

Plein Air

Camino

April 4-14, 2018

Another stellar program from Spanish Steps and Mary Padgett Fine Art!



PAINT, DRAW, AND PHOTOGRAPH on the Camino de Santiago, *The Way of Saint James*, traveled by pilgrims for over a thousand years to Santiago de Compostela. We will walk on the Camino as it winds through Spain's northeast province of Galicia; through oak, pine, and eucalyptus forests, atop mountains with spectacular vistas, across lush farmland and into medieval towns with rich history from long ago Celtic and Roman settlers.



Our paintings, drawings, and photographs will be a personal journal of our pilgrimage as well as a connection with Galicia's landscape. We will be recording our own travel on the path that others have walked for centuries seeking a not only a rewarding physical experience but also a connection to the unique history of the Camino and its very special spiritual dimension.

Spanish Steps will guide us on the Camino, Mary Padgett will guide us for the plein air experience. We will walk the required 108 K (67 miles) so that once we arrive in Santiago de Compostela we will receive the Compostela, the official certificate of completion for this epic journey. We will devote several hours en route each day to record our visual experience with our chosen portable art media (all dry media including pen & ink and pastel; watercolor and gouache; iPad; cameras).



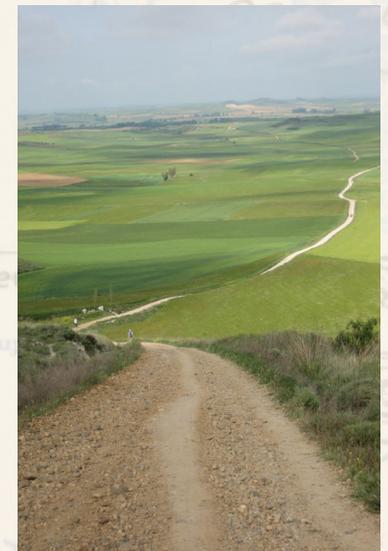
van support with healthy snacks, maps and historical information are included in the tour price.

TOUR PRICE: 3240 Euros per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement 500 Euros. All hotels, breakfasts, dinners with wine, guides, plein air instruction,

Itinerary*

Day 1 (Wednesday 4 April) Afternoon group meeting. Explore and paint in Lugo, one of Galicia's most historic cities dating back to 14 B.C. Here spectacular Roman walls from the third century surround the old town and its open squares, gardens and historic buildings.

Day 2 (Thursday 5 April) Walk from Sarria to Ferrerios. We begin our journey in Sarria, inhabited for many thousands of years both by the Celts and the Romans. Our path on the Camino will pass down a lane through the hamlets of Cortiñas, Lavandeira, Casal, and Brea where we will find a marker telling us that there are 100 kilometers left to Santiago





de Compostela. We will stop for the day in the village of Ferreiros, known for the blacksmith that provided services for both pilgrims and their horses.

Day 3 (Friday 6 April)
Walk Ferrerios to Hospital de la Cruz. We will pass through Portomarin with its Roman bridge over the Miño River. Our walk takes us through small villages named for their long-ago purpose. Hospital de la Cruz was the site of a pilgrim's hospital. Castro Lardeiros, Castro Simone, Castro de Valos and Castro Marza are so named because they were castros, forts.

Day 4 (Saturday 7 April)
Walk Hospital de la Cruz to Casa Domingo. Today we pass through very green farming communities and stop at the well-preserved 14th century Castelo de Pambre for a plein air session.

Day 5 (Sunday 8 April)
Casa Domingo to Melide. We cross a four arch medieval bridge into the village of Furelos on our way to Melide, a busy market town with a long Camino history.

Day 6 (Monday 9 April)
Melide to Ribadiso. In many of the Camino's villages we will see examples of Romanesque architecture. The Church of Santa Maria de Melida is a 12th century Romanesque single nave church with a barrel vault. As we leave Melide we walk through tall oak and eucalyptus forests with a wonderful fragrance.

Day 7 (Tuesday 10 April)
Ribadiso to Alto de Santa Irene. Soon after Ribadiso da Baixo we come to the large town of Arzúa, the last major town we pass through before Santiago de Compostela. Arzúa's origins are intimately linked with the Camino de Santiago and the village grew rapidly during the 11th century at the height of the Camino's prominence during the Middle Ages. There is archaeological evidence that this area was inhabited much earlier. Arzúa's other claim to fame is its cheese, the Queixo Arzúa-Ulloa, a smooth creamy cheese made from cows milk.

Day 8 (Wednesday 11 April)
Alto de Santa Irene to Pedrouzo. We continue westward on the Camino, descending from Alto de Santa Irene, through serene stands of eucalyptus trees and the small villages of Rua and Amenal before embarking on one of our final climbs of the route.

Day 9 (Thursday 12 April)
Pedrouzo to Lavacolla. Outside Pedrouzo we pass the last oak forest of the Camino and cross the Brandelos River before arriving in Lavacolla, a place where pilgrims from long



ago would wash themselves in the shallow stream before entering Santiago.

Day 10 (Friday 13 April)
Lavacolla to Santiago de Compostela. We climb from Lavacolla to the famed Monte del Gozo, Mount Joy, a small hill 380 meters where, if we are lucky, we catch our first glimpse of the distant towers of the cathedral of Santiago.

Day 11 (Saturday 14 April)
Santiago de Compostela. After a leisurely breakfast and before saying good-bye, a local tour guide and historian will show us the main sights on a two-hour guided walking tour of the city and the cathedral.

**This itinerary may change slightly due to accommodation availability, weather issues, festivals and spontaneous side trips. We have the luggage van to transport your luggage and you if you feel you need some assistance while on this journey.*

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