THE IGNATIAN WAY

From Loyola (Azpeitia) to Manresa
The Ignatian Way retraces the route taken by Ignatius of Loyola, as a knight, in 1522 from his birthplace, Azpeitia in Gipuzkoa, to the Catalan city of Manresa. A pilgrimage that began following his spiritual conversion in Loiola, “Loyola” in Euskera, the Basque language, and was to end in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Today’s route, based on the saint’s personal notes, begins at the house where he was born in Loiola (Azpeitia) and takes us to the “Cave of St Ignatius” in Manresa, near Montserrat Abbey, in Catalonia. It is a long, demanding route.

**THE Ignatian Way**

The Ignatian Way:

- BASQUE COUNTRY. Stages 1 – 6
- LA RIOJA. Stages 7 – 11
- NAVARRE. Stages 12 – 13
- ARAGON. Stages 14 – 20
- CATALONIA. Stages 21 – 27

**Recommendations**

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Pilgrim passport

27 stages

30 days

almost 700 km

autonomous communities

5

5 autonomous communities

27 Stages
Iñigo de Loyola (Saint Ignatius), founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), which is currently present all over the world, was born in 1491 in Loiola (Aguirre-Gipuzkoa) and became a knight in the service of the Catholic Monarchs and of Charles I of Spain and V, Holy Roman Emperor. His leg was fractured in the course of a battle and Iñigo underwent a number of painful surgeries. During his convalescence he read about the lives of Christ and the saints, as there were no tales of chivalry available. He found such reading comforting and it influenced him greatly. He subsequently underwent a conversion and decided to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

He set out and ended up in Montserrat and Manresa, where he stayed for almost a year and from there he set out once again for Rome and, finally, Jerusalem. Unable to stay there, he decided to return to Spain and study in order to be able to preach the Gospel. He began to study Latin in Barcelona, then in Alcalà, Salamanca and, finally, Paris, where he earned a Master of Arts from the Sorbonne, which qualified him to teach Philosophy and Theology. His Paris companions, including his two room-mates, joined him in taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and to live in the service of Christ. So began a spiritual experience which would lead them to become ordained as priests and later form the Society of Jesus.

Ignatius of Loyola, as he is known in English, founded educational institutions, houses for Jewish and Muslim catechumens, a shelter for fallen women, and organised collections for the poor and for prisoners. Ignatius died in 1556 and was canonised by Pope Gregory XV in 1622, along with Francis Xavier and Teresa of Ávila. His remains lie in Rome’s Church of the Gesù.
Get your pilgrim passport (credencial) from any of the institutions associated with the Ignatian Way:

- Loiolako Santutegia (Basque Country).
- Parroquia de San Ignacio (Logroño).
- Parroquia de Lourdes (Tudela).
- Centro Pignatelli (Zaragoza).
- Parroquia de Sant Ignasi (Lleida).
- Cúria dels jesuïtes (Barcelona).
- Centre d’Acollida de Pelegrins del Camí Ignacià (Manresa).

Here, you can also obtain Camino Ignaciano and Ignaciana certificates.

For more information, visit: www.caminoignaciano.org

Your pilgrim passport (€0.50) ensures a warm welcome at hostels and town halls and acts as proof that you are a genuine pilgrim. Be sure to have it stamped at least once a day in any establishment or institution in the towns you pass through.

Get your passport well before you start your pilgrimage.
The route starts in the Basque Country and goes through the provinces of Guipuzkoa and Álava. It consists of six stages and covers 126 km signposted with GR 120 waymarks, which provide a unique experience. This stage runs over the steepest terrain we will find on the whole route, but it takes us through six regions; Urola Garaia, Urola Erdia, Debagoiena, Llanada Alavesa, Montaña Alavesa and Rioja Alavesa. It also takes us briefly into Navarre.

**The Way in the Basque Country**

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**Stages**

1. **Loiola > Zumárraga** 17,5 km
2. **Zumárraga > Arantzazu** 19,5 km
3. **Arantzazu > Arala** 17,7 km
4. **Arala > Alda** 21,5 km
5. **Alda > Genevilla** 23,3 km
6. **Genevilla > Laguardia** 27 km

**Loyola Shrine.**
**Ignatius of Loyola’s birthplace.**
**Basque Railway Museum.**
**House of the Blessed Gárate.**
**La Antigua Chapel.**
**Mirandaola Park.**

**Arantzazu Shrine.**
**Oñati.**
**Arrirazu Caves.**
**Miren museum.**

**Genevilla church of Saint Peter.**
**Genevilla recreation area.**
**Traditional dovecotes.**
**Genevilla.**
**Laguardia.**
**Laguardia Calados.**
**Bornsaren Txabola dolmen.**

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**DO Idiazabal cheese.**
**Cured sausages.**
**Alava potato.**
**Beans.**
**Broad beans.**
**Porcillo mushrooms.**
**Arroz con virgen oliva.**
**Aukotxko macarons and Aspaita “Igneses.”**
**Biko Alavés wines.**
**Txakoli.**
**Ole.**

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**TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES**

**LOIOLA > LAGUARDIA**
(Stages 1 - 6) 126 km

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The stretch of the Way that goes through the Riojan towns of Navarrete, Logroño, Alcanadre, Calahorra and Alfaro is steeped in history. Here you can sample Riojan hospitality, and if we take a slight detour we can enjoy some of the province’s most remarkable tourist resources. Local gastronomy based on products such as vegetable preserves and Rioja wine will give us a taste of the essence of this land.
LAGUARDIA > ALFARO (Stages 7–11): 108.6 km

Stages 7 to 11:

7 > Romanesque Gate of Navarrete Cemetery (12th century).
> Ruins of San Juan de Acre Hospital.

