



**fresco**  
TOURS

## **Chapter 1 – The Beginning**

- The Start of the Camino de Santiago –



# Chapter 1 – The Camino de Santiago

11 days & 10 nights: 144 KM / 88 miles

All good endings start with a great beginning! 3 years ago a group of my friends from Spain and I began walking the entire Camino de Santiago. As we all work, have families and other commitments, we decided to tackle our goal by doing portions of the trail over the course of many weekends. We hope to finish in 3 years' time! As you can imagine, it has been a wonderful experience for me on a personal level. My original days of guiding in 1999 had me walking through the tiny villages of the Pyrenees from Roncesvalles, the start of the Way in Spain. Being back on the trail following the yellow arrows has inspired me to make good on an idea that I have been touting for years. I am happy, proud and above all excited to present to you Chapter 1 – The Beginning!

<p><b>Chapter 1 - The Beginning</b> <b>Tour Dates:</b></p> <p>Apr 25 – May 5, 2020 June 16 – 26, 2020 Sep 25 – Oct 5, 2020</p> <p><b>Price (11 days / 10 nights): 3,000€</b> Single Supplement: 400€</p>	
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## Day 1: Pamplona & Roncesvalles

In the afternoon, we meet the group in Pamplona for a private transfer to the foothills of the Pyrenees. We start our Camino with a walk up and down into Roncesvalles, where we attend a moving Pilgrim's Mass. The blessing at the end is an appropriate way for us to start our journey. Afterwards, we have our first night's feast – perhaps some trout, like the ones Hemingway used to catch in the local river!

Accommodation: Roncesvalles / Walking: 5 KM (D)

## Day 2: Roncesvalles – Linzoain

Leaving our hotel, we follow the yellow arrow through pastures and fields that make this part of Basque Navarra so famous for its local fresh produce. We walk by "caserios", giant stone farm houses that have been in the same family for generations and generations. Tradition is the theme here! Our day ends at the town's "fronton", the court where Basques Pelota is enjoyed by the youngsters!

Accommodation: Zubiri / Walking: 14 KM (B, L, D)

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## Day 3: Linzoáin - Zuriain

After a good morning climb and descent, we come across the Gothic bridge known as “La Rabia,” which was used by farmers in a ritual to prevent their livestock from developing rabies (rabia) in Zubiri. We continue to **Larrasoña**, a town with strong ties to the Camino as it was mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> century Codex Calixtinus, the official Camino guide book of the time! Keep an eye out for several Jacobean signs and armor shields on the stone buildings.

Accommodation: Pamplona / Walking: 17 KMs (B, L, D)



## Day 4: Zuriain - Pamplona

A lighter day in the boots, we work our way into **Pamplona**, where we come across the 15<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral of Santa María la Real, with its beautiful cloisters and interesting façade. Pamplona’s patron saint is San Fermín, and in keeping with tradition, this energetic university city is always filled with tourists and locals, ready to keep the festivities going!

Accommodation: Pamplona / Walking: 12 KMs (B, L)

## Day 5: Pamplona - Uterga

We leave Pamplona and make our way to **Cizur Menor**, where we can see the Church of San Miguel Arcángel. To get the blood going, the Camino gives us our first steady climb to the crest of the **Alto de Perdón**, where we enjoy the views of the surrounding valleys. After coming down the hill, we regroup and return to Pamplona, where we have some time to explore the main square.

Accommodation: Pamplona / Walking: 17 KMs (B, L, D)

## Day 6: Uterga - Cirauqui

Our day begins with a special treat as we visit the 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque Church of Santa Maria de **Eunate**, one of the jewels of the Camino! Was this a stronghold for the Knights Templar? Following the scallop shells, we come to **Puente la Reina**, named in honor of Doña Mayor, who had the bridge built to make sure pilgrims coming from the French & Aragonés routes, could continue walking safely.

