CULTURAL ROUTES

in Spain

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Come and discover our customs and immerse yourself in a thousand years of culture. Embark on a journey that will take you to monumental cities, incredible landscapes and places where history has left its mark. Discovering Spain’s cultural heritage will be an unforgettable experience.

The possibilities are endless. Step into the shoes of a literary character like Don Quijote and discover the landscapes that Cervantes described in his novel. Follow in the footsteps of the Roman militias along The Vía de la Plata route or experience an adventure you will remember for a lifetime along the Way of Saint James.

If you have a passion for gastronomy, the wine routes will bowl you over. Sample some of the best wines in the world, spend the night surrounded by vineyards, visit historical mansions and relax with a wine therapy treatment.

Do you like Iberian cured ham? In regions like Andalusia, Extremadura and Castile-León you’ll have many opportunities to sample this delight.

Take a trip through time and trace the cultural footprints left on our civilisation by Moors, Jews and Christians. There are endless routes through landscapes that will leave you speechless.

Come with us and we’ll tell you all about Spain. Whichever route you choose, you just can’t go wrong.
THE DON QUIXOTE ROUTE:
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE NOVEL BY CERVANTES

Immerse yourself in a classic of world literature, Don Quixote of La Mancha. You'll travel through centuries-old towns, along historical pathways and enjoy the natural surroundings described by Miguel de Cervantes. Prepare yourself, because you'll be fighting against windmills, trying to win Dulcinea's heart and tasting dishes like "duelos y quebrantos", a traditional dish from La Mancha made with scrambled eggs, chorizo sausage and pork lard.

The route starts in Alcalá de Henares. This district of Madrid is a World Heritage Site and the town where Cervantes was born. Discover the "corral de comedias", one of the oldest open-air theatres in Europe, and the Plaza de Cervantes in the heart of the town. Under the arches along the picturesque Calle Mayor you'll find shops, cafés and bars where you'll get to try their renowned tapas. The Cervantes Birthplace Museum is a replica of the house where the writer was born and grew up.

Madrid is another obligatory visit. You'll be amazed by the burial monument in the church and convent of the Trinitarias Descalzas nuns. Cervantes and his wife are thought to be buried there. Have a drink in the Casa Alberto tavern, opened in 1827 in a building constructed over another 16th century building where Cervantes lived for a time. This is where he wrote The Works of Persiles and Sigismunda and the second part of El Quixote.
Your trip should also include Toledo, the City of the Three Cultures. Discover the narrow streets and the dense history. In the Plaza de los Tintes you’ll find the house where the author lived. Don’t miss El Toboso, the village where Don Quixote’s sweetheart, Dulcinea, lived.

In Ciudad Real you’ll see the famous Campo de Criptana windmills which Don Quixote fought against. When you visit Almagro, where a 17th century open-air theatre has been preserved, you can’t leave without tasting the delicious Manchego cheese.
CHARLES V ROUTE:
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE EMPEROR

Follow in the footsteps of Charles V after he abdicated. The monarch arrived in the North of Spain coming from Brussels with more than 50 ships and journeyed through Cantabria, Castile-León and Extremadura before reaching his retreat in the Yuste Monastery.

The route starts in Laredo (Cantabria) where he disembarked and where today stands a bust of the emperor. Take a stroll through the old quarter of this charming town. Don’t miss the defensive walls and the stately houses. Beaches like La Salve are great for sunbathing, or you could try a little windsurfing or take a boat trip in the Cantabrian Sea.

The next stop is in Castile-León. Visit the Medieval Medina de Pomar (Burgos), where Charles V spent the night, and the Velasco Fortress, an impressive 14th century castle. On arriving in the monumental city of Burgos you pass through the Santa María Archway, one of the ancient gateways to the city. Once inside, there is a Medieval stairway leading to a number of rooms exhibiting interesting historical objects and paintings representing the emperor. Then continue as far as the Cathedral, a Gothic jewel declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO, and admire the incredible spires.

What awaits you in Palencia is Venta de Baños. Legend has it that the Visigoth King Recesvinto ordered the construction of the Church of San Juan de Baños by way of thanks, after noting the curative properties of one of its fountains. The magnificent interior is breathtaking.

After passing through incredibly beautiful areas like Dueñas, we come to the province of Valladolid and its capital city where the emperor stayed in the old Royal Palace. A pleasant stroll can take in the palaces, the Plaza...
Mayor and the Cathedral. After such a hard day you deserve to reward yourself with a delicious roast suckling lamb, typical of the province.

