



Insider's
C A M I N O

The French Way Itinerary

Classic Walking Camino Pilgrimage

Madrid to Santiago de Compostela

Walking the ancient paths in
faith, fellowship, and discovery

Contents



Welcome To Your French Way Pilgrimage	3
At A Glance	4
What's Included	5
What's Not Included	6
What To Pack	7
Preparing For Your Pilgrimage	9
Day 1	
Welcome to Madrid	11
Day 2	
Art, blessing and an evening of tradition	13
Day 3	
Astorga and arrival in Camino country	15
Day 4	
First steps: Sarria to Portomarín	17
Day 5	
Views, Cruceiros and a Country Hotel	19
Day 6	
Rolling Country to Palas de Rei and O Coto	21
Day 7	
Melide, Bridges and Arzúa Cheese	23
Day 8	
The Last Full Day on the Trail	25
Day 9	
Walking into Santiago Together	27
Day 10	
Exploring Santiago and farewell dinner	29
Day 11	
Homeward journey	31
Bringing The Camino Home	33
Testimonials	34
Terms & Booking Information	35
Contact & Next Steps	37

Welcome To Your French Way Pilgrimage



For centuries, pilgrims from across Europe have walked to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino Francés—the French Way. This 11-day pilgrimage follows the classic final stretch from Sarria to Santiago, framed by time in Madrid to open the journey and two nights at the Parador in Santiago to close it.

You begin in Spain's capital, where art, history, and flamenco set the stage for what's ahead. A private talk by historian Giles Tremlett and a guided visit to the Prado Museum ground the pilgrimage in Spain's complex story. After receiving a pilgrim's blessing at the Anglican cathedral, you travel north via the medieval city of Astorga to Sarria, where the walking begins.

Over six walking days, you follow the final 73 miles of the French Way through Galician countryside—woodland paths, farm tracks, stone bridges, and village streets marked by yellow arrows and scallop shells. Each day offers optional stages of 10-14 miles, with a private coach traveling alongside. This means confident walkers can complete full stages while others choose shorter distances or travel by coach—without anyone feeling pressured or left behind.

Along the way, you stay in carefully chosen properties from rural spa hotels to a traditional Galician estate. You gather each evening for good food, reflection, and fellowship. There's time for worship shaped with your church leaders, visits to Romanesque churches, and a pilgrims' service with Galician music as Santiago draws near.

We walk, we pray, we eat well, and we make time for silence and conversation. This is pilgrimage shaped for church communities—honoring the ancient tradition while caring for the needs of a modern parish group.

Buen Camino!

At A Glance



The French Way: Madrid to Santiago de Compostela

Quick Reference

Duration	11 days / 10 nights
Walking Days	6 days
Total Distance	~73 miles / 117 km
Daily Stages	10-14 miles (16-23km)
Terrain	Gentle to Moderate
Group Size	16-30 pilgrims
Compostela	Yes (100km+ walked)

Route Overview

Madrid (2 nights) → Astorga → Sarria → Portomarín
→ Airexe → O Coto → Arzúa → O Pedrouzo →
Santiago de Compostela (2 nights)

Walking Profile

Six walking days cover approximately 73 miles / 117km from Sarria to Santiago, following the classic final section of the Camino Francés. Daily stages range from 10-14 miles at a gentle, group-friendly pace. Terrain includes woodland paths, farm tracks, quiet country lanes, and village streets. The route is well-marked with yellow arrows and scallop shell markers. There are gentle climbs, particularly leaving Portomarín, but nothing steep or technical.

Flexibility Built In

A private coach travels with the group each day, offering:

- Transport for luggage between hotels
- Option to skip sections and rejoin the group later
- Scheduled stops for water, coffee, and rest
- Support for anyone needing a shorter day

Spiritual Rhythm

Each day includes opportunities for:

- Morning prayer or reflection before walking
- Silent walking or conversation as you prefer
- Visiting churches and sites connected to the Camino story
- Evening gatherings for worship (shaped with your church leaders)
- Pilgrim's Mass at Santiago Cathedral

Madrid Opening

Unlike other Camino routes, the French Way includes two nights in Madrid at the start of your journey:

- Guided visit to the Prado Museum with an art historian
- Talk by historian Giles Tremlett on Spain's history and character
- Pilgrim's blessing at the Anglican Cathedral del Redentor
- Private visit and dinner at Botín, the world's oldest restaurant
- Traditional flamenco show

What's Included



Accommodations

- 2 nights in Madrid (5★ hotel in the historic center)
- 6 nights in comfortable 3-4★ spa hotels and country properties along the Way
- 2 nights in Santiago (5★ Parador de Santiago on Obradoiro Square)
- All rooms en suite

Meals

- Breakfast daily
- Dinner with wine each evening
- Welcome dinner in Madrid
- Farewell dinner at the Parador in Santiago
- One included lunch in Madrid (other lunches at your own expense)

Transportation

- Private coach throughout from Madrid to Santiago
- Optional airport transfers (if group arrives/ departs together)

Guidance & Support

- Insider's Camino host traveling with your group
- Local Camino guide (two guides for groups of 24+)
- Pre-trip online Q&A sessions
- Private pilgrim web page for your group with detailed information
- On-the-ground support throughout

Experiences & Visits

- Guided tour of the Prado Museum with an art historian
- Talk by historian Giles Tremlett
- Pilgrim's blessing at the Anglican Catedral del Redentor in Madrid
- Private visit and dinner at Botín restaurant
- Traditional flamenco show in Madrid
- Guided tour of Astorga Cathedral and Gaudi's Episcopal Palace
- Pilgrims' service with Galician music at a rural estate
- Guided tour of Santiago Cathedral and its museum
- Visit to Casa Anglicana (Anglican Pilgrim Centre)
- Pilgrim's Mass at Santiago Cathedral (with botafumeiro when scheduled)
- All entrance fees as per itinerary

Pilgrimage Essentials

- Pilgrim Passport (Credencial)
- Scallop shell
- Daily route briefings
- Opportunity to receive Compostela certificate in Santiago

Built-In Charitable Giving

- \$200 per pilgrim donated to Friends of the Anglican Pilgrim Centre in Santiago, supporting their ministry to pilgrims from around the world

What's Not Included



Travel Arrangements

- International flights to Madrid and from Santiago and airport transfers
- Travel insurance (required—see details below)
- Visas (if required for your nationality)

Additional Meals

- Most lunches (typically purchased at cafés or bars along the way—budget €10-15 per day)
- Drinks beyond those included with dinner
- Snacks, coffee stops during walking

Personal Items

- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and hotel staff (budget €150-200 per person for the full trip)
- Personal spending money
- Laundry services (available at most hotels)

Optional Extras

- Single room supplement (if you prefer private accommodation)
- Extensions in Madrid, Santiago, or elsewhere in Spain

Travel Insurance — Required

All pilgrims must have comprehensive travel insurance covering:

- Medical expenses and emergency evacuation
- Trip cancellation/interruption
- Lost or delayed baggage
- Personal liability

We recommend purchasing insurance at the time of booking to maximize coverage for pre-existing conditions and unforeseen cancellations.

