
GEEO ITINERARY

Camino de Santiago

Day 1: Sarria Arrive in Sarria at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Sarria at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Spain at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to rest and adjust to any time difference. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Sarria before the trip. To get to Sarria, you will probably want to fly into Santiago de Compostela or Madrid and take a bus to Sarria. Santiago de Compostela is closer, but Madrid will have more affordable flights. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Day 2: Sarria/Portomarín (B) Hike from Sarria to Portomarín.

Today, we start our trek to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela by hiking from Sarria to Portomarín, covering about 14 miles over the course of the day. We will pass through many lovely towns along the way, and you can choose to have a picnic lunch in places such as Barbadelo, Renta, or Ferreiros. We will spend the night in the riverside city of Portomarín. Approximate travel time: 6-8 hrs on foot

Day 3: Portomarín/Palas de Rei (B) Early start from Portomarín. Hike through fantastic scenery with a rich history en route to Palas de Rei.

We will leave Portomarín in the early morning light in order to make the most of the day. This stretch of the trek will see some changes in elevation through beautiful scenery. The surrounding area has a rich history, especially from the Middle Ages; the Way of St. James was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the later Middle Ages. The Black Death, the Protestant Reformation, and political unrest in 16th-century Europe led to its decline, but pilgrimages have continued without interruption since the Middle Ages. After our hike, we will arrive in the town of Palas del Rei. Approximate travel time: 6 hrs on foot

Day 4: Palas de Rei/Melide (B) Continue the pilgrimage westward, walking through the lush green valleys of Galicia.

Today, we continue the pilgrimage through the lush green valleys of Galicia, covering about 9 miles. We will have ample opportunities for rest stops and time to pick up any needed supplies before arriving in Melide. Take a break in the lively market town and try octopus, Galicia's most classic dish, in one of the many *pulperías*. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs on foot

Day 5: Melide/Arzúa (B) Follow the Camino from Melide to the village of Ribadiso and finally the town of Arzúa.

Leaving Melide, the Camino crosses several streams and follows a forest track to the village of Boente. Next, walk through the scenic medieval village of Ribadiso before finally arriving in the town of Arzúa. In Arzúa, we will visit the churches of Santa María and Capela de la Magdalena. The distance covered today will be approximately 8 miles. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs on foot

Day 6: Arzúa/Amenal (B) Follow the Camino alongside pretty woods, through

sleepy villages, and across streams to the small village of Amenal.

Today, we traverse 14 miles of scenic Galician countryside, passing through pretty woods and sleepy villages and across streams. The chapel of Santa Irene, with its unique statue of St. James, is worth a visit. En route, visit the lovely hamlet of Rúa. The rest of the walk to Amenal is a mix of calm country roads and forest trails. Approximate travel time: 6 hrs on foot

Day 7: Amenal/Santiago de Compostela (B) Enjoy a final day of walking through spectacular scenery toward our final destination.

This morning, we depart early in order to reach the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in time for the Pilgrim's Mass. Enjoy the scenery during the final 8-9 miles of the pilgrimage before the baroque, painted towers of the cathedral come into view. Later, we will explore this fascinating city and sip some wine in a café to celebrate the incredible journey. The pilgrimage would not be complete without a visit to the cathedral on the magnificent Praza do Obradoiro, where tradition holds that the remains of St. James the Apostle are buried in the 1st century. Originally built as a small church over the tomb of St. James in 819 AD, the cathedral has remained the end-point of the spiritual pilgrimage to those walking the Camino de Santiago for centuries. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs on foot

Day 8: Santiago de Compostela (B) Depart Santiago de Compostela at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Santiago de Compostela at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Santiago de Compostela, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEE0 program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but, we can still offer you a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.