

Ignatian Camino Pilgrimage, July 14 to 28 of 2013, Questions and Answers:

What is the Camino Ignaciano (Ignatian Way)?

In 1522, Ignatius of Loyola undertook a pilgrimage trek from his Loyola home to Montserrat, Manresa (and beyond). By the end of that life-changing experience, he had formulated the basis of his *Spiritual Exercises*. A small team of Jesuits and lay people, with the blessing and support of the Jesuits of Spain, have created a pilgrim trail that follows Ignatius's 1522 route; it is suitable for walkers, cyclists, or automobile pilgrims. You can learn more about the route at www.caminoignaciano.org/en

What will the July 14 to 28 trip involve? Who is organizing it?

The trip includes spiritual, historical, and physical highlights of the Camino. Pilgrims will see where Ignatius was born (Loyola), made an all night vigil to start his trek (Arantzazu), surrendered his sword as a symbolic offering (the monastery of Montserrat), and experienced deep spiritual transformation (Manresa). Pilgrims will also visit picturesque tourist centers (Barcelona, San Sebastian). In between all this, pilgrims will undertake a six-day walking pilgrimage along the camino, visiting towns including the birthplace and shrine of St. Peter Claver, SJ, who ministered to African slaves in South America. The trip is organized by the Ignatian Camino office, a ministry of the Jesuits of Spain.

How will the logistics work?

The full group of up to 50 pilgrims will start together in Loyola and will travel by bus to sites like Arantzazu and San Sebastian. Then the group will sub-divide into bands of approximately eight people; each small group will then set off on a six-day walking pilgrimage along a stretch of the camino. The full group will reconvene for the last few days of prayer and fellowship (Montserrat, Manresa, Barcelona). A calendar is further below.

What will it cost?

The cost is 800 Euros (currently US\$ 1050). That cost will include virtually all your expenses in Spain over fifteen days: lodging, meals, transfers within Spain, service of guides for full group visits, etc. this is an exceptionally low all-in cost for fifteen days! But understand that you will be traveling as a pilgrim: during the six-day trek, you will typically stay at hostels and eat simple meals. There are only minor expenses in Spain that you will have to cover yourself: a couple of meals, your airport transfers, and snacks and incidental purchases. Please note, though, that the price does *not* include transport to/from Spain, visa or other documentation, hospitalization or other insurances.

The pilgrimage includes six days of walking. How will that work? Will it be arduous?

The small groups will walk a total of between 65 to 95 miles over six days; each group will decide its target distance. The terrain is not arduous, but walkers will need to be fit enough to walk about a dozen miles daily in hot summer weather! This portion of the trip will be a spiritual pilgrimage: each small group will spend nights in pilgrim hostels, pray together daily, share an evening meal, and manage a pool of money to buy their midday meal. Each small group will walk at its own pace and follow the camino's maps, GPS, and other directional tools to stay on course. It is unlikely that a group will get lost; telephone help will always be available; the support team will always be within a one hour drive; and none of the Ignatian Camino passes through wilderness!

Can schools, parishes, or colleges come as small groups?

That is exactly our hope! We hope that institutions will organize small groups of pilgrims---“Fordham University Faculty and Alumni,” “Students of Loyola High School, or “St. John’s Parish”—to journey the six-day walking portion together, ideally with a chaplain or organizer who will help coordinate the group’s prayer. The minimum age to participate is 18.

But if I am not part of an eight person group, can I come alone or with a smaller group?

Of course! We anticipate that many school administrators or campus ministers may come alone or in smaller teams to explore the camino and figure out how to organize their own institution’s pilgrimages in future years! Our long-term goal is to promote “do it yourself” pilgrimages for students, alumni, or staff of Jesuit institutions. This July experience will give you the familiarity and comfort to structure and lead future pilgrimages on your own.

What support will be available along the way?

When the full group is together (at Loyola, Montserrat, and Manresa, for example) there will always be two guides. During the six-day walking period, the Ignatian Camino team will always be accessible by phone; a support car can be dispatched in case of more serious problems.

How and by when do we sign up? How can I learn more?

To register yourself or your group, contact Ms. Elisabet Sule at the Ignatian Camino pilgrim office. Her email is: oficina.barcelona.TSI@caminoignaciano.org . You must register by March 31, *but* space is limited, and registrations will close as soon as the maximum limit (50 pilgrims) is reached. Therefore, *we strongly advise early registration*. A 25% deposit (non refundable) will be due by April 30. If you have further questions, you can contact Ms. Sule or Chris Lowney chrislowney@gmail.com The basic calendar is below:

2013: from Sunday 14th July to Sunday 28th July

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
ARRIVAL to LOYOLA	LOYOLA	ARÁNZAZU DONOSTI	BEGIN WALKING PILGRIMAGE	PILGRIMAGE
DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10
PILGRIMAGE	PILGRIMAGE	PILGRIMAGE	WALKING MONTSERRAT ABBEY	WALKING MANRESA
DAY 11	DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15
IGNATIAN MANRESA	TRANSFER TO BARCELONA	BARCELONA	BARCELONA	BACK HOME