

# Bilbao to Santander



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# YOUR CAMINO JOURNEY STARTS HERE

This travel plan provides a **day-by-day outline** of a sample trip, giving you a clear idea of what to expect. Keep in mind that this package can be fully **tailored** to your preferences. As a **2024 Traveler's Choice Award winner on TripAdvisor**, we're proud to be trusted by hundreds of travelers who praise our **seamless service**, expert **guidance**, and unforgettable **experiences**. Before you set off, take a moment to read some of their stories.



Follow The Camino



Reviews from millions of TripAdvisor travellers place this winner in the top 10% worldwide.



\*There is a Camino for everyone! Photos are for inspiration and may differ from your selected itinerary.

**LIZ F.**



**Walking the french camino is one of the best experiences of my life.**

*I was a bit anxious before starting my Camino walk but once I was into it , I had a brilliant time. Follow the Camino planned my trip and everything went seamlessly , so all I had to do was concentrate on walking ! Il be back for sure.*

**LARA K.**



**Wonderful all round experience**

*Follow The Camino delivered on everything they promised with accomodation selection great and transfer of luggage seamless. The actual walk was wonderful and matched or exceeded my expectations. Wouldn't hesitate to use them again for my next Camino. Loved it!!!!*

**RANDY R.**



**Follow the Camino Frances**

*The Camino Frances was the best vacation experience I've ever had. Fitness, new friends, and fantastic country. Highly recommended.*

**GRETA O.**



**Follow the Camino with an eighty year old**

*Follow the Camino was excellent. Hotels included dinner and breakfast. Clean and good food. Luggage transfer seamless. Well done.*

# ITINERARY

**S**  
Stage 2 of 4

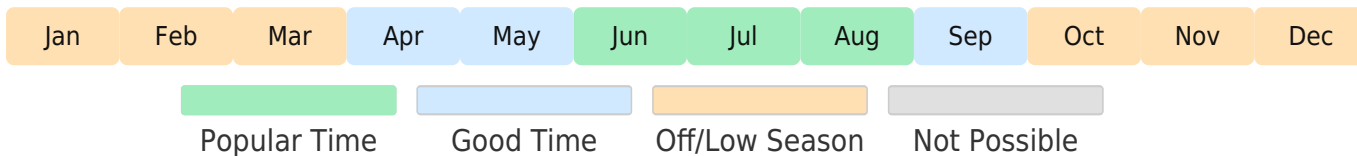
  
117.1km

  
7 days

  
Comfort

  
Moderate

Starting from  
€940



Overall

Distance:

13.3 min | 23.4km average | 32.7 max

Ascent:

140 min | 572.2m average | 780.1 max

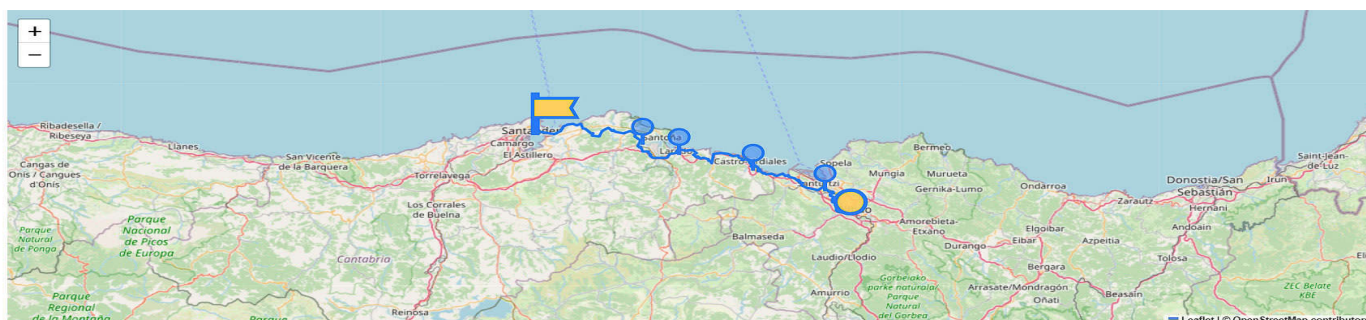
Cardio:

2 3.4 4

This second section connects two major cities in the north of Spain, Bilbao and Santander, and has you leave the Basque region for Cantabria. Bilbao is a wonderful mix of Basque traditions and contemporary architecture. Surrounded by green hills and right on the coast, there is much to see and do near the city.

