

All Saints Episcopal Church walks the Camino

From Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, Spain

September 18th - 27th, 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.
- A talk by Ghosts of Spain writer, Giles Tremlett who gives us an overview of the history of Spain, its diversity and contradictions.
- 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 in a private room at the Parador overlooking the Cathedral and the Obradoiro square.

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. Wednesday, September 18th

Welcome dinner in a private dining room hosted by Bishop Carlos López Lozano, Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church, with a talk by Ghosts of Spain writer, Giles Tremlett who gives us an overview of the history of Spain, its diversity and contradictions.

Hotel: NH Collection Suecia a 5 star hotel within close walking distance to the Prado Museum, Plaza Santa Ana and the Plaza Mayor.

Dinner: 7.30pm, meet in Hotel Reception for short walk to restaurant

Day 2. Thursday, September 19th

Meeting point: 10.15am in reception. Guided tour with our 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.

Dinner: 6.30pm meet in Hotel Reception to walk over to Botin

Hotel: NH Collection Suecia

Day 3. Friday, September 20th

Checkout and meet in lobby at 8.45am

Departure time: 9am

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 five hours, not including comfort stops.

Dinner: 8.30pm, meet in O Mirador

Hotels: Hotel Ferramenteiro, Hotel Pazo de Berbetoros and Hotel Vistalegre, Portomarín

Day 4. Saturday, September 21st

Breakfast :7am for 8am checkout & departure.

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.

This stage is not very difficult. 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, and take our coach to our accommodation for the next two nights for dinner and a well-deserved rest.

Dinner: 8pm , meet in the dining room

Hotel: Hotel Parada Das Bestas

Day 5. Sunday, September 22nd

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

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 6h 15'

Breakfast :7am for 8am departure and bus back to Portomarín to the day's starting point.

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 back to Parada das Bestas for our second night here.

Dinner: 8pm , meet in the dining room

Hotel: Parada Das Bestas

Day 6. Monday, September 23rd

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

Difficulty: Medium Approx. Duration: 7h 30'

Breakfast: 7am for 8am checkout & departure. Drive to today's start point in Palas de Rei.

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

Dinner: 8pm, meet in the Restaurante Apainza . Group Devotion.

Hotel: Pazo A Painza

Day 7. Tuesday, September 24th

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

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 4h 40'

Breakfast :From 7.30am for 9am departure.

Optional group visit to the Chapel de la Magdalena in Arzua before walking. 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.

Meeting: 7pm in Chapel. Dinner served afterwards.

Hotel: Pazo A Painza

Day 8. Wednesday, September 25th

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

Difficulty: Easy Approx. Duration: 5h

Breakfast: 7am for 8am checkout & departure.

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. Our hotel, the Palacio del Carmen is a seven minute walk from the Cathedral. Arrival into Santiago. End of the Camino.

We check into the Palacio del Carmen and having settled in, we will attend the Pilgrims' Mass at the Cathedral which starts at 7.30pm. We will arrange for the group to witness the Botafumeiro during the Mass. Following the mass, we will enjoy a local dinner in a favourite Galician taberna for the whole group.

Dinner: 8.30pm walk to the restaurant from the Cathedral.

Hotel: Palacio del Carmen

Day 9. Thursday, September 26th

Meet in reception: 9.30am Guided visit of the Cathedral, its museum and a walk through Santiago finishing at Santa Susana church for our own group with Rev. Stuart Shelby. Afterwards we are invited for a reception at the Anglican centre. Each of you has made a contribution to the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Santiago. Free time for lunch and free afternoon.

Our evening concludes with our Farewell Dinner in a private room at the Parador de Santiago, Hostal dos Reis Católicos, overlooking the Cathedral and the Obradoiro square.

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.

Hotel: Palacio del Carmen.

Day 10. Friday, September 27th

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: \$4,625 (A reduced rate of \$4,495 if balance payment is made by wire transfer)

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

Deposit: \$500 per person

♥ Accommodation: 5* hotel in Madrid and good quality, comfortable accommodation throughout the Pilgrimage.

♥ One lunch, all breakfasts and dinners with wine.

♥ Giles Tremlett talk, opera singer, piper, *Botafumeiro* and all guided visits where mentioned & their respective entrance fees, flamenco show.

♥ Comfortable private coach from Madrid to Santiago de Compostela.

♥ One camino guide & Insider's Travel tour host.

♥ 200 USD donation to the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Santiago.

Sales tax included.

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

Notes : luggage will be transported from hotel to hotel

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

Contact:

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