



# The Way Of Saint James with Saint Mary's Parish

9 days | 11 days with Lisbon extension | Oct 15 2026—Oct 23 2026

Follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims as you make your way through Spain and Portugal on this immersive tour. As you go, admire some of the holiest sites in Christendom and step inside soaring churches where people have prayed for centuries. From the historic city of León and the vibrant capital of Madrid to the ancient streets of Santiago de Compostela, spirituality comes to the forefront on this memorable journey



## Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- The Way of St. James
- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima
- Traditional Galician dinner
- Santiago de Compostela Cathedral
- León Cathedral
- Basilica de San Isidoro
- Royal Palace
- Prado Museum

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain and paved roads, with some hills and stairs.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/the-way-of-saint-james-saint-mary-parish> | 1-800-438-7672

# The Way Of Saint James with Saint Mary's Parish

9 days | 11 days with Lisbon extension

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Lisbon today.

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## Fátima → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Lisbon & transfer to Fátima

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Welcome to Portugal! After arriving in Lisbon, journey to Fátima and get settled into your hotel. Later, get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers during tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Fátima

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local guide for an immersive tour of Fátima, renowned for its profound spiritual significance as the site of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima. This revered Catholic pilgrimage destination is where the Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared six times to three young shepherds over six months in 1917.

- Discover the poignant history as you step inside the House of Jacinta, the humble abode of the children who witnessed the miraculous apparitions.
  - Enter the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima, where you can explore its serene grotto and reflect on the site's deep religious importance.
  - Enjoy free time to further explore the sanctuary at your own pace. You may choose to participate in the afternoon Mass at the Chapel of Apparitions, a place of quiet contemplation and prayer.
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## Santiago de Compostela → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to Santiago de Compostela & traditional Galician dinner

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross into northern Spain as you travel to Santiago de Compostela, the UNESCO-listed destination of medieval pilgrims. This historic city, known for its stunning cathedral and as the culmination point of the Camino de Santiago, offers a rich tapestry of culture and history.

After checking into your hotel and stretching your legs, gather together this evening for a true taste of Galicia.

- Sit down to a succulent dinner at a local restaurant in Santiago de Compostela where you'll savor the freshest seafood and meat specialties Spain has to offer.
- From fresh seafood to tender beef and pork, the menu showcases the best of Galician cuisine. Choose from a variety of dishes, each prepared with locally sourced ingredients and traditional recipes.
- Enjoy some of the region's finest wines, including ribeiro, godello, or albariño. These wines, known for their unique flavors and high quality, perfectly complement the rich flavors of your meal.
- At the end of the meal, observe the preparation ritual of queimada, a traditional Galician drink made from distilled spirits blended with herbs, fruits, and spices. Watch as the drink is set alight in a dramatic display, believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Santiago de Compostela

*Included meals: breakfast*

Walk through Santiago de Compostela, a town that once ranked just behind Jerusalem and Rome as one of Christendom's most important pilgrimage sites. This historic city, with its rich cultural heritage and spiritual significance, has been a beacon for pilgrims for centuries.

- Stroll along the ancient city's narrow streets, lined with charming stone buildings and bustling with life. As you wander, you'll encounter quaint shops, inviting cafes, and vibrant markets that offer a glimpse into the local way of life.
- Stop at Parque de la Alameda, a beautiful park offering stunning views of the city and a peaceful retreat from the bustling streets. Take a moment to relax and enjoy the lush greenery, ornate fountains, and statues that adorn this serene space.
- Enter the Gothic Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, the magnificent endpoint of the Way of St. James. Marvel at its intricate architecture, towering spires, and the revered

shrine of Saint James the Great. Inside, the cathedral's grandeur continues with its impressive altar, stunning stained glass windows, and the famous Botafumeiro, a giant thurible used in religious ceremonies.

