

## FULLY ESCORTED CAMINO WALKING TOUR - SPAIN "French Way": Leon to Santiago de Compostela, plus 2 nights Madrid

21 September – 8 October 2016



(Update v7 20/4/16)

### Tour Highlights:

- 15-day pilgrimage through the regions of Castilla y Leon and Galicia on "The Way" to Santiago de Compostela
- Daily immersion in the delights and pleasures of the regional way of life in this magnificent corner of Spain
- A culinary experience featuring local, regional and authentic food
- 2 nights, pre-walk, in the culturally rich capital of Madrid
- 1 night, post-walk, in Santiago de Compostela

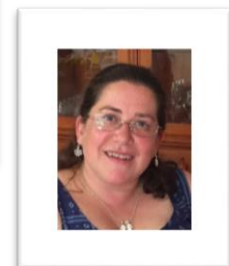
### Walking grade – moderate:

Although this walking tour is escorted/hosted, you are also free to walk at your own pace in your own time. You are equipped with easy to read maps, instructions and directions to guide you on well-marked paths and tracks following yellow arrows. The itinerary is carefully designed for easy-to-manage walking days. There are uphill stretches in part, but you only need to carry a light-weight day bag plus water supply which can be replenished in the villages on route.

This is not a difficult walk and you don't need to be an experienced walker; however, you do need to have a basic level of fitness and enjoy walking.

### Unique - what's different about this Walking Tour?

- Our Walking Tour is fully escorted and hosted by Hampton Travel & Cruise Manager Paul Moran. Paul's wife Judith will join part of the walk and assist in hosting - Judith was born and raised in Leon and her parents still live in Leon, coincidentally the city for the start of our Camino.
- Not only are you taking part in The Camino, but you are also fully supported every step of the way by our very own Australian/Spanish husband and wife team. You are sure to appreciate their guidance with the culture and the language, as well as their focus on companionship and camaraderie.



- Small group – we have waived the minimum number of 12.



## “FRENCH WAY”: LEON TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA ITINERARY



### **ARRIVE MADRID – Day1 & 2/ Night 1 & 2 Sept 21 & 22, 2016**

You will be greeted on arrival at Madrid International Airport and transferred to your centrally-located hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure and late in the afternoon you will meet for a tour briefing and welcome drink before dinner.

Day 2 starts with our exclusive Art of History tour at the Prado Museum and this tour finishes in front of Picasso’s Guernica – arguably the most important artwork of the 20th century. Continuing on foot, the tour continues through the old heart of Madrid, including the La Latina neighbourhood and the Plaza Mayor. From here, there is free time for lunch and shopping in Madrid’s lively heart.

### **PRIVATE TRANSFER TO LEON - Day 3/Night 3 – Sept 23, 2016**

This morning you take a private transfer to Leon – approximately a 4-hour drive.

Like all cities, the best way to get around is by foot. Wander through the “Humedo” and the city’s old town, strolling through the “Romantico” neighbourhood and the many city squares.

### **LEON/ HOSPITAL DE ORBIGO - ASTORGA 16km. Estimated walking time approx. 4 hours - Day 4/Night 4 – Sept 24, 2016**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the village of Hospital de Orbigo, where you will commence the walk to Astorga, passing through some glorious scenery. Astorga is positioned beautifully on a hilltop and it is here you have the chance to see the genius work of Antoni Gaudi.

Here you can also sample a mantecadas - famous in Astorga and seen in all the bakery windows.



*(Here start practising the words ‘Hola’ and ‘Buen Camino’ - the most commonly spoken words on the pilgrimage).*

### **ASTORGA - RABANAL 20km. Estimated walking time approx. 5 hours - Day 5/Night 5 – Sept 25, 2016**

Leaving Astorga, you set off from Plaza Mayor following the yellow arrows along a well-marked trail. A day of beautiful countryside and small villages with well-crafted cobble stone streets.

### **RABANAL – MOLINSECA 25km. Estimated walking time approx. 6 hours - Day 6/Night 6 – Sept 26, 2016**

Leaving this quaint village, today is very scenic; remember to look back and admire the beauty of the countryside behind you. You pass through several villages, churches and coffee stops before reaching Molinseca.

### **MOLINSECA - CACABELOS 24km. Estimated walking time approx. 5 hours - Day 7/Night 7 – Sept 27, 2016**

Spoilt again today with the views of rolling hills and friendly local villages. There are a variety of places to stop for lunch or collect some tasty local produce for a picnic. Your overnight stay is Cacabelos, a village and municipality located in the region of El Bierzo, and well known for its wines.

### **CACABELOS – HERRERIAS 25km. Estimated walking time approx. 5 to 6 hours - Day 8/Night 8 – Sept 28, 2016**

An eight kilometre walk to Villafranca at 511 metres, a day of varied terrain, before arriving at Herrerias at 702 metres. Some try to do the trip all the way to O Cebreiro in one go, but is worth the rest in Herrerias to refresh and prepare for the steeper uphill the following day. The walk to O Cebreiro is a special section of the Camino and best not to rush it.

### **HERRERIAS – O CEBREIRO 10km. Estimated walking time approx. 3 hours - Day 9/Night 9 – September 29, 2016**

As you leave the Region of Castilla y Leon and enter the Region of Galicia, hope for a sunny day to take in the magic of the mountains. O Cebreiro is at 1,300 metres above sea level and perched on a high ridge. It has a Grail some consider to be sacred and others to be miraculous. Without the Pilgrim’s Road to Santiago, O Cebreiro is void of meaning and, similarly, the “Camino” would not be the same without the town.

