



WALKING THE WORLD THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO EPISODE SYNOPSIS

EPISODE 1

The epic 800km journey from France, across Spain, and on to the Atlantic ocean begins, and Chris is literally thrown in at the deep end with a 20 mile hike crossing the Pyrenees on his first day! With no shelter on the top it is literally do or die on the hardest days walking of Chris' life. The First nights sleeping accommodation comes as a surprise as Chris finds he is to share a medieval dormitory/bunkhouse with 200 other walkers, but a few glasses of wine before bed allows him to meet a strong willed Irish girl who proposed to her boyfriend at the top of the mountain with an offer he could not refuse. Beautiful scenery, fascinating history, sunshine, clouds and rain allow Chris to get into the true feel of the walk until the insanity of the running with the bulls in Pamplona immerses him in the Spanish lust for life. A day at bullfighting school attempts to give Chris an edge on the death defying run in to the bull ring but nothing can prepare him for the horned terror to come, or for that matter the 100's of thousands of 24hour Pamplona party goers. Leaving Pamplona, the Camino path becomes a true walkers delight with magical views, myths, legends, and friendships made around every corner. The spontaneity is captivating as we travel over ancient Roman paths and bridges still used by walkers today. This extraordinary week ends with a stop at the worlds only free wine fountain where hours of story telling with other walkers sums up how amazing this journey is. We end our first week in Estella which is holding its annual music festival and fiesta which allows Chris to lead the local brass band through its historic streets as he sums up his first amazing week walking the Camino de Santiago.

EPISODE 2

Week two of the Camino de Santiago takes us from the historic village of Estella 100 miles to one of the largest cathedral cities of the walk, Burgos. Walking through stunning countryside and vineyards in between equally stunning villages each with its own myriad of ancient legends and folk tales. We meet up with walkers of all ages and agendas each with there own unique story to a veteran

who is walking his forth Camino and is still hungry for more. Wines, Cheeses, hidden treasures, Indiana Jones look-alikes ,prehistoric cannibals, strange historical drag acts and magical chickens are the fare as we pass through Najera and a 12thh century lighthouse 100 miles from the sea. Staying in hostels along the way we get locked out of the amazing alberge of Granon, attend a bizarre open air disco, are allowed back in for a feast for fifty...and then end up sleeping in the Bell tower with pigeons. The episode ends in the street festival of Burgos with some spectacular bars, Street Dancing, bands and fireworks.

EPISODE 3

We leave Burgos to face the mighty scorched 100km plains of the sun drenched Meseta. Feared and respected by walkers from around the globe. Flat and hot with no shade, only the toughest walkers on the planet take on this hauntingly beautiful terrain. The Alto Meseta is 950km above sea level allowing you to see breathtaking Van Goghesque views of the 5 days walking ahead. After surviving the Meseta and its dusty deserted villages we come to one of the most tranquil spots on the Camino if not the planet... San Bol, a crazy hippie encampment lost in time, music, candle light, magic ceremonies, ice cold baths and flammable hot toddies, where many a walker stops for one night and ends up staying for weeks and months. There are so many legends on this walk and here we meet the living legend Victorio who can drink a carafe of wine by first pouring it on to his forehead the beverage trickling down the time weathered valleys of his face over his nose and down his throat. We stay in a variety of accommodations including the Bordilla Del Camino a 5 star family refugo with a pool and surrounded by stables stocked with the finest Spanish horses. As well as camping under the stars with ferocious mosquitos to keep us company. We catch up with an old friend, the invincible dog Sassy who is living a dream come true by being taken for the longest walk of his life and on to the legendary city of Leon with its own unique history, festivals, music and tapas.

EPISODE 4

A week of magic and mystery, magnificent Templar castles and Gaudi palaces as we walk back to medieval times to the town of Orbigo which still hosts annual jousting tournaments and is linked to Don Quoixote. We meet the worlds last real life Knights templar who dressed in armour and surrounded by his band of followers in the misty mountains of Manjarin we take part in an ancient ceremony summoning the spirit of the holy grail, before sleeping in the cow shed. Past an out of place cowboy bar in El Gonzo, and on through Astorga where Napoleon's troops shot out the ancient cathedrals stained glass windows and Gaudi built the stunning palace. Through Cruz Del Ferro the highest point on the Camino 1500m above sea level alows us magnificent mountain walking with veiws to match and on to Ponferada with its magnificent Templar castle, we are asked to leave after climbing a perilous tower while it is being refurbished. We visit what

must be the worlds most bizarre bar where the spooky owner lives with his pet pig, stuffed animals and his dead mother in a coffin behind the bar and on to Villafranco yet another beautiful town, with an incredible hostel, Ave Fenix where walkers take part in a Quimada ritual...where a cauldron of unique and magical liquor is set alight and the walkers drink from wooden bowls as spells are cast under the stars. The week ends with a huge climb up a mountain to one of the worlds most unusual places Ocebero, a hobbit village of round stone built straw thatched houses surrounded by bagpipe music and mystery.

