

Cycling Safaris

Camino de Santiago 2025 León to Santiago - Self guided Tour 297 km | 6 nights / 7 days, Medium to Advanced Tour



Listed as the main European Cultural Itinerary, dotted with delightful monuments such as old pilgrim’s hospitals and sanctuaries, this route reminds us constantly to be the oldest, most celebrated and frequented route in Europe. Running through two of Spain’s northern regions - Castile and Galicia - the Camino gives way to breath-taking landscapes, unique monuments and typical villages in this part of our country. You will savour the rich Spanish gastronomy, offering traditional regional cuisine with excellent wines.

This “do it yourself”-tour gives you the flexibility to enjoy this historic pilgrimage at your own pace and brings the experience down to its essence: an individual challenge to reach Santiago...!

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1, Sunday Arrive in León

Founded in 68 BC, the ancient city of León will take your breath away. Wander through the narrow streets of the city's "barrio Húmedo" and sample the fabulous local gastronomy, before admiring the spectacular Gothic cathedral. Upon arrival at your first hotel in León, you will receive everything that you need for your journey. This included detailed documentation with maps, a road book and your touring bike with all necessary accessories.

DAY 2, Monday León to Astorga

48 km, +431m elevation

This stage traverses classic Castilian landscapes, complete with holm oaks, golden wheat fields and moderate rolling hills. The straightforward route follows the path of the N120 highway. The scenery along the first half of the route is relatively dry, but get greener the further west you go as the cornfields give way to endless vineyards. Keep your eyes peeled for geckos, birds of prey and dairy cows!

Astorga boasts no fewer than three national heritage monuments, and its cathedral is crowned with one of the finest Romanesque façades in Spain.



DAY 3, Tuesday Astorga to Villafranca

79 km, +1142m elevation

From Astorga, the Camino climbs gently up to the foothills of your first mountain pass. Once you've reached the top of Foncebadón, relax and enjoy the sweeping downhill ride to Villafranca, with gorgeous views of vineyards stretching out endlessly on both sides.

The town of Villafranca del Bierzo is was originally founded to provide pilgrims with refuge and sanctuary before beginning the most difficult part of their pilgrimage. The cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolás El Real is a gem of Spanish Renaissance architecture.

DAY 4, Wednesday Villafranca to Portomarín

56km (with taxi) / 97.7km

Elevation: +739m (with taxi) / +2156m (most difficult day)



Get ready for the most challenging day. From Villafranca the ride heads slowly towards the famed O'Cebreiro stage, the most demanding peak along the western section of the Camino. With a little patience it's more than possible to reach the top. Yet, there are always taxis available to avoid it. Then it's downhill all the way to Sarria, and onward via a rolling route to Portomarín. The older neighborhoods of the town once belonged to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, but now lie submerged, covered by the waters of the Miño River dam.

DAY 5, Thursday Portomarín to Arzua

54 km, +1012m elevation

Even though we're out of the mountains, doesn't mean that the going gets easier. Today's riding follows the Camino for 55 kilometers (with an optional side trip to a 700-year-old castle) through some of Galicia's prettiest countryside. Even though we're gradually losing altitude, the rolling Galician hillside might make you think otherwise. The route shows pilgrims the Celtic heart of Spain in one of the most un-Spanish places you've ever seen. Take your time and enjoy the sights!

You will be cycling side by side with other pilgrims and locals while enjoying the deep inside Galician landscapes. At some points, you will have the chance to choose between cycling on minor roads next to pilgrims or on nice trails. You will cycle through Palas de Rei and Melide, this last one it's well known for its tasty Galician octopus recipe, don't miss it!



DAY 6, Friday Arzua to Santiago Compostela

40 km.

