

**A HISTORICAL TOUR OF NORTHERN SPAIN**  
Along the pilgrims route to Santiago de Compostela  
**SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 15, 2016**

The Board of Directors and the staff of El Rancho de las Golondrinas invite you to join Dr. Thomas E. Chavez as he leads a historical tour along the Camino de Santiago.



**Santiago de Compostela**

After a two-day visit in **Madrid**, we will bus to **Sos del Rey Católico**, the birthplace of King Ferdinand of Aragon who married Isabel of Castile to create the country of Spain. We will visit **Zaragoza**, which has some of the most striking Mudéjar (Christian/Moorish) monuments in Spain and from where we will follow the centuries old pilgrims' route to the shrine where legend declares St. James the Apostle (Santiago) is buried. In route we will stop at **Laguardia** to explore the vineyards of La Rioja, producer of many of Spain's finest wines. We will continue to **Santo Domingo de la Calzada** and through Castilla y León visiting **Burgos, Carrión de los Condes, León, Astorga, Villafranca del Bierzo** before reaching **Santiago de Compostela**, where we will spend three nights in one of Europe's great hotels, Parador Hostal Dos Reis Catolicos. In the Middle Ages **Santiago de Compostela** was Christendom's third most important holy shrine, after Jerusalem and Rome. From the ninth century millions of pilgrims traveled from points throughout Europe, across northern Spain to the great Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, built in 813AD, to pay homage to St. James. The legends, stories, and history that have evolved around Santiago have become a very obvious part of Spain's identity to this day. This indelible part of the Spanish soul is evident in New Mexico as well, where Santiago has influenced our history and continues to be a favorite icon. We will continue to **Valladolid, Salamanca, and Segovia** on our return to Madrid.

So join us for an *elegante* trip into yesteryear!

## Day-by-Day Program

Meal codes: B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner

### DAY 1 – Thursday - September 29 – USA to MADRID - On board American Airlines

We will depart Albuquerque via American Airlines with connections through Dallas/Fort Worth. Our flights will be: American Airlines flight #2387 leaving Albuquerque at 1.03pm and arriving Dallas/Ft Worth at 3.45pm. There we will connect to American Airlines #36 leaving Dallas/Ft Worth at 4.40PM and arriving in Madrid at 9.00AM (September 30<sup>th</sup>).

### DAY 2 – Friday - September 30 – overnight in MADRID

Hotel Mercure Madrid Centro Or Similar

Upon arrival in Madrid and after clearing customs and immigrations we will meet our tour director and will transfer to our hotel. Hotel rooms will not be ready until mid afternoon. We will have an orientation walk through the historic center before returning to the hotel for check in.

### DAY 3 – Saturday - October 1 – overnight in MADRID

Hotel Mercure Madrid Centro Or Similar

This morning we will have a guided visit to Museo del Prado. The museum contains the world's greatest assembly of Spanish painting – especially works by Velazquez and Goya – ranging from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also houses impressive foreign collections, particularly of Italian and Flemish works. Juan de Villanueva on the order of Carlos III designed the Neo-Classical building in 1785. It opened as a museum in 1819 to display the royal collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. The Cason del Buen Retiro, the Prado's annex, has 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings and sculptures. The afternoon is free for independent activities. **(B)**

