

WEATHER ON OUR TRIPS ALONG THE CAMINOS DE SANTIAGO

The *Caminos de Santiago* cover a very wide range of terrain and elevations in their course across northern Spain. As a result the climate conditions differ greatly depending on the season and area.

Most of our trips on the *Camino Frances* take place along the final 300 km of the route, from *León* westwards; and similarly on the *Camino Primitivo* from *Oviedo* westwards, so we will focus on these areas. On the *Camino Frances*, in general, the climate is drier and more extreme in terms of temperature in the east (*León*), becoming progressively wetter and more temperate as we move westward towards Santiago. On the *Camino Primitivo* there is not such a marked difference as you move westward, since the climate of *Oviedo* and along the route through western Asturias into Galicia is not unlike that of the *Camino Frances* after crossing into Galicia at *O'Cebreiro*.

In general, the **best weather** for walking any of the Caminos de Santiago is from **mid-April to late June** and then from **early September to mid October**. March and November can fine too, just be prepared for colder temperatures and more rain. **July and August are too hot** for most people, especially on the Meseta section (Logroño to Astorga) of the Camino Frances. However, rain can be expected at any time anywhere on these Caminos and Santiago is Spain's wettest city, so be sure to come prepared. However, the weather does seem to be drier lately, in fact we've run trips on the Camino in recent years when it didn't rain at all, to everyone's great surprise!

Without going into detailed weather descriptions, to give you a rough idea, we provide the following charts, generated from data gathered at representative cities in each region:

OVIEDO - on the Camino Primitivo. Climate similar to Tineo and Navia.

Elevation: 336m	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Average daily high temp °C	14.4	14.9	17.6	20.3	22.4	22.8	21.7	18.1	14.6
Average daily low temp °C	5.6	6.3	9.1	11.9	14.1	14.5	12.9	10	7.1
Total precipitation (mm)	78.8	65.4	51.6	29.9	25.3	35.5	55.8	84.4	108.2
Days with rainfall ≥1.0 mm	10	12	11	7	6	7	8	11	12

LEÓN - on the Camino Frances. Climate similar to Astorga and Villafranca del Bierzo

Elevation: 875m	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Average daily high temp °C	13.3	14.8	18.6	24	27.4	26.9	22.9	16.7	11.2
Average daily low temp °C	1.9	3.3	6.6	10.2	12.2	12.3	10.1	7.7	2.8
Total precipitation (mm)	32	44.8	56.3	30.7	19.4	22.8	38.9	61.1	59.1
Days with rainfall ≥1.0 mm	6	8	9	5	3	3	5	8	8

PONFERRADA - on the Camino Frances. Climate similar to Villafranca del Bierzo

Elevation: 520m	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Average daily high temp °C	15	16.8	20.4	25.4	28.9	28.4	24.3	17.8	12.1
Average daily low temp °C	3.7	5.5	8.5	11.8	14.1	13.6	11.4	7.9	4.3
Total precipitation (mm)	43	51	59	34	24	26	49	74	76
Days with rainfall ≥1.0 mm	8	9	10	6	4	3	6	9	9

LUGO - on the Camino Primitivo, but climate similar to Sarria, Portomarin, Palas de Rei (Camino Frances)

Elevation: 465m	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Average daily high temp °C	14	14.8	17.8	20.8	23.9	24.1	22.3	17.7	13.3
Average daily low temp °C	2.7	4.4	6.8	9.5	11.9	11.8	10	7.2	4.3
Total precipitation (mm)	26	94	93	52	34	34	77	115	122
Days with rainfall ≥1.0 mm	12	13	13	7	5	5	8	13	14

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - on both Caminos. Climate is similar to Arzúa.

Elevation: 200m	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Average daily high temp °C	14	15	18	21	24	24	22	18	14
Average daily low temp °C	5	6	8	11	13	13	12	9	6
Total precipitation (mm)	145	141	147	82	39	57	127	194	200
Days with rainfall ≥1.0 mm	13	14	14	8	9	13	14	16	

Here are a couple of links to weather sites with current conditions and up to 10-day forecasts for some key towns along the Camino:

<http://en.eltiempo.es/> (An English version of a good Spanish site. Choose town in the search field on the left)
<http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/Spain/> (Use the search function on the lower left side to find the town - huge selection - you want)