

# Way of St James | The Camino

\$17,850 per person, share twin 22 May - 13 June, 2026 Escorted by Stu McGregor







**Request an extensive** <u>Free Information Pack</u> which contains the full itinerary, tour inclusions, tour discounts and T's & C's.

A note about the walking -	On any day there will be a variety of walk lengths offered with the aim of everyone reaching the same destination. If you want to walk further you get dropped off first and if you want a shorter walk you get dropped last.
May 2026	
Fri 22 Auckland – Dubai Emirates Economy Airfares included	After checking in at Auckland Airport we board our Emirates flight to Dubai.
Sat 23 Dubai Meals: B Hotel ***	On arrival in Dubai early this morning we clear customs and immigration and transfer to our hotel.
	We can check in straight away because we have booked an early check in.
	The rest of the day is at leisure.
Sun 24 Dubai – Lyon Meals: B Hotel ***	This morning we go to the airport for our flight to Lyon. On arrival at Lyon airport this afternoon we are met and transfer to our hotel.
Mon 25 Lyon Meals: B, L Walking: Grade 1, 3kms	This morning we enjoy a historical tour of Medieval and Renaissance Lyon with a local guide.
	After lunch at a local restaurant the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.
Tue 26 Lyon – Le Puy Meals: B Hotel: *** Private Coach	This morning is at leisure and early this afternoon we travel by coach to Le Puy-En-Velay.  I must confess I adore this small town. It has a rich and varied history and it is just so walkable. It is here we will find the path decorated frequently with scallop shells and get that sense we are following a way significant to thousands before us.





### Wed 27 Charming Le Puy

Meals: B

Walking: Grade 2, 3kms in village

centre.

Optional walk: Grade 2, 10 kms

outside the village

Le Puy is considered one of the traditional starts for the walk to Santiago de Compostela. It has a mix of architecture and we'll get to know it a little better with a walk in the old town. High on our list of must sees is the Cathedrale Notre Dame du Puy (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Lunch is at your own discretion and the afternoon is free. If you like you can go with Stu and find some interesting things to do in and around Le Puy. There is the fascinating Saint Michel d'Aiguilhe Chapel, high on its hill which also provides a grand view across the town.

### Thu 28 Le Puy – Cahors

Meals: B, D Hotel: \*\*\*\*

Walking: Grade 2.5, 5kms across

countryside

Its an exciting day today because we get underway on our journey across the countryside as we follow the French part of the Way of St James.

In our travels we will be moving towards Cahors with stops to walk in the charming villages of St Come, Estaing and Conques. When we arrive at Cahors we will check into our hotel and later have dinner together at the hotel restaurant.

Cahors has a rich history and still has many reminders of its Roman and medieval past.

### Fri 29 Cahors – Moissac

Meals: B, D Hotel: \*\*\*

Walking: Grade 1, 2kms urban

Grade 2, 1km uphill

Grade 1.5, 3kms across countryside Grade 2, 9kms across countryside Today we move on to Moissac. This town is a canal crossroads between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

It was a golden town in the Middle Ages and has suffered with modernisation but I am sure we will unearth together some glimpses of why this town was such an important step on the Way of St James.

When we reach Moissac we will check into our hotel. Later on we will enjoy dinner together.

### Sat 30 Moissac – Auvillar – Moissac

Meals: B

Walking: Grade 1, 1km canal

Grade 1, 1 km village

Optional walk: Grade 2, 20kms or 7.5kms across countryside & by canal

Now for something a little different. We will begin the day with a walk around Moissac and then travel to Auvillar, one of France's most beautiful villages. So this is the day to have that camera battery charged and space on a memory card.

Many artists have found inspiration from this village, so if you are that way inclined tuck in some paper, pencils, watercolour and/or ink.

We will return to Moissac to have the rest of the day free to explore and enjoy.





## Sun 31 Moissac – St Jean Pied de Port

Meals: B, D Hotel \*\*\*\*

Walking: Grade 2, 4kms across

countryside

Gathering ourselves up we will move on towards St Jean Pied de Port, our last stop in France before we enter Spain. We will stop along the way at Pau and have an independent lunch.

Then we will continue on our way to St Jean Pied de Port where we will follow in the footsteps of Richard the Lionheart. Well not really, as good old Rich destroyed the original place in 1177 after a siege. However when it was rebuilt shortly after by the Kings of Navarre they did a pretty nice job. But I'll let you decide for yourself.

This town is another significant place on the Way of St James as pilgrims stopped to take a breath before taking on the Roncevaux pass across the Pyrenees, an arduous mountain crossing.

This evening we have dinner at a local restaurant.

#### June 2026

### Mon 1 St Jean Pied de Port – Logrono

Meals: B, D
Hotel \*\*\*\*

Walking: Grade 1.5, 2.5kms between

villages

Grade 1.5, 2kms urban Grade 1, 1km village

So it's over the hill to Spain we go ... We will cross the Pyrenees by coach and during the day visit Roncesvalles and Pamplona before we reach Logrono.

Pamplona is famous on a number of counts: the running of the bulls, the good-looking people and red handkerchiefs. I'll explain more when we get there. Whilst in Pamplona we will have a guided visit.







