



El Camino de Santiago

A Walking Tour in Northern Spain

September 25 - October 7, 2026



With Linda Seidel, *Hanna Holborn Gray Professor Emerita in Art History,*
the University of Chicago

Trip Highlights

Experience the most interesting sections of the **Camino de Santiago**, one of the world's two UNESCO-recognized pilgrimage routes.

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.

Explore several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that line the Camino, including the French Gothic-style **Burgos Cathedral**, with its opulent Renaissance *retablo*.

Enjoy guided 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.





Traveling With *You*

Linda Seidel is the Hanna Holborn Gray Professor Emerita in Art History at the University of Chicago. A graduate of Barnard College, she pursued graduate studies at Harvard, where the university museum's collection of medieval sculptures and paintings drew her to the art of the later Middle Ages. After teaching at Harvard, she joined the faculty at the University of Chicago. Her books include *Jan van Eyck's Arnolfini Portrait: Stories of an Icon* (1995, Cambridge University Press) and *Vincent's Arles: As It Is and As It Was* (2023, University of Chicago Press), which traced the overlapping experiences of 12th- and 20th-century visitors to a city that once welcomed pilgrims bound for Santiago de Compostela.

Dear Michigan Alumni and Friends,

From **September 25 to October 7, 2026**, follow one of Europe's most enduring cultural pathways across northern Spain. The **Camino de Santiago** is one of two UNESCO-recognized pilgrimage routes in the world. For over a millennium, pilgrims have traced this network of footpaths toward the shrine of Saint James in **Santiago de Compostela**.

Walk some of the most fascinating and richly historic sections of the Camino, crossing landscapes where Romanesque chapels, Gothic cathedrals, and fortified towns chart the evolution of Western architecture. Visit incomparable treasures like **Burgos Cathedral**, the only cathedral in Spain awarded UNESCO World Heritage status solely for its architectural merit.

Upon reaching Santiago de Compostela, **attend the midday pilgrim Mass** at the cathedral to witness the **Botafumeiro**, the ritual swinging of a massive thurible weighing over 110 pounds. You may also enjoy an optional sunset excursion to **Cape Finisterre**, once thought to mark the edge of the known world.

Daily walks average 3.5 miles, with one day reaching 5.5 miles. Built-in rest days allow for cultural visits and independent exploration. Accommodations include historic *paradores* dating back centuries, with meals featuring regional cuisine and Rioja wines.

This program is co-sponsored by UChicago Alumni Travel. Travel with the guidance of **Linda Seidel**, the Hanna Holborn Gray Professor Emerita in Art History at the University of Chicago. Professor Seidel brings a deep personal connection to the route: Her 2023 book *Vincent's Arles: As It Is and As It Was* explores the overlapping experiences of 12th- and 20th-century visitors to a major pilgrimage stop along the Camino de Santiago.

Reserve your place today by contacting our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 800-221-1944 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com. We hope you will consider joining this journey through one of Spain's most resonant landscapes.

Go Blue,
Rachele Neu, '08, M.A. '12
Senior Travel Program Manager, Michigan Alumni Travel

The Alumni Travel program is a member benefit of the Alumni Association. All travelers, regardless of alumni status, must be members to participate. For more information, visit our website <https://alumni.umich.edu/membership/>.

Questions? Contact Michigan Alumni Travel at 855.764.0064 or alumnitravel@umich.edu.



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

El Camino de Santiago

A Walking Tour in Northern Spain

September 25 - October 7, 2026

Friday, September 25:

Departure

Depart independently on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

Saturday, September 26:

Pamplona, Spain

(R)

Arrive in Pamplona today and transfer to the **Hotel Tres Reyes**. This evening, gather with fellow travelers at a welcome reception.

Sunday, September 27:

Pamplona / Roncesvalles / Pamplona

(B,L,D)

Begin with an expert-led walking tour of **Pamplona's Old Quarter**. Founded in 884 A.D. as a fortified outpost during the *Reconquista*, Pamplona grew into the capital of the Kingdom of Navarre.

After lunch, drive to **Roncesvalles**, the Pyrenean gateway to Spain and a main entrance point for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. Each traveler will receive a *credencial* (pilgrim passport) to mark the route ahead. Return to Pamplona for a welcome dinner.

Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles



Santa María de Eunate, Izarbe Valley



Puente la Reina

Monday, September 28:

Pamplona / Muruzábal / Puente la Reina / Estella / Laguardia

(B,D)

Travel by coach to the **Church of Santa María de Eunate**, a 12th-century octagonal Romanesque church surrounded by an arcade. From there, walk a short distance on the Camino to **Puente la Reina**, where the two main routes of the pilgrimage converge.

Transfer to **Estella**, founded in 1090. Here, tour the **Church of San Pedro de la Rúa**, with its 12th-century cloister.

Continue to **Laguardia**, capital of the Rioja Alavesa wine region, and check into the **Hotel Villa de Laguardia** for two nights. Gather for a dinner of regional cuisine and wines at a local restaurant.

Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles

Tuesday, September 29:

Laguardia / Logroño / Samaniego / Laguardia

(B,L)

Travel to **Logroño**, La Rioja's capital and a major stop on the Camino Francés. Tour the Old Quarter and the **Co-Cathedral of Santa María de la Redonda**, famed for its twin Baroque towers and its interior panel painting of *The Crucifixion* attributed to Michelangelo.

Enjoy a tour and wine pairing lunch at **Bodegas Baigorri** in Samaniego. Return to Laguardia to visit the **Church of Santa María de los Reyes**, built between the 12th and 17th centuries. With the remainder of the day and dinner at leisure, you may explore the town's subterranean cellars (*bodegas*).

