



>> first bridges in Durham.

On the left, there is a white bridge (5 miles), then, you need to walk under a very wide and modern looking bridge (5.25 miles), and immediately after, passing a venerable, stone bridge, you will need to climb some steps (5.5 miles). There, is where we need to cross the river, and just after crossing it, we need to go through a very narrow alleyway

to the Market Square (5.6 miles) where we can see several splendid historical buildings, such as the old hospital for the poor (in front), the castle (on the left) and the cathedral (on the right).

Once we have visited the Cathedral, we need to continue, keeping it to our left, down a small alley that leads to the Heritage Centre and Museum, actually called Dun Cow Lane.



### Who was St Godric?

St Godric was an English merchant that became one of the first and most interesting English pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela (at the beginning of the 12th Century, possibly in 1120). He also went to Rome and Jerusalem. He wrote the renowned hymns to St Mary, lived an austere life in Finchale Priory and was revered by all. Among the miracles attributed to St Godric is healing a girl from Durham, called Eda, who, despite having gone to Santiago twice to cure her illness, only recovered completely when she visited the tomb of St Godric.



### Other English pilgrims were also in Santiago

Many British pilgrims went to Santiago in the early days. We hardly know anything about most of them, not even their names. Others have left a written record, such as Margery Kempe, who in 1417, was the first British woman documented to have visited Compostela. A little later, in 1456, it was William Wey who left his Itinerarium peregrinationis.

### Friends of Finchale Camino

A group of people based in the nearby city of Durham organised in 2016 the first pilgrimage in half a millennium and, from the start of 2017 they formed an association called Friends of the Finchale Camino: [friendsofthefinchalecamino@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthefinchalecamino@gmail.com)

### The Camino in Spain

Once in Spain, the Camino Inglés passes through part of the Northwest of Spain. It can start in two different cities: A Coruña and Ferrol. Both routes converge in a place called Bruma. From A Coruña you need four days to get to Santiago, and from Ferrol, six. In this part of the Camino Inglés you will cross lovely verdant countryside and forests, with many small churches on the way, most of which are of a Romanesque or Baroque style.



# Camino Inglés to Santiago



## Stage 1

# Finchale Priory to Durham Cathedral



## The Camino Inglés, an age-old pilgrimage route

Starting from Finchale Priory —founded by St Godric— this route goes first to Durham Cathedral and then continues towards the south of England via Bishop Auckland. From there, medieval pilgrims would go by boat to North West Spain where they would walk towards the sepulchre of the Apostle St James. Today, there are thousands of people who, for several reasons

(cultural, historical, religious, spiritual and for pleasure...), walk the Camino Inglés each year, including those that walk the route in Spain as well as those that start from Finchale to Durham.

Curiously, the hardest part of this Camino is

right at the start: the first mile from Finchale Priory is the most tiring stretch of the route because of the uphill walk. It is a hill that becomes easier as it approaches the prison (1.1 miles). If you are walking in a group, the outside car park in front of the prison is an ideal place to wait for the walkers that might have fallen behind.

You will need to walk around the prison compound to reach a

narrow path, making a 90-degree angle to the right (1.8 miles), passing a farm on the opposite side.

From here, the pilgrim will enter what appears to be a very dense forest, although behind the full rows of trees there are farm lands which are sometimes hidden, sometimes in open view, and sometimes only visible through the foliage. This is a very interesting area from an ornithological point of view.

After a while, the walk goes downhill for a short while (2.4 miles) and there is a right turn (3.1 miles) that goes around a second farm. At that very point, from the footpath, we can see Durham Cathedral for the first time in the walk —a magnificent image with Durham Castle in front— and the city below. Undoubtedly, this reminds us of the Monte del Gozo (Mount

Joy in English), the very hill from where pilgrims would see and still see, for the first time, the towers of Santiago Cathedral. In the Middle Ages, the first to see the towers would be named the king of the pilgrimage.

We continue downhill until we come to the river bank (3.6 miles), with a built-up area on the opposite side as we approach the first buildings that announce Durham. Crook Hall (4.6 miles) on the right, with a cafe opened to the public, is the only place in the whole walk where you can stop and rest before entering the city, where the choice of bars and restaurants is, obviously, very wide.

From here, we need to go alongside the river, crossing it at any of the >>

