



Travel-Learn

# El Camino de Santiago

A Walking Tour in Northern Spain

October 30 - November 11, 2026



With Heather Curtis,  
*Warren S. Woodbridge Professor of Religion  
and Director of the Center for the Humanities*



## Traveling With *You*

*Heather Curtis* is the Warren S. Woodbridge Professor of Comparative Religion and Director of the Center for the Humanities at Tufts, where she also holds appointments in the Department of History and the Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora. Professor Curtis earned her doctorate in the History of Christianity and American Religion at Harvard University. Her research explores how Christians have responded to humanitarian disasters, economic crises, disease and disability, and racial injustice. She has also published widely on the connections between religion and empire, the global expansion of Pentecostalism, religion and science, and Christian spirituality. On this trip, she will discuss the history of pilgrimage as a devotional practice, the rise of mysticism in the Middle Ages, and the culture of medieval Christianity.

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## Trip Highlights

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***Experience*** the most interesting sections of the **Camino de Santiago**, the world's most famous pilgrimage route, with expert guides.

***Witness*** spectacular history and share moments of beauty and reflection as travelers along the Camino have done for centuries.

***Gain*** insight from **Heather Curtis**, Warren S. Woodbridge Professor of Comparative Religion at Tufts, as she illuminates the history of pilgrimage, medieval mysticism, and the culture of Christianity along the Camino.

***Begin*** a series of walks along the Camino in **Roncesvalles**, Spain, one of the main entrances to the route, and end in **Santiago de Compostela**, the capital of Galicia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

***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.

***Attend*** 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 two of only three structures that the great architect **Antoni Gaudí** built outside of Catalonia, his home region.

***Journey*** to **Cape Finisterre**, once considered the end of the Earth, to watch the sunset over 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.

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Tufts,

From **October 30 to November 11, 2026**, follow one of Europe's most storied cultural routes: Spain's **Camino de Santiago**. For over a thousand years, pilgrims and secular travelers have made their way to the shrine of Saint James in **Santiago de Compostela** via the Camino, shaping the art, architecture, and communities along its route over centuries.

On this adventure, walk some of the Camino's most atmospheric stretches, passing through stone-built towns and landscapes marked by centuries of devotion and daily life. Along the way, explore Romanesque chapels, medieval bridges, and UNESCO-listed cathedrals that anchor this historic route through northern Spain.

In Santiago de Compostela, attend the midday pilgrim Mass at the cathedral and see the **Botafumeiro**, the immense incense burner that has swung above the nave since the Middle Ages. Those interested may continue to Cape Finisterre, an Atlantic headland once thought to mark the end of the known world.

**Daily walks average about three and a half miles, with one day reaching approximately five and a half miles.** There will be rest days devoted to cultural visits. Accommodations include former monasteries and *paradores*, with meals that reflect the region's culinary traditions.

Travel with **Heather Curtis**, Warren S. Woodbridge Professor of Comparative Religion and Director of the Center for the Humanities at Tufts. Professor Curtis will discuss the history of pilgrimage as a devotional practice, the rise of mysticism in the Middle Ages, and the culture of medieval Christianity, providing context that will deepen your experience of the Camino's sacred and historical sites.

**To reserve your place**, contact Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, or email [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com). I hope you will join us for this richly rewarding exploration of Spain's Camino de Santiago.

Warmly,

Mary Ann R. Hunt  
Director, Lifelong Learning and Travel-Learn Program

Online: [go.tufts.edu/travel\\_learn](http://go.tufts.edu/travel_learn)

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**Activity Level:**  
Adventurous



**Pace Level:**  
Presto



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs).



The Botufumeiro thurible, Santiago de Compostela (top) and map of the region (above)

# El Camino de Santiago

## A Walking Tour in Northern Spain

October 30 - November 11, 2026

### Friday, October 30:

#### *Departure*

Depart independently on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

### Saturday, October 31:

#### *Madrid, Spain / Pamplona*

Arrive in **Pamplona** in the afternoon and transfer to the **Hotel Tres Reyes**. This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a welcome reception and an *aperitif*. **R**

### Sunday, November 1:

#### *Pamplona / Roncesvalles / Pamplona*

Walk through the **Old Quarter of Pamplona**, where Roman foundations remain beneath medieval streets, and the fortified walls reflect centuries of defense and devotion tied to the Camino.

