

# Room for Everyone



## Pilgrim Guide to Santiago de Compostela

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CANADIAN COMPANY OF PILGRIMS (CCOP)

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# A Pilgrim Guide to Santiago de Compostela

Johnnie Walker

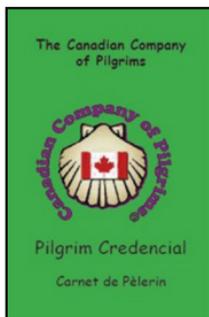


## Who we are

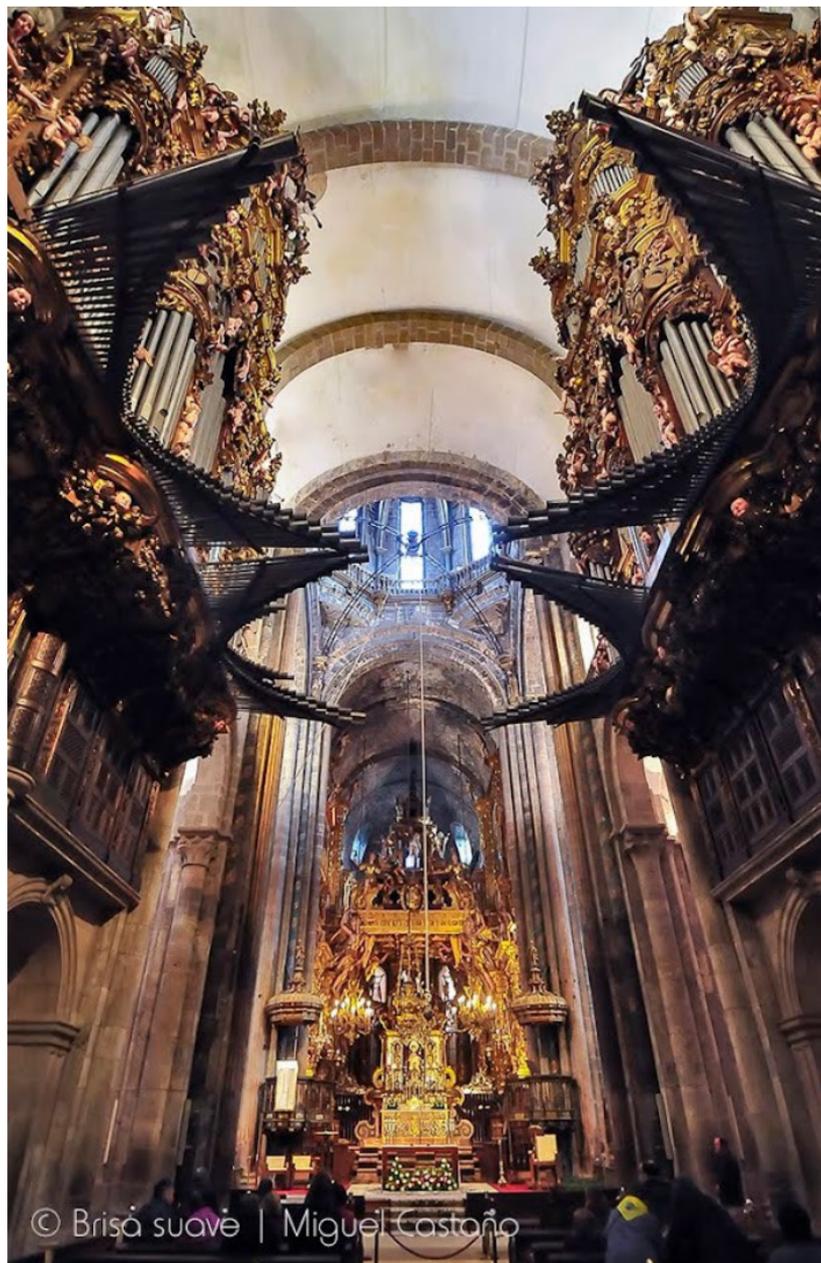
The Canadian Company of Pilgrims (CCoP) is a non-denominational volunteer-run association that supports Canadians interested in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We share the Canadian representation with l'Association québécoise des pèlerins et amis du Chemin de Saint-Jacques.

## What we do

The CCoP provides information and generates awareness and interest in the Camino to Santiago de Compostela through a network of chapters across Canada and its website and Facebook page. Local Chapters provide a forum for the exchange of information about the Camino and also offer practical training and information sessions to the interested and to prospective pilgrims. The Company also issues Credenciales (pilgrim passports) which are recognized by the pilgrimage authorities in Santiago.



See more at [www.santiago.ca](http://www.santiago.ca)



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# **Room for everyone**

## **Pilgrim guide to Santiago de Compostela**

### **Preface**

Within days of starting our pilgrimages we met people of all ages from many different countries. We also found: some had prepared, some hadn't; some carried huge rucksacks, some almost nothing on their backs; some were shy, some outgoing; some believed in God, some didn't; some were happy, some sad; some had changed their lives, others liked life as it was. We met people who had lost partners, and couples walking with their children; some who had experienced broken hearts, and many who were falling in love with life.

We all walked the same road and when we got to Santiago Cathedral there was a place for each of us. Every one.

Johnnie Walker

From *Roads to Santiago*, 2007

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## **Pilgrim Guide to Santiago de Compostela**

I know that your pilgrimage to Santiago will be an exciting adventure. You'll have many new experiences, you'll meet people from many different countries and you'll make new friends. The journey you will make on the Camino has many rewards and one of the most important of these is arriving in Santiago de Compostela at the end. It is a time of celebration and perhaps also relief! It is also a time to reflect on your journey and a time to explore this wonderful city. Before my first Camino my local pilgrim organisation provided me with invaluable information and support. I'm a life time member of the Canadian Company of Pilgrims and I've prepared this guide for other members to help prepare you for arriving in Santiago. It will equip you with the information you need to enjoy your stay here to the full. The guide tells you about the traditions pilgrims follow on arrival and the spiritual services available for English speakers. It also has listings of ALL albergue accommodation in the city. The guide describes many of the things to see and do in the city – and it is packed full of history!

Finally, there is a section on how pilgrims can “put something back” into the Camino by volunteering.

Congratulations on your arrival. Enjoy!

***Johnnie Walker***

Santiago de Compostela

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## Section 1

### *Arriving in Santiago*

*The Cathedral, the Pilgrims' Office, Pilgrims' Mass,  
spiritual services for English speakers*

#### **Arrival**

In the middle-ages Santiago was a walled city with watchtowers and defensive gates through which pilgrims entered. The walls, and all but one of the gates, have gone but it still remains much like that today. Although there are many routes to Santiago from all over Europe each of them, like tributaries to a river, joins one of the principal routes to enter the city near where the original gates would have stood.



*On arrival – rest and be thankful!*

Thus the Camino Francés, and all of the routes which join it from the West, enter the medieval city through the Porta del Camino. The Vía de la Plata, and the routes which join it from the South, enters by the Porta de Mamoá. The Camino Inglés by the Porta de Pena and the routes through Portugal through the Porta Faxeira. The gate used by pilgrims going to or arriving from Finisterre is the Porta de Trinidad. All of them lead pilgrims to the great square in front of the Cathedral of Santiago.

## Plaza Obradoiro

In ones and twos, or in large groups, every pilgrim arrives in the huge square in front of the Cathedral, called the Plaza Obradoiro – a word used to describe the place where craftsmen work. Often musicians playing the *gaitas*, the Galician bagpipes, play near the square adding to the excitement as pilgrims congratulate each other and often dance in celebration at having arrived after their long journey. In this carnival atmosphere some pilgrims just stand in awe at the majesty of the Cathedral in front of them. Others sit exhausted, resting their heads on their rucksacks.

The square is magnificent and in many ways expresses the entire life of the city of Santiago. As you stand facing the façade of the Cathedral which towers above the square you see the sheer majesty of this Catholic church, wherein it is said lie the remains of the Apostle Saint James. Such was the importance of the Cathedral in medieval times that no other building in the city was allowed to be built higher than it. You can see on the façade many statues of Saint James presiding over the square and welcoming pilgrims.



*Hospital de Los Reyes Católicos – the Parador of Santiago*

To your Left is the **Hospital de Los Reyes Católicos**, the building which is now a 5\* Parador hotel. It began life in 1499 when Pope Alexander VI authorised the Catholic Kings of Spain to construct a hospital for the care of pilgrims. Until the 19th century, the building was a centre of hospitality for pilgrims, providing food and shelter, as well as medical care for those who needed it. In summer those pilgrims not needing longer term medical care could receive food and lodging for three days. This tradition has been kept alive and the first ten pilgrims to register at the Pilgrim Office each morning may receive a ticket inviting them to a free lunch in the Parador.



*The Palacio de Rajoy – the Town Hall of Santiago*

Behind you is the **Ayuntamiento**, or Town Hall, which houses the offices of the Mayor of Santiago and the city council. This 18th century building is called the *Palacio de Rajoy*, after Archbishop Bartolomé de Rajoy who conceived the building for religious purposes. Over the years it has had a number of uses as a residence for priests who heard pilgrims' confessions and part of it was the city jail. Until well into the 20th century it was a residence for Canons of the Cathedral. Since the end of Franco's dictatorship and the transition to democracy it has been used to house both the Regional and Local governments.

To your right is the **Colegio de San Jerónimo**, the College of Saint Jerome, which in the 16th century was inspired by another Archbishop



*Colegio de San Jerónimo*

of Santiago, Alonso III de Fonseca, who wanted to construct a school for poor students and artists. It became part of the growing medieval University of Santiago which is now world famous and, in the 20th century, it became the headquarters of the University.

Whilst the buildings which boundary this great Plaza Obradoiro were all born of the church, nowadays they form a perfect description of the life of the City: the Cathedral of Santiago and resting place of the Saint who gives the city its name; the Parador Los Reyes Católicos, representing the hospitality and care shown to pilgrims; the democratically elected local government; and the seat of learning, the University of Santiago.

### **Important – no rucksacks allowed in the Cathedral.**

No doubt you will now want to visit the Cathedral and then go to the Pilgrims' Office for the final stamp in your *credencial* and to receive your *Compostela*. Please remember that rucksacks or bags of any size are not permitted in the Cathedral. Therefore either deposit your bag in your hotel or in one of the Left Luggage services, including:

Left Luggage at the Post Office – Rúa do Franco, 4 – just off the square.  
The Pilgrims House – Rúa Nova, 19.

NB the Spanish word for Left Luggage is *Consigna*.

