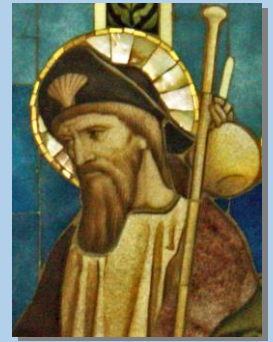


Pomona College Alumni Association Presents
A Pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago
May 25 - June 3, 2018

In the year 814, on the westernmost corner of the Eurasian landmass, a hermit named Pelayo looked up into the night sky and saw strange lights hovering above the ground. The ensuing investigation conducted by Theodemir, the local bishop, led to the unearthing of a tomb with an inscription indicating that it contained the remains of none other than James the Apostle! How St. James—or "Santiago" in the local dialect—could die a martyr in the Holy Land and end up interred in the northwestern corner of Spain is the stuff of legend. And few legends have had a greater impact on Medieval European history than this one.



Over the centuries the number of visitors to the shrine in Compostela—derived from the Latin for "field of stars"—grew from a handful of intrepid travelers to a mighty stream of pilgrims from all parts of the Christian world and all levels of Christian society. There was nothing easy about the journey: the weather was unpredictable, the roads were in an abysmal state of repair, unscrupulous innkeepers hiked up their prices, and thieves preyed on the unsuspecting. But all of this only added to the mystique, not to mention the penitential value, of the pilgrimage. After all, that was why Christians made the journey in the first place. Whether their priests had imposed the trek on them as a penance or they had imposed it on themselves out of their own sense of spiritual insecurity, the point for the pilgrims was to use the journey to reflect on their sins and to mortify the flesh in anticipation of an emotional encounter with relics of St. James, reputed by many at the time to be the biological brother of Jesus himself!



Recently modern pilgrims have been rediscovering the wonders of the route; and not all for purely religious reasons. Hence the "history pilgrim" can walk back in time to experience first-hand a truly remarkable feature of medieval culture. The "geography pilgrim" can traverse the dramatic, ever-changing landscapes of northern Spain, greeting people in villages that time seems to have forgotten. The "culture pilgrim" can experience European art and architecture from all periods, especially the Romanesque. And the "gastronomy pilgrim" can sip and nibble his way through one of the most culinarily exciting corners of Europe. For those of you who are unsure what kind of pilgrim you are, you will know by the time we get to Compostela.

Simply put, this is one of the great journeys of the world done in the way it was meant to be done: on foot. Need we say more?

KBWolf
Ken Wolf

Peter Watson
Peter Watson

The Camino de Santiago: A Pilgrimage into the Past

Friday, 25 May

Depart USA.

Saturday, 26 May

Arrive at Asturias airport and transfer to the little town of Cangas del Narcea in the heart of the Cantabrian Range of mountains and one of the stopping places on the old Camino de Santiago from Oviedo, now known as the *Camino Primitivo*. We spend the first two nights in the newly opened Parador of Corias installed in an ancient monastery. - D



HOTEL - PARADOR DE CORIAS - a very 4 star comfortable hotel

Sunday, 27 May

Our first day's walk takes us along the first ancient Camino de Santiago which led from the coast to Galicia. This is wild and open highland country in one of the least inhabited corners of Spain. This evening we return for a second night in this wonderful hotel. - B, L, D

Total 4.5 hours walking - moderate level

Monday, 28 May

We follow the *Camino Primitivo* to the edge of Asturias as it crosses into the region of Galicia, the westernmost region of Spain. Our walk takes us along some of the most beautiful sections of the trail. After our picnic lunch, we continue to the little town of Villafranca del Bierzo in a remote corner of the ancient Kingdom of León. - B, L, D

Total 3.5 hours walking - moderate level

HOTEL - PARADOR DE VILLAFRANCA - comfortable 4 star town hotel

Tuesday, 29 May

We begin our walk by driving into the pretty Valcárcel before beginning our walk up to the small town of O Cebreiro on the border between the ancient kingdoms of León and Galicia. This is one of the more remarkable stops on the Camino which can boast stories of miracles and perhaps the oldest hostelry on the road. After our visit to the delightful church we return to Villafranca by road. - B, L, D

Total 4.5 hours walking - moderate / strenuous



Wednesday, 30 May

We drive on to the great monastery of Samos, one of the most important Benedictine foundations of the era of the Reconquista. After our visit, we continue past the little town of Sarria to begin our pilgrimage walk passing on our way the 100km milestone on the road. We continue on foot to the tiny town of Portomariñ, once an important river port and boasting an important medieval church. - B, L, D

