



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



# El Camino de Santiago

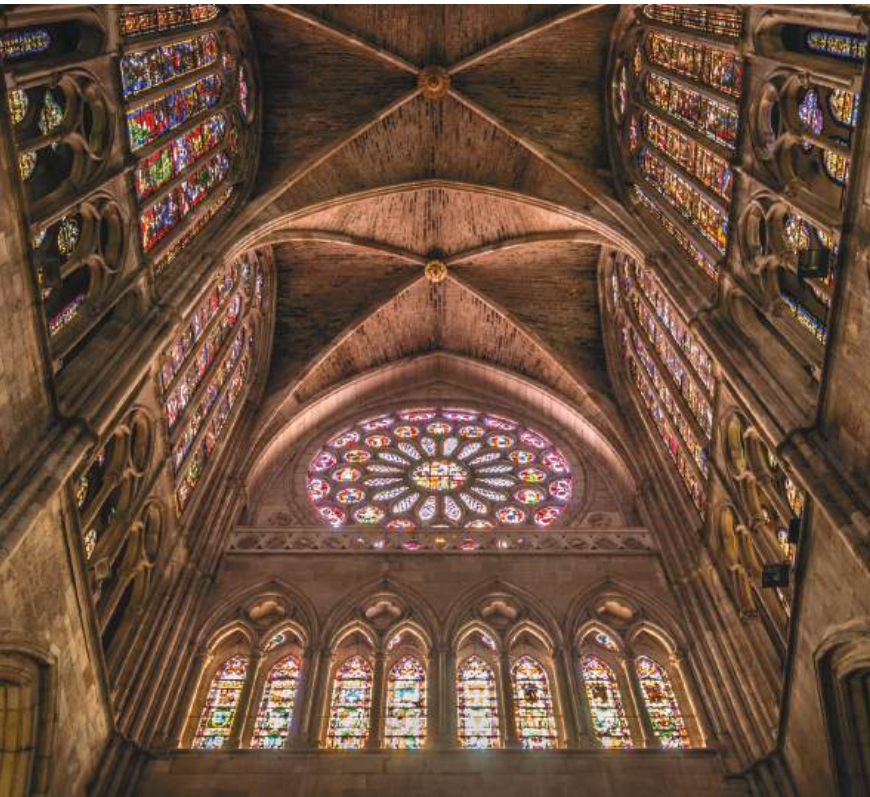
## A Walking Tour In Northern Spain

April 9 - 21, 2027

# El Camino de Santiago

## A Walking Tour In Northern Spain

For more than a millennium, pilgrims have walked the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James, to the Shrine of the Apostle at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. On this active program, hike the most interesting sections of the Camino, enjoying exquisite cuisine, regional wines, breathtaking architecture, and splendid hotels en route. Daily walks average 3.5 miles. This journey on the classic Camino concludes with Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where the traditional incense-burning ceremony will be performed.



León Cathedral, León (top) and map of the region (above)

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Begin a series of walks along the Camino in Roncesvalles, one of the main entrances to the famous pilgrimage trail, and end in Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as has been done for centuries
- Admire awe-inspiring cathedrals and monasteries in Nájera, Burgos, León, and other pilgrimage cities along the way, and enjoy leisure time to explore Spain's lovely Galicia region
- Experience midday Mass at the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where the famous *Botafumeiro* ritual will be performed
- Go behind the scenes of several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that line the Camino, including the French Gothic-style Burgos Cathedral, with its opulent Renaissance *retablo*
- Enjoy private tours of Antoni Gaudí's unique architectural wonders along the Camino, including Casa Botines, his 19th-century interpretation of Gothic style in León
- Journey to Cape Finisterre, once considered the end of the Earth, to watch the sun set into the Atlantic Ocean
- Hear Gregorian chants performed by the world-famous monks of the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, whose two-story cloister is considered a masterpiece of Romanesque art



Old Quarter, Pamplona

### DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart home independently on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

### DAY 2: MADRID, SPAIN / PAMPLONA

Arrive in **Pamplona** in the late afternoon and transfer to the **Hotel Tres Reyes**. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a welcome reception for an *aperitif*.

R

### DAY 3: PAMPLONA / RONCESVALLES / PAMPLONA

A morning lecture will set the stage for a walking tour of **Pamplona's Old Quarter**. Explore landmarks across the city's history, including the **Town Hall** with its Baroque façade, the Gothic **Church of San Saturnino**, and the 13th-century **Cathedral of Santa María la Real**, the final resting place of King Charles III of Navarre.

