

WILDERNESS TRAVEL SPECIAL EVENTS PRESENTS

Total Solar Eclipse 2026

WITH POST-ECLIPSE TOURS IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL & SPAIN

Pilgrim's Way: El Camino de Santiago

ANCIENT TRAILS & PARADORS OF NORTHERN SPAIN
AUGUST 9-20, 2026



 Wilderness Travel



2026 Spain Eclipse Program

Join us in northern Spain in 2026 to experience a total solar eclipse as it sweeps across the Iberian Peninsula. Our exclusive viewing location atop a hilltop winery aligns with the eclipse's centerline. Chosen in collaboration with esteemed eclipse meteorologist Jay Anderson, it promises the finest weather and sweeping views across the flat Meseta Norte—we should be in for a visual treat. Because the total eclipse will occur low on the horizon just one hour shy of sunset, we can look forward to a number of effects being different from when totality is high overhead. Intensified atmospheric scattering should greatly enhance the colors of the surrounding horizon, and the setting sun will appear magnified by the “moon illusion.” Throughout the program, we'll enjoy insightful talks on eclipses and cosmic wonders curated by our distinguished lecturer Dr. Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley.



OUR EXPERT ASTRONOMER ALEX FILIPPENKO, PHD

A name familiar to many, Dr. Filippenko is a celebrated professor at UC Berkeley, revered for his expertise in the fields of exploding stars, active galaxies, and universal expansion. His accolades are numerous, and notably, he's been voted “Best Professor” at UC Berkeley a record nine times!

Eclipse Program Locations



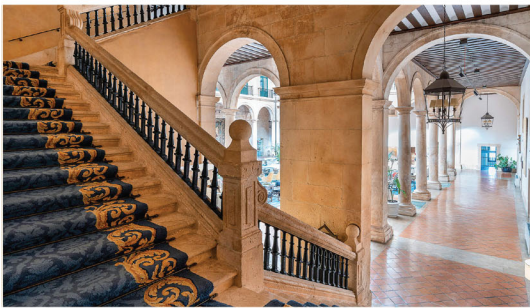
BILBAO

We begin the Eclipse Program in Bilbao exploring this Basque capital where timeless traditions fuse with the avant-garde. Bilbao's dedication to innovative architecture and cuisine is felt throughout the city, from the iconic Guggenheim Museum—a shining example of 20th-century architecture housing one of the most important private collections of modern and contemporary art—to its historic Old Town filled with eateries serving pintxos and Txakoli wine.



BURGOS

On our way to Burgos, the capital city of the unified kingdom of Castile and León for five centuries, we'll tour the prehistoric site of Atapuerca, where the oldest known evidence of humans in western Europe was unearthed. In Burgos, we'll visit the famed cathedral, one of the masterpieces of Spanish Gothic architecture and the only cathedral in Spain to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



LERMA

Our lodging during this astronomical event is the iconic Parador de Lerma, once the Ducal Palace and the seat of the Spanish Empire from 1599-1618 under the clandestine rule of the Duke of Lerma, a favorite of King Phillip III. Dating back to pre-Roman times, Lerma experienced significant growth and wealth in the 17th century under the Duke's patronage, including the construction of buildings in the Herrerian style that today are among the best-preserved historical-artistic complexes in Spain.

Eclipse Program Schedule

DAY 1, AUGUST 9: BILBAO

- Arrive in Bilbao and Transfer to the Hotel Carlton
- Welcome Reception and Dinner

DAY 2, AUGUST 10: BILBAO

- Morning Lecture on Eclipses
- Walking Tour of Bilbao, and Cruise Down the Nervión River
- Haute Cuisine Pintxos Lunch Designed by Chef Zuriñe García
- Tour of the Guggenheim
- Afternoon Lecture on the History and Culture of the Basque People

- Late Afternoon Astronomy Presentation

DAY 4, AUGUST 12: LERMA

- Morning Astronomy Presentation
- Free Time to Explore Lerma
- Transfer to Viewing Site
- Pre-Eclipse Presentation, Winery Tours and Tasting
- Eclipse!
- Celebratory Farewell Dinner at the Winery

