

Camino de Santiago with Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Follow in the footsteps of pilgrims
and raise vital funds for our Hospice.

11th - 18th October 2025



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Trip Overview

Santiago de Compostela

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Santiago de Compostela, the final destination of the legendary medieval Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), is named after the Apostle Saint James (Santiago), who is buried here.

Saint James went to the most north-western part of Spain, called by the Romans 'Finis Terrae' (end of the world), to preach and convert people to Christianity. After returning to Palestine in 44 AD, he was taken prisoner and tortured to his death. The king refused to bury him, so his disciples stole the body and brought him by boat to the Spanish coast where he was buried in a secret place in a wood.

Centuries later, in 813, the hermit Pelayo heard music in that wood and witnessed strange lights in the night sky. The site was thus called, in Latin, 'Campus Stellae', the field of the star, a name that later became Compostela.

Camino

Today, thousands of people known as 'pilgrims' walk the Camino de Santiago for several different reasons; spiritual, cultural, adventurous or simply wanting to learn the history of this ancient trail and as a way to get fit and spend time outdoors. This is not a religious tour. The Camino is about the journey and to the majority of people it symbolises a time of reflection, learning and fresh starts.

Camino Trek Overview

This trek explores the eighth and final section of the French Way, the most traditional and best-known of all the pilgrims' ways to Santiago de Compostela. During the 5-day walk, we traverse the hilly landscapes of Galicia, passing numerous points of cultural and historical interest along the way.

What is the experience like?

Who will accompany you?

The trek is accompanied by local professional English-speaking guides who have an excellent knowledge of hiking in the region. The guides are first-aid trained and will support you throughout your journey. You will also be supported by a Different Travel Company UK tour manager.



How tough is it?

This trek is graded moderate to challenging. You will be trekking long distances over varying terrain which includes some uphill sections, in varying weather conditions. You will stay in basic hotels and guesthouses.

You will be walking for many hours and sometimes on steep gradients. You must be fit enough to trek for at least 7-8 hours at a time for multiple consecutive days. Regular breaks are taken but long days of walking are inevitable. You cannot be too fit for this challenge so you should train well before your departure.

What is the terrain like?

This terrain will vary throughout the five days but in general, you will trek all day along country roads, compact dirt and stone footpaths, forest tracks, gravel trails, paved streets and through woods and meadows with some uphill/downhill paths. Each day you will experience undulating terrain, so it is important that your training includes hill walking and trekking up and down gradients.

What about meals?

Breakfast and evening meals will be served in a communal dining room at the accommodation or at local restaurants. You will enjoy hearty, delicious Spanish meals that will keep your energy levels high for each day's trek. You will eat packed lunches which you will carry yourself each day or you may wish to stop in small local restaurants. Please inform us in advance if you have any dietary requirements or preferences.

Where will we stay?

You will stay in basic hotels and simple guesthouses on a twin or triple-share basis. Bathrooms will generally be private with showers and flushing toilets, but there may occasionally be shared facilities.

What is the experience like?

Is there an age limit?

You must be aged 18+ to join this trek. It may be possible for you to participate if you are 16 or 17 years old but you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit.



Who can take part?

Any ideal candidate is someone who is open-minded, positive, flexible and enjoys the challenges of the great outdoors. Adventure travel involves elements of the unexpected so do not expect the standards to be the same as you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable (be it because of group pace, weather conditions etc.) and itineraries may be altered to allow for this. You must be willing to train hard for this challenge.

How fit do I need to be?

If you do not already regularly exercise you should aim to start training (including plenty of hills) as early as possible. The best training is hill walking, which will prepare you for the type of

terrain you will experience.

Health Declaration

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions medications used, and other medical issues must be specified. All your medical details are treated in the strictest confidence.

The information will be securely screened by a qualified medical professional, and details provided to your tour manager and local guides, so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. By completing this booking form you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow-up questions regarding your health. If you declare any medical conditions, you may be asked to provide more information, or we may request to contact your GP. If your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and wellbeing or the safety and wellbeing of others in the group, you may be recommended not to take part/ If this happens your booking will not be confirmed, and the deposit will be refunded.

We must be informed if any conditions or medication change, or if new conditions develop. If necessary, confirmation of fitness to travel from your GP or specialist may be required.

Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation in a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.



Health Assurance

Your health and safety are our top priority so rest assured that we are taking steps to ensure you not only have a memorable experience, but a safe one too.

We constantly monitor and follow the advice of the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) who provide recommendations and advice to British travellers about travel to a certain destination.

Health and safety is our top priority so we will NEVER operate a trip in an area where there is clear and present risk to our members whether

that is due to a health outbreak, political instability, natural disasters or anything else.

If travel restrictions either in the UK or Spain prevent safe travel we will look to either postpone or cancel your trip at no cost to you.

Please note that at the time of travel, there may be enhanced safety and security measures in airports, bag drop may take longer, and you may need to provide a certificate of health or proof of vaccination.

We will inform you about any information pertinent to your travel arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact info@different-travel.com.

Trip Cost

A £390 registration fee payable at the time of booking, then you are asked to fundraise at least £3,400 for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. 80% (£2,720) is payable to Florence Nightingale by 18th July 2025. The remaining of £680 is due by the departure date.

A flexi payment option, where you self-fund your trip costs and still fundraise for the Charity, is also available, please ask for details.

Trip Includes

- Return flights from the UK (inc. airport taxes)
- All transfers and transport in Spain
- Accommodation as specified
- Meals as per itinerary (excl. lunch on day 7)
- English-speaking local guides
- Luggage transfers during the trek
- Different Travel UK tour manager

Trip does not include:

- Visa or travel permit depending on EU regulations at the time of departure
- Personal expenses (e.g. drinks, souvenirs etc.)
- Any necessary vaccinations
- Tips (approx. £30-£35 per person)
- Trek kit and equipment

Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday 11th October 2025)

UK to Sarria

Fly from the UK to Santiago, La Coruna, Vigo or Porto (tbc). On Arrival you will be transferred to spend your first night at a hotel in Sarria and have dinner and a briefing on the trek to come.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 (Sunday 12th October 2025)

Sarria - Portomarin

After a hearty breakfast, you will start your walk, through shady oak woods, pretty villages and on quiet country roads. The village of Barbedelo has a beautiful Romanesque church, the Church of Santiago, which features pictorials of fantastic birds, Daniel between two lions and the three wise men before Herod.

The art displayed here represents the importance of resurrection and new beginnings. When you finally arrive in Portomarin, there is time to relax at the hotel and enjoy the numerous terraces of the main plaza and learn about the history of the area.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Trekking: Approx. 6 hours/22km

Altitude gain/loss: +230m/-300m

Day 3 (Monday 13th October 2025)

Portomarin - Palais de Rei

Leaving the village, the Camino crosses the River Minho and climbs steady uphill. On your way, you cross Gonzar and the Romanesque Church of Santa Maria Castromaior and then stop for a moment to enjoy the peace and calm of the Galician Cemetery in Ligonde. You continue to Eirexe and its stunning Romanesque church featuring a sculpture of Daniel, as well as Santiago de Peregrino. Our overnight stop is in Palais de Rei, a small and pretty town.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Trekking: Approx. 6.5 hours/25km

Altitude gain/loss: +340m/-140m

Day 4 (Tuesday 14th October 2025)

Palais de Rei - Arzua

Today, the Camino continues slightly downhill, passing the village of Casanova and the charming village of Leboreiro. At Melide there is a chance to stop in one of the many restaurants to try some local specialities. Later today, the Camino follows a forest track and crosses several streams bringing you to the village of Boente, with its church of Santiago. Then we pass through the medieval village of Ribadiso and finally reach Arzúa. This small town has two churches that can be visited. Santa Maria and La Magdalena. It has a population of around 7,000 and is famous for its creamy cheese, quixo.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Trekking: Approx. 7 hours/29km

Altitude gain/loss: +140m/-340m

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Day 5 (Wednesday 15th October 2025)

Arzua - Rua Opino

Today's shady section of the Camino passes through woods, along streams and through sleepy villages. We take our time and visit the chapel of Santa Irena, with its unique statues of Santiago. The rest of the way to Rua Opino is on a good and quiet country road. Rua is one of the less crowded stopping points before Santiago de Compostela.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Trekking: Approx. 5.5 hours/18km

Altitude gain/loss: +50m/-130m

Day 6 (Thursday 16th October 2025)

Rua Opino - Santiago de Compostela

The final stage today, firstly to Lavacolla, where pilgrims traditionally washed in the river before reaching Santiago de Compostela. The tall eucalyptus trees line the way to Monte del Gozo (the Mount of Joy), from where we can see our goal - the Cathedral of Santiago! After descending to the city you will be able to witness the fantastic architecture of the UNESCO World Heritage site close-up. We check into our hotel and relax after completing our Camino.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Trekking: Approx. 5.5 hours/21km

Altitude gain/loss: +150m/-185m

Day 7 (Friday 17th October 2025)

Santiago

Today is free for you to enjoy at your leisure. Take in the sights of Santiago de Compostela or optional excursions are available for a supplement, payable locally. Gather for a celebratory farewell dinner in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 8 (Saturday 18th October 2025)

Santiago - UK

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to the UK.

Meals: Breakfast

N.B. This itinerary has been prepared in advance so while we do not anticipate changes, the itinerary may be subject to alteration due to flight schedules, hotel availability and other factors outside of our control. During the trip itself, the itinerary will depend on the group's ability, weather and daily circumstances. Any changes in the itinerary will be made in the interest of group safety and enjoyment. In-country, your guide and tour manager will have the final say in the interest of the health and safety of the group.

Kit List - Camino de Santiago de Compostela Trek

The kit you take can make the difference between being 'just a trek' or a 'memorable trek'. Our kit lists are put together with feedback from our own experience and those participants who have taken part in our previous trips. The items on this list do not take into account your personal preferences or individual requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: this list is a guideline and is not exhaustive or take into account personal preferences. For more information about items on this list please refer to the trip dossier or contact The Different Travel Company on info@different-travel.com. Please consider eco-friendly or biodegradable options

Essential | Suggested | Optional

Documents and flights essentials

- Passport and Copy
- E-Tickets
- Travel Insurance
- EHIC/GHIC Card
- ATM and credit card(s)
- Cash (£ Sterling)
- Pen for immigration forms
- Sunglasses (preferably polarized)
- Mobile phone & charger
- Camera & spare batteries

Clothing and footwear

- Kitbag/holdall for luggage (total weight max 20kg)
- Daypack (25 - 30 litres)
- Hand luggage (take note of the dimensions from airline)
- Dry bag/backpack liner
- Combination padlocks

Clothing and footwear

- Trekking boots: either worn on flight or carried in hand luggage
- Lightweight trek trousers
- Non-cotton, technical t-shirts
- Non-cotton long sleeved top/shirt
- Non-cotton long sleeved base layer
- Trek socks
- Underwear
- Warm fleece or sweater
- Shorts
- Sunhat with brim
- Lightweight waterproofs
- Neck cooling 'Cobber' or cooling towel
- Buff (www.buff.com)
- Casual clothes and footwear for the evenings

Health & Hygiene

- Hygiene kit to include: toothbrush and toothpaste, antiperspirant deodorant, wet wipes, shampoo, conditional, nail brush and nail care kit
- Personal first aid kit to include: prescription medicine, insect repellent, ibuprofen, paracetamol, plasters, blister plasters (e.g. Compeed), Imodium, rehydration salts (e.g. Dioralyte), antiseptic cream (e.g. Savlon), anti-histamine cream/tablets, lip balm with SPF protection, zinc oxide tape, nail scissors/tweezers, muscle rub (e.g. deep heat)
- Toilet bag: toilet paper, wipes, hand sanitiser, nappy sacks
- Hairbrush/comb
- Feminine care products

Other Kit

- Sun block (high SPF)
- 1-2 litre water hydration system (e.g. Camelbak)
- 1 litre water bottle
- LED head torch & spare batteries
- Adaptor (European 2 round pin)
- Ear plugs
- Hiking poles - to be stowed in hold luggage for flight
- Energy/food snack bars
- Bags for dirty washing
- Spare glasses/contact lenses
- Video camera & charger
- MP3 player/ipod
- Portable power bank
- Books/packs of cards
- Travel pillow
- Swimwear*

**Some accommodations may have a seasonal outdoor swimming pool, though this is not guaranteed.*