

Full Camino Frances



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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

 Stage 1 of 8

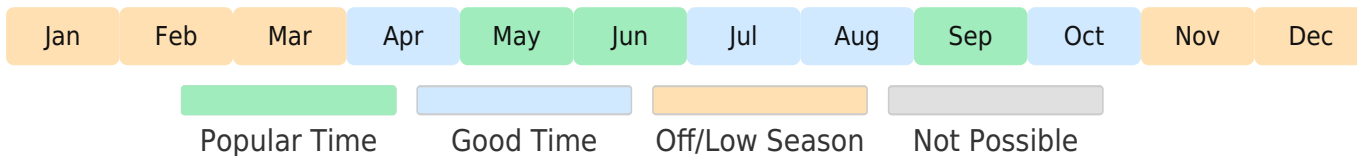
 771.1km

 36 days

 Comfort

 Moderate plus

Starting from
€4247



Overall

Distance:

17.1 min | 22.7km average | 31.7 max

Ascent:

70.1 min | 445.5m average | 1547.3 max

Cardio:

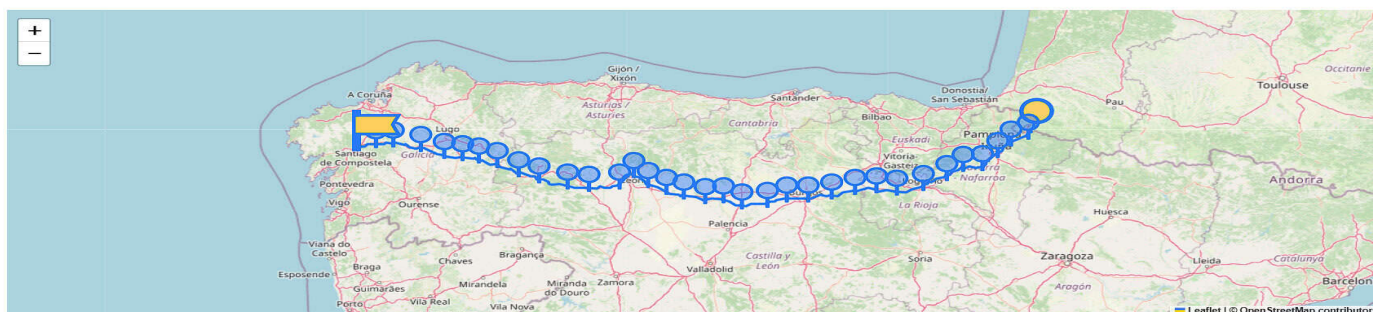
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The Camino Frances is a pilgrimage from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France over the Pyrenees and across the north of Spain to Santiago de Compostela and the tomb of St James.

Passing through famous Spanish towns and cities such as Pamplona, Burgos, Leon and Ponferrada, you have plenty of opportunity to enjoy the unique culture of this region. The walk will have you traversing varying landscapes from the mountainous Pyrenees, to the flat plateau of Northern Spain to the undulating hilly landscape of Galicia.

To complete the full Camino Frances' length you need to have a reasonable level of fitness and also more than a month free to give you the time to walk and incorporate a few rest days along the way.

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

Not included: Flights/trains, Insurance, Drinks/Lunch

Day
1
km

SAINT JEAN PIED DE PORT

You'll be booked into a hotel in the heart of the small town. While in town, you should visit the 14th Century Gothic church, Notre-Dame-du-Bout-du-Pont, the hilltop citadel (remodelled in the 17th Century), and follow the cobbled Rue de la Citadelle downhill and over the river for views back over St-Jean-Pied-De-Port.

