

Prayer Walk on the Portuguese Camino de Santiago



May 20 to
June 3



Pre-‘amble’.

Pilgrimage has long been seen as a metaphor for life itself: a life filled with a succession of problems which all pale into insignificance as the journey ends at the Celestial City as in John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress.

Pilgrimage is often seen as being impractical or impossible because of our busy age but for those who slow down to prayerfully walk, God draws near to walk with them as he did on the Road to Emmaus.

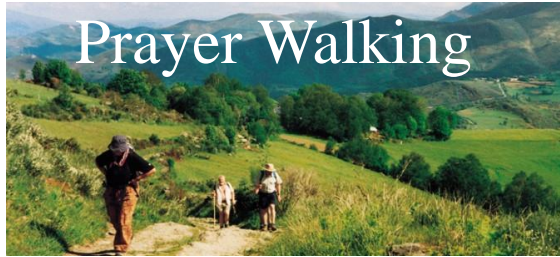
This spring, Dayle and Dawn Medgett will be leading a group of about a dozen pilgrims to prayerfully walk and grow deeper in our relationship with God, while enjoying the beautiful countryside, meeting other pilgrims, and walking 250 km with God on our way to Santiago.

For more information contact Dayle and Dawn at 403-827-3296 or email them at dayle@westviewbaptistchurch.ca



Background

Everyone has their own reasons for walking the *Camino de Santiago*, which is part of what makes it such a special journey. Walking the Way of Saint James marks a turning point in many people's lives, perhaps the end of a particular phase and a fresh start for the next. For others, working towards a goal and the sense of achievement of reaching the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is the greatest satisfaction. Pilgrimage provides the opportunity to step out of the non-stop busyness of our lives, to seek a time of quiet and reflection. It gives us the chance to 'walk through' those issues that we have on our minds, whatever they might be. It is a time of simply 'being' rather than always 'doing'.



The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

This line from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins captures a central theme of our walk: that all the things in the world are presented to us “so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.” Our reflective times will place great emphasis on discerning God's presence in the everyday activities of ordinary life. We will seek to see God as an active God, always at work, inviting us to an ever-deeper walk with him so we can bring this home with us.

Accommodation

Accommodation is up to each pilgrim. The cheapest and the most traditional accommodation are hostels or albergues. These are bunk beds in dorms of 4 to 24 beds depending on the hostel. Cost is usually \$10 -15 a night though some are free or by donation. There are small hotels with private rooms and sometimes ensuite showers and bathrooms and sometimes washrooms for 2 – 4 rooms. Costs range depending on the town and hotel from \$40 – 80 a night.

Sample Day

Each day on the Camino follows a similar yet unique pattern.

Get up, prepare for the day and have a light breakfast

Meet at 7:30 AM for morning worship, preparation for the day and prayer.

Walk as individuals or in a group from 8 AM to 1 or 2 PM depending on our speed and distance and number of breaks.

Find accommodation, shower, have lunch, explore the town, siesta

Meet from 6:30 – 7:30 PM for prayer and worship, teaching, and to debrief about the day.

Supper and social time and then bed



We will walk about 20 Km a day from Porto to Santiago along the central route which follows the original Roman military road that connected Portugal with Spain, crossing 2000 year old bridges along a pilgrimage route that has been walked for over 1000 years. This route is less crowded than the Camino Frances which runs across the north of Spain.



There is no cost for being part of the trip so your expenses are transportation, accommodation and food.

All aspects of the trip are up to each pilgrim. Food is about \$30 a day (less if you occasionally cook your own supper at the albergue), and accommodation. So for 2 weeks anywhere from \$700 to \$1500 per person plus travel costs.