El Camino de Santiago: A Walking Tour in Northern Spain
April 12 – 24, 2024

Dear Emory Alumni, Family, and Friends,

For those looking to follow in the footsteps of pilgrims from centuries past, Spain's legendary Camino de Santiago fulfills this desire. For more than a millennium, pilgrims have traversed the Way of St. James to the Shrine of the Apostle at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, along wooded bluffs, across flowered fields, and through scenic landscapes. This influx of travelers from throughout Europe created a landscape of art and architecture in a dazzling variety of styles.

Join us on this active program, in which you will hike the most interesting sections of the Camino, all in the company of expert guides. Along the way, enjoy the culture and hospitality of this unique area, including exquisite cuisine, regional wines, breathtaking architecture, and splendid paradores (hotels).

Explore the historic cities along the Camino, going behind the scenes of UNESCO-listed Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals adorned with mesmerizing religious frescoes, retablos, and sculptures.

This journey on the classic Camino concludes with Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. In an unforgettable highlight, the traditional Botafumeiro incense-burning ceremony—in which an enormous, 120-pound thurible, suspended by a system of pulleys operated by eight men, swings through the cathedral—will be performed.

Daily walks along the Camino average 3.5 miles per day, with some rest days for normal sightseeing. This program is co-sponsored by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association.

To reserve your place on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure through northern Spain, please contact our tour operator at Arrangements Abroad by calling 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944 or emailing trips@arrangementsabroad.com. I hope you will join us to experience one of the world's most magical places.

Sincerely,

Frances Stanfield, Executive Director
Finance Operations
Emory University, Advancement and Alumni Engagement

Emory is an EEO / AA / Disability / Veteran Employer.
BEGIN a series of walks along the Camino in Roncesvalles, one of the main entrances to the famous pilgrimage trail, and end in Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as has been done for centuries.

ADMIRE awe-inspiring cathedrals and monasteries in Nájera, Burgos, León, and other pilgrimage cities along the way, and enjoy leisure time to explore Spain’s lovely Galicia region.

EXPERIENCE midday Mass at the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where the famous Botafumeiro ritual will be performed.

GO behind the scenes of several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that line the Camino, including the French Gothic-style Burgos Cathedral, with its opulent Renaissance retablo.

ENJOY private tours of Antoni Gaudí’s unique architectural wonders along the Camino, including his 19th-century interpretation of Gothic style, Casa Botines, in León.

JOURNEY to Cape Finisterre, once considered the end of the Earth, to watch the sun set into the Atlantic Ocean.

HEAR Gregorian chants performed by the world-famous monks of the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, whose two-story cloister is considered a masterpiece of Romanesque art.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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FRIDAY, APRIL 12: DEPARTURE
Depart home independently on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: MADRID, SPAIN / PAMPLONA
Arrive in Pamplona in the late afternoon. Transfer to the Hotel Maisonnave, centrally located near Castillo Square. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a welcome reception for an aperitif.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14: PAMPLONA / RONCESVALLES / PAMPLONA
Attend a morning lecture before enjoying a walking tour of Pamplona’s Old Quarter. After lunch, drive to Roncesvalles, one of the main entrances to Spain for the St. James Way and a gateway to the Iberian Peninsula. Each traveler will receive a credencial (pilgrim passport) to mark their route and serve as proof of a completed pilgrimage to the Pilgrim’s Office in Santiago to qualify for a compostela (certificate of completion of the pilgrimage). Return to Pamplona, where the afternoon is at leisure. You can follow the route of the Running of the Bulls to the 19,000-seat Plaza de Toros de Pamplona or stop at Café Iruña, frequented by Ernest Hemingway and celebrated in his novel The Sun Also Rises. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles.