Accommodation: Estella / Walking: 16 KMs (B, L, D)



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## Day 7: Cirauqui - Estella

Leaving **Cirauqui**, we walk through rich agricultural fields of olives, grapes, almonds and fruit trees and will suddenly find ourselves along ancient Roman roads and bridges leading into **Lorca**. After a few ups and downs, we enter the once magnificent town of **Estella**, where we still see evidence of its importance in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a merchant town. Pilgrims were also greatly respected, and their rights specifically protected in Estella's town charter.

Accommodation: Estella / Walking: 14 KMs (B, L, D)

## Day 8: Estella – Los Arcos

Walking out of **Estella**, we come across the ancient Benedictine **Monastery of Irache**, where the winery still honors the ancient tradition of providing free wine to pilgrims! Have a sip, but not too much as you still have KM's ahead! The tower of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Church of San Andrés lets you know you've arrived in **Villamayor de Monjardín**, before continuing on to **Los Arcos**, whose ancient entrance was known as the Gate of Shells, and was the access point to the Jewish quarter.

Accommodation: Viana / Walking: 22 KMs (B, L, D)

## Day 9: Los Arcos – Viana

Our walk today takes us through kilometers and kilometers of vineyards. While in **Torres del Río** have a look at the Iglesia de Santo Sepulcro, attributed to the Knights Templar, before continuing to **Viana**. Viana is an energetic town with a lot of Camino history. Take in the sights and enjoy this lovely town.

Accommodation: Viana / Walking: 18 KMs (B, L, D)

## Day 10: Viana - Logroño

This morning, we continue on and enter **Logroño**, the capital of La Rioja, and famous for its superb red wines. As today is a shorter walk, it would only be appropriate to spend the afternoon with a visit to a local bodega and sample some of these fine wines! We finish the evening with a fine meal to finish our first Chapter along the Camino de Santiago!

Accommodation: Logroño / Walking: 9 KMs (B, D)



## Day 11: Tour Ends

After breakfast, we wish you well and hope to see you on Chapter 2! (B)

*\* Please note: this itinerary is subject to slight modifications due to hotel availability, weather, festivals & other occurrences.*



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## **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

Expect to have a wonderful time! We've designed the trip to enjoy the stunning beauty and magic of our passion – the Camino de Santiago and Spain!

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED:**

**2 Guides:** Our greatest resource! We know Spain, because it is our home. Both of your guides are experienced professionals that are either Spanish or live in Spain year round – no hired out summer help! When specified, local art historians will join us to provide further insights of the specific monument / museum that we visit.

\* Groups of 3 - 6 pax are accompanied by only 1 guide.

**Meals:** Food speaks volumes about a culture and we love to eat! During our walk days, when possible, we prepare gourmet picnics using the freshest of local ingredients and selecting the tastiest recipes of the region. All breakfasts, lunches and dinners are included - minus 1 lunch and 1 dinner where we encourage you to try the local cuisine on your own. We are proud to cater to vegetarians and those with food allergies – milk, egg, wheat, etc.

**Accommodation:** Fresco Tours selects a combination of 3 & 4-star hotels and restored country manors that offer the best in hospitality, comfort and location. In this area, these are known as *caseríos* and are very unique and special! All rooms have ensuite baths. Tour prices are based on double occupancy.

**Limited Group Sizes:** Fresco Tours are in small groups to ensure that you receive the individual attention that you deserve. We want to be able to treat each of our clients with a personal touch and we limit the groups to a maximum of 15 participants. We also recognize that each person's Camino is their own personal experience and if you wish, we encourage you to walk on your own – with the assurance that we will be there for you!

**Support Vehicles:** Your walks will be accompanied by 2 support vehicles (minimum 6 pax) that are there to provide assistance when needed. You will have access to the bus every couple of hours, so you won't need to carry a heavy backpack. In addition, the possibility of shorter routes and pick-up options will be offered and explained on a daily basis.

**Ground transportation:** All ground transportation between our meeting point in Pamplona and Logroño is provided on your Fresco Tour.

**Luggage transfers:** Your luggage will be transported between hotels. You do the walking, we'll do the lifting!

**Pre-Tour Assistance:** We will help with your travel arrangements prior to and after the tour start and finish of your Fresco Tour, including assistance with hotel reservations and train tickets.