DAY 3, AUGUST 11: BURGOS / LERMA

- Transfer to Lerma, via Burgos
- Tour of Atapuerca Archaeological Site
- Walking Tour of Burgos' Historical Center and Gothic Cathedral

DAY 5, AUGUST 13

- Depart Lerma on Your Post-Eclipse Tour



Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 12 days
Arrive: Bilbao, Spain
Depart: Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Lodging: 11 nights hotels
Meals: All meals included except 1 dinner
Activity: Cultural, Walking, Hiking & Trekking

Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

7 hiking days on easy to moderate trails, some steep sections, 3-8 hours a day, van support

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the dramatic phenomena of a total solar eclipse with renowned astrophysicist Alex Filippenko, PhD (veteran of 14 eclipse events with WT!)
- Enjoy the fabulous Parador de Lerma and our private eclipse-viewing site at a hilltop winery
- With decades of experience on El Camino, we've honed this itinerary to perfection!
- Complete the final stretch at Finisterre, walking the sands barefoot in true pilgrim tradition
- Enjoy Trip Leaders who ensure the traditions of the Camino are very much a part of your journey
- Stay in historic hotels, including the 5-star Parador de Santiago de Compostela, a 15th-century monastery in Santiago's central square

Introduction



After the thrill of witnessing the total solar eclipse in Lerma, we'll embark on The Way of St. James leading to the holy city of Santiago de Compostela, which has drawn pilgrims and travelers for centuries. Our unique pilgrimage hike brings us the very best of the landscapes and villages (and skips sections that parallel highways). We'll follow country lanes marked with the scallop shell, the symbol of St. James, hike through misty forests of gnarled oaks, and walk barefoot along the beach at Finisterre-mythical Kilometer 0 on the pilgrim trail. Along the way, we enjoy the camaraderie of fellow pilgrims from around the world and relish our carefully selected hotels, including two nights at the extraordinary Parador de Santiago de Compostela, overlooking the Cathedral of St. James.

TRIP DATES

August 9-20, 2026

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Carlton

The Hotel Carlton, built in 1919, is an impressive Beaux Arts monument in the grand style of its era. It is centrally located in the Old Town on Plaza de Federico Moyúa and just a short walk to the Guggenheim Museum. The hotel was the seat of the Basque government during the Spanish Civil War.

Meals: B, L, D

DAYS 1-2 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PROGRAM, BILBAO TO LERMA, SPAIN

Our eclipse program begins in Bilbao, with a tour of the acclaimed Guggenheim Museum, a masterpiece by Canadian architect Frank Gehry that put Bilbao on the map for art lovers, a cruise along the Nervión River, which flows through the city to the Cantabrian Sea, and a walking tour of the pedestrianized Old Quarter. We'll savor a pintxos lunch designed by chef Zuriñe García, the first Basque woman to get a Michelin star, and enjoy dinner in the old Alhóndiga, or wine warehouse, of Bilbao. Our Guest Astronomer, Dr. Alex Filippenko, will begin his series of lectures on eclipses and other astronomical phenomena, and we'll discover the ancient and mysterious culture of the Basque people with a local historian, Professor Alberto Santana. Our Bilbao accommodation on Days 1-2 is the luxurious Hotel Carlton, a Bilbao landmark. Meals begin with Dinner on Day 1.

Itinerary



Overnight: Parador de Lerma

Built in the 17th century atop a medieval castle, this former Ducal Palace was built by the Duke of Lerma as a place of lodging, rest, and general enjoyment for his close friend, King Felipe III. The palace has a central courtyard surrounded by stately columned galleries, and features interiors from the era of the Hapsburgs, with beautifully designed lighting and décor.