What To Pack



Before You Begin to Pack

The French Way is a walking pilgrimage, which means the size and weight of your luggage really matter. Pack only what you truly need — think light and tight.

You carry only a daypack during the walking day, so there will be moments when you'll need to handle your main bag yourself. Before the trip, practice carrying both your main bag and daypack together to make sure you're comfortable with the weight.

A downloadable packing checklist is available on our website at insiderscamino.com

Footwear: The Foundation of Your Journey

- **Broken-in walking boots** — Your most critical piece of gear. Choose boots with good ankle support or shoes according to preference and break them in thoroughly on training walks before the trip. Do not bring new boots on the Camino.
- **Sneakers** — A versatile backup and perfect for evenings after a long day's walk
- **Sandals or flip flops** — Great for letting your feet breathe in the evenings, especially in warmer weather
- **Optional smarter shoes** — If you like to dress up for dinner, a pair of smart casual shoes is perfectly reasonable. Entirely optional.

Clothing: Comfort and Layering

- **Water-repellent outer layer** — A lightweight, packable rain jacket is essential. Weather on the Portuguese Way can be unpredictable, particularly in Galicia.
- **Warmer outer layer** — A fleece or pullover for cool mornings and evenings

- **Lightweight hiking pants and shorts** — Loose-fitting, quick-drying fabrics. Bring a mix depending on the season.
- **Quick-wicking hiking shirts** — Avoid cotton. Synthetic or merino wool fabrics that wick moisture away from your body are far more comfortable on walking days.
- **Undergarments** — Quick-drying, moisture-wicking underwear
- **Hiking socks with silk liners** — Invest in good-quality hiking socks. Silk liners provide an extra layer of protection against blisters and are well worth packing.
- **Loose, comfortable clothes for evenings** — After a day of walking, you'll want something easy and relaxed to change into

Health & Wellness

- **Compeed gel plasters** — The gold standard for blister prevention and treatment. Available in Spanish pharmacies, but bring a supply from home.
- **Vaseline** — Apply to your feet before putting on socks or liners to reduce friction and prevent blisters. A small tub goes a long way.
- **Sunscreen and sun hat** — A hat with a brim is essential for shade and comfort on open stretches
- **Insect repellent** — Depending on the season, insects can sometimes be a nuisance in Galicia's forests and river valleys
- **Personal medications** — Bring enough for the full trip plus a few days' extra
- **Basic first aid** — Antiseptic wipes, pain relief, any prescription medications

What To Pack



Essential Gear

- **Daypack** — Choose a backpack (20-30 liters) with both chest and hip closures, or a waist pack if you prefer. These closures distribute weight properly and make a significant difference on longer days.
- **Water bottle or Camelbak** — Staying hydrated is crucial. A 1-1.5 liter bottle is sufficient most days, or consider a Camelbak hydration system for hands-free drinking on the go.
- **Hiking poles** — Invaluable for stability on uneven terrain and for reducing strain on knees and joints, particularly on descents. Collapsible poles work well for coach travel.

Personal Items

- **Hairdryer** — Most hotels provide one, but not all. If you rely on one, pack a small travel hairdryer with a European adaptor.
- **Hand-wash soap for laundry** — For those times when you want to wash clothes in the sink rather than use a hotel laundry service
- **Washcloth** — Not all accommodations provide washcloths, so bring one if you're used to having one
- **European power adaptor** — Spain and Portugal use the European two-pin plug (Type C/F). Essential for charging phones, cameras, and other devices.
- **Phone and camera** — The Portuguese Way is beautiful; you'll want to capture it

Nice to Have (If You Have Space)

- **Travel kettle** — If you love your morning tea or coffee before breakfast, a small travel kettle is a welcome luxury as many hotels do not supply them
- **Small notebook and pen** — For journaling, sketching, or noting down things that strike you along the way
- **Devotional items** — Prayer book, Bible, or whatever you carry in your faith life

What NOT to Bring

- **Heavy books** — Download to your phone or e-reader instead
- **Valuables** — Leave jewelry and anything irreplaceable at home
- **Cotton hiking clothes** — They hold moisture and can cause chafing on long days
- **New, unbroken boots** — This is the single most common mistake on the Camino

Luggage Guidelines

- **Daypack:** Everything you need for the walking day — water, rain gear, snacks, personal items, phone
- **Main bag:** Maximum 20kg / 44lbs

Preparing For Your Pilgrimage



Physical Preparation

The French Way from Sarria to Santiago is one of the classic Camino routes, and our flexible format means you can walk as much or as little as you wish each day. That said, some preparation will help you enjoy the experience fully.

Recommended Training:

3-4 months before departure:

- Walk 3-4 times per week, gradually building distance
- Start with 3-5 miles and work up to 10-12 miles
- Practice on varied terrain (not just flat sidewalks)
- Wear your Camino shoes to break them in
- Carry a loaded daypack (3-5kg / 6-10lbs)

1 month before departure:

- Aim for at least one 10-mile walk per week
- Practice walking on consecutive days (if possible)
- Test your gear and clothing in different weather
- Notice what causes blisters or sore spots and adjust

Remember:

- You won't be alone - there will always be someone just in front or just behind
- You won't be rushed - we encourage you to walk at your own pace and to enjoy your surroundings
- The coach is available at regular stops if you need it
- Many pilgrims in their 60s, 70s, and 80s walk the Portuguese Way successfully

If you have mobility concerns, medical conditions, or haven't been active recently, please consult your doctor before the trip. Let us know about any limitations—we're experienced at supporting mixed-ability groups.

Spiritual Preparation

Pilgrimage is as much an inner journey as an outer one. Consider these practices in the weeks before you depart:

- Set an intention. What question, prayer, or hope are you bringing to the Camino?
- Make space for silence. Practice walking without music or conversation—the Camino offers gifts in the quiet.
- Read about the Way. We'll provide a reading list of books, articles, and pilgrim reflections.
- Pray for your fellow pilgrims. You may not know everyone yet, but you'll be walking in community.
- Release expectations. The Camino rarely unfolds as we imagine—and that's often where the grace is.

Your church leaders will have their own ideas about worship and reflection for the journey. We'll also schedule a pre-trip Q&A session where you can ask questions and meet your fellow pilgrims.

