



The Camino Portuguese

Savoring Spirit-led Steps from Vigo to Santiago de Compostela

Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development – Lynn Miller

May 27 - June 5, 2025

Overview

People of faith and seekers have traveled on pilgrimage across the centuries. Becoming a pilgrim pushes us outside our usual routines and comfort zones, inviting us to experience the world, others, ourselves, and God in new ways. Through crossing thresholds, meeting challenges, practicing flexibility, welcoming what is new and different, and reflecting on the journey, pilgrimage has the power to effect lasting change in our lives.

People have been walking to Santiago de Compostela, the traditional burial place of St. James the Greater, one of Jesus' twelve apostles, since the 9th century. Over the past 50 years, the popularity of the Camino has increased as more people become aware of this ancient route, seeking both reflection and exercise.

Goals

Welcome Silence

One of the many gifts of the Camino is time spent in silence. Silence affords us time to listen to/for God, and ourselves and, perhaps, begin to address what is calling for our attention.



Create Community

Our pilgrimage allows us to get to know one another as we walk, and the Camino also has a way of forming community. We will see the same people along the way and in cafes and accommodations. There will be a wonderfully diverse group of people from all over the world with whom we can converse and share stories – the Camino is an incredible blessing to connect with people from places, cultures, languages, and experiences different from ours.

Engage in Reflection

We will have time for reflection in silence, as well as in journaling. In conversation with others, their journeys and experiences may offer us wisdom. Your pilgrimage leader is the director of Oasis, a pastor, and a certified spiritual director who will also be available for conversation one-on-one as well as through group reflection at the end of the day. There will be opportunities for communal and individual prayer and worship.

Embrace Simplicity

Traveling on pilgrimage teaches us to pack lightly making space for encountering the God who provides. Carrying only what we need in our daypacks is a physical reminder of the baggage we all carry, and invites us, tangibly, to release what does not serve us. Embracing simplicity, we learn to practice gratitude and generosity.

Preparatory Gatherings

A pilgrimage begins long before we leave home. It begins with the first nudge or call we feel to take this journey. Before we travel and begin walking, we will meet twice via Zoom to discuss the spiritual and logistical portions of the Camino (these dates/times will be forthcoming).

Airport Transfer Information

Arrival, Tuesday, May 27

We will transfer from Porto Airport (OPO) to Vigo once the latest flight arrives. Please plan to arrive no later than 3:30 so we can begin the 2-hour journey to Vigo.

Departure, Thursday, June 5

We will depart from our Santiago hotel to the Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ) arriving at least 2 hours before the earliest flight.

Accommodations *(depending upon availability)*

May 27, Tuesday Night – Vigo	Hotel Junquera Vigo
May 28, Wednesday Night – Redondela	Rua do Medio
May 29, Thursday Night – Arcade	Hotel Duarte Arcade
May 30, Friday Night – Pontevedra	Hotel Avenida Pontevedra
May 31, Saturday Night – Caldas de Reis	Hotel O Cruceiro Caldas de Reis
June 1, Sunday Night – Padron	Hotel Rosalia Padron
June 2, Monday Night – Teo	Parada de Francos Teo
June 3, Tuesday Night – Santiago de Compostela	Hospederia San Martin Pinario Santiago
June 4, Wednesday Night – Santiago de Compostela	

Rooming List *(tbd)*

Passport Rule for Portugal/Spain

While it appears you can travel to Portugal and Spain with a valid Passport for just 3 months after arrival, please plan to follow the 6-month rule. Please renew your passport ASAP if it is not valid through November 2025.

Cost \$2,500 per person (standard double occupancy room)

Payment Schedule

Until February 15th - nonrefundable deposit of \$500

March 1st - First Installment due of \$1000

After February 15th - nonrefundable deposit of \$500 plus first installment, \$1,000

March 15th - Second installment due, \$1,000

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation policies apply when cancellation occurs for any reason. There is no refund for any unused services or portion of the trip. Purchasing travel insurance is highly encouraged.

Cancellations must be received in writing (email, letter).

Cancellations before February 15th - full refund less nonrefundable deposit

Cancellations between February 15th and March 15th - 50% refund of payments less nonrefundable deposit

Cancellations after March 15th - no refund

Itinerary

Please note the following itinerary is subject to change. When traveling, flexibility and a sense of humor are key! Accommodations are in simple, comfortable guesthouses and small hotels.

Breakfast is included at our accommodation each day, lunches will be on our own, and included dinners are indicated below.

For maps, [John Brierley's Camino guide books](#) are top notch. If using your phone, you may wish to download the following apps:

Wise Pilgrim Camino Portuguese 

Camino Ninja 

Buen Camino 

Typical Daily Walking Schedule

- 6:30/7 am Wake, Prepare Daypacks and Luggage for Transfer
- 7- 8:30 am Breakfast (Breakfast will be available at different times at each accommodation)
We'll gather during the meal for devotions
Luggage left out for pick up
Depart Accommodation Time may vary

We will walk with stops at cafes and churches along the way - this is not a race!

We'll collect at least 2 stamps on our credential each day to receive our Compostela.

You are encouraged to walk silently throughout the day as you feel led. You may feel called to talk to others in the group or pilgrims you meet along the way. Holding space for the practice of silence and conversation/community is part of discerning what is needed from moment to moment.

