

SPAIN – THE WAY OF ST JAMES or CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

8-days / 7-nights guided walk on the pilgrimage route from Sarria to Santiago **EARLY BOOKING VITAL**



The Camino de Santiago or Way of Saint James – the route of pilgrims to the final resting-place of the apostle St James – continues to be one of the most popular and most celebrated walking routes in Europe. Jerusalem and Rome were for centuries the two main centres for European pilgrims, but today, this UNESCO listed heritage route to Santiago de Compostela surpasses them all. And walking the last section of the so-called ‘French Route’ (which extends from Geneva or Paris) from Sarria to Santiago qualifies you as a true pilgrim.

As you walk – without worrying about baggage or accommodation – you will meet walkers from around the world and have the chance to discover the extraordinary spirituality and hospitality that this trail evokes.

Cost from: \$2385 per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$395 (limited availability)

Departs Sarria: 5th, 26th May, 8th, 29th September *early booking is essential*

Includes: 7 nights in comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathrooms, 7 breakfasts, 7 evening meals, experienced walks leader, luggage transport (one bag / case per person between hotels), standard group transfers from Santiago airport and to A Coruña Airport

Not Included: Entry fees, meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary, personal expenses.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival Day in Sarria There is a coach transfer to Sarria from Santiago Airport from a designated arrival flight at a set time and this standard transfer is included in the tour cost. If you arrive from a different location such as Madrid or Leon you should arrange a taxi or bus to Sarria to reach the hotel by mid-afternoon. After dinner your leader will give an introductory briefing on the walk.

Day 2: Sarria to Portomarín **walking distance @ 23km**
Today we walk from the monastery of La Magdalena to the Galician vineyards, along the banks of the Mino River to Portomarín. Our route is lined by shady chestnut and oak groves, fields enclosed by traditional Celtic ‘chantos’, and examples of Galician Romanesque architecture in a landscape little changed for centuries.

Day 3: Portomarín to Palas de Rei **walking distance @ 23km**
We enjoy panoramic views as we walk through undulating countryside. Our walk climbs gently to Hospital de la Cruz, and then winds through the pine groves and meadows to Palas de Rei.

Day 4: Palas de Rei to Arzúa **walking distance @ 28km**
Romanesque churches, and medieval bridges punctuate our route as we walk from Palas de Rei to Arzúa. Our route is dotted with castles, fortresses, and a myriad of historical monuments.

Day 5: Arzúa to Rua-O Pina **walking distance @ 18km**
Tiny hamlets dotted with shingle houses, hidden amidst wooded glades and eucalyptus trees, line the trail to Rua. Visit the ancient church of San Verisimo and the 18th Century chapel in Santa Irene.

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Day 6: Rua to Santiago

walking distance @ 19km

Our first glimpse of the city, our final destination, is from the summit of Monte del Gozo, from where we descend and enter the city of Santiago de Compostela via the Porta do Camino. We follow the road of the pilgrims to the impressive city square with its Parador (the former hospice), town hall and of course the Cathedral, reputed to be the final resting place of the Apostle St James.

Day 7: Santiago de Compostela

free day

Today is free to relax, to celebrate your journey and explore this magnificent city with its many shops and gardens. There is a lively market full of local produce and seafood, many restaurants and ancient buildings.

Day 8: Depart from Santiago de Compostela

Tour ends after breakfast, after which you are free to make your own onward travel arrangements. Alternatively there is one daily departure, by standard coach transfer to A Coruña airport from Santiago – ask for details.



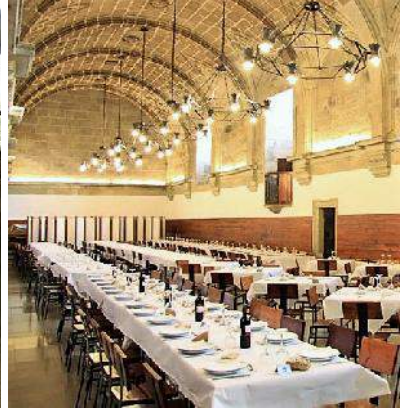
Walk Grading and Fitness: We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of this walk and get the most out of your holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this walk and **provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out of any section of this walk**. Please be sure you can manage the daily walking distances as listed above, over undulating terrain. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours and it is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.



Outdoor Travel offer guided or self-guided walks on the Camino route in France, Spain and Portugal.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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