



















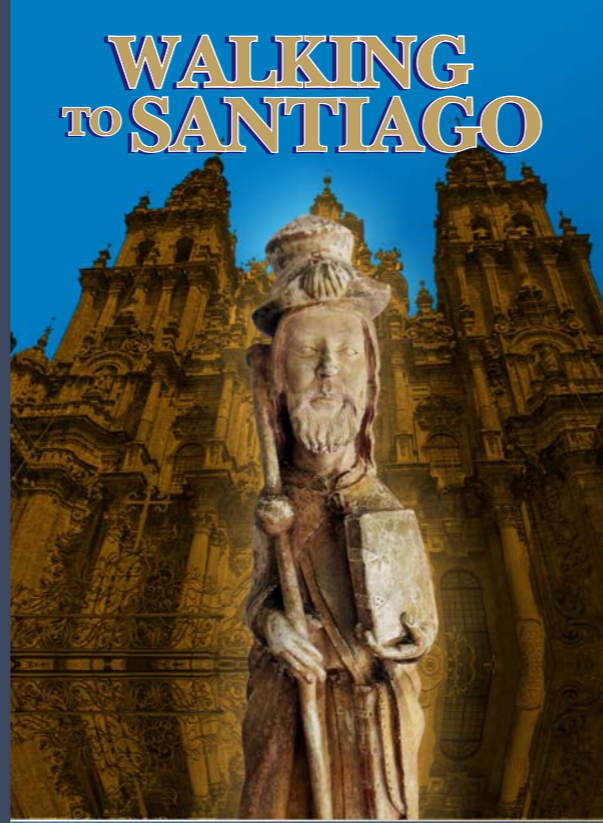




-  Centro de Saúde de Albergaria-a-Velha  
Albergaria-a-Velha Health Care Centre
-  Albergue de Peregrinos Rainha D. Teresa  
Pilgrim Hostel Rainha D. Teresa t. +351 234 529 754
-  Extensão de Saúde da Branca  
Branca Health Care Centre
-  Mamoa de Açores  
The Açores Tumuli
-  Capela de S. José  
Saint Joseph Chapel
-  Cruzeiro de Assilhô  
Assilhô Cross
-  Capela do Mártir São Sebastião  
The Martyr Saint Sebastian Chapel
-  Paços do Concelho  
Town Hall
-  Igreja Matriz  
Church
-  Cruzeiro do Espírito Santo  
Holy Spirit Cross
-  Biblioteca Municipal  
Municipal Library
-  Correios  
Post Office
-  Casa e Capela de St.º António  
House and Chapel of Saint Anthony
-  Cruzeiro de N.ª Sr.ª do Socorro  
Albergaria Cross
-  Padrão Cruzeiro de Albergaria  
Albergaria Cross
-  Parque de N.ª Sr.ª do Socorro  
Our Lady of Good Help Park
-  Capela da N.ª Sr.ª da Alegria  
Our Lady of Joy Chapel
-  Capela da N.ª Sr.ª da Piedade  
Our Lady of Piety Chapel
-  Capela da N.ª Sr.ª do Bom Sucesso  
Our Lady of Good Success Chapel
-  Farmácia  
Pharmacy



