



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



El Camino de Santiago: A Walking Tour In Northern Spain

April 12 – 24, 2024

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

BEGIN a series of walks along the Camino in Roncesvalles, one of the main entrances to the famous pilgrimage trail, and end in Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as has been done for centuries

ADMIRE awe-inspiring cathedrals and monasteries in Nájera, Burgos, León, and other pilgrimage cities along the way, and enjoy leisure time to explore Spain's lovely Galicia region

EXPERIENCE midday Mass at the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where the famous *Botafumeiro* ritual will be performed

GO behind the scenes of several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that line the Camino, including the French Gothic-style Burgos Cathedral, with its opulent Renaissance *retablo*

ENJOY private tours of Antoni Gaudí's unique architectural wonders along the Camino, including his 19th-century interpretation of Gothic style, Casa Botines, in León

JOURNEY to Cape Finisterre, once considered the end of the Earth, to watch the sun set into the Atlantic Ocean

HEAR Gregorian chants performed by the world-famous monks of the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, whose two-story cloister is considered a masterpiece of Romanesque art





JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

For those looking to follow in the footsteps of pilgrims from centuries past, Spain's legendary Camino de Santiago fulfills this desire. For more than a millennium, pilgrims have traversed the Way of St. James to the Shrine of the Apostle at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, along wooded bluffs, across flowered fields, and through scenic landscapes. This influx of travelers from throughout Europe created a landscape of art and architecture in a dazzling variety of styles.

Join us on this active program, in which you will hike the most interesting sections of the Camino, all in the company of expert guides. Along the way, enjoy the culture and hospitality of this unique area, including exquisite cuisine, regional wines, breathtaking architecture, and splendid *paradores* (hotels). Explore the historic cities along the Camino, going behind the scenes of UNESCO-listed Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals adorned with mesmerizing religious frescoes, *retablos*, and sculptures.

This journey on the classic Camino concludes with Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. In an unforgettable highlight, the traditional *Botafumeiro* incense-burning ceremony—in which an enormous, 120-pound thurible, suspended by a system of pulleys operated by eight men, swings through the cathedral—will be performed.

This active excursion is comprised of daily walks averaging three to four miles per day along the Camino, with some rest days built in for leisurely sightseeing. We are co-sponsoring this program with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Emory Alumni Association. **To reserve your place on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure through northern Spain**, please contact our tour operator at Arrangements Abroad by calling 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944 or emailing trips@arrangementsabroad.com. I hope you will join us to experience one of the world's most magical places.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88
Travel Program Director, Office of Alumni Relations
Johns Hopkins University



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Old Quarter, Pamplona

MONDAY, APRIL 15: PAMPLONA / ESTELLA / LAGUARDIA

Travel by coach to the Romanesque Church of Santa María de Eunate, one of the jewels of the Camino, located in the heart of the Izarbe Valley. From there, walk a short distance on the Camino to Puente La Reina, a medieval town where the two main routes on the Pilgrim's Way converge. There will be time to explore the town, including its majestic namesake bridge, the Puente La Reina (the Queen's Bridge), with its seven semicircular arches, and enjoy lunch on your own. Transfer to Estella to see the Palace of the Kings of Navarre and San Pedro de la Rúa with its beautiful 12th-century cloister. Continue to Laguardia, the historic capital of the famous Rioja Alavesa wine region. The Hotel Villa de Laguardia, surrounded by lush vineyards, will be home for the next two nights. Dinner is at a local restaurant, featuring regional cuisine and wines. **B,D**
Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16: LAGUARDIA / LOGROÑO

Following a morning lecture, drive to the lively university city of Logroño to see its lovely Old Quarter and the cathedral that boasts a painting by Michelangelo and the carvings of Spanish Baroque sculptor Gregorio Fernández. Lunch is at Bodegas Baigorri, where Rioja Alavesa is produced. Return to Laguardia and visit Santa Maria Church with its beautiful portico. Stroll through the streets of this medieval town and stop in any of the numerous cellars to taste or buy some magnificent local wines before returning to the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure. **B,L**
Rest day (only sightseeing walking).

Santa María de Eunate, Izarbe Valley



FRIDAY, APRIL 12: DEPARTURE

Depart home independently on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: MADRID, SPAIN / PAMPLONA

Arrive in Pamplona in the late afternoon. Transfer to the Hotel Maisonnave, centrally located near Castillo Square. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a welcome reception for an *aperitif*. **R**

SUNDAY, APRIL 14: PAMPLONA / RONCESVALLES / PAMPLONA

Attend a morning lecture before enjoying a walking tour of Pamplona's Old Quarter. After lunch, drive to Roncesvalles, one of the main entrances to Spain for the St. James Way and a gateway to the Iberian Peninsula. Each traveler will receive a *credencial* (pilgrim passport) to mark their route and serve as proof of a completed pilgrimage to the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago to qualify for a *compostela* (certificate of completion of the pilgrimage). Return to Pamplona, where the afternoon is at leisure. You can follow the route of the Running of the Bulls to the 19,000-seat Plaza de Toros de Pamplona or stop at Café Iruna, frequented by Ernest Hemingway and celebrated in his novel *The Sun Also Rises*. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. **B,D**
Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles.