Meals: B, L, D

DAYS 3-4 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PROGRAM, BILBAO TO LERMA, SPAIN

Departing Bilbao, we visit the prehistoric Atapuerca archaeological site, whose caves hold a rich fossil record of Europe's early humans. Heading to the charming town of Burgos, located on the Camino Frances, we'll tour its imposing Gothic cathedral before continuing to the medieval town of Lerma, where you will have time to explore before we gather for another astronomy lecture. On eclipse day, we'll craft our viewers and enjoy a bit more of Lerma before heading to our private eclipse-viewing site at an expansive winery on a hill-virtually on the centerline. Winery tours and tastings will be available this afternoon as we prepare for the eclipse and enjoy the winery's grounds and views. On Days 3-4, we stay at the fabulous Parador de Lerma, a Ducal Palace originally built for King Felipe III.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Spa Ciudad Astorga

Just steps from Antoni Gaudí's Episcopal Palace of Astorga, the Hotel Spa Ciudad Astorga is a lovely place from which to explore the churches, convents, and the chocolate museum of Astorga or simply kick back with a glass of Tempranillo.

This boutique hotel offers 33 small yet modern rooms with Wi-Fi and views of the courtyard. The hotel's own tapas bar, with high wooden tables and a brightly-colored tile floor, invites you to sample the local specialties of the region.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 2.5 hours

DAY 5 BURGOS, SPAIN / CARRIÓN DE LOS CONDES / LEÓN / ASTORGA

After breakfast at Parador de Lerma in Burgos, we drive to León, with a brief stop en route in the ancient town of Carrión de los Condes, with its two 12th-century Romanesque churches. In the engaging city of León, we'll enjoy lunch and a private guided tour of the city, including its 9th-century San Isidoro Basilica, famed for its superb Romanesque Royal Pantheon and 12th-century frescoes.

We continue to our hotel in the walled city of Astorga. After settling in, we visit Astorga's pilgrim museum, housed in a fairytale neo-Gothic palace designed by famed architect Antonio Gaudí in 1889. Like León, Astorga had its own bishopric by the 3rd-century and remained important throughout the Middle Ages because of the pilgrimage, as evidenced in its fine medieval architecture. Points of interest for exploring on your own this afternoon include the chocolate museum, the city walls, the Plaza Mayor, or any number of bakeries to taste Astorga's traditional pastries: mantecadas and hojaldres. There is also an option for an afternoon hike, weather permitting. We gather for our Welcome Dinner this evening.

Itinerary



Overnight: Parador Villafranca del Bierzo

Located in the pilgrim town of Villafranca del Bierzo, this 28-room hotel has been refurbished into completely modern style, with large, spacious rooms. While not offering the historic ambiance that most paradors do, it is nevertheless a very comfortable accommodation with air-conditioned rooms and a restaurant. If you have time, take a dip in the hotel's small lap pool, perfect for those who like to stretch those walking muscles.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 8.5 miles, 5.5-6.5 hours, 1,100 feet ascent, 250 feet descent.

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 6 RABANAL / CRUZ DE FERRO / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

We begin hiking the most historic part of El Camino today, and enjoy our interactions with the many pilgrims along the trail. Engaging with these pilgrims from around the globe is one of the highlights of the journey. From Rabanal del Camino, we climb a path through the woods to emerge on a dramatic moor of heather and Scotch broom, typical of the wild landscape. In this rugged and isolated region, we hike past ancient slate- or thatch-roofed houses and tiny villages abandoned long ago as people moved to cities and towns. Our hike ends at the famous Cruz de Ferro, an iron cross mounted on a 40-foot wooden pole atop Monte Irago and one of the most emblematic spots on the pilgrim trail. For a thousand years, pilgrims have carried a single stone here from their homeland to place below the cross and make a wish—don't forget to bring a stone from home! In the afternoon, we head to the charming town of Villafranca del Bierzo, which in its heyday had six pilgrim hospices and eight monasteries. The town's 12th century Romanesque church is famed as the place where pilgrims too ill to continue to Santiago could touch the church door to receive the same blessings as those who continued all the way. Indeed, there is a cemetery next to the church where many pilgrims are buried. From here, we walk along vineyards to the peaceful Parador de Villafranca.