Preparing For Your Pilgrimage



What to Expect Each Day

A typical walking day unfolds like this:

Morning (7:00-8:30 am)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Brief gathering for route overview and weather check
- Luggage out for transfer
- Departure by coach or on foot

Walking (8:30 am-4:00 pm)

- Gentle, group-friendly pace
- Regular opportunities for pauses for water, coffee, photos
- Coach available for shorter days or fatigue
- Lunch at a bar-restaurant along the way, at your own pace
- Group gathers in a local bar for post walk refreshment

Afternoon (4:00-6:00 pm)

- Arrival at next hotel
- Check-in and rest time
- Shower, laundry, explore the town
- Free time for reflection or cafés

Evening (6:00-9:00 pm)

- Group gathering for dinner (typically 7:30-8:00 pm)
- Brief look ahead to the next day
- Optional worship or reflection (shaped with your leaders)

Some days include cultural visits (cathedrals and historic sites). We balance structure with spaciousness—time for the group and time for yourself.

In Madrid (Days 1-2):

The rhythm is different at the start, with guided visits, cultural experiences, and evening events. These two days help your group gather and set the tone before the walking begins.

Day 1

Home → Madrid



Welcome to Madrid

Today's Journey

We begin in Madrid, Spain's vibrant capital—a city of grand boulevards, baroque churches, and world-class museums. Pilgrims arrive independently throughout the day and settle into our 5-star hotel in the historic center. By evening, we're ready to gather.

Madrid may seem an unlikely starting point for a Camino pilgrimage, but it serves an important purpose. These first two days give the group time to arrive well, shake off jet lag, and come together as a community before the walking begins. They also offer a window into Spain's complex history and culture—the context that shaped the Camino and the faith that has sustained it for centuries.

This evening we meet for a welcome dinner hosted by Insider's Camino. Over good food and Spanish wine, we hear from historian Giles Tremlett, author of *Ghosts of Spain*, who gives us an insider's view of Spain's history, its diversity, and its contradictions. It's a fitting way to begin—grounding the pilgrimage in the story of the place we're about to walk through.

Today at a Glance

Walking	None
Time	Arrival day
Terrain	City streets
Key Sites	Central Madrid, welcome dinner

Insider's Tip

Madrid can feel overwhelming after a long flight, but the city is surprisingly walkable and the metro is excellent. If you arrive early, take time to walk through the Retiro Park or sit in the Plaza Mayor with a coffee. Don't try to do too much on Day 1—save your energy for the days ahead. And if you're nervous about the Spanish language, don't be: Madrid is well-used to international visitors, and a smile goes a long way.

Day 1 continued

Home → Madrid



Welcome to Madrid

Today's Rhythm

- Independent arrivals in Madrid throughout the day
- Check-in at our 5-star hotel in the historic center
- Time to rest, explore nearby streets, or walk off jet lag
- Evening gathering in the hotel for welcome dinner
- Talk by historian Giles Tremlett on Spain's history and character
- Early night to recover from travel

Spiritual Focus Today

Beginning our pilgrimage together—gathering as strangers who will become companions on the Way. What hopes, questions, or prayers are you bringing to this journey?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** NH Collection Suecia (or similar 5★), Madrid
- **Meals:** Dinner included (with wine)
- **Notes:** Arrive in Madrid by late afternoon if possible. If your flight is significantly delayed, we'll save you dinner and brief you in the morning. The hotel is centrally located and within walking distance of the Prado, Retiro Park, and main shopping districts.

Day 2

Madrid (on foot + coach)



Art, blessing and an evening of tradition

Today's Journey

After breakfast, we walk to the Prado Museum for a guided tour with an art historian. The Prado houses one of the world's great collections—Velázquez, Goya, Bosch, Van der Weyden—and our guide brings the paintings to life, showing how Spanish art reflects Spain's history, its imperial ambitions, its religious fervor, and its shadows.

From the Prado, we take a panoramic coach tour through central Madrid, seeing the Royal Palace, Gran Vía, and the monumental heart of the city. We finish at the Anglican Cathedral del Redentor, where we receive a pilgrim's blessing from Bishop Carlos López Lozano, Episcopal Bishop of Spain. Here we're given our Pilgrim Passports—the credencial that will be stamped along the Way—and scallop shells to wear or carry as we walk. A light buffet lunch follows at the cathedral.

The afternoon is free to rest, explore, or revisit parts of Madrid at your own pace. In the evening, we visit Restaurante Botín—certified by Guinness as the world's oldest restaurant, founded in 1725. We're given a private tour of the cellars and kitchens before sitting down to a traditional dinner of roast suckling pig or lamb cooked in the ancient wood-fired oven. After dinner, we walk to a nearby tablao for a traditional flamenco show—passionate, precise, and utterly Spanish.

We return to the hotel late, ready to leave Madrid in the morning and head north toward the Camino.

Today at a Glance

Walking	City walking
Time	Full day program
Terrain	City streets
Key Sites	Prado Museum, Anglican Cathedral, Botín

Insider's Tip

The Prado is vast—don't try to see everything. Trust your guide to show you the highlights, and let yourself be drawn to what moves you. As for Botín: it's touristy, yes, but it's also genuinely historic and the food is excellent. Hemingway wrote about it, and the building itself is remarkable. The flamenco show is not a Vegas-style performance—it's intimate, raw, and deeply rooted in Andalusian and Romani traditions. You'll either love it or find it too intense, but either way, you'll remember it.

Day 2 continued

Madrid (on foot + coach)



Art, blessing and an evening of tradition

Today's Rhythm

- Walk to the Prado Museum after breakfast
- Guided highlights tour with an art historian (Velázquez, Goya, Bosch, and more)
- Panoramic coach tour of central Madrid (Royal Palace, Gran Vía, historic center)
- Visit to the Anglican Catedral del Redentor for pilgrim's blessing
- Receive Pilgrim Passports and scallop shells
- Light buffet lunch at the cathedral
- Free afternoon to rest or explore Madrid independently
- Private visit and dinner at Botín, the world's oldest restaurant
- Traditional flamenco show at a nearby tablao
- Return to hotel for second and final night in Madrid

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** NH Collection Suecia (or similar 5★), Madrid
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner included (with wine)
- **Notes:** Today is a full day with a lot of walking and evening activities. Wear comfortable shoes. The flamenco show finishes late (around 11:00 pm), so pace yourself. Tomorrow we travel by coach to Astorga and then on to Galicia—pack tonight so you're ready for an early departure.

Spiritual Focus Today

Receiving the symbols of pilgrimage—the Pilgrim Passport and scallop shell—and reflecting on what it means to be marked as a pilgrim. How does it feel to step into this ancient tradition?

Day 3

Madrid → Astorga → Portomarín (coach)



Astorga and arrival in Camino country

Today's Journey

We leave Madrid by coach this morning, traveling north and west across the high plains of Castilla y León. The landscape is vast and open—wheat fields, distant mountains, and small villages huddled around Romanesque churches. After about three hours, we arrive in Astorga, a medieval city at the crossroads of the Camino Francés and the ancient Roman Silver Road.

