



# FRENCH WAY BY BIKE FROM LEON



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.

### €1680 per person

- Single room supplement: +€480 per room
- Electric bike supplement: +€150 per bike
- Half-board supplement: +€150 per person
- Discount for bringing your own bike: - €200
- Private Van Support during the cycling days: +€1500 per van
- Extra night in Santiago: +€250 per room (dinner not included)

## FACT FILE

**Accommodation** Luxurious Manors & 3 to 5\* Hotels

**Singularity** Cycling trip

**Total Riding Distance** 312 km

**Duration** 8 days / 7 nights

**Starts** Leon

**Stops** Astorga, Ponferrada, Valcarce, Portomarín, Arzua

**Ends** Santiago de Compostela

## FRENCH WAY BY BIKE INCLUDES

- En-suite accommodation with breakfast in charming luxurious manors & 3 to 5\* historical hotels including 2 Paradores (depending on availabilities)
- Transfers from Oviedo or León airport into León and out from Santiago airport, other airports on request
- 2 dinners included in the Paradores
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Top-quality MTB Specialized Crave Comp bike rental with 29 inches wheels. Delivered with all the necessary equipment: pair

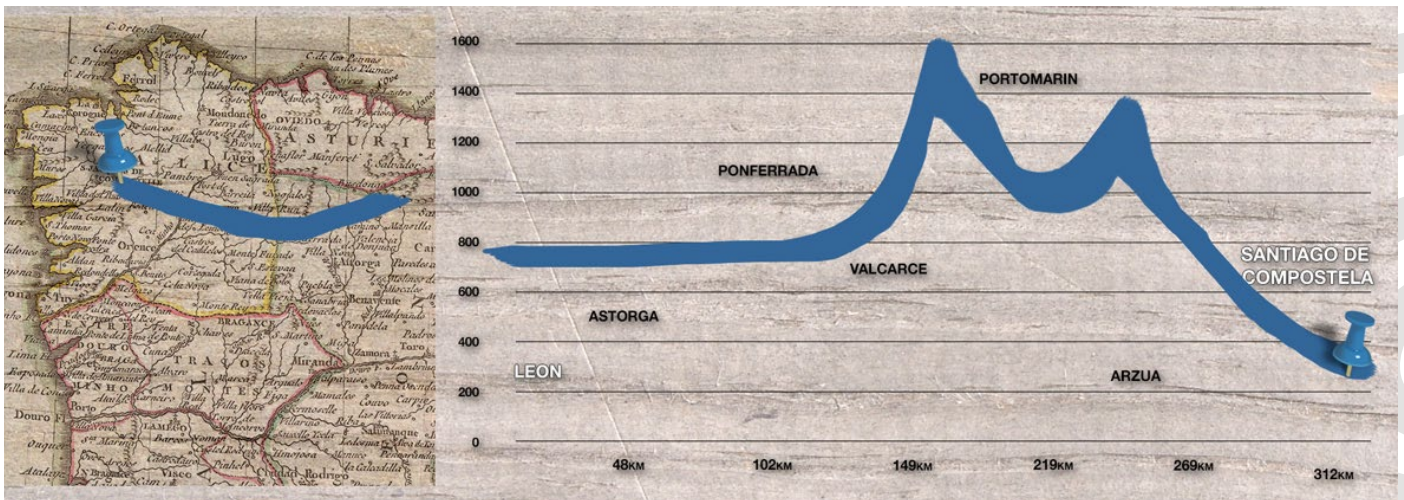
of waterproof rear pannier, handlebar extensions, extensive tool kit, gel saddle and a padlock (200€ refundable deposit will be requested by the rental company for each bike)

- Emergency support from our local team and from a network of bike garages
- All taxes and gratuities for the guides and hotels
- A detailed guidebook and Spanish phrasebook per room
- A Pilgrim Kit per person
- Cycle between 48 km and 70 km per day



## FRENCH WAY BY BIKE FROM LEON DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

This 7 nights route follows the 312km of the Camino Frances - French Way from Leon to Santiago de Compostela.



### DAY 1 - MAKING OUR WAY TO YOUR STARTING POINT OF THE CAMINO

We will pick you up at your arrival airport and drive you to León, one of the most strikingly beautiful Cities along the Way. León is the Capital of the region of Castilla-y-León, the medieval kingdom that led the re-conquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Moors, gave birth to modern Spain and gave the world Castilian Spanish.

The whole old town is UNESCO protected City and hosts to one of the most beautiful Gothic Cathedral, filled with more than 100 stained glass windows. Tonight, we you will be relaxing and forgetting about the day's transit at the Parador Hostal de San Marcos, a 5\* hotel which is one of the most extraordinary historic hotels on the Old Continent and you will recognize it from the movie "The Way" where Martin Sheen splurges for one night. If time allows we will spend the afternoon visiting the Cathedral and the old town before having dinner at the Parador.



### DAY 2 - 48 KM - CYCLE FROM LEON TO ASTORGA

We will start your journey on the Camino Frances with a busy day today, so we will wake up early to cycle to the ancient Roman city of Astorga. Asturica Augustus was an important communications hub for the Romans and the most important city in this region of Spain, known as the Maragatería, due to its proximity with the Gold Mines of Las Medulas.