Later, gather for lunch before continuing to **Roncesvalles**, the Pyrenean mountain pass where many medieval pilgrims first entered Spain. Receive a *credencial*, the traditional pilgrim's passport used to mark progress along the route.

That evening, reconvene for a welcome dinner. **B,L,D**  
*Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles*



Statue of Mary on the Camino, near Roncesvalles



Palace of the Kings of Navarre, Estella

### Monday, November 2:

#### *Pamplona / Muruzábal / Puente la Reina / Estella / Laguardia*

Begin the day at the **Church of Santa María de Eunate**, a Romanesque structure with an unusual octagonal plan and finely sculpted capitals. Long linked to the pilgrimage route and the Knights of the Order of St. John, the church stands alone on a vast plain. From there, walk to **Puente La Reina**, a medieval town where two major branches of the Camino come together.

Lunch is at leisure. In the afternoon, visit the **Palace of the Kings of Navarre** and **San Pedro de la Rúa** in Estella. The Romanesque cloister at San Pedro ranks among the region's oldest surviving religious structures. Later, continue to **Laguardia**, a walled hill town in the heart of the Rioja Alavesa wine region. Settle in at the **Hotel Villa de Laguardia** for a two-night stay and gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant. **B,D**

*Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles*

## Tuesday, November 3:

*Laguardia / Logroño / Samaniego*

Explore **Logroño's Old Quarter** with a guide, walking through the historic center of this university city. Step into the **Co-Cathedral of Santa María de La Redonda** to see a painting attributed to Michelangelo and wooden sculptures by Gregorio Fernández, a master of the Spanish Baroque.

Gather for a wine pairing lunch at **Bodegas Baigorri**, where wines from the Rioja Alavesa appellation are presented alongside regional fare at a striking modern winery. In Laguardia, visit the 12th-century **Santa María Church** to see its sculpted portico, then stroll through the village's labyrinth of traditional wine *bodegas*, pausing in some of the cellars to taste or purchase wines. The remainder of the day and dinner are at leisure. **B,L**

*Rest day (walking limited to sightseeing only)*

## Wednesday, November 4:

*Laguardia / Nájera / Azofra / Santo Domingo de la Calzada / Burgos*

Start with a visit to the **Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Nájera**, where kings and knights of Navarre are buried beneath the vaulted stone of this 11th-century monastery. Afterwards, walk a portion of the Camino to **Azofra** before continuing by coach to **Santo Domingo de la Calzada** for lunch.



Bodegas Baigorri, Samaniego



Chorus, Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada

Later, explore the **Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada**, where Romanesque and Gothic styles intertwine in tribute to the 11th-century saint who built roads and bridges to ease the journey for pilgrims. End the day in **Burgos**, checking in at the **Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos**. Dinner is at leisure. **B,L**

*Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles*

## Thursday, November 5:

*Burgos*

Step inside **Burgos Cathedral**, one of Spain's most important Gothic churches. Construction began in 1221, and its soaring spires and lavish chapels earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

After lunch, continue to the **Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos**, where Benedictine monks have carried on centuries of liturgical tradition. Attend a performance of Gregorian chant inside the Romanesque cloister, known for its sculpted capitals and acoustics. On the way back to Burgos, walk a forest path through the **Río Vena** valley, once part of the Camino pilgrimage route. Dinner is at leisure. **B,L**

*Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles*

## Friday, November 6:

*Burgos / Calzada del Coto /  
Calzadilla de los Hermanillos / León*

Set out on foot from **Calzada del Coto** to **Calzadilla de los Hermanillos**, following a quiet stretch of the Camino past open farmland and small villages that seem unchanged by time.

Pause for a casual lunch of regional *tapas* before continuing to **León**. Check into the historic **Parador de León** and gather for dinner at the hotel. **B,L,D**

*Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles*

## Saturday, November 7:

*León*

Visit **Casa Botines**, a rare example of Gaudí's work outside Catalonia. Completed in 1891, this neo-Gothic palace now displays Gaudí's architectural models alongside Spanish paintings from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Continue to the 13th-century **Cathedral of León**, one of Spain's most admired sacred spaces. It is most famous for its vast, luminous expanse of more than 130 stained-glass windows, many dating between the 13th and 15th centuries.



