A cycling trip to Santiago de Compostela

A self-guided tour of 8 or 15 days

Code tour: SP02C



The Camino de Santiago: A Legendary Cycling Adventure

Embark on an unforgettable self-guided cycling journey along the **Camino Francés**. Whether you choose the full **15-day route from Roncesvalles** or the **8-day version from León**, you will experience a unique blend of breathtaking landscapes, millennium-old history, and pure adventure.

The Route: From the Pyrenees to the Atlantic

Your journey begins in **Roncesvalles**, nestled in the serene Pyrenean mountains. You will cycle through lush valleys and Basque hills to reach **Pamplona**, famous for its medieval walls and Gothic cathedral.

As you cross into the **Meseta**, the landscape opens into vast golden wheat fields and endless horizons, offering a meditative riding experience. After visiting the architectural jewels of **Burgos and León**, the terrain turns green and undulating in **Galicia**, leading you through eucalyptus forests and stone villages toward your final destination: **Santiago de Compostela**.

Trip Highlights

- **Cultural Icons:** Explore UNESCO sites, like the cathedrals of Burgos, León, and Santiago.
- **Diverse Landscapes:** From the mountain passes of the **Cruz de Ferro** to the hills of Galicia.
- **Gastronomy:** Savor traditional *Lechazo*, fresh Navarra asparagus, and the *Pulpo a la Gallega*.
- **Exquisite Wines:** Pedal through the world-famous vineyards of **Rioja** and **Bierzo**.

History & Legend

Santiago de Compostela's origins date back to **813 AD**, when the tomb of the Apostle Saint James was discovered. Over the centuries, the Camino became a vast network of routes across Europe.

The **Camino Francés** remains the most famous, recognized by UNESCO for its profound historical significance. Today, thousands of travelers still follow these paths, seeking a mix of spiritual reflection and cultural exploration.

The Pilgrim's Passport: The Credencial
The **Credencial** is an essential document for every pilgrim. It acts as a "passport" that you stamp at hotels, restaurants, and churches along the way.

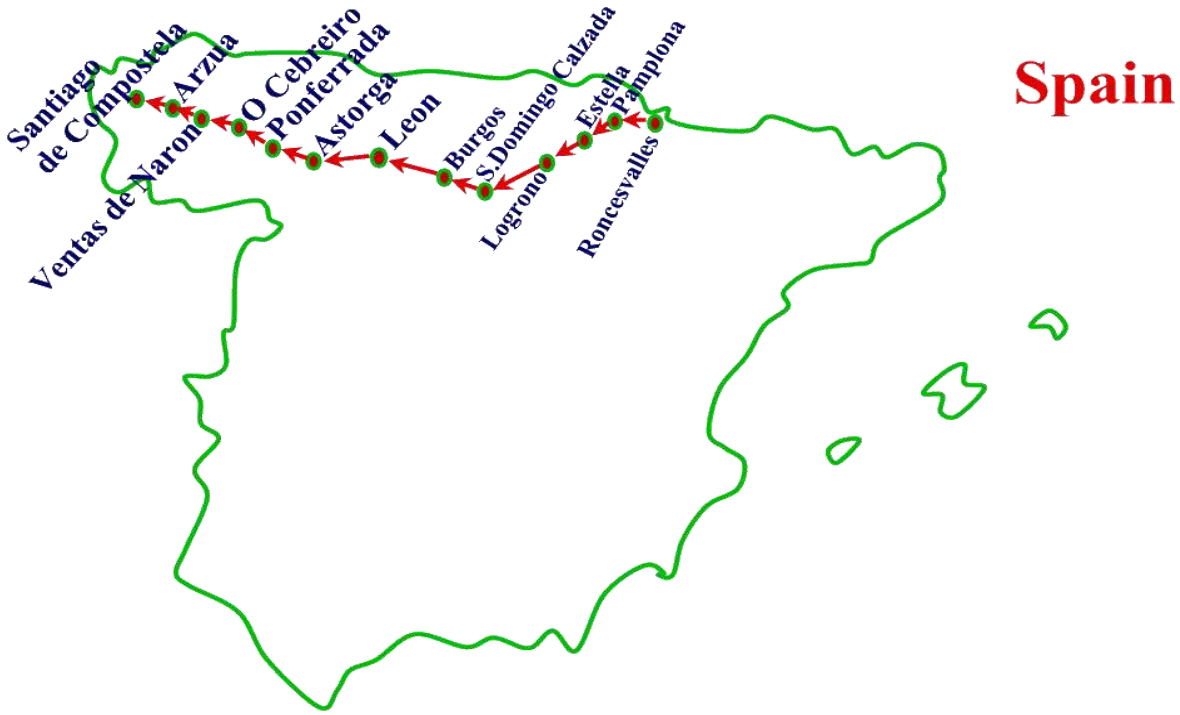
- **The Compostela:** To receive this official pilgrimage certificate in Santiago, cyclists must complete at least **200 km**.
- **How to get it:** We typically provide your Credencial at the first hotel. However, you can request one in advance from authorized national associations (such as *American Pilgrims on the Camino* in the USA, or the *Canadian Company of Pilgrims*).

