

The way of Saint James

A self guided hiking tour from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela

Tour Code: SP01W

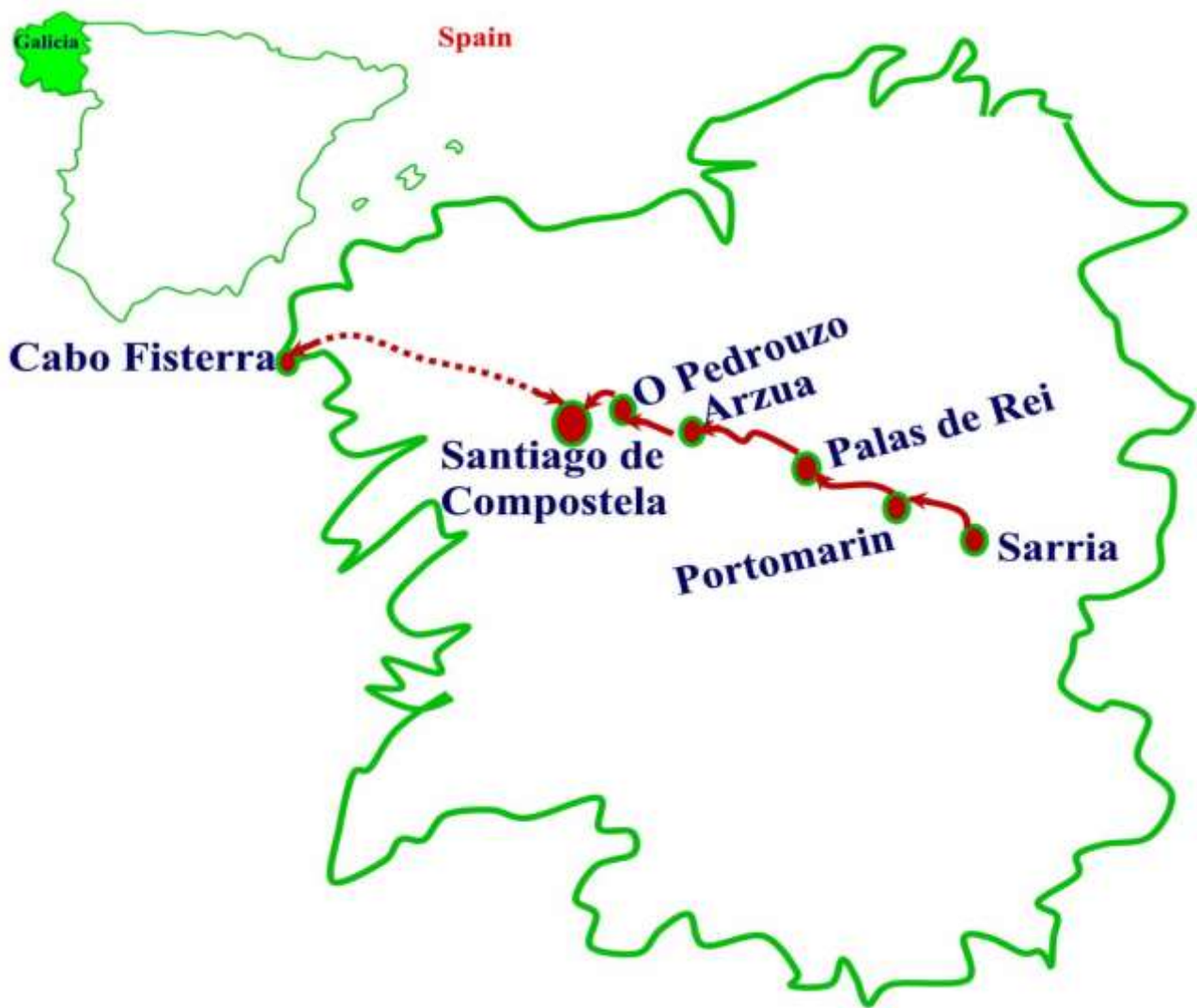


The spirit of Santiago has been living along the streets of Spain for over 1000 years, up to the place where, in the 9th century, hermit Pelagius arrived following a star, which indicated him the tomb of St. James. Today, millions of pilgrims, driven by the pursuit of solace and forgiveness of sins, by the desire of looking into their own souls, or, simply, by the pleasure of walking along ancient footpaths, discovering evocative places, history and above all themselves.

Along the way, there are many signs from yellow arrows to blue ceramic tiles with a yellow shell, because pilgrims, over the centuries, used to pick up the shells of St. James on the beaches of Galicia to state that their pilgrimage took really place.

During this exciting tour, you go through villages with houses covered by typical slate roofs and tiny churches, footpaths in lush forests of eucalyptus and the green Galician countryside, springs and small water streams, sweet ascents and descents until you get to the Cathedral of Santiago, at the end of a spiritual trip which regenerates the soul, body and mind. This walk follows the Camino Francés, the most important itinerary among those, which are part of the St. James Way, now Unesco world heritage.

This stretch of St. James Way will allow you to get the Compostela, the official pilgrim's certificate of completion for this epic journey.



Difficulty: 3

Stretches of significant length. This tour is suitable only for expert walkers with good physical condition. Walking time from 4,5 hrs to 7,5 hrs. Not suitable for children. Daily distances between 19 km / 11,8 mi and 28 km / 17,4 mi with average differences in height.

Total km: 116 km / 72 mi

Participants: from 1 person

Dates 2022: From April to End of Oktober

Program in Short*

Day 1 arrival at Sarria

Day 2 Sarria - Portomarin (23 km / 14,3 mi)

Day 3 Portomarin - Palas de Rei (25 km / 15,5 mi)

Day 4 Palas de Rei-Ribadiso (26 km / 16,2 mi)

Day 5 Ribadiso - O Pedrouzo/ Amenal (22-25 km / 13,7-15,5 mi)

Day 6 O Pedrouzo/ Amenal - Santiago de Compostela (19-16 km / 11,8-9,9 mi)

Day 7 Free day in Santiago with the possibility to book a guided tour or excursion to finisterre (price and availability on request)
Day 8 End of tour after breakfast

* it is possible, to find availability in the chosen hotel category that the daily km/miles can slightly change



Program day by day

Day 1 Sarria

Individual arrival in Santiago de Compostela. Handing over of the pilgrim kit and transfer to Sarria.

Sarria, above all in the Middle Ages, was an important pilgrim centre, as evidenced by the monastery of La Magdalena and the many Romanesque churches of the surroundings. In this place, you will have time to arrange your things and close your eyes, thinking that, on the next day, an intense and unforgettable adventure in the heart of Spain, towards Santiago, will begin.

Overnight with breakfast in Sarria

Day 2: Sarria-Portomarín

After breakfast, You leave the hotel and start walking along the footpath from Sarria to Portomarín. It goes up the Rua Maior and you can stop at the church of Santa Mariña to stamp the Credential, a travel document for the stamps (sellos) you collect in several places of the Camino. In the end with this credential you get the "Compostela" In Santiago, de Compostela.

You have just started the walk, but there is already a lot to see: the characteristic signs of the albergues, pilgrims' coves, the parish church of Salvador, the tower of the ancient wall and the convent of Madalena, founded in the 12th century as a hospital for pilgrims.

You cross a medieval bridge, then up through a woodland of century-old trees, and reach the church of Santiago de Barbadelo, national monument since 1976 and one of the best examples of Romanesque-Galician style.

The route passes Morgade, where there is just one house and cross Ferreiros, a little village named after ironworkers (Ferreiros), because here pilgrims could tighten the horseshoes.

There is also Vilachá, a rural farmer's village with the ruins of the Monastery of Loio, cradle of the knights of the order of Santiago. Finally, you go down towards the Rio Miño and arrive to Portomarín, a little city dominated by the impressive fortress-church of San Juan.

The first stretch came to an end. Surely tired but satisfied, you will enjoy your meal.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in Portomarín.

Distance: 23 km / 14,3 mi

Ascent / descent: +300m - 390m

Difficulty: medium

Day 3: Portomarín - Palas de Rei

With a special wish of "buen camino", you get ready for the second stage of the way, which leads to Palas de Rei, which owes its name to a hypothetical royal palace built in its vicinity. You leave Portomarín walking over a bridge for pedestrians and it continues until Gonzar, followed by Castromaior, known for its Romanesque church situated next to a little stream, and Lameiros with the small chapel of San Marcos, nestled among century-old oaks. In Stat Ligonde, the knights of the Order of Santiago kept protected this stretch until Palas de Rei since 1184. The hostel of this village welcomed Emperor Carlos I and his son Felipe II, the most famous pilgrims of the 16th century.

For the more fit walkers under us it is possible, with a short detour, to visit the monastery of Vilar de Donas. This church is one of the most typical examples of Galician Romanesque style and here some relics of the knights of the Order, in charge of protecting the route, have been buried. Before you end today's walk, visit the church of San Tirso, situated at the entrance of Palas de Rei, a delicate example of a melting of different architectural styles, like Romanesque and neoclassical. Tomorrow you will face the longest stretch of the whole journey.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in Palas de Rei.

Distance: 25 km / 15,5 mi

Ascent / Descent: + 380m -170m

Difficulty: medium

Day 4: Palas de Rei-Ribadiso

Today, a very famous pilgrimage monument, wishes you a good walk while you leave the centre of Palas Rei to go towards Ribadiso. The French Way leaves Palas and goes in the direction of Campo dos Romeiros, a traditional meeting place for pilgrims, and reaches the medieval little village of Leboreiro. The route continues through small villages, woodlands

and crossing the medieval bridge of Furelos, which brings you to Melide. This town has an important and rich religious and artistic heritage, with the famous Pulperia Ezequiel. Moreover in Melide, the "Primitive Way" merges into the "French Way".

