

# Camino Portugués Coastal Tour

- an adventure from our backyard -

**11 days & 10 nights: The Coastal Route to Santiago**



Discover the trail that takes you to Santiago de Compostela along the Atlantic Coast. Starting in Portugal, pilgrims follow the Camino northwards, with the lush Portuguese and Spanish countryside to their right, fabulous views of the Atlantic to their left, and a refreshing sea-breeze as their daily companion.

\*We are happy to provide assistance in arranging your transportation to Portugal.

## Day 1: Viana do Castelo

In the afternoon, your Fresco Tours guides meet and greet you at Viana do Castelo, on the Portuguese coast where we will have our orientation meeting. Before dinner we will visit this charming coastal town with a local guide.

**Accommodations: Viana do Castelo (D)**

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner



## Day 2: Viana do Castelo to Vila Praia de Ancora

Our walk takes us along the spectacular Camino Portugués coastal trail until we reach the beach town of Vila Praia de Âncora. We will be rewarded with views of the Atlantic to our left and a handful of delightful coastal villages as we make our way north.

**Accommodations: Viana do Castelo (B,L,D) /**

**Walking: 18.3 km / 11 mi**



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## Day 3: Vila Praia de Ancora to A Guarda

The coastal path stretches from Ancora to the lovely town of Caminha. There, we hop on a small ferry to cross the River Minho. This short trip whisks you to A Guarda, a peaceful fishing village on the Spanish side. Once in A Guarda, we'll visit the remains of the Santa Tegra Celtic settlement at the top of the Santa Tegra Hill. The panoramic views from the top are incredible!

Accommodations: A Guarda (B,L,D) / Walking 13.5 km / 8.3 mi



## Day 4: A Guarda to Oia

Today is our first walking day in Spain. After leaving town, we'll make our way to Oia. The Camino continues to follow the Atlantic coast, offering more magnificent views of the ocean. In Oia we will visit the Monastery of Santa María before shuttling to our hotel in Vigo. The city is the largest urban area in Galicia. It is also the official kilometre 100 from Santiago as well as a fascinating port city with an important historic and artistic heritage.

Accommodations: Vigo (B,L,D) / Walking: : 12.8 km / 8 mi

## Day 5: Vigo to Cesantes

After a restful night in Vigo, we will get a stamp at the Church of Santiago and head inland along the Vigo Estuary. If you look carefully, you'll see dozens of mussel farms that dot the estuary. Vigo is one of the main producers of mussels in Spain and, as you can imagine, they are a local delicacy. Towards the end of the stage we will reach Redondela, where the coastal route joins the interior route as they make their way to Santiago.

Accommodations: Vigo (B,L) / Walking: 19.5 km / 12 mi



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## Day 6: Cesantes to Pontevedra

Our scenic route winds beside the majestic stone arches of Ponte Sampaio bridge. Steeped in history, this landmark stands as a silent testament to a pivotal battle fought against Napoleonic forces in 1809. Upon returning to Pontevedra for the evening, a must-see is La Peregrina, an 18th-century chapel unlike any other. Its unique floor, designed in the shape of a scallop shell, serves as a constant reminder of the Camino pilgrimage.

Accommodations: Pontevedra (B,L,D) / Walking: 16.5 km / 10 mi

## Day 7: Pontevedra to Parque Natural Ria Barosa

Bidding farewell to Pontevedra, we'll soon find ourselves embraced by nature once more. Our tranquil path winds through verdant woods, eventually leading us to the imposing granite Cross of Amonisa. Here, etched in stone, stands the figure of Saint James, gazing towards our onward journey. Finally, we arrive in Caldas de Reis, a town renowned for its natural thermal springs. For millennia, weary travelers have sought solace by soaking their tired feet in these healing waters.

Accommodations: Pontevedra (B,L,D) / Walking: 16 km or 9 mi



## Day 8: Parque Natural Ría Barosa to San Miguel de Valga

Today's Camino walk takes us through a hidden gem of Galicia: the verdant vineyards that produce the region's most celebrated white wine, Albariño. While a charming legend suggests German pilgrims brought Albariño grapes, the true origins remain shrouded in mystery. Regardless of its beginnings, the captivating flavor of Albariño has captivated hearts and palates for centuries.

Accommodations: Padrón (B,L,D) / Walking: 18 km or 11 mi

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## Day 9: San Miguel de Valga to Rúa de Francos

Padrón, whose name might hint at its history ("pedrón" means "big stone" in Galician), is famed for the legendary rock where the boat carrying Saint James' body is said to have landed after his trip from Jerusalem. This town is also a culinary delight, renowned for its tiny green peppers, some with a surprising kick and others refreshingly mild.

Accommodations: Padrón (B,L,D) / Walking: 18 km / 11 mi



## Day 10: Rúa de Francos to Santiago de Compostela

After 9 days and 145 kilometers, we are in Santiago de Compostela! Congrats everyone! This city is magic – stunning monuments, international pilgrims sharing stories, and university students keeping the streets alive. First things first, let's grab our Compostela certificates at the Pilgrims' Office. Then, it's on to the hotel to freshen up before our celebratory dinner tonight!

Accommodations: Santiago (B,L,D) / Walking: 13 km / 8 mi



## Day 11: Santiago de Compostela

Fuel up with a delicious breakfast buffet, then buckle up for a fascinating tour with our local historian! They'll give you the inside scoop on the incredible cathedral, from its humble 9th-century beginnings to its present-day grandeur. After the tour, it's with a bittersweet goodbye that we say our last "Buen Camino" and leave you at the cathedral just in time for the noon Pilgrims' Mass. We hope you have a truly special experience!

Tour ends: (B)



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## The Compostela & the Camino de Santiago Tour

This itinerary gives you the opportunity to walk the last 100 km into Santiago. This is a requirement needed to request the Compostela, the certificate granted by the church of Santiago upon the completion of the pilgrimage. It is not mandatory, however, to walk 100 km (60 miles) to participate in this Fresco Tour.

As with all our trips, your walk is accompanied by a support van and shorter walk options are available on a daily basis.

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



Scan or click the QR code to Book.



## What to expect?

Expect to have a wonderful time! We've designed each trip to enjoy the stunning beauty of the Portuguese and Spanish landscapes, while giving you a true sense of the soul and magic of these exciting people and their cultures. We love to share these magnificent countries and want you to feel a part of them.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

### 2 Guides:

Our greatest resource! We know Portugal and Spain, because they are 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. Except for one dinner, all breakfast, lunches and dinners are include. We are proud to cater to vegetarians and those with food allergies – milk, egg, wheat, etc... as well!



### Accommodation:

Fresco Tours selects a combination of 3-4 star hotels, restored country manors and B&B's that offer the best in hospitality, comfort and location.

All rooms have their own bathrooms.

Tour prices are based on double occupancy.



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## WHAT'S INCLUDED?



### **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 16 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 and look out for your safety. 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 the town of Viana do Castelo, Portugal, and the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is provided on your Fresco Tour.

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## 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.



Click on the map for a full description of each stage.

