

# Via Francigena from Arras to Laon



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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.



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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 3 of 16

 136.8km

 9 days

 Comfort

 Easy

Starting from  
**€1274**

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Popular Time

Good Time

Off/Low Season

Not Possible

Overall

Distance:

**11.2 min** | **22.8km** average | **32.9 max**

Ascent:

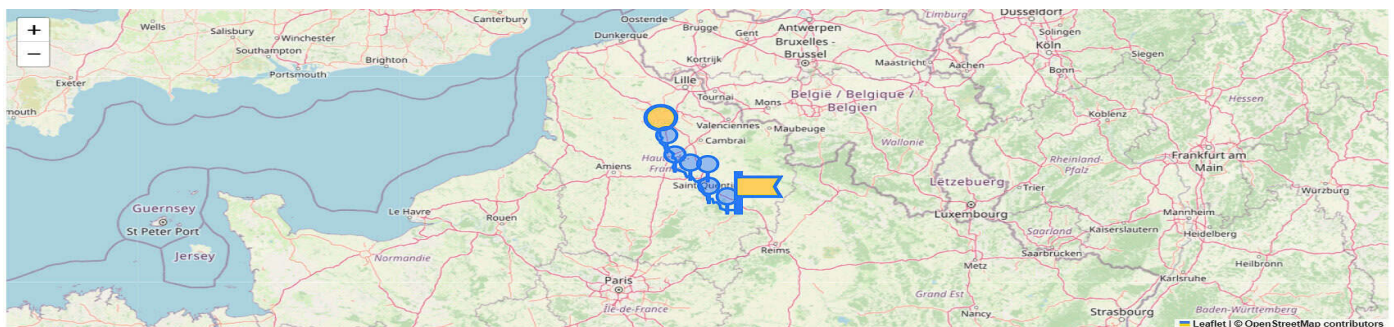
**36.8 min** | **177.2m** average | **378.9 max**

Cardio:

**1 2.5 4**

Travelling from Arras to Laon, the third section of the Via Francigena will take you through the famous region of the Somme. Much of the tranquil countryside and woodland were devastated by the World Wars, so you will have many opportunities to visit war memorials and cemeteries along the trails. This is a truly humbling part of the world to visit.

## 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

### **ARRAS**

This visual feast of architecture is a sight to behold for its Flemish and Baroque buildings. It also has a very well preserved military history from both World Wars and has France's largest military cemetery. Visit the remarkable monument dedicated to around 58,000 soldiers called the Ring of Memory. Just north of Arras there is the Canadian War Memorial, dedicated to all Canadians who fought in World War I.

Day  
2  
26.1 km

### **ARRAS -> BAPAUME**

Leaving Arras behind you will follow a country road towards the commune of Mercatel. Walking through the countryside and small villages, you will come upon numerous small war cemeteries and churches before arriving into Bapaume, your stop for the night. During both World Wars, this town experienced intense fighting due to its strategic position. Australian forces liberated it from the Germans in World War I, it fell to the Germans again, before at last it was captured by troops from New Zealand.

Day  
3  
27.4 km

### **BAPAUME -> PERONNE**

Just before the halfway point of the day you will leave behind the Pas-de-Calais region and enter the ancient province of Picardie in the area known as the Somme. Passing through more tranquil villages and countryside, you will come to Péronne (where you will be spending the night). Here, it is recommended you visit the Museum of the Great War, which is housed in the mediaeval castle.

Day  
4  
18 km

### **PERONNE -> TREFCON**

The walk today will pass through more crop fields and farming villages filled with war memorials. Later you will enter woodlands, leaving behind the area of the Somme and coming to your final stop for the evening, Trefcon.

Day  
5  
11.2 km

### **TREFCON -> ST QUENTIN**

From Trefcon to St Quentin, the walk is relatively flat. You will pass through more crop fields and small villages before coming to the outer suburbs of St Quentin. Wander through the city to the Basilica of Saint-Quentin. There has been a religious building on the site of the Basilica since the 4th Century, all of which have been destroyed and then a new building rebuilt. The Basilica was extensively reconstructed after World War 1 and only reopened in 1956.

Day

6

21.2 km

### ST QUENTIN -> TERGNIER

Crossing the Canal de Saint Quentin, you will return to walking through the crop fields. You will see your destination for the day, Tergnier, in the distance well before you arrive. Here, you will find the Musée de la Résistance et de la Deportation which tells of the resistance in this region to foreign occupation and shares the stories of those that were deported.

Day

7

32.9 km

### TERGNIER -> LAON

Today the scenery changes drastically and you will be walking through the Forest of Saint Gobain. Meandering through the gently rolling hills of this woodland area, feel the peace of the secluded wood embrace you as you wind your way down into Cessières. Once there, a taxi will pick you up and take you to Laon to spend the night.

Day

8

km

### LAON

After breakfast, we bid you farewell. If you want to explore Laon, the city contains numerous mediaeval buildings, including the 13th Century Cathedral Notre-Dame and the 12th Century Church of St Martin. Or, find a quiet square and people watch as life goes by.

## 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:

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

## ABOUT US

At Follow the Camino, we are re 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](mailto: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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