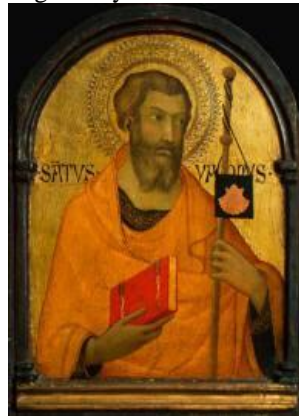


Brief History of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage (pīl'grə-mīj) n. 1. A journey to a sacred place or shrine. 2. A long journey or search, especially one of exalted purpose or moral significance ...

- There may be no historical evidence to support the contention that St. James preached in Galicia, there is some anecdotal testimony to that effect
- Some years after Christ's crucifixion, St James sailed to Galicia (probably Padron and Finnesterre
- It appears St James mission met with limited success so he returned to Jerusalem where he was beheaded by Herod in 42AD
- St James disciples brought his body back to Spain (Padron) to be buried
- Roman interests attempted to destroy James body, but James disciple prevailed and he was buried in Libredon
- This marks the beginning of the San Tiago Story



Fast Forward to 813

- A Shepard by the name of Pelayo was drawn to a field in Libredon by a bright light or star
- This got translated into cosmos of the stars Stella of St James Santiago, which translates to Satiago de Compestella
- Another account suggests the name comes from the Latin for burial *compare*, as there was evidence of a Roman Cemetary on this Spot
- Main point-the Bishop of Iria Flavia (Padron) Theodomiris confirmed to discovery of the tomb of the Apostle St. James
- This discovery the coincided with the Reconquista of Spain from the Moors (Muslims)
- Legend had it that in battles with the Moors St. James appeared at the crucial moment to turn the tide of battle
- This created the image of St. James the Moor-Slayer Santiago Matamoros depicted as the Knight in shining armor astride a white charger decapitating Moors with his sword.



- Santiago (St. James) became the patron Saint of Spain and the first Pilgrimage occurred in 950 AD

AD 1400-1600

- Compostela de Santiago grew in importance and prestige
- Holy land was lost to the Christian cause as a result of the Crusades
- Combination of relative accessibility of the route and the miracles associated with the relics of the Saint beneath the Cathedral were certainly contributing factors to its popularity

- A gentler image of Santiago emerged-the image of St. James the Pilgrim Santiago Peregrino portray all along the route-
 - Staff
 - Bible
 - Wide Brim hat
 - Conch shell



- The Concha survives as the single identifying symbol of the Pilgrimage to Santiago

