

## Camino Memoirs



**Image:** Camino Skies

### Putting It On the Record

A number of pilgrims are moved to write a pilgrim memoir. There are many to choose from. Through reading this genre we can identify with the author, and recognise similar occurrences and feelings. The writer may give vivid accounts and descriptions, enabling the reader to obtain a feel for the territory being traversed. We can relive our walk, particularly when travel is relatively easy. And we can marvel at the omission of places which were dear to us, and played an important part in our journey. Perhaps we can foretell misfortune as they walk with a pack that is too heavy for the distance being walked, or see that the walker is ignoring a heel hotspot. Some writers get below the surface and reveal aspects of their inner journey. Maybe even give voice to thoughts that we have experienced.

There are a number of Camino memoirs in the Christchurch City Libraries Camino collection, several penned by Kiwis. They have been reviewed in our newsletters and are listed below. I have also reviewed a selection of eBooks available from Amazon in the form of a Kindle. I was drawn to these particular titles as it was explicitly stated in the description that they give an account of the authors' inner journey. One can tire of journeys which are torrid accounts of fetid blisters! I wish you well in your vicarious journeying.

**Note:** it is current Christchurch City Council library policy to withdraw underutilised books. (Use it or lose it!)

[Newsletters are archived on this website.]

**The following books are arranged according to Camino Route.**

### Camino Frances

**Estrellas Moments of Illumination Along El Camino de Santiago: a memoir,** Suzanne Maggio, 2021, 946 MAG, City Libraries, [4 copies] see review Newsletter; February, 2023.

**'Walking in a Relaxed Manner, Life Lessons from the Camino,'** Joyce Rupp, Christchurch City Libraries, 263 RUP ( 2 copies)

**'Towards Compostela, Walking the Camino de Santiago,'** Catharina van Bohemen (2020), Christchurch City Libraries, 946 Van, (2 copies).

**'The Way, My Way - a Camino Memoir,'** Bill Bennett, 946 BEN Christchurch City Libraries, [6 copies]. ebook (kindle), \$NZ 14.62.

**'Just a Mum on the Camino de Santiago, Put down the peeler and have an adventure,'** Rachel Goodman, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 GOO ( copies).

**'Kiwi on the Camino, A Walk That Changed My Life,'** Vivianne Flintoff 2017, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 FLY (6 copies).

**'The Great Westward Walk: From the Front Door to the End of the Earth,'** Antonio Gonzales, Kindle NZ 9.63

**'Women of the Way: Embracing the Camino ( Woman on Her Way Book 1)'** Jane V Blanchard, 2012. Kindle \$NZ 5.51

**'The Only Way is West: A Once In a Lifetime Adventure on the Camino de Santiago,'** Bradley Chermiside, Kindle \$NZ 14.64.

**'Walking Home, A Pilgrimage From Humble to Healed,'** Sonia Choquette, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 CHO, [1 copy], ebook.



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**'God's Cocaine: The Addiction of the Camino,'** Terry Wilson, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 WIL, (1 copy)

**'Dancing Around Cancer,'** Sheila Hailstone, Christchurch City Libraries, 362.196994 HAI, (3 copies)

**'Camino de Santiago In 20 Days, My Way on the Way of St James,'** Randall St Germain, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 ST, (2 copies)

**'The Kiwi Sisters' Camino de Santiago,'** Sue Dwan, Rakuten Kobo, \$NZ 3.99.

**'I'm Off Then, Losing and Finding Myself on the Camino de Santiago,'** Hape Kerkeling, 2006, \$NZ 119.6 paperback, or Kindle.

**'Into the Thin, A Pilgrimage Walk Across Northern Spain,'** Stephen Drew, 2020, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 DRE, [2 copies]

**'The French Way, Trekking the 40 – day El Camino de Santiago,'** Lorraine Thomson, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 THO, [2 copies]

**'A Slow Walk Across Spain, Walking the Camino de Santiago,'** (Second Edition, 2015), Karen Manwaring, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 MAN, [2 copies]

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### **Le Chemin Stevenson**

**'Travels With A Donkey in the Cevennes,'** Robert Louis Stevenson, Christchurch City Libraries, Audio Book.

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### **Portugues**

**'The Kiwi Sisters' Camino Portugues,'** Sue Dwan, Rakuten Kobo, \$NZ 3.99

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### **Le Puy/Frances**

**'The Day was Made for Walking, An Aussie's Search for Meaning on the Camino de Santiago,'** Noel Braun, 2013, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 BRA, (2 copies), and available in eBook.

**'The Journey In Between, A 1000-mile Hiking Adventure On El Camino De Santiago,'** Keith Follett, eBook, Amazon NZ \$12.96

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**Camino Mozarabe/Via de la Plata**  
**'Sinning Across Spain, Walking the Camino,'**  
Ailsa Piper, Audiobook, Christchurch City Libraries (10 hours).

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### **Cluny/Le Puy/GR 10 to Hendry/del Norte/Primitivo/Frances (from Melide)**

**'Two Steps Forward,'** Graeme Simsion, Anne Buist, 2017, Christchurch City Libraries, SIM, (16 copies )

Written as a novel and structured as two hero's journeys with a romantic comedy subplot. [Guests on Episode 1 of podcast, 'Coffee and Camino']

### **(Cluny), Chemin d'Assise, Via Francigena**

**'Two Steps Onward,'** Graeme Simsion, Anne Buist, 2021, Christchurch City Libraries, SIM [4 copies]

Written as a novel, Martin and Zoe reunite and make their way to Rome. (Review will appear in May edition)

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### **Vezelay and Le Puy-en-Velay to St Jean Pied de Port**

**'A Will and a Way, on foot across France,'** Jennifer Andrewes, 944 AND, Christchurch City Libraries, [5 copies.]

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### **La Via Tolosana (Chemin d'Arles)/Camino Aragones/Caminho Portugues (La Via Lusitana)/Finisterre**

**'I Guess I'll Just Keep on Walking, Continuing the Search for Meaning,'** Noel Braun, Christchurch City Libraries, eBook, 2017.

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**Via de Vezelay and Via de Vezelay via Gebennensis (From Geneva to le Puy-en-Velay)**  
**Keep Pressing On, Brother,'** Noel Braun, Christchurch City Libraries, 946 BRA, (2 copies).

This is the third in a series of memoirs recounting the author's inner and outer journeys.

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**Via Francigena from Canterbury**  
**'A Pilgrimage to Eternity, From**  
**Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith,'**  
Timothy Egan, 2019, Christchurch City  
Libraries, 263 EGA, [1 copy].



**Image:** Camino Skies, on the Deseha, Via de la Plata.

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