most important pilgrim routes and offers fantastic cycling and rich cultural and historical interest. The two weeks journey from Spain's southern coastal plain, across the central plateau, over the Cantabrian Mountains to the north coast takes in 8 UNESCO world heritage sites (Seville, Mérida, Cáceres, Salamanca, Leon, Zamora, Oviedo, and Santiago de Compostela).

The guide includes stage-by-stage route descriptions, 1:150,000 mapping, elevation profiles and ride planners so riders can swop from the road to off-road route if they want. There is advice on equipment, travel and transporting your bike, alongside accommodation contacts and a useful Spanish glossary.

Key marketing points

The Ruta Via de la Plata is one of Spain's most important pilgrim routes. A pilgrimage variant, the Camino Sanabrés, to Santiago de Compostela is also described in this guidebook.

About the author

John Hayes is a retired management consultant with degrees from Liverpool University and University College London. Immediately after finishing work in 2011 he embarked on an epic 5,000km trek across Europe, walking from Tarifa in Spain to Budapest. John has written for numerous walking and trekking magazines, and has written four walking guides and a cycling guide for Cicerone.

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