

THE SAINT JAMES WAY IN SPAIN

CAMINO FRANCES

From Burgos to Leon

From Burgos as far as León, the distinctive landscape of the Meseta stretches to the horizon. This wide, dry, stony plateau imposes on the pilgrim a sense of its vastness...

Every step taken strongly evokes the history of this pilgrimage which stretches back over 1000 years ... It is in this part of deepest Castile that the difference between the St James Way and other long-distance footpaths.

Your journey takes you through some charming Castilian villages: Castrojeriz, Frómista (with its beautiful San Martín church), Carrión de los Condes containing the monastery of San Zoilo...

Immerse yourself, step by step, in the culture of the Iberian peninsula and allow yourself to be amazed by the Camino Francés, which is without any doubt the most cosmopolitan long-distance walk in the world...

PROGRAMME

JL003

9 days, 8 nights, 7 days' walking.

DAY 1: BURGOS 860 m

Arrival at your hotel in **Burgos**, at the end of the afternoon. Overnight stay and half board.

DAY 2: BURGOS - CASTROJERIZ 808 m

Here we organise transport to allow you to avoid the tedious walk out of and to shorten this long 40km stage. The taxi will set you down at Tardajos, after which you walk as far as **Castrojeriz**, a pretty village of Romanesque origin perched on a hilltop, which owes its pre-eminence to the history of the pilgrimage. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 6h45 (27 km)

DAY 3: CASTROJERIZ - FRÓMISTA 783 m

From **Castrojeriz** to **Frómista**, you walk a typical stage through a sea of wheat. The arrival into Frómista is very pleasant, you can relax in a magnificent setting as you approach the San Martín church. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 6 hours (24 km)

DAY 4: FRÓMISTA - CARRIÓN DE LOS CONDES 839 m

You walk to **Carrión de los Condes**, a large village situated on the Way. The village has kept all its old charm with many historical features: beautiful houses, churches and the San Zoilo monastery. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 5.5 hours (22 km)



DAY 5: CARRIÓN - TERRADILLOS DE LOS TEMPLARIOS 860 m

For this day's walk you cross the Meseta de **Carrión de los Condes** until you reach **Terradillos de los Templarios**. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 6.5 hours (26 km)

DAY 6: TERRADILLOS - BURGO RANERO 881 m

You pass through Sahagún, known as the Spanish Cluny. Then you follow the *camino* (pilgrims' way) to **El Burgo Ranero**, whose main street is the St James Way. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 8 hours (30 km)

DAY 7: BURGO RANERO - MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS 799 m

After you pass through the village of Reliegos, the track takes you to **Mansilla de las Mulas**, a charming little old-world village. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 5 hours (21 km)

DAY 8: MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS - LEON 838 m

The walk takes into the city of **León**, which has a number of attractive features: la Casa de los Botines (a work of the Catalan architect, Gaudí), the splendid cathedral, the church of San Isidoro and even the hospice of San Marcos. Overnight stay and half board.

Walking time: 5 hours (19 km)

DAY 9: LEON

End of your stay after breakfast.

Note: 1 – It will not be possible to alter the places where you are accommodated or the order of the walking stages etc (for obvious organisational reasons). Once the day's walk has started, you are expected to continue the day's programme as arranged, except where exceptional circumstances intervene (for example, safety issues linked to adverse weather conditions).

2 – If you wish to shorten a walking stage, you will need to contact and pay for any taxis used when the occasion arises.

DATES

There is no fixed departure date. It is for you to choose, any time between mid-April and the beginning of November (All Saints' Day) subject to the availability of accommodation.

Please indicate on the booking form any alternative dates which might suit you (for example if you would be able to book the holiday for a period of time shortly before or after your preferred date). This may be useful if one or more hotels are already booked on the preferred date.

For similar reasons we ask you to **make your reservation as soon as possible**. We do not keep places reserved in the hotels and some of them can fill up with bookings several months in advance.