Day
2
24.5 km

SAINT JEAN PIED DE PORT -> RONCESVALLES

The first day of the Camino is considered the most challenging as it crosses the Pyrenees. The "Camino Napoleon" starts with a steep climb, passing through orchards and later, Alpine-style meadows. The path weaves alongside leafy beech woods until you reach the Spanish border. Alternatively, the Valcarlos Camino follows the road through the valley, running along the River Nive or River Valcarlos. Don't miss the Collegiate Church as you descend into Roncesvalles. If you prefer a more relaxed pace, we offer three options:

1. **Stay at the Refuge Orisson:** This is basic but welcoming accommodation halfway along the route, which splits the day into two parts.
2. **Stay 2 nights in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port:** You can use a taxi to/from Refuge Orisson to avoid the entire walk in one day.
3. **Take the Valcarlos Route:** This alternative route splits the day into two stages (12km and 14km), staying in a 2-star hotel. However, this route follows the main road and is not as rewarding as the Camino Napoleon.

Important: The Napoleon Route is closed for pilgrims from November 1 to March 31. During this period, pilgrims must use the Valcarlos route. Traveling on the Napoleon Route during these months is forbidden, and any pilgrim needing rescue from the Pyrenees may be fined €5,000.

Day
3
21.5 km

RONCESVALLES -> ZUBIRI

The Camino crosses two stunning mountain passes before winding through woods and meadows. It then arrives at Espinal, where you'll be treated to breathtaking panoramic views of the countryside with the Pyrenees in the background. The River Arga flows alongside this stretch of the Camino, continuing all the way to Larrasoana.

Day
4
21.3 km

ZUBIRI -> PAMPLONA

The Camino follows the River Arga, passing the foothills covered in beech, oak, and Scots pine trees. As you get closer to Pamplona, famous for its "Running of the Bulls" festival each July, the landscape becomes more developed, with reforested conifers and farmlands becoming more common.

Day

5

23 km

PAMPLONA -> PUENTE LA REINA

When leaving Pamplona behind, you are also leaving behind the Atlantic area of Navarra. From here onwards, the landscape will be dominated by cereal crops, Holm oaks and Mediterranean brushwood. The Pamplona basin is left behind too when you cross the Alto del Perdón (Hill of Forgiveness), so-named because of the centuries old pilgrim tradition of travellers forgiving others, and asking forgiveness for themselves, with each step up the hill.

Day

6

21.5 km

PUENTE LA REINA -> ESTELLA

As you leave Puente La Reina you will cross the 'Puente Románico', a six-arched Romanesque bridge over the Arga River. The Camino to Estella is very uneven and quite agricultural. Small towns and villages are dotted amongst cereal fields, vineyards and olive trees. This is one of the quieter sections of the Camino Frances.

Day

7

22.1 km

ESTELLA -> LOS ARCOS

Today you go through the Rioja area of Navarra. Enjoy the pastoral scenes of olive trees, cereal fields and, most importantly, vineyards as you pass through. From Villamayor de Monjardín to Los Arcos, you will cover 12km without coming across a single village.

Day

8

28.1 km

LOS ARCOS -> LOGRONO

Today we leave Navarra and journey into Rioja. Expect a pleasant hike into the undulating countryside. On this route you will pass the stunning ruins of Clavijo Castle. Finally, we come to the town of Logroño, strategically situated on the border between Alava and Navarra. If you would like to walk at a more relaxed pace, we can arrange to split this section into two days (17km on the first day, 10km on the second day), with a stop over in Viana. Here you will be staying at a charming 2-star hotel.

Day

9

28.7 km

LOGRONO -> NAJERA

This first day is an easy stage through a landscape dominated by vineyards. After 12km, you will pass Navarrete, a town built in the 12th Century by the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Here, you will have a chance to stop for refreshments and to visit the fabulous Baroque Church of La Ascension. Finally, arriving in Najera in the afternoon, you can enjoy the panoramic views from this hilltop town.

Day

10

21.4 km

NAJERA -> SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA

Country roads dominate this stage, which runs between the Cantabrian mountain range to the north and the La Demanda mountain range to the south. Enjoy a shorter walking day with great views. There is the possibility to visit the Monastery of Valvanera deep in the middle of the 'Sierra de la Demanda'. Later today, you will arrive in Santo Domingo de la Calzada; another great milestone on the road to Santiago.

