

Flores del Camino retreat centre: how to get here?

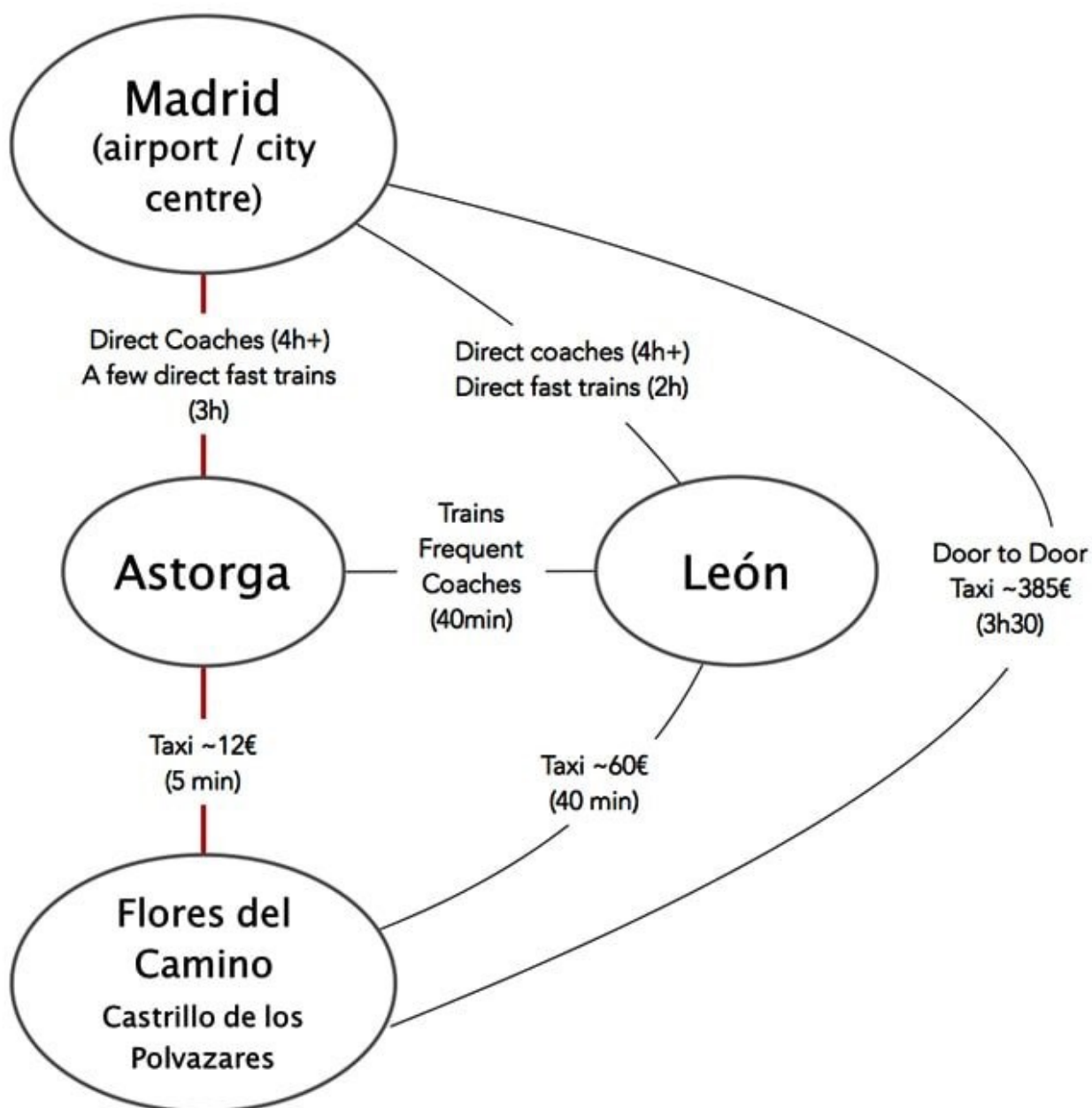
The retreat centre is located in a small village called **Castrillo de los Polvazares**. You will hear us use indifferently “**Flores**” or “**Castrillo**” to refer to its location.