THE PRICE INCLUDES

- half board at all hotels
- the carriage of luggage
- transportation on Day 2 between Burgos and Tardajos



- a guidebook (one guidebook for 1-2 people)

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- packed lunch/ midday meals
- evening meal and overnight stay in León
- insurance, drinks; personal spending
- the cost of getting from your home to the starting point, or getting home again after the holiday
- any taxis or shuttles taking you back to your car; any extra transport for shortening sections of the walk
- visits
- Booking fees
- Extra charge for postage outside France.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

You check in to your hotel at Burgos at the end of the afternoon on the day before your first day's walking. For those coming by car, there is a public car park (paying and secure) 150 metres from the hotel (inquire at the hotel). For those coming by train, there is a taxi service from the station to the hotel (10 minutes' journey; cost about 6 €).

Your holiday ends at León.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

You will spend from 6 to 8 hours a day walking. The slopes are gentle and the track is well way-marked.

ACCOMMODATION

In 1 and 2* hotels generally; 3* hotel in the city of León. It might be that showers and WCs will be positioned on the landings of certain establishments. Dogs are not allowed.

If hotels are full:

It can happen that hotels fill up on certain dates. If this happens, and to ensure that you are comfortable, different accommodation will be provided..

FOOD

Breakfasts are served rather late by French standards, typically after 8.30am. If you need an earlier breakfast than this, please talk to the hotel staff the evening before if possible. Generally speaking, Spanish hotel-keepers are usually happy to serve earlier breakfasts to satisfy the needs of walkers.

Bear in mind that Spanish mealtimes are often different from French ones. Meals can be served up to two hours later than their French equivalents (breakfast around 8h30-9h and the evening meal around 21h: i.e. 9pm).

Packed lunches are not included in our prices. You will be free to organise your own picnics. Along your walking stages you will find opportunities for buying food.

TRANSPORT OF LUGGAGE

All you have to carry are things you will need for your day's walk and your packed lunch. Other luggage will be carried for you in a vehicle. We ask you, however, to **make sure that you do not have more than one piece of luggage for each person (weigh no more than 15Kg)**

If you are a member of a group we ask you to show on your luggage labels the NAME of the group leader (the person who booked the holiday).



ACCESS

Train and bus timetables vary according to the time of year and the day of the week. We suggest that you contact directly the different public transport operators to prepare your journey to the starting point, and from the finishing point, of the holiday.

ARRIVING

By train: If you are coming from France, take the train (SNCF) to Hendaye and Irún. Then there are several connections during the day going to Burgos, some of them involving a change of trains at Miranda de Ebro (journey time: between 3h30 and 4h).

RENFE (Spanish railways) run a night train service between **Paris** and **Burgos**.

By air: We do not recommend this method (to travellers from France) because the services change and the cost is rather high.

There is an airport at Burgos.

People coming from Britain or other countries outside France could consult a website specialising in cheap flights, e.g: <http://www.skyscanner.net/>

By car: From Bayonne, take the motorway to San Sebastián, Bilbao, Miranda de Ebro and at last Burgos (the motorway goes all the way). Carte (map) Michelin N° 442.

Estimated travel time between Bayonne and Burgos: 2h30.

By bus : The bus company ALSA runs a daily service between **Irún** et **Burgos**. The journey takes about 4 hours and the price is around 17€.

RETURN

By train :

Direct train service between León and Irún.

The train journey from León to Burgos takes about 2 hours.

From Burgos, there are several services during the day going to Hendaye and Irún.

There is a direct night train from Burgos to Paris.

By air: León airport provides flights to France, but going via Madrid or Barcelona.

By bus: There are services every day from León to Irún.

By car: You can return to Burgos by train or bus to collect your vehicle. Then drive home from Burgos.

The bus company **ALSA** runs a **León - Burgos** service. Journey times vary between 2h (non-stop) and 3h30 (if the service includes stops).

