JOIN THE TEAM

YouthAction NORTHERN IRELAND

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

PILGRIMAGE WITH A PURPOSE

THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO CHALLENGE 2026

with Pamela Ballantine MBE

INFORMATION PACK

Walk with me on Youth Action NI's first Camino Challenge! It's going to be a tough adventure through the stunning landscapes of North-Western Spain with a group of our friends and supporters – **and YOU are invited! Join the team and embrace the challenge.**

Every year, Youth Action, in partnership with its **member organisations**, **reaches over 6,000 young people** – inspiring them to achieve their full potential and enable change in their communities. **Join us as we step out to challenge ourselves to reach even more young people in 2026!**

Our Camino Challenge is a wonderful opportunity to connect on a personal level with the fantastic work that YANI does. I am constantly inspired and impressed by the young people I meet, so come along and **help us light the way to a brighter future for young people - together.**

See you all along the Way!

Buen Camino,

Pamela Ballantine MBE

TV Presenter and Youth Action NI Chairperson

YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND

THIS. COULD. BE. YOU.

Do **YOU** have what it takes to follow the yellow arrows and scallop-shell markers along one of the **world's oldest pilgrimage routes** to Santiago de Compostela?

After **six days of challenging hiking**, you'll arrive at the renowned Cathedral de Santiago, where you'll be awarded your **Pilgrim Certificate!**

Date — **September 19th - 26th 2026**

Distance & Duration — 100km, 7 Nights

What's included

Breakfast & Dinner
Local Tour Guide
Baggage Transfer
A Twin Room - Limited amounts of single rooms are available at an extra cost
Flights (return Dublin - Santiago)

Payment Options

Option A -
£250 Registration Fee +
£2000 Minimum Sponsorship

Option B -
£250 Registration Fee + £1000 Self-Funding +
£1000 Minimum Sponsorship

75% of sponsorship (£1500) to be paid 60 days before date of departure.

day-by-day

TREK OVERVIEW

DAY 1 Arrival

Today our team will meet at Dublin Airport with an early start to travel to Santiago, before transferring to the starting point of this epic adventure: Welcome to Vigo! Take some time to rest and get to know the people you will be walking with this week.

23KM DAY 2 Vigo to Arcade

From the city of Vigo, you will continue on your coastal Camino with the Bay of Vigo to your left. Today is quite a short day so you can enjoy a relaxed pace. Your stop for the night is the town of Arcade where you will join the original Portuguese Camino.

DAY 3 12KM Arcade to Pontevedra

Today's route follows along the coast and is quite a short walking day. Stop to try the famous oysters in the fishing village of Bello. Your final point is the city of Pontevedra, with its pretty historic center. You will have time to explore the old town, with its many Romanesque churches and quaint granite squares.

DAY 4 22KM
Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis

Leaving Pontevedra, the Camino will take you through chestnut groves and pine and eucalyptus woods. In the village of Ponte Cabras you will see the rectory of Santa María de Alba. At Lombo da Maceira, a statue of Saint James with his walking stick will show you the way. On your way to Caldas de Reis you will pass the hamlet of Tivo with its lovely fountain and public washing bath.

18KM DAY 5
Caldas de Reis to Padron

From Caldas de Reis you will cross the river Umia and find the hot springs that have given the town its name since Roman times. The trail once again takes you to forests and gradually climbs to the village of Santa Mariña. You will continue on the Camino through pine forests to today's destination: the town of Padrón. When the body of Saint James was being brought to Compostela by boat, Padrón was said to be the first land it reached.

DAY 6 25KM
Padron to Santiago

Today you will walk through a number of small villages on your way to the historical sanctuary of A Esclavitude. Nearby on a hilltop sit the ruins of a fort known as Castro Lupario. As you make your way towards Agro dos Monteiros you will be able to see the spires of the cathedral in Compostela. You will pass the ruins of the castle of A Rocha Vella, as you approach Santiago de Compostela.

