Camino de Santiago Walk

A PILGRIMAGE ACROSS NORTHERN SPAIN

June 19 to July 2, 2018
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!

**Highlights**

**SLUMBER** in an elegant parador in Santiago de Compostela, which has been housing pilgrims since 1499.

**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.

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

COVER: BURGOS
"A delight—great food and wine, beautiful countryside, lovely hotels and congenial fellow travelers with whom to enjoy it all."

ALISON ANDERSON, ITALIAN LAKES WALK, 2016

JOHN KIESCHNICK, MA '88, PHD '95, is The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Professor of Buddhist Studies at Stanford’s department of religious studies, focusing his teaching and research on Chinese Buddhism, with a particular emphasis on its cultural history. The writing of his book, The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture, led him to reflect on the role of objects in religious life. Married to a Spanish specialist in Chinese theater, he has traveled to and about Spain every year for the past 20 years, nurturing a growing fascination with all things Spanish. This summer, he will lead 15 Stanford undergrads on an overseas seminar to explore the religious life of Madrid and its environs. During our walk, he will lecture on such topics as the history of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage and its allure and dangers; how to “read” a church; the significance of relics and icons to the faithful; and together with fellow walkers, he will explore just what it is that modern pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago are looking for and whether or not they find it.

— The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Professor of Buddhist Studies at Stanford, since 2012; department chair and co-director of the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, since 2016
— Professor, department of Chinese culture, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, 2011–2012
— Reader, 2007–2011, and lecturer, 2005–2007, in Buddhist studies, department of theology and religious studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
— Managing editor, Asia Major, 1997–2010
— BA, Asian languages, 1986, UC-Berkeley
— MA, 1988, and PhD, 1995, Asian languages, Stanford University

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?santiago2018
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 19 & 20
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 followed by dinner at leisure. Hotel Carlton

Thursday, June 21
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 Pyrénées Mountains into Spain. Dine tonight in our hotel’s famous Michelin-starred restaurant. Hotel Des Pyrenees (B,D)

Friday, June 22
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 23
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 fiestas 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 24
Pamplona / Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Our pilgrimage continues as we walk through the Meseta, the thousand-year-old pilgrimage 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 25
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 Merced (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 26
Burgos / Leon
Our pilgrimage continues as we walk through the flat plateau of central Spain. After a picnic lunch, board our coach and travel across the
This evening we arrive in León, capital of the ancient kingdom of the same name.

**LEÓN PLAZA MAYOR (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27**

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 Catalán architect Antoní Gaudí.

**LEÓN PLAZA MAYOR (B)**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 28**

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 view its Bishop’s Palace, designed by Gaudí, and a baroque cathedral. Travel to the edge of the León Mountains and from the village of Molinaseca, walk through some of the wildest and 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 29**

**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 Portomarin 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 30**

**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 Vilar 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 Santiago de Compostela, built at the end of the 15th century as a pilgrim hospital. **PARADOR DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, JULY 1**

**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 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, JULY 2**

**SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / U.S.**

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

DATES
June 19 to July 2, 2018 (14 days)

SIZE
Limited to 32 participants

COST*
$8,995 per person, double occupancy
$11,195 per person, single occupancy
*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 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 / 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

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location of the program and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you information with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

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 participate fully in this 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 welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?sanlago2018 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. 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.

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. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee.

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, motor coach, 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 that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2017 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Terms & Conditions
“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