

*Lord, show me your ways, guide me in your path:  
stay with me because you are my Lord and Saviour.*

### Mass times in the Cathedral

7:30h. Chapel of El Santisimo

8:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo

9:00h. High Altar

9:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo. (SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAY)

9:40h. Canto di Laude in latino. (SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAY)

10:00h. Chapel of El Santisimo

11:00h. Chapel of La Corticela

12:00h. High Altar. Pilgrim's Mass

13:15h. High Altar

18:00h. High Altar. (SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAY)

19:30h. High Altar

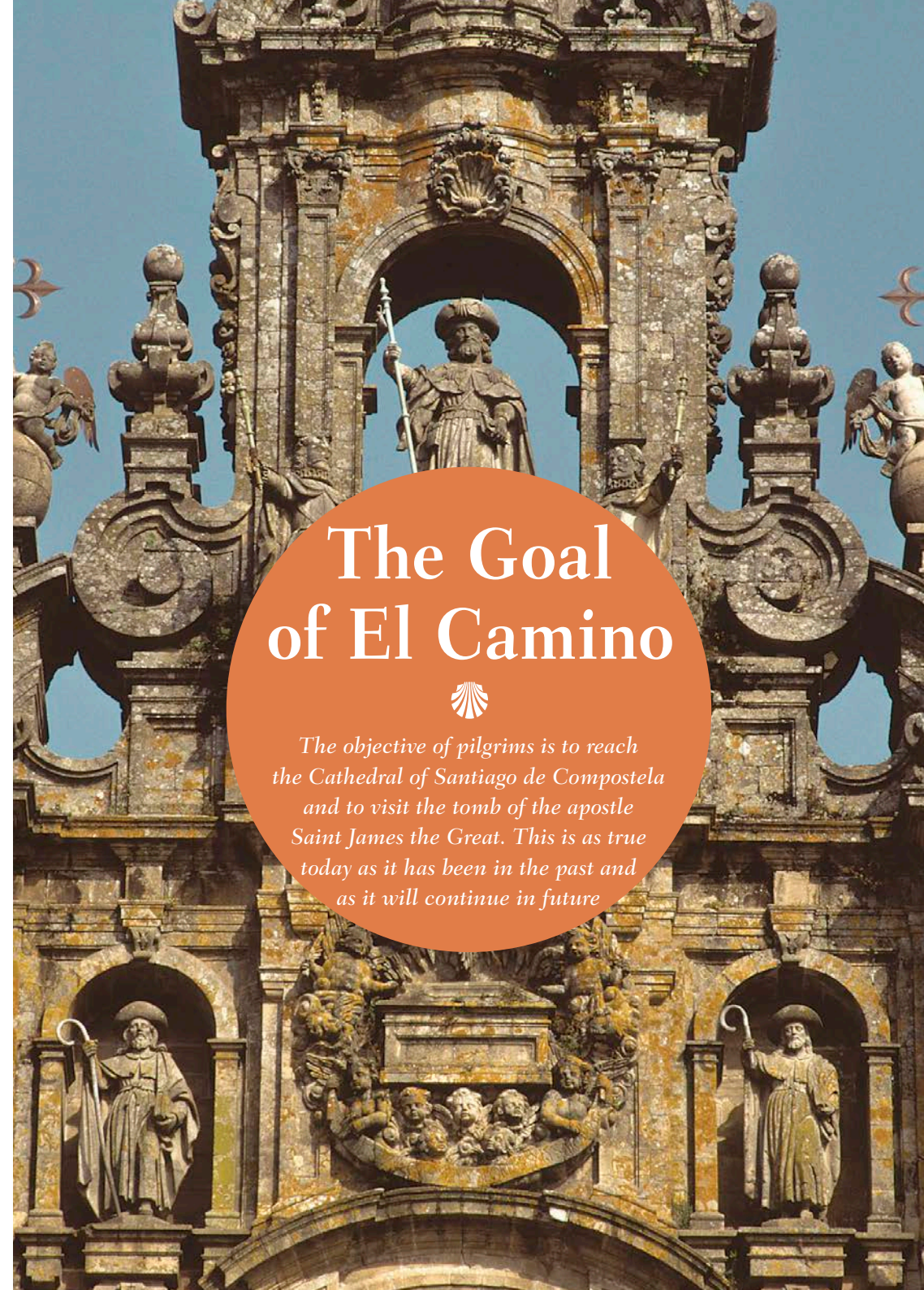
### PILGRIM'S OFFICE

[www.peregrinossantiago.es](http://www.peregrinossantiago.es)

[oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:oficinadelperegrino@catedraldesantiago.es)



CATEDRAL  
DE SANTIAGO



# The Goal of El Camino



*The objective of pilgrims is to reach  
the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela  
and to visit the tomb of the apostle  
Saint James the Great. This is as true  
today as it has been in the past and  
as it will continue in future*





## Apostle Saint James

James was one of the twelve apostles and according to tradition was one of Jesus's closest supporters along with his brother John and Peter, who was his cousin. James was a strong willed, fiery and fervent apostle whom Jesus had nicknamed the "son of Thunder". He was a courageous witness to his faith and he travelled to the end of the world at Finisterre in Galicia to spread the news of the salvation: "Jesus has risen from the dead and is the Messiah and the Lord."

After James returned from Spain to Jerusalem he became the first apostle to die as a martyr for Christ. His disciples collected the corpse and moved it back to Galicia, the land of which he was so fond.

The tomb was lost for centuries until it was rediscovered in the year 813 by a hermit called Payo or Pelayo. The news of the discovery spread quickly, and following this, pilgrims started to come, starting the pilgrimage which has continued until today without interruption.

## At the Cathedral

Go around the Cathedral until you reach the Plaza Obradoiro where you will see the main facade. Look at its immensity: finally you are here, the place of which you have

