

Full Camino de Invierno



Follow
the
Camino

Your Camino Agent since 2007

info@followthecamino.com

+353 1 687 2144

+44 20 3411 0701

+1 877 778 1750

©Follow the Camino - All Rights Reserved

YOUR CAMINO JOURNEY STARTS HERE

This travel plan provides a **day-by-day outline** of a sample trip, giving you a clear idea of what to expect. Keep in mind that this package can be fully **tailored** to your preferences. As a **2024 Traveler's Choice Award winner** on **TripAdvisor**, we're proud to be trusted by hundreds of travelers who praise our **seamless service**, expert **guidance**, and unforgettable **experiences**. Before you set off, take a moment to read some of their stories.



Follow The Camino



Reviews from millions of Tripadvisor travellers place this winner in the top 10% worldwide.



*There is a Camino for everyone! Photos are for inspiration and may differ from your selected itinerary.

LIZ F.



Walking the french camino is one of the best experiences of my life.

I was a bit anxious before starting my Camino walk but once I was into it , I had a brilliant time.

Follow the Camino planned my trip and everything went seamlessly , so all I had to do was concentrate on walking ! Il be back for sure.

LARA K.



Wonderful all round experience

Follow The Camino delivered on everything they promised with accomodation selection great and transfer of luggage seamless. The actual walk was wonderful and matched or exceeded my expectations. Wouldn't hesitate to use them again for my next Camino. Loved it!!!!

RANDY R.



Follow the Camino Frances

The Camino Frances was the best vacation experience I've ever had. Fitness, new friends, and fantastic country. Highly recommended.

GRETA O.



Follow the Camino with an eighty year old

Follow the Camino was excellent. Hotels included dinner and breakfast. Clean and good food. Luggage transfer seamless. Well done.

ITINERARY



Stage 1 of 2



270.5km



13 days



Comfort



Moderate

Starting from

€1202

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Popular Time

Good Time

Off/Low Season

Not Possible

Overall

Distance:

14.4 min | 24.6km average | 36.5 max

Ascent:

200.4 min | 631.8m average | 911.4 max

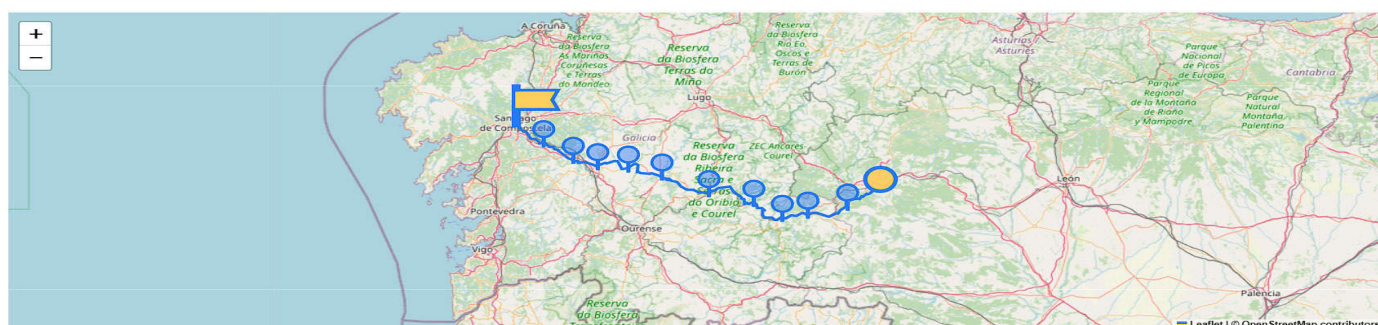
Cardio:

2 3 5 5

The Camino de Invierno, or Winter Way, traditionally developed as an alternative route for pilgrims to walk in Winter when the climb up to the summit of O Cebreiro would be impassable due to snow. This route is now the perfect, more peaceful alternative to the Camino Frances during peak season. The route followed by the Camino de Invierno has been in use since Roman times and was also used by Napoleon's troops in the early 19th Century. The Camino de Invierno passes through all four provinces of Galicia. Starting from Ponferrada, which is just outside Galicia, the route quickly enters the province of Ourense and follows the Sil River. As you move closer to Santiago, the route passes through the southern part of the province of Lugo before briefly going through the Deza district (part of the province of Pontevedra) before finally arriving at Santiago de Compostela.

