



## Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel Regulations

Since the Middle Ages and the earliest Pilgrimages to the Tomb of the Apostle St James, along what became known as the Portuguese Way of St James, Ponte de Lima has been a milestone for all those who have walked these ancient roads to earn their indulgence, symbolised by the "*Compostela*".

This journey, having slackened off at times in the past, is becoming increasingly popular once again and hundreds of Pilgrims now travel through Ponte de Lima every year, before continuing on their way to Santiago de Compostela through the famous Serra da Labruja, an emblematic section of the Portuguese Way, while many others travel on pilgrimage in the opposite direction, towards Fátima.

Coming from the south, from Barcelos, along what is considered the backbone of the Portuguese Way, or from Braga, the Pilgrims to Santiago necessarily pass through Ponte de Lima, to cross the river Lima - as pilgrims have done for centuries - the over the Roman and medieval bridges, national symbols of the Portuguese Way.

Other cultural factors of the Portuguese Way include well as cross-border relations and cooperation and policies to promote mobility - vital for mutual understanding and cultural communication.

In view of the above and considering that the Municipal Council of Ponte de Lima is responsible for disseminating the cultural, historical, religious and landscape heritage of the municipality, and considering also the privileged position of Ponte de Lima in the context of Pilgrimage Routes - to Santiago de Compostela and to Fátima -, the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel was created in July 2009, and will henceforth operate in accordance with the following Regulations

### 1. | Purpose

The purpose of these Regulations is to define the whole operation of the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel, in Casa do Arnado, Além da Ponte (Arcozelo), in Ponte de Lima.

### 2. | Users

Access to the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel is open to all those who are travelling in pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, to Fátima or to another place of pilgrimage, provided they hold a "*Credencial de Peregrino*", duly stamped at their starting location or the previous place where they stayed.



### 3. | Priorities

- 1) The order of priorities for access to accommodation at the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel is the following:
  - a) Pilgrims on foot with backpack or with physical disability;
  - b) Pilgrims on foot without backpack;
  - c) Pilgrims on horseback;
  - d) Pilgrims travelling by bicycle;
  - e) Pilgrims starting their pilgrimage in Ponte de Lima;
  - f) People travelling in support cars.
- 2) In the months of May, June, July, August and September and in Holy Years in Santiago de Compostela, the following mandatory order of priorities will apply to access to the Hostel:
  - a) Pilgrims on foot with backpack or with physical disability - from 17.00;
  - b) Pilgrims on foot without backpack - from 18.00;
  - c) Pilgrims on horseback and Pilgrims travelling by bicycle - from 19.00;
  - d) Pilgrims starting their pilgrimage in Ponte de Lima and people travelling in support cars, in this order - from 20.00.

### 4. | Access

- 1) Vacancies will be taken by order of arrival of Pilgrims at the Hostel, with observance of the provisions of the previous rule, and no reservations are accepted in any circumstances whatsoever.
- 2) Pilgrims with a support car and organised groups of more than 10 people should preferentially seek alternative accommodation to the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel, in order not to affect its normal operation and cause overcrowding.
- 3) Pilgrims on horseback must guarantee the necessary conditions to stable and feed their mount outside the Pilgrim's Hostel.

### 5. | Identification, Registration and Suggestions

- 1) All Pilgrims must present a personal identification document, in addition to their "*Credencial de Peregrino*".
- 2) The date and the identification of the Pilgrims will be recorded in the register, which will also be signed by the Pilgrims.
- 3) Pilgrims may record suggestions and/or opinions in a book available for this purpose.



## 6. | Accommodation Costs

- 1) Pilgrims on foot with backpack or with physical disability - €5.00.
- 2) Pilgrims on foot without backpack - €5.00.
- 3) Pilgrims on horseback - €5.00.
- 4) Pilgrims travelling by bicycle - €5.00.
- 5) People travelling in support cars - €12.00.
- 6) Pilgrims starting their pilgrimage in Ponte de Lima - €5.00 (on foot) and €5.00 (bicycle).

These prices are VAT exempt under Article 9.7 of the VAT Code.

## 7. | Receipts

Pilgrims will be given a receipt for all Accommodation Costs paid.

## 8. | Duties of Pilgrims and Timetables

- 1) Accommodation at the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel is limited to one night per person, except in the event of illness or other extraordinary circumstances.
- 2) The hostel opens at 17.00 in the months of April, May, June, July, August, September and October and at 16.00 in the months of January, February, March, November and December.
- 3) The hostel closes at 22.00 in the months of April, May, June, July, August, September and October and at 21.00 in the months of January, February, March, November and December.
- 4) Pilgrims should leave the hostel by 9.00 in the morning.
- 5) To ensure a deserved rest for all hostellers, lights must be turned off at 23.00.
- 6) Smoking is prohibited throughout the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel.
- 7) Pilgrims should avoid making a noise during the night, in order not to disturb the sleep of other Pilgrims.
- 8) Pilgrims should look after the hostel facilities with the utmost care, leaving them clean and tidy, collecting any waste and leaving it in the containers provided for this purpose.
- 9) Pilgrims shall be responsible for any damage caused, as well as for any losses detected.
- 10) Pilgrims should limit their consumption of water and electricity.
- 11) To wash and dry clothes, please use the duly identified areas and not the bathrooms and/or dormitories.
- 12) It is expressly forbidden to hang clothes out to dry on the balconies.
- 13) Pilgrims must occupy the bed assigned by the reception/hostel staff, and may not move to another bed or dormitory.



## 9. | Breach of Regulations

Any breach of these Regulations, particular those concerning "*Duties of Pilgrims and Timetables*", as well as any conduct that may be considered detrimental to the proper functioning of the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel, shall require the management to ask the offender to immediate leave the premises, without prejudice to any demand to assume responsibilities or reporting to the police authorities.

## 10. | Admission

The Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel reserves the right to refuse admission.

## 11. | Services

The Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel offers the following services:

- 1) Reception
- 2) Kitchen
- 3) Dining Room
- 4) Laundry
- 5) Living Room
- 6) Bathrooms with hot water
- 7) Dormitories
- 8) Free internet access

## 12. | Capacity

The maximum capacity of the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel is sixty pilgrims, corresponding to the number of beds available. Sleeping on the floor and outside the dormitories is not permitted, for reasons of safety, health and hygiene. Under no circumstances will a more than this maximum number of Pilgrims be admitted.

## 13. | Volunteering

The reception and supervision of Pilgrims may be provided on a volunteer basis by non-profit entities or associations, after the signing of prior agreements with the Municipal Council of Ponte de Lima which will establish terms and conditions for the effective management of the Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel.



#### 14. | Omissions

All matters not covered by these Regulations shall be resolved by the Mayor of Ponte de Lima.

#### 15. | Approval

The Ponte de Lima Pilgrim's Hostel Regulations were approved by the Municipal Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 19 April 2010 and 14 May 2012.