Pilgrim Charter

patrimony of Humanity, the Ways of Compostela are open to everyone. The Camino de Santiago is a way of solidarity without social or religious barriers, a way of transformation through letting go and surpassing oneself. It is a place of meeting and tolerance where it is possible to relate and exchange with many people of different nationalities and beliefs. Some travel the roads for religious reasons, others seek contact with nature or athletic performance, many question and seek meaning or in search of themselves. Most are all of these at the same time...

A pilgrim is first and foremost a discreet human being who considers the constraints of sharing to be natural, who has made the choice, for a few days or several weeks, to be satisfied with the joys and small pleasures of everyday life. Exhilarating, this adventure remains demanding. Its success depends on my good will, on my inner commitment to live fully what will be and on my behavior in accordance with the spirit of the journey.

Whatever the motivations that made you take the Way, it is your actions, your words, and your silences that you will be recognized. You are aware that your attitude has an impact on the future of the Way and on the welcome that the pilgrims of tomorrow will receive. In order for all of this can exist and be perpetuated, especially when there are people on the way, it is necessary to respect a few simple and common sense rules.

That's why if you feel like a pilgrim :

- You will walk, cycle, ride or with a pack animal.
- You will put the essentials in a backpack to be free and autonomous.
- You will respect the property of others, nature and wildlife.
- You will offer your help to those who are in need.
- You will respect charters for pilgrims and hikers.
- You will have a credencial that guarantees your status.

To be a pilgrim means respecting other pilgrims, the people who welcome you or whom you meet :

- You will never forget to be courteous and respectful to everyone you meet.
- You will accept what is offered to you and make no requirement.
- You will call to cancel accommodation.
- You will make sure to integrate into the host family without causing discomfort.
- You will respect the priorities in accessing the lodgings (knowing that the walker is privileged).
- You will keep your dog on a leash.
- You will pay the required contributions for your accommodation and food.
- You will participate in the accommodation costs in the event of free participation (donativo) : this does not imply free admission, the contribution can be generous, in money or in kind (help for hospital staff, for the good running of the refuge).
- You will be tolerant if sometimes these rules are not always observed, the experience of the way sometimes deserves some inconvenience.

To be a pilgrim means respecting your environment :

- You will respect natural spaces and private property.
- You will respect the flora, the cultures and the animals.
- You will respect the reception areas and the corresponding uses.
- You will respect the Way and what constitutes it : signage, monuments, population, environment.
- You will avoid any noise nuisance likely to disturb.
- You will not leave any waste behind.
- You will get out of the way for your natural needs and out of sight.
- You will hide or burn turds and papers under a stone, a little earth, gravel or a sheet of moss.

The pilgrim is the bearer of a credencial. This nominative document, the pilgrim's passport, attests to his pilgrim status. Signed by him, it symbolizes his moral commitment to respect the rules of life and behavior of the pilgrim, to travel in accordance with the Spirit of the Way as described above. It does not give any rights to the pilgrim who will be grateful to be able to benefit from the facilities and equipment made available to him, however modest, as well as the dedication of the people.

Pilgrim friend, if YOU recognize yourself in the above portrait, then the OTHERS will recognize you too. You have not taken the wrong Way...

Ultreïa, e suseïa
(go beyond and higher, always higher)