

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The image shows the ornate bell tower (torre) on the left and the large dome (cúpula) in the center-right, set against a clear blue sky. The architecture is a mix of Romanesque and Baroque styles.

x7cobe7

HOLY YEAR 2027 · FREE GUIDE

Camino de Santiago Guide 2027

French, Portuguese, Coastal and English Ways: which to pick, how to prepare and what nobody tells you before you go.

[Camino Francés](#)

[Camino Portugués](#)

[Camino Portugués Coastal](#)

[Camino Inglés](#)

XACOBEA

Before the first yellow arrow

If you're holding this guide, you've probably been thinking about it for a while. A friend who came back changed, a movie, a promise, or just the wish to walk for a week without checking the clock.

2027 is a Holy Year: July 25 falls on a Sunday, and Santiago will see more pilgrims than ever. No reason to worry, just a reason to prepare well. That's what this guide is for.

You won't find the stage tables from our website here. You'll find what we learn from talking with pilgrims, hostel hosts and locals: which Camino suits you, how to arrive without blisters, the stories that turn a stone into more than a stone, and the mistakes we see again and again.

Read it slowly, mark it up, and write to us anytime. We're in Galicia, at the end of all these roads.



The Xacobe team

INSIDE

Which Camino suits you?	3
10 tips before you start	4
Camino stories	6
The four routes, one page each	9
When to go in 2027?	13
Walk with respect	14
The fine print	15
Want us to plan it?	16
Join the Community	17



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766 km

Camino Francés · 33 stages

249 km

Camino Portugués · 11 stages

273 km

Camino Portugués Coastal ·
12 stages

112 km

Camino Inglés · 6 stages

● 01

Which Camino suits you?

Four routes carry nearly nine in ten pilgrims. They share the basics, yellow arrows, the credential (credencial) and the finish in Obradoiro Square, but each feels different.

	Camino Francés	Camino Portugués	Camino Portugués Coastal	Camino Inglés
DISTANCE	766 km	249 km	273 km	112 km
DAYS	30–35 full · 5 from Sarria	10–12 full · 6 from Tui	11–13 full · 6 from Baiona (A Ramallosa)	5–6
EFFORT	Demanding in full; moderate from Sarria	Moderate; easy from Tui	Moderate, with few climbs	Moderate, one long climb
SCENERY	Pyrenees, vineyards, Meseta, León's mountains, Galician forests	Minho and Lima valleys, Roman bridges, vines, manor houses	Atlantic beaches, fishing towns, estuaries	Estuaries, medieval towns, oak woods, hamlets
VIBE	The busiest, most social	Lively, never packed	Quieter, growing fast	The quietest of the four
BEST IF...	you want company, services everywhere and the classic route	you want easy climbs, good food and two countries at once	the sea calls and you'd like a breeze	you have one week and want a full, peaceful Camino

Decide in 30 seconds

I have one week

English from Ferrol, French from Sarria or Portuguese from Tui. All earn the Compostela.

First time, and I want company

French from Sarria. Never alone, unless you want to be.

I want the ocean

Portuguese Coast, ideally from Baiona or Viana do Castelo.

I'm worried about hills

Portuguese from Tui: short slopes and no big climbs.

I want quiet

English, or the Coast except July–August.

I have a month and want the full experience

French from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port.

● 02

10 tips before you start

What pilgrims tell us when they reach Santiago: "I wish I'd known that sooner."

01**Feet come first**

Walk in broken-in shoes, at least 100 km before you leave, and half a size up: feet swell. Wear technical or merino socks, never cotton. Feel rubbing? Stop right then and tape it: ten minutes of rubbing is ten days of blisters.

02**Train for six weeks**

Weeks 1 and 2: three walks of 5–8 km. Weeks 3 and 4: add one long 15 km walk with your pack. Weeks 5 and 6: two 20 km days in a row, in the same boots and with the same weight you'll carry. Find hills: no day in Galicia is flat.

03**Pack: max 10% of your body weight**

If you weigh 70 kg, that's 7 kg including water. Two changes of clothes, a fleece, a rain jacket, sandals, a small first-aid kit. If you don't use it in training, leave it home. Don't want to carry it? Pack transfer between lodgings runs on all four routes.

