



CAMINO FRENCH WAY PREMIUM



When only the best will do. We crafted the Camino French Way Premium for groups who wish to obtain their Compostela, the certificate of accomplishment, but who will not sacrifice any comfort. Stay 10 nights in the most beautiful, peaceful and historical places including 4 nights in Paradores. Eat at the best gourmet restaurants along the last 150 km of the French Way.

On the first days of your journey, we will share our personal highlights of the last sections of the French Way including a Templar Castle and a Celtic village on top of a mountain. You will then start your pilgrimage walking the last 112 km into Santiago de Compostela before visiting Finisterre, the land at the end of the World.

PRICE & DATES

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

€1950 per person

- Single room supplement: +€720 per room
- No dinners discount: -€300 per person
- Guaranteed Botafumeiro: +€300
- Accompanying Guide for the duration of the tour: +€1500
- Extra night in the Parador of Santiago: +€250 per room (dinner not included)

FACT FILE

Accommodation 4 to 5* Paradores and Historic Monasteries

Total Walking Distance 118 km

Duration 11 days / 10 nights

Starts Ponferrada

Stops Villafranca do Bierzo, O Cebreiro, Samos, Sarria Portomarin, Palas de Rei, Melide, Arzua, Pedrouzo, Lavacolla, Finisterre

Ends Santiago de Compostela

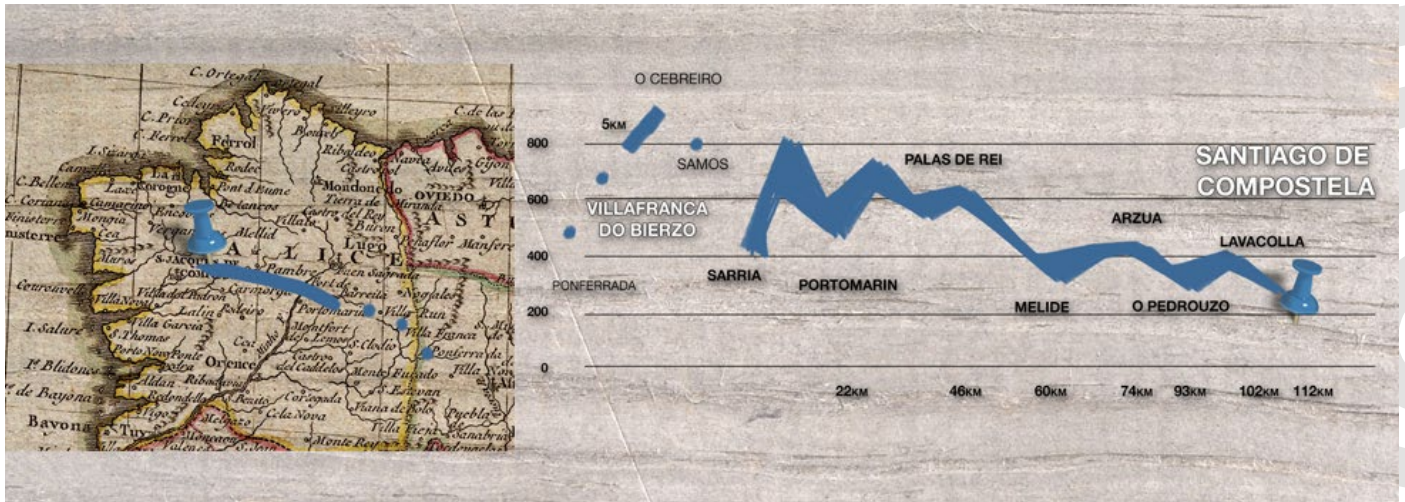
CAMINO FRENCH WAY PREMIUM INCLUDES

- En-suite accommodation in charming luxurious manors, 4 to 5* historical hotels including the Paradores of Villafranca de Bierzo, Monforte de Lemos and two nights in the 5* Parador of Santiago de Compostela (subject to availability)
- Emergency support from our local team
- All Breakfasts and Dinners - lunch on request
- Party of less than 8 participants: Private Transport in taxi to and from each hotel + 1 extra transfert per day on request as walking support
- Party of 8+ participants: Private Transport in luxury Mini-Van or bus and Support during the walking days
- Transfers in and out from Santiago airport, other airports on request
- 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 phrases-book per room
- A Pilgrim Kit per person
- Walk between 5 km and 24 km per day



CAMINO FRENCH WAY PREMIUM STEP BY STEP ITINERARY

This 10 nights route includes visits of the main attractions between Ponferrada and Sarria and 112 km (70 miles) walk along the Camino Frances - French Way into Santiago de Compostela.



DAY 1 - MAKING OUR WAY TO VILLAFRANCA AND VISITS OF PONFERRADA

We will pick you up at your arrival airport and drive you to Villafranca del Bierzo where you will spend the night and forget about today's transit at the town's 4* Parador. Villafranca is a charming little town with various Monasteries, Palaces and a quaint Old Town. It is mostly famous for its 12th-century Romanesque church of Santiago and The Puerta del Perdón gate which is mentioned in Paulo Coelho's "The Pilgrimage". Pilgrims who couldn't make it to Santiago de Compostela, mostly because they were ill, were given the jubilee blessing here.

On the way, if the time of arrival of your flight allows, we will make a 2h stop to visit the impressive city of Ponferrada, home to one of the last remaining Templar Castle, or visit Las Médulas, a World Heritage Site with a singular landscape of reddish earth which is a reminder of the extraction of gold carried out in the area by the Romans from the 9th century AD.