Note: The hiking distances listed after each day are for trip members who hike the itinerary as described, accompanied by one of the Trip Leaders. Using our support van or taxis, however, you can hike less than the indicated mileage when possible. If you do decide to hike less, you will be spending the extra time exploring our next town (perhaps enjoying a cafe) on your own.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hotel Alfonso IX

Set beside the Río Sarria on the appropriately named Rua do Peregrino (Pilgrim Street), this modern 60-room hotel is centrally located and convenient to shops, cafes, and the Old Town. There's a swimming pool for a dip after a long day of walking, and the hotel's restaurant has a varied buffet breakfast that will keep you well fueled for the day.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7 miles, 4.5-5.5 hours, 1,300 feet ascent, 200 feet descent; Optional 1.5 mile extension

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 7 O CEBREIRO / SAMOS / SARRIA

The province of Galicia has a Celtic heritage similar to that of Brittany in France or Cornwall in England. Celtic invaders around 1000 BC found a home here that was similar to the green, rain-swept land they had left. Most of Galicia is settled in tiny farming villages with populations of less than 200. Granite walls surround little plots of land and fields of cabbage, and we see *horreos* (granite granaries) set up on pillars to protect them from rodents. Many remote crossroads feature sculpted granite crosses. Today's hike follows a branch of El Camino that leads to the mystical Celtic village of O Cebreiro, which once ranked with Roncesvalles as a resting place for pilgrims. This mountain-top village has a 12th-century Romanesque church, ancient Celtic *pallozas* (oval stone huts with conical straw roofs), and a small Benedictine monastery that was built over an ancient Celtic temple. O Cebreiro is associated with the ancient legend of the Holy Grail (the chalice used by Jesus at the Last Supper). Legend has it that during the 14th-century, as a monk served communion at the church, the wine in the cup turned to blood, and this event became known as the Miracle of the Holy Grail. After lunch, we drive to the hamlet of San Cristóbal de Real and hike to Samos, with its majestic 6th-century Benedictine monastery still active with 30 monks in residence. A 20-minute drive brings us to Sarria, a town with a medieval core where two branches of El Camino meet. Our hotel is set near the El Camino in the heart of town.

Itinerary



**Overnight: Hotel Ferramenteiro
or Hotel Roma 1930**

This simple hotel is well situated right on the Camino in the small town and charming of Portomarín, which is often filled with fellow pilgrims. Guest rooms are small and have either balconies or terraces with views over the green hills and out over the Rio Mino, where in the morning you can watch the pilgrims crossing the bridge to start their day's hike.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 14 miles, 7.5-8.5 hours, 900 feet ascent, 1,000 feet descent

DAY 8 SARRIA / PORTOMARÍN

From Sarria, we begin our day's hike toward the whitewashed town of Portomarín. This is one of the most spectacular stretches of the entire pilgrim trail, with green, gently rolling countryside and lovely hamlets. Jewel-green fields and ancient stone walls line the way and we see farmers tending their small herds of cows. We arrive in Portomarín in the afternoon. Most of the town is new, but the main square has medieval facades, transported here from their original location in 1966 to save them from being inundated by a new dam. Amazingly, the entire church of St. Nicolas was dismantled, stone by stone, and brought here and reconstructed in the corner of the main square. After our successful pilgrim day, we enjoy a celebratory drink in Portomarín's main square.

Itinerary



DAY 9 GALICIAN COUNTRYSIDE

We head into lovely rural Galician countryside on backroads that pass through hamlets and farms flanked by ancient grain silos built of granite. The eucalyptus forests here herald the proximity of the ocean. The churches along the way are small and fascinating, and numerous wayside crosses testify that Christianity is deeply anchored in the land of Galicia. Tonight's hotel is set in the splendid countryside of A Coruña.

Overnight: Pazo Santa María

Nestled in the countryside just outside Arzúa, this restored historic manor house dates back to 1742. Guestrooms are well appointed, and there are beautiful gardens and a fountain—a lovely retreat. The restaurant serves traditional Galician dishes.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 8.5 miles, 4.5-5.5 hours, 400 feet ascent, 500 feet descent

Itinerary



Overnight: Parador de Santiago de Compostela

Adjacent to Santiago's soaring Romanesque cathedral is the 5-star Parador de Santiago de Compostela, one of the oldest hotels in the world. Staying at this parador brings you into the heart of Santiago's rich history. It's location right on the central square makes it a great place for people watching-sit with a glass of wine looking out over the square and the cathedral of St. James as pilgrims reach the conclusion of their long journey, a moment of extraordinary emotion. The breakfast buffet is legendary here, from chocolate churros to fine Serrano hams and cheeses.

