

**SANCTUARY** (name)

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

**Sanctuary Description**

**History**

The name Santiago goes back to the Apostle James (Saint James = Santiago) who went to this most northwestern part of Spain, called “Finis Terrae”, “end of the world”, by the Romans. He went there to preach and convert people to Christianity. After returning to Palestine in 44 AD, he was taken prisoner by Herodes Agrippa and tortured to death. The king forbid to bury him, but during the night Jacob’s disciples stole the body in a sarcophagus of marble and brought it, on board of a small boat. The current of the sea drove the boat to the Spanish coast, into the port of the Roman province capital, Iria Flavia. There the Apostle was buried in a secret place in a wood.

Centuries later, in 813, the hermit Pelayo was listening to music in that wood and saw something shining. Because of this, the place was called, in Latin, “Campus Stellae”, which means the field of the star, a name that was later on turned into Compostela.Bishop Teodomiro, who received notice of that event, initiated an investigation. Thus the tomb of the Apostle was discovered. King Alphonse II declared Saint James the patron of his empire and had a chapel built at that very place. It is reported that from then on Saint James did several miracles. It is even said that he fought side by side with King Ramiro I in the decisive battle against the Moors. More and more pilgrims followed the way to Santiago, “Camino de Santiago”, and the original chapel soon became the cathedral of the new settlement, Santiago de Compostela.

In 12th and 13th centuries the town had its greatest importance. Pope Alexander III declared it a Holy Town, like Rome and Jerusalem. Pope Calixto II declared that the pilgrims who went to Santiago in a Holy Year should be free of all their sins. El Año Santo (Holy Year), also known as Xacobeo is a year when the 25th of July, the day of St James falls on a Sunday.

The cathedral for children: <http://www.santiagoturismo.com/a-catedral-dos-nenos> (available in different languages)

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/historia> (available in different languages)

**Spirituality**

The expression “pilgrim” has a broad meaning. It usually means the ‘stranger’. From this root, the word gained a more accurate meaning that of the pilgrimage to St. James. Thus, Dante in Vita Nuova, 40, writes: a ‘pilgrim’ is par excellence the one who journeys to St. James, ‘a palmer’ the one who journeys to Holy Land and a ‘romero’ to Rome. “ In a strict sense, a pilgrim is the one who journeys to or comes back from the household of St. James”. To be a pilgrim is to journey to the Apostle’s Tomb in Compostela with a Christian or at least some religious motivation, in other words with some “pietatis causa”. In every pilgrimage we should take into account the following aspects: a) the motivation; b) the Way; c) the Goal. Since it is a pilgrimage to St. James, the motivation is - - to visit the tomb of one of the Apostles of Jesus, someone who enjoyed a personal relationship with Him. From Him he also learned the Message of the Redemption and with Him he lived for three years on the ways of Palestine under the circumstances of the time and in the hope of His Coming. The Apostles were responsible for the transmission of the original faith given by Jesus. Therefore, an apostolic Tomb has a special meaning for the Church.

It is the motivation that makes you a pilgrim. Some make the pilgrimage in a profound religious way and with deep piety to see the apostolic roots of faith; others are searching for faith, perhaps for the very first time, or are trying to recover it after a time… Thus, different attitudes can have the same root according the motivations. It is the intention that makes you a pilgrim.

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/que-e-o-camino-de-santiago>

During more than a thousand years, the Way of St. James has led pilgrims as far as the sanctuary of one of Christendom’s apostles: [St. James the Greater](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/apostolo-santiago). His tomb, discovered one night in the year 813 on the sacred hill of Libredón, under a shower of stars, would become the foundational stone of a prodigious [Cathedral](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/catedral-de-santiago)and a city that, from then on, would attract the footsteps of travelers until becoming a destination featuring traces and echoes from all over Europe.

Every time pilgrims start along the old continental roads of the Way of St. James, they set in motion an ancient search mechanism common to all Christendom: the journey to Salvation. And, at the same time, they are immersed in the profoundly human experience of the discovery. Just as the routes leading to Santiago are many, numerous also are the ways of attaining the most intimate discovery, the one that all pilgrims claim to experience as they advance along the routes of chance encounters or solitude, of voices and silence, of shady landscapes or dry plains, in search of a single goal:[Santiago de Compostela](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/info-xeral/patrimonio-da-humanidade" \t "_blank).

