

Camino a Caballo



Rutas ecuestres del Camino de Santiago

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French Trail - O Cebreiro Trail 7days

Traveling and arriving in Santiago de Compostella on horseback is the ultimate way of traveling the historical and cultural Pilgrims Road of Santiago de Compostella. This Particular road has been used since thousand years by travelers from all over Europe arriving via the Pyrenees and is still in use today.

Following the stars above Santiago de Compostella, The French road accesses Galicia via the Sierra de Los Ancares and the green cathedral of Caurel, carrying the pilgrims until the end of the known world in medieval times.



During these days, as Pilgrims on horseback, we are taken part in the living history of this centuries old road and will encounter new experiences, insights and friendships while enjoying Galicia's history, hospitality, abundant nature and culture.

Day 1 Collection at airport

We collect our riders and their luggage at 15.00 hrs at the airport of Santiago in the arrival hall. Collectively we travel to by car to the small village of o Cebreiro. We meet in the important pilgrim's town of O Cebreiro around 1800 hrs. O Cebreiro is placed on the border of the province of Lugo with Leon and about 230 km to the east of Santiago the Compostella. It is famous for its Chapel where an important miracle occurred, and its Pallozas, Celtic buildings of the old times. It is set on a hilltop overlooking impressive landscapes of mountains and lowlands. We will have dinner and will sleep in mountain chalets with comfortable rooms. Dinner will be a typical specialty of the area, served in an informal mountain lodge where we eat in the presence of many other travelers and pilgrims, on their way to Santiago the Compostella.



Day 2 O Cebreiro to Samos

We shall have breakfast in O Cebreiro and then vacate our rooms. In the mean time our horses will have arrived and saddled. You will be assigned a horse for the trip. We shall travel through rolling hills and woods to the town of Samos where we shall arrive after about 7 hours of riding. Of course we stop regularly at local bars and restaurants for rest and refreshments (not included). Lunch will be a typical Spanish 3 course lunch served in a local restaurant in the

town of Triacastella. In the early evening we shall arrive in the town of Samos, famous fro its medieval monastery. We shall then stable our horses and be transported to our hotel. After some rest we shall meat for a late dinner with specialties of the area.

Day 3 Samos Portomarin

After breakfast we shall collect our horses and start our ride for today's trip. We shall pass the ancient town of Sarria where we shall stop for our first refreshment and if time permits visit the ancient monastery. We shall then continue our trip until we have lunch at a typical Galician farm, famous for its country side lunches prepared on an open barbecue. We then continue our trip on the



trail to the town of Portomarin where we shall arrive in the early evening hours. Here we shall stable our horses at the old stables of the Spanish national police and spend the night in the posada of Portomarin, a hotel of high international standards. Portomarin is situated on a large man made lake and is famous with pilgrims from the world over. Those who wish can attend mass or visit and socialize with the many pilgrims who will spend the night in this typical Spanish village others might desire to go for a swim. Dinner shall be served later in the evening.



Day 4 Portomarin Palas del Rey

After breakfast we collect our horses once again and shall start our day's trip that will ultimately lead us to Palas del Rey. We shall follow the river and the trail. After a coffee break we shall then cross a hill enabling us beautiful area whole area. In the afternoon, our lunch shall be take, in a small simple family restaurant, where we shall be served a typical local lunch which will serve our hungry riders and pilgrims well. After some rest for horses and riders we shall continue our trip to Palaz del Rey, where we will intend to visit the ancient Head quarters/ monastery of the Knights of Santiago. Diner is being served in the later evening hours. Hotel accommodation shall be provided for.

Day 5 Palas del Rey to Arzua

After breakfast we mount our horses and follow the road to Arzua.

The road follows the ancient trail and takes us via old Roman roads and bridges to the town of Melide. Here we shall meet with many other pilgrims and enjoy a special pilgrims lunch. If time permits we shall visit the local cathedral and the Headquarters of the Order of Knights and Ladies of the Order of the Road to Santiago. We will then



follow the road through forests and over hills to the town of Arzua, famous for its famous Spanish Cheeses and Hams. If time permits we can visit a traditional Spanish saddle maker and tack shop. We shall spend the night in a 3 star hotel owned by Swiss owners. Dinner shall be served here also.

Day 6 Arzua to Santiago.

After a well deserved rest we continue our trip to our final destination the city of Santiago the Compostella. The road will be crowded with pilgrims of all nationalities on their final day's trip. You can imagine everybody shall be full of expectations and joy to finally arrive at their destination. We follow the medieval trail through dense forests and wooded lots. After a stop for coffee and refreshments we shall arrive in the afternoon near at our lunch destination close to Santiago Lavacollos. After a festive lunch we shall continue our trip on horseback in the early afternoon to Santiago Monte del Gozo, where we shall visit the



monument and can see the town of Santiago for the first time. Since traffic density and safety concerns do not allow us to enter the city center of Santiago on horseback we dismount our horses here and thank them for their companionship. We continue our trip from here by a guided visit to Santiago. We shall visit the cathedral and if you wish, accompany you to the Roman Catholic Bishops office to obtain your Compostella an official document of the Roman Catholic Church stating in Latin that you have accomplished your pilgrimage. And there our services will finish.

We suggest spending some more days in the historic town of Santiago, visiting the Pilgrims mass in the Cathedral or just socializing with other pilgrims and visitors and exchange stories and adventures. If desired you can extend your trip with a visit to the beautiful Atlantic beaches of Galicia or a stay at our Ranch Granja OCastello near Pontevedra, where you can just relax or join us for a horse trip into the Suido Mountains.

More info: <http://www.caminoacaballo.com/ingles/>