

CAMINO DEL NORTE (SPAIN)

ITINERARY: FULL LENGTH (43 DAYS)

Day 1

ARRIVE IN SAN SEBASTIAN

Make your own way to the coastal city of San Sebastian – one of Spain's top tourist destinations. San Sebastian is famous for its stunning beaches and culinary scene and has more Michelin stars per square metre than any other city in the world, and its open air sculptures make the entire city feel like a work of art. After checking in your day is free to relax or explore the delights of this vibrant destination. A visit to the vibrant cobblestoned old town and Plaza de la Constitución is not to be missed, as are its two most famous beaches Playa de la Concha and Playa de Ondarreta and its picturesque bayfront promenade.

Overnight: San Sebastian

Day 2

SAN SEBASTIAN TO ZARAUTZ (20KM) / GETARIA (25KM)

Follow the winding shoreline as you leave San Sebastian before the trail passes through green landscapes and rolling hills, offering nice glimpses over pretty valleys and meadows. You will pass the ancient Roman Church of San Martín de Tours with its weathered exterior. The pilgrimage continues past pretty coastal villages to finish in either Zarautz, famous for its whaling history and its long sandy beach, or the fishing village of Getaria. You may like to try the local Txakolí wine this evening.

Overnight: Zarautz or Getaria

Meals: B

Day 3

GETARIA TO DEBA (18KM) / ZARAUTZ TO DEBA (23KM)

Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the Basque Country on your way to Deba as the path winds its way through rolling hills, occasionally dipping back towards the coastline to reveal gorgeous sea views over the Bay of Biscay. Enjoy the unique charms and friendly locals in the villages you pass along the way. We recommend stopping to



visit the Basque Coast Geopark famous for its geological flysch deposits, before your journey ends at Deba, a pleasant coastal town embraced by rugged cliffs. You may like to visit the gothic Iglesia de Santa Maria, which is recognised as one of the finest churches in this region.

Overnight: Deba

Meals: B

Day 4

DEBA TO MARKINA-XEMEIN (24KM)

The section from Deba to Markina leads pilgrims along the coastline before moving inland where there are some steep ascents to tackle. The tranquil route through the countryside offers coastal views and forested hills. Depending on what time of year you walk, enjoy vibrant wildflowers, lush vegetation and green rolling hills. There are numerous ancient stone bridges to cross where you can picnic and dip tired feet into cooling water before arriving into Markina-Xemein. The town boasts a rich historical heritage, with its medieval buildings and picturesque streets, and is also renowned for being the birthplace of numerous famous pelota champions.

Overnight: Markina-Xemein

Meals: B

Day 5

MARKINA-XEMEIN TO GERNIKA (25KM)

Today the trail winds through rolling hills leading you through tiny Basque villages, each with their own unique charm. You will pass the medieval monastery at Zenarruza which holds a significant place in the region's history. The monastery dates back to the 13th century and served as an important spiritual centre for pilgrims. Today's section culminates at the historic town of Gernika (Basque spelling) immortalised by Picasso's iconic painting, "Guernica," which holds deep significance as a symbol of peace and resilience. The moving Museo de la Paz de Guernica is worth a visit for those interested in discovering more of the troubled history of the town during the Civil War period and its dedication to peace.

Overnight: Gernika

Meals: B

Day 6

GERNIKA TO LEZAMA (21KM)

Leaving Gernika, the path ascends and descends through the gorgeous green landscape of the Biscay countryside. Enjoy the beauty of rolling hills, charming hamlets and small villages. Along the way the trail passes through pretty woodland forests of oak which provide the perfect spot for a picnic or rest. Marvel at the beauty and engineering



ingenuity of the medieval bridges near Lezama where you should take the opportunity to explore the village, with its traditional houses, towers and winding streets.