04**Credential: your passport**

Get it before you go (pilgrim associations, parishes or the cathedral) or at your first hostel. Collect stamps in bars, churches and lodgings. In the last 100 km you need two a day: without them, no Compostela. When you arrive, register on the Pilgrim's Office website before you pick it up.

05**Phone ready to go**

With an EU SIM, roaming works like at home in Spain and Portugal. Coming from outside the EU? Buy an eSIM before you fly. Bring a power bank and download offline maps. The emergency number is 112 in both countries.

06

Cash in your pocket

Cards work almost everywhere, but a village bar, a donation-based hostel or fruit from a garden stand want cash. Carry €50–100 and use ATMs in the bigger towns: there are none between villages.

07

Local hours

In Spain, lunch is 1:30–3:30 p.m. and dinner from 8:30 p.m.; many shops close 2–5 p.m. Portugal eats earlier, 12:30–2:30 p.m., and is one hour behind: reset your watch when you cross the Minho.

08

Slower walker? Plan by hours

Figure about 4 km an hour on the flat, plus an hour per 500 m of climbing. If a stage takes you over six hours, split it: almost all have a village with beds halfway. Start early, arrive relaxed.

09

Rest days

On long routes, take one every 6–8 days: Pamplona, Burgos, León or Pontevedra deserve it. On a one-week Camino, one short stage midway is enough. Resting isn't quitting; it's arriving.

10

When it rains

It will rain some day in Galicia, and that's fine: the forests are never greener. Bring a rain jacket or poncho that covers your pack, dry socks in a bag and poles for the mud. Don't dry boots on a radiator: stuff them with paper.



03

Camino stories

Two for each route. Locals tell them, the stones keep them, and when you walk through, these won't be just another town.



SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA · FRENCH WAY

The hen that sang after being roasted

A family of German pilgrims stays in town. The innkeeper's daughter falls for the young son; he turns her down, and she hides a silver cup in his bag. He is accused of theft and hanged. His parents walk on to Santiago and, on the way back, find him alive on the gallows: the saint was holding him up. They rush to tell the magistrate, who is about to eat: "Your son is as alive as this rooster and this hen I'm about to eat." And the birds jumped off the plate and sang. For centuries, a white rooster and hen have lived in a Gothic coop inside the cathedral.

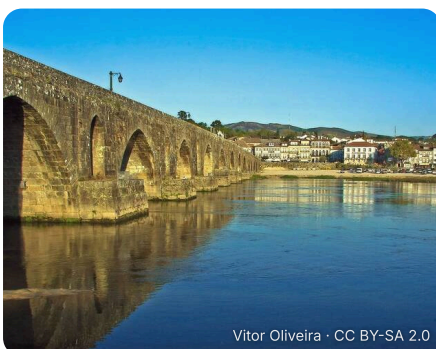
«Santo Domingo de la Calzada, donde cantó la gallina después de asada» – where the hen sang after it was roasted.»



O CEBREIRO · FRENCH WAY

The miracle in the fog

Around 1300, one winter, a man from Barxamaior climbs through the snow to the church of Santa María to hear Mass. The monk saying it, short on faith, thinks it isn't worth so much effort for a little bread and wine. At that moment, the host turns into flesh and the wine into blood. The 12th-century Romanesque chalice is still kept in the church, and some call it the Holy Grail of Galicia. In 1984, O Cebreiro's parish priest, Elías Valiña, began painting the yellow arrows that guide you to Santiago today.



PONTE DE LIMA · PORTUGUESE WAY

River of oblivion

When Rome's legions reached the Lima River, they refused to cross it: they believed it was the Lethe, the river of forgetting, and that whoever crossed would lose all memory of home. Tradition says that in 137 BC, General Decimus Junius Brutus crossed alone and, from the far bank, called each soldier by name. None had forgotten a thing. Today you cross the Lima on a bridge of Roman and medieval origin, in one of Portugal's oldest towns. It's hard not to stop in the middle and watch the water.

«From the far bank, he called each soldier by name.»



