

Peregrinations

A few notes published from time
to time by Peterborough
Pilgrims to Santiago

www.pilgrims-to-santiago.com

If you have anything we can add to the next
issue contact:

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contributions of articles, photos etc welcomed.



Winter Issue

2010

Pilgrimages planned for 2010 (The Holy Year)

Camino Aragones

1 - 16 May 2010

Over the Pyrenees by the Samport Pass, from Oleron St Marie to Logrono. This little used part of the Camino has wonderful terrain.
Just under 200 miles.

Camino Britannica

24 July - 8 August

Northampton to Portsmouth ferry then on to Mont St Michael, France Walking in England and France, visiting the relic of the hand of St James in Marlow.
200 Miles approx

Camino Portugues

3 - 17 October 2010

Oporto, Portugal to Santiago de Compostilla, Spain. Coast and hills suitable for both novice and experienced pilgrims. Including prayer school exploring mystic, meditative and pilgrim prayer during preparations and on the road
150 Miles approx

Camino Ingles

Dates to be announced later

From Ferrol - The shortest route to gain a Compostela
80 Miles approx

Other dates for your diary

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of coming on pilgrimage come to the next tea party at St Mary's Vicarage Towcester Road Northampton NN4 8EZ.

3pm Saturday 9th January 2010

3pm Sunday 21st February

Please Contact Ian Holdsworth 01604 761104

ianholdsworth@aol.com

Saturday 30th January 2010 at St Mary's church, Far Cotton. The annual celebration of the arrival of St James in Galicia. 12 noon Holy communion followed by lunch and guest speaker Revd. Dr Andrew Rayment. Donations to cover costs

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2010!

2010 is a Holy year on the Camino routes into Santiago de Compostilla. This is when St James' day falls on a Sunday. More people tend to do pilgrimages in the Holy years and the accommodation is often very busy in the peak times of the summer months especially as you get nearer to Santiago where there are more pilgrims. This years pilgrimages and dates have been carefully chosen with this in mind, to avoid Santiago at the busiest times.

An update on Accreditation. Following the meeting on 25th July 2009 at Northampton, the draft constitution for the Peterborough Pilgrims to Santiago is in place and awaiting the legal team at Santiago to ratify this.

Pilgrimages organised by Peterborough Pilgrims to Santiago are open to everyone, those with a faith and those with none. They are explicitly Christian pilgrimages. Those who would travel with us are expected to respect the values of the group.

Visit our web site at www.pilgrims-to-santiago.com

for a bigger view of this important spiritual discipline and also take a look at:

The blog spot <http://pilgrim-patch.blogspot.com> This is the blog of Revd Ian Holdsworth, founder of the Peterborough Pilgrims. It concerns his thoughts on practical theology in and through pilgrimage.

Speaking the lingo

Planning to go on a pilgrimage with the Peterborough Pilgrims? With such a good choice of Pilgrimages to choose from, going into France, Portugal and Spain is it time you topped up your language skills? Whilst you might be able to get by without that specific language it would be handy to have a few emergency phrases written down or carry a small phrase book. With a few months to go there is still time to enrol on a language course or get some teach yourself CDs or DVDs. If you are technically minded perhaps you could download them onto an Ipod, MP3 player or similar (or ask someone else to do this for you). You would then be able to do your training walks and learn/improve a language at the same time! Even if other people are able to speak English it is always good to be able to try out a few words in the language of the country you are visiting.

Ponferrada to Santiago September 2009

In September three intrepid pilgrims set off to walk from Ponferrada to Santiago 209 Km (135 miles) and after much training and serious discussions re how much kit, weight of rucksacks, and what to take, what to leave out, they commenced their journey. On return these are a few thoughts and reflections of their pilgrimage.

Why do it:-

Sue :- As a Vicar's wife I am involved in a great deal of parish activity but I wanted to do something purely as a Christian and not "in role". This was set some time apart, away from the commercialism and influences of everyday life that crowd your time so I could be with God in his creation.

Mary:- Returning for my third pilgrimage, I looked forward to "time out" with God, to be out of my comfort zone with time to listen to Him.

Highlights:-

Sue :- To be able to walk through the beautiful countryside of Northern Spain, see the sun rising, seeing the mist on the mountains, but most of all reaching the heights of O'Cebriero (1500 m above sea level) was magical and standing in the Chapel of Santa Maria la Real in O'Cebriero was a significant spiritual moment and one sensed the nearness of God.

Mary:- The depth of friendship felt on meeting and sharing with pilgrims from all over the world. Our friends from Australia and France will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Recommending Pilgrimage.

Sue:- Experiences that I though would be a problem, such as communal dormitories, showers and basic living proved to be unfounded and in fact became a blessing. It

made me realise how liberating it can be to live simply and share with others.

Mary:- I wholly recommend one experiences pilgrimage, whether in England or abroad, as a means of giving God time to speak and getting rid of the “clutter” which often impedes our daily lives.

All.

On this pilgrimage we set aside a daily time to reflect. We all felt that the Daily “time to reflect” where we shared bible readings and prayer was a blessing to us all.



The Camino is calling

About this time 2 years ago the Camino started calling me. I was vastly overweight, unfit and never walked anywhere while the car was there waiting. I had never heard of the Camino before but as soon as I heard about it in Church that day I knew I just had to do it. Even though I didn't know anyone else to start with, the journey started on my first meeting with other pilgrims in Northampton in January. I bought my first ever pair of walking boots in the February and continued on that journey training for the walk of a lifetime. First once round the village then twice, then round the block to the next village. Before long I was walking to services in the other villages and back again. Although training on my own I never felt alone. I could feel the strength in my knees improving I lost some weight due to the additional exercise and was definitely feeling fitter.

