

SPAIN – CAMINO DE ESTRELLAS – SANTIAGO TO CAPE FINISTERRE

6-day / 5-night **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn pilgrimage walk – from the city to the sea



The **Camino de Santiago** – the pilgrim’s route to the shrine of St James the Apostle in the city of Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain – has attracted walkers from all over Europe since the 12th Century. Today, it is possible to experience the same pace of travel as medieval travellers along several walking routes: the original **Camino Primitivo** from Oviedo, the **Camino Frances** from Le Puy in France or Geneva in Switzerland, the **Camino del Norte** from San Sebastián, the **Camino Portugués** from Porto or Tui or the **Via de la Plata**, the Silver Route from Madrid to Santiago.

Of course having walked for days, weeks or months in their quest for holy dispensations and forgiveness, many pilgrims simply turned around and walked home absolved of their sins. Others took boats (as we now take planes, buses or trains) or remained in Santiago enthused by its cosmopolitan and lively atmosphere and the joy of the many pilgrims who arrive each day, each with their story to tell, from many corners of the known world.

Other pilgrims would continue their quest from Santiago to the sea and follow the route westwards 90 or so kilometres towards the ‘coast of death’ *Costa da Morte* and the ‘ends of the earth’ (*Finis Terrae*) at Cape Finisterre. This, the **Camino Estrellas**, is a beautiful and fulfilling hilly *road less travelled*. It passes remote villages and ends at the dramatic sheer steep cliffs of Spain’s westernmost point.

Share in the sheer scale, the mystery and the history of this great medieval pilgrimage phenomenon. Take a journey where you can imagine the hardships, the pleasures and interests of those early pilgrims. Follow an infinitely varied succession of paths and trails that link towns and villages, churches and ancient monuments and the spectacularly rugged coastline and lighthouse at Cape Finisterre.

Dates: Daily on demand from early May until late October

Difficulty: Easy to moderate walks of 5 to 6 hrs a day with an average ascent and descent of 300m.

Cost from: **\$960** per person twin share Single room supplement \$185 Solo Traveller Supplement \$155

Included: 5 nights’ accommodation in 1 or 2-star hotels, breakfast daily, 3 dinners, luggage transfers, route notes and maps (one set per room), transfers as per itinerary, emergency telephone assistance.

Not included: Lunches, 2 dinners, personal expenses (including entrance fees), return transfer to Santiago, these can be arranged at extra cost.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Santiago

Arrive at Santiago de Compostela with time to explore this lively city. Dinner is at your own arrangements tonight from one of the many restaurants in the city. Stay tonight in Santiago either at our usual 1- or 2-star accommodation, or upgrade to the 5-star Parador near the Cathedral at extra cost.

Day 2: Santiago to Negreira

walking distance @ 22km (4.5 hours)

Your starting point for the journey to Fisterra is Plaza del Obradoiro, Santiago's main plaza, near to the Cathedral. You pass through many small villages, through fertile agricultural land and cross over old Roman bridges en route to Negreira. Here you may like to visit the remnants of the medieval Pazo do Coton (the country house of the Coton family) and the nearby chapel dedicated to St Maurus. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 3: Negreira to Maroñas

walking distance @ 22km (4.5 hours)

Cross the Barcala River as you leave Negreira, then ascend Monte Aro for wide-reaching views of the valley and the Ferenza dam. The route then enters the unspoiled Xallas valley. Arrive in Maroñas this afternoon for a short transfer to your accommodation in Chacín. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 4: Maroñas to Cee

walking distance @ 30km (7 hours)

After breakfast you are transferred back to the route. Walk alongside rivers and past the hermitage of Our Lady of the Snows (*Nosa Senora das Neves* in Galician). Reach the carved stone cross at Alto do Cruxeiro da Armada, and afterwards as you descend through pine groves, get your first glimpse of the sea and the Costa da Morte. Arrive in the picturesque fishing village of Cee where you stay tonight. Dinner is included.

Day 5: Cee to Fisterra

walking distance @ 21km (5 hours)

A lovely coastal walk today, along cliffs and past coves, catching glimpses of your destination, perhaps with time for a refreshing swim at one of the isolated beaches. Aim to arrive into Finisterre (Fisterra in Galician) early this afternoon to visit the spectacular lighthouse on Monte Facho, the 600-metre promontory at the tip of Cape Finisterre. Dinner is at your own arrangements tonight. Perhaps choose one of the harbourside cafés serving freshly caught and grilled sardines or octopus cooked Galician style (*polbo á galega*).

Day 6: Fisterra

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. There is a regular bus service from Fisterra to Santiago, departing up to 5 times daily on weekdays, less frequently on weekends, taking 2 to 3 hours. Alternatively we can arrange a transfer to Santiago at extra cost, please ask when booking. Extra nights in Santiago at the beginning or end of the trip can be arranged at extra cost, ask for details.



Other **Outdoor Travel** walking holidays are available in many other parts of Europe. Guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals including pilgrimage routes in France and Spain such as the **Camino de Santiago** or **Way of St James** from Le Puy to Santiago, the **Camino Portugués** from Porto to Santiago and the 8-week *Road to Rome*, the **Via Francigena** in Italy.

We offer famous routes such as Wainwright's challenging **Coast-to-Coast Trail** in England, the **West Highland Way** in scenic, wild Scotland or the **Tour du Mont Blanc** in France, Switzerland and Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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