



The Ballad of

The Way of St

James

I have a tale to tell you all (a bit of a farrago),
Of pilgrims from Australia, setting off for Santiago.
To be precise, there were three souls from Albion's fair land –
Until, alas, we lost a pair, struck down by Fortune's hand.

We gathered first in gay Paris to meet our fearless leaders,
Whom previously we'd all known only as email readers;
But Annie, David, Chris and Jean were our "amis" in no time –
Their bonhomie and equanimity inspired this rhyme.

From Lyon we set off by coach, and found we had a treasure:
For Pablo was our driver, and a great bloke beyond measure.
We travelled on in comfort on the Chemin de St Jacques
In those mediæval footsteps where the pilgrims made their mark.

Not surprisingly, we were a rather motley crew *in toto* –
(Some were spiritually inspired, others chasing a great photo).
But even those who had been heard to mutter "A. B. C.!"
Were wowed by the experiences, and the things to see.

So we crossed the south of France, the Pyrenees and Spanish border,
And ev'ry stop we managed somehow – just – to keep in order.
And we'd chat amongst ourselves, and those who could would talk with Pablo;
While the others shook their heads, and murmured: "Español no hablo".

There were sometimes little problems, like connection to the WiFi*,
And the major one of: where could thirty people all do pipi?
But Annie, Chris and David had the trip completely sorted,
And it mattered not a whit if one or two plans were aborted.

And let us not forget the meals, both lavish and spectacular:
They all were bloody brilliant, if I may use the vernacular!
And accommodation ranging from the comfy to the grand,
Though the *paradores* certainly trumped ev'ry other hand.

But now our pilgrimage is done, it's time for us to scatter,
And time to say "Adieu", "Adiós" – the language does not matter.
But first: our heartfelt thanks (for any less would be remiss)
To our splendid, lovely leaders: Annie, David, Jean and Chris!

* 'WiFi' pronounced in the French/Spanish manner