Rest day (only sightseeing walking)

Wednesday, September 30:

Laguardia / Nájera / Azofra / Santo Domingo de la Calzada / Burgos (B,L)

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

Later, explore the Romanesque-Gothic **Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada**, a 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.

Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles

Thursday, October 1:

Burgos (B,L)

Today you will have two options: You may discover **Burgos Cathedral**, the only cathedral in Spain awarded UNESCO World Heritage status solely for its architectural significance. Construction began in 1221, creating a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture built over five centuries. After, visit the Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Las Huelgas before having lunch together in Burgos's old town.

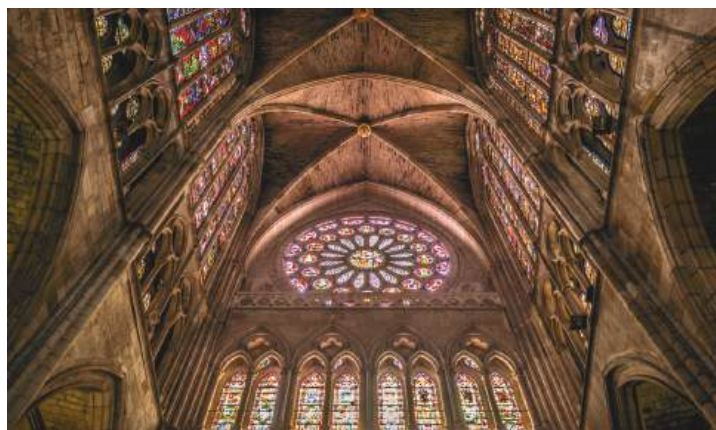
Alternatively, opt to drive to the **Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos** to view the two-story Romanesque cloister, built between the late 11th and late 12th centuries. Experience a Gregorian chant performance by the world-renowned monks of Silos.

Return to Burgos for a late walk along a Camino path through an oak and pine forest. Dinner is at leisure.

Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles



Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, Burgos



León Cathedral

Friday, October 2:

Burgos / Calzada del Coto / Calzadilla de los Hermanillos / León (B,L,D)

Drive to **Calzada del Coto**, a village situated on the **Via Trajana**, the ancient Roman road connecting Astorga with Bordeaux. Here, the Camino Francés splits, and pilgrims can choose between routes. Walk along the historic Roman causeway to **Calzadilla de los Hermanillos**, crossing the flat plains of the Castilian Meseta.

After a *tapas* buffet lunch, continue to **León**, founded as a Roman military camp around 74 A.D. Check into the **Parador de León**, housed in the 16th-century Monastery of San Marcos. The afternoon is at leisure to explore before dinner at the hotel this evening. **B,L,D**

Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles

Saturday, October 3:

León

Follow the Camino within León's walls to **Casa Botines**, Antoni Gaudí's neo-Gothic masterpiece built between 1891 and 1892. Now a museum, it houses a Gaudí exhibition and more than 5,000 artworks, including pieces by Goya, Sorolla, and Dalí.

Visit **León Cathedral**, a 13th-century French Gothic masterpiece featuring one of the world's most important collections of medieval stained glass. Tour the **Basilica of San Isidoro**, the Iberian Peninsula's most celebrated Romanesque church. Its Royal Pantheon contains exceptionally preserved 12th-century religious frescoes, earning the church the nickname "the Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art."

With lunch at leisure, enjoy time to explore León independently before dinner at the hotel. **B,D**

Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles



Episcopal Palace, Astorga

Sunday, October 4:

León / Astorga / Ponferrada / Villafranca del Bierzo (B,L,D)

Journey across the *páramo*, a vast treeless plateau of red earth and windswept grasslands. Arrive in **Astorga**, an ancient town set at the crossroads of four major Roman roads, and admire Gaudí's fairy-tale **Episcopal Palace**, designed between 1889 and 1913. The building now houses the Museum of the Ways, dedicated to the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.

Continue to **Ponferrada** to visit the late-medieval **Templar Castle**, the Knights Templar's main stronghold in northwestern Spain. Most of the visible structure dates from the 14th and 15th centuries. Walk along the Camino as it winds through Ponferrada's medieval quarter. Dinner and overnight are at the **Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo**.

Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles

Monday, October 5:

Villafranca del Bierzo / Monte do Gozo / Santiago de Compostela / Cape Finisterre (B,L)

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 **Hotel Palacio del Carmen**; dinner is 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.

Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles

Tuesday, October 6:

Santiago de Compostela

(B,D)

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** and witness the ceremonial swinging of the **Botafumeiro**, a massive silver-plated censer weighing over 110 pounds. Eight men swing it through the transept at high speeds, dispensing incense. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. In the evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner.

Rest day (only sightseeing walking)

Wednesday, October 7:

Santiago de Compostela / Return

(B)

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

This program includes select, curated walks on the most interesting sections of the Camino route, totaling approximately 45 km. Please note that the official Certificate of Completion is reserved for pilgrims who walk 100 km or more.

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Botafumeiro, Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Accommodations

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.



Hotel Villa de Laguardia

Hotel 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.



Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos

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 León

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.



Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo

Hotel Palacio del Carmen, Santiago de Compostela

Located in the town center, this former 18th-century convent has been converted into a hotel that elegantly combines the city's mysticism with its ancient past and modern identity.



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Program Rate

\$8,799 Per Person, Double Rate
\$9,999 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
- 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 portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: International airfare; passport/visa fees; 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.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
El Camino de Santiago
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RESERVATION FORM

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 \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424. Contact the Michigan Alumni Travel Team at alumnitravel@umich.edu or 855-764-0064 for more information.

Name(s) in full as on government-issued ID(s). Please print.

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State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)

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Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



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Front cover: Camino de Santiago trail. Back cover: Shell along the Camino route (top)
and Palace of the Kings of Navarre, Estella (bottom).
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