Day

11

21.5 km

SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA -> BELORADO

After a brief walk through a wooded area, the Camino takes us through crop fields interspersed with small brooks. This landscape warns us of the approaching mountain range and, indeed, we can soon see the Oca Mountains looming on the horizon. This afternoon, you will have the chance to relax in the lovely main square of Belorado. On the route, don't miss the Altarpiece in the 16th Century church of San Juan Bautista, in Granon.

Day

12

24 km

BELORADO -> SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA

Until you get to Villafranca Montes de Oca (14km away), this stage is similar to the previous one. However, as you go deeper into the woods, you will soon discover the beautiful Oca Mountains before you. In St Juan de Ortega, have a look at the Gothic Mausoleum.

Day

13

24.9 km

SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA -> BURGOS

After a quiet sojourn in the mountains you will make your way down into the valley of the Pico River. Here, the tranquil landscapes disappear, making way for the roads and buildings that characterise the provincial capital city of Burgos and its outskirts.

Day

14

21.4 km

BURGOS -> HORNILLOS DEL CAMINO

From Burgos you will go through the crop fields that are typical of the region. You will pass small scattered woods of Holm oak and conifers, which serve as a memory of the time when one of the largest forests in continental Europe existed on these lands.

Day

15

19.4 km

HORNILLOS DEL CAMINO -> CASTROJERIZ

You will resume your walk towards Castrojeriz upwards to another plateau and then descending towards the valley of the River Bol. Today is a pleasant day spent between pasture and crop fields. Once you reach your destination, be sure to see The Castle of Castrojeriz.

Day
16

25.1 km

CASTROJERIZ -> FROMISTA

After Castrojeriz, situated on the hillside between the valleys of the rivers Odrilla and Pisuerga, is Alto Mosterales – the highest point of the Meseta, and the last plains of the Burgos region. The river Pisuerga brings you into the province of Palencia and on into the Tierra de Campo. Don't miss Boadilla and its 14th Century church 'La Asuncion', reputed for its Gothic pillory and beautifully carved baptismal font.

Day
17

18.8 km

FROMISTA -> CARRION DE LOS CONDES

Although this stage of the Camino passes through areas that have been heavily influenced by man, we follow the charming banks of the river Uciesa under the shade of the trees. Today, the Camino takes a relatively straight trajectory. Numerous rest areas have been set out along the path. Passing Villalcazar de Sirga, you will come across a good example of a Campos village; there are few houses and inhabitants, but there is an impressive church full of treasures.

Day
18

17.1 km

CARRION DE LOS CONDES -> CALZADILLA DE LA CUEZA

For 13km you will follow the historical 'Aquitana Camino' (another famous Camino to Santiago which begins in Bayonne, France) through isolated countryside, passing popular woods and crossing over several irrigation channels used for agriculture in the region.

Day
19

22.1 km

CALZADILLA DE LA CUEZA -> SAHAGUN

Expect hilly terrain as you depart Calzadilla De La Cueva and cross some 'cuezas', or little valleys. This part of the Camino leaves the road and heads through oak woods, before coming back to familiar cereal fields and crossing the river Valderaduey on your way to the countryside of Leon. In Sahagun, the church of San Lorenzo is certainly worth a look.

Day
20

17.6 km

SAHAGUN -> EL BURGO RANERO

In Sahagun, you will leave Tierra del Campo behind, moving on through the cereal and grain-covered plateaux of Leon. Your destination is El Burgo Ranero, a small town typical of the province of Leon, where you will rest for the night.

Day
21

18.9 km

EL BURGO RANERO -> MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS

Going down from the plateau towards the capital of the province, Leon, you pass the pretty village of Reliegos. On the Camino you will have the chance to take the 'Via Traiana', another Camino route to Santiago de Compostela that originates in the city of Bordeaux.

