Walking Camino - The French Way - Leon to Santiago

Trip Code: SGFW

Version:

WALK & TREK	SELF-GUIDED	5 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Complete the final 315km of the French Way from Leon to Santiago de Compostela
- Feast on delicious Galician cuisine
- Discover Gaudi's famous architecture in Leon and Astorga

- Walk to the Cruz de Ferro, the highest point of the French Way Camino, for fantastic panoramas
- Easily pair this trip by beginning with Walking Camino - The French Way - Logrono to Leon, to extend your journey to Santiago

AT A GLANCE

- 12 days walking
- Final 315 km of the French Way
- Daily departures
- Join at Leon / End In Santiago

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Take a journey through history on this two-week self-guided French Way Camino. Walking the final 315km of this Camino, you will make your way from Leon and finally be presented with your official Certificate of Distance in Santiago de Compostela. Following the iconic scallop shell markers, your route will take you through peaceful rolling landscapes to the iconic Cruz de Ferro, and through the rich vineyards of Bierzo, before reaching the fascinating region of Galicia and your final goal, the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela. Some of the most magical elements of journeying along this famed route include the people you meet along the way and the experiences you share, as you are immersed in the culture and traditions of the Way.

Staying in a selection of guesthouses and family run hotels on a half-board basis, you can be sure of a warm welcome at the end of each day. With specially selected accommodation located close to your route and your luggage transfers included, you can relax in the knowledge that we have taken care of all these arrangements so all you need to do is choose the date that suits you and then head off and enjoy your journey.

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 Santiago de Compostela. 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. The route takes you through undulating terrain, with one longer ascent on Day 5 when you will reach Cruz de Ferro (1,500m), the highest point of the French Way. Staying in a great selection of comfortable, simple 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 route guide book
- Luggage transfers
- Transfers as described
- Pilgrim kit including pilgrim passport and shell
- GPX tracks supplied

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Leon
- Travel from Santiago
- 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 Leon. 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 airports for this trip are Madrid Airport and Bilbao Airport, both well-served with many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into Madrid Airport it is possible to travel by train to Leon, which takes approximately 3 to 4 hours with a single change at Madrid-Chamartin train station.

If you are flying into Bilbao it is possible to travel by bus to Leon. The journey takes approximately 5 hours with one change at Bilbao's main bus station.

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

The trip ends in Santiago de Compostela. It is possible to return from here to Madrid by train. The journey takes approximately 3 - 4 hours.

Alternatively, it is possible to fly out of Santiago de Compostela Aiport back to the UK - for example there are direct flights to some London airports.

We also offer a private transfer to your departure airport from your accommodation in Santiago de Compostela. Please ask our Sales Team for a quote.

Please visit www.rome2rio.com for more information about travelling by train or bus.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a half-board basis for the 12 nights spent in smaller towns along your route; we have left your evening meals open for the other 2 nights, where there are several options from which to choose (Leon, Santiago de Compostela).

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.

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.

Castilla y Leon is the largest region in Spain, and its cuisine is rather different to that found on the coast - you'll find fewer seafood-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 (roast suckling pig) or Cordero Asado (roast lamb) - great options for meat eaters! Simply cooked and full of flavour, you are sure to enjoy such a delicious dish after a day of walking.

Bread in this region is fantastic and was often a communal affair in the villages where communities gathered to bake it in the village oven. We recommend visiting the local bakery for your picnic supplies so that you can enjoy a taste of this long-standing staple.

As you cross into Galicia and edge nearer to the coast, you will notice this region's love of seafood. Yet, compared with coastal regions further to the south in Spain, Galicia’s cuisine is less about paella and more about delicious Pulpo a la Gallega, a traditional dish of the region that comprises succulent boiled octopus on top of a bed of thinly sliced potatoes, topped with olive oil and paprika. Let’s not forget the tasty treat of Santiago, the Tarta de Santiago (literally 'Cake of Saint James'), made from ground almonds and decorated with powdered sugar stencilled with the Cross of Saint James. Yummy!

Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in a selection of comfortable, simple 2-star or 3-star hotels and guesthouses, each offering warm hospitality and close proximity to your route. Each accommodation brings its own charm whether it is a small family-run guesthouse offering beautiful gardens in which to relax or a 3-star hotel close to many restaurants.

The accommodation throughout this trip is in a twin or double room. It is on a half-board basis for the 12 nights spent in the smaller towns along your route. We have left your evening meals open (i.e. on a bed and breakfast basis) for the other 2 nights, where there are several options from which to choose (Leon, Santiago de Compostela).

It is possible to arrange additional nights’ accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Leon or Santiago de Compostela. 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 FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

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 mild climate with cool, damp winter months with some some frosty days, and warm summer months when - in July and August - temperatures can reach up to 30 degrees centigrade inland, and 25 - 30 degrees centigrade towards the coast where there is an added bonus of a lovely cooling breeze coming in off the Atlantic.

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. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

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

- Camino de Santiago: Camino Frances - Sandy Brown (Cicerone)
- A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino De Santiago: Camino Frances St. Jean Pied De Port - Santiago - John Brierley
- Walking Guide to the Camino de Santiago from St. Jean Pied-de-Port to Santiago de Compostela and Finisterre (History Culture Architecture) - Gerald Kelly

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.

When considering your travel dates, you might like to investigate any seasonal opening times of attractions and points of interest.

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?

Experience a slice of history as you walk in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims from Leon to finally stand proud at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela with your official Certificate of Distance.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.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 27/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change