

Camino del Frances NC2

Pyrenees to Santiago

The inland route to Santiago, most travelled by pilgrims and steeped in history from start to finish.

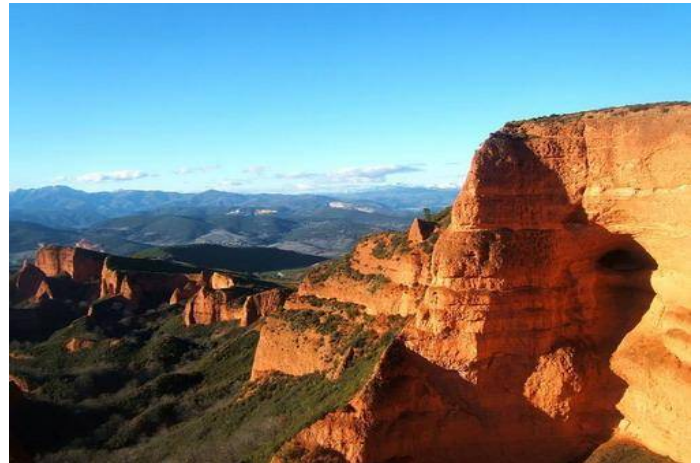
Camino

by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

Discover a Spanish interior untouched by mass tourism on this journey of contrasts. From the high mountains of Navarra you cross the arid plains of the Meseta, to the lush green hills of Galicia.

Lining the route are superb examples of religious architecture from humble parish churches to magnificent cathedrals. You also pass through the wine regions of Navarra, La Rioja, Bierzo and Galicia, home to the fantastic whites of Albariño.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- The main 'Way of St James', steeped in history
- Monumental Cathedral cities; Burgos, Leon, and Santiago itself
- Cross six major wine regions
- Loft mountains, arid plains, lush green hills
- Rich gastronomic heritage

Travel tips:

From Stansted:

Easyjet into Bilbao – Ryanair from Santiago

From Heathrow:

BA into Bilbao & Vueling from La Coruña

From Gatwick:

Vueling into Bilbao - Easyjet from Santiago

Please consult for other travel options



Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao		
1	Day 1 & 2	Navarra	Urdax	HNAV2 Village hotel, French border, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs from airport
2	Day 3 & 4	Rioja Alavesa	Laguardia	HLAG2 Historic castle style hotel, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins (via Pamplona)
3	Day 5	Burgos	Burgos	HBUR2 Palace at the heart of Burgos, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
4	Day 6 & 7	León	León	HLEO1 Historic hotel in the heart of Leon, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 50mins
5	Day 8 & 9	Santiago	Santiago de Compostela	HSAC1 City hotel with garden, Double room (2 sharing)	3hrs 45mins (via Ponferrada, Lugo)
			Departing Santiago de Compostela		30mins to airport

* Double room (2 sharing) can be either double or twin bedded. If you have specific requirements, please let us know.

Your Quotation

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class car hire for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and Northern Spain Guidebook
- Our own restaurant Guide and travel app
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stage 1



Region: North and central Navarra

Gateway to the Camino de Santiago, steeped in history.
Excellent varietal and boutique wines not available at home
Fairytale castles at Olite and Artajona – bull runs & pintxos in Pamplona.
Soaring rocky Pyrenees and the immense Irati forest in the east
Rolling green valleys of Baztan & Bidasoa near the coast in the west
Spectacular lunar landscape of Las Bardenas in the south
La Ribera - Spain's finest peppers, artichokes, asparagus....

Village hotel, French border

This delightful rural hotel set on the edge of the village of Urdax right on the Spanish - French border offers the visitor a wealth of contrasts; to the one side the Navarran Pyrenees with fantastic walking and beautifully preserved villages and to the other the gently rolling meadows of the French Pays Basque, each side with its own traditions and with a gastronomic culture among the best in the land. In Urdax and nearby Zugarramurdi there a...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: La Rioja wine region

La Rioja Alavesa, where the mountains give shelter to the best wineries
Riojan cuisine- excellent local ingredients with a touch of Basque flair
A history of architecture from cave-dweller to Gehry
Medieval towns such as Laguardia, thriving centers of the wine trade
Dinastia Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, one of the finest private collections in the world.
Izki Golf, two courses in the midst of the beautiful Nature Park of Izki

Historic castle style hotel

Though built in 1863 in the Modernista style this striking building with its imposing watchtower was constructed with stones from a 12th century barracks and has the feel of a small medieval castle. The location is excellent, built into the town wall and at the same time set up and back from the road, with views from the tower, over vineyards to the Sierra de Toloña and the town itself, which are truly second to none. The rooms are quite lux...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Burgos Province

Major staging point on the Camino de Santiago
 Burgos cathedral, a World Heritage Site, recently restored in all its glory
 The city of El Cid, also known as El Campeador
 Busy old town; lively squares lined with bars & restaurants
 Spain's best lamb & delicious black pudding – Ribera del Duero wines
 The excellent Museum of Human Evolution and nearby Atapuerca
 Medieval villages of Burgos Province - Frias, Oña, Medina de Pomar, Santo Domingo de Silos, Coverrubias....

Palace at the heart of Burgos

A genuine medieval palace right in the centre of historic Burgos, just a short walk to the magnificent cathedral and the myriad tapas bars, restaurants and asadores for which the city is also famous. Built by the Counts of Berberana in the 16th Century, a golden age in Burgos which grew wealthy from the rich wool trade with England and the Low Countries, the Palace has recently been restored to a very high standard. All rooms are exceptional...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Leon

Crossing point of the Camino de Santiago and Via de Plata.
 Cathedral of Santa Maria - beautiful stained glass Rose Window
 Tapas in la Zona Humeda, 'the wet zone', in the old-town
 See the true Holy Grail housed in the beautiful Colegiata de San Isidoro
 Take a trip to lovely Astorga with its Gaudi palace
 Visit Las Médulas & Ponferrada

Historic hotel in the heart of Leon

This very special hotel in a square in the Romantic Quarter in the heart of Leon, just a short walk to the magnificent Cathedral, is full of history and art. Forming part of the outstanding 11th century complex of the Real Colegiata de San Isidoro de Leon and the Panteon de Los Reyes with its amazingly vivid Romanesque frescos, amongst the best preserved anywhere, the hotel was at one time a monastery. The monastery houses the Caliz de Doña ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Santiago & the interior

Santiago, journey's end, for centuries Europe's N° 1 pilgrim destination.

Take a Catamaran trip down the magnificent Rio Sil

Ribeiro wines from vineyards on the steep river valleys of the Miño and Sil

Ourense, full of surprises, and Monforte de Lemos, both steeped in history

Take a trip around the monasteries of the Ribera Sacra Lugo, a thriving city with Roman walls

Los Ancares nature park, little discovered acres of native woodlands

City hotel with garden

In the heart of the medieval city of Santiago de Compostela, this charming and popular hotel combines traditional architectural features with modern comforts and has the added blessing of a lovely garden, where you can eat breakfast or enjoy an aperitif among the apple and lemon trees. There is also a "cristalera" - a glassed-in verandah - for breakfast and for sitting in, a coffee-shop/bar with old stone fireplace and a small library with an e...[Read More](#)



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