

Saint Jean Pied de Port to Pamplona



Follow
the
Camino

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YOUR CAMINO JOURNEY STARTS HERE

This travel plan provides a **day-by-day outline** of a sample trip, giving you a clear idea of what to expect. Keep in mind that this package can be fully **tailored** to your preferences. As a **2024 Traveler's Choice Award winner** on **TripAdvisor**, we're proud to be trusted by hundreds of travelers who praise our **seamless service**, expert **guidance**, and unforgettable **experiences**. Before you set off, take a moment to read some of their stories.



Follow The Camino



Reviews from millions of Tripadvisor travellers place this winner in the top 10% worldwide.



*There is a Camino for everyone! Photos are for inspiration and may differ from your selected itinerary.

LIZ F.



Walking the french camino is one of the best experiences of my life.

I was a bit anxious before starting my Camino walk but once I was into it , I had a brilliant time.

Follow the Camino planned my trip and everything went seamlessly , so all I had to do was concentrate on walking ! Il be back for sure.

LARA K.



Wonderful all round experience

Follow The Camino delivered on everything they promised with accomodation selection great and transfer of luggage seamless. The actual walk was wonderful and matched or exceeded my expectations. Wouldn't hesitate to use them again for my next Camino. Loved it!!!!

RANDY R.



Follow the Camino Frances

The Camino Frances was the best vacation experience I've ever had. Fitness, new friends, and fantastic country. Highly recommended.

GRETA O.



Follow the Camino with an eighty year old

Follow the Camino was excellent. Hotels included dinner and breakfast. Clean and good food. Luggage transfer seamless. Well done.

ITINERARY

 Stage 1 of 8

 67.3km

 5 days

 Comfort

 Moderate plus

Starting from
€470

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Popular Time

Good Time

Off/Low Season

Not Possible

Overall

Distance:

21.3 min | **22.4km** average | **24.5 max**

Ascent:

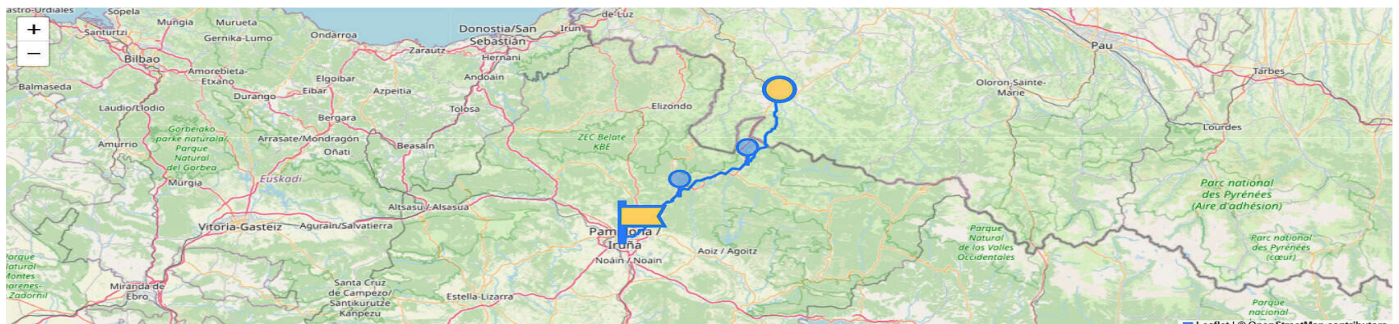
438.4 min | **817m** average | **1529.2 max**

Cardio:

3 3.7 5

This route marks the beginning of the Camino Frances. It starts in the French town of St-Jean-Pied-de-Port and finishes in Pamplona, known for the famous “Running of the Bulls” festival each July during San Fermin, as described by Ernest Hemingway in *The Sun Also Rises*. The path begins with the Route de Napoleon over the Roncesvalles Pass at 1,500 meters, leading into the Basque country. It then continues into the more gentle terrain of Navarra.

Map



Services

Included in this package

- ✓ Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ Specially Hand-Picked Accommodation
- ✓ Our Holiday or Pilgrim Pack
- ✓ 24/7 On-Call Support
- ✓ Virtual Face-to-Face Pre-Departure Briefing

Add-On

- ⊕ Premium Accommodation
- ⊕ Airport Pick-Up
- ⊕ Additional Nights
- ⊕ Dinners
- ⊕ Luggage Transfers from Hotel to Hotel
- ⊕ Day Tours to Local Sites of Interest

Not included: Flights/trains, Insurance, Drinks/Lunch

Day
1
km

SAINT JEAN PIED DE PORT

You'll be booked into a hotel in the heart of the small town. While in town, you should visit the 14th Century Gothic church, Notre-Dame-du-Bout-du-Pont, the hilltop citadel (remodelled in the 17th Century), and follow the cobbled Rue de la Citadelle downhill and over the river for views back over St-Jean-Pied-De-Port.