### **The traditional things Pilgrims do on arrival in Santiago**

Each day pilgrims arrive at the Cathedral Square but their journey is not at an end, they still have things to do.

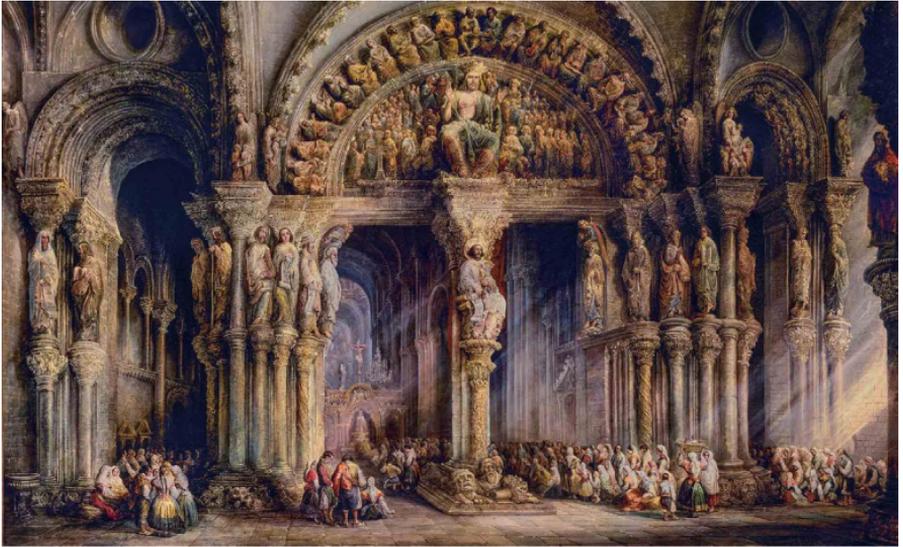


*Plaza Platerias*

### **Entering the Cathedral and the Pórtico de la Gloria**

Today, because of security and the sheer number of visitors, the Cathedral operates a one way system of entrance and exit. Entrance is by the door on the Plaza Platerias and the exit is by the door on to the Plaza Azabacheria on the opposite side.

However traditionally pilgrims would arrive in Santiago at the Plaza Obradoiro and mount the great staircases to enter the Cathedral through the famous Pórtico de la Gloria. There is more information on the history of the Cathedral and the Pórtico de la Gloria later in this guide.



*Pórtico de la Gloria*

The *Pórtico de la Gloria* (The Door of Glory) is a fabulous entrance sculpted by Master Mateo and has now been restored to its original condition. It can now only be seen as part of an official tour of the Cathedral. In the middle ages pilgrims would fall to their knees before the *Pórtico de la Gloria* as they entered the magnificent Cathedral, paying homage to the grand statue of Saint James which gazes down at them from the central archway.

Then pilgrims would touch the stone carving of the Tree of Jesse as they passed. Millions of pilgrims did this and their finger marks are now etched in the stone. **So much so, to avoid further erosion, this is no longer permitted.**

On entering through the *Pórtico* pilgrims also encountered the bust of Master Mateo and would bang their forehead three times on the bust, praying that some of his wisdom and talent would be transferred to them. In modern times, when it was still permitted, many parents in Santiago brought their children to bang their heads on that of Master Mateo. There is no empirical evidence however that those who did this did better in their exams than those who didn't!

## The Saint, the Hug and the Tomb



*Hugging the Saint*

The High Altar of the Cathedral is dominated by a huge golden statue of Saint James. These days, entering by the Plaza Platerias door, pilgrims often go first to the back of the high altar to rise behind this statue of St James to give him the traditional “*abrazo*” – a warm hug of thanks.

Immediately below the statue is a crypt in which rests the silver casket said to contain the remains of Saint James. After hugging the Saint pilgrims descend to the tomb of the Saint to pray quietly in thanksgiving for all that has been encountered on the journey here.

### **Seal of Approval – the Compostela**

Near the Cathedral is the Pilgrims’ Office, just like Passport Control! There your *credencial* will be stamped with the final seal of the Cathedral of Santiago. Those pilgrims who have walked or travelled on horseback at least the final 100 kms, or travelled by bicycle at least the final 200 kms, will have their name written in Latin on either the *Compostela* or the Certificate of Welcome, both attesting to their pilgrimage. *The Compostela*

is awarded to pilgrims who have travelled for spiritual or religious reasons and the Certificate of Welcome for other reasons. Both are in Latin and are equally beautiful. They are provided on a donation basis. All pilgrims with one of these certificates can also buy a Certificate of Distance, a scroll which records the exact details of their pilgrimage.



*The Compostela*

The Pilgrims' Office is in Rúa Carretas: with your back to the Cathedral main doors, walk down the slope in front of the Parador and turn right into Rúa Carretas. Walk along this street and the office is the last (white) building on your left.



*The final stamp in the Pilgrims' Office*

## **Procedure for obtaining the Compostela**

Previously pilgrims had to wait in line, often for hours, to receive the Compostela. There is now an online system and the information needed for the Compostela can be entered up to three weeks before arriving in Santiago. The form can be found here: <https://catedral.df-server.info/agencias/Banderas.aspx?ind=1>

Once submitted a QR code is sent to you. On arrival in Santiago go to the Pilgrim Office where, on production of the QR code you will be issued with a queue number. There is no need to wait at the Pilgrim Office because you can see when your number will be called on the Pilgrim Office website. For those who do not have a smartphone there is a manual system. For this option simply ask at the door of the Pilgrim Office.

**Groups:** If you are arriving with a group of pilgrims (four or more) you do not need to all go to the Pilgrim Office individually. The group leader should collect all of the pilgrim passports/credenciales of the group and ask the security officer at the door for the procedure for groups.

## **Pilgrims' Mass**

Each morning around 11am people start to make their way to the Cathedral. It fills quickly and by noon at busy times of the year it is standing room only. The Pilgrims' Mass is usually in Spanish. There is a translation of the responses and some of the prayers used in the Mass at the end of this booklet.

At the stroke of noon the cantor intones the entrance antiphon, such as "*Laudate Dominum omnes gentes*" and, to the sound of the great organ, 1000 voices repeat: "All people praise the Lord!" The procession enters. Many of the priests are still wearing their walking boots under their vestments. A long list of the nationalities of the pilgrims who have arrived in the last 24 hours is read.

The Mass which follows is deeply moving, with different accents and languages contributing. For the pilgrims there is a profound sense of gratitude, relief and celebration that the journey has ended.

For them perhaps...but even during the Mass, still they come...rising

behind the altar and hugging the statue of St James.

There is also a Pilgrims' Mass at 7.30pm each evening in the Cathedral and during "Holy Years", when the Feast of Saint James falls on a Sunday, there are more Pilgrim Masses.

### **Holy Smoke – the Botafumeiro**



*The Botafumeiro*

The *Botafumeiro* (literally "smoke spreader" in Galician) is one of the most famous and popular symbols of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. This is a huge censer that swings across the transept of the Cathedral through a pulley system pulled by eight men called *tiraboleiros*. It weighs 53 kgs and measures 1.5m in height. It is suspended from a height of 20 metres and can reach a speed of 70 kms per hour.

Some say the *Botafumeiro* was used as a deodorant in medieval times when the Cathedral was full of pilgrims who hadn't washed for the duration of their journey. Others say that the billows of incense it produces symbolise the prayers of the pilgrims.

There are certain times of the year when the *Botafumeiro* is used for liturgical purposes at the beginning of the Mass, just as a priest would normally use incense. At many other times it is used at the end of the Mass when a fee is paid to the Cathedral. You may be lucky and see it.

### **Day is done**

During many months of the year there is an Evening Service in the Cathedral from 8.30pm to 9.30pm, especially for pilgrims who have travelled to Santiago by foot, bicycle or on horseback.

### **Other services for English speakers**

Mass in English is at 10.30am daily, with the exception of Wednesday, in the Chapel in the Pilgrims' Office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** – is available in English before the 12 noon Pilgrims' Mass in the Cathedral.

### **Anglican Camino Chaplaincy**

For details of activities including Sunday services: <https://www.caminochaplaincy.org/>

### **Camino Companions** – Pilgrims' Office, Rúa Carretas, 33

Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus and other volunteers reside in Santiago for six months every year from May to October. They are available to meet with pilgrims one-on-one and in small groups.

The Camino Companions provide an opportunity for pilgrim fellowship with tea and coffee after the daily 10.30am Mass in English.

All are welcome! [www.facebook.com/CaminoCompanions](http://www.facebook.com/CaminoCompanions)

**Pilgrim House** – Rúa Nova, 19  
Open 11:00am – 8:00pm most days. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.



The Pilgrim House welcome centre is a place where pilgrims can sit for a while and have space to relax, talk, write and read. All pilgrims are

welcome and the voluntary staff is there to welcome you, help you to celebrate your arrival and listen to your stories. Practical services like laundry, printing boarding passes, and backpack storage are also available. The volunteers of Pilgrim House also organize other activities which are listed here:

[www.pilgrimhousesantiago.com](http://www.pilgrimhousesantiago.com)

## **Section 2**

*Where to get information about Santiago and city maps*

*What's on*

*When to visit*

### **Main Tourist Office of Santiago**

Rúa do Vilar, 63

Opening Hours: Open all year

High Season (May-October): Mon-Sun, 9:00-21:00

Low Season (November-April): Mon-Fri, 9:00-19:00 | Sat, Sun, Holidays, 9:00-14:00 and 16:00-19:00

[www.santiagoturismo.com](http://www.santiagoturismo.com)

### **What's On**

As well as welcoming millions of pilgrims and visitors each year Santiago is also a busy university and commercial centre. It has a number of galleries and concert halls, each with their own programme of events. Often there are free concerts and exhibitions. Ask in the Tourist Office for a list of What's On during your visit.

### **When to visit – Public Holidays and Fiestas in Santiago**

Santiago is always buzzing with students and pilgrims, street artists and the sound of the Galician bagpipes. However there are certain times of the year when there are huge celebrations. You may plan to be there to join in or you might wish to avoid visiting the city at these times!

## Christmas



*Plaza Obradoiro*

Santiago is beautiful at Christmas time: the streets of the Old Town are bedecked with Christmas lights and in the Plaza Obradoiro there is a huge Christmas Tree. In every home and in every shop window you will see Christmas Cribs or in Spanish *belenes navideños*. Every church has one too, with the largest being installed in the Cathedral, where to accommodate it they have to remove half of the pews in one of the transepts. Visiting the *belenes* in the churches is a great Christmas pastime and a relief from Christmas shopping.

