



Sauntering to Santiago

Camino Primitivo Pilgrimage

June 1-15, 2027

Join Rev. Matthew Ruffner in summer 2027 for a transformative journey along the Camino de Santiago Primitivo, the “original way” and the path walked by St. Francis of Assisi in 1214.

Over two weeks, we will spend ten days walking toward Santiago, growing closer to God and one another along the way. Pilgrims are invited to “walk their walk,” moving at their own pace and discovering their own connection to the Camino and to God.



The pilgrimage averages 15 miles of walking each day, with nearly half the route crossing hilly terrain. Comfortable private accommodations and nourishing meals will provide time to rest and refuel.

This pilgrimage is open to adults willing to prepare physically for the challenge and engage spiritually. Space is limited.

WHY THE CAMINO?

“The Camino to Santiago is the longest, most travelled, and most evocative pilgrimage in Europe...Pilgrimage to Santiago really took off when Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Turks in 1078, and it became second only to Rome as a pilgrim destination. St. Francis journeyed the Camino de Primitivo in 1214, and less than five percent of today’s pilgrims journey that route.”

TRIP DETAILS

Leader: Rev. Matthew Ruffner, with co-leaders Whitney Rose & John Hunt

Dates: June 1–15, 2027

Route: Camino Primitivo — Tineo to Santiago de Compostela (~150 miles, 10 walking days)

Group Size: Limited to 10 total participants

Cost: \$4,400/person (double occupancy), \$4,900/person (single, limited availability)

Pilgrims are responsible for booking international flights and Madrid-to-Oviedo travel. Our leadership team will arrange lodging, most meals, and in-country logistics.

To Register: Registration opens Thursday, September 10, at 9 a.m. Space is limited to 10 paying pilgrims, and spots are expected to fill quickly, so please register as soon as possible. Register through Realm or at phpc.org/camino.

Questions in the meantime? Reach out to Rev. Matthew Ruffner at mruffner@phpc.org.

VOICES FROM THE 2025 CAMINO

Pilgrims from our 2025 journey along the Camino Primitivo reflect on what the walk gave them:

*"Everywhere I looked, I could **see** and **feel** God's presence and beauty."*



"I yearned to go on this trip...just yearned to 'wander' daily and give thanks to God for my 74 years of life, and to contemplate how I might fully embrace the last quarter of my life. Everywhere I looked, I could see and feel God's presence and beauty. Hiking through fields and streams, meadows of wild horses, mossy forests, and wildflowers...every day was fresh oxygen and another perspective on all things connected and spiritual in our chaotic lives. I shed many negative thoughts and future fears knowing this is MY journey. I will hold it close forever."

— Tobie, 2025 Pilgrim

"It's not often you can take time to reflect on the vastness of God while challenging yourself and making new friends. All of that made my journey valuable."

— Anne Edwards, 2025 Pilgrim

"We opened each day with a word of faith or spiritual direction. The walking, the beauty, the shared experience — even the discomfort — led to a deeper internalization of my faith than I've found anywhere else."

— John Cavner, 2025 Pilgrim

