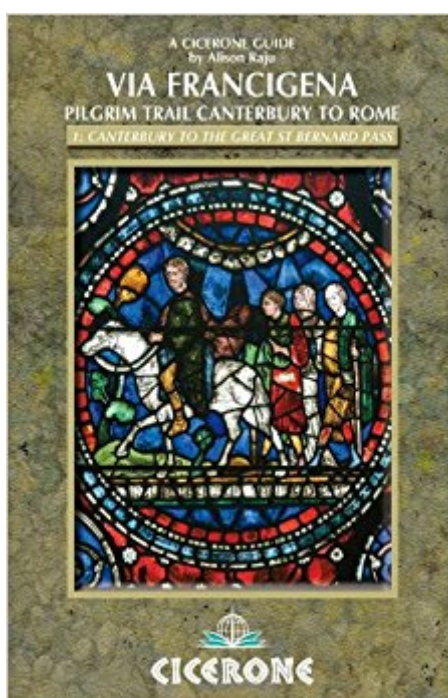


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The Via Francigena Canterbury To Rome - Part 1: Canterbury To The Great St Bernard Pass (Cicerone Guides)



Synopsis

One of the great pilgrimage routes of Europe, the Via Francigena covers 1900km on its way from Canterbury to Rome. In this first volume, the route leads through relatively flat sections in northern France, before reaching the mountainous Jura and the ascent to the Great St Bernard Pass. This is the first published guide to a route destined to become as popular as the Way of St James and Via de la Plata. Since becoming a European Cultural Itinerary in 1994, it is now partly waymarked and plentiful accommodation has sprung up along the way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alison Raju is a former language teacher and author of three other Cicerone guides to pilgrim routes: 'Way of St James: Pyrenees - Santiago', 'Via de la Plata' and 'The Pilgrim Road to Nidaros: Oslo - Trondheim'.

I am currently in Martigny, Switzerland and this guidebook has been supremely helpful.

We walked 850 kilometres last year on the Via FRANCIGENA and this book got us out of some tight spots. We rate the information in the book very highly.

Whilst the book had a lot of information, we were bitterly disappointed as it really did not help us much. We got lost along the way and had trouble trying to understand some of the cryptic clues.

The Via Francigena needs a John Brierley Book as per the Camino de Santiago. Would not recommend it as a guide to walking the Francigena.

Update: having used this guide while walking, I can't recommend it. I got lost half a dozen times before Calais, and the instructions that seemed very precise while reading in advance quickly became very difficult to follow in reality. There were many instructions that could be interpreted in multiple ways, and fewer guideposts than I would have liked. I did find a better guide in the Lightfoot Guides: http://pilgrimagepublications.com/pp_2014/via-francigena/ Much better instructions, and very precise distances between each turning point, so I was never in any doubt about which turning to take. They are also updated regularly, so you'll get instructions that say things like "Turn left at the house on the corner, which has a red fence, number 89" - very useful. This guide also offers accommodation options that are severely out of date. I still tried using it for accommodation as necessary, and I don't think I found accommodation even once using this guide. The Lightfoot guides have much better, more updated accommodation information. To its credit, the Cicerone guide has more interesting information about each town on the journey, and you may still find some useful information with the distances between towns. The Lightfoot guide gives only the distance for each day (which might range from 20-35 km) and the distances between turning points (as little as .1 km, in some places), while this guide offers the distance between each town you'll pass, which can help you create your own pilgrimage schedule more easily. I wound up being glad I'd read through the Cicerone guide, but did not find it at all useful for point-by-point directions. It has interesting information and some useful additional data, but I think it would be difficult not to get lost with this as your only guidebook.

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