Overnight: Lezama

Meals: B

Day 7

LEZAMA TO BILBAO (14KM)

The path from Lezama to Bilbao takes in several notable sites including the Romanesque Church of San Martin which stands testament to the region's rich history and architectural heritage. The largely paved path today also passes the Tower of Malpica, an imposing medieval tower that once served as a defensive structure. As you approach Bilbao, the Basilica of Our Lady of Begoña stands proudly on a hilltop welcoming pilgrims to the city. The magnificent basilica is a pilgrimage site dedicated to the Virgin Mary and offers breathtaking views. Entering the city you can enjoy the old-world blend of bustling markets and modern city life.

Overnight: Bilbao

Meals: B

Day 8

BILBAO AT LEISURE

Enjoy a full day in Bilbao. Make sure you take time to visit this city's most iconic attractions such as the Guggenheim Museum and the Fine Arts Museum, explore the riverside locales and the bustling Ribera Market, stroll the streets of the Plaza Nuevo and the fascinating old quarter known as Casco Viejo, and perhaps enjoy a boat trip along the river or funicular ride if time permits. Bilbao is also renowned for its cuisine and there are numerous fine restaurants and pintxo bars where you can sample the local delicacies. Slightly further afield you could make a side trip to visit spectacular San Juan de Gaztelugatxe – a tiny island with its stone bridge and steep staircase, made famous as the location of 'Dragonstone Castle' in the Game of Thrones. There is plenty to see and do in and around Bilbao – talk to us if you would like to extend your stay!

Overnight: St-Chely-d'Aubrac

Meals: B

Day 9

BILBAO TO PORTUGALETE (14KM)

Today's walk is largely through the urban landscape of Bilbao and across the Nervión River, with opportunities to enjoy the city and river views. There are various route options and paths you can take out of Bilbao. The UNESCO World Heritage Puente Colgante (Vizcaya Bridge) in Portugalete is remarkable and offers great views of the river below. If you have time and energy, enjoy a stroll along Portugalete's waterfront



promenade or ride the Puente Colgante, a unique experience that takes you across the river in a gondola suspended from the bridge.

NOTE: It is also possible to take a metro from Bilbao to Portugalete, for those who prefer to spend more time exploring Bilbao and wish to avoid walking through built up areas.

Overnight: Portugalete

Meals: B

Day 10

PORTUGALETE TO CASTRO URDIALES (29KM)

Today the trail follows the coastline passing some nice beaches with good views of the Bay of Biscay. The village of Ontón features the medieval church of Santa María de la Asunción Church with its impressive stone facade. The route to Pobena is relatively easy and you can break your journey at Playa de La Arena or Pobena with a coffee at one of the many cafes in the popular seaside town. Leaving Pobena behind the track mostly follows the coastline where there are most frequent ascents that will reward you with some fine coastal views. Continuing on to Onton the route then splits into two variants – the more scenic coastal route or the official inland route to Castro Urdiales. Castro Urdiales is surrounded by a spectacular landscape of steep cliffs and beautiful beaches. Take in the beautiful Santa María de la Asunción Church and striking Castillo de Santa Ana castle located right on the waterfront.

Overnight: Castro Urdiales

Meals: B

Day 11

CASTRO URDIALES TO LAREDO (30KM)

Experience a mix of gorgeous coastal scenery and historical landmarks including the Chapel of Santa Isabel and Church of La Magdalena en route to Liendo. The first part of today's walk follows the coast to Islares where you have a choice of routes. The high route option involves steep ascents and descents and is more challenging but offers stunning views of the Cantabrian mountains and surrounding countryside. The coastal route is relatively flat with gentle terrain and minimal elevation changes allowing you to take in the beautiful seascape and enjoy the seaside villages.

Overnight: Laredo

Meals: B

Day 12

LAREDO TO NOJA (14 KM)

Departing Laredo, take the ferry to Santona to begin the relatively easy stage of the walk to Noja. Santona is a historic fishing town renowned for its delicious seafood so stop for a bite to eat if you have the opportunity. From here the main route runs close to the



shoreline for most of the way to Noja; if the weather is good it's a great opportunity to take a swim in the Cantabrian Sea at either Playa de Berria or Playa de las Helgueras. There is also a protected wetland nature reserve that is home to a variety of flora and fauna including various migratory birds such as European Bee-eater and Eurasian Golden Oriole which migrates from Africa.

NOTE: It is also possible to take an alternative route from Laredo to Noja via Gama which is mostly inland and avoids the ferry crossing.

Overnight: Noja

Meals: B

Day 13

NOJA TO SANTANDER (30KM)

Today's walk is long but enjoyable with plenty of gorgeous scenery to enjoy as you pass through the pretty inland towns of San Miguel de Meruelo and Bareyo. Take a rest break in Guemes before following the path to the coast and the last stage of the walk to Somo. Board a traditional Pedrenera ferry boat here for a unique arrival into Santander, with the incredible Gothic Catedral de Santander crafted between the 12th and 14th centuries, towering above.

Overnight: Santander

Meals: B

Day 14

SANTANDER AT LEISURE

Make the most of your free day in Santander by immersing yourself in this sophisticated city's historical and culinary delights. The Palacio de la Magdalena is worth exploring, as is the gothic Catedral de Santander and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAS). Located on the Cantabrian Sea, there are numerous beautiful beaches to enjoy in and around the city. The Bay of Santander is often described as one of the most beautiful bays in the world, and if weather permits a boat trip is an ideal way to explore the bay and its surrounds – durations range from 1 hour up to full day experiences. Foodies can indulge in sublime gastronomic experiences including Rabas, deep-fried squid rings, Marmita, a traditional fish stew or the exceptional anchovies that Santander is famous for.

Overnight: Santander

Meals: B

Day 15

SANTANDER TO PUENTE ARCE (20KM)

A day of walking awaits as the Camino del Norte leaves Santander and its suburbs behind and heads inland. Once outside Santander's city you will walk through suburbs



such as Penacastillo and continue inland, often on paved paths, through the townships of Santa Cruz de Bezana and Mompia. Notice the change in the surrounding landscape as you near Boo de Pielagos and the Pas River. Take the time to rest and rejuvenate overnight in the small village of Puente Arce, nestled in the serene Cantabrian countryside – if you arrive early enough you may like to arrange a visit to the local award winning Siderit distillery.

NOTE: It is possible to travel by public transport or taxi from Santander for part or all of today's route, for those wishing to save time or to avoid walking through built up areas.

Overnight: Puente Arce

Meals: B

Day 16

PUENTE ARCE TO SANTILLANA DEL MAR (26KM)

Today's walk brings you to the atmospheric village of Santillana del Mar, one of the most captivating and picturesque villages on the Camino del Norte. Its medieval origins are evident in the well-preserved architecture that greets visitors. Pilgrims can explore the town's Colegiata de Santa Juliana with its Romanesque cloisters. Revered by French philosopher and writer Jean-Paul Sartre as Spain's most beautiful village, Santillana del Mar is also close to the renowned Altamira Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its prehistoric cave paintings.

NOTE: If you have extra time, we highly recommend an additional rest day in Santillana del Mar to fully enjoy the village's charm, explore its cobbled streets, and perhaps visit Altamira in more depth.

Overnight: Santillana del Mar

Meals: B

Day 17

SANTILLANA DEL MAR TO COMILLAS (23KM)

Leaving Santillana behind, the route continues inland through Cantabria's green rolling countryside dotted with farms, fields, forests and church towers. A highlight along the way is the colourful village of Cobreces, known for its picturesque setting. The notable Cistercian monastery, with its beautiful architecture and serene ambiance, is a testament to the area's rich history and spiritual significance. After passing through Concha the trail arrives back to the coast near your destination for the day – Comillas. Comillas is known for its beautiful beach and for its unique architecture, including fine examples of art nouveau buildings. Don't miss the opportunity to visit 'El Capricho,' a unique architectural gem designed by Antoni Gaudí, and commonly referred to as 'Capricho de Gaudí' or 'Gaudí's Caprice.' This whimsical building showcases Gaudí's distinctive style and creative genius.