Astorga has been a pilgrimage stop for centuries. Its 15th-century Cathedral of Santa María combines Gothic and Renaissance styles, with intricate stonework and a museum housing religious art and relics. Next door stands the Episcopal Palace, designed by Antoni Gaudí in the late 19th century—a fantastical building that looks more like a fairy-tale castle than a bishop's residence. Our guide takes us through both buildings, explaining their history and Astorga's role as a crossroads for pilgrims, traders, and armies.

After the tour, there's time for a light lunch at a local restaurant before we continue by coach into Galicia. The landscape shifts as we cross the mountains—greener, wetter, more wooded. By late afternoon we arrive in Portomarín, a town rebuilt in the 1960s when the original village was flooded to create a reservoir. We check into our hotel and gather for dinner together, knowing that tomorrow the walking begins. and admire the views before our dinner together.

Today at a Glance

Walking	None (coach day)
Time	Full travel day
Terrain	N/A
Key Sites	Astorga Cathedral, Gaudí Palace

Insider's Tip

Astorga is famous for its chocolate—the city has a long tradition of chocolate-making, and there are several artisan shops near the cathedral. If you have a sweet tooth, this is a good place to stock up on high-quality Spanish chocolate to take home. Gaudí's Episcopal Palace is wonderfully eccentric—it was commissioned by a Catalan bishop and never fully accepted by the conservative clergy of Astorga. The building sat empty for decades before becoming a museum. Look for the Gaudí flourishes: organic shapes, colorful ceramics, and light flooding through unexpected windows.

Day 3 continued

Madrid → Astorga → Portomarín (coach)



Astorga and arrival in Camino country

Today's Rhythm

- Checkout and depart Madrid by private coach (around 8:30 am)
- Scenic drive across Castilla y León toward Galicia (approximately 3.5 hours with stops)
- Arrive in Astorga mid-morning
- Guided visit to Astorga Cathedral and Gaudí's Episcopal Palace
- Light lunch at a local restaurant
- Continue by coach into Galicia (approximately 2 hours)
- Arrive in Portomarín by late afternoon
- Check into hotel and gather for dinner together

Spiritual Focus Today

Traveling toward the Camino—noticing the shift from city to countryside, from modern Spain to medieval roads. What are you leaving behind as this journey begins? What are you carrying with you?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Vistalegre Hotel-Spa (or similar), Portomarín
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner included
- **Notes:** Today is a long coach journey, so bring a book, journal, or entertainment for the drive. There will be comfort stops along the way. Portomarín is a small town—tonight is about rest and preparation for tomorrow's first walking stage. The hotel has a spa if you'd like to use the facilities before the walking begins.

Day 4

Sarria → Portomarín



First steps: Sarria to Portomarín

Today's Journey

After breakfast, we travel by coach to Sarria, where the walking begins. Sarria is where most pilgrims start the French Way—it's exactly 100 kilometers from Santiago, the minimum distance required on foot to receive the Compostela certificate. The town is lively with pilgrims arriving from all over the world, and there's a palpable sense of anticipation in the air.

From Sarria, the Camino leads us through gently rolling countryside—clusters of chestnut and oak trees, meadows dotted with wildflowers, and small stone villages where time seems to have slowed. We pass the villages of Barbadelo and Ferreiros, both with beautiful Romanesque churches where pilgrims have paused for centuries. The path is soft underfoot, the terrain manageable, and the yellow arrows guide us reliably forward.

About halfway through the day, we reach the 100-kilometer marker—a stone pillar beside the path. Many pilgrims stop here to take photos and mark the moment. From here, every step counts toward the Compostela.

As we approach Portomarín, the landscape opens up and we catch our first sight of the town across the Belesar Reservoir. The original Portomarín was flooded in the 1960s to create the reservoir, and the current town was rebuilt on higher ground. We cross the long bridge over the water and climb the steep streets into town, where the Romanesque church of San Nicolás—rescued stone by stone from the old village—stands as a reminder of what was lost and what endures.

We finish the day's walking in Portomarín and take a short coach ride back to our hotel for dinner.

Today at a Glance

Walking	14 miles / 22km
Time	5-6 hours
Terrain	Gentle
Key Sites	Sarria, 100km marker, Portomarín bridge

Insider's Tip

Sarria will be busier than anywhere else on the Camino—it's the most popular starting point because of the 100km rule. Don't let the crowds discourage you; within an hour of leaving town, the path quiets down. The Romanesque churches at Barbadelo and Ferreiros are worth pausing at—simple, beautiful, and often empty except for the odd pilgrim lighting a candle. And when you cross the bridge into Portomarín, look down: when the reservoir level is low, you can sometimes see the ruins of the old village beneath the water.

Day 4 continued

Sarria → Portomarín



First steps: Sarria to Portomarín

Today's Rhythm

- Breakfast at the hotel and luggage out for transfer
- Short coach ride to Sarria to begin walking (around 8:30 am)
- Walk through villages, farmland, and woodland from Sarria toward Portomarín
- Pass the 100km marker—a significant moment in the pilgrimage
- Visit Romanesque churches in Barbadelo and Ferreiros
- Approach Portomarín and cross the bridge over the Belesar Reservoir
- Climb into town and finish the day's walk
- Short coach transfer back to hotel for rest and dinner

Spiritual Focus Today

Beginning the walk together—finding our rhythm, noticing what it feels like to be on the path. The French Way has carried pilgrims for over a thousand years. What does it mean to walk in their footsteps?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Vistalegre Hotel-Spa (or similar), Portomarín
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** This is your first full walking day, so take it gently. Don't try to set records—just walk at a comfortable pace and enjoy being on the trail. If you feel tired or develop any hot spots on your feet, don't wait until they become blisters—stop at the bus for water or a rest. The coach is there to support you.

Day 5

Portomarín → Airexe



Views, Cruceiros and a Country Hotel

Today's Journey

We leave Portomarín this morning and climb steadily through woodland, rewarded with wide views over the Galician hills. The climb can feel demanding at first—especially if yesterday's stage is still in your legs—but it's manageable, and the views from the top are worth it. The landscape stretches out in all directions: green hills, stone villages, and farmland divided by ancient stone walls.

The route winds through peaceful hamlets like Gonzar and Ventas de Narón, where small cafés offer rest and refreshment. Along the way, we pass several cruceiros—ornate stone crosses that mark crossroads, boundaries, and holy sites. The most famous is the Cruceiro of Lameiros, carved with intricate detail and showing Christ on one side and the Virgin on the other. These crosses are everywhere in Galicia, and they're a reminder that the Camino is as much about faith and devotion as it is about walking.

As we approach Airexe, the trail levels out and the walking becomes easier. We finish the stage in the small village of Airexe, stamp our passports, and take a short coach ride to A Parada das Bestas—a renovated 18th-century country house surrounded by traditional stone pallozas in a rural setting. We stay here for two nights, which means tomorrow we can leave our luggage in the room and return here in the evening. Tonight we gather for dinner in the hotel dining room.