When you reach the province of Salamanca, Peñaranda de Bracamonte is well worth a visit. You'll just love the historic quarter. Then comes the province of Ávila, where the town of El Barco de Ávila welcomed the emperor with open arms, and it will do the same for you. You should try their famous white beans and admire the Tormes River from the castle.

On the last stage of the route, now in Extremadura, what you'll most enjoy are the natural surroundings. If you have the good fortune of travelling in springtime, you'll be able to enjoy the cherry blossom which is abundant in the Jerte Valley. The “Garganta de los Infiernos” (Devil’s Gorge) Nature Reserve will really surprise you. Watch the golden eagles and griffon vultures flying overhead and marvel at the incredible glaciers. This route of the kings ends at the Yuste Monastery, next to which Charles V ordered the palace to be built where he lived until the end of his days.
THE WAY OF EL CID: RELIVE THE ADVENTURES OF A MEDIEVAL KNIGHT

Have you heard of “El Cantar del Mío Cid”? It is a famous 12th century Spanish poem which tells the story of the legendary knight Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, El Cid Campeador. This route which retraces his deeds will take you through eight provinces: Burgos, Soria, Guadalajara, Zaragoza, Teruel, Castellón, Valencia, and Alicante. It can be done on foot, by bike, by car or by motorbike.

You can start out in Vivar del Cid, where tradition assures us that our Medieval hero was born, and from there continue as far as Burgos. His remains and those of his wife, Doña Jimena, were laid to rest in the Cathedral here. If you go in October you can enjoy the El Cid Weekend, when the city takes you back to the Middle Ages for a few days, with open-air performances, tournaments, a Medieval market...

In Guadalajara there are several impressive fortresses like the Jadraque Castle, which they call El Cid’s Castle, and Sigüenza, where you can even spend the night and enjoy the culinary delights of the region as it is now a Parador Hotel.

Next comes Soria, featuring beautiful places like Medinaceli, home to the only three-gated Roman arch in Spain.

The landscape is renowned for its diversity and contrasts: from the Sierra de Guadalajara mountains to the lunar landscapes of the Vega del Jalón (Zaragoza).
Calatayud is another place of interest along this route. The Arab fortress is well worth a visit, as is the historic Mu- déjar complex featuring the Collegiate Church of Santa Maria la Mayor. In Albarracín (Teruel), apart from the city walls and the haunting old town, the Roman aqueduct will really take you by surprise.

The route continues on to Valencia, the city which el Cid succeeded in conquering in 1094. Discover its rich architectural heritage featuring such jewels as the Cathedral and the Silk Exchange, and not forgetting surprising avant-garde buildings like the City of Arts and Sciences. While you’re there, why not try a delicious paella or go to the beach to enjoy the sunshine for a while.

1 www.caminodelcid.org
THE WASHINGTON IRVING ROUTE: ANDALUSIA AS THE ROMANTIC WRITER SAW IT

Follow in the footsteps of Washington Irving, who in 1829 was captivated by the wealth and exotic nature of the Hispanic-Moorish civilisation. The route runs from Seville to Granada, the two main destinations on his journey.

Discover Seville, a city steeped in history and which he fell in love with. The incredible Cathedral was originally a great mosque. Climb up to the minaret, the Giralda, and you'll be treated to unforgettable views of the city. Visit the Triana district, have a glass of sherry in one the taverns and enjoy a Flamenco show in a "tablao".

The magic of Granada is truly seductive. Visit the Alhambra, an ancient Palatine city, fortress and residence of the Nasrid sultans. Stroll through the palaces and gardens which feel like something from A Thousand and One Nights then get your strength back with a few delicious tapas in the historic old town.

The route also includes picturesque towns and villages in the province of Seville like Carmona, Marchena and Écija; and in Granada, like Alhama de Granada.
THE VÍA DE LA PLATA ROUTE: FOLLOWS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANCIENT ROMAN TROOPS

This route follows the course of an ancient Roman road that linked Seville with Gijón. Be adventurous and take this route that links the north and south of Spain and crosses four autonomous communities with an incredible variety of landscapes, cultures and gastronomy. Andalúsia, Extremadura, Castile-León and Asturias.

You'll be travelling through three Biosphere Reserves and two National Parks: the Doñana in Andalusia and Monfragüe in Cáceres.