DAY 2 - 5KM - VISITS, MIRACLES & BREATHTAKING VIEWS

You are in for a treat today, so wake up early. After breakfast at the Parador, we will drive you up the mountain to the border of Castilla-y-León and you will walk the last 5 km through beautiful mountain paths into the region of Galicia and 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!





After lunch in O Cebreiro, we will discover the Benedictine Monastery of Samos, one of the wealthiest and most powerful of all the monasteries of the peninsula in Medieval Times. Tonight, we will spend the night at the Parador de Monforte de Lemos, where you can plan to visit the Ribeira Sacra, go for a cruise along the Sil River or wine-tasting in one of the local bodegas.



DAY 3 - 22KM - WALK FROM SARRIA TO PORTOMARIN



Finally, this is the day you start your pilgrimage! Head up the medieval staircase and start making your way to Portomarin. Walk along easy paved trails through beautiful countryside, meadows and oak woods, charming villages with slate roofs and a huge medieval bridge. 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.



Expect some steep uphill and downhill at some point today, but it will be made up by the beauty of the route and remember if you are tired we are never far away. 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 its 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 4 - 20KM - WALK FROM PORTOMARIN TO PALAS DE REI

Today, you will be walking 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 - transfers back and forth from the Camino can be organized). There will be some more uphill and downhill but mostly peaceful oak and eucalyptus forests and charming villages including Gonzar and Airexe. 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. When you are ready, we will drive you from the Camino to the guest-house and bring you back to the same point the next day.



DAY 5 - 18KM - WALK FROM PALAS DE REI TO MELIDE



In the morning, we will bring you back to the point where we picked you up the day before. You will then walk the last remaining kilometers into Palas de Rei, where you can stop to visit the town church and enjoy a coffee in the old town. You then have about 4h walk into Melide but make sure to arrive in Melide in time for lunch (2pm in Spain). Melide is renowned for having the oldest surviving cruceiro (calvary) in the world and for the best "Pulpo a la Galega" (Octopus) in Galicia. After lunch, we will bring you to a 17th-century mansion (if available) converted into a beautifully and extremely luxurious guest-house directly based on the Camino between Melide and Arzua.



DAY 6 - 14KM - WALK FROM MELIDE TO ARZUA

Another relaxing day through the peaceful Galician countryside. You will find by now the way you live the Camino is changing as your body and feet are getting used to the activity, the path becomes gentler. Take it in and enjoy this time-off from your busy life, to think, relax and interact with fellow pilgrims. You have done more than half of the journey but the best is still to come. You can decide to stay two nights in yesterday's mansion or change for another guest-house along the Camino. Your destination is Arzua which is famous for cheese so ask your host to let you try a local Cheese with a very peculiar shape.



DAY 7 - 19KM - WALK FROM ARZUA TO O PEDROUZO

After a short transfer back to Arzua, you will continue your way to O Pedrouzo. With only 40 km left from Santiago, you will notice the atmosphere along the Way is changing as people plan to celebrate their arrival and start realizing it will soon be time to part with people they might have been walking with for a month. The countryside itself changes as you enter forest with totally symmetric rows that produce curious visual effects. The villages you pass virtually have no name and seem stuck in time. After arriving in O Pedrouzo, we will bring you to a XVII century Galician Manor near Lavacolla where you will spend the following two nights (if available). Take time to visit the guest-house's 64.000 m2 of land including it's own functioning water-mill, orchard, horreo and a small chapel.



DAY 8 - 10KM - WALK FROM O PEDROUZO TO LAVACOLLA

We will drive you back to O Pedrouzo where a short walk back to your hotel awaits you. You will continue your way through the symmetrical oak and eucalyptus forest. There are many places to stop along the road so slow down your pace and stop often for coffees or tortilla. Slowing down the rhythm of your feet inevitably brings more to your immediate attention and consequently allows for greater speculation and wonder. You will be staying in the same wonderful guest-house as last night.



DAY 9 - 10KM - WALK FROM LAVACOLLA TO SANTIAGO!

This is it! Only ten kilometers separates you from your goal. Leave early to reach Santiago before twelve if you wish to see the pilgrim mass then (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. Breath 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, attend pilgrim mass, marvel at the architecture of our beloved City and visit your hotel, the 5* Parador of Santiago de Compostela on the Plaza del Obradoiro which is no less than a jewel.

DAY 10 - 13KM - JOURNEY THE END OF THE WORLD

Congratulations, you have made it to Santiago de Compostela. However, there is a tradition to go 88 km further towards Finisterre, also known as the land at the end of the World. So today, we will make our Way to the Atlantic Coast stopping in some traditional villages. The Tradition says pilgrims should burn an item of clothing and find a Scallop Shell on the beach as a proof their completed your pilgrimage.

You have the choice here for a traditional day tour visiting the main attractions towards Finisterre including the Virxe da Barca sanctuary in Muxia, the fishing village of Muros, the Ézaro waterfalls... or walk 13 km along the new lighthouse to lighthouse Camino towards Finisterre along the stunning Coast of Death (Costa da Morte). We will spend the night again in the 5* Parador of Santiago and you'll have more time to visit the old town. Dinner can be planned in the Parador or in a Michelin Star restaurant across the street.



DAY 11 - 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 or visit our website to find the best Way for your group!