DOCUMENTATION

A guidebook will be sent to you on receipt of your holiday payment (**1 guidebook for 1 to 2 people**). In it you will find a description of your route (all the tracks are way-marked). You will also find information on villages, features of interest etc. In addition we will send you a travel wallet for all the documents you will need on your walking holiday: luggage labels, information about organisation and other practicalities and the addresses of hotels.

THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU

A small rucksack for packed lunches and whatever you may need to carry with you when walking A small individual first-aid kit, including elastoplasts (sticking plasters), 'new skin', disinfectant/antiseptic for treating blisters or small wounds etc



A pair of strong, comfortable walking shoes suitable for long-distance walking on stony tracks Beware of bringing new footwear which has not been tested for comfort!

Sun-glasses, sun-cream and a sunhat

Rain-wear

Light footwear for the evenings.

A water-bottle: you will need to drink 1.5 to 2L of water each day.

A knife

A small torch (optional)

Binoculars (optional)

Paper handkerchiefs/tissues

Needle, thread and a couple of safety pins.

INSURANCE

Our insurances, Contrat Assistance Plus (Assistance étendue) and Contrat Sérénité (Premium) are individual and optional. If you sign up for them it must be **AT THE LATEST, 14 WORKING DAYS** after booking the holiday, and the insurance cannot take effect until after you have paid the full cost of the holiday. Anybody can take out one of our insurances, whatever their country of residence.

The total cost of the Contrat Assistance Plus (insurance for Assistance/Rapatriation) is set at 1.70% of the cost of the holiday. It takes into account only the cost of the holiday.

The total cost of the Contrat Sérénité (insurance for Assistance/Repatriation, cancellation and interruption of the holiday) is set at 3.6 % of the price of the holiday. It takes into account the cost of the holiday and the extra charges (for individual bedrooms, for a single holidaymaker, extra nights and possible extra transportation etc).

If you cancel the holiday yourself, if you haven't taken out our insurance for cancellation, the cancellation fees will be retained by us.

The size of the cancellation fee depends on the date of cancellation:

- 1) more than 30 days before the planned departure: 50 € of administration fees per person.
- 2) between 30 days and 22 days before departure: 25% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 3) between 21 days and 15 days before departure: 50% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 4) between 14 days and 8 days before departure: 75% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 5) between 7 days and 2 days before departure: 90% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 6) less than two days before the departure date: 100% of the total cost of the holiday.

In all cases of cancellation, even if it is more than 30 days before the planned starting date of the holiday, a fee of 50 € per person will be retained by us to cover administration costs.

➤➤ If the person with whom you planned to share a bedroom cancels their holiday, you will be billed for the individual supplement for that bedroom.

If you have to cancel your holiday **before you set off**, contact La Pèlerine on +33 (0)4 71 74 47 40, and we will do whatever is necessary.

During your holiday, your first action in such a situation should be either to contact **ASSISTANCE MUTUAIDE** on +33 (0)1 45 16 43 47 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat assistance plus) or **SERVICE SINISTRE ASSURANCE** on +33 (0)5 32 09 21 81 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat sérénité).

If you have any questions about your insurance contract, please contact the Hot Line on **05 32 09 21 81**.

Not turning up at the beginning of the holiday, or abandoning the holiday after you have begun it with no explanation, will disqualify you from reimbursement.



An example of an insurance contract, detailing the guarantees it gives you and the procedures you have to follow to make a claim, will be sent to you either at the time you make your booking – or at any other time if you ask for it.

**CHANGING YOUR BOOKING:
ATTENTION!**

Administration fees (50 €) will be kept by us for **any change you make in a booking already made** (e.g. for type of bedroom, departure dates, number of people etc).

If you want to book **extra nights** at the beginning or the end of your holiday this **must** be done **at the time of booking** and be specified on the booking confirmation sheet. Once bookings have been confirmed, if you want to arrange extra nights this must be done directly with the establishments concerned, and paid for at the time.

