

Pilgrimage from Portugal to Spain

Following the Path of Pilgrims of Old on the Road to Santiago De Compostela.

Camino Portugués Route

Led by

The Rev. Canon Greg Foraker & The Rev. Jan Head

18 Oct – 31 October 2023

The Camino de Santiago, or the way of St. James, has many different routes, all uniting as one at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. This same path has been taken for hundreds of years by the faithful making their holy pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The path was also used by Roman, Moor and Saracen invaders, the Knights Templar and the armies of Charlemagne and Napoleon. Therefore, this journey is not only steeped in spiritual significance as you travel to the place believed to be the burial site of St. James, but it also has much historical and cultural significance.

DAY 1: Wednesday 18 October 2023

Depart USA

DAY 2: Thursday 19 October 2023

Arrival Lisbon airport, Portugal. - Upon arrival your guide and driver will be at the airport waiting for you. Panoramic and stops at some of Lisbon's famous sights. Depending on the flight arrival time we will also have a short free time period in Lisbon to get a snack for lunch. Then continuing on to Fatima, our home for 2 nights.

Overnight in Fatima

DAY 3: Friday 20 October 2023

After breakfast our morning begins with a visit to the Sanctuary of Fatima, a World renown Pilgrimage site famous for the Marian Apparitions. Constructed after Lucia Santos and her 2 cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto were visited by the Virgin Mary in 1916. Visit to the museum and short video of the story of Fatima. Free time for lunch then an afternoon a walk along the Stations of the Cross and to the tiny village where the 3 young children lived. After dinner we will take part in the nightly torchlight procession. Pending confirmation that the procession will be held on that date.

Dinner and overnight in Fatima

DAY 4: Saturday 21 October 2023

Very early breakfast and check out. An intense day. Our journey continues northwards by bus. A journey of approximately 2.5hours (200km). In the area of Matosinhos is where we are going to make our first walking stop. A few km to stretch our legs and enjoy a short part of the Portuguese Costal Camino. Walking distance approx. 2km. From there we will travel by bus to the town of Vila do Conde where our main walk begins, approx. 14km to San Pedro de Rates. Once we have regrouped there is the option to walk a further 6km to Pedra Furada. A beautiful day, flat terrain and contrasting countryside. Coffee stop in Barcelos before continuing on to Ponte de Lima.

Briefing for the following days walk.

Overnight in Ponte de Lima.

DAY 5: Sunday 22 October 2023

Early breakfast and check out. A short bus ride takes us to the hillside location of Tamel, the starting point of our days walk. Approx 24km through mostly agricultural land, hamlets and small villages to Ponte de Lima.

Briefing for the following days walk.

Dinner and overnight in Ponte de Lima.

DAY 6: Monday 23 October 2023

Early breakfast and check out. Today's walk begins at the door of our hotel, we continue walking through the countryside but now we begin to see a change in the landscape and today's walk (approx 20km) is one of the most challenging on the Camino Portugues as our path takes us up and over the Alto da Portela Grande de Labruja, a gradual uphill ending in a 2.5km steep climb before descending into Rubiaes. From Rubiaes our bus will take us on to Valenca do Minho, the last town in Portugal before we head into Spain. Free time in Valenca to get a late lunch/early dinner before we walk the 3km across the River Minho into Spain, our destination Tui which is situated on the other side of the Minho River.

Briefing for the following days walk.

Overnight in Tui.

DAY 7: Tuesday 24 October 2023

An early start for everyone. Today's walk is from Tui to Mos. Approx. 23km. We have already had 3 walking days so jet lag is well behind us and you will have found your pace and space. Once everyone arrives in Mos, due to the lack of accommodation on this Pilgrimage route, the bus will be taking the group back to Tui. Late afternoon free to discover Tui.

Briefing for the following days walk.

Dinner and overnight Tui.

DAY 8: Wednesday 25 October 2023

A very early breakfast and check out. The bus will take us to Mos, our ending point yesterday and starting point today. Yes, today is a challenge. The longest daily walking distance of our pilgrimage. The tiredness and aches of our previous days, and a tough, hilly, 30km ahead of you. The walk... Mos to Pontevedra. Passing through busy towns, coastal villages such as Arcade. A helter skelter walk, uphill and down, before finally reaching the major city of Pontevedra.

Briefing for the following days walk.

Dinner and overnight in Pontevedra.

DAY 9: Thursday 26 October 2023

After the storm comes the calm. Check out after breakfast a lighter 22km awaits you. Beautiful scenery, a great moment to reflect and let your inner thoughts guide your day. The walk..... Pontevedra to Caldas de Rei. Caldas de Rei is a small medieval spa town. Its famous hot thermal

springs are a well-deserved treat for the feet.
briefing for the following days walk.

Dinner in Caldas de Rei.

DAY 10: Friday 27 October 2023

Check out after breakfast and a much shorter day awaits. The walk..... Caldas de Rei to Padron, approx. 19km. Through hamlets, forests and vineyards, a delightful day walk. PADRON. One of the most emblematic sites on the Camino and the history of the Camino de Santiago, but it is only the Camino Portuguese that passes through this place. Padron, then known as Iria Flavia, is the town where the boat, along with the body of St James, arrived to after his death. This boat was moored to a 'pedron', stone, hence this name becoming more popular and the town centuries ago became known as Padron. We are going to visit the church of St James an important time for reflection and prayer for our Pilgrims as we near Santiago de Compostela. A briefing for the following days walk.

Dinner and overnight in Padron.

DAY 11: Saturday 28 October 2023

Check out and our last days walk. Padron to Santiago de Compostela, approx. 25km. After a few days of shorter distances, the Camino raises its head to remind us that we are indeed on a Pilgrimage, but the light and energy of a million steps that have passed this way before us, and the knowledge that our destination will finally be reached, gives us the strength that we need. We started as a family, the path has been the same but the journey so different for every one of us. Awaiting us at the end of our days walk is the Obradoiro square, the Cathedral of Santiago and emotions beyond words.

Evening church service in Santa Susana Church.

Dinner and overnight in Santiago de Compostela

DAY 12: Sunday 29 October 2023

A busy morning.....Together we will attend the Pilgrim Mass, and our offering of the Botafumeira. Next stop is the Pilgrim office to collect our Compostela certificates. A short time for coffee before visiting the Portico de la Gloria and Cathedral Roof top.

Free time for lunch & free afternoon.

Reflection time followed by **dinner** at the Parador.

Overnight in Santiago de Compostela.

DAY 13: Monday 30 October 2023

Free morning in Santiago. Early afternoon excursion to Finisterre (Land's End) where we will celebrate Holy Eucharist and watch the sunset at the lighthouse bringing our Pilgrimage to a close.

Overnight in Santiago de Compostela.

DAY 14: Tuesday 31 October 2023

- Departure for the Santiago Airport