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MEDIA RELEASE

13 November 2018

For immediate release

Walk in the footsteps of royalty and experience your Kairos moment

What if you had the chance to walk where royalty had walked; to retrace the ancient paths that led a saint and thousands of pilgrims to one of the most enriching spiritual sites on earth, Santiago de Compostela?

Catholic Mission Immersions is offering you the chance undertake one of the world's most transformative spiritual journeys, the Camino Portugués.

Registrations are now open for the 250-kilometre walk, which follows in the footsteps of St Elizabeth of Aragon, the 13th century Queen Consort of Portugal.

Over 17 days, beginning in May 2019, pilgrims will walk from the beautiful Portuguese city of Porto, crossing into southern Galicia in Spain before arriving in Santiago de Compostela.

John Kerrigan, Immersions Business Manager at Catholic Mission, says the Camino is more than just religious tourism, offering travellers a chance to reconnect with their spiritual selves.

'A pilgrimage such as this is both an internal and external experience. Regardless of why people set out on the Camino, the journey itself becomes a spiritual adventure, drawing them into a deeper retreat experience.'

'This is, after the famous Camino Francés, the most popular Camino route among pilgrims with good reason,' says Mr Kerrigan. 'The journey takes in lush forests, vineyards, farmlands and small villages along with the historic cities which line the route.'

'To be walking the Way of St James and sharing that deep spiritual experience with other pilgrims is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.'

Catholic Mission will operate two immersions in May and June 2019. Groups will meet in Lisbon, take in a full day in Fatima, before heading north and setting out on the Camino from Porto. The pilgrimage will also stop in historic Braga, before reaching its conclusion in Santiago de Compostela.

In the style of a true immersion, pilgrims will be asked to leave technology behind. 'The Camino is about freedom,' says Mr Kerrigan. 'To really immerse ourselves in the spirituality of this ancient Christian journey, we encourage those who join us to take a break from social media for a few days.'

Places are limited with two groups of only eight pilgrims departing in May 2019, so don't delay in booking your place on this incredible adventure.

For more information about the Camino Portugués, visit catholicmission.org.au/immersions.

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