

El Camino de Santiago Trek

Trek one of the oldest pilgrimage routes in the world



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El Camino de Santiago Trek, Spain

A 5-day spectacular trek along one of the oldest pilgrimage routes

The El Camino de Santiago, otherwise known as 'The Way of St James', is one of the oldest pilgrimage routes in the world and is a World Heritage Site.

A journey millions of pilgrims have completed over thousands of years. The way is marked by the symbol of the scallop shell, typically found on the Galician shores.

This 5-day trek takes in a section of this incredible route and enables you to experience the beauty of rural northern Spain.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK on a flight to Santiago de Compostela

On arrival we will be met by our guides. We will then transfer to our overnight accommodation in Sarria for dinner and a briefing about the challenge ahead.

Day 2: Sarria to Portomarín, 22km 6-7hrs trekking

The first day of our epic challenge! Today expect a stunning trek through pretty villages and peaceful hamlets under the shade of oak trees and along quiet country roads. Along the way, we will have the opportunity to spot many Galician traditional 'hórreos' (granaries). Overnight in Portomarín.

Day 3: Portomarín to Palas de Rei, 22km 6-7hrs trekking

Starting from the beautiful village of Portomarin, today the Camino will cross the river Miño and rise uphill steadily towards the Serra de Ligonde for the first 14km. We will pass nice hamlets such as Gonzar and Ventas de Narón. On route we can Stop to visit the Romanesque Church of Santa María in Castromaior and the Romanesque church in Eirexe, as well as Pilgrim Santiago. Overnight in the town of Palas de Rei.

Day 4: Palas de Rei to Arzúa, 28km 7-8hrs trekking

Today, the Camino trail continues downhill, passing the village of Casanova and the delightful village of Leboreiro. The Camino crosses several streams and follows a forest track to the village of Boente with its church of Santiago. Next is the pretty medieval village of Ribadiso, and finally Arzúa where we stop for the night.

Day 5: Arzúa to Amenal, 23km 5-7hrs trekking

Today's Camino trail continues through the town of Arzua and then through pretty woods, sleepy villages and across streams. The chapel of Santa Irene, with its unique statue of Santiago, is worth a visit. The rest of the route to Amenal is along a mix of good and calm country roads and forest tracks. Overnight Amenal.

Day 6: Amenal to Santiago de Compostela, 14km

4-5hrs trekking

The final day of your challenge! Today we start by trekking towards Lavacolla sitting on the outskirts of Santiago, where pilgrims used to wash themselves in the river in preparation for their arrival in Santiago de Compostela.

Day 6 cont.

Rows of tall eucalyptus trees line our route to Monte do Gozo ('Mount of Joy' 368m) and it is from here we will catch our first glimpse of the Cathedral of Santiago our finish point. When we arrive in the city (264m), explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site's architecture and delight in the wonderful atmosphere of this spiritual and cultural mecca. Tonight we enjoy a celebration dinner and overnight Santiago de Compostela.

Day 7: Depart Santiago de Compostela to UK

Today we will be transferred back to the airport for our return flight to the UK.

© Ultimate Challenges Itinerary complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Moderate to tough

Best time of year

June to October