



“When you are moving toward an objective,” said Petrus, “it is very important to pay attention to the road. It is the road that teaches us the best way to get there, and the road enriches us as we walk its length.”

- The Pilgrimage by Paulo Coelho (1947 -), Writer, lyricist.



Starting with Singapore's 55th birthday (9th), followed by the "Independence Day" for the Indonesians (17th), then the "Merdeka Day" for the Malaysians (31st), there are a number of national day celebrations in August.

There are also several religious celebrations, e.g., for our Hindi friends, the festivals of [Janmashtami](#) (11th), and [Ganesh Chaturthi](#) (22nd), for our Catholic friends, the [Blessed Feast of Assumption](#) (15th), and for our Muslim friends, a Happy [Islamic New year](#) (20th.)

With so many events to celebrate, we wish you the best of August!



A Journey A Month...

Your Story. Our Story. The Human Story.

Pilgrimage noun /ˈpɪlɡrəˌmɪdʒ/. According to the Oxford dictionary, the word is Middle English from Provençal pelegrinage or pelegrin. It means to take a journey to a place of particular interest or significance, either a holy place for religious reasons or a site connected with someone or something you admire or respect.

People go on pilgrimage in search of meaning about self, others, nature, or higher good. Cultures from the world over have this practice since ancient times, often for personal transformation spiritually.

For the Muslims, it is the Hajj to Mecca, for the Tibetans, it is the travel to Lhasa; and for the Hindus, it is to the Ganges; etc. Asked the elders around you, you may be surprised to find more destinations than what you think you know. Indeed, pilgrimage is part of humanity's DNA because we desire to search for the meanings of our lives.

Well-known to the Europeans, [Santiago de Compostela](#) is the gathering place of Catholic pilgrims for more than a thousand years. Multiple routes lead to the destination, notably with starting points

from Holland, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Italy, France and Portugal. Pilgrims visit ancient sites and immerse in beautiful landscapes as they follow the footsteps of those before them and the “scallop” shells’ markings.

For some, the journey can take many months on foot, but with today’s modern transportations, more are joining beyond Europe, from North and South America, Asia, and even as far as Australia.



With my best friend, I did the Camino in 2010. It was an adventure. I was curious about the site after



reading Paulo Coelho's books, and I was also fascinated by the history of Medieval Europe and the knights' tales. I must admit the trip was more to tick-off my travel bucket list than a real spiritual pilgrimage. Ten years after, the self-reflection and the more profound discovery only came to me now.

Finally, I realise life itself is a pilgrimage since the day we were born. We each have our own route or our Camino, some given, some chosen. Some of us travel from our birthplace to new destinations at different moments of our lives. Despite the multiple and different routes, we will eventually arrive at the same destination, the discovery of our souls. As we journey on, there will be people who join us and leave us at different times, some we may create special bonds, and some we may never see them again, just like the companions we meet at the Camino de Compostela.

The Camino essentially is an inward spiritual journey, more so than the strenuous physical one. We each will have one to walk. It may not be Santiago, Lhasa, Mecca, or Jerusalem, but it is our everyday life. We meet and interact with people who come on and get off our paths in our lives. We experience challenges, joy and sorrow, triumphs and failures, just like the pilgrims of ancient times.



Our Camino is only meaningful when we are able to appreciate the scenes (sceneries) and bond with the companions we meet along our journey. By focusing on the essence of what life gives us versus what we want, we will find our souls, get closer to our true selves, and become more at peace with who we are.



For the Chinese, in Taoism, the word: Tao/Dao, “道” means “The Way.” The word denotes the path we take as we live our lives. Voila, I’ve finally understood why I went to Santiago de Compostela and traced “The Way of St. James.” Yes, it is the destination of a journey and the start of another. My Camino will always be here with me, in my heart, and I am walking it every day with every breath I take!

To you, my friends: Whichever Camino you choose to take in your life, I hope you enjoy your journey. Welcome the companions who cross your path; however different they may be because they will be part of the story of your Camino.

'Buen Camino!'

Been there, Experienced that, No regrets!

I was fortunate to experience the mesmerising “Swinging Botafumeiro” blessing for the pilgrims in the Santiago Cathedral. Whether you are a believer or just a simple tourist, it is a spectacular sight. Watch the video clip below to see the Botafumeiro in full action.



If you want to know more about the [Botafumeiro](#), click [here](#).

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We are passionate about building bridges and breaking down walls. Please join us in our journey,

Beyond Boundaries - Crossing Cultures



**The world is fascinating, simply because
differences exist...**

Spread the words, share the vision, do our part!



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A typical TCG's workshop will start with a CQ assessment (either CQ Pro for Professionals, or CQ for Youth for students) as the first step, followed by discussion and interactive sessions to understand how they may further increase their cultural intelligence. If you are interested in TCG's programmes, please reach out to us: contact@transculturalgroup.com.