

Purely PYRENEES

walking and cycling holidays

Compostela Camino: Logroño - Leon



A marvellous, once-in-a-lifetime walk on an iconic route that rightly has UNESCO Heritage status. This itinerary is for 15 days walking, but you can begin with a week, or more, and nearer to Santiago or to the Pyrenees: it's up to you.

16 nights - 15 walking days

- Minimum required 1
- From point to point
- With luggage transportation
- Self-guided

Code :
ES2PUS1



The plus points

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- **All the satisfaction of following an historic pilgrimage route**
- **All the heritage and history of Rioja and Castile - castles, cathedrals, villages and much more**
- **Authentic, quality accommodation - great food !**
- **Pleasant walking for those who walk reasonably regularly.**

Before departure, please check that you have an updated fact sheet.

http://www.purelypyrenees.com/compostela_camino_logrono_leon.html

The Spanish call the Camino de Santiago the Milky Way (a medieval fable said it was created from dust rising from pilgrims), the French call it The Road Of Stars, and in English it is often The Way of St James. What's for sure is that since the 9th century, pilgrims have visited the supposed grave of St James (Saint Iago = Saint James), his shipwrecked body found covered with scallop shells. Routes start from all over Europe, but meet up by the time they arrive at Logrono, the beautiful fortified medieval town and capital of the Rioja region, where this section begins. It continues through the ancient kingdom of Castile, a land rich in castles, cathedrals and history as well as unspoilt landscapes and villages. It's also great walking country too, and at the end is the magnificent city of Leon - a fitting destination.

■ THE PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Standard option: You make your own way to Logroño.

With extra airport pick-up: We will pick you up at Logroño airport and drive you to the hotel.

Logrono: we hope you can arrive with plenty of time to explore the medieval city of Logrono built on the banks of the river Ebre, which you can walk across on its lovely medieval bridge. But there's much more: an impressive cathedral, an historic quarter with numerous arts and crafts shops, and plenty of bodegas where you can explore the differences between Riojas (2 colours, 3 growing zones, four categories - Rioja, Crianza, Reserva, Gran Reserva) because you are now in Rioja, and wine is of no little significance here!

Hotel Calle Mayor is, as its name suggests, on the most prestigious street in Logrono. It is a boutique hotel in a 16th century palace with marvellous wine cellars, and has beautifully contemporary rooms that complement the historic building itself. As this is a city with a wide range of interesting places to eat - from tapas bars to high quality restaurants - we leave you free to choose where to dine tonight.

DAY 2

From Logroño to Nàjera: this is easy walking from when you step through the Puerta del Camino in the ancient town walls, and set out across the vineyard dotted plains, but it is a long walk (consider an extra night in the attractive town of Navarrete). However, it will feel well worth it when you arrive in Najera, originally a Roman city that became capital of the kingdom of Navarre, and blessed today with the remarkable 11th century church of Santa Maria La Real as well as a rebuilt Roman bridge over the Najerilla river, and sheer red cliffs right in the town itself.

The charming boutique Hotel Duques de Najera has been tastefully created out of a beautiful 17th century mansion with high, often beamed, ceilings, and bare stone walls. It's in the old part of town, near the river, and you will dine in a warm and welcoming restaurant nearby that we trust you will thoroughly enjoy.

Walking time: 7h 30. Distance: 28 kms (17.5 miles).

DAY 3

From Nàjera to Santo Domingo de la Calzada: today there is a series of almost equally spaced and historic villages to punctuate your journey - Azofra, Cirueña and finally the renowned Santo Domingo de la Calzada. It was founded by an illiterate hermit who came to build bridges and hospices under royal patronage, and finally became the patron saint of civil engineers. His church is well worth visiting, and his miracle concerning the hanged but innocent pilgrim is worth finding more about when you are there.

El Molino de Floren is a small, characterful converted mill that has bags of personality in its public rooms, and very stylish contemporary bedrooms. We also like the ambiance of the dining room almost as much as the food. We hope you'll enjoy both.

Walking time: 5h 20. Distance: 21 kms (13 miles).

