

The Director-General of the Department of the Interior of the Government of Navarre has issued the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 250/2018 of 17 October 2018 by the Director-General of the Department of the Interior, establishing measures to restrict access via the Eastern alternative route of the Pilgrim's Way to Compostela (*Camino de Santiago*) in its first stage on its entry into Navarra, applicable from 1 November 2018 until 31 March 2019.

Navarra Decree (Decreto Foral) 290/1988 of 14 December 1988, which definitively marks out the route of the Pilgrim's Way through Navarra and establishes its protection system, also regulates (among other things) its itinerary through the region.

The first stage of the 'French Route' of the Pilgrim's Way has two alternative routes on entering Navarra: the West route, which starts at Saint Jean Pied de Port, passes through Luzaide/Valcarlos and goes up to the Ibañeta Pass and then down to Roncesvalles (Roncesvaux), and the East route, which also starts at Saint Jean Pied de Port but goes via Huntto, Orisson and the Lepoeder Pass to Roncesvalles. The East route rises by more than 1,200 metres (3,937 feet), bearing in mind that Saint Jean Pied de Port is 154 metres above sea level and the Puerto de Lepoeder is at 1,432 metres, as well as small rises and falls in between.

To overcome this difference in altitude, pilgrims who walk the stage need to be physically fit, but it has been seen that a high proportion of them are not. To this, we need to consider the considerable extra effort needed when there is snow or other adverse weather conditions, which also requires suitable footwear and clothing for these situations; again, it has often been observed that they do not wear these in these conditions.

Furthermore, the East route enters Navarra at a great height – 1,288 metres (4,225 feet) above sea level, and the section in Navarra has no 'escape routes' until the col of Lepoeder, 5 km after entering the territory of Navarra. The signage in the area has been improved on many occasions, and trials on its usefulness are carried out periodically. Even so, it is still limited and in blizzard conditions it may not be possible to follow it.

However, rescue teams intervene in this area on a regular basis, both professionals and volunteers, often helping people who are exhausted or do not have enough information or preparation to take on the difficulty of the East route. The situation is particularly serious in winter, when rescuers have to work in harsh conditions and sometimes even risk their lives due to the relief and climatic conditions in the area, which are added to be serious difficulties of access, location and evacuation.

With the aim of guaranteeing pilgrims' safety, Resolution 152/2015 of 1 July 2015 of the Director-General of the Department of the Interior established measures to restrict passage along the East alternative route of the Pilgrim's Way in its first stage on entering Navarra from 1 November to 31 March every year. The former Navarra Emergencies Agency (*Agencia Navarra de Emergencias*) was charged with issuing the authorisations that would exempt certain persons from the passage restrictions.

Nevertheless, Resolution 487/2016 of 21 October 2016 by the Director-General of the Department of the Interior established measures to restrict passage along the East alternative route of the Pilgrim's Way in its first stage on entering Navarra from 1 November 2016 to 31 March 2017, overruling the abovementioned Resolution 152/2015 and eliminating the possibility of issuing express authorisations, due to the complexity and difficulty encountered in its application.

In the same direction, measures were established through Resolution 315/2017 of 23 October 2017 by the Director-General of the Department of the Interior to restrict passage along the East route of the Pilgrim's Way in its first stage on entering Navarra, from 1 November 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The experience of the last few years has shown the advisability of maintaining the restriction of passage along the East route of the Pilgrim's Way along its first stage, with a view to ensuring greater safety of individuals and rescue personnel, both professionals and volunteers.

Therefore, with the approval of the emergency management services and taking into account the consultations made on the occasion of the approval of Resolution 487/2016, the measures to restrict passage will be maintained under the same terms. In the light of the competencies that the Government of Navarra holds in the field of Public Safety, in accordance with the provisions of Navarra Act (*Ley Foral*) 8/2005 of 1 July 2005 on Civil Protection Civil and Attention to Emergencies in Navarra; and having seen the report of the Director of the Civil Protection Service, and in the exercise of the powers granted to me by Navarra Decree (*Decreto Foral*) 198/2015 of 9 September, establishing the organic structure of the Department of the Presidency, Civil Service, Interior and Justice,

I HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. To establish, for reasons of personal safety, measures to restrict the passage of persons for the East alternative route of the Pilgrim's Way on its first stage through Navarra, with transit between 1 November 2018 and 31 March 2019 being obligatory along the West alternative route of the Pilgrim's Way (via Valcarlos).
2. To close the East alternative route between these dates at the entry to Navarra, at the geographical coordinates point 43Q3'2,02"N and 1Q16'6,04"W, near the Col of Bentartea.
3. To charge the Directorate-General of the Environment and Territorial Planning with the placing of signage prohibiting passage, and the necessary elements to prevent passage.
4. To charge the Navarra Police Force (*Policía Foral*) with the follow-up of non-compliance with this Resolution.
5. To charge the Directorate-General of Communication and Institutional Relations and the Directorate-General of Tourism and Trade with the dissemination of this Resolution on websites referring to the Pilgrim's Way, Agencies and other advertising or informative media related to the Pilgrim's Way.
6. To publish this Resolution in the Official Gazette of Navarra (*Boletín Oficial de Navarra*) for its general dissemination.

7. To notify this Resolution to the Civil Protection Service, the Fire Service of Navarra, the Navarra Police Force, the Directorate-General of the Environment and Territorial Planning, Directorate-General of Communication and Institutional Relations and the Directorate-General of Tourism and Trade, the Association of Friends of the Pilgrim's Way in Navarra, Association of Friends of the Pilgrim's Way in Pyrénées-Atlantiques (France), the Municipal Council of Lusaide/Valcarlos, the Municipal Council of Roncesvalles, the Delegation of the Spanish Government in Navarra and the General Council of Pyrénées-Atlantiques, advising that it may be appealed against before the Regional Minister of the Presidency, Civil Service, Interior and Justice, in accordance with the terms of articles 121 and 122 of Navarra Act 39/2015 of 1 October 2015 on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. In the case of Public Administrations, these may directly appeal under a contentious-administrative procedure, without prejudice to the prior requirement established in article 44 of Act 29/1998 of 13 July 1998, on Contentious-Administrative Jurisdiction.

Pamplona, 17 October 2018

Agustín Gastaminza Oiz

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

I notify this for your knowledge and appropriate purposes.

Pamplona, 19 October 2018

DIRECTOR, CIVIL PROTECTION SERVICE