

**American Pilgrims on the Camino
13th Annual Gathering 2010, Winter Park, Florida
March 16-23, 2010**

THE CAMINO TODAY

Our 2010 Gathering of Pilgrims is shaping up as another exciting opportunity to share and learn, greet old friends and make new ones—and for those of us recovering from a brutally cold winter—to enjoy a wonderful respite in subtropical Florida. Our traditional Hospitalero Training begins Tuesday March 16, the Annual Gathering on Friday March 19, and the Spiritual Retreat on Sunday March 20. All events take place within a quiet and secluded 485-acre retreat center.

The San Pedro Center, in warm Winter Park, Florida (Orlando suburb), is this year's venue. Nestled among palmettos and live oaks, with a winding boardwalk to a lake ringed with Spanish moss-laden cypress, the Center is designed especially for retreats. For our Hospitalero Training, a modern bunkhouse and commercial kitchen await. A beautiful chapel with floor to ceiling windows facing dense woods beckons those staying for the Spiritual Retreat.

The Gathering sessions, the central feature of our several days at San Pedro, take place in modern, well-appointed conference and seminar rooms. Lodging is motel-style with two beds per room (an incentive to share a room and save costs).

The sessions of the Gathering feature an array of topics focusing on our theme of *The Camino Today*. They will inform you, challenge you and help refresh some of those priceless memories. The scheduled sessions are nicely balanced with time for pilgrims to come together to share their memories, photos and experiences with fellow pilgrims.

[Friday sessions are scheduled to include:](#)

Blisters and other Sore Points: Pilgrim First Aid

An essential crash course for pilgrims, this morning workshop addresses preventing and treating blisters, shin splints, painful knees, dehydration, sunburn and much more in a lively interactive session.

Drawing and Painting Your Pilgrimage

A special workshop that will stimulate your creative juices whatever your artistic experience.

A Different Kind of Camino: The Hospitalero Experience

If you've wondered about whether service as an hospitalero is for you.

New Pilgrim Question and Answer

Filled with questions and concerns about the Camino? Find out what's really worth worrying about.

The Middle Ages Meet the 21st Century

American Pilgrims website and how the new technology can help you prepare, share and enjoy the Camino.

The Camino on a Bicycle

Answering all you need to know about route choices, equipment and more.

[Saturday continues with sessions on routes - present day, historical perspective and practical aspects:](#)

Finding Yourself in a Labyrinth: Ancient and Modern Paths to Personal Experience
And later, explore the on-site labyrinth.

Alternatives to the Camino Francés in Spain.
Hear about the joys of following other routes.

Camino Cuisine
Traditional flavors, a pilgrim's menu – ideas and what not to miss.

Roads Less Traveled: The Way of St. James in France and its World Heritage Sites.
Dr. Lisa Signori will share with you the French foundation of the Camino frances.

These and several other sessions are all relevant for both experienced Camino pilgrims and those planning or considering a pilgrimage in the future. Come join us!
For questions contact gatherings@americanpilgrims.com.



7th Annual Hospitalero Training
March 16 – 18, 2010

“Grañon was a wonderful experience, and it was a lot of hard work. Every day the Camino brought us gifts in the people who arrived as pilgrims. So many people pitched in, we never lacked for bread, or wine, or helping hands. We expected to give all that we could to help the pilgrims but they gave us so much more. It was incredibly fulfilling.”

With this statement Jeanette Chacon has captured the essence of the volunteer hospitalero experience. The 2010 Holy Year presents a huge need for volunteers to host the many expected pilgrims who will traverse the Camino Francés in the coming months. If you have ever considered giving back to the Camino, this is the way and the time to do so.

Please join us in our 7th Annual Hospitalero Training which will be held March 16-18 at the San Pedro Center in Winter Park, Florida. Highlights of the training will include a wine-and-tapas evening, delving into the history of hospitality along the Camino, learning the art of cooking for multitudes, sharing ideas on spiritual caring, first aid for pilgrims, and much more. Completing this hospitalero training course qualifies you to work in the many albergues that the Spanish Federation of Friends of the Camino oversees. These include albergues on the Camino Francés as well as the Vía de la Plata.

The ever-popular Hospitalero Training will once again be conducted by Daniel De Kay and Lin Galea. We hope to see you there.

Registration deadline for the training is March 1st.
Contact hospitaleros@americanpilgrims.com for further questions.