DAY 4

From Santo Domingo de la Calzada to Vitoria de Rioja: leaving Santo Domingo you cross the River Oja on the Puente del Santo (Saint's Bridge) that Saint Dominic built 1,000 (ish) ago making its 16 arches and 148 meters all the more impressive. You soon reach Granon, the last village in Rioja, so welcome to Castile ! The walking is easy through "quiet" countryside interspersed with villages like Redecilla del Camino and Castildelgado where you can rest, drink, eat and explore before wandering on your merry way to Vitoria de la Rioja - a pity it's in Castile, but actually the area is still packed with Rioja vineyards.

Despite its rather wacky name and logo, Mihotelito is a lovely, characterful place to stay, and as it's a short walking day, you'll have plenty of time to relax and enjoy it. As Santo Domingo was born here exactly 1,000 years ago (1019), you may want to raise a glass of rioja to him. The hotel has just 6 rooms, and Rosario has built a great reputation for her dinners and breakfasts.

Walking time: 4h 15. Distance: 16 kms (10 miles).

DAY 5

From Vitoria de Rioja to Villafranca Montes de Oca: while you pass through hamlets with names that sound wonderful even when spoken with an English accent - like Tosantos, Villambistia, Espinosa del Camino and your destination Villafranca Montes de Oca - the highlight of today's walk is the town of Belorado, rich in history. It's significance came from its medieval castle controlling access to the Ebro valley, and from being the first town in Spain to be granted a royal warrant to hold a fair, which would have generated much wealth as you can see in its buildings, church and lovely, tree shaded square (actually a circle). Until the 1980s it also profited from being an international centre for the fur trade, and posters still adorn walls around the town.

The Hotel San Antón Abad has been taking in pilgrims since 1377, and it exudes all the character and atmosphere you would expect from such a long tradition. Fortunately, the hotel has been superbly and tastefully updated with excellent bedrooms and a good restaurant deep in the cellars. You'll have no difficulty understanding why we wanted you to stay here.

Walking time: 5h 15. Distance: 19.5 kms (12 miles).

DAY 6

From Villafranca Montes de Oca to Atapuerca: today you walk among ghosts of the past: the forests of Montes de Oca used to be renowned for bandits and wolves both preying on pilgrims praying they wouldn't meet either of them; the village of San Juan de Ortega is named after the 12th century architect/builder of churches and bridges across this region, and near Atapuerca there are ongoing digs of prehistoric sites that have already found 800,000 year old human remains said to be the earliest found in Europe. It's a lovely walk despite the ghosts as well as because of them.

The three star Hotel Rural Papasol (father sun) is a 6 bedroom, charming hotel converted from a stone farmhouse, and is full of beams and character inside. The food, as you would expect, has strong regional flavours and ingredients, and is served with no little (and well justified) pride.

Walking time: 5h 20. Distance: 21 kms (13 miles).

DAY 7

From Atapuerca to Burgos: Villalval, Cardenuela de Riopico and Orbaneja (good café) are villages en route to the large and historically important city of Burgos, which has a medieval castle, preserved walls, and a good Museum of Human Evolution, but the highlight is undoubtedly its 13th to 16th century cathedral that dominates the skyline - and is where El Cid is buried. He was an 11th century noble mercenary with a hard earned reputation for military strategy as well as battlefield bravery. He also features in many a folk tale, poem, song and film. Much more calm and peaceful is the historic quarter around the cathedral - great for an early evening stroll, and a restorative cup or glass of something.

The two star Hotel Norte y Londres is in a grand building in a prime plaza location close to the cathedral and historic quarter. It has well equipped rooms, good service, and a well presented breakfast buffet - and it is better than most in a town where very good places to stay are a little limited. As it is a city with lots of eating out choices, dinner is not included tonight, so we wish you *buen provecho*.

Walking time: 5h 30. Distance: 21 kms (13 miles).

DAY 8

From Burgos to Hornillos del Camino: you now continue your journey by crossing the wonderful plateau called "La Meseta", which rises to almost 3,000 feet, and is festooned with pretty villages, but it is really the panoramic landscapes below the seemingly endless skies that make this a very special place - and there is no better way to appreciate it than walking slowly on foot.