After lunch at leisure, our journey leads to **Roncesvalles**, a historic starting point on the Way of St. James. Here, receive your *credencial* (pilgrim passport) to mark your route.

Return to Pamplona early this evening and gather for a welcome dinner.

B,L,D

*Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles.*

### DAY 4: PAMPLONA / MURUZÁBAL / PUENTE LA REINA / ESTELLA / LAGUARDIA

Travel by coach to the Romanesque **Church of Santa María de Eunate**. Renowned for its distinctive octagonal structure, this 12th-century sanctuary has been a historical waypoint for pilgrims converging from different routes on the Camino de Santiago. Next, a brief walk along the Camino leads you to **Puente La Reina**, a medieval town named after its iconic "Queen's Bridge," which spans the Arga River with seven semicircular arches. There will be time to explore and enjoy lunch on your own.

Continue your journey to **Estella**, where you will explore the **Church of San Pedro de la Rúa**, celebrated for its exquisite 12th-century cloister. Conclude your day in the Rioja Alavesa wine region and the fortified town of **Laguardia**. The **Hotel Villa de Laguardia**, surrounded by lush vineyards, will be home for the next two nights. Dinner is at a local restaurant, featuring regional cuisine and wines.

B,D

*Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles.*

### DAY 5: LAGUARDIA / LOGROÑO

*(Rest Day, with walking for sightseeing only)*

Following a morning lecture, drive to the lively university city of **Logroño** to see its lovely **Old Quarter**. Amid its charming streets lies the 12th-century **Church of San Bartolomé**. Once a fragment of the ancient city walls, the church's bell tower now serves as a vantage point, offering climbers panoramic vistas of Logroño's beauty.

At the **Co-Cathedral of Santa María de La Redonda**, take a special look at *The Calvary*, a painting attributed to Michelangelo, and the carvings of Spanish Baroque sculptor Gregorio Fernández. Lunch is at **Bodegas Baigorri**, where Rioja Alavesa is produced.

Return to Laguardia and visit the late 12th-century **Church of Santa María de los Reyes**, which once was part of the town's fortress. Explore its 15th-century sanctuary, an amalgamation of Gothic, Renaissance, and even Baroque influences. Stroll through Laguardia's medieval streets, stopping in some of the numerous cellars to taste or buy some magnificent local wines. Back at the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

B,L

### DAY 6: LAGUARDIA / NÁJERA / AZOFRA / SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA / BURGOS

Depart for **Nájera**, the former capital of the Kingdom of Navarre, where you will visit the **Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Nájera**. Built as a royal foundation in the 11th century, the monastery is the burial place of many of the kings, queens, and knights of Navarre.

Continue walking on the Camino to **Azofra**, then drive to **Santo Domingo de la Calzada** for lunch and a visit to the cathedral and the 12th-century **Pilgrims' Hospital**, now a hostel for pilgrims situated among its network of medieval streets.



Puente La Reina



Burgos

Upon arrival in **Burgos**, visit the **Monasterio de las Huelgas**, a 12th-century Cistercian monastery, a royal burial place, a spiritual retreat for noble women, and an influential center of religious and political power in Castile. Check into the **Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos**, our home for the next two nights. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

*Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles.*

### DAY 7: BURGOS

This morning, discover the sumptuous **Burgos Cathedral**, one of the largest churches in Spain and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The cathedral's Gothic façade, dating back to the 12th century, ranks among Europe's most awe-inspiring architectural marvels. Admire its resplendent interior featuring myriad chapels, a cloister, appended structures, and 38 altarpieces.

Then drive to the monastery of **Santo Domingo de Silos**, which dates from the seventh century and is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. While there, experience a Gregorian chant performed by the world-famous monks of Silos. Later, stroll along a delightful Camino path through an oak and pine forest leading to the peaceful valley of the **Río Vena**. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

*Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles.*

### DAY 8: BURGOS / CALZADA DEL COTO / CALZADILLA DE LOS HERMANILLOS / LEÓN

Drive this morning to the little village of **Calzada del Coto** to begin a beautiful hike along this stretch of the Camino to Calzadilla de los Hermanillos. After a *tapas* lunch at a popular pilgrim restaurant, continue to **León**, where you will check into the **Parador de León** and have the remainder of the day and dinner at leisure.

Take a stroll and see the 14th-century **Palacio del Conde Luna**, the former seat of the Kingdom of León. The palace, distinguished by its 16th-century three-story Renaissance tower, underwent an extensive \$26 million restoration in 2009. Stop at the **Casa de las Carnicerías**, with its lovely 16th-century Renaissance architecture and ornate carvings. B,L

*Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles.*

### DAY 9: LEÓN

Start your day with a lecture, then follow the Camino within the walls of León. Here, discover Antonio Gaudí's neo-Gothic, late 19th-century palace **Casa Botines**, one of only three buildings by Gaudí beyond Catalonia. (You will see another Gaudí creation tomorrow.)