Overnight: Comillas

Meals: B

Day 18

COMILLAS TO UNQUERA (27 KM) / COLOMBRES (29KM)

Although lengthy, today's walk is one of our favourites as it continues through the Cantabrian countryside. Leaving Comillas the route passes through the Oyambre Natural Park, which includes the San Vicente and Rabia estuaries. The park is a haven for biodiversity, hosting a rich variety of plant and animal species and a mosaic of habitats, including dunes, salt marshes, cliffs, beaches, meadows, and forests. Keep an eye out for the vibrant wildflowers, native grasses, and the lush vegetation that thrives in this coastal environment. There is also a wide range of migratory birds during spring and summer including Curlew, Osprey, European Goldfinch and the European Robin.

Overnight: Unquera or Colombres

Meals: B

Day 19

UNQUERA TO LLANES (27 KM) / COLOMBRES TO LLANES (25KM)

Leave Cantabria behind as you cross the Deva River into Asturias, a region steeped in rich historical significance. Asturias, a former nation and kingdom predating the modern state of Spain by 700 years and has its own distinct cultural identity. After passing through La Franca the walk today largely follows the wild and untamed coastline. There are plenty of opportunities to take in its breathtaking beauty as you hike the rugged coastal paths with the Picos de Europa alongside you.

Your destination is the fabulous port town of Llanes, one of Asturias' most popular coastal destinations. The town has a long and fascinating history and, as well as its coastline and fine beaches, it is today renowned for its wealth of historic heritage sites, arts and crafts, and its fine gastronomy. This lively town boasts an enviable location with stunning beaches, cliffs and bays to one side and the Picos de Europa providing a backdrop.

Overnight: Llanes

Meals: B

Day 20

LLANES AT LEISURE

Today enjoy a free day to immerse yourself in the delights of Llanes. There is plenty to discover including the remnants of the mediaeval city walls and circular tower, and numerous historic buildings including palaces, mansions and churches. Take some time to visit the marina and wander through the charming historic centre with its narrow streets, traditional houses, and vibrant atmosphere. Enjoy the beauty of its stunning beaches and breathtaking scenery – there are plenty of fine beaches to discover. Cuevas



del Mar beach is a favourite and the San Pedro cliff top walk above the Playa del Sablon is recommended for its spectacular views. Don't miss the opportunity to indulge in the mouth-watering array of local culinary experiences and savour the atmosphere of traditional Sidrerias (cider houses).

Overnight: Llanes

Meals: B

Day 21

LLANES TO RIBADESELLA (30KM)

The mainly flat Camino trail today mostly follows Asturias' beautiful Costa Verde, passing more sandy playas with occasional diversions inland through green forests and pretty countryside. Along the way, you will encounter scattered monasteries and charming villages such as Naves and Nueva where you may like to take the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate in one of the bars or cafes. Tiny Cuerres has traditionally been a rest stop for pilgrims, with its pilgrim's fountain said to date from the 15th century. Finally you will arrive in Ribadesella, a coastal town located at the mouth of the Sella River, renowned for its rich history and picturesque sandy beaches. The little Ermita de la Virgen de Guia with its spectacular clifftop location is a most impressive site and gives the best views of the city. Take the opportunity to explore the town's historic centre, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the promenade, and indulge in delicious cuisine – local specialities include a wide range of seafood and cheeses. You may like to visit the famous Palaeolithic cave art in the World Heritage listed Tito Bustillo cave and the nearby Tito Bustillo Cave Art Centre, although we suggest you contact them well in advance to check opening times and to book, in order to avoid disappointment.

