

Pilgrim's Way 2012

Camino de Santiago Compostela Spain

16 September - 4 October 2012

The Way of St. James, often known by its Spanish name, the Camino de Santiago, is the pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (north-western Spain), where legend has it that the remains of the apostle, Saint James the Great, are buried.

In the 9th-century a shower of falling stars led the Spanish hermit Pelayo to Santiago, where he discovered the long forgotten tomb of the apostle St. James. Since then, pilgrims from all over the world have travelled the Camino de Santiago.

Walk through eleven centuries of history, legends and traditions, and along the way learn of the many miracles that have occurred on the trail. As we add our footprints to the millions who have travelled before us – including such

legendary pilgrims as St. Francis of Assisi, Charlemagne, and Pope John Paul II – we become part of the Camino's ongoing history.

Follow the yellow arrows and scallop shell signposts that point the way through forests, farmland, medieval villages and hamlets where cows meander down country lanes and locals wish you a "Buen Camino!". You are not a tourist any more, but a pilgrim on a spiritual journey. Enjoy the camaraderie on the Camino and meet fellow "peregrinos" from around the world, all wearing the scallop shell symbolic of St. James.

On this Camino de Santiago tour we have chosen the most beautiful and historic sections of the Camino between Burgos and Santiago de Compostela. Like thousands of pilgrims before you, you'll celebrate your safe arrival by embracing the statue of St. James behind the altar of the spectacular Cathedral in Santiago.



3/400 Canterbury Road
Surrey Hills, VIC. 3127
P: (03) 9836 7199 or 1300 554 654
E: info@missiontravel.com.au

www.missiontravel.com.au

For more information go to
www.missiontravel.com.au/camino2012

Pilgrim's Way 2012 Camino de Santiago Compostela Spain

Proposed Schedule

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Depart Australia

An afternoon flight with Singapore Airlines from Australia via Singapore to Barcelona.

MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Barcelona

Arrive into Barcelona at approximately 8.15am. Arrival and transfer for a half day tour of Barcelona including the Gothic District, historical centre and cathedral. Visit Antoni Gaudi's Sagrada Familia a most impressive avant garde church building started in 1882 and is still under construction today. Continue on to Gaudi's fascinating Park Guell. Overnight Barcelona.

TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Barcelona-Bilbao

Lunchtime flight from Barcelona to Bilbao. Transfer to your city hotel and enjoy free time for the rest of the day. Over dinner your tour leader will go over the details of the trip ahead.

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Bilbao

This morning a local art historian will take us on a walking tour. Stroll along the Nervion River and then cross over Santiago Calatrava's famous Zubi Zuri foot bridge where we'll start to get wonderful views of the Museo Guggenheim. Enjoy a 90minute visit of this fabulous museum and discover why Frank Gehry's mind-boggling titanium masterpiece has brought new life to the city of Bilbao. The tour continues with a walk into the colourful and well kept medieval quarter (Caspa Viejo). Here we'll explore the original seven streets where Bilbao was founded some 700 years ago.

THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Bilbao-Burgos-Leon

After breakfast depart Bilbao and travel by coach to Burgos. Burgos is an important city on the pilgrimage route and famous for its Gothic Cathedral. For almost 500 years Burgos was the capital of Old Castille. It is also famous as the birthplace of El Cid, the 11th century popular hero from the chivalrous age of Spain. Visit the magnificent Cathedral and explore the Old Quarter, including the Arco de Santa Maria – a beautifully preserved gateway that once formed part of the city walls.

We continue by coach to Hornillos del Camino. You'll begin to follow the yellow arrows and scallop shell symbols that mark the Camino as you leave.

Walk: Hornillos del Camino to Hontanas (11km). Upon arrival in Hontanas transfer by coach to Leon.

FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Leon

The cathedral of Leon is an example of pure Gothic style to rival the best in France, including Chartres, Reims and Notre Dame de Paris. Visit the San Isidro Basilica displaying wonderfully preserved medieval paintings of biblical scenes on its walls and vaults (sometimes referred to as "the Sistine Chapel of the Romanesque period").

SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Leon-Astorga

The coach will drop us off at Puente de Orbigo to commence the days walk to Astorga (16km).

Astorga was founded by the Romans in 14BC, and is famous for the 19th century Gaudi-designed Palacio of Astorga. Overnight Leon.

SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Astorga – Villafranca Del Bierzo

After breakfast, depart Leon & transfer to the Maragato region. Explore Castrillo de los Polvazares and Foncebadon where our walk begins (19km). Follow the Camino to the famous Cruz de Hierro (Iron Cross) at almost 1500m – the highest point on the pilgrim's trail. Leave a stone (brought from home) on the massive heap at the base of the 5 metre cross. Take the coach from Molinaseca and transfer to Villafrance del Bierzo.

MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Villafrance Del Bierzo-O Cebreiro

After visiting Villafranca take the coach to Ruitelan to walk (9km) to O'Cebreiro on the Galician side of the Leon-Galicia border. Overnight in a traditional stone built hotel.

TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

O Cebreiro-Sarria

Transfer by coach to Triacastela (Three Castles) for the walk (19km) to Sarria. Choose from a free afternoon in Sarria or visit the Monastery of Sarria.

WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

Sarria - Portomarin

Today's section of the Camino is considered one of the most picturesque. Enroute to Portomarin we pass the 100km marker (halfway!).

THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

Portomarin – Palas De Rei

The walk today is 24km. For those wanting an easier day visit the UNESCO city of Lugo and take a shorter walk.

After arriving at Palas de Rei, transfer by coach to visit the Church of Vilar de Donas housing 14th century frescos & effigies of the Knights of the Order of Santiago.

FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Palas De Rei-Melide

Today's 22 km walk includes a visit to the 12th century church dedicated to St Julian. Continue walking to Castaneda where the coach will be waiting to transfer you to Melide.

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Melide-Arzua

Choose to visit the Monastery of Sobrado dos Monxes and a shorter walk, or walk 23km from Castaneda to Arzua along country lands and ancient stone pathways.

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

Arzua-Santiago

Excitement mounts as the trail brings you closer to Santiago de Compostela. Walk (22km) through Lavacolla where medieval pilgrims would bathe in the river to purify themselves before arriving in the holy city of Santiago. Ascend the Monte de Gozo (Mount of Joy) and catch your first sight of the spires of the Cathedral of Santiago.

MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

Santiago

Today we'll enjoy a tour of the magnificent Cathedral with a local guide. Explore the narrow

streets of the Old Quarter and enjoy a pilgrims mass in the Cathedral.

TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Santiago

This day is free for you to discover more treasures of this wonderful UNESCO World Heritage city. Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group before departing tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Depart For Australia

Afternoon flight from Santiaao to Barcelona to connect with Singapore Airlines back to Australia. Arrival into Australia on the morning of Thursday 4 October.

Cost

TOUR PRICE

\$6990.00 per person twin share

(based on 20 passengers)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1150.00

LAND ONLY \$4699.00

What this includes:

- Return economy class airfare from Australia to Spain flying Singapore Airlines inclusive of taxes
- 14 nights 4 star accommodation including breakfast and dinner
- English speaking tour director and local guides
- Entrance fees to Guggenheim museum, Compostela Cathedral, Leon Cathedral
- Luxury air conditioned coach
- Tips for the tour director, guides and driver

What this excludes:

- Lunches
- Tips for restaurant staff and other services
- Personal expenses – drinks, internet, laundry
- Travel insurance – please contact Mission Travel for a quote

Questions? Contact Audrey Warren at Mission Travel on 1300 554 654 or Audrey@missiontravel.com.au

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:

Mission Travel Group

3/400 Canterbury Road

Surrey Hills, VIC. 3127

P: 03 9836 7199 or

1300 554 654

E: info@missiontravel.com.au