

# PROGRAM

*Bridges of the Camino:  
Connecting Cultures and Hearts*



2025

# GATHERING

May 15-18, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada



# ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

*First Steps Together:  
Weaving Threads of Connection*

Arrival marks the first steps of our shared journey, where individual paths converge to form a vibrant tapestry of connection. The check-in process is an opportunity to weave threads of camaraderie, kindness, and belonging as pilgrims come together for the first time.

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**1:30pm–5:00pm: Registration and Room Check-in**

**Location: Gage Lobby**

Our volunteer team will greet you and the UBC staff will provide your room assignments and keys.

**2:00pm–4:00pm: Guided Orientation Walks**

**Meeting Point: Outside the Gage Lobby**

These guided walks will depart periodically throughout the afternoon when we have groups assembled.

**5:00pm – 5:45pm: Welcome Reception**

**Location: Gage Lobby and adjacent spaces**

Join us for a catered welcome reception with light snacks and drinks before we head over as a group to the Vanier Place Cafeteria for dinner.

**6:00pm – 6:45pm: Dinner**

**Location: Vanier Place Cafeteria**

Following the Welcome Reception, we will walk as a group to the Vanier Place Cafeteria for dinner.

**7:00pm: Welcome to the 2025 Gathering**

**Location: Alumni Center, Jack Poole Hall**

Join us for a lively evening that will include special welcome presentations and a one-of-a-kind musical production written for this Gathering of Pilgrims!



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# PLENARY SESSIONS

*Voices That Bridge Generations:  
Wisdom and Inspiration from the Camino*

Let's start each day together with inspiring plenary sessions that bring all attendees together for shared learning, connection, and reflection.



**Alfredo Martínez Serrano,**  
Ambassador of the  
Kingdom of Spain to  
Canada

The Camino de Santiago: Connecting  
Europe, Connecting the World

**Dave Whitson**

The Whole Boot: Following the Saints and  
Centuries Across Italy

**Jean-Marc Darveau**

Compostelle, the Quebec Way: Tradition  
and Modernity



**Rebekah Scott**

Wisdom of the Elders: A Bridge We  
Cross Together

**Jen Manglos**

Coming Home: Thriving in the Final  
Stage of the Pilgrimage Experience



**George Greenia**

Spooky Remains: How Pilgrims  
and Monasteries Met their Ends

**Rob Fennell**

Camino Close to Home: The Gift of Local  
Pilgrimages

**Kelly Murphy Mason**

Honoring our Inward Caminos:  
Embracing Pilgrimage as Spiritual  
Practice



**Laurie Dennett**

"Preparing the Great Invasion": Elias  
Valiña and the Revival of the  
Pilgrimage to Compostela



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# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## *Voices That Bridge Generations: Wisdom and Inspiration from the Camino*

Each afternoon, you'll have the chance to join breakout sessions tailored to your interests. These diverse speakers embody the Camino's spirit, sharing insights that connect past and present, wisdom and journey.

