

El Camino de Santiago

A Walking Tour In Northern Spain

September 18 – 30, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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.

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.

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Dear Michigan Alumni and Friends,

From **September 18 to 30, 2026**, travel with us along one of Europe's most enduring cultural routes: **Spain's Camino de Santiago**. For over a millennium, pilgrims and wayfarers have followed this network of footpaths toward the shrine of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela.

On this **adventurous** program, walk some of the Camino's most evocative sections, crossing historic towns and countryside shaped by centuries of religious devotion and local life. Visit Romanesque chapels, medieval bridges, and UNESCO-listed cathedrals that have long anchored this route through northern Spain.

In Santiago de Compostela, attend the midday pilgrim Mass at the cathedral and observe the ***Botafumeiro***, the ritual swinging of a massive incense thurible that dates to the Middle Ages. Those interested may join an optional sunset excursion to **Cape Finisterre**, a windswept Atlantic outpost once believed to mark the end of the known world.

Daily walks average about 3.5 miles, with one day reaching approximately 5.5 miles. There are built-in rest days for cultural visits and local exploration. Accommodations include former monasteries and *paradores*, and meals feature regional dishes and wines drawn from the Camino's distinct culinary traditions.

To reserve your place, contact Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, or email trips@arrangementsabroad.com. We hope you will consider joining this journey through one of Spain's most resonant landscapes.

Go Blue,

Rachele Neu

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

Activity Level: Adventurous



Pace Level: Presto



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

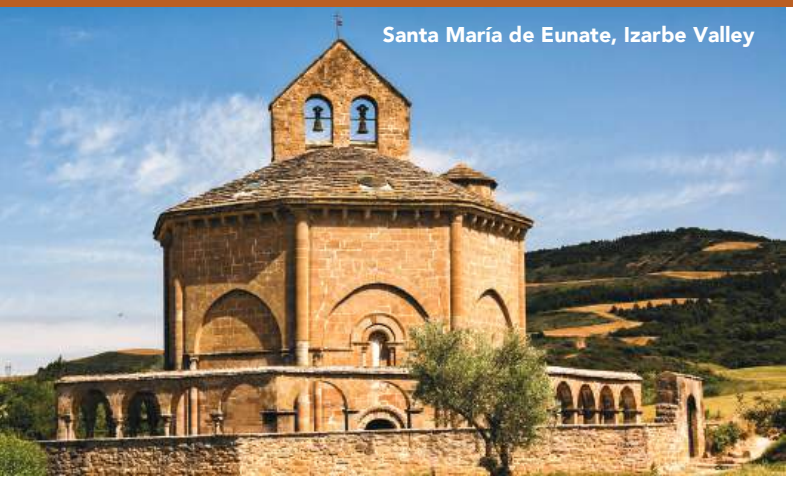
The Alumni Travel program is a member benefit of the Alumni Association. All travelers, regardless of alumni status, must be members to participate. For more information, visit our website https://alumni.umich.edu/membership/.

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



El Camino de Santiago
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September 18 – 30, 2026


Santa María de Eunate, Izarbe Valley

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: DEPARTURE
Depart on an overnight flight to Pamplona via Madrid.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: MADRID, SPAIN / PAMPLONA R
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*.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: PAMPLONA / RONCESVALLES / PAMPLONA B,L,D
MORNING
- **Walking tour of Pamplona's Old Quarter**. Explore the layered history of this fortified city, from its Roman foundations to its role as a medieval pilgrimage hub.

AFTERNOON / EVENING
- Gather for lunch.
- **Visit to Roncesvalles**. Travel to this Pyrenean pass where many medieval pilgrims entered Spain en route to Santiago. Receive a *credencial*, the traditional pilgrim's passport used to mark progress along the route.
- Gather this evening for a welcome dinner.