- 4:30 pm Arrive at Accommodation, Check In, Shower, Laundry, Rest, Journaling
- 5:30 pm Group Gathering, Logistics for the Next Day
- 7:00 pm Free Time and Dinner (typically, dinners begin anywhere from 7:00-9:00 pm)
- 10:00 pm Good night – Rest well

Arrive in Portugal and transfer from Porto to Vigo Tuesday, May 27

We will all transfer together from Porto Airport to Vigo. After settling in, we'll share a meal and a shell ceremony to receive you pilgrim's scallop shell.

Vigo to Redondela Wednesday, May 28 15km/9 miles

After breakfast, we'll begin walking the well-marked route that opens to a beautiful view west over the mystical 'Heavenly Isles' Cies and along 6 km of tranquil woodland paths all the way to the outskirts of Redondela. (B)

Redondela to Arcade Thursday, May 29 8km/5 miles

This is a refreshing coastal stage with a climb up through mixed forest then a dip down to the sea at Arcade which offers safe swimming and beach showers. For lunch, we could try the famous oysters in the fishing village of Arcade. (B, D)

Arcade to Pontevedra**Friday, May 30****12km/7.5 miles**

Today, we cross the Verdugo River over Ponte Sampaio. On this bridge, Napoleon's army suffered one of its greatest defeats in Galicia. From Ponte Sampaio, the Camino continues along a cobbled road taking pilgrims to the 13th century Church of Santa María, where we can enjoy magnificent views over the Bay of Vigo while walking towards Pontevedra (B)

Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis**Saturday, May 31****22km/13.6 miles**

One-third of this stage is on natural pathways offering shade and gentle river valleys which we share with the rail line. The Camino takes us through chestnut groves and pine and eucalyptus woods. In the village of Ponte Cabras, we'll admire the rectory of Santa María de Alba, and at Lombo da Maceira we'll spot a statue of Saint James with his walking stick, showing pilgrims the way. We will pass the hamlet of Tivo with its lovely fountain, and we'll be staying in the spa town of Caldas de Reis for the night. Cafes and drinking fonts are easily found along the way. (B, D)

Caldas de Reis to Padron**Sunday, June 1****18km/11 miles**

From the spa town of Caldas de Reis, the Camino Portuguese takes us across the river Umia and the hot springs that have given the town its name since Roman times. The Camino then takes us once again to forests, gradually climbing to the village of Santa Mariña. After a descent we cross the river Fontenlo before making our way through pine forests to today's final destination: the town of Padrón, believed to be the arrival point of Saint James' body when it was brought to Santiago de Compostela by ship. (B, D)

Padron to Teo**Monday, June 2****12km/7.5 miles**

A very lovely day of walking that gives time to explore various Marian shrines and sites attributed to Spanish authors Rosalia de Castro and Camilo Jose Cela who was awarded the 1989 Nobel Prize for Literature. (B, D)

Teo to Santiago de Compostela**Tuesday, June 3****13km/8 miles**

Our pilgrimage continues through the green of Galicia eventually leading us onto stretches of main road that get increasingly busy as we enter the city and make our way to the Cathedral. From there we make our way to the Pilgrim Office to receive our *Compostela* which is granted for having walked 100km and collected 2 stamps per day on our *credencial*. The Compostela may entitle us to certain privileges such as reduced entry fees to museums. If for some reason we do not fulfill the criteria, we may still be able to obtain a *certificado*- a certificate of the distance traveled. (B)

Santiago de Compostela**Wednesday, June 4**

We enjoy the day at our leisure in Santiago de Compostela, where we can attend the Pilgrims' Mass at the Cathedral at noon, hopefully seeing the famous [Botafumeiro](#) swinging. Another option is to visit the Pilgrim's Museum or book a bus trip to Finisterre ("The End of the World") and/or Muxia.

Santiago de Compostela is a gem of a city: small enough to be explored and discovered on foot but always vibrant and lively. We can wander the cobbled streets of its UNESCO-listed old town, go for a stroll in the Alameda Park and discover regional flavors in the local market (Mercado de Abastos) and the many restaurants and bars. Dinner is on our own this evening. (B)

Depart Spain

Thursday, June 5

Buen Camino as you travel back home!

Not Included

Airfare: Please book your flights into Porto (OPO) and out of Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ). Please arrive on Tuesday, May 27 by 3:30 pm and schedule your return flight on Thursday, June 5 after 7:00 am.

Lunches and Drinks: Lunches will be on our own, but cafes, restaurants, bars, and grocery stores offer plenty of options as we walk. Water, juice, tea, and coffee are included with breakfasts and dinners; alcoholic beverages are not included.

Travel Insurance: It is highly recommended that you purchase individual travel insurance.

Gratuities: While tipping is welcome for meals, taxis, guides, and accommodation, it is not required.

Credencial: Available from American Pilgrims on the Camino
<https://americanpilgrims.org/request-a-credential/>

Activity Level

People registering for the pilgrimage must accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to travel and walk 8-13 miles per day (with breaks every few miles or so). Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, those needing wheelchairs, oxygen, or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences.

While luggage transfers are included, it is good to carry a daypack with the essentials you may need. Plan for carrying no more than 10% of your body weight.

U.S. Embassy Information

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