EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Standard itinerary (TMCD1)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
8
DAYS

Tour Type: Tailormade | **tour Code:** TMCD1

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:
Included Meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Transport:
Countries: Spain

Tailormade Camino de Santiago

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you’re travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Local bus to Sarria

On arrival in Santiago you will take a local bus from Santiago to the town of Sarria, changing bus in Lugo. On arrival and time permitting, there will be the opportunity for anyone interested to visit the delightful Benedictine monastery of Samos by taxi (just a short 12km drive away), one of the most important monasteries in Galicia.

Why Book this tour?

The north of Spain is known for its continental climate, with more chance of seasonal extremes and a higher probability of rainfall than the rest of Spain. In Galicia, the Atlantic climate is predominant. Weather is generally very mild during May to September with daytime temperatures reaching the mid 20°C during the day and, depending on altitude, between 10 and 17 degrees at night.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Walk to Portomarin

Before leaving Sarria you will pick up your Credencial booklet, which will be used to gain ‘passport’ stamps at various points, and which you'll use to get your certificate at the end. From Sarria we continue on foot through Galicia, traversing a terrain of undulating hills in the most verdant of all Spain’s regions. Passing the hamlet of Brea we reach the famous 100km landmark, for so long a magical moment for weary pilgrims. It was here that they could regather their strength, knowing that it was now only another 3-4 days to go to Santiago. Nowadays this waypoint marks the start point for where you have to walk from continuously to Santiago in order to get the 'compostela' certificate. This afternoon we reach Portomarin, once a splendid medieval village, which was relocated by Franco to make way for a dammed lake. Remnants of the town’s more prosperous days can still be seen amongst its narrow streets, such as the delightful Romanesque San Pedro church. (Approx. 5 hours walking, 21km, 250m ascent, 360m descent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Continue to Lestedo

Today you will start your walk on the Camino de Santiago by crossing part of the dammed lake on a disused railway bridge. The trail continues gradually uphill, passing the 80km mark at Castromaior village, before reaching the last high pass (702m) just before Ligonde. From here, you'll walk through undulating hills, which make way for eucalyptus trees and Cruceiros, the stone crosses so typical for Galicia, before descending gently to your night stop at Lestedo hamlet. (Approx. 5 hours walking, 20 km, 360m ascent, 130m descent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 En route to Melide

Today you will walk through idyllic rural Galicia, first passing through the important pilgrim town of Palais de Rei. The white-washed town hall overlooks the town square, a good place to stop for a break. Leaving the town behind, the route takes you through farmland and rural countryside. You will walk through an oak grove before crossing the provincial border and entering A Coruña. At the town of Fuerlos, you'll cross a medieval bridge with four arches before reaching your stop for the night at Melide. (Approx. 4 and a half hours walking, 19km, 150m ascent, 200m descent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Walk to Aruza

Today you will pass many horreos, typical barns of the region that dot this beautiful countryside. You will start to see more signs of reaching Santiago and pass through many pilgrim villages. Finally crossin the River Iso before arriving in Aruza. Aruza is the junction where the Camino Frances (French Way) and Camino del Norte (North Way or Camino Primitivo) meet. (Approx. 3 and a half hours walking, 14km, 150m ascent, 100m descent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Continue to Rua

Today you continue the approach to Santiago, passing many pilgrim sites including pilgrim Guillermo Watt’s memorial; he died here whilst on the pilgrimage and his shoes can be found in the stone wall. You may also want to stop at the Santa Irene chapel to see some interesting statues of St James before continuing your walk along a country road to the village of Rua. (Approx. 4 and a half hours walking, 18km, 120m ascent, 150m descent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Final day to Santiago

Today you will complete your pilgrimage and arrive in Santiago de Compostela. You will pass through the village of Lavacolla, where pilgrims would wash and change into their best clothes for the final stretch of the walk. From here you will ascend the final hill before the city to Monte Gozo, this being the point where the pilgrims could finally see the cathedral and the end of their journey in the distance. You are now just 5kms/one hour from Santiago’s historic centre and the end of your pilgrimage, sharing the emotion of pilgrims from all over the world. (Approx. 6 hours walking, 23km, 180m ascent).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Free day in Santiago

Today has been left free to explore the historic and beautiful city of Santiago at your own pace. Visit the magnificent cathedral and appreciate in more depth the stunning architectural diversity of its Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles. Alternatively you may prefer to wander the city's narrow streets and visit some of the architectural treasures that are dotted around the city. In the Convento de Santo Domingo de Bonaval you will find a folk museum dedicated to the region of Galicia, whilst the Monasterio de San Martiño Pinario and the Palacio de Gelmirez are just two of the other jewels to see. And, at the end of the day, what better way to relax than with a reviving drink on the Praza das Praterias and watch the world pass by. Alternatively, you could take a trip by bus to Cape Finisterre, the true land's end for medieval pilgrims. Fly home this evening, or maybe spend some extra time in this wonderful city - the choice is yours, and we can arrange it for you!

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches,0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Spain

Lunch £: 8.00

Dinner £: 15.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Spain

Bottle of Beer £: 2.5

Water £: 1.40

Foreign Exchange

Spain

ATM Availability: In cities and most major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

Travellers Cheques: Not recommended.

Local Currency: Euros

Recommended Currency for Exchange: We recommend you take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

Where to Exchange: We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Vaccinations & Protection

Spain

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Spain

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a Spanish trip - though the weather varies enormously from region to region. The high central plains suffer from fierce extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round.

Luggage allowance on tour:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

Country details

Spain

Population: 46,030,109

Size of Country: 504,782 sq km

Major Language: Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Electric Supply & Plugs

Spain

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is ‘Available’ or ‘Guaranteed’ we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 1 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 1. 2/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2.

These tour notes were printed on 08/07/2015 01:33:46