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Headline: I will walk 500 miles...



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Jack Gleeson

A 500-mile walk doesn't sound like much of a holiday. But for those who've ventured along the famous Camino de Santiago it can be much more than just your average getaway.

In fact, some describe this modern- postela. day pilgrimage as a life-changing event, while others claim it's the most fun you March 29 to April 5, from Palm Sunday to can have on a spiritual trek.

And the good news is that while there is plenty of walking involved, you don't really have to do all of those 500 miles.

The Camino de Santiago is a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St James at Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain.

Many pilgrims walk, plan and organise everything themselves, but walking and cycling holiday specialists CaminoWays. com can take the stress out of the experience.

Easter isn't far away now and it's a fantastic time of year to walk the Camino de Santiago with many festivals taking place along the routes.

CaminoWays.com recommend the is much more than just an average Camino Inglés, or the English Way - a route traditionally taken by pilgrims from England and Ireland.

It starts in the coastal city of Ferrol, home to one of the most important Easter celebrations in Galicia, and it's a very special route to walk during this time.

On this Easter Camino package, guests spend two nights in Ferrol where they can attend the spectacular evening procession on Holy Thursday and the dramatic 'Holy Encounter' event on Good Friday.

As Good Friday is the most important day during Easter, there are a further eight events taking place, including the striking 'Procession of the Silent Ones' at midnight.

After Ferrol, guests walk to the lively towns of Pontedeume and Betanzos which have their own charming Easter celebrations and traditions.

They then head inland to beautiful, rural Galicia before finishing the journey in the historical city of Santiago de Com-

This year, Holy Week takes place from Easter Sunday.

CaminoWays.com have a seven night package on the English Way from Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela from €712 per person sharing.

The price includes seven nights' accommodation on a half-board basis, luggage transfers from hotel to hotel and a holiday pack with practical information for your trip.

Flights, transport or insurance aren't included in the cost.

For more information about Easter on the Camino and fantastic Easter routes visit CaminoWays.com

They will also advise you on Camino offers for other times of the year.

■ (Right) The Camino de Santiago

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