This is a simple, rural hotel outside Hornillos that has well equipped rooms, good food, genuine hospitality, and is well located at the end of today's walk. Expect no more, and you may be as pleasantly surprised, as we were, by how enjoyable it is to stay there. It's called Hotel Rural Consulta de Isar, which is a lovely name in Spanish.

Walking time: 5h. Distance: 19 kms (12 miles).

DAY 9

From Hornillos del Camino to Castrojeriz: this is a good day's walking with your destination, the attractive and dominant Castrojeriz, on the horizon for much of the day. That's because it stands proud of the rolling wolds you're walking over. Do take time to explore the castle itself - just the views make it worthwhile - but also the village itself is lovely, and the Ethnographic Musuem (open 6 to 8pm) featuring local social and agricultural history is interesting because much of what you see during your walk is presented here in a historical context.

Now then, the three star Hotel La Posada is a joy. It has been tastefully converted from a 16th century mansion and farm buildings in a way that has preserved all its character and style. The bedrooms are well equipped and contemporary, yet many of them feature bare stone walls that give them an exceptional quality. The restaurant too offers good quality cooking, regional menus, and a pleasing style. Just, as they say, the ticket!

Walking time: 5h. Distance: 20 kms (13 miles).

DAY 10

From Castrojeriz to Fromista: today's walk is fairly easy but long, with villages and a canal (de Castilla), which you walk alongside, making it nicely varied. Fromista is larger than the villages you will have walked through, and was the birthplace of St Elmo, the patron saint of sailors - his statue is in the main square - but its pride and joy is the 11th century Romanesque style church of Saint Martin de Tours. Beautiful outside and inside.

Hotel Doña Mayor (a thousand years ago she was a Castilian queen born here, and who paid for the local monastery to be built) is decidedly contemporary in terms of architecture and interior design, but traditional in its approach to guests and cuisine. There is a pleasant terrace and gardens all around the hotel to relax in.

Walking time: 6h 40. Distance: 26 kms (16 miles).

DAY 11

From Fromista to Carriòn de Los Condes: easy walking means that the kilometres will disappear under your now super-fit legs, so you'll arrive at Carrion perhaps saying was that really 20 kilometres? That's good because Carrion has much to offer having been a prestigious and wealthy town for centuries. In the 13 century it paid as much tax as the much bigger town of Burgos, and that is evident in its wealth of churches and monasteries. If you visit just one make sure its the monastery of San Zoilo with its magnificent Gothic cloisters.

Oh wait, you are staying at the Hotel San Zoilo which is in the converted monastery, and some rooms overlook the cloister, but all the rooms, like the rest of the hotel, are full of quirky character, and we are sure you will enjoy staying here as well as eating here in what was the monks' refectory.

Walking time: 5h 15. Distance: 21 kms (13 miles).

DAY 12

From Carriòn de los Condes to Calzadilla de la Cueva: today much of the walk is along a long, straight road, which is, as you may suspect, originally Roman, and went all the way to Bordeaux. After a good day's walking, we will transfer you back to where you started for a second night of luxury at the San Ziolo because there is nowhere good enough in Calzadilla.

Yes, the gorgeous Hotel San Zoilo again.

Walking time: 4h 15. Distance: 17 kms (10.5 miles). Transfer time: 15 minutes.

DAY 13

From Calzadilla de la Cueva to Sahagùn: we transfer you back to Calzadilla. There is a pleasant series of villages on the route today - including Ledigos, Terradillos de Templarios, Moratinos and San Nicolas del Real Camino - before you arrive at Sahagùn. If you started from the top of the Pyrenees at Roncevalles you are now half way to Santiago. We're not sure if that will be good or bad news. Anyway, Sahagun is known as the Cluny of Spain because it once wielded equivalent power and influence as the Burgundian abbey, but its architectural style - *mudejar* - is distinctly Moorish, like the magnificent city of Toledo, so may come as something of a cultural surprise, albeit a welcome one.

