

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

CHARITY TREK 2027



JOIN US ON A 5-DAY TREK IN NORTHERN SPAIN

11TH-18TH SEPTEMBER, 2027

£350 REGISTRATION FEE + SPONSORSHIP

INCLUDES FLIGHTS, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

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Trip overview

Santiago de Compostela

The UNESCO World heritage site of Santiago de Compostela, the final destination of the legendary medieval Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), is named after the Apostle Saint James (Santiago), who is buried here.

Saint James went to this most north-western part of Spain, called by the Romans 'Finis Terrae' (end of the world), to preach and convert people to Christianity. After returning to Palestine in 44AD, he was taken prisoner and tortured to death. The king refused to bury him, so his disciples stole the body and brought him by boat to the Spanish coast where he was buried in a secret place in a wood. Centuries later, in 813, the hermit Pelayo heard music in that wood and witnessed strange lights in the night sky. The site was thus called, in Latin, 'Campus Stellae', field of the star, a name that later became Compostela.

Camino

Today, thousands of people known as 'pilgrims' walk the Camino de Santiago for a number of different reasons; spiritual, cultural and adventurous or simply such as wanting to learn about the history of this ancient trail and as a way to get fit and spend time outdoors. This is not a religious tour. The Camino is about the journey and to the majority of people it symbolises a time of reflection, learning and fresh starts.

Trek overview

his trek explores the eighth and final section of the French Way, the most traditional and best known of all the pilgrims' ways to Santiago de Compostela. During the 5-day walk we traverse the hilly landscapes of Galicia, passing numerous points of cultural and historical interest along the way.



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11 - 18 September 2027



What is the experience like?

Who accompanies us?

The trek is accompanied by local professional English-speaking guides who have an excellent knowledge of hiking in the region. The guides are first aid trained and will support you throughout your journey. You will also be supported by a Different Travel Company UK tour manager.

How tough is it?

This trek is graded *moderate to challenging*. You will be trekking long distances over varying terrain which includes some uphill sections, in varying weather conditions. You will stay in basic hotels and guesthouses.

You will be walking for many hours and sometimes on steep gradients. It is essential that you are fit enough to trek for at least 7-8 hours at a time for multiple consecutive days. Regular breaks are taken, but long days of walking are inevitable. You cannot be too fit for this challenge so you should train well before your departure.

What is the terrain like?

The terrain will vary throughout the 5 days, but in general you will trek all day along country roads, compact dirt and stone footpaths, forest tracks, gravel trails, paved streets and through woods and meadows with some uphill/downhill paths. Each day, you will experience undulating terrain, so it is important that your training includes hill walking and trekking up and down gradients.

What about meals?

Breakfast and evening meals will be taken in a communal dining room at the accommodation or at local restaurants. You will enjoy hearty, delicious Spanish meals that will keep your energy levels high for each day's trek. You will eat packed lunches, which you will carry yourself each day or stop in small local restaurants. Please inform us in advance if you have any dietary requirements or preferences.

Where will we stay?

You will stay in basic hotels and simple guesthouses on a twin-share basis. Bathrooms will generally be private with showers and flushing toilets, but there may occasionally be shared facilities.

Practical information

Is there an age limit?

You must be aged 18+ to join this trek. It may be possible for you to participate if you are 16 or 17 years old, but you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit.

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11 - 18 September 2027



Who can take part?

An ideal candidate is someone who is open-minded, positive, flexible and enjoys the challenges of the great outdoors. Adventure travel involves elements of the unexpected so do not expect the standards to be the same as you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable (be it because of group pace, weather conditions etc.) and itineraries may be altered to allow for this. You must also be willing to train hard for this challenge!

How fit do I need to be?

If you do not already regularly exercise you should aim to start training (including plenty of hills) as early as possible. The best training is hill walking, which will prepare you for the type of terrain you will experience. Other activities which can complement hill walking include running, cycling, gym workouts, boot camps etc.

Building up your core and leg muscle strength is important so exercises such as squats, lunges, push-ups, planks and crunches will really enhance your training. These exercises can be done at home – no gym needed.