Overnight: Ribadesella

Meals: B

Day 22

RIBADESELLA TO COLUNGA (21KM)

The Camino briefly heads inland before returning to the coast, treating you to more fine ocean views, and past beaches and awe-inspiring cliffs. As you walk, you'll have the opportunity to discover the renowned 'Colunga coastline', which is famously referred to as the Coast of Dinosaurs due to its significant discoveries of fossilised remains and ancient footprints. The surrounding scenery serves as a testament to the region's rich geological history. The route heads inland from La Isla for the last 4 kms towards Colunga, your overnight destination. The town of Colunga is in an area known as 'the heart of Asturias', and provides a range of amenities and services to cater to weary pilgrims. You could take a visit to the popular Jurassic Museum of Asturias (MUJA), located a short distance out of town.

Overnight: Colunga

Meals: B



Day 23

COLUNGA TO VILLAVICIOSA (17KM)

The day's walk is pleasant and peaceful, featuring a few inclines and declines with the surrounding scenery offering a captivating blend of rural and mountain landscapes. The official Camino del Norte route is entirely inland on small paths and tracks with a few villages and limited facilities along the way, although you could choose to take a detour to Lastres, a charming fishing village nestled on a hillside overlooking the sea.

Villaviciosa, or 'town of vices', where you will stay overnight is today a relaxed market town and is renowned for its apple crops and as a centre of cider production. The town is brimming with history dating back to Roman times with a captivating old town, characterised by its narrow streets, historic buildings, and a picturesque main square.

Note: Hikers on the Camino del Norte can choose to transition to the Camino Primitivo after Villaviciosa, heading inland towards Oviedo, where the Primitivo officially begins.

Overnight: Villaviciosa

Meals: B

Day 24

VILLAVICIOSA TO GIJÓN (30KM)

Depart from Villaviciosa along a relatively flat route for the first 4 kms to the village of Casquita, where the path splits and pilgrims who are walking the Camino Primitivo will turn towards Oviedo to continue their journey. Continuing on, the peaceful Camino del Norte route presents a physical yet rewarding challenge as you ascend 400m to the summit of Alto de la Cruz. The rugged beauty of the mountains, set against the backdrop of the Camino, creates an awe-inspiring memory. Descending almost as steeply as you ascended, enjoy some fine views as you continue hiking through the countryside and past the small settlements of Peon and Deva towards the coast and the port city of Gijon (Xixón), the largest city on the Costa Verde and in Asturias province. With approximately 3,000 years of fascinating history and an industrial past, Gijon today is a prosperous modern city on the Cantabrian Sea, known for its maritime pursuits, historical remnants, cheerful atmosphere, and its fine shopping and excellent cuisine.

Overnight: Gijon

Meals: B

Day 25

GIJÓN AT LEISURE

Today you have a full day at leisure to explore Gijon. Discover the charming old fisherman's quarter known as Cimavilla. Stroll through its narrow streets, immerse yourself in the historic atmosphere, and marvel at the traditional architecture. Visit San Lorenzo Beach and explore the Plaza Mayor and the Campo Valdes area, with its historic palace and Roman Baths. If time allows, stop at one of Gijon's interesting



museums or galleries before sampling some local dishes, such as fabada Asturiana, a hearty bean stew. Don't miss the opportunity to try the region's famous cider and fresh seafood or satisfy your sweet tooth with traditional Asturian desserts like rice pudding (Arroz con Leche). Another delicious treat is the Pantortilla, a traditional Asturian dessert made with eggs, sugar, and lemon zest. For travellers with energy to explore further afield, it may be possible to make an optional day trip to the spectacular Covadonga Lakes, part of the wild Picos de Europa National Park area.