You can start the tour in Seville, the capital of Andalusia. Stroll through the bustling streets and squares of the historical old town which features a complex of buildings with World Heritage designation. Experience popular districts like the Triana, with countless taverns and "tablao" establishments dedicated exclusively to Flamenco dance and singing), and while you’re there try a little "gazpacho", a traditional Andalusian chilled tomato-based soup.
In Extremadura you'll see cornfields, vineyards and pastures. You'll be astonished by the historic quarter in Cáceres and the Merida archaeological complex, both designated as World Heritage sites by the UNESCO. The province of Cáceres awaits you with the picturesque town of Hervás, renowned for its Jewish quarter with steep, narrow streets, and Plasencia, which features a monumental complex with two cathedrals and a number of palaces and stately houses. The Iberian cured ham is delicious in Extremadura, one of the best in the country, and the Roman spa of Baños de Montemayor is a perfect place for you to relax.

Castile-León has a number of impressive monumental complexes, like those in Salamanca, famous for being home to one of the oldest universities in the world; Zamora with an incredible Romanesque legacy; and León, with its stunning cathedral, one of the most impressive Gothic temples in Spain. A delicious roast suckling pig or lamb will be the ideal way to give you the strength to carry on along the route.

There are further monumental jewels in Asturias, like the Pre-Romanesque churches of Santa María del Naranco and San Miguel de Lillo in Oviedo. Another interesting point along the route is the municipality of Mieres, an important passageway for the Romans between the plateau and Asturias. The mountains, valleys and rivers are ideal for activities like hiking and cyclotourism. When you reach your goal, Gijón, you'll deserve a stroll along the beaches next to the Cantabrian
Sea. Then take a seat in a restaurant to try some fish or a plate of “fabada”, a traditional white bean stew, and a glass of famous Asturian cider. The route ends with a visit to the remains of the Roman walls and baths.

If you fancy a round of golf, there are a number of courses with up-to-date facilities in Gijón, Seville, León and Benavente.

① www.rutadelaplata.com

SEPHARAD PATHWAYS:
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE JEWISH QUARTERS

The Sepharad Pathways involve a journey through the most beautiful Jewish quarters. An invitation to discover Jewish Spain and its most important monuments.

There are over 20 places of interest along this route. Special mention should go to Toledo, the city which was the spiritual and administrative centre of western Jewish culture for centuries. The Calle de los Reyes Católicos is home to the Synagogue of Santa María La Blanca, with its impressive columns; and in the Calle Samuel Levi you’ll find the El Tránsito Synagogue which houses the Sephardic Museum. Nearby, on the Travesía de la Judería, you’ll find the Casa del Judío. In the cellar you can visit a Jewish liturgical bath or miqva.

The old Jewish quarter of Cáceres, within the walled city, houses the Chapel of San Antonio which in ancient times used to be a synagogue. There are surprising white-washed houses lining the steep streets and which back directly onto the walls. In September the city hosts European Day of Jewish Culture, and in November there is the Three Cultures Medieval Market.
In Segovia you can take a stroll through the delightfully restored Jewish quarter. Here you’ll find the old Great Synagogue which has now become the Church of Corpus Christi, and the old Jewish cemetery.

Other Jewish quarters well worth a visit can be found in Ávila, Barcelona, Córdoba, Hervás, Plasencia, León... Take out a Discoverer’s Passport at any Tourist Office (free of charge) and start visiting the different cities in the network which have interesting incentives.

THE ROUTES OF THE AL-ANDALUS LEGACY

After eight centuries in Spain, the Moors left a deep footprint wherever they went, but it was Andalusia which reaped the greatest benefit from this culture. You can visit numerous buildings and sites designated as World Heritage by the UNESCO.

The Routes of the Andalusian, or Al-Andalus, Legacy take you along the highways which communicated the Kingdom of Granada with the rest of Andalusia, Murcia and Portugal.

Make a fascinating journey back in time along the Caliphate Route, which links Cordoba and Granada, the capital cities of the Al-Andalus of the Caliphs and the Nasrids. You’ll be travelling along the highways that were the busiest on the Spanish mainland in the Middle Ages, just like the traders who came from all over the world.

