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Travel Company

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Itinerary for Sheldon, The Camino Primitivo
Wednesday May 18th – Saturday May 28th, 2022
11 days/10 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1 Wednesday May 18th, 2022
Arrive In Santiago & transfer to Lugo

09:10 (Flight to be Confirmed). After arriving at Santiago airport from Gatwick, travel to Lugo. Check in to your comfortable, centrally located hotel, the Eurostars Gran Hotel Lugo.

HOTEL Eurostars Gran Hotel Lugo. Lugo (4 star hotel) x 3 nights
A large modern hotel belonging to the Eurostars chain. Centrally located, and boasting spacious and elegant guestrooms and a garden. It's a short walk from the hotel to the Cathedral.

Day 2 Thursday May 19th, 2022
Explore Lugo

Spend the day exploring Lugo. Located on a hill on the banks of the river Miño, the city of Lugo preserves major remains of its Roman past, among them its ancient wall, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Inside the walls, the city conserves quiet pedestrian streets, wide squares and spacious gardens, where buildings such as the Cathedral, the Archiepiscopal Palace, and the City Hall stand out. But the historic quarter also houses some of the best restaurants in Galicia, where it is possible to sample excellent locally produced fresh meats and fish.

Day 3 Friday May 20th, 2022

Walk Lugo to Ferreira (26,5 km)

After breakfast we begin our pilgrimage! Follow the bronze shells out of Lugo, taking Calle San Pedro through the Plaza Mayor and past the Cathedral. Although our first day on the Camino Primitivo is long in terms of mileage, it is not complicated; you'll follow Camino markers along peaceful country roads through mainly flat, wooded terrain. There are not a lot of villages, so best to take snacks for the walk.

After arrival in the village of Ferreira we'll be picked up by a mini-bus and transported back to the hotel in Lugo.

Day 4 Saturday May 21st, 2022

Walk Ferreira to Melide (20,3 km)

After breakfast we farewell Lugo and are transferred back to Ferreira. Passing through small hamlets decorated with cruceiros (carved stone crosses that mark the way to Santiago) and containing only a dozen houses.

The undulating countryside is studded with meadows and forests of eucalyptus and pine as you approach Melide, a thriving town with a good pilgrims' atmosphere. Here, the Camino Primitivo merges with the "Camino Frances", and you are likely to see more *peregrinos* from now on into Santiago de Compostela

HOTEL Hotel Carlos 96. Melide (1 star hotel)

A modern hotel where the restaurant serves home-style cooking. The hotel is managed by brothers Luis and Victor.

Day 5 Sunday May 22nd, 2022

Walk Melide to Arzua (17,5 km)

Trace the Camino as it weaves along country lanes and ancient stone pathways called *corredoiras*. Farmers tend their fields and the chimes of cowbells accompany the sounds of your footsteps. In this area of rural Galicia it is not uncommon to see villagers still using scythes to work the land. At lunch, be sure to try the creamy cows' cheese from Arzúa and *empanada*; a light crusty pastry-pie filled with beef or tuna.

HOTEL Hotel Restaurante Teodora. Arzua (Guesthouse)

A simple family-run hotel renowned for the friendly service, great food and clean and comfortable guestrooms.

Day 6 Monday May 23rd, 2022
Walk Arzua to O Pino (19 km)

Today's section of the Camino will take you past vegetable patches, meadows, forests and tranquil villages with curious names such as Xen, Ras and Brea. In the village of Santa Irene, you can stop to visit the small Romanesque chapel dedicated to the saint of the same name, St. Irene. When you enter the tiny village of A Rúa you'll soon find your hotel, our last overnight stop before arriving in Santiago.

HOTEL Hotel Restaurante O Pino. (O Pino-Pedrouzo). (Guesthouse)
A popular hotel for pilgrims, just off the Camino. Marcos and his family have been providing hospitality to pilgrims in this friendly hotel for over 25 years.

Day 7 Tuesday May 24th, 2022
Walk O Pino to Santiago (20 km)

Walk through rolling terrain towards Lavacolla, where medieval pilgrims traditionally bathed in the river to purify themselves before arriving in the holy city of Santiago. From here you'll begin to ascend the Monte del Gozo ("Mount of Joy"), the point where pilgrims first catch sight of the spires of the Cathedral of Santiago, these days surrounded by the bustling city of Santiago de Compostela. Arriving in the Obradoiro square - in front of the immense Cathedral - is an exciting moment, and after performing the traditional pilgrim rituals inside the Cathedral, check into your hotel to rest.

Later in the evening, we enjoy a delicious dinner to celebrate the end of our pilgrimage!

HOTEL Hotel Pazo de Altamira (3 star hotel) & O Xardin de Julia (3 star guesthouse) x 4 nights
These two charming "sister hotels" are located close to each other in the heart of historic Santiago, by the Abastos food market (NOTE: For those staying in O Xardin de Julia, breakfast will be served at Hotel Pazo de Altamira).

Day 8 Wednesday May 25th, 2022
Free day for sightseeing

Visit the magnificent Cathedral and surrounds today. Explore the narrow streets or rúas of the Old Quarter, where the vibrancy, history and magic of Santiago de Compostela come alive. Be sure to catch the pilgrims' mass at noon in the Cathedral and for those of you who walked the last consecutive 100 km, you are entitled to pick up your "Compostela" at the Pilgrim's Office. The "Compostela" is the official certificate of completion of the Camino offered by the Catholic Church.

Day 9 Thursday May 26th, 2022
Santiago de Compostela

Free day for sightseeing in Santiago.

Day 10 Friday May 27th, 2022
Santiago de Compostela

Free day for sightseeing in Santiago.

Day 11 Saturday May 28th, 2022
Departure

Depart Santiago after breakfast (optional minibus transfer can be arranged)

What's included?

- 10 nights' accommodation (all with private bathroom) in properties as indicated above
- All breakfasts (some buffet & some continental)
- 7 dinners with water, wine and tea/coffee included
- Services of an experienced bilingual Camino walking trip leader from Day 3 (evening) until the arrival in Santiago de Compostela on Day 7
- Transfers as needed from hotel-trail-hotel on Days 3 & 4
- Luggage transfer service (no more than 20 kg per person) throughout the trip
- 24 hour telephone support with Nativa Travel agent (Liz Helmore)
- All local taxes

What's not included?

Trip insurance, Items of a personal nature (laundry, bar, phone expenses etc.); baggage delivery to room; pre or post-dinner drinks; optional tips to bus driver & trip leader; lunches, 3 dinners in Santiago de Compostela, airport-hotel transfers on Days 1 and 11)