Astorga is the nearest town to Castrillo (5km/3mi away). Astorga has a train station and a coach station.

León is the main city of the region (60km/35mi away) and also a possible transit.

Should you arrive earlier, both Astorga and León are worthy of a visit. Astorga deserves to spend the day and León, a couple of days. Depending on your budget and timeframe, you have the following options.

Madrid (350km/220mi away) offers the widest range of international flights & follow on transport. If you travel from overseas, it is likely you will land in Madrid.



Between Madrid (airport / city centre) & Flores

Option 1: coach or train to Astorga

Could be as cheap as 40€ (coach / train fare to Astorga+ ~12€ taxi ride between Astorga & Flores). Some coaches stop in the centre of Madrid (from where you can take a taxi or the underground). Some go all the way to the airport. Door-to-door: could be 5 or 6h.

Option 2: fast train to León with taxi transfers

There are fairly frequent fast trains between Madrid (Chamartín Station) and León. Door to door: about 4h. Total cost would vary but probably around 120€ per person (taxi between the airport & Madrid train station: fixed fare 30€ + train ticket + taxi from León to Flores: ~60€) Note: you can also use suburban trains or the metro between the airport and the train station in Madrid.

Option 3: renting a car

It gives you freedom to visit the country before and/or after the retreat. Check through the internet.

Option 4: door-to-door taxi.

~385€ and 3h30. Fastest and most comfortable. If you can share the taxi this is great.

How to check schedules & make reservations.

We recommend that you should book trains and/or coaches in advance. They are fairly inexpensive but can get full, especially around holiday periods. Public transport is good and cheap. Roads are reasonably safe and comfortable. Once you are out of Madrid, there is usually no heavy traffic.

Not all Spanish people speak English but many are friendly so do not hesitate to ask for directions.

Trains www.renfe.com

You can book Spanish trains only about two months in advance. Trains for Astorga or León always leave from Chamartín station in Madrid. See below how to get from Madrid airport to the city centre / train station.

Coaches www.alsa.com

Coaches from the airport operate from Terminal 4. There is a free shuttle between the airport terminals. Some coaches leave from the city centre. See below how to get from the airport to the city centre / train station.

Between Madrid airport & Madrid city centre / train station

You do not need to make any reservation. Taxis between the airport & anywhere in the city have a fixed fare of 30€ (as of early 2020). There is also the cheaper possibility to use the

underground (Metro) or the suburban trains. Taxis & public transport are well indicated inside the airport & there are help desks.

Google Maps estimates 10 min by car, 30 to 35 min by public transport. You should allow extra time for possible delays & if it is your first time.

Taxis to & from Astorga / Flores del Camino

We work with two reliable and professional local taxi drivers:

-Mini-van (8 seats) &/or long distance: Luis (+34) 609 417 205. Luis speaks English.

-4 seats: Isidro (+34) 630 829 294. Isidro does not speak English but can communicate in English via text/WhatsApp. He does local rides but can do long distance as well.

If you want to book, you can send them a WhatsApp or a text message with the following information:

Say that Flores del Camino gave you their number

Your name

Pick up point & time (if you go to the airport, you can ask at what time he recommends to leave)

Total number of passengers & quantity of luggage

Destination

Your flight details (if any)

Ask for a quote

Other than landing in Madrid.

From both overseas and Europe, you can also land in Barcelona, or even Lisbon, in case you would wish to visit these cities. There are domestic flights between Barcelona and León airport. Travellers from London can also land in Oviedo, Santiago de Compostela, Bilbao, Santander, A Coruña. See coach lines or trains from these cities. Car rentals are available in all airports (check on the internet). Our recommended taxi drivers can also pick you up. From the UK there are ferry boats to Bilbao and Santander. It is the opportunity for a delightful mini-cruise.

Contact details

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