

Self-guided Cycling Tour

Portugal



Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Porto	
Day 2	54 km
To Barcelos	
Day 3	33 km
To Ponte de Lima	
Day 4	35 km
To Valenca	
Day 5	65 km
To Pontevedra	
Day 6	43 km
To Padron	
Day 7	24 km
To Santiago de Compostela	
Day 8	End of tour

Cycling the Portuguese Camino

The Portuguese Camino de Santiago crosses from Portugal's Minho region into Galicia in Spain. The scenery is a glorious blend of greenery with forests, rivers, valleys, vineyards, fields and traditional villages with their architecture and age-old rural farming practices.

Sections of the Portuguese Camino share the ancient Roman road and you'll cross many Roman bridges on your journey. You'll also discover attractive towns and cities with stunning ancient architecture and fascinating histories. To keep your energy levels up along the Camino Way, tuck into Portuguese and Spanish cheeses, traditional cured meats, the freshest of fish and seafood and *vinho verde* wines.

Begin your incredible journey in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Porto. Then onto the other side of the River Minho the stunning Tui Cathedral awaits, as do Redondela's viaducts and the medieval center of Pontevedra. Riverside Caldas de Reis is famous for its soothing thermal waters while Padrón lays claim to St. James' first burial spot. His remains have since been relocated to what is now a monumental cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

Tour Details

Sundays March to end October

Cost: \$1395 per person
(2 person minimum)

Single Room Upgrade: \$425

High Season Surcharge: \$100 pp
July/August/September

Bike Rental: Included

Length: 8 days/7 nights

Grade: Moderate/Intermediate

Starts/Ends: Porto/Santiago

Fast Facts

- Includes 7 nights in 3* hotels with breakfast
- Luggage transfers
- 6 days bike rental
- Route notes, maps
- Pilgrim kit: passport and shell
- Cell phone with 24 hour help line

E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$375
- Limited supplies available, so reservations recommended



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Day 1: Porto

One member of our team will meet you at the hotel to welcome you and provide a full briefing and all the documentation you will need.

Day 2: Porto to Barcelos (55 km / 34 miles)

Skip the urban outskirts of Porto and start cycling from the pretty market square in Mosteiro. Cycle along cobbled lanes and dirt tracks through a series of villages, surrounded by fields and patches of forest. You'll go over several impressive Roman bridges today, including the one in Barcelinhos, where pilgrims used to bathe before entering historical Barcelos. Spend some time exploring the medieval streets and squares of this charming small city.

Day 3: Barcelos to Ponte de Lima (33 km / 20.6 miles)

Leave Barcelos to enter a more rural and picturesque landscape, punctuated with small villages that allow you to observe traditional agricultural practices. The 12th century Ponte das Tábuas offers an attractive rest spot, although you have plenty of lovely places to choose from as you make your way through the vineyards, forests, orchards and fields of the Minho.

Day 4: Ponte de Lima to Valença (35 km / 21.5 miles)

Today's ride is filled with yet more beautiful countryside with ancient bridges, hamlets and woodland waterfalls. You do have a steep mountain to negotiate but the views offer a great reward. See the Romanesque church and Roman milestones at Rubiães then cross an ancient stone bridge over the River Pedreira. From here it's downhill through several small villages to the fortress town of Valença.

Day 5: Valença to Pontevedra (55 km / 34 miles)

The International Bridge takes you across the River Minho into Spain to the lovely town of Tui with its fortified cathedral. Once past the rather industrial town of O Porriño, cycle through a series of villages and the Chan das Pipas pine forest. The downhill approach to Redondela offers glimpses of the Ria de Vigo estuary. Then head through the riverside town of Arcade, stopping for fresh oysters. An ancient stone road takes you up through the forest before you hit a paved road again as you ride into the center of Pontevedra. Choose from the many bustling squares and tuck into tasty tapas and local wines.

Day 6: Pontevedra to Padron (43 km / 26.7 miles)

The ride to Caldas de Reis is mostly through attractive countryside. Follow the pilgrim tradition of bathing your feet in the hot springs at Caldas de Reis. Continue gently uphill through a string of tiny villages and the forest at Valga. Take some time to explore Padrón's strong connection with St. James and its medieval center before cycling the last few kilometers to your hotel.

Day 7: Padron to Santiago (23 km / 14.3 miles)

Your last ride is relatively short and surprisingly scenic with welcome shade in the pretty woodland area. One you reach Milladoiro, you'll be able to see Santiago on the opposite hill. Head downhill through more villages, cross the river then up through the city into its historical heart and your journey's end, Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

Day 8: Departure

Depart after breakfast or explore the old city of Santiago de Compostela before you leave.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be warm and sunny. 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. It may rain, so it is recommended to bring some rain gear. July to September is high season, and may be hotter during the day.

How many hours of riding a day?

Be prepared to cycle between 5 to 6 hours daily, rarely on flat terrain. The Douro region starts off rather flat, then there are 2 days of challenging rides. To make the experience of cycling the Portuguese Camino de Santiago enjoyable, you need to know your way around a bike in terms of basic maintenance and be adept at riding rugged terrains.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, and some cycling experience is recommended.

What are the hotels like?

We use 3* accommodations, some old world charm, others modern European style, all fantastic.

Getting There

Closest airport is Porto, via Lisbon. Transfers to the start are on your own. However, we can arrange transfers.



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.
- 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.