This fascinating town offers to its visitors a beautiful Gothic Cathedral, a unusual Episcopal palace designed by Antoni Gaudí (mostly known for designing the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona) and a Chocolate Museum as well as plenty of terrace bars and tapas restaurants.

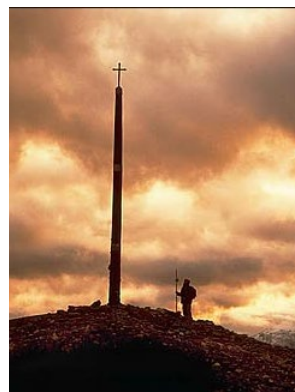




### DAY 3 - 54 KM - CYCLE FROM ASTORGA TO PONFERRADA

Get ready because today, we will attempt to cross one of the highest mountain peaks of the French Way to arrive at the Cruz de Hierro, the Iron Cross. Here it is common for pilgrims to leave a souvenir of their passage, a rock, piece of paper or even shoes as a symbol of shrugging off the weight of one's sins. So don't forget to bring along a symbolic token.

Our destination is Ponferrada, an ancient Roman citadel which was placed under the custody of the Order of the Temple in the 11th 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 and the location chosen by Paolo Coelho for one of the most memorable scenes from his book "The Pilgrimage".



### DAY 4 - 47KM - CYCLE FROM PONFERRADA TO VALCARCE



On your last full day in Castilla-y-León, you will notice the landscape starting to change as you cycle across the valley of El Bierzo in between mountain ranges. Take it easy today, as tomorrow you will have to cross one of those mountains to get into Galicia.

Our first stop today, 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 Paolo Coelho). After a short visit, we will then continue to the foot of the O Cebreiro Mountain in the Valcarce Valley where we will stay in a charming guest-house.

### DAY 5 - 70KM - CYCLE FROM VALCARCE TO PORTOMARIN

Prepare for a challenging and rewarding day with an ascent of 1000m in the first 10 km, a long descent and impressive landscapes. 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!

The rest of the journey is then downhill and breathtaking. 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. After Sarria, the starting point of most pilgrims along the French Way, we will pass the 100 km marker and continue along easy paved trails through beautiful countryside, meadows and oak woods, charming villages with slate roofs.

Tonight, you will stay in the Portomarin's 3\* hotel, a former Parador, and you will have free time to enjoy their pool or spa and stroll through the impressive archway village with it's 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.





#### DAY 6 - 50KM - CYCLE FROM PORTOMARIN TO ARZUA

Today, you will be following a trail that has been protected by the Knights of the Order of Santiago since 1184 and you will pass near the Romanesque Church of Vilar de Donas, where the knights are buried (2,5 km away from the Camino). There will be some more uphill and downhill but mostly peaceful oak and eucalyptus forests and charming villages. We will have a chance to marvel at Furelo's medieval bridge, considered one of the jewels of the French Way's civil architecture, and the oldest surviving cruceiro (calvary) in the world in Melide. Around lunchtime we will stop in Melide where you should treat yourself to "Pulpo a la Galega" (Octopus) at our recommended establishment. Our destination for the night, Arzua, is famous for cheese, so we will do a cheese and wine degustation before your gourmet dinner at your Galician Manor.

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

This is it! Only 43 kilometers separate you from your goal. Leave early to reach Santiago before twelve if you wish to see the pilgrim mass (also at 19:30). Half-way you will pass Monte do Gozo (Mount of joy) which was transformed into an area for pilgrims for the Jacobean Holy Year of 1993 and offers stunning views on the City of Santiago de Compostela. Enter the Medieval Town through the Porta do Camino, pass the iconic Plaza de Cervantes and a few meters further you will find the Azabachería Door, the official entrance to the Cathedral on non-Holy years (in 2016 and 2021 you will be able to enter through the Holy Door on the Quintana Square).

Enter the Cathedral now, if you wish, we recommend continuing to 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. Simply stop here. Breathe in and truly live this moment, do whatever feels right. Your hotel, the Parador de los Reyes Catolicos, is on your right when looking at the Cathedral. You still have a few things to do today - get your pilgrim certificate, marvel at the architecture of our beloved City and visit your hotel which is no less than a jewel.



#### 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."

Today, as we bring you to your departure airport, we will share our impressions and thoughts about the journey you just undertook. We hope the Camino has brought you whatever you were looking for and wish to see you again soon in Galicia!



## 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, 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 Ultreya comes from the Latin word for Onwards. "Ultreya, 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 and 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
- ☑ We only book the best accommodation according to your group's requirements and budget
- ☑ You will get a dedicated Camino Account Planner to assist at every step
- ☑ Special rates and dedicated offers for large groups
- ☑ Excellent commission structure for resellers and travel agents

**"Our mission is to ensure that our customers enjoy such a memorable and rewarding experience on the Camino de Santiago that they wish to repeat it with us."**

**Nellie Meunier - Ultreya Tours founder**

## 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 and activities, pilgrim kits for each members of your group, a detailed guidebook and Spanish phrasebook per room

**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!**