

# Self-guided Bike tour

Spain



## Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Oviedo	
Day 2	33 km
To Tineo	
Day 3	29 km
To Pola de Allande	32 km
Day 4	39 km
To Grandas de Salime	
Day 5	32 km
To Fonsagrada	
Day 6	61 km
To Lugo	
Day 7	44 km
To Palas de Rei	
Day 8	33 km
To Azura	
Day 9	40 km
To Santiago de Compostela	
Day 10	
Tour ends	

## The Camino Primitivo by Bike

Leaving Oviedo, the original location of the first Camino de Santiago, crossing towns and villages to get into Galicia through Fonsagrada. The difficulty of these stages is well known for the constant ups and downs, but well rewarded by the quietness and beauty of the landscape. The scenery is undoubtedly the most beautiful of all the routes, with the trails going deep into lush forests, up and down through mountains with breathtaking views over green valleys, dotted with small towns and villages.

This itinerary follows the authentic route, which was very popular in the early Middle Ages when pilgrims aimed to avoid the constant conflict between Christian and Moorish kingdoms in Central Spain. The history and beauty of 'España Verde' will act as a backdrop for your tour, as you cycle through the surprisingly varied countryside of Asturias and Galicia. The itinerary is inspired by the original Camino, following paved country roads with little traffic, riding parallel to the historic footpath. Of course, as you cycle, you'll see all the major highlights and get a true taste of the special atmosphere enjoyed by pilgrims on the trail.

The Camino Primitivo is the most challenging of all the ways to Santiago de Compostela but also the most rewarding. There are less people on the Primitivo than on the Frances or the Portugues and you can enjoy the scenery all for yourself at some times.

## Fast Facts

- Luggage transfers, route note and services of local office
- Lovely accommodations throughout the journey hand-picked for charm and personality with breakfast

### E-Bike Info:

- ◆ E-bike rental: \$375
- ◆ Limited supplies
- ◆ Reservations recommended



## Tour Details

Daily from April to October

Cost: \$1695 per person

Single Supplement: \$425

Solo Traveller: On Request

Bike Rental: \$250

Length: 10 days / 9 nights

Grade: Moderate /Intermediate

Starts: Oviedo

Ends: Santiago de Compostela

# ITINERARY

## Day 1: Arrival in Oviedo

Enjoy the lively atmosphere of Oviedo's charming historical centre, with plenty of cafés, restaurants, bodegas and cider bars. Accommodation in modern Hotel\*\*\*\* near the main train- & bus station and 10min walk from historical centre.

## Day 2: From Cornellana to Tineo 32.6 km 750 m ascent

In the morning, a taxi will take you to Cornellana, where you start cycling from San Salvador Monastery (11th century). To avoid heavy traffic, you will not follow the original trail but make a small detour south via Soto de los Infantes, through the beautiful Narcea River Valley before you climb to Tineo, a charming town on the Camino. Accommodation at a 4-star historical hotel in the centre of town.

## Day 3: From Tineo to Pola de Allande 28.7 - 31.5 km 475 m ascent

Today you first visit the Romanesque church and Monastery of Obona. These monuments, partly in ruins, formed part of an important cultural and intellectual centre for centuries. From here a succession of small churches and chapels along the route to Lavadoiro Pass (812m), before you descend to Pola de Allande, a lovely little town with Asturian flavour. Accommodation at a good hotel\*\* famous for its regional cuisine.

## Day 4: From Pola de Allande to Grandas de Salime 39.3 km 700 m ascent

A tough day, since you have to climb 625m this morning to reach Puerto del Palo. This pass, at 1146m, divides the green, wooded area of Allande from the vast, more barren mountains to the south. You then literally sail down 35km to Lake Grandas. But then only to find that your destination is still 4km further ahead... at the top of a hill! Lodging in recently renovated 2-star hotel with a good regional fare.