Today at a Glance

Walking	11 miles / 17km
Time	4-5 hours
Terrain	Gentle hills
Key Sites	Stone crosses, Cruceiro of Lameiros, Galician countryside

Insider's Tip

The climb out of Portomarín is the steepest you'll face on the French Way from Sarria to Santiago. Take your time, stop when you need to, and remember that it's not a race. Once you reach the top, the path undulates gently for the rest of the day. The cruceiros are worth pausing at—each one is different, carved by local artisans over centuries. The Cruceiro of Lameiros is particularly beautiful, with weathered stone that catches the light in the late morning. If you're interested in Galician culture, these crosses are everywhere, and they tell stories about the people who built them.

Day 5 continued →

Day 5 continued

Portomarín → Airexe



Views, Cruceiros and a Country Hotel

Today's Rhythm

- Breakfast at the hotel and luggage out for transfer
- Begin walking from Portomarín with a steady climb through woodland
- Rewarded with sweeping views of Galician countryside from the top
- Walk through peaceful hamlets like Gonzar and Ventas de Narón
- Pass stone crosses (cruceiros) including the famous Cruceiro of Lameiros
- Terrain levels out as we approach Airexe
- Finish walking in Airexe and take short coach ride to rural hotel-spa
- Settle into a renovated 18th-century country house for two nights
- Dinner in the hotel dining room

Spiritual Focus Today

Encountering the cruceiros—stone crosses that mark the landscape and the faith that shaped this region. What do symbols like these mean to you? How do we mark our own faith journeys?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** A Parada das Bestas (or similar), near Palas de Reii
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** We stay two nights here, so you can unpack a bit more fully tonight. Tomorrow's walk will bring us back to this hotel in the evening. The hotel has spa facilities—consider booking a massage or using the sauna if you're feeling sore after two days of walking.

Day 6

Airexe → O Coto



Rolling Country to Palas de Rei and O Coto

Today's Journey

This morning we return by coach to Airexe to continue the Camino toward Palas de Rei and O Coto. Today's stage winds through rolling countryside—gentle ups and downs, farm tracks, and quiet country lanes. The landscape is quintessentially Galician: green, lush, and dotted with small stone houses and hórreos (raised granaries) perched on granite pillars.

We pass through oak and eucalyptus woods, small creeks, and the rural villages of San Xulián and Casanova. The path is peaceful, the terrain manageable, and there's a rhythm to the walking that begins to feel natural by now.

Palas de Rei is a lively Camino town—one of the larger stops on this section of the Way. There are cafés, shops, a Romanesque church, and a palpable sense of Camino culture. Many pilgrims pause here for a mid-morning coffee or an early lunch. As more pilgrims join the route from other starting points, the trail becomes more social. You'll hear different languages, see different paces, and share brief conversations with fellow walkers.

From Palas de Rei, we continue through woods and farmland to O Coto, where today's walking ends. The coach meets us for the short transfer back to A Parada das Bestas for our second night.

Today at a Glance

Walking	10 miles / 16km
Time	4-5 hours
Terrain	Gentle
Key Sites	Palas de Rei, oak & eucalyptus woods, small villages

Insider's Tip

Palas de Rei is a good place to stop for a café con leche and a pastry—there are several cafés clustered around the main square. If you're running low on supplies (snacks, blister plasters, etc.), there's a small pharmacy and a couple of shops here. The trail from Palas de Rei onward becomes noticeably busier as pilgrims from other routes converge. Embrace it—the social energy of the Camino is part of the experience, and you'll find that even brief conversations with strangers can be surprisingly meaningful.

Day 6 continued

Airexe → O Coto



Rolling Country to Palas de Rei and O Coto

Today's Rhythm

- Breakfast at the hotel (no checkout required)
- Short coach ride back to Airexe to rejoin the Camino
- Walk through rolling countryside, oak and eucalyptus woods
- Pass through small rural villages (San Xulián, Casanova)
- Arrive in Palas de Rei, a lively Camino town with cafés and shops
- Continue through woods and farmland to O Coto
- Coach meets us for short transfer back to hotel
- Second night at Rio Pambre Hotel-Spa
- Dinner in the hotel dining room

Spiritual Focus Today

Walking with others—noticing the growing sense of community on the trail and the gift of shared journey. Pilgrimage is rarely solitary. How does walking with others shape your experience?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** A Parada das Bestas (or similar), near Palas de Rei
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** Today's stage is moderate and the terrain is gentle. This is a good day to settle into the rhythm of the Camino and enjoy the walking without pushing too hard. Tonight, same hotel as last night—you're halfway through the walking days.

Day 7

O Coto → Arzúa



Melide, Bridges and Arzúa Cheese

Today's Journey

We return by coach to O Coto and set out for Arzúa—one of the longer stages on this itinerary, but still manageable. The path leads us through woodland and farmland toward Melide, where the Camino Primitivo (the oldest pilgrimage route to Santiago) joins the Camino Francés. Melide is bustling with pilgrims, and the town is famous for its pulperías—restaurants serving Galician-style octopus (pulpo a feira). If you've never tried it, this is the place. Tender octopus drizzled with olive oil, sprinkled with paprika, and served on wooden plates—simple, delicious, and deeply traditional.

From Melide, the route continues along woodland paths and quiet country lanes. We pass through the hamlet of Ribadiso da Baixo, where a pretty medieval bridge crosses a stream. This is one of the loveliest spots on the French Way—ancient stone, clear water, and a sense of timelessness. Many pilgrims pause here to rest, refill water bottles, or simply take in the scene.

The final stretch into Arzúa takes us through villages on the outskirts of the town, which is known for its creamy queso de Arzúa—a soft, mild cheese that's been made here for centuries. We finish the day's walk in Arzúa, stamp our passports, and take a short coach ride to the Pazo Santa María, a converted country house, where we stay for the next two nights. The setting is rural, traditional, and peaceful—a fitting place to rest as we approach the final stages of the pilgrimage.

Today at a Glance

Walking	13 miles / 21km
Time	5-6 hours
Terrain	Gentle to moderate
Key Sites	Melide, medieval bridge at Ribadiso, Arzúa

Insider's Tip

If you're going to try octopus, Melide is the place to do it. The pulperías here have been serving it for generations, and the quality is excellent. Even if you're skeptical, give it a try—many first-timers are surprised by how good it is. The medieval bridge at Ribadiso is easy to miss if you're walking with your head down—keep an eye out for it and take a moment to pause. It's one of those Camino spots that feels quietly sacred. And if you're a cheese lover, pick up some Arzúa cheese in town—it's sold in small rounds and travels well.

