

# Santiago de Compostela

Field	Value
Name	Santiago de Compostela
Country	Spain
Coordinates	42° 53' N, 8° 32' W
Population	99,491
Currency	Euro (EUR)
Website	santiagodecompostela.gal
Time Difference	± 0 hours
Date	January 13, 2024
Day Temperature	11 °C – 14 °C
Arrival Time	09:00
Departure Time	18:00
Sunrise – Sunset	09:04 – 18:20
Distance Traveled	588 nautical miles

## Sightseeing

- Plaza del Obradoiro – Central square in front of the cathedral, framed by the baroque façade with twin towers and elaborate ornamentation.
- Old Town (Casco Histórico) – Narrow arcaded streets, sometimes bustling, sometimes quiet; filled with shops, cafés, and historic charm.
- Café Stop – Churros with thick hot chocolate, a true Spanish treat and part of the local culture.
- University Gardens – A peaceful spot blending student life with centuries-old tradition.
- Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela – The spiritual heart of the city and the endpoint of the Camino de Santiago. Inside: ornate altars, chapels dating back to the 9th century, and rich depictions of St. James. The cathedral and its museum create an atmosphere of awe, history, and spirituality.

## Additional Tips

- Cultural Context:
  - Santiago is world-famous as the destination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Its significance has grown even further thanks to Hape Kerkeling’s book I’m Off Then.
  - The city carries deep meaning for both pilgrims and cultural travelers.
- Getting There:
  - About 75 km from A Coruña; bus is the best option (taxis are much more expensive).
- Visiting the Cathedral:
  - Expect crowds, especially on weekends and in high season—patience is needed.

- Allow time for the museum and interior; both are highlights.
- Food & Drink:
  - Besides churros, try empanadas and tapas in local cafés.
- On Foot:
  - The old town is easily walkable but has many cobblestone streets—comfortable shoes recommended.
  - Sometimes just wandering through the alleys and squares is as rewarding as the main sights.
- Exploring A Coruña:
  - The cruise terminal is very central, within minutes of the old town.
  - Guided city tours (around 2 hours) give a quick overview.
  - For independent travelers: lively squares, shops, and cafés nearby.
  - Playa del Orzán – Large urban beach about 1 km from the terminal; great views of the Atlantic.
  - Tower of Hercules – UNESCO World Heritage lighthouse from Roman times, still operational today. Climb 242 steps for spectacular panoramic views.