You must take your training seriously and arrive as fit as you can be, so you get the most out of this challenge.

How should I prepare?

You must engage in training (including plenty of walking up and down hills) before departure to ensure your best chance of enjoyment on the trip. This could include hill walking, running, cycling, gym workouts, boot camps, etc. You can download a number of free apps to help you train and track your progress, e.g. MapMyWalk, C25K, MyFitnessPal, etc. Attempting to complete the trek without training will make it more challenging than necessary and will be detrimental to your experience, and the experience of your teammates.

Medical declaration

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used and other medical issues must be specified.

All your data, including medical details, is treated in the strictest confidence. The information will be securely screened by a qualified medical professional, and details provided to your tour manager and local guides so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. It is a condition of your registration that you give full and accurate details. If any details change, you must update us. By completing the booking form, you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow-up questions regarding your health. If your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and wellbeing, or the safety and wellbeing of others in the group, it may be recommended that you do not take part. If this happens, your deposit will be refunded. If you develop a new medical condition after making a booking and this results in your withdrawal from the Event, this will be treated as a cancellation by you. Please refer to the terms and conditions at the time of booking. Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation on a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.

Health and Safety Assurance

Your health and safety are our highest priorities, and we are committed to ensuring your trip is not only memorable but also safe.

We closely monitor guidance from the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which provides up-to-date travel advice and recommendations. All adventure travel involves an element of risk. We will **never operate a trip in an area against the advice of the FCDO**, whether due to health concerns, political instability, natural disasters, or any other safety threat.

If travel restrictions in the destination country prevent the trip from going ahead safely, we will offer the option to postpone or cancel your booking **at no cost to you**.

We will keep you fully informed of any updates relevant to your travel arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at info@different-travel.com.

Trip cost

A £350 non-refundable registration fee is payable at the time of booking and then you must fundraise at least £2,950 for Royal Devon Hospitals Charity. The registration fee can be paid in instalments. A total of £2,360 (80% of your target) must have been raised by 18 June 2027. The remaining 20% must be raised by 1 October 2027.

A self-funded is also available (pay £350 deposit + £2,215 trip costs + fundraise at least £735).

*The final trip costs are based on the overall group size and are subject to change. This is the most you will be required to pay.

Trip Includes:

- ✓ Return flights from the UK (inc. airport taxes)
- ✓ All transfers and transport in Spain
- ✓ Accommodation as specified
- ✓ Meals as per itinerary (excl. lunch on day 7)
- ✓ English-speaking local guides
- ✓ Luggage transfers during the trek
- ✓ Different Travel UK tour manager

Trip Does Not Include:

- ✗ Visa or travel permit depending on EU regulations at the time of departure
- ✗ Personal expenses (e.g. drinks, souvenirs, etc.)
- ✗ Any necessary vaccinations
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips (approx. £30-£35 per person)
- ✗ Trek kit and equipment



Camino de Santiago with Royal Devon Hospitals Charity

11 - 18 September 2027



Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday 11 September 2027):

UK to Sarria

Fly from the UK to either Santiago, La Coruna, Vigo, or Porto (tbc). On arrival transfer to spend your first night at a hotel in Sarria and have dinner and a briefing on the trek to come.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 (Sunday 12 September 2027):

Sarria – Portomarin

After a hearty breakfast we start our walk today, through shady oak woods, pretty villages and on quiet country roads. The village of Barbedelo has a beautiful Romanesque church, the Church of Santiago, which features pictorials of fantastic birds, Daniel between two lions and the three wise men before Herod. The art displayed here represents the importance of resurrection and new beginnings. When we finally arrive in Portomarin, there is time to relax at the hotel and enjoy the numerous terraces of the main plaza and learn about the history of the area.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Trekking: approx. 6 hours / 22km

Altitude gain/loss: +230m / -300m



Day 3 (Monday 13 September 2027):

