



Insider's

C A M I N O

Insider 's Portuguese Camino, Porto to Santiago

A 10-night trip covering the last 127km of the Portuguese Way
Suitable for walkers of all abilities

October 29th - November 8th 2028



Introduction

Beginning at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Porto, we visit the Sé Cathedral to learn of the history and importance of the Portuguese Way and just how the Jacobean culture influenced this route over the centuries.

We cross from Portugal to Spain, setting out from one of the true gems of military architecture, the fortress of Valença do Minho, to tread in the lush green corridor of Rías Baixas, home of the famous white grape varietal Albariño.

Our journey will follow parts of the 1st century Roman road, Via XIX, linking Braga in northern Portugal to Astoria in León. Here we discover contrasts of rural life with natural landscapes, hot springs, forests, paths, medieval bridges, Roman milestones, crossroads, rivers and oak groves.

We walk through towns with fascinating history such as Tui, Pontevedra, Caldas de Reis and Padrón. and finish our journey in Santiago de Compostela.

Pilgrims can expect to walk approximately 15km (9.5 miles) per day for seven consecutive days plus one first shorter day with bus support provided.

Highlights

- Guided visit of the 12th century Sé Cathedral, Porto
- Private visit and tasting at Sandeman 's Port House
- Visit the parish church of Padrón with its Roman altar, located close to the arrival point of the maritime transfer of the body of St James
- Walk along some of the original Via XIX Roman road
- Immerse in the local cuisine paired with wines from the region
- Dinner at Pepe Vieira 's Ultramar restaurant with wine pairing, Pontevedra
- Guided tour of the city of Santiago de Compostela
- The Pilgrims ' mass at the Santiago Cathedral
- Farewell dinner in the 15th century Parador de Santiago de Compostela
- Holy Communion in the 12th century San Fiz de Solovio Church for our pilgrims
- Receive "Compostela " certificate for completion of walking 100 kms

Your Insider 's Camino Host



GEORGIE WINGFIELD-HAYES

Georgie is a British biologist and writer who lives in Spain, a country for which she has had a lifelong love: from its language, people and culture; to its history, landscapes and nature. When she 's not leading pilgrimages on the Camino de Santiago, you can find her in the mountains of Sanabria, in northwestern Spain, an area famous for its wild landscapes and resident wolf population. From there she writes about human-nature relations. Georgie first walked the Camino in 2006, which was also the year she first guided groups along the trail. She never tires of the privilege of accompanying pilgrims on their own special journey

Your Insider 's Camino Guide



MARY KAY MAAS

Originally from Wisconsin, USA, Mary Kay walked her first Camino 20 years ago with her mom, the year she studied abroad in Spain. She fell in love that year and has been living in Oviedo, Spain ever since. She has been guiding Spanish youth groups to the US for over 10 years and started guiding on the Camino in 2023. When she 's not guiding, she can be found teaching English online, writing and singing songs, and driving her 16 and 18- year-old sons to soccer practice.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Sunday, October 29th

We meet in Porto. Guests check into the hotel and walk to the 12th-century Sé Cathedral for a guided visit with our guide Jorge. It is here we receive our Pilgrim's Passport and Scallop Shell. We stop at Sandeman's port lodge for a tour and wine tasting and then to the hotel to rest before dinner at Taylor's Barão Fladgate Restaurant.

Hotel: 5* Forte de Gaia Hotel, Vila Nova de Gaia, Porto, Portugal



Porto

Day 2. Monday, October 30th

9.5 km / 5.9 mi: Valença do Minho to Ribadelouro

After breakfast, we drive to Valença do Minho on the Portuguese-Spanish border. From here, we begin our first stage of the walk, crossing the Minho River to Tui via the old centenary bridge. We visit Tui's 12th century Cathedral of Santa Maria, with its mix of Romanesque and Gothic styles with time for refreshments or a light lunch.

Our walk continues along the Minho River, through forests and vineyards, to Ribadelouro, known for its 12th century parish church of Santa Comba.

We return to Portugal by coach and check into the Pousada de Valença.

Dinner this evening at A Muralha, meeting in hotel reception to walk together.

Hotel: 4* Pousada de Valença, Valença do Minho, Portugal



Valença do Minho

Day 3. Tuesday, October 31st

16.5 km / 10.25 mi: Ribadelouro to Mos

After breakfast, we travel back to Ribadelouro for the second stage of the Camino towards A Rúa. Our walk passes through pine and eucalyptus woods leading to the Vigo Estuary, reaching O Porriño, a historic crossroads since Roman times and part of the Portuguese Way.

We continue past the Angustias Chapel and along the Louro River, ending in Mos, home to the 16th-century Church of Santa Baia de Mos. From here, we drive to Baiona, a coastal town in the Rías Baixas region.

Overnight at the magnificent Parador de Baiona, and dinner at the Parador.

Hotel: 4* Parador de Baiona, Baiona, Spain



View of Baiona from the Parador

Day 4. Wednesday, November 1st

18.5 km / 11.49 mi: Mos to Arcade

After breakfast, we return to Mos to begin the third stage of the Camino towards Arcade.

We continue to Redondela, where the early 16th century Vilavella Convent now serves as a pilgrim hostel. From Cesantes, we enjoy views of the Vigo Estuary, San Simón and San Antón Islands, and the Rande Bridge above the mussel farms.

Crossing the historic Sampaio Bridge, scene of a battle against the French in 1809, we enter the province of Pontevedra and finish our walk in Arcade, known for its stone houses and Roman bridges. We then transfer to Pontevedra and check into the Parador. Dinner at the hotel.