Period 2026: from 1 March until 31 October

Participants: Minimum 2 persons. Solo traveler on request.

Difficulty level 3,5: This Tour is Challenging!
This tour is designed for those who enjoy demanding routes through hilly and mountainous terrain. It's essential to be well-trained and in good physical condition. Cycling will take up a large part of the day, but there is also time to explore the towns and cities along the way. Be prepared for significant elevation changes.

IMPORTANT: Even with an electric bike, this is not a leisurely tour. It is not suitable for children under 16 years old.



The route mainly follows unpaved roads, trails, and quiet country roads with minimal traffic.

- **Daily stages:** 42 km–93 km (15-day tour) or 53 km–62 km (8-day tour)
- **Total distance:** 15 days: 766 km or 8 days: 331 km

Program in short 15 days:
Day 1 arrival at Roncesvalles
Day 2 Roncesvalles - Pamplona (42 km / 26,1 mi)
Day 3 Pamplona - Estella (46,1 km / 28,6 mi)
Day 4 Estella - Logroño (50,8 km / 31,6 mi)
Day 5 Logrono – Santo Domingo de la Caldaza (49,8 km / 30,9 mi)
Day 6 Santo Domingo de la Caldaza - Burgos (72 km /44,7 mi)
Day 7 Burgos - Carriòn de los Condes (86,2 km /53,6 mi)
Day 8 Carriòn de los Condes – Leòn (93 km / 57 mi)
Day 9 Leòn – Astorga (54 km / 33,5 mi)
Day 10 Astorga - Ponferrada (54,2 km / 33,7 mi)
Day 11 Ponferrada – Fonfrìa (o Cebreiro) (52,8 km /32,8 mi)
Day 12 Fonfrìa (o Cebreiro) – Ventas de Naròn / Portomarin (62 km / 38 mi)
Day 13 Portomarin /Ventas de Naròn – Arzùa (54,9 km / 34,1 mi)
Day 14 Arzùa - Santiago de Compostela (54 km / 30 mi)
Day 15 End of the tour after breakfast

Programma in het kort 8 dagen:
Day 1 Arrival at Leòn
Day 2 Leòn – Astorga (54 km / 33,5 mi)
Day 3 Astorga - Ponferrada (54,2 km / 33,7 mi)
Day 4 Ponferrada – O Cebreiro (52,8 km /32,8 mi)
Day 5 O Cebreiro – Portomarin (62 km / 38 mi)
Day 6 Portomarini – Arzùa / Melide (54,9 km / 34,1 mi)
Day 7 Arzùa - Santiago de Compostela (54 km / 34 mi)
Day 8 End of the tour after breakfast