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/consellos-practicos/credencial>

Credential

Pilgrims travelling along the Way of St. James for religious or spiritual reasons, and who therefore want to obtain the so-called ‘[Compostela](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/consellos-practicos/obter-a-compostela" \o "Compostela" \t "_blank)' certificate at the end, as well as those wishing to use the network of hostels, need to leave home with pilgrim credentials. These consist of a booklet issued by the diocese of origin’s Pilgrimages Delegation, by the parish or by the local Association of Friends of the Way of St. James, which is stamped for pilgrims by the hostels along the route to certify the stages they have completed on foot, on horseback or cycling.

As of 2009, the Compostela certificate can only be obtained by means of the official Pilgrim Credential model issued by the Church through its institutions (Diocese, Parish, Brotherhood, etc).

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/consellos-practicos/obter-a-compostela>

How to obtain the "Compostela"

Those who manage to reach Santiago unaided, during any year, are awarded the [Compostela](http://peregrinossantiago.es/esp/peregrinacion/la-compostela/" \t "_blank), a certificate issued by the [Pilgrim Office](http://www.oficinadelperegrino.com/) to certify that the route has been travelled due to religious reasons. It is given to pilgrims that cover the last 100 kilometers on foot or horseback, or last 200 kilometers in the case of cyclists. In both cases, they have to present the official Pilgrim Document provided by the Catholic Church with one or more daily stamps from the shelters or parishes visited along any of the routes.

**Services**

Pilgrim’s Office

Rua Carretas n.º 33- 15705 Santiago de Compostela – A Coruña – España

Tel. +34 981 568 84

[oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es)

[botafumeiro@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:botafumeiro@catedraldesantiago.es)

[credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es)

**Pilgrimage Routes**

<http://www.catedraldesantiago.es/es/el-camino> (available in different languages)

The Way of Saint James

There are different pilgrimage routes to Santiago. It would be very difficult to enumerate them all because, traditionally, pilgrims would leave their own homes in order to get to “The House of Saint James”, which is the Cathedral. The Way of Saint James is not an end in itself; it is the means through which you achieve a goal: The Tomb of Saint James. However, there are some routes which stand out and where the greatest number of pilgrims gathers.

The French Route

It is the most frequented route and it enters the Peninsula through Roncesvalles. It passes through Pamplona, Logroño, Burgos, León, Astorga, Ponferrada and it enters Galicia through O Cebreiro.

The North Route

It goes along the Cantabric shore and it passes through Irún, San Sebastián, Bilbao, Gijón, Avilés and it enters Galicia through Ribadeo.

The Primitive Route

It begins in Oviedo and it takes the pilgrim to Santiago through the inland of Asturias, passing through Lugo and finally joining the last stretch of the North and the French Routes.

The English Route

It receives this name due to the number of pilgrims that come from the British Islands. They arrive by boat to A Coruña or Ferrol and, from there; they go by foot towards Santiago.

The Portuguese Route

There are different itineraries in Portugal (along the coast and inland) until you get to Galicia through Tui.

The Silver Route

It starts in Sevilla and it goes through Mérida, Zamora en it enters Galicia through Ourense

*The pilgrimage should be prepared from different perspectives: a physical one, a spiritual one and also by seeking information in the Pilgrim’s Office in Santiago, in the Dioceses, in the Brotherhoods of Santiago, in the Friends of the Way of Saint James Associations, where former pilgrims give interesting facts and practical advice.*

<https://santiagoways.com/en/>

**Catholic Rite**

Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church.

**General Information**

**Location**

Cathedral of Santiago

**Address**

Plaza do Obradoiro s/n

**Phone Number**

+34 981 58 35 48

**E-mail**

[oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es)

[credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es)

[botafumeiro@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:botafumeiro@catedraldesantiago.es)

**Website**

<http://www.catedraldesantiago.es/>

**Facilities**

**Accommodation**

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/consellos-practicos/albergues-para-peregrinos-na-cidade>

Pilgrim Hostels in the City

**Centro Scout Abeiro**

<https://adesantiago.wordpress.com/centro-scout-abeiro/>

<https://adesantiago.wordpress.com/centro-scout-abeiro/normas-e-funcionamento-es/>

Where is it?

In the Santa María de Figueiras Parish, a rural church that belongs to the City Council of Santiago de Compostela, at the foothills of Monte Pedroso

What is the Abeiro Scout Center?

The original idea for this centre was for it to be a meeting and welcoming point for the scout units that arrived in Santiago after doing one of the routes and who had gone there with the intention of visiting the Tomb of the Apostle Saint James, disciple of Jesus. In addition to this, the association’s and federation’s activities are also held at the center and it could be used as a campground.

The Abeiro Scout Center is 5 km away from the Cathedral and it is linked to the historical city center by an urban bus line (P1), which takes you to the door of the Scout Center. Another important thing to consider is that the route that joins Santiago and Finisterra is only 200 meters away from the scout center

**San Lázaro**

San Lázaro, s/n (no number). 15820 Santiago

Tel: (+34) 981 571 488

Fax: (+34) 981 571 489

80 beds

Location: Near Congress Hall. 20 min walking to the old town

Tourist Hostels

**Monte do Gozo**

Rúa do Gozo, 18 (Airport road). 15820 Santiago

Tel: (+34) 981 558 942

Fax: (+34) 981 562 892

[www.cvacaciones-montedogozo.com](http://www.cvacaciones-montedogozo.com)

[reservas@cvacaciones-montedogozo.com](mailto:reservas@cvacaciones-montedogozo.com)

500 beds

Location: Way of St. James. 25 min walking to the old town and 3 min by car

[**Seminario Menor de Belvís**](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/central-reservas-alojamientos/seminario-menor-de-belvis/fe:27-02-2015/fs:28-02-2015/th:1/tr:/)

**Acuario**

Rúa Estocolmo, 2 – b. As Fontiñas. 15707 Santiago

Tel: (+34) 981 575 438

[www.albergueacuario.com](http://www.albergueacuario.com)

54 beds

Location: Near Área Central Shopping Centre. 15 min walking to the old town

**O Fogar de Teodomiro**

Praciña Algalia de Arriba, 3. 15705 Santiago

Tel: (+34) 981 582 920 / (+34) 699 631 592

[www.pousadateodomiro.com](http://www.pousadateodomiro.com)

[info@fogarteodomiro.com](mailto:info@fogarteodomiro.com)

24 beds

Location: Historic district. 2 min walking to the Cathedral

**Campsites**

**Monte do Gozo**

https://goo.gl/kDevQ2

**As Cancelas**

<http://www.campingascancelas.com/>

**Transports** (access by Air)

https://goo.gl/ELGkoA

The International Airport of Lavacolla: it is the busiest in Galicia with connections to several continents. It is only 12 km away from the city centre. From there you can travel to the city by taxi or, during the day only, by bus. From Santiago, the bus stops at Xeneral Pardiñas Street (centre of the “Ensanche” or urban expansion area) and the Bus Station (north of the city).

There are other nearby airports in A Coruña (60 km), Vigo (90 km), and Porto, Asturias and León (between 200 and 300 km)

https://goo.gl/TAzgMp

**Transports** (access by Train)

Two daily trains link with Madrid (Talgo and Expreso) and one with Bilbao. Everyday, there is a train to Barcelona, Hendaya and Paris, and almost all national destinations of importance and you will have to change only once., ,.

There are frequent communications along the Atlantic corridor from A Coruña and Vigo, via, Compostela, Vilagarcía de Arousa and Pontevedra. There are also frequent links with Ourense.

**Transports** (access by Car/Coach)

http://www.santiagoturismo.com/como-chegar/en-coche

**Transports** (inside the City)

https://goo.gl/pGqXSK

Bicycle Repair and Renting

Bici-Total – Avda. de Lugo 221 – Phone: +34 981 564 562

Velocípedo – Rúa de San Pedro 23 – Phone: +34 981 580 260

Oliveira – Rúa Sánchez Freire 83 – Phone: +34 981 523 306

Tournride (bicycles for rent) – Rúa Xeneral Pardiñas 15 bajo 8 – Phone: +34 981 936616 –www.tournride.com

**Other Facilities**

Signs along the Way of St. James

In general, the different roads to Santiago are sufficiently signposted and any deficiencies can be overcome by using the maps included in all practical guides.

Thanks to the parish priest of O Cebreiro, Elías Valiña, who marked, along with his collaborators, an important part of the French Way of St. James with a yellow arrow, this sign has been extended to almost all of the different Ways of St. James during the last 20 years. There are also institutional plaques and other signs that vary from region to region, including white and red markers in Navarre and granite milestones in Galicia, which appear every 500 meters and indicate the distance to Compostela.

In some sections, the regional governments have built special lanes for pilgrims with mixed results: although in some areas these consist of natural paths that keep pilgrims away from the traffic, in others they are gravel tracks that punish the walkers’ feet, horses’ hooves and cyclists’ tyres.

Clothing and Luggage

https://goo.gl/HPHY6u

In the Middle Ages, walkers started out with little more than a bag, a staff or crook on which to lean, a cape for protecting themselves and a scallop shell on their chest as an identifying sign. Today, however, clothing and luggage should be carefully prepared according to the time of the year, the chosen category and the planned duration of the trip.

The choice of backpack is one of the key points: it should be anatomical, with straps at the thighs, a capacity of around 40 litres and numerous compartments so that you do not have to unpack it every time you want to find something. The heaviest items should be placed closest to your back; your sleeping bag, mat and rain cape, in an outside compartment at the bottom, and your documentation close at hand.

The normal weight limit for backpacks is 10% of our body weight: in any case, not more than 8 kilos for women and 10 for men. Many pilgrims bring more luggage in a support car or send, from their home, different parcels of luggage to prearranged places.

Footwear is another important choice. While in spring and summer you can walk with thick-soled training shoes, half a size bigger than normal (in case of swollen feet), in autumn and winter you need calf-length hiking boots to support your ankles. It is important to break them in at home and not wear them for the first time on the pilgrimage.

In addition to suitable clothing for the time of year, your equipment should include a basic first-aid kit, especially for treating your feet.

A bike enables you to add panniers but also involves carrying spanners, a pump and cleaning items, among other things. Horse riders will also have to take into account implements for their horse, as well as a kit for taking care of its health and hygiene.

Advice for the Disabled

https://goo.gl/qWbzg6

Apart from following the general advice for pilgrims, disabled persons should pay special attention to their physical condition and prepare thoroughly before beginning. They should consider the possibility of using a support car or travelling in a group with people that provide them with the necessary help, when going through rough terrain or crossing roads, for example.

Another advisable practice, when it comes to planning the stages, is choosing to do non-consecutive sections. In any case, you can choose the starting point and plan the stages according to your own possibilities. Since the usual stages are not homogeneous as regards accessibility, there are guides available that describe them especially for disabled persons.

Time of Year

Spring and autumn are usually the best times of year for undertaking the Way of St. James. You can thereby avoid the rigours of the winter and summer and, above all, the overcrowded hostels during summer months.

https://goo.gl/qJPNoN

**Activities’ Resources**

**Geographic Description**

It is easy to distinguish the unique features in a place that has been inhabited by people for a very long time. The geography, the weather and the light of a determined area are factors that influence the culture and the personality of a town. Santiago was built on a small hill, 260 metres above the sea level. The city is situated in northern region of Galicia. Towards the west, about 40 kilometres from the city, we find the coast. Towards the east, it borders on the inner lands. The river Tambre, which goes across the valley of the Dubra, waters the northern sector. In the

southern area, another valley, the valley of the Ulla smoothes the geography of the landscape. The city marks an imaginary transition point between the rugged north coast of Galicia and the wavy south coast of Galicia. So it participates in the northern and southern Galicia. The northeastern part has the outline of the inner Galicia. The coast and the low lands influence the southwestern part. The town has a surface of 223 square kilometres. It has a population of almost 100.000 inhabitants spread over the 25 parishes that make it up. They are Aríns, A Gracia, Bando, Barciela, Busto, Carballal, O Castiñeiriño, Cesar, Cesar, Conxo, Eixo, Enfesta, Fecha (San Xoán and

Santa Caristina), Figueiras, Grixoa, Laraño, Marantes, Marrozos, Nemenzo, A Peregrina, Sabugueira, Sar, Verdía, Vidán and Villestro. In this land, the architecture is mixed with small fields, farmlands, rivers, streams and places full of pine and eucalyptus forests. This is a fertile land, wet, with heavy rainfall and almost always covered with clouds

**Volunteering Opportunities**

https://goo.gl/RrSAiT

Why does the Hospitalero project start at the Scout Abeiro Center?

Because we believe that the best way to provide attention for the pilgrims who come here is by having a group of Scouts who would act as staff and be at service during the summer.

Who is the target audience?

This activity is for Rovers, with a minimum of three people, who belong to any of the member associations of Scouts MSC. They should spend one or two weeks as “Hospitaleros”.

What would their tasks and schedule be?

The schedule would be from 16.00 h. upto 10.00 in the morning the following day. This means that from 10.00 h. up to 16.00 h. the “Hospitaleros” would have free time to do their own activities or walk around the grounds surrounding the center or visit Santiago. While they are on duty, they will welcome the pilgrims, manage the areas of the Scout Center, keep things clean and tidy and also obey and enforce the rules of the center.

Where can i get more information?

You can send an e-mail to the following addresses:

centroscoutabeiro@scoutsgalicia.org

adesantiago@scoutsgalicia.org

https://goo.gl/md2vZ9

**Spiritual Activities**

<http://www.catedraldesantiago.es/sites/default/files/Camino/Meta_Camino_ingles.pdf>

Mass times in the Cathedral

7:30h. Chapel of El Santisimo

8:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo

9:00h. High Altar

9:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo. (Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday)

9:40h. Canto di Laude in latino. (Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday)

10:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo

11:00h. Chapel of La Corticela

12:00h. High Altar. Pilgrim’s Mass

13:15h. High Altar

18:00h. High Altar. (Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday)

19:30h. High Altar

https://goo.gl/np5REE

Pilgrim Mass

A daily Pilgrim Mass is celebrated at Santiago Cathedral’s high altar; it is attended by travellers from all over the world, who give thanks for the experiences they enjoyed along the way and for finally attaining their goal.

**Cultural Activities**

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/historia>

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/que-e-o-camino-de-santiago>

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/>

http://www.xunta.gal/portada

<http://www.caminodesantiago.gal/es/inicio>

http://www.archicompostela.es/

**Scout Contact Person and Resources**

**Contact Person**

Diego Mendoza Garcia

**Address**

---

**Phone number**

+34 635 151 297

**E-mail address**

centroscoutabeiro@scoutsgalicia.org

**Scouting Centres**

Centro Scout Abeiro

**Country Information**

**Visa**

Spain is a signatory of the 1995 Schengen Agreement The nationals of the States outside the above Agreement (see list below) may enter and linger in Spain up to 90 days on tourist, private business or family visiting purposes, or on purposes taken as similar, which do not require any previous authorization.

Nationals of the following countries may not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days:

(a) EU countries, Australia, Canada, Japan and US;

(b) Andorra, Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Korea (Rep. Of), Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vatican City and Venezuela

Nationals of countries not appearing on the above list should require a visa to enter Spain. Check the website of the cc [http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/BRUSELAS/es/Consulado/Documents/Requisitos%20de%20entrada%20para%20estancias%2090d%C3%ADas%20en%20Espa%C3%B1a.pdf] if you are not sure if you need a visa to enter Spain.

**Languages**

Official languages: Galician and Spanish; English and French are also spoken especially by young people.

**Currency**

Euro

**Time**

UTC/GMT +1 hour

**Climate**

The weather is wet oceanic (mild and rainy). The average yearly temperature is around 13ºC. The distance to the coast and its height cool down the temperatures with regard to the coast. Weather conditions can be checked at <http://www.aemet.es/es/portada>

**Health**

Good health facilities available in Santiago:

https://goo.gl/XFpT4W

If there is any health issue that needs addressing, the visitors of Santiago may go to a health clinic or to the emergency service at a hospital. European Union citizens only need to present their European health card, whereas people from other countries must include among their documentation the form issued by the health authorities in their country of origin.

Centro de Salud

[Ambulatorio Concepción Arenal](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/servizos-basicos/16830) (+34 981 527 000)

Rúa de Santiago León de Caracas 12, Santiago de Compostela, 15701

Hospitales

[Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago (CHUS)](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/servizos-basicos/complejo-hospitalario-universitario-de-santiago-chus) (+34 981 950 000)

Trav. da Choupana, s/n, Santiago de Compostela, 15702

[Policlínico La Rosaleda](http://www.santiagoturismo.com/servizos-basicos/16834) (+34 981 551 200)

Rúa de Santiago León de Caracas, 1, Santiago de Compostela, 15701

**Emergency**

General emergencies: 112

Medical emergencies: 061

Civil Guard: 981-581-611

Police: 091 [National] / 092 [Local]

Firemen: 981-542 444

**Useful Links**

https://goo.gl/ZiGvau

<http://www.aemet.es/es/portada>

<http://www.santiagoturismo.com/>

http://www.xunta.gal/portada

**OTHER / ADDITIONAL Information**

---

**COMMENTS**

---

**Responsible for Information**

**Responsible Person**

Diego Mendoza Garcia

Pilgrim’s Office

**Phone number**

+34 635 151 297

+34 981 568 846

**E-mail address**

centroscoutabeiro@scoutsgalicia.org

[oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es)

[credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:credencialesperegrinos@catedraldesantiago.es)

**Updated on...**

November 2017