Day 7 continued

O Coto → Arzúa



Melide, Bridges and Arzúa Cheese

Today's Rhythm

- Breakfast at the hotel and checkout
- Coach ride back to O Coto to rejoin the Camino
- Walk toward Melide, where the Camino Primitivo joins the Francés
- Arrive in Melide with time for lunch (famous for octopus at the pulperías)
- Continue over the medieval bridge at Ribadiso da Baixo
- Walk through villages on the outskirts of Arzúa
- Finish walking in Arzúa and take short coach ride to A Paínza estate
- Settle into a traditional Galician country property for two nights
- Dinner at the estate

Spiritual Focus Today

Meeting of ways—the Camino Primitivo joins the Francés in Melide, and the trail becomes fuller. Reflecting on the many paths that lead to Santiago and the many ways people come to faith.

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Pazo Santa Maria (or similar rural estate), near Arzúa
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** Today is one of the longer walking days (around 13 miles), but the terrain is manageable. Pace yourself, stay hydrated, and remember the coach is available if you need a break. We stay two nights at A Paínza, so you can settle in tonight. Tomorrow's walk will bring us back here in the evening.

Day 8

Pontecesures → Padrón → Iria Flavia → Rúa Francos (walk)



The Last Full Day on the Trail

Today's Journey

This is our last full day on the trail. Tomorrow we walk into Santiago, but today the city is still ahead, and the path is quiet. We return by coach to Arzúa and set out for O Pedrouzo, walking through meadows and woods of oak and eucalyptus. The route is gentle and pretty, passing through the small villages of Boente, Calzada, Salceda, and A Rúa—each with its stone houses, small chapels, and sense of rural life continuing as it has for generations.

In Boente, we pass a beautiful statue of Santiago dressed as a pilgrim, staff in hand and scallop shell on his cloak. It's a reminder that we're following in his footsteps—or perhaps walking alongside him.

With Santiago now within reach, many pilgrims walk this stage with a mix of anticipation and nostalgia. The end is near, and there's a bittersweet quality to these final miles. Some walk in silence; others walk in conversation. The Camino has a way of drawing both out of us.

We finish today's walk in O Pedrouzo and take the coach back to A Paínza for our second night. This evening, we gather for a pilgrims' service in a small chapel on the estate, followed by an aperitivo-style dinner with Galician music. An opera singer performs the Pilgrim's Hymn and traditional Galician songs, accompanied by a Spanish guitarist. It's a beautiful way to mark the journey's end—music, fellowship, and gratitude.

Today at a Glance

Walking	12 miles / 19km
Time	5-6 hours
Terrain	Gentle
Key Sites	Oak & eucalyptus woods, small villages, statue of Santiago

Insider's Tip

Today's stage is sometimes called "the last day on the trail" even though technically tomorrow is the last day. That's because tomorrow feels more like an arrival than a walk—urban, busy, and emotionally charged. Today is the last day that feels like pure Camino: woods, villages, yellow arrows, and the steady rhythm of walking. Savor it. The pilgrims' service and dinner tonight are one of the highlights of the trip—intimate, moving, and genuinely special. Don't skip it, even if you're tired.

Day 8 continued

Arzúa → O Pedrouzo



The Last Full Day on the Trail

Today's Rhythm

- Breakfast at the estate (no checkout required)
- Coach ride back to Arzúa to rejoin the Camino
- Walk through meadows, oak and eucalyptus woods toward O Pedrouzo
- Pass through small villages (Boente, Calzada, Salceda, A Rúa)
- See the statue of Santiago dressed as a pilgrim in Boente
- Finish walking in O Pedrouzo
- Coach back to A Paínza for second night
- Pilgrims' service in a small chapel on the estate
- Aperitivo-style dinner with Galician music (opera singer and Spanish guitarist)

Spiritual Focus Today

The last full day on the trail—reflecting on the journey, what has shifted, and what we're carrying forward. The Camino is not just the path to Santiago; it's the person you become along the way. Who are you now?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Pazo Santa Maria (or similar rural estate), near Arzúa
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** This is an emotional day for many pilgrims—the end is near, and there's a lot to process. Be gentle with yourself and with your fellow pilgrims. Tonight's service and dinner are a chance to pause, give thanks, and prepare for tomorrow's arrival in Santiago. Pack tonight so you're ready for an early departure tomorrow.

Day 9

O Pedrouzo → Santiago de Compostela



Walking into Santiago Together

Today's Journey

This is the day we've been walking toward. We return by coach to O Pedrouzo and set out on the final stage—O Pedrouzo to Santiago de Compostela. The path leads us through countryside that gradually becomes more urban as we approach the city. We pass the airport (you can see planes taking off in the distance) and descend gently toward Lavacolla, a village where medieval pilgrims traditionally washed themselves before entering Santiago.

Beyond Lavacolla, the trail climbs to Monte do Gozo—the "Mount of Joy"—where pilgrims catch their first glimpse of Santiago's cathedral spires on the horizon. It's an iconic Camino moment: after days of walking, the goal is suddenly visible. Many pilgrims pause here to take photos, say a prayer, or simply stand and look. We're almost there.

From Monte do Gozo, the Camino descends steadily into the city. The last miles are more urban—sidewalks, traffic, city parks—but they're deeply meaningful. We follow the final streets through the old quarter, joining other pilgrims arriving from different routes—Portuguese, Northern, Primitive, English—all converging on the same destination.

And then: we step into the Praza do Obradoiro, the great square in front of the cathedral. We've arrived. There's time to pause, take photos, embrace, give thanks. Some pilgrims sit on the steps and simply take it in. Others walk straight to the cathedral to hug the statue of St. James or visit the crypt where his remains are said to rest.

We walk together to our hotel—the 15th-century Parador de Santiago, right on Obradoiro Square—and check in. Later in the day, we come together again for our group's Eucharist at the 12th-century church of San Fiz, followed by dinner at a favourite local restaurant. Tonight is for celebration and gratitude.

Today at a Glance

Walking	12 miles / 19km
Time	5-6 hours
Terrain	Gentle, urban
Key Sites	Monte do Gozo, first view of cathedral, Obradoiro Square

Insider's Tip

The final approach into Santiago is beautiful but can feel emotional. Some pilgrims feel joy, others feel unexpectedly tearful, and some feel—strangely—a bit deflated. All of these reactions are normal. The Camino doesn't end when you reach the cathedral; in many ways, it's just beginning. Tonight, be gentle with yourself and with your fellow pilgrims. There's no "right" way to feel when you arrive. Also: when we arrive in Santiago, your guide will collect your Pilgrim's Passport to organise your Compostela for you. You'll receive it tomorrow at the farewell dinner.

