8-DAY PROGRAM

SPAIN: CAMINO DE SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE

Walk the Camino de Santiago and discover a life-changing Catholic pilgrimage that strengthens your faith, builds resilience, and brings you closer to others on the journey to the Cathedral of St. James.

OVERVIEW

On this program, embark on a Catholic pilgrimage through the Spanish countryside, following the historic Camino de Santiago toward the Cathedral of St. James. Along the way, grow in your faith through daily opportunities for prayer, reflection, and Mass, and strengthen your resilience, friendships, and confidence through this shared physical challenge. Blending spiritual formation, cultural immersion, and personal growth, this journey invites you to step away from routine and experience pilgrimage as generations of Christians have before you.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk 72.5 miles or 115.2 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago and experience the powerful moment of arriving at one of Christianity's most important pilgrimage sites.
- Pray, reflect, and attend Mass along the trail while experiencing faith in a lived, meaningful way beyond the classroom.
- Take on a shared physical challenge, encourage your classmates, and build lasting friendships through your journey.

ITINERARY

The actual schedule of activities may vary. The information provided here reflects the typical experiences planned; however, activities and excursions are subject to change due to factors such as weather conditions, community partner availability, and other unforeseen circumstances. Adjustments may also be made to best meet the needs and interests of the student group.

DAY 1 SARRIA	• Arrive in Spain and transfer to Sarria where you'll meet the TEPA staff. • Settle into the first accommodation where we'll be staying, receive your pilgrim passport credencial, and participate in orientation to the program. • Join an opening Mass or prayer service to set intentions for the Camino.
DAY 2 PORTOMARÍN (14MI | 22.4KM)	• Set out on your first full day of walking. Pass through quiet forests, rolling hills, and small villages that have welcomed pilgrims for centuries. • Stop for lunch in a local town and collect stamps in your pilgrim passport. • By afternoon, arrive at Portomarín, a historic town rebuilt stone by stone. • Gather for evening Mass or prayer and reflect on the theme of the day: perseverance.
DAY 3 PALAS DE REI (16MI | 24.8KM)	• Today is the longest day on the trail. Walk though countryside and farms. • Encourage your classmates, share snacks, and help each other make it to the next village. • Arrive in Palas de Rei and participate in a group Rosary walk. • Reflect on what it means to support others on their journey, just as Christ walks with us.
DAY 4 MELIDE (9.2MI | 14.6KM)	• On today's shorter walk, slow down to take in this experience. Listen to the sounds of nature, the rhythm of walking, and notice the small shrines and churches along the way. If open, we'll visit a local chapel for quiet prayer. • Arrive in Melide, explore the town and enjoy a local meal. • Spend part of the evening journaling. The focus tonight is on gratitude.

DAY 5 ARZÚA (8.9MI | 14.3KM)	• You'll be invited to walk part of the day in silence. With fewer distractions, many pilgrims find this is when they begin to hear God more clearly. • After arriving in Arzúa, we'll come together for Mass or prayer. • The theme of the day is learning to listen to God, to others, and to your own heart.
DAY 6 ARCA (11.8MI | 19KM)	• You're getting close now; feel the excitement building among pilgrims on the trail. • Finish strong – encourage classmates who are tired and appreciate how far you've come since Sarria. • In Arca, your final stop before Santiago, gather for a special evening prayer service to prepare spiritually for reaching the Cathedral tomorrow. • Reflect on the question: What has this journey changed in me?
DAY 7 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (12.6MI | 20.1KM)	• Get an early start for your final walk. • Reach Santiago de Compostela and walk together into Praza do Obradoiro and see the Cathedral for the first time. • Attend the Pilgrim Mass and later receive your official Compostela certificate, recognizing the journey you've completed. • In the evening, celebrate not just finishing a walk, but growing in faith, friendship, and confidence along the way.
DAY 8 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA	• After breakfast, pay a final visit to the Cathedral or take a quiet moment in the square to take it all in one last time. • Head toward the airport (SCQ) with not just souvenirs but a powerful faith experience that will stay with you long after returning home. TEPA staff will support your group through security. Buen Viaje!

TEPA HOME BASE

Our group will stay in a mix of secure, locally owned pilgrim guesthouses (albergues) and small hotels along the Camino route. Students will stay in shared rooms, separated by gender. While some properties may also host other pilgrims, our group's rooms and supervision remain organized and structured to ensure a safe and supportive environment each night.

FOOD

Students will enjoy simple, hearty Spanish meals that provide the energy needed for full days of walking. Breakfasts are light but filling, lunches are easy and practical on the trail, and dinners typically include multiple courses with protein, vegetables, and carbohydrates to refuel each evening. Most dietary restrictions and food allergies can be accommodated with advance notice.

CLIMATE

The Camino region near Sarria has mild, changeable weather. Spring and fall are cool and pleasant, summers are warm and sunny with occasional rain, and winters are cooler with more rain and fewer pilgrims. Students should be prepared for variable conditions each day, with appropriate layers, rain gear, and sturdy walking shoes.

ABOUT TERRA EDUCATION PROGRAMS ABROAD

Terra Education Programs Abroad (TEPA) partners with schools and private groups to offer pre-designed and fully custom international experiences that align with academic goals while fostering global citizenship. Building on over 20 years of youth development expertise from its parent organization, Terra Education, TEPA delivers transformative experiences for young leaders worldwide.

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tepa@terraeducation.com

+1 858-220-7878

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