



## FRENCH WAY BY HORSE



If you believe the world is best viewed through the ears of a horse and that no hour spend on the saddle is wasted, then this is the Camino for you. Spend 6 days traveling horseback from the timeless Celtic village of O Cebreiro through the beautiful region of Galicia to the resting place of the Apostle Saint James in Santiago de Compostela. Follow the gaits of the first royal pilgrims, stay in the most beautiful, peaceful and historical places and eat at the best gourmet restaurants along the last 154 km of the French Way before obtaining your Certificate of Achievement, the Compostela.

### PRICE & DATES

Due to the nature of this Camino, we have chosen a highly experienced partner to help us organize this tour and to take care of the horses. Our partner responds to our strict Sustainability and Quality policies and has pre-booked departure dates. New dates can be organized on request for groups of at least 6 participants on the date of your choice - subject to availability and price fluctuations, simply ask us for details.

#### Join a guided tour: €1875 per person

- Single room supplement: +€210 per room
- Add 3 days ride, start in Astorga: +€775 per person - subject to availability
- Extra night in Santiago in the same 4\* hotel: +€115 per room (dinner not included)
- Extra night in the 5\* Parador of Santiago: +€250 per room (dinner not included - upgrade +€175)

### FACT FILE

**Accommodation** Luxurious Manors & 3 to 4\* Hotels

**Singularity** Horse-riding trip

**Total Riding Distance** 154 km

**Duration** 7 days / 6 nights

**Starts** O Cebreiro

**Stops** Sarria, Portomarin, Palas de Rei, Arzua, Lavacolla, Monte de Gozo

**Ends** Santiago de Compostela

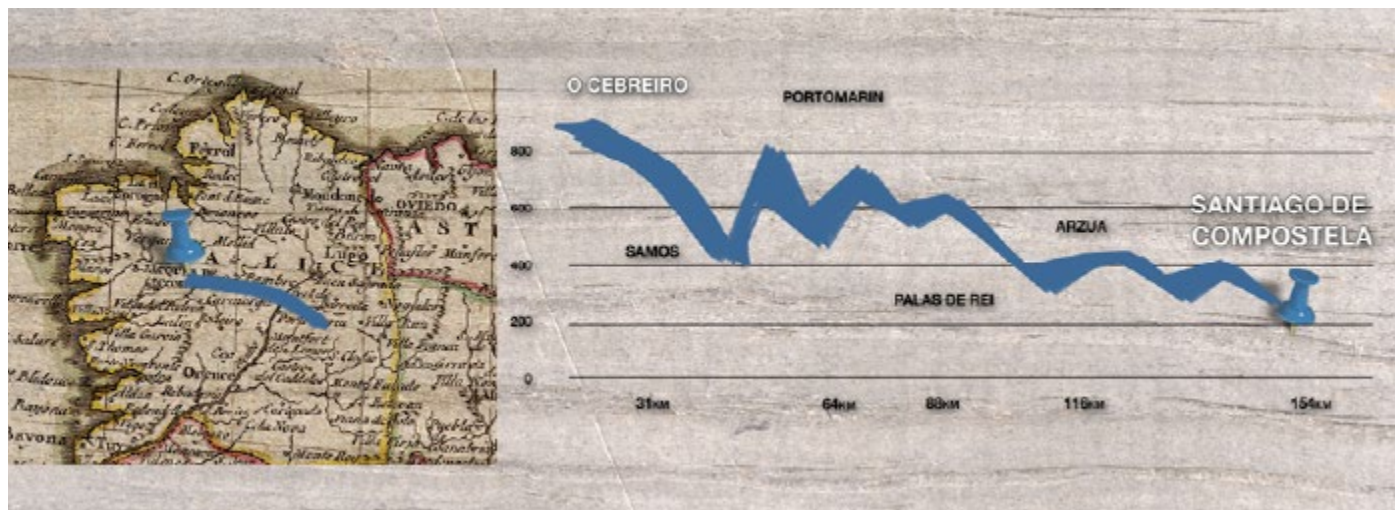
### FRENCH WAY BY HORSE INCLUDES

- En-suite accommodation in charming luxurious manors & 3 to 4\* charming hotels
- Meals and accommodation for the Horses near your hotel (the organizer always plans more horses than needed so you will never be without a horse)
- Arrival on the Obradoiro Square on your horse
- Transfers in and out from Santiago airport, other airports on request
- Private Van Support during the riding days
- A horse per person and all necessary equipment
- Dedicated bilingual Guide with 15 years experience on the Camino de Santiago
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Emergency support from our local team
- All taxes and gratuities for the guides and hotels
- A detailed guidebook and Spanish phrasebook per room
- All Breakfasts, lunches and Dinners
- A Pilgrim Kit per person
- A collection of photos of the group to share
- Ride between 24 km and 39 km per day



## FRENCH WAY BY HORSE STEP BY STEP ITINERARY

This 6 nights horse-riding route brings you along the last 154 kilometers of the Camino Frances - French Way into Santiago de Compostela.