### **Sandy Brown**

The Via Francigena: A 3200km Wonder of Cultural and Scenic Beauty

### **Dennis Garnhum**

Toward Beauty: Reigniting a Creative Life on the Camino de Santiago

### **Blaine Rada**

Civil Discourse: The Path to Building Bridges and Tearing Down Walls

### **Phillipe Dionnet, FFACC and Ron McClatchie, ADQC**

Walking *Les Chemins* in France

### **Daniel De Kay and Becky**

#### **Rush-Peet**

Pilgrim First Aid - Classroom session and Practical Application

### **Patrick Moran**

When History Becomes Myth: The Complex Legacy of the *Song of Roland*

### **Christine Petty**

Walking the Shikoku 88 Temples Pilgrimage

### **Tim Boreham**

Blunders and Breakthroughs: Coping with Challenges on the Camino

### **Colleen O'Toole and David**

#### **Duncan**

Camino Alchemy: Transforming Footsteps into Life's Gold

### **Miriam Gallet and Angela Amos**

Camino de Baztan: Mystical, Challenging, and Unknown

### **Tom Friesen and Martha Crites**

Rocks in the Stream: Service on the Camino

### **Johnnie Walker Santiago, Paula**

#### **Jager, Tom Labuziowski, and**

#### **More**

Service in Santiago

### **Shoshana Kerewsky**

Writing Your Camino To Connect With Yourself and Others

### **Ann Sieben**

Pilgrimage on the Global Stage

### **Ellie Witzke**

El Camino and the Healing Journey

### **Stephen F Haller**

Creative Sketching as a way of developing 'pilgrim's mind'

### **Jason Nelson and Leslie Cowan**

Dream Big: Walking/Rolling the Camino de Santiago

### **Alder Allensworth**

Women on the Camino



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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Stories, Music, and Laughter That Build Bridges:  
Celebrating the Camino Spirit*

From music to storytelling, our entertainment lineup brings the heart of the Camino to life, weaving tales and tunes that connect us across languages and experiences. This celebration showcases how art forms a bridge that brings pilgrims together.



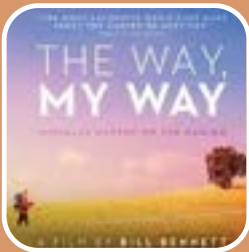
## Welcome, Move Forward, Push - a Celebration of the Journey

A theatrical and musical production by Dennis Garnhum.



## Shell Ceremony

Join us as we recognize those pilgrims walking their first Camino in 2025, present them with a shell, and share some special music together!



## The Way, My Way

A special screening of Bill Bennett's hit movie followed by a Director Q&A, including special guest Johnnie Walker Santiago!



## The Merry Band of Pilgrims

Directed by fellow pilgrim Becky Rush-Peet, the Merry Band's World Tour comes to Vancouver, BC.



## Crying on the Camino

Celeste Mancinelli's captivating comedy delves into the emotional and transformative journey of the Camino.



## "The Raffle"

Legendary and wildly entertaining in its own right, "The Raffle" comes to the 2025 Gathering where you could win any number of prizes donated by you and your fellow pilgrims! You have to see it to believe it!



## Cruz de Ferro Walk

Join us on Saturday morning as we walk together to our very own Cruz de Ferro.



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# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## *Bridges of Reflection: Connecting Body, Mind, and Spirit*

Morning walks, yoga, labyrinth exploration, the Camino marketplace, and pilgrim mass—serve as bridges between reflection and action, community and solitude. Each offers an opportunity to connect with others and oneself, embracing the holistic spirit of the Camino.



### Getting Moving

We are finalizing plans for walks, morning yoga, and a labyrinth. Details coming soon!

### Camino Marketplace

There will be a Camino Marketplace for vendors to display their items. It is recommended that, where possible, you bring samples and a QR code that customers can use to order the items and have them shipped to their homes.



### Pilgrim Mass

Following the closing of the Gathering on Sunday, pilgrims who wish to participate are invited to a special Pilgrim Mass to be held at 2pm at St. Mark's Church on the UBC campus.



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# CHECKOUT & DEPARTURE

*Farewell, Not Goodbye:  
Bridges to the Future*

Departures are moments of reflection and gratitude, marking the transition from shared experiences to new adventures. The bridges we've built together ensure that while the gathering ends, its spirit continues to inspire our journeys ahead.

**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**11:00Am: Checkout**

You should check out with the UBC staff at the Gage lobby in the morning before 11am. Temporary luggage storage will be available upon checkout.

**12:00pm: Closing of 2025 Gathering**

2025 Gathering Program will end at noon.

**2:00pm: Pilgrim Mass (optional)**

Following the closing of the Gathering on Sunday, pilgrims who wish to participate are invited to a special Pilgrim Mass to be held at 2pm at St. Mark's Church on the UBC campus.



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