# WALKING TO SANTIAGO

ANO SANTO JACOBEU  
2021 – 2022

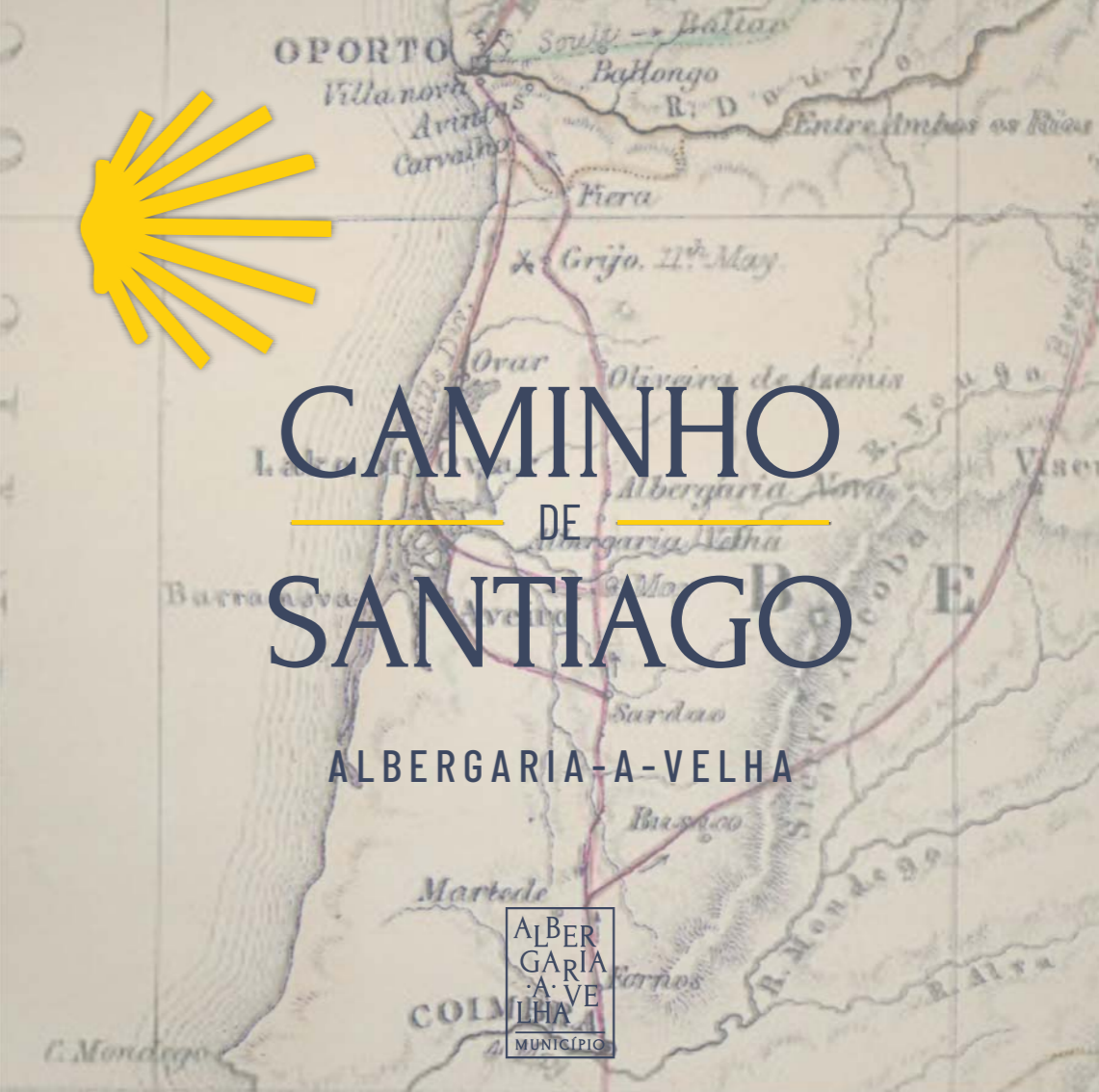


IMAGE OF SANTIAGO 15TH CENTURY | RIBEIRA DE FRÁGUAS, ALBERGARIA-A-VELHA



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PHOTOGRAPHY PAULO MATOS TEXT JORGE LOPES | OCTOBER 2021



# ON THE WAY TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



Walking the paths that lead to Santiago de Compostela is nowadays much more than a spiritual pilgrimage or a sporting adventure. It's a way to reinforce the steps of so many of our ancestors who, in the last thousand years, have set out towards the most famous sanctuary of the Iberian Peninsula. More than in the centuries that followed, the medieval centuries were the period of greatest danger for pilgrims. Not only because the paths were of poor quality (narrow, uneven, muddy, dark...), but also because wild animals (such as wolves or bears) and robbers caused a lot of suffering and even death to passengers. To minimize the hardness of the travels, in the year 1117, in the Middle Ages, Queen Teresa, widow of Count D. Henrique and mother of D. Afonso Henriques, granted Gonçalo Eriz the charter of couto de Osseloá, in which ordered him to erect an inn on the expeditions. History

would take care of lending the name of this institution to the town that would be born there, around it: Albergaria-a-Velha. Its implantation took place along the road that connected Coimbra to Porto. She was the heir of the Roman Via XVI, successively known as Estrada Mourisca, Estrada Coimbrã and, later, Estrada Real nº 10.

Hostels were, since that distant twelfth century, passenger assistance houses, which provided them with shelter, food and treatment for bodily ailments. Due to its location, on the main road axis at the time, those who passed here on their way to Santiago would not be rare. In 1594, also the Italian priest Gianbattista Confalonieri, going to Santiago in the company of Cardinal Fabio Biondo de Montalto, stayed overnight, describing

Albergaria-a-Velha as "a village of about 100 houses, small and poor". If parish records had not started to be systematically made only in the 16th century, there would be more examples of those who ended their journey here, unintentionally. One of them, thus, dates from June 15, 1627: Jorge Domingues, born and resident in Lisbon, died here "Indo p<sup>a</sup> Santiago de Galicia". Fortunately, the dark and deadly adventures of those ancient times have given way, nowadays, to exciting journeys of discovery and pleasure. While traveling through the lands of Albergaria-a-Velha, the contemporary pilgrim absorbs the tranquility of a territory blessed with unique natural landscapes, monuments that attest to its centuries-old history, an enviable gastronomy and genuine hospitality.

By transforming itself into a Royal Hospital, the medieval hostel survived the period of decline in pilgrimages, which began in the 16th century, which gradually made that type of institutions disappear. In the same place, there is now the municipal library. Today, the Queen D. Teresa Pilgrim Hostel continues its legacy of nine hundred years, continuing to welcome pilgrims heading to the most distinguished pilgrimage site of Christianity in the Peninsula. It is on him and on the immemorial road that the primitive genius of Albergaria-a-Velha lives.



Boa Vista Castle and Palace (the city's actual library)



Town hall - city council



seventeenth century limestone indicating the existence of a hostel founded by Queen D. Teresa