Visit the soaring 13th-century **León Cathedral**, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, with nearly 2,000 square feet of stained glass from the 13th through to the 20th centuries, encompassing 130 church windows and three rose windows.

Then see the **Basilica of San Isidoro**, the most important Romanesque church of the Iberian Peninsula, featuring the Pantheon of Kings, known as the "Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art." The remainder of the day is at leisure. B

*Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles.*

### DAY 10: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Today's journey on the Camino ventures into the glorious open countryside of the *páramo* (treeless grassland) with its rich red earth. Drive to **Astorga**, the crossroads of several major pilgrim routes. Admire Gaudí's **Bishop's Palace**, which features a museum devoted to the pilgrimage, before lunch at leisure.



Pilgrims walking El Camino de Santiago trail

Continue to **Ponferrada** and the magnificent 12th-century **Templar Castle**, which towers over the town's historic quarter and houses the Templars' Library. Dinner and overnight are at the **Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo**. B,D  
*Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles.*

### DAY 11: VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO / MONTE DO GOZO / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / CAPE FINISTERRE

Experience the history of **Villafranca del Bierzo**, the final major stop on the Camino. Enjoy a brief walking tour here to view the town's significant monuments, including Plaza Mayor, Calle del Agua, and Los Marqueses Castle, before driving to **Monte do Gozo** for lunch. The spires of the magnificent **Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela** will be visible as you join other pilgrims walking the last few miles of the Camino.

Then check into the **San Francisco Hotel Monumento** in the heart of **Santiago de Compostela**. Late this evening an optional excursion is arranged to "the end of the Earth" at **Cape Finisterre**. Enjoy the sunset from the cape with a glass of Cava. Otherwise, enjoy a free evening with dinner at leisure. B,L  
*Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles.*

### DAY 12: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (Rest Day, with walking for sightseeing only)

A morning walking tour includes the highlights of this UNESCO-listed historic town, which is the final destination of the Camino. Complete the pilgrim experience at **the majestic cathedral's noon Mass**, where you will witness the famous *Botafumeiro* ritual, in which a massive censer swings high above the cathedral's nave, operated by eight *tiraboleiros*. Crafted in 1851, the five-foot-tall, 120-pound golden *Botafumeiro* ranks among the largest censers globally.



*Botafumeiro ritual, Santiago de Compostela*



*Cape Finisterre*

Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Visit the Plaza del Obradoiro or Raxoi Palace, or stop at the city's food market. You can also enjoy *tapas* on Franco or Reiña Streets before gathering tonight for our farewell dinner. B,D

### DAY 13: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN

Depart the hotel and transfer to the Santiago de Compostela airport early this morning for the flight home with a connection through Madrid. B



*Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela*

**DISCLAIMER:** *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Hotel Tres Reyes, Pamplona

This perfectly situated hotel near the town's historic center houses elegant and spacious rooms with modern amenities and complimentary Wi-Fi.

### Hotel Villa de Laguardia, Laguardia

This four-star property, nestled among vineyards in Rioja Alavesa, offers 84 rooms, a luxurious spa, and two top-notch restaurants serving up delectable gastronomic and wine experiences.

### Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos, Burgos

This 16th- and 17th-century building houses 110 elegant and spacious rooms, featuring a clever fusion of classic and contemporary design.

### Parador de León, León

Originally built in the 16th century to house the Military Order of Saint James, this magnificent property features stately function rooms, a spectacular cloister and chapter house, elegant guest rooms, a library, and a wonderful restaurant serving up beautifully prepared traditional cuisine.

### Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo, Villafranca del Bierzo

Discover this beautiful *parador* in the charming El Bierzo district, nestled among picturesque mountains and surrounded by cherry and fig trees, chestnuts, poplars, and small farms at the entrance of Villafranca del Bierzo.

### San Francisco Hotel Monumento, Santiago de Compostela

Minutes from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, enjoy the tranquility of an 18th-century Franciscan convent with four-star amenities, including a heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi.



Hotel Villa de Laguardia, Laguardia (top) and Parador de León, León (above)



San Francisco Hotel Monumento, Santiago de Compostela

### PROGRAM RATE

\$TBD per person, double rate

\$TBD single rate

### RATES INCLUDE

- Eleven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Call 888.484.8785 [nationaltrusttours.com](http://nationaltrusttours.com)