I walked the Camino in 2008 from Leon to Santiago de Compostilla with 3 others sharing our experiences, friendship, food, accommodation and prayer, spurring each other on. I had thought that would be it when I had completed it, but when I got back I knew I would be going back again.

In 2009 for various reasons I did not go back on the Camino but I went on a short coach trip to Luxembourg at the same time that other Peterborough Pilgrims some of whom I had walked with, were on the Camino in Spain.

Luxembourg, why Luxembourg, not a typical holiday destination, well I don't really know! I stayed in a small town/village called Vianden and also visited a place called Echternach, as well as Luxembourg City. On the last afternoon I walked up to a very impressive castle at the top of the hill in Vianden. You will never guess what I came across on the way down the hill: information on pilgrimages in Luxembourg on a notice board showing the walking trails of St James from the town where I had been staying in Luxembourg to one of the towns that I had visited! The trail followed the Moselle River. This seemed more than just coincidence - the Camino was still calling!

When I was sent information on the pilgrimages planned for this year (2010) I was hit by the same instant enthusiasm and need to take part as when I initially heard of the one back in 2008 so I am now planning to go on another pilgrimage with the Peterborough Pilgrims this year. I am not the only one who plans to goes back again. If you go to one of the tea parties and talk to some of the pilgrims you will find many that have done the same section of the Camino more than once and others who have walked different parts of it still keep going on more. I had better get out the walking boots more regularly and start my training in earnest! The Camino is definitely calling me - is it calling you?



There was a wonderful carving in the cathedral in Echternact and the shadow cast was amazing. My photograph captured it but doesn't quite do it justice:



A pilgrim's progress from St-Jean-Pied-de-Port
France
April 2009

Taken from e-mail correspondence from Del Linden on the from the Peterborough Pilgrims Chain which left the UK on 13th April 2009 530 miles is the full distance between the French border and Santiago. On the chain people could join and leave at any point they wished.

Hi All, arrived at St Jeans du Pied and started walking the Camino today. Both days have been sunny but now raining (hope it clears up tomorrow or we might get very wet. We were going to go over the Pyrenees by the Napoleon Way but were advised not to as still lots of snow and two English pilgrims died last year. So we went the lower way but still very difficult at times, and now glad to be at the hostel.

Have some lovely photos and met some really nice people. We are stopping at an old monastery which is really nice. The village of Roncesvalles is very old and still high in the mountains. Saw five buzzards and a red squirrel. If I have time and there is internet I will email you soon Lots love Del.

Hi everyone, well now day 8 and we haven't been rained on. Now at Najera at a lovely hostel and Ian our leader is cooking dinner and giving me cooking lessons so I can cook the same meals. He is a lovely cook and I weighed myself at the Farmacia and have put on weight! The scenery is lovely and we have stopped at some lovely places but I think the hostel at Trinidad was the best only three of us in one room I think the man who ran it felt sorry for us old women. The going was tough at the beginning but now getting easier as there aren't so many hills. All the pilgrims along the way are so friendly and of all nationalities. I am taking lots of photos and will show them to you all when I get home.

I took the kettle with me and seem to be making tea for everyone so I have brought some Spanish tea bags and keeping the English ones for our group.

I'll write again soon when there is another computer at hostel. Missing everyone but having a great time. Del.

Hi everyone, now at Burgos, today was very long 30 miles and everyone is shattered. We had to walk this because we need to have two days in Leon so that Ian can go and collect the other members who will be joining us to walk Leon to Santiago. Today's walk was very cold as the wind was blowing over the snow capped mountains. My hands were freezing as I had discarded my gloves and hat at Trinidad as I thought we had left the mountains behind. Although cold the mountains were very beautiful with a pink and blue hue on them as the sun came up. The rest of the day was walking up the mountain then through pine forests and then cultivated fields.

Burgos cathedral is beautiful but we could only go in a little bit of it as it is being renovated. I have met some lovely people on the way of many nationalities and all ages.

I will keep in touch when I can get onto the internet next. Lots of love to you all Del.

Pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is known in English as the Way of St. James and in Spanish as the

Camino de Santiago. Over 100,000 pilgrims travel to the city each year from points all over Europe, as well as other parts of the world. The pilgrimage has been the subject of many books and television programs notably Brian Sewell's *The Naked Pilgrim* produced for UK's Five. (extract from Wikipedia).

The cathedral is packed tight for mass, and the participation of the congregation such that even a non-believer cannot fail to get a sense of the potency of the place. As the service reaches its climax, the *botafumeiro* is hoisted on to a rope and pulley high in the main dome. Standing 1.6m tall and holding 40kg of charcoal and incense, it is the largest censer in the world, and takes eight crimson-robed *tiraboleiros* hauling on the rope to set it in motion. At the height of its pendulum swing it flies high into the roof of the transept to gasps and nervous laughter from below, and travelling at speeds of up to 60kph it dispenses thick clouds of incense as it goes. The reason for the scale of the 700-year-old tradition is unknown, though some claim it shielded the high clergy from the unsavoury aroma of hundreds of unwashed pilgrims.

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/spanish-tourist-board/santiago-de-compostela-spain-galicia>)

If you have been on pilgrimage with the Peterborough Pilgrims to Santiago or otherwise any information that you could share with us to put in this newsletter would be most welcome and gratefully received. Any comments on how it can be improved would also be useful. For e-mail addresses for this please see addresses on first page. Many thanks.