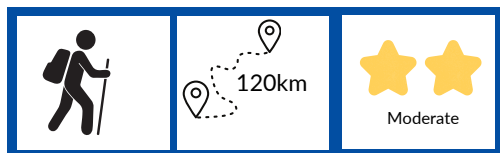


Food Lover's Spanish Camino



Overview:

Sample local gastronomic delights including the famous 2 Michelin star Casa Marcial restaurant & 1 Michelin star restaurant A Tafona

- Enjoy cooking demonstrations and samplings
- Walk on the original pilgrimage route to Santiago through superb scenery
- Explore the magnificent cities of Leon and Santiago with their impressive architecture and cathedrals.
- Enjoying the camaraderie of fellow food enthusiasts, walkers and pilgrims
- Experience comfortable and welcoming hotels including two parados (former palaces)

This unique approach to a classic pilgrimage route combines a passion for good food and produce, with the incredible history of the trail crossing northern Spain. With fully supported day walks on the best sections of the pilgrimage trail paths, including the original route from Oviedo, the essence of the pilgrimage is retained. The walking is combined with cooking demonstrations and numerous samplings of the local cuisine from the heart of Spanish modern cuisine in the Basque region to the small rural villages on the Camino, as the pilgrimage is commonly called. In the company of a local gastronomic expert, there will be many insights into the local culinary scene, two Michelin Star restaurant dining experiences.

Itinerary: Available: 13 September 2025 - 27 September 2025

2026 Dates on request

Day 1: Arrival in Bilbao

On arrival into Bilbao make your way to your hotel and check-in. At 2pm you will meet with your tour leader. Later we visit the impressive Guggenheim Museum before sitting down to our first special dinner, at a Txoko in the Casco Antigua (old quarter).

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Drive to Logroño via Pamplona (walking 6km, transfer total 4 hours)

We'll transfer from Bilbao to Huarte (2hrs) for a short walk to Pamplona (6km) where we'll enjoy a local coffee at Cafe Iruna and stroll through the old town. Lunch is at leisure in a well-known tapas district. Later we drive to Elciego (1hr) for a guided visit with wine-tasting at the renowned Marqués de Riscal Winery - great wines, spectacular surroundings and the chance to see another stunning creation by Gehry. Afterwards we'll transfer to Logroño (1hr) and our hotel. In the evening a local guide will introduce some historical background of the Camino and recommend some of the best spots for tapas. The choice is yours as to where to dine this evening, or optional tapas hop (payable locally). (6km, +100m, approx 1hr 15 mins)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3: Deeper into La Rioja and dinner at Echaurren Tradicion in Ezcaray (2 hours)

We travel deeper into La Rioja today. There's the option to visit the market before we transfer to Nájera (30mins), the former capital of La Rioja. Our walk from Nájera to Azofra, across a classic Riojan landscape of wheat fields, sunflowers and vineyards, will build your appetite for the anticipated dinner at Echaurren Tradición, famed for its exceptional interpretation of local Rioja cuisine. Before dinner we transfer to Santo Domingo de la Calzada and our hotel (the Parador), with time to visit the impressive cathedral and well known 15th century Gothic henhouse (yes there is still live poultry)! A short return transfer this evening takes us to Ezcaray for a stroll, aperitif (optional, not included) and dinner. (6.3km max, +70m, -50m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4: Walk and transfer via San Juan de Ortega to Burgos (3hrs)

A short drive this morning (45mins) before we embark on a walking route from San Juan de Ortega to Cardeñuela. We will reach Burgos around midday (1.5hr transfer) and check into our hotel situated in an impressive 500 year old palace, before heading out for a traditional lunch at Ojeda Restaurant. After lunch there's free time to stroll around the historic centre, visit the fabulous Gothic cathedral where El Cid is buried, or visit the fascinating Museum of Human Evolution which is the display centre for the archaeological UNESCO Heritage site of Atapuerca. Dinner is at leisure; we suggest enjoying delicious tapas in the Old Quarter. (12.4km, +130m, -209m)

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5: Transfer and visit León (2hrs), then travel to the Asturias region (1-2hrs)

This morning we drive to Leon (2hrs) where we'll take a fascinating guided tour of the spectacular Basilica of San Isidro and the stunning cathedral, famous for its incredible stained glass windows. Following lunch in the tapas district (not included), we take a short walk along the Camino through part of the city before a driving (2hrs) into Asturias and the town of Cangas de Onís. To Spaniards, "Asturias" means rural, green, friendly, tasty and authentic. A place to relax, walk, swim and sample fresh products, straight from the garden, mountain meadows or the sea. Thanks to a relatively mild and humid climate, temperatures are pleasant, even in the height of summer, and the landscape is green year-round. Rural Asturias is a patchwork of walled pastures, dense forests and farming villages, bordered by a magnificent coastline to the north and steep limestone massifs to the south. A rich cultural tradition, vibrant historical towns, pre-Romanesque churches and superb regional cooking combine to make travellers feel at home instantly. Overnight in a Parador (we stay for 2 nights).