### Tue 2 Logrono – Burgos

Meals: B, L, D Hotel \*\*\*\*

Walking: Grade 1, 1.5kms urban Grade 1.5, 2kms across countryside Grade 2, 5kms countryside

Grade 1.5, 5kms forest

A full day today as we will travel from Logrono to Burgos taking in Santo Domingo de la Calzada and San Juan de Ortega. In the morning we will start with a visit in the old section of Logrono, capital city of La Rioja and follow in the footsteps of those who made the pilgrimage along the Old Route. Along the way we will take in the gothic church of Santiago, the Fountain of the Pilgrims and the Shelter.

Later we will discover Santo Domingo de la Calzada together. This place was created for those making the pilgrimage so it includes a hospital, a Cathedral and a beautiful Main Square. Today we'll have a picnic lunch from the freshest local produce available.

We enjoy dinner together in Burgos this evening.

### Wed 3 Burgos

Meals: B

Walking: Grade 1, 1.5kms urban Optional Walk: 10kms outside Burgos A day to explore Burgos and uncover its rich history and its link with our British heritage and soap factories. At the Renaissance gate of Santa Maria we will find out more about El Cid and the origins of Castile. A walk through the city will take us to the Casa del Cordon, the Main Square, the Paseo del Epsolon promenade and the Consulate. In the outskirts we will discover two great monuments: the Cistercian monastery of Las Huelgas, a royal pantheon from the 13<sup>th</sup> century; and the Cartuja de Miraflores, church and burial place for the parents of Isabella the Catholic, Queen of Castile.

## Thu 4 Burgos – Leon Hotel \*\*\*\*\*

Meals: B, D

Walking: Grade 1, 5kms across

countryside

Grade 1, 2kms urban

We continue on our way and travel to Leon via Fromista and San Miguel de la Escalada.

Leaving Burgos we will be following the Path of St James in the Castilian plains.

As one of the capitals of Medieval Spain, Leon offers Romanesque style works of art in painting, sculpture and architecture. For those of you who enjoy stained glass windows the Gothic cathedral has one of the most important collections in Europe.

This evening we have dinner at our hotel.



#### Fri 5 Leon – Ponferrada

Hotel \*\*\* Meals: B,D

Walking: Grade 1, 5kms across

countryside

Grade 1, 2kms urban

Moving on today we will travel towards Ponferrada, taking in Astorga.

At Astorga, another city of Roman origin, we will find a perfect Roman and Medieval city wall. There is also a Gothic cathedral and its modernist Anglican Palace designed by famous architect Antonio Gaudi.

In the afternoon we will traverse one of the most authentic and untouched sections of the Path of Saint James – Rabanal del Camino, Cruz de Ferro and Molinaseca – ending at Ponferrada, known for its famous castle of the Knights Templar.

# Sat 6 Ponferrada – Santiago de Compostela

Hotel \*\*\*\*\*
Meals: B,D

Walking: Grade 1, 1.5kms urban Grade 3, 2kms across countryside Grade 1.5, 8kms across countryside The end of our pilgrimage is in sight, as today we travel the last section from Ponferrada to Santiago de Compostela via O Cebreiro and Portomarin. Our journey is along the green countryside of Galicia until we arrive at the Mino River in Portomarin. A necessary place for a defensive site and so here we will find the church-fortress of Saint Nicholas.

We will check into our hotel and you can rest a while before we have dinner.







#### Sun 7 Santiago de Compostela

Meals: B

A whole day to explore Santiago de Compostela. There is the possibility of attending the Pilgrims' Holy Mass (noon in the Cathedral) or at the very least lighting a candle for all those revelations you have had along the way.

### Mon 8 Santiago de Compostela

Meals: B, D

Today we travel out to Finisterre, the end of the world. This rocky outcrop marks the traditional end of the Way of St James.

The pounding Atlantic Ocean is wild and bracing and makes a fitting place to fulfill another tradition – burning something you have carried the length of the way. (Socks are a good option, a letter to yourself, a wooden walking stick.) This evening we have dinner at our hotel.

# Tue 9 Santiago de Compostela – Madrid

Meals: B, D

Economy airfares

Hotel \*\*\*\*

Free time in Santiago before our transfer to the airport for our flight to Madrid.

We will be met at Madrid airport and have a transfer to our hotel.

Tonight we enjoy dinner at the hotel.

#### Wed 10 Madrid

Meals: B, L

This morning we travel by coach to Segovia.

With a local guide we walk through the Jewish Quarter, visit the Gothic Cathedral known as the "Lady of Cathedrals" and see the defensive Alcázar fortress.

We also see the spectacular 28 metre high Roman Aqueduct, a jewel of Roman engineering built in the 1st century.

After a special lunch at a local restaurant we have some time at leisure and then return to our hotel in Madrid.

### Thu 11 Madrid – Dubai

Meals: B, L

With a local guide today we get to know the Madrid of the Habsburgs, which became the capital in 1561. We first visit the Royal Palace, a Bourbon design from the 18th century.

Next to it is the Cathedral and from there our steps take us down Calle Mayor, the Plaza de la Villa Square and the San Miguel market to the Plaza Mayor. We eventually end up in the Puerta del Sol Square.

After lunch at a local restaurant the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening we transfer to Madrid airport for our

flight to Dubai.

## 0800 868 748 | <u>info@toursdirect.co.nz</u> <u>www.toursdirect.co.nz</u>





Fri 12 Dubai – Homeward... This morning we transit through Dubai airport and fly back to New Zealand.

Sat 13 ...Home We arrive home with wonderful memories of cleaning shoes, laughing with friends and experiencing a unique inner and outer journey.

Request a Free Information Pack with even more details of this exciting tour

**Book Now** 

