

## Trek Camino de Santiago 2024



### Santiago de Compostela

The UNESCO World heritage site of Santiago de Compostela, the final destination of the legendary medieval Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), is named after the Apostle Saint James (Santiago), who is buried here. Saint James went to this most north-western part of Spain, called by the Romans 'Finis Terrae' (end of the world), to preach and convert people to Christianity. After returning to Palestine in 44AD, he was taken prisoner and tortured to death. The king refused to bury him, so his disciples stole the body and brought him by boat to the Spanish coast where he was buried in a secret place in a wood. Centuries later, in 813, the hermit Pelayo heard music in that wood and witnessed strange lights in the night sky. The site was thus called, in Latin, 'Campus Stellae', field of the star, a name that later became Compostela.

Today, thousands of people known as 'pilgrims' walk the Camino de Santiago for a number of different reasons; spiritual, cultural and adventurous or simply such as wanting to learn about the history of this ancient trail and as a way to get fit and spend time outdoors. The Camino is about the journey and to the majority of people it symbolises a time of reflection, learning and fresh starts.

Mrs Hogg's trek with St Luke's Hospice explores the eighth and final section of the French Way, the most traditional and best known of all the pilgrims' ways to Santiago de Compostela. During the 5-day walk they traverse the hilly landscapes of Galicia, passing numerous points of cultural and historical interest along the way.



Although the St Luke's Fundraising trek is not a religious pilgrimage and is all about raising much needed funds for the Hospice Chariry, Mrs Hogg will use the opportunity to launch the BTHCC Jubilee Year 2025 praying for our young Pilgrims of Hope as she walks the Camino. The theme is

“Pilgrims of Hope”, and it will be a Year of Hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Carrying rocks on the Camino is a meaningful tradition for many pilgrims so Mrs Hogg has commissioned the BTHCC Art students to decorate a special BTHCC stone she can lay upon The Way.

Last year, more than 300,000 pilgrims arrived to Santiago de Compostela from all different countries around the world. The vast majority of the pilgrims do the Camino de Santiago on foot. There are also a large number of pilgrims who travel by bicycle. For whatever reason, more and more people are convinced that the Camino de Santiago needs to be an essential part of their individual life journey. There are many books about the Santiago de Compostela and Mrs Hogg recommends watching a film called ‘The Way’ directed by Emilio Estevez if you want to find out more about this ancient pilgrimage and trek.