8 > Alta de la Grajera and lake.
> San Blas Market.
> La Rioja Museum.
> Santa María la Redonda’s Cathedral (15th century).

9 > Aguas Mansas Castle.
> Santa María de Alcanadre Church.
> Calahorra Cathedral.
> Romanization Museum.
> Vegetable Museum.
> Trail through the market gardens of Calahorra.

10 > San Miguel de Álvaro’s Collegiate Church.
> Las Cigüeñas viewpoint.
> Los Sotos del Ebro Nature Reserve, Álvaro.

11 > Santa María de La Redonda’s Co-cathedral, Logroño.
From its steep mountainsides to the plains near the River Ebro, the Chartered Community of Navarre has some of the most beautiful spots on the Iberian Peninsula. In the Ignatian tradition, Navarre is also significant as the cradle of the family of Saint Francis Xavier, companion of Ignatius of Loyola and great missionary. History tells us that Ignatius of Loyola defended the city of Pamplona in 1521 and was wounded in combat with invading French-Navarrese forces. At the time Ignatius was in the service of the emperor Charles, proud, loyal and full of fighting spirit, qualities he later dedicated to his Christian faith.
The lands of Aragon are bathed by the Ebro and a long history of travel. They are linked to the Mediterranean by the river, a channel of communication between age-old cultures. The mark of Islam is apparent in Aragon, with many beautiful examples of Mudejar architecture that have been declared UNESCO Heritage sites. Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza watches over those who follow the Ignatian Way. Because from the bounty of the Ebro lands we move into the rugged beauty of the Monegros desert.
GALLUR
Aragon Imperial Canal and old canal winery.

Alagón: San Pedro Apóstol Mudéjar Church, Cultural Centre (staircase decorated by Goya).

Alagón: Basilica del Pilar, La Seo Cathedral, Aljafería Palace.

Alagón: Basílica del Pilar, La Seo Cathedral, Aljafería Palace.

Zaragoza: Basílica del Pilar, La Seo Cathedral, Aljafería Palace.

Fuentes de Ebro: San Miguel Arcángel Church.

Pina de Ebro: Santa María Church, San Francisco Convent, old tower.

Bujaraloz: Santiago Church, Torres Solano Palace, Las saladas de Sástago-Bujaraloz wetlands.

Fuentes de Ebro: San Miguel Arcángel Church.

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Teruel ham
Fuentes de Ebro onion
Aragon suckling lamb
Calanda peach
Sierra del Moncayo oil
Bajo Aragón oil
Oba
Tena de Almodóvar cake

Borage
Guirlache turron

TERUMO R GASTRONOMY

OENO

GASTRONOMY

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

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CATALONIA
The final stages of the Ignatian Way run through lands in the tourism brand areas Terres de Lleida and Paisatges Barcelona in the Segrià, Pla d’Urgell, Urgell, Segarra, Anoia and Bages regions. The 183 km to the Cave of St. Ignatius in Manresa allow pilgrims to enjoy a spiritual and introspective journey while taking in the beauty of the natural areas, towns and cities they go through.

The Way in Catalonia

Catalonia

FRAGA > MANRESA
(Stages 21-27): 183.7 km

La Seu Vella, Lleida.
Les Garrigues oil trail.
Sant Bartomeu Convent.
La Muntanya de Montserrat Natural Park.

Cervera University.
Leather Museum.

In 1522, Ignatius of Loyola walked from Montserrat to Manresa, where he spent over ten months. He prayed in a cave where the Spirituality Centre now stands.

A total of 12 wine designations of origin – guided tours of 350 wineries and a host of wine tourism activities – and world famous cuisine based on the Mediterranean diet and local products of renowned quality, such as olive oil, wine, fruit such as the Lleida pear and turron.
How is the Way marked?

- In the Basque Country: signposts and GR 120 waymarks.
- In La Rioja: directional signs and orange arrows.
- In Navarre: directional signs and orange arrows.
- In Aragon: orange arrows.
- In Catalonia: directional signs, suns and orange arrows.

Recommendations

1. Plan your route and accommodation by visiting www.caminoignaciano.org

2. Bear in mind your timeframe, budget and physical condition.

3. Don’t overpack your rucksack and make sure you have appropriate comfortable footwear.

4. To help you plan the stages of your journey, we offer practical and spiritual information in the official guide to the Ignatian Way and at www.caminoignaciano.org.

Can I travel the Way by bike?

Yes; see alternative routes on: www.caminoignaciano.org.

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Enjoy the Way, the people you meet, the heritage you visit, the food, the scenery, everything. It’s a unique experience!