Basilica of San Isidoro, León



Bishop's Palace, Astorga

At the **Basilica of San Isidoro**, tour the Pantheon of Kings to view Romanesque capitals, royal tombs, and a painted ceiling often compared to the Sistine Chapel for its detail and preservation.

Afterwards, enjoy lunch at leisure and free time to wander León's plazas, visit a museum, or relax in a local café. Reconvene for a group dinner this evening. **B,D**  
*Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles*

## Sunday, November 8:

*León / Astorga / Ponferrada / Villafranca del Bierzo*

Visit the **Bishop's Palace** in **Astorga**, a late 19th-century creation by Gaudí that blends neo-Gothic architecture with sculptural details. Inside, a museum traces the history and meaning of the Camino pilgrimage.

After gathering for lunch, continue to **Ponferrada** for a tour of its 12th-century **Templar Castle**, once held by the Knights Templar and still marked by Romanesque fortifications. Walk through the medieval quarter, following the Camino's path through narrow lanes lined with centuries of history.

End the day in **Villafranca del Bierzo** with dinner and an overnight stay at the **Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo**. **B,L,D**  
*Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles*

## Monday, November 9:

*Villafranca del Bierzo / Monte do Gozo / Santiago de Compostela / Cape Finisterre*

Stroll through **Villafranca del Bierzo**, a town long tied to the Camino as a place of rest and reflection. Visit key sites linked to the final stages of the pilgrimage, where many paused to prepare themselves for arrival in Santiago.

After lunch, begin the final walk from **Monte do Gozo**, joining fellow pilgrims on foot for the approach into Santiago. From this rise, catch your first view of the cathedral's towers before continuing into town. Check into the **San Francisco Hotel Monumento** and enjoy dinner at leisure.

An optional excursion is available to **Cape Finisterre**, once believed to mark the edge of the known world. Raise a glass of *Cava* as you watch the sun set into the Atlantic. **B,L**

*Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles*

## Tuesday, November 10:

*Santiago de Compostela*

Take a walking tour through **Santiago's Old Town**, where cobbled streets and stone façades reflect centuries of devotion. Explore landmarks across this UNESCO-listed city, a destination that has drawn pilgrims from across Europe since the Middle Ages.

At noon, attend Mass at the **Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela**, where the pilgrim liturgy includes the dramatic swinging of the *Botafumeiro*, a towering incense censer that arcs high above the congregation.

Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. In the evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner to celebrate the journey's end. **B,D**

*Rest day (walking limited to sightseeing only)*

## Wednesday, November 11:

*Santiago de Compostela / Madrid / Return*

Depart the hotel and transfer to the Santiago de Compostela airport early this morning for the flight home, connecting through Madrid. **B**

**DISCLAIMER:** *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Tufts University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*



Cape Finisterre

**Program Rate**  
**\$8,199 per person, double rate**  
**\$9,499 single rate**  
**Rate Includes**

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

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES:** International airfare; passport/visa fee; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is 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.

# Accommodations



Parador de León

## **Hotel Tres Reyes, Pamplona**

Modern rooms and an acclaimed Navarran restaurant make this centrally located hotel a comfortable base in Pamplona.

## **Hotel Villa de Laguardia**

A quiet retreat amid Rioja vineyards, this hotel offers peaceful views, two restaurants, and a spa focused on regional treatments.

## **NH Palacio de Burgos**

Housed in a 16th-century Gothic building near the Burgos Cathedral, this hotel blends historic architecture with contemporary comfort and views of the Arlanzón.

## **Parador de León**

Formerly a monastery and royal hospital, this 16th-century property showcases León's imperial past in its cloisters, chapter house, and soaring public spaces. Rooms are elegant, and the on-site restaurant serves traditional Castilian fare.

## **Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo**

A restful pause before the final stretch to Santiago, this hillside *parador* offers mountain views, regional stone architecture, and a restaurant known for its seasonal cuisine.

## **San Francisco Hotel Monumento, Santiago de Compostela**

Minutes from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, enjoy the tranquility of an 18th-century Franciscan convent with four-star amenities, including a heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY  
**Camino de Santiago**  
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**RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Arrangements abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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

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Address

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City

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State

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Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (mobile)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(home)

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference  one bed  two beds  double

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

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I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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Medford, MA 02155

Front cover: Camino de Santiago. Back cover: Burgos Cathedral (top);  
Bridge at Puente La Reina (bottom).  
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