Day
2
24.5 km

SAINT JEAN PIED DE PORT -> RONCESVALLES

The first day of the Camino is considered the most challenging as it crosses the Pyrenees. The "Camino Napoleon" starts with a steep climb, passing through orchards and later, Alpine-style meadows. The path weaves alongside leafy beech woods until you reach the Spanish border.

Alternatively, the Valcarlos Camino follows the road through the valley, running along the River Nive or River Valcarlos. Don't miss the Collegiate Church as you descend into Roncesvalles.

If you prefer a more relaxed pace, we offer three options:

1. **Stay at the Refuge Orisson:** This is basic but welcoming accommodation halfway along the route, which splits the day into two parts.
2. **Stay 2 nights in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port:** You can use a taxi to/from Refuge Orisson to avoid the entire walk in one day.
3. **Take the Valcarlos Route:** This alternative route splits the day into two stages (12km and 14km), staying in a 2-star hotel. However, this route follows the main road and is not as rewarding as the Camino Napoleon.

Important: The Napoleon Route is closed for pilgrims from November 1 to March 31. During this period, pilgrims must use the Valcarlos route. Traveling on the Napoleon Route during these months is forbidden, and any pilgrim needing rescue from the Pyrenees may be fined €5,000.

Day
3
21.5 km

RONCESVALLES -> ZUBIRI

The Camino crosses two stunning mountain passes before winding through woods and meadows. It then arrives at Espinal, where you'll be treated to breathtaking panoramic views of the countryside with the Pyrenees in the background. The River Arga flows alongside this stretch of the Camino, continuing all the way to Larrasoana.

Day

4

21.3 km

ZUBIRI -> PAMPLONA

The Camino follows the River Arga, passing the foothills covered in beech, oak, and Scots pine trees. As you get closer to Pamplona, famous for its “Running of the Bulls” festival each July, the landscape becomes more developed, with reforested conifers and farmlands becoming more common.

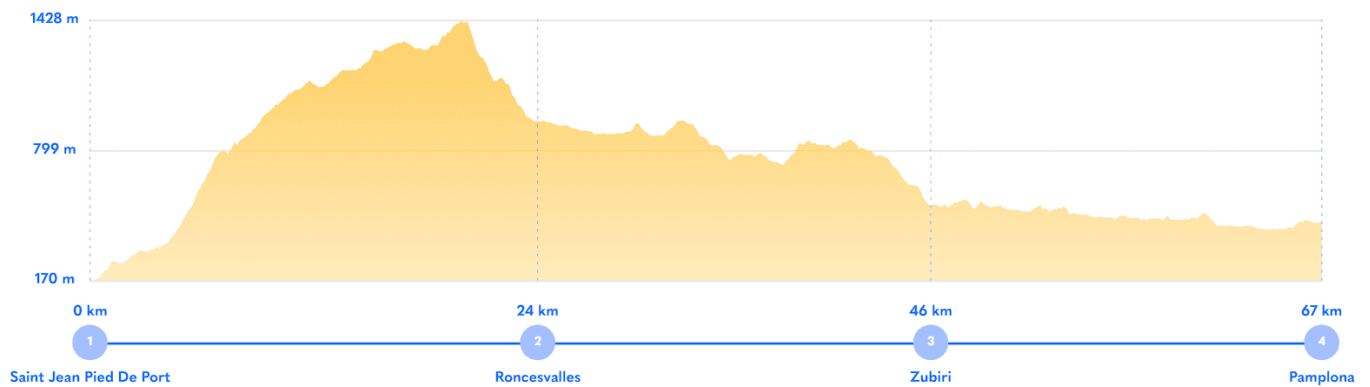
Day

5

km

PAMPLONA

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. There is a lot to see and do in Pamplona, but we recommend just walking through the city’s streets, admiring the architecture, food, and wonderful people that inspired the great Ernest Hemmingway.

Elevation Chart

NOTES & QUESTIONS FOR MY CAMINO PLANNER

We know that planning your Camino is a personal journey, and we want to make sure everything is just right for you. Use this space to **jot down your thoughts, questions, and preferences**. Here are some ideas to discuss with your Camino planner:

- Are the daily distances suitable for me, or should I split them into shorter walking days?
- Where would you recommend taking a rest day?
- Would I like to add a tour or special experience along the way?
- Do I need transfers to and from the airport?
- Are there any accommodations I would like to upgrade?
- Would I like luggage transfers for lighter walking days?
- Are there any dietary preferences or special requests I should mention?

Feel free to write down any other thoughts or questions below:

Your Camino planner is here to help make your journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible!

ABOUT US

At Follow the Camino, we are not just a tour operator; we are **passionate Camino enthusiasts** who have been guiding pilgrims **since 2007**. As the first tour operator in Ireland to coordinate walks on the Camino de Santiago, we offer unrivaled expertise in designing **life-changing adventures**.

Don't hesitate to contact us at info@followthecamino.com to request your **personalized itinerary**. We can add rest days or split days to suit your pace, as well as include special day tours or unique activities to **enhance your Camino experience**. Let us help you create the perfect journey tailored to your needs!

Follow the Camino

START PLANING NOW

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