DAY 7
Free Day in Santiago

Take time to explore this gem of a city, small and vibrant. Its UNESCO listed old town will enchant you. In Santiago de Compostela you will find not only pilgrims but also locals and students, socialising and enjoying a few bites and glasses of wine in the many bars, restaurants and cosy cafes.

DAY 8
Onward Travel

An early start for your transport back to Santiago airport. We hope you have had a fantastic trip full of unforgettable moments and hopefully have made lifelong friends.

**Itinerary subject to small changes

GOT QUESTIONS?

Is the Camino for me?

The Camino is for everyone and anyone who wants to challenge themselves physically, mentally, or spiritually in one of the most breath-taking parts of the world.

How fit do I need to be?

The average daily distance of our Camino is between 12 and 25 kilometers and you can expect to walk for between four and eight hours each day. You should do as much walking as possible prior to the event as this will ready you for the challenge ahead and ensure you fully enjoy yourself.

Is there an age limit?

You must be aged 18 or over on the 19th September to participate in the challenge. For younger fundraisers, visit our website www.youthaction.org and discover other ways to get involved.

What if I can't walk a day?

If for any reason you feel unable to walk on any day there are several options available. Public transport may be available to the next stop, or you can ask your hotel reception to call a taxi.

Are there stops along the Way?

For centuries, towns and villages along the Camino have welcomed pilgrims with open arms – a legacy that continues today. You'll never be far from a cafe con leche, a water fountain – or the loo!

What is the Pilgrims' Passport?

While walking the Camino de Santiago, pilgrims carry a credential, known as the Pilgrim Passport. On arrival at the Cathedral in Santiago, pilgrims take their credential to the nearby Pilgrim Office where a Compostela will be issued to certify the completion of your pilgrimage.

Will I get lost?

The Camino is well marked with its iconic yellow and blue scallop shell signposts, and there will be plenty of other pilgrims plus a local tour guide to keep you on trail!

Is there anything else I need to organise?

You'll need to ensure you have a valid passport, travel insurance and a small amount of spending money for additional snacks, souvenirs etc.

How do the baggage transfers work?

Baggage transfers are included. Your main bag will be transferred each day between your overnight accommodation so that you only need to walk with a day pack.

What equipment do I need?

We'll provide a full packing list along with advice on training and fundraising after you register for the walk. No specialist equipment is required.

Anything else?

If you didn't find your answer here, please do not hesitate to reach out to rachel@youthaction.org. We're always happy to help!

so, what is THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The Camino de Santiago is far more than just a trip.

This legendary pilgrimage is rich in medieval allure, stunning landscapes, and friendly travelers. Since 1993, it has been recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site!**

Our Camino begins in Vigo, a bustling Spanish port town in North-Western Spain. From here you will walk the last 100km of this iconic trail through the rolling Galician countryside towards the steps of the Cathedral de Santiago – believed to be the **resting place of the Apostle, St. John the Great.**

Here, you will join the millions of pilgrims who have completed the Way since it's establishment in the 9th century – and **receive your Pilgrim Certificate** (known in Spanish as a *compostela*).

Most people you meet here will be discovering something about themselves – spiritual truths, how far they can push their bodies, or how many tapas they can eat in a day!

Join us on our Camino Challenge to experience this once-in-a-lifetime adventure and make an impact across generations of young people, helping us to light the way to a brighter future – together.

This is not just a pilgrimage.
It's a Pilgrimage with a Purpose.

