

Route Comparison



Camino Francés



Camino Francés

780 km*

33 days**

Start: St Jean-Pied-de-Port

Finish: Santiago de Compostela

The Camino Francés is the most well-known of the Camino routes. This classic trail passes through the regions of Navarre, La Rioja, Castilla y León, and Galicia. Most pilgrims arriving in Santiago do so via the Camino Francés, with around half joining at Sarria for the final 100 km. A strong sense of community thrives on the trail and it's often the friendships formed that make it an unforgettable experience. The inspiration for books, films, and documentaries - the Camino Francés can be a great choice for first-time pilgrims.



Camino Portugués

240 km*

10 days**

Start: Porto

Finish: Santiago de Compostela

The Camino Portugués starts in Lisbon and follows the Atlantic coast north to Santiago de Compostela. However, most pilgrims opt for a shorter Camino, starting their journey from Porto, where the trail offers two variations; The central and coastal routes. The latter follows the coastline until the two paths merge at Redondela, whereas the central route continues inland. Growing in popularity due to its stunning coastal views, the Camino Portugués has now become one of the most popular Camino trails.

**Camino del Norte****815 km*****36 days******Start:** Irún**Finish:** Santiago de Compostela

The Camino del Norte, or Ruta de la Costa, follows Spain's northern coastline through the Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias, and Galicia. Established in medieval times by pilgrims arriving via the northern ports, it's one of the longer and hillier routes. Its numerous ascents and descents present a substantial physical challenge, rewarded by stunning views of the coast. With fewer crowds and less infrastructure than the Camino Francés, it can make a great alternative for pilgrims seeking a more solitary Camino.

**Camino Primitivo****310 km*****14 days******Start:** Oviedo**Finish:** Santiago de Compostela

Known as The Original Way, the Camino Primitivo is believed to be the first pilgrimage route to Santiago. The trail starts in Oviedo and crosses the mountains of Asturias and Galicia, before joining the Camino Francés at Melide. Although it is one of the shorter Caminos, it is also considered one of the most challenging. With its mountainous terrain and a large amount of accumulated ascent and descent, it makes a good choice for adventurous pilgrims seeking to challenge themselves in a wild and beautiful landscape.



Camino Inglés



Camino Inglés

73 / 112 km*

6 days**

Start: A Coruña/Ferrol

Finish: Santiago de Compostela

Used by medieval pilgrims sailing from England and Northern Europe, the Camino Inglés is one of the shortest and most direct routes to Santiago. The trail has two starting points: A Coruña and Ferrol. Shaped like a Y, the two branches cross the Galician countryside and come together at the village of Hospital de Bruma, before the final stretch to Santiago. One of the few routes that doesn't merge with the Camino Francés, it can offer a more peaceful approach away from the crowds.



Vía de la Plata

966 km*

38 days**

Start: Sevilla

Finish: Santiago de Compostela

Beginning in Seville, the Vía de la Plata travels almost 1,000 km north through Andalucía, Extremadura, Castilla y León, and Galicia. Used initially by pilgrims making their way to Santiago from the South, it's one of the longest, hottest and most challenging routes. Less popular than other Camino routes, the Vía de la Plata is likely to be a solitary experience, through a remote and beautiful landscape. However, there's always the option to join up with the Camino Francés in Astorga if you'd prefer some company for the approach to Santiago.



Camino Finisterre/Muxía

90 / 116 km*

4 days**

Start: Santiago de Compostela

Finish: Finisterre/Muxía

The Camino Finisterre traverses the hills and high moors of Galicia towards dramatic views of the coast, before arriving at the cape - once believed to be the "end of the world." It is the only route that starts in Santiago, and is usually walked as an extension to one of the longer Caminos. Possible to complete in as little as 3-4 days, it can make a great mini-pilgrimage for those short on time. Add an extra day or two, and you can include the historic fishing port of Muxía.

I hope you enjoyed reading this introduction to the most popular Camino routes. For more inspiration, ideas and practical planning tips check out the articles on the **Camino Basics** website.

Hellie

* Distances are approximate, and may differ depending on the particular variant taken.

**Average walk time is based on walking between 20-30km per day. Does not include rest days.