

Camino Portuguese Way Experience Tour

Departure October 2018



The Camino Portugués (Portuguese Way) is the Medieval Way to get Santiago de Compostela. This is a very mystic way full of positive energy, belief and faith. This is the route that has been covered by thousands of pilgrims along the years since the 9th century.

Our route starts at the gorgeous city of Lisbon and it will take you through many stunning landscapes: from the city lights to the coast and back to the peaceful Portuguese countryside dotted with vineyards, forests and green rolling hills.

On your way, stop to admire the many little quaint towns and villages such as Coimbra, Porto, Tui or Caldas de Reis.

Fully guided tour

Our fully- guided tours are ideal for travelers looking to share their Camino experience with a small group. Guided tours are a great way to meet people along the walking routes and they are led by local guides with in-depth knowledge of the Camino de Santiago. They speak fluent English and can provide you with insights into the local culture.

Included in our guided tours is Accommodation in 3 star hotels, rural houses and Posadas with attached bathroom, breakfast included daily and most dinners. Bus support throughout the trip, Guided Sightseeing tours in certain cities along the way, Bus support at the beginning of the program and to the hotel at the end. (every day), English-language companion guide throughout the trip, walk with the group, All taxes and service charges at the hotels, Baggage transfer between hotels

Proposed itinerary

Day 1 – 17 October 2018

ARRIVE LISBON Met and transferred to your hotel. Time to freshen up before exploring Lisbon by evening. Overnight Hotel (B)

Day 2- 18 October 2018

LISBON – SINTRA – PORTO - This comprehensive 8-hour tour from Lisbon gives you the chance to visit one of Europe's most beautiful romantic palaces. Avoid the stress of making your own way to the evenly dispersed highlights of Sintra and Cascais by travelling around the province with ease. Marvel at the UNESCO-listed Pena National Palace; visit Cabo da Roca, Europe's westernmost point; and discover the charming fishing village of Cascais. Later in the afternoon we will take the train to Porto. Met and transferred to our hotel in Porto **Overnight Porto. (B)**

Day 3 – 19 October 2018

PORTO – PONTE DE LIMA WALK - approx. 4.5 hours, 12 km. After breakfast, you will have a guided tour of Porto downtown area to see some of its emblematic sites such as the 12th-18th century Cathedral, the Tower of the Clerigos, symbol of the town and the nearby Livreria Lello & Irmao, a unique bookstore considered by many as the world's most beautiful. Built at the end of 19th century it is Modernist/Art Nouveau in style with a stunning interior; marvellous stairway, wooden walls and stained glass ceilings. You will also visit the colorful Bolho market and the station of Sao Benito with its magnificent tile panels. We transfer to start our walk on the Camino which takes us to Ponte de Lima that is located in the Centre of a rich farming region, where the famous vinho verde is produced. After having breakfast, the coach takes us to Balugaes to walk to Vitorio de Piae. Here the landscape will start to change gradually little by little the green hills become more prominent. Today is the most challenging walking day due to the shortage of villages along the way, as well as the sharp climbs. The scenery is fantastic and your effort will be rewarded with wonderful views. Once you get to your destination, the bus will pick you up to take to hotel in Ponte de Lima. **Overnight in Ponte de Lima. (BD)**

Day 4 – 20 October 2018

PONTE DE LIMA – RUBIAS WALK - approx. 5 hours, 18 km. From here we will walk to Rubias by a fantastic scenery with some wonderful views of the Lima Valley. You will also pass a number of small churches and crosses where it is traditional for pilgrims to Santiago, to place stones to mark their walk. Once we finish this route, the coach picks us up and transports us back to our hotel in Ponte de Lima. **Overnight in Ponte de Lima. (BD)**

Day 5 – 21 October 2018

RUBIAIS – TUI WALK - approx. 5.5 hours, 19 km. Today's Camino travels along some hilly terrain. A delightful day of quiet lanes and dirt tracks, the country side becomes greener as we approach Galicia. Gently downhill into the river Minho valley. The historic border and walled town of Valença has an impressive fortress. We explore Valença, before crossing along the international bridge into Tui on the Spanish side where we adjust our watches setting them 1 hour ahead. **Overnight in Tui. (BD)**

Day 6 – 22 October 2018

TUI – O PORRINO WALK - approx. 3.5 hours, 10km. Today's stages is the first one we will walk entirely. So after having our breakfast we start our route from the Tui's cathedral. From here we pass the tunnel of the Convent of Clarissas and the Churches of Santo Domingo and San Bartolomé. After crossing the Veiga bridge we will reach one of the most beautiful stretches of the whole route. The Camino (way) descends to the valley of the Louro river which take us to Porriño through vineyards, or large estates with farm animals. Just 7km before arriving our goal, we will be shocked with a vast industrial estate and the outskirts of Porriño. From here we will drive back to Tui. **Overnight in Tui. (BD)**

Day 7 - 23 October 2018

O PORRINO – REDONDELA WALK - approx. 4.5 hours, 15 km. Today the route takes minor roads and a few tracks through well wooded countryside until the descent into Redondela by the Ria De Vigo. Along the way, we will pass close to the Pazo de Mós, Santiaguíño de Antas and Chan das Pipas. Here starts a steep descent that leads us towards the end of this stage initially reaching the centre of Redondela. **Overnight in Rectoral de Cobres. (BD)**

Day 8 - 24 October 2018

REDONDELA – PONTEVEDRA WALK - approx. 4.5 hours, 18km. We leave Redondela along by-ways until we reach Outeiro de Penas, a place with an excellent view over the Ria de Vigo. Then finally we reach Arcade, a place renowned for having the best oysters in Galicia. Through the backstreets of Pontesampaio to enter and follow a sunken lane which climbs to a wooded and agricultural area to get Pontevedra, which is a city with a long maritime and trading tradition, boasts one of the largest and most elegant historic quarters in the whole of Galicia. Situated on the edge of the estuary of the same name, the old town extends in a network of streets and squares and contains major civic and religious buildings. **Overnight stay in Pontevedra (BD)**

Day 9 - 25 October 2018

PONTEVEDRA – CALDAS DO REI WALK - approx. 5.5 hours, 23km. We start this stage at the historical centre of Pontevedra walking from the old city to the millennial bridge, O Burgo, over the Lárez River. We continue along the beautiful Valley of the Gandra River until San Mauro. From there, the path widens and as we walk further you will experience a peaceful and serene atmosphere. From here we start seeing the firs crosses, some of them magnificently carved. We enter Caldas de Reis alongside the church of Santa Maria, close to the bridge of the Umia River, where this stage ends. **Overnight in Caldas De Reis (BD)**

Day 10 - 26 October 2018

CALDAS DO REI – PADRON WALK - approx. 4.5 hours, 18km. From the spa town of Caldas de Reis, we take a bridge over the river Umia that leads us to a fountain of hot spring water that has lent the town its name since Roman times. We pass near the church of Santa Maria de Carracedo and then we will cross a particularly landscape along the side of the Valga River continuing to S. Miguel de Valga, where we head to Pontecesures. After crossing the Ulla River we arrive in Padron. Padron is famous for being the first land sighted by the ship bearing the body of Saint James. **Overnight in Padron. (BD)**

Day 11 – 27 October 2018

PADRON – SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WALK - approx. 5.5 hours, 24 km. We start this last stage by leaving Padron heading north until reaching the church of Santa Maria de Iria Flávia. We continue through Galician villages until the magnificent sanctuary of Nossa Señora da Escravitude. From here we will reach Rua de Francos following broad streets and narrower shortcuts. We finally start to see Santiago de Compostela and a bit further, at Agro dos Monteiros, we can see the towers of the Cathedral for the first time. After crossing the Sar River, we continue through the suburbs of the city that lead us to the Faxeira gate, the entrance of the Portuguese Way in this old city. Through a labyrinth of streets we continue to Obradoiro square and to the Cathedral itself where the Apostle waits for us. This town which is synonymous with the Camino, an ancient pilgrimage route that has linked the city with the rest of Europe ever since. Every year many thousands of pilgrims set out on foot, by bike, or even on horseback, to live this experience that combines adventure and spirituality. **Overnight in 4* Hotel Monumento San Francisco. (BD)**

Day 12 – 28 October 2018

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - After the breakfast a tourist guide will show us the most important sights of this historic city. Among other we visit the palace Gelmirez as well as the cathedral.

After this tour, free afternoon to take a stroll through the charming alleys and ancient streets of the city. Farewell Dinner and overnight in Santiago de Compostela. Overnight in 4* Hotel Monumento San Francisco. **(BD)**

Day 13 - 29 October 2018

DEPARTURE DAY - The trip concludes in Santiago de Compostela today. Transfer to the airport for your flight onward journey to Ausralia or if you are joining the Morocco tour to Casablanca.

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| Price | | |
| | Price base on minimum of 10 persons | |
| 8 pax | AUD3900 twin share | AUD1350 single room |
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| | Prices based on current VAT Due to the fluctuation of the Aust\$ prices may change at time of booking | |
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Accommodations in double or single room as follows:

- 1 Nights Lisbon BB
- 1 Night in Porto in BB
- 2 Nights in Ponte da Lima in HB
- 2 Nights in Tui in HB
- 1 Night in Redondela in HB
- 1 Night in Pontevedra in HB
- 1 Night in Caldas de Reis
- 1 Nights in Padrón in HB
- 2 Nights in Santiago in BB

- Accommodations in Hotels, Rural houses, Posadas including breakfast and some dinners.
- Transfer IN from Lisbon airport to Hotel in Lisbon (day 1).
- Mini Bus during the tour from day 3 to day 11
- Camino guide from day 2 (Porto) to day 12
- Tour Leader for full trip
- Full day excursion to Sintra including lunch (day 2).
- Train from Lisbon to Porto (day 2)
- Transfer from Porto Railway Station to Hotel in Porto (day 2).
- City guide for Porto (day 3) and Santiago de Compostela (day 12)
- Entrance fees included in Sintra (Pena Palace), Porto (Sao Francisco Church and Palacio da Bolsa) and Santiago (Cathedral)
- Dinners as per itinerary
- Farewell dinner in Santiago de Compostela (day 12)
- Transfer OUT from Santiago to airport Santiago or train station Santiago (day 13).

Services not included:

- International Flights Sydney/Lisbon/Santiago de Compostella/Casablanca/Sydney. Approx. \$2250
- Lunches and some dinners not indicated
- Gratuities

*** This tour has an optional 10day/9 night Grand Tour of Morocco, please see attached itinerary and cost.