### DAY 4 – Sunday – October 2– overnight in SOS DEL REY CATOLICO

Parador Fernando De Aragon

After breakfast and check out we will board our own private bus and travel east to **Zaragoza** in the province of Aragón. Although Aragón gave its name to one of the Iberian Peninsula's great medieval kingdoms, the so-called crown of Aragón was actually dominated by Catalunya, with which Aragón itself united in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The feudal nobility of Aragón proper took some revenge on the Catalans in 1412, when they engineered the election of a Castilian, Fernando de Antequera, to the vacant throne. This set the scene for the union of Aragón and Castilla later in the century under their respective monarchs Fernando and Isabel, which effectively gave birth to what we know as Spain. The story of Virgen del Pilar starts in her apparition to the Apostle St. James the Elder, who sat tired and disappointed by the bank of the Ebro River. People were not open to his evangelization efforts and St. James was ready to give up. The Virgin Mary, still living in Palestine, appeared to James atop a column or pillar of stone and reassured him that the people of Hispania would become Christians and that their faith would be as strong and durable as the pillar on which she stood. The pillar is housed in the Basilica constructed to honor the miracle. She is patroness of Spain and the reason why so many Spanish women are named Pilar. We will visit the Basílica and the Plaza del Pilar. After lunch (on your own) we will continue on to Sos del Rey Católico. The splendid valleys of the Navarrese and Aragonese Pyrenees surround this villa, declared a Historical-Artistic area. Despite its location in the heart of the village, sweeping views open from some of the bedroom windows onto the nearby countryside. **(B D)**

**DAY 05 – Monday - OCTOBER 3 – overnight in SOS DEL REY CATÓLICO**

Parador Fernando De Aragon

Today we will have a full day excursion in Navarra (you are in Basque country) to visit the Monasterio de **San Salvador de Leyre**. It is situated high above a reservoir, alone amid grand scenery, backed by limestone cliffs. The abbey has been here since the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when it was a great spiritual center. The big church, unadorned in the Cistercian manner, has three lofty apses. The crypt has unusually short columns with chunky capitals. Later we will continue on to Castillo de Javier, the birthplace of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of Navarra and co-founder of the Jesuit order. In the oratory there is a 13<sup>th</sup> century polychrome Christ and a macabre 15<sup>th</sup> century mural of grinning skeletons titled “The Dance of the Dead”. **(B D)**

**DAY 06 – TUESDAY - OCTOBER 4 – overnight in SANTO DOMINGO CALZADA**

Parador Santo Domingo De La Calzada

After breakfast and check out we will leave Aragon and travel west to Santo Domingo de la Calzada. This town on the road to Santiago de Compostela is named after the 11<sup>th</sup> century saint who built bridges and roads (calzadas) to help pilgrims. Miracles performed by the saint are recorded in carvings on his tomb in the cathedral. The most obvious and bizarre record is a cage set in a wall in which, for centuries, a live cock and hen have been kept. Along the way we will stop in **Laguardia** for our group lunch. Laguardia is a gateway for experiencing the Rioja wine region and it is a good example of a walled village that has not changed much since the 13th century. We will visit one of the bodegas in this wine country of La Rioja. After lunch, we will continue on to Santo Domingo where we will arrive in the late afternoon. **(B L)**



**Santo Domingo de la Calzada**

### **DAY 07 – WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 5 – overnight SANTO DOMINGO CALZADA**

Parador Santo Domingo De La Calzada

A renowned municipality in La Rioja, Santo Domingo de la Calzada lies on the banks of the Oja River. In its network of medieval streets you'll find remnants of the city's treasured heritage, particularly within its walls, the Cathedral and the old Pilgrims' Hospital. Past Nájera, the pilgrimage to Santiago was considered a very long, dangerous and often treacherous route. The area was transformed when a hermit by the name Domingo García, settled in the area and devoted his life to assisting the pilgrims along their route to Santiago de Compostela. The city would not have existed without the dedicated and ambitious work of this extraordinary founder. This morning we will have a walking tour of the historic center. The afternoon is free to relax or perhaps join some of the pilgrims along the Camino. **(B)**

