

Detailed Itinerary

Trip Name: [9 days] Cycling the Portuguese Coastal Way to Santiago

GENERAL

Dates: Variable. Contact Yūgen Earthside with your preferred start date.

This trip is a 1-week, self-guided cycling holiday along the Portuguese coast. Follow the coastline north as you pedal your way along ancient pilgrim trails from Porto to Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in northern Spain.

Main Stops:

Porto – Matosinhos – Esposende – Vila Praia de Ancora – Baiona – Vigo – Pontevedra – Padron – Santiago



About the Tour:

We firmly believe that travel should be a safe and rewarding experience for all concerned, including the destinations that you visit and the people you meet. Using our own extensive local knowledge, we carefully design our tours to respect the way of life of local populations as well as the environment and provide our clients with a genuine experience that leads to meaningful interactions with another culture. In turn, we make sure that money stays within the small local communities that they spend time in.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY



Day 1: Porto [Portugal] (arrival day)

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

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Day 2: Cycling from Porto (Matosinhos) to Esposende (47km | 27.8 miles)

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 Portuguese 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 Povoia de Varzim. Continue cycling alongside the ocean and beaches then head inland past agricultural areas, forest and villages to Fão. Cross the River Cávado to reach the low-key, low-rise resort town of Esposende.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast

Day 3: Cycling from Esposende to Vila Praia de Ancora (42km | 26.1 miles)

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 Âncora, going over a forested hill to get there.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast



Day 4: Cycling from Vila Praia de Ancora to Baiona (45km | 28 miles)

Start the day with a coastal cycle path connects you to Moledo and continues inland to the pretty town of Caminha. Here you have to take the ferry to across 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.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast

Day 5: Cycling from Baiona to Vigo (25km | 15.2 miles)

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'll 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.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast

Day 6: Cycling from Vigo to Pontevedra (34km | 21.2 miles)

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 Cíes 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'll 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.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast



Day 7: Cycling from Pontevedra to Padron (41km | 25.5 miles)

The journey to Padron is relatively hill-free and you'll 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 Padrón and discover its deep connection to St. James as well as its tasty green peppers.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast

Day 8: Cycling from Padron to Santiago (25km | 15.5 miles)

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 Señora da Escravitude. Enjoy the forest trail then head up to 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.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast

Day 9: Santiago [Spain] (departure day)

After breakfast get ready for your onward journey.

Included meals: Breakfast

PRICING

Tour cost: Please note this tour's prices are in euros (it will need to be paid according to the EUR price). Prices in USD are listed for reference as an approximation.

Low Season (March, April, May, October)

- **910 €** → \$1110 USD per person for a double room occupancy
- **1190 €** → \$1450 USD per person for a single room occupancy

Mid Season (June, September)

- **930 €** → \$1130 USD per person for a double room occupancy
- **1250 €** → \$1520 USD per person for a single room occupancy

High Season (July, August)

- **980 €** → \$1190 USD per person for a double room occupancy
- **1340 €** → \$1630 USD per person for a single room occupancy

***Cancellation Policy:**

If you cancel:

- **More than 30 days before the expected arrival date** – we'll refund you 10% of the total cost
- **From 29 to 15 days before the expected arrival date** – we'll refund you 50% of the total cost
- **Less than 15 days before the expected arrival date** – no refund is possible

INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:**
 - All accommodation (8 nights) in a 3 star hotel
- **Meals:**
 - Breakfast all days
- **Transportation:**
 - Private transfer from Porto to Matosinhos on day 2
 - 7 days bike rental – 20 speed bike with 29" wheels + pannier bags

- **Permits, Fees, Guides:**
 - Road book with detailed route descriptions and elevation profiles
- **Other:**
 - Pilgrim Kit: *Credencial* (passport) and *Vieira* (shell)
 - Luggage transfer between accommodations – 1 bag per person – up to 15kg/bag
 - 24/7 emergency contact number

EXCLUSIONS

- **Meals:**
 - Meals other than breakfast
- **Transportation:**
 - Flights to/from Portugal & Spain
 - Arrival & departure transfers
- **Permits, Fees, Guides:**
 - Passport/visa fees
- **Other:**
 - Travel Insurance
 - Personal expenses and gratuities