



## Mammoth Journeys

### The Camino Quest

#### London to Santiago de Compostela

Distance: 2066 kms / 1280 miles

Duration: 23 days

Countries: England, France, and Spain

The Camino Quest starts in London and from Paris follows the Camino Frances route to our final destination of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The famous pilgrimage route traversed originally by Saint James has become an iconic cycling route across northern Spain.

A great balance of quiet French countryside cycle pathways, and impressive Pyrenees passes offering full 360 degree views of the La Rioja and Navarra region.

Routes, distances and durations are merely a rough guide and may change before or during the Journey. However this should give you a good idea of what's coming up.



**Leg 1: London to Bordeaux****Distance: 990 km Duration: 11 days**

Arrival into London the day before departure date for a brief of the Journey, kit check, questions and most important; pre-Journey photos.

A tough introductory three day ride for the first section. Leaving London as expected will be slow going until we get to Redhill. From here we make great use of the quieter countryside and national cycle pathways. An afternoon ferry ride across the Channel arriving into Dieppe for a well deserved rest.

A relative simple 2<sup>nd</sup> day distance wise as we head towards Beauvais and our first taste of continental Europe riding. A great day to get accustomed to riding on the right and segregated cycleways. Thanks to our early start we plan on finishing earlier than normal for a well-deserved full evenings rest.

Your hard 2 days of cycling and a short sleep are rewarded with a shorter final day. As with the start of the Journey leaving London, finishing in Paris is tough going. One of the guides will help navigate through this maze to your hotel for the next 2 nights.

If things go smoothly on this final day, we hope to arrive early which means any kit mishaps can be sorted in the afternoon so you have the whole rest day to explore, making sure you visit the Saint-Jacques tower as the start of the Saint James Camino starts.

A nicely weighted second section after our rest day where we make full use of our rested bodies, with a challenging first day out of Paris. Very little climbing throughout the leg, just some lovely undulating countryside with some sporadic cycle trail to make use of.

Again the guide will be there to help navigate out of Paris at the start of second section as we continue to meander south. Each lunch break and final stop for the day are in picturesque French towns and small cities. Pit stops to pick up fresh baguettes out of small stone built bakeries, washed down with a glass of local wine, it's easy to see why the French enjoy their riding so much. This relatively easy riding between beautiful historic landmarks makes this a great opportunity for your body to adapt to multiple days in the saddle.

Bordeaux is our city to have a well earned rest in at the end of Leg 1 - a beautiful city with so much to see and do.

Day 1: London to Newhaven 120km

Day 2: Dieppe to Beauvais 115 km

Day 3: Beauvais to Paris 125 km

Day 4: Rest day in Paris

Day 5: Paris to Orleans 125km

Day 6: Orleans to Tours 130km

Day 7: Tours to Poitiers 120 km

Day 8: Poitiers to Angouleme 120km

Day 9: Angouleme to Bordeaux 135 km



Day 10: Rest day in Bordeaux

**Leg 2: Bordeaux to Santiago de Compostela Distance: 1076 km Duration: 11 days**

Crossing into Spain and across the Pyrenees this is a truly special ride. These amazing panoramic views aren't given away though, with just shy of 10,000m climbing in this leg alone, this is truly a cycling classic.

The roads between France and Spain have the tendency to be fairly congested and manic. We will try to avoid this as much as possible, using backroads and cycle lanes where possible. Trying to get that balance of fun riding and distance covered is key – the shortest route may not necessarily be the best. As we head into the heartland of Spain the sparsity of population is apparent and hugely welcomed as we find ourselves isolated at times.

From Pamplona the famous blue and yellow scallop Camino signs become more frequent, as does the words of encouragement from other pilgrims with a cheerful 'Buen Camino'. Fuelled on tapas making our way into the finale is a special moment, the spires of the cathedral come into view as we make our way into Santiago. You are now part of a unique and exclusive club of those who have cycled the Camino Frances - well done and enjoy the celebrations!

Day 11: Bordeaux to Mimizan 140km

Day 12: Mimizan to Jean de Luz 115km

Day 13: St Jean de Luz to Pamplona 100km

Day 14: Pamplona to Logrono 95km

Day 15: Logrono to Burgos 115km

Day 16: Burgos Rest Day

Day 17: Burgos – Sahagun 135km

Day 18: Sahagun – Leon 63km

Day 19: Leon – Ponferrada 100km

Day 20: Ponferrada – Portomarin 120km

Day 21: Portomarin – Santiago de Compostela 95km



#### What's Included?

- 22 nights accommodation, including the night in London for the Journey brief.
- 22 Breakfasts and 12 Dinners
- Support vehicle for luggage transport, mechanical assistance, and tired cyclists
- Cycle guide daily
- Advice and help on any pre-Journey kit purchases
- Return bike transport back to England

#### What's not included?

- Insurance
- Airfare to the start of your Journey
- Transport back to London at the end of the Journey
- Bike hire
- Visas (although help and advice can be arranged through Mammoth Journeys Staff)
- Any tours, tips/gratuities, or meals outside of the described Journey
- Any in-hotel purchases e.g. phone bill, laundry, room service etc