PADRÓN · PORTUGUESE WAY

Where the boat was tied

Tradition says the stone boat carrying the body of Saint James the Apostle from Jaffa sailed up the Ulla and the Sar to Iria Flavia and was tied to a stone. That stone, a Roman altar, is kept in the church of Santiago de Padrón, and the town takes its name from it, the pedrón. Before you leave, try Padrón peppers, grown in Herbón, a short walk away: some are hot and some are not.

«Some hot, some not.»



BAIONA · PORTUGUESE COAST

The first news of America

In early March 1493, the caravel Pinta, under Martín Alonso Pinzón, sailed into Baiona Bay. It was the first port in Europe to learn there was land across the ocean. Today a replica of the Pinta floats in the harbor, and every spring the town celebrates with the Festa da Arribada, medieval market included. Climb to the Monterreal fortress at sunset: you'll see the Cíes Islands and understand why sailors were in a hurry to get here.



A GUARDA · PORTUGUESE COAST

Village above the Minho

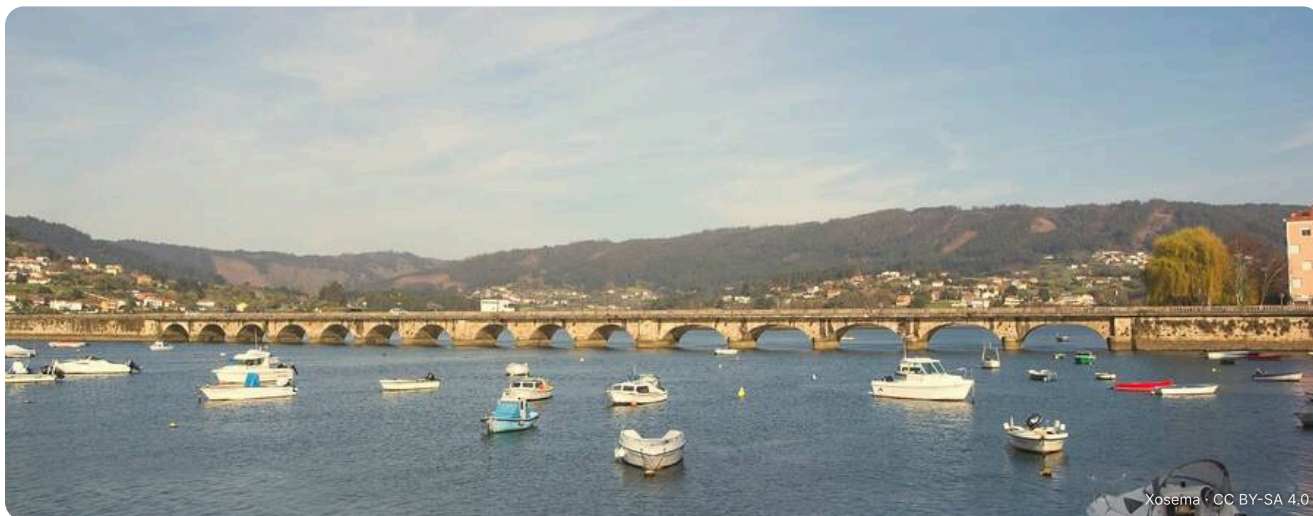
Before Rome, before the Camino, a hillfort community lived in round stone houses atop Mount Santa Trega. You can still see the foundations of many, and some have been rebuilt with thatched roofs. From the top you see the mouth of the Minho, Portugal across the water and the open Atlantic. It's an uphill detour, yes, but few places show so well why this land has looked to the sea for thousands of years.



FERROL · ENGLISH WAY

The pilgrims who came by sea

In the Middle Ages, pilgrims from England, Ireland, Scandinavia and Flanders didn't cross Europe on foot: they sailed to northern Galicia's ports and walked to Santiago from there. Hence the name English Way. From Ferrol it's just over 100 km, enough for the Compostela, along quiet estuaries where you still hear the shipyards. It's the route of those who came from far away, and it shows: every village says hello.



PONTEDEUME AND BETANZOS · ENGLISH WAY

Lord of the boar

In the 14th century, Fernán Pérez de Andrade, known as "o Bo," the Good, had the bridge at Pontedeume built, along with churches, monasteries and pilgrim hospitals. His emblem was the boar, and you'll find it carved in stone all along the route. In the church of San Francisco in Betanzos, his tomb rests on a boar and a bear. Look for the animals: dogs, hunters and hunting scenes cover the whole tomb.

