



## Portuguese 2-week Coastal Camino to Santiago de Compostela



Walking into A Guarda along the Coastal Camino de Santiago

<b>Grade:</b>	Gentle/moderate	
<b>Trip duration:</b>	15 days, 14 nights	<b>Average daily altitude gain:</b> 300ft / 100 metres
<b>Walking days:</b>	13 days	<b>Average daily walk:</b> 12.5 miles / 20 km
<b>Minimum numbers:</b>	From just a single walker	<b>Total walking distance:</b> 160 miles / 260 km
<b>Dates &amp; price per person</b>	1 March to 31 October. See our website for prices	

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## TRIP OVERVIEW:

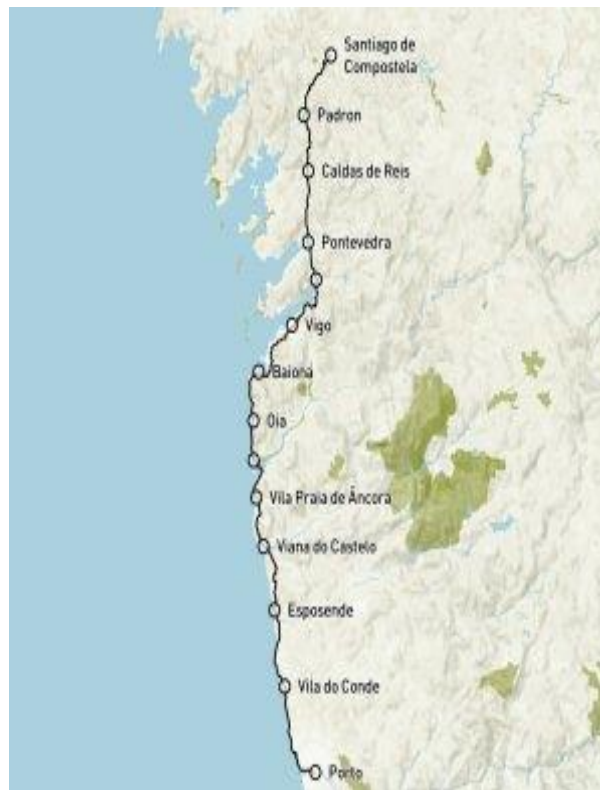
This is a wonderful historical walk from the UNESCO Heritage City of Porto heading north to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, showing off the best of the coastal scenery of Northern Portugal and Galicia with stunning scenery, ancient towns, wooded valleys and sandy beaches.

There are a number of pilgrimage walks (caminos) to Santiago de Compostela, the Spanish resting place of the Apostle St. James. This camino stretches along the coastal villages and towns of Northern Portugal and Galicia in Spain, and is as beautiful as it is uncrowded. You will make friends with other companions along the route, and on reaching Santiago be joined by scores of pilgrims who have taken different routes to the city.

You will be staying in a contrast of accommodation from hand-picked hotels to rustic village houses, and dine on the delicious cuisine of northern Portugal and Galicia, with their emphasis on the best seafood and locally produced wines and port.

We offer this as a 15-day self-guided hike of 260km/160 miles starting in Porto, with a welcome information pack, all accommodation booked for you, comprehensive walk notes, luggage transfers every day, and with help available 24/7 should you need it.

We strongly recommend an extra day exploring historic Santiago to take in the atmosphere and relax with your fellow pilgrims in the satisfaction of completing your own journey through this lovely ancient landscape.



Camino route from Porto to Santiago de Compostela



## OUTLINE ITINERARY

**Walking and journey times are approximate**

**Important Note:**

The following itinerary is to be taken as a guide only. Whilst we expect that the trek will run as per the itinerary, participants should accept that there is a possibility of changes being necessary subject to local conditions.

**Day 1 Arrival at Porto airport and travel to Porto city.**

In your hotel in Porto you will be given extensive route notes in our 'Roadbook' and the "Pilgrim Passport" to certify your achievement on completion of the camino.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel in Porto.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 2 Private transfer from your hotel to the coast nearby.**

**12 miles/19km.**

After breakfast, you will be driven to the coast at Matosinhos, thereby avoiding the busy suburbs of Porto. The camino has been well created with walkboards and coloured paved paths, and is well sign-posted. Your first day's walk takes you past nature reserves, along the beaches and through fishing villages where you will be able to find places to sample the local food. You will arrive at the coastal town of Vila do Conde.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**



**Day 3 Walk from Vila to Esposende, 15 miles/25km.**

The day starts along the coastal sand dunes with grasses and flowers, then moves inland through peaceful forests and villages, to cross the River Cavado estuary into Esposende.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 4 Walk from Esposende over the Eiffel bridge to Viana do Castelo.**

**14 miles/24km.**

Today you will walk a few km from the coast through woods and sleepy villages, then across the impressive Eiffel bridge into Viana do Castelo, a historic fishing port with excellent seafood restaurants.

**Accommodation: 2\*/3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 5 Route from Viana to Vila Praia de Ancora.**

**12 miles/19km.**

The walking will be away from the coast into the low hills, passing through villages which can offer you lunch. There is then a lovely section through a eucalyptus forest before a gentle descent back to the coast at Vila Praia de Ancora.

