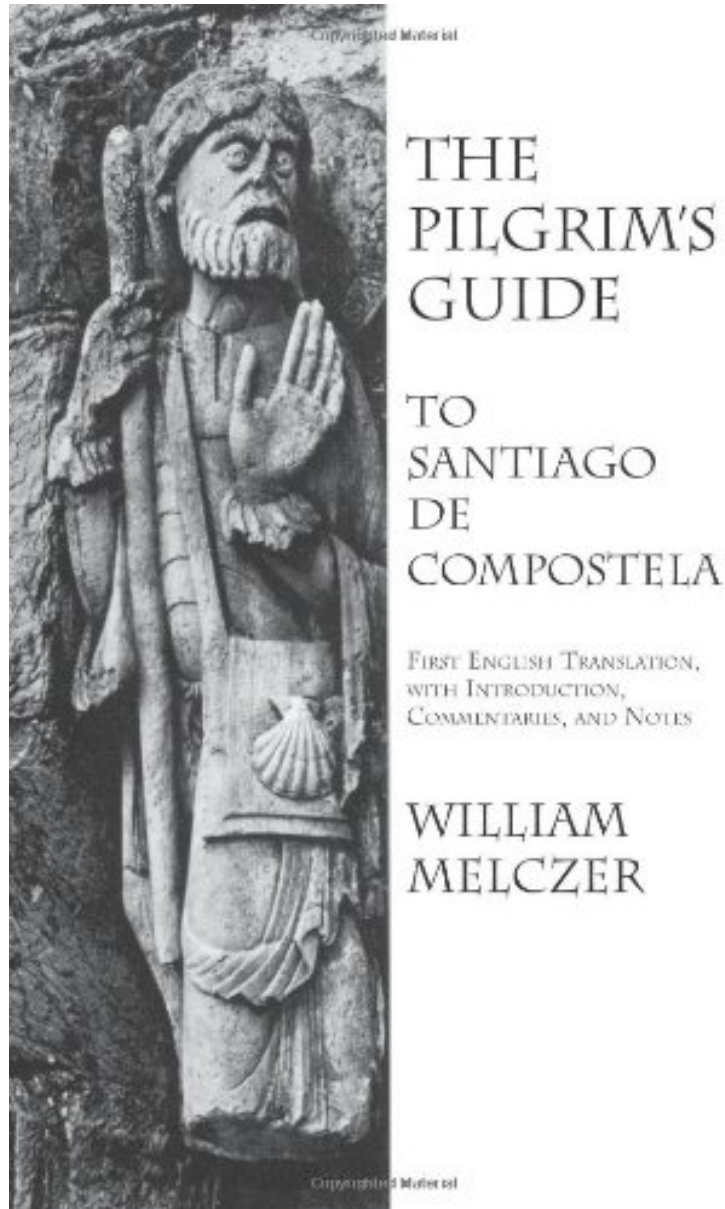


(Download free pdf) The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela

## The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela

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**From Brand: Italica Press : The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Pilgrimage and RelicBy Ashley Brasier William Melczer's guide includes an introduction to Book V of the Codex Calixtinus, followed by his translation. In the introduction, Melczer

situates the book within the social, cultural, and religious fabric of the Middle Ages to shed light on the medieval mindset towards pilgrimage and the cult of relics. Because relics were known as a "source of spiritual power and miracle," believers would journey to reliquaries for prayer and penance (2). This interdependence between pilgrimage and relic forms the basis of the pilgrim's journey to Santiago de Compostela, the monumental cathedral built over the remains of St. James. The medieval pilgrim's journey to Santiago begins at his doorstep, and continues on foot or horseback across France and Spain, following the routes of St. James. On the way, he stops at various towns to eat and rest, but more importantly to visit their saintly remains. Accordingly, Book V of the Codex Calixtinus details not only the route to Santiago and Santiago itself, but also the towns and the saints one must visit along the way. Chapters VII and VIII read like an ethnography of these towns, as they vividly describe the customs and habits of the townsmen and the narratives surrounding their saints. In a number of towns, monumental basilicas have been built over the relics as hagiographic markers, which attract pilgrims seeking spiritual power on their way to Santiago. The author of Book V strikes a careful balance between content on the physical pilgrimage and the accompanying relics in order to provide the medieval pilgrim with the most practical advice. Because the Camino de Santiago involves the body and soul, the pilgrimage is not just about the destination, but the journey to the destination. Relics imbue the pilgrim with a steady source of divine power throughout the pilgrimage.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book but probably better after one's first Camino