Enjoy free time explore at your own pace. You might choose to visit local museums, sample Galician cuisine, or simply soak in the atmosphere of this historic city. Alternatively, you can add an excursion to Cape Finisterre, often considered the "end of the world" in ancient times. This dramatic coastal point offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and is a fitting conclusion to the pilgrimage for many travelers. Here, you can reflect on your journey and take in the rugged beauty of the Galician coastline.  
+ Cape Finisterre Coastal Pilgrimage

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## León → 1 night

### Day 6: Transfer to León & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

This morning, continue on to León, Spain for a guided walking tour. León is a key stop on the Way of St. James, known for its historical and spiritual significance to pilgrims. This city has been a vital part of the pilgrimage route for centuries, offering a rich blend of cultural heritage and architectural marvels.

- View Plaza Mayor and the 14th-century Palace of Count Luna: Stroll through the bustling Plaza Mayor, the heart of León, and admire the 14th-century Palace of Count Luna, a testament to the city's medieval past.
- Admire the Palacio de los Guzmanes and the striking Casa de los Botines: Marvel at the Renaissance-style Palacio de los Guzmanes, a symbol of León's noble history. Nearby, the Casa de los Botines, designed by the famous architect Antoni Gaudí, stands out with its unique modernist architecture.
- Step inside León Cathedral: Enter the awe-inspiring León Cathedral, known for its stunning Gothic architecture and magnificent stained glass windows. Built over ancient Roman baths, this cathedral is a masterpiece of medieval engineering and artistry.
- Enter the Romanesque Basílica de San

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Isidoro: Explore the Basílica de San Isidoro, a Romanesque gem dating back to the 11th century. This basilica is renowned for its beautiful frescoes and the Royal Pantheon, often referred to as the “Sistine Chapel of Romanesque Art.”

Conclude your day with a delightful included dinner at a local restaurant with your group.

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## Madrid → 2 nights

### Day 7: Transfer to Madrid

*Included meals: breakfast*

Turn south and head back into Spain as you make your way to the cosmopolitan city of Madrid. After checking into your hotel and freshening up, enjoy free time for the rest of the day to relax or explore on your own.

Looking for dinner plans? You can add an evening excursion to experience a traditional Spanish evening. Stroll through the vibrant streets of Madrid, dine at one of the city's oldest restaurants, and enjoy the enchanting sounds of tuna music, a traditional form of Spanish music performed by university students dressed in medieval attire.

+ Traditional Spanish Evening

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Madrid & farewell dinner

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Get an insider's view of Madrid with a local guide and experience the vibrant culture and rich history of the city. From majestic palaces to world-class art museums, this guide ensures you won't miss any of the city's highlights.

- Explore the Royal Palace, Spain's largest royal residence. Visit the Royal Palace, a stunning example of Baroque architecture. Marvel at its opulent rooms, including the Throne Room, the Hall of Mirrors, and the Royal Armory, which houses an impressive collection of medieval weapons and armor.
- Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Almudena Cathedral. Head to the Almudena Cathedral, a magnificent structure combining Gothic revival and neo-classical styles. The cathedral's Romanesque-style crypt is the final resting place for many of Spain's noble families.
- Enjoy free time to explore the area, shop, and

have lunch. Take a break to wander through the charming streets of Madrid. Shop for souvenirs, enjoy a leisurely lunch at a local café, or soak in the lively atmosphere of the city.

- Traverse the city's many squares, including Plaza Colón and Plaza Neptune. Stroll through some of Madrid's most iconic squares. Plaza Colón features a grand monument dedicated to Christopher Columbus, while Plaza Neptune, with its beautiful fountain, is perfect for relaxing and people-watching.
- Enter the Prado for a guided tour of the world-class art museum. End your day with a visit to the Prado Museum, one of the world's premier art galleries. Originally the private collection of the Spanish monarchy, the museum boasts masterpieces by renowned artists such as Goya, Velázquez, and El Greco. A guided tour will help you appreciate the historical and artistic significance of these works.

Celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 9: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## + Lisbon extension

Arrive early to deepen your spiritual journey by exploring the sacred sites of Lisbon, a city rich in religious history and significance. Before your main tour begins, embark on a faith-based sightseeing tour of Lisbon, visiting important landmarks associated with St. James and other key figures in Christian history.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Lisbon today.

