

Pilgrims' way Camino Portugues | Porto to Santiago | Self-guided | Portugal & Spain - 8 Days

Whether you are religious or not, following the St. James Way feels special. Possibly because you are so aware that this has been a pilgrim's route for centuries. So many have travelled along these tracks, spurred by a great devotion. It is a route that impresses all who follow it with its challenges, delights, and lifelong lessons. It is a pleasant bike ride, starting from Porto where you will spend the night after your arrival. You will cycle around 60 kilometres per day, following the medieval pilgrims' way from Porto to Santiago de Compostela. You will go past famous Camino de Santiago landmarks such as Barcelos, on the Cavado River, and Ponte de Lima with its world-famous arched bridge. In Valença, you will cross the river Minho on the remarkable bridge built in 1885 by Eiffel, to Tui in Spain. All along the way you will have a chance to speak to the friendly local inhabitants who are always ready to welcome all who come to visit their region. Sense the excitement that all pilgrims feel as they approach Santiago de Compostela. The air thrills with their enthusiasm and this is one of Christianity's greatest holy cities, a beautiful city to which so many people throughout the ages travelled. Do visit the cathedral to Saint James. It is a place of history, devotion, and hope. A lovely town to end your biking journey

Highlights

- Two countries in one trip
- Accommodation in traditional estates
- Lodging on traditional estates and in elegant manor houses
- A world heritage pilgrims' way, with centuries-old history
- Markets and traditional fairs
- Wine and food experiences shared with welcoming estate owners
- Santiago de Compostela, one of the most important holy cities in Christianity
- Porto, a world heritage site, home of Port Wine, considered the best European destiny in 2012, 2014 and 2017, and one of the
- most beautiful cities in Europe
- Rural landscapes and natural countryside
- Great churches, convents and monasteries, cathedrals, and many other historic monuments
- Transfer from the airport to the first accommodation and from the last accommodation to the airport, included
- Possibility of choosing between two distances in multiple cycling stages

Itinerary

- Day 1: UNESCO World Heritage city, world-famous for Port Wine
- Day 2: Porto to Barcelos | An ancient city and one of the most emblematic cities of popular Minho art (70km by bike)

services:

SERVICES

- Organization of the program
- Accommodation, 7 nights BB, in double standard room
- Luggage transfer daily
- Porto airport transfers to the start and from the ending points of the programs in a car, van, or minibus
- Per person: Standard Touring bicycle, cargo rack, 1 pannier bike bag, handlebar bag, 1 spare inner tube.
- Per group/reservation: GPS loaded with the tracks, toolkit, first aid kit, puncture repair kit, pump, lock (one per two bicycles)
- Overnight storage of bicycles at the hotels
- Login access to the app where the route is published
- indigital support, including map, points of interest and route details; the client must download it beforehand to its own smartphone, using it online/offline to guide himself during the journey
- Not included:
- Guide and support vehicle (price on request)
- Meals, wine experiences and all the optional experiences
- stated in the chapter with the same name "Optional"
- E-Bike supplement (optional)
- Helmet
- Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Pre-paid mobile phone (on request)
- Other items not mentioned
- Mechanical bike interventions made on the bikes without Vinitur's permission
- The damages caused by bad use or accident are the client's responsibility and so the cost associated will be charged directly to them. However, Vinitur will provide assistance for the situation to be resolved in the clients' best interest.
- Small repairs such as a tire repair or inner tube change are done by clients. For that, we provide 1 toolkit per group with the necessary gear
- Please note: Clients are advised to bring their own helmets, although we can provide a limited number of second-hand helmets, if required, at no extra charge. Clients may purchase a brand-new helmet from us for an additional 60 euros. If required, these must be requested when booking your journey, otherwise we cannot guarantee availability
- Shared transfers
- A transfer service from the airport until the starting point and from the ending point until the airport is available.
- All tours that respect the designated departure day have shared transfers. They can be at the beginning, middle or end of the tour. The schedules are the following:

- Day 3: Barcelos to Ponte de Lima | The charm of the most ancient village in Portugal (34km by bike)
- Day 4: Ponte de Lima to Valença | A fortified town with a delightful historic centre, standing on the border with Spain and overlooking the river Minho (35km by bike)
- Day 5: Valença to Pontevedra | Historic center, emblematic streets and squares, history and culture at the city known as the "Boa Vila" (54km by bike)
- Day 6: Pontevedra to Padrón | Countryside, gastronomy, and historic heritage in one town (40km by bike)
- Day 7: Pádron to Santiago de Compostela | UNESCO World Heritage old town center, graceful monasteries, impressive churches, and historic palaces (25km)
- Day 8: Departure or Extension

All distances are approximate. Due to circumstances beyond control, weather conditions or provisions issued by local authorities, the itinerary may be subject to some changes before and/or during your holiday. For example, along the way you may find temporary deviations/detours caused by roadwork. In this case, please follow the directions posted on site.

Itinerary:

Day 1: UNESCO World Heritage city, world-famous for Port Wine

Porto, a World Heritage City, has a historic centre with over 150 listed monuments. Biking alongside the Douro River is sufficient to make you aware of what this beautiful, lively city has to offer visitors: the Bolsa Palace housing the Stock Exchange, the monumental Clérigos church and tower and the Cathedral are just some of the highlights. The historic Lello bookshop, considered a pearl of Art Nouveau neogothic architecture, is also not to be missed as it may well contain the most beautiful staircase in Europe

Day 2: Porto to Barcelos | An ancient city and one of the most emblematic cities of popular Minho art

This stage will start on quiet cycle paths along the coast, through a sea bird reserve, along dunes and across fishing villages, before going inland and following the medieval Portuguese route to Santiago de Compostela, which makes it a special experience. Possibly because you will be so aware that this has been a pilgrims' way for centuries and that so many have trod these paths with such fervour and dedication. Barcelos, on the River Cavado, is known for its pottery industry, and is also of religious importance. You should visit the 13th century Mother Church. Every hour on the hour, you will hear the pealing of the church bells of the many parishes for which the city is famous.

Day 3: Barcelos to Ponte de Lima | The charm of the most ancient village in Portugal

Queen Isabel of Portugal (1271 - 1336) followed the medieval pilgrims' way you will follow, as she made at least one pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. On this second stage, you will arrive in Ponte de Lima, the oldest village in Portugal, famous for its beautiful 24-arch Roman bridge of immense. In the morning, you might be able to spread your toast with the finest honey from the bees on the estate. Take your time enjoying a delightful breakfast.

Note: This is the original path, therefore, there might be parts where you have to take the bicycle by hand.

Day 4: Ponte de Lima to Valença | A fortified town with a delightful historic centre, standing on the border with Spain and overlooking the river Minho

Leaving Ponte de Lima, you will enter a magical landscape of mountains, forest, and valleys. A land of flowers and silence. Valença, the fortified town you will spend the night in, rises from the banks of the river Minho, on the Spanish border. An awe-inspiring location, partly due to the 17th century double-moated fortifications that surround it, it offers breath-taking views over the river Minho and the cathedral town of Tui, in Spain.

Day 5: Valença to Pontevedra | Historic center, emblematic streets and squares, history and culture at the city known as the "Boa Vila"

Day 1

Hour: According to the clients' flights

From: Porto airport

To: Hotel in Porto

Day 8

Hour: 11h00 or according to the earliest departing flight – Spanish time

From: Accommodation in Santiago de Compostela

To: Porto airport

added options / discounts:

Additional night in Porto doubleroom	115 €
p.P. high season from	
Additional night in Porto singleroom	195 €
p.P. high season from	
Additional night in Porto singleroom	105 €
p.P. off season from	
Additional night in Porto double room	185 €
p.P. off season from	
Flight to Porto	300 €
Wine tasting	69 €
6x picnic package	130 €
Wine & Dine	130 €
premium service-package	430 €
extra transfer from Porto city to the airport	65 €
e-bike	195 €

dates & prices:

01.10.2024 - 30.11.2024 - Accomodation Pilgrims' way

Double room incl. breakfast Cat. I	1980 €
Double room incl. breakfast Cat. II	1495 €
Single room incl. breakfast Cat. I	2495 €
Single room incl. breakfast Cat. II	1895 €



After crossing the border to Spain over the bridge built by Eiffel in 1885, you will cycle northwards along the valley of the river Louro, through thick pine forests and enjoy the magical landscapes of the valleys of Galicia. At Redondela, as you cycle further north towards Vilaboa, you will have captivating views of an Atlantic waterway where the ocean streams inland. You are back to the land of fishermen. Pontevedra, picturesquely located on the river Lerez, deserves some time spent in the well-preserved ancient city centre. Be sure to visit the farmers' market and buy some of the delicious local cheese.

Day 6: Pontevedra to Padrón | Countryside, gastronomy, and historic heritage in one town

Today you leave the Atlantic Ocean, travelling inland through majestic forests and across the picturesque Valley of the River Gandra to Caldas de Reis, a nice little town and a welcoming place for a coffee or lunch stop. The approximately 15 kilometres ride to Padrón takes you past the church of Santa Maria de Carracedo, again through a fascinating landscape, gently cycling with views of the banks of the river Valga. Legend has it that Saint James often preached in the mountains above Padrón, at a place called Santiaguino del Monte. Another legend is that the saint, striking a rock with his staff, released a spring of fresh water that still flows to this day.

Day 7: Pádron to Santiago de Compostela | UNESCO World Heritage old town center, graceful monasteries, impressive churches, and historic palaces

The last stage is a little exciting for most people, as today you will indeed reach Santiago de Compostela. As you arrive in Compostela, you will sense the thrill in the air that all pilgrims feel as they approach the medieval sanctuary to Saint James. Clearly, that this is one of Christianity's greatest holy cities, a beautiful destination for

so many people throughout the ages. By all means, do visit the cathedral. It is a place of history, devotion, and hope. A lovely town in which to end your biking journey.

Day 8: Departure or Extension

Total Distance: 258km (160 miles)

Daily Distance: 25-70km (15-43 miles)

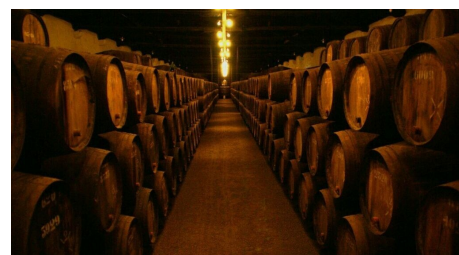
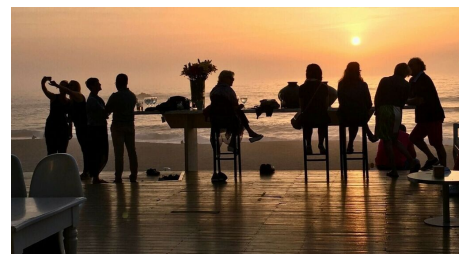
This tour is available between March 1st and November 30

Starts every Monday

Accommodation Pilgrims' way

Porto: [NEYA Hotel ****](#)

Located in the privileged location of Porto's ribeirinha area and 15 minutes away from the airport, NEYA Porto Hotel embraces the Douro River edge. Along with the stunning view, guests will find the perfect retreat to escape routine, enjoy family holidays, do business, or simply have a relaxed weekend. The hotel, which faces the Douro River, was a previously historical convent called the Madre Deus de Monchique convent. The building was refurbished while respecting the abbey's original architecture and preserving historical artifacts. Among the 124 rooms, guests will find themed suites that reference icons of



the Portuguese industry, such as the Bordallo Pinheiro Suite, the Delta Caffés suite, Amorim Cork suite, porcelain by Vista Alegre, along others aimed at surprising our guests.

Barcelos: [Bagoeira Hotel ***](#)

Located in Barcelos historic center, right in front of the city's main square this modern hotel is built inside the walls of a municipal heritage building. The 54 rooms have air conditioning, private WC, mini bar, Internet and Satellite TV. On the 4th floor is a lounge Bar with a terrace with probably the best view in the town. Also inside the hotel is a renowned 400 year old restaurant serving traditional Portuguese food such as "Caldo Verde" soup, a major soup in the national culinary traditions or "Rojões à moda do Minho" (pork meat at regional style).

Ponte de Lima: [Quinta da Agra Rural Guest House](#)

Quinta da Agra is a private rustic manor house which foundation dates back to the 16th century. The house faces the green valley of river Lima, with a relaxing rural scenario. A gate in stone gives access to the two houses restored with good taste and comfort. The owner will warmly greet you to his home and 7 hectares of farm including vineyards, secular olive trees and winery, stables, and small ponds. The house has 3 double rooms and 3 twin rooms, all with private bathroom and central heating. Guests can also enjoy the games room and swimming pool.

Valenca: [Hotel Lara***](#)

Hotel Lara is located in the historic town of Valença, just across the border with Spain, and with a lively city center surrounded by the walls of the fortress built in the 17th century. Within the walls visitors can find many traditional shops, pastry shops, restaurants and bars. The hotel has 54 rooms with private bathroom, air conditioning Tv, hair dryer and mini bar. The hotel bar is ideal for a refreshment and guests may be entertained at the hotel game room with billiards table

Pontevedra: [Hotel Rias Bajas ***](#)

This modern hotel in the city center of Pontevedra has 100 spacious rooms, with classical wooden furniture; all rooms have air conditioning, TV, mini bar, safe, hair dryer and wi-fi internet. Guests may enjoy the delightful ambience of the hotel restaurant that specializes in local gastronomy.

Padron: [Manor House Casa Antiga do Monte](#)

The Casa Antiga manor house offers guests moments of relaxation in the countryside of Galicia, with a unique surrounding nature and fauna. The 14 rooms of the manor house are equipped with air conditioning, Tv, private bath, hair dryer, mini bar and wi fi internet. Outside guests may enjoy the gardens, playground and sports court for basketball and football or a swim in the exterior swimming pool.

Inside, guests may enjoy the Gym, sauna and table tennis.

Santiago: [Capitol Boutique Hotel](#)

Capitol Boutique Hotel is a modern and well located hotel just in the old city center. At 500m walking distance from Santiago cathedral is the perfect place to stay and enjoy the city wherever it is to walk around and visit places or to shopping and buy one of the many recuerdos available in almost any store. The 19 rooms elegantly decorated all have private bathroom with hair dryer, air conditioning, safe, minibar and LCD TV and WiFi.