The Nasrid Route takes you deep into the history of the ancient Kingdom of Granada. Along the way, you’ll find fortifications and castles which remind us of the territorial wars waged between Muslims and Christians in this region. We start in the town of Navas de Tolosa, taking in cities like Úbeda, Baeza and Jaén, and finish in Granada. The route also takes you through beautiful natural areas like the Sierra Morena, Sierra Magina and the Sierra de Cazorla y Segura mountains.
On the Route of the Almoravids and Almohads you’ll discover the architectural heritage of this civilisation which consists mainly of castles and defensive structures. You’ll travel 400 kilometres, starting in the city of Algeciras (Cádiz) and ending in Granada, including the two branches. The itinerary includes visits to Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz) and Ronda (Málaga).

THE BAETIC ROMAN ROUTE

This route passes through the provinces of Seville, Córdoba and Cádiz, the southernmost part of ancient Hispania Romana.

In Seville you can visit the ruins of Italica, the birthplace of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian. Admire the splendid Roman theatre and amphitheatre, trace the ancient streets and discover the houses, public buildings and utensils used in daily life by the inhabitants. The next step should be Carmona to visit the Necropolis, the city's museum and its two Roman gates. In Écija you’ll be able to enjoy the spectacular Cortejo de Baco mosaic in the Municipal History Museum.

Climb up to the Almodóvar del Río Castle, in Córdoba, a location for the Game of Thrones series, and look out over the meandering Guadalquivir River. There is a restaurant which regularly organises Medieval lunches. The city of Córdoba is nearby. There you can walk around the Roman walls, the picturesque historical old town, one of the largest in Europe, and visit its greatest treasure, the Mosque.

Another city you shouldn’t miss on this route is Cádiz. Stroll around its streets which have a colonial feel and visit the Roman theatre, the Bishop's house and the Archaeological Museum. If it gets a bit warm for you, you should go to the La Caleta beach for a dip or move on to the Bolonia beach in Tarifa where the sunsets are incredible and you can enjoy the Roman remains of Baelo Claudia.
There are nearly a hundred destinations in Spain where you will be able to appreciate what our ancestors have bequeathed us. Three of them have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Altamira and the caves along the Cantabrian Coast, the Siega Verde archaeological site and the cave art of the Mediterranean Basin. There are a total of 12 routes for you to discover the earliest cave art galleries in Europe.

The caves in Green Spain, featuring Ekainberri (Guipúzcoa), Altamira (Cantabria) and Tito Bustillo (Asturias), will transport you to the mysterious world of the Stone Age and the extraordinary paintings and engravings created between 40,000 and 12,000 years ago. And then there is the open-air site at Siega Verde (Salamanca).

The decorated shelters in the Mediterranean Basin (Aragón, Catalonia, Valencia Region, Murcia and Andalusia) will provide details of the hunting rituals of Europe’s last hunters, in an artistic style known as Levantine which is unique in the world.

There are extraordinary examples of the distinctive Schematic Art, developed during the Neolithic era and the Age of Metals, in the petroglyphs you’ll find in Campo Lameiro (Pontevaldrá), the shelters in Valonsadero (Soria), Fuencaliente (Ciudad Real), Monfragüe castle (Cáceres), Los Letreros (Almería) and the Gáldar cave (Gran Canaria).

How about a trip back to Prehistoric times? Discover mysterious caves and see the landscapes preserved in paintings and engravings which are humankind’s first works of art.

www.prehistour.eu
DISCOVER ROMANESQUE ART IN NORTHERN SPAIN

Travel back in time to the Middle Ages. Discover the wealth of Romanesque heritage to be found in the north of Spain and enjoy landscapes of extraordinary beauty.

The Pre-Romanesque Route in Asturias is fascinating. Located in impressive valleys and mountains, this monumental complex has been designated as World Heritage by the UNESCO. The most famous is Santa María del Naranco. You'll be amazed by its stylised silhouette on the mountain top. Strolling through the streets of Oviedo you'll come across the Cámara Santa where you can admire its treasure trove of jewels and precious stones.

The Romanesque Route in the Boi Valley, in the Lleida Pyrenees, is home to a monumental complex with treasures like the Church of Santa María de Taüll, which has looked out over these incredible natural surroundings since the 12th century and will leave you speechless.

Also in the Pyrenees, in Huesca, you'll find the city of Jaca which houses one of the oldest Romanesque temples in Spain, the Cathedral of San Pedro de Jaca. In the same province you'll also find the Loarre Castle, one of the best preserved Romanesque fortresses in Europe.

Towards the west, in Castile-León, the town of Santo Domingo de Silos (Burgos) awaits you with its Benedictine monastery, a universal Romanesque jewel which has been converted into a spiritual and artistic centre for pilgrims.