Whilst Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December the tradition is that families sit down to eat together on the evening of the 24th, called *Noche Buena*. Thus you will find shops, restaurants and bars will close early so the staff can get home. Many churches have Christmas Eve Masses – Midnight Mass is called the *Misa de Gallo*, the “Mass of the cockerel”, because it is the first Mass of Christmas.

On Christmas Day life starts to return to normal. Christmas presents are exchanged, but many people keep these in reserve for the Feast of The Kings on 6th January, which is the traditional time in Spain to give presents. Of course nowadays, especially for children, presents are given on both days. Poor parents!

## Los Reyes

*Los Reyes* – the Feast of the Kings – celebrates the arrival of the three wise men who brought gifts to Bethlehem for the baby Jesus. The Feast is celebrated on 6th January but all over Spain, in small villages and large towns, there are processions with large figures depicting the Three Kings



*The Three Kings begin their procession*

on the evening of 5th January. In Santiago this is a splendid affair, with many trucks and trailers bedecked with Christmas scenes, bands and processions. The tradition is that sweets, by the sack load, are thrown into the crowds lining the streets, symbolizing the gifts of the Kings. That night children, and many adults, leave their shoes out to receive gifts from the Kings. However beware, if you have been badly behaved during the preceding year, the Kings will fill your shoes with coal and not gifts. Thankfully these days the shops are happy to sell candy in the form of coal!

## **Carnaval**

Each year the austere season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, or *Miércoles de Cenizas*. This falls 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is heralded by a period of serious celebration and overindulgence, dressing up, being irreverent and poking fun at the establishment. *Carnaval*, or *Entroido* in Gallego, is embraced with a passion. For a week or two before Ash Wednesday fancy dress parties are organized, the staff of offices have outings where everyone comes in a costume and, of course, the students of the University of Santiago have a whale of a time. *Cocido*, the traditional dish of Carnaval which you will see advertised in almost every restaurant, is a homage to pork – almost every part of the pig is cooked

in different ways and served on a platter piled high with boiled potatoes, cabbage and chickpeas. This is not a dish for the faint hearted. High calorie pastries are served such as *Orellas de Frade* or Monks Ears, *filloas* or crepes are served with cream and honey and sit alongside the deep fried and irresistible doughnut-like *Buñelos de Carnaval*. Yum.

All of this over indulgence culminates on Shrove or Pancake Tuesday, when in Santiago there are festivals and a fancy dress parade. After all that, for many Lent comes as a relief!

## **Holy Week or *Semana Santa***



### *Palm Sunday*

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, or *Domingo de Ramos* which is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. This is the day which commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem before the events which led to his Crucifixion. The bible story relates that he was met by crowds waving palm branches in welcome. Thus on that Sunday morning you will see people streaming through the streets carrying branches. Piles of branches will be laid outside churches and every stall in the market will be stocked with them. Often these are palm branches, but many people take laurel branches (bay leaves) to be blessed in church, believing that will bring blessings to their cooking during the year. Look up at the houses as you pass through the streets and you will see palms displayed on the balconies serving as a reminder of this day.



*Holy Week Procession*

Holy Week Processions: like many other places in Spain, Santiago has many *cofradías*. These are confraternities or associations of people who come together to honour a particular image of Christ or the Virgin Mary depicted during the story of Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Sunday. These depictions are mostly in the form of statues which stand in various churches around the city. Large they may be but they are also movable! And so during Holy Week they are taken out and processed round the streets by members of these associations on huge portable platforms called *pasos*. Dozens of members of the *cofradía* take turns at carrying the *paso*. These participants dress as *nazarenos* (from Jesus of Nazareth), they wear distinctive coloured robes and many will wear conical hats. To some modern eyes these robes and hats have a sinister connotation. However traditionally they were intended to mark out the wearer as a sinner, a penitent, someone to be ridiculed. Because they are penitents, often their faces are hidden by masks to hide their shame. These processions are carried out with much ceremony, often accompanied by marching bands which play solemn music.

In Santiago there is a full programme of these processions and on some days there are several leaving from various churches at different times, often late at night. The Tourist Office issues leaflets describing the programme and these should be available where you are staying.

Finally as you follow one of the processions you may be fortunate enough to witness a *Saeta* performed from the balcony of one of the houses on the street through which the procession is passing. The *Saeta* is an unaccompanied mournful song most often addressed to the scene depicted on the *paso*. The performance of the *Saeta* is a tradition dating back centuries into old Catholic Spain. They are passionate expressions of sadness and praise linking the years of long ago with the present day.

**Easter Sunday**, or *Domingo de la Resurrección*, when you can see the final procession celebrating Jesus' Resurrection. The date of Easter Sunday changes each year as does Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday.

### **Feast of the Ascension, *Fiesta de la Ascención***

The Feast of the Ascension falls 40 days after Easter Sunday. Although the church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension on a Thursday (or the following Sunday) the previous weekend is a civic holiday in Santiago. It is a time when the city celebrates. Again! Special street lights announce the *fiesta*, there is a fair in the Alameda Park and street entertainment galore. This holiday lasts from Friday to Tuesday.

### **17 May Galician Literature Day, or *Día de las Letras Gallegas***

The people of Galicia are proud of everything Galician, particularly their own language, *Gallego*. On this day in Santiago there are many parades with bagpipers and troupes of people in Galician traditional dress performing folk dances in the streets and squares.

### **24 June Feast of Saint John the Baptist, or *San Juan Bautista***

In Galicia the eve of this feast is an enormous celebration. As the timing of these celebrations coincides with that of the summer solstice, it is celebrated in style. In Santiago bonfires are lit in the main squares and the air is filled with the smell of fresh sardines grilling on barbeques to be served to the crowds. You may be invited to join local people in "jumping over the bonfire". Do so with care! One of the most spectacular sights is

on the very long beach in A Coruña where dozens of bonfires are lit and up to 500,000 people attend the party.

## **25 July Saint James' Day, *Fiesta de Santiago Apóstol***



No sooner has the bonfire-jumping feast of Saint John the Baptist finished when the city of Santiago starts to make preparations for the Feast of Saint James. It is one of the biggest feasts in both the city and the country's calendar. He is after all the Patron Saint of Spain. In the weeks before 25 July there is a noticeable build up. There are more concerts, more open air events, more street artists. Then, two weeks before, a programme of events is launched, and 9 days before, the Cathedral begins a series of nightly services in preparation for the great feast. These days of build-up culminate on the 24th of July – the eve of the Feast. If you are going to be there you'll see that there is a traditional programme to welcome the Feast. Here is what I wrote in my diary about the celebrations which started a Holy Year Feast of Saint James:

*"25 July – Morning: At the appointed hour the King and Queen appeared in the huge square in front of the Cathedral. A military band struck up the national anthem and they stood in solemn silence. Then cheered on*

by the people of Santiago, who lined one side of the square, they shook hands with the high echelons of the Galician social and political classes. The President of Galicia was first, followed by the Mayor of Santiago, then came a long line of dignitaries. The men were dressed in formal morning suits and the ladies in long dresses, hair piled high to support the traditional Spanish mantilla. As the King was doing this, the Archbishop, with assembled priests and clerics, processed from the side door of the Cathedral round to the square. In this religious procession the dress was even more flamboyant. The Archbishop was surrounded by 14 other bishops. 15 mitred-heads-a-walking. They were preceded by a long line of priests in the blood red vestments worn on the feast day of martyrs and by senior church figures in garb strange to the modern eye. In this procession psalms were chanted and prayers recited as the mace bearer led them forward.

Synchronised by tradition, the processions formed one line which slowly mounted the mighty steps of the Cathedral. The organ sounded their entrance and the Mass of the Feast of Santiago began. The waiting congregation, who had been arriving in the Cathedral from 6am, heaved a



*The King and Queen of Spain on Saint James' Day*

*collective sigh of relief, but their enthusiasm rallied when they applauded the flying Botafumeiro, before cheering the King and Queen out of the Cathedral.*

*Around Santiago in the plazas and streets a programme of street entertainment and concerts occupied every hour of the days leading up to the Feast. When is a street a street and when is it a concert hall? Or indeed, when is an aisle in the Cathedral an aisle and when is it an orchestra pit?*

*In the evenings neon lights hung across the narrow streets added to the party atmosphere, as did the sounds of rock bands and gospel choirs entertaining into the small hours.*

*On the Saturday evening there was the final service in the series of nine held each day before the Feast. For each the Cathedral was packed to hear the Cathedral Choir sing anthems medieval and modern. After this last service people poured out of the Cathedral into the square, which was already half full with people reserving their places, to see the fireworks display which would herald the Feast Day proper at midnight. At 11.30 the*



*Celebrating 25 July with sound and light*

*Cathedral and square plunged into darkness and there began the most magnificent and deeply moving sound and light show imaginable.*

*On the old walls of this medieval Cathedral was projected the mystical history of pilgrimage. Images of stained glass from Cathedrals along the way were projected in full technicolour. Fish, fishermen, octopus, fishing boats and glorious Celtic symbols celebrated all that is Galician. The thundering music accompanied a fireworks display which they say is the best ever. The Cathedral appeared to burn and the spires appeared to dance in the sky. Catherine wheels whirled and thousands whooped with delight. High on the roof of the Cathedral spotlights picked out gaiteros playing their Galician bagpipes and had there been room everyone would have danced. Almost poignant in contrast were the familiar scenes of pilgrimage which followed. A scallop shell and the crowd murmured approval. A gigantic yellow arrow and they applauded. When the biggest map of the routes imaginable appeared they cheered and when the entire Cathedral became a credencial bedecked with sellos thousands of voices roared approval. The fireworks display had a magnificent finale which reached far into the sky. The sound and light exhibition with some fireworks is being repeated every evening for a week. St James is being celebrated in style.*

*At the end the massive crowd dispersed as celebrities like Paulo Coelho posed with pilgrims and the King and Queen retired to bed.*

*This was a weekend with everything. Pomp, music, crowds, fireworks, ceremony and lots of partying. However striking the sight of bishops and royals in all their finery was, the almighty roar of approval when the Cathedral was covered in sellos said it all for me. Santiago is a pilgrim town and the Cathedral is the pilgrims' church. For many of us the grand ritual and rich robes hold little attraction. Rather, pilgrimage exposes us to a simpler way of life where our walking brings an intimacy with ourselves, others and the land around us that no other journey brings. It is as we walk we become open to new thoughts and perspectives, when kindness, and tenderness and love take on a new value. Pilgrims assess who and where they are in this life and often contemplate what might lie beyond. This experience is for me the heart of the matter, more precious than any Cathedral ceremony.*

