

# EXPLORE!



## Self-Guided Camino de Santiago

9 days

Spain - Trip code WSCS

## Self-Guided Camino de Santiago

Walk self-guided along this iconic pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela - the reputed final resting place of Saint James. Starting in Sarria, hike through the Galician hills and rural countryside along the Camino Frances, following the waymarker scallop shell signs. Make the traditional stop at the spring in Lavacollato to wash your hands and feet before arriving at Santiago cathedral, and claiming the pilgrims' certificate.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Legendary Camino de Santiago** - Walk through beautiful landscapes and historically important towns and villages
- ★ **Santiago de Compostela** - The holy shrine of St. James and a lively town with fine architecture

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

### WALKING GRADE:

#### Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Trip begins in Sarria

After making your own way to Sarria by public transport or by private transfer, you'll have the rest of the day free to relax and perhaps take a stroll through the town.



**Accommodation: Hotel Restaurante Roma** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Visit Samos Monastery and return on foot to Sarria

After breakfast, a taxi will take you to Samos for the start of today's walk at the Monastery. Although founded in the 6th century, Samos Monastery found its wealth and popularity when it became part of the Benedictine community in the 10th century. It has welcomed pilgrims from the beginning and makes a fitting starting point of this tour along the Camino. From here you walk back to Sarria along dirt roads through small hamlets and woodlands.

Today's walk is 15 kilometres long over mostly flat terrain and should take around 4.5 hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Restaurante Roma** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Pass small hamlets on the way to Portomarin

Setting off from Sarria today, your walk along the Camino is mainly along small, tree lined country roads and footpaths. Passing through many hamlets along the way, you'll have plenty of opportunities to stop for refreshments and rests, until you reach Portomarin, which is your destination for today and where you'll spend the night.

Today's walk is 23 kilometres long with and should take around 7 hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Ferramenteiro** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Walk from Portomarin to Palas de Rei

The route today takes you from Portomarin to Palas de Rei and is mainly easy going through rolling countryside. There is a short, steep downhill section as you leave Portomarin along the main street, and a gentle uphill section near Monte San Antonio. When you eventually reach Palas de Rei you will be met and taken to your hotel.

Today's walk is 26 kilometres long and should take around 7.5 hours.



**Accommodation: A Parada Das Bestas** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 5 - The countdown to Santiago de Compostela begins

You'll be transferred back to Palas de Rei for the start of one of the longest but technically very easy sections of the route, with no long steep ascents or descents. Pilgrims consider this section the start of the countdown to Santiago de Compostela, shortly after Coto you'll begin to see stones appearing at the side of the path with the distance to Santiago marked. Much of the day is shaded and shortly after Melide you will walk through an oak and eucalyptus forest.

Today's walk is 29 kilometres long and should take around 7.5 hours.



**Accommodation: Casa Lucas** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 6 - Walk to A Rua

A lot of today's section of the Camino runs along side the main road en-route to A Rua, but after finishing the relatively short distance you'll have just one more day of walking left before you reach the final destination of Santiago de Compostela.

Today's walk is 18 kilometres long and should take around 6 hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel O Acivro** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 7 - Arrive in Santiago

The last section of your pilgrimage brings you back to modern life as you pass the regional airport, cross the highway, railway track and ring-road around Santiago. Nevertheless, it's still easy to imagine the sheer joy ancient pilgrims felt when they caught a first glimpse of Santiago and the spires off in the distance. Historically, those making the pilgrimage made one last stop at the spring in Lavacolla to wash their face and feet before presenting themselves to the Saint at the Cathedral on Plaza Obradoiro.

Today's walk is 22 kilometres long and should take around 7 hours.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Free day in Santiago

Today is left free for you to relax after completing your journey and to explore Santiago further.



**Accommodation: Hotel A Tafona Do Peregrino** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 9 - Trip ends in Santiago

Today you'll travel back to Santiago Airport by public transport where your trip ends.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCE

Day 2	15km
Day 3	23km
Day 4	26km
Day 5	29km
Day 6	18km
Day 7	22km

### Walking grade

Moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 6 days for between 4 to 7 hours.

### Max walking altitude (m)

725



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 8

Dinner: 3



### Transport

Car

Taxi



### Accommodation

3 nights premium hotel

4 nights standard hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

### Spain

#### Climate

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a Spanish trip - though the weather varies enormously from region to

region. The high central plains suffer from fierce extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round. Spain's Islands the Canaries and Balaerics experience very mild winters and warm summers making them ideal year round destinations.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Roman Catholic

**Language**

Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

## Budgeting and packing

### Clothing

Bring some lightweight clothing for pleasant, balmy days (including shorts for day walks), but remember that temperatures drop with altitude and that evenings may be cool so a warm sweater or fleece is essential. As mountain weather is changeable it is important to bring a waterproof and windproof outer garment.

### Footwear

Walking or trail boots with good ankle support are essential, plus comfortable trainers/sandals for relaxing.

### Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you may need to carry your luggage at times so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport / a ferry you should always take your luggage with you.

### Luggage transfer

Included between each hotel.

### Equipment

Bring a water bottle, torch, sunhat, sunscreen and sunglasses. A trekking pole is recommended for the steep descents.

Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a set of maps that have been created specifically for this trip to help you navigate. The route is marked on each map together with a series of numbered waypoints which correspond with instructions in the route notes. Should you wish to purchase a more detailed commercially produced map we recommend the following:-

Recommended general map

Michelin Zoom Map 160 - Camino de Santiago (scale 1:130.000 / 1:200.000).

### Country Information

#### Spain

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£8.00 - 12.00

**Dinner price**

£16.00 - 20.00

**Beer price**

£1.50 - 2.50 (depending on the region/area in Spain)

**Water price**

£1.4

## Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Euros

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

We recommend you take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

**Where To Exchange**

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

**ATM Availability**

In cities and most major towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

**Travellers Cheques**

Not recommended.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Car, Taxi

### Recommended airport

Santiago de Compostela or La Coruna

### Flying to your destination

We recommend flying into and out of Santiago de Compostela

### Arrival and departure information

Arriving to Sarria by public transport from Santiago de Compostela airport:

The best way to reach Sarria is to fly into Santiago de Compostela airport. From there travel into the city, to the central bus station (with [www.empresafreire.com](http://www.empresafreire.com), every 30 min from 07.00hrs to 01.30hrs). Then catch a bus to Lugo with the same company [www.empresafreire.com](http://www.empresafreire.com) OR [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es). In Lugo take a local bus to Sarria (35 minutes; min 6 services a day, from 06.45 to 20.45hrs) [www.monbus.es](http://www.monbus.es)

On weekdays (Monday to Friday) there is a direct bus from Santiago de Compostela bus station to Sarria. This service is operated by Monbus and departure is at 15.00hrs, arriving around 17.50hrs. There is a later bus at 20.30 arriving at 23.15. The price is 13 euros p.p. [www.monbus.es](http://www.monbus.es). (Remember that you will first have to get the airport shuttle to the central bus station in the city (with [www.empresafreire.com](http://www.empresafreire.com), every 30 min).

For more information on Santiago Airport (SCQ) please see:

<http://www.aena.es/cseeatellite/Aeropuerto-Santiago/en/Home.html>

Arriving to Sarria by public transport from A Coruña airport:

There is a shuttle bus (line 4051 Puerta Real - Aeropuerto) that leaves daily from the airport every 30 mins between 7.15 and 21.45hrs. The cost is 1.50€ per person/way. On Saturdays there is a service every hour from 8.00 to 22.00hrs. On Sundays and holidays there is a bus every hour from 9.00 to 22.00 hrs. Get off at "Alfonso Molina E. A (Estación de Autobuses)" in A Coruña.

From the bus station in A Coruña ("Alfonso Molina E.A" stop) take a direct bus to Lugo. The bus company is "Arriva" and you can check the information at [http://www.arriva.es/index.php?option=com\\_buscalineas&view=resultados&Itemid=86&pOrigen=257&pDestino=339&fecha=29/10/2015](http://www.arriva.es/index.php?option=com_buscalineas&view=resultados&Itemid=86&pOrigen=257&pDestino=339&fecha=29/10/2015). The approx. cost is 11.25€ and the length of the journey varies from 1hrs 15 mins to 2 hrs depending on the bus chosen.

In Lugo, the bus company MONBUS has a service from the bus station until Sarria bus station. The cost is 3.70€, the length of the journey is about 35mins. There are several buses including: Line 8469, 8460, 8444, 8454, 8464, 8457, and 7701. Most of these services do not operate on bank holidays. For more information check: [www.monbus.es](http://www.monbus.es)

By train from A Coruña airport to Sarria:

Take the shuttle bus to "Alfonso Molina E.A", located near the train station . There is a direct train a few times a day that takes around 2.5hrs to Sarria and the approx. cost is 13.60€. For more information, prices and time schedules, check: [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) The train station in Sarria is located 1.5km from the hotel, so the best option is to take a taxi to the hotel.

Departing from Santiago de Compostela to Santiago airport by public transport from the city centre:  
Buses depart from Santiago city centre to Santiago Airport (SCQ), every 30min from 06.20 to 23.50hrs.

For more information on transport from / to Santiago Airport please see:  
<http://www.aena.es/cseeatellite/Aeropuerto-Santiago/en/Home.html>

Departing from Santiago de Compostela to A Coruña airport (Alvedro) by public transport:  
Buses depart from Santiago bus station to A Coruña, every hour from 06.30hrs to 19.30hrs. Travel time 1hr - 1h20min.  
[www.monbus.com](http://www.monbus.com) From A Coruña bus station take a city bus (Line 443) to the airport. This service runs weekdays from 07.15hrs to 21.45hrs, with departures every 30min. Saturdays and Sundays, departures are every hour from 08.30 to 22.30hrs. Travel time is 30min. [www.autoscalpita.es](http://www.autoscalpita.es)

For more information on A Coruña Airport (LCG) please see:  
<http://www.aena.es/cseeatellite/Aeropuerto-A-Coruna/en/Page/1048146841342/>

Optional transfers:  
Private taxi transfers can be booked in advance for the following:  
- Santiago Airport (SCQ) to Sarria  
- A Coruña Airport (LCG) to Sarria  
- Lugo bus station to Sarria  
- Santiago city centre to Santiago Airport (SCQ)  
- Santiago city centre to A Coruña Airport (LCG)

## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click here.

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click here

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

Spain: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along



with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Maximum altitude (m)

725

## Spain

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