On clear days, from this historic building on the banks of the Sella River, there are distant views of the snowy summits in the Picos de Europa. (2.5km, flat)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Visit Cangas or the Covadonga Lakes, Casa Marcial dinner (3.5-4hrs)

Today we will walk from the Parador to visit Cangas or have a short transfer to visit the Covadonga Lakes. The lakes are a short detour from the Camino but one of the main attractions in Asturias and a place of pilgrimage as well; the Sanctuary of Covadonga is on the way to the glacial Lakes. There are few different hikes we can take here. We return to our parador in the early afternoon then depart for Casa Marcial at around 6pm. If weather permits, we can visit the Mirador del Fitu before dinner, from where the whole oriental coast of Asturias and Picos de Europa can be seen. Dinner tonight is in the renowned Michelin 2 starred restaurant run by chef Nacho Manzano, Casa Marcial, situated in the nearby tiny village of La Salgar.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7: Transfer to the coast, walk on the Camino Norte, transfer to Oviedo (3.5-4hrs)

This morning we drive to the coast to walk a picturesque section of the Camino Norte, between the towns of Ribadesella and Colunga. The views are quite spectacular as we walk from beach to beach along the limestone cliffs. After the walk we will drive to the regional capital Oviedo (30mins), where the original camino trail Camino Primitivo begins. Oviedo is a beautiful city, boasting Gothic cathedrals as well as pre Romanesque UNESCO World Heritage listed monuments. Explore the historical centre on foot and later, dinner will be tapas-style taken at a cider bar, with an opportunity to taste this special beverage. Accommodation is an iconic establishment in Asturias with over 200 years of history within its walls. (13km, ±200m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: Walk and transfer via Salas and the abandoned monastery of Obona to Tineo (5-6hrs)

This morning we transfer via the UNESCO World Heritage site Santa Maria del Naranco to Salas (45mins), with its small museum of pre-Romanesque art in the Valdes Palace. We pick up lunch supplies before continuing to the start of our walk at El Pedregal (15mins). The trail takes us through beautiful countryside to reach the abandoned monastery of Obona, which was an important school and retreat for scholars in the Middle Ages. From here we transfer to Tineo (10mins) and our hotel, which dates from 1525 and is a typical example of 16th century Asturian "noble" architecture. (16km, +250m, -350m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 9: Transfer to Borres, walk to Pola de Allande (5hrs)

From Tineo we drive in 20 minutes to the start of today's walk in Borres. From there we will walk on the lower route of the Camino towards Pola de Allande. This variant takes you past tiny villages, through the lovely valley, up to el Alto de Lavadoira and then on a steep descent down to Pola de Allande. From Pola de Allande we drive in max. 30 minutes to Corias, where we settle in at our comfortable accommodation, the historic newly renovated Parador de Corias, chosen by Condé Nast Traveler's readers as the Best Non-urban Hotel in Spain. This evening you enjoy dinner at the Parador's beautiful restaurant. (11.10km, +345m, -435m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10: Walk the high route towards O Cadavo, transfer to Castroverde (5-6hrs)

This morning we transfer near Fonsagrada (1 hrs 30 mins) to walk an ancient section of the pilgrims 'trail, across high green pastures and fields of heather to reach Póboa de Burón, a small village formerly of monumental importance. Our day ends in Paradavella. If the weather or group condition invite to a shorter route, the guide will follow the lower route between Fonsagrada and Paradavella, which still passes Montouto. Transfer to our next accommodation, near Castroverde (45 mins) where we'll spend the next two nights. Dinner is served at our Casa Rural. (13.3km, +450m, -675m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11: Rest day Castroverde or walk on the Camino (4hrs)

Today is a free day with several options: you can walk the Camino, rest at the accommodation or walk into Castroverde. A morning transfer to Paradavella (45mins) is available for those walking the Camino, and the route follows rural tracks through woodlands, with some short sections on the main road. In the afternoon, transfer from O Cádavo (30mins) back to our casa rural. After dinner, we'll be treated to a unique tradition: the "queimada", a ritual followed in preparing this tasty beverage of coffee infused with liqueur (the Galician speciality called "orujo", an eau-de-vie distilled from grape skins after they're crushed to make wine). Overnight Castroverde. (12km, +300m, -250m)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12: Castroverde to Gondar, transfer to Lugo to join the French route (5hrs)

