

ADVENTURES

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SANTIAGO TO THE SEA: CAMINO FINISTERRE

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the Camino to Finisterre, once believed to be the 'Edge of the World'
- Walk through hamlets, quiet villages, remote farmland and along seaside bluffs
- Enjoy a swim or walk on the Atlantic beach coast of Galicia
- Hike to the fishing village of Muxía, known for its 'magic' stones
- Enjoy local food and wine
- Earn a 'Muxiana' certificate

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive at our trip hotel by 4pm on Day 1; first group meeting is at 5pm.
Depart:	On the last day we will return to Santiago de Compostela where you can fly out after 3pm.

Trip Overview

The official Camino ends at Santiago Cathedral, but other traditions tell of a pre-Christian route to Finisterre, once considered the westernmost point in Europe. Pilgrims then may have travelled just for the adventure or in search of wise teachers of hidden knowledge who had a school at the "End of the Earth". Nowadays, walkers have re-discovered the route to Finisterre and Muxía. Some people have never done the classic Camino. Some pilgrims need time to think about their Camino journey. Other pilgrims just can't stop walking and yet others return years after their pilgrimage, wanting to complete their experience by walking from Santiago to the coast. After Santiago, the feeling of the trail changes. There are fewer pilgrims, less infrastructure, and smaller villages. And with Santiago de Compostela behind instead of ahead, pilgrims walk not focused on reaching the big destination, but on the joy of walking.

Rating

This trip is designed for women who are interested in traveling a traditional pilgrimage route on foot, who are able to enjoy walking four to six hours each day on consecutive days and want to experience the community of the Camino de Santiago beyond Santiago and hike to the sea. The trip is rated 3. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** 1 2 **3** 4 5.

What's Included

- 1-2 local English-speaking guides plus an AGC guide depending upon group size
- 8 nights lodging in small, family-run hotels
- 8 breakfasts and 7 dinners
- Your 'Camino de Finisterre'/ Muxiana' passport and Camino shell
- Luggage transfer during the walk
- Private bus from Muxía back to Santiago

Not included: Travel to and from Santiago, guide gratuities, beverages, lunches, 1 dinner, and travel insurance. Some lunches will be at cafes where you can order an empanada/sandwich, other lunches may be picnics purchased at the hotels or with food from stores.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Upon arriving in Santiago de Compostela, we'll gather as a group in the hotel lobby at 5 PM for a warm welcome and a brief orientation. After our get-to-know you meeting, we'll kick off our adventure with the first of many delicious dinners together at a restaurant near our hotel.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

On our first full day on the Camino Finisterre, we'll fuel up with a hearty breakfast at our hotel and depart Santiago from the Cathedral square. The Old Town of Santiago de Compostela is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the Romanesque cathedral as just one of its many extraordinary monuments. We'll continue winding through narrow streets to a park on the edge of the city. We'll soak in one last glimpse of the Santiago Cathedral before continuing west, walking on quiet roads through forests and villages, with rolling hills along the way. Eventually, we'll reach Ponte Maceira, known as one of the most beautiful villages in Spain, with its namesake bridge taking us over the Tambre River. We'll make our way along the river via a trail and a paved road, and we'll end the day in Negreira. After checking into our accommodations for the night, we'll reflect on our first day together over dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (12.8 miles, 1,470 feet of elevation gain, 1,800 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 3

Today's walk begins with an ascent through a maze of tranquil, forested roads, eventually taking a break with a well-earned second breakfast at the highest point of the day. From there, we walk on mostly asphalt through pastures and cultivated fields on our way to lunch, and at the end of the day, we'll transfer by private van to our next hotel. Tonight, we'll savor another fantastic dinner together, looking forward to the shorter mileage tomorrow and resting our legs and feet.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (12 miles, 1,050 feet of elevation gain, 850 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 4

This morning, we will begin hiking at the same place where we left off yesterday and make our way back to Olveiroa on foot. We'll climb up and over Monte Aro (Gold Hill) along the way, soaking in the views of the Xallas River valley and the green rolling hills. We'll be back in Olveiroa in time for lunch, and we can spend the afternoon as we please—washing some clothes, reading or journaling, relaxing, or taking photos of the many stone *hórreos* (structures used to store grain, corn, potatoes, and other agricultural produce) in the village.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (8.2 miles, 670 feet of elevation gain, 515 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 5

