



Walking Pilgrimage on 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:

2017

- May 15-22 , 2017 – *One space available*
- May 24-30, 2017 – *Full*
- September 4-11, 2017 – *Full*
- September 24-30, 2017

2018

- May 24-30, 2018
- September 4-11, 2018

If you've seen the movie "The Way" then you will have just a taste of what it is like to walk the Camino. This pilgrimage will transform your life and help support programs for those in need.

For more information, or to sign up for this pilgrimage, contact Melissa 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, comprises a series of pilgrimage routes to the shrine of St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Tradition has it that the remains of the Saint are buried in the Cathedral.

The Way of St. James was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages, along with those to Rome and Jerusalem. At that time, a pilgrim could earn a plenary indulgence by completing this walk.

The history of the Camino de Santiago dates to 814, when the tomb of St. James was discovered in Iberia. Though the road was traveled extensively in the middle ages, use of it declined by the 16th Century. By the 1980s, only a few pilgrims arrived in Santiago every year. Later, the route began attracting a growing number of modern-day pilgrims from around the globe. In October 1987, the route was declared the first European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe and was also named one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

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

Highlights of Trip

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Stay at quality accommodations; rooms with private baths where possible

Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive Samos

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.

Day 2 – Walk to Sarria

Distance: 5.41 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.

Day 3 – Walk to Portomarin

Distance: 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.

Day 4 – Walk to Palas de Rei

Distance: 15.4 miles

Today 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.

Day 5 – Walk to Arzua

Distance: 17.9 miles

Pass through the village of Casanova and the delightful village of Leboreiro. In Melide, there are opportunities to try octopus, Galicia's most classic dish in one of the many pulperias. Also in Melide, is the former monastery and Church of Santci Spiritu, a pilgrim hospital, and the Church of San Pedro and the Church of Santa Maria. Pilgrims will cross many streams to Boente and the Church of Santiago. Ribadiso is a medieval hamlet. Arzua is famous for its local cheese. In Arzúa, visit the churches of Santa María and Magdalena.

Day 6 – Walk to Lavacolla

Distance: 18.14 miles

Traditionally, pilgrims used to stop in Lavacolla to cleanse themselves in the river before the final walk into Santiago de Compostela.

Day 7 – Walk to Santiago

Distance: 6.34 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.

Day 8 – Departure or optional extra night in Santiago

Trip Price

\$1,800 Double Occupancy

\$2,000 Single Occupancy

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 Catholic Charities of California

Add Ons

- ✓ Extra nights of lodging
- ✓ Organize a group of 12 pilgrims (11+ organizer) and the organizer cost will be waived or everyone can enjoy a discount.