

Tour Groups: A Viable Option?

By Theresa Devonshire, San Jose CA

In July I finished my second Camino. My first I did by myself, carried a backpack and stayed in the albergues. When I suggested to my husband that I wanted to go again he agreed to join me only if we stayed at hotels. My search began for all the options, and they are many, of doing the Camino with a bit more comfort. After determining what was important to me, walking the last 100 km and receiving the compostela, I chose Fresco Tours. One of our friends and my 16-year-old grandson also came along.

We indeed walked every step of the Camino starting in O Cebreiro and arriving in Santiago on July 24th. The cost included an outstanding picnic lunch, fabulous dinners and guides that were not only great company but had a vast knowledge of Spanish

history. The wonderful accommodation included a 15th century manor house, a converted monastery and a former palace. We walked 10 – 14 miles a day over a 10-day period.

Except for the food and sleeping arrangements, my experience going with a tour and going by myself was quite similar. We still met people from all over the world, dealt with sore muscles and blisters, angst about what to bring, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience! I would highly recommend this as an option for those that want a bit more comfort or support.

The most important thing was that I got to experience the Camino with my husband and grandson. ♦



Contributors

A special thank you to all the writers, photographers, and artists who contributed to this edition of *La Concha*. Your talents are much appreciated. ♦

- ♦ Annette Argall
- ♦ Monica Armanino
- ♦ Lydia Banales
- ♦ Bronwyn Browne
- ♦ Gary Buffington
- ♦ Dick Carter
- ♦ Daniel De Kay
- ♦ David DePhillips
- ♦ Theresa Devonshire

- ♦ Mike Dunican
- ♦ Lawrence Graves
- ♦ James Green
- ♦ Peg Hall
- ♦ Cindy Hubbard
- ♦ David Jennings
- ♦ Deirdre Magner
- ♦ Mario Mazzarella
- ♦ Larry McIntyre

- ♦ Patricia Merrifield
- ♦ Andre Montero
- ♦ Cherie Pagett
- ♦ Richard Peter
- ♦ Marty Robinson
- ♦ Peter Schloss
- ♦ Mona Spargo
- ♦ Mary Stupp-Greer
- ♦ Pamela von Kleist