



## **Camino de Santiago Encompassed**

10 days, Madrid to Santiago de Compostela

Trip code ESMC

### **What's included**

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Orientation walk in Madrid

- Trekking along the pilgrimage route of Santiago de Compostela (6 days)
- Transport between Madrid and the start of the trek
- Luggage transport throughout

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing March 13th, 2024 and onwards

## Itinerary



**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Madrid

Arrive at any time.



### Accommodation

Hotel Europa (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.



### Optional Activities - Day 1

Gran Vía Visit

Madrid

Free

1h-2h

Shop, stroll, and people watch on the capital's most exciting street, Gran Vía. Go early or late, the street stays awake all hours.

Real Jardín Botánico Visit

Madrid

3EUR

Recover from an art overdose with a visit to the beautiful Real Jardín Botánico, a large botanical garden near the Prado Museum.

Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit

Madrid

12EUR

1h-2h

See how kings and queens live, with a visit to the Palacio Real, the official (and uninhabited) palace of the King of Spain. Wander the rooms to take in some of the most elaborately decorated and furnished rooms you'll ever see.

Museo Nacional Del Prado Visit

Madrid

15EUR

30m-1h

Take in some culture with a trip to the Museo del Prado, one of the greatest art galleries in the world, and a definite highlight of any Madrid trip. Be inspired by its collections and exhibitions: the museum's

main emphasis is 15th to 19th century Spanish, Flemish, and Italian art, but there is plenty of Goya and a wealth of paintings by Diego Velázquez.

Plaza Mayor Visit

Madrid

Free

15m-30m

Enjoy some spectacular people watching with a visit to the Plaza Mayor, the true heart of the city. Enjoy a coffee in one of the plaza's many cafes and watch the world go by.

Day 2

## Madrid

Enjoy a short orientation walk around Madrid with a free day to explore. Opt to check out the world-famous museums, do some shopping or enjoy some fantastic food.

Other options for exploring the city include the Palacio Real, Real Jardín Botánico or Escorial. Experience more nightlife at the Plaza del Dos de Mayo, in the area known as Malasaña. Taste some sangria and dance to the latest music.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Europa (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Madrid

Take a wander around this amazing city.



### Optional Activities - Day 2

Gran Vía Visit

Madrid

Free

1h-2h

Shop, stroll, and people watch on the capital's most exciting street, Gran Vía. Go early or late, the street stays awake all hours.

Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit

Madrid

12EUR

1h-2h

See how kings and queens live, with a visit to the Palacio Real, the official (and uninhabited) palace of the King of Spain. Wander the rooms to take in some of the most elaborately decorated and furnished rooms you'll ever see.

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Madrid

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15m-30m

Enjoy some spectacular people watching with a visit to the Plaza Mayor, the true heart of the city. Enjoy a coffee in one of the plaza's many cafes and watch the world go by.

Day 3

## Madrid/Sarria

Travel to the charming town of Sarria by train. Take some free time to explore before meeting up with the rest of your group.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

La Casona de Sarria (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Local Train

Madrid – Sarria

6h

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

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### Optional Activities - Day 3

Browse the Antique Shops

Sarria

Sarria is the antique capital of Galicia. Check out an antique fair and browse the quirky furniture and historic art pieces.

Day 4

## Sarria/Portomarín

Hike from Sarria to Portomarín throughout the course of the day.

Pass through many lovely towns along the way and maybe choose to have a picnic in places such as Barbadelo, Renta or Ferreiros.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Villajardin (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Sarria - Portomarín

6h-8h

23km

Start hiking from Sarria to Portomarín, covering about 23km (14 mi) and an elevation gain of 500m (1640 ft) over the course of the day. Pass through many lovely towns along the way and choose to have a picnic in places such as Barbadelo, Renta or Ferreiros. Spend the night in the riverside city of Portomarín.

Day 5

## Portomarín/Palas de Rei

Early start from Portomarín, continue walking through fantastic scenery with a rich history en route to Palas de Rei.

Walk from Portomarín to Palas de Rei. Weary pilgrims can get a jolt of caffeine in one Palas de Rei's cafes or visit some of the local shops to grab some souvenirs.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Pension Palas (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Portomarín – Palas de Rei

25km

Get those walking shoes back on! Leave Portomarín behind in the early light of the morning to make the most of the day. This stretch of 25km (15 miles) is a mix of ups and downs through beautiful scenery with an elevation gain of 260m (853 ft). The entire area has a rich history, especially during the Middle Ages.

