

## SPAIN – THE WAY OF ST JAMES or CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

8-days /7-nights Small group **VALUE** guided walk along the pilgrimage route from Sarria to Santiago



The Camino de Santiago or Way of Saint James – the route of pilgrims to the final resting-place of the apostle St James - continues to be one of the most popular and most celebrated walking routes in Europe. Jerusalem and Rome were for centuries the two main centres for European pilgrims, but today, this UNESCO listed heritage route to Santiago de Compostela surpasses them all. And walking the last section of the so-called 'French Route' (which extends from Geneva or Paris) from Sarria to Santiago qualifies you as a true pilgrim.

As you walk – without worrying about baggage or accommodation - you will meet walkers from around the world and have the chance to discover the extraordinary spirituality and hospitality that this trail evokes.

**Cost:** AU\$1495 per person (twin share) Single room supplement AU\$240  
**Departs from Sarria:** 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

**Includes:** 7-nights in comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathrooms where available, 7 breakfasts, 7 evening meals, experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, luggage transport (one suitcase per person between hotels), Standard group transfers from & back to Coruna Airport.

**Not Included:** Entry fees, meals & drinks not mentioned or any personal expenses.

### Suggested itinerary:

#### Day 1: Arrival Day in Sarria

There is a coach transfer to Sarria from Coruna Airport from a designated arrival flight; however, there is just one departure time for this bus. The standard transfer is included in the tour cost. If you arrive from a different location (eg from Santiago or Leon), you should arrange a taxi to Sarria (bus services are limited) to reach the hotel by mid afternoon. After dinner your leader will give an introductory briefing on the walk.

#### Day 2: Sarria to Portomarin

walking distance @ 23km

Today we walk from the monastery of La Magdalena to the Gallician vineyards, along the banks of the Mino River to Portomarin. Our route lined by shaded chestnut and oak groves, fields enclosed by traditional Celtic 'chantos', and examples of Gallician Romanesque architecture in a landscape little changed for centuries.

#### Day 3: Portomarin to Palas do Rei

23km

Today is a day to enjoy panoramic views as we walk through undulating countryside. Our walk climbs gently to Hospital de la Cruz, and then winds through the pine groves and meadows to Pala do Rei.

#### Day 4: Palas do Rei to Azura

28km

Romanesque churches, and medieval bridges punctuate our route as we walk from Palas do Rei to Azura. Our route is dotted with castles, fortresses, and a myriad of historical monuments.

#### Day 5: Azura to Rua-O Pina

18km

Tiny hamlets dotted with shingle houses, hidden amidst wooded glades and eucalyptus trees, line the trail to Rua. Visit the ancient church of San Verisimo and the 18th century chapel in Santa Irene.

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## Day 6: Rua to Santiago

walking distance @ 19km

Our first glimpse of the city and our final destination is from the summit of Monte del Gozo, from where we descend and enter the city of Santiago de Compostela via the Porta do Camino. We follow the road of the pilgrims to the impressive city square with its parador (the former hospice), town hall and of course the cathedral, reputed to be the final resting place of the Apostle St James.

## Day 7: Santiago de Compostela

A free day to relax, celebrate your journey and to explore this magnificent city with its many shops and gardens, a lively market full of local produce and seafood, restaurants and ancient building.

## Day 8: Departure Day from Santiago de Compostela

Tour ends after breakfast, after which you are free to make your own onward travel arrangements. Alternatively there is one daily departure, by standard coach transfer to Coruna airport from Santiago.



**Walk Grading & Fitness:** We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of this walk and get the most out of your holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this walk and **provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out of any section of this walk**. Please be sure you can manage the daily walking distances and ascent as listed below. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours and it is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.



**Outdoor Travel** offer a range of guided or self-guided walks on the Camino route in France, Spain & Portugal.

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

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102