

A FRANCE HERITAGE TRAVEL HISTORY & CULTURE TOUR 2019

"ACROSS THE PYRENEES"

THE "St JAMES WAY" PILGRIM ROUTES THROUGH FRANCE AND SPAIN TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

A FEW PLACES STILL AVAILABLE ON THE TOUR!

A WORLD HERITAGE TRAIL BY COACH ACROSS SOUTHERN FRANCE AND NORTHERN SPAIN

A "REPEAT PERFORMANCE" OF THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL JUNE 2015 TOUR

In the company of

Emeritus Professor Chris Gossip (University of New England, Australia)

Chris has led a number of annual *Language & Culture* tours for Cpederf France Heritage since 2010, and in particular the *St James Way* tour in 2015

Friday 31 May - Thursday 20 June 2019

(As far as the dates are concerned, the whole tour has been planned, as in 2015, so that the group arrives in Logroño on the day of its most important annual fiesta, the patronal festival of *San Bernabé* (June 11th), which is focussed around the theme of "sharing fish, bread, and wine". No nation makes more of its festival days than Spain, always a splendid experience!

WORLD HERITAGE

On every day of the tour you will be in contact with World Heritage sites and/or monuments.

In France you will visit 17 specifically declared sites or monuments, as well as three World Heritage parts of the original medieval paths across the French countryside.

In Spain, all sites relating to the *Camino Francés* along which we pass are part of Spanish World Heritage.

Such is the richness of the tour that it will appeal to a wide variety of interests :

History (both religious and secular), Architecture, Art, Sculpture, Legend and Tradition, Customs, Music - and of course French and Spanish Language & Culture!

Not forgetting that you will pass through some extremely beautiful scenery!

ACCOMMODATION : With the exception of one night, all the hotels on the tour are situated in traditional stopping places, or "halts", for pilgrims. Of course, with a pilgrimage, one is constantly moving on! There is so much to see and experience on this tour, and everything has been done to pack as much as possible into the 19 days!

But it is inevitable on a few occasions we are obliged to organize one-night stands in hotels!

Every attempt has been made to keep these to an absolute minimum!

And such one-night stands will be compensated for by particularly good meals!

PLEASE READ ON :

All hotels are chosen with great care :

In France : one is four star, the rest are three-star except for one night in a two-star because there is no suitable hotel in the area. (But there were no complaints in 2015!)

In Spain we start in four-star hotels, and finish the tour in Compostela in the famous Parador five-star hotel, Hostal dos Reis Católicos which is intimately linked to St James Way history

You can rest assured that the hotels will be pleasantly situated – close to the town centre and not out in some impractical suburb!

SOME UNSOLICITED FEEDBACK FROM THE 2015 TOUR PARTICIPANTS

“Your imagination, careful planning, and enthusiasm bring so much pleasure to so many people...We both speak with extreme enthusiam about the trip which was absolutely wonderful...A very big thank you! You were fabulous!” (Jenny & Colin)

“I had the most marvellous time. Sincere thanks” (Peter)

“What a wonderful trip” (Jane)

“I want to say a special thank you for giving us such an enjoyable, interesting and gastronomic tour. I really cannot say what I enjoyed more as all aspects were so special...Thank you for looking after us so well” (Jan)

“Thanks again for all you did for us on the Way” (Helen)

“I just loved the trip” (Christina)

And this extract from a lovely end-of-tour poem composed for the group by Jenny (who loved the tour so much she is coming back on the tour next year!) :

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

The whole poem can be found on our website among the “documents” relating to the 2019 *St James Way* tour.

ITINERARY

Participants will be asked to gather in Paris on the afternoon prior to the main departure day for a get-together briefing and presentation of the tour, followed by a simple group dinner. The following morning you travel by TGV to Lyon to get the coach up into the Massif Central to one of the three most important traditional starting points in France for the pilgrimage to Compostela, Le Puy-en-Velay also one of the most remarkable places on the whole tour!

Here is the overall itinerary :

Paris (1 night) - Le Puy-en-Velay (2 nights) – Saint-Flour (1 night) – Figeac (2 nights) – Toulouse (2 nights) – Oloron-Sainte-Marie (1 night) – Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (1 night) – Estella (1 night) – Burgos (3 nights) – León (2 nights) – Lugo (1 night) – Santiago de Compostela (3 nights).

Visits :

There will be visits to sites and monuments every day –many will be with specialist local guides, some will be with the use of audioguides, but all will be in English (unless you choose otherwise!)

Walks :

This cultural pilgrimage is designed as a coach tour - in a very comfortable coach!
Nevertheless, there will be at least six opportunities for those who so wish to walk for a few hours across the countryside along the ancient tracks (always depending on time and the weather!)

Gastronomy :

As on all Cpéderf cultural tours, gastronomy plays a most important role!
The tour menus are compiled over a period of weeks in close consultation with the restaurants chosen, and repetitions are avoided as far as possible.

Every effort is made to give you an experience of both national and local dishes, and despite the pace of the tour there will be time for a wine-tasting in Logroño!

Throughout the tour each day you will have a buffet breakfast plus one main meal, either lunch or dinner.

(People will only need to make provision for a lighter meal each day)

Individual dietary and health requirements are taken into account for all the main group menus.

This Cpéderf cultural tour has been designed specifically not only for all lovers of France and Spain, but as well for absolutely anyone to whom the theme and programme appeal!

The 2015 tour brought together participants from Australia, New Zealand, and the UK, and we hope very much that this will prove the case again in 2019 : the tour ambiance was so marvellous!

**COST: 4950 euros per person based on twin-share/double hotel rooms
Estimated single room supplement : 1350 euros per person**

(These costs do not include travel to France nor from Spain)

(All participants are responsible for their own travel to France/from Spain, as well as for all travel, cancellation, accident and medical insurance)

IMPORTANT NOTE

The official language of this tour is English! However, whenever there is a possibility of audioguides in French and/or Spanish, the choice of language will be yours!

On the website (www.cpederf.com) you can find the full documentation :

**DETAILED DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAMME
SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING THE 2015 TOUR
(showing most of the places and sites to be visited on the tour)
WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COSTING,
REGISTRATION FORM**

Or just send us a simple request by email and we will email the documents to you immediately.

*For all queries and requests for further information, please email to
CPEDERF FRANCE HERITAGE :*

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