



## FRENCH WAY CLASSIC BY BIKE FROM PONFERRADA



Conquer the French Way with your bike. Cycle the French Way from León to Santiago de Compostela in 7 days and get your Compostela or Certificate of Achievement. If you go everywhere by bike, wish to experience as much of the Way as you can in a shorter time frame or simply want a new challenge all the while enjoying amazing accommodation and food, this is the tour for you.

Cycling the Camino and covering more ground each day means each night you will sleep in the middle of a vibrant and historical town and you will get the opportunity of testing a few of Spain's best hotels including the Paradores of León and Santiago de Compostela.

### PRICE & DATES

Can be organized on request for any number of participants on the dates of your choice - subject to availability and price fluctuations.

#### €1370 per person

- No dinner discount: - €140 per person
- Single Supplement: + €250 per room
- Private Van Support during the cycling days: + €2100 per van
- Extra night in Santiago: + €140 per room (dinner not included)
- Extra night in the 5\* Parador of Santiago: from + €250 per room (dinner not included - upgrade from + €110)

### FACT FILE

**Accommodation** Luxurious Manors & 2 to 4\* Hotels

**Singularity** Cycling trip

**Total Riding Distance** 211 km

**Duration** 8 days / 7 nights

**Starts** Ponferrada

**Stops** Villafranca do Bierzo, O Cebreiro, Sarria, Lestedo, Arzua

**Ends** Santiago de Compostela

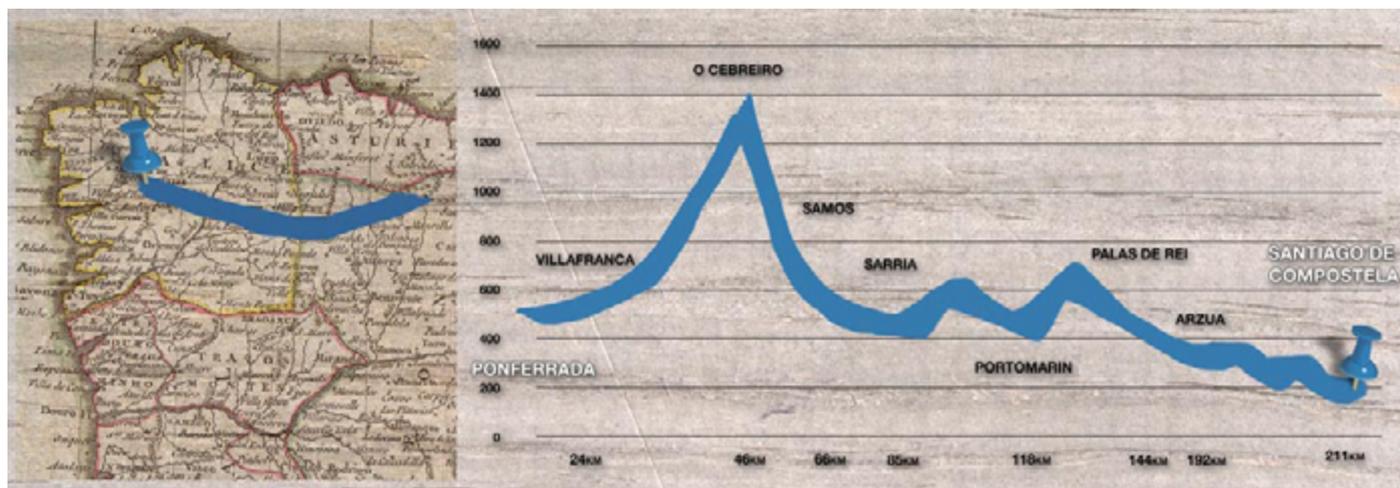
### FRENCH WAY BY BIKE INCLUDES

- En-suite accommodation with breakfast in charming luxurious manors & 2 to 4\* historical hotels
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Emergency support from our local team
- Only hotels easily accessible with your bike from the Camino and who offer a secured place to keep the bike overnight
- All taxes and gratuities for the hotels
- All breakfasts and three-courses dinners (house wine included with dinners on request)
- A Pilgrim Kit per person including an official Pilgrim Passport (Credential)
- High quality MTB e-bikes rental with a 500W battery with 80 km autonomy. Delivered with all the necessary equipment: pannier rack, bottle holder, bell, (front and rear) lights, tool kit, safety retro-reflectors and a bicycle lock
- Access to a network of certified repair garages
- A training session with a local bike shop to learn how to use your electric bikes and make sure they are properly set up
- 1 GPS per group with every day tracks and paper maps



## FRENCH WAY CLASSIC BY BIKE FROM PONFERRADA DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

This 7 nights route follows the last 211 km of the Camino Frances - French Way from Ponferrada to Santiago de Compostela.