Approximate walking distance: 6.5 kilometers / 4 miles

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: PAMPLONA / MURUZÁBAL / PUENTE LA REINA / ESTELLA / LAGUARDIA B,D
MORNING
- **Visit to the Church of Santa María de Eunate**. Explore the unusual octagonal plan and sculpted capitals of this Romanesque church, long associated with the pilgrimage route and the Knights of the Order of St. John.
- **Walk to Puente La Reina**. Continue on foot to this medieval town where two major branches of the Camino join.

AFTERNOON / EVENING
- Lunch is at leisure.
- **Visit to the Palace of the Kings of Navarre and San Pedro de la Rúa**. In Estella, view the impressive Romanesque cloister of this former collegiate church, one of the region's oldest ecclesiastical buildings.
- Continue to Laguardia, a fortified hill town at the center of the Rioja Alavesa wine district. Settle in at the Hotel Villa de Laguardia for a two-night stay.
- Dinner is at a nearby restaurant.

Approximate walking distance: 4.5 kilometers / 2.75 miles

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: LAGUARDIA / LOGROÑO B,L
MORNING
- **Guided tour of Logroño's Old Quarter**. Walk through this university city's historic center and visit the Co-Cathedral of Santa María de La Redonda, home to a painting attributed to Michelangelo and wood sculptures by Gregorio Fernández, a leading figure of Spanish Baroque.

AFTERNOON / EVENING
- **Wine pairing lunch at Bodegas Baigorri**. Sample wines from the Rioja Alavesa appellation during a tasting at this beautifully designed winery.
- **Visit to Santa María Church**. View the sculpted portico of this 12th-century church in Laguardia and take time to explore the walled village's traditional wine *bodegas*, stopping in some of the numerous cellars to taste or buy magnificent local wines.
- The remainder of the day and dinner are at leisure.

Rest day (only sightseeing walking)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: LAGUARDIA / NÁJERA / AZOFRA / SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA / BURGOS B,L
MORNING
- **Visit to the Monasterio de Santa María La Real de Nájera**. Explore the royal pantheon of Navarrese monarchs and knights in this 11th-century monastic complex.


Puente La Reina


Burgos Cathedral

- **Walk to Azofra**. Follow a portion of the Camino before continuing by coach to Santo Domingo de la Calzada, where you will enjoy lunch.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Visit to the Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada**. See the Romanesque and Gothic elements of this cathedral, named for the 11th-century hermit who assisted pilgrims by building roads and bridges across the region.
- Continue to Burgos and check into the Hotel NH Palacio de Burgos.
- Dinner is at leisure.

Approximate walking distance: 5.8 kilometers / 3.6 miles

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: BURGOS B,L

MORNING

- **Guided visit to Burgos Cathedral**. Explore one of Spain's largest and most distinguished Gothic churches, begun in 1221 and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Gather for lunch.
- **Visit to the Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos**. Attend a performance of Gregorian chant by the Benedictine monks, renowned for their recordings and liturgical continuity.
- **Walk through the Río Vena valley**. On return to Burgos, stroll a short forest path that once formed part of the Camino pilgrimage route.
- Dinner is at leisure.

Approximate walking distance: 6.1 kilometers / 3.8 miles

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: BURGOS / CALZADA DEL COTO / CALZADILLA DE LOS HERMANILLOS / LEÓN B,L,D

MORNING

- **Walk from Calzada del Coto to Calzadilla de los Hermanillos**. Begin the day with a hike along a peaceful stretch of the Camino, passing rural farmland and quiet villages.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Enjoy a casual lunch of regional *tapas*.
- Continue to León and check into the Parador de León.
- Dinner is at the hotel.

Approximate walking distance: 8.7 kilometers / 5.4 miles

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: LEÓN B,D

MORNING

- **Guided visit to Casa Botines**. Discover Gaudí's early work in León, a neo-Gothic palace built in 1891 that houses his architectural models and a collection of 19th- and 20th-century Spanish paintings.
- **Expert-led look at León Cathedral**. Known for its extensive stained glass spanning seven centuries, the cathedral represents a northern Gothic style that invites comparison with its French contemporaries.
- **Guided tour of the Basilica of San Isidoro**. View Romanesque capitals, royal tombs, and frescoes in the Pantheon of Kings, often likened to the Sistine Chapel for its painted ceiling.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Enjoy lunch on your own and time at leisure to explore León's plazas, museums, or cafés before reconvening for dinner at the hotel.