Overnight: Gijon

Meals: B

Day 26

GIJÓN TO AVILÉS (25KM)

Today, you will experience a mix of urban and industrial landscapes before the trail gradually transitions from highways and roads to scenic pathways. You will walk on a combination of footpaths, roads, and hard compacted dirt, so be mindful of your feet on the harder surfaces. Hikers may choose to take a local bus to Camino Rebesou or local taxi to Monte Areo Park, to avoid walking through the city's urban sprawl.

Avilés is renowned for its shipbuilding past, historical heritage and well-preserved old town. Don't miss the opportunity to visit two noteworthy attractions: the Oscar Niemeyer International Cultural Centre, an architectural masterpiece designed by the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, and the Iglesia de Santo Tomás de Cantorbery (Church of Saint Thomas of Canterbury), an important religious site in Avilés. This church is a splendid example of Gothic architecture dating back to the 13th century.

Overnight: Avilés

Meals: B

Day 27

AVILÉS TO EL PITO/CUDILLERO (28KM)

Enjoy a lovely day of mostly inland walking, with just a short section near the coast as you pass Salinas. Passing the village of San Cristobel the trail continues through some sections of woodlands and tree lined paths before crossing the medieval bridge into El Castillo de San Martin. Continuing further along, San Esteban de Pravia is situated by the Nalón River and provides a nice place for a picnic. In El Pito visit San Salvador Chapel, the "Cathedral of Asturias" which features intricate stonework and a beautiful rose window. Another landmark worth visiting is El Pito is the Palacio de Selgas, a grand neoclassical palace surrounded by lush gardens. If you are not too tired, treat yourself to dinner in the coastal town of Cudillero, located nearby, showcasing fresh seafood as well as other regional specialties like Cachopo (breaded and stuffed veal) and Asturian cheeses.



Overnight: El Pito or Cudillero

Meals: B

Day 28

EL PITO/CUDILLERO TO CADAVÉU (31 KM)

After a few days of largely inland walking, you can also appreciate some views of the coastline as you hike the hilly terrain towards Cadavéu. The beautiful Concha de Artedo beach offers an opportunity to relax and soak your tired feet. Take time to enjoy the spectacular coastal landscapes nearby Castanares, including the rugged Playa del Silencio. Your destination is Cadavéu, known for its well-preserved architecture and historical significance as a medieval whaling port – one of the oldest villages in Asturias and previously acclaimed as the most beautiful village in the province.

Overnight: Cadavéu

Meals: B

Day 29

CADAVÉU TO LUARCA (15KM)

Before starting your hike, don't miss the opportunity to take a dip at Playa de Cadavéu. Enjoy a leisurely day's walk with some hills and coastal scenery interspersed with stretches of green countryside. Along the way, you'll also encounter numerous traditional horreos, cherished as significant cultural relics. The fishing town of Luarca, or 'White town of the Green Coast', is situated at the mouth of the Rio Negro. The busy town is known for its beautiful harbour lined with colourful fishing boats, and its setting surrounded by green hills. Its traditional maritime character is evident with its narrow streets, whitewashed houses, and traditional buildings of the 'Fisherman's Quarter'. Strolling through the streets, you can explore the local shops, cafes, and restaurants that showcase the region's delicious seafood cuisine. Seven bridges span the river with the Puente del Beso (Bridge of the Kiss) being the most famous, due to the famous legend that gave the bridge its name.

Overnight: Luarca

Meals: B

Day 30

LUARCA TO NAVIA (22KM)

Today, the trail leads inland, passing through rolling hills, shaded forests, and some meadows. After a climb out of Luarca, the gently undulating terrain allows you to fully immerse yourself in the tranquil countryside. Navia sits next to the Navia River, from which the town derives its name and serves as a backdrop to the town. Food enthusiasts will be delighted by the culinary offering which often features mouthwatering seafood dishes such as scallops and octopus, known as Pulpo.