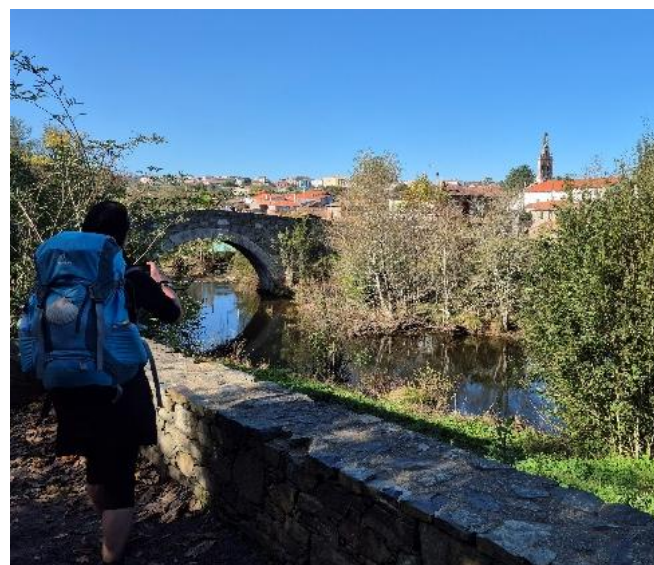
Portomarin – Palas de Rei

Leaving the village, the Camino crosses the River Miño and climbs steadily uphill. On our way, we cross Gonzar and the Romanesque Church of Santa María Castromaior, and then stop a moment to enjoy the peace and calm of the Galician Cemetery in Ligonde. We continue on to Eirexe and its stunning Romanesque church featuring a sculpture of Daniel, as well as Santiago de Peregrino. Our overnight stop is in Palace do Rei, a small and pretty town.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Trekking: approx. 6.5 hours / 25km

Altitude gain/loss: +340m / -140m



Day 4 (Tuesday 14 September 2027):

Palas de Rei – Arzua

Today, the Camino continues slightly downhill, passing the village of Casanova and the charming village of Leboeiro. At Melide there is a chance to stop in one of the many restaurants to try some local specialties. Later today, the Camino follows a forest track and crosses several streams bringing us to the village of Boente, with its church of Santiago. Then we pass through the medieval village of Ribadiso, and finally reach Arzua. This small town has 2 churches that can be visited, Santa María and La Magdalena. It has a population of around 7000 and is famous for its creamy cheese, quiexo.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Trekking: approx. 7 hours / 29km

Altitude gain/loss: +140m / -340m

Day 5 (Wednesday 15 September 2027):

Arzua – Rua Opino

Today's shaded section of the Camino passes through woods, along streams and through sleepy villages. We take our time and visit the chapel of Santa Irena, with its unique statues of Santiago. The rest of the way to Rua Opino is on a good and quiet country road. Rua is one of the less crowded stopping points before Santiago de Compostela.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Trekking: approx. 5.5 hours / 18km

Altitude gain/loss: +50m / -130m

Camino de Santiago with Royal Devon Hospitals Charity

11 - 18 September 2027



Day 6 (Thursday 16 September 2027): Rua Opino – Santiago de Compostela

The final stage today, firstly to Lavacolla, where pilgrims traditionally washed in the river before reaching Santiago de Compostela. The tall eucalyptus trees line the way to Monte del Gozo (the Mount of Joy), from where we can see our goal – the Cathedral of Santiago! After descending to the city you will be able to witness the fantastic architecture of the UNESCO World Heritage Site close-up. We check into our hotel and relax after completing our camino.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Trekking: approx 5.5 hours / 21km

Altitude gain/loss: +150m / -185m

Day 7 (Friday 17 October 2027): Santiago

Today is free for you to enjoy at your leisure. Take in the sights of Santiago de Compostela or optional excursions are available for a supplement, payable locally. Gather for a celebratory farewell dinner this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, dinner

Day 8 (Saturday 18 October 2027): Santiago – UK

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to the UK.

Meals: Breakfast

***N.B.** This itinerary has been prepared in advance so while we do not anticipate changes, this itinerary may be subject to alteration due to flight schedules, hotel availability and other factors outside our control. During the trip itself the itinerary will depend on the group ability, weather and the daily circumstances. Any changes in the itinerary will be made in the interest of group safety and enjoyment. In-country, your guide and tour manager will have the final say in the interest of the health and safety of the group.*



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