Total 4.5 hours walking - moderate

HOTEL - POU SADA DE PORTOMARIN - modern hotel on edge of village

Thursday, 31 May

Our walk today leads us up as we climb to the moorlands of Prebisa and Lameiros. Here we divert to visit the tiny monastery of Vilar de Donas with its extraordinary C15 frescoes, once the home of the Knights of Santiago. After another picnic lunch we return to the Camino to walk on to the small town of Palas do Rei from where we return to Portomarín by road. - B, L, D

Total 5 hours walking - moderate



Friday, 01 June

Our goal is within sight as we climb the Mount of Joy, from where pilgrims still gain their first glimpse of the towers of the cathedral of Saint James. We continue to the center of the city and walk the final section through the medieval streets to the shrine of Saint James. Our last 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 fifteenth century as a pilgrim hospital and forming one side of the main square of the city. - B, L

Total 4 hours walking - moderate / gentle

HOTEL - PARADOR DE SANTIAGO - The oldest hotel in the world

Saturday, 02 June

Full free day to luxuriate in this magnificent city and to visit the shrine of Saint James at your leisure. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a grand farewell dinner in the Parador of Santiago de Compostela. - B, D

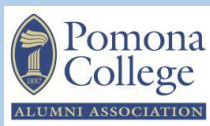
City Walking



Sunday, 03 June

Transfer to Santiago airport for our flights home. - B





TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- ❖ Group transfers from Asturias Airport on May 26, departing from Santiago Airport on June 3.
- ❖ 8 nights hotel accommodations based on double or single occupancy
- ❖ Meals as indicated in the itinerary: R= Reception, B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- ❖ Lunches and dinners include bottled water and wine
- ❖ Hotel taxes and service charges on quoted services

TRIP EXCLUSIONS:

- ❖ Cost of obtaining a passport and/or visa
- ❖ Communications costs, such as phone calls, emails, and faxes
- ❖ Any items of a personal nature
- ❖ Any items not included in inclusions
- ❖ International air reservations

COST PER PERSON:

\$4995.00 per person based on two people sharing a twin-bedded room. The trip cost is based on a minimum of 12 paying participants. We reserve the right to cancel this trip if a minimum number of participants is not reached.

A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional cost of \$885.00.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required at the time of booking. Final payment is due no later than February 15, 2018.

Should you cancel your trip for any reason before February 15, 2018, a \$1,000 per person cancellation fee is charged. If you cancel between February 16 and March 19, 2018, a fee equal to 50% of the tour cost is charged. No refund can be paid if cancelled after March 20, 2018. If we can resell your booking, a \$250 per person transfer fee will be charged.

Airline tickets have separate charges and cancellation fees depending on fare paid and date of change or cancellation. **TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

CONDITIONS AND CONTRACT: Travelstore VIP is the principal tour operator and is responsible to the participants for all arrangements and for all tour services and accommodations offered in these tours. Travelstore VIP, its agents, servants and employees shall not be responsible for personal injury or property damage, loss or delay, or change of itinerary incurred by any person or tour participant arising out of the act or negligence of any direct or supplemental air carrier, hotel or other person rendering any of these services, or accommodations being offered in this tour; nor shall Travelstore VIP be responsible for any injuries, death, damages, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by reason of any event beyond the actual control of Travelstore VIP or of any agent supplier or due to force majeure. The right is reserved to decline or accept or to retain any person as a member of a trip, or to cancel a trip, due to circumstances beyond the control of Travelstore VIP.

If the contract between Travelstore VIP and the passenger, on the one hand, and/or the contract between Travelstore VIP, and the designated carrier, on the other hand, is cancelled by the tour operator for any reason whatsoever, all partial or full payments made for the trip will be refunded in their entirety, without further obligation on the part of the tour operator.

The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category or change schedules without prior notice should circumstances so demand. In the event of a change in the itinerary necessitated by factors or conditions beyond the actual control of Travelstore VIP, no refund can be made nor will credit be allowed, provided that in the event of such change in itinerary, Travelstore VIP shall attempt to provide accommodations and services of comparable quality and standards as set forth in the brochure.

Any such change shall not modify the cancellation provisions in the brochure. No credit will be allowed or refund given for any services provided in the Itinerary and Conditions List should any such services not be utilized by the tour members. Availability of refunds for air transportation depends on the type of air tickets purchased, and the point at which transportation is not used.

Travelstore VIP shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused to any traveler in conjunction with other actions, omissions, or conditions outside Travelstore VIP's control including terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local law, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions, or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or other conditions outside Travelstore VIP's control.



INSURANCE: Travel insurance for travel accident, loss/damage/delay of baggage, flight insurance and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Applications will be sent on request.

OPERATORS: This program is operated by Travelstore VIP of Irvine, California, and Duende Travel, UK, and hotels listed in the itinerary.

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