

St. Paul's Episcopal Church walks the Camino

From Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, Spain

June 1 -10, 2024

Introduction

We are to embark on the Camino de Santiago. Christian pilgrims in the Middle Ages walked this spectacular path to be inspired spiritually for centuries. There are three historic Christian pilgrimage sites in the world: Rome, Jerusalem and Santiago de Compostela. Santiago became a destination point for pilgrims because since the 12th century, the cathedral was said to house the remains of St. James. We are about to follow in the footsteps of these pilgrims.

There are many routes to Santiago de Compostela, one of the most popular being the Camino francés, the French Way, which originates in Saint Jean Pied de Port in France. This pilgrimage takes us through different landscapes and places on our journey. **We start in Madrid and finish in Santiago de Compostela with five walking days covering the 73 miles of the French Way with the opportunity to walk as much or as little of the way as you would like.**

Highlights

- Welcome dinner hosted by Bishop Carlos López Lozano, Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church.
- Guided tour with an art historian to see collection highlights of the Prado Museum
- Visit to the Catedral del Redentor, where guests receive the Pilgrim's blessing, their Passport, and the Concha Shell blessed by Bishop Carlos López Lozano.
- A private guided visit followed by dinner at Botin, the world's oldest restaurant.
- Flamenco show
- Private tour of guided walk along the famous city walls of the medieval town of Ávila, its Cathedral & Monastery of Incarnation to see the drawing of the crucifix by St John of the Cross.
- Lunch at the converted 16th century Palace in Ávila.
- Pilgrim's mass for our group in a small chapel followed by an aperitivo style dinner & music with an opera singer singing the Pilgrim's hymn & music related to the Galician culture.
- Privately guided visit of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, its museum and a walk through Santiago.
- Farewell dinner at the Parador de Santiago, the oldest hotel in Spain, built by the Catholic Monarchs as a hospital to cure and save the lives of pilgrims as they arrived in need of medical attention at the end of their long and arduous pilgrimage.

Your Host



JOANNA WIVELL

Originally from Yorkshire, UK, Joanna has always felt a natural attraction to Spain. She lived in Madrid for 19 years, where she first worked in television for the lifestyle channel, Canal Estilo, and then the National Geographic Channel. For the last 15 years, she has been showing visitors Spain with a personal, insider's view through her company, Insider's Travel. Joanna has enjoyed walking on her travels through South America and in Europe and a keen walker of the Camino de Santiago. She has a love for flamenco dancing, which she studied when living in Granada as a student and equally enjoys discovering the joys of Europe's wine regions and the stories they tell. It is her mission to discover the real deal when travelling!

Experts joining us en route:

BISHOP CARLOS LÓPEZ LOZANO



He is the Episcopal Bishop of Spain, an indigenous national church & proud member of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Carlos studied theology at the United Evangelical Theological Seminary in Madrid & recently published an article on the history of the church in Spain with the Sorbonne. He has been the Episcopal Bishop of Spain since 1995 & was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop is also a wonderful architectural historian, flamencologist and gourmet cook.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Saturday, June 1st

Welcome dinner close to the hotel, hosted by Bishop Carlos López Lozano, Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church.

Hotel: Barceló Torre de Madrid, a delightful 5 star hotel, in the centre of Madrid looking onto Plaza España and just around the corner from the Royal Palace.

Day 2. Sunday, June 2nd

Guided tour with art historians to see collection highlights of the Prado Museum: Velázquez Las Meninas, Van de Weyden's Descent from the Cross, The Garden of Earthly Delights by Bosch, Goya and his pintura negras. Panoramic tour of the city.

Visit to the Catedral del Redentor, where guests receive the Pilgrim's blessing, their Passport, and the Concha Shell blessed by Bishop Carlos López Lozano. A light lunch at the Cathedral.

Evening: A private guided visit followed by dinner at Botin, the world's oldest restaurant. Flamenco show at Las Carboneras tablao.

Hotel: Barceló Torre de Madrid

Day 3. Monday, June 3rd

We leave Madrid for the 11th century walled city of Avila, the highest provincial capital city in Spain, home to the 16th century mystic and Roman Catholic Saint, Teresa of Avila and to Saint John of the Cross. During our visit, we understand why the work of these two saints was so important in Spain. We take a guided walk along the city walls, the Cathedral and the monastery of Incarnation to see the drawing of the crucifix by St John of the Cross.

Lunch at the converted 16th century Palace, Hotel La Velada. We take the drive to Portomarín, the journey from Avila is approximately y five hours, not including comfort stops.

Hotel: Vistalegre, Portomarín

Day 4. Tuesday, June 4th

A short drive to the start of the Camino in Sarria for our first day's walk to Portomarín.

STAGE: SARRIA-PORTOMARÍN (22,75 Kms/14 miles)

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 5h 30'

This stage is known for its beauty and also because we pass the **100 Km marker** of this ancient route, which is the minimum distance to be traveled on foot to receive the Compostela certificate. We pass through the towns of Barbadelo and Ferreiros, admiring their romanesque churches en route, before arriving at Portomarín for our second night's stay here.

The ground is soft and wavy, taking us through clusters of chestnut and oak trees, meadows, and farmland.

On approaching the town of Portomarín we cross the bridge over the Belesar reservoir, and the Miño river, back to the comfort of the Vistalegre Hotel for a second night and a well-deserved rest.