Today, the solitude that can be experienced on this route appeals to people looking for a more reflective experience. Solitude is not all you will find on this route. Just one day walking from Ponferrada you will come upon the World Heritage site of As Médulas. Moving on, you then pass through parts of the Valdeorras and Ribeira Sacra wine regions.

Map



Services

Included in this package

- ✓ Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ Specially Hand-Picked Accommodation
- ✓ Our Holiday or Pilgrim Pack
- ✓ 24/7 On-Call Support

Add-On

- ⊕ Premium Accommodation
- ⊕ Airport Pick-Up
- ⊕ Additional Nights
- ⊕ Dinners

✔ Virtual Face-to-Face Pre-Departure Briefing

⊕ Luggage Transfers from Hotel to Hotel

⊕ Day Tours to Local Sites of Interest

Not included: Flights/trains, Insurance, Drinks/Lunch

Day

1

km

PONFERRADA

You will be pre-booked into a traditional hotel in the heart of the town. While here, you may wish to visit the Castillo de los Templarios, a castle donated to the Knights Templar Order by King Ferdinand II of León in 1178 to protect pilgrims who passed through on the Camino Frances to Santiago de Compostela.

Day

2

27.4 km

PONFERRADA -> LAS MEDULAS

Leaving Ponferrada you will climb through woodlands filled with fruit trees to be welcomed by a wonderful view back over Ponferrada. Descending through vineyards, you will then again ascend to Villavieja and the Castle of Cornatel before the final descent to La Medulas, a heritage site that was once the biggest gold mine in the Roman Empire.

Day

3

27.9 km

LAS MEDULAS -> O BARCO DE VALDEORRAS

A gentle ascent takes you up and out of Las Medulas. Take a moment to stop and appreciate the wonderful views. A long descent follows down the valley to the village of Puente de Domingo Flórez. Shortly after, you will cross over into Galicia, arriving at Querenó. Here, you can choose which route to take but all will take you to O Barco de Valdeorras.

Day

4

14.4 km

O BARCO DE VALDEORRAS -> A RUA DE VALDEORRAS

A short but pleasant walk today will take from O Barco skirting the town of Arcos and following the natural curve of the River Sil you pass by the village of Vilamartin staying beside the river. Passing the Valencia reservoir and a great photo opportunity over the Valdeorras Valley, you will arrive into the town of A Rúa de Valdeorras. Be sure to visit here the Church of San Esteban which houses a beautiful carving of St James. Also of interest is the Ponte da Cigarrosa which has Roman origins but the bridge we see today is a reconstruction in the 16th century.

Day

5

28 km

A RUA DE VALDEORRAS -> QUIROGA

Leaving A Rúa you are sent on your way with beautiful views over the River Sil. Walking by walnut and fig trees you then come to an area abundant with Mediterranean bushes of broom and rockrose to descend to the stream of Ferreiros. Crossing the stream you enter Montefurado where ahead you will see the towers of the Church of San Miguel de Montefurado. Ascending

through olive groves you can appreciate views of the tunnel built by the Romans for mining gold surrounded today by vineyards. Passing through the parish of Bendilló, where pilgrims used to discard their old rags before reaching Santiago, you then descend through a pine forest into Quiroga.

Day

6

36.5 km

QUIROGA -> MONFORTE

Setting out, the now familiar River Sil accompanies you before you ascend through a forest then descend to the Lor River basin. Although a tough section, the solitude and peacefulness of the forest makes it worthwhile. At the Hermitage of the Remedies panoramic views over the Lor River offer a picturesque backdrop. Crossing the river you then begin a final ascent to the plateau of the Lemos valley and Monforte de Lemos.

Day

7

29.7 km

MONFORTE -> CHANTADA

Starting from Monforte de Lemos, pilgrims cross the mediaeval bridge and venture towards Campo de San Antonio, passing the historic Clarisas convent and a traditional Galician stone cross. Along the way, encounter charming hamlets and beautiful chapels, traversing forest tracks that lead to the town of Chantada. Enroute, the picturesque village of Belesar offers stunning vistas of the River Miño, adorned with breathtaking canyons and terraced vineyards. Notably, the village features the renowned 'Codos de Belesar', an ancient Roman road.