Day
22

18.7 km

MANSILLA DE LAS MULAS -> LEON

You will continue alongside farming land before seeing the first signs of industrial activity ahead. From Portillo Hill you will be able to make out the beautiful city of Leon. The historic centre of Leon is well preserved and worth visiting. Over the course of time, Leon became the capital of the kingdom in the Middle Ages; a historic enclave on the pilgrim's road to Santiago de Compostela. Don't miss The Pulchra Leonina (the 'Sistine Chapel' of Spanish architecture) and the old Hospital de San Marcos.

Day
23

21 km

LEON -> VILLAR DE MAZARIFE

Leaving Leon, the urban area continues almost as far as the site of Virgen del Camino (about 7km outside Leon), where a local shepherd once sighted the Virgin Mary. The area is now marked by a number of statues depicting the historical scene. From this point, the route becomes more interesting as you follow the historical Camino along the Plateau of Leon.

Day
24

31.7 km

VILLAR DE MAZARIFE -> ASTORGA

You pass the famous 'Puente de Orbigo' and leave behind the Plateau of Leon. The Leon Mountains can be seen up ahead and the end of this stage will bring you to Astorga, the capital of the ancient region of Maragateria. Not to miss in Astorga: the Episcopal Palace, the cathedral, and the city walls.

Day
25

19.8 km

ASTORGA -> RABANAL DE CAMINO

We are now deep in the Maragateria region as we gradually make our way up to the foothills of the Leon Mountains. This part of the countryside is characterised by broom, oak, and conifer plantations. Your destination is the mountain town of Rabanal Del Camino.

Day
26

31.5 km

RABANAL DE CAMINO -> PONFERRADA

Today is one of the most rewarding days along the French Way. Enjoy the beautiful broom and heather surroundings as you ascent to Mount Irago. Witness the 'Iron Cross' on the mountain pass before making your way downwards to the wealthy area of Bierzo. If you would like to walk at a more relaxed pace, we can arrange to split this section into two days (24km on the first day, 8km on the second day). Accommodation is in a superb chalet hotel in Molinaseca.

Day
27

24.6 km

PONFERRADA -> VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Today you will cross the region of Bierzo, a sunken plain nestled within a ring of mountains. It is a fertile land, with an agreeable climate that allows the cultivation of many types of fruit and vegetables. In Villafranca, don't miss the garden of the 'Iglesia de Santiago'. If you would like to cycle at a more relaxed pace, we can arrange to split this section into two days, with a stop over in La Portela de Valcarce overnight.

Day
28

28.4 km

VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO -> O CEBREIRO

Prepare for a challenging day with an ascent of 1000m. You will pass through the narrow valley of the river Valcace before tackling the ascent of O Cebreiro. Situated between the ranges of Los Ancares and La Sierra do Courel, this stage involves a steep climb in the course of only a few kilometres.

Day
29

21 km

O CEBREIRO -> TRIACASTELA

From O Cebreiro the trail passes through the Sierra de Ranadoiro (Ranadoiro Mountains) and, after crossing the Alto do Poio, it descends into the valley to the village of Triacastela, which gets its name from the three castles that once stood here - none of which exist today.

Day
30

18.2 km

TRIACASTELA -> SARRIA

Of the two Camino options, the 'San Xil' Camino offers scenery that will uplift your spirits and encourage you on your way. It has many 'Corredoiras' (narrow forest routes) with paved pathways that cut through typical Galician oak woods. If you wish to visit Samos, you will pass through the narrow valley of the river Ouribio, mostly following the main road.

Day
31

21.9 km

SARRIA -> PORTOMARIN

Expect a peaceful walk in shady oak woods and pretty villages on quiet country roads. The village of Barbadelo (at an elevation of 580m) has a beautiful Romanesque church that is worth a visit. The next significant village is Ferreiros. When you arrive in Portomarín (an elevation of 550m) you can relax on one of the numerous terraces of the town's main plaza.

