



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

NORTHERN ROUTE

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Camino de Santiago, Northern Route

The Facts

A 7 night self-guided section of the renowned Camino de Santiago along its lesser-frequented Northern Route. It follows the breathtaking Basque coastline before heading inland to some stunning countryside for the last two days. You start at the old city gates of Hondarribia, spend a night in San Sebastian and explore its old town, and finish at historical Guernika with your final night spent in Bilbao. You will stay in a mix of charming coastal and rural hotels and have your luggage moved on for you each day.

Terrain

The route varies from well-trodden footpaths, to farm tracks, and woodland paths, which are generally good underfoot and you can make good pace. All are well way marked and easy to navigate. There are a few stonier and paved sections as well as patches of mud that can be slippery after rainfall, but nothing too difficult.

Although the highest point during the week is only 500 metres, like most coastal paths the route undulates and the accumulated ascent adds up by the end of the day. Despite being coastal, there are no sections of exposure to speak of. Some of the stages are long but you cover the distance easier than you would in our more alpine and mountainous resorts. Ascents and descents tend to be fairly gentle and not too prolonged and knee crunching.

Grade : Moderate and long
Walking Time : 5 - 8 hours
Ascent : 485m to 970m each day
Descent : 500m to 850m each day

Please note that walking time does not include time taken for rests or lunch breaks and is an indication of how long the walking itself will take.

Dates & Prices

1 April - 14 June / 1 October – 30 November - £835 per person
15 June - 30 September - £925 per person
Single supplement - £200

Arrive on the day of your choice.

Please note that all bookings are subject to availability in the hotels - please do not make any travel arrangements until we have confirmed your accommodation dates.

Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

The minimum party size is 2 (No 1 person bookings).

Final night can be spent back in San Sebastian, instead of Bilbao – supplement of £45 per person.

Included in the price

- Transfer from San Sebastian to first hotel in Hondarribia
- 7 nights B&B accommodation
- Picnic lunches on hiking days
- 3 evening meals (4 nights guests eat locally at own expense)
- Includes 'House' drinks with 3 evening meals (house wine, cider, water). Other drinks at own expense.
- Luggage transfer between hotels
- Detailed route directions with maps and information pack
- Taxi on final day from Guernica to Bilbao

Not included in the price

- Flights
- Insurance
- 4 evening meals and drinks
- Optional taxis to shorten route
- Additional nights in any of the hotels (available at a supplement, on a B&B basis)
- Transfers from Biarritz or Bilbao airports (available at a supplement)
- Final night in San Sebastian, instead of Bilbao (supplement of £45 per person)

Route Information

Day 1 - Arrive

Arrive in Hondarribia, an historic walled medieval town on the coast and the French border. Your accommodation is right on the Plaza de Armas square overlooked by the castle of Charles V. Sit-down briefing with Javier at the hotel to talk through your Information Pack and week ahead and to answer any questions.

Overnight accommodation - Hotel San Nikolas

Day 2 - Hondarribia to San Sebastian

Full distance: 14.4 m/23.1 km, 960 metres ascent

Distance with bus/taxi: 9 m/15.3 km, 550 metres ascent

Leaving Hondarribia you climb to the ridge of Jaizkibel (525m) where you pass a series of old watchtowers that were used to signal whale sightings to ships at sea. Descending to the fishing village of Pasai San Pedro you cross the estuary on a water taxi and continue on to San Sebastian, famous for its food and beaches. Option to shorten the day by taking a bus or taxi from San Pedro to San Sebastian.

Overnight accommodation - Hostal Alemana

Day 3 - San Sebastian to Orio

Distance: 10 m/16 km, 500 metres ascent - The day starts with a climb to the peak of Igeldo for fantastic views back over San Sebastian's La Concha beach. Passing through fields and woods you get wonderful views of the coast before descending to Orio, an old whalers town. It has a lovely medieval old quarter with ermitas and carvings dedicated to the pilgrims of the Camino.

Overnight accommodation - Casa Mailan (in July and August Segotegi)

Day 4 - Orio to Getaria

Distance: 7.5 m/12 km, 485 metres ascent - A shorter but beautiful day walking through vineyards that make Txakolí - the light, acidic white wine that is typical of the Basque Country. You pass the town of Zarautz and walk along its long beach full of surfers. The fishing village of Getaria with its cobbled streets and fantastic fish restaurants is today's destination. Your accommodation is in the heart of the old town in an impressive 15th century building.

Overnight accommodation - Hotel Saiaz

Day 5 - Getaria to Deba

Distance: 11 m/18.4 km, 830 metres ascent - Leaving Getaria on an ancient paved way you climb the first the days multiple hills. Our recommended option then leaves the Camino for a short while and hugs a spectacular section of rocky coastline and passes through a geological reserve. You end the day in Deba, staying the night at a hotel perched on the coastline just passed Deba.

Overnight accommodation - Hotel Arbe or Pikua Rural House

Day 6 - Deba to Markina

Distance: 13 m/21 km, 970 metres ascent - Today the route leaves the coast behind and heads inland through the rural heart of the Basque Country. Forests, tiny farms, green hills and solitude characterise this day's hiking. You will spend the night near to Markina in a beautiful 'Casa Rural' which is a delightful place to stay. Option to shorten the day by taxi.

Overnight accommodation - Intxauspe or Ikestei Rural House

Day 7 - Markina to Guernika

Distance: 17.4 m/28 km, 960 metres ascent - Today as pilgrims have for centuries you pass the tenth century monastery of Ziortza then the forests of Gorontzugarai before entering green valleys dotted with hamlets as you approach Guernika. After the horrendous bombing immortalised by Picasso, Guernika symbolises the traditions and freedom of the Basque Country and is an appropriate place to end your journey through this region. Option to shorten the day by taxi. Transfer back to Bilbao for the final night.

Overnight accommodation - Hotel Arenal in Bilbao

Day 8 - Departure

Independent onward travel from Bilbao.



At Your Own Risk

Your self-guided "Week on the Camino de Santiago" will be spent entirely at your own risk and it is important that you understand that whilst the route notes are accurate at the time of writing, the situation on the ground may change and this itinerary relies on your sound judgement and decision making throughout.

Our self-guided "Week on the Camino de Santiago" has been organised so that you might enjoy a route and associated accommodation you may not otherwise have discovered having organised the itinerary yourself. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to go out on a beautiful walk in a part of this wonderful walking area, with the support of knowing that many of the logistics have been arranged for you.

It is a fact that coastal walking can and is associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett's Limited trading as Collett's Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in the outdoors and your involvement in coastal walking, which can occasionally have tragic consequences.

It is important that you understand that this itinerary is essentially based on the recognised Camino de Santiago (Northern Route). The information provided uses only marked paths which are in use at the time of writing, however, it is your responsibility to continually assess the suitability and safety of the route throughout the walk and to undertake any action necessary to avoid any terrain which each or any member of the group is not comfortable with. The route choice also assumes an ability to read maps and navigate competently.

It is the responsibility of each individual in the group to make an assessment of the information provided, and to make an informed decision about whether the itinerary is suitable for them.

Finally, during your holiday with Collett's Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions included in any material prepared by us to help you get the most from the area.

