

## Spain & Portugal: Coastal Camino de Santiago

### Pre-Tour-Extension - Santiago de Compostela

2 Nights from \$595 per person, double occupancy

- 2 nights at A Quinta da Auga, including Spa Circuit
- Airport arrival transportation
- Daily breakfast
- City information

Only available with the Air Inclusive Package.

### FLIGHT DAY: Depart for Your Vacation

Your vacation is about to begin! Spend your first night aloft and arrive ready for an unforgettable trip.

### ARRIVAL DAY: Arrive in Vigo or Santiago de Compostela / Begin Your Pre-Tour Extension: Santiago de Compostela

A VBT representative will greet you at Santiago de Compostela International Airport (SCQ) to begin your first day in Santiago de Compostela on the right note.

Exception: Guests traveling on the following departures—April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20, 2026—will arrive at Vigo–Peinador Airport (VGO) instead of Santiago Airport, which will be closed during this early spring period. In this case, your VBT representative will meet you at Vigo Airport and provide onward transportation to your hotel.

A small-group shuttle brings you to your Santiago de Compostela hotel, approximately a 25-minute drive from Santiago Airport (or 1 hour and 15 minutes from Vigo Airport, if applicable).

After arrival at your hotel, the Parador de Santiago de Compostela, settle in and take in the atmosphere of one of Spain's most storied and spiritual cities. Occupying a former 15th-century pilgrims' hospital beside the grand *Plaza do Obradoiro* and the famed Cathedral of Santiago, this magnificent *parador* blends centuries of history with refined elegance. Its cloistered courtyards, vaulted halls, and art-filled lounges offer a serene base in the very heart of the Old Town.

Once settled, step outside to wander Santiago's winding medieval lanes, where stone arcades shelter

cafés, artisan shops, and bakeries. Pause in one of the city's leafy squares, or visit the cathedral to admire its ornate façades and sacred relics. Every corner here tells a story—of faith, hospitality, and the countless pilgrims who have completed their journey along the Camino de Santiago.

Please note: If you arrive early, your room may not be available until 3:00 p.m., but you are welcome to store your luggage with reception. The rest of the day is free to settle in, explore, and begin your adventure.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Choose from a wealth of nearby restaurants showcasing Galician specialties—such as *pulpo a la gallega* (octopus with paprika and olive oil), fresh seafood from the Atlantic, and local *Albariño* wines. Your City Highlights include recommendations for notable sights, restaurants, and other local experiences to help you make the most of your time in Santiago de Compostela.

## **DAY 1: Continue Your Pre-Tour Extension**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning in the Parador's elegant dining room, where arched stone ceilings and views of Plaza do Obradoiro set a memorable tone for the day. The rest of the day is yours to explore Santiago de Compostela at your own pace.

You might begin with a visit to the Cathedral of Santiago, the city's spiritual centerpiece and the final destination of the Camino de Santiago. Step inside to admire its soaring Baroque nave and richly decorated chapels, or climb the rooftop for sweeping views over the Old Town. Then, wander through Santiago's atmospheric lanes—lined with arcaded shops, historic churches, and inviting cafés—to discover why this city has inspired travelers for centuries.

If you wish to delve deeper into Galicia's culture, consider visiting the Museum of the Galician People (Museo do Pobo Galego) or the Galicia Contemporary Art Center (CGAC), both set within walking distance of the historic core. For a tranquil moment, relax in the Alameda Park, where shaded promenades and scenic overlooks frame striking views of the cathedral's towers.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Perhaps sample regional favorites such as *empanada gallega*, *caldo gallego*, or the city's signature *tarta de Santiago* for dessert. Your City Highlights include additional suggestions for dining, sightseeing, and local experiences to help you make the most of your stay in Santiago de Compostela.

## DAY 2: Pre-Tour Hotel Night: Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast, enjoy a peaceful final morning in Santiago de Compostela. By now, you've likely explored the city's iconic landmarks—so today is a chance to experience its quieter rhythms and hidden corners.

You might begin in the Mercado de Abastos, Santiago's lively covered market, where locals gather to shop for fresh seafood, produce, and regional delicacies. Stroll among the colorful stalls, perhaps sampling *queso tetilla* (a creamy local cheese) or chatting with friendly vendors. From here, wander toward the San Fiz de Solovio quarter—one of the oldest parts of the city—where medieval chapels and artisan workshops reveal Santiago's more intimate side.

If you're drawn to the city's artistic heritage, stop by a local gallery or craft boutique to discover handmade ceramics, jewelry, and textiles inspired by Galician folklore. Or, simply linger over a final *café con leche* at a sunlit terrace, watching the steady flow of pilgrims arriving at the end of their long journey.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. As evening falls, you might enjoy a leisurely stroll through the Old Town, where lively plazas fill with the sounds of local musicians and the aroma of Galician specialties. Consider dining at one of Santiago's acclaimed restaurants or cozy taverns—perhaps sampling *pulpo a la gallega* (Galician-style octopus), grilled scallops, or the city's signature *tarta de Santiago* for dessert.

Your City Highlights include additional recommendations for dining, sightseeing, and other local experiences to help you make the most of your time in Santiago de Compostela.