

camino - burgos to leon

explore europe your way

A UTracks holiday is all about exploring Europe - your way. It's about U + the walking tracks and cycling trails you want to discover, be it hiking with the family in the European Alps, a leisurely cycle with friends along the quieter backroads of Holland or France, trekking the famous pilgrimage trails of Spain, Italy or England or even discovering the islands of Croatia and Greece by bike and boat. Together with our sister company Sherpa Expeditions, we offer over 300 active tours across the continent and it's many exotic islands, with active holiday ideas for families, culinary enthusiasts, history buffs, experienced alpine walkers or those that just want to see Europe differently. Since we began in 2006, UTracks has quickly become known as the leaders in active European holidays. Our itineraries are creative - and very affordable - making them popular with travellers both young and young-at-heart. Set your own pace on a flexible self guided trip or enjoy the benefits of an experienced local guide on a guided tour. The physical demands range from introductory to challenging - with all offering unique opportunities to discover the 'untrodden' Europe, spanning postcard landscapes, centuries-old cultures, rural lifestyles and tempting culinary delights. Best of all, our trips start on virtually any day of the week, so you can combine any tour to create exactly the holiday you want. Compare the price and you will see that we offer exceptional value active programs that are virtually all-inclusive, giving you more time to enjoy the natural and cultural wonders you've come to experience.

TRIP COST

Joining Burgos : \$1750

Trip Concludes: Leon

All prices are per person

OPTIONS & SUPPLEMENTS

→ single supplement: \$410

→ single traveller surcharge: \$570

As the trip price is based on twinshare, a single supplement is payable if a single room is required - or a single traveller supplement if you are travelling solo*. Please refer to the price options for costs or ask our office for details.

Note regarding single rooms - The single supplement guarantees the privacy of your own room, however, rooms can at times be small and in some places may not enjoy the same facilities as double/twin rooms. **The single traveller surcharge is only available on trips deemed suitable for solo travellers. It is usually more expensive than the single supplement due to the extra cost for luggage transfers and organisation.

TRIP NAME:	CAMINO - BURGOS TO LEON
TRIP CODE:	CTB
TRIP DURATION:	11 DAYS
GRADE:	MODERATE - 3 
ACTIVITY:	SELF GUIDED WALKING
ACCOMMODATION:	10 NIGHTS IN A COMBINATION OF QUALITY HOTELS, FARMHOUSE B&BS AND GUESTHOUSES
DATE DETAILS:	DAILY FROM 1 APR TO 31 OCT

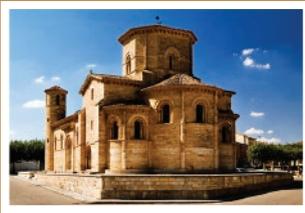


highlights

- Experience the history of the trail and the villages founded by pilgrims
- Enjoy the Meseta with its vast open landscapes perfect for reflective walking
- Explore Frómista's well-preserved Romanesque church of San Martín and the narrow alleys of Leon
- Enjoy the hospitality of small pilgrim hotels and the camaraderie of the trail

the trip

From Burgos, the city of El Cid with its majestic Gothic cathedral, walk the mid section of the French route to the city of Leon. Between the two the route veers away from civilisation to the high plains of central Spain, or the Meseta. Here there are few distractions to the walk, which makes this a unique and inspirational journey where the sound of your footfall competes only with the wind in the corn fields. At Frómista take in the simplicity of the Romanesque church before continuing on your way to Leon, with its lively tapas bars and grand buildings in complete contrast to the solitude of the Meseta.



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itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Arrive Burgos
Day 2	Walk from Burgos to Hornillos and transfer back to Burgos (6hrs, 21km)
Day 3	Morning transfer to Hornillos and walk to Castrojeriz (5hrs, 20km)
Day 4	Walk from Castrojeriz to Fromista (8hrs, 27km)
Day 5	Continue the Camino to Carrion de los Condes (5.5hrs, 19km)
Day 6	Walk to Calzadilla de la Cueva (4.5hrs, 16km)
Day 7	Walk to Sahagun (6.5hrs, 22km)
Day 8	Walk to El Burgo Ranero (5.5hrs, 18km)
Day 9	Continue on foot to Mansilla de las Mulas (5.5hrs, 19km)
Day 10	The final stage to León (5hrs, 18.6km)
Day 11	Trip concludes