### **DAY 08 – THURSDAY - OCTOBER 6 – overnight in LEON**

Parador San Marcos

After check out and an early departure we will travel to **Burgos**, which was founded in 884 as a strategic fortress against the Muslims and the rival kingdom of Navarra. Around it was grouped a series of little villages or *burgos*, which eventually would melt together to form the basis of a new city. Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar "El Cid" was born into a noble family in Vivar del Cid, north of Burgos, in 1043. He served Fernando I, switched allegiance to fight for the Moors, then changed sides again, capturing Valencia for the Christians in 1094, and ruling the city until his death. He was a charismatic man of great courage, but it was an anonymous poem, *El Cantar del Mio Cid*, that immortalized him as a romantic hero of the Reconquest. The tombs of El Cid and his wife are in the Burgos Cathedral. We will also visit the Real Monasterio de las Huelgas, a Cistercian convent founded in 1187 by Alfonso VII, and its Museo de Telas Ricas, a textile museum containing ancient fabrics from the convent's many royal tombs. After our group lunch, we continue to **Carrión de los Condes**, considered to be a midpoint of the Camino de Santiago, it is still a village rich in wheat, wine, meats and all kinds of products as described by Aymerich Picaud in Calixtinus Codes of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. A medieval town, it was the seat of important councils and assemblies. If time allows we will also stop in Sahagún, famous as the home of Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, who wrote about the people and culture of central Mexico in the late 1500's. After a quick visit, we will continue on to León and the Parador San Marcos, a 16<sup>th</sup> century monastery hospital. This monumental building features a Plateresque façade built around 1515, which conceals an interior full of art. It is one of Spain's loveliest Renaissance buildings. **(B L)**

### **DAY 09 – FRIDAY - OCTOBER 7 – overnight in LEON**

Parador San Marcos

Today we will visit the luminous Cathedral of León. One of the boldest Cathedrals of the Middle Ages, it was started in mid-13<sup>th</sup> century and it was completed less than 100 years later. The building set the record for the highest proportion of window space with stained-glass windows soaring 110 feet to the vaulted ceiling, framed by the slenderest of columns and occupying 18,000 square feet, or almost all the space where you'd expect the walls to be. The roof is held up by flying buttresses in the exterior. Once inside, the profusion of light and the illusion of weightlessness can astonish you. We will continue on to the Panteón and Museo of San Isidoro. This church was dedicated to San Isidoro de Sevilla in 1063 and contains 23 tombs of Leonese Kings. Unique in Spain, the Treasury holds rare finds, including a 10<sup>th</sup> century Scandinavian ivory, an 11<sup>th</sup> century chalice, and an

important collection of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century cloths from Asia. The library contains many ancient manuscripts and rare books, including a Book of Job from 951 and a Visigothic Bible. **(B)**



**Parador de San Marcos**

#### **DAY 10 – SATURDAY - OCTOBER 8 – overnight in VILAFRANCA DEL BIERZO**

Parador De Villafranca

After breakfast and check out we will first stop in **Astorga**. Astorga originated as the Roman Asturica Augusta (called a "magnificent city" by Pliny) and was an important administrative and military center. It was a strategic halt on the Vía de la Plata (Silver Road), a Roman road linking Andalusia and northwest Spain. Later it became a station on the road to Santiago de Compostela. Historic landmarks include the Roman walls (a national monument); the Gothic cathedral (1471), with Plateresque and Baroque decorations, the 18th-century town hall and the 19th-century Bishop's Palace which was designed by Antonio Gaudí. It is the center of the so-called Maragatería; the district inhabited by the unique Maragato tribe, possibly of Germanic origin, which for centuries have interbred among themselves. We will continue to Villafranca del Bierzo, the last stage before we reach Galicia. It is another settlement that developed from the pilgrimages, was inhabited by Franks and stood in the shelter of a Cluniac monastery. When sick pilgrims reached the (12c) Church of Santiago at the entrance of the borough, they were entitled to celebrate. **(B, L, D)**

#### **DAY 11 – SUNDAY - OCTOBER 9 – overnight in SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

Parador Hostel Dos Reis Católicos

We will travel through Galicia and on to Santiago de Compostela, one of the most beautiful cities in Spain. We will have a brief stop in **O Cebreiro** is a village which has a series of pallozas, or round stone houses with a straw roof, which are still standing and which were inhabited until relatively recently. A must in O Cebreiro is a visit to the pre-Romanesque church, the oldest remaining fully

intact on the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago de Compostela, and which contains a Holy Grail. Its bells rang during the winter to guide the pilgrims through the mists. We continue on to the Parador Hostal Dos Reis Católicos, the oldest hotel in the world has been fortifying the weary bodies and souls of travelers for over five centuries. In 1499 the Catholic Kings founded the Hospital Real (Royal Hospice) in Santiago de Compostela to serve as respite for the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who came to pay homage to the shrine of St. James. **(B, L, D)**

