# Monesterio to Merida





Your Camino Agent since 2007

info@followthecamino.com

+353 1 687 2144

+44 20 3411 0701

+1 877 778 1750

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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** 











\*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.

#### 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.

#### 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!!!!

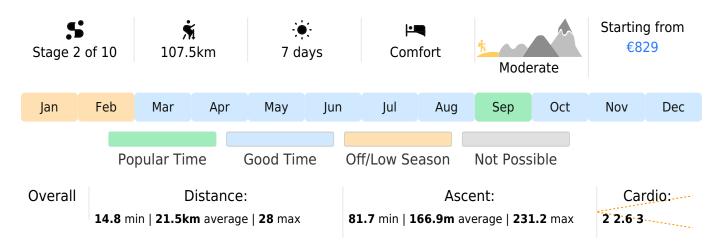
#### GRETA O.



#### 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**



From Monesterio, the Camino stretches through the south of Extremadura, a region of dry and sparsely populated farmland. Walking through this dry land, with few opportunities to rest in the shade, can be seen as challenging. However, we have split most stages along this section into shorter days and the flat ground presents no particular difficulty, so it only requires an average level of fitness.

#### Map



#### **Services**

# Included in this package

- Specially Hand-Picked Accommodation
- Our Holiday or Pilgrim Pack
- ∀ 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

**MONESTERIO** 

Monesterio was strongly linked to the history of the Camino once when Templars from the Order of Santiago brought wealth to the town, back in the 15th and 16th Centuries. Nowadays, little remains as witness to this heritage and Monesterio is a quiet Extremaduran town.

Day

2

20.7 km

#### **MONESTERIO -> FUENTE DE CANTOS**

Today the Camino can be quite exposed, walking on long undulating tracks with scattered oak holms and fig groves providinge shelter from the sun here and there. A few kilometres after Monesterio, don't miss the 5,000 year-old megalith, just 10m off the track. Grazing pigs will probably be the only inhabitants you will see along the way, as the Camino doesn't pass through any villages before reaching Fuente de Cantos, a pretty village.

Day

3

24.2 km

#### **FUENTE DE CANTOS -> ZAFRA**

When leaving Fuente de Cantos, we follow an ancient Roman route and start to see the first planted vines of this section, a sign of changing soil. A few kilometres further on, we pass through Calzadilla de los Barros. After that, it is an isolated and peaceful stroll along undulating dirt tracks, bordered by vineyards and olive groves. The walking day ends in Zafra, a charming old town that is also known as 'Little Sevilla'.

Day 4

19.8 km

#### **ZAFRA -> VILLAFRANCA DE LOS BARROS**

The first few kilometres after Zafra gently climb up before zig-zagging down to the whitewashed town of Los Santos de Maimona. Then, it is an enjoyable walk up and down through farmland, vineyards, and olive trees with smashing views over the surrounding countryside.

Day 5

14.8 km

#### **VILLAFRANCA DE LOS BARROS -> ALMENDRALEJO**

Leaving Villafranca de los Barros, we find ourselves surrounded mainly by vineyards as the area produces a well-known wine enjoyed across Spain. The flat ground and short distance to Amendralejo makes today an easy and pleasant stroll through the gentle countryside.

Day 6 28 km

#### **ALMENDRALEJO -> MERIDA**

After Almendralejo, we start to see mountains in the distance to our right and the crops also diversify as sunflower and cereal fields alternate with vines and olive groves. Toremegia is the only town we pass through today before continuing through the countryside. Getting back to civilisation, you will be stunned when approaching Merida and its rich historical heritage.

Day 7 km

#### **MERIDA**

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. This city has a rich Roman history. It was founded as a Roman colony in 25 BC under the order of Emperor Augustus and it became one of the most important areas in Roman Hispania. Nowadays, Merida attracts tourists from all over the world to see the sights of Roman life, including the Forum, Circus Maximus, and aqueduct.

#### **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 2007** As the firs 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 <a href="mailto:info@followthecamino.com">info@followthecamino.com</a> 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!

