



Orreaga/Roncesvalles

Tourist Office

Edificio Antiguo Molino
(+34) 948 760 301 · (+34) 690 090 483
oit.roncesvalles@navarra.es · www.visitnavarra.es

A Monument to the Battle of Roncesvalles (1978)

B Estela del Camino

1. Prior's House and Pilgrim's Office (in winter).
2. Cloister.
3. Chapter House- King Sancho the Strong's tomb.
4. Museum - Treasure of the Collegiate Church.
5. Collegiate Church of Santa Maria.
6. Chapel of the Holy Spirit or 'Charlemagne's silo' (cemetery).
7. Chapel of Santiago (St. James).
8. Itzandegia - Events Hall.
9. Pilgrim's Office and A Pilgrim's hostel
☎ +34 948 760 000 / +34 948 760 029
(Closed in winter. Go to number 1 in that season). www.alberguederoncesvalles.com
10. Old flourmill-Tourist Information Office.

Places to sleep

- H1 Hotel Roncesvalles
www.hotelroncesvalles.com
- Hs1 Rural Hostel La Posada
- Hs2 Rural Hostel Casa Sabina
- AT1 Apartments
Casa de los Beneficiados
www.casadebeneficiados.com

Places to eat

- 1 Orreaga/Roncesvalles
- 2 La Posada
- 3 Casa Sabina

Visits to Orreaga/Roncesvalles

Historical monuments

Check opening times at visitaroncesvalles.blogspot.com
To make a booking, send a WhatsApp to (+34) 670 289 997.

Guided tours-ticket office:

visitas@roncesvalles.es

Collegiate church

Open from 08h00 to 20h30, except when masses are being held.

Santiago Way

EuroVelo 3

- Access points
- Souvenirs and cheese shop
- Source
- Car park
- Petrol station
- Mechanics Workshop

Information board

- Public toilets
- Bank, ATM (Cash)
- Health Centre
- Chemists
- Correos postal service
- Picnic area
- Children's play area



Auritz/Burguete

1. Cemetery
2. Cultural centre ☎ +34 948 760 373
3. Health care centre ☎ +34 948 760 300
4. Town council ☎ +34 948 760 032
www.burguete.es
5. San Nicolás of Bari parish church
6. Municipal laundromat

Places to eat

- 1 Aritza
www.restauranteasadoraritz.com
- 2 Burguete
www.hotelburguete.com
- 3 Frontón
- 4 Goxona
- 5 Loizu
- 6 Txikipolit
www.txikipolit.es

Places to sleep

- H1 Rural Hotel Loizu
- Hs1 Rural Hostel Burguete
- A1 Hostel Lorentx Aterpea
- P1 Rooms Juandeaburre
- CRh1 Rural Home (Rooms) Bergara
- CRh2 Rural Home (Rooms) Pedroarena
- CRv1 Rural Home (Entire House) Txikipolit
- CRv2 Rural Home (Entire House) Luisenea
- C1 Campsite Urrobi. Aurizberri/Espinal





Aerial view



Collegiate Church of Santa María



Santa María Church

Orreaga/Roncesvalles

Roncesvalles and the Kings of Navarre

From early days, Santa Maria de Orreaga/Roncesvalles was very closely linked to the Crown. Its foundation, originally episcopal, was favoured by King García Ramírez. His successors (Sancho el Sabio and Sancho el Fuerte) followed the same line. The last-named was behind the construction of the church of Santa Maria, and his body lies in the chapter house. The first French dynasties continued to strengthen the community of Orreaga/Roncesvalles through assets and wealth. In the Middle Ages the link between Orreaga/Roncesvalles and political power was strengthened. The Priors had an influence on political questions and the Crown intervened in the appointment of the Priors. The political role of Orreaga/Roncesvalles diminished following the incorporation of Navarre into Castile. Nevertheless, the Priors held onto their seat in the Parliament.

COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ORREAGA/RONCESVALLES

The Pyrenean enclave of Orreaga/Roncesvalles, near the border with France, is a milestone on the Pilgrims' Way to Compostela and a centre of Marian popular pilgrimages. In the complex of buildings that make up Orreaga/Roncesvalles, the **Collegiate Church of Santa María (5)** stands out. The church was built at the end of the 12th century and in the early 13th century with limestone from Oroz-Betelu. Its design is French Gothic style. There are three naves on the ground floor, the central nave being twice the width of the others. Its roof has cross vaults and a pentagonal sanctuary.

This sanctuary has large Gothic windows with modern stained glass. On the left-hand side of the facade, there is a tower that still maintains its original defensive appearance. Inside the church, the image of Santa Maria de Roncesvalles presides over the high altar. This is a beautiful Gothic wood carving, and is covered with silver and golden trimmings.

The old 12th-century Romanesque cloister collapsed in 1600 as a result of the weight of snow that had piled up, and was rebuilt in the 17th century. **The chapel of San Agustín (3)** opens onto the **cloister (2)**. This is an old Gothic chapter house that holds the **tomb of King Sancho VII el Fuerte** in the centre. The slab covering the tomb (mid-13th century) is a statue that reflects the great height of the King. In the sanctuary of the chapel, the chains and maces that surrounded the tent of the Arab king Miramamolín during the Battle of Navas de Tolosa (1212), are on display behind a grille. The stained glass windows of the chapel, restored in 1912, also depict the Battle.

Next to the cloister of the Collegiate Church is the Prior's residence, constructed in the 19th century. Inside are the rooms of the Chapter of Roncesvalles, consisting of a group of secular Canons who replaced the last regular community in 1983. The oldest building of those conserved is the **chapel of the Holy Spirit (6)**, also called the **'silo of Charlemagne'**, in the Romanesque style. The construction has a square ground floor layout and a dome on diagonal arches. It stands on a crypt covered with slabs of stone on the outside. Next to the chapel of the Holy Spirit is **the church of Santiago** (St. James) **(7)**, a small Gothic structure built in the 12th century. It has a rectangular shape and a straight sanctuary, with a simple cross vault in its two sections. The Pilgrims' Bell of San Salvador de Ibañeta has hung in the belfry since Florencio Ansoleaga restored the church.

The complex is completed with a series of civil buildings: **the new Hospital (9)**, **the Museum-Library (4)**, **the casa Itzandegia (8)**, **the old flourmill (10)**, **the 'casa de los beneficiados'** and **the inn**.

The new hospital was built between 1802 and 1807 in the austere style of the period and has recently been converted into a pilgrims' hostel. In the past, there were other hospitals that cared for pilgrims, and there are records of these in a number of documents and remains found opposite the church of Santa Maria.

The **Museum-Library**, which dates from the end of the 19th century, has the library on the first floor. Open only to specialists. The museum, located on the ground floor, holds pieces of great interest. Perhaps the best known of all these is the chess set of Charlemagne, a relic of gilded and enamelled silver from the 14th century, in the shape of a draughtboard. According to legend, it belonged to the Frankish emperor. Other works of great value are on display next to it: a silver bible lectern from the 12th century, a masterpiece of mediaeval Navarrese precious metalwork; the so-called 'emerald of Miramamolín' a jewel that, according to tradition, King Sancho VII el Fuerte snatched from the Arab king in the Battle of las Navas de Tolosa; two small silver chests from different periods; a reliquary called "of the thorns"; a processional cross from the 16th century, and the 'Virgencita del tesoro' (Little Virgin of the Treasure), a Gothic carving in wood lined with silver from the 14th century. Among the paintings, the following stand out: *La Sagrada Familia*, by Luis de Morales, the *Tríptico de la Crucifixión*, a 16th century painting that shows the influence of Del Bosco, the *Martirio de San Lorenzo*, possibly painted by Pedro Orrente, and the enamel *Altar piece of the Passion* in the Renaissance style.

The casa Itzandegia (8), built in the early Gothic style, was designed as a hospital or residence. Another example of the adaptation of the buildings of Orreaga/Roncesvalles is the flourmill, built at the end of the 18th century to supply the local population with flour. It is now home to the Tourist Information office.

