CP Day 14 - S.Pedro Rates

5 - 7 Apr 2016

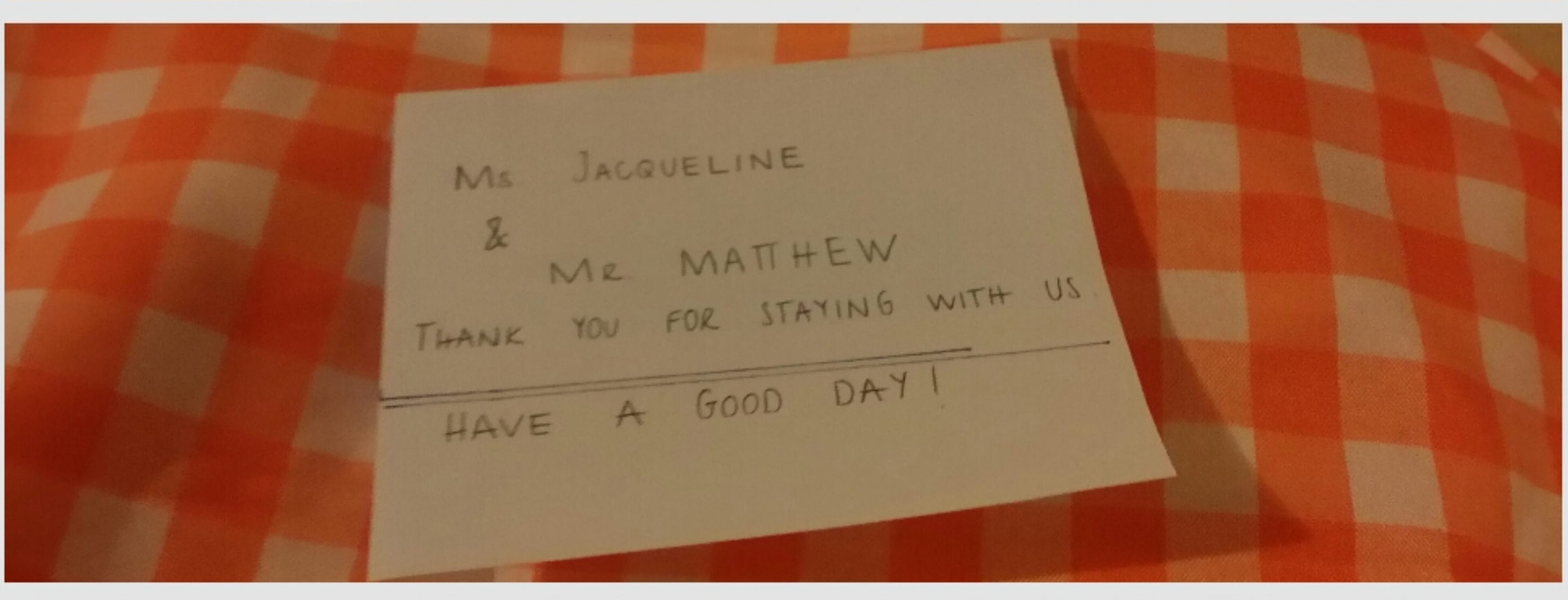


Left The Poets early (reluctantly on Jackie's part, "but this bed is soooo comfy!") - they had very nicely left our breakfast out for us with a sweet little note.

Caught the metro/tram (metram?!) out to Mostinhos and crossed the bridge to start the final leg of our journey.













