

Spain Itinerary – Sept 28 to Oct 8, 2025

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Itinerary

Day 1 – Sun Sept 28

- Drop off Gus
- Muskegon → Chicago (KG 5760, dep 12:05 pm, arr 11:55 am)
 - Connection at Chicago ORD: Arrive Terminal 3 (Denver Air Connection). Iberia also departs Terminal 3.

- You can access the **American Airlines Flagship Lounge** in T3 near Gate K19 with your Iberia business class boarding pass.
- Chicago ORD → Madrid (Iberia IB 342, dep 4:30 pm, arr Sept 29 7:55 am)

Day 2 – Mon Sept 29

- 07:55 — Arrive Madrid Barajas T4.
- **08:50–09:10 — Transfer to Chamartín (Cercanías train):**
 - Follow signs for **Cercanías / Renfe** at T4.
 - Go down to the Cercanías station located beneath T4.
 - Use your Renfe ticket’s “Combinado Cercanías” code to get a free Cercanías ticket from the red/white Renfe ticket machines.
 - Select Chamartín as your destination.
 - Take line **C1 or C10** (~20 min, trains every 15–20 min).
- ~09:30 — Arrive Chamartín, coffee/snack.
- 10:04 — Depart Chamartín (AVE 05273, Confort, seat 05B)
- 12:18 — Arrive Ourense.
 - Follow signs to the connecting MD (Media Distancia) platform.
 - Your ticket already includes the connection; no need to revalidate, just check the platform number on the departure board.
 - The transfer window is short (~14 minutes), so move directly from arrival platform to the regional train platform.
- 12:32 — Depart Ourense (MD 12694)
- 13:47 — Arrive Sarria
 - Walk from the train station to **Albergue O Durmiñento** (~1 km / 10–12 minutes):
Exit the station and turn right onto Rúa Calvo Sotelo, pass the café by the corner, continue straight toward the old town, then turn left onto Rúa Maior. Follow Rúa Maior past the church of Santa Mariña; the albergue is further along at no. 48.
- Check-in: **Albergue O Durmiñento** (Confirmation no. 6103.134.828).

- Afternoon: explore old town.
 - Pick up pilgrim credential (credencial) at Iglesia de Santa Mariña, the Tourist Office on Rúa Maior. Monastery of La Magdalena is another option. (~€2–3 cash)
- Evening: pilgrim dinner.
 - Recommended to join a lively spot such as Mesón O Tapas do Peregrino or O Descanso for the set pilgrim menu (starter, main, dessert, wine/water). These places are popular with walkers and a good way to meet fellow pilgrims before starting the Camino.

Days 3–7 – Sept 30 to Oct 4 (Camino Francés – last 115 km)

- **Day 3 (Sept 30):** Sarria → Portomarín (~22 km)
 - Cross the Miño River into Portomarín, where the Church of San Nicolás was relocated stone by stone when the original town was flooded for the Belesar reservoir.
- **Day 4 (Oct 1):** Portomarín → Palas de Rei (~25 km)
 - Pass historic pilgrim hospices at Hospital de la Cruz and end in Palas de Rei, whose Church of San Tirso preserves remarkable medieval carvings.
- **Day 5 (Oct 2):** Palas de Rei → Arzúa (~29 km)
 - Often stop in Melide, famous for pulpo a la gallega (octopus) and the Romanesque church at Leboreiro.
 - Arzúa is known for its cheese production and nearby Ribadiso hosts a medieval pilgrim hospital.
- **Day 6 (Oct 3):** Arzúa → O Pedrouzo (~19 km)
 - En route visit the chapel of Santa Irene and experience the atmosphere of anticipation in O Pedrouzo as pilgrims gather for the final day.
- **Day 7 (Oct 4):** O Pedrouzo → Santiago (~20 km)
 - Highlights include Lavacolla, the traditional cleansing site, Monte do Gozo offering panoramic views of Santiago, and attending the Pilgrim’s Mass featuring the Botafumeiro.
 - Collect Compostela certificate in Santiago.
 - Check-in: **Pensión Rua Nova** (Rúa Nova, 4, Santiago de Compostela; Confirmation no. 6216.069.981).

- Overnight: Pensión Rua Nova (Single room with private bathroom, free Wi-Fi, pedestrian old town location).

Day 8 – Sun Oct 5

- Full day in Santiago.
- Morning: Pilgrim’s Mass or cathedral museum/rooftop tour.
- Afternoon: wander the old town, Alameda Park, and relax at a café.
- Evening tapas crawl on Rúa do Franco.
- Overnight: Santiago.

Day 9 – Mon Oct 6

- Morning bus to Finisterre (~2.5 hrs).
- Explore the fishing port, beach, and town.
- Evening walk to Cabo Fisterra lighthouse for sunset at the “end of the world.”
- Overnight: Finisterre (hotel or albergue in town).

