

Spain Itinerary – Sept 28 to Oct 8, 2025

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Flights

- **Sept 28:** 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.

- **Sept 28:** Chicago ORD → Madrid (Iberia IB 342, dep 4:30 pm, arr Sept 29 7:55 am)
 - **Oct 8:** Madrid → Chicago ORD (Iberia IB 341, dep 11:35 am, arr 2:15 pm)
 - **Oct 8:** Chicago → Muskegon (KG 5775, dep 6:00 pm, arr 7:50 pm)
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Train

- **Sept 29:** Madrid Chamartín → Sarria
 - 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

Combinado Cercanías included → free airport-to-Chamartín commuter ticket.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Sun Sept 28

- Drop off Gus
- Depart Muskegon midday.
- Connect through Chicago.
- Overnight flight to Madrid.

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 — Train Chamartín → Ourense (Confort).
- 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 — Train Ourense → Sarria.
- 13:47 — Arrive Sarria.
- Check-in: **need to book**
- 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.
- Overnight: **need to book**

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.
 - Overnight: Santiago.

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

- Day trip to Finisterre & Muxía.
- Morning bus to Finisterre (~2.5 hrs). Visit lighthouse, beach, and port.
- Continue to Muxía for the Sanctuary of Nosa Señora da Barca on the rocky coast.
- Evening bus back to Santiago (~2.5 hrs).
- Overnight: Santiago.

Day 10 – Tue Oct 7

- Leisurely morning in Santiago — final cathedral plaza coffee or stroll.
- Afternoon train or short flight to Madrid (~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

- 11:35 — Flight Madrid → Chicago ORD.
 - 18:00 — Flight Chicago → Muskegon.
 - 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 ($\frac{1}{2}$ 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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Lodging Notes

- **Sept 29 (Sarria):** Albergue Internacional O Durmiñento (book ahead).
 - Backup: Casa Barán (pensión, private rooms).
 - **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 4–5) and Madrid (Oct 6–7) hotels.
- Print or store Renfe QR code + Combinado Cercanías info on phone.