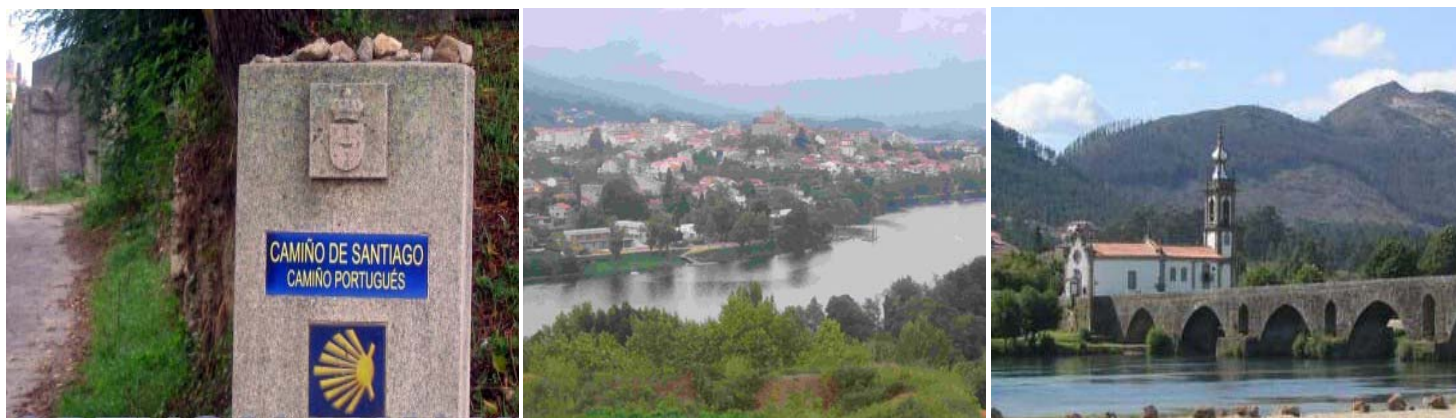


THE CAMINO PORTUGUÉS SELF-GUIDED WALKING

Portugal to Spain - Porto to Tui to Santiago de Compostela – one or two-week inn-to-inn walks



Take a journey where you can imagine the hardships, the pleasures and passions of the early mediaeval pilgrims. Follow an infinitely varied succession of paths and trails that offer a direct link to history through towns and villages, fine churches, ancient monuments and to the great cathedral of the Apostle Saint James.

Today, it is possible to experience the same route as the medieval travellers, walking the most unspoilt sections of the route on a self-guided 'inn to inn' walk – staying in family run hotels with your baggage transferred each day. Most pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela follow the French route from Le Puy, through the Pyrenees to Leon and across Northern Spain. Today the Camino Portugués trail is rarely used, it is ideal for those looking to get away from the crowds.

Our route will follow the traditional pilgrim trail considered to be the '*inspired*' way; the humble beauty of the trail and countryside providing many of its medieval pilgrims with *inspiration* for songs and verse.

Camino Portugués - Porto to Tui

Departs daily from May to October

Much of the route across northern Portugal follows the original Roman military road that connected Portugal with Spain and France and you will pass by Roman milestones, cross Roman bridges and walk through unspoilt countryside where you will meet along your way the warm and welcoming people of north Portugal

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 – Arrive in Porto mid afternoon and overnight at your pre-booked hotel accommodation

Day 2 Porto – Matosinhos – Vila do Condé. 22 km

From Porto to Matosinhos beach by tramway. Walk along the wild Atlantic sandy beaches and historic sites as the archaeological remains of Castro San Paio dating from the Iron Age.

Day 3 – Walking from Vila do Condé to Barcelos. 27.3 km

A varied day along the woodland paths around Los Arcos. Half of this stage is along quiet country lanes, mostly screened by eucalyptus and pinewoods, offering shelter from wind and shade from the sun, where you can let your mind wander and time at the end to discover the origins of the "Barcelos Cockere!".

Day 4 – Walking from Barcelos to Ponte de Lima. 33.6 km

This is the longest and most arduous of all stages but the most beautiful. It includes two hill passes - portelas - separating the two river valleys of Neiva and Lima. However, we have the beautiful natural landscapes to lift our spirits and nearly half the route is on pathways through vineyards and woodland (there is the possibility to shorten the walk with taxi).