ABOUT YOUTHACTION NI

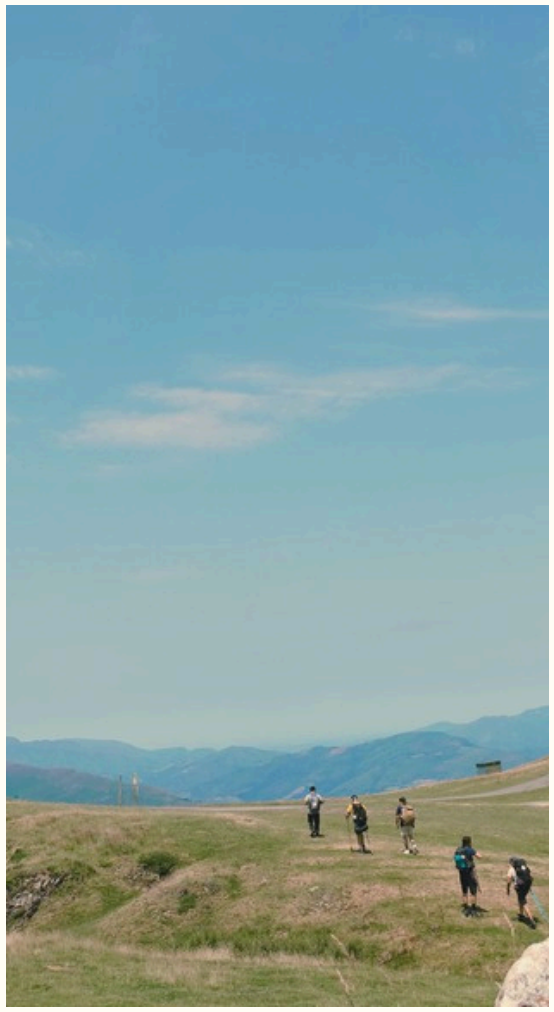
YouthAction Northern Ireland is a leading youth work charity.

YouthAction NI has successfully strived for 80 years to make a significant difference to the lives of young people and their communities by providing unique, life changing opportunities.

We inspire young people to find their true potential and excel in areas such as political activism, performing arts, youth work, education, business, technology and international affairs.

YouthAction NI is highly respected and endorsed by government departments, political and civic leaders, education establishments, corporate businesses, local communities, the arts industry and mental health organisations.

By taking on the Camino Challenge with YANI, you are helping us to light the way to a brighter future for young people - together.



YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE WORLD

a how-to guide

FUNDRAISING

Each participant on the challenge must raise a Minimum Sponsorship:

Option A -
£250 Registration Fee +
£2000 Minimum Sponsorship

Option B -
£250 Registration Fee +
£1000 Self-Funding +
£1000 Minimum Sponsorship

75% of sponsorship (£1500) to be paid 60 days before date of departure.

This is a lot of money to fundraise and will require time, energy, and commitment, so on behalf of all staff and young people at YouthAction NI - **THANK YOU for your support.**

We are so glad to have you on this journey with us and fundraising is just the first part of your great adventure!

Before you even step on the trail, **YOU** will have helped dozens of young people in Northern Ireland grow in confidence, skills and knowledge.

Our Fundraising team will be on hand to support and advise you every step of the way - from your first coffee morning until your last steps into the Cathedral de Santiago!

Once you have registered we will send you a full fundraising pack, with lots of tips and ideas on how to reach your minimum sponsorship goal.

READY TO SIGN UP? CONTACT US TODAY

Email: rachel@youthaction.org

Tel: 028 9024 0551
or visit our website

www.youthaction.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

YouthAction Northern Ireland
14 College Square North
Belfast
BT1 6AS

Charity no. 106365
Company no. 35317

Camino de Santiago Challenge 2026: Terms and Conditions

By completing the registration process for the YouthAction Northern Ireland Camino Challenge 2026 ("the Challenge"), you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

1. The Charity and the Event

1.1 The Challenge is organised by YouthAction Northern Ireland, a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Charity Number: NIC106365), registered address: 14 College Square North, Belfast, BT1 6AS ("the Charity").

1.2 The Challenge will be organised and delivered by Camino Ways on behalf of YouthAction Northern Ireland.

1.3 The Challenge consists of a 100km Camino de Santiago trek, taking place from Saturday 19 September to Saturday 26 September 2026 ("the Event").

1.4 These Terms and Conditions constitute an agreement between you and YouthAction Northern Ireland in relation to your participation in the Event.

