

CAMINO PRIMITIVO – NORTHERN ROUTE THROUGH GREEN SPAIN 9-day / 8-night self-guided inn-to-inn supported walking with daily departures April to October



The Camino de Santiago - the pilgrim's route to the shrine of St James the Apostle in the city of Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain - has attracted walkers from all over Europe since the 12th century.

Today, it is possible to experience the same route as the medieval travellers along the northern route through the area colloquially known as Green Spain, walking the most unspoilt sections of the route on an 'inn to inn' walk. Staying in pre-booked hotels with your baggage transferred each day, travel through the wooded hills and fertile valleys of this spectacular region of Asturias. Travel in a small group with the support of a mini-bus and driver to shorten the less interesting sections or to visit places of interest off the usual route.

Share in the sheer scale, the mystery and the history of this great medieval pilgrimage phenomenon. Take a journey where you can imagine the hardships, the pleasures and interests of those early pilgrims. Follow an infinitely varied succession of paths and trails that link cities and villages, great cathedrals, fine churches and ancient monuments

The original **Camino Primitivo** route became very popular in the early Middle Ages, when areas south of the Cantabrian Range were continuously at war. This route reveals the beautiful natural settings, captivating historical monuments and authentic friendly villages of Northern Spain.

Near Lugo, the '**Camino Primitivo**' joins the more popular French route. From here, because the remainder of the route follows busy highways our journey continues by mini-bus to Santiago de Compostela, making the requisite stop at Monte del Gozo, the hilltop, which affords a pilgrim's first glimpse of the city. For those who wish there is the option of walking the last few kilometres, to enter the city on foot.

Dates: Available daily from May to October (cost varies according to the number in your group)
Set departure dates: 12th – 20th May, 6th – 24th June, 25th – 23rd September 2012

Cost based on a minimum of 6-persons: AU\$2075 per person twin share. Single room supplement AU\$270

Includes: Dinner & breakfast each day, group mini-bus transfers during walking program (from days 2-8), luggage transfer, bilingual driver/ guide and transfers from Oviedo airport to first hotel and from last hotel to Santiago, La Coruña or Oviedo airport.

Not included: Tour guide, lunches during walking days (can be arranged at extra cost). Transfers at the beginning and end of the tour to any other airport (ie Bilbao or Madrid). Additional nights in Santiago de Compostela or Oviedo, which again can be arranged at extra cost

Difficulty: Easy to moderate walks of 5 to 6 hrs with an average ascent and descent of 300m.

Accommodation: Ranging from typical village hotels (for 4-nights) to good 3-4-star city hotels (4-nights), but comfortable & clean rooms with en-suite bathrooms.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Oviedo

As time allows you can visit the Gothic Cathedral of San Salvador, an important Saint for pilgrims to Santiago. Enjoy the lively atmosphere in the old town centre, with plenty of cafés, restaurants, bodegas and cider houses.

Day 2: Oviedo to Puerma - Salas (@ 6hrs walking) - 19km with 220m of ascent & 300m descent

Our route follows the Jacobean *copper shells* through the narrow lanes of the city centre and out into the green Asturian countryside. We walk on an old footpath through quiet villages to Puerma. From here we travel by bus to the Cornellana monastery (founded in 1024) and to our hotel in an historic castle at Salas.

Day 3: Salas to Sablismo - Allande (@ 6hrs walking) - 19km with 250m of ascent and 350m descent

To avoid heavy traffic, we first drive to El Pedregal, from where we walk 10km to Tineo and have lunch in the old town centre. We visit the monastery of Obona, which was an important school and retreat for wise men in the Middle Ages. From here we walk another 3km along the Camino to Villaluz and continue by bus to our hotel in San Andres or back to Tineo.

Day 4: Allande to the Palo Pass - Allande (@ 6hrs walking) - 15km with 450m of ascent and 125m descent

We drive back to Sablismo from where the original high "*ruta de los hospitales*" crosses the steep slopes toward the Puerto del Palo. Because of the extreme weather here in winter, there were several pilgrim's hospitals on either side of the mountain pass. Superb views before we drive back to our hotel in Pola de Allande. We have the option of walking (part way) down along the alternative Camino through the valley.

Day 5: Berducedo to Grandas de Salime (@ 5hrs walking) - 17km with 250m of ascent and 800m descent

From Allande we drive to the hamlet of Berducedo from where we descend on foot through fields and woods to the village of Villapedre. Here a boatman helps us cross Lake Salime. In Grandas de Salime we have free time perhaps with the opportunity to visit the museum. We stay one night in a simple hotel in the centre of town.

Day 6 Grandas de Salime to O Cadavo (@ 6hrs walking) – 15km with 300m ascent and descent

To avoid walking on sealed highways from Grandas to Fonsagrada, we drive into Galicia. At Paradanova we take the oldest walking trail, high across the green pastures and extensive heather clad hills, toward the village of Póboa de Burón, which once had a castle and a large pilgrim's hospital. We continue on to Paradavella from where we have arranged a short transfer by bus to the nearest pilgrims' hotel in O Cadavo.

Day 7 O Cadavo to Lugo (@ 7hrs of walking) - 20km with 200m of ascent and 450m descent

On our last walking day we can really see some wonderful Galician countryside. Following quiet sealed and unsealed tracks we pass one hamlet after another with many examples of traditional architecture. The 'Pazos' and "Casas Grandes" are well preserved, impressive buildings made of stone and wood. From Gondar we drive to Lugo, where the Camino Primitivo merges with the classic Camino Frances (the French route). Tonight we stay in a comfortable hotel in the centre of town

Day 8 Lugo to Santiago (@ 1hr of walking) - 5km with 100m descent

To avoid walking along the main road to Santiago, we drive to the Monto del Gozo; the hill from where pilgrims first get their first sight of Santiago. From here we walk into town to share emotions with other pilgrims as we approach the St James Cathedral in the old centre of town. The afternoon is free to explore

Day 9 Santiago

Tour ends after breakfast – ask about booking extra nights of accommodation

Other walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals – are available in many parts of Europe through **Outdoor Travel**. These walks include pilgrimage routes in France & Spain such as the **Camino de Santiago** or **Way of St James** from Le Puy to Santiago, the route of Pilgrims along the River Yonne to Veزالay in Burgundy, the **Camino Portuguese** from Porto to Santiago and **St Cuthbert's Way** from Scotland into England.

We offer literary routes such as **Wainwrights Way** in England, 'far from the maddening crowd' on the Dorset – Wessex Trail or **Stevenson's Trail** 'travels with a donkey' in the wild Auvergne in central France.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

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