



fresco
TOURS

A Fresco Start Chapter 1 XL – Camino de Santiago

- Roncesvalles to Burgos -





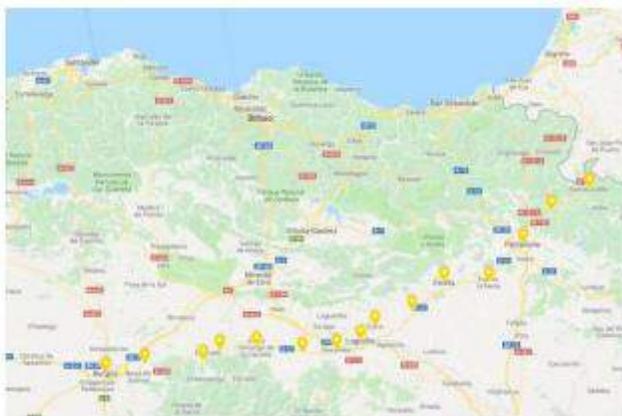
A Fresco Start Chapter 1 XL Roncesvalles to Burgos

16 days/ 15 nights: 267 KMs

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 A Fresco Start Chapter 1!

In addition, we also understand that people do want to walk the Camino, BUT....

- ➔ Would rather not sleep in albergues, the communal dormitories available along the trail. Some pilgrims enjoy having their own bedrooms with a door, an ensuite bathroom, and plenty of hot water!
- ➔ Do not want or cannot carry all their belongings with them. In fact, they enjoy being able to add some extra weight to their load and have some creature comforts, such as that iPad!
- ➔ Are nervous and scared! Coming to a foreign country to walk for a couple weeks is daunting no matter how many books and web forums you've read. You want more than just an Orientation Packet sent to you in the mail - you want a LIVE person to answer your questions and help you take those first steps on your journey.
- ➔ Don't want to eat alone. Independence can be great when traveling, but it is also nice to have some occasional companions to share those tales from the trail and a meal or two!



A Fresco Start Chapter 1 XL Departure Dates:

May 21 – June 5, 2019
June 27 – July 12, 2019

Price: 1700€
Single Supplement: 450€



A Fresco Start Chapter 1 XL

Roncesvalles to Burgos

16 days/ 15 nights: 267 KMs

Day 1: Roncesvalles

In the afternoon, your Fresco Tours guide will hand out your Orientation Packets and review all the materials to get you ready for your Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago! Afterwards, we will take a walk around Roncesvalles, where we attend a moving Pilgrim's Mass. The blessing at the end is an appropriate way for you to start your journey. Afterwards, we have our first night's feast – perhaps some trout, like the ones Hemingway used to catch in the local river! (D)

Accommodation: Roncesvalles

Day 2: Roncesvalles – Zubiri

With our boots and scallop shells on, your Fresco Tours guide escorts you out of town following various Camino markers and the famous yellow arrow. You follow the yellow arrow through pastures and fields that make this part of Basque Navarra so famous for its local fresh produce. You walk by "caseros", giant stone farm houses that have been in the same family for generations and generations. Tradition is the theme here! Entering Zubiri, you 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). (B)

Accommodation: Zubiri / Walking: 22 KMs

Day 3: Zubiri - Pamplona

This morning, you continue to Larrasoaña, a town with strong ties to the Camino as it was mentioned in the 12th 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. You work your way into Pamplona, where you come across the 15th 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! (B)

Accommodation: Pamplona / Walking: 21 KMs

Day 4: Pamplona – Puente la Reina



You leave Pamplona and make your way to Cizur Menor, where you can see the Church of San Miguel Arcángel. To get the blood going, the Camino gives you your first steady climb to the crest of the Alto de Perdón, where you can enjoy the views of the surrounding valleys. Following the scallop shells, you 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. (B)

Accommodation: Puente la Reina / Walking: 25 KMs

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Day 5: Puente la Reina - Estella

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

Accommodation: Estella / Walking: 22 KMs

Day 6: Estella – Los Arcos

Walking out of Estella, you 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 12th 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. (B)

Accommodation: Los Arcos / Walking: 22 KMs



Day 7: Los Arcos - Viana

Your walk today takes you through kilometers of vineyards. While in Torres del Río have a look at the Iglesia de Santo Sepulcro, attributed to the Knights Templar and known for its special acoustics, before continuing to Viana. Viana is an energetic town with a lot of Camino history, including the 13th century Church of Santa Maria, where Cesare Borgia is buried. Borgia was said to be the illegitimate child of Pope Alexander VI, and he was killed while defending Viana in 1507. (B)

Accommodation: Viana / Walking: 19 KMs

* Day 8: Viana - Logroño

Today, you 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 sampling some of the Rioja's fine wines in this buzzing university city! Also, make sure to visit the 14th century Cathedral of Santa Maria la Redonda, known for its twin towers (Las Gemelas). (B)

