

Information and Booking Details for Youth Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela 21st July – 29th July 2024

Thank you for your interest in joining our Diocesan Pilgrimage this summer. The 'Camino de Santiago' (The Way of St. James) has been a pilgrimage route for over 1000 years. People embark on the journey for many different yet complementary reasons – to deepen their personal faith, to explore and reflect upon challenging issues, to accompany and engage with others from across the world in sharing the joy of our common humanity. Whatever your reason, you are very welcome.

I hope the following information is useful but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Hamish MacQueen (Director of Diocesan Youth Service on dys@rcdea.org.uk and Tel. 07812004934.

Itinerary

Sunday 21 st	Meet at Stansted for 0930 flight to Porto and on to Valenca
Monday 22 nd	Walk to Porrino
Tuesday 23 rd	Walk to Redondela
Wednesday 24 th	Walk to Pontevedra. We have
Thursday 25 th	Walk to Armenteira or Caldos de Reis
Friday 26 th	Walk to Padron
Saturday 27 th	Walk to Santiago
Sunday 28 th	Rest and enjoy Santiago
Monday 29 th	Flight back from Santiago, arriving in Stansted at 11:45 or Flight back from Santiago, arriving in Stansted at 16.25

Accommodation

Accommodation will generally be in simple hostels, possibly in dormitories. Although there are more expensive options, simple accommodation is a normal part of walking the Camino.

Preparation

If you are not used to walking long distances, it would be wise to do some long walks before. There are several websites and films (e.g. The Way) about Walking the Camino which are well worth looking at. Just google 'Walking the Camino' but remember some people do it over hundreds of miles over several weeks, so their experience will be different to ours. Nearer the time, for those who have booked a place, we will be in touch with advice on packing etc.

Cost

We are estimating a cost of £675. This includes the 'Pilgrim Pass', flights, accommodation, breakfast and an evening meal. It does not include lunch and snacks throughout the day. The luggage allowance is a bag or rucksack measuring not more than 55cm x 40cm x 20cm and weighing not more than 10kg, plus a small item of hand luggage. When walking the Camino, most people would not want to take more (It is recommended is not to carry more than 10% of body weight).

From experience on pilgrimages, people want different levels of travel insurance, so we are not including travel insurance in the cost. However, it is compulsory you have at least a basic level of cover. You can get this for less than £30, e.g. from the post office. It is also highly recommended you have a GHIC card (free) in case you need to access healthcare in Portugal and Spain.

Requirements

- You must be age 18 by 21st July 2024 and under 30, with the exception of those coming as older adult leaders.
- You must have a valid passport by July 21st 2024, and valid for at least 3 months after we return.
- If you are not a UK citizen, it is your responsibility to apply for visas for Portugal and Spain if necessary.
- You must have a basic level of travel insurance.
- You must be generally healthy and whilst considering it a challenge that you are fit enough to embark on walking the Camino.

Booking and Payments

To book a place, please click [here](#) or go to www.rcdea.org.uk/youth and follow the links to the booking form. Please note places are limited and bookings will be accepted on a first come first served basis. At the time of booking, please pay a deposit of £100 (details of how to make payments are on the booking form) to secure the booking. Please pay a further £250 by the end of April and the balance of £325 by the end of June. Payments are non-refundable unless you can find someone to take your place and cover the cost of flight name changes.

If you regularly attend church, most parishes will be really pleased a young person is going on a pilgrimage and may offer to support you financially and/or give you an opportunity to fundraise in the parish.

Organised by the Youth Service of the Diocese of East Anglia