

Self-Guided Walking Camino - The Portuguese Way - 2 Weeks

Trip Code: SGPS

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Complete the Camino from Porto to Santiago de Compostela
- Explore historic Porto, home of Port wine and opulent buildings dressed in azulejo decoration
- Discover quaint villages and walk through the vineyards of the Minho

- Enjoy delicious Galician cuisine and relax with a glass of vinho verde

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 12 days walking
- 225 km of the Portuguese Way
- Join at Porto / End in Santiago

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

It is said that there is the Camino you walk and the Camino you live. This 2 week walking holiday allows you to live the Portuguese Way from Porto to Santiago de Compostela. Taking the route less travelled you will start your journey in the UNESCO city of Porto, before stepping out to discover beautiful peaceful landscapes, vineyards, and quaint Portuguese villages with rich histories and legends. You will follow in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims; discover the legend behind the symbolic rooster of Portugal and cross the Spanish border to embrace Galician culture. You will even spend the night in Pontevedra, where great explorer Columbus's flagship, the Santa Maria, was crafted.

Along the way you will stay in a welcoming selection of hotels and guesthouses, close to the Camino on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you opportunity to dine on the fantastic seafood dishes the locals love so much. The jewel in the crown is your arrival at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, an emotional moment for many walkers as you realise your achievements over the past 2 weeks, the memories you have made and the Camino you have lived!

Is this holiday for you?

This 2 week Camino is perfect for those looking to take on a spiritual challenge, your first long distance route or those who simply desire to see the quieter side of Portugal away, from the busy beaches of the south and discover Galicia and all its splendid traditions. Guided by the traditional scallop shells and your route notes, you should be comfortable walking for 5-6 hours a day and an average of 15-20km on quiet paths, byways and cobbled tracks. The Portuguese Way is relatively flat, taking you through the undulating terrain of the Minho and into Galicia making it the ideal first time long distance route for those seeking a new challenge. Staying in a great selection of hotels and guesthouses, we will transport your luggage for you so all you need to do is relax and enjoy the journey.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Luggage transfers
- Transfer from Porto to Mosteiro on day 2
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Pilgrim kit including a pilgrim passport and shell

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Porto
- Travel from Santiago
- City taxes (payable locally) usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Public buses and taxis
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Your trip starts at your hotel in Porto. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Porto Airport, which is well-served with many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into Porto Airport it is possible to take the Metro into Porto city for approximately €3. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes and the metro runs every 20 minutes. For more information please visit www.metrodoporto.pt.

Alternatively, we can arrange a private transfer from Porto Airport to your accommodation. Please ask our Sales Team for details.

The trip ends in Santiago de Compostela. It is possible to return to Porto by Flixbus or by train. It takes around 2.5 hours to reach Porto by Flixbus (www.flixbus.co.uk), or around 4.5 - 6 hours by train. For more information visit www.rome2rio.com.

Alternatively, we can offer a private transfer from Santiago de Compostela to Porto Airport that takes approximately 2.5 hours - please ask our Sales Team for details.

Another option is to fly back from Santiago de Compostela Airport - for example it is possible to fly direct to London, or indirect to other UK airports, from Santiago de Compostela.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your trip.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

The Portuguese are passionate about food. It is a reason for celebration, time with family and socialising with friends, and as is typical on the Med, evening meals are enjoyed late into the evenings with a glass of wine. Portugal's national obsession is Bacalhau, a dried salted cod which will feature heavily on menus alongside other delicious seafood. After all Portugal has almost 1800km of coastline. But it is not all just seafood as Portuguese cuisine is all about simple, fresh cooking with many meaty stews such as Cozido a Portuguesa which includes beef, pork and chicken served with fresh vegetables and usually accompanied by one of the countries fantastic wines.

Crossing the border into Galicia and you can see that this too is a region passionate about food. Galicia's cuisine is less about paella and more about delicious Pulpo a la Gallega, a traditional dish of the region which comprises of succulent boiled octopus on top of a bed of thinly sliced potatoes and topped with oil and paprika. And let's not forget the tasty treat of Santiago, the Tarta de Santiago made from ground almonds and covered in icing sugar and the cross of Santiago. Yummy!

Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in a selection of comfortable guesthouses and 2* or 3* hotels each offering warm hospitality and close proximity to your route. Each hotel brings its own charm whether it's a small family run guesthouse offering beautiful gardens to relax or a 3* hotel with a relaxing communal lounge area or a swimming pool to cool down after a day on the on your feet.

All our accommodations are booked on bed and breakfast basis in a twin or double room and have wifi available too. Many accommodations have restaurants and some offer a set 'pilgrims menu', a tradition along the Camino and offer a hearty 3 course meal for approx. 15 euros payable locally. Please ask your host for more information.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Porto or Santiago. Please speak to our sales team for more information.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your pilgrimage. We ask that you please ensure your main luggage is limited to one piece under 20kg per person and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. Any additional pieces will incur an additional cost. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are out walking.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 5-6 hours for consecutive days.

Climate

The climate in this part of Portugal and Galicia is mild, with wet winter months and warm pleasant summers for cycling with the added bonus of a lovely cooling breeze coming in off the Atlantic. The hottest months are July and August, when temperatures reach the upper 20s.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- The Portuguese: The Land and its People, Marion Kaplan
- Pocket Porto, Lonely Planet

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses

- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this trip part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Stand proud at the foot of Santiago de Compostela with your certificate of distance, in the knowledge that you completed the 225km route of the Portuguese Way under your own steam from Porto. With your luggage transfers and your pilgrim kit included, all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and enjoy your journey.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change