detailed itinerary

DAY 1	Arrive Burgos Make your own way to the first hotel in Burgos and explore this city's many attractions, starting with its impressive Gothic cathedral. Don't forget to pick up your pilgrims passport, available at the tourist office or cathedral. meals: D
DAY 2	Walk from Burgos to Hornillos and transfer back to Burgos (6hrs, 21km) The first stage of the Camino takes you from Burgos to the rural Meseta landscape through fields of wheat, barley and oats to Hornillos. In the afternoon (3pm), transfer back to Burgos for your overnight accommodation. (21km, +150m, -125m) meals: B,D
DAY 3	Morning transfer to Hornillos and walk to Castrojeriz (5hrs, 20km) After a morning transfer from your hotel in Burgos to today's starting point in Hornillos, the walk leads you through wheat fields as far as Hontanas. On the way, you will pass the Convent of San Antón. Just under 5km on a flat stretch will see you arriving at the pretty village of Castrojeriz. (20km, +40m, -140m) meals: B,D
DAY 4	Walk from Castrojeriz to Fromista (8hrs, 27km) Once you leave Castrojeriz, the path leads you uphill to the Alto de Mostelares, from where you will descend towards the river Piserga. The last part of today's walk is along the Canal de Castilla into the historic town of Frómista. (27km, +100m, -120m) meals: B,D
DAY 5	Continue the Camino to Carrion de los Condes (5.5hrs, 19km) The first part of this stage will lead you towards Villalcázar de Sirga and its beautiful 13th century church. Shortly afterwards you will reach Carrión de los Condes and its impressive collection of monuments. (19km, +50m) meals: B,D
DAY 6	Walk to Calzadilla de la Cueva (4.5hrs, 16km) This stage is short, so you can make the most of your time in Carrion de los Condes before starting your walk to the small village of Calzadilla de la Cueva. (16km, +30m) meals: B,D



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DAY 7	Walk to Sahagun (6.5hrs, 22km) From Calzadilla de la Cueva the first couple of kilometres are uphill. You will then walk through Lédigos, Terradillo de Templarios and Moratinos, before arriving at one of this journey's most interesting villages, Sahagún. (22km, +60m, -60m) meals: B,D
DAY 8	Walk to El Burgo Ranero (5.5hrs, 18km) You will leave Sahagún by crossing the bridge over the river Cea. Once you arrive at Calzada del Coto, the Camino divides into two paths. Follow the path to the left through Bercianos del Camino to reach El Burgo Ranero (just off the main route). (18km, +50m) meals: B,D
DAY 9	Continue on foot to Mansilla de las Mulas (5.5hrs, 19km) This stage leads you to Mansilla de las Mulas, not far from León. You will come across very few villages on today's walk. Mansilla is where the two branches of the walk reunite. (19km, -50m) meals: B,D
DAY 10	The final stage to León (5hrs, 18.6km) Cross the bridge over the river Esla to leave Mansilla, and then the river Porma in Villarente. From the Alto del Portillo you will enjoy great views over the city of León, dominated by its cathedral. A short and steep descent will lead you into the city centre. (18.6km, +100m, -80m) meals: B,D
DAY 11	Trip concludes Trip concludes after breakfast. Onward arrangements or continue the walk to Santiago. meals: B

inclusions

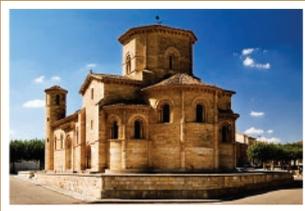
- 10 breakfasts, 10 dinners: Breakfasts are usually continental inclusive of breads, cheese, ham, tea, coffee & juices. Dinner will consist of 3 courses, usually starting with a salad, followed by a chicken, red meat, fish or pasta dish & finishing with a dessert of fruit or cakes.
- 10 nights in a combination of quality hotels, farmhouse B&Bs and guesthouses on a twin share basis generally with ensuite facilities
- Information pack including route notes, maps & guidebook per room booked
- 7 day service hotline
- Luggage transfers (max 20kgs per person)
- Transfer Hornillos-Burgos and Burgos-Hornillos

items not included

- Travel to and from Leon/Burgos
- Items of a personal nature including drinks
- Lunch daily
- Transfers
- Travel insurance
- Entrance fees

getting there

BY CAR Driving routes can be accessed via the following websites: www.viamichelin.com



BY TRAIN

To Burgos - By train: See <http://horarios.renfe.es/hir/ingles.html> for more information. We are happy to assist with your train ticket bookings. Australian travellers can book their rail in Europe via the link on the utracks.com home page. Burgos is around 6 hours by train from Barcelona and 2.5 to 4 hours from Madrid. From Leon there are rail connections to points throughout Spain and Europe.

BY AIR

The nearest airport is Burgos for flights within Spain. For more flight choices Madrid is the closest. From there you will need to take a bus to the Chamartin train station and connect with a train to Burgos.

