

From Madrid to Santiago de Compostela,
2019

Robin and Katy

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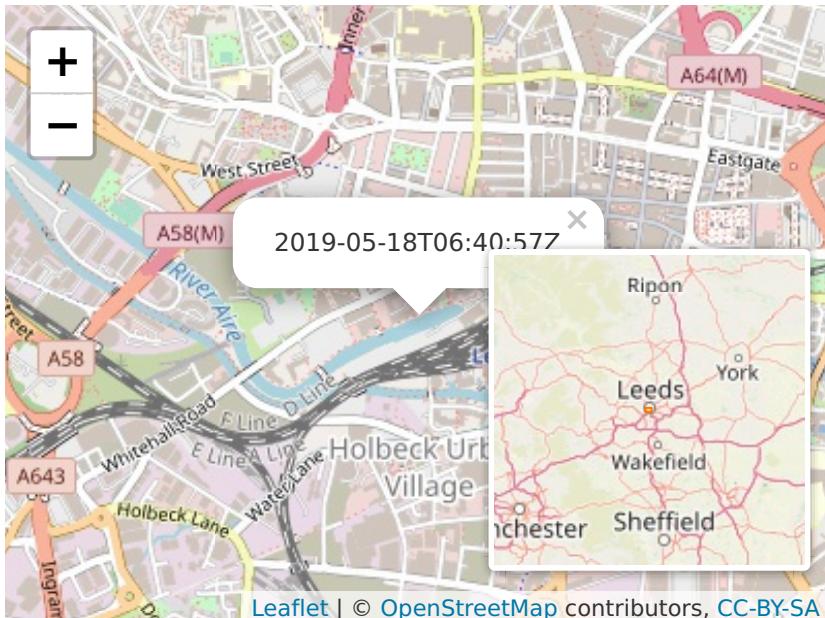
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Welcome to our photobook of our travels through Spain in May 2019. Enjoy!

Chapter 1

Leeds to Madrid

We set off bright and early from our house the the Leeds train station. Next stop: Madrid.



We spent 3 nights in Madrid, staying with a friendly family in Aravaca.

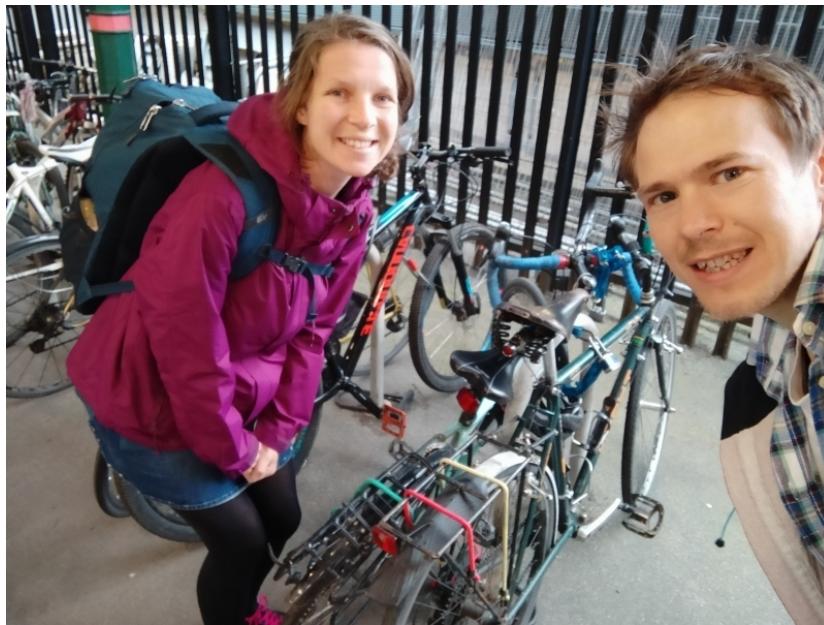


Figure 1.1: Like most trips, this one has an obligatory bike photo. Saying goodbye to Leeds.



Figure 1.2: Celebratory tapas in first place we found, Bar El 89, 'El Bar de Toda la Vida'.



Figure 1.3: Amazing street art of Madrid near the Tabacalera, a cooperatively run community and arts centre.

Chapter 2

Salamanca

We took the train to Salamanca, where Robin did an Erasmus year.



Figure 2.1: Arrival in Salamanca. Enjoying the beauty of the city and the rivers.