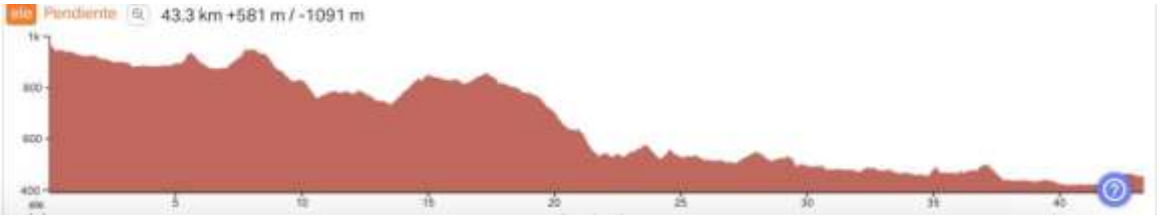
Daily program of the 15-day cycling tour
For the 8-day tour look from day 9 Leon

Day 1: Arrival in Roncesvalles
Your journey begins in **Roncesvalles**, a place steeped in legend and the perfect gateway for this adventure. After checking into your hotel, you can dedicate the day to relaxation and preparing yourself physically and mentally for the road ahead. Roncesvalles is more than just a starting point; it is a village of magnetic and moving charm where history blends with myth. Walking through its **breathtaking mountain landscapes**, you will feel as though you are retracing the heroic steps of the paladin **Roland**, whose epic deeds in these valleys are immortalized in French chivalric tradition. It is the perfect start: a blend of peace, nature, and millennial history.

Accommodation and breakfast in Roncesvalles

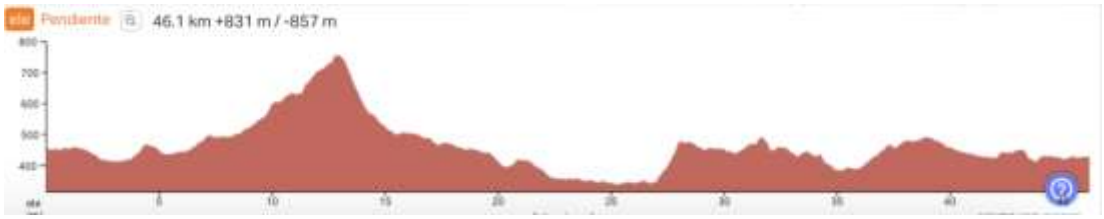
Day 2: Roncesvalles – Pamplona
After an energizing breakfast, it's time to start your official journey. You will leave the charming **Roncesvalles**, cycling towards **Burguete** and **Espinal**, surrounded by landscapes rich in forests and traditions. The route challenges you with the climb to the **Erro Pass**, followed by a descent toward the characteristic villages of **Zubiri** or **Akerreta**. From here, following the winding course of the **Arga River**, you will make a triumphant entry into the splendid **Pamplona**. Once there, we suggest exploring the streets of the **Old Town**: it is the best way to breathe in the millennial history of the Navarrese capital and enjoy its extraordinary **gastronomic culture**, featuring local tapas and flavors.

Accommodation and breakfast in Pamplona
Distance: 42 km / 26,1 mi
Ascent /Descent:: +581m / -1091m



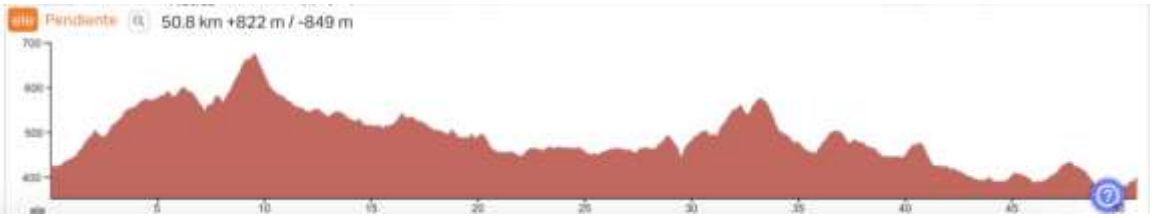
Day 3: Pamplona – Estella
Continue your journey through the Navarra region, starting with a stop at **Cizur Menor**, a charming village near Pamplona where the peaceful countryside begins to unfold. Ascend the **Alto del Perdón**, a mountain offering breathtaking views of Pamplona and the surrounding valleys. Descend through **Uterga**, **Muruzábal** (home to the Santa María de Eunate Church), and **Óbanos**, before reaching **Puente la Reina**, a key Camino crossroads. Here, cross the iconic medieval bridge, celebrated as one of Spain's most beautiful. Travel through **Calle Mayor** and scenic country roads to **Cirauqui**, entering through the Gothic gate of its ancient city walls and riding over remnants of a Roman road. Pass the villages of **Lorca** and **Villatuerta**, crossing the **Salado River bridge** before arriving in **Estella (Lizarra)**, a city renowned for its historical buildings and medieval charm.