Day 10 – Tue Oct 7

- Morning in Finisterre — coffee in town or short coastal stroll.
- Midday bus back to Santiago (~2.5 hrs).
- Connect onward to Madrid in the afternoon (~3 hrs AVE train, ~1 hr flight).
- Evening tapas crawl in La Latina or Malasaña.
- Overnight: Madrid (stay near Sol, Gran Vía, or La Latina).

Day 11 – Wed Oct 8

- Madrid → Chicago ORD (Iberia IB 341, dep 11:35 am, arr 2:15 pm)
 - Chicago → Muskegon (KG 5775, dep 6:00 pm, arr 7:50 pm)
 - Pick up Gus
 - Home.
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Packing List

Documents & Money

- Passport
- Flight & train tickets (digital copies on phone + 1 printed copy as backup)
- Credit + ATM cards

Pack Setup

- REI Trail 40 backpack with built-in rain cover
- 1 small dry sack (for electronics/passport)
- Plastic bags + a couple lightweight packing cubes (organization, laundry separation)

Clothing

- 2 Patagonia Capilene Cool Daily tees (short-sleeve, quick-dry)
- Smartwool Merino 150 Quarter Zip (long-sleeve thermal, doubles as evening shirt)
- Patagonia R1 Air Pullover (light fleece mid-layer)
- 1 lightweight rain jacket (waterproof, breathable)
- 1 REI Sahara Stretch Convertible Pants (trail use, doubles as shorts)

- 1 Prana Stretch Zion Pants (town/exploring Spain)
- 1 lightweight shorts (backup rotation)
- 3 pairs quick-dry underwear (2 ExOfficio + 1 Smartwool synthetic/merino)
- 3 pairs hiking socks (merino blend)

Footwear

- Altra Lone Peak 9 Trail Running Shoes (primary walking shoes)
- Xero Shoes Z-Trail EV Sandals (evenings / backup)

Toiletries

- Toothbrush + small toothpaste
- Dr. Bronner's Organic Liquid Soap – 2 oz (body + laundry)
- Optional: Laundry detergent sheets (½ sheet per sink load, fresher smell, easier rinsing)
- Travel deodorant
- Razor + small shaving cream
- Quick-dry towel (microfiber)
- Sunscreen (50 ml to start; refill in Spain)
- Lip balm with SPF
- Nail clippers
- Disposable contacts as glasses backup
- Optional: Small travel shampoo or shampoo bar (can skip or buy in Spain)

Health & First Aid

- Walgreens blister pads (Compeed-style hydrocolloid)

- Ibuprofen
- Hand sanitizer + tissues
- Earplugs + eye mask (for noisy albergues)
- Disposable contact lenses (a few as backup)

Electronics

- Phone + USB-C cord
- EU Plug adapter
- AirPods
- Apple Watch + charger
- 13 MacBook Air (with power bank/cord)

Other

- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Safety pins or clothesline for drying
- Sleep sack / liner (for albergues)
- 2 × 1 L bottles (Smartwater style — bring 1 from home, buy 1 in Spain)

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- **Camino towns (Sept 30–Oct 4):** book 1–2 nights ahead, especially Portomarín & Arzúa.
 - **Santiago (Oct 4–5):** reserve hotel now (city fills with pilgrims).
 - **Madrid (Oct 6–7):** stay near Sol, Gran Vía, or La Latina.
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Notes & Next Steps

- Confirm Camino lodging
 - Book Santiago (Oct 4–7) and Madrid (Oct 6–7) hotels.
 - Print or store Renfe QR code + Combinado Cercanías info on phone.
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Summary of Tickets (Booked)

- **Flights**
 - Denver Air Connection Booking Reference: AAZXSG
 - * Sept 28: Muskegon → Chicago (KG 5760, dep 12:05 pm, arr 11:55 am)
 - * Oct 8: Chicago → Muskegon (KG 5775, dep 6:00 pm, arr 7:50 pm)
 - Iberia Booking Reference: ETKT494 2300390565/01-02
 - * Sept 28: Chicago ORD → Madrid (IB 342, dep 4:30 pm, arr Sept 29 7:55 am)
 - * Oct 8: Madrid → Chicago ORD (IB 341, dep 11:35 am, arr 2:15 pm)
- **Train**
 - Booking Reference: MLVGKH-3EFcRFjV
 - * Sept 29: Madrid Chamartín → Ourense (AVE 05273, dep 10:04 am, arr 12:18 pm, seat 05B Confort)
 - * Sept 29: Ourense → Sarria (MD 12694, dep 12:32 pm, arr 1:47 pm)