#### **DAY 12 – MONDAY - OCTOBER 10 – overnight in SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

Parador Hostal Dos Reis Católicos

Santiago's Cathedral with its twin baroque towers soaring high over the Praza do Obradoiro Square, is a majestic sight, as befits one of the great shrines of Christendom. The present building dates from the 11th-12th centuries and stands on the site of the original 9th century basílica built by Alfonso II. Through the famous carved Pórtico da Gloria, one of the great wonders of Christian art, is the same lofty interior that welcomed pilgrims in medieval times. This morning we will join our expert guide for a tour of the historic center. **(B)**

#### **DAY 13 – TUESDAY - OCTOBER 11 – overnight in SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

Parador Hostal Dos Reis Católicos

Architecturally, the old part of the city stopped developing in the baroque period and, as a result, its buildings exude an aura of impressive grandeur – in fact, a sense of mysticism permeates Santiago. Around the Plaza do Obradoiro is an ensemble of historic buildings with few equals in Europe. The local granite gives a harmonious unity to the mixture of architectural styles. Today is a free day to further enjoy Santiago. With its narrow streets and old squares, the city center is compact enough to explore on foot. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 14 – WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 12 – overnight in SALAMANCA**

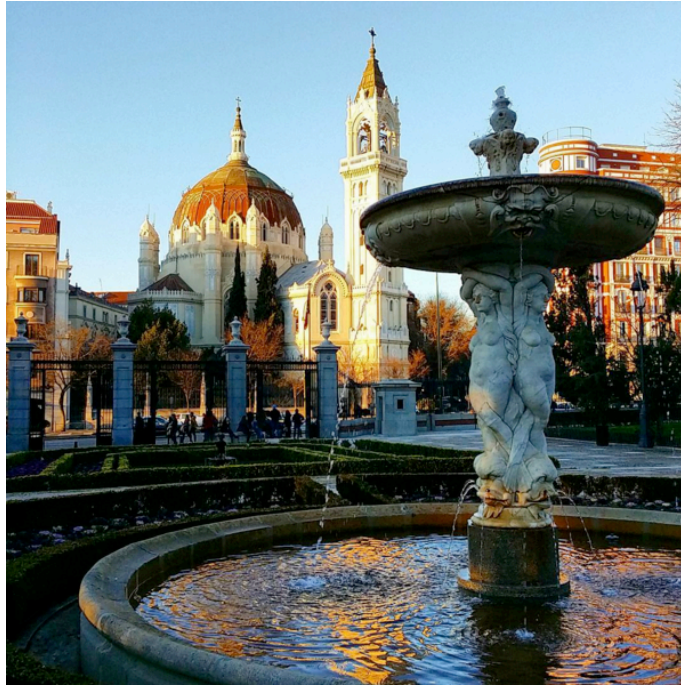
Hotel Palacio De Castellanos

Today we leave Galicia and travel to Salamanca. Along the way we will visit **Valladolid**. The Arabic city of Belad-Walid (meaning "lad of the Governor") is located at the confluence of the Río Esgueva and Río Pisuerga. Although it has become sprawling and industrialized, Valladolid has some of Spain's best Renaissance art and architecture. Fernando and Isabel were married in the Palacio Vivero in 1469 and, following the completion of the Reconquest in 1492, they made Valladolid their capital. Less spectacularly Columbus died here, alone and forgotten, in 1506. We will continue on to Salamanca. **(B, L)**