*Sometimes you just have to look at pilgrims to see this truth. I caught sight of a group of five young pilgrims sitting at Mass. They had their newly written Compostelas laid carefully on the pew in front of them. They sat in silence, not uttering one word of the prayers. This may have been their first experience of Mass, or indeed of church. They took photographs and gazed around them. They stood with everyone when the priest invited the congregation to say the Our Father and their lips moved a little at the words of the prayer, perhaps learned long ago. But when they realized that everyone around them was shaking hands and embracing at the Sign of Peace which followed, their faces lit up. They hugged and kissed, greeted those around them, smiled at everyone. They crossed the aisle to hug other pilgrims. They sat back down with smiles on previously bored faces. At the end of Mass, when the pious crushed forward to take pictures of the Botafumeiro, I watched as they stood in almost stunned silence with eyes cast up following its flight. As they disappeared into the departing crowds I hoped that the lovingness of the Sign of Peace and the wonder of the Botafumeiro which connects us to pilgrims of the past had been as wonderful as the rest of their pilgrimage.*

*It was great to see the King. I enjoyed seeing the Archbishop. My lasting memories are of the sellos on the Cathedral, the roar that went with them and the young people in the Cathedral. Pilgrims do it for me every time."*

### **Other main Public Holidays**

After all of that you won't be surprised to learn that things settle down. Temperatures rise as summer progresses, and many Spaniards take their holidays in August. There are still some feasts and holidays. These are sometimes "*puentes*". The word means "bridge" so if, for example, a public holiday falls on a Thursday then in Spain they may also take the Friday off. Similarly, if it falls on a Tuesday they may take the Monday off. There are only a few other main public holidays in the rest of the year:

**15 August the Feast of the Assumption** of the Virgin Mary into Heaven, *Asunción de la Virgen*.

**12 October The National Day of Spain**, *Fiesta Nacional de España*. Often called "Christopher Columbus Day", this holiday has its origins from when the explorer discovered America.

**1 November All Saints Day, *Día de Todos los Santos*.** This is both a secular and religious feast and is the time when people visit graveyards and churches have special masses for all of those who have died.

**6 December Constitution Day, *Día de la Constitución Española*.** This day marks the vote in 1978 to adopt the constitution of a modern democratic Spain, following many years under the rule of the dictator Franco.

**8 December Immaculate Conception, *Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción*.** This is both a religious and secular feast which marks the church's teaching that the Virgin Mary was conceived "immaculate", ie free from original sin. It is a national public holiday because this image of the Virgin Mary is patroness of the Spanish Army and Civil Guard. It has its roots in the 16th century and has been celebrated since 1644.



### **Section 3**

#### *Finding Accommodation*

There is a wealth of information on the internet about pensiones, hotels and apartment rentals in Santiago – see, among others, [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com), [www.santiagoturismo.com](http://www.santiagoturismo.com).

The main albergues in Santiago are listed below, by proximity to the Cathedral.

Section 1: In the Old Town – within 5 minutes of the Cathedral

Section 2: Central – up to 15 minutes from the Cathedral

Section 3: Peripheral – more than 15 minutes to the Cathedral

One hotel worth mentioning here is the Hospedería San Martín Pinario. This is a commercial hotel formed of part of the main seminary of Santiago, just a few yards from the Cathedral. In addition to the main hotel rooms there are 65 simpler rooms, each with en-suite facilities, for pilgrims. The special pilgrim rate is for bed and breakfast, with hotel sheets and towels. Book early through email: [info@sanmartinpinario.eu](mailto:info@sanmartinpinario.eu).

## 1. In the Old Town

<b>Azabache</b> , Acibecheria 15 <a href="http://www.albergueazabache.com">www.albergueazabache.com</a>	981 071 254 <a href="mailto:azabachehostel@yahoo.es">azabachehostel@yahoo.es</a>
<b>KM.0</b> , Carretas 11 <a href="http://www.santiagokm0.es">www.santiagokm0.es</a>	881 974 992   604 029 410
<b>The Last Stamp</b> , Preguntoiro 10 <a href="http://www.thelaststamp.es">www.thelaststamp.es</a>	981 563 525 <a href="mailto:info@thelaststamp.es">info@thelaststamp.es</a>
<b>Mundoalbergue</b> , San Clemente 26 <a href="http://www.mundoalbergue.es">www.mundoalbergue.es</a>	981 588 625   674 415 600 <a href="mailto:info@mundoalbergue.es">info@mundoalbergue.es</a>

## 2. Central

<b>Blanco</b> , Galeras 30	881 976 850   699 591 238 <a href="mailto:blancoalbergue@gmail.com">blancoalbergue@gmail.com</a>
<b>O Fogar de Teodomiro</b> , Algalia Arriba 3 <a href="http://www.fogarteodomiro.com">www.fogarteodomiro.com</a>	981 582 920   699 631 592
<b>Linares</b> , Algalia de Abaixo 34 <a href="http://www.hostallinares.com">www.hostallinares.com</a>	981 580 443
<b>Loop Inn</b> , Tras de Santa Clara s/n <a href="http://www.loopinnhostels.com/santiago">www.loopinnhostels.com/santiago</a>	981 585 667 <a href="mailto:info@loopinnhostels.com">info@loopinnhostels.com</a>
<b>Meiga Backpackers</b> , Basquiños 67 <a href="http://www.meiga-backpackers.com">www.meiga-backpackers.com</a>	981 570 846 <a href="mailto:info_meiga@yahoo.es">info_meiga@yahoo.es</a>

## 3. Peripheral

<b>Seminario Menor de Belvis</b> , Avenida Quiroga Palacios <a href="http://www.alberguesdelcamino.com">www.alberguesdelcamino.com</a>	881 031 768 <a href="mailto:santiago@alberguesdelcamino.com">santiago@alberguesdelcamino.com</a>
<b>Albergue Santos</b> , Concheiros 48	881 169 386
<b>Porta Real</b> , Concheiros 10 <a href="http://www.albergueportareal.es">www.albergueportareal.es</a>	633 610 114 <a href="mailto:reservas@albergueportareal.es">reservas@albergueportareal.es</a>

<b>La Estrella de Santiago,</b> Concheiros 36-38 <a href="http://www.laestrelladesantiago.es">www.laestrelladesantiago.es</a>	617 882 529   881 973 926
<b>Albergue SCQ,</b> Fonte dos Concheiros 2	622 037 300 <a href="mailto:alberguescq@gmail.com">alberguescq@gmail.com</a>
<b>La Credencial,</b> Fonte dos Concheiros 13-baixo <a href="http://www.lacredencial.es">www.lacredencial.es</a>	639 966 704   981 068 083 <a href="mailto:reservaslacredencial@gmail.com">reservaslacredencial@gmail.com</a>
<b>THostel Santiago,</b> Boiro 3 <a href="http://www.thostelsantiago.com">www.thostelsantiago.com</a>	881 240 444 <a href="mailto:info@thostelsantiago.com">info@thostelsantiago.com</a>
<b>La Estación,</b> Xoana Nogueira 14b <a href="http://www.alberguelaestacion.com">www.alberguelaestacion.com</a>	981 594 624   639 228 617 <a href="mailto:info@alberguelaestacion.com">info@alberguelaestacion.com</a>
<b>Monterrey,</b> Fontiñas 65a baixo <a href="http://www.alberguemonterrey.es">www.alberguemonterrey.es</a>	655 484 299   881 125 093 <a href="mailto:alberguemonterrey@gmail.com">alberguemonterrey@gmail.com</a>
<b>Santo Santiago,</b> Valiño 3 <a href="http://www.elsantosantiago.com">www.elsantosantiago.com</a>	657 402 403 <a href="mailto:elsantosantiago@gmail.com">elsantosantiago@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fin del Camino,</b> Estocolmo s/n <a href="http://www.alberguefindelcamino.com">www.alberguefindelcamino.com</a>	981 587 324 <a href="mailto:reservas@alberguefindelcamino.com">reservas@alberguefindelcamino.com</a>
<b>A Fonte de Compostela,</b> Estocolmo 174 <a href="http://www.alberguesafonte.com">www.alberguesafonte.com</a>	604 019 115   881 290 468 <a href="mailto:info@alberguesafonte.com">info@alberguesafonte.com</a>
<b>Dream in Santiago,</b> San Lázaro 81-8 <a href="http://www.dreaminsantiago.com">www.dreaminsantiago.com</a>	981 943 208 <a href="mailto:reservas@dreaminsantiago.com">reservas@dreaminsantiago.com</a>
<b>Monte do Gozo,</b> Gozo 18 <a href="http://www.montedogozo.com">www.montedogozo.com</a>	638 962 797   881 255 386 <a href="mailto:info@xacobeo.es">info@xacobeo.es</a>

## Section 4

### 21 things for Pilgrims to see and do in Santiago de Compostela



#### Visits in Santiago

- Take your *credencial*, as many places with an entrance fee offer reductions for pilgrims.
- Please check the websites of each location, as opening hours may vary with the seasons.

#### 1 The Cathedral

The great Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela dominates the medieval city. As other buildings were constructed over time none were allowed to be higher than the towers of the Cathedral. Legend has it the Cathedral is the burial place of the remains of St James the Great, one of the Apostles of Jesus. It is the destination of the pilgrimage routes also known as the "Camino to Santiago", along which pilgrims have travelled for many centuries. In modern times the pilgrimage has seen a revival and now huge numbers of pilgrims who travelled the last 100 kms on foot or on

horseback, or 200 kms by bicycle, receive the *Compostela*, the traditional certificate from the Cathedral.

When the Feast of St James (25 July) falls on a Sunday, this is designated a Holy Year. A special door called the Holy Door, which is sealed at all other times, is opened during this year. This occurs every 6, 5, 6 and 11 years after the last Holy Year.

The Cathedral is a Romanesque structure. Building commenced in 1075. There are later Gothic and Baroque additions.

There are a number of places to visit within the Cathedral and its precincts. There is also an audio tour in many languages. You can rent earphones inside the door of the Cathedral Museum, in the Plaza Obradoiro.

## **2 Cathedral Museum Visit**

The Museum of the Cathedral was opened in 1930. There is much to see. There is access to: the Cathedral cloister, in which Cathedral canons continue to be buried; parts of the original Archbishop's palace; and a balcony, on the third floor, overlooking the *Praza do Obradoiro* and nearby buildings. In the museum there is a large tapestry collection in addition to a display of vestments. Valuable church artefacts can be seen in the Treasury.

