



Santiago de Compostela, Spain **March 26 - April 2, 2024**

The trip to Santiago de Compostela begins and ends in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. You can fly from US to Madrid, Spain and from there to Santiago. Possibly you might choose to spend some extra days in Madrid before/after your time in Santiago. After a minimum of 10 reservations has been received, I will advise you and then you can make your travels reservations. I will meet you at Hotel Costa Vella in Santiago.

Trip Start: March 26, 2024 – Costa Vella Hotel
Trip Finish: April 2, 2024 – Costa Vella Hotel
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights
Trip Cost: \$3,000 per person sharing a room
\$3,200 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 3 lunches, beverages, tips, and all items of a personal nature.)

Day by Day Overview

Tuesday, March 26 – Check in at Costa Vella Hotel in Santiago de Compostela.

Address: 17 Porta da Pena. Telephone: (011 34) 981 569530 www.costavella.com

Our first official meeting is a reception at 7:00PM in the group meeting room on the 1st floor followed by dinner at 8:00PM at a local restaurant.

- Dinner together.

Wednesday, March 27 – Guided tour of millennia old Cathedral of Saint James followed by a guided walk seeing the city of Santiago de Compostela. We meet our guide, Gabriela< at the Cathedral at 9:30AM. Free afternoon.

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together at a local restaurant.

Thursday, March 28 – Finesterre: the end of the Earth.

The bus will take us almost to “the end of the earth” today. For pilgrims walking the El Camino, Finesterre was the end of the pilgrimage where the pilgrim would pick up a shell on the beach proving that they had reached the end of the pilgrimage. We will walk the last part of the El Camino: Finesterre, the coast, the lighthouse. From here we go to Muxia where we visit the sanctuary of the “Virgen of the Boat” —originally a pre-Christian Celtic church but the current building is from the 1600’s. This part of Spain was resistant to conversion to Christianity but was converted in the 1100’s. In addition to enjoying the beautiful coast we visit

an enormous stone on the edge of the cliff which people walk under to cure their back pain, and learn about the disaster of the oil tanker, Prestige, that sank here in 2002. Leave hotel at 9:00AM.

- Walking Distance – 5 to 6 miles.
- Dinner on your own.

Friday, March 29 – Santiago de Compostela: Good Friday. Free Day.

Santiago is number three of the holy cities of Europe – Jerusalem, Rome, Santiago de Compostella. Easter is one of the most important religious celebrations of the year. Today there will be processions of Good Friday, music, and events to call you to the street.

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together at a local restaurant.

Saturday, March 30 – Lugo – Camino Primitivo

We take a bus this morning to Lugo—a UNESCO World Heritage Site - and walk for 2.5 km on the walls of the town then on out of town. Lugo, a 2,000 yr. old city dating from Roman times, is encircled by a wall—one of the most complete town walls in all of Europe—allowing us to witness life inside and outside the town. The main monuments are located inside the walls: the Cathedral with its Baroque Chapels and the “Virgen de los Ojos Grandes” (the Virgin of the big eyes). Today our walk will include part of the “Camino Primitivo”. Leave hotel at 9:00AM.

- Walking Distance: 5 to 6 miles.
- Dinner on your own.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

Today there will be many celebrations of Easter. The mass at the Cathedral will be quite an event with the seldom used Botafumeiro (very large hanging incense holder) put into impressive use. (We are advised to arrive 1 hour early for mass to get a seat.)

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together.

Monday, April 1 - Valenca, Portugal – Tui - Camino Portuguese

We take an hour bus ride this morning southwest to Valenca, the border city of Portugal and Spain that dates to Roman times, a city in a strategic position to defend Portugal from Spain. We cross the Mino River—the border of these two countries- and walk to Tui, Spain—the opposing village to Valenca. Earlier pilgrims would have taken a boat across the Mino—Tui was considered the starting point of the Portuguese Way in Galicia. The walls of Tui were built during the reign of King Ferdinand and historically, the city had strong Celtic connections. The Cathedral is the city’s most interesting monument. We will be walking another of the pilgrim routes today—the Camino Portuguese. Leave hotel at 9:00AM

- Walking Distance: 5 to 6 miles.
- Farewell dinner together.

Tuesday, April 2 – Departure.

This is our planned schedule, however there may be changes due to weather or to events celebrating this religious week. There are many activities available to chose from for your free time. Our walks are planned to be 4-6 miles. Temperatures should be about a high of 65 degrees and low of 44 degrees and small chance of rain.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to Santiago de Compostela –

American Airlines, United and British Air serve Madrid and may have connecting flights on to Santiago de Compostela (SCQ). Taxi from Santiago airport to Costa Vella takes 20 minutes and costs about 25 Euros. Train from Madrid to Santiago takes about 4 hours (be sure to reserve a seat).

Weather: Mild spring weather with possible cool evening temperatures and rain. March daytime temperatures range 60-65 degrees, night time temps can be in the 40s.

Helpful Websites:

Cathedral of Santiago: <http://catedralsantiago.es/en/>

Santiago: https://www.turismo.gal/que-visitar/ciudades/santiago-de-compostela?langId=en_US

Spanish trains: <https://www.renfe.com/es/en>