

Camino de Santiago Encompassed

The opportunity to walk Spain's celebrated Camino de Santiago isn't just another vacation; it's an outright life-changing achievement. This incredible 10-day adventure begins with two days of exploration in stately (and must-see) Madrid. Then continue to the picturesque municipality of Sarria to begin your own once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, along the final 100km of the famed Camino. Finish your walk at Santiago de Compostela's Cathedral, celebrating your accomplishment with fellow pilgrims from all over the world.



Day 1: Madrid

Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Accommodation: Hotel Europa (*or similar*)

Day 2: Madrid

Enjoy a short orientation walk around Madrid with a free day to explore. Opt to check-out the world-famous museums, do some shopping or enjoy some fantastic food. Other options for exploring the city include the Palacio Real, Real Jardín Botánico or Escorial. Experience more nightlife at the Plaza del Dos de Mayo, in the area known as Malasaña. Taste some sangria and dance to the latest music.

Orientation Walk: Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time: Take a wander around this amazing city.

Accommodation: Hotel Europa (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 3: Madrid/Sarria

Travel to the charming town of Sarria by train. Take some free time to explore before meeting up with the rest of your group.

Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos: You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome riunioni to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Local Train: Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

Accommodation: La Casona de Sarria (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 4: Sarria/Portomarín

Hike from Sarria to Portomarín throughout the course of the day.

Pass through many lovely towns along the way and maybe choose to have a picnic in places such as Barbadelo, Renta or Ferreiros.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Start hiking from Sarria to Portomarín, covering about 23km (14 mi) over the course of the day. Pass through many lovely towns along the way and choose to have a picnic in places such as Barbadelo, Renta or Ferreiros. Spend the night in the riverside city of Portomarín.

Accommodation: Hotel Villajardin (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 5: Portomarín/Palas de Rei

Early start from Portomarín, continue walking through fantastic scenery with a rich history en route to Palas de Rei.

Walk from Portomarín to Palas de Rei. Weary pilgrims can get a jolt of caffeine in one of Palas de Rei's cafes or visit some of the local shops to grab some souvenirs.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Get those walking shoes back on! Leave Portomarín behind in the early light of the morning to make the most of the day. This stretch is a mix of ups and downs through beautiful scenery. The entire area has a rich history, especially during the Middle Ages.

Accommodation: Complejo la Cabana (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 6: Palas de Rei/Melide

Continue the pilgrimage westwards, walking through the lush green valleys of Galicia.

Continue walking through rural Spain. Take a break in the lively market town of Melide (454m), and try octopus, Galicia's most classic dish, in one of the many 'pulperías'.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Head west and continue the pilgrimage, passing through the lush green valleys of Galicia. Covering about 15 km today, the day again passes through many lovely villages and towns along the way, offering ample opportunity for rest stops and time to pick up any needed supplies before arriving to Melide.

Accommodation: El Chiquitin (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 7: Melide/Arzúa

Follow the Camino from Melide to the village of Ribadiso and finally the town of Arzúa.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Leaving Melide, the Camino crosses several streams and follows a forest track to the village of Boente with its church of Santiago. Next is the scenic medieval village of Ribadiso and finally the town of Arzúa (389m). In Arzúa, visit the churches of Santa María and A Magdalena.

Accommodation: Pensión Domus Gallery (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 8: Arzúa/Salceda

The Camino walk will pass through pretty woods, sleepy villages and across streams most of the day.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Walk through pretty woods, sleepy villages and across streams most of the day. The chapel of Santa Irene, with its unique statue of Santiago, is worth a visit. En-route, don't miss the lovely hamlet of Rúa (310m). The rest of the route to Amenal is along a mix of good and calm country roads and forest tracks.

Accommodation: Amenal Hotel (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 9: Salceda/Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a final day of walking through spectacular scenery towards the final destination.

Camino de Santiago Walk: Leave early in order to reach Santiago de Compostela in time for the pilgrim's mass. Walk the last part of the pilgrimage and enjoy the scenery before the baroque, painted towers of the cathedral come into view. Later, explore this fascinating city and sip some wine in a café to celebrate the incredible journey. Upon reaching our goal, the pilgrimage is not complete without a visit to the cathedral on the magnificent Praza do Obradoiro, which houses the supposed tomb of St. James the Apostle.

Plaza Obradoiro Visit: Visit the cathedral on the magnificent Praza do Obradoiro, which houses the supposed tomb of St. James the Apostle. It is widely believed that his remains were buried here in the 1st century AD; from then onwards he became the patron saint of the Christian Crusades.

Accommodation: A Tafona do Peregrino (or similar) (**Meals included:** Breakfast)

Day 10: Santiago de Compostela

Depart at any time.

Meals included: Breakfast

ATTIVITA' CHE PUOI FARE DURANTE IL TEMPO LIBERO:

DAY 1:

Museo Nacional Del Prado Visit (15EUR per person):

Take in some culture with a trip to the Museo del Prado, one of the greatest art galleries in the world, and a definite highlight of any Madrid trip. Be inspired by its collections and exhibitions: the museum's main emphasis is 15th to 19th century Spanish, Flemish, and Italian art, but there is plenty of Goya and a wealth of paintings by Diego Velázquez.

Gran Vía Visit (Free)

Shop, stroll, and people watch on the capital's most exciting street, Gran Vía. Go early or late, the street stays awake all hours.

Plaza Mayor Visit (Free)

Enjoy some spectacular people watching with a visit to the Plaza Mayor, the true heart of the city. Enjoy a coffee in one of the plaza's many cafes and watch the world go by.

Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit (17EUR per person)

See how kings and queens live, with a visit to the Palacio Real, the official (and uninhabited) palace of the King of Spain. Wander the rooms to take in some of the most elaborately decorated and furnished rooms you'll ever see.

Real Jardín Botánico Visit (2EUR per person)

Recover from an art overdose with a visit to the beautiful Real Jardín Botánico, a large botanical garden near the Prado Museum.

DAY 2:

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DAY 3:

Browse the Antique Shops: Sarria is the antique capital of Galicia. Check-out an antique fair and browse the quirky furniture and historic art pieces.

DAY 9:

Santiago de Compostela Cathedral (6EUR per person)

Originally built as a small church over the tomb of St. James in 819AD, this now-grandiose cathedral has remained the end point of the spiritual pilgrimage to those walking the Camino de Santiago.

Pazo de Raxoi Palace (Free)

Take in the beauty of this palace located in the Plaza del Obradoiro. Originally built as a seminary for confessors in 1766, it is the contemporary home of City Hall and the Galician government.

Praza das Praterias Square (Free)

Visit the square to marvel at the Fuente de los Caballos - a glorious fountain created in 1825. With the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in the background, this spot makes for a great photo-op.