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## Lisbon → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Lisbon

Welcome to Portugal! Transfer to your hotel and get unpacked during your early start to your adventure. Tonight, join together with your Tour Director and fellow travelers and enjoy a welcome drink.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Start your exploration of Lisbon with a knowledgeable local guide who will share fascinating stories and historical insights about the city.

- Admire views of the city from Eduardo VII Park and pass the Praça Marquês de Pombal as you travel along Avenida da Liberdade. Begin your tour at Eduardo VII Park, where you can enjoy panoramic views of Lisbon. As you travel along the elegant Avenida da Liberdade, you'll pass the Praça Marquês de Pombal, a significant roundabout featuring a grand statue of the Marquis of Pombal, a key figure in Lisbon's history.
- Stop at the waterfront to discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Tower of Belém. Head to the waterfront to explore Lisbon's rich maritime history. Visit the Monument to the Discoveries, which commemorates the Portuguese Age of Exploration, and the iconic Tower of Belém, a UNESCO World Heritage site that once guarded the entrance to the city's harbor.
- Enter the church at Jerónimos Monastery, built to honor voyagers. Next, visit the Jerónimos Monastery, an architectural masterpiece built in the Manueline style. The monastery was constructed to honor the voyagers of the Age of Discovery and is the final resting place of the famous explorer Vasco da Gama.
- Walk from Praça do Comércio into the Alfama district. Stroll through the historic Praça do Comércio, a grand square facing the Tagus River, and make your way into the Alfama district. Alfama is one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods, known for its narrow, winding streets, traditional Fado music, and vibrant local culture.
- Step inside Santo António Church, the site where many believe Saint Anthony of Padua was born. Conclude your tour with a visit to Santo António Church, a charming church

built on the site where Saint Anthony of Padua is believed to have been born. This church is a significant pilgrimage site and offers a peaceful retreat from the bustling city.

After your guided tour, enjoy some free time to explore Lisbon at your own pace. You might wander through the charming streets of the Bairro Alto district or relax in one of the city's beautiful parks. Or, you can add an excursion to experience a traditional Fado show with dinner, immersing yourself in the soulful music and delicious Portuguese cuisine.

+ Fado Show & Dinner

#### **Day 4: Transfer to Fátima**

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Meet up with the rest of your group as they arrive today before heading north to Fátima.

After getting settled into your hotel, gather together for tonight's welcome dinner. (To plot out the rest of your trip, begin on day two of the regular itinerary.)

**For more information, contact**

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# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/the-way-of-saint-james-saint-mary-parish> | 1-800-438-7672

## Day 5: Cape Finisterre Coastal Pilgrimage

From \$75.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Join a local guide as you make your way to the Galician Coast, stopping at the Río Xallas waterfalls in Mirador de Ézaro on the way. Arrive in the traditional fishing village of Fisterra, where you'll enjoy free time to explore. Then, continue on toward Cape Finisterre, the final destination for pilgrims on the Way of St. James. End your excursion taking in picturesque views of the coastal cliffs and famous lighthouse.

Please note: The weather in autumn and winter can be cold and humid.

## Day 7: Traditional Spanish Evening

From \$119.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Start the evening with a stroll through the Plaza Mayor and learn about the square's history from your Tour Director. On your way to dinner, walk through the illuminated streets of Madrid, taking in the local neighborhood ambiance in the evening light. Then, enjoy conversation, camaraderie, and live music at one of the oldest restaurants in the city. Between traditional Castilian courses, you'll be entertained by tuna music, an artistic tradition with its roots in Spain's universities.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 3: Fado Show & Dinner

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Spend your evening at a Lisbon tavern listening to fado. Derived from the Latin word fatum—meaning “prophecy” or “fate”—fado is Portugal's national musical treasure. Fado's traditional theme is “saudade”—a word that doesn't quite translate to English but conveys a sense of both nostalgia and longing. Dinner is included during this memorable musical evening. Please note: This excursion typically ends around 11pm.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.