The first day of walking is predominantly through urban and industrial areas, before ascending to Portugalete. Passing through a forest, you will return on the same day to the coast and Castro Urdiales. A spectacular cliff walk will take you to the popular beach town of Laredo. A short, flat walk through Santoria's marshland then takes you to Escalante - your last stop before Santander. Your final day on this section is via beaches where at the end of the day you have the option to take a traditional boat across the bay to the city centre of Santander.

## Map



## Services

### Included in this package

- ✔ Bed & Breakfast
- ✔ Specially Hand-Picked Accommodation
- ✔ Our Holiday or Pilgrim Pack
- ✔ 24/7 On-Call Support
- ✔ Virtual Face-to-Face Pre-Departure Briefing

### Add-On

- ⊕ Premium Accommodation
- ⊕ Airport Pick-Up
- ⊕ Additional Nights
- ⊕ Dinners
- ⊕ Luggage Transfers from Hotel to Hotel
- ⊕ Day Tours to Local Sites of Interest

Day

1

km

### **BILBAO**

You will be booked into a hotel in the heart of Bilbao. The city is a wonderful mix of Basque traditions and contemporary architecture. Surrounded by green hills and right on the coast, there is much to see and do near within close proximity. And you simply have to experience the quintessential expression of Basque culture – pintxos!

Day

2

17.4 km

### **BILBAO -> PORTUGALETE**

First, a relatively short stage going through the old industrialised neighbourhoods of Bilbao. After passing the suspension bridge, the Camino enters the industrial heart of the Basque Country; despite this, it is a place of peace and calm along the Cadagua River. Crossing the historical ‘Devil’s Bridge’, the Camino arrives at the hermitage of Santa Águeda. From there, we take a breath before the steep ascent to the town of Barakaldo. Following a footpath along the Galindo River, we arrive in Portugalete for a night’s rest.

Day

3

25.6 km

### **PORTUGALETE -> CASTRO URDIALES**

The Camino now leaves the coast, ascending to Otañes with beautiful views of the craggy coast below. From here the Camino enters a forest track that brings us to Robredal and its church of San Nicholas. Finally, we arrive in the coastal town of Castro Urdiales, passing the bullring and the beach. Castro Urdiales is an interesting town with a mix of mediaeval and modern architecture.

Day

4

28.1 km

### **CASTRO URDIALES -> LAREDO**

Today, the Camino passes a mediaeval castle and lighthouse and follows the coast along spectacular cliffs, overlooking the Cantabrian Sea. Reaching Guriezo, we continue on the main Camino to Rioseco, passing the Chapel of Santa Isabel, crossing the bridge over the River Aguera and on to the Church of La Magdalena. From Guriezo the Camino continues to Liendo where there are two route choices to Laredo; either crossing the valley and passing the Church of Nuestra Senora de Liendo in Hazas, or following paths up to the Chapel of St Julian. Laredo is a popular town reputed for its beautiful beaches, mediaeval quarter (Puebla Vieja), and lively seaside atmosphere.

Day

5

13.3 km

### **LAREDO -> ESCALANTE**

The Camino continues from Laredo in the direction of Colindres (where it is possible to cross to Santona by boat). We continue by road, following Santoria’s Marshes. This marshland is of considerable importance to the

migration and wintering of numerous aquatic birds from all over Europe. Although today's walk is flat, the scenery is stimulating. Survey the coast and mountains as you continue towards Escalante.

