

# CAMINO DE SANTIAGO!

Private Cycling Tour

Portugal & Spain

May 21-31, 2020



Dear Friends,

When we started Hound Dog Cycling Adventures, we set our sights on offering our friends off-the beaten path cycling adventures through unique and beautiful areas.

We've hit the jackpot with our third trip: Cycling the Camino de Santiago through Portugal and Spain. We'll ride along the stunning coastal route of the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela, one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times.

Along the way, we'll see charming seaside towns, sandy beaches, taste delicious seafood and wine, stay in fishing villages and experience the joy of exploring Europe from the seat of a bicycle. We'll even have a chance to meet hikers from around the world along the historic route.

On this trip, we welcome a private local guide and support crew who will help us maximize our experience. They'll be with us every pedal stroke of the way to show us the sites, share local lore, provide humor and of course, haul our gear to our top-notch accommodations. You're certain to feel a sense of accomplishment when we arrive at the Cathedral in Santiago, our final destination.

The travel experts at Executive Travel will handle all of our travel arrangements so we can relax and pedal, and enjoy the magnificent scenery and hospitality of this beautiful region.

We have only 18 spots on this trip, so don't delay. This unforgettable tour opportunity will sell out fast!

Sincerely,

Susan & Rich Rodenburg

Hound Dog Cycling Adventures

 **Executive Travel**



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



### **May 21, 2020** **Thursday**

We depart our hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic to Porto. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as we start our European adventure. Meals served on board your international flight.

### **May 22, 2020** **Friday - Porto**

Arrive in Porto before noon. We will be met by our local English-speaking guide and head out for lunch at our favorite restaurant. Porto is an ancient port city, once an outpost of the Roman Empire, steeped in history and tradition. Located along the Douro River Valley in Northern Portugal, Porto is one of the oldest European cities and its historical center was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. There is a rich heritage dating from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th Century. In the early afternoon, we arrive at our hotel to check in, unwind and relax. The evening is at leisure. B (on the plane) | L

### **May 23, 2020** **Saturday - Porto**

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel. The day will be spent in Porto, exploring the city on a guided tour that will lead you through the



art and tradition, such as the blue and white tiled churches, as well as some contemporary highlights including the bookstore that influenced J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter, and the magnificent Stock Exchange Market. The evening is free to enjoy this charming city - we are ready with recommendations for a delightful dinner. B

### **May 24, 2020** **Sunday - Porto - Esposende, 37 mi. (60 km)**

On this first day of cycling, we will enjoy the seaside landscapes and small "Portuguese Rivas" such as Póvoa de Varzim. This is one of the oldest fishing villages in Portugal with an ancient center, old fishermen district, beach districts, and an emerging contemporary east district. Póvoa is a hotspot for nightlife as well! The town of Vila do Conde became important in the 15th Century as a shipyard and played a role in the era of Portuguese discoveries, known as El Dorado. It has always had an ancient connection to the sea, as do all the coastal cities. The journey ends in Esposende, a seaside city located in the north. B

### **May 25, 2020** **Monday - Esposende - Caminha, 35 mi. (56 km)**

On the agenda today is Viana do Castelo,



another seaside city that was very strategic during the era of the Discoveries. During the 14th and 15th Centuries, it was here that the ships were built to sail to Brasil, India, Africa, and other Portuguese colonies. Final destination today will be Caminha, on the delta of the river Minho which became an important trading port early in the 14th Century, shipping wine to Britain and later importing products from Africa, India, and Brazil. Today, Caminha is known for its green rural landscape and pine forests clinging to the slopes of the granite mountains, which provide good hiking. The river estuary is good for boating and the beaches are popular. It's time for a swim! B