## Day 5: From Grandas de Salime to Fonsagrada 31.8 km 1050 m ascent

Again you start the day climbing up to Alto del Acebo Pass (1030m, 475m up). Then you glide down into Fonsagrada. Optional detour to the intriguingly beautiful villages of San Martin and Santa Eulalia de Oscos, famous for their traditional architecture in dark slate. Once you cycle into Galicia, you leave the steep ascents and mountainous areas behind, moving into a gentle rural landscape, dotted with picturesque hamlets. Lodging at a cosy hotel\* in the centre of this small mining town.

## Day 6: From Fonsagrada to Lugo 60.5 km 650 m ascent

A relatively long tour today, with lots of prolonged downhill sections and some short ascents. The easy riding allows you to truly enjoy the Galician countryside, with exquisite traditional architecture such as the 'Pazos' and 'Casas Grandes', well-preserved country homes on large estates, all impressive buildings in stone and wood. At the end of the day, you reach Lugo, where the town centre was declared a National Historical Monument in 1973, mostly due to the impressive 3rd century walls which merit a place on UNESCO's Cultural Heritage List. There are several interesting buildings to be visited, including the Romanesque-Gothic cathedral and Baroque town hall and Palace. Outside the walls, there are Roman baths at the natural hot springs on the banks of the River Miño. Accommodation at a \*\*\* hotel in historical centre of Lugo.

## Day 7: From Lugo to Palas de Rei 43.6 km 600 m ascent

This morning you have time to visit the major monuments in Lugo, and maybe do some shopping, before you get back on your bike and ride. From Lugo onward, the Camino Primitivo merges with the more recent, but more popular French Route, somewhere between Palas de Rei and Melide. There are several routes to choose from, to reach Palas de Rei (32km to 51km). Accommodation with traditional Galician hospitality at a charming 'casa grande' in the country.

## Day 8: From Palas de Rei to Arzúa 33 km 400 m ascent

In the morning you can take your time, because today's route is short. You first take a short-cut to the Camino, past the Castel of Pambre. Then, in Coto, you find yourself joining many other pilgrims along the route, as everyone begins to feel the excitement as they near Santiago. Accommodation near the village of Arzúa, at one of these typical Pazos.

## Day 9: From Arzúa to Santiago de Compostela 40 km 300m ascent

On your last day you share the route, scenery and atmosphere with other pilgrims as you approach the Monte del Gozo (where pilgrims catch their first glimpse of Santiago) and then downhill to the St James Cathedral. Accommodation at a charming hotel in the centre. The afternoon is free to spend exploring Santiago.

## Day 10: Departure from Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast your cycling trip comes to an end.

# What to Expect

## What will the weather be like?

The weather in this region is definitely Mediterranean, so cooler spring and fall mornings and evening, but can get hot during the day. We tend to avoid July and August due to larger crowds and very hot weather. Mornings in the mountains will definitely be cooler, jacket recommended.

## How many hours of cycling a day?

Be prepared to be active between 3 to 7 hours daily, everything will be at a moderate /intermediate level. This is not a supported tour, so you should be able to ride the minimums required each day.

## How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, as you will enjoy the holiday more. This is a moderate/intermediate trip with some options. Keep in mind that that the first few days will be very hilly. On the 2nd half of the tour, there will be rolling hills, so not as challenging.

## What are the hotels like?

We use a wide mixture of accommodations carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. Hotels and guesthouses are small and charming with private facilities.

# Getting There

- ◆ The nearest airports are Oviedo (also known as Asturias airport), Santander and Bilbao. From these airports there are good bus connections to city centre bus stations, where you can catch a connecting bus to your destination (ALSA bus company, see time tables at [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)).
- ◆ It is wise to book your bus tickets and taxi transfer in advance, especially if you're travelling in summer or on weekends. Bus tickets can be purchased in advance on the ALSA web-site. [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)
- ◆ At the end of your trip, the return journey is from Santiago de Compostela. There is a local airport or return by train the city.



# 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 process.
- Download the reservation form from our site 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.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.