EPISODE 5

Week 5 brings the legendary city of Santiago de Compostella within our sites and the camaraderie, castles, history, stunning beauty, characters, cuisine and flower decked monster truck festivals are in no short supply. We walk through the lakeside town of Portomarin where the whole town was moved brick by brick up a hill to save it from a damn and on to Melide where we eat at the famous Pulperia restaurant which only serves octopus. A funky priest blesses hundreds of trucks festooned with flowers with horns blaring and accompanied by music and dancing and on to our first views of Santiago from Monte Del Gozo where we hold a musical jam session in the rain and meet a truly eccentric sculptor whose huge stone works of art cover his land. So many friends, memories and adventures its time to go over the past 5 weeks, 700 miles of life changing dramas.

EPISODE 6

Episode 6 see's us fulfil a dream that literally millions and millions have achieved before us...We arrive on the festival of St. James in the city of Santiago de Compostell The Camino de Santiago has been more than just a long walk, it has quite literally been a life changing experience for every walker who has done it. The cathedral of Santiago holds a visually stunning, yet extremely perilous ceremony involving an incense burner the size of a small car and a small team of monks with ropes. Street parties, brass bands, Fireworks and more parties with old friends from the past 5 weeks is followed by serene peace and quiet as we head to the coast the most beautiful walking so far and on to Finisterre which at one point was thought to be the end of the World we throw off our backpack and walk into the ocean. Finisterre is a great working fishing port populated by odd residents who finished the Camino and stayed not knowing how to equal there great achievement. Our epic adventure ends with the Sunset ceremony at the lighthouse where walkers for a thousand years have burnt their clothes and boots on the rocks and thrown their walking sticks into the Atlantic. And as if by sheer magic a reunion with our old friend Sassy the dog. He made it! With a beautiful sunset summary of the 800km walk, Chris is one step closer to walking the world!

Potential Subsequent Seasons:

Appalachian Trail (USA - 2200 miles)

-Film time 6 months

-long the way, the trail passes through the states of Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine

-http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appalachian_Trail

The Ulster Way (N Ireland and UK)

-Film time 6-7 weeks

-circumnavigates an entire country

-<http://www.walkni.com/ulsterway/>

Bibbulmun Track (Australia/New Zealand):

- Film time 6-7 weeks

- The Bibbulmun Track is Western Australia's longest walking track. It has been designed to be similar to the Appalachian Trail in the USA and runs from Kalamunda (a suburb in Perth) for 963 km to Albany (the largest and oldest town on the southern coast). Trail goes from coast to coast and takes viewers from modern cities to outback towns and the desert.

-map: <http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/track-info/Overview-Map.aspx>

-photos: http://www.pbase.com/thesilvertops/australia_2006

-info: <http://www.john.chapman.name/wa-bib.html>

The Israel National Trail (Israel/ME):

-Crosses historic places, archeological sites and unique landscapes while it zigzags its way from the northern border with Lebanon to the Red Sea through the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Negev (the Israeli desert). Consisting of 1000 kilometers of marked trail, the trail is a diverse path ranging from rivers in the north to the dryness and emptiness of the Negev in the south, to modern and busy Tel Aviv, to the ancient and holy city of Jerusalem.

-http://wikitravel.org/en/Israel_National_Trail

Land End To John O'Groats (UK/Scotland):

-Film time 10-12 weeks – 1200 miles

-One of the most famous long walks on the planet which all walkers know well - but never filmed YET!

The Tōkai Nature Trail (Japan):

-Film time 7-8 weeks

-map:http://www.takaotozan.co.jp/takaotozan_eng1/tokai/index.htm

-info:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C5%8Dkaid%C5%8D_Nature_Trail

European walking route E5 (Europe):

- Film time 16 weeks

-One of the European long-distance paths from the French Atlantic coast in Brittany through Switzerland, Austria and Germany over the Alps to Verona in Italy. It is way marked over the whole 3200 km (1988 mi) distance.

-map: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:E5_route_map.png

-info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_walking_route_E5