Day 6

## Palas de Rei/Melide

Continue the pilgrimage westwards, walking through the lush green valleys of Galicia.

Continue walking through rural Spain. Take a break in the lively market town of Melide, and try octopus, Galicia's most classic dish, in one of the many 'pulperías'.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

El Chiquitin (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Palas de Rei - Melide

4h

15km

Head west and continue the pilgrimage, passing through the lush green valleys of Galicia. Covering about 15 km today, the day again passes through many lovely villages and towns along the way, offering ample opportunity for rest stops and time to pick up any needed supplies before arriving to Melide.

Day 7

## Melide/Arzúa

Follow the Camino from Melide to the village of Ribadiso and finally the town of Arzúa.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Pensión Domus Gallery (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Melide - Arzúa

4h

17km

Leaving Melide, the Camino crosses several streams and follows a forest track to the village of Boente with its church of Santiago. Next is the scenic medieval village of Ribadiso and finally the town of Arzúa (389m). In Arzúa, visit the churches of Santa María and A Magdalena. Today's walk takes you 14km (8 mi) along the Camino, with an elevation gain of 330m (1082 ft).

Day 8

## Arzúa/Amenal

The Camino walk will pass through pretty woods, sleepy villages and across streams most of the day.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Amenal Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Arzúa - Amenal

6h

22km

Walk through pretty woods, sleepy villages and across streams most of the day. The chapel of Santa Irene, with its unique statue of Santiago, is worth a visit. En-route, don't miss the lovely hamlet of Rúa (gaining 380m/1246 ft of elevation). The rest of the 22km (13 mi) route to Amenal is along a mix of good and calm country roads and forest tracks.

Day 9

## Amenal/Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a final day of walking through spectacular scenery towards the final destination.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

A Tafona do Peregrino (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Camino de Santiago Walk

Amenal – Santiago de Compostela

4h

15km

Leave early in order to reach Santiago de Compostela in time for the pilgrim's mass. Walk the last part of the pilgrimage and enjoy the scenery before the baroque, painted towers of the cathedral come into view. Later, explore this fascinating city and sip some wine in a café to celebrate the incredible journey. Upon reaching our goal, the pilgrimage is not complete without a visit to the cathedral on the magnificent Praza do Obradoiro, which houses the supposed tomb of St. James the Apostle.

Plaza Obradoiro Visit

Santiago de Compostela

15m-30m

Visit the cathedral on the magnificent Praza do Obradoiro, which houses the supposed tomb of St. James the Apostle. It is widely believed that his remains were buried here in the 1st century AD; from then onwards he became the patron saint of the Christian Crusades.



### Optional Activities - Day 9

Pazo de Raxoi Palace

Santiago de Compostela

Free

Take in the beauty of this palace located in the Plaza del Obradoiro. Originally built as a seminary for confessors in 1766, it is the contemporary home of City Hall and the Galician government.

Praza das Praterias Square

Santiago de Compostela

Free

30m-1h

Visit the square to marvel at the Fuente de los Caballos - a glorious fountain created in 1825. With the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in the background, this spot makes for a great photo-op.

Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

Santiago de Compostela

6EUR

30m-3h

Originally built as a small church over the tomb of St. James in 819AD, this now-grandiose cathedral has remained the end point of the spiritual pilgrimage to those walking the Camino de Santiago.

Day 10

## Santiago de Compostela

Depart at any time.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Orientation walk in Madrid
- Trekking along the pilgrimage route of Santiago de Compostela (6 days)
- Luggage transport throughout
- Transport between Madrid and the start of the trek

## **What are the main highlights of this trip?**

Explore Madrid's Plaza Mayor and Gran Via at your own pace, complete the last 100km of the pilgrim's trail and complete your "compostela" walk through small villages and towns, enjoy hearty and delicious Spanish food, walk into the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

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## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

Please note that after the short bus ride on Day 4, this trip is a trekking trip. A support vehicle is available on every day to carry your main luggage, you will need to have a day pack large enough to fit whatever you require for each day hiking. Please note that only one bag is permitted per traveller, which cannot exceed 20kg/45lbs.

Be prepared to hike an average of 6 to 10 hrs per day, approx. 20-25 km per day, with some shorter and longer days along the way.

