
GEEO ITINERARY

Camino de Santiago 7/6/2025

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

Arrive in Madrid at any time. Madrid's airport is **Adolfo Suarez-Barajas (MAD)**. You might also consider arriving in Spain a few days early to see other parts of the country (e.g., Barcelona) and then traveling to Madrid by high-speed train. 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 Madrid before the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** 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. **Joining Instructions** To get from the airport to Hotel Europa (please check your vouchers to ensure this is your start hotel):

- From airport terminals T1, T2, T3, or T4: Take the pink metro line 8 to station **Nuevos Ministerios** (~17-22 minutes).
- At Nuevos Ministerios, change to line C3 and travel in the direction of Aranjuez to station **Sol** (~4-5 minutes).
- The hotel is a 1-minute walk from Sol station. Take exit "Carmen" and then walk west towards Calle del Carmen. Across the road, you will see Hotel Europa.

Alternatively, you can take a taxi directly from the airport to the hotel. With no traffic, the drive takes around 20 minutes and costs approximately €40 EUR. Traffic in Madrid can be bad, which can increase the taxi journey to 45+ minutes and €50 EUR or more. **Accommodation:** Hotel Europa (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Madrid Enjoy a short orientation walk around Madrid and a free day to explore the city.

After an orientation walk with your tour leader, spend the rest of the day exploring Madrid. Opt to check out the city's world-famous museums, do some shopping, or enjoy some fantastic Spanish cuisine. Other options include the Palacio Real, Real Jardín Botánico, or El Escorial. Experience the nightlife at the Plaza del Dos de Mayo in the area known as Malasaña, where you can savor some sangria and dance to the latest *música española*.

Day 3: Madrid/Sarria Travel to Sarria by train.

Today, we travel from Madrid to the charming town of Sarria by train. Sarria is a popular starting point for the Camino de Santiago because it is a little over 100 km from Santiago de Compostela, which is the minimum distance you have to walk to earn a Pilgrim's Certificate. The Camino de Santiago—or as it's known in English, the Way of St. James—is a network of pilgrimage routes that all end in Santiago de Compostela. Since the 9th century, pilgrims have been walking the Camino for spiritual growth, personal reflection, and the chance to experience the natural beauty and cultural richness of Spain as they make their way to Saint James's final resting place. **Approximate travel time:** 6 hrs by train
Accommodation: La Casona de Sarria (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 4: Sarria/Portomarín 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
Accommodation: Hotel Villajardin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Portomarín/Palas de Rei 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 **Accommodation:** Alda Palas de Rei (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 6: Palas de Rei/Melide 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 **Accommodation:** El Chiquitin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 7: Melide/Arzúa 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 **Accommodation:** Pensión Domus Gallery (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 8: Arzúa/Amenal 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 **Accommodation:** Amenal Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 9: Amenal/Santiago de Compostela 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 **Accommodation:** A Tafona do Peregrino (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 10: Santiago de Compostela 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 GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO 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 GEEO 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. **Meals included:**
Breakfast

****Itinerary Disclaimer:** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*