## **Camino Portuguese Coastal Deluxe: Baiona to Santiago**





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## Follow 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.



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



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This walking holiday explores the Camino Portugues, or Portuguese Way, of the iconic Camino de Santiago de Compostela. This Camino, which was used by Queen Isabel of Portugal in the 13th Century, heads north following the Atlantic coast of Portugal and Spain. The Camino Portugues gently winds along ancient paths, running through woodlands, farmlands, vineyards and historic towns. Every day during the walk you're guaranteed scenic views and local gastronomic delights. This section requires a reasonable level of fitness. However, it's a highly rewarding walk that includes numerous cultural highlights.

This second section from Oia to Santiago de Compostela takes you along the coast around to the Vigo estuary. You will get the opportunity to stay in the beautiful coastal cities of Baiona and Vigo before rejoining the traditional Camino Portuguese from Redondela to Santiago de Compostela. This region is known for its seafood, in particular its oysters and scallops. Wash it down with the local Albarino wine for a true gastronomic delight.

For those who are short on time, but still want to experience the beauty of completing the Camino, you can walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela through the beautiful hilly landscapes of Galicia in just 6 days. You will still receive your certificate of completion, or Compostela, upon arrival at Santiago Cathedral. Take an extra day or 2 to experience the magical city sights at the end.

The final stage of the famous Camino Frances (or French Way) is the most popular Camino package.

The final section of the Via Francigena takes you from the charming city of Viterbo through the Italian countryside to the urban outskirts of Rome and then into the very heart of Christianity. Standing in the Vatican City is truly the pinnacle of this adventure and an experience many pilgrims take with them through their whole lives.

Starting in Porto in Portugal, you'll follow the road less travelled to the city of Santiago de Compostela. You'll cycle along some of the most amazing sandy beaches of in the north Portugal and Spain, such as those near Povoa de Varzim. Go for a dip in the clear waters of the Vigo estuary to cool off after a day of cycling and cross one of the most culturally rich and historic areas of Portugal and Spain with mediaeval Camino towns like Pontevedra. Our cycling packages are not suitable for novice bike riders – your bike will come presented in a box which you need to be able to assemble yourself. You will also need to be familiar with fixing a flat tyre / loose chain. The cycling tour packages are aimed at experienced riders.

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For those who are short on time, but still want to experience the beauty of completing the Camino, you can walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela through the beautiful hilly landscapes of Galicia in just 5 days. You will still receive your certificate of completion, or Compostela, upon arrival at Santiago Cathedral. Take an extra day or 2 to experience the magical city sights at the end.

The final stage of the famous Camino Frances (or French Way) is the most popular Camino package.

The Camino de Fatima is a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, located in a small town in central Portugal where an apparition of the Holy Mary was claimed to have been sighted. This route is particularly popular on 13 May of each year, as hundreds of thousands of people journey to Fatima from all over the world to commemorate the sighting of Our Lady of Fatima. This 142km trail follows the Camino de Santiago to Santarem where it then diverts to the Shrine of Fatima.

Starting from Ribadesella, this route sees pilgrims follow the Atlantic shoreline through Asturias into Galicia, before cutting inland across the lush countryside towards the city of Santiago de Compostela. The Full Camino del Norte Coastal traverses tidal estuaries, woodlands and small hills by the coast, as well as seaside towns and urban areas (particularly around the fringes of Gijón).

The Variante Espiritual de Camino de Santiago from Oia is a lesser-known yet profoundly rewarding pilgrimage route that diverges from the traditional Camino Portuguese trail. Starting in the charming coastal town of Oia, situated in the Galicia region of Spain, this trail offers pilgrims a spiritually enriching experience.

The journey begins amidst the quaint beauty of Oia, where the sound of crashing waves and the salty breeze of the Atlantic Ocean create a serene and contemplative atmosphere. As pilgrims set forth on this path less traveled, they leave behind the bustling crowds and embark on a more secluded and introspective adventure. The route meanders through picturesque landscapes, lush forests, and rolling hills, providing pilgrims with ample opportunities to connect with nature and find solace in its beauty.

The route's origins stem from the execution of the Apostle James in the year 44 AD. Following his death, a group of Spanish disciples clandestinely placed his body in a boat made of stone and, guided by angels, sailed to the mouth of the Ulla River and landed at Iria Flavia (present-day Padrón). From there, the disciples carried the body of the Apostle James to the site of what is now Santiago del Compostela.

From Gijon to Navia, this route continues the journey along the northern coast of Spain through Asturias and up to the border with Galicia, the home of Santiago de Compostela. Sticking to well-worn paths, you will follow the route of the coastline, across tidal estuaries and skirting seaside towns, for a truly memorable walking experience.

This final section of the Camino del Norte Coastal from Vilalba to Santiago takes you from northern Galicia through rolling countryside into the ultimate destination of all Camino pilgrimage routes, the Cathedral de Santiago. This final leg can be completed in 6 walking days, and gives pilgrims a new perspective on Galicia away from the busier trails on other Camino routes.

CanNOTES & 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 2007** As the firs tour operator in Ireland to coordinate walks on the Camino de Santiago, we offer unrivaled expertise in designing **lifechanging adventures**.

Don't hesitate to contact us at <u>info@followthecamino.com</u> 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!

## **START PLANING NOW**

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