Approximate walking distance: 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: LEÓN / ASTORGA / PONFERRADA / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO B,L,D

MORNING

- **Visit to the Bishop's Palace in Astorga**. Designed by Gaudí in the late 19th century, this structure combines neo-Gothic form with sculptural flourishes and now houses a museum devoted to the Camino.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Gather for lunch.
- **Visit to the Templar Castle in Ponferrada**. Explore the 12th-century fortress once held by the Knights Templar, with its Romanesque ramparts.
- **Walk through Ponferrada's medieval quarter**. Follow the Camino as it weaves through historic lanes before continuing westward.
- Dinner and overnight are at the Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo.

Approximate walking distance: 6.7 kilometers / 4.2 miles


Bishop's Palace, Astorga

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO / MONTE DO GOZO / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / CAPE FINISTERRE B,L

MORNING

- **Walk through Villafranca del Bierzo**. Visit key sites in this town historically associated with rest and spiritual preparation for pilgrims nearing Santiago.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Walk from Monte do Gozo toward Santiago**. After lunch, join other pilgrims on foot for the final approach to the cathedral, visible from this hilltop vantage.
- Arrive in Santiago and check into the Parador de Santiago de Compostela. Dinner is at leisure.
- **An optional excursion is available to Cape Finisterre**, once seen as the symbolic end of the known world. Watch the sun set over the Atlantic with a glass of *Cava*.

Approximate walking distance: 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA B,D

MORNING

- **Walking tour of Santiago's Old Town**. Explore key landmarks of this UNESCO-listed city, which for centuries has drawn pilgrims across the European continent.
- **Attend Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela**. Experience the pilgrim liturgy at noon, featuring the *Botafumeiro*, a suspended incense censer that swings above the congregation in a dramatic arc.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure.
- Gather tonight for a festive farewell dinner.

Rest day (only sightseeing walking)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / MADRID / RETURN B

Transfer to the Santiago de Compostela airport for the return flight, connecting through Madrid.

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.*



***Botafumeiro* ritual, 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 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.

PARADOR DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

One of Spain's oldest hotels—housed in a former 15th-century royal hospital beside Santiago's cathedral—this parador offers refined accommodations amid Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture in the city's main square.









Photos clockwise from top left: Hotel Villa de Laguardia, Laguardia; Parador de León, León; Parador de Villafranca del Bierzo, Villafranca del Bierzo; and Parador de Santiago de Compostela.

