

SAINT JAMES OF COMPOSTELA PILGRIMAGE ROUTE

CAMINO PRIMITIVO

From Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela

Oviedo marks the beginning of the Camino Primitivo which leads you to the much-admired Santiago de Compostela. The stages of this long-distance walk take you through the little-known region of Asturias and the surprising one of Galicia. This last-named area is well-known for its food, its Celtic history and its cultural heritage. There is no lack of scenic interest either, thanks to the green hills and charming valleys of the district. And the entry into Santiago de Compostela itself, the final destination of this pilgrimage, will be a crowning moment which stays in your memory for ever.

PROGRAMME

JL057

16 days - 15 nights - 14 days' walking.

DAY 1 : OVIEDO

Arrive and check in at your hotel in Oviedo.
Take the opportunity to have a stroll round the historic centre of this town.

DAY 2 : OVIEDO - GRADO (night at Sama de Grado)

On leaving Oviedo you begin the Camino Primitivo, following in the footsteps of Alfonso II who was the first king to follow this ancient route out of Oviedo. On the way, you see a number of little villages and hermitages until you come to Grado. From here you will be provided with transport to Sama de Grado.

Walking time : ≈ 6 h, distance 25 km.

DAY 3 : GRADO - SALAS

You will be given a short lift from Sama de Grado to Grado. After this you walk through the peaceful, flower-filled countryside of Asturias. On the way you see the Monastery of Salvador de Cornellana, and then the rich historical centre of Salas.

Walking time: ≈ 5h45, distance 23 km.

DAY 4 : SALAS - TINEO

This stage of the walking holiday takes you into the mountains of Asturias.

Walking time : ≈ 5h de marche, distance de 19 km.

DAY 5 : TINEO - POLA DE ALLANDE

A beautiful stage of the walk in the Asturian mountains. You pass through the col de Piedratecha, and see the monastery of Santa María Real de Obona.

Walking time : ≈ 7h, distance 27 km.



DAY 6 : POLA DE ALLANDE – BERDUCEDO (The second night is also spent at Pola de A.)

This is a splendid and wild stage of the walk. It takes you to the Col du Palo, the highest point of the Camino Primitivo. At the end of the day's walk, when you reach the little village of Berducedo, a taxi will take you to Pola de Allande where you will spend the night.

Walking time : ≈ 4h30, distance 17 km.

DAY 7 : BERDUCEDO - GRANDAS DE SALIME

In the morning a taxi will take you back to Berducedo. After this comes a long downhill section to the dam of Salime, following which you climb up to Grandas de Salime which has a beautiful church.

Walking time : ≈ 5 h, distance 20 km.

DAY 8 : GRANDAS DE SALIME - FONSAGRADA

This stage of the walk takes you into Galicia by way of the col del Acebo.

Walking time : 6h30, distance 26 km.

DAY 9 : FONSAGRADA - CADAVO BALEIRA

This day's walking takes you through moorland and forest, and enables you to see some of the architecture of rural Galicia.

Walking time : ≈ 6 h00, distance 25 km.

DAY 10 : CADAVO BALEIRA - LUGO

On this day's walk you will see many religious monuments testifying to the history of the old pilgrims' route. This day's walk takes you to Lugo, which has a historic centre surrounded by Roman walls dating back to the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Walking time : ≈ 8 h, distance 31 km.

DAY 11 : LUGO - FERREIRA

You leave Lugo and walk into the Galician countryside, passing through San Roman de Retorta.

Walking time : ≈ 6h, distance 25 km.

DAY 12 : FERREIRA - MELIDE

At the end of this day's walk, the camino primitivo joins up with the camino francés at Melide.

Walking time : ≈ 5 h, distance 21 km.

DAY 13 : MELIDE - ARZUA

During this day's walk you can explore some delightful historical settings, and see some interesting relics of the old Way of St James. You are now getting near to Compostela!

Walking time : ≈ 3h30, distance 15 km.

DAY 14 : ARZUA - A RUA

This is your penultimate day's walk before reaching Santiago de Compostela. This stage of the walk takes you to A Rua.

Walking time : ≈ 4h30, distance 18 km.



DAY 15 : A RUA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

This last stage, rich in emotion, is crowned by your arrival in **Santiago**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. You go over the Monte de Gozo which gives you a view of the whole town. After that you go through the outskirts of the town, seeing many interesting sights on the way, such as the cathedral and the Plaza de Obradoiro, the Hostal de los Reyes Catolicos, the cloisters and the Archbishop's Palace : the Palace of Raxo

Walking time : ≈ 5 h 30, distance 22 km.