## **3 Visit the Roof of the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace**

There are regular visits to the roof of the Cathedral, where you actually walk on the roof! The views of Santiago are magnificent. If you wish to understand the guide who will be with you, check when there is a tour in English. To buy tickets enter by the door to the left of the stairs to the main door of the Cathedral.



*Roof tour of the Cathedral of Santiago*

#### **4 Excavations of the Cathedral visit**

Excavations in modern times have revealed an extensive burial ground under the Cathedral, stretching as far as the High Altar. Some scholars now think that perhaps the name "*Compostela*" comes from the Latin *compostare* meaning "to bury".

#### **5 Guided tour of the Pórtico de la Gloria**

The "Door of Glory" is the triple portal at the main entrance to the Cathedral through which pilgrims traditionally arrived. It was sculpted in the 12th century by Master Mateo. It is considered to be the finest beauty of the Cathedral. The Pórtico has recently been fully restored. There are guided tours to examine the design and intricate stone carving.

#### **6 Pilgrims' Mass and the Botafumeiro**

Every day at 12 noon there is a special Mass to welcome pilgrims to Santiago. The Mass begins with a long list being read of the nationalities of pilgrims and their starting points. There follows a sung Mass, often with many priests who have walked to Santiago also concelebrating. Look out for their boots under their vestments! Often, but by no means at every Mass, the *Botafumeiro* is swung. "*Botafumeiro*" means "incense spreader" and large thuribles were found in many Cathedral and large churches in the middle ages. The *Botafumeiro* in Santiago de Compostela is the largest in the world, weighing 53 kgs and measuring 1.50m in height. In the Holy Years, whenever St James' Day falls on a Sunday, the *Botafumeiro* is also attached in all the Pilgrims' Masses. Eight *tiraboleiros* pull the ropes and bring it into a swinging motion, almost to the roof of the transept, reaching speeds of 70 km/h and dispensing thick clouds of incense.

#### **7 Corticela Chapel**

Standing inside the Cathedral door by the *Plaza Inmaculada*, the entrance to the *Corticela* is immediately on your left. This chapel was once a separate church which over the years, as the Cathedral expanded, became joined to the main building. However it remains a separate parish church, with its own Parish Priest, and is not under the jurisdiction of the Cathedral.

The full name of the parish is the Parish of *Santa María La Antigua Corticela*. The church is the church of "foreigners, pilgrims and people

from the Basque country". This is the place where pilgrims may get married or have their babies baptised.

**8 The Museum of Pilgrimages** – Plaza Praterias, next to the Cathedral Well worth a visit. The museum covers the history of the pilgrimage with many documents and artefacts. Half price entrance for pilgrims with *credencial* or *Compostela*.

### **9 The Church and Museum of San Martín Pinarío**

This massive edifice was formerly a Benedictine monastery and is now a museum. Construction started in the 10th century. It has a magnificent *balduino* over the altar, with choir stalls carved in the 17th century. There is a treasury, portrait gallery and representation of the original pharmacy.

### **10 Ciudad de la Cultura**

Exhibitions and the magnificent architecture of Peter Eisenman. The City of Culture is about 30 minutes walking from the Cathedral. The architecture is very interesting. To avoid disappointment, check in advance if there are any exhibitions.



*Ciudad de la Cultura*

### **11 The Museum of Galicia**

The Museum of Galician life and culture is situated at the *Puerta del Camino*, where the *Camino Francés* enters the medieval city. It is housed in a former Dominican Friary.

### **12 The Galician Museum of Modern Art**

The Galician Museum of Contemporary Art is also situated at the *Puerta del Camino*, opposite the Museum of Galicia.

### **13 Eugenio Granell Foundation**

The Eugenio Granell Foundation (dedicated to Spain's last surrealist painter) was created in Santiago de Compostela in 1995 and is housed in a building in the Plaza Toural, just along from the Tourist Office.

As well as art exhibits, the Foundation also offers theatre, workshops for students and diverse groups, chamber concerts, conferences and guided tours. With each exhibit the Foundation publishes a catalogue. The Foundation also owns a growing library, principally dedicated to surrealism and the art of the 20th century.

### **14 Casa da Troia Museum**

Santiago is a university town and in term time 30,000 students swell the resident population of 95,000 people. This museum recreates the student atmosphere of the famous boarding house run by '*Doña Generosa*' in Santiago de Compostela at the end of the 19th century, and immortalized by the writer Alejandro Pérez Lugín in his novel '*La Casa de la Troya*'.

### **15 The Hotel Reyes Católicos – The Parador**

Occupying one full side of the *Plaza Obradoiro* the Parador began life in 1499, when it was constructed by Royal command as a hospital for pilgrims. It remained so until, in more modern times, it became the headquarters of the Faculty of Medicine of the University. Subsequently it became a hotel and part of the Parador network. Therefore it is known as the world's oldest hotel. The tradition of providing hospitality continues today as the hotel provides a free lunch to the first 10 pilgrims to arrive in the Pilgrims' Office each morning. There are guided tours. Ask at reception.



*The cloister of Santa María de Sar*

## **16 Colegiata do Sar**

The church of *Santa María de Sar* stands by the river of that name. It is the oldest parish church in Santiago. Construction began in the 12th century. It is very beautiful and boasts a cloister and museum as well as the church itself. Open daily for visits.

## **17 San Francisco and Holy Land Museum**

Just 2 minutes' walk from the Cathedral lies the monumental church and Monastery of *San Francisco*. Housing a community of friars of the Franciscan Order, the buildings date from the 13th century. As their numbers grew smaller, the Franciscans decided on an entrepreneurial initiative and have converted their former monastery into a 4\* commercial hotel, which is run professionally. The friars now reside in modern but modest accommodation.

San Francisco is also home to a magnificent museum of the Holy Land, at the heart of which is an impressive model of the Holy Sepulchre, which was crafted in Jerusalem over 60 years ago by Franciscan Fray Bartolomé de las Heras-Burgos.



*View of Santiago Cathedral from the Alameda Park*

### **18 Alameda Park – Paseo da Ferradura**

The city's most renowned and admired viewpoint is that of *Paseo da Ferradura*, located in Alameda Park, on the eastern slope of the Santa Susana hill. From there, there is a spectacular frontal view of the Cathedral rising up majestically over the mass of historical buildings. This is the most photographed postcard, the city's timeless image. Recommended at any time of day, however this viewpoint is a must at night-time to really understand why the Cathedral was, and is, a spiritual "beacon".

### **19 University of Santiago de Compostela**

The University of Santiago de Compostela was founded in 1504. The original centre of the University is the Palacio of San Jerónimo in the Plaza Obradoiro. Behind this building there is a beautiful cloister. Also in the "old town" there are other historic buildings of the university. To the south of the Alameda Park there are the lovely spacious gardens and buildings of the "modern campus".



*Mercado de Abastos*

## **20 Mercado de Abastos**

Records show that Santiago has had a market selling fresh produce for at least 300 years. The current market was constructed in 1941. Every morning farmers from the countryside arrive to sell fresh vegetables and flowers in the area surrounding the market. Inside there are stalls selling all types of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

Nowadays one hall of the market is dedicated to restaurants which cook the fresh produce of the market.

## **21 The Route of Routes – which follows!**

See all of these places and more by following this guide to a one or two day walk which traces the entrance of the various Camino routes into the city. The route also goes to *Monte Pedroso*, high above the city, with spectacular views of Santiago and the surrounding countryside.



*Follow the yellow arrows*

## Section 5

### *The Route of Routes*



*Walk on five caminos,  
go through three parks,  
meander up and down two forest trails,  
visit important churches and buildings along the way,  
and, most of all, enjoy the best view there is of Santiago  
high above the city!*

The route takes between 3 and 3.5 hours, depending on your pace, or much longer depending on where you stop, linger or visit.

### **WHY WALK THIS ROUTE?**

#### **For visitors**

You know that Santiago is a pilgrim town, and you may have seen walking pilgrims arriving in the Plaza Obradoiro before visiting the tomb of Saint James, which has been the final destination for millions of pilgrims for hundreds of years.

You may not be able to walk several hundred kilometres to Santiago along one of the pilgrim routes, but you might like to follow some of the routes for a short way and, in doing so, get a taste of the Camino, follow the same yellow arrows and other waymarks the pilgrims follow, and see parts of Santiago often hidden from view.

#### **For pilgrims**

You have arrived in Santiago and you only have a couple of days to see the city. The friends you have met on the Camino have dispersed and you'd love to keep walking, for example to Finisterre, but you just don't have time. You may have been met in Santiago by a friend or loved one and you'd like them to get a taste of the Camino as well as seeing Santiago. Or you just want some time to yourself, to walk, sit, relax, reflect, remember and be thankful for the wonderful experience you have had on Camino. These are only a few of the reasons you might wish to walk this beautiful

and historic route. No matter which route you have walked, your feet will once again travel a part of that route.

### **The Pilgrims' entry into Santiago**

Like many medieval towns, Santiago once had a number of city gates and the route by which the pilgrim travelled determined which gate they would use to enter the city. These gates are described in the *Codex Calixtinus*. No matter where the pilgrim started, the route they took eventually joined one of five which entered the city. This is still the same today. The *Camino Francés*, being the busiest, is joined by the northern routes along the north coast of Spain, and some of the southern routes. The *Camino Sanabrés/Vía de la Plata* from the south is joined by other routes from different parts of southern Spain.

Whilst all but one of the old city gates has disappeared, the routes entering the city still largely follow the roads nearby to where they stood.

### **The Route of Routes – Suggested Packing list**

If you are a pilgrim to Santiago take: your *credencial* – so that you can sit and remember the places you visited on the way.

Your camera – to take more photographs today, and also to remember the people you met and the places you walked through on your Camino.

A packed lunch – to have a picnic with friends or on your own, as you view the city from the highest point of this route.

Either walking shoes or sandals, if you are comfortable walking in them – the route passes along pavements, roads and country trails.

Water – and wine, if you want to celebrate whilst having lunch!

### **Is the route easy to walk?**

The route is designed in two halves – like a figure of 8. The first and last parts of the route are easy, walking through city streets. The middle section of the route ascends through country paths to the point of *Monte Pedroso*, which stands at 461 metres above sea level. Santiago itself is 260 metres above sea level. The views are spectacular and whilst experienced

walkers will find the ascent straightforward, those who haven't done any serious walking for a while may find parts of it challenging. If you choose this option take your time, take water if it is hot, and rest at the many places available. The distance to the top of *Monte Pedroso* is 4 kms from the starting point, and the descent is 3 kms. Therefore, leave at least 2 hours plus time for rests.

