Camino de Santiago Guided Trail

Tour Style: Guided Trails
Destination: Spain
Trip code: XJLDW
Trip Walking Grade: 3

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Undertake a challenging but exhilarating journey along the final stage of this spectacular 1,000 year old trail, and achieve the pilgrim’s goal of reaching the beautiful Santiago de Compostela, the final resting place of St James the Apostle. Experience the spirit of this world-famous pilgrim trail as you walk through medieval villages and towns, past castles and fortresses. The Camino de Santiago continues to be the oldest and most celebrated long-distance trail.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

• 7 nights’ Half Board accommodation
• The services of an experienced local leader
• All transport and luggage transfers on walking days
• Group transfers from Santiago airport and returning to La Coruna.

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

• Discover the extraordinary spirit and hospitality this trail evokes
• Meander through villages, river valleys and on wooded trails

**TRIP SUITABILITY**

This is a level 3 graded activity. 70 miles with 11-17 miles and up to 1,100 feet of ascent in a day.

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Arrival Day**

Transfer from Santiago Airport to Sarria, where you spend your first night.

**Day 2: Sarria To Portomarin**

Walk from the monastery of La Magdalena in Sarria to the Galician vineyards and along the banks of the Mino River, to the delightful Portomarin. Our route is lined by shaded groves of chestnuts and oaks, fields enclosed by traditional Celtic ‘chantos’, and examples of Galician Romanesque architecture in a landscape little changed for centuries.

14.5 miles (23km) with 1,230 feet (375m) of ascent and 1,312 feet (400m) of descent
Day 3: Portomarin To Palas Do Rei

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 of the Sierra de Ligonde.

16.1 miles (26km) with 1,640 feet (500m) of ascent and 951 feet (290m) of descent

Day 4: Palas Do Rei To Arzua

The Camino meanders through villages and river valleys, through wooded trails shaded by oak, pine and eucalyptus, leading us to the hustle and bustle of Arzua, and the ruined former convent of La Magdalena.

18.6 miles (30km) with 820 feet (250m) of ascent and 1,312 feet (400m) of descent

Day 5: Arzua To Rua-O Pino

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.

11 miles (18km) with 1,181 feet (360m) of ascent and 1,509 feet (460m) of descent

Day 6: Rua To Santiago

A triumphant finale. Our first glimpse of the city 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. Your eagerly awaited goal awaits you at the impressive cathedral, the final resting place of the Apostle St James.

13.6 miles (22km) with 1,443 feet (440m) of ascent and 1,558 feet (475m) of descent

Day 7: Santiago De Compostela

Celebrate your journey’s end and explore this magnificent city.

Day 8: Departure Day

Transfer to La Coruna Airport

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Alfonso IX - Camino De Santiago

The Hotel Alfonso IX is a warm and friendly four star hotel located in the town centre of Sarria. It has a total of 60 rooms spread over 3 floors. All rooms have WiFi, air conditioning, hairdryers, telephones & TV.

Hotel Pousada De Portomarin - Camino De Santiago

The Hotel Pousada de Portomarin is located in one of the Camino’s most historic towns. Pousada offers rooms with en suite bathrooms, hairdryer, minibar, digital TV, telephone, safe, central heating and free WiFi. The hotel also has a sauna, gym and outdoor pool for guests to use during their stay.

Hotel La Cabana - Camino De Santiago

Hotel La Cabana is a cosy hotel built completely of wood and situated on a large estate surrounded by gardens, pines and chestnut trees. All rooms have private bathrooms, telephone, television, hairdryer and
heating. WiFi is available in public areas; the hotel also has laundry facilities.

**Casa Lucas - Camino De Santiago**

Casa Lucas was founded by Lucas Piñeiro and passed from father to son serving as a family home until 1998. Now serving as a country hotel, Casa Lucas offers rooms with en suite bathrooms, hairdryer and television.

**O Acivro - Camino De Santiago**

O Acivro is a hotel where you can enjoy nature in a rural environment. Country apartments are provided with en suite bathroom, hair dryers, heating and TV. There's a vending machine on site also. The hotel has swimming pool for guests to use during their stay. Free WiFi is available in public areas.

**Hotel Virxe Da Cerca - Camino De Santiago**

Hotel Virxe da Cerca is a former bank and Jesuit residence. It was built in the 18th century with its back façade facing the Convent of Belvís, founded in the 14th century, and its main façade towards the picturesque “Mercado de Abastos” (food market) in the old town, which is now the second-most visited place in Santiago after the Cathedral. All rooms come with en suite facilities as well as hairdryer, TV, radio, WiFi, telephone, mini bar, air conditioning and heating.

**USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION**

**Food & Transport**

Meals

It is important you let us know in advance if you have any special dietary requirements.

**Breakfast**

“el desayuno” – is a very simple affair in Spain. Breakfasts are continental and are served at each hotel.

**Evening meal**

“la cena” – Your evening meals are arranged at your hotel or nearby restaurants and give a flavour of traditional, hearty Camino cuisine. Spaniards eat their evening meal quite late in comparison to the UK. We organise our evening meals to be served starting at approx 8:00-8.30pm, which is often the earliest time possible.

**Lunch**

“el almuerzo”. Packed lunch is not included in the holiday price and will need to be purchased. You will usually be able to purchase lunch ingredients from local shops in the villages, although normally the leader will stop for lunch at a bar or restaurant where you can order lunch or eat your own lunch if you purchase a drink on the premises. Your leader will advise you of all the options.

**Joining Instructions (With Flights)**

Start: For those who have booked our “with flight” holiday, a coach transfer from Santiago will connect with the group flight. A representative of our partner agent will meet you upon arrival and direct you to your transfer.

Finish: The holiday finishes in Santiago and a coach transfer to La Coruna airport has been arranged to connect with the group flight.

We cannot make separate arrangements for guests arriving/departing at different times or other airports.
Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

By Air

If you are flying into La Coruna Airport, it is approximately 1hr 30 (by road) to the first hotel in Sarria. There are trains from La Coruna to Sarria. Santiago Airport is approximately 2hrs (by road) from the first hotel in Sarria. Public buses to Sarria are available from the airport.

Return Transfers

Our final hotel is in the historic centre of Santiago de Compostela. If you are flying from La Coruna Airport it is approximately 70km from the city of Santiago. The old town does not permit regular car traffic, but taxis have access, should you wish to use one for your transfer to the airport. Alternatively there is one daily departure, by public bus to La Coruna airport from Santiago. There are buses that run from the city centre to Santiago airport. Please note that the bus station is located about 15 minutes walk from old town.

What To Bring

Essential kit

• Walking boots: We recommend wearing walking boots on all our walks, as these provide the best ankle support and grip. Approach shoes offer appropriate levels of grip and are fine if you’re comfortable with, and used to walking without the ankle support.
• Walking socks suitable for warm weather – major sock manufacturers such as Bridgedale make socks specifically designed for warm weather – just ensure that your footwear fits correctly if you’re used to wearing thicker socks.
• Windproof/waterproof jacket (with hood) and waterproof trousers – these are essential at all times of the year.
• Shorts and T-shirts - lightweight wicking materials are best.
• Warm fleece & trousers Sun protection – hat, sunglasses and suncream.
• Clothing: Fleece or other purpose designed synthetic tops give good lightweight insulation and nylon or cotton trousers can provide unrestricted movement.
• A layering system is better than one thick top. Lightweight hat and gloves

Optional kit

• Rucksack: this needs to be large enough to carry your picnic lunch, drink, waterproofs and spare clothing. A size of 25-30 litres is probably best.
• A plastic bin liner as well as a rucksack cover will keep the contents dry should you be unlucky enough to encounter any rain.
• Water bottle: a size of at least 2 litres is recommended.
• Plastic bags/sandwich box for packed lunches
• Sun protection: high factor sun screen and lip salve
• Personal First Aid Kit: containing for example plasters, insect repellent, antiseptic wipes, painkillers, blister kit, tape and personal medication. Spare food: Leaders cannot carry emergency food for the whole party.
• As this walk crosses remote areas it is essential that you take some high energy food.
• Energy bars, nuts, dried fruit, chocolate etc
• Camera/binoculars – your choice.
• Trekking poles - many people find these aid balance and take some of the strain off their knees during steeper descents

Vaccinations & Health

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for Spain, however Tetanus is recommended.

Further information can be found at www.traveldoctor.co.uk
HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to book online or book over the phone. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF’s bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to ‘HF Holidays Ltd’ with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member’s fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings ‘with flights’ it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF’s bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser’s Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk
MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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