



WALKING THE CAMINO

August 22-September 1, 2021

The history of the Camino de Santiago goes back to the 9th Century, when the tomb of the evangelical apostle St. James was discovered in what is today Santiago de Compostela. Since then, pilgrims from all over the world have walked St. James' Way, originally seeking forgiveness for their sins, and nowadays often just to spend time on a journey of personal growth. This is a challenging experience as it involves a significant physical effort as you walk through forests and along busy roads for many miles each day. Your rewards will be intangible, but priceless: an opportunity to enjoy nature, meditate, search for answers and challenge your limits, discover beautiful rural areas of northern Spain - - One of the most significant experiences of your life.

ARRIVE IN MADRID SPAIN

Check into your hotel and, if you have time, start exploring this bustling city on your own with the help of the CosmosGO app before meeting your tour companions and the local host during the included welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

MADRID - SARRIA

Transfer to the train station to board the train to Sarria (you will be responsible for carrying your own luggage). On arrival, check in at the hotel and have an informative welcome meeting with your Tour Director who will explain the dos and don'ts of the walk and give you some important advice. Spend the evening at leisure; maybe go look for the ruins of the medieval castle and the convent of A Madalena (B,D)

SARRIA - PORTOMARIN

Approximately 23 km/14.3 mi – avg 6 hrs – difficulty 3/3). This is the real start of the journey. May every step be a thought on peace and an extension of loving kindness. Expect a peaceful walk in shady oak forest and through pretty villages on quiet country roads. The village of Barbadelo has a beautiful Romanesque church that is worth a visit. You will also pass through the village of Ferreiros. On arrival in Portomarín, relax at one of the many outdoor cafes in the main square.

PORTOMARIN - LESTEDO

Let your mind wander and the feet follow. Begin the day by crossing over the Belesar dam footbridge, then start a gradual climb to the village of Ligonde. This stage mainly runs along andaderos (paths) next to the road or, in some cases, along paved trails. There are many signs indicating the pilgrim route, including the famous cruceiros (crucifixes). Check out the Cruceiro of Lameiros and the Monastery of Our Saviour of Vilar de Donas (2 km/1.2 mi detour off the Camino). Overnight in Lestedo. (B,D)

Approximately 20 km/12.5 mi – Average 4.5 hrs – Difficulty 2/3.

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LESTEDO - MELIDE

Keep an open mind and heart, let go of expectations, and enjoy the feeling of freedom along this ancient pilgrim path. The Camino takes you into the province of Coruña, with its fine eucalyptus and pine expanses, and numerous medieval bridges, such as the ones in Leboreiro and Furelos. Melide is an obligatory stop for food lovers; the best known local delicacy here is octopus. (B,D)

Approximately 18 km 11.2 mi – Average 4 hrs – Difficulty 2/3.

MELIDE - ARZUA

The Camino can be a powerful catalyst for positive change. Today's landscapes are similar to the previous day's, with some idyllic locations such as the Camino in Ribadiso da Baixo near Arzua. Arzua is where the modern town with its bars, restaurants and the Church of St James overshadow the Medieval center. (B,D)

Approximately 14 km 8.7 mi–Average 3.30 hrs–Difficulty 2/3.

ARZUA - AMENAL

Finding the courage to face our fears and stepping outside our comfort zone can lead us to self discovery. The route today is a nice and easy walk over gentle slopes and through woodland, combined with some stretches along the road, which you will have to cross on occasions. (B,D)

Approximately 25 km 15.5 mi–Average 6 hrs–Difficulty 2/3.

AMENAL - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Our experiences and encounters are waymarks to the inner path. This is the last stage of your Camino de Santiago. Today, distance will not matter. There is a climb to San Marcos, from Lavacolla, passing Monte do Gozo before descending to Santiago de Compostela. Congratulations, you made it! The entire city is magical, especially the Cathedral, which deserves a special visit. In the afternoon, take guided walking tour of the city center. Learn the story of St. James the Apostle, the meaning of the Way, the history of Compostela. Walk through the monuments of the town centre. Discover the impressive squares surrounding the Cathedral and the secrets behind the stones of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you have walked all stages of the Camino you will receive your Pilgrim Certificate. Give thanks by attending the Pilgrim Mass. (B,D)

Approximately 15 km 9.5 mi–Average 4 hrs–Difficulty 2/3.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - FINISTERRE - MUXIA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

You have reached your goal; now reach the end of the world. Full-day excursion by coach to the stunning Cape Finisterre peninsula, on the Atlantic Ocean, believed in Roman times to be the end of the world. Stop in Muxia, a small town on the coast, and visit the SANCTUARY OF FOUR LADY OF THE BOAT. This is very scenic region that not only offers wild beauty, but also delicious seafood and interesting legends. (B)

Today's Distance: 117 mi / 187 km

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - MADRID + DAY 11, MADRID

Take the spiritual growth and appreciation for simple things back home with you. This is your most important souvenir of the Camino. Today we transfer to the Santiago train station to catch a train to Madrid. Say goodbye to your Tour Director and hello again to your local host in Madrid, who will be available for any assistance or suggestions on how to spend the last night in the Spanish capital. (B)

DAY 11 - MADRID - departures onward (B)