Day 9 continued →

Day 9 continued

O Pedrouzo → Santiago de Compostela



Walking into Santiago Together

Today's Rhythm

- Checkout and luggage down by 8:45 am; depart by coach to O Pedrouzo to rejoin the Camino
- Walk through countryside that gradually becomes more urban as we approach Santiago
- Pass the airport and descend toward Lavacolla
- Climb to Monte do Gozo for the first clear view of Santiago Cathedral on the horizon
- Descend toward the city and follow the final streets through the old quarter
- Join other pilgrims converging on Obradoiro Square from different routes
- Arrive together in the Praza do Obradoiro in front of the cathedral
- Walk to the Parador de Santiago and check in
- Later in the day, gather for Eucharist at the 12th-century church of San Fiz
- Dinner at a favourite local restaurant

Spiritual Focus Today

Arrival—giving thanks for the journey, one another, and all that has unfolded along the Way. Beginning to notice what this pilgrimage might mean for our lives at home. The Camino is not just the path to Santiago; it's the person you become along the way. Who are you now? What has shifted?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Parador de Santiago de Compostela (or similar 5★), Santiago
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** When we arrive in Santiago, your guide will collect your Pilgrim's Passport to organise your Compostela for you. Tonight's dinner is celebratory but not a formal "farewell" yet—we still have a full day in Santiago tomorrow. Rest well; you've earned it.

Day 10

Santiago de Compostela



Exploring Santiago and farewell dinner

Today's Journey

We spend today in Santiago, with no packing, no walking stages, and no need to be anywhere but here. This is a day to savor the city, to rest, and to reflect on the journey now behind us.

The morning begins with a guided walking tour of Santiago's historic center and cathedral surroundings. We hear stories of the city's history—from its origins as a pilgrimage destination to its role in medieval Europe to its life today as a vibrant university city and Galician capital. We visit the cathedral itself and its museum, learning about its architecture, its art, and the layers of history embedded in its walls. For many pilgrims, this is when the magnitude of what we've done begins to sink in.

We are invited to visit Casa Anglicana, the Anglican Pilgrim Centre that your pilgrimage helps support. From there, we continue to the cathedral for the Pilgrim's Mass—one of the most moving experiences on the Camino. The liturgy is conducted mainly in Spanish, with pilgrims from around the world in attendance. If the botafumeiro (the massive incense thurible) is in use, we'll witness it being swung by eight men using ropes, filling the cathedral with incense and spectacle. It's an ancient ritual, deeply moving, and a fitting culmination of our pilgrimage.

After Mass, the afternoon is free. You might choose to:

- Sit in a café and people-watch in the Praza do Obradoiro
- Visit the Cathedral Museum or the Galician Museum of Contemporary Art
- Shop for souvenirs—pilgrim shells, ceramics, local food products
- Walk the quiet streets of the old quarter and discover hidden corners
- Simply rest, journal, and reflect

This evening we gather for our farewell dinner in a private room at the Parador overlooking the Cathedral. It is tonight we receive our Compostela certificates and give thanks for each other.

Today at a Glance

Walking	City walking
Time	Morning tour, afternoon free
Key Sites	Cathedral Museum, Casa Anglicana, Pilgrim's Mass

Insider's Tip

While we visit the Cathedral with our group, enjoy the atmosphere in Obradoiro square as pilgrims continue to arrive, emotional with their journey. The smaller streets of Santiago are full of charm—small family businesses, quiet churches, and hidden plazas. The Mercado de Abastos (the local market) is a feast for the senses—produce, seafood, and a chance to sample local delights with a glass of albariño. If you're picking up souvenirs, look for locally made ceramics, silverwork, or tins of pimentón (Spanish paprika). The farewell dinner tonight is special—savor it.

Day 10 continued →

Day 10 continued

Santiago de Compostela



Exploring Santiago and farewell dinner

Today's Rhythm

- Begin the day with a relaxed breakfast and no need to check out of the hotel
- Meet in reception for a guided walking tour of the old city, the Cathedral Museum and the Cathedral itself
- Hear stories of Santiago's history, architecture and the life of the city today
- A welcome to Casa Anglicana, the Anglican Pilgrim Centre we have donated to
- Pilgrim's Mass at the cathedral (with botafumeiro when scheduled)
- Enjoy free time in the afternoon for lunch, cafés, shopping, additional church visits or quiet reflection
- Return to the hotel to pack and rest before the journey home the following day
- Gather in the evening for farewell dinner at the Parador
- Receive Compostela certificates

Spiritual Focus Today

Reflecting on what the pilgrimage has meant, giving thanks for those we've walked with, and beginning to consider how the Camino might shape our lives and parish when we return. The question now is not "Did I finish?" but "What comes next?" How will you carry the Camino home?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** Parador de Santiago de Compostela (or similar), Santiago
- **Meals:** Breakfast & dinner included
- **Notes:** Tonight you receive your Compostela Certificate. No need to visit the Pilgrim's Office as this is handled for you and your pilgrim's passport will be stamped and handed back to you tonight. Tomorrow is departure day—pack tonight if you have an early flight.

Day 11

Santiago de Compostela → Home



Homeward journey

Today's Journey

After breakfast, our organized time together comes to an end. Pilgrims make their way to Santiago airport or continue traveling, taking home not just a Compostela certificate and scallop shell, but the memories, conversations, and insights of the Camino.

Some will leave early; others will linger over a final coffee in the square. Goodbyes are often harder than expected—after 11 days of walking, eating, and praying together, the group has become a deeper community. The conversations and connections made on the Camino often last far beyond the journey itself.

For those extending their stay in Santiago or elsewhere in Spain, your hosts can offer suggestions and assistance. For those heading straight home, safe travels—and may the Camino walk with you.

Today at a Glance

Travel day

Departures throughout the morning

Insider's Tip

If your flight allows, consider one last visit to the cathedral square before you leave. The morning light is beautiful, and the square is quieter before the tour groups arrive. Stand where you stood when you first arrived, notice what's different now, and give thanks. Many pilgrims describe a strange mix of relief and sadness on departure day—relief to rest fully, sadness to leave. Both are valid. The Camino has a way of staying with you long after you've returned home.



Homeward journey

Today's Rhythm

- Begin the morning with breakfast at the hotel
- Allow some final moments to look out over the city or visit the square one last time
- Check out of rooms and organize luggage for departure
- Meet your transfer or make your own way to Santiago airport or onward destination
- Say goodbyes to fellow pilgrims as departure times begin to stagger
- Travel home or onward, with time in transit to rest and reflect on the journey
- Arrive back home or at your next stop, beginning to re-enter daily life after the pilgrimage

Spiritual Focus Today

Carrying the Camino home—giving thanks, noticing what has changed in us, and asking how this experience might deepen our faith and community in the months ahead. The medieval pilgrims returned home and told their stories, shaping their communities with what they'd seen and learned. What story will you tell?

Practical Details

- **Overnight:** (travel day)
- **Meals:** Breakfast included
- **Notes:** If you're leaving early, breakfast boxes can usually be arranged with the hotel. Group transfers to the airport are coordinated based on flight times; private taxis are also readily available.

Bringing The Camino Home



After Your Pilgrimage

The Camino doesn't end when you step off the plane. Many pilgrims find that the weeks and months after they return home are when the journey's meaning deepens, when insights become practices, and when the experience begins to reshape daily life.