Accommodation: Logroño / Walking: 10 KMs

** Last walking day for Option A : Roncesvalles to Logroño*

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Day 9: Logroño - Navarrete

Walking out of Logroño, make sure to look back towards the city for a great view from Alto de la Grajera. Today, you end your walk in the historic town of Navarrete, with its 16th century Church of the Assumption. Keep an eye out for the family crests and shields on the houses and buildings that display the wealth of this town. Once there, sit back and have a glass of Rioja wine! (B)

Accommodation: Navarrete / Walking: 13 KMs

Day 10: Navarrete – Nájera

This morning you begin your day with a steady uphill to get the blood going! As you pass through vineyards you work your way downhill into Nájera, which was the Navarre capital in the 11th and 12th centuries. It houses the Monasterio Santa Maria de la Real, where many kings, queens and knights of Navarra are buried. (B)

Accommodation: Nájera / Walking: 17 KMs

Day 11: Nájera – Santo Domingo

Shortly after leaving Nájera, you have your first opportunity for a coffee break in Azofra. Afterwards, you work your way uphill to Santo Domingo de la Calzada, with its winding streets and many historic buildings. Here, you can learn of the mystery of Santo Domingo, who is said to have saved a young man from hanging after he was falsely accused of stealing a silver goblet. (B)

Accommodation: Santo Domingo / Walking: 22 KMs



Day 12: Santo Domingo - Villamayor

Entering into the breadbasket of Spain, Castilla y León, you will notice the change in terrain with its flat plateaus or *mesetas* and many wheat fields. You come to Castildelgado, home of the 12th century Church of San Pedro, and continue on to Vitoria de la Rioja, the birthplace of St. Dominic. You end the day in Villamayor del Rio and head to your hotel for some rest. (B)

Accommodation: Villamayor / Walking: 18 KMs

Day 13: Villamayor del Río – Montes de Oca

This morning you continue on and in Belorado you will see the 15th century Church of Santa Maria, built against limestone cliffs. Behind the church, you can still see some of the ancient cave dwellings where hermits once lived! Today you end the walk in Villafranca Montes de Oca, which makes reference to one of the many towns where French pilgrims settled. Its location at the foot of Montes de Oca is infamous for the bandits that roamed the area taking advantage of the pilgrims. These bandits would then pray at the Church of Santiago for protection from ! Ah, the ironies... (B)

Accommodation: Montes de Oca / Walking: 17 KMs

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Day 14: Montes de Oca - Atapuerca

After a good climb through the woods, you reach San Juan de Ortega. San Juan was a disciple of Santo Domingo and also dedicated his life to helping pilgrims. The Augustinian monastery, founded in 1150, houses a chapel dedicated to San Nicolás, who apparently saved San Juan from drowning during one of his pilgrimages. You finish the day in Atapuerca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its source of the earliest human remains discovered in Europe. (B)

Accommodation: Atapuerca / Walking: 19 KMs

Day 15: Atapuerca - Burgos

The arrows today bring you to Burgos, walking along a nice river pathway that keeps you off the main road that leads into the city. Here you can visit the 13th century *Cathedral of Santa Maria*, considered one of the most beautiful cathedrals in Spain, as well as one of the largest, and designated a World Heritage Site. Enjoy the medieval streets of this city, along with its rich architecture and history. (B)

Accommodation: Burgos / Walking: 20 KMs



Day 16: Tour Ends

After breakfast, your tour has come to an end. Safe travels! (B)

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



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WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Orientation Meeting: A Fresco Tour guide will hand deliver you an Orientation Packet and give you a detailed meeting on the first night in Roncesvalles. Your Welcome Packet is filled with all the materials you'll need to transform into a pilgrim: Your credentials (Pilgrim's Passport), a scallop shell, daily maps of the route, a guide book with historical information of the villages that you will pass through, and a few other goodies for the trail! We'll answer any questions that you have before starting your journey to Santiago and on the next morning, lead you out on The Way!

Accommodations: 15 nights in a combination of 3 & 4-star hotels, restored manor homes, and small pensions / inns located on the Camino. All rooms have their own bathrooms. We've chosen places for their hospitality, comfort, and location. *Keep in mind that as you will be walking through rural countryside, the availability of 3 & 4-star hotels all along the route is not possible.

Meals: All breakfasts are included with your hotels. We have arranged that they will be supplemented from the standard Spanish breakfast of coffee & toast. The first night of the itinerary, our guide will take you for dinner in Roncesvalles - wine and beer included. Afterwards, we will provide you with a list of places along the Camino with food recommendations. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions and we can ask our hotels to accommodate for those as well!

Limited Group Size: Although this tour is Self-Guided, we've limited the size of each departure 15 passengers. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis.

Luggage Transport: We will arrange for the transfer of 1 suitcase / piece of luggage (45 lbs) per person between your hotels on your walk along the Camino. If you require more than 1 bag, please contact us for details.

Pre / During / Post Service: We are here to help! Need assistance with hotels prior to or after your trip? Returning from Burgos? Questions about what to wear? Need a taxi while on the trail? Based in Spain, we are here to make sure that your trip runs smooth as can be – don't hesitate to ask for our help!

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