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Spiritual Retreat

March 21 – 23, 2010

Keeping Our Feet on the Ground: The Pilgrim's Life on the Camino Today

The 2010 Retreat carries the theme of *The Camino Today* into our personal and individual experience of pilgrimage. As in the Middle Ages, the contemporary Camino is enlivened by many elements that have little if anything to do with pilgrimage. We confront these elements daily on the way to Santiago. Sometimes they challenge our intentions as pilgrims on an interior journey. Other times, they add unexpected insights and pleasures. What is a spiritually informed response to the Camino of commerce, politics, activism, ecological pressures and tourist development?

Our Retreat is a chance to talk, contemplate, write, draw, and walk. We will explore the central acts of pilgrimage – following a trail, observing, and reflecting - as a way of building a bridge between who we are as pilgrims and what we encounter on the roads of Northern Spain. Although we will have scheduled sessions, the Retreat is yours to create; our hope is that you will seek whatever means are available – whether in solitude or in conversation and creative expression - to help you find clarity, purpose and joy in your pilgrimage. Seasoned pilgrims and first-time pilgrims are all welcome.

As always, the Retreat is intended as far as possible to respond to your unique pilgrimage and Camino experiences. Please tell us if there a topic or theme that you would specifically like to be included in the Retreat program. Send your suggestions to retreats@americanpilgrims.com.

Mary Wallis is a former American Pilgrims Board Member who has traveled to Santiago several times along various routes since 1997. She is the author of *Among the Pilgrims: Journeys to Santiago de Compostela*, and holds degrees in Nursing and Health Sciences, and a PhD in Medieval English Literature. When not out walking somewhere, Mary works as a Nurse Specialist in Hospice and Palliative Care in Calgary, Canada, where she is a frequent speaker and guest educator.

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**Lodging
&
Directions from the Orlando Airport**

San Pedro Center

All meetings and trainings will be held at the San Pedro Center.

Lodging for the Hospitalero Training will be in dormitory-style accommodations. These accommodations will be \$20 per night per person. Sheets, blankets and towels are not provided in the dormitory. Camino-style - please bring your sleeping bag and towel for the Training accommodations. Due to another group's arrival on Thursday, these accommodations will have to be vacated after breakfast that day.

Accommodations for the Gathering and Spiritual Retreat will be in double (twin bedded) rooms at the San Pedro Center. The double rooms will be \$84 per room per night (\$42 per person double occupancy). On the Gathering Registration form, please be sure to check if you will be booking with the San Pedro Center as an individual and would like assistance finding a roommate.

Payments to San Pedro Center. Checks preferred. Visa/MC accepted w/ 5% add'l fee.

Dina VanKoughnett
The San Pedro Center
2400 Dike Road
Winter Park, FL 32792-8104
Email: dina@sanpedrocenter.org
Phone: 407-671-6322 x227

Alternative Lodging Suggestion:

The following hotels offer us discounted rates. Discounts are offered thru Feb 26, 2010. These hotels do not offer any shuttle or transportation service.

Homewood Suites by Hilton, Orlando
3028 North Alafaya Trail
Orlando, FL 32826
Phone: 407-282-0067
\$89 Studio/\$99 One bedroom
Group code - American Pilgrims
Located 8 miles from San Pedro Center

Holiday Inn, Orlando
12125 High Tech Avenue
Orlando, FL 32817
Phone: 407-275-9000
Group code - American Pilgrims
www.holidayinn.com/ucf
Group code - APR
\$79/King & Doubles
Located 7 miles from San Pedro Center

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Royalle Shuttle Service (407-256-6306). Lincoln TownCar is \$45 one way, \$85 roundtrip. With four or more passengers, the price would drop to \$11.50 per person - van transportation. Please contact gatherings@americanpilgrims.com to possibly connect with other attendees if you are flying into the Orlando Airport for the Gathering.

Directions from Orlando International Airport

Travel north on 436 (Semoran Blvd) to Howell Branch Road. Howell Branch Road is the 3rd traffic light after passing Aloma Avenue. Turn right on Howell Branch Rd., go to the 2nd traffic light and turn left. This is Dike Rd. (San Pedro Center is 0.7 miles on your left.) After driving around an "S" shaped curve, there is a short left hand turn lane into San Pedro Center. San Pedro Center is approximately 12-13 miles from Orlando International Airport.



San Pedro Center

This map is not to scale.

2400 Dike Road
Winter Park, FL 32792-8104
407 671-6322