Meals: B, L

DAY 10 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

In the morning, we head into Santiago, where all roads lead to the vast central plaza and extraordinary twin-towered limestone cathedral containing the remains of St. James. Santiago is one of Spain's most beautiful cities, built of golden granite and declared a national monument in its entirety. We have a guided visit upon arrival and the rest of the afternoon is free if you wish to explore town or attend the daily noon or evening mass held for pilgrims in the cathedral. Even people who are not religious are moved by the emotional nature and pomp of this spectacle, with the organ music swelling into the vaulted ceilings and the jostling crowd of pilgrims from around the world joined in song. If we're lucky, we may see the dramatic swinging of the huge, smoking botafumeiro, a 200-pound incense burner hauled up a pole by eight red-robed priests. As it is swung from one side of the cathedral to the other, the smoking incense often glows-quite a spectacle! (Our local sources will keep us posted if this will occur while we're here). Witnessing the scene as many pilgrims conclude their journey is tremendously moving. Dinner is on your own this evening, and your Trip Leader will be happy to recommend restaurants according to your tastes, as local or as fancy as you wish to go! We overnight in a most impressive parador in the heart of town.

Itinerary



Overnight: Parador de Santiago de Compostela

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 3-6.5 miles, 1.5-3 hours, 500 feet ascent, 300 feet descent

Driving Time: 2.5 hours

DAYS 11-12 FINISTERRE / LANGOSTEIRA BEACH

Walking right from our hotel, we thread our way through Santiago's medieval streets to the outskirts of the city. Crossing the River Sarela, we traverse a lovely oak forest to reach a tiny village, looking back for a glimpse of the towers of Santiago's cathedral. Setting out on the dramatic last kilometers of El Camino, we get our first vision of the Atlantic Ocean, and the goal of our pilgrimage. We'll visit the Finisterre Lighthouse, with its famed Kilometer 0, as countless pilgrims have through the centuries. This is an extraordinary moment for all who have walked the Way, and a wonderful experience to share. At Langosteira Beach, we'll take off our shoes and walk the final stretch of El Camino barefoot along the sands. We'll have a celebratory lunch of fresh seafood at a cozy restaurant at the end of the beach. Our accommodation is the extraordinary 5-star Parador de Santiago de Compostela (Hostal dos Reis Catolicos), one of the most beautiful hotels in the world, built in 1499 by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabela and set adjacent to Santiago's soaring Romanesque cathedral. We gather this evening for our Farewell Dinner. Depart on homeward-bound flights after breakfast on Day 12.

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

2026

\$9,495 (10-15 members)

\$9,895 (5-9 members)

Single supplement: \$1,580

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation \$1,000 per person

Due 180 days prior to departure: 25% of land cost

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum cancellation fee: \$500 per person

365-181 days prior to departure: \$1,000 per person

180-91 days prior to departure: 25% of land costs

90 days or less prior to departure: 100% of land costs

We reserve the right to treat the reservation as canceled if payments are not received when due.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Presentations by Guest Speakers
- Expert Trip Leaders and local guides
- All accommodations based on double occupancy
- Meals as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites
- Gratuities during the Eclipse Program portion of your journey
- A glass of wine or beer with lunch & dinner

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Bilbao Airport (BIO)

Suggested Arrival Date & Time: Day 1, August 9, 2026, by 5:00 pm

Note: Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from the US one or more days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary.

Meeting Place: We will gather for a Welcome Reception in the Crystal Hall of the Carlton Hotel before dinner. Timing to be advised prior to departure.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 12, August 20, 2026 after 9:00 am

On Day 12, a morning transfer will be provided at 7:30 am from the Parador de Santiago de Compostela to the Santiago de Compostela Airport. (There is a breakfast buffet at the Parador starting at 7:00 am.) It only takes 20 minutes to get to the airport and you don't need to be there until 90 minutes prior to departure for domestic flights (a minimum of 45 minutes is required for luggage check-in).

