

Portugal – Cycling the Portuguese Coastal Way of St. James Bicycle Tour 2022
Self-Guided Tour
9 Days / 8 Nights



Cycling the Portuguese Coastal Way to St. James (Santiago) is a sensational and unforgettable adventure. It is an invitation to discover the Atlantic's sandy beaches, ancient customs and welcoming people. From plateaus to mountains, from fields to coasts, monumental sites, works of art in the way of cathedrals, bridges, roads and monasteries, the route is full of pleasant surprises. The Coastal Way to Santiago is a route habitually taken by pilgrims coming from Portugal and by those choosing to cross the River Miño through A Guarda. The route, which heads northwards very close to the riverbanks, connects to the classic route that comes from Tui in Redondela.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival to Porto

A member of our team will meet you at the hotel to welcome you and provide a full briefing and all the documentation you will need.

Day 2: Porto - Esposende 47 km

After breakfast you will meet a member of our team who will drive you to Matosinhos to start your Camino. By doing this, you avoid the busy, noisy roads through urban areas of Porto and its suburbs. Cycle the Coastal Way to Santiago along the Portuguese coast using wooden boardwalks and back roads passing wide sandy beaches, nature reserves and fishing villages on your way to the intriguing town of Vila do Conde. Ride through residential areas to the resort town of Povia de Varzim. Continue cycling along the ocean and beaches then head inland past agricultural areas, forests and villages to Fao. Cross the River Cavado to reach the low key, low rise resort town of Esposende.



Day 3: Esposende – Vila Praia de Ancora 42 km

Much of the day is spent inland as you cycle through a series of villages, countryside and patches of woodland with rivers and mountain views. The approach to Viana do Castelo across the iron bridge over the River Lima affords magnificent views along the valley and estuary. Take some time out to enjoy this small historical city before setting off towards the beachside town of Vila Praia de Ancora, going over a forested hill to get there.



Day 4: Vila Praia de Ancora - Baiona 45 km

Start the day with a coastal cycle path that connects you to Moledo and continues inland to the pretty town of Caminha. Here you have to take the ferry to cross the River Minho, the natural border with Spain. Cycle through the fishing town of A Guarda to follow the Way along scenic coastal trails, forest tracks and tarmac roads. Stop to admire the 12th century monastery that dominates the small but attractive village of Oia. Your journey continues along the coast past small fields, occasional houses and villages before crossing a small mountain to reach the pretty resort town of Baiona.

Day 5: Baiona – Vigo 25 km

As you leave Baiona behind, the scenery becomes more rural with intermittent villages and occasional forested areas. After a brief period on a busy road you will cycle through yet another set of villages as the city of Vigo appears in front of you. Ride through Castrelos Park to avoid the city center.

Day 6: Vigo – Pontevedra 34 km

Cycle along Vigo's city streets as you head northeast, leaving the urban area behind. Follow the line of the Ria de Vigo estuary for views of floating mussel farms, the Cies islands and the city and port of Vigo as you ride between villages and through a forest. A steep descent takes you to the town of Redondela where your Portuguese Coastal Camino merges with the Portuguese Central Camino. Pause for juicy fat oysters in the riverside town of Arcade then follow an ancient stone path uphill to the forest. You will soon be amid the atmospheric squares of Pontevedra where you can admire the medieval architecture as you sip a beer or wine with some tapas.



Day 7: Pontevedra – Padron 41 km

The journey to Padron is relatively hill free and you will spend the day surrounded by pleasant countryside. Bathe your feet in the hot spring in the center of Caldas de Reis then climb gradually through a series of hamlets and a delightful stretch of woodland. Take some time to explore medieval Padron and discover its deep connection to St. James as well as its tasty green peppers.

Day 8: Padron - Santiago 25 km

The final stage of your Camino takes you through a series of Galician hamlets with traditional cottages and barns as well as the imposing

sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Escravitude. Enjoy the forest trail then Head up to the Milladoiro for your first glimpse of Santiago and the cathedral towers. Drop down to the valley to cross the River Sar then one last ascent will bring you into the city center and the medieval streets to the cathedral to end your journey.

Day 9: Departure

After breakfast - end of our services



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Hard. Terrain is 40% asphalt and 60% dirt roads or unpaved roads, some narrow at times. We recommend cycling the Camino only if you have some cycling experience and essential bike maintenance knowledge.

Distance: 259 km

Travel Season: Daily departures from March 1 to October 31, 2022

Price per Person:

Double Occupancy B&B March, April, May and October	€ 910.00
Double Occupancy B&B June and September	€ 930.00
Double Occupancy B&B July and August	€ 980.00
Single Supplement B&B March, April, May and October	€ 280.00
Single Supplement B&B June and September	€ 360.00
Half Board Option (6x dinners including drinks)	€ 157.00
E-bike upgrade	€ 200.00
Extra Nights Oporto Double Occupancy	€ 61.00
Extra Nights Oporto Single Occupancy	€ 100.00
Extra Nights Santiago Double Occupancy	€ 61.00
Extra Nights Santiago Single Occupancy	€ 105.00
Upgrade to 4 and 5* Hotels and Paradores	On request
Private transfer to Porto Airport/City Center (up to 3 persons)	€ 47.00
Private transfer to Porto Airport/City Center (4 - 7 persons)	€ 70.00
Private transfer Santiago to Porto (up to 3 persons)	€ 350.00
Private transfer Santiago to Porto (4 - 7 persons)	€ 395.00
Helmet (to purchase)	€ 32.00
GPS Device with Route	€ 5.00 per day
Gel Pad for Saddle	€ 2.00 per day
Travel Bag for Handlebar	€ 4.00 per day

Accommodation:

3* hotels with private washrooms

Included:

- 8 Nights of accommodation with breakfast
- 7 days bike rental (20 speed bike with 29" wheels + panniers)
- Luggage transfer between hotels (1 bag per person – maximum 15 kg/bag)
- Pilgrim kit: pilgrim passport and shell
- Road book of the way with tips, maps and detailed information (in English)
- 24/7 emergency support
- Journey documentation
- In-person welcome briefing

Not Included:

- International flights
- Arrival & departure transfers
- Meals (where not listed as included in the itinerary)
- Optional additional tours or activities during free time
- Tips and items of a personal nature

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TICO # 50022092

Bikes

Hybrid Bike

Cannondale Trail 5



E-Bike

BH Rebel Lynx 5.5