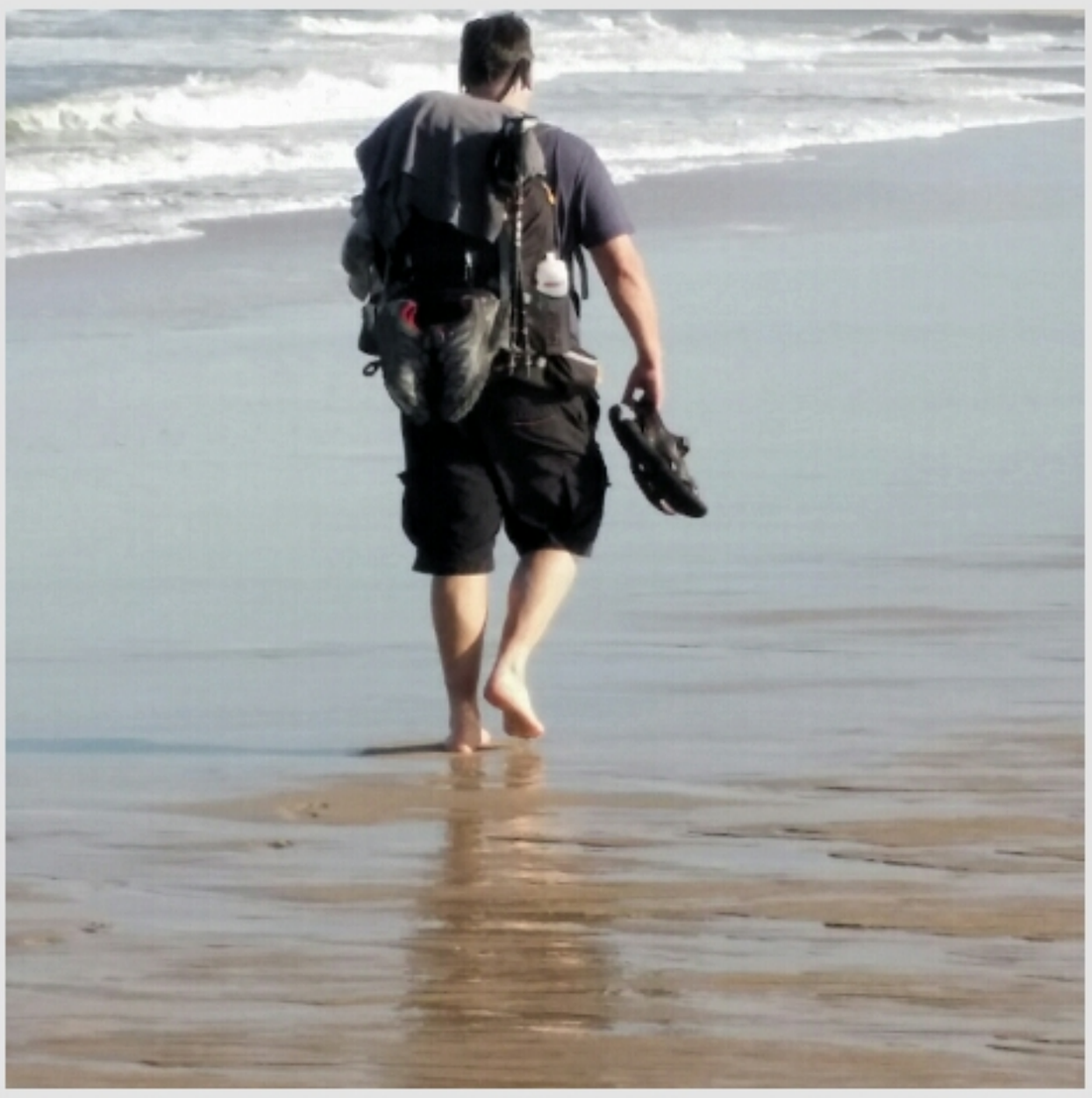




The coastal route was spectacular - well-marked boardwalks & wide sandy beaches. Sunny but with a gentle breeze - perfect walking weather.











There were beachside cafés virtually every km....it was difficult to know which one to choose!

The boardwalk was marked with information signs every 100m or so telling you about the habitat or historic landmarks.



















There were old Roman fish salting tanks at Case do Mar and Viking runic symbols at S.Paio - it really was quite a journey through the ages.