Day

8

27.6 km

CHANTADA -> RODEIRO

Leaving Chantada, the Camino de Invierno presents one of its most challenging stretches as it ascends towards Monte Faro and its picturesque chapel. The rewarding climb offers panoramic views where, it is said, one can behold all four provinces of Galicia. Along today's path, you will encounter numerous 'cruceiros' (stone crosses) and 'petos de animas' (monuments honouring the souls of the departed), traditionally erected at crossroads to safeguard travellers and pay homage to those who have passed.

Day

9

21.4 km

RODEIRO -> LALIN

Embark on the final stretch of the Camino de Invierno before it merges with the Via de la Plata in the charming town of Lalin. Today's stage offers a tranquil and effortless journey, characterised by gentle terrain across serene forests and picturesque farmland nestled on low hills. It's important to note that there are no services along the way, so be sure to pack ample snacks and water to sustain you throughout the day.

Day

10

15.4 km

LALIN -> SILLEDA

As the Camino de Invierno merges with the Via de la Plata route, your journey continues from Lalin. Today's stage is a delightful and relatively short one, a pleasant stroll through rolling hills, serene woodlands, and charming farmlands. Along the way, you will encounter idyllic small hamlets that add a touch of rustic charm to your path. Your destination for the day is Silleda, renowned for its vibrant cattle and country fairs, including the internationally recognised Green Week (Semana Verde).

Day

11

21.1 km

SILLEDA -> PONTE ULLA

This day first starts with an easy stroll towards Bandeira, a town well-known for its empanadas (Galician pasties). As the day goes on, the Camino continues downhill through farmlands and villages. Just before descending to Ponte Ulla, the old castle is worth a visit. In Ponte Ulla, have a closer look at the Iglesia de Santa Maria de Magdalena and its very detailed Romanesque facade.

Day

12

21 km

PONTE ULLA -> SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Today is special, not only because it is the last day of this section, but also because it is the finishing line of the whole Camino Mozárabe route! As you leave Ponte Ulla, we first walk up towards Pico Sacro with its Ermita de San Sebastian and wonderful scenic views. The last kilometres to Santiago reflect the rural atmosphere of Galicia and it is sometimes difficult to believe you are so close to such an attractive city. Finally you reach Santiago De Compostela and its world-famous cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day

13

km

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. If you wish to stay in the area, we recommend that you: – Take your time and visit the magnificent historic centre of Santiago. – Continue with us along the wild Camino Fisterra (Finisterre Way), and stay overnight at the hotel in the lighthouse! – Or take a bus to Fisterra to visit the unspoilt sandy coves and beaches of the west coast. With very few tourists, you are guaranteed a very special experience. Buses depart from Santiago Bus Station at 9am and 10am. Buses return to Santiago at 4:45pm and 7pm. The journey takes 3 hours.

Elevation Chart



NOTES & QUESTIONS FOR MY CAMINO PLANNER

We know that planning your Camino is a personal journey, and we want to make sure everything is just right for you. Use this space to **jot down your thoughts, questions, and preferences**. Here are some ideas to discuss with your Camino planner:

- Are the daily distances suitable for me, or should I split them into shorter walking days?
- Where would you recommend taking a rest day?
- Would I like to add a tour or special experience along the way?
- Do I need transfers to and from the airport?
- Are there any accommodations I would like to upgrade?
- Would I like luggage transfers for lighter walking days?
- Are there any dietary preferences or special requests I should mention?

Feel free to write down any other thoughts or questions below:

Your Camino planner is here to help make your journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible!

ABOUT US

At Follow the Camino, we are not just a tour operator; we are **passionate Camino enthusiasts** who have been guiding pilgrims **since 2007**. As the first tour operator in Ireland to coordinate walks on the Camino de Santiago, we offer unrivaled expertise in designing **life-changing adventures**.

Don't hesitate to contact us at info@followthecamino.com to request your **personalized itinerary**. We can add rest days or split days to suit your pace, as well as include special day tours or unique activities to **enhance your Camino experience**. Let us help you create the perfect journey tailored to your needs!

Follow the Camino

START PLANING NOW

info@followthecamino.com | +353 16872144 | www.followthecamino.com

Follow us on