Overnight: Navia

Meals: B

Day 31

NAVIA TO RIBADEO (32KM)

Hopefully you are well-rested and ready to embark on this long walking day, although most hikers find it not too physically challenging, due to its more gentle terrain. Today's journey holds special significance as it marks your final day following the coastline, before the trail turns inland for good as the Camino del Norte heads towards Santiago de Compostela. A memorable feature today as you arrive into Ribadeo is the Bridge of the Saints or Puente de los Santos, which spans the Eo River and marks the border between Asturias and Galicia.

Overnight: Ribadeo

Meals: B

Day 32

RIBADEO AT LEISURE

Today is free to explore Ribadeo and its surroundings. Definitely don't miss a visit to the famous Praia das Catedrais (Playa de las Catedrales – Cathedrals Beach) located a short distance from the city. This stunning beach is renowned for its impressive rock formations and natural arches, which resemble the grandeur of cathedral interiors!

Within the town, the Historical Quarter, the fascinating Barrio de San Roque and the area surrounding the Playa del Espana with its variety of architectural styles, are all worth exploring. Ribadeo is a great place for an introduction to Galician cuisine. Of course seafood is in abundance with octopus, lobster and squid amongst the dishes on offer – a tasting menu is a great way to sample a wide range of local dishes.

Overnight: Ribadeo

Meals: B

Day 33

RIBADEO TO LOURENZA (28KM)

A bittersweet day as we leave Ribadeo and the coastline behind and turn inland towards the green Galician hills. You will notice the changes in scenery, as the route is largely rural with forests of eucalyptus trees with their familiar scent. The quiet path climbs uphill through sleepy hamlets and villages, so make sure you carry food with you in case there are no shops available to purchase food. In Lourenza marvel at the impressive Monastery of San Salvador, a 10th-century Benedictine monastery that stands at the entrance of the town. This medieval monastery is renowned for its architectural beauty and religious significance, attracting visitors from near and far.



Overnight: Lourenza

Meals: B

Day 34

LOURENZA TO ABADÍN (25 KM)

The terrain through this section of the trail features some notable inclines and descents to contend with; however you will be rewarded with beautiful views and an ever-changing landscape and peaceful surroundings. This area of Galicia is known for its dairy and agricultural products like honey, chestnuts, and traditional Galician liqueurs which are made from local fruits and herbs. Take time for a break and to visit the impressive 13th century cathedral as you pass through historic Mondonedo, as the following 11.5km is an uphill hike to your overnight destination, Abadin.

Overnight: Abadin

Meals: B

Day 35

ABADÍN TO VILALBA (20KM)

The trail between Abadín and Vilalba features gently undulating terrain as it winds its way through scenic wooded countryside and peaceful farmland, crossing some minor rivers and streams en route. There are several tiny villages that offer rest stops for pilgrims, however amenities are limited so it's always a good idea to be prepared and carry snacks.

There are several attractions and activities to explore in Vilalba city, including its castle and a medieval fortress offering panoramic views of the town and surroundings. Make sure you take a stroll through the historic centre, where you can visit the Santa María de Vilalba Church and explore the narrow streets filled with shops and cafes. Don't forget to try local delicacies such as empanadas (savory pies), the famous Galician beef and local cheeses.

Overnight: Vilalba

Meals: B

Day 36

VILALBA TO BAAMONDE (20 KM)

The trail winds its way through flat fertile farmland called "Terra Cha", which translates as 'flat' or 'plain' land and is an accurate description of today's landscape. Along the way you will pass through several small and charming villages and some tiny churches which are worthwhile visiting.

Overnight: Baamonde

Meals: B



Day 37

BAAMONDE TO MIRAZ (15KM)

The route today is again relatively easy, with mainly flat terrain and some gentle inclines. You can enjoy the scenic Galician countryside as you stroll towards Miraz, a small rural village that offers a glimpse into the local history and culture of the area. Don't forget to visit the small church of Santa Maria de Miraz (Church of Santa Maria) and the Capilla de San Alberte (Chapel of San Alberte), both built in traditional Galician architectural style usually characterised by the use of stone. Afterward, you will be transferred to your overnight accommodation.