MONDAY, APRIL 15: PAMPLONA / ESTELLA / LAGUARDIA
Travel by coach to the Romanesque Church of Santa María de Eunate, one of the jewels of the Camino, located in the heart of the Izarbe Valley. From there, walk a short distance on the Camino to Puente La Reina, a medieval town where the two main routes on the Pilgrim’s Way converge. There will be time to explore the town, including its majestic namesake bridge, the Puente La Reina (the Queen’s Bridge), with its seven semicircular arches, and enjoy lunch on your own. Transfer to Estella to see the Palace of the Kings of Navarre and San Pedro de la Rúa with its beautiful 12th-century cloister. Continue to Laguardia, the historic capital of the famous Rioja Alavesa wine region. The Hotel Villa de Laguardia, surrounded by lush vineyards, will be home for the next two nights. Dinner is at a local restaurant, featuring regional cuisine and wines. Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16: LAGUARDIA / LOGRÓN
Following a morning lecture, drive to the lively university city of Logroño to see its lovely Old Quarter and the cathedral that boasts a painting by Michelangelo and the carvings of Spanish Baroque sculptor Gregorio Fernández. Lunch is at Bodegas Baigorri, where Rioja Alavesa is produced. Return to Laguardia and visit Santa Maria Church with its beautiful portico. Stroll through the streets of this medieval town and stop in any of the numerous cellars to taste or buy some magnificent local wines before returning to the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure. Rest day (only sightseeing walking).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: LAGUARDIA / NÁJERA / AZOFRA / SANTO DOMINGO
Depart for Nájera, the former capital of the Kingdom of Navarre, where you will visit the Old Quarter, Pamplona

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: BURGOS
This morning, discover the sumptuous Burgos Cathedral, one of the largest churches in B,D

FRIDAY, APRIL 19: BURGOS / CALZADA DEL COTO / LEÓN
Drive this morning to the little village of Calzada del Coto to begin a beautiful hike along the Camino as it winds within the medieval section of Ponferrada. Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
Depart for Astorga, the birthplace of Portuguese King Afonso I. Continue to Ponferrada and the magnificent 12th-century Templar Church of Santa María de Eunate, one of the jewels of the Camino, located in the heart of the Izarbe Valley. From there, walk a short distance on the Camino to Azofra, then drive to Santo Domingo B,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
A morning walking tour includes the highlights of this UNESCO-listed historic town, which is full of interesting sights, including the cathedral, the Episcopal Palace, and the Gothic chapel of San Martín. You may also choose to visit the nearby city of Villalar de los Infantes, with its huge Romanesque church. After lunch, drive to Santiago de Compostela, the end point of the Camino. Today’s journey on the Camino ventures into the glorious open countryside of the Galician Region. Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN
Today’s journey on the Camino ventures into the glorious open countryside of the Galician Region. Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
This morning, join your group for a walk to the Pillar of Saint James, the most important religious site on the Camino, and continue on the Camino. Lunch is at a local restaurant. This afternoon, visit the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, one of the most beautiful cathedrals in Europe, and visit the nearby monastery of La Rabida, where Columbus began his journey to the New World. Dinner is at local restaurants.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN
This morning, visit the Monastery of La Corriente and the nearby medieval village of Sopeira. After lunch, drive to Santiago de Compostela, where you will have the option of visiting the Cathedral or the nearby Monastery of Santa María de Oseira. Dinner is at a local restaurant. After dinner, transfer to Madrid for your flight home.

Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, and house wine are included at meals. Bar drinks are extra. Any other beverage is at your own expense.

Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424. Arrangements Abroad

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: LAGUARDIA / NÁJERA / AZOFRA / SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA / BURGOS

Depart for Nájera, the former capital of the Kingdom of Navarre, where you will visit the Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Nájera, the burial place of many of the kings, queens, and knights of Navarre. Continue walking on the Camino to Azofra, then drive to Santo Domingo de la Calzada for lunch and a visit to the cathedral and Pilgrims’ Hospital, situated among its network of medieval streets. Check into the Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos, our home for the next two nights. Dinner is at leisure. Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles. B,L

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: BURGOS

This morning, discover the sumptuous Burgos Cathedral, one of the largest churches in Spain and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and view its richly decorated interior chambers. Then drive to the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, which dates from the seventh century and is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. While there, experience a Gregorian chant performed by the world-famous monks of Silos. Afterwards, stroll along a delightful Camino path through an oak and pine forest leading to the peaceful valley of the Río Vena. Dinner is at leisure. Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles. B,L