If you choose not to ascend the mountain the point at which you continue on the route is clearly indicated in this guide.

### **How long is the Route of Routes?**

The route is approximately 14 kms in length. This divides almost equally between walking on the Camino routes through Santiago, and the ascent and descent of *Monte Pedroso*. However, set aside plenty of time to walk the route because you will want to stop, linger, visit galleries and churches, and just enjoy the many views you will encounter. If you have time, you may wish to walk the route in two halves over two days.

**Key to Walking notes: L = Left, R = Right, KSO = Keep Straight On**

### **Walking notes**

We start at the *Colegiata de Sar*, the oldest parish church in Santiago, which sits on the *Vía de la Plata* (also known as the *Camino Mozárabe*) – the route from Sevilla, 1,000 kms to the south of Santiago.



*The Church of the Colegiata de Sar*

### **Camino Mozárabe**

This was the route used by the Mozarabic (Christian) pilgrims during the period of Muslim domination and by all those coming from the south of Spain, including those who arrived in Seville by sea from North Africa and other parts of the Mediterranean. It is called the *Vía de la Plata* as it follows the course of a Roman road of that name. However, the name does not mean “Silver Route” as it is sometimes popularly known, as “*plata*” is a corruption of an Arabic word indicating a “broad surfaced road”.

The church is clearly marked on maps of the city available from the Tourist Office, which is at number 63 Rúa do Vilar.

### **Colegiata de Sar**

The history of the *Colegiata de Sar* stretches back to the 12th century, and the building was completed between 1168 and 1172. The complex comprises the main church with its distinctive Romanesque design, a beautiful cloister and a museum. The church is characterised by a series of pillars which appear to be collapsing into the central nave. Originally some thought this was due to intentional architectural genius, but in fact it was caused by subsidence. The construction of the huge external buttresses in the 17th and 18th centuries stopped further movement. The museum is open each day 10.30am – 1.30pm and 4pm – 7pm. Mass is available in the church from Monday to Saturday at 7pm in winter and 8.30pm in summer, and on Sundays at 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Walk back out to the main road at the entrance to the church car park. Turn L onto the *Rúa de Sar*, pass under the bridge and follow the road round to the Left. Here we are walking some of the final steps of the ***Vía de la Plata*** where it entered the city via the *Porta de Susanis*, now the *Puerta de Mamoá*. *Vía de la Plata* pilgrims continue straight up ahead into the centre of the city, but we veer **R** at Rúa do Olvido. At the STOP traffic sign, turn R into the *parque Belvís*. Head up through the park to the shelter and mirador point near the entrance to the *Seminario Menor*. This building will be familiar to many pilgrims, as it provides albergue accommodation with 177 beds, including 22 in single rooms. For further information and reservations:

<http://www.albergueseminariomenor.com/en/index.html>



*The Seminario Menor*

The full title of the *Seminario* is “La Asunción Minor Seminary Hostel”, as it operates both as a seminary and as a school, and provides lodging for pilgrims.

**(1 km walked)** Turn **L** out of the park, along the *Avenida de Quiroga Palacios*, passing the *Convento de Belvís* and the *Santuario Virgen del Portal* on the right and a seating area on the left. The church is usually open. The religious community was founded here in the 14th century and was the first home of Dominican nuns in Galicia. The nuns make and sell delicious biscuits and cakes. Ring the bell for attention.

**KSO**, on the *Rúa de Belvís*, passing the (white) *Capela de San Antoniño* on the left. Veer **L** onto the *Calzada de San Pedro*. **KSO** to the end of the road, where you turn **L**. Here we are walking some of the final steps of the **Camino Francés**. Watch out for yellow arrows! Walk down to the traffic lights. This is the famous *Porta Francigena* now the *Porta do Camiño*, through which pilgrims have entered the city for centuries. They still keep coming and you can sit in the small park adjacent and see pilgrims arriving at most times of the day.

## Camino Francés

This is the so-called "French way", leading from the Pyrenees across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. It is the most well-known and well-travelled of the pilgrim roads to Santiago. Three of the main routes through France (from Paris, Vézelay and Le Puy-en-Velay) feed into it on the French side of the Pyrenees. A fourth, from Arles, joins it 3-4 days later (for walkers) in Puente la Reina. In 1987 this Camino de Santiago was made the first European Cultural Itinerary.

*Camino Francés* pilgrims continue straight on ahead into the centre of the city, but we turn sharp **R** at the *Porto do Camiño* traffic lights, onto the *Costa de San Domingos*. Enter the *parque de San Domingos de Bonaval* by the *zona peatonal*, between the CGAC (Galician Centre of Contemporary Art) and the *Museo do Pobo Galego/Iglesia de San Domingos de Bonaval*. This is the "Museum of Galicia". It is open Tuesday to Friday from 10.30am – 2pm and 4pm – 7.30pm, as well as Sundays from 11am – 2pm. NB The museums are closed on Mondays. There are toilets and an excellent restaurant with an open-air section adjoining the route.

As you pass the Museum of Contemporary Art on your left, turn **R** up some steps through a gap in the wall. You may care to explore the park or rest awhile. If so, on leaving make your way to the gate at the top right hand side of the park.

To get there from the steps walk straight ahead with the wall of the Museum of Galicia on your right. Turn **L** up a ramp then **R**. You can see the gate at the top from which you will leave. If you walk straight ahead and then turn left, walking up some stepping stones along a wall, through the wall on your right you will see the



*The famous staircase – Museo do Pobo Galego*

original cemetery of the church which is now the Museum of Galicia. The remains have now all been removed.

Note the landscaped water feature and statue by Eduardo Chillado in the park grounds, which include the vegetable garden of the monastery on the site.

**(2 kms walked)** Proceed up through the park to the gate at the top end and turn **L** as you leave the park. This is the *Rúa de Teo* and there is a street marker a little further along. Follow the road round to the right as it joins the *Rúa de Touro*. Once it passes the *Travesía de Pastoriza* on your left, when the road bends sharp right, take the stairs down to the left.

At the bottom of the stairs, cross the first pedestrian crossing and turn **L** to walk along the *Rúa da Pastoriza*. On your right is a roundabout with a well known statue of a pilgrim. Here we are walking some of the final steps of the **Camino Inglés**. Continue along this street, passing the *Capilla de Pastoriza* on the left on the other side of the road. The street leads to a smaller one to the right of the main road: the *Rúa Santa Clara*. Take this street, passing the *Convento del Carmen* on your right. At this point the large building up to your left on the main road is the *Convento de Santa Clara*. Continue ahead onto the *Rúa dos Loureiros*. Here we are near the *Porta Poennae* now the *Porta de la Pena*, the traditional entrance of pilgrims on the **Camino Inglés**. Nowadays they pass along the *Rúa Porta da Pena*.

### **Camino Inglés**

The Camino Inglés is sometimes called in Spanish the Antigo Camino Real (the old royal route), a term which still appears occasionally. The Camino Inglés provided a short, direct route from Ferrol or A Coruña to Santiago and was therefore used by pilgrims of various nationalities from northern Europe, who had travelled to Galicia by sea.

**(3 kms walked)** *Camino Inglés* pilgrims continue straight on ahead into the centre of the city here, but we turn **R** to go down the stairs of the *Costa Vella*. If you wish, before going down the stairs, **KSO** ahead for 150 metres. To your right is the monumental church of *San Martín Pinario*, now a museum. The entrance is round the corner to the right, beyond the

main church entrance. It is well worth a visit. Take your *credencial* to be admitted half price.

If you have visited *San Martín Pinario*, retrace your steps and proceed down the stairs of the *Costa Vella*.

At the bottom of the stairs on the right is Santiago's main public library, and straight ahead is the Iglesia de San Francisco. There is Mass every day at 1pm. The church is huge and beautiful and is served by the Order of Franciscans, who also run a small albergue providing spiritual retreats for pilgrims (by arrangement), and a shelter for homeless people.

Cross over the small square in front of the church, and the large stone sculpture of San Francisco, passing the 4\* *Hotel San Francisco* which now occupies the former monastery. Go down the *Costa de San Francisco*, following the wall/road round to the left, on to the *Rúa das Carretas*, passing the Pilgrims' Office on your right. KSO till you turn **R**, on to the *Rúa Hortas*. At the corner sits the parish church of *San Fructuoso* which is open daily for visits. Walk down the *Rúa Hortas*. Here, with the Cathedral directly behind us, we are walking some of the first steps of the route to and from **Finisterre and Muxía**. Pilgrims would have left or arrived by the *Porta de Sancto Peregrino*, now the *Puerta de la Trinidad*. According to the *Codex Calixtinus* the Trinidad Chapel just outside this gate is where pilgrims were buried.

**Finisterre** (*Fisterra* in Galician) was both the end of the known world until Columbus altered things, and the final destination of many of the pilgrims who made the journey to Santiago in past centuries. There are various explanations as to how this continuation came about (one such is that it was based on a pre-Christian route to the pagan temple of Ara Solis in Finisterre, erected to honour the sun) but it is also known that a pilgrim infrastructure existed, with "hospitals" in Cée, Corcubión, Finisterre itself and elsewhere. Pilgrims in past centuries also continued northwards up the coast to the Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Barca in Muxía, 29 kms north of the "end of the world" itself.

At the bottom of the street, at the traffic lights, cross over the *Rúa do Pombal*. Here *Finisterre/Muxía* pilgrims continue ahead on the street to the left (the *Rúa do Cruceiro do Gaió*), but we take the middle passageway,

up concrete steps, between this street on our left and the *Rúa de Entregaleras* on our right. This leads on to the *Calzada do Carmen de Abaixo*. At the bottom of this street, cross the Roman bridge (carefully!) and pass the *Capilla del Carmen*, which is served by the church of San Fructuoso, on the left, continuing on the narrow pavement to the left of the road. After a short while, where there are new houses and a new road up to your right, you will see up ahead the television masts at *Monte Pedroso*. We will be going up from here to the left, and coming back down from the right.

**(5 kms walked) NB. If you do not wish to make the journey to and from *Monte Pedroso*, a round trip of 7 kms with an elevation of 461 metres, turn back here and follow the directions below marked X.**

Continue for another short while on this road, crossing over to the right – when you reach a group of buildings and a garage on the right – to take care on a blind bend on the road. Immediately after the bend, turn **R** up a small road, the *Rúa San Paio do Monte*. At a T junction, with the *Capilla de San Paio* over to the right, turn **L** and continue on the path straight ahead, ignoring the road that continues through the pueblo to the right.