Figure 2.2: Panoramic of the historic bridge over the river and the mysterious fluff that fell from the trees like snow.



Figure 2.3: Us on the historic bridge, with the main cathedral of Salamanca in the background



Figure 2.4: Makeshift skatepark outside a dissolved church. People have been worshipping here for almost 2 decades. 12 years ago Robin was one of them!



Figure 2.5: Peaceful 3 course meal in the hidden terrea of the famous Don Quijote cafe.



Figure 2.6: Casa de las Conchas, famous historic building in the old city that houses the public library.

Chapter 3

Camino day 1: Ourense to Pezos



Figure 3.1: Arrival in Ourense, climbing a spiral staircase on the way to the AirBnB.



Figure 3.2: View from the top of the spiral staircase.



Figure 3.3: The amazing hot springs of Ourense.



Figure 3.4: Enjoying the local beer to re-hydrate after bathing in the hot springs.



Figure 3.5: How many bridges? Photo from the oldest bridge in Ourense.



Figure 3.6: The first stage of the Camino.



Figure 3.7: Admiring the flores on the outskirts of Ourense. Finally we escaped the cities!



Figure 3.8: Wildflower meadow on the Camino. Dozens of these surround the route.



Figure 3.9: Closeup of the wildflowers.



Figure 3.10: View of Ourense from the top of the first hill: reward for the climb.



Figure 3.11: Las vacas munched on verdant grass while we lunched.



Figure 3.12: Giant brassicas, as tall as a person.



Figure 3.13: The most sheep-like dog we've ever seen, in the garden of a friendly local who showed us around.



Figure 3.14: Robin in full 'peregrino' mode, complete with herbs given to us along the way.



Figure 3.15: Abandoned grain stores and derilict stone buildings are a key feature of the settlements in this area.



Figure 3.16: Abundant plantlife covered every surface. Succulents growing on a stone wall.



Figure 3.17: Grain silos in every direction, over a darkening Galician sky.



Figure 3.18: Galician garden. Allotments and gardens with delicious-looking vegetables dotted the route of el camino.



Figure 3.19: A shrine to the bike.

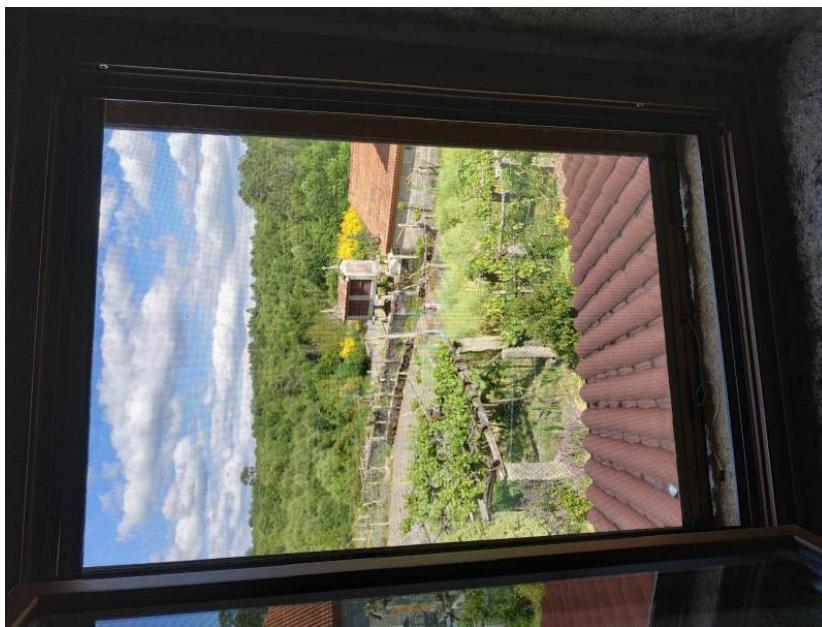


Figure 3.20: View from our window after the first day of walking the Camino.

Chapter 4

Camino day 2: From Pezos to Lalín



Figure 4.1: Early morning start for the megaday, in preparation for a 40km walk from Pezos to Lalín.



Figure 4.2: Poster promoting the PSOE, one of many parties campaigning for the upcoming local, regional and European elections.



Figure 4.3: Reward for another long climb: stunning views and bountiful giant gorse bushes alongside bright purple heather.



Figure 4.4: The most welcome refreshment of the entire trip: Iberian favourite ColaCao and Cafe con Leche at the only resting place for miles.