Accommodation and breakfast in Estella
Distance: 46,1 km / 28,6 mi
Ascent / Descent: +831m / -857m



Day 4: Estella – Logroño
The journey resumes from Estella toward the famous **Fuente del Vino** and the majestic **Monastery of Irache**, both essential stops for every pilgrim. The landscape transforms, alternating between vast grain fields and the first endless **Rioja vineyards**. After overcoming the climb to **Villamayor de Monjardín**, where you can admire the Romanesque **Fuente de los Moros**, the route continues through rolling hills and rural villages such as **Los Arcos**, **Sansol**, and **Torres del Río**. Cycling through olive and almond groves, you will reach the charming town of **Viana**, before finally descending toward **Logroño**, the vibrant regional capital and the beating heart of the local **food and wine culture**.

Accommodation and breakfast in Logroño
Distance: 50,8 km / 31,6 mi
Ascent / Descent: +822m / -849m



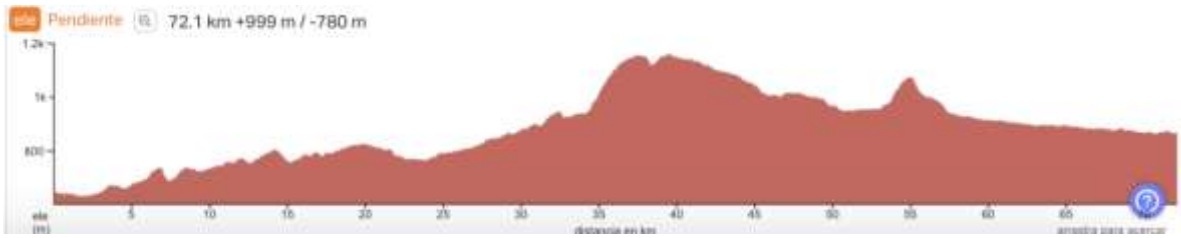
Day 5: Logroño – Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Leaving Logroño through the refreshing **Grajera Park**, you will cycle towards **Navarrete**, home to the ruins of the ancient **Hospital of San Juan de Acre**. The route continues with a climb up **Monte de San Antón** to reach **Nájera** and its stunning **Monastery of Santa María la Real**. After crossing the picturesque **Cañas Valley** and the village of **Azofra**, you will finally arrive in **Santo Domingo de la Calzada**. Here, you can discover the famous legend of the rooster and the hen that "sang after being roasted," the undisputed symbol of this historic stage of the Camino.

Accommodation and breakfast in Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Distance: 49,8 km / 30,9 mi
Ascent / Descent: +775m / -531m



Day 6: Santo Domingo de la Calzada – Burgos
Today you will enter the heart of the **Castilian plateau**, crossing the border between La Rioja and Castile between the villages of **Grañón** and **Redecilla del Camino**. The route takes you through **Belorado**, dominated by castle ruins and ancient hermit caves, before climbing toward the **Montes de Oca**: one of the most spectacular panoramic viewpoints of the entire trip. Before concluding the stage, you will pass through **Atapuerca**, a world-famous archaeological site housing ancient remains of early human life. Your arrival is in **Burgos**, where the majestic **Gothic Cathedral** and an excellent culinary scene await you—perfect for recovering your energy.