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



We will pick you up at your arrival airport at 3pm or from Santiago City and drive you out to the starting point of your Equestrian Pilgrimage 3h away, a typical Galician Manor in the heart of the Celtic mountain 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! So after check-in take your time to enjoy the views with a Galician beer or wine in one of the village's terrace with your fellow pilgrims, before enjoying a welcome dinner in the guest-house.

### DAY 2 - 31KM - RIDE FROM O CEBREIRO TO SAMOS

This is the day you start your equestrian pilgrimage! After meeting the horse you will share the journey with, we will saddle up around 10 am and initiated a steady descent towards the valleys of Galicia. Through your horse's ears, you will enjoy a unique viewpoint onto traditional farmland villages and small mountain path. As Medieval horse-riding pilgrims would have done, we will ride until we get to the Benedictine Monastery of Samos, one of the wealthiest and most powerful of all the monasteries of the peninsula in Medieval Times. The Monastery is still run by Benedictine monks and allows guests to stay over for one night at a time. We will spend the night in this unique environment and probably enjoy the typical trout and eels dishes for dinner.



### DAY 3 - 33KM - RIDE FROM SAMOS TO PORTOMARIN

Saddle up after breakfast to follow the river down from Samos towards Sarria, where most pilgrim now start their pilgrimage. Today's Camino will be easy



paved trails through beautiful countryside, meadows and oak woods, charming villages with slate roofs and will head towards a huge medieval bridge.

Don't forget to take a picture of yourself and your horse in front of the 100 km marker. We will have lunch in the Mercado da Serra by an old water mill and continue our journey to the 3\* hotel of Portomarin, a town with great history, impressive archways and a memorable church. We will tell you about the battles that took place here, the great Medieval Bridge and the town that was relocated rock by rock to avoid floods.

#### DAY 4 - 30KM - RIDE FROM PORTOMARIN TO PALAS DE REI

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 a Romanesque Church, of Vilar de Donas, where the knights are buried (2,5 km away from the Camino - a detour can be organized on request). There will be some more uphill and downhill but mostly peaceful oak and eucalyptus forests and charming villages including Gonzar and Airexe until Palas de Rei. You will be staying tonight in a beautiful and luxurious Guest-House/ Galician Manor just outside the Camino.



#### DAY 5 - 29KM - RIDE FROM PALAS DE REI TO ARZUA

While we ride along the ancient Roman road into a different Province - A Coruña, we will have a chance to marvel at true jewels of the Camino such as 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 the afternoon will pass by Castañeda, where the limestones used for the construction of the Cathedral of Santiago were cut. Back in the 11th century it was traditional for pilgrims to carry stones from here to increasing their penance. If you dare to copy them, however, you will be dismounted, because there is no such thing as penitent horses. 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 6 - 34 KM - RIDE FROM ARZUA TO MONTE DE GOZO

The first half of the day, we will be riding through farmlands and forests with totally symmetric rows that produce curious visual effects. You will pass villages with no name that seem stuck in time. We will visit the hermitage of St. Irene and its baroque fountain whose water is said to have curative properties.

A bit further, you will go through the hamlet of Lavacolla, 10 km from Santiago. Lavacolla's name comes from a purification ritual that pilgrim would undergo before reaching Santiago. It was traditional to clean your clothes - and hence purifying your soul - in that same river before stepping into the Cathedral the next day.

After a short break there, you will continue your journey to the borders of Santiago, Monte de 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. We will spend our last night together in a beautiful 4\* hotel on the Mount and take advantage of the free hotel shuttle to visit Santiago in the afternoon, obtain our Compostela and assist Pilgrim Mass at 7:30pm.





#### DAY 7 - 10 KM - RIDE INTO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



Wake up early because this is it, only 5 kilometers separates you from your goal. The group will need to leave at 7:45am to reach Santiago before nine to be able to enter the city and the Obradoiro Square with your horse.

In the afternoon, if you have not opted for an extra night in Santiago, we will bring you back to Santiago Airport and 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 Ultraya 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 - Ultraya 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!**