Overnight: Miraz

Meals: B

Day 38

MIRAZ TO SOBRADO DOS MONXES (26KM)

Immerse yourself in the ambiance of rural Galicia as you follow the Camino del Norte's trails through fields, meadows, and pretty wooded stretches as you ascend steadily to A Roxica and then onto Marcela, the highest point of this section at 710m. Enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside from Alto de Vilar before taking a moment to pause and reflect on your accomplishments on your Camino pilgrimage. You soon arrive at the captivating village of Sobrado dos Monxes renowned for its monastery built in the 10th century. Explore the village at your leisure taking in the traditional stone houses, local shops and restaurants.

Overnight: Sobrado Dos Monxes

Meals: B

Day 39

SOBRADO DOS MONXES TO ARZÚA (22KM)

A truly significant day, as today is your last day hiking on the quieter Camino del Norte before it merges with the Camino Francés just before Arzúa. Arzúa is a vibrant town that serves as a welcoming hub for pilgrims. You will notice the increase in pilgrim activity, providing you with a unique opportunity to engage with your fellow pilgrims and share stories as you come together. For foodies, be sure to try Arzúa's famous cheese, "Queso de Arzúa-Ulloa" – it is delicious!

Overnight: Arzúa

Meals: B

Day 40

ARZÚA TO O PEDROUZO (21KM)

Today's route will be noticeably busier as the Camino del Norte has now merged with the main Camino Frances trail, so you will be joined on the trail by many pilgrims walking the final days of their pilgrimage journeys into Santiago de Compostela. The



majority of today's walk to O Pedrouzo is through wonderful pine and eucalyptus scented woodland. The path is mostly level, passing through three shallow river valleys with a gradual climb up to Alto de Santa Irene at 404m. The country lanes and woodland paths pass through many small hamlets. The final section climbs steeply to a main road, into eucalyptus woodland and onto A Rua and the village to O Pedrouzo. O Pedrouzo /Arco do Pino is a small but busy town with plenty of shops, restaurants and bars and the staging point for the last section of the Camino before entering Santiago de Compostela.

Overnight: O Pedrouzo

Meals: B

Day 41

O PEDROUZO TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (20KM)

Today begins the last stage of your journey to Santiago. The pilgrims mass at Santiago Cathedral begins at midday so we recommend leaving early to arrive on time. The first section of today's route passes through eucalypt forests with most of the route on quiet roads and pathways before the final kilometres and a climb to Mount Gozo before descending into the suburbs of Santiago. The path runs alongside the airport and you will see many crosses of twigs and branches used by pilgrims to decorate the fence. Lavacolla village is where pilgrims traditionally wash to purify themselves before entering Santiago, and Lavacolla literally means to wash your tail. At Monte do Gozo, Mount of Joy, you will first sight the stunning Cathedral de Santiago spires. The final section is well signposted into the old quarter with its wonderful historical buildings and narrow shop filled alleyways, until you finally reach the Praza Obradoiro in the heart of Santiago de Compostela, and the wonderful ancient Cathedral.

Overnight: Santiago de Compostela

Meals: B

Day 42

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AT LEISURE

Today you have the whole day to enjoy and explore historic Santiago de Compostela with its many enticing tapas bars and restaurants. You can attend the midday pilgrims mass and look around the famous Cathedral of St James which forms the city's heart and watch the steady stream of excited pilgrims arriving into the square as they finish their epic journey.

Overnight: Santiago de Compostela

Meals: B



Day 43

DEPART ST-JEAN-PIED-DE-PORT

You are free to check out of your hotel any time before 10 am. If you'd like to explore Santiago further, you can leave your bags with reception. Interested in more walking options from Santiago? Consider extending your journey with our captivating 6-day Camino de Finisterre for an epic journey to 'The World's End'.

Meals: B