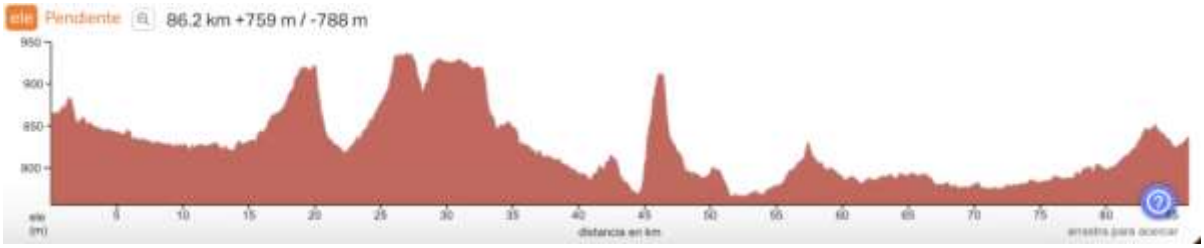
Accommodation and breakfast in Burgos
Distance: 72 km / 44,7 mi
Ascent / Descent: +999m / -780m



Day 7: Burgos – Carrión de los Condes
You will leave Burgos by cycling along the historic **Calle Ferrán González** and crossing the **Malatos Bridge**. The route winds through the evocative wheat fields of Castile, passing through charming villages like **Hontanas**, the ruins of the **Convent of San Antón**, and **Castrojeriz**. A challenge awaits with the ascent to **Mostelares**, a natural balcony offering an unparalleled view of

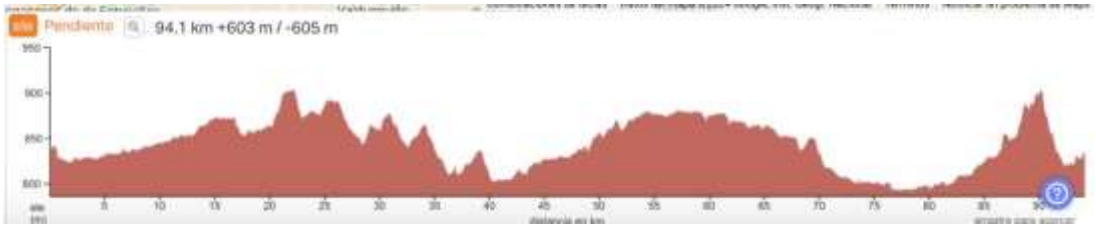
the plateau. Descending toward the Pisuerga River, you will encounter the **Canal de Castilla**, an 18th-century engineering masterpiece that will accompany you to **Frómista**. From there, a few flat kilometers separate you from **Carrión de los Condes**, a town with an exceptional historical heritage.

Accommodation and breakfast in Carrión de los Condes
Distance: 86,2 km / 53,6 mi
Ascent / Descent: +759m / -788m



Day 8: Carrión de los Condes – León
Today's stage features a long but smooth route through the lands of Castile. You will cycle through the villages of **Calzadilla de la Cueza**, **Lédigos**, **Terradillos de los Templarios**, and **Moratinos** until you reach **Sahagún**, a city with a rich artistic and historical heritage. After crossing the **Cea River**, you will pass through **Bercianos del Camino** toward **El Burgo Ranero**, continuing then to **Mansilla de las Mulas** and **Villarente**. One final, short but steep climb will reward you with the most beautiful view: the city of **León** spread out at your feet, ready to welcome you with its millennial elegance.

