

You are here: [Home](#) » [Europe and the Med](#) »

Walking Europe's classic pilgrim trails

## Walking Europe's classic pilgrim trails

Written by [David Pike](#) on July 4, 2013 · [Leave a Comment](#)

**There are many reasons why people sign up to become a modern day pilgrim and set out on Europe's pilgrim trails.**



The chance to walk in the footsteps of history, a spiritual experience or maybe simply taking on a challenge. Whatever the spur it's a guaranteed adventure.

For Kenny Taylor from the Scottish Borders, it was his way to come back from a triple heart bypass operation.

Starting with the Highland Way, the Pennine Way and St Cuthbert's Way he recently broadened his walking ambitions and completed the 500-mile Camino de Santiago pilgrim trail.

"I knew I had to do something and walking seemed the perfect answer. The Santiago walk was a great experience and a very emotional journey. It took me 32 days to complete and I made friends with fellow travellers from all over the world. In fact I enjoyed it so much I am going back to do it again this year," he said.

As Kenny (below left with fellow pilgrims Stan from Texas and Ashlee from Australia) discovered, ancient pilgrim routes are among Europe's best walking trails – full of history, amazing sights and great food. Here's a couple more he might be tempted to add to his trophy trekking list.

CaminoWays.com caters for those interested in walking some of Europe's most famous pilgrim trails – Camino de Santiago, Via Francigena and Saint Francis Way.

Walking holidays along classic pilgrimage trails are popular for all sorts of reasons and offer unique experiences for the traveller looking for a holiday with a difference.

### Camino de Santiago – The Saint James Way

There are many routes along the Camino de Santiago, or Saint James Way, leading to Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia (North West Spain). Since the middle ages, pilgrims from all over Europe have made their way to Santiago to visit the city's cathedral and the tomb of Saint James. The most prominent route is the French Way, covering 800 kilometres from the French Pyrenees across Spain's Meseta and into Galicia, on the Atlantic coast.



### Via Francigena – The original pilgrimage to Rome

Another classic walking trail in Europe, the Via Francigena follows an ancient pilgrimage route to Rome starting in Canterbury in the UK and leading walkers across France and Switzerland, before reaching Italy. The Via was an important road in medieval times and it is a designated European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe since 1994. The trail passes important landmarks and beautiful landscapes in Europe – from the WWI battlefields in

Northern France to the Alps and the Tuscan countryside.

**Saint Francis Way – following Saint Francis**

The Saint Francis Way or Camino di Francesco, in Italy, follows the steps of Saint Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order. This trail takes an alternative route between the cities of Florence and Rome, along an ancient Roman road, passing through important and beautiful sites such as Assisi and Rieti, in Umbria.

These walking holidays are available all year round with CaminoWays.com, the walking and cycling holiday specialists. Visit [www.caminoways.com/destinations](http://www.caminoways.com/destinations) for more information.

Find CaminoWays.com on Facebook: [facebook.com/caminoways](https://www.facebook.com/caminoways).

Photograph (top) with thanks to [www.francigenaways.com](http://www.francigenaways.com)

- See more at: <http://travel.euvue.co.uk/walking-europes-classic-pilgrim-trails/#sthash.trBurGaE.dpuf>