Camino de Santiago Walk

A PILGRIMAGE ACROSS NORTHERN SPAIN

June 10 to 23, 2014
For over a thousand years pilgrims and penitents have journeyed across France and Spain to Santiago de Compostela to pay homage to Saint James. While devout pilgrims still endure the purifying hardships of this ancient road, we take a different tack: walking at a leisurely pace amid spectacular scenery, visiting picturesque villages, medieval monasteries and Romanesque churches along the way; sampling the local cuisine at quaint restaurants and during gourmet trailside picnics; and staying at centuries-old convents and castles that are now luxurious lodgings. Join us for one of the great journeys of the world, Stanford-style!

BRET S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

SLUMBER in an elegant parador in León that was built in the 16th-century to serve as the Convento de San Marcos.

WALK in the footsteps of Charlemagne’s army in Roncesvalles, where Roland sounded his horn and met his demise in the 8th century.

SMELL purifying incense from the botafumeiro, an enormous silver incense holder, as it swings from inside the dome of the Cathedral of Saint James.
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 & 11
U.S. / BILBAO, SPAIN
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights. Upon arrival in Bilbao on Wednesday, transfer to our hotel. This evening join fellow walkers at a welcome reception at our hotel. HOTEL CARLTON

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
BILBAO / ST. JEAN PIED-DE-PORT, FRANCE
This morning, stroll through Bilbao to admire both its old and modern architecture. Then drive to the town of St. Jean Pied-de-Port in France. This ancient town was traditionally the great meeting point of the three northern pilgrimage routes through France. From here, pilgrims began their crossing of the Pyrénéées Mountains into Spain. Dine tonight in our hotel’s famous Michelin-starred restaurant. HOTEL DES PYRENEES (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
ST. JEAN PIED-DE-PORT / PAMPLONA, SPAIN
Wander along St. Jean Pied-de-Port’s medieval main street and leave town by the Gate of Spain along the old Roman road. Cross the Ports de Cize and the border into Spain. After a picnic lunch, descend to the hamlet of Roncesvalles, scene of countless historical events, from the death of Roland in 778 to Saint Francis of Assisi’s entrance into Spain. Visit the hamlet’s monastery and church before driving to Pamplona. PALACIO DE GUENDULAIN (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
PAMPLONA
Our walking tour of Pamplona reveals the treasures of this ancient capital of Navarre. Sights include the cathedral, medieval fortifications and route of the famous running of the bulls that takes place during the fiesta of San Fermin each July. Set out on a walk through rolling green hills and end the day back in Pamplona to spend the night. PALACIO DE GUENDULAIN (B,L)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
PAMPLONA / SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA
Drive this morning to the superb Romanesque church of Eunate, the thousand-year-old pilgrim bridge at Puente la Reina and the medieval town of Estella. Continue to the extraordinary Pantheon of the Kings of Navarre at Najera and then on to the pilgrimage center of Santo Domingo de la Calzada. Spend the night in the ancient pilgrims’ hospital, now a four-star parador. PARADOR DE SANTO DOMINGO (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 16
SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA / BURGOS
After a visit to the cathedral of Santo Domingo, continue to the Montes de Oca and the shrine of San Juan, one of the most revered saints of the pilgrimage road. After a picnic lunch, drive to the handsome city of Burgos, capital of Old Castile under Franco. Pause at the Carthusian monastery of Miraflores, which contains some of the finest alabaster carvings in the world, then continue to our hotel, formerly a convent. PALACIO DE LA MERCE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
BURGOS / LEÓN
Our pilgrimage continues as we walk through the meseta, the flat plateau of central Spain. After a picnic lunch, board our coach and travel across the plain. This evening we arrive in León, capital of the ancient
kingdom of the same name, where we stay in the 16th-century Convento de San Marcos, now a luxurious five-star parador. PARADOR DE SAN MARCOS (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

LEÓN

A morning walk in León introduces us to this magnificent city. Visit León’s cathedral, with stained glass windows that rival those of Chartres. Also admire the Romanesque basilica of San Isidoro and its adjoining Pantheon of the Kings of León, famous for its 12th-century ceiling frescoes; and the Casa de Botines, designed by the iconoclastic 20th-century Catalan architect Antoní Gaudí.

