

Because of the Santiagos: the saint and the city.
Because of the rhythm of walking. *Because of the laughter... and the tears*
For the adventure of it. **For the joy.** To find yourself.
TO LOSE YOURSELF. **To go looking for God, whatever God might be.**
Or not, if that's not your journey. Because whatever you believe, it's or don't believe
it's nice to have clear guidance: just follow the yellow arrows and you'll be all right.
Or use a map and leave the arrows. Any road to Santiago de Compostela is a Camino de Santiago.
TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN HISTORY AND CULTURE. *To meet other*
pilgrims of all ages and backgrounds and nationalities. **To experience the kindness**
of strangers, and get a chance to lend a helping hand. To start a day not
knowing where it will end, and then another. And another.
Because old architecture. BECAUSE CAFE CON LECHE. Because
fresh grapes and fresh figs and fresh blackberries.

WHY WALK THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Just because. To have your sins forgiven. To hug the apostle. **To learn another language.**
TO WALK OVER MOUNTAINS. **To mediate or pray.** *Because cheap wine.*
Because you see a place differently when you walk to it and through it. BECAUSE, EVEN
IF YOU'RE TOO HOT, OR TOO COLD, OR YOUR FEET HURT, OR YOUR BACK HURTS, YOU FEEL ALIVE.
Because it's nice to be in shape ... eventually. The day you feel like you can
fly is worth every moment of slogging up hills. And let's be honest:
because you can eat as much chocolate as you like and still lose weight.
To live another life, just for a while. To appreciate the little things of
"normal" life, like feet that don't hurt and non-dorm rooms and washing machines.
TO BE PART OF SOMETHING THAT'S HUGE IN TIME AND SPACE.
For the journey. **For the stories.** For candles and stained glass and statues.
For the arrival in Santiago or Finisterre. *Because movement.*
BECAUSE PILGRIMS. Because it's there.

The Legal Stuff

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- a) Don't change it in any way.
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If you have any questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you. My e-mail address is anna-marie@pilgrimroads.com.

Best wishes, and buen camino!

Anna-Marie

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