You will stay at the impressive Hotel Codorniz renowned as an example of the post-Moorish Christian Mudéjar architecture strongly influenced by Moorish taste and workmanship, which reached its greatest expression in medieval Aragon. All the same, it's facilities are all contemporary, and the restaurant features interesting regional dishes, some cooked on a wood burning fire.

Walking time: 6h 10. Distance: 24 kms (15 miles). Transfer time: 15 minutes.

DAY 14

From Sahagùn to El Burgo Ranero: your first village, Calzada del Coto, is attractive but sleepy except in early July when the festival of San Roque packs its streets and lanes with celebrants. The next village, Bercianos del Real Camino, is real 365 day sleepy, and all the better for it you may think. El Burgo Ranero was once wealthy due to wool and wheat (the graneries gave it its name), but now it is dependent on pilgrims - not enough though to have a good enough hotel, so we take you to Mansilla de las Mulas where there is, indeed, a more than good enough hotel.

La Casa de los Soportales is a five year old hotel with good amenities, and next door is its shared ownership restaurant where there are gardens you can dine in if you choose. We have to say it's a liitle "functional" in design terms, but perfectly comfortable, and undoubtedly the best place to stay here.

Walking time: 4h 35. Distance: 18 kms (11 miles). Transfer time: 15 minutes.

DAY 15

From El Burgo Ranero to Mansilla de las Mulas: we transfer you back to El Burgo where you can choose the slightly longer and more rugged Roman route, or the more direct (and better shaded) popular route. In Mansilla you can visit the regional Ethnographic Museum, and understand this historic land so much better.

A second night at La Casa de los Soportales, but today you will have walked here.

Walking time: 5h 10. Distance: 19 kms (12 miles). Transfer time: 15 minutes.

DAY 16

From Mansilla de las Mulas to Leon: easy walking and not too great a distance will get you to the magnificent city of Leon with the time and energy to enjoy exploring it. En route you pass through a series of villages - Villamoros de Mansilla (café and bakery), Puente Villarente, Valdelafuente (quick detour to see Arcahueja?) - before you get into the industrial outskirts of Leon. Think of it as purgatory before the heaven of Leon, and Leon is rather heavenly. Leon Cathedral, also called the Pulchra Leonina, is a 13th century gothic cathedral, the convent of San Marcos is now a luxury hotel, but worth visiting for its architecture as is the Antoni Gaudi designed Casa de los Botines, but it's also the medieval lanes and alleyways that might appeal as much. We always enjoy visiting as it is a real, vibrant city, not somewhere preserved in tourism aspic.

You are not staying in a hotel. You are staying at The Royal Collegiate of Saint Isidoro Hotel, and that is something completely different. Well, not completely, but it a marvellously converted hotel in an extraordinarily impressive building. The hotel, without exaggeration, describes it as the history of Leon in one building: Roman origins represented by its Legio VII walls, the Royal Pantheon's paintings (the Sistine Chapel of the Romanesque era?), the simple yet superb choir of the Basilica, the almost sentient, certainly silent cloisters. The rooms are delightful too, but being a large city you can choose where to dine tonight. You can still appreciate the architecture of the breakfast room the next morning, though.

Standard option: Your holiday ends after breakfast.

With extra airport pick-up: After breakfast, we will pick you up and take you to Valladolid airport (if you choose another airport, please consult us for prices).

Walking time: 4h 45. Distance: 19 kms (12 miles).

DAY 17

You depart after breakfast, but what a journey! What a sense of satisfaction.

Elements beyond our control (the weather, logistical risks, other miscellaneous reasons) may lead us to modify the program. We aim to please, but your safety will always be our priority.

The previous section of the Compostela Camino is from Navarrenx to Logroño - [FR2PUS4](#)

The next section of the Compostela Camino is from Leon to Santiago de Compostela - [ES2PUS2](#)

■ PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DISPOSITIONS COVID-19

Because of the added health precautions relating to COVID, you must be equipped from the start of your trip with:

- * a sufficient quantity of masks (at a rate of 2 per day minimum). Wearing a mask will be compulsory during any transport, in certain accommodation, crowded places etc.
- * zipped pockets for masks and other items such as used tissues
- * hydro-alcoholic gel

* a thermometer to take your temperature in case of symptoms appearing during your stay

* a pen (sometimes necessary to sign an agreement in certain accommodation).

