

# PRESS RELEASE

## Follow in the footsteps of saints and pilgrims

### THE WAY OF ST JAMES - LE PUY TO THE PYRENEES

Front cover

GR65: The Chemin de Saint Jacques  
by Alison Raju

The Way of St James needs little introduction: over 200,000 pilgrims and backpackers complete the journey to the apostle's grave in Santiago de Compostela every year. This comprehensive guidebook describes the Way of St James pilgrim route through France. Also known as the Chemin de St Jacques or GR65, the 730km (454 mile) route runs from Le Puy-en-Velay in central France to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the Pyrenees. In addition to the main route, the guidebook describes 2-3 additional days from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Roncevalles (and Pamplona), for those continuing along the Camino Francés through northern Spain. It also outlines a 3-4 day route from Saint-Palais direct to Irún, which links with the Camino del Norte coastal route.

People have been walking this route as a pilgrimage for over 1000 years, and with adequate preparation it is suitable for most walkers with a basic level of fitness. For some it is just a long-distance walk. For others the motives may be historical, cultural or religious, while for many it may also mark a significant action or event in their lives.

Whatever your motivation, this is an indispensable guide to the journey. It contains detailed descriptions and sketch mapping for the route, accompanied by a wealth of practical advice on accommodation, facilities and local points of interest. It also includes information about the history of the pilgrimage, and notes on holy sites and imagery along the route.

The Spanish section of the route is covered in Cicerone's companion volume: The Way of St James: Pyrenees–Santiago–Finisterre.

#### What's inside?

- detailed description and sketch maps for each stage of the route
- advice on preparation, planning and equipment
- information on places to stay and where to eat

#### About the author

Alison Raju is a former teacher of French, German and Spanish to adults. A chance viewing of a television programme in the early 1970s led to her interest in the Pilgrim Road to Santiago. She had the opportunity to walk the 1000-mile camino from Le Puy-en-Velay to Santiago all in one go in 1990, a time which coincided, fortuitously, with Cicerone Press looking for an author to write an original guide in English to the Spanish section of the route. Since then Alison has walked and explored many of the pilgrim roads through Europe (France, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Norway).

#### Key information

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By Alison Raju

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- historic pilgrimage route through southern France
- one of a two-volume guide to the whole of the Way of St James

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