

Weekly Camino Weather & News Report

Date: Monday, February 16, 2026

Executive Summary

Current weather conditions across the major Camino routes remain challenging with ongoing severe weather warnings in Galicia and North Portugal. Heavy rain, strong winds, and flooding continue to affect multiple routes, particularly the final sections approaching Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims are advised to exercise extreme caution and consider delaying travel until conditions improve[1].

Severe Weather Alerts

⚠ CRITICAL: Galicia & North Portugal Weather Warnings

Official weather warnings issued over the past 2-3 days indicate dangerous conditions across Galicia and North Portugal, affecting the final sections of all major Camino routes[1].

Current hazards include:

- Heavy rain and strong winds continuing through mid-February
- Coastal waves reaching 5 meters or more with risk of freak waves
- Snowline dropping as low as 500 meters elevation
- Washed out and flooded Camino trails
- Water literally pouring from pilgrims' shoes on affected sections[2]

Expert recommendation: Experienced pilgrims with 25+ years of Camino experience are advising current walkers to "stay put" rather than continue in these conditions. Those considering proceeding

should honestly assess their experience handling adverse weather and ensure they have adequate equipment[1].

Route Closures & Flooding

The Camino Portuguese route has experienced specific closures due to flooding, with continuous rain forecast for the coming days making conditions progressively worse[2]. All three major routes are affected as they converge in Galicia.

Route-Specific Weather Forecasts

Camino Francés (French Way)

Current Conditions - February 2026

February brings dynamic, wintry weather to the Camino Francés with alternating rain and clearer skies[3]. The route experiences significant variation from the Pyrenees through the Meseta to Galicia.

Temperature range:

- Morning lows: -2°C to 0°C (28°F to 32°F)
- Daytime highs: 6°C to 17°C (43°F to 63°F)

Regional breakdown:

Pyrenees Crossing: Firmly in winter conditions with frequent cloud, fog, and real chance of snowfall. Biting winds on exposed ridges with temperatures around freezing at dawn[3].

Meseta: Many days are grey and breezy with long dry stretches broken by light drizzle or brief flurries. Wind over open fields significantly increases wind chill[3].

León to Foncebadón: Changeable skies with alternating dry, bright intervals and passing showers. The climb to Foncebadón re-enters wintry conditions with possible snow, fog, and gusty winds[3].

Galicia (O Cebreiro to Santiago): O Cebreiro often holds winter conditions with low cloud, frequent drizzle, and periodic snowfall. Atlantic weather dominates with frequent light rain or drizzle, slow-

moving clouds, and occasional heavier bursts. Brief sunny gaps can open between fronts[3].

From Sarria (Last 100km): Early February sees moderate to heavy rain showers under cloudy skies with precipitation reaching over 20mm on wetter days. Temperatures fluctuate from -2°C at night to 17°C during daylight. Expect unsettled weather with rain showers and overcast days interspersed with sunny spells[4].

Camino del Norte (Northern Way)

Current Conditions - February 2026

The Northern Way experiences cooler temperatures than other routes due to its coastal proximity, but rain is much more common along this route[5].

Temperature range:

- Winter average: 5°C to 15°C (41°F to 59°F)
- Current conditions: Mix of sun and clouds with scattered showers

Coastal considerations:

The proximity to the Cantabrian Sea means temperatures are higher than the Castilian plateau sections of the Camino Francés, but rainfall is significantly more frequent[5]. Strong sea breezes are common, and current severe weather has produced waves up to 5 meters along the coast[1].

Weather pattern: Considerable cloudiness with scattered showers in the evening becoming moderate rain overnight. Very windy conditions persist. Mixed sun and clouds alternate throughout the day[cite:2].

Camino Portugués (Portuguese Way)

Current Conditions - February 2026

The Portuguese routes are experiencing particularly challenging conditions with flooding reported and continuous rain forecast[2].

Temperature range:

- Winter average: 6°C to 15°C (43°F to 59°F)
- Current conditions: 11°C to 20°C (52°F to 68°F)

Regional breakdown:

Southern sections (Lisboa region): Mild weather with frequent sunny spells interspersed with periodic rain showers. Moderate temperatures with highs ranging from 12°C to 19°C. Rain showers common with precipitation up to 37mm on wetter days[6].

Central sections (Santarém, Coimbra): Mix of overcast skies and sunny intervals with high temperatures between 11°C and 19°C. Rain frequent but not as intense, with balance between dry and wet days[6].

Northern sections (Norte region, Barcelos, Ponte de Lima): More pronounced weather variations with recurrent rain presence. Temperatures can reach 20°C but heavy rain days are common. Significant rainfall with some sunny intervals[6].