By Chris Yavelow

I read this book after walking the Camino, and I feel that if I had read this before my Camino, I would not have appreciated or even fully understood, the material it covers. Having walked the Camino, I was able to relate to many of the names, places, and events included in this book in a way that would not have been possible without prior experience. On the other hand, this text includes the first English translation of first Camino guidebook (14th Century), the "Liber Sancti Jacobi" or "Codex Calixtinus," and some may wish to have read this in order to provide context for whatever contemporary guidebook he or she will carry on the way. Note: This book would not be something to carry with you on the path because it weighs 519 grams (18.3 ounces). Besides, you can find copies of this in the "libraries" of many albergues, hostels, and even hotels along the way.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. "Concerning the Silver Antependium"

By frumiousb

This book is comprised of a translation of Book V of the Codex Calixtinus, and abundant notes, commentary and introduction of same. If you have traveled to Santiago, then you have most likely already read extensive quotations, citations or information from this work. It is probably the single most important historical source of information about the pilgrimage. Or at least the most famous. The translated work itself is only a small fraction of the total book. I urge you to go to the effort of reading the Notes to the Codex. Do this at least for the value for money in the experience since the Notes section is almost twice as long as the actual text. Even past that, I found the notes good reading, and only wish that they had been published in situ with the text and not at the back since it would have saved me a lot of really endless flipping back and forth. The book is also published with a Hagiographical register of the relevant saints and a Gazetteer of the locations. Either of those sections might be of more use to the prospective pilgrim than is the text itself. I have to say that reading the Codex after I completed my trip made it funnier and more illuminating. This is one of those fabled must-reads if you are interested in the Camino. If you aren't, it still might be interesting as an example of medieval travel writing. Melczer seems to do a good job with the book and the translation. Recommended.

"The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela" presents the first complete English translation of Book Five of the Liber Sancti Jacobi or Codex Calixtinus. This twelfth-century guidebook traces the route from southern France to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. The medieval Christian world knew three major pilgrimage sites - Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostela. Between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries Santiago de Compostela was by far the most popular. Pilgrimage to Compostela was a once-in-a-lifetime human adventure. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims came year after year through France and across the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela near the Atlantic shores of Galicia. In his study of the road to Santiago, Professor William Melczer discusses Relics and Pilgrimage The Origin of the Cult of St. James Myth and Historical Reality The Iter Sancti Jacobi The Liber Sancti Jacobi Pilgrimage without Ideology The Iconography of St. James. This book also includes extensive commentaries and notes that highlight historical, geographical, art-historical, hagiographic, and general cultural matters along the route traced by the Guide. Illustrated, introduction, gazetteer, hagiographical register, bibliography, index.

"I heartily recommend this book as a first step with which to begin one's personal journey to Santiago de Compostela. It is chock full of useful information on the Camino, and, like a journey itself, it offers the traveler the opportunity to follow many interesting by-ways (whether geographical or bibliographical) along the way." -- Bryn Mawr Medieval , 95.5.7

"In some senses, the whole history of Iberian Catholicism can be recounted from the vantage point of this classical journey, as can much of European spirituality, iconography, and religious architecture. This English volume will be an important contribution to the rich library of Santiago literature." -- Cistercian Studies Quarterly, vol 32, no. 3, 1997

"Melczer's achievement here is to bring experience that is remote from and even alien to the modern temper vividly to life. it is a very pleasant surprise that will involve, instruct, intrigue and, perhaps, inspire." -- Small Press, Winter 1994

"William Melczer's book offers the first complete English translation of Book V of the famous Liber

Sancti Jacobi. A very readable translation. is accompanied by a wealth of explanatory information: no fewer than 609 notes offer the most thorough commentary the Pilgrim's Guide has ever been given. The particular emphasis given to the cult of the saints connected with the road to St. James, which has never been studied so thoroughly before, makes it a valuable addition to the existing literature on the cult of, and the pilgrimage to, St. James." -- *Medium Aevum*, vol. 64, 1995

From the Publisher The medieval Christian world knew three major pilgrimage sites - Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostela. Between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries Compostela was by far the most popular. The pilgrimage to Compostela was a once-in-a-lifetime human adventure. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims came year after year through France and across the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela near the Atlantic shores of Galicia in far western Spain. Through the EC designation of the pilgrimage route as a European Cultural Itinerary, it has once again become a major route for cultural and religious pilgrims and travelers. A related title is "The Miracles of St. James."

About the Author WILLIAM MELCZER was, until his death in April 1995, Professor of Medieval Renaissance Studies at Syracuse University. His scholarly work includes three books on medieval art and Christian iconography, one volume on Columbus and his Book of Prophecies, and some fifty articles on the art history and the history of ideas of the Renaissance. For more than seven years he led the Syracuse University Traveling Seminar, The Medieval Pilgrimage Routes from Southern France to Santiago de Compostela: Romanesque Art in the Making.