We'll fuel up with a hearty breakfast this morning, as our day begins with a climb. The path will bring us nearly up to the windmills, with a few rolling hills before we make our final ascent to Hospital crossroads. This is where some pilgrims turn off towards Muxía, and others head for Finisterre. Turning towards Finisterre, we'll cross open fields and keep our eyes peeled for our first view of the sea! Continuing through fields and forests, we'll eventually reach the Virgin of the Snow chapel, where we'll rest our legs before a gentle climb takes us up to San Pedro chapel. The glimpses of the sea along the way, and the extraordinary views at the top make the climb worth it! We'll set our sights on Cee from here, and begin our descent to the seaside town that we'll call home this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (12 miles, 330 feet of elevation gain, 500 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 6

We'll depart Cee this morning, eager to reach Finisterre and the famous 0.00 kilometer Camino marker. Our walk today takes us along the coast and through villages and forests, and we'll get picturesque glimpses of the sea as we finally descend into Finisterre. Upon arriving, most pilgrims walk out to the lighthouse—the westernmost lighthouse in Europe—to soak in the view and see the 0.00 kilometer marker. Thanks to the Romans, Finisterre gets its name from the Latin *finis terrae*, meaning "end of the earth"—and it's easy to see why. With its rough and rocky coast, Finisterre is a majestic sight to see. Traditionally, pilgrims burned their clothes and threw their shoes into the sea, symbolizing the end of the journey and the beginning of a new life. While that's not allowed today, we'll celebrate this milestone with a delicious dinner together and look forward to continuing the journey.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Daily Activities: Hiking (7.5-12 miles, 500 feet of elevation gain, 500 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 7

The sound of the sea pounding its waves is our constant companion, as we skirt the shoreline for much of the day. We are afforded vistas of the huge bay of Langosteira as we leave the fisherman town of Finisterre from above and we continue our journey northwards. Then we wind our way on small country roads through the communities of San Martiño de Duio, Escaselas, San Salvador and over the headland to O Rostro. Finally, our trail leads us across the beaches of Lires and Nemiña to continue along the shore of the river Lires and reach our daily destination.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (11.18 miles, 230 feet of elevation gain, 230 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 8

Somehow, it's already our last day on the trail! Today's route is mostly inland, beginning with a forested section. A gentle ascent takes us through tiny villages, with the last, somewhat steeper section traveling almost to the ridgetop windmills. We'll descend through the forest to a beach just outside of Muxía; from here, it is a pleasant stroll along the access road to reach our seaside destination. Muxía is known for handmade lace and for the Virgin of the Boat chapel, out on a rocky point overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. It is believed that the stones here are the remnants of the stone boat the Virgin Mary arrived in. For locals, this is one of the most beloved shrines in all of northwest Spain, and even for non-locals, it's the perfect setting for the end of a journey. Tonight, we'll reflect on our week together and journey on the Camino Finisterre over a farewell dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Activities: Hiking (9 miles, 1,000 feet of elevation gain, 1,090 feet of elevation loss)

DAY 9

Sadly, today we bid *adios* to this delightful region of Spain. After breakfast, we'll make our way back to Santiago de Compostela on our private bus, arriving in Santiago around 11:30AM. AGC pilgrims and participants will be dropped off at the bus station and airport and can plan your flights home for leaving anytime after 3pm.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Travel Time: Driving (1.5 hours)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

You will be flying into the Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ). From there you can get to the trip hotel by taxi. The airport is serviced by a number of airlines including Ryan Air, Vueling, Aer Lingus, EasyJet, Lufthansa and Iberia. The airport is about 20 minutes from the city and the flight from Madrid takes around 50 minutes. Both Iberia and RyanAir have flights between Santiago (SCQ) and Madrid (MAD).

If you prefer, you can also take a train from Madrid to Santiago, which takes about 3+ hours.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Exito charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$50 per passenger.

Accommodations

We will be staying in double occupancy rooms with ensuite bathrooms in a variety of accommodations, typically mid-range family-run hotels that are chosen for their hospitality or proximity to the path. Limited single supplements are available.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Please note that if it has been more than 15 days after the trip was confirmed and your deposit applied, you may not be eligible for some benefits, including pre-existing medical conditions exclusion. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196. Certain coverages not available in all states.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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