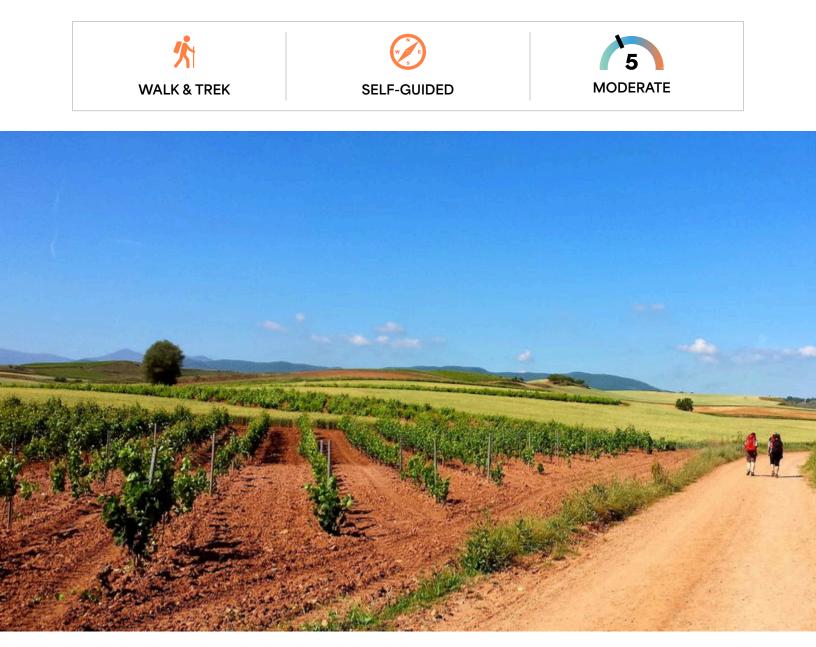


## Walking Camino - The French Way -Logrono to Leon

Trip Code: SGLL Version:



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk the French Way Camino from Logrono to Leon
- Delight in tapas-bar-hopping in Logrono
- Walk through the changing landscapes of La Rioja and Castilla y Leon

UK: +44(0) 17687 73966

- Discover sleepy Spanish villages and historic monasteries
- Easily pair this trip with <u>Walking Camino The French Way Leon to Santiago</u> to continue your journey to Santiago

### AT A GLANCE

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS**

- Self-Guided
- 12 days walking
- 289 km of the French Way
- Luggage transfer
- Daily departures
- Join at Logrono / End in Leon

## VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

Discover the changing landscapes of the Camino de Santiago as you follow the French Way through La Rioja to Castilla y Leon. This two-week section of the French Way is set to be a journey for your taste buds as well as your soul as you make your way from Logrono to Leon. Carrying your pilgrim passport and scallop shell, you will follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims through vineyards and across the vast Spanish *meseta* (high plateau) to discover sleepy villages and the kindness of the people who inhabit them. Staying in welcoming family-run hotels and guesthouses on a half-board basis, you can look forward to meeting fellow pilgrims and sharing stories of your pilgrimage over a glass of Rioja wine in the evenings.

Over the course of the two weeks you will cover some 289km and be eligible for your official Certificate of Distance to mark your achievement. Finishing in Leon, you have the opportunity to continue all the way to Santiago de Compostela on our self-guided <u>Walking Camino - The French Way - Leon to</u> <u>Santiago</u> trip. Alternatively, we can arrange a transfer and additional nights' accommodation in Santiago so you can stand proud in front of the Santiago de Compostella with your Certificate of Distance - just ask our Sales Team for details.

## 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 northern Spanish countryside, discovering small villages and the history of the French Way as you make your way to Leon. You should be comfortable walking for 5-6 hours each day - and for distances of up to 25-35km in one day - on quiet paths, byways, and cobbled tracks. 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
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfers
- Transfers as described

### What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Logrono
- Travel from Leon
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Optional public buses and taxis
- 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 or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's 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**

Your trip starts at your accommodation in Logrono. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airport is Bilbao Airport, which is well-served with many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into Bilbao it is possible to travel by bus to Logrono. The journey takes approximately 2 - 3 hours with one change at Bilbao's main bus station.

We also offer a private transfer from your arrival airport to your accommodation in Logrono. Please ask our Sales Team for a quote. If you have booked a private transfer with us you will make your way to the arrivals hall where you will find your driver holding a sign showing your name.

The trip ends in Leon. It is possible to return to Bilbao by train, and the journey takes approximately 6-7 hours with a change in Valladolid Campo Grande.

Alternatively, is possible to fly home from Madrid. You can take the train back to Madrid Airport with the journey taking approximately 2 - 3 hours.

Please visit <u>www.rome2rio.com</u> for more information about travelling by train or bus.

We can also arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, or you may even wish to make this trip part of a bigger trip of your own, or pair it with one of our other holidays - just ask our Sales Team for details.

#### 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.

Arriving in Logrono you can expect a fantastic array of culinary delights with tapas bar after tapas bar each serving a different speciality. And of course with starting your journey in La Rioja you can be certain to find some of the best in Spanish wines to accompany each dish.

Crossing the border into Castilla y Leon, the largest region of Spain, the cuisine in this region is much different to the coastal regions of Spain 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 its 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.

## **Special Diets**

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

## Accommodation

On this trip you will stay is a selection of comfortable guesthouses and 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 Logrono or Leon. 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 13kg 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.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates (see Health & Vaccinations below), and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check the <u>FCDO</u> for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

### **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 autoinjectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

#### Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

#### 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.

### **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
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)

- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

#### Land Only Information

Please note that 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 holiday 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 - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with 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 accommodation from the nearest airports - please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' section for further details for this trip.

## Why Choose KE

## Why KE?

Taste, walk, and live the French Way as you journey from Logrono, capital of the La Rioja wine region, to Leon, a vibrant city steeped in the history of the Saint James Way.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.

UK: +44(0) 17687 73966

12