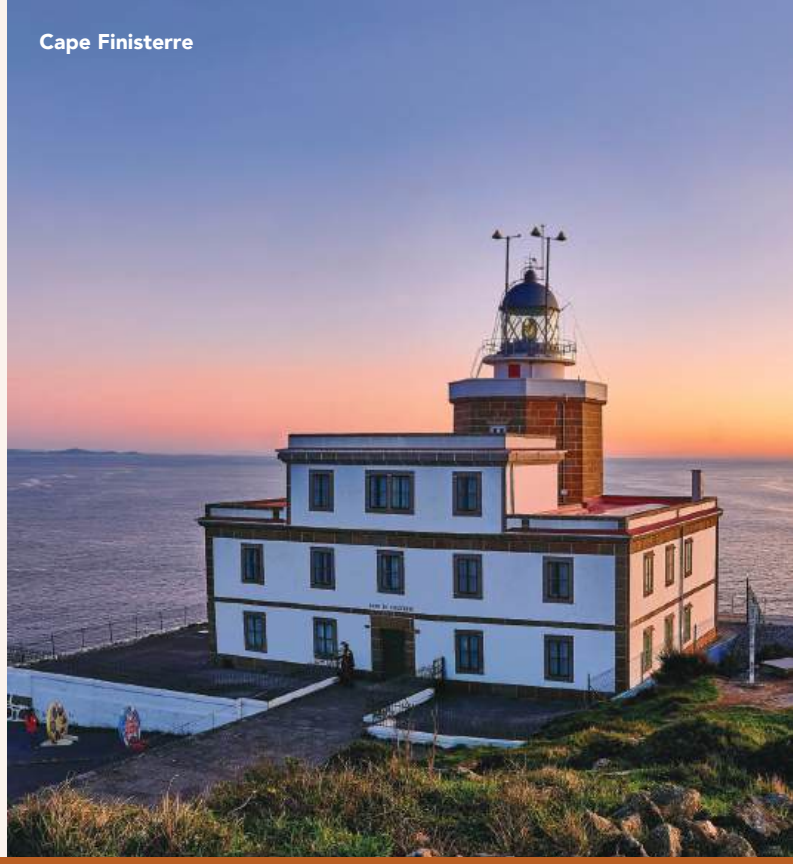
PROGRAM RATE

$8,999 per person, double rate
$10,399 single rate

RATES 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
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES 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.


Cape Finisterre

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: A WALKING TOUR IN NORTHERN SPAIN ▪ SEPTEMBER 18 – 30, 2026
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 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 credit card

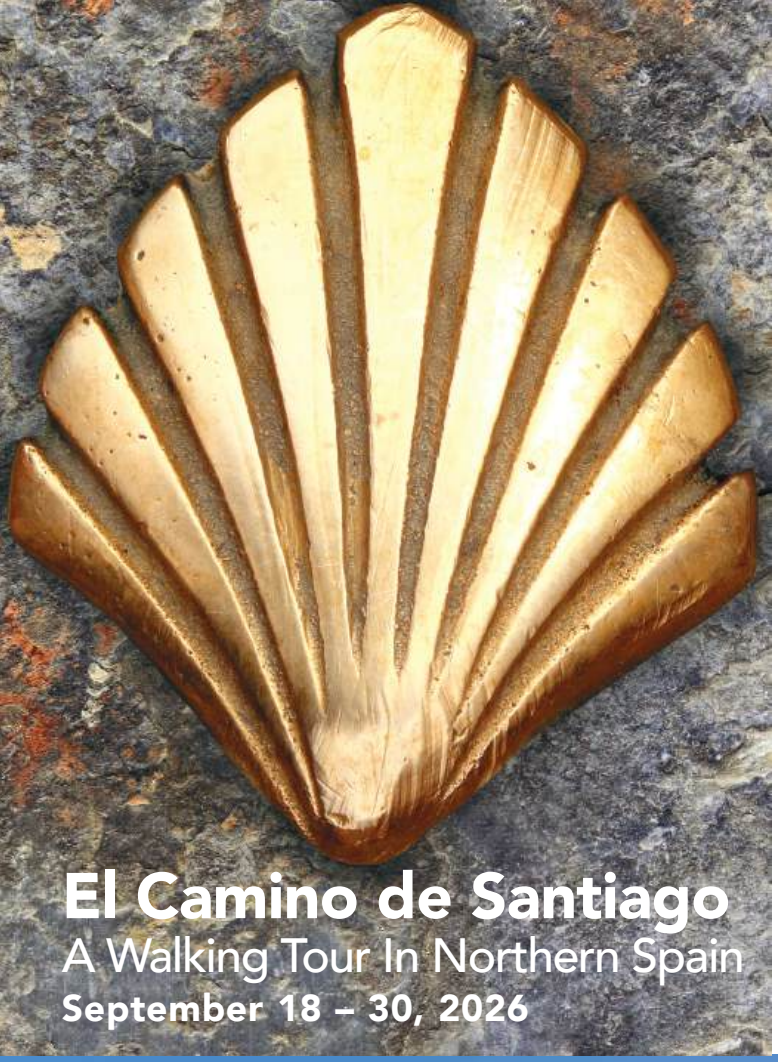
Credit card number

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 at the time of reservation. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) | Date

Signature (required) | Date



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PERMIT #601

CST 2059789-40

B_260320LNDPNA_UMA

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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