

MARTIN THURNHEER

“ A PILGRIMS JOURNEY ”

ARTIST STATEMENT

A pilgrim's photographic journey on the Camino de Santiago. A 33 day trek through Spain on this 1000 year old medieval pilgrimage following the “Way of St. James” shows its impeccable architecture, landscape and cultural monuments. This exhibition shares the camaraderie uniting people of different generations, nationalities, experiences and there trials and tribulations.

WAY OF ST. JAMES

Walking the Way of St. James

The great merit in walking the “Way of St. James” is the camaraderie uniting people of different generations, nationalities and experiences.

Everyone on the Camino journey has a unique motivation to complete the 33 day trek on this 1000 year old pilgrimage. With its spiritual and religious connection, contrasting with the beauty and culture of this significant part of Spain it leaves an imprint on those hearts and souls who complete the journey.

“Way of St. James” is the ideal long distance walk for anyone who would like to experience for the first time the adventure of a timely journey on foot.

Its impeccable architecture and cultural monuments, makes it a fascinating passage through the history of Spain. Visitors weather returning to Spain or travelling for the first time, can gain insight into the ever changing vibrancy of Spanish life. This compliments the already familiar experiences known to the world such as flamenco, bull fighting, Paella and the alluring Spanish coast.

The path offers you some interesting encounters with nature whether in the mountain region of the Pyrenees, along the endless barren wastes of the Castilian plateau, or the green Galician right up to the unique Atlantic coast. Not to be underestimated are the meetings and exchanges with fellow hikers who all have the same goal, but quite different reasons for achieving it. And since it's impossible to comprehend the diversity of experiences and impact of this fascinating journey, the Camino makes many pilgrims into enthusiasts who return again and again.

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WORDS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTIN THURNHEER

Photography flows from my appreciation of the beauty in nature and the genuine emotions of people.

Walking is an essential part of my photographic journey, it allows me to slow and open myself to the culture and landscape I find myself in. Many of life's amazing moments have been in calm, unplanned and unexpected times.

It is this inner peace I yearn and search for, it enables me to capture moments where the soul and emotions speak so loud words are not required. The longer I walk the more I leave behind the distractions of the city and the more in touch I feel with my surroundings, the more my senses are heightened and acute where I see the land in colour, tones and forms.

On the completion of a journey, I look forward to not only sharing my experiences and joys but also in the planning of my next adventure, which will evoke similar feelings through my love of photography and travel. The only regret I have is that the viewer can only relate to the journey in print and not be touched and moved by life's wonders I experienced in person.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Martin Thurnheer's interest and passion for the natural world was inspired by the backpacking and distance walking he has completed over the years to such places as Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. While walking reflecting, relating and learning from many cultures, Martin has spent many hours photographing colourful Spanish meadows, forgotten towns off the Camino track, and capturing the essence of local life.

With over 14 years of Photographic and design experience in such organisation as World Vision, Country Road, McGraw Publishing and Young & Rubicon he now feels the timing is right to nurture his appreciation for travel photography. Martin's work has been published in numerous books, newspapers, bus stop billboards and in magazines such as: Good Taste, Delicious, Epicure, Australian Good Food, The Sunday Age, The Weekend Australian, and Irresistibles for the Irritable to name a few.

Martin lives in Daylesford with his Koala Doug on a Bush property that inspires him to continue his creative journey.