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

Day 5 – Walking from Ponte de Lima to Rubiaes. 18.7 km

Today the route passes by the vineyards of the famous “vina verde” wine. This stage also marks our steepest climb up to the Labruja valley and the high pass through the mountain ridge and into the Coura valley via the Alto de Portela Grande. Overnight Rubiaes with dinner included on this night.

Day 6 – Walking from Rubiaes to Tui. 19.6 km

Apart from a short climb to leave the Coura valley, most of today is downhill through ancient countryside first to the walled town of Valença, between natural pathways and quiet country roads through woodland and then over the river Minho to the historic town of Tui, on the Spanish/Portuguese border.

Day 7 – Tui

Tour ends after breakfast

Tour includes: 6-nights accommodation in a twin room with en-suite facilities in family run comfortable hotels (usually 2-3-star), 6 breakfasts, 1 dinners, daily transfer of luggage, walking maps of the route and notes.

Not included: Dinners on 5-nights, lunches, admission fees or personal expenses

Cost per person: AU\$950 per person twin share.
Single supplement AU\$190.
Solo Traveller Supplement \$325

Extra nights are available in Porto or Tui or at any place along the route – upgrades to accommodation are limited but may be possible in some places at extra cost.



Tui to Santiago de Compostela

Departs daily from May to October

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 - Arrival in Tui – Overnight

Day 2 - Transfer to Porrino. Walking from Porrino to Redondela 15.7 km

Mostly along quiet country roads and along wooded pathways, today we follow the beautiful Louro river valley. Then a steep climb to Monte Cornedo and onto the plateau of Chans das Pipas. The final part of the day is all the way downhill into the attractive town of Redondela, on the beach. Dinner is included on this night.

Day 3 – Walking from Redondela to Pontevedra. 18.2 km

Interesting stage along the coastal inlet of the Ria de Pontevedra. Climb through mixed forest around the Alto de Lomba before going down to the sea at Arcade and then a second uphill stretch following ancient stone paths before dropping down to the provincial capital at Pontevedra, where you overnight

Day 4 – Walking from Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis. 23.1 km

Most of this stage is along gentle river valleys, using natural pathways through woodland offering shade and drinking fountains. Overnight Caldas de Reis

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Day 5 – Walking from Caldas de Reis to Padron. 18.6 km

A beautiful walk, with one short climb, through the Bermana River valley, then down to the Valga Valley to the place it is said where Saint James arrived in Iberia. Overnight Padron

Day 6 – Walking from Padron to Santiago de Compostela. 23.9 km

The final day takes us through pine, eucalyptus and oak woods, and the inevitable stretches of main road that gets busy as we near the city. This stage also has the detour to Castro Lupario (pile of stones, remains of Lupa's hill fortress) before climbing up to Santiago de Compostela. Overnight Santiago.

Day 7 – Santiago

Tour ends after breakfast.

There is the possibility to add extra nights in Santiago or to upgrade accommodation to a 3 or 4-star hotel or to stay in the historical and impressive 5-star Parador Hotel in the main square next to the cathedral in Santiago at extra cost. Availability of accommodation - particularly at the Parador and during holiday or festival periods - is very limited so please ask for a quote and check availability as soon as your dates have been determined.

Cost per person: AU\$885 per person twin share.
Single supplement AU\$190,
Solo Traveller Supplement AU\$340

Tour includes: 6 nights accommodation in a twin room with en-suite facilities in family run comfortable hotels (usually 2-3-star), 6 breakfasts, 1 dinner, daily transfer of luggage, walking maps of the route and notes.

Not included: Dinners on 5-nights, lunches, admission fees or personal expenses



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** including the Way of St James – the French Route - from Le Puy in Central France to Santiago, the route of Pilgrims along the River Yonne to Veزالay in Burgundy and St Cuthbert's Way from Scotland into England. Our latest self-guided or guided pilgrimage walk is the 8-week **Via Francigena** the pilgrims **Road to Rome** in Italy.

Other walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals are available in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland & across Europe including Wainwright's famous **Coast-to-Coast** trail, Hadrian's Wall or walks in the Lake District. We also offer Ireland's **Ring of Kerry**, the **Dordogne** or **Pyrenees** or Provence in France, Alpine walking in Austria & one-hotel walking holidays in Spain or Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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