### **May 26, 2020** **Tuesday - Caminha - Bayona, 21 mi. (33 km)**

Today the route leads into Spanish territory, ending in Bayona. In the days of the famous voyages of Christopher Columbus, this was the first port to hear about the discovery of America and today a replica of the Pinta is permanently moored in the harbor. Apart from the sea landscape, you can also get lost in the old city center, made up of a tangle of inviting lanes, with a handful of 16th and 17th Century houses and chapels. There are quite a few churches and other small



buildings of architectural and historical interest, but Bayona's most prominent building is the Castelo de Monterreal, a castle on the edge of the town, providing excellent views of the town and the surrounding coastline from its elevated position. B

---

### **May 27, 2020**

**Wednesday** - Bayona - Pontevedra, 36 mi. (57 km)

Today we will follow the route of the Vigo and pass by San Simon's Bay. Following then the coastline, Pontevedra will be the destination, with its abundance of natural beauty. It is a city built on a hill with some streets sloping downward to the Lérez River. The old city center is well preserved and contains numerous historic buildings and monuments. Pontevedra is proud of its cultural and natural heritage. Lots to enjoy today! B

---

### **May 28, 2020**

**Thursday** - Pontevedra - Caldas Dos Reis, 16 mi. (26 km)

According to historical archives, the first inhabitants of Caldas Dos Reis were a pre-Roman community that lived from the hot springs of this territory and since the Middle Ages has been part of the pilgrim path to Santiago de Compostela. Apart from the rich cultural heritage, like Arcade,



Caldas de Reis is also known for its "empanadas" of lamprey and the traditional Spanish bread. Even today, the hot springs are a special tourist attraction. B

---

### **May 29, 2020**

**Friday** - Caldas Dos Reis - Santiago de Compostela, 25 mi. (40 km)

This last cycling day will end in Santiago de Compostela and the end of our cycling pilgrimage. It does not matter whether or not you believe in the legend of St. James and value of the "pilgrimage", Santiago is one of Spain's finest cities. The cathedral of Santiago dominates the golden granite square with its Baroque towers, covered everywhere with ornamentation. The city is surrounded by the hilly, lush terrain of Galicia, dramatic coastal scenery, delicious seafood, fine local wines, and an easygoing ambiance. We are excited to welcome you to Santiago de Compostela! B

---

### **May 30, 2020**

**Saturday** - Santiago de Compostela

We have the entire day to enjoy Santiago de Compostela. The city is not just the final point of the Camino de Santiago, it is a fantastic place to explore, wandering around its alleys and quaint granite streets. Soak in the city's vibrant atmosphere, or, as some Galicians say, Santiago is more



than a city, Santiago is a "big village". The city population is just around the 100,000 mark but with nearly 40,000 students settling here for the academic year (the city's university is one of the oldest in Europe, founded in 1495) and thousands of pilgrims walking into town every year, Santiago de Compostela gets a very special mix of people.

We will gather for a farewell dinner at our favorite local restaurant tonight. B | D

---

### **May 31, 2020**

**Sunday** - Return home

All too soon, our journey has ended. Morning transfer to Santiago de Compostela's airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean, back to the United States. Arrival to Omaha airport tonight. B | Meals served on board your international flight.

*Itinerary is subject to change.*

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



## To register contact:

# Executive Travel

1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508  
 Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)  
 Fax: 402-435-2735  
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com  
 www.executivetravel.com

### ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

[executivetravel.com/hound-dog-cycling-camino-tour](http://executivetravel.com/hound-dog-cycling-camino-tour)

For more information about Hound Dog Cycling, visit:

[HoundDogCycling.com](http://HoundDogCycling.com)

### Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$3,695  
 (limited rooms with separate beds)

Per person in single room: \$4,195  
 (limited number of single rooms)

*We offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist finding your roommate!*

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on February 21, 2020, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

We strongly recommend travel insurance, not only in the unfortunate event of cancellation prior to the departure but also for full medical coverage while traveling in Europe. Base Plan coverage is offered from \$202 per person (covers land package up to a total of \$4,000 per person). We will adjust your policy to include airfare once this can be reserved. Please ask us for the details.