PARADOR DE SAN MARCOS (B)

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

LEÓN / VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO

Drive to Obrigo, where we walk across the magnificent Roman bridge, scene of the joust that inspired Cervantes’s novel, Don Quixote. Continue to Astorga to visit its Bishop’s Palace, designed by Gaudí, and a baroque cathedral. Travel to the edge of the León Mountains and on to the village of Molinaseca, where we walk through some of the wildest and most beautiful natural scenery of our trip. Continue to Ponferrada, home of the Knights Templar and, according to some, the resting place of the Holy Grail. Travel on to Villafranca del Bierzo and spend the night at a lovely vine-covered parador.

PARADOR DE VILLAFRANCA (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO / PORTOMARÍN

Our walk today leads us up from Villafranca to the village of O Cebreiro at the border of Galicia and another possible secret repository of the Holy Grail. After a picnic lunch, drive on to the monastery at Samos, the oldest Benedictine presence in Spain. Continue to the river port of Portomarín for the night. This town was moved, stone by stone, to its present site when the river valley below was flooded by a dam built across the Minho River in 1956.

POUSADA DE PORTOMARÍN (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

PORTOMARÍN / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Our goal is near as we walk along the most interesting sections of the ancient road to Santiago. We stop first at the church in Viar de Donas to pay tribute to the Knights of Saint James buried there. Continue to the center of Santiago de Compostela and walk the final section through the medieval streets to the shrine of Saint James. Our last two nights are spent at perhaps the most beautiful hotel in Spain, the five-star Parador de los Reyes Católicos, built at the end of the 15th century as a pilgrim hospital.

PARADOR DE LOS REYES CATÓLICOS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Enjoy a free day in Santiago, with plenty of time to explore this fine medieval city. Start with the cathedral, one of the finest examples of Romanesque and baroque art in Spain. Other highlights include the Pilgrimage Museum; and the Palacio de Xelmirez, the Galician parliament building. Tonight attend a special farewell reception and dinner at our hotel.

PARADOR DE LOS REYES CATÓLICOS (B,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 23

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / U.S.

Transfer to the Santiago airport for flights home. (B)
Trip Information

**DATES:**
June 10 to 23, 2014 (14 days)

**SIZE**
Limited to 32 participants

**COST** *
$8,995 per person, double occupancy
$11,195 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

**INCLUDED**
- 12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous and physically demanding program. Our walks range from five to 10 miles per day, with a daily average of about six miles. The terrain of northern Spain includes mountain ridges, rolling hills and valleys, with some open farmland and dense forests. Some of the trails may be uneven, rocky or muddy and may involve significant uphill or downhill grades. Sturdy, well-fitting and broken-in hiking shoes with ankle support are essential. To enjoy the walking tour, you must be physically fit, used to moderate exercise and in good health.

While this program is called a Walk, several of the daily excursions might be described by some participants as hikes rather than walks. If you are in good shape and active, you should have no problem keeping up with the group.

We recommend a pre-trip training regimen, working up to several long walks a week over uneven terrain with some elevation gain and loss in the boots you will wear during the trip. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you to subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2013 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
Reservation Form
Camino de Santiago Walk

NAME
AGE
STANFORD CLASS
NAME
AGE
STANFORD CLASS

ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP
PHONE CELL / WORK / HOME
EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
☐ I plan to share accommodations with:
☐ I'd like to know about possible roommates.

BED PREFERENCE:
☐ Twins ☐ Double

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).
☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association)
☐ Charge my deposit to my:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD #
EXPIRATION DATE
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE
DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?santiago2014. Submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
"A sacred path experience balanced with challenge and comfort and combined with time to appreciate culture, conversation and communion with personal and spiritual growth—this was a wonderful trip!"

CAROLYN HAUGEN, ’61, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO WALK, 2010

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY