



Walking Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago

Catholic Charities of California invites you to join a seven-day walking pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela:

2018

- May 24-30
- September 4-10

If you've seen the 2010 film *The Way*, then you've had a small taste of what it's like to walk the Camino. This pilgrimage is a spiritual and transformative experience, and a portion of the cost of your trip will support important services for Californians in need.

For more information, or to sign up for this pilgrimage, please contact Melissa Huynh at (916) 706-1539 or pilgrim@CatholicCharitiesCA.org

The Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James and the Road to Santiago, is comprised of a series of pilgrimage routes to the shrine of St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. According to tradition, the remains of St. James are buried in the Cathedral.

According to tradition, St. James—one of the 12 apostles—was martyred in the year 44. In 814, his relics were rediscovered in Compostela, in northern Spain. Pilgrimages to the tomb became extremely popular in the Middle Ages but declined by the 16th Century. By the 1980s, only a few pilgrims arrived in Santiago de Compostela every year. In October 1987, the Council of Europe declared the route the first European Cultural Route and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since then, the route has regained popularity, attracting a growing number of modern-day pilgrims from around the world.

There are many pilgrimage routes to Santiago. The French Way is the most widely used route and there are many pilgrims and services on this road.

Trip Highlights

- ✓ Walk the final leg of the French Way into Santiago de Compostela
- ✓ Walk through rural Galicia and see several historical churches and religious sites
- ✓ Attend the beautiful Pilgrim's Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela
- ✓ Meet other pilgrims from all over the world
- ✓ Receive a passport to get stamped along the way and the opportunity to receive an official Compostela from the pilgrim's office in Santiago
- ✓ Enjoy quality accommodations; rooms with private baths where possible

Cost

2018

- \$1,800 Double Occupancy
- \$2,000 Single Occupancy
- Deposit is \$300

What's Included

- ✓ Catholic Charities of California Hosted Dinners in Samos and Santiago
- ✓ 7 nights of lodging
- ✓ Luggage Transfers
- ✓ Some meals
- ✓ Maps and detailed Itinerary
- ✓ A contribution to the work of Catholic Charities of California

Add Ons

- ✓ Extra nights of lodging
- ✓ Organize a group of 14 pilgrims and either the organizer's cost will be waived *or* everyone can enjoy a discount.

Itinerary

Note: Miles are approximate from city to city.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Arrive Samos	0.0	Settle in and stay overnight. Dinner Hosted by Catholic Charities of California. In Samos tour the beautiful active Benedictine monastery founded in the sixth century, attend Vespers and Mass.
2	Walk to Sarria	5.4 miles	Explore the town centers churches, chapels, monasteries and seven pilgrim hospitals. The main street, Rúa Maior, has several nice cafes. Visit the Igrexa de Santa Mariña with its pilgrim mural, the castle fortress and the Magdalena Monastery.
3	Walk to Portomarin	13.7 miles	The walk between Sarria and Portomarin is one of the quietest and most peaceful of the Camino. Visit the beautiful Romanesque church in the village of Barbadelo on the way.
4	Walk to Palas de Rei	15.4 miles	Pilgrims will pass through some small villages. Visit the Romanesque Church of Santa María in Castromaior and the Romanesque church in Eirexe, with its portal featuring a sculpture of Daniel with animals, as well as Pilgrim Santiago.
5	Walk to Arzua	17.9 miles	Pass through the villages of Casanova and of Leboreiro. In Melide, try octopus, Galicia's most classic dish, in one of the many pulperias. See the former monastery and Church of Santci Spiritu, a pilgrim hospital, the Church of San Pedro and the Church of Santa Maria. Cross many streams to Boente and the Church of Santiago. See Ribadiso, a medieval hamlet. Arzua is famous for its local cheese. In Arzúa, visit the churches of Santa María and Magdalena.
6	Walk to Lavacolla	18.1 miles	Traditionally, pilgrims used to stop in Lavacolla to cleanse themselves in the river before the final walk into Santiago de Compostela.
7	Walk to Santiago	6.3 miles	From Monte do Gozo—the Mount of Joy—pilgrims will catch a first glimpse of the spires of the cathedral in Santiago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive in the Plaza de Obradoiro and enter the Cathedral by midday in time for the pilgrim mass. Collect a Pilgrim Certificate and spend time exploring this beautiful city. Catholic Charities of California hosted dinner.
8	Santiago	0.0	Departure or enjoy an optional night in Santiago (additional cost).

Additional Information

Meals: Breakfast is included at some hotels and this will be indicated in the guide booklet. Dinner is hosted by CCC on the first and last evening of the pilgrimage.

Weather: May and September are good months to walk the Camino. In May, temperatures average between 45F and 62F. In September, temperatures average 69F to 75F.

Transportation: The cost does not include flights. Upon request, CCC will assist pilgrims with recommended transport to and from Spain.

- If flying into Santiago airport, it's easiest to take a taxi to Samos. The estimated cost is €130 per car.
- If flying into Madrid, use one of several rapid trains called AVE or ALVIA from Chamartin Station to Sarria. Purchase tickets at www.raileurope.com. The trip is about 6 hours to Sarria and the cost for economy class is approximately €70. In Sarria take a taxi to Samos, approximately 7.4 miles away.

Suggested Items to Pack:

- ✓ Good walking shoes
- ✓ Day pack
- ✓ Rain poncho
- ✓ Sun hat and sunscreen
- ✓ Band-Aids, medications
- ✓ Walking sticks
- ✓ Layers of clothing
- ✓ A rock or pebble to leave on the path

Travel Insurance: Upon request, CCC can provide information about securing travel-related insurances.

Pilgrim Passports: Each pilgrim will be provided a "Pilgrim Passport." At the end of the walk pilgrims can obtain a Compostela Certificate in Santiago.