Hotel: 4* Parador de Pontevedra, Pontevedra, Spain



Redondela

Day 5. Thursday, November 2nd

13 km / 8 mi: Arcade to Pontevedra

After breakfast, we take a short 15-minute drive back to Arcade to begin the fourth stage of the Camino towards Alba via Pontevedra.

Along the route, we stop at the small Santa Marta Chapel dating back to 1617. On arriving into Pontevedra, we visit the 18th century Church of the Pilgrim Virgin, an iconic scallop-shaped church dedicated to the Virgin Mary who, according to tradition, guided pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela.



Pontevedra

Dinner tonight at Pepe Vieira 's Ultramar.

Hotel: 4* Parador de Pontevedra, for a second night

Day 6. Friday, November 3rd

23 km / 14.29 mi: Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis

After breakfast, we check out and begin the fifth stage of the Camino to Caldas de Reis. Leaving Pontevedra, we cross the Lérez River on the Burgo Bridge, beside the wetlands of A Xunqueira de Alba.

The route continues through Valbón, passing large stone houses and three notable stone crosses — including one depicting St James the Pilgrim and the solitary Soutelo.

We follow a mix of trails and paved paths to the hamlet of Tivo, then pass Santa María Church before entering the beautiful thermal town of Caldas de Reis.

A short 5-minute drive takes us to the hotel and dinner in the hotel dining room.



Stone crosses

Hotel: Torre do Río, Caldas del Reis, Spain

Day 7. Saturday, November 4th

17 km / 10.56 mi: Caldas de Reis to Pontecesures

After breakfast, we travel back to Caldas de Reis to begin the sixth stage of the Camino.

The route passes through Casal de Eirigo, site of the 1809 battle between the Galician army and local villagers against Napoleon's forces. From there, we reach Mount Castelo, surrounded by dense woods and the Valga River.

Crossing the Fontelo River, we walk through small villages to the Pino Manso viewpoint, offering magnificent views of the Ulla River valley and Pontecesures. We end the day with a short drive back to Torre do Río.

Hotel: Torre do Río, Caldas del Reis for a second night



Ulla River, Caldas de Reis

Day 8. Sunday, November 5th

15 km / 9.3 mi - Pontecesures to Rúa de Francos

After breakfast, we take the drive back to Pontecesures to begin the seventh stage of the Camino towards Rúa Francos via Padrón.

Crossing the Roman bridge over the Ulla River, we reach Padrón, the ancient port of Iria Flavia. We visit the 10th-century Padrón Church.

The route continues to the Sanctuary of A Escravitude, known for its striking stairway fountain, before passing through the valleys of Padrón and Amaía, climbing to Rúa de Francos.

We return to Padrón on the bus and check into the Pazo de Arretén for one night. We have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Hotel: Pazo Arretén, Padrón 4*



Padrón

DAY 9: Monday, November 6th

13.6 kms / 8.45 mi - Rúa de Francos to Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast, we travel back to Rúa de Francos to begin the eighth and final stage of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela.

In Milladoiro, we catch our first glimpse of the Cathedral of Santiago, signalling the end of our pilgrimage. We continue through A Rocha Vella, crossing the old bridge over the Sar River, and enter the city through Vigo Square and the old quarter, finally arriving at the Praza do Obradoiro, in front of the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago.



Interior Patio of the
Parador de Santiago de Compostela

We stay for two nights at the Parador of Santiago de Compostela.

In the evening, we walk to the 12th-century Church of San Fiz de Solovio for Holy Communion, followed by dinner in a favorite Galician restaurant.

Hotel: Parador Santiago de Compostela 5*

DAY 10: Tuesday, November 7th

After breakfast, we meet for a private guided walking tour of Santiago de Compostela and its Cathedral, exploring the city's historic streets and squares. We also visit The Anglican Pilgrim's Centre, a project supported by your donation included in the trip price.

The afternoon is free for lunch and personal exploration of Santiago.

In the evening, we meet in the Parador lobby to attend the Pilgrim's Mass inside the Cathedral. Subject to the Cathedral's schedule, there is a chance to witness the impressive "botafumeiro" in motion.

We conclude our pilgrimage with a farewell dinner at the Parador's private dining room overlooking the Praza do Obradoiro and the Cathedral.

Hotel: 5* Parador Santiago de Compostela, for a second & final night



Botafumeiro, giant incense for the Pilgrim's Mass

DAY 11: Wednesday, November 8th

Breakfast & we say our goodbyes. End of tour.



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Included in package:

- 1 night at the Forte de Gaia Hotel, Vila Nova de Gaia, Porto 5*
- 1 night at the Pousada de Valença, Valença do Minho 4*
- 1 night at the Parador de Baiona, Baiona 4*
- 2 nights at the Parador de Pontevedra, Pontevedra 4*
- 2 nights at the Torre do Río, Caldas del Reis 3*
- 1 night at the Pazo Arretén, Padrón 4*
- 2 nights at the Parador Santiago de Compostela 5*
- Private transport in a comfortable coach
- Tour host and guide
- Breakfast daily; 10 dinners with wine (all lunches at own expense)
- Visits & activities as specified
- A \$200 USD donation to the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Santiago de Compostela
- All applicable taxes

Not included:

Lunches and guides/driver tips.

Notes:

- Luggage will be transported from hotel to hotel
- For those who feel that they are not able to complete full walking days, we split the day's walk into stages and the support bus can transport you between the stages that you wish to "sit out".

For pricing information, contact Faith Journeys
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