### **O CEBREIRO – TRIACASTELA 21km. Estimated walking time approx. 5 hours - Day 10/Night 10 – Sept 30, 2016**

The descent from the mountains is breathtaking and the views will stay in your memory for a lifetime. Your route today is mainly along dirt tracks, through fields, and the small village of Linares, until you arrive at the hill of San Roque, which marks the

location of a statue of a pilgrim on his way to Santiago.

**TRICASTELA - SARRIA 17km. Estimated walking time approx. 4 hours - Day 11/Night 11 – Oct 1, 2016**

A pleasant walk through town to head toward Sanxil, a 4 kilometre stroll which marks the spot 129.50 kilometre to Santiago. Today you descend from 665 metres (Triacastel) to 440 metres (Sarria), but not until after you have made the climb to Alto de Riocabo at 905 meters. The beautiful historical village which is located in the upper part of Sarria is definitely worth a visit to appreciate the architecture – the Tower of El Batallon and the convent now hotel Convent da Magdalena.

**SARRIA - PORTOMARIN 23km. Estimated walking time approx. 5 hours - Day 12/Night 12 – Oct 2, 2016**

Leaving Sarria as the sun comes up, it is worth the early morning wake up call for the magical walk through the Rua Major. There are at least 5 villages en route to Portomarin which is another highlight for history and views. Arriving at Portomarin, after crossing the longest bridge on the Camino, every second shop is a bakery as Portomarin is also well known for its tarts and liqueurs.

**PORTOMARIN – PALAS de REI 25km. Estimated walking time approx. 6 hours - Day 13/Night 13 – Oct 3, 2016**

An easy 25 kilometre walk to Palas de Rei, a town of 3,700 people. The path takes you through farming regions, fields of sunflowers, and picnic areas.

**PALAS de REI - ARZUA 30km. Estimated walking time approx. 6 to 7 hours - Day 14/Night 14 – Oct 4, 2016**

Your second-longest trekking day – occasional ascents, but mainly a descent of 565 metres to 389 metres. You should notice a real improvement in your fitness level at this stage. It feels like a real achievement to step it up a notch to 30 kilometres, ensuring your feet are well prepared and you have enough snacks in our packs for the journey.

**ARZUA - RUA 20km. Estimated walking time approx. 4 hours - Day 15/Night 15 – Oct 5, 2016**

This is a thrilling day; the excitement mounts as Santiago, the final stage, feels like it is just up the road and only one sleep away. There are smiles on the faces of the pilgrims and the locals.

**RUA - SANTIAGO 20km. Estimated walking time approx. 4 to 5 hours - Day 16/Night 16 – Oct 6, 2016**

The last day of the pilgrimage. It will be a day of unexpected events.

Arriving in Santiago can be an emotional and bitter-sweet experience. Even if your feet and legs are hurting, there is usually a feeling of not wanting the journey to end. Santiago is visible from about 5 kilometres away as you make your way past the pied piper (donations welcome), to the final stage at the steps at the cathedral, then a trip to the Compostela office to show your stamp book to the team of volunteers, who are eagerly waiting to stamp your certificate and highlighting your name in Latin.

**SANTIAGO - Day 17/Night 17 – Oct 7, 2016**

Santiago de Compostela is a special, rare city with a particular magic that can only be enjoyed by walking around its streets.

This will be a great place in which to celebrate and your only problem is making the choices of what to see and what to do: the historical centre; World Heritage sites; churches; impressive cathedral; plazas; market place; magnificent views; all the culinary delights of the Galicia region in the tapas bars and restaurants.

**SANTIAGO – Day 18 – Oct 8, 2016**

Although the trip finishes after breakfast today, the memories of the Camino will live on.







## FULLY ESCORTED CAMINO WALKING TOUR - SPAIN

### “French Way”: Leon to Santiago de Compostela, plus 2 nights Madrid

21 September – 8 October 2016

Hampton Travel & Cruise is offering this fully escorted\*, tailor-made *Camino Walking Tour - Spain*. What sets this Walking Tour apart is that it is escorted and hosted by Hampton Travel & Cruise Manager Paul Moran. Paul's wife Judith will join part of the walk and assist in hosting - Judith was born and raised in Leon and her parents still live in Leon, coincidentally the city for the start of our Camino. This will be a small group with a maximum number of 14.

The Camino Walking Tour has been many things to many people: a religious pilgrimage; an activity which promotes health and well-being; a time for self-reflection; a shared journey with like-minded people; a trip of historical/cultural/culinary interest. It can be any or all of these things.

#### **Included:**

- 2 nights in Madrid
- 14 nights Camino Walk
- 1 night Santiago de Compostela
- All transfers – airport/accommodation/start of walk
- Detailed pack of route notes and maps
- Daily luggage transfer 20kg



#### **Walking grade:**

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#### **Accommodation & Meals:**

- 17 nights in centrally located and charming village accommodation with private facilities
- 17 Breakfasts, 14 Dinners (local, regional and authentic meals are a feature)

#### **Costs (land only):**

3,105 EUR pp twin share (approx. \$4,675 AUD pp – subject to Westpac TT telegraphic transfer exchange rate on date of final payment)

1,550 EUR pp single supplement (approx. \$2,330 AUD pp – subject to Westpac TT telegraphic transfer exchange rate on date of final payment)

#### **Timeline:**

<b>At time of booking</b>	\$1,300 AUD pp deposit (non-refundable; to be paid within 7 days of booking)
<b>21 June 2016</b>	Balance of payment due
<b>21 September 2016</b>	Departure

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ALL BOOKINGS CONTACT HAMPTON TRAVEL & CRUISE MANAGER PAUL MORAN  
03 9521 9339; [paul@hamptontravelcruise.com.au](mailto:paul@hamptontravelcruise.com.au)**

**Hampton Travel & Cruise, 319 Hampton Street, Hampton Vic 3188**

*(All prices and itinerary details are correct at the current time but are subject to change).*