### DAY 1 - MAKING YOUR WAY TO PONFERRADA

Take a bus or train from Madrid to Ponferrada and our driver will pick you up from Ponferrada's station to bring you to your first hotel. Ponferrada is an ancient Roman citadel which was placed under the custody of the Order of the Temple in the 12th century. The Knights Templar used the site of a primitive Roman fortress to build a castle in which they settled and which, at the same time, protected the passing pilgrims. This impressive structure which still stands in the center of the old town is one of the last remaining Templar Castles. The location was chosen by Paulo Coelho for one of the most memorable scenes from his book "The Pilgrimage".



Try to make your way to Ponferrada early to attend a short meeting in a local bike shop who will show you how the e-bikes work, how to charge them, clean the chains and ensure the bikes are at your size.

### DAY 2 - 25 KM - CYCLE FROM PONFERRADA TO VILLAFRANCA DO BIERZO



Finally, this is the day you start your pilgrimage! Wake up early to check your bikes and make sure they are properly adjusted to your size before cycling out Ponferrada. The first section is through an industrial area but the landscape will change as soon as you exit the city to make place to the vineyards of the valley of El Bierzo in between mountain ranges. Take it easy today and get used to the new exercise, as tomorrow you will have to cross one of those mountains to get into Galicia.

Your first stop on the Camino, is Villafranca del Bierzo, a lively medieval town with great importance for the pilgrimage. Indeed, Pilgrims who could not make it to Santiago de Compostela because they were ill were given the jubilee blessing once they passed the Puerta del Perdón gate (again remember "the Pilgrimage" by Paulo Coelho).



### DAY 3 - 29 KM - CYCLE FROM VILAFRANCA TO O CEBREIRO

Prepare for a challenging but rewarding day with an ascent of 1000m in the last 10 km - make sure to use your motors for this particular climb. But we promise it will all be worth it once you make it through beautiful mountain paths into the timeless Celtic village of O Cebreiro. With stunning panoramic views of the valleys below from 1300 meters up, the ancient pallozas (circular pre-Roman stone dwellings built by the Celts of the region) and the rebuilt Romanesque church of St. Mary's, site of a 14th century Eucharistic miracle, few places along the Camino are as enchanting as O Cebreiro!

If one of the guest-houses in the village is available, you will be spending the night directly on top of the mountain where you will be able to enjoy a splendid sunset and sunrise onto the valleys of Galicia.



### DAY 4 - 40 KM - CYCLE FROM O CEBREIRO TO SARRIA



After breakfast, climb up on your e-bikes and initiate a steady descent towards the valleys of Galicia. There will be some ups and downs during the day with a peak at Alto de Poio but after 16 km expect to descend 700 m in 4km. So make use of your breaks, take it slow and enjoy the breathtaking views. Half-way, at Triacastela, you'll have the option of making a detour to the Benedictine monastery of Samos, one of the wealthiest and most powerful monasteries of the peninsula in Medieval Times which will add about 7 km to your journey and you will need at least 1h30 to visit.

Your destination is Sarria, the starting point of most pilgrims along the French Way, where you will spend the night in a lovely 3\* Boutique hotel in the old town (if available) or a modern 4\* just on the other side of the river.

### DAY 5 - 44 KM - CYCLE FROM SARRIA TO LESTEDO

Once you leave Sarria, the Camino transforms into a paved trail going up and down through beautiful countryside, meadows and oak woods, charming villages with slate roofs. Don't forget to take a picture of yourself in front of the 100 km marker and witness those who have walked hundreds of kilometers get emotional.

You will pass Portomarin, a small town with great history, impressive archways and a memorable church. This town is very unique as great battles that took place in the valley below and the town you visit is only a replica of the Medieval town relocated in the 60s rock by rock to avoid floods.

After Portomarin, you will go through Gonzar with its church and albergue before riding to Castromaior where the Camino will pass by the ruins of a 2200 years old Castro and Ligonde where the Emperor Charles Quint and his son Philip II stayed in the 16th Century. You will be staying tonight in a beautiful and luxurious Guest-House/ Galician Manor (if available) just outside the Camino 3-4 km before Palas de Rei.





#### DAY 6 - 33 KM - CYCLE FROM LESTEDO TO ARZUA

Today, you will be cycling a trail that has been protected by the Knights of the Order of Santiago since 1184. First, cycle the remaining kilometers into Palas de Rei then follow the ancient road through forests to a different Province - A Coruña. The next town you will pass is Melide just after Furelo's medieval bridge, considered one of the jewels of the French Way's civil architecture. In Melide - please - treat yourself to "Pulpo a la Gallega" (Octopus) for lunch at one of our recommended establishment.

Your destination is Arzua, which is famous for its peculiarly shaped cheese, and you will be staying, either in the town's newest hotel in the town center or in an impressive guest-house just outside town.

#### DAY 7 - 43KM - CYCLE FROM ARZUA TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA!

This is it! Only 40 kilometers separate you from your goal. You will pass the villages of Arca, Pedrouzo and Lavacolla before climbing up to Monte do Gozo (Mount of joy) which offers stunning views on the City of the Apostle.