Day

6

32.7 km

### ESCALANTE -> SANTANDER

From Escalante, the Camino continues via the beaches of Berria and Helgueras until reaching Noja. From there, the Camino heads south towards San Miguel de Meruelo, or an alternative Camino can be taken that continues north along the coast to pass through the town of Isla. Both Caminos converge in Bareyo where it is worth stopping to admire the beautiful Romanesque Church of Santa Maria. From the village of Somo, you can catch a 'pedrenera', a traditional boat used to connect the two sides of the bay.

Day

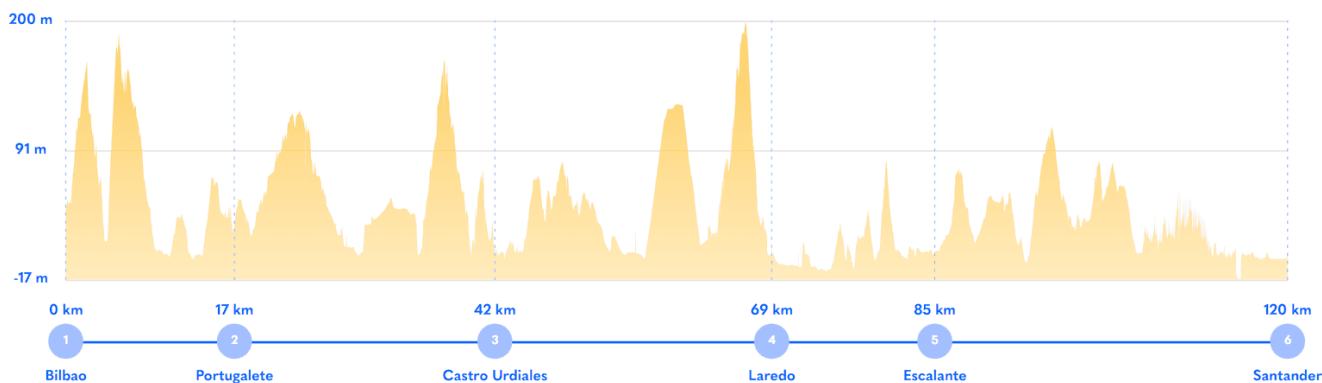
7

km

### SANTANDER

After breakfast we bid you farewell. Santander not only boasts a historic centre and trendy beaches, but it is also fast becoming a gastronomic capital of the region to rival the Basque cities. Try the local seafood delicacies, paired with Cantabrian wine, for an authentic experience.

## Elevation Chart



# NOTES & QUESTIONS FOR MY CAMINO PLANNER

We know that planning your Camino is a personal journey, and we want to make sure everything is just right for you. Use this space to **jot down your thoughts, questions, and preferences**. Here are some ideas to discuss with your Camino planner:

- Are the daily distances suitable for me, or should I split them into shorter walking days?
- Where would you recommend taking a rest day?
- Would I like to add a tour or special experience along the way?
- Do I need transfers to and from the airport?
- Are there any accommodations I would like to upgrade?
- Would I like luggage transfers for lighter walking days?
- Are there any dietary preferences or special requests I should mention?

Feel free to write down any other thoughts or questions below:

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Your Camino planner is here to help make your journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible!

## ABOUT US

At Follow the Camino, we are re not just a tour operator; we are **passionate Camino enthusiasts** who have been guiding pilgrims **since 2006** As the first tour operator in Ireland to coordinate walks on the Camino de Santiago, we offer unrivaled expertise in designing **life-changing adventures**.

Don't hesitate to contact us at [info@followthecamino.com](mailto:info@followthecamino.com) to request your **personalized itinerary**. We can add rest days or split days to suit your pace, as well as include special day tours or unique activities to **enhance your Camino experience** Let us help you create the perfect journey tailored to your needs!

# Follow the Camino

**START PLANING NOW**

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