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 18 travelers. Should the number fall below 18, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

*The price quoted within this proposal is based on a USD/EURO exchange rate of 0.85 (1 USD = 0.85 EURO). We reserve the right to adjust pricing at final payment.*

### Tour activities for this tour:

This is an easy to moderate tour along the coast. First three days are flat, mostly on hard surfaces, but there is varied terrain. The last three days are the moderate portion of this tour, on varied terrain, with short, steep hills. This is not a tour for inexperienced cyclists, or even for inexperienced e-bike cyclists. This tour offers our own English-speaking tour guide and support crew. You will be given route descriptions and maps, so you may ride and explore on your own each day or ride along with our guide.

### Air:

Group airfare is offered by Executive Travel. We are able to reserve air by the beginning of July 2019. All registered participants will be informed of the airfare once available.

### Accommodations:

Local 3 and 4-star hotels.

*Final accommodations will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.*

### Included:

- 9 nights at local 3- and 4-star hotels
- 9 x breakfast
- 1 x lunch on arrival day (May 22, 2020)
- 1 x farewell dinner last evening (May 30, 2020)
- Airport transfer from Porto airport to hotel in Porto
- Transfer from hotel to Santiago de Compostela airport
- Bike rental incl. helmet and water bottle (hybrid, 24 gears)
- Hybrid bike insurance
- Half-day guided tour of Porto
- Cycling tour as described, May 24-30, 2020
- Route description and maps
- Luggage transfer by private van/support vehicle
- Cycling guide
- Eleven days of international fun and adventure with Susan and Rich Rodenburg

### Not Included:

- Airfare (group air will be announced by the beginning of July 2019)
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- E-bike (electronic bike), offered at an additional \$175 for all eight days of cycling, must be booked at time of registration
- \$100 per e-bike insurance, payable with the trip balance
- GPS
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- All beverages
- Gratuities (estimate \$5 per person per day for local guide)
- Personal expenses
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums along the route
- Professional fee, \$75 per person due at time of registration
- Tourist tax in Porto (approx. \$6 per person, the total for two nights) payable on the spot only



Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found at <http://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>



## The bikes provided on the tour!

The bikes used on this tour are Kross Trekking bikes with 24 gears with lights, rear rack, and one pannier bag.

If you have elected the electric bike option, the Kross Trekking bike is equipped with a conversion kit with battery. You will be amazed how an electric bike changes the difficulty level of the terrain. If you have booked an electric bike, a battery will be attached to the Kross Trekking bike. Electric bikes are offered for an additional supplement of \$175.00 and must be reserved at the time of registration. You are responsible for charging your bike battery each evening. **E-bikes are limited and offered on a “first-come, first-serve” basis.**

All bikes are equipped with pannier bags and a bike lock. Each traveler will receive a repair kit. It is required that you know how to fix a tire puncture on your own. Rich Rodenburg may be available to help with repairs if he is nearby.

Never leave your bike unattended. For damage other than a tire puncture, please contact the tour leader. Please do not have any repairs done on the rental bikes without the tour leader's consent. The bicycle always needs to be locked when unattended and the included Bike Protection (an additional \$100 for e-bikes) does not cover the theft of the bicycle while it is unlocked.

---

## Shipping your own bike(s)!

We recommend that you utilize the bikes provided with your tour package, but should you wish to bring your own, please be aware of the following:

There is a limit of 2 bikes per airplane. The cost is estimated at \$150 per bike per way, (e-bikes or larger bikes may be charged differently). Please contact Executive Travel if you need further information.

You can also choose to ship your bike(s) in advance. [www.flightbikes.com](http://www.flightbikes.com) are partners of FedEx and offer their service and assistance, but prices may be as high as \$800 per way to ship your bike(s) to a European airport.

Minimum five business days are required for delivery to Porto airport and you should be aware that dropping off the bike for the return to the United States can be done during weekdays only (we return from Spain on a Sunday).

---

## What can you expect for weather this time of the year?

The average temperature is 60 degrees. The average high is 67 and the average low is 52.