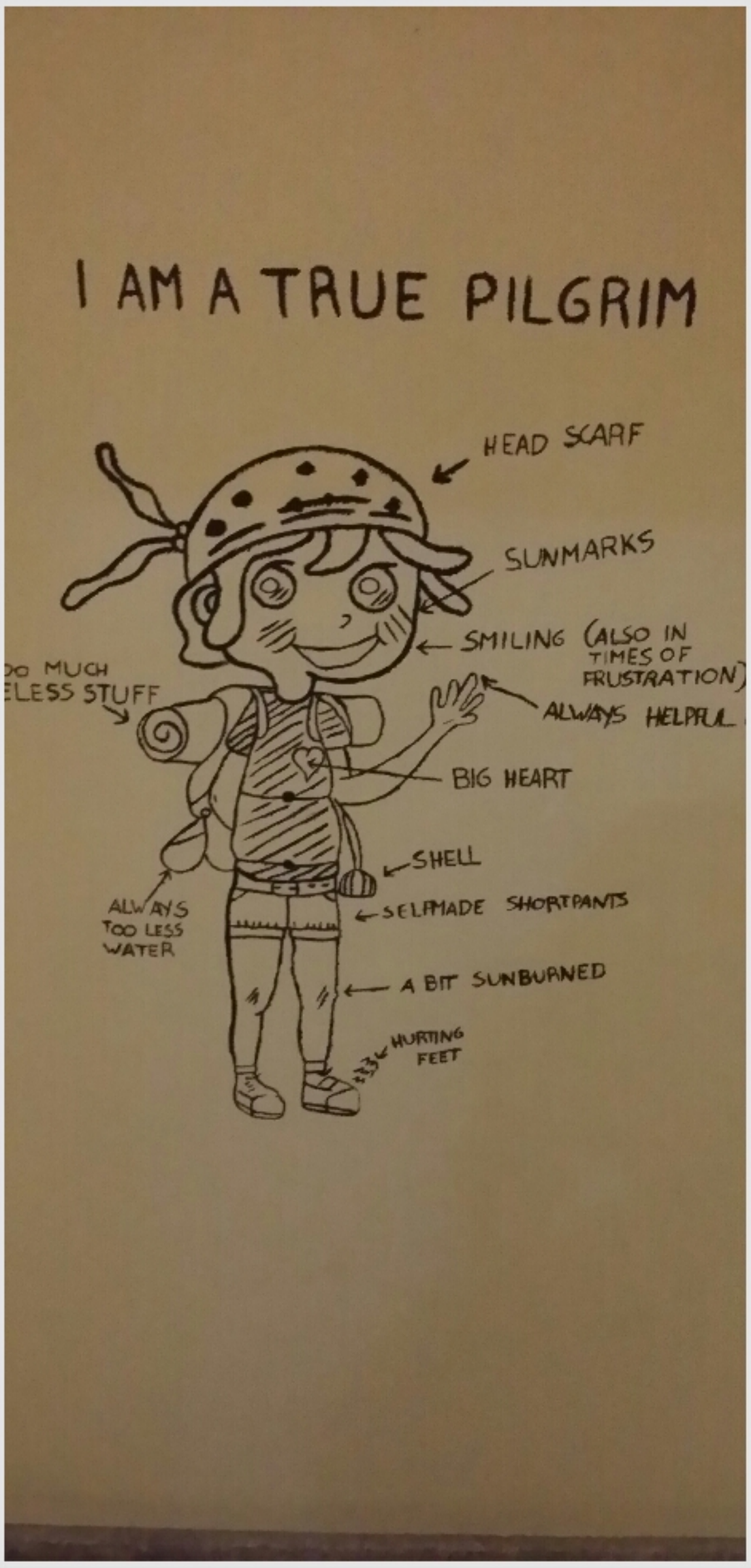


We caught up with Hans again in Vila Chã, an old fishing village - he'd forgotten his guidebook about 5km back and wondered if we had one spare?! Maybe Germans always carry 2 guidebooks but us Brits travel light...well at least I try!



After 24km of (increasingly windy!) beachfront walking we reached Vila do Conde, which was the suggested stop for the night...but we were feeling strong!