Day
32

24.3 km

PORTOMARIN -> PALAS DE REI

From the village, the Camino crosses the river Minho and climbs uphill. On your way, you'll be crossing Gonzar and passing the Romanesque Church of Santa María, Castromaior. The calm of the Galician Cemetery in Ligonde on a sunny day is a rest in itself. In Eirexe, the Romanesque portal of the church is a beauty, featuring a sculpture of Daniel, as well as a statue of Santiago de Peregrino. You will then arrive in Palas de Rei (at an elevation of 565m).

Day
33

29.1 km

PALAS DE REI -> ARZUA

Today, the Camino continues slightly downhill, passing the village of Casanova and the charming village of Leboreiro. At Melide (an elevation of 454m), stop in one of the many restaurants to try some local specialities. Later today, the Camino will follow a forest track and cross several streams bringing you to the village of Boente. Then, you'll encounter the mediaeval village of Ribadiso, and finally Arzua (at an elevation of 389m). This small town has two churches that you can visit, Santa María and La Magdalena.

Day
34

17.9 km

ARZUA -> RUA

This shaded section of the Camino will pass through woods, along streams, and through sleepy villages. Take your time and visit the chapel of Santa Irena, with its unique statues of Santiago. The rest of the way to Rua-O Pino is on a quiet country road. Rua (at an elevation of 310m) is one of the less crowded stopping points before Santiago de Compostela.

Day
35

20.3 km

RUA -> SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

You're nearly there! The next stage will be Lavacolla, where pilgrims traditionally washed in the river before reaching Santiago de Compostela. Tall eucalyptus trees line your way to Monte del Gozo, or Mount of Joy. From here, you can see your goal - the Cathedral of Santiago! After a descent to the city you'll be able to witness this UNESCO World Heritage Site up-close. Marvel at the architecture and relish the wonderful atmosphere in this cultural and spiritual mecca, and contemplate all you've experienced on your amazing journey.

Day

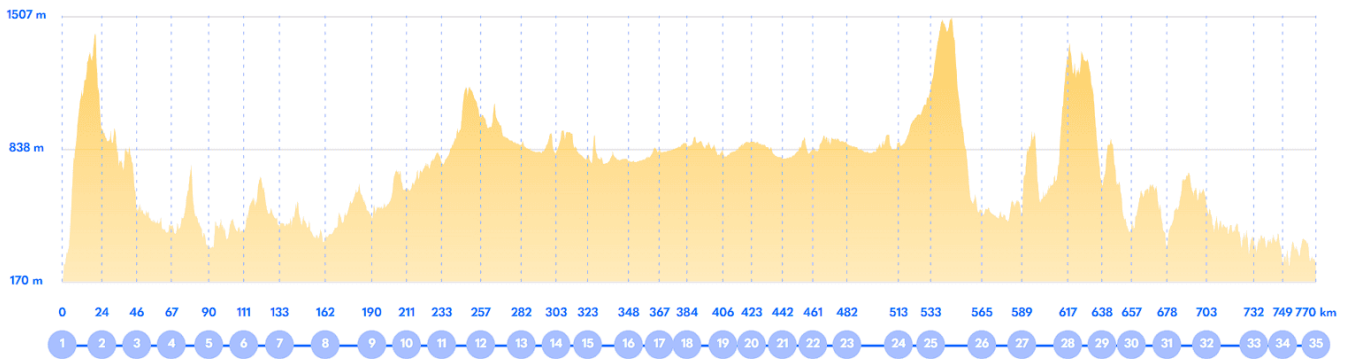
36

km

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. If you wish to stay in the area, we recommend that you: - Take your time and visit the magnificent historic centre of Santiago. - Continue with us along the wild Camino Fisterra (Finisterre Way), and stay overnight at the hotel in the lighthouse! - Or take a bus to Fisterra to visit the unspoilt sandy coves and beaches of the west coast. With very few tourists, you are guaranteed a very special experience. Buses depart from Santiago Bus Station at 9am and 10am. Buses return to Santiago at 4:45pm and 7pm. The journey takes 3 hours.

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:

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 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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