«Look for the carved animals: they're everywhere.»

04 · ON ONE PAGE

Camino Francés

The classic: a month across northern Spain.

From the Pyrenees to Galicia, the French Way crosses four landscapes and nearly every mood. It has the most services and is the easiest to walk in sections.



766

km

33

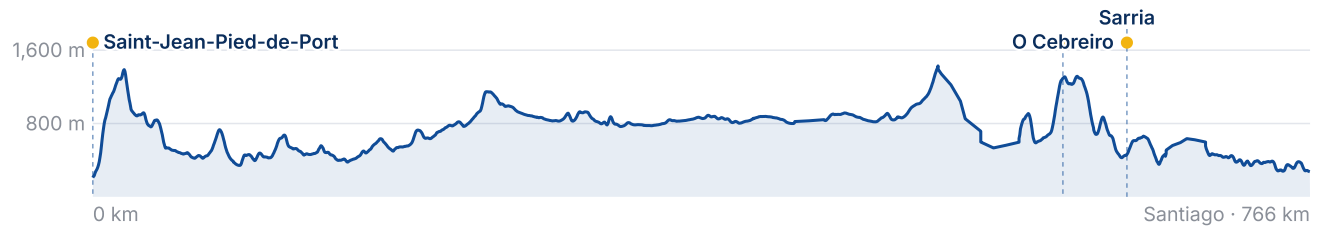
stages

1,500 m

highest point

10,537

m total climb



WHERE TO START

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port · full	766 km · 33 days
O Cebreiro	156 km · 7 days
Sarria	115 km · 5 days

For the Compostela, walk at least the last 100 km to Santiago.

DON'T MISS

- Crossing the Pyrenees to Roncesvalles, on day one
- The hen coop in Santo Domingo de la Calzada's cathedral
- Cruz de Ferro: leave a stone brought from home
- Sunrise in O Cebreiro, as you enter Galicia
- Octopus in Melide, midway through the last week

STAGE BY STAGE

1	Roncesvalles	24.1 km	●	12	Burgos	23.3 km	●	23	Foncebadón	25.8 km	●
2	Zubiri	21.3 km	●	13	Hornillos del Camino	22.6 km	●	24	Ponferrada	26.8 km	●
3	Pamplona	21.2 km	●	14	Castrojeriz	19.8 km	●	25	Villafranca del Bierzo	24.1 km	●
4	Puente la Reina	22 km	●	15	Frómista	24.6 km	●	26	O Cebreiro	27.6 km	●
5	Estella	22.7 km	●	16	Carrión de los Condes	18.8 km	●	27	Triacastela	19.4 km	●
6	Los Arcos	21.6 km	●	17	Terradillos de los Templarios	26.2 km	●	28	Sarria	20.9 km	●
7	Logroño	27.7 km	●	18	Bercianos del Real Camino	23.7 km	●	29	Portomarín	24.7 km	●
8	Nájera	29 km	●	19	Mansilla de las Mulas	26.3 km	●	30	Palas de Rei	24.8 km	●
9	Santo Domingo de la Calzada	21.1 km	●	20	León	18.5 km	●	31	Arzúa	26.5 km	●
10	Belorado	22.6 km	●	21	San Martín del Camino	23.1 km	●	32	O Pedrouzo	19.9 km	●
11	San Juan de Ortega	23.4 km	●	22	Astorga	22.9 km	●	33	Santiago de Compostela	19.4 km	●

● Easy ● Medium ● Hard

04 · ON ONE PAGE

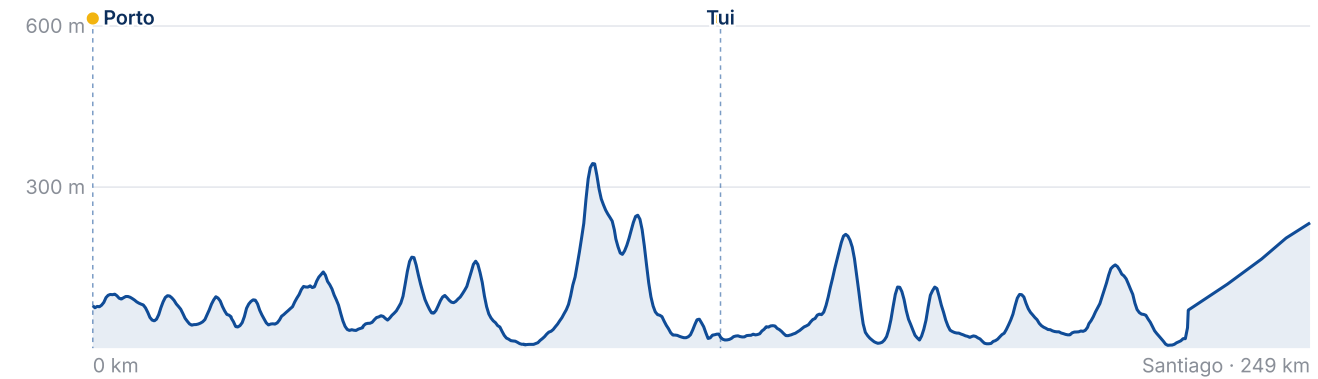
Camino Portugués

Two countries, a river and the best food.

From Porto, it climbs green valleys of vines and granite, crosses the Minho between Valença and Tui and enters Galicia via the Rías Baixas.



249	11	392 m	2,979
km	stages	highest point	m total climb



WHERE TO START

Porto · full 249 km · 11 days

Tui 121 km · 6 days

For the Compostela, walk at least the last 100 km to Santiago.

DON'T MISS

- The Lima bridge at Ponte de Lima
- Tui's fortress cathedral across the Minho
- Ponte Sampaio's medieval bridge
- Pontevedra's car-free old town
- The pedrón stone in Padrón

STAGE BY STAGE

1	Vilarinho	28.3 km	●	7	Redondela	17.3 km	●
2	Barcelos	27 km	●	8	Pontevedra	20 km	●
3	Ponte de Lima	33 km	●	9	Caldas de Reis	23.6 km	●
4	Rubiães	18.6 km	●	10	Padrón	20.3 km	●
5	Tui	21.4 km	●	11	Santiago de Compostela	24.9 km	●
6	O Porriño	14.4 km	●				

● Easy ● Medium ● Hard

04 · ON ONE PAGE

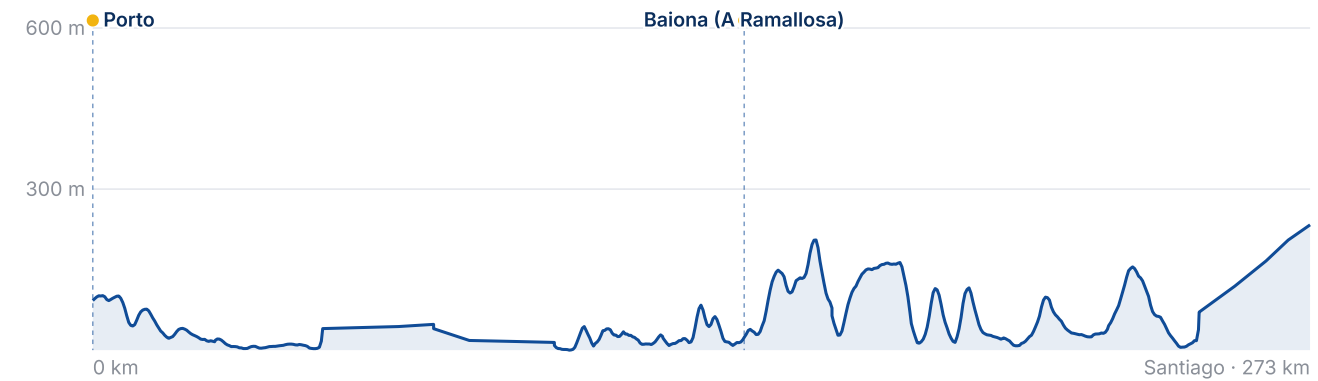
Camino Portugués Coastal

The Atlantic as your walking partner.

The Coastal route hugs the shore from Porto: boardwalks, lighthouses and fishing villages. In Redondela it joins the central Portuguese Way.



273	12	260 m	2,432
km	stages	highest point	m total climb



WHERE TO START

Porto · full 273 km · 12 days

Baiona (A Ramallosa) 127 km · 6 days

For the Compostela, walk at least the last 100 km to Santiago.

DON'T MISS

- Dune boardwalks from Vila do Conde to Esposende
- The Santa Luzia sanctuary above Viana do Castelo
- Crossing the Minho from Caminha to A Guarda
- The Pinta replica in Baiona's harbor
- The Vigo estuary from the water trail

STAGE BY STAGE

1	Vila do Conde	27.5 km	●	7	Vigo	19.7 km	●
2	Esposende	24.1 km	●	8	Redondela	17.8 km	●
3	Viana do Castelo	24.9 km	●	9	Pontevedra	20.7 km	●
4	Caminha	27.1 km	●	10	Caldas de Reis	23.6 km	●
5	Mougás	24.4 km	●	11	Padrón	20.3 km	●
6	A Ramallosa	18.2 km	●	12	Santiago de Compostela	24.9 km	●

● Easy ● Medium ● Hard

04 · ON ONE PAGE

Camino Inglés

One week, one complete Camino.

Short but complete: estuaries, medieval towns and hamlets where people still say good morning. Only the Hospital de Bruma stage is tough.



112

km

6

stages

457 m

highest point

1,754

m total climb



WHERE TO START

Ferrol · full 112 km · 6 days

For the Compostela, walk at least the last 100 km to Santiago.

DON'T MISS

- Curuxeiras harbor, kilometer zero in Ferrol
- The Andrade bridge and tower in Pontedeume
- The boar-and-bear tomb in Betanzos
- The arcades and taverns of Betanzos
- A quiet walk into Santiago from the north

STAGE BY STAGE

1	Neda	14.4 km	●	4	Hospital de Bruma	26.2 km	●
2	Pontedeume	14 km	●	5	Sigüeiro	21.6 km	●
3	Betanzos	20.3 km	●	6	Santiago de Compostela	15.8 km	●

● Easy ● Medium ● Hard

● 05

When to go in 2027?

Every month is a good month if you know what to expect. Here's the vibe we expect in 2027, based on Pilgrim's Office figures.



Our pick

April, May and June

Long days, green fields and mild weather. First-timers' favorite.

September, October

Golden light, grape harvest in El Bierzo and the Minho, and a still-warm sea on the Coast.

March, November

For those who want calm: fewer people, more conversation in bars. Bring good rain gear.

Key Holy Year dates

December 31 – January 6, 2027

Opening of the Holy Door

March 21 – March 28, 2027

Holy Week

July 15 – July 18, 2027

European Youth Pilgrimage

July 24 – July 25, 2027

St. James's Day (Sunday)

The sooner you book, the more choice you have. Short on time? We'll still find you a bed.

xacobea.com →

Walk with respect

Our Pilgrim's Pact: six simple gestures, the same for everyone.

The Camino runs through villages where people live, with their own language, culture and everyday life. Walking with respect is the best way to experience it: come to discover, to share and to enjoy.

1 Living villages

Behind every window someone is sleeping, working or getting up early. Keep your voice down in the villages and when you leave the albergue before dawn.

3 Places that call for silence

Churches, chapels and cemeteries are not a backdrop. Step in quietly and put your phone away during Mass.

5 The people who make your trip possible

Hosts, servers, drivers and neighbors. A greeting, some patience and a thank-you go a long way.

2 A language of its own

In Galicia people speak Galician. Learn a "grazas" and use local place names: O Cebreiro, A Coruña.

4 Leave the Camino better

Carry your trash to the next bin, look after rivers and springs, and skip single-use plastic.

6 Celebrate calmly

Reaching Santiago is moving, and worth celebrating. Do it your way, without shouting or noise: people live in the square and its streets, and the best celebration is one that bothers no one.

Unhas palabras en galego

Galicia speaks Galician. No one will expect it, but a "grazas" opens many doors.