+647m elevation

Don't let the short length fool you; the final stage is short, but kind of demanding! After approximately four hours of riding, cyclists become pilgrims upon arriving at the Pórtico de la Gloria ("The Façade of Glory") at the Cathedral of Santiago. After taking a breath (and celebrating with others arriving by foot and on horseback!), you can visit the Pilgrims Office where you can obtain the "Compostela", the document certifying you as an official pilgrim (good for John Wayne jokes in the future!). Accommodation is centrally located, giving you the opportunity to explore the streets and bars of the atmospheric historic centre after dark.

This city, without any doubt, is the most important of the Christian Middle Ages. It is worldwide renowned and each year thousands of travelers come to visit its treasures.

Day 7 End of the trip

Rest your weary legs and bask in the glory to reflect on a truly memorable journey. This is the finish of the tour



DATES AND PRICES 2025

Tour dates: April to October

€1510 per person sharing in twin/double room
€485 single room supplement (if travelling with others)
€495 solo traveller supplement (if travelling alone)

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ▶ 6 nights hotel accommodation in 3-4 & 5* renovated historic hotels with buffet breakfasts.
- ▶ Luggage transfers each day, one piece per person.
- ▶ Detailed road books and maps
- ▶ Service helpline
- ▶ Optional Taxi transfer from Villafranca to O'Cebreiro on day 4

Optional

Hybrid bike (Specialized SIRRUS) €255
Road Carbon (Specialized TARMAC) €345
E-Bike (Specialized VADO): €455
Extra piece of luggage: €80 (one piece of luggage per person is included in tour price)

ACCOMMODATION

(*) Spanish Paradores are luxury hotel accommodation, maintained by the state, in converted Castles, Palaces, Convents, Monasteries, Fortresses and other historic buildings. The building is often part of the heritage of Spain although there are some modern hotels in spectacular locations.



Parador de León GL San Marcos

The convent of San Marcos is one of the greatest architectural gems of the Spanish town of Leon, together with the Cathedral, the San Isidoro Basilica or the Casa Botines. It has now become a Parador and is one of the most important monuments of the Spanish Renaissance.

[+ More Info](#)



Hotel Via de la Plata

This modern hotel was built in 2011, over the stones of the convent of San Francisco.

The hotels design gave priority to the space in the rooms, the furniture and the welcoming contemporary decoration. It offers the rest you deserve while enjoying the best location in the historic district.

[+ More Info](#)



Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo

Villafranca del Bierzo is a town full of churches, monasteries and convents. Right at the town entrance stands this converted historical building, known as a Parador in Spain.

The leading tourist accommodation in the fascinating El Bierzo district. It is surrounded by mountains covered with cherry and fig trees, slopes dotted with chestnuts, poplars and small farms.

[+ More Info](#)



Vistalegre Hotel Spa

Recently renovated, Vistalegre Portomarín opened its doors in June 2018 to host guests who look for rest and relaxation.

This hotel offers free WiFi and views to the garden. Every room is equipped with flat TV screen, en-suite bathroom, A/C and a desk. They serve buffet breakfast.

[+ More Info](#)



Hotel Pazo Santa María

This elegant hotel dates back to the first half of the eighteenth century.

The Pazo Santa Maria complex comprises of various historical buildings which in themselves amount to a small village. Pazo Santa María has 16 lovely bedrooms located either in the main building or in the small individual annex cottages.

[+ More Info](#)



Parador de Santiago – Hostal Reis Catolicos

The Parador de Santiago is a blend of history, art and tradition. It is the emblem of the city and the perfect nights rest for pilgrims

The hotel is located in Obradoiro Square near the cathedral, creating an area of spectacular beauty in one of the most visited provincial capitals of the world. A stay at this Parador means a visit to a truly unique and exclusive location.

[+ More Info](#)

WHAT TO BRING

Specialized cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ legging/ shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing / good shoes
- gloves (only when you book a tour in April. It can be chilly in the morning that time of year!)
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume / insect repellent

HOW TO GET THERE

To Leon: Approximately 3 hours by train from Madrid www.renfe.es

From Santiago de Compostela: International flights from Santiago Airport