

Full Camino del Norte



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the
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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 4


475.3km


23 days


Comfort


Easy

Starting from
€3340

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Popular Time

Good Time

Off/Low Season

Not Possible

Overall

Distance:

13.3 min | 22.6km average | 32.7 max

Ascent:

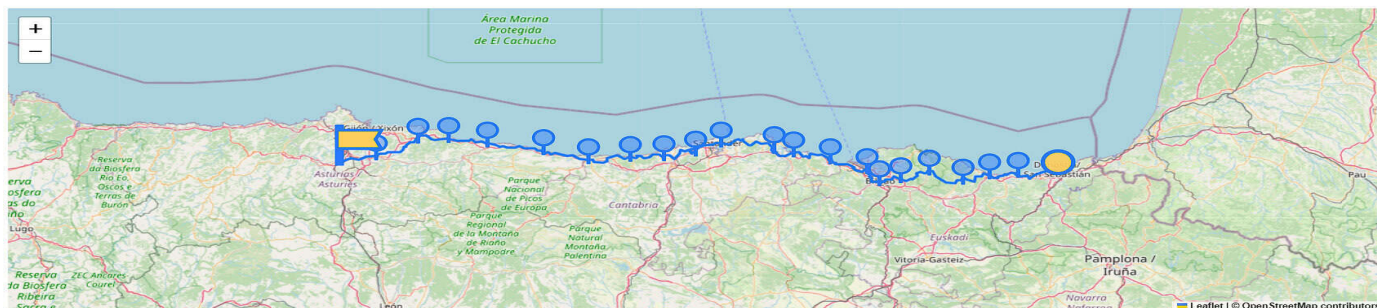
140 min | 667.1m average | 1244.9 max

Cardio:

2 3.3 4

This trip, starting from the beautiful coastal city of San Sebastian in the Basque Country and finishing in the Asturian city of Oviedo, extends across a stunning stretch of northern Spain. If you look at a Camino del Norte route map, this walk spans three Spanish provinces and thousands of years of pilgrim history. The full Camino del Norte length is at least 481km, though this can be customised to suit your needs. Each of the individual Camino del Norte stages have something unique to offer, from stunning beaches to quiet forests, making this Camino pilgrimage route truly special for pilgrims walking to Santiago de Compostela.

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

SAN SEBASTIAN

Once you arrive you'll be booked into a hotel in the heart of the town. San Sebastian is located on the Bay of Biscay in the mountainous Basque Country, and is a city known for its stunning beaches and waterfront promenade. Here, you can enjoy world-renowned cuisine as well as the more informal dining experience of pintxos and wine.

Day
2
26.1 km

SAN SEBASTIAN -> GETARIA

Leaving San Sebastian and the unspoiled Bay of Biscay, this route curves along the coastline through grassy fields and rolling hills. First, you'll see the Church of San Martin de Tours, a lovingly restored national monument, before passing through some traditional whaling towns. Later, you arrive in the picturesque village of Getaria, perched on a rocky headland above a cute harbour.

Day
3
18 km

GETARIA -> DEBA

For Day 3 you'll set out on a small country road hugging the coast, eventually arriving in Zarautz. From there, take the small footpath into farmlands until you reach the Church of Santa Maria la Real and birthplace of explorer Juan Sebastian Elcano, the first man to circumnavigate the Earth in the 16th Century. Once you've stopped to admire the town, continue along the coast to the last stop for the day - the stunning beach town, Deba.

Day
4
24.3 km

DEBA -> MARKINA-XEMEIN

Today, we leave the sea behind for more mountainous landscapes and won't see the coast again until Bilbao. The route crosses a river and starts climbing into dense scrub, until it reaches the Hermitage of El Calvario. From here, keep to the narrow footpath (GR-121), which passes through many secluded hamlets. Finally, the trail descends steeply into your destination, Markina. This is a village with a strong sense of history and Basque traditions.

Day
5
25.7 km

MARKINA-XEMEIN -> GERNIKA

Leaving Markina, the route follows an ancient cobbled road and crosses the river in Bolivar. It ascends to the 15th Century Monastery of Cenarruza, which contains a Gothic Renaissance church and mediaeval cloister. Leaving the monastic site, the path moves into dense woodland, up to Gontzegarai, and down again to Gerikaitz. At the Hermitage of Santiago, a steep footpath leads downhill to a creek and finally into the town of Gernika.

Day
6

19.9 km

GERNIKA -> LEZAMA

Setting out this morning you'll leave Gernika by the hermitage of Santa Luzia Zallo. Shortly after, we'll reach the road (PR-173) that will take us to Morga. Here, we leave the farmland and enter a forest, following a steep descent to the traditional villages of Goikoetxea, Larrabetzu, and finally, Lezama.

Day
7

14 km

LEZAMA -> BILBAO

This is a relatively short stage through pastoral farmland. First, we pass Zamudio and the Roman Church of San Maarten, where the Tower of Malpica is visible above. Slowly climbing to reach the summit of Mount Avril, we're rewarded with spectacular views of Bilbao and the valley below. On arrival in Bilbao, don't forget to visit the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady of Bego, as well as Place de Unamuno, in the old quarter of Bilbao.

Day
8

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
9

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
10

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

11

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

12

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

13

19.6 km

SANTANDER -> ARCE

During this stage, the Camino moves slightly inland and passes through typical Cantabrian towns such as Santa Cruz de Bezana, Mompia, and Boo de Pielagos. The estuary of Boo de Pielagos leads to the village of Arce, where you will stop for the night.

Day

14

25.4 km

ARCE -> SANTILLANA DEL MAR

The Camino follows the pleasant, hilly landscape of the coast today. Coming to Miengo, we finally reach the Besaya region. Take your time while here to visit the charming little village of Suance. Passing meadows and sleepy villages, we eventually arrive in the mediaeval village of Santillana del Mar.