Enter the Medieval Town through the Puerta del Camino and reach the Plaza del Obradoiro, the main Square of the Cathedral, where you will find the Portico de la Gloria and the most impressive view of the Cathedral. Congratulations, you have made it to Santiago de Compostela, the resting place of the Apostle Saint James.

Breathe in and truly live this moment, do whatever feels right. You still have a few things to do today - check in to your 4\* hotel in the old town, get your pilgrim certificate, attend Pilgrim Mass, and marvel at the architecture of our beloved City.

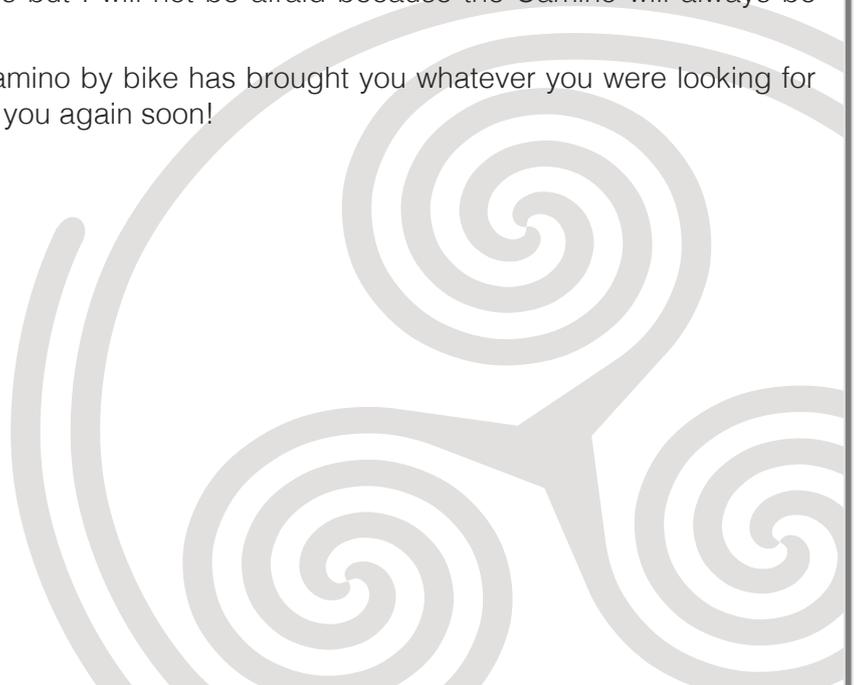


#### DAY 8 - START OF YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE



A wise pilgrim once told us "the real Camino starts where the Camino de Santiago finishes but I will not be afraid because the Camino will always be there for me."

We hope the Camino by bike has brought you whatever you were looking for and wish to see you again soon!





## ABOUT ULTREYA TOURS

Ultreya Tours is an incoming Tour Operator specialized in **organizing comprehensive and highly personalized walking, cycling and horse-riding tours for groups and solo travelers on the Camino de Santiago**. Founded and based in Santiago de Compostela, at the end of the Camino, we know the region of Galicia and the secrets of the Camino by heart.

The Camino de Santiago is not just our business it is our way of life and we would love nothing more than to introduce you to our vision of the Camino.

Our name Ultraya comes from the Latin word for Onwards. "Ultraya, Suseya, Santiago" was the common greeting amongst pilgrims in Medieval times. It meant courage, further and higher is Santiago. We are already in Santiago so our goal is to bring you there & help you every step of the Way.

## WHY CHOOSE US?

- ✓ Fully bonded, ensured and registered as retail & wholesale Travel Agency in Spain
- ✓ We are based in Santiago and you can reach us 24/7 while you are on the Camino
- ✓ Founded by a women, we understand the concerns of single women traveling the Camino and are here to help!
- ✓ We carefully choose, rate and regularly visit all our providers & ONLY book quality accommodation
- ✓ Create your own Camino! All our tours are fully customizable to provide the most magical experience possible
- ✓ You will get a dedicated Camino Account Planner to assist at every step
- ✓ Excellent commission structure for resellers and travel agents



## ONLY 4 STEPS AWAY FROM YOUR JOURNEY

- STEP 1** Get in touch with one of our Camino Planner for a personalized quote
- STEP 2** Once you are satisfied with the Terms & Conditions of your tour, we will invoice you for a 50% of the total price non-refundable deposit to process the booking
- STEP 3** Immediately after receiving the initial deposit we will start booking your accommodation, meals, activities, guides and any other services
- STEP 4** 30 days before the departure, we will request the 50% remaining deposit and you will receive the list of your accommodation, confirmation vouchers for extra services & activities, your pilgrim kits (including the Pilgrim Passports & guidebooks) will be sent to your first hotel

**If you dream of walking the Camino de Santiago, don't delay it any further contact [info@ultreyatours.com](mailto:info@ultreyatours.com) or visit our website to find the best Way for your group!**