FRIDAY, APRIL 19: BURGOS / CALZADA DEL COTO / LEÓN

Drive this morning to the little village of Calzada del Coto to begin a beautiful hike along this stretch of the Camino to Calzadilla de los Hermanillos. After a tapas buffet lunch at a popular pilgrim restaurant, continue to León, where you will check into the Parador de León. The afternoon in León is at leisure. Take a stroll and see the medieval Palacio del Conde Luna and the Casa de las Carnicerías before enjoying dinner on your own. Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles. B,L

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: LEÓN

Start your day with a lecture, then follow the Camino within the walls of León to discover Antonio Gaudí’s architectural masterpiece, the neo-Gothic palace Casa de Botines. Begun in 1891 and declared a Historic/Artistic Monument in 1969, the palace features a Gaudí exhibition as well as a collection of 19th- and 20th-century paintings from artists like Ramón Casas, Raimundo de Madroño, Joaquín Sorolla, and Ignacio Piñazo. Visit the soaring 13th-century León Cathedral with stained glass from the 13th through to the 20th centuries. Then see the Basilica of San Isidoro, the most important Romanesque church of the Iberian Peninsula, featuring the Pantheon of Kings, known as the “Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art.” Lunch is at Racimo de Oro, a restaurant in the city’s historic center that serves local specialties. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles. B,L

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Today’s journey on the Camino ventures into the glorious open countryside of the páramo (treeless grassland) with its rich red earth. Drive to Astorga, the crossroads of several major pilgrim routes. Admire Gaudí’s Bishop’s Palace, which features a museum devoted to the pilgrimage, before lunch. Continue to Ponferrada and the magnificent 12th-century Templar castle, which towers over the historic quarter of the town and houses the Templars’ Library. Stroll on the Camino as it winds within the medieval section of Ponferrada. Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo. Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles. B,L,D

ACCOMMODATIONS

Enrichment program of lectures and talks
Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights

$7,999 / $9,399 per person, double rate

Excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy).

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to

Debit/credit card number
Telephone (home) (business)
Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.
MONDAY, APRIL 22: VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
See the historic sights of Villafranca del Bierzo, including the Plaza Mayor, Calle del Agua, and Los Marqueses Castle, before driving to Monte do Gozo for lunch. The spires of the magnificent Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela will be visible as you join other pilgrims walking the last few miles of the Camino. Then check into the Hotel San Francisco Monumento in the heart of Santiago de Compostela. Later, an optional excursion is arranged to “the end of the Earth” at Cape Finisterre, once thought to be the westernmost point on the Iberian Peninsula. Enjoy the sunset from the cape with a glass of Cava. B,L
Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
A morning walking tour includes the highlights of this UNESCO-listed historic town, which is the final destination of the St. James’ Way. Complete the pilgrim experience at the majestic cathedral’s noon Mass, where the famous Botafumeiro ritual will be performed. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Visit the Plaza del Obradoiro or Raxoi Palace, or stop at the city’s food market. You can also enjoy tapas on Franco or Reina Streets before gathering tonight for our farewell dinner. Rest day (only sightseeing walking). B,D

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN
Depart the hotel and transfer to the Santiago de Compostela airport early this morning for the flight home with a connection through Madrid. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Emory University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL MAISONNAVE, PAMPLONA
HOTEL VILLA DE LAGUARDIA, LAGUARDIA
HOTEL NH PALACIO DE BURGOS, BURGOS
PARADOR DE LEÓN, LEÓN
PARADOR DE VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO, VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTO, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

PROGRAM RATE
$7,999 per person, double rate / $9,399 single rate

RATE INCLUDES
- Eleven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE
- International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference

☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with ____________________________

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card ____________________________

Debit/credit card number ____________________________

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date ____________________________

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy).

I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) ____________________________ Date ____________________________

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