Bo día	Good morning
Boa tarde	Good afternoon
Grazas	Thanks
Por favor	Please
Bo Camiño!	Buen Camino!
A conta, por favor	The check, please
Onde está o albergue?	Where is the hostel?
Ata logo	Bye for now

Português básico

For the Portugal stretch. Trying is appreciated, even if you reply in English.

Bom dia	Good morning
Obrigado / Obrigada	Thanks (said by a man / a woman)
Se faz favor	Please
Bom Caminho!	Buen Camino!
Com licença	Excuse me
A conta, se faz favor	The check, please

● 07

The fine print

Five mistakes we see every season, and how to avoid them easily.

01**Starting too fast**

The first three days make or break the Camino. Excitement pushes you to walk too far, and tendinitis follows. Walk below your pace until day four.

02**Brand-new shoes**

New boots stay in the closet. No tip prevents more blisters than this one.

03**Overpacking**

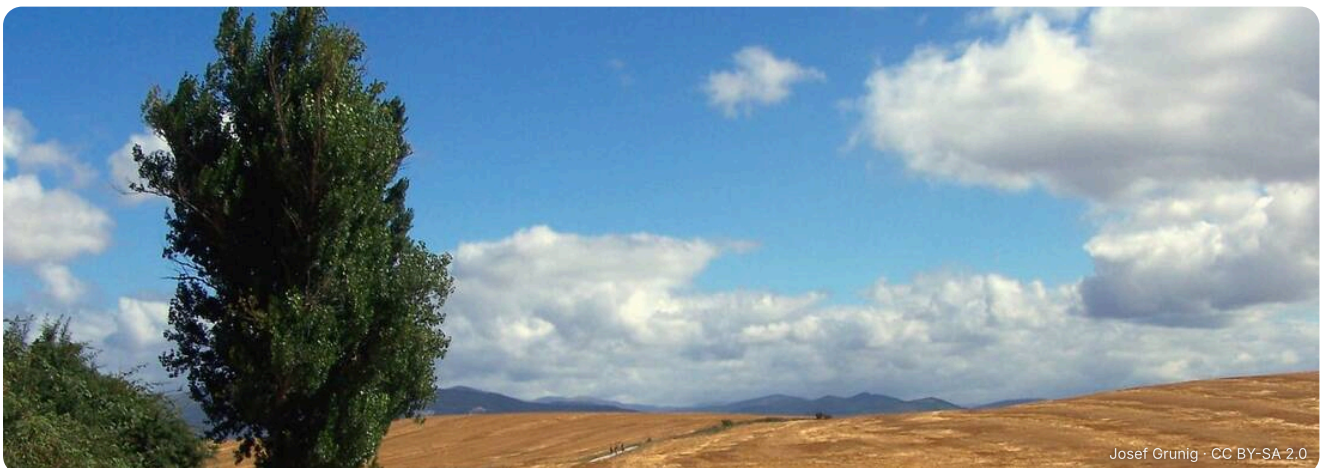
Each extra kilo costs your knees on the downhills. The Camino has pharmacies, shops and laundries.

04**Not booking the last 100 km**

In 2027, beds fill up from Sarria, Tui or Ferrol to Santiago. Book before you go, or have someone plan it for you.

05**Missing the second stamp**

In the last 100 km you need two stamps a day. Get one at breakfast and one where you sleep. Done.



08

Want us to plan it?

You walk; a Camino specialist agency we work with handles the rest.

**A bed every night**

A private room, booked in the town where each stage ends.

**Your pack goes ahead**

From lodging to lodging. You carry just a daypack.

**Help on the route**

A phone that answers if things go wrong.

**Quote within 24 h**

Free, no obligation. You only pay if you confirm.