Part of the Palencia Romanesque Route takes you through a natural environment which houses the greatest concentration of Romanesque churches and shrines in Europe. You'll come across delightful little towns like Frómista, which houses the Church of San Martín de Tours and Carrión de los Condes which enjoyed a certain importance in the Middle Ages.

Zamora, for many the Romanesque capital, preserves the greatest concentration of buildings in this style. You should visit the cathedral, one of the smallest and oldest in Castile-León. You'll be amazed by the spectacular lantern tower, with 16 openings with stained-glass windows. In Zamora you'll love the delightful town of Toro which is in the shape of a fan, with the 12th century Collegiate Church of Santa María la Mayor at its centre.

In the Ribeira Sacra, an area in the interior of Galicia which consists of the banks of the Sil and Miño rivers, there are a dozen Medieval monasteries which remind us of the importance of this region in the Middle Ages. Special mention should go to the monastery of San Esteban de Ribas de Sil, located to the north of the district of Nogueira de Ramuín. Not only is it the largest in the Ribeira Sacra, it is now a luxurious Parador Hotel.

YOU’LL LOVE THE MUDÉJAR ART IN ANDALUSIA

For those who love art and architecture, this route is ideal for discovering a unique style: Mudéjar art, which is a blend of two artistic traditions, Islamic and Christian.
There are examples of this art form throughout Andalusia. In Córdoba there are incredible monuments like the Synagogue and the jewel in the city’s crown: the Great Mosque. It is a veritable forest of columns and superimposed arches, domes, carved marble, mosaics, drawings... And in the centre, a surprising Christian cathedral.

The Real Alcázar in Seville is a walled complex of palaces. It has contributions from all periods, although Mudéjar and Renaissance styles are predominant. You can visit the Patio de Las Doncellas, where official life took place, and the Patio de Las Muñecas which was reserved for private events. You’ll love the gardens. Relax as you stroll by channels, fountains, water spouts and tiles with a Moorish atmosphere.

Granada also has its own Mudéjar route, with beautiful buildings like the Convent of Santa Isabel La Real and the Palace of La Madraza, as well as the Alhambra which we have already mentioned.

**LEGENDARY CASTLES**

Spain is the land of castles. Discover authentic fortresses built in precipitous locations and which were really difficult to conquer. Most of the history of castles in Spain is the history of the Reconquest. They were also built to defend the coast from attacks by pirates. Only a tenth of them have survived to the present time.

Belmonte Castle in Cuenca is a treasure from the Renaissance. It is in the shape of a six-pointed star with a cylindrical tower at each point. If you visit it in May/June, you'll be able to witness a historical recreation of Medieval military life in the castle in all its aspects.

Coca Castle in Segovia will take you back to another era. Pass under the iron gate to reach the keep. There's a beautiful Gothic-ribbed vault with geometrical mosaics in the weapons room. While you’re here you really must visit this monumental city. Most surprising is the Roman aqueduct.

Ponferrada Castle (León) will also take your breath away. It was founded by the Templars and houses the Templars’ Library and the Historical Research and Study Centre, which contains more than 1,000 works including facsimile editions of works by Leonardo da Vinci.
Mota Castle in Valladolid, Loarre Castle in Huesca, Almodóvar del Río Castle in Córdoba... There are incredible castles scattered all over the Spanish mainland. Just ask in any tourist office, each autonomous region has its own route.

PATHWAYS OF PASSION: A ROUTE TO THE HEART OF ANDALUSIA

Would you like to discover Easter Week in Andalusia and its religious imagery? Pathways of Passion is a route which is a blend of history, artistic heritage, traditions, gastronomy and nature in ten municipal districts in the heart of Andalusia: Alcalá la Real in Jaén; Baena, Cabra, Lucena, Priego de Córdoba and Puente Genil, in Córdoba; and Carmona, Écija, Osuna and Utrera in Seville.

Discover places with incredible historical wealth and heritage. Witness moving demonstrations of religious fervour. Gaze on the spectacular religious imagery to be found in this region. Sample Andalusian cuisine, get to know its people and enjoy their hospitality.

① www.caminosdepasion.com
La Rioja is one of the most famous designations of origin for wine in the world. Discover it while eating surrounded by barrels of wine, visit the wine cellars and enjoy a wine-tasting. You can sleep in wine-cellar hotels or relax after marinating perfectly with a vinotherapy treatment. There are over 500 cellars in this wine-producing region. About 80 of them are open to visitors.

The Basque Country offers the Rioja Alavesa Route. You’ll be amazed at the new cathedrals to wine in this region: avant-garde buildings and wine-cellars, the work of prestigious contemporary architects such as Santiago Calatrava, the creator of Bodegas Ysios in Laguardia, and the City of Wine by Frank Gehry in Elciego. All around these areas you’ll find numerous opportunities for spas and relaxation to round off your experience.

The Rías Baixas in Galicia is where you’ll learn all about “Albariño”, the cool, young wine produced in this area. Visit the wine-cellars and vineyards where it is produced. Meet the people who make it possible and discover their way of life. Enjoy the unique blend of this wine with the gastronomy of Galicia.

Take part in popular gastronomic events, like the Albariño Festival in Cambados and the Seafood Festival in O Grove. Enjoy the natural surroundings and the
EXPERIENCING GASTRONOMY

birds in the Islas Atlánticas National Park. Sail in a catamaran on the Arousa estuary or enjoy water sports on the beaches in Sanxenxo. Discover the interesting monumental heritage in the towns and villages in the region, from Romanesque churches to "pazos" (traditional stately houses in Galicia) like those in Cambados.

In southern Andalusia, the district of Marco de Jerez awaits you, a region with a deep-rooted wine tradition and an incredible tourist attraction. You'll be able to taste dry wines like "fino", natural sweet wines like muscatel and liqueur wines like "manzanilla". The natural surroundings, the culture and the gastronomy will simply captivate you.

Some of the towns you can visit while you're here are El Puerto de Santa María, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Rota and Chiclana. They boast of 3,200 hours of sunshine per year, so put on your swimming costume and take a dip. You should go to an equestrian show at the Escuela de Jerez or the famous Sanlúcar Horse Races. You'll also enjoy the fresh air in protected natural areas like Doñana National Park and the Los Alcornocales Nature Reserve.

Cava is the Spanish sparkling wine par excellence. You can try it in one of the wine-cellars in Catalonia, the main region where it is produced. A good way to discover it is on one of the Wine and Cava del Penedès Routes. Sign up for the Primavera del Cava or "Cava Spring" to witness the birth of the grape, or take a helicopter flight to see the first shoots from the air.

THE IBERIAN HAM ROUTE

Of all the ham produced in Spain, only about 10% is Iberian cured ham. It is produced in the pastures in southern Salamanca (Guijuelo), Extremadura (Dehesa de Extremadura), Córdoba (Los Pedroches) and Huelva (Jabugo). This is where one of Spanish gastronomy’s leading players is bred in the open air: the Iberian pig.

All these regions have their own tourist routes. The best time of year to enjoy these routes is between October and May. These are the months of the "montanera" (the final stage of breeding the Iberian pig which consists of free-range foraging in the pastures), and you'll be walking amongst pigs weighing over 100 kg that seem completely unaffected by your presence and will accompany you as you listen to the breeder’s explanations. These getaways are ideal for enjoying tasting sessions of Iberian pork products, ham carving exhibitions, mountain bike routes through wooded pastures, 4x4 excursions...
Get your walking boots on and take up the challenge of completing an ancient World Heritage route. Your goal is to reach Santiago de Compostela, the city in Galicia where the remains of the apostle Saint James the Elder rest. Thousands of people make a pilgrimage there each year for different reasons (religious, personal, cultural, sport, etc.). Whatever your reason the route won’t disappoint you and you’ll get to know people from all over the world.

First of all you need to decide how you want to travel along the route. On foot, by bicycle, on horseback or even sailing across the Cantabrian Sea.

There are a number of routes leading to Santiago. The most popular is the Camino Francés which will take you from the Pyrenees and across the south face of the Cordillera Cantábrica mountains until you reach Galicia.

In the province of A Coruña you’ll reach your final destination: the majestic Santiago de Compostela. You can just feel the spirituality as you walk through the naves and chapels of the Cathedral, a Romanesque gem. It stands in the beautiful Plaza del Obradoiro, where the different routes to the city converge.
There are other routes apart from the "Camino Francés" which will take you to Santiago. The **Primitive Route** is the oldest, and takes you through the green interior of western Asturias. If you choose the **Northern Route**, along the coast of the Cantabrian Sea, you'll enjoy the privilege of discovering the coastline of the **Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias** and **Galicia**.

Whichever route you choose you'll have an unforgettable experience and enjoy the magnificent cuisine of the regions through which you travel.