**KSO** this path, initially with a concrete wall and views of the Cathedral of Santiago on your left, and continue on the path through the trees. At the first small junction veer **R** and shortly come to a clearing. Going down, near the bottom, follow the path round to the road on your left, to the park gate and a small parking area. At the end of the parking area turn **R** on the start of a forest path. About 100m along this path, veer **L** (i.e. don't take the gated entrance into the park, on your right), uphill. At the top go **L** and follow the wider path round to the **R**. Keep on this path till you come to a car park with a wooden mounted map of "*As Sendas do Monte Pedroso*". With the car park in front of you, do a u-turn sharp **R** and go uphill. As the path starts to run alongside the tarmac road, go through the "*Area Recreativa Lixo*"; and turn **L** onto the path marked "*Merendeiro/Mirador*". This path winds up and round to a large recreation and BBQ area, before it meets the tarmac road again. (**KSO** the path going all the way up – ignoring a wide path going off to the left about half way up).



*The view from Monte Pedroso*

Cross the tarmac road and, immediately, turn **R** onto a narrow path, which leads onto a wider path. Continue on up until you reach a small piece of open ground. At the fork in front of you, **KSO** through the trees and continue on up this path. You will see spectacular views of Santiago on your right, and the TV mast, and, (eventually), the *Monte Pedroso cruceiro* (stone cross) straight ahead. Just before you make your final ascent, at a crossing of paths, veer **R** on a rocky path up to the top. Be careful underfoot, especially in wet weather. At *Monte Pedroso*, at the foot of the *cruceiro*, there is a mirador area with stone seats: ***sit; look out at the wonderful view; rest; and be thankful!***

Before leaving, it is worth taking a few minutes to walk down the tarmac road round the other side of the TV mast, to see the amazing almost 360° view of Santiago and its surrounds. Coming back up to the *cruceiro* leave *Monte Pedroso* from the other side (from where you arrived) by the *Via Crucis*, marked by *cruceiros*. Originally there were 14 *cruceiros* forming a traditional "Stations of the Cross". However, as new roads and houses have been developed over time, some have disappeared.

**"Stations of the Cross"** (or Way of the Cross; in Latin, *Via Crucis*; also called the *Via Dolorosa* or the Way of Sorrows) refer to markers, pictures or sculptures which remind believers of Christ carrying the Cross to his crucifixion in the final hours of his Passion, and to devotions commemorating the Passion that use the series. Most Roman Catholic churches have these around the walls. Usually during Lent and Holy Week the devotions are followed as people move from station to station. Some parishes in Santiago still follow the Stations of the Cross to *Monte Pedroso*.

Follow the rocky path downwards – being very careful in wet weather. There are 4 *cruceiros* in the first small section down, until the path meets the tarmac road. Turn **R** along the road and, after about 100m, turn **L** down another forest path, with yellow arrows on the ground and a *cruceiro* on the left. **KSO** following this winding path down – again, being careful, as it is steep in parts. This stretch is marked by a further 2 *cruceiros*. Eventually, at the bottom, come to a small stone outhouse building, where the path veers to the right and comes to a *cruceiro* at a tarmac road lined by modern lamp posts.

Turn **L** down the hill. As you go down there is a fantastic view of Santiago Cathedral straight ahead. Pass another *cruceiro* and **KSO**, with houses to your right and left. At a main junction with a bus stop and (the final) *cruceiro*, there is a bar on your left and what may appear a strange concrete building in front of you. This is the official residence of the President of Galicia, and is known locally as "the bunker".

Turn **Left** at the *cruceiro* and follow the road downhill. Immediately, turn **R** to start along a path alongside the President's residence (which is now on your right), then take the paved path which is down to the left of this one. At the bottom descend the stairs on your left, passing in front of a block of flats. Immediately turn **R** to follow a very pleasant river walkway all the way back, round **R**, to the Roman bridge from which you began the ascent to *Monte Pedroso*.

**(12 kms walked) X.** Cross back over the Roman bridge, and go up the hill, veering **R** to cross the *Rúa da Poza de Bar*. Walk up the *Rúa Campo do Cruceiro do Gaio* and turn **R** into the *Avenida de Compostela*. Follow

the road round to the left and cut through, or pass, a play park to climb the stairs on your left. At the top, from the *mirador* in the *parque Alameda*, you can see the main campus of the University of Santiago.



*The mirador (viewing point) of the Alameda Park*

With the university and *mirador* behind you, take the path round the park to your **R**, passing the *Escuela Infantil*. Go down the stairs and, at the church on your right, the *Iglesia de Pilar*, **KSO** following the yellow arrows leading you through, and to the exit of, the *parque Alameda*. Here we are walking some of the final steps of the **Camino Portugués** which entered the city by the *Porta de Falgueris*, now the *Puerta Faxeira*.

### **Camino Portugués**

This route, which heads north following the Atlantic coast of Portugal and Spain, was used by Queen Isabel of Portugal (1271 – 1336) to make at least one pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Queen Isabel was canonized in 1626 and this is celebrated on her feast day, the 8th of July.

*Camino Portugués* pilgrims continue straight ahead into the centre of the city – and so do we! At the exit of the park, cross the road at the traffic lights, and proceed through the traditional Portuguese entrance to the city the *Porta Faxeira*. Proceed ahead taking the *Rúa do Franco* on the left all the way into the *Praza do Obradoiro*... where we have arrived... again! **(14 kms walked)**

## Appendix 1

### *Understanding the Pilgrims' Mass – and other Masses!*

#### Introduction



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
El Señor esté con vosotros. **Y con tu espíritu.**

**I confess** to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Yo confieso** ante Dios todopoderoso y ante vosotros, hermanos, que he pecado mucho de pensamiento, palabra, obra y omisión. Por mi culpa, por mi culpa, por mi gran culpa. Por eso ruego a Santa María, siempre Virgen, a los ángeles, a los santos y a vosotros, hermanos, que intercedáis por mí ante Dios, nuestro Señor.

**Lord have mercy.** Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.  
**Señor, ten piedad.** Cristo, ten piedad. Señor, ten piedad.

#### The Word

Reading/s. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*[Responsorial Psalm | Alleluia].*

Gospel. The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to [N]. **Glory to you, Lord [...]**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lectura/s. Palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos, Señor.**

*[Salmo Responsorial | Aleluya]*

Evangelio. El Señor esté con vosotros. **Y con tu espíritu.**  
Lectura del Santo Evangelio, según San [N]. **Gloria a ti, Señor [...]**  
Palabra del Señor. **Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.**

### **The Eucharist**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread / wine to offer [...] it will become for us the bread of life / our spiritual drink.

#### **Blessed be God forever.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Bendito seas, Señor, Dios del universe, por este pan / vino [...] será para nosotros pan de vida / bebida de salvación.

#### **Bendito seas por siempre, Señor.**

Orad, hermanos, para que este sacrificio, mío y vuestro, sea agradable a Dios, Padre todopoderoso. **El Señor reciba de tus manos este sacrificio para alabanza y gloria de su nombre, para nuestro bien y el de toda su santa Iglesia.**

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.** [Preface]

**Holy, Holy, Holy** Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

El Señor esté con vosotros. **Y con tu espíritu.**

Levantemos el corazón. **Lo tenemos levantado hacia el Señor.**

Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios. **Es justo y necesario.** [Prefacio]

**Santo, Santo, Santo** es el Señor, Dios del universo. Llenos están los cielos

y la tierra de tu gloria. Hosanna en el cielo. Bendito el que viene en nombre del Señor. Hosanna en el cielo.

[After the consecration]: The mystery of faith. **We proclaim your Death,**

## **O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

*[Después de la consagración]:* Éste es el Sacramento de nuestra fe.

**Anunciamos tu muerte, proclamamos tu Resurrección. ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!**

Through him, and with him, and in him [...] all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. | Por Cristo, con él y en él [...] todo honor y toda, gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. **Amen.**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *[Deliver us, Lord, we pray ... as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ].*

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

*Fieles a la recomendación del Salvador y siguiendo su divina enseñanza, nos atrevemos a decir: **Padre nuestro**, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino; hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal. [Líbranos de todos los males, Señor ... mientras esperamos la gloriosa venida de nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo].*

**Tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria, por siempre, Señor.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And with your spirit.** *[Sign of Peace]*

La paz del Señor esté siempre con vosotros. **Y con tu espíritu.** *[Signo de Paz]*

**Lamb of God**, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us *[repeat twice]*. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**Cordero de Dios**, que quitas el pecado del mundo, ten piedad de nosotros [*se repite dos veces*]. Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, danos la paz.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Éste es el Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo. Dichosos los invitados a la cena del Señor. Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa, pero una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme.*

The Body of Christ. El Cuerpo de Cristo. **Amen.**

### **Conclusion**

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

El Señor esté con vosotros. **Y con tu espíritu.**

La bendición de Dios todopoderoso, *Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, descienda sobre nosotros. Amen.*

Go forth, the Mass is ended ... or ... Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** | Podéis ir en paz. **Demos gracias a Dios.**

## *Santiago Pilgrims' Blessing*

*Father God we ask your blessing.  
We are pilgrims who have come to venerate the  
tomb of your Apostle Santiago.*

*As you kept us safe on our Camino way,  
may you keep us safe on our journey home.  
And, inspired by our experience here,  
may we live out the values of the Gospel  
as our pilgrimage through life continues.*

*We ask Saint James to intercede for us,  
as we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
your Son and our Redeemer.*

*Amen.*



## Appendix 2

### *When you return home – What now?*

Many pilgrims experience mixed feelings at the end of the Camino. On one hand they are jubilant at having reached Santiago and look forward to returning home to regale family and friends with stories of their exploits. On the other hand they know they will miss the fellowship and adventure of the Camino. Even at the moment of arrival many start to think of their next pilgrimage to Santiago!

Returning home most people need a period of rest and reflection and to readjust to homelife and work. Then minds turn to the question, what next?

#### **Putting something back**

Most pilgrims are aware that before and during their Camino they received many gifts – the information and help from their local pilgrim association, the answers to the questions they posted on social media and then the company of other pilgrims, the hospitality shown to them by volunteer hospitaleros in pilgrim albergues, the reliability of the yellow arrows painted by the various pilgrim associations and the kindness of local people.