dreamed. Make the sign of the cross, start to ascend the steps without rushing: this is the goal, this is the moment to enjoy every step that you take.

*"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord! There our feet are standing within your gates O Jerusalem" Ps 121*

## El Pórtico de la Gloria – the Door of Glory

Entering the temple, you will see this magnificent Romanesque work of art which represents the history of salvation. To the left, the prediction of the resurrection of Christ, symbolised by the four prophets of the Old testament. To the right, the proclamation of Christ by the four apostles from the New Testament. In the centre is the Lord, surrounded in glory. He is the temple, the mediator between God and man, the priest.

He is the door. He puts us in communication with the Divine, through him we enter into the true life through our faith.

On the central column is Saint James the apostle, sent by Christ so that he passed on this faith.

Enter in faith through the door which is Jesus Christ saying: "I believe in one God..."

## Hug the Saint

You will see the statue of Saint James presiding over the main altar of the cathedral. Go round to the right hand side to go up and embrace the statue.

*"Thank you Saint James, my friend and brother, for helping me to arrive here! Thank you for being with me, for your witness to the Gospel and for your legacy!"*

## The Tomb of Saint James

Below the altar is the crypt, the true goal of the Camino: you will see the walls of the old tomb and in the middle the vessel which contains the remains of the Apostlet.

*"And you are here, Saint James, in this far off land. You are here to preach the risen Christ, to encourage our search and our faith."*

*Strengthen my faith and my Christian life, which many times seem to leave us. You are the strong one, the intrepid, the Son of the Thunder."*

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

You will see confessionals in the cathedral where there is confession in different languages. and in different languages. During el Camino, you have discovered your weaknesses and your sins. Through the Sacra-

ment of Reconciliation you put all of these into the hands of Christ, so that your life may be renewed.

