

Portugal - Portuguese Camino de Santiago Hiking Tour (2025) Individual Self-Guided 14 days/13 nights



The Portuguese Camino de Santiago has been one of the main pilgrim routes to Santiago for centuries. Set out on a journey of discovery, not only of the country but of yourself as you follow in the footsteps of countless pilgrims and walkers. The long days of walking are physically and mentally challenging and rewarding but there's no need to punish yourself by carrying all your gear or sleeping in overcrowded dormitories. Our way of doing the Portuguese Way of St. James on foot involves luggage transfers and comfortable beds in the best establishments along this historical route. These carefully chosen fine hotels, charming country houses and historic buildings bring you closer to the history, culture and gastronomy of this region of Northern Portugal and Galicia.



Itinerary

Day 1: Porto

When you check into your Porto hotel, you will receive your Welcome Kit, which contains all the information you need to fully enjoy this self-guided walking holiday. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel



Day 2: Walk from Mosteiró to Arcos (17 km)

After breakfast you will meet a member of our team who will drive you to Mosteiró to start your Portuguese Camino de Santiago. With this, you avoid the busy roads and the first stage is reduced to 17km, instead of almost 35km.

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 the village of Arcos where the first stage ends. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel

Day 3: Arcos - Barcelos 20 km

Start walking from Arcos towards the ancient village of Rates and its imposing Romanesque church. Pass the villages of Courel and Pedra Furada then follow rural roads until you reach the attractive town of Barcelos, the end of this stage. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel

Day 4 Barcelos - Balugaes 15 km

Set off from Barcelos along minor roads which will take you to a more rural area where you'll see small scale agricultural practices and perhaps meet some villagers. Walk through the small villages of Tamel and Aboim towards the River Neiva and a medieval bridge just before the village of Balugães. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel



Day 5: Walk from Balugães to Ponte de Lima (18 km)

This is a day of rural roads and magnificent countryside until your spectacular entrance into the picturesque town of Ponte de Lima. Time your walk so that you have ample opportunity to enjoy the historical center and gardens or just sit by the river for a while.

Enjoy your comfy bed tonight at 3-star hotel with breakfast included. Choose from a range of restaurants in Ponte de Lima where you can try traditional dishes like *polvo à lagareiro* (baked octopus) or *bacalhau assado com broa* (baked cod with corn bread) and a fine Loureiro white wine. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel

Day 6: Walk from 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 uphill are the most demanding of the whole Portuguese Way of St James but the views are worth the effort. Once you're over the hill, it's an easy walk to complete this stage. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel

Day 7: Walk from Cossourado to Valença do Minho (13 km | 8 miles)

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 do Minho.Dine in one of Valença's many restaurants.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel



Day 8: Walk from Valença do Minho to Porriño (20 km | 12.4 miles)

Cross Minho river and enter Spain. Walk through the streets of the medieval town of Tui. Before you leave Tui, spend some time visiting its famous Gothic cathedral. From Tui, you'll follow the Louro valley, walk 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.

Accommodation: 2-star hotel



Day 9: Walk from Porriño to Arcade (22 km)

Leave Porriño and make your way through the forest of Chan das Pipas. You will pass in Redondela, where the central route and the coastal route merge. Finish this stage in Arcade, a small town renowned for its oysters. **Accommodation:** 2-star hotel

Day 10: Walk from 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 center with a lot of tapas bars **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel



Day 11: Walk from Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis (22 km)

Leave Pontevedra through pleasant countryside. This stage to Caldas de Reis is fairly long but no difficult. Rest your tired feet in a Caldas de Reis' thermal springs. **Accommodation:** 2-star hotel

Day 12: Walk from Caldas de Reis to Padron (19 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. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel





Day 13: Walk from Padron to Santiago de Compostela (25 km)

Your final stage. You will walk mostly through rural settings. The last part of this stage is the toughest but think that you are almost finishing your goal. Enter in the ancient city of **Santiago de Compostela** and enjoy the end of your journey at the cathedral. **Accommodation:** 3-star hotel

Day 14: Departure

After breakfast, prepare for your onward journey. If you have time, explore the old city of Santiago de Compostela before you leave.

Suggested add-on: Contune to Finisterre with our walking Satiago to Finisteere tour



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Difficult. With potentially longer walking days and/or several steep climbs and descents, this tour is designed for experienced, regular walkers and can be enjoyed by anyone in good health who has prepared sufficiently in advance. Elevation gain maximum 700 meters.

Total Distance: 226 km

Travel Season: Departures March 1 – October 31



<u>Prices per person: in Euros</u> all prices subject to confirmation on booking

Double Occupancy B&B March 1 – June 30 and September 16 – October 31	€1090
Double Occupancy B&B July 1 – September 15	€1190
Single Supplement March 1 – June 30 and September 16 – October 31	€550
Single Supplement July 1 – September 15	€600
Additional nights Porto or Santiago	On request
11 dinners (no drinks)	€330

All prcies subject to confirmation on booking

Accommodation:

Category: 2* and 3* hotels, all with private facilities

Included:

- 13 nights of accommodation with breakfast
- Luggage transfer between hotels (1 bag per person maximum 15 kg/bag)
- Pilgrim kit: pilgrim passport and shell
- Road book of the way with tips, maps and detailed information (in English)
- 24/7 emergency support
- Private transfer from Porto to Mosteiro on day 2

Not Included:

- Lunches and dinners
- In-person welcome briefing optional for 40 Euros
- Tips and items of a personal nature
- Transfer from Santiago de Compostela

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