

SAINT JAMES OF COMPOSTELA PILGRIMAGE ROUTE

CAMINO DEL NORTE

From Bilbao to Santillana del Mar

The Camino del Norte, or the coastal path, takes you through some sensational landscape between the sea and the mountains....

After you have explored the astonishing town of Bilbao, the walk continues, always in sight of the sea. It takes you along the Cantabrian coast and through its pretty fishing villages. This northern track of the Way of Saint James is a beautiful long walk, full of coastal scenery. Santillana del Mar, 'the pearl of the Camino del Norte' is a place worth lingering in for some time...

PROGRAMME

JL055

8 days - 7 nights - 6 days' walking.

DAY 1: BILBAO

Check in to your hotel at the end of the afternoon. **Dinner is not included.**

DAY 2: (BILBAO) ZIERBANA - CASTRO URDIALES

We organise transport for you out to Zierbana; then you walk to the pretty port of Castro Urdiales, along the beautiful Cantabrian coast.

Walking time : ≈ 6h30, 24 km.

DAY 3: CASTRO URDIALES - LIENDO

The walk continues through meadows interspersed with jutting outcrops of limestone, where goats and sheep graze. Then you go through eucalyptus forests and enter the peaceful village of Liendo.

Walking time: ≈ 7h, 25 km.

DAY 4: LIENDO - SANTOÑA *(There is a short ferry crossing over the inlet between Laredo and Santoña)*

This short day's walking takes you first of all to Laredo. Then you have a short boat crossing over the estuary in order to get to Santoña.

Walking time: ≈ 4h, 15 km. There are some very pleasant circular walks in the area which you could do at the end of the day.

DAY 5: SANTOÑA - SANTANDER *(this includes a 30 minute ferry crossing of the estuary before reaching Santander).*

This day's walk takes you from Santoña to Santander, the capital of Cantabria. At the beginning of the walk you can do a short detour to see the beach at Noja. You end this day's walk with a boat crossing which brings you to Santander.

Walking time: ≈ 7h, 30 Km.



DAY 6: SANTANDER - MOGRO (there is a short train journey to get you across the river Mogro at Bóo de Pielagos).

Walking time: ≈ 4h, 14 Km.

DAY 7 : MOGRO - SANTILLANA DEL MAR

Today's walk takes you to one of the loveliest villages of the Camino del Norte : Santillana del Mar.

Walking time : ≈ 5h, 20 Km.

DAY 8: SANTILLANA DEL MAR

Your holiday ends after breakfast.

DATES

You can start your holiday on any day of the week between 1 April and 31 October. Early booking is essential for July and 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.

Extra charges for the high season (July, August and Holy Week):

THE PRICE COVERS

- 7 nights half-board accommodation (excluding dinner on Day 1).
- Transportation of your luggage from one hotel to the next and the transportation described in the programme.
- 1 holiday pack with a guidebook for every 1-2 people.

THE PRICE DOES NOT COVER

- Midday meals
- Dinner on day 1
- The train journey on Day 6 (about 1,5 €)
- The short boat crossings at Santander and Laredo (about 3 €)
- Drinks
- Insurance.
- Booking fees
- Extra charge for postage outside France.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Start of holiday:

Reception and checking in at the hotel in Bilbao in the afternoon, the day before your first day's walking.

End of holiday:

At Santillana del Mar after breakfast.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Between 5 and 7 hours' walking over a daily distance of between 25-30 km in undulating country, where the uphill and downhill are not very steep.

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 15KG. If the number (one bag) and the weight (15kg) 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

*ARRIVING

- Train or bus: For trains from France to Bilbao. Contact the SNCF on 36 35 (in France) or consult the English language SNCF website.

There are also buses to Bilbao from Irun. The bus company ALSA run a regular service every day of the week to Bilbao. These buses run every hour during the daytime and the journey takes between 1 hour 30 and 2 hours. See their website: (www.alsa.es)

- Plane: Planes fly from Paris and some provincial French airports to Bilbao (from Bilbao airport you have to take a taxi to the hotel). Consult the internet for flights from other countries, such as Britain, to Bilbao.

- Car: From Bordeaux, take the N10 towards Spain, then follow the signs for Bilbao (which is about 120 km beyond the border).

- Boat: There are ferry services from Britain to Santander (see www.brittany-ferries.co.uk/ferry-routes/ferries.../plymouth-santander).

*RETURNING

- Train: Bus to Torrelavega and then a train to France.

- Bus: From Santillana del Mar, buses go to Torrelavega every day; from Torrelavega, there are buses to Santander, Bilbao or France. To find out the days and the timetables, look at the following website <http://www.transportedecantabria.es/web/guest/home>



- Plane: To get back home, go to Santander (bus or taxi) and then take a plane to Britain or France.
- Car: Bus to Torrelavega, then bus or train for Bilbao.

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 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. For certain walks, the guidebook and the map will be sent to you at your first hotel or place of accommodation.

THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- A soft travelling bag; avoid suitcases, which are more awkward to deal with, and try to keep the weight of your belongings to 10kg maximum.
- A small rucksack (30 litres minimum) 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, painkillers, earplugs etc).
- A pair of walking boots or shoes. Make sure you test them before you go, so you know they are comfortable.
- 1 waterproof, breathable jacket (type gore-tex)
- 1 fleece or 1 pullover
- 1 rain cape (poncho)
- 1 pair of walking trousers (loose fit – e.g. jogging bottoms)
- 1 pair of thin gloves
- 1 woolly hat
- 1 pair of shorts
- 1 swimming trunks/costume and towel
- several pairs of socks (not too thick)
- underwear
- 1 pair plimsolls or equivalent
- 1 overcoat or similar garment for evening wear
- sun-glasses, sun-cream, lip-salve
- 1 hat
- 1 water bottle (plan to drink 2 to 3 litres of water per day in summer)
- 1 plastic bowl of the Tupperware type for picnics and knife, fork and spoon.
- camera and anything else you might want, e.g. a novel to read or watercolour paints...
- official documents

Also bring with you your good humour and your curiosity!

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.