HISTORY OF ORREAGA/RONCESVALLES

Orreaga/Roncesvalles has always been a place of transit. The Celts entered the Iberian Peninsula via this route, as did those who later used the Roman Way that linked Bordeaux and Astorga. In 778, the gorge of Valcarlos was the scene of the Battle of Roncesvalles, in which the rearguard of Charlemagne's army (commanded by Roland and the highest-ranking French nobles) was defeated by the Vascons.

Another major historical event took place in the following century: in 813, the tomb of the Apostle St. James (Santiago) was found in Galicia and pilgrimages to Compostela began soon after from all over Christianity.

One of the Pilgrims' Routes (and the one which was to become the best known) crossed the Pyrenees at Roncesvalles. With the aim of caring for pilgrims, a hospital-monastery emerged in the 12th century on the Ibañeta pass. Thanks to the support of the Bishop of Pamplona and King Alfonso el Batallador, the inn-hospital was later built down on the plain, together with the collegiate church of Roncesvalles.

New buildings were constructed during the Middle Ages and the collegiate church became very important, due to its extensive land and the growing number of pilgrims. From the 17th century onwards, Orreaga/Roncesvalles suffered a decline at the same time as the Pilgrims' Way to Santiago, and its patrimony also diminished.

In 1983 the Chapter was reformed, whereby the Augustinians gave way to a Diocesan Chapter made up of canons. In recent years the collegiate church has seen a large increase in the number of pilgrims to Santiago, and in many cases it is chosen as a starting point for the route to Compostela.

THE BATTLE OF ORREAGA/RONCESVALLES

The Battle of Orreaga/Roncesvalles took place on 15th August 778. There is only one certain fact: Charlemagne's army was attacked and conquered by the Vascons (Basques) on its way back from an expedition beyond its kingdom's borders. The attackers were either people from Pamplona seeking vengeance for the destruction of their city walls, or other Vascons from the other side of the Pyrenees whose rebelliousness against Frankish power is recorded in chronicles from the 13th and 14th centuries.

There is not even any certainty about the battle's location. Some people have placed in on the plain where Aurizberri/Espinal and Auritz/Burguete stand today (Errozabal, the plain of Erro; a name from which the former Roçavals might have originated, now Roncesvalles). This would have been the ideal

spot for a confrontation on an open field. It might have happened on the high road that crosses the "passes of Cisa" and Bentartea towards Donibane Garazi/San Jean Pied-de-Port, or even more likely on the low road which more or less followed the meanderings of the current road to Luzaide/Valcarlos. Some people have even suggested the battle took place in other areas of the Pyrenees, such as the so-called "Mouth of Hell", in the high Hecho valley (Huesca), or even further east.

Every version agrees in that the attack took place on the rearguard when the first contingent had already crossed the Pyrenean pass and was waiting on the other side of the mountains (in Luzaide/Valcarlos?).

Exhibition Centre "778. The battle of Roncesvalles" (Luzaide/Valcarlos)

This centre houses three exhibitions:

- Recreation of the traditional kitchen in Luzaide/Valcarlos:
- Exhibition on the Bolantes de Valcarlos (local traditional dancers)
- Exhibition about the 778 Battle of Roncesvalles

www.luzaide-valcarlos.net • +34 948 790 117

THE SONG OF ROLAND

The historical facts, which so moved contemporaries and of which there are chronicled references, inspired the foremost mediaeval narrative epic poem, the Song of Roland.

The Song of Roland transformed history and geography. No longer was it an expedition aimed at consolidating Frankish power at its southernmost limits, but rather an episode of the fabulous conquests of Charlemagne, who had dominated all Spain except for Saragossa, "which is on a mountain". The military confrontation is mixed in with conflicts generated by universal passions: hatred and betrayal.

The Battle –according to the Song– was the result of betrayal by the Ganelon, Roland's stepfather. Charlemagne, at Roland's instigation, had decided to send Ganelon on a dangerous mission to parley with the pag an monarch of Saragossa, Marsile. Enraged, Ganelon weaved his treacherous vengeance, and reached an agreement with Marsile to destroy the rearguard of "twenty thousand true valiant Franks" commanded by Roland. In the narrow gorges, Roland and his companions, including the sagacious Oliver, the brave archbishop Turpin and the Twelve Peers of France, were attacked by the Saracen hordes, no fewer than "four hundred thousand pagans". Like great knights, they fought until their last breath. Roland decided not to seek help until everything was lost. In a stunning ending, the hero sounds the Oliphant (horn) which hung around his neck; he then tried to destroy his sword Durandal so it would not fall into pagan hands, but he died as he cleaved it into the rock.

