

Portugal

Self-Guided Hiking Tour

Day 1	
Arrival Porto	
Day 2	17 km
To Villa do Conde	
Day 3	20 km
To Barcelos	
Day 4	15 km
To Balugães	
Day 5	18 km
To Ponte de Lima	
Day 6	22 km
To Cossourado (Paredes de Coura)	
Day 7	14 km
To Valença	
Day 8	20 km
To O Porriño	
Day 9	22 km
To Arcade	
Day 10	13 km
To Pontevedra	
Day 11	22 km
Caldas de Reys	
Day 12	21 km
Padrón	
Day 13	22 km
To Santiago de Compostela	
Day 14	
Tour ends	

Tour Details

Departs Daily March to October

Cost: \$1750 per person

Single room supplement: \$595

Solo traveller: \$3395

Length: 14 days / 13 nights

Grade: Intermediate

Start: Porto

Ends: Santiago de Compostela

Active Journeys



Portuguese Camino de Santiago

Come and enjoy Portugal as it was intended. Take in the beautiful beaches, culture and gastronomy of this region of northern Portugal and Galicia.

There are many pilgrim paths to Santiago but none is more soulful or significant than the Portuguese Way. This is the path so intimately connected with the life and ministry of St. James, as well as his death and burial. It was on this route that he first preached Christ's message to the pagan populace and it was along this self-same way that his body made its last journey to Libredon that would, in time, come to be known and loved all over the world as Santiago de Compostela.

This hiking trip starts from the medieval heart of Porto winding its way up through northern Portugal to cross over the River Minho into Spain at Tui. Carrying on from there in the next part we journey further into Spain to Santiago de Compostela.



Fast Facts

- Outstanding rural scenery, truly only appreciated on foot
- 13 nights using charming accommodations throughout with breakfast included
- Welcome briefing
- Luggage transfers, route notes and maps
- Hike through the region with world famous vineyards
- Pilgrim Kit: *Credencial* (passport) and *Vieira* (shell)

ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival on your own to Porto and take the Metro (easily accessed at the airport) to your hotel. Explore this vibrant city before meeting with our local representative for a tour briefing where you'll be provided with all the documentation for your hike.

Day 2 Mosteiró to Arcos 17 km

This morning you'll be transferred to Mosteiró to begin your first stage of the Portuguese Way to Santiago. Notice the progressive transition from urban into rural areas as you walk this first stage. You will go through Vilarinho and cross the medieval bridge over the Ave before reaching today's destination of Arcos, a charming small village.

Day 3 Arcos to Barcelos 20 km

Leaving the coast you will hike through a delightful woodland trail near the town of los Arcos towards the ancient village of Rates and its imposing Romanesque church. Half of this day, you will walk on quiet country lanes, shaded by eucalyptus and pinewoods to Barcelos, the other half along a peaceful trail.

Day 4 Barcelos to Quintiães 16 km

Set off from Barcelos along minor roads which will take you to a more rural area through small farming pastures and perhaps meet some local villagers. Walk through the small villages of Tamel and Aboim towards the River Neiva.

Day 5 Quintiães to Ponte de Lima 17 km

The day starts by crossing the River Neiva by a medieval bridge just before the village of Balugães. This is a day of rural roads and magnificent countryside until your spectacular arrival into the picturesque town of Ponte de Lima. Time your walk so that you have ample opportunity to enjoy the historical centre and gardens or just sit by the river for a while.

Day 6 Ponte de Lima to Cossourado 22 km

Leave the medieval town of Ponte de Lima and return to the rural world. In the middle of this stage you will encounter Labruja mountain. The 2 km ascent is the most demanding of the whole Portuguese Way to Santiago but the stunning views are worth the effort. Once you're over the hill, it's an easy walk to complete this stage.

Day 7 Cossourado to Valença 14 km

This day starts by leaving the valley of the River Coura and climbing gently to São Bento da Porta Aberta. Continue to Fontoura through fields and brushwood until you reach the fortress town of Valença.



ROUTE TUI TO SANTIAGO

Day 8 Valença to Porriño 19 km

Before leaving Tui, spend some time visiting its famous Gothic cathedral. From Tui, you'll follow the Louro valley, walking along a forest track and across a stone slab bridge into a wetland area where you should spot plenty of bird life. Go through the city of O Porriño with its magnificent Gothic town hall building.

Day 9 Porriño to Arcade 22 km

Leave Porriño and make your way through the forest of Chan das Pipas. You will pass through Redondela, where the central route and the coastal route merge. Finish this stage in Arcade, a small town renowned for its oysters.

Day 10 Arcade to Pontevedra 13 km

Start this stage by walking from the small city of Arcade. This stage is one of the shortest and most beautiful parts on the Way. When you arrive at Pontevedra don't miss the historical city centre teeming with tapas bars.

Day 11 Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis 22 km

Leave Pontevedra through pleasant countryside. This stage to Caldas de Reis is fairly long but not difficult. Reward your tired feet with a soak in a Caldas de Reis' thermal springs.

Day 12 Caldas de Reis to Padrón 18 km

You're nearly there! The last stage leaves Caldas de Reis and takes you through a soft climb to the charming woodlands of Valga. You'll see many churches and stone crosses on the way to Padrón.

Day 13 Padrón to Santiago de Compostela 23 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. The last part of this stage is the toughest but think that you are almost finishing your goal. After your final climb enter the ancient city of Santiago de Compostela and enjoy the end of your journey at the cathedral. Celebrate your fantastic achievement in a local restaurant. Overnight Santiago – Hotel *** (possibility to upgrade to 4*hotel or Parador 5*).

Day 14 Departure after breakfast.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be warm and sunny. In Spring and Fall, you can expect high 70's (high 20's C), and cooler evenings. Sunscreen is a must during the day, as is a sweater for the cooler nights. Traditionally it does not rain, but it is recommended to bring some rain gear in case. Summers are hot and sunny.

How many hours of walking a day?

Be prepared to walk between 4-7 hours daily, rarely on flat terrain. The Portuguese countryside is all hills. You are either going up or down almost all the time; however, these are shorter rolling ascents and descents - very do-able with short distances in order to enjoy your day.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, and some long distance hiking experience is recommended but not required. If you think you cannot do all of the mileage, we can add some internal transfers (at a cost) to shorten the route.

What are the hotels like?

We use mostly 3* accommodations and a couple of good 2* in smaller villages, with twin-bedded rooms, all with private facilities in the standard itinerary.

Getting There

The main airport closest to the starting point is Lisbon International Airport. Then you can take a local flight directly to Porto. On arrival, take the Metro to your hotel. The stop is in front of the hotel.

When finished you can take a flight from Santiago. Alternatively there are buses and trains to major European destinations.



How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire booking process.
- Download the reservation form from our website and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent immediately or simply complete it online.
- Deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Terms & conditions are outlined on the back of our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or directly a travel insurance provider.
- Ensure that you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.