



➔ 41°45'45" N 8°35'30" W

Day 3 | HISTORIC PILGRIM ROUTES

Ponte de Lima ➤ Tamel

(S. Pedro Fins, Barcelos)

The third stage of the Route **begins in Ponte de Lima**, at the Church of St. Anthony of the Old Tower in the Arnado Park and **ends in Tamel** (S. Pedro Fins, Barcelos), at the Parish Church. It is 24 km long and has some gentle climbs, with altitudes that vary between 9 m and 194 m. It is between a medium and easy level of difficulty. Essentially it runs through **rural and farming areas**, with the occasional urban settlement. It's a quiet day, providing a **walk full of peace and calm**.

Over the course of the day, the Route passes through the Municipalities of Ponte de Lima and Barcelos, where the route of the Caminho de Fátima meets with historic pilgrimage routes, and in particular that of the Way of Saint James. The region to the south of the River Lima presents a scenery in which geography and history are interwoven. Mankind's **relationship with nature**

➤ 41°43'18" N 8°37'19" W



predominates in the physiognomy of the natural and man-made landscape. Water abounds in the riverside meadows, which are dotted with farming villages.

In the villages, and also along the historic footpaths, there are **historic churches, chapels and monasteries**, where the austerity of the Romanesque, conceived through the efforts of the twelfth and thirteenth-century master builders, coexists alongside the exuberance of the baroque arts, created by the architects and the sculptors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Having left **Ponte de Lima**, the Route runs parallel to the southern bank of the River Lima along a wooded footpath, and then continues along a cyclepath.

Take note of the **Church of Our Lady of Guidance**, which is to be found on your right and has been classified as national heritage. The church, devoted to the Virgin, was built during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries at the site of an old leper's hospital by a confraternity formed of tradespeople and other devotees from Ponte Lima, and it was intended to offer support to pilgrims.

➔ 41°40'57" N 8°37'4" W



➔ 41°42'23" N 8°37'25" W



The façade is composed of a galilee decorated with a baroque design that includes a niche containing a sculpture of the virgin. The tower above the altar is also in the baroque style. Inside the decorative programme is worthy of note. It consists of panels of tiles, a carved altar, a painted coffered ceiling and stucco decoration.

Leaving the cycle path, the route veers southwards, leaving behind the riverside meadows. Next you will see the small **Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows**, which with its porch provides welcome shelter to pilgrims and walkers. The local place names remind us that we are following the immemorial Way of Saint James.

Following a predominantly rural route in **Arribão** we will pass by the **Chapel of St. Sebastian** with its traditional porch forming part of the façade. Over the course of the route, historic estates can be seen with their traditional houses or manor houses.

Cross the N204 and enter **Vitorino dos Piães**, where you can see the Parish Church of Saint Andrew. Built upon a small flight of steps, it has a simple façade with a portal crowned by an oculus, and a side tower decorated in a baroque style.

Continue along the narrow footpaths flanked by farmers' fields, and on reaching the stonework **Chapel of St. Sebastian**, once more cross the N204 and continue along Rua do Cambado.

Soon you will find yourself in the Parish of **Balugães**, in the Municipality of Barcelos. Here you can visit the **Parish Church of St. Martin**, with its porch built into the façade, its decorative oculus and small bell tower, which dates back to the twelfth century. If you are interested or motivated, you can take a short detour of around 800 m to visit the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Aparecida**, one of Northern Portugal's major centres of Marian worship and pilgrimage; its history is linked to the Virgin's appearance to a shepherd.

Leaving the village, make your way through the outlying rural area and cross the bridge over the **River Neiva**, then head on through the pleasant fields along the southern bank, which form part of the **historic Terras do Neiva**.

Having passed Aborim, you will reach **Tamel (S. Pedro Fins, Barcelos)**, where you will find the welcoming **A Recoleta pilgrims' hostel** and further on the **Parish Church of St. Peter**. You can stay overnight at the hostel or continue for another 5 km to Barcelos, where you have various types of accommodation.

➔ 41°36'58" N 8°38'19" W