Charlemagne, on hearing the distant horn, came rushing to the rescue but it was too late. After avenging the death of his faithful followers and annihilating Marsile's army, all that was left was to bury the valiant warriors and take the bodies of the most renowned of them back to their beloved France: Roland, Oliver and Turpin, who would be buried in Blaye. As he was about to embark on the return journey, the army of the Emir of Babylon appeared before the Franks and a second battle took place which ended with the resounding defeat of the pagans and the conquest of Saragossa by Charlemagne. Back in Aix-la-Chapelle, Ganelon was put on trial and executed. The traitor's fate brings the Song to an end.

Over the centuries, some of the most important scenes in the narrative have been placed in the proximity of the Collegiate: the rock split open by the knight's last blows would be where the church was built; the chapel of the Holy Spirit would have housed the tomb of numerous Frankish warriors. The Collegiate has amassed various "souvenirs" of the protagonists: from Roland's and Oliver's maces "which some believe are those that were given to King Sancho VIII of Navarre on his victory at Navas de Tolosa" and horns to Turpin's sandals and Roland's stirrups, and even "Charlemagne's chess set", which is actually a reliquary from the 14th century, on whose "board", according to legend, the emperor was playing when he heard the call of Roland's Oliphant.



Auritz/Burguete main street



San Nicolás of Bari Parish Church

Auritz/Burguete

Auritz/Burguete **"the wildest damn country in the Spanish Pyrenees"**, according to Ernest Hemingway; is a place of exceptional beauty. This town **has lived under the protection of the Santiago Way** (explaining the shape of the town, which follows the line of the main street). It has experienced hundreds of adventures in a past filled with intense periods of witchcraft, Roman legions, the construction of the possible city of "Iturissa", and where the Vascones conquered Charlemagne.

Auritz/Burguete is **leisure, sport, nature and history**, and following its routes we can discover unique and magical places. Hidden corners filled with both the sounds of cross-border battles of the past and the covens of witches in

the 16th century, as well as the peace and tranquillity it exudes today. Auritz/Burguete is a haven for any lover of nature, sport and history, offering very special routes.

Auritz/Burguete offers a whole host of different visits: the "best cemetery in Spain 2014"; the Lindus Col; one of the most important locations in Europe for passing migrating birds; the historical remains of times of war, such as the P Line or the Wellington Route; and of course cycle-tourism, following the best routes in the Navarrese Pyrenees any way you choose, with a mountain bike, gravel, e-bike, etc.

Useful telephone numbers	
Collegiate church of Orreaga/Roncesvalles.....	+34 948 760 000
Buses	
ARTIEDA (Auritz/Burguete, Zubiri, Larrasoaña, Pamplona) www.autocaresartieda.com.....	+34 948 300 287
CONDA-ALSA (St Jean Pied de Port, Bayona y Biarritz) www.alsa.es.....	+34 902 422 242
Taxi	
Auritz/Burguete.....	+34 670 616 190
Garraida.....	+34 688 697 058
Luzaide/Valcarlos	+34 636 191 423
Erro Valley.....	+34 609 436 226 / +34 636 112 733
Zubiri	+34 609 447 058 / +34 948 23 23 00
Larrasoaña.....	+34 690 961 636 / +34 948 23 23 00
Luggage Transport	
Jacotrans · www.jacotrans.es.....	+ 34 610 983 205
Correos.....	+34 683 440 022
www.elcaminoconcorreos.com / paqmochila@correos.com	
Nunca Caminaréis Solos - YNWA.....	+34 628 125 463
www.ncsequipajes.com / ynwa@759@gmail.com	
Health Centres nearby	
Auritz/Burguete	+34 948 760 300
SOS Navarra (free urgency call).....	112



Collegiate Church



Town council Auritz/Burguete



Bunker Route



Mycological Park