Accommodation and breakfast in León
Distance: 94,1 km / 58,5 mi
Ascent / Descent: +603m / -605m



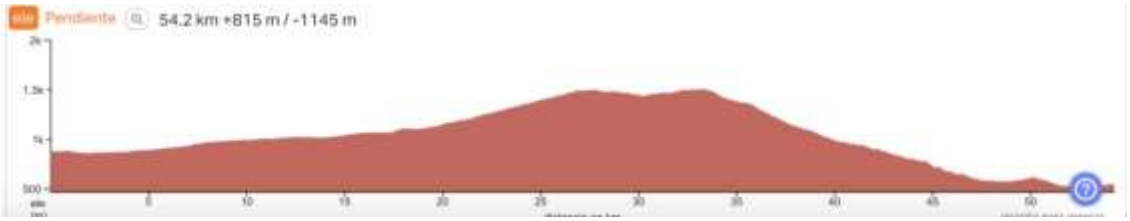
Day 9: León – Astorga
After breakfast, you will resume your journey with the final goal of Santiago drawing ever closer. Leaving the elegance of **León** behind, you will cycle toward **Santo Toribio**, a privileged viewpoint from which you can admire the city of **Astorga** in all its beauty. This stage is particularly significant as it represents the first day for those participating in the **8-day version** of the trip. Once you reach your destination, you will find yourself immersed in a city rich in history, where the genius of **Gaudí** and the ancient **Roman walls** truly stand out.

Accommodation and breakfast in Astorga
Distance: 54 km / 33,5 mi
Ascent / Descent: +452m / -414m



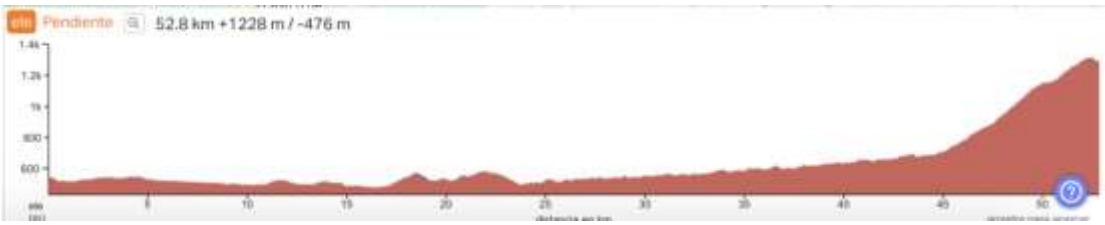
Day 10: Astorga – Ponferrada
After breakfast, you will tackle one of the most meaningful climbs of the journey toward the **Cruz de Ferro**. Standing at 1,550 meters, it is the highest point of the entire French Way, where tradition invites pilgrims to leave a small stone brought from home. After a well-deserved rest, you will cross the **Montes de León** before diving into a breathtaking panoramic descent that leads you into the **Bierzo Valley**. The stage concludes in **Ponferrada**, famous for its imposing **Templar Castle** that dominates the city.

Accommodation and breakfast in Ponferrada
Distance: 54,2 km / 33,6 mi
Ascent / Descent: +815m / -1145m



Day 11: Ponferrada – O Cebreiro
The day begins by leaving Ponferrada behind, cycling through the famous **Bierzo vineyards** to reach the **Valcarce River valley**. Keep your camera ready: this stretch offers natural views of rare beauty. After saying goodbye to the last villages in the province of León, you will tackle the demanding but spectacular ascent that marks your entry into **Galicia**. The stage concludes in **O Cebreiro**, an ancient, enchanted village famous for its ***pallozas*** (pre-Romanesque stone and thatch dwellings) and a timeless atmosphere, often shrouded in the mystical mists of the Galician mountains.

Accommodation and breakfast in O Cebreiro
Distance: 52,8 km / 32,8 mi
Ascent / Descent: +1228m / -476m