After this pleasant break, continue your way along dirt roads, stone paths, little streets, past villages with sweet ascents and descents, flat stretches, forests of eucalyptus and always accompanied by the green Galician countryside.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in Ribadiso.

Distance: 28 km / 17,4 mi

Ascent/Descent: + 100m - 270m

Difficulty: average

Day 5: Ribadiso - O Pedrouzo

In Arzúa, the "Northern Way" merges into the "French Way". Arzúa is known for its hospitality and for its delicious cheese, but before we settle at our hotel for dinner and overnight, you should visit the church of Santiago de Arzúa, a modern parish temple which hosts two different figures of the Apostle, one depicting him as pilgrim and the other one as a fierce matamoros (killer of Saracens). Emotions continue to rise because you are approaching Santiago de Compostela.

You walk through woodlands, little villages and passing many different medieval buildings. Often the villages we pass look nameless, but you will know where you are if you look at the milestones that mark the Way.

Once you get to O' Pino, you will be attracted by a curious visual effect among the thick mixtures of plants in the woods, pines and fir trees planted in perfectly symmetrical rows. Today, the way passes through corners of intense natural beauty, to reach the top and the famous Capilla de Santa Irene, then the little town of O Pedrouzo.

Have dinner and relax, because tomorrow the way reaches the top of its beauty and you will live a most intimate and overwhelming experience: the arrival to Santiago de Compostela.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in O Pedrouzo.

Distance: 21 km / 13 mi

Ascent/Descent: + 80m - 190m

Difficulty: easy

Day 6: O Pedrouzo - Santiago de Compostela

Before you get to Santiago, you pass several "historic places", among which the Lavacolla and Mount do Gozo, where on top a monument is dedicated to pilgrims and here you can admire the spires of the cathedral.

Arrival in the hotel in the early afternoon and you could consider to take part in the evening's pilgrims mass.

Interesting parts to visit are the quarter of San Lázaro, and the walls of the historic centre. Cross the Praza Cervantes and reach Piazza dell'Obradoiro... then finally in front of you, the architectural beauty and spiritual strength of the Cathedral of Santiago.

The Cathedral was built in the year 813 (according to other versions, 820 or 830), after the discovery of the relics of Apostle James under the bush of Mount Libredón. A hermit

guided by heavenly signs, found them. Today's Romanesque cathedral is the fourth sacred building built above the ancient tomb.

In this temple of spirituality pilgrims pray, visit the relics of St. James, the museum and archaeological excavations, they climb up the stairs to the roof to admire the stunning view, take part in the invocation of the Apostle and see, just in some periods, the surprising commuters' route in front of the major altar of Botafumeiro. It is right here that you can receive the Compostela in the pilgrim's office.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in Santiago de Compostela.

Distance: 19 km /11,8 mi

Ascent/Descent: +100m - 120m

Difficulty: easy

Day 7 Santiago de Compostela - Muxía - Capo Finisterre

After breakfast, free morning to visit Santiago and the "Portico della Gloria", and to take part in the pilgrim's mass of Midday.

Overnight with breakfast and dinner in Santiago

Day 8 End of the tour

After breakfast and transfer to airport of Santiago de Compostela ends this unforgettable experience

Prices per person 2022:

Standard hotel SMART package:

In double room € 720

In single room € 890

Solo traveller € 950

Superior hotel package:

In double room € 950

In single room € 1.200

Solo traveller € 1.250

Obliged is a good 'Multi risk' insurance including cancellation, medical assistance, baggage with pandemic extension (Covid). We offer also for € 40

Discount of € 30 p.p. if you book with minimum 4 people

The tour includes:

- 7 nights in hotels of medium-good quality (Hotel and Pension or Rural house and *** hotel voor the superior package). Rooms with private bathroom.
- Breakfast
- Meeting with representative on the airport of Santiago and transfer from airport Santiago to Sarria
- 6 x dinner (in Sarria only breakfast / drinks included)

- Luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (one backpack-suitcase up to 20 kg)
- Road book in English
- “Pilgrim’s kit” with detailed information about the route and Credential of the Cathedral of Santiago.
- Transfer at the end of the tour back to the airport of Santiago de Compostela

The tour does not include:

- The journey to Santiago and the journey back home
- Insurance: It is obligatory to take a good medical, cancellation and luggage insurance with Covid Coverage. On request can be provided
- Lunches and extras
- Entrance fees
- Transfers during the walking tour to shorten the route
- Personal extra
- All which is not clearly specified under “the tour includes”



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