Day

15

22 km

SANTILLANA DEL MAR -> COMILLAS

This stage introduces the pilgrim to the wild western coast of Cantabria. The Camino passes villages of outstanding beauty like Cobreces, with its Cistercian monastery, and finally arrives in Comillas with its impressive beaches and remarkable architecture. Check out the spectacular 'Capricho de Gaudi', the Palace of Sobrellano with its pantheon chapel, and the Pontifical University.

Day
16

26.6 km

COMILLAS -> UNQUERA

From Comillas, the Camino continues along the coast, and comes to Oyambre Natural Park. Here you will have the chance to witness an outstanding marine ecosystem consisting of a large variety of birds, molluscs, and fish species. The Camino next reaches the town of San Vicente de la Barquera. Finally, passing estuaries, green pastures, and forests, we arrive in Unquera.

Day
17

26.4 km

UNQUERA -> LLANES

The Camino de Santiago enters Asturias, crossing a bridge over the river Deva and continuing into Bustio. Before Colombres, we have to climb the 'Cuesta la Cantu'. Then we go downhill along the Sierra de La Borbolla. The Way now enters Pendueles. Here, the Camino take a narrow footpath that crosses the road to Andrin and climbs up to the Jorcada pass. The Camino drops to La Portilla and continues to Llanes, where we stay for the night.

Day
18

29.1 km

LLANES -> RIBADESELLA

Passing the beautiful beaches of Palombina and Barro, the Camino crosses the river Niembro. Climbing steadily uphill, we reach the Church of San Pedro de Pria, set on a hill overlooking the district's seven main towns. Then, the Camino continues downhill to the mediaeval stone bridge over the river Guadamia, it crosses the railway and continues on to Sobares and Ribadesella. Ribadesella is a fascinating town and well worth a stroll around.

Day
19

20 km

RIBADESELLA -> COLUNGA

The Camino continues uphill towards the village of Vega, at the foot of the impressive Monte Redondo. Reaching Vegas beach, we cross the Regatu del Acebu and climb to the charming village of Berbes. Then, the Camino goes downhill to the beach of El Arenal de Mons, where you can see the mouth of the River de los Romeros. After passing a well-known Knights Templar site and the Benedictine Monastery of Santiago (founded in the 11th Century), we arrive in Colunga.

Day
20

18.1 km

COLUNGA -> VILLAVICIOSA

From Colunga, the Camino continues along the valley of the river Llovones, passing small villages along the way. As we leave the valley the track leads uphill to the Cabanona Pass, where we can get superb views of the coast. The Camino continues downhill to Priesca, past the Church of San Salvador, which was consecrated in the year 921 AD. If the church is open, have a look at the paintings inside. Now, on the left bank of the river Sebrayu, the Camino follows the Nabra river valley to reach Villaviciosa.

Day
21

25.4 km

VILLAVICIOSA -> POLA DE SIERO

From Villaviciosa, we follow the Camino until we reach the village of La Casquita. Here, we leave the coast taking the southern way of the Camino Norte. On the Camino, don't miss the Church of San Juan de Amandi, and the marvellous Pre-Romanesque Church known as El Conventin. We cross the river Valdedio and continue to Camoca to the Alto La Campa, enjoying superb views over the Sariego Valley. We finally descend to Figares and continue walking towards La Carcabada until we come to Pola de Siero.

Day
22

17.6 km

POLA DE SIERO -> OVIEDO

The Camino passes El Rayu, famous in the 18th Century for its ceramics, and we head towards Carbayal, Fonciello, Meres, and Granda. This area has a semi-urban character. Passing the small village of El Lluugarin, we come to the mediaeval bridge of Colloto, entering Oviedo via Cerdeno and Calles de la Tenderina Alta and Baja.

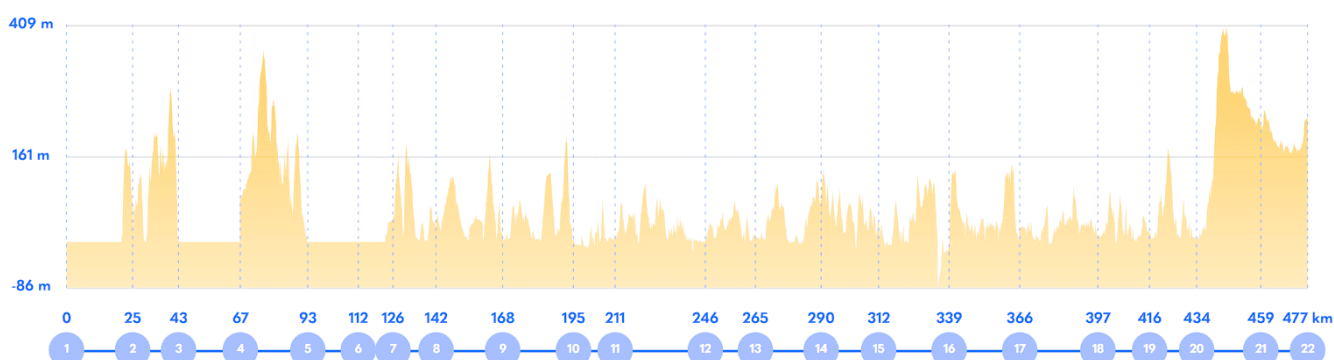
Day
23

km

OVIEDO

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. In the Middle Ages, Oviedo was one of the most important pilgrimage sites on the Camino. Don't miss the Cathedral of San Salvador and the relics and treasures in the Holy Chamber while you are here.

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 not just a tour operator; we are **passionate Camino enthusiasts** who have been guiding pilgrims **since 2007**. 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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