

Self-Guided Walking Camino - The French Way - Leon to Santiago

Trip Code: SGFW

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Complete the Camino Frances from Leon to Santiago de Compostela
- Feast on delicious Galician cuisine
- Discover Gaudi's famous architecture in Leon and Astorga

- Walk to the Crus de Ferro, the highest point of the French Camino for fantastic panoramas
- Easily pair this trip to start with [Self-Guided Walking Camino - The French Way - Logrono to Leon](#), to extend your journey to Santiago

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 12 days walking
- 315 km of the French Way
- Daily departures available
- Join at Leon / End in Santiago

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Take a journey through history on this two-week self-guided Camino de Santiago. Walking the final 315km of the Camino, you will make your way from Leon and finally be presented with your official Certificate of Distance in Santiago de Compostela. Following the iconic scallop shell markers, your route will take you through peaceful rolling landscapes to the iconic Crus de Ferro and through the rich vineyards of Bierzo, before reaching the unique region of Galicia and your final goal, the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. One of the most magical parts of undertaking this famed route is the people you meet along your way and the experiences you share as you immerse yourself in the culture and tradition of the route.

Staying in a selection of guesthouses and family run hotels on a half-board basis, you can be sure of a warm welcome at the end of your day. With specially selected accommodation close to your route and your luggage transfers included, you can relax in the knowledge that we have taken care of all the arrangements so all you need to do is choose the date which suits you and then enjoy your journey.

Is this holiday for you?

This two-week Camino is perfect for those looking to take on a new challenge, whether as a spiritual journey or as a long distance walking route. Guided by the iconic scallop shell markers and your route notes, you will make your way through the fantastic rolling hills of the Spanish countryside, discovering small villages and the history of the French Way as you make your way to Santiago de Compostela. You should be comfortable walking for 5-6 hours each day - and for distances up to 25-35km in one day - on quiet paths, byways, and cobbled tracks. The route takes you through undulating terrain, with one longer ascent on Day 5 when you will reach Cruz de Ferro (1,500m), the highest point of the French Way. Staying in a selection of great hotels and guesthouses, we will transport your luggage for you so all you need to do is relax and enjoy your journey.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Luggage transfers
- Transfers as described
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Leon
- Travel from Santiago
- City taxes (payable locally - usually under 5 Euros per person per night)
- Optional 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

This trip starts at your accommodation in Leon. 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 either Madrid Airport, Bilbao Airport or Santiago de Compostela Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying into Madrid Airport you can travel via train to Leon which will take approximately 3 to 4 hours with a single change at Madrid-Chamartin train station.

If you are flying into Bilbao it is possible to travel by bus to Leon. The journey takes approximately 5 hours with one change at Bilbao's main bus station.

Alternatively, we offer a private transfer from Santiago de Compostela Airport to your accommodation. Please ask our sales team for a quotation.

The trip ends in Santiago de Compostela. It is possible to return to Madrid by train. The journey takes approximately 6 - 7 hours for more information visit www.rome2rio.com Alternatively, it is possible to fly direct to London from Santiago de Compostela Airport.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a half-board basis.

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.

Castilla y Leon is the largest region of Spain and the cuisine in this region is much different to the coastal regions with less fish based dishes and more stews often featuring chickpeas or morcilla (a type of blood sausage). The real speciality of this region is it's Cochinillo Asado (suckling pig) or Cordero Asado (suckling lamb), for meat eaters this is a must! Simply cooked and full of flavour you are sure to enjoy this treat after a day of walking.

Bread in this region is fantastic and was often a communal affair in the villages where communities gathered to use the communal oven. We recommend visiting the local bakery for your picnic supplies so that you can enjoy a taste of this long standing staple with a view.

As you cross into Galicia and edge nearer to the coast you will see the countries love of seafood arises. A popular dish is the delicious Pulpo a la Gallega, a traditional dish 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-star or 3-star 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 in which to relax or a 3-star hotel close to the many restaurants.

All our accommodations are booked on half-board basis in a twin or double room.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Leon or Santiago. Please contact our Sales Team for more information.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out walking. We ask that you please ensure your main luggage is limited to one piece under 15kg 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 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.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

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 6-7 hours for consecutive days with some occasionally longer days.

Climate

This region of Spain enjoys a warm Mediterranean climate with cold winters and some frosty days and hot summer months where temperatures can reach up to 30 degrees centigrade.

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

- A practical & mystical manual for the modern day pilgrim. Camino Francs: St-Jean-Pied-de-Port Santiago de Compostela
- 'The Way' (2010 film), starring Martin Sheen and directed by Emilio Estevez 'life is too big to walk it alone'

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?

Experience a slice of history as you walk in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims from Leon to finally stand proud at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela with your Certificate of Distance. On a half-board basis and with your luggage transfers 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 03/12/2024 and the trip is subject to change