



### The Order of Malta and the Way to Santiago

The Order of Malta keep a close historical link with the Jacobean Way. From XI to XIX century the hostels and hospitals of the Order covered all the Way.

Today, the Order of Malta continues being present in the Jacobean route. The Order has installed a First Aid Post at Santiago and manages the pilgrims' hostels which are described herein below. Besides, the Order has developed a project which allows physically handicapped people to carry out the pilgrimage (*The Way on Wheels*).

There are uncountable villages and churches which even nowadays keep their memories as the old properties of the Order of Malta. For example, we could mention Puente la Reina, Portomarín or San Pedro Fiz de Hospital.

There are still operational hostels which have been historically united to the Order of Malta. We should mention two of them: the one located at San Nicolás de Puente Itero (at the border between the provinces of Burgos and Palencia) which is managed by the Order's Italian volunteers, and the Parish Hostel in Hospital de Órbigo (León) a place where its Church of Saint John proudly shows the eight points Maltese Cross.

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### What is the Order of Malta?

The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, most well known as the Order of Malta, is a religious order of the Catholic Church which carries out humanitarian activities, and a subject of international law as well as a sovereign state. Since its foundation, in the XI century, until now, it has fulfilled its mission of service to the vulnerable and the sick. Thus, it is the most veteran of the humanitarian institutions which are active in our times.

The Order of Malta, which has its official site in Rome, has diplomatic relationships with 111 States and the European Union, and also a permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is formed by more than one hundred and twenty thousand individuals, among members, volunteers and professionals.

Nowadays, the activities of the Order are extended all over the world. The Order rules numerous hospitals, medical centres, lazarettos and residences for the eldest; hospitals for the physically or mentally handicapped people and maternity hospitals; it also cares for refugees, migrants, displaced people and pilgrims; it provides equipment and medical assistance for the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters; it cares for the refugees and also rules education, training and medical investigation centres; it owns ambulances, airplanes and hospital trains.

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Find more information about the Order of Malta at:

[www.ordendemalta.es](http://www.ordendemalta.es)



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## Pilgrims Hostel in Cizur Menor (Navarra)

This hostel is located at an old state or Commanderie (Encomienda) of the Order of Malta (holding of properties administered by the Knights of Saint John), 5 kilometres far from Pamplona.

It has 27 places distributed in two bedrooms, free-access to the kitchen where the pilgrims can cook their own meals and two fully equipped bathrooms.

The Romanic Church of the Order is situated near the hostel. On Sunday, the Pilgrim's Mass is celebrated at 18:30 p.m., being followed by the Blessing for the Way.

Opening: 1 of May. Close: 30 september.  
Arrival time-schedule: From 12,00h.  
Departure time-schedule: Before 08,00h.  
Please, contact: (+34) 616 65 13 30  
navarra@ordendemalta.es

## Pilgrims Hostel at Villalcazar de Sirga (Palencia)

Villalcázar de Sirga is located between Frómista and Carrión de los Condes. Its impressive church of Santa M<sup>a</sup> la Blanca, dominates the landscape of the Castilian plain and is one of the milestones of the Way in Palencia.

The hostel is managed by the Order of Malta and is located near the village's main square. The hostel has 25 places, distributed in two floors; it has two bathrooms (one of them is fully equipped for physically handicapped people); it has a free-access kitchen where the pilgrims can cook their own meals; it also has its own little oratory.

Besides, the hostel has a ground floor room accessible from the street, which has 5 places that can be occupied by pilgrims with wheelchairs. It also provides braille signals for blind people.

Opening: 1 of May. Close: 30 september.  
Arrival time-schedule: From 14,00h.  
Departure time-schedule: Before 08,00h.  
Please, contact: castilla@ordendemalta.es

## First Aid Post at Santiago de Compostela

The First Aid Post of the Order of Malta was inaugurated in 1993. It is now situated at Centro Internacional de Acogida al Peregrino, (Pilgrims Welcoming International Centre) a few meters from Plaza del Obradoiro.

The Galician Health Emergency Services 061 (Servicio de Urgencias Sanitarias de Galicia 061), together with doctors, nurses and volunteers of the Order of Malta, provide medical assistance at the Pilgrims Centre.

Volunteers of the Order welcome and assist the pilgrims, thus fulfilling the principles of Jacobean Hospitality, assisting not only the pilgrims physical needs, but also caring about their spiritual needs, with the aim to help them to make the most of their Way, once they have achieved the goal of arriving at the tomb of Santiago.

Opening: 1 of June. Close: 30 of September.  
Time-schedule: 09,00-14,00h and 16,00-18,30h.  
Position: Centro Internacional de Acogida al Peregrino (Rúa Carretas, 33).  
Please, contact: galicia@ordendemalta.es

