

Self-Guided Cycling Tour

Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Porto	
Day 2	45 km
To Esposende	
Day 3	52 km
To Caminha	
Day 4	35 km
To Baiona	
Day 5	25 km
To Vigo	
Day 6	34 km
To Pontevedra	
Day 7	41 km
To Padron	
Day 8	24 km
To Santiago de Compostela	
Day 9	End of tour

Tour Details

Sundays March to end October

Cost: \$1695 per person
(2 person minimum)

Single Room Upgrade: \$475

High Season Surcharge:
\$100 per person July/August

Bike Rental: Included

Length: 9 days/8 nights

Grade: Moderate/Intermediate

Starts: Porto

Ends: Santiago

PORTUGAL



Cycling the Coastal Camino

Enjoy a truly unforgettable ride as you cycle the Portuguese Coastal Way to Santiago. You'll ride by a series of sandy beaches and villages between the historical city of Porto and the low-key resort town of Esposende. Head inland to follow quiet country lanes to Caminha passing through the small, attractive city of Viana do Castelo.

A short but scenic ferry ride takes you across the River Minho to the fishing town of A Guarda in Spain. A glorious stretch of rugged coastline and a small mountain connect you to Baiona, a charming seaside town filled with wonderful tapas bars. Then it's on to the city of Vigo through the typical rural countryside. Ride on to Redondela, where the coastal and central Camino trails merge.

Stop for oysters in Arcade before using ancient stone paths to cycle through the forests and villages to the city of Pontevedra, a city full of intriguing squares and buildings. The next town of note is Caldas de Reis, where you can test the temperature of the thermal waters. Charming Padron is where St. James is said to have been buried. Try the famous Padron peppers here then pedal on to your ultimate destination of Santiago de Compostela.

Fast Facts

- Includes 8 nights in 3* hotels with breakfast
- Luggage transfers (15 kg bag limits)
- 7 days bike rental
- Route notes, maps
- Pilgrim kit: passport and shell
- Cell phone with 24 hour help line

E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$425
- Limited supplies available, reservations recommended



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 Esposende 55 km

We'll collect you from your Porto hotel and drive you to Matosinhos to begin your cycling adventure. Cycle The Portuguese Coastal Way to Santiago along the Portuguese coast using wooden boardwalks and back roads all the while passing wide sandy beaches, nature reserves and fishing villages on your way to the intriguing town of Vila do Conde. Continue alongside the ocean and beaches then head inland past agricultural areas, forest and villages to Fão. Cross the River Cávado to reach the low-key, low-rise resort town of Esposende.

Day 3 Esposende to Caminha 52 km

Much of the day is spent inland as you cycle through small villages enjoying the Portuguese countryside en route. Ride to Viana do Castelo across the iron bridge over the River Lima with its magnificent views along the valley and estuary. Take some time out to enjoy this small historical city before setting off towards the beachside town of Vila Praia de Ancora. A coastal cycle path connects you to Moledo and continues inland to the pretty town of Caminha.

Day 4 Esposende to Baiona 35 km

Start the day with a brief ferry ride across the River Minho, the natural border with Spain. Cycle through the fishing town of A Guarda and continue along the Coastal Trail. Stop to admire the 12th century monastery that dominates the small but attractive village of Oia. Your journey continues to the pretty resort town of Baiona.

Day 5 Baiona to Vigo 25 km

Leaving Baiona, the scenery becomes more rural with intermittent villages and occasional forested areas. After a brief period on a busy road you'll continue on a small road as the city of Vigo appears in front of you.

Day 6 Vigo to Pontevedra 34 km

Cycle along Vigo's city streets as you head northeast, leaving the urban area behind. Follow the bike trail of the Ria de Vigo estuary and see the floating mussel farms, the Cíes islands and the city and port. A steep descent takes you to the town of Redondela where your Portuguese Coastal Camino merges with the Portuguese Central Camino trail. Stop for oysters in the riverside town of Arcade then follow an ancient stone path uphill to the forest. You'll soon reach the charming town of Pontevedra where you can admire the medieval architecture as you sip a beer or wine with some tapas.

Day 7 Pontevedra to Padron 41 km

The journey to Padron is relatively flat and you'll spend the day surrounded by pleasant countryside. Soak your feet in the hot spring in the center of Caldas de Reis then climb gradually through a series of hamlets and a delightful stretch of woodland. Take some time to explore medieval Padrón and discover its deep connection to St. James.

Day 8 Padron to Santiago 24 km

The final stage of the Camino takes you through a number of Galician hamlets with traditional cottages and barns, as well as the imposing sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Escravitude. One last set of rolling hills to Milladoiro to catch your first glimpse of Santiago and the cathedral towers. Drop down to the valley to cross the River Sar then one last ascent will bring you into the city center and the medieval streets to the cathedral to end your journey.

Day 9 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 on heavier mountain bikes. The 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.