BY BUS

The bus service in Spain is frequent and usually less expensive than trains. Buses depart Madrid regularly for Burgos and the journey time is 2.5 hours, costing around 15 euros.

trip grading

Daily walks are between 16km and 27km on well marked trails over diverse terrain – from relatively flat to mountainous. Some of the route is on paved surfaces – you should pay particular attention to your footwear to ensure that it is suitable to avoid blisters. This is a well worn path where route finding will be reasonably straightforward (refer below for further details on self guided adventures). The main areas to concentrate on route finding are arriving and leaving towns and cities. The accent is on keeping a steady pace to take in all of the attractions, with time to stop and take photos. You will need a good level of fitness to participate fully in this adventure. Taxi and bus services operate between towns in the event that you are unable to walk on a particular day.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

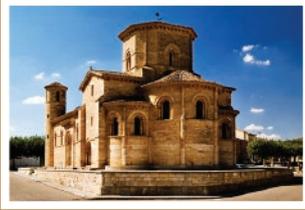
a note on our self guided adventures

Self guided walking or cycling requires individuals to use problem solving skills, be adaptable and have a keen eye. It is recommended that you are comfortable map reading, referring to route notes and that you have a good sense of direction (or are willing to work on improving this!) Sometimes route finding, losing your way, finding it again and asking the locals for help is all part of the adventure. If you've never been on a self guided trip, after the first couple of days you will get the hang of it as the vast majority of our first time travellers attest. Please be assured that our written material issued to you for route finding is updated regularly and we provide a 7day service hotline in the event of any problems. Using directions and maps can be more difficult for solo travellers as often two heads are better than one when it comes to finding your way. There is a certain level of the unknown that comes with self guided trips, however with a methodical approach potential problems will be averted. The freedom of a self guided trip is something that, once experienced, is sought time and time again.

joining instructions

Around one month prior to your departure you will receive vouchers and joining instructions. On check in at your first hotel you will receive:

- Detailed Route Notes
- Maps



the region

The walk goes through the region of Castilla y Leon, the largest in Spain. Set on an elevated plain, the Meseta, it is surrounded by the mountain ranges of Cordillera Cantabrica to the north, Sistema Iberico to the east and Cordillera Central to the south whilst the Douro River flows from here to Portugal. The region is dominated by the Spanish Meseta Central, a dry, arid elevated plain, with an altitude averaging around 800 metres (2,600 ft). This wide open terrain is characteristic of the landscape you will experience during the trip. Known as the granary of Spain, wheat is the dominant crop grown on the Meseta.

The region was only formed in 1983 with the union of Castilla and Leon. Both were important regions in Medieval times evidenced by the many monasteries, cathedrals, fortified towns and cathedrals.

fast facts

COUNTRIES VISITED

Spain

VISAS

Visas not required for citizens of Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand for up to 90 days in a period of 180 days for all Schengen countries (see www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-countries-list/ for countries part of the Schengen). Please ensure your passport is stamped on arrival in the Schengen area. For all other nationalities and for longer stays in countries covered by the Schengen Agreement (Australian New Zealand, Canadian and US passport holders), please contact the relevant embassy. Stays of longer than 90 days in the Schengen area require a long stay visa for the country you are spending most time in. However long stay visas are unlikely to be issued unless there is a valid reason (eg. studying in country). Unfortunately we cannot assist in obtaining visas for long stays due to individual country visa requirements.

CLIMATE

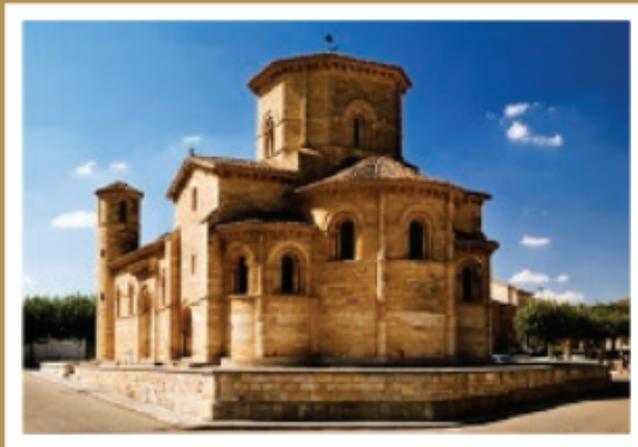
The climate of this region is typically Continental Mediterranean. Winters are cold with temperatures of between 4 °C (39 °F) and 7 °C (45 °F) in January. Summer is hot and dry and rainfall at all times is low, usually only 500mm annually. The best time to walk the trail is in Autumn (Fall) or Spring when the temperatures are cooler. The landscape is not ideal for walking in summer due to its unshaded nature.

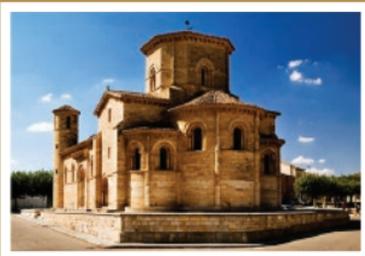
MIN GROUP SIZE

1

SPECIALIST GEAR REQUIRED

Wet weather gear, sunscreen, good walking shoes, sun hat and walking poles. A comprehensive gear list is included in the pre-departure information provided on booking.





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