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## Ficha viaje



### Camino de Santiago de Compostela MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR | HISTORIC TOUR

Discover Portugal....Riding a Bycicle!

## Resumen del viaje

### Summary:

Camino de Santiago de Compostela ( The Way of St James ) is a tour that is different from all the other PortugalBike Tours. This is not a touristic tour like the other PortugalBike Tours, where we ride along awesome places and spectacular views.

On this tour we follow the way to Santiago de Compostela, a city located in Galicia, a province in the north of Spain. This way is very mystic, full of positive energy, of belief and of faith. This is a way that has been covered by thousands and thousands of pilgrims along the centuries since the 9th century. We cannot say that there is only "one" way ("camino") to Santiago de Compostela. There are several, because the idea is to get to the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. This way was originally covered on foot by devote pilgrims, beggars, clergymen and nobles; it is still covered today not only on foot but also by bicycle by people from all over the world and for many different reasons. It follows off-road trails, narrow roads and footpaths, always in a straight line when possible in order to make the way as short as possible to get to Santiago de Compostela.

This PortugalBike Tour takes us along the Portuguese Way to Santiago. We start in Guimarães (a medieval town also known as the \"Birthplace of Portuguese Nation\") towards Ponte de Lima, known as the Central Way (Caminho Central), and than we continue along the Medieval Way (Caminho Medieval) to Santiago de Compostela, in Spain. This tour covers innumerable paths and trails, ancient Roman roads, dense woods, crosses small stone bridges, covers footpaths and roads among small houses, crosses streams and mountains... Many sections of the original way have been asphalted and civilized, ...but it is still \"O Camino de Santiago de Compostela\" (The Way of St James).

### Highlights:

1. Braga: the oldest Portuguese city and one of the most ancient Christian cities in the world
2. Feeling the mystic atmosphere along the way

3. Adventure, Art and Mysticism
4. Churches and religious symbols everywhere
5. The way covered by pilgrims since the 9th century.
6. The medieval architecture in Ponte de Lima
7. The fortified town of Valença
8. Guimarães - the medieval town known as the \"birthplace of the Portuguese Nation\"
9. The rich gastronomy and the famous wine of the region: vinho verde
10. The Romanic Cathedral in Santiago

**Tech Data:**

**Class:** Historic Tour

**Regions of Portugal:** North of Portugal (Minho) and Spain (Galicia)

**Duration:** 7 days / 6 days / 5 days cycling

**Begin:** Guimarães (Minho)

**End:** Santiago de Compostela (Galicia)

**Overall difficulty level:** Advanced. You are fit and in good shape

**Distance:** 219km (136mi)

**Average:** 44km/day (27mi/day)

**Trails:** 38% dirt-roads - 62% asphalt.

## Itinerario ampliado

**Day 1: Arrival** - Welcome at Oporto (or Lisbon) airport. 00H40 (or 03H40) drive to Guimarães, briefing about the tour followed by dinner. Lodging in a Pousada which was a beautiful 12th century Monastery.

**Day 2: Riding to the medieval town of Ponte de Lima** - 61km (38mi), 1510m ascent, level 5. After breakfast we leave the ancient city of Guimarães following the ways covered by the pilgrims until we get to the medieval city of Ponte de Lima, bathed by the river. Picnic on the way. Dinner with the group. Lodging in a new 4\* hotel overlooking Lima river and very near to the historic center.

**Day 3: Riding to the border, always following the Way** - 38km (24mi), 1240m ascent, level 4. After breakfast we continue riding towards the Spanish border, but we spend the night in Portugal, in the beautiful medieval city of Valença do Minho, which is protected by a fortress with double walls. Picnic on the way. Dinner with the group. Lodging in a Pousada located in the historic center and which is a Manor House that was converted in a Charm Hotel.

**Day 4: Crossing the border to Spain** - 53km (33mi), 1360 ascent, level 5. After breakfast we finally cross the border and the first Spanish city is Tui, before we get to Pontevedra where we spend the night. Picnic on the way. Dinner with the group. Lodging in a 4\* hotel near the historical and commercial centre in Pontevedra.

**Day 5: The luxuriant vegetation and the mysticism of the Way** - 41km (25mi), 950m ascent, level 4. Breakfast. Before we get to Padrón we cross the thick woods with a luxuriant vegetation. Picnic on the way. Dinner with the group. Lodging in a 4\* hotel with a swimming-pool; the building was built in the 16th century and it was the vacation house for the archbishops from Compostela.

**Day 6: Mixed emotions when we arrive to Santiago de Compostela** - 26km (16mi), 1000m ascent, level 3. Breakfast. Finally we get to Santiago de Compostela and we feel we accomplished our "mission". Free afternoon to wander around this mystic city and do some shopping. Dinner with the group. Lodging in a beautiful 4\* hotel ideal to rest after this long ride and very near to the historical center of Santiago de Compostela.

**Day 7: Departure** - After breakfast transfer to Oporto (or Lisbon) airport. 3H00 (or 7H00) drive to the airport.

## Incluido

- 7-day Mountain Bike Tour with a Guide (\*)
- Transfers from and to Oporto Airport (or Lisbon airport)
- Accommodations (6 nights): 2 Pousadas (one 12th century Monastery and one 17th century Fortress), 2 four\* Historic Hotels (one 16th century Monument Hotel and one 18th century Historic building), 2 four\* modern Hotels. Double bedroom occupancy.
- 6 Breakfasts
- 4 nourishing and energetic picnics (\*)
- 6 Dinners (including our famous wines, our amazing cheeses and lovely desserts) (\*)
- Daily energy-bars and water (\*)
- Luggage transport from Hotel to Hotel
- Documentation about PortugalBike Tour
- Liability Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance
- Techno-Mechanical Assistance (\*)
- First-Aid assistance on location (\*)
- Permanent Backup Vehicle (\*)

## No Incluido

(\*) Not included in Self-Guided Tours

## Condiciones

**Please Note:**

**New tour for 2012.**

2. **Camino de Santiago de Compostela**(The Way of St. James): Enjoy mountain biking during five days in the north of Portugal and Spain. The mystic Way, full of positive energy, of belief and of Faith.

3. If you wish a different date, ask us for prices and availability.

4. If you wish to rent a bicycle for this Tour add Euro 100.

5. **E-Bikes** - Don't feel bad for being the last one: you can also opt for riding an electric-bicycle.

6. Prices per Person, double bedroom occupancy, usually 4\* Historic Hotels.

7. **Groups:** Discount for Groups with 6 or more people

## Hoteles