Four most requested sections

CAMINO FRANCÉS**Sarria →
Santiago**

5 nights

from

€550

per person



Scan to request this section

CAMINO PORTUGUÉS**Tui → Santiago**

6 nights

from

€650

per person



Scan to request this section

CAMINO INGLÉS**Ferrol →
Santiago**

6 nights

from

€650

per person



Scan to request this section

CAMINO FRANCÉS**O Cebreiro →
Santiago**

7 nights

from

€800

per person

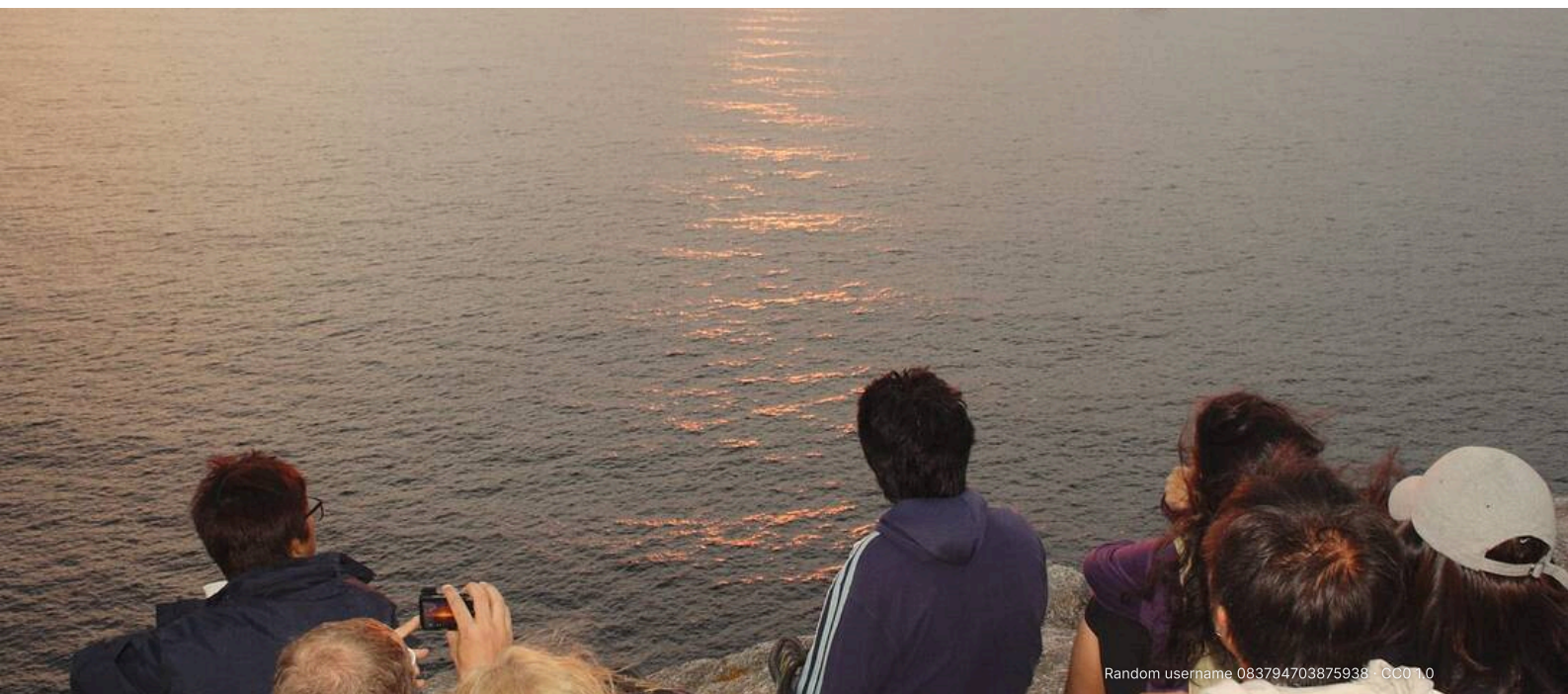


Scan to request this section

Guide prices per person in a double room, from Camino agencies in 2026. The final price depends on dates and lodging level.

Starting somewhere else? We'll plan that too.

xacobeas.com →



● 09

Join the Community

The Camino starts long before the first stage. In the Xacobeia Community, you'll find pilgrims leaving on your dates.



Pilgrim chat

Ask anything and get an answer from someone who just got back.



Departure groups

Find someone to start with: same stage, same date, same language.



Walking buddies

For those who'd rather not walk alone, or just at first.



Scan to join

xacobeia.com/comunidad



xacobeo

An independent Camino de Santiago guide, made in Galicia.

xacobeo.com

hello@xacobeo.com

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