**Accommodation: 3\*/4\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 6 From Vila Praia to A Guarda in Spain.**

**9 miles/15km.**

Walk along the coast through the village of Moleda to the lovely town of Caminha. Cross the River Minho and the border into Spain, either by the bridge or more memorably by fishing boat. Walk to your hotel in A Guarda.

**Accommodation: 2\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**



A Guarda

**Day 7 Walk from A Guarda to Oia.**

**8 miles/13km**

There is an ancient Celtic settlement, Santa Tegra, to visit in A Guarda before continuing north along the coast, through forest paths and the rocky coastline to reach the village of Oia with its 12th century monastery.

**Accommodation: 2\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 8 From Oia to Baiona.**

**11 miles/18km.**

A very rural walk through fields and villages along the coast, then the path takes you into the mountains. You will then descend into the mediaeval fishing town of Baiona.

**Accommodation: 2\*/3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 9 Walk from Baiona to the city of Vigo.**

**15.5 miles/25km.**

Leaving Baiona you walk through another very rural woodland area with ancient villages before approaching the vibrant port city of Vigo. The path carefully leads you to the centre via the Castrelos Park.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 10 From Vigo via Redondela to Arcade.**

**13 miles/22km.**

You will start by heading out of Vigo along the city's shopping street towards the hillside villages away from the busy coast road. There are great views of the coast and estuary. Redondela is a great place to find lunch, then you will go back into woodland before reaching Arcade.

**Accommodation: 2\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 11 From Arcade to Pontevedra.**

**8 miles/13km.**

Cross the river from Arcade over the beautiful Ponte Sampiao, then take ancient stone paths to enter Pontevedra by a quiet route

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**



The medieval bridge at Ponte Sampiao

**Day 12 Walk from Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis.**

**14 miles/22km.**

You now leave the coast, walking from Pontevedra through pretty countryside and forests to the spa town Caldas de Reis, on the Rio Barosa. There is a thermal spring in the main square to bathe your feet, as thousands of pilgrims before you.

**Accommodation: 2\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 13 Walk from Caldas to Padron.**

**11.5 miles/19km.**

With a gentle ascent away from the roads, walk through a number of small villages and their beautiful churches and into the Valga forest, descending to Padron.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 14 Complete your camino by walking from Padron to Santiago de Compostela,**

**16 miles/25km.**

It's a long day, but the miles will pass quickly as you see the end in sight. Get your camino passport stamped and receive your scroll, and mix it with other tired but happy *peregrinos* in the Plaza del Obradoiro in front of the majestic cathedral. Visit the cathedral to admire the architecture and interior.

**Accommodation: 3\* hotel.**

**Meals: breakfast**

**Day 15 Departure for Porto, or spend a day in Santiago.**

To return to Porto there is a good train service, or stay an extra day in Santiago absorbing the atmosphere and the history of the faithful St. James.

Extra nights can be arranged in Santiago subject – please contact us for details.



The magnificent cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

**Pre-tour briefing:** Most people choose to meet with a member of the Portugal team online before departure. However, if you prefer to have a personal Welcome Briefing on arrival this can be arranged for you for an additional charge. During the briefing, the member of our staff will be delighted to answer any questions that you have before starting your holiday.

Whichever briefing method you choose, you will receive your Welcome Pack both by email prior to your departure and physically on arrival at your first hotel. Your Welcome Pack contains all the materials you'll need as a walker: a roadbook with maps and route descriptions, a tracking App for your smartphone, plus a few other goodies for the trail!

**Accommodation:** A combination of village cottages, farmhouses and charming hotels. All rooms have their own bathrooms. We've chosen these accommodations for their hospitality, comfort, and location.

**Meals:** All breakfasts are included with your accommodation. We also include packed lunches for walking days where buying lunch on the trail is not an option. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions and we can ask our hotels to accommodate these.

**Luggage transfers:** We will arrange for the transfer of 1 suitcase/piece of luggage per person between your hotels on your walk.

**Travel:** The best airport to fly into is Porto, which many European airlines use.

There are local buses from Porto airport into Porto city.

The journey back from Santiago to Porto there are options by train via Porto city or coach direct to Porto airport.

Alternatively, if you would like us to organise airport transfers we can do this for you.

**No flights or fixed travel arrangements should be booked until you have received written confirmation from the trekMountains office that your holiday is guaranteed to run.**

### The Price Includes:

- 14 nights' accommodation with breakfast in double room occupancy
- Luggage transfers between accommodations (1 bag per person, 15kg max)
- Private transfer on day 2 from your hotel to the coast at Matosinhos
- Comprehensive welcome pack including excellent route guide with maps and route description
- The Camino Pilgrim Passport (to be stamped at every place you stay)
- Vieira shell – the pilgrims' emblem to attach to your rucksack
- 24-7 phone emergency support

### Not Included:

- International flights
- Transfers to and from Porto Airport – we can quote you for these if required.
- Lunches and evening meals
- Tourism taxes
- Insurance
- Any items not mentioned in "Included" above

### Options:

- Hotel upgrades available upon request.
- Alternatively, if you are short of time, you can choose an 8-day / 7-night camino starting further north at the Minho River – just choose the trek which suits you.