#### **DAY 15 – THURSDAY - OCTOBER 13 – overnight in SALAMANCA**

Hotel Palacio De Castellanos

The rich copper hues of Salamanca's great university and churches are without equal in Spain. As early as 220 BC, Celtiberian Salamanca found itself besieged by Hannibal. Later, under Roman rule, it was an important staging post along the Vía Lata or Silver Route, and it changed hands repeatedly for four centuries after the Muslim invasion of Spain. Possibly the greatest turning point in the city's history was the founding of the university in 1218. It became the equal of Oxford and Bologna, and by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century was the focal point of some of the richest artistic activity in the country, in part due to the generous patronage of Queen Isabel of Castilla. In few other places will you witness the virtuosity in Plateresque and Renaissance work that is on hand in Salamanca. After our morning guided walking tour, we can spend the rest of the day exploring this interesting city. **(B)**



**Salamanca**

**DAY 16 – FRIDAY – OCTOBER 14 – overnight in MADRID**

Hotel Mercure Madrid Centro Or Similar

After breakfast and check out we will visit the town of Segovia, the most spectacularly sited city in Spain. The old town is set high on a rocky spur, formed by the Río Eresma and Río Clamores. It is often compared to a ship – The Alcázar (castle) on its sharp crag forming the prow with the pinnacles of the cathedral rising like masts and the aqueduct trailing behind like a rudder. The view of the castle from the valley below at sunset is magical. We can spend the day exploring the city and surrounding areas before taking an hour and half ride to Madrid. **(B, L)**

**DAY 17 – SATURDAY - OCTOBER 15 – International departure**

After breakfast we will be taken to the airport in time to board our international flights. We will depart Madrid on AA # 37 leaving at 11.15am and arriving in Dallas/Forth Worth at 3.00pm, connecting there to AA # 2339 leaving at 6.40pm and arriving in Albuquerque at 7.36pm. **(B)**

**Cost of the Tour:**           **\$5,425.00 per person double occupancy incl. international air**  
   **\$4,075.00 per person double occupancy land cost only**

**\$6,438.00 per person single occupancy incl. international air**  
**\$5,088.00 per person single occupancy land cost only**

**NOTES:**

- To participate in this tour you must be a member of Rancho de las Golondrinas. Membership is available through [www.golondrinas.org](http://www.golondrinas.org)

- Price is subject to change due to currency exchange fluctuations or fuel surcharges
- It is possible that changes to the above itinerary may be necessary. If so, whatever is altered will be replaced by its equivalent

Included:

- A \$200.00 tax-deductible donation to Rancho de las Golondrinas
- International round trip air from Albuquerque to Madrid (note land cost above)
- All transportation within Spain by private chartered bus
- Local English speaking guides
- All entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary: Breakfast **(B)** every day, 6 Lunches **(L)**, 5 Dinners **(D)**
- Baggage handling at the hotels – 1 bag per person (no carry-on)

Not included:

- Tips to hotel maids, guides or bus driver
- Items of personal nature

**A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be required to sign up no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Final payment is due on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** Please make checks (no credit cards) payable to **Journeys International, Inc** – 49 Verano Loop – Santa Fe NM 87508. If you have any questions please call Rosa Ramirez Carlson at Journeys International, Inc. at 505-310-1863 or mail: [carlsonrosa@hotmail.com](mailto:carlsonrosa@hotmail.com)

**To sign up:** Contact Rosa Carlson to check for available space  
 Fill out Booking and Release Form (last page)  
 Enclose your \$500.00 deposit check  
 Enclose a photocopy of your passport  
 Mail to JOURNEYS INTERNATIONAL – 49 Verano Loop – Santa Fe NM 87508

**Cancellation Penalties**

After deposit	\$150.00 administrative fee
After May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	100% percent of total tour price

Important: Purchase of **trip cancellation insurance** is strongly recommended. If you have any pre-existing conditions for which you would like coverage, most companies require that you must purchase the insurance within 14 days of your first payment for the tour. You can purchase coverage just for the amount of your deposit and later increase your coverage when the final payment is made. In addition, many health insurers, including Medicare, do not provide coverage for insured persons traveling abroad. Affordable health insurance for overseas travelers is readily available with companies such as Medex, Travel Guard, Allianz Travel Insurance and similar companies. Please contact Rosa Ramirez Carlson if you have any questions or need assistance in selecting insurance.