Our last day of walking is a delight, as we enjoy the pastoral Galician countryside following quiet tarmac lanes and rural tracks from one hamlet to the next. Beautiful examples of traditional architecture such as the well-preserved 'pazos' and 'casas grandes', impressive buildings in stone and wood often turned into modern-day hotels. The walk today is in two sections. First from Castroverde to Gondar (8.7km) before driving to As Casa da Vina, then walking into Lugo and our centrally located hotel. In Lugo, the Camino Primitivo blends with the French Route. There's time to enjoy Lugo's impressive Roman Walls and outstanding tapas bars. This evening you can enjoy a stroll on Lugo's Roman walls and have some leisure time to relax. (9km +0m, -100m)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13: Winery visit and tasting in the Ribeira Sacra region

A treat for the senses today, with wine tasting in the Ribeira Sacra region. We'll have a short stop in the lovely town of Portomarin before continuing to our winery visit (just over 1hr drive). Here we'll have a short guided tour and tasting followed by an informal picnic overlooking the Miño River. We later drive to our lovely pazo near Arzúa (1 hr), located on the Camino de Santiago and not far from Santiago de Compostela, which gives us easy access to the city tomorrow morning. Dinner tonight is at one of the classic pulperías on the nearby town of Melide. The traditional dish "pulpo a feira" (Galician-style octopus) is served, among other local delicacies enjoyed with local white wine.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 14: Walk into Santiago along the Camino Sanabrés (2.5hrs)

Time and weather permitting, we walk from Lavacolla or Monte do Gozo today, joining other joyful pilgrims as we approach St James Cathedral. On arrival in Santiago we treat you to a drink and tapa at a lovely and popular bar by the Cathedral to celebrate having reached our destination. There's free time afterwards to explore the city before we meet for

a scrumptious farewell dinner at one of Santiago's highly-acclaimed restaurants serving cutting edge innovative cuisine based on traditional products. The perfect way to complete the tour (8km, +300m, 2hrs)

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15: Tour concludes after breakfast

Farewell to your fellow travellers and the trip concludes after breakfast. We recommend staying an extra day in Santiago as there are many things to do in this fabulous city - please ask for our rates.

Meals: Breakfast

At a Glance:

- **Duration:** 15 Days
- **Type:** Guided Walk
- **Accommodation:** 14 nights in 2-4 star charming hotels
- **Meals:** 11 x Dinners, 1 x Lunch, 14 x breakfast
- **Grade:** Introductory to Moderate
- **Distance:** Approximately 125km
- **Number of People:** From 1 person

Included:

- Tour escort throughout and local gastronomic experts at points through the trip
- 14 nights accommodation at carefully selected hotels and paradors (twin share basis) including all breakfasts (continental style)
- 4 very special gourmet dinners: Txobo in Bilbao (day 1), Restaurant Echaurren Tradicion (day 3), Casa Marcial in Arriendas (day 6) and A Tafona in Santiago de Compestela (day 14) – with matched wines included all 4 nights.
- 4 authentic meals featuring regional cuisine: lunch: Roasted lamb Castilian style at Ojeda Restaurant Burgos (day 4), dinners: Tapas Asturian style at an authentic cider house in Oviedo (day 7), at the Parador in Corias (day 9), restaurant Pulperia near Arzua or Melide (day 13)
- 4 dinners featuring home cooking (3 course set menu served at your accommodation) in: Parador de Cangas (day 5) Palacio de Meras (day 8) and near Castroverde (days 10 & 11)
- Guided visits: Guggenheim Museum in Bilboa (day 1), Logrono (day 2), Marques de Riscal Winery (day 3), Cathedral and Panteon in Leon (day 5), Oviedo Historical Centre (day 6), Lugo (day 12), with your tour leader) and Winery in the Ribeira Sacra (day 13)
- Winery visits with tastings Marques de Riscal (day 3) and Ribeira Sacra (day 13)
- Guided or self guided walks per the program
- All transfers according to the program
- Travel Insurance
- E-sim

Not Included:

- Travel to Bilbao and from Santiago de Compestela
- Meals and drinks not listed as included: Lunches except on day 4, 3 dinners (day 2,4, 12) and drinks
- Arrival and departure transfers – available on request
- Extra nights before or after the trip
- Storage of luggage
- Tips (allow +- EUR2-5 per evening meal, EUR50-80 for the guide and EUR40-50 for the driver.
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa
- All Flights

Grading:

GRADE 2- This is a leisurely paced guided walk with average daily stages of 3.5 to 7 hours. The trip is graded introductory to moderate as it is mainly on well defined trails, with a few off path sections only. There are many ups and downs and walking poles are definitely a good idea. A reasonable level of fitness is required to complete all the walks. As with all of our trips it is important that you are well prepared. We suggest that you undertake regular exercise – swimming, cycling, and jogging, two to three times a week for three months prior to your departure. As the trip is fully supported there is the option to skip some of the walks and ride with the support vehicle.

Pricing 2025:

13 September 2025 - 27 September 2025	R145,200 per person sharing
	R166,800 per single

Payment Terms:

- 30% non-refundable deposit on booking
- 40% due 60 days before departure
- Balance due 30 days before departure

Note: Prices are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations and availability.