Figure 4.5: Despite tired legs, we still had time for play. Swings on the home straight.



Figure 4.6: More abundant nature. Galicia teams with waterways and greenery.



Figure 4.7: Old tractor just outside Lalin, the final destination. Traditional agriculture continues apace.



Figure 4.8: Enjoying the sunshine and a chance to rest our feet outside the church in the Plaza Mayor of Lalin.



Figure 4.9: Robin proudly poses outside a statue of his new hero: the Galician Mathematician Ramon Aller.

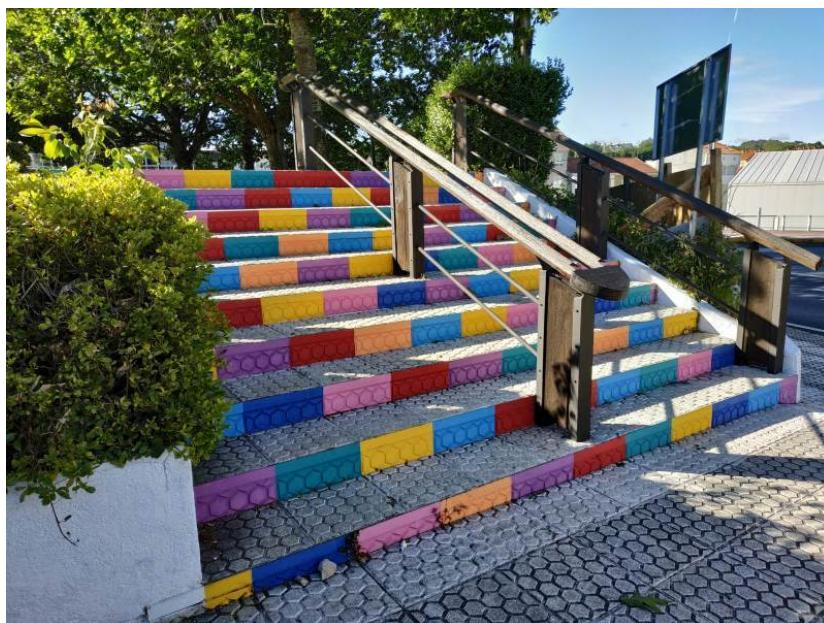


Figure 4.10: Lego brick staircase typifying the playful architecture in Lalín.



Figure 4.11: Triumphant stance next to a bright purple field of flowers.



Figure 4.12: Revelling in the flowers before having to head back to the big cities.



Figure 4.13: Tired but still going! Bathing in the sunset before dinner in Lalín.

Chapter 5

Santiago de Compostela

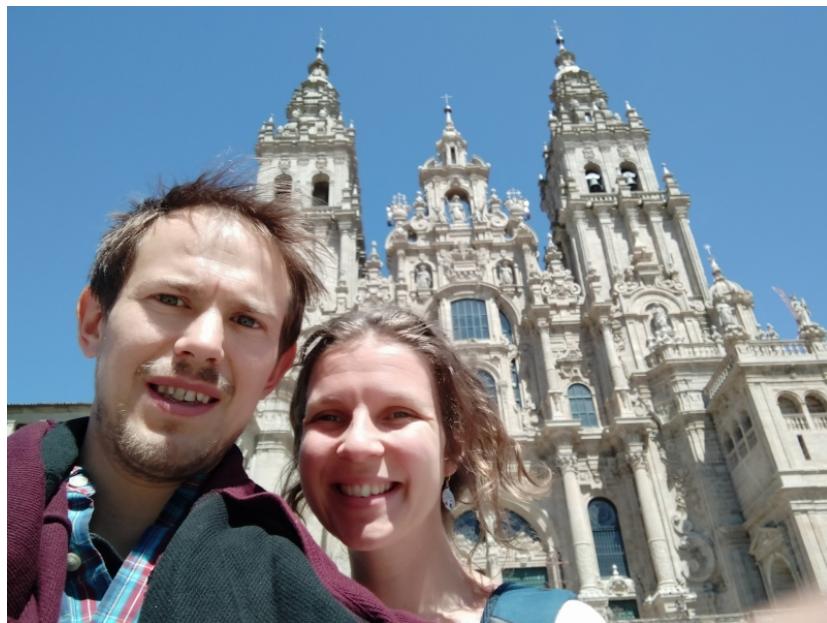


Figure 5.1: Arrival of the peregrinos in Santiago. Mission accomplished!