2. Registration and Acceptance

2.1 This agreement comes into force once YouthAction Northern Ireland has accepted your registration.

2.2 The Charity reserves the right to refuse or withdraw a participant's place at its discretion, including where these Terms and Conditions are not met.

2.3 The registration fee for the Challenge is £250, payable at the point of registration. The registration fee is non-refundable except where required by law.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Participants must be 18 years or over at the time of registration unless otherwise agreed in writing by YouthAction Northern Ireland.

3.2 By registering, you confirm that you are physically and mentally capable of taking part in a challenging trekking event.

4. Fundraising Obligations

4.1 Participants agree to raise a minimum sponsorship total of £2,000, excluding Gift Aid and the registration fee.

4.2 Participants are required to raise at least 75% (£1500) of the minimum sponsorship 60 days before departure.

4.3 If the Charity has not received the required fundraising amount or satisfactory proof of anticipated funds by this deadline, YouthAction Northern Ireland reserves the right to withdraw the participant from the Challenge.
4.4 Participants have a legal responsibility to ensure that all sponsorship monies collected in connection with the Challenge are paid to YouthAction Northern Ireland, and no later than November 2026.
4.5 If a participant withdraws from the Challenge, they are responsible for informing their sponsors and confirming whether donated funds may still be treated as a donation to YouthAction Northern Ireland.

5. Participant Conduct

5.1 Participants must behave respectfully towards fellow participants, organisers, volunteers, and members of the public.
5.2 Aggressive, abusive, discriminatory, or unsafe behaviour may result in removal from the Challenge without refund.
5.3 Participants must not act in a way that could cause injury, harm, offence, or damage to the reputation of YouthAction Northern Ireland.

6. Cancellations and Changes

6.1 If you decide not to take part in the Challenge, your registration fee will not be refunded.
6.2 In certain circumstances (such as injury or illness), it may be possible to transfer your place to another person, subject to approval by the Charity and the Challenge organisers. Please contact YouthAction Northern Ireland as soon as possible to discuss this.
6.3 YouthAction Northern Ireland reserves the right to make reasonable changes to the Challenge itinerary, accommodation, or arrangements if necessary.

7. Health, Safety and Medical

7.1 The Challenge is physically demanding and involves risks including illness, injury, or accident. You participate entirely at your own risk.
7.2 YouthAction Northern Ireland does not conduct medical or fitness assessments. It is your responsibility to ensure you are medically fit to take part.
7.3 You are strongly advised to consult a medical professional before registering if you have any health concerns.
7.4 Participants must disclose any relevant medical conditions to the organisers prior to departure.

7.5 Participants are responsible for arranging and purchasing adequate travel insurance, including cover for trekking activities.

8. Liability

8.1 YouthAction Northern Ireland shall not be liable for any loss, damage, injury, or expense arising from participation in the Challenge, except where liability cannot be excluded by law.

8.2 You acknowledge that participation is voluntary and undertaken at your own risk.

9. Photography, Video and Publicity

9.1 By registering, you consent to the use of your name, photographs, and video footage taken during the Challenge for fundraising, marketing, and promotional purposes, including use on websites and social media.

9.2 If you do not wish your image or footage to be used in this way, you must notify YouthAction Northern Ireland in writing prior to the Event.

9.3 Any additional use of your image or story beyond Challenge promotion will only be undertaken with your explicit consent.

10. Data Protection

10.1 YouthAction Northern Ireland will process personal data in accordance with its Privacy Policy and applicable data protection legislation.

10.2 Participants may be contacted by email, phone, SMS, or post for purposes related to the administration and delivery of the Challenge.

11. Entire Agreement

11.1 These Terms and Conditions constitute the entire agreement between you and YouthAction Northern Ireland in relation to the Challenge and supersede any prior agreements or representations.

12. Governing Law

12.1 These Terms and Conditions are governed by the law of Northern Ireland, and the courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction.