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**The Portuguese Way**

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# Our Itinerary:

## Day 1 • Leaving Home

We leave on our flight to Lisbon, Portugal.

## Day 2 • Arriving in Portugal

After arriving in Lisbon, we take a beautiful one-hour drive to Fátima, where we check into our hotel and have dinner. Get a good night's rest, for tomorrow we begin our journey!

## Day 3 • Prelude: Our Lady of Fátima

In May 1917, ten-year old Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco were herding sheep near



Fátima, Portugal. Lúcia described seeing a woman “brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal ball filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of

the sun.” Thus began the first of six appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the children of Fátima. Thousands flocked to Fátima, drawn by reports of visions and miracles. On The Virgin's final appearance, 70,000 witnessed the “Miracle of the Sun.” O Século, Portugal's most influential newspaper, reported: “Before the astonished eyes of the crowd...the sun trembled, made sudden incredible movements outside all cosmic laws—the sun ‘danced’ according to the typical expression of the people.” The Lisbon Daily, O Dia, reported: “The light turned a beautiful blue, as if it had come through the stained-glass windows of a cathedral, and spread itself over the people who knelt with outstretched hands...”

We have the privilege of celebrating Mass at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, visiting the tombs of Jacinto and Francisco, praying the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary and spending time in private devotion at this very holy place. Fátima is the perfect prelude to our spiritual pilgrimage.

## Day 4 • Getting Ready

We leave Fátima and drive to Valenca, where we enjoy dinner together, resting up for “The Way,” our 113 km walk to St. James of Compostela.

## Day 5 • “The Way,” Valenca to Porrino

We begin our pilgrimage, leaving Valenca and walking down to the River Minho, crossing by Eiffel's Puente Internacional and onward to the Tui Cathedral. From



the Cathedral the Camino descends into the Louro Valley and on to Porrino, where we have dinner and overnight. Queen Isabel walked this path in the 13<sup>th</sup> century on her own pilgrimage! Today's walk is 18 km, around 6 hours on foot.

## Day 6 • “The Way,” Porrino to Arcade

From Porrino the terrain becomes easier as we cross the Louro Valley. After a gentle climb we arrive at the chapel of Santiaguino de Antas, a lovely spot for a rest. We then enter a beautiful forested area and descend through the hamlet of Setefontes, arriving at Arcade in time for dinner and overnight. Today's walk is 23 km, around 8 hours on foot.

## Day 7 • “The Way,” Arcade to Pontevedra

This morning we leave Arcade and head toward the historic Ponte Sampaio, where the Camino crosses the Verdugo River over a bridge where, during the war of independence, Napoleon's army suffered one of its greatest defeats. Heading up a cobbled footpath we arrive at the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Basilica of Santa Maria in Pontevedra. Today's walk is 10 km (easy day!), around 4 hours on foot.

## Day 8 • “The Way,” Pontevedra to Caldas do Rei

The Camino leaves Pontevedra, crossing the old Burgo Bridge, passing through chestnut groves and the hamlet of Ponte Cabras and entering the rectory of Santa Maria de Alba, tucked away among pine and eucalyptus trees. Beyond the dense woods of Lombo da Maceira, a statue of Saint James with his stick points the way! We pass through the lovely village of Tibo, with its fountain and stone crosses, bringing us to Caldas do Rei, where we see the church of St. Thomas Becket in the main square, have dinner and overnight. Today's walk is 23 km, around 7 hours.



### Day 9 • “The Way,” Caldas do Rei to Padron

Leaving Caldas do Rei, via a bridge over the Umia River that leads us to a fountain of hot springs. From there we enter dense woods and the Camino makes its way uphill to the hamlet of Santa Marina. We then descend, crossing the Fontenlo River, to the pine-lined route leading us to Padron, the first land sighted by the ship that brought the body of St. James (the Apostle and brother of the Apostle, John) from Palestine. We have dinner and overnight at Padron. Today’s walk is 19 km, about 6 hours.

### Day 10 • “The Way,” Padron to Santiago de Compostela

This morning we begin the last leg of our journey. Leaving Padron, the Camino crosses many villages before arriving at the Baroque-style Sanctuary Esclavitude. On a hilltop we see the mysterious ruins of the ancient castle of Queen Lupa. We then pass the oldest wayside stone crosses in Galicia. As we approach Agro dos Monteiros, we see the spires of the cathedral in the distance. Finally, the Camino passes by the ruins of a castle, Rocha Vella, before entering Santiago de Compostela. Today’s walk is 20 km, around 7 hours.

### Day 11 • “The Way,” Journey’s End

Today we celebrate our Pilgrims’ Mass in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela at noon. The musical and visual highlight of the Mass is the synchronization of the beautiful “Hymn to Santiago,” and the spectacular swinging of the huge Botafumeiro, the famous thurible, filled with burning incense.



Completing the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, “The Way”; receiving the Sacrament of Penance; and receiving Communion at the Cathedral

completes the pilgrimage requirements, allowing us to receive our pilgrim’s scallop shell (symbol of the Camino de Santiago), the compostela, and the plenary indulgence associated with it, first granted by Pope Calixtus II in 1122!



### Day 12 • Depart Home

We fly home, with wonderful memories of our journey.

### Optional Madrid/Toledo Extension

#### Day 12 • Santiago de Compostela to Madrid

Those continuing on the optional extension to Madrid will enjoy a guided tour of the City’s highlights, including Puerta del Sol, Gran Via, Plaza Mayor and the area around the Royal Palace. Afterwards, we have dinner at our hotel.

#### Day 13 • Toledo

After breakfast, we visit Toledo. Toledo is located on a granite hill surrounded on three sides by the deep gorge of the Tagus River. Our walking tour of this lovely town includes a visit to the Cathedral, Toledo’s principal landmark. The Cathedral is famous for its 17-ton “Campana Gorda,” the largest bell in Spain. Afterward, we return to Madrid with time for leisure, shopping, or sightseeing.

#### Day 14 • Madrid

Explore Madrid at your leisure, or take an optional tour to the Prado Museum (at extra cost). Madrid is an exciting and beautiful city with many sites of historic and cultural importance.



#### Day 15 • Madrid to Home

After breakfast, we depart for the airport and return home.

#### Important Note

The Way, a Pilgrimage to St. James of Compostela, is a physically demanding pilgrimage, a 113 km (70 mile) walk on pavement, wooded trails, and hills (elevations ranging from sea level to nearly 1,000 feet), and up to 10 hours of walking daily.

To participate, you must be in good physical shape and capable of the tour’s physical and psychological demands, as well as be prepared for various weather conditions.