Trip members departing earlier or later in the day are responsible for transferring on their own. Taxis are available for direct hotel to airport service (9 miles, approximately €25). If you are flying via Madrid we suggest a flight from Santiago to Madrid.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

If you would like assistance booking your flights, there are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Please remember that the name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US. Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip (as specific as arrival and departure details could change) and we have sent final arrival and departure instructions.

Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward us a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

If you are arriving one or more days early, we can book extra nights for you at the group hotel in Bilbao (an 'on your own' expense).

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



ROB NOONAN

Rob Noonan came by his love of nature and the mountains early, adventuring throughout most of the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and later earning a degree in environmental studies from Prescott College in Arizona. He has guided our Patagonia journeys since 1994, our hikes in the spectacular European Alps since 2007, and he is also our "northern ambassador" to Iceland and Greenland. In between trips, Rob lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he enjoys hiking and river rafting.



PATRICIA RACZKOWSKI

Patricia Raczowski was born in Canada of a Spanish mother and Polish father and has lived in Spain since she was ten months old. Her first taste of the mountains came in high school, when she went on monthly hikes with the nuns from her school in Madrid, and she spent her senior year as an exchange student in Washington State, living with an American family. After going to veterinary college in Madrid and practicing as a veterinary nurse in England, her love of nature pulled her back to Spain. You can often find Patricia engaging with the locals along the trail and in towns, as she often she knows everyone along the way, from hotel and restaurant staff to local guides. She lives in the south of Spain in the high mountains of Granada (Sierra Nevada), and when not guiding, she heads out on her own adventures, hiking and traveling around the world.



SANTIAGO BEJARANO

Santiago Bejarano trained in Environmental Sciences in his native Ecuador and began his guiding career by bringing visitors to the jungle and highlands of Ecuador and the storied Galapagos Islands, where he worked as a naturalist. He later moved to Britain, which has been his home now for many years, and divides his time between Ecuador and Europe. Santiago guides for us on the high trails of the Alps of France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland and into the epic fjords of Norway. "Guiding gives me the chance to be a link between cultures and to share my passion for nature. It also allows me to spend a lot of time in a place I really love—out in nature itself." He is fluent in English, Spanish, and German.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 3, Moderate, according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 14 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 8 hours a day. You will also need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day:

- 8 miles
- 4-6 hours
- 1,000 feet gain/loss
- Challenge Day

TERRAIN

Our hikes are over easy to moderate terrain, with well-marked paths throughout. We will occasionally walk a few miles on pavement, but most of the hiking will be on dirt paths. The first two days of the trip include a half day of hiking and a half day of learning about the history of the Camino in the local towns. The rest of the days include a morning hike until around 1:00 pm and an afternoon hike from 2:30 pm until 5:00 pm.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in.

WEATHER

While we have timed our trip for ideal hiking weather, you should be prepared for a variety of conditions. The days are usually warm and dry but not too hot. Nights can be quite cool. There is typically sunshine, but showers can occur at any time.

ACCOMMODATIONS

You will be welcomed each night in our carefully selected hotels and paradors, including two nights at the extraordinary Parador de Santiago de Compostela. While not luxurious, the rest of our accommodations are in nice hotels that are comfortable and well located on the Camino. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

What to Expect

CUISINE A buffet breakfast is served at our hotel each morning with fruit, bread, whole grains, cold cuts, cheese, butter, ham, olive oil, tomato, yogurt, coffee, and tea. We'll enjoy lunches in cafés or restaurants along the trail that offer local foods including cheeses, fresh vegetables, salamis, ham, fresh fruit, and bread. These are the typical restaurants where pilgrims stop to eat, and they give us a great chance to be part of the community. Pilgrims come from all over the world to hike El Camino and are always very friendly and willing to share their experiences. Some of the items you'll see on the menu are hearty soups, a variety of cheeses and hams from the region (including jamón serrano), salads, pimientos del padrón (roasted green peppers), and trout served the Spanish way (expect to see the whole fish!). We often don't convene for our lunches until around 1:00 pm as lunch starts late in Spain. Dinner is at our hotel or a nearby restaurant and includes other local specialties like lamb and fresh seafood. Please note that in Spain, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 8:00 pm.

TRANSPORTATION Our van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need during the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this trip.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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