The hosts who will welcome you (hoteliers, refuge guards, restaurateurs, transporters, local teams ...) are the people who will help to guarantee the smooth running of your stay and will ask you to conform with certain health related protocols. Out of respect for them and other people who frequent the same places, we ask you to commit to respecting the instructions given to you. Be reassured and optimistic, because as you know, hiking is an activity that will allow you long and enjoyable periods of time during which the wearing of a mask is not mandatory!

So breathe fresh air and smile!

DATES

You can start on any day from 1 April to 8 October, but this journey can get hot and crowded in July and August.

MEETING POINT

Standard option:

You make your own way to Logroño.

With extra airport pick-up:

We will pick you up at Logroño airport and drive you to the hotel.

END OF YOUR TRIP

Standard option:

Your holiday ends after breakfast.

With extra airport pick-up:

After breakfast, we will pick you up and take you to Valladolid airport (if you choose another airport, please consult us for prices).

DEPARTURE GUARANTEED FROM (NO. PERS)

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LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

This holiday features fairly long days, but with comfortable rather than challenging walking, and is suitable for anybody who enjoys "a good walk". It can get very hot in July and August as well as much more crowded. We would recommend May, June and September as the best months.

LUGGAGE TRANSFER

We will transfer your luggage between each hotel, so all you need to carry when walking is a daysack with whatever you regard as essentials.

GUIDE

This is an independent, self-guided holiday.

ACCOMMODATION

You stay in double-twin rooms in good quality hotels with en suite facilities as described. On some days we will arrange a transfer to and from a suitable hotel when there is none where you end your walking day.

MEALS

You will eat well. Dinners are based on set menus featuring regional specialities. Breakfast is included every morning, but lunches and picnics are not because there are places to make your own choices, although the night before you can ask hotels for a picnic, which you can pay for locally.

THE PRICE INCLUDES

13 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, plus 3 nights bed and breakfast (1 Logroño; 7 Burgos; 16 Leon because they are cities); daily people transfers as specified; daily luggage transfers; detailed walking instructions; maps; 24/7 English speaking phone service.

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

The journey to the start point or from the finish point; lunches; drinks with meals ; non-standard menu items; dinner in Logroño, Burgos and Leon ; booking fee of 25€/person, entry fees; personal and travel insurance.

FORMALITIES

You need to keep your passport with you at all times, and ideally insurance information. You need to make your own arrangements to claim local healthcare. There are requirements in France and Spain for all vehicles to carry safety equipment.

YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

When we have received your balance of payment for your holiday, and in the month before departure, we send you all the documentation you need: detailed itinerary showing dates, times, contact details etc; a detailed guide to your walking route (with options) and lots of cultural, historical and nature background information; formal documents (invoices, contracts etc); luggage labels etc. If you book at the last minute, we can send this information to your first night hotel.

■ EQUIPMENT

Do pack everything into one suitcase (preferably soft form) and bring a weatherproof daysack (small rucksack) each. We transport your luggage, and large rucksacks are difficult for flights and cars.

Do invest in "tech" clothing - light, waterproof, breathable, quick drying etc - and good walking boots with ankle protection (trainers will not be good enough).

Do simplify your "tech" equipment if you can: for example, can you get communications, internet access, entertainment, music and books all on your smartphone ? There's plenty of space in your luggage for a Kindle, so do you need to take books as well ?

Do choose comfortable clothing for evenings too - usually people dress casual, or at most smart casual, but remember you are usually staying and dining in quality hotels.

Do remember that while you are enjoying some of the most unspoilt and magnificent scenery and landscapes in the world, and walking for hours without seeing another soul, you will be staying in villages and towns with shops that have most of the things you might need as replacements, or if you've forgotten stuff. After all, you are in France and Spain, not the middle of nowhere !

LUGGAGE

- A soft travel bag, avoid suitcases, which are more cumbersome and limit the weight of your belongings to 10 kg if possible.
- A small backpack of 30 litres minimum for your daytime requirements.