**LUGGAGE FORWARDING OPTION:** If travelling with extra luggage from previous trips or continuing on your travels after the tour, you have the option of forwarding extra luggage to Santiago from Leon for a reasonable fee (approx. 10-30 EUR depending on total weight). Please inquire with your Tour Leader on Day 1. There is also an option to transfer luggage daily to the next night stop, by taxi. This can be arranged with your Tour Leader and is an OPTIONAL service. Cost will be divided between those who choose to use this service.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES NOTE:

During high season in Europe (May-October) we highly recommend booking reservations for any popular optional activities/museum tickets etc. in advance to avoid encountering sold-out activities on the ground while on tour.

### PILGRIM PASSPORT NOTE:

Please be aware that the Pilgrim Passport is included on this tour. It is a little stamp book and travellers will need to obtain at least 2 stamps per day to prove they have done the final 100km of the Camino. If this is done, then you are eligible for a Compostela Certificate upon arrival to the cathedral in Santiago. Your CEOs will arrange all of that on the ground.

## How large will the group be?

Max 16, Avg 10

## What meals are included in this trip?

9 breakfasts

## What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Walking, local train.

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

Aside from the train from Madrid and a short local bus ride on Day 4, transport on this trip is your own two feet!

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (9 nts).

## **Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?**

Night 7 in Arzúa

Please be aware that single room accommodations in European hotels are often smaller, and may not be to the same service level as double-occupancy rooms.

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

From Madrid airport (MAD), you can reach the city centre in a few ways. You can take the Metro Line 8 (pink) directly to Nuevos Ministerios station, which is located in the city centre. Alternatively, take the 203 bus to Atocha Train Station (only operational during daytime hours).

To arrange an arrival or departure transfer, we recommend you book through our preferred transfer provider - [Welcome Pickups](#)

We advise that you book both your arrival and departure transfers in advance. Please make sure you have the following details before booking:

- Flight number
- Flight Arrival Time and Date
- Flight Departure Time and Date
- Passenger's Name
- Number of Passengers
- Email
- Valid Mobile Telephone Number
- Drop off and/or Pick Up Address

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office London, United Kingdom

During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5:30pm Local Time)

+44 20 7243 9870

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact: +441858378000

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

Do not forget to pack a medical kit with extra Band-Aids. Blister kits are also available, and are a good idea to have with you. Please remember to bring and wear footwear that you know is comfortable and will not give you blisters. This is not a trip to break in new boots or shoes on.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## ESCS:

- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Fleece jacket or warm layer
- Sun hat/bandana
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Flight info (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Swimwear
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Gaiters
- Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information
- Watch and alarm clock
- Windproof rain gear
- Windproof rain pants
- Gloves
- Hiking boots
- Insurance info (With photocopies)
- Lightweight wicking shirts
- Passport (With photocopies)
- Slip-on sandals or shoes
- Small travel towel
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

### **Hiking/Trekking:**

- Gloves
- Hat
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Snacks (Protein bars, chocolate, dried fruits, candies, energy sweets)
- Socks (Trekking socks – woollen or synthetic, not cotton)
- Thermal base layer (Woollen or synthetic, not cotton)
- Walking poles (Highly recommended)

### **Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: When packing your gear, the best clothing for hiking is quick-dry, synthetic materials. The weather can be quite hot during the summer months, so we recommend hiking in shorts and a t-shirt. During the shoulder seasons (April-May, Sept-Oct) consider packing a pair of long, breathable pants and a sweater for cooler mornings and evenings.

## What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

## What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

While conventions can vary from country to country, tipping is customary in Europe. A general rule is 10% of the bill for wait staff, and a smaller amount (€1 or €2) for other service providers.

Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program, and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from €3-5 per day, depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

At the end of each trip, if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is expected and appreciated. The precise amount is a personal preference, however €6-8 per person, per day can be used as a guideline.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

### Madrid

- Gran Vía Visit (Free)
- Real Jardín Botánico Visit (3EUR per person)
- Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit (12EUR per person)
- Museo Nacional Del Prado Visit (15EUR per person)
- Plaza Mayor Visit (Free)

### Sarria

- Browse the Antique Shops

### Santiago de Compostela

- Pazo de Raxoi Palace (Free)
- Praza das Praterias Square (Free)
- Santiago de Compostela Cathedral (6EUR per person)

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## **Are international flights included in this trip?**

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## **What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?**

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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