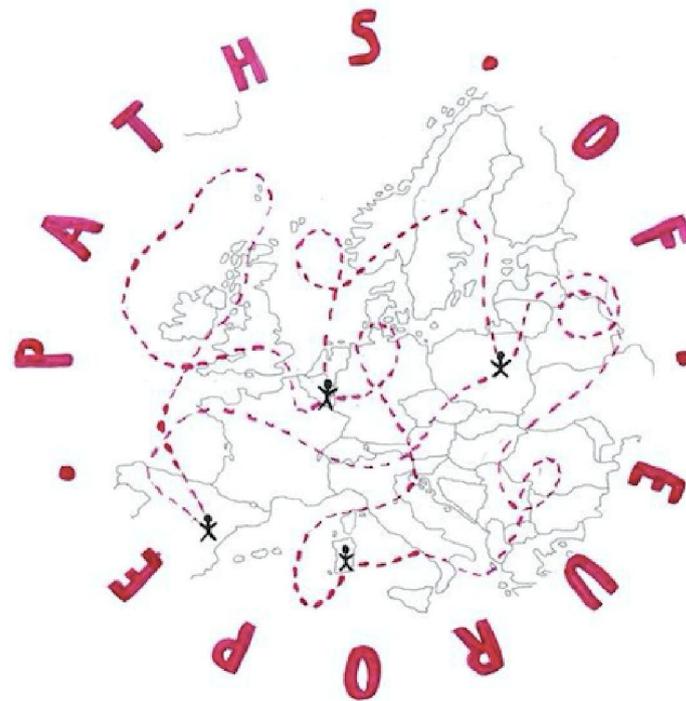




Erasmus+



## HIKING THE ARAGONESE PYRENEES



## ARAGONESE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The legend that placed the tomb of the apostle Santiago in the confines of the world and its discovery in the Iberian Peninsula, forged the beginning of the pilgrim path that we now call the Camino de Santiago. The pilgrimage to Santiago made it possible to reinforce the link between the north of the peninsula and Europe, the formation of urban centers and the cohesion of territories. The path crosses the places where Aragon was born, as a dependent county of the Carolingian Empire around the year 800. Besides, the path allowed the construction of bridges, monuments and buildings and great economic contributions.

In addition to the French Way or via Toulouse, other routes led to Santiago de Compostela through Aragon, as the Jacobean Way of the Ebro river, the Maestrazgo or the one that runs through the Pyrenean somontano, all coming together in the Ebro Valley and linking with the Camino de Logroño .

In 1987 the Camino de Santiago was declared by the Council of Europe "European Cultural Route" and six years later, UNESCO granted it the status of World Heritage.

We will walk from the **SOMPORT**: It is an emblematic border crossing, a spectacular gateway to Aragon to cross the Pyrenees from France. An old Roman road became, from the eleventh century, a busy pilgrimage route to Compostela to later also become a commercial route. We can see, on a small rock, a white chapel with the Virgin of the Pillar and a cross of Santiago, and a Jacobean monolith shows the distances to Santiago de Compostela (858 Km)

After 16.5km, we will arrive to **VILLANÚA**. Located at the foot of the peak of Collarada, Villanúa is a lively resort whose old town still preserves samples of popular architecture.

We will spend the evening in the beautiful city of **JACA**. Jaca is a city full of life, with streets full of shops, bars and restaurants. To its proximity to the winter centers of Astún and Candanchú is added an environment of great scenic beauty and a rich monumental heritage.

The cathedral, Romanesque style, was one of the first of this style built on the peninsula, back in the late eleventh century. It was born linked to the new kingdom of Aragon and the Camino de Santiago, becoming a reference temple.

The old town hosts many other buildings of interest such as the Ciudadela, whose origins date back to the late sixteenth century, and houses the Museum of Military Miniatures; the Renaissance city hall or churches such as Santiago, del Carmen or San Salvador and San Ginés, with the sarcophagus of the Infanta Doña Sancha, authentic jewel of Romanesque sculpture.

## **THE PILGRIM SHELL**

The shell of the pilgrim is the most representative symbol of the Camino de Santiago, the origin of this shell goes back more than a thousand years ago and together with it, there are a diversity of theories that try to relate this symbol with the Camino de Santiago.

Without knowing how and for years the shell of the scallop became the pilgrim shell, object that was used to represent the culmination of the Camino de Santiago by the pilgrims. When the pilgrims arrived in the city they were granted a parchment and the scallop shell was placed on the hat. It was the pilgrims' way of showing that they had finished the Camino and visited the Galician capital.