Burgos

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: LAGUARDIA / NÁJERA / AZOFRA / SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA / BURGOS

Depart for Nájera, the former capital of the Kingdom of Navarre, where you will visit the Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Nájera, the burial place of many of the kings, queens, and knights of Navarre. Continue walking on the Camino to Azofra, then drive to Santo Domingo de la Calzada for lunch and a visit to the cathedral and Pilgrims' Hospital, situated among its network of medieval streets. Check into the Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos, our home for the next two nights. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: BURGOS

This morning, discover the sumptuous Burgos Cathedral, one of the largest churches in Spain and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and view its richly decorated interior chambers. Then drive to the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, which dates from the seventh century and is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. While there, experience a Gregorian chant performed by the world-famous monks of Silos. Afterwards, stroll along a delightful Camino path through an oak and pine forest leading to the peaceful valley of the Río Vena. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles.



Camino de Santiago

FRIDAY, APRIL 19: BURGOS / CALZADA DEL COTO / LEÓN

Drive this morning to the little village of Calzada del Coto to begin a beautiful hike along this stretch of the Camino to Calzadilla de los Hermanillos. After a *tapas* buffet lunch at a popular pilgrim restaurant, continue to León, where you will check into the Parador de León. The afternoon in León is at leisure. Take a stroll and see the medieval Palacio del Conde Luna and the Casa de las Carnicerías before enjoying dinner on your own. B,L

Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: LEÓN

Start your day with a lecture, then follow the Camino within the walls of León to discover Antonio Gaudí's architectural masterpiece, the neo-Gothic palace Casa Botines. Begun in 1891 and declared a Historic/Artistic Monument in 1969, the palace features a Gaudí exhibition as well as a collection of 19th- and 20th-century paintings from artists like Ramón Casas, Raimundo de Madrozo, Joaquín Sorolla, and Ignacio Pinazo. Visit the soaring 13th-century León Cathedral with stained glass from the 13th through to the 20th centuries. Then see the Basilica of San Isidoro, the most important Romanesque church of the Iberian Peninsula, featuring the Pantheon of Kings, known as the "Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art." Lunch is at Racimo de Oro, a restaurant in the city's historic center that serves local specialties. The remainder of the day is at leisure. B,L

Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles.



León, photo by Javier Diaz Barrera



Bishop's Palace, Astorga, photo by David Major



Botafumeiro ritual, Santiago de Compostela

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Today's journey on the Camino ventures into the glorious open countryside of the *páramo* (treeless grassland) with its rich red earth. Drive to Astorga, the crossroads of several major pilgrim routes. Admire Gaudí's Bishop's Palace, which features a museum devoted to the pilgrimage, before lunch. Continue to Ponferrada and the magnificent 12th-century Templar castle, which towers over the historic quarter of the town and houses the Templars' Library. Stroll on the Camino as it winds within the medieval section of Ponferrada. Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo. B,L,D

Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles.

MONDAY, APRIL 22: VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

See the historic sights of Villafranca del Bierzo, including the Plaza Mayor, Calle del Agua, and Los Marqueses Castle, before driving to Monte do Gozo for lunch. The spires of the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela will be visible as you join other pilgrims walking the last few miles of the Camino. Then check into the Hotel San Francisco Monumento in the heart of Santiago de Compostela. Later, an optional excursion is arranged to "the end of the Earth" at Cape Finisterre, once thought to be the westernmost point on the Iberian Peninsula. Enjoy the sunset from the cape with a glass of Cava. Return to Santiago de Compostela for a free evening with dinner at leisure. B,L

Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

A morning walking tour includes the highlights of this UNESCO-listed historic town, which is the final destination of the St. James' Way. Complete the pilgrim experience at the majestic cathedral's noon Mass, where the famous Botafumeiro ritual will be performed. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Visit the Plaza del Obradoiro or Raxoi Palace, or stop at the city's food market. You can also enjoy tapas on Franco or Reiña Streets before gathering tonight for our farewell dinner. B,D
Rest day (only sightseeing walking).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN

Depart the hotel and transfer to the Santiago de Compostela airport early this morning for the flight home with a connection through Madrid. B

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL MAISONNAVE, PAMPLONA

This painstakingly refurbished four-star hotel boasts exceedingly well-appointed rooms and exquisite cuisine at the Caravinagre Café Bar.

HOTEL VILLA DE LAGUARDIA, LAGUARDIA

This four-star property, nestled among vineyards in Rioja Alavesa, offers 84 rooms, a luxurious spa, and two top-notch restaurants serving up delectable gastronomic and wine experiences.



PARADOR DE VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO, VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Discover this beautiful *parador* in the charming El Bierzo district, nestled among picturesque mountains and surrounded by cherry and fig trees, chestnuts, poplars, and small farms at the entrance of Villafranca del Bierzo.

HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTO, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Minutes from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, enjoy the tranquility of an 18th-century Franciscan convent with four-star amenities, including a heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi.



HOTEL NH PALACIO DE BURGOS, BURGOS

This 16th- and 17th-century building houses 110 elegant and spacious rooms, featuring a clever fusion of classic and contemporary design, with earthy color schemes, dark-wood furniture, and wooden floors.

PARADOR DE LEÓN, LEÓN

Originally built in the 16th century to house the Military Order of Saint James, this magnificent property features stately function rooms, a spectacular cloister and chapter house, elegant guest rooms, a library, and a wonderful restaurant serving up beautifully prepared traditional cuisine.



PROGRAM RATES

\$7,999 per person, double rate

\$9,399 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Eleven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

ELIGIBILITY: One member of the traveling party is required to make a sustaining financial contribution of \$50 to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association within the fiscal year. Please visit www.alumni.jhu.edu/support.

NOTE: A small portion of the cost of the trip supports the Johns Hopkins Alumni Travel Program.

For John Hopkins related questions, please call (800) 548-5481 or email alumni@jhu.edu.



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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date