

Portugal/Spain Santiago de Compostela - Porto 2020



Inclusive services

- 7 overnight stays with breakfast (Saturday to Saturday)
- 5 multiple course, selected dinners
- 1 lunch
- Water at dinner
- All visitor's tax and tourism levies
- All intermediate transfers according to programme
- All admission fees according to programme
- Rotalis touring bike (Pedelec with an extra charge, depending on availability)
- Rotalis support vehicle
- Rotalis luggage service
- Additional (city) tours in Santiago und Porto
- Boat ride on the Minho
- Port wine tasting incl. tour of the cellar
- Rotalis drinking bottle  
- 2 Rotalis travel guides



Number

of participants: min. 8, max. 15 participants

Tagesablauf

1. DAY: SATURDAY

On Saturday, you will be awaited by the Hotel AC Palacio del Carmen***** in the city centre, a former monastery, in which antiquity and modernity have been successfully combined architecturally. At 5pm, we will meet up in the hotel lobby and will show you the venerable old city of Santiago during a city round tour.

2. DAY: SUNDAY Santiago de Compostela – Vilagarcía de Arousa (42 km – 27 miles)

In the morning, we will begin our stage on the trails of the Way of St. James through the Galician hilly country up to Padrón, once the departure point for pilgrims. The city's name derives from pedrón, a Roman milestone on the shore of the Ria, where according to legend, the ship transporting the body of Jacob the Apostle was moored. After lunch, our route will lead through a beautiful landscape along the Ulla River and further up to Catoira, where the annual Viking festival is still celebrated. We will then take a short bus ride to Vilagarcía de Arousa, where the palace-style Hotel Pazo O Rial**** awaits us. We will enjoy dinner in the hotel's own restaurant.

3. DAY: MONDAY Vilagarcía de Arousa – Gondarém (38 km – 24 miles)

After breakfast, we will travel by bus for about an hour to the Rio Minho, into the Portuguese border town Monção, known for its sulphate containing thermal springs and the Alvarinho-wine. Travelling on a former railway line, we will follow the Minho, which has paved its way through the natural mountainous country, up to Valença. On a journey far away from larger streets, we will approach Vila Nova de Cerveira, also known as the city of arts. After a further 2 km, we will be welcomed by the Hotel Boega****, a lovingly restored manor from the 17th century situated on a hill with a splendid view of the Minho. We will end the evening during a stylish dinner in the hotel's own restaurant.

4. DAY: TUESDAY Gondarém – Viana do Castelo (35 km – 22 miles)

Travelling past several islands, parts of which wild horses still live on, we will first glide 9 km on a boat ride on the Rio Minho in the morning to its mouth in the Atlantic at the fortress town Caminha. The city square Largo Terreiro is a sight worth seeing here, with its impressive ensemble of medieval houses. Our cycling route then leads further along the Costa Verde, characterised by extensive sandy beaches and dunes, as well as its rocky coast with numerous cliffs. Viana do Castelo lies at the mouth of the Rio Lima, whose charm and strategic location had already been recognised by the Romans and who gave the place the epithet "The Beauty". The old city is still enchanting today, with its houses and palaces in Renaissance and Manuelin style. After the city tour, we will travel by cable car onto the city hill. The Igreja de Santa Luzia sits enthroned here, a Neo-Byzantine pilgrimage church. The magnificent Pousada Monte de Santa Luzia (swimming pool) which awaits us today, is one of the most beautifully located hotels in Portugal, due to the fantastic view over the Atlantic. We will enjoy dinner in the Pousada's restaurant.



5. DAY: WEDNESDAY Viana do Castelo – Bouro Santa Maria (32 km – 20 miles)

In the morning, we will travel by bus through the charming Lima valley into the National Park Peneda–Gerês. We will mount our bikes again at the border crossing to Spain, the Portela do Homem, and will travel through the natural landscape between ragged granite peaks and deeply indented valleys. We will first cycle through extensive oak forests and will overcome an ascent. On a windy descent with alternating panoramas, we will travel downhill over 700 metres in height to the da Caniçada reservoir. We will travel through Gerês, the touristic centre of the park and healing spa. We will reach our daily destination by following the deeply indented river bed of the Rio Cávado. The imposing Pousada Santa Maria do Bouro lies at the foot of the steep Serra do Geres, where we will be residing today. This modern building, which appears to be a ruin from afar, is successfully architecturally integrated into a former monastery, without destroying the character of the old walls. We will have dinner in the former monastery kitchen.

6. DAY: THURSDAY Bouro Santa Maria – Porto (25 km – 16 miles)

In the morning, we will leave our hotel and will cycle along the Cávado River up to the lovely city of Braga, the third largest and one of the oldest cities in Portugal. During a city round tour, we will explore the charming university city with its famous cathedral Sé. Braga is still one of the most important religious centres of the country, where the festivities of the Easter week and the festivities of São João are the highlights in the liturgical and touristic calendar. In the afternoon, we will reach Porto by train, the second largest city in Portugal, situated directly at the famous Douro River. Here we will be welcomed by the very stylish Hotel Infante de Sagres****, located in the city centre (two overnight stays), which will enchant you and take you back to times past. As lunch is included in the travel price on Friday, you will have the evening to your own disposal. The old city in Porto has numerous bars and restaurants, which invite one to relax and linger.

7. DAY: FRIDAY Porto (16 km – 10 miles)

After an extensive city tour, we will take a short transfer to Matosinhos at the Atlantic coast. We will enjoy a meal in the rustic restaurant and can be part of everyday Portuguese life. We will then mount our bikes, in order to approach the city at the Douro travelling along a lovely wide beach. If the weather is fine, we will stop for a swim in one of the popular beach cafés. Following the lovely promenade, we will cycle past the mouth of the Douro and then continue along the river into the heart of the old city, to the charming Praça da Ribeira. The Ponte de Dom Luis I, probably the most famous of the five bridges which traverse the Douro in the urban area, can be found in close proximity. We will cross over it to Vila Nova de Gaia, the centre of port wine trade, in order to enjoy a tasting at a traditional manufacturer. We will then walk back to our Hotel Infante de Sagres**** in the late afternoon.

8. DAY: SATURDAY Porto

After breakfast in the morning, one can still enjoy a little Portuguese city flair. From the centre, one can reach the airport by taxi in 30 minutes (transfer is not included in the travel price).

EXTRA NIGHTS

We gladly book additional nights for you in our partner hotels (depending on availability). Santiago de Compostela (Hotel AC Palacio del Carmen****): Explore the beautiful capital city of Galicia. The town is



visited annually by millions of people worldwide, from which many have travelled on the Way of St. James. The historic centre has been declared as world heritage by UNESCO. Porto (Hotel Infante de Sagres *****): An additional stay in the city of port wine is recommended, as there are many other sights worth seeing in ever-fascinating Porto.

Dates and prices

04.05.24~~[sale]~~ p.299 € 11.05.24~~[sale]~~ p.299 € 31.08.24~~[sale]~~ p.299 € 07.09.24~~[sale]~~ p.299 €

