



## Great Rides

# ALONG THE WAY

Vic Ient's tour along the Camino de Santiago included ferries, trains, the Pyrenees, the Picos, electric assistance, a wine festival and much more



### VIC IENT

Vic is a Cycling UK member. His blog, which has more about this trip, is at [ient.me.uk](http://ient.me.uk)

Photos: Vic Ient

**W**e were off road in the middle of the Pyrenees, many miles from habitation and 200 metres from the summit of a heavily wooded ridge, when my e-bike ran out of power. We were following a newly designated route for cycling travellers on the Camino Francés ([en.eurovelo.com/ev3/camino-frances](http://en.eurovelo.com/ev3/camino-frances)). Having set off from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, we were now on a trackway through spectacular mountain scenery. The views were so wonderful I'd inadvertently been a bit gung-ho with my power usage.

We hadn't realised the amount of climbing that we would have to do in one day: 1,293 metres (4,200ft) by the time we reached the top. We paused to regroup there, my colleagues having adopted a more prudent pace. Fortunately, it was then mostly downhill to the monastery and hotel at Roncesvalles, where a beer in the bar was very welcome.

### MOUNTAIN HIGHS

We were cycling part of the Camino de Santiago from Bayonne in south-west France, then turning north through the Picos de Europa: a 400-mile