*"Lord have mercy on me in your goodness and through your boundless compassion cleanse my sins. Oh God, give me a pure heart and renew my spirit. "*

## La Misa del Peregrino

*"Lord, as pilgrims of many places and many languages we have come together around your Eucharistic table. To sit together with you as Saint James may times, to learn from you and to be strengthened and fed with your body."*

## Starting the Pilgrimage of Life

When you finish, leave the cathedral through the southern door, La Puerta de las Platerías. Focus on the facade. On the mullion between the arch of the two doors, there is a Crismón, a monogram of Christ. But, the letters are backwards: The Alpha has changed places with the Omega. The end is at the beginning. The goal of el Camino has now started another Camino, you have started a new life.

## Think about what the Way has given you and about what you can give back.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP OTHER PILGRIMS WHY NOT THINK ABOUT BEING A HOSPITALERO?

Becoming a hospitalero with the ACC is the opportunity to help in one of more than 80 church albergues for pilgrims.

Hospitaleros serve in these albergues for one or two weeks performing simple tasks such as the reception of pilgrims, the care of their basic needs, maintenance of the hostel, the creation of a warm, friendly and spiritual atmosphere.

... Hospitaleros are not paid but serve others with love recognizing in each pilgrim the presence of the Lord who one day will tell them: "Come, blessed of my father, because he was a pilgrim and you welcomed me".

Hospitaleros continue the tradition of offering hospitality to pilgrims to Santiago given for centuries by monasteries, fraternities, parishes... They understand that the pilgrimage is primarily a religious and spiritual experience and through their work as hospitaleros they can give witness to their own faith.

Find out more

**ACC - Acogida Cristiana en el Camino**

[www.acogidacristianaenelcamino.es](http://www.acogidacristianaenelcamino.es)

[info@acogidacristianaenelcamino.es](mailto:info@acogidacristianaenelcamino.es)

**Oficina de Acogida al Peregrino**

[www.peregrinossantiago.es](http://www.peregrinossantiago.es)

[acogidacristiana@catedraldesantiago.es](mailto:acogidacristiana@catedraldesantiago.es)



*You've  
reached  
the goal!*

*Now  
what?*



## You've reached the goal!

**YOU HAVE ARRIVED IN COMPOSTELA.** You have toured the city and you have followed the traditions of pilgrims: visiting the cathedral; seeing the Portico de la Gloria; passing through the Holy Door when it is a Holy Year in a Holy Year; hugging the Statue of Saint James. Finally you have visited the most special place, the tomb of the Apostle Saint James. This is the end of the pilgrimage to Santiago.

It is time to enjoy your achievement, to rest and to enjoy the beauty of the Cathedral and its surroundings. It has been written that the goal of every pilgrimage is, "the repose of the soul in a special place that gives meaning, beauty and truth to existence". Think now of the sense of beauty and truth you want in your life in the future after your pilgrimage which has finished.. As you rest savour the feelings, beauty and truth that you experienced on your pilgrimage and that can illuminate your life in future. Don't be hurry to return home, relax and enjoy what has been achieved. It is time to feel at home with these feelings. As the Psalmist says:

What desirable are your dwellings, Lord of hosts!  
Even the Sparrow has found a home;  
the swallow, a nest to place her young at your altar,  
Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are those who live in your House, always praising you.  
Blessed those who find strength in you  
Whose heart is following your Way. *Psalm 83*

## And...now?

**REACHING THE END** of the pilgrimage for some will mean the joy of starting to live the kind of life experienced on the Way. However, for others the arrival in Santiago marks the end of an enjoyable experience but one which has failed to cause fundamental change in their lives. Nostalgic for the experiences of the Camino they don't want to go home but rather decide to continue to the ocean where they can go no further.



The aim of the pilgrimage is that we learn to live as pilgrims in our daily lives. The lessons lie in the values we have discovered; the simple way of life we can live; the relationships we forge with others; the liberating silence; our physical weaknesses and strengths; the sense of beauty and truth. Most importantly is our openness to God, and how we apply these lessons when we are back in our normal lives at work and at home, with family and friends. Therefore we come to understand our lives as a pilgrimage and the pilgrimage as a school for life.

**Do you think you can do this?**