Trekking the Camino de Santiago, Spain

June 2nd-10th, 2018

Includes six nights’ hostels, breakfasts and dinners in villages along the Camino; dinner and hotels in Madrid and Santiago; ground transportation; group equipment, and permits.

$1,200.00

Trip Overview

The Camino de Santiago, known in English as The Way of Saint James, is a network of paths that were used by Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages to reach the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the city of Santiago de Compostela. Today, these paths are well traveled by hikers and those in search of spiritual growth. This trip will trek the last 100km of the path known as the Camino Frances, where we will pass through quaint and charming medieval villages along the way to the sacred city of Santiago.

After meeting and spending the night in Madrid, we will travel via train to our starting point in the small city of Sarria. From there, we will begin our trek to Santiago de Compostela. We will explore the beautiful countryside of rolling hills and forests, enjoy authentic Spanish cuisine in the villages along the way, and reside in local Spanish hostels (albergues). This will be a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about Spanish culture and history, as well as your own personal identity and space for spiritual growth.

General Schedule of Trip

Saturday, June 2nd: Meet for dinner stay at a hotel in Madrid, Spain

June 3: Travel via train to Sarria, Spain. Dinner and hostel together.

June 4-8: Trek the Camino de Santiago. Spend nights along the route in hostels in Portomarín, Palas de Rei, Melide, Arzua, and O Pedrouzo.

June 9: Arrive in Santiago de Compostela. Time to explore the city, get a nice dinner, and stay together in a nice hotel

Sunday, June 10th: Farewell breakfast in the morning.
Free to explore the city, travel elsewhere, or return home.

Facilitators

This program will be facilitated by Jessica Casale ’18 and Tigran Aslanyan ’18 of GRAB. Jess, from NJ, is an Environmental Studies major, Anthropology minor, and studied abroad in Cusco, Peru during her junior year. Tigran, from Yerevan, Armenia, is a Mathematical Economics major, Spanish and Business minor, and studied abroad in Madrid, Spain during his junior year.

Jessica Casale, ’18 casaje01@gettysburg.edu
Tigran Aslanyan ’18 aslati01@gettysburg.edu
Trekking the Camino de Santiago, Spain
June 2\textsuperscript{nd} – 10\textsuperscript{th}, 2018

**Registration and Payment:** Registration is at www.gettysburg.edu/grab. A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required at least 60 days prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the Office of Experiential Education at 717.337.6319.

**Not Included in the Price:** Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, meals in destination cities prior to and at the conclusion of the trip, souvenirs, excess baggage charges, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include airfare in the pricing of our trips. We want to give participants the opportunity to have flexibility in their travel arrangements. Some people will have frequent flyer miles, many people will be traveling from various destinations, while others may already be at the site location or decide to extend their trip once our expedition has concluded.

**The Trek:** Trekking distances range from 10-15 miles. Average trekking time ranges from 6-8 hours per day, which includes stops for cafés, appreciating the sites, general conversation, exploration, and sometimes just figuring out the route. The trekking series expeditions are designed to accommodate those who enjoy trekking at a moderate pace but also enjoy taking numerous stops to enjoy the location.

**Group Size:** The trip consists of two GRAB staff members from the Office of Experiential Education, and up to 12 participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and their families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

**Transportation:** You are responsible for your own flights to and from Spain (to Madrid and from Santiago) and for your transportation from the airport to the hotel, and back to the airport at the end of the program. All other ground transportation will be arranged and provided. If you plan on traveling further following the trip, you are responsible for those logistics as well.

**Accommodations:** The program’s accommodations will include six hostels along the trail and two hotels, one in Madrid and one in Santiago.

**Meals:** The price of the program covers all breakfasts, lunches and dinners. On the trail, breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided each day. Participants will be responsible for any additional snacks or meals off the trail while traveling to and from Spain.

**Weather:** Be prepared for beautiful warm and sunny days. Average temperatures at this time of year range from 60 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Physical Preparation:** You do not need to be a top notch athlete to participate on this program, but proper preparation will make the trip much more enjoyable. Exercising 3-5 days a week and walking with a 30 pound pack to get used to the weight are great ways to prepare. No prior experience hiking is required, and all backcountry skills and expectations will be covered during the trip.

**Health and Medical & Release of Liability:** We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. We can provide information on short term insurance that covers baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation which is required for our international programs. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Cancellation of Trips:** We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip more than 60 days before the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs 45-60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs 21-44 days prior to the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 21 days of the expedition.