From Tui to Santiago: Varied conditions with mix of sunny days and intermittent rain showers. Temperatures range from near freezing lows to mid-teens highs. Rain makes frequent appearances with occasional heavy showers[7].

⚠ **Current Alert:** Route sections experiencing flooding with water pouring from shoes. Forecast shows continuous rain for coming days[2].

Camino News & Updates - February 2026

Pilgrimage Trends for 2026

Record numbers expected: 2026 is predicted to see significant increases in pilgrims following the patterns established in 2025, when April alone saw 54,000 pilgrims reach Santiago[8].

Route popularity changes:

- Camino Francés remains most popular

- Camino Portugués Costa (coastal route) has become mainstream with over 25,000 pilgrims
- Camino Portugués Central approximately 26,000 pilgrims
- Camino del Norte from Ferrol approaching 30,000 pilgrims
- Under-18 pilgrim numbers jumped 22%, reaching nearly 50,000[8]

February Camino Events & Festivals

Arde Lucus (Winter Edition) - Lugo, February 21-22, 2026: Historical festival celebrating Lugo's Roman heritage[9].

Jornadas de la Matanza - Grado, February 7-8, 2026: Traditional pig slaughter festival[9].

Las Águedas - Salamanca, February 1-5, 2026: Traditional festival honoring Santa Águeda with women symbolically taking control of the town in celebration of ancient matriarchal traditions[9].

General Camino News

2026 vs 2027 considerations: Pilgrimage experts recommend walking the Camino in 2026 rather than waiting for 2027 to avoid even larger crowds expected during potential Holy Year preparations[10].

Route recommendations: With severe weather in Galicia and northern routes, alternative routes like the Via de la Plata (further south) may offer better winter conditions[cite:19].

Packing Recommendations for Current Conditions

Given the severe weather conditions, the following gear is essential:

- Waterproof rain gear (jacket and pants) - not just water-resistant
- Multiple pairs of waterproof socks or sock liners
- Waterproof pack cover or dry bags for electronics and clothing
- Warm layers including fleece and insulated jacket for temperatures near freezing

- Trekking poles for stability on flooded/muddy trails
- Microspikes or crampons for potential snow/ice at higher elevations (Pyrenees, O Cebreiro, Foncebadón)
- Emergency shelter (space blanket or bivy)
- Headlamp with extra batteries for reduced daylight hours
- Waterproof phone case

Safety Recommendations

1. **Monitor weather daily:** Conditions are changing rapidly. Check local forecasts before each stage.
2. **Listen to local advice:** Locals and albergue hosts have current knowledge of trail conditions.
3. **Consider delaying travel:** If currently in Galicia or North Portugal, experienced pilgrims recommend staying put until conditions improve[1].
4. **Assess experience honestly:** Only proceed in these conditions if you have genuine experience with adverse weather hiking and proper equipment.
5. **Watch for flooding:** Avoid crossing flooded streams or trail sections. Water depth and current are deceptive.
6. **Coastal safety:** Stay well away from coastal cliffs and beaches with 5+ meter waves[1].
7. **Snow conditions:** If encountering snow above 500m, ensure you have proper gear and navigation skills.
8. **Alternative routes:** Consider postponing or switching to southern routes (Via de la Plata) with milder winter conditions.

Long-Range Outlook

Seasonal pattern: February weather on the Camino is characteristically changeable with frequent rain, particularly in Galicia. Current conditions are more severe than typical but align with winter Atlantic weather systems[3][5][6].

Expected improvements: Weather patterns typically begin improving in March as spring approaches, with temperatures rising and rainfall frequency decreasing[cite:23].

Best walking seasons: For reference, the most favorable weather conditions occur during spring (April-June) and autumn (September-October) when temperatures are milder and extreme weather less frequent[cite:23].

Conclusion

The week of February 16-23, 2026 presents challenging conditions across all major Camino routes, particularly in Galicia and North Portugal where severe weather warnings remain in effect. Heavy rain, flooding, strong winds, and low-elevation snow create hazardous walking conditions. Pilgrims currently on the Camino are strongly advised to consider staying put until conditions improve, while those planning to begin should carefully evaluate whether to postpone travel.

For those committed to walking in these conditions, proper waterproof gear, warm layers, and genuine experience with adverse weather hiking are essential. Monitor daily weather forecasts, listen to local advice, and prioritize safety over schedule.

Conditions are expected to improve as spring approaches in March and April, offering much more favorable walking weather for future pilgrims.

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