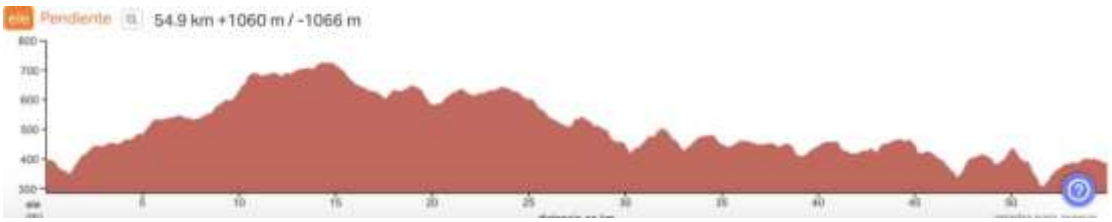
Day 12: O Cebreiro – Portomarín
Today, cycle through the lush, green hills of **Galicia**. Descend into **Triacastela** and pass through **Sarria**, an important stop for pilgrims. End the day in **Portomarín**, a charming village located along the banks of the **Miño River**. The original village lies submerged under water, having been rebuilt on higher ground, with the impressive **San Nicolás Church** as its centerpiece.

Accommodation and breakfast in Portomarín
Distance: 69,5 km / 32,8 mi
Ascent / Descent: +1002m / -1903m



Dag 13: Portomarín – Arzúa
This stage offers a scenic combination of forests, rolling hills, and quaint villages. Pass **Monte de Ligonde** and **Palas de Rei**, known for their medieval history. A highlight of the day is **Melide**, renowned for its delicious **pulpo a feira** (Galician-style octopus). Continue cycling to **Ribadiso**, an idyllic spot by a stream, and finish the day in **Arzúa**, a town famous for its traditional **Galician cheese**.

Accommodation and breakfast in Arzúa
Distance: 54,9 km / 34,1 mi
Ascent / Descent: +1060m / -1066m



Dag 14: Arzúa – Santiago de Compostela
The final day has arrived! Cycle through green paths and forests towards **Monte do Gozo**, where you will catch your first glimpse of the towers of the **Santiago Cathedral**. After an emotional arrival at the **Praza do Obradoiro**, you'll have the rewarding moment of reaching your ultimate destination. **YOU DID IT!**
Visit the **Santiago Cathedral** and immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of **Santiago de Compostela**.

Accommodation and breakfast in Santiago
Distance: 54 km /34 mi
Ascent / Descent: +690m / -821m



Dag 15: Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast, your unforgettable cycling journey through Spain concludes. Congratulations on completing the **Camino de Santiago**!

Accommodations:

The accommodations for this trip have been carefully selected based on quality and location, as close to the route as possible. They have been evaluated for their comfort, especially for cyclists. The overnight stays range from 1- to 4-star hotels, guesthouses (1-3 stars), to countryside lodgings, always with a private bathroom and delicious meals.

Prices per person (15 day tour):

- In double room with breakfast: € 1.660,00
- In single room with breakfast: € 2.420
- In triple room p.p. € 1.545
- Rental of trekking bike: € 410
- Rental of E-bike: € 835

Prices per person (8 day tour):

- In double room with breakfast: € 835
- In single room with breakfast: € 1.240
- In triple room p.p. € 775
- Rental of trekking bike: € 285
- Rental of E-bike: € 475

Included in the tour:

- Overnight stay with breakfast
- Luggagetransfer (één piece of max. 20 kg per person)
- Pilgrims passport (credencial)
- Digital tour guide
- Route notes
- Access to the navigation App
- Telephone assistance

Not included in the price:

- Cancelation-, medical- and luggage insurance that we strongly advise to stipulate
- Diner, lunch and snacks
- Entrance of museums
- All what not is mentioned under "included in the tour"

Cancellation Policy:

As a customer, you can cancel the trip by notifying the organization as soon as possible. We aim to be as flexible as possible. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, we will do our best to reschedule the trip dates free of charge within the same year.
For cancellations before the start date, the following cancellation fees apply:

- More than 30 days in advance: 30% of the trip cost
- Between 30 and 15 days in advance: 60% of the trip cost
- Less than 14 days in advance: 100% of the trip cost

Bike rental:

There is the choice of MTB, trekking bikes or E-bikes.

In the rental is included:

- Drop off bike at the first hotel and pick up bike end of tour
- Helmet
- Repair kit
- Lock
- Charger for the ebike

Start/End: Roncesvalles or Leon/ Santiago de Compostela

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