Immediate Re-Entry (First Week)

The first few days back can feel disorienting. You've been walking for hours each day, eating communally, and living simply. Now you're back to cars, schedules, laundry, and the demands of ordinary life. Some suggestions:

- Be gentle with yourself. Jet lag, physical tiredness, and emotional processing all take time.
- Keep walking. Even a 20-minute walk each day can help maintain the rhythm and reflection space the Camino opened up.
- Write it down. Journal while the memories are fresh. What moments stand out? What surprised you? What do you want to remember?
- Share selectively. Not everyone will want to hear about your pilgrimage in detail, and that's okay. Find one or two trusted people who will listen deeply.

Practices for the Weeks Ahead

Consider these ways to keep the Camino alive in your daily life:

- Daily simplicity. The Camino taught us to live with less. What might you let go of at home?
- Sabbath walking. Set aside time each week for a walk without earbuds, without a destination—just walking as prayer.

- Gratitude practice. On the Camino, small things became gifts: a cold drink, a shaded bench, a kind word. How can you maintain that gratitude at home?
- Communal meals. We ate together every night on pilgrimage. Who might you invite to your table?

For Your Parish Community

If you walked as a church group, consider these ways to share the experience with your wider parish:

- Photo display or slideshow. Create a visual record of the journey for the parish hall or narthex.
- Camino Sabbath service. Shape a service around pilgrimage themes—journey, community, transformation.
- Small group discussions. Invite interested parishioners to hear your stories and reflections.
- Fundraising or mission connection. Channel the energy of the experience toward supporting pilgrim ministries or other parish initiatives.
- A Camino tradition. Some churches return to the Camino every couple of years, creating a ongoing tradition of pilgrimage.

The Long View

Pilgrimage is not a once-and-done experience. It's a seed planted, and what grows depends on the soil of your life. Some pilgrims return to the Camino again and again. Others never go back but carry the lessons forward.

The question is not "Did I finish?" The question is "How will this shape the next chapter of my life?"

Buen Camino—always.

Testimonials



"You and your insider travel team have gifted us the most hospitable visit to Spain. You gave us the confidence to conquer the Camino. You gave us the tools we needed to get through each day. You gave us your word, your prayers and your resources! You gave us beautiful places to stay in, delicious food, wonderful entertainment, and all the special touches that gave us rest when we needed it most! For all of that, plus so much more, I am so thankful, so grateful and so proud to say I was able to travel with Insider's Camino"

— Erin King, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Mount Lebanon

"I cannot begin to thank you enough for creating the most amazing travel experience of my life and how your planning, execution and enthusiasm came forth in every aspect of our joint adventure. Much kudos to you and your team!"

— Jamie Wilson, Rhode Island

"One of our most memorable holidays ever. What an experience, with several wonderful chances that could not have happened without the truly "insider" experience of the company. led with enthusiasm, energy and charm."

— Molly Browning, Pilgrim

"You could not have any more gracefully combined sublime competence, gracious hospitality and keen intelligence/judgment. The trip was informative, "divertido" and spiritual. It was a nice group of people, but even the best orchestra needs a good conductor"

— Robert Kennington

Terms & Booking Information



How to Book Your Pilgrimage

1. **Initial Inquiry:** Contact us to discuss your church's dates, group size, and preferred route.
2. **Proposal:** We'll create a customized itinerary and pricing specific to your group.
3. **Deposit:** A non-refundable deposit of \$650 USD per person secures your dates. (Deposits vary by route—see individual route pages.)
4. **Payment Schedule:**
 - Deposit due at booking
 - Balance due 120 days before departure

Cancellation Policy

- 89-60 days before departure: 25% of total cost forfeited.
- 59-30 days before departure: 50% of total cost forfeited.
- Less than 30 days before departure: 100% of total cost forfeited (unless we can fill your spot from a waitlist).
- 29 days or less: 100%

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance at the time of booking to protect against unforeseen circumstances.

Travel Insurance — Required

All pilgrims must have comprehensive travel insurance covering:

- Medical expenses and emergency evacuation
- Trip cancellation and interruption
- Lost, stolen, or delayed baggage
- Personal liability

We can recommend insurance providers if needed.

Group Size & Minimum Numbers

Most pilgrimages require a minimum of 14-16 paid participants to operate. If your group falls below the minimum, we'll work with you to find a solution—this might include merging with another church group, adjusting the itinerary, or rescheduling.

Maximum group size is typically 30 pilgrims, ensuring intimacy and logistical manageability.

Single Room Supplement

Single rooms are available for an additional charge (see individual route pricing). If you're willing to share but don't have a roommate, we'll do our best to pair you with another solo traveler.

Dietary Requirements

We accommodate vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and other dietary needs wherever possible. Please inform us at the time of booking. Note that rural Spain has fewer options than cities, so some flexibility may be required.

Mobility & Accessibility

Our pilgrimages are designed to accommodate a range of mobility levels, but they do involve walking on uneven terrain, cobblestones, and country paths. If you have specific mobility concerns, please discuss them with us in advance. We can often adapt the itinerary to suit your needs, but complete accessibility cannot be guaranteed on a walking pilgrimage.

Terms & Booking Information



Passports & Visas

- US and Canadian citizens do not need visas for stays up to 90 days in Spain or Portugal.
- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.
- Check visa requirements for your nationality if you're traveling from outside North America.

Final Details

Your final itinerary, hotel names, emergency contacts, and other details will be provided 30 days before departure.

Questions?

Contact us at info@insiderscamino.com or schedule a call through our website.

Contact & Next Steps



Ready to Begin?

Let's start planning your church's Camino pilgrimage. We're here to answer questions, provide guidance, and help you choose the route that's right for your people.

Contact Us

Email: info@insiderscamino.com

Website: <https://insiderscamino.com>

Follow Us

Facebook: @InsidersCaminoTours

Instagram: @insiders_camino_tours_

Next Steps

1. Schedule a call to discuss your church's needs, preferred dates, and group size.
2. Receive a proposal tailored to your group.
3. Secure your dates with a deposit.
4. Prepare together with our pre-trip support and resources.
5. Walk the Camino with experienced hosts and guides by your side.

In Collaboration With



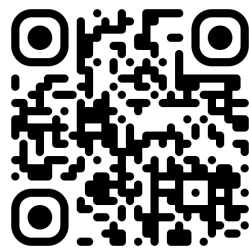
Friends of the
Anglican Pilgrim Centre
in Santiago

Every Insider's Camino pilgrimage includes a \$200 per pilgrim donation to the Friends of the Anglican Pilgrim Centre in Santiago, supporting their ministry of welcome, hospitality, and spiritual care for pilgrims from around the world.



Insider's
C A M I N O

**The Camino is not just about reaching
Santiago. It's about being transformed
along the way.**



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