DAY 16 : SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Your walking holiday ends after breakfast.

DATES

You can start this holiday on any day of the week between 1 April and 15 November. Book early if you want a holiday in July or August.

Please indicate on your booking form any alternative dates which would suit you equally well (for example if you are able to start or finish the holiday a few days earlier or later than your ideal date). This is very useful if one or more of the hotels or other places of accommodation are fully booked for your first choice date.)

We also ask you to **book as early as possible**. We do not keep permanent reservations, and some places can be booked up several months in advance.

THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Nights in half-board accommodation for the whole holiday.
- Transportation of baggage.
- An information pack with a guide book for 1-2 people.

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Midday meals.
- Drinks and personal expenses.
- Insurance.
- Booking fees
- Extra charge for postage outside France.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

At the beginning of the holiday:

Arrive and check in at your hotel in Oviedo. You have a night's half-board accommodation before your first day's walking.

The holiday ends:

At Santiago de Compostela after breakfast.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

There are between 5h and 8h walking each day. The distances range from 17 km to 31 km and are over hilly terrain. There are some significant ascents and descents in the region of Asturias (mountains of medium steepness and height).



ACCOMMODATION

This is in hotels, inns and bed-and-breakfasts.

MIDDAY MEALS

Packed lunches are not included in our prices

TRANSPORT OF LUGGAGE

Your bags will be transported for you during each day's walk.

ATTENTION: We ask you to leave your luggage in the entrance of each place of accommodation in the morning. YOU MUST HAVE ONLY ONE BAG PER PERSON, AND THE WEIGHT OF THAT BAG MUST NOT BE MORE THAN 14KG. If the number (one bag) and the weight (14kg) is exceeded, the carrier may charge you extra at the end of the holiday. Alternatively, the carrier may refuse to transport your luggage at all if it is too heavy or awkward.

We strongly advise you to have a small rucksack for carrying the things you will need with you during the daytime.

If you are part of a group, please show clearly on your luggage labels the name of the person who is responsible for your group (i.e. the person who booked the holiday).

ACCESS

*GETTING THERE

- Train or bus : Trains from France to Oviedo; contact the SNCF on 36 35 (from within France. Otherwise use information available on the English language SNCF website).

- Plane: It is possible to fly from Paris or Brussels to Oviedo. (Ask the agency or research on the internet for flights from London or elsewhere.)

- Car : From Bordeaux, take the N10 towards Spain and then follow signs for Bilbao, Santander and Oviedo.

*GETTING HOME

- Train : There is a direct rail link between Santiago-Irún. A train leaves from Santiago at 9H04, and arrives at Hendaye at 20H35. (NB. This should be checked beforehand if you intend to travel on it.)

- Bus : There is a regular bus service between Santiago - León - Oviedo.

- Car : You have two ways of getting back to your car :

- Take the train (Santiago - León - Oviedo).

- Take the bus. The ALSA bus company runs the services between Santiago de Compostela - León -Oviedo.

- Plane : From the airport at Santiago de Compostela, there are regular services to Paris, Nice, Lyon. (Check on the internet or ask the Agency about flights to London and elsewhere.)

HOLIDAY INFORMATION PACK

In the month before your holiday, but after we have received your payment, we will send you an information pack containing all the papers and information you need for your holiday to go smoothly. This will include guide-books, maps, luggage labels/stickers, a guide on the transport of yourself and your luggage, the addresses of the places where you stay and some administrative/legal documents such as your receipt and your insurance

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contract and details. In the guide-book you will find a full description of your walking route (the entire route is way-marked) and descriptions of the villages and sights that you will see. A full set of these holiday documents will be sent to every 1-4 walkers on the holiday.

THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- A small rucksack for your packed lunch and any other things you want to carry with you.
- A small personal first aid kit (plasters, new-skin, eosine [disinfectant for small wounds, insect bites or blisters], alcohol etc).
- A pair of walking boots or shoes suitable for hill walking. Make sure you test them before you go, so you know they are comfortable.
- Glasses, cream and a hat for sun protection.
- Waterproofs for protection against rain.
- Light footwear for the evenings.
- A water bottle; it is important to drink 1.5 to 2 litres per day.
- A small knife.
- A pocket torch (if you wish).
- Binoculars (if you wish).
- Paper handkerchiefs.
- Needle, thread and one or two 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/Rapatration) 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.