CLOTHES

- Waterproof and breathable anorak (Gore-Tex type)
- Fleece or a sweater (depending on the location and season)
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Pair of gloves (depending on the location and season)
- Sun hat (with all round brim)
- Shorts
- Swimming costume + packaway towel
- Several pairs of proper walking socks
- Underwear
- Pair of trainers or light evening shoes
- Comfortable clothing for the evening

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Walking boots (with ankle protection)
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle or backpack container (allow 2 litres per person per day)
- Tupperware type container for the picnic + cutlery
- Compass
- Waterproof cover for walking instructions and map
- Head torch
- Survival blanket
- Mobile phone (signal strength is often surprisingly good, but cannot be relied on)
- Your identity documents (including driving licence - you never know when...)

FIRST AID KIT

- Small shared kit (gauze, plasters, analgesic, blister plasters, earplugs, pain killers, indigestion tablets)

■ INSURANCE

According to the regulation of our profession, Purely Pyrenees is covered by a Civil Professional Liability. However, each client must hold an individual civil liability as well as an individual multi risk guarantee in order to protect themselves from incidents or accidents that may occur before or during their hiking trip.

We remind you that a credit card covers, in general, only assistance in repatriation and not the cancellation of your trip, and this only provided you use the card to pay for the total of the trip.

We offer a choice of three insurance options which you can purchase at the time of booking.

Package 1: simple cancellation insurance at 2.5%

This insurance provides reimbursement of the amount incurred (excluding fees and the cost of insurance) in case of cancellation due to one of the following causes: serious accident, illness or death of insured, spouse or person accompanying them, and certain family members.

Package 2: simple cancellation insurance and assistance / repatriation at 3.7%

This insurance allows, in addition to the benefits described in the plan No. 1; - To benefit from assistance in case of illness or injury during the trip and covers your return home if necessary. - A reimbursement paid on a pro rata basis (excluding transportation costs and with a waiting period) in the case of an interruption of your trip following an accident, the death of a loved one or other specified accidents.

Package 3: Package "super multi-risk": 4.8%

This insurance offers, in addition to the benefits described in the packages No. 1 and No. 2, - A wider cancellation insurance with the repayment of amounts incurred (net of deductible) in case of cancellation for any justifiable reason including an exceptional and unexpected event. - The management of some of the costs incurred at the time in case of return not linked to an exceptional and unexpected event. - Compensation (capped) for loss, theft or destruction of baggage. - Payment of compensation for delayed baggage delivery of more than 48 hours.

The rapatriation is not valid for all countries, please check with us before subscribing the insurance.

You will receive with the confirmation of your booking an extract of the general conditions of contract chosen (in french). Take this document with you on your journey. The validity of all guarantees corresponds with the travel dates indicated on the invoice and applies only to services sold. For departures and returns postponed, please contact us. Warning: If you buy only the contract No. 1 (simple cancellation insurance), this means that you need to have your own insurance, repatriation assistance (related notably to certain credit cards). We advise you to check your contract and cover guaranteed. In this case, we ask you to tell us when you book the name of your insurance company and your policy number. You will assume, therefore, the responsibility of certain risks, especially in the advance payments of certain costs.

Important: If you must use the assistance during the trip, you must obtain the prior consent of Europe Assistance before taking any action or incur any expenditure by telephoning: 33 1 41 85 85 85 and quoting the number of contract: 58662860

■ ACTING FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Purely Pyrenees is a founding member of Action for Responsible Tourism.

The label "Action for Responsible Tourism" was awarded Purely Pyrenees in 2009. It is controlled, every year, by ECOCERT.

Based on common values of respect, solidarity and quality, ATR aims to harmonize professional practices of its members.

To win the confidence of customers, it focuses on four key commitments, which arise from many activities in the field and at home.

- Clear information and awareness of responsible tourism given to the traveller.
- Selection of providers in the spirit of responsible tourism.
- Setting up of a transfer of competencies to the providers.
- Commitment in relation to the tour operator's own structure.

More information on the label ATR on [/www.tourisme-responsable.org](http://www.tourisme-responsable.org)

■ CONTACT US

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