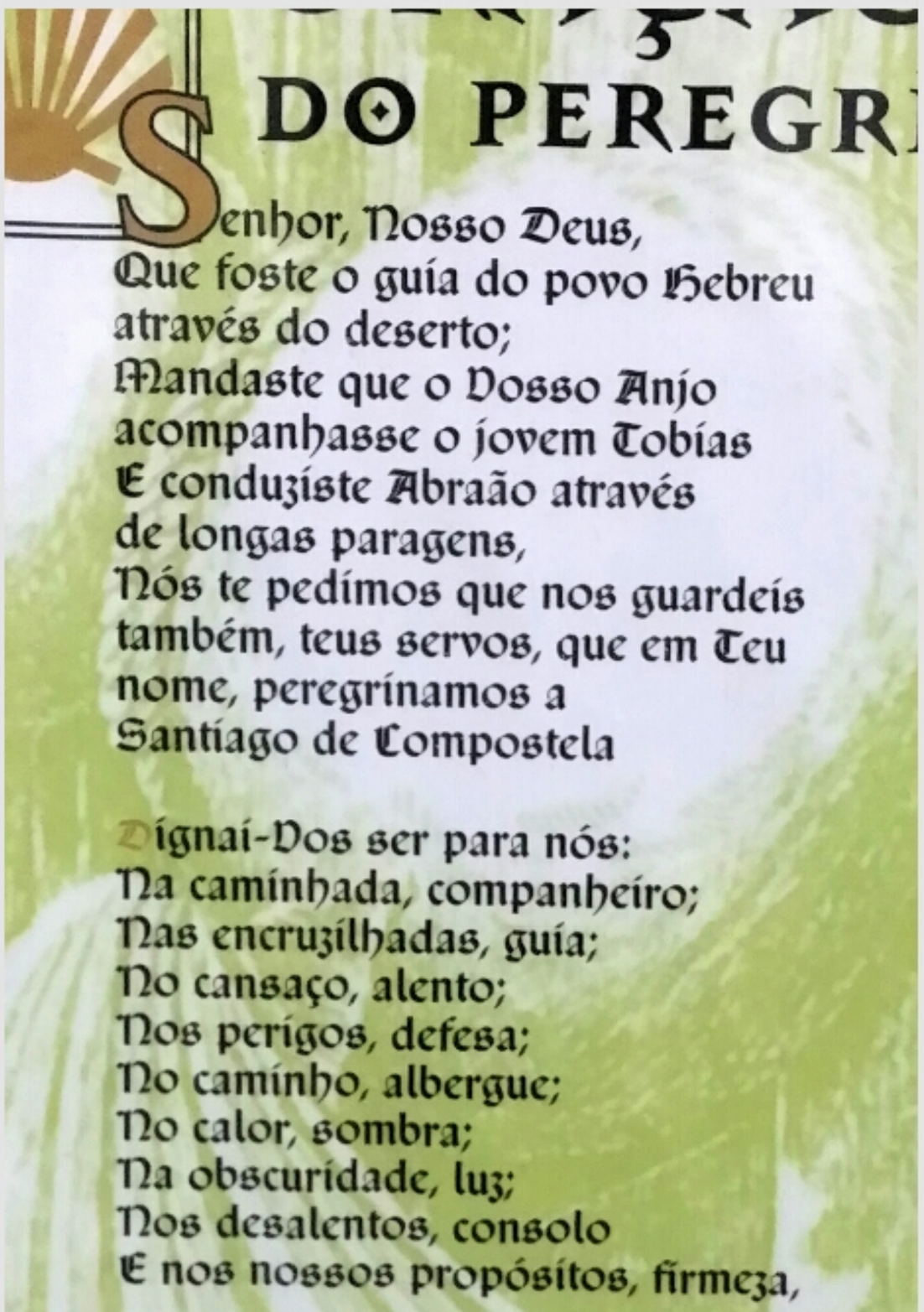
However, it was 14km to the next Albergue at S.Pedro de Rates, and it was 3pm by now...so we pulled a Camino Quickie and hopped on a bus for 7km. However, we first had to walk 3km to catch it so we didn't save that much after all!







The walk through Junqueira and Arcos felt like being back on the Camino Frances - small little medieval villages....with plenty of pilgrim monuments!







The Albergue at S.Pedro de Rates was a donativo (donation) hence pretty basic, but perfectly adequate and mist importantly for Jacks, warm!!!