Hotel: Vistalegre, Portomarín

Day 5. Wednesday, June 5th

STAGE: PORTOMARÍN-PALAS DE REI (25 Kms/15 miles)

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 6h 15'

We leave Portomarín through the Belesar reservoir passing through the towns of Ligonde and Vilachá. En route, we see the famous *Cruceiros* (stone crosses) including the Cruceiro of Lameiros and the Monastery of San Salvador de Villar de Donas.

We arrive at Palas de Rei, stamp our Passports, and take a short bus ride to our country hotel for the night where we enjoy our evening dinner.

Hotel: Parada Das Bestas

Day 6. Thursday, June 6th

STAGE: PALAS DE REI-ARZÚA (29,7 Kms Kms/18 miles)

Difficulty: Medium Approx. Duration: 7h 30'

Today is a longer day in which we cross the border that divides the provinces of Lugo and La Coruña. The route takes us across medieval bridges in Leboreiro, Furelos, and Ribadiso da Baixo and through eucalyptus and pine forests. We also walk through Melide, known for its *pulpo* (octopus dishes). For those who wish to only walk a part of this route, the bus, as usual, will be available to take pilgrims to their accommodation early. Some pilgrims might consider walking either from Palas de Rei to Melide which is 15.2 km – 9.5 miles or from Melide to Arzua which is 14.5km/9 miles.

We arrive at Arzúa where, opening times permitting, we visit the Chapel of La Magdalena.

Our accommodation for the next two nights is located on the Botana family estate, located just outside Arzúa.

Hotel: Pazo A Painza

Day 7. Friday, June 7th

STAGE: ARZÚA-PEDROUZO (19,2 Kms/11 Miles)

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 4h 40'

This is a gentle, pretty route stage which takes us through meadows, and woods of oak and eucalyptus trees and small villages. En route to Pedrouzo we pass through Boente, with its beautiful statue of Santiago the pilgrim.

On arrival to Pedrouzo, we take the bus back to Arzua for our second night here. Pilgrim's mass for our group in a small chapel followed by an aperitivo style dinner and music with an opera singer singing the Pilgrim's hymn and music related to the Galician culture.

Hotel: Pazo A Painza

Day 8. Saturday, June 8th

STAGE PEDROUZO-SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (19,9 Kms/12 Miles)

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 5h

The Way passes next to the airport and starts the gentle descent towards A Lavacolla. A Lavacolla is located very close to the Monte do Gozo (Mount of Joy), a hill from where the pilgrims catch their first glimpse of Santiago's Cathedral. While the last miles take us through more urban terrain, these are also significant miles for every pilgrim that walks them as Santiago de Compostela approaches. Both the pilgrims who are walking the entire 12 miles that day and the pilgrims who prefer to walk part way will come together to walk our last 1 mile walk to the Obradoiro square to the Cathedral. Arrival into Santiago means the end of the Camino.

We check into the Hotel Palacio del Carmen and meet at 6.45pm in reception to walk into the city center to enjoy a local dinner in a favourite Galician taberna for the whole group.

Hotel: Palacio del Carmen. This 5* hotel is a converted monastery and located 7 minutes from the Cathedral in the old town of Santiago.

Day 9. Sunday, June 9th

After breakfast, we can enjoy some free time to explore Santiago at your own pace. We'll attend the Pilgrims' Mass at the Cathedral which starts at 12pm. We will arrange for the group to witness the Botafumeiro during the Mass. (Please note: Anglicans are not invited to take Communion but go up for a Blessing.) Guided visit of the Cathedral, its museum and a walk through Santiago. After some free time for lunch, we will meet for a privately guided tour of the cathedral and its environs.

What better setting for our farewell reception than the Parador de Santiago. The Parador is known as the oldest hotel in Spain, built by the Catholic Monarchs as a hospital to cure and save the lives of pilgrims as they arrived in need of medical attention at the end of their long and arduous pilgrimage. Our dining room overlooks the Obradoiro square.

Hotel: Palacio del Carmen.

Day 10. Monday, June 10th

Breakfast. End of trip.

Pilgrims may fly directly from the Santiago de Compostela airport, or may choose to stay longer in Spain.

End of tour

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Price: \$4,115 USD (\$3995 USD if payment is made by wire transfer)

Single Supplement: \$930 USD (\$900 USD if payment is made by wire transfer).

Deposit: \$500 USD per person

- ♥ 2 nights 5* Barceló Torre de Madrid
- ♥ 2 nights at Hotel Vistalegre in Portomarín
- ♥ 1 night at the Hotel Parada Das Bestas
- ♥ 2 nights at Hotel Pazo A Painza
- ♥ 2 nights at 5* Palacio del Carmen
- ♥ One lunch, all breakfasts and dinners (with wine for adults).
- ♥ Insider's Travel Tours host(s), and two Camino guides
- ♥ All entrances as mentioned in the itinerary, including the botafumeiro, & flamenco show.
- ♥ Comfortable private coach from Madrid to Santiago de Compostela.
- ♥ \$200 USD donation to the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Santiago. Sales tax included.
- ♥ All applicable taxes

Notes : luggage will be transported from hotel to hotel

Transportation options will be available for those who would like to walk just a small part each day.

Not included: Flights, airport transfers, travel insurance and guide /driver tips.

To book your place, please fill out [**THIS BOOKING FORM.**](#)

Contact:

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