As well as dreaming of their next Camino many people also want to contribute to the life of the Camino. Here are some suggestions:

Join and volunteer with the pilgrim association in your home country. There are English language pilgrim associations in the UK, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and South Africa.



#### **The Confraternity of Saint James**

The Confraternity of Saint James (CSJ) in the UK is the longest established of these. The CSJ needs volunteers to help with:

**In London.** Running the office in central London: answering telephone and email enquiries, welcoming

members of the public on weekly “open days”, helping with events such as the Practical Pilgrim Days which provide support and advice to prospective pilgrims, attending social gatherings of pilgrims. We are also seeking volunteers with expertise in publicity and social media to help share and promote the work of the CSJ over various channels.

**Regional Groups:** The CSJ has groups in many parts of the UK which bring members and non-members together more locally to share their experiences. These groups organise social events and walking outings which are great preparation for the Camino. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Sign up to your local regional group to receive emails about what is happening in your area
- Arrange a walk or outing for your regional group
- Become the leader for a regional group that doesn’t have a leader
- Set up and lead a regional group in an area that currently doesn’t have one
- Admin support, replying to regional group enquiries for areas that don’t have a group yet

To locate the group nearest to you:

<https://www.csj.org.uk/pages/category/regional-groups>

### **Pilgrim Albergues at Rabanal del Camino and Miraz**

The CSJ runs two albergues in Spain. The albergue in Rabanal del Camino is on the *Camino Francés* and the albergue in Miraz is on the *Camino del Norte*. Both provide accommodation on the “*donativo*” basis, i.e. they do not charge, but receive donations from pilgrims who stay there. These albergues operate exclusively with volunteers who are called *hospitaleros/as*. *Hospitaleros/as* usually work for a period of two weeks. The CSJ provides training and support to those selected to serve in this way.

You can support our hostels remotely via the “Sponsor-a-Week” scheme. A one-off donation of £50 (Miraz) or £60 (Rabanal) helps to support day to day activities; maintenance, repairs and improvements; and, the training of *hospitaleros*. You will receive by email a personal letter with news of your sponsored week at the hostel.

## **Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino**

Further information: <https://www.csj.org.uk/refugio-gaucelmo>

Sponsor a Week: <https://www.csj.org.uk/donate/rabanal-fund>

## **Albergue San Martin, Miraz**

Further information: <https://www.csj.org.uk/albergue-san-martin>

Sponsor a Week: <https://www.csj.org.uk/donate/miraz-fund>

**Further information:** for further information about volunteering with the CSJ, please contact the General Manager: <https://www.csj.org.uk/contact-us>

## **Other volunteering opportunities**

### ***Hospitaleros/as***

### **The Spanish Federation of Hospitaleros Voluntarios (HOSVOL)**

was established over 30 years ago and provides training and information about serving as a volunteer hospitalero/a. HOSVOL organises training courses for new volunteers in a number of countries, including: America, Canada, the UK, Australia, South Africa and Italy.

In order to serve as a volunteer in the various albergues run by parochial monasteries and convents, municipalities or those belonging to different confraternities applicants must have completed a Camino and have undergone a HOSVOL training course. Most assignments are for 15 days.

You can also volunteer directly by contacting individual albergues. Be aware that many of these are private for profit businesses. This can be a great way to get experience but beware of being exploited.

For further information: <https://www.caminosantiago.org/cpperegrino/hospitaleros/cursos.asp>

### **Association of Christian Welcome on the Camino – Acogida Cristiana en el Camino (ACC)**

This organisation is run by the Cathedral of Santiago and provides volunteering opportunities in the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago (writing Compostelas) and in a number of church run albergues.

For further information: [info@acogidacristianaenelcamino.es](mailto:info@acogidacristianaenelcamino.es)

### **Camino Companions – Pilgrims’ Office Santiago**

The Camino Companions is a welcome service based in the Pilgrims’ Office in Santiago. Run by the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus volunteers help organise the daily Catholic Mass in English in the Chapel of the Pilgrims’ Office and provide tea, coffee and fellowship for pilgrims attending.

For further information: [caminocompanions@gmail.com](mailto:caminocompanions@gmail.com)

### **Pilgrim House in Santiago**

Pilgrim House is a welcome centre in Santiago de Compostela, where pilgrims can find community, conversation, prayer and help with their practical needs. They offer gathering places for pilgrims, practical services such as laundry and a kitchenette, and quiet spaces where pilgrims can reflect on their Camino.

Volunteer duties include welcoming pilgrims and helping them feel at home; helping out with laundry, backpack storage and printing boarding passes; and being available to talk with pilgrims who need a listening ear. For further information: <https://pilgrimhousesantiago.com/>

### **Pilgrim Office Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port**

Nowadays many pilgrims take Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port as the starting point for their Camino. This small town is situated in France near the border with Spain. The French Pilgrim Association has run a Pilgrim Office here for some 30 years. Volunteers from all over the world welcome pilgrims, provide *credenciales* (Pilgrim Passports) sellos (stamps) and information about accommodation and weather conditions.

For further information [caminopa@hotmail.com](mailto:caminopa@hotmail.com)

## Photographs

### Cover photograph:

*Cathedral of Santiago* – Stephen D Wikipaedia Commons

- Page 6 *On Arrival* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 7 *Hostal dos Reis Católicos, the Parador* – Wikipaedia Commons
- Page 8 *Palacio de Rajoy – the Town Hall* – Wikimedia Commons
- Page 9 *Colegio de San Jerónimo* – Wikipaedia Commons
- Page 10 *Plaza Platerias* – Wikipaedia commons
- Page 11 *Pórtico de la Gloria* – El Correo Gallego
- Page 12 *Hugging the Saint* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 13 *Compostela Certificate* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 13 *The final stamp* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 15 *Botafumeiro* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 16 *Pilgrim House logo* – Pilgrim House
- Page 18 *Santiago at Christmas* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 19 *The Three Kings* – La Voz de Galicia
- Page 20 *Palm Sunday* – Miguel Castaño
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- Page 25 *The sound and light show* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 31 *Santiago* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 32 *Roof tour of the Cathedral* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 34 *Cuidad de la Cultura* – Wikipaedia Commons
- Page 36 *Cloister Sar* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 37 *Alameda Park* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 38 *Abastos Market* – Turismo Galicia
- Page 38 *Follow the yellow arrows* – Miguel Castaño
- Page 41 *Colegiata do Sar* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 43 *Seminario Menor* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 44 *Museo do Pobo Galicia* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 48 *Monte Pedroso* – Santiago Turismo
- Page 50 *The mirador (viewing point) of the Alameda Park*

## About the Author

### Johnnie Walker

Scotsman John Rafferty is widely known in the Camino world as guide writer and author Johnnie Walker. John walked his first Camino to Santiago in 2007. That experience led to changes in his life he never expected. He gave up a career of thirty years as the Chief Executive of various national charities and senior positions in government and the National Health Service in the UK. He kept on walking more Camino routes and started to write guidebooks to the pilgrim routes



in Spain and Portugal for the Confraternity of Saint James in order to raise funds for the organisation. Three spiritual companions for pilgrims followed.

[https://www.amazon.com/Johnnie-Walker/e/B06XT5CRHV%3Fref=dbs\\_a\\_mng\\_rwt\\_scns\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/Johnnie-Walker/e/B06XT5CRHV%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share)

John eventually moved to Santiago, where he started voluntary projects to help improve the welcome and care of English-speaking pilgrims. The Amigos Welcome Service was supported by all of the English-speaking pilgrim associations across the world and brought 300 volunteers to Santiago. In the absence of any religious services in English in Santiago, John started the Camino Chaplaincy, bringing priests from the UK and Ireland to minister in Santiago. Both of these programmes were so successful that the Cathedral of Santiago now provides them as a permanent service.

In 2012 John spearheaded the re-organisation, funding and re-opening of the church-run Albergue Fin del Camino in Santiago, which had closed. It remains open to this day as a viable facility for pilgrims in Santiago. In 2018 John proposed the development of a new Anglican Camino Chaplaincy which is now active in Santiago under the egis of the Anglican Diocese in Europe.

In total seventeen of John's books have been published. Through sales and fundraising John has raised over £250,000 for charitable projects, including most recently 40,000€ for an extension of the pilgrim facilities at the Benedictine Abbey in Rabanal del Camino on the Camino Francés. John was recently elected President of Age in Spain a 30 year old Spanish charity which helps English speakers live life to the full in Spain. [www.ageinspain.org](http://www.ageinspain.org)

## About the Photographer

### Miguel Castaño

Miguel Castaño was born in Madrid, where he began his career as a press photographer over forty years ago. Working with black and white images, he developed an interest in what he describes as "reporting and revealing". His images included many public figures such as politicians and actors, as well as ordinary people captured by his camera.



In 1982 Miguel gave up photography when he emigrated to Venezuela, where he lived for three years. That time living far away from his home country, family and friends was a period of life-changing discovery and spiritual experience which he describes as his "conversion". This inspired Miguel to have a different vision of how to use his talents as a photographer. Thus, when he returned to Spain in 1985 he moved from photographing in black and white to a more expressive range of images in light and colour. He left the press to focus on producing photographs which express life and faith.

Miguel and his wife Inma live in Santiago de Compostela with their two children Laura and David, two identical twin grandsons and a granddaughter.

Miguel's artwork is testimony to his faith. He shares it openly through his website: [unabrisasuave.blogspot.com](http://unabrisasuave.blogspot.com). "Una brisa suave" means "a gentle breeze". Miguel paraphrases a passage from the Book of Kings which he says encapsulates the profound change in his life: The Lord was not in

the storm. After the storm came the earthquake but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire blew a gentle breeze. For Miguel, welcoming the “gentle breeze” of the Lord to blow in his heart changed everything and inspired his photographs which he has donated to this book.

<https://unabrisasuave.blogspot.com>



# Canadian Company of Pilgrims (CCoP)

The Canadian Company of Pilgrims (CCoP) is a non-denominational volunteer-run association that supports Canadians interested in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We share the Canadian representation with l'Association Québécoise des pèlerins et amis du Chemin de Saint-Jacques.

The CCoP provides information and generates awareness and interest in the Camino through a network of chapters across Canada and also through its website and Facebook page. Local Chapters provide a forum for the exchange of information about the Camino and also offer practical training and information sessions.

The CCoP is also part of an international network of similar organizations operating locally and nationally throughout the world.

See more at [www.santiago.ca](http://www.santiago.ca)

Cover photo:  
The destination – the Cathedral of  
Santiago de Compostela  
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