

Christchurch Camino Group Record

13 April 2026



Image: One of 3 ferry rides along the Camino del Nordt, 2016.

April Gathering Record

Philip welcomed everyone. He shared his new water system utilising an Aarn pocket which clips on to the front straps and a non-rigid water bottle. A smaller Aarn pocket can be clipped on to the other strap. He is utilising it for his mobile. After the **Welcome** the following **Apologies** were received; Belinda, Cleen, Murray, Loie, Elizabeth, Clare and Steve. There were no **Returning Pilgrims**. A **Departing Pilgrims' Ceremony** was held with 7 pilgrims departing. The routes included: the Frances, Ingles, Piedmont (France), Del Norte and onto the Primitivo. All participated in the Shell Ceremony. Cecilia presented the **Christchurch Camino Walking Group Report** detailing the group's recent activities since our meeting in February: PMH, Harry Ell to Adventure Park, March, Tirimoana Bush Walkway, April; Waipara Vineyards. **Our Website:** chchcamino.net; Recent Posts; Camino Stories Vol. 1. Poem; Travelling Light, Camino Memoirs, Santiago: What Now? What Next? (Has details for Pilgrim House).

Journey Presentations

The following presentations outline some longer walks in the Canterbury region. Some involve overnight stays, and local bus services. An ideal way to prepare for your first Camino and for others to relive those wide-open landscapes of the Camino.

Banks Track – Philip

31 km of self-guided hill country walking around the remote and beautiful South Eastern Bays near Akaroa. 2 Day Hikers' option, or 3-day with time to explore local tracks. Philip played a short video clip highlighting key points. He walked the 2 day option in 2013. (Deb has walked it twice.) The scenery was amazing and he has fond memories of taking a bath beneath the stars. bankstrack.co.nz is the official site with stunning images and video clips. A 5- minute Camino

YouTube video completed this portion of the presentation: **‘Breath taking multi-day hike on the South Island of New Zealand.’**

‘Three Routes in Canterbury (and one bike ride in Otago) to feel the Camino Spirit. ~ Alan (Video presentation: **‘Canterbury Walks.’**)
Need a longer walk to prepare, or reflect on Camino? Look no further. Alan produced a video containing beautiful images and maps depicting the various routes from his local walks. Your endurance will be tested! Kaiapoi to New Brighton, 22 km, Cust to Rangiora, 23 km,



Image: Woodend Beach. Time to oneself.

Cathedral Square, to Akaroa Lighthouse, 103 km, 3 days, Otago Harbour Cycle way in Dunedin, 34 km.

Alan has a similar article including maps and images of his walk on our website: chchcamino.net
Use may be made of local bus services. Check out camping ground, cabins at Little River Camping ground, Waikuku Beach Holiday Park, Woodend Beach Holiday Park, Pines Beach Holiday Park.

Overnight at the Packhorse. ~ Liz and Cecilia

Try out your gear with an overnight stay and multi day walking at a Banks Peninsula hut. Cecilia and Liz combined to give an excellent account of their overnight to the Packhorse hut on Banks Peninsula. They enjoyed the Camino-like comradery as they interacted with the other walkers. A highlight was the walks they took the next day towards Mount Herbert on the Monument Track. They advocated good gear be worn as the weather can change quickly. The maps added clarity. Booking is essential.

Walking the Camino Solo - reflections and images from the Portuguese Camino, and the Camino del Norte (from Gion) ~ Frances.

Frances walked over June and July 2025. She began with doubts. She had watched, "The Way." Was the Camino for her? A family member experienced a serious medical event just as she was departing which added to the indecision. She said she had cultural curiosity, a wish to explore history and heritage, experience the physical challenge, meet people all heading in the same direction, and experience a reasonably economic holiday. Frances compared and contrasted the del Norte and Portuguese. The Portuguese had superior infrastructure and was cheaper. It was cooler on the del Norte and more expensive. She shared her learning and reflections. She experienced bed bugs twice, blisters and importantly became aware of how strong and fit she was. The Importance of the other pilgrims and the sharing with them was so meaningful. In Santiago de Compostela she found Pilgrim House was a valued sanctuary. Frances shared what worked for her: trial and error, bubble wrap for seating whilst on the move, ear plugs from the Chemist Warehouse, hikers' wool, (to protect blister), keep it simple, work with the daily rhythm. We were given a screen shot of her apps found to be useful on her Camino. She also spoke about esim cards, (she recommended Airolo (and to turn off Global Roaming,) the Wise Debit card and the importance of keeping a supply of cash. All this was accompanied by absolutely stunning images and photographs imaginatively grouped .eg. Fascinations and Curiosities ~ Granite, Graves and Grainstores.

The evening concluded with **Small Group Discussion.**

Noticeboard

Scheduled 2026 Christchurch Camino Group Gathering Dates



The following are the scheduled meeting dates for 2026: Monday 10 August, Monday 9 November. Our venue for 2026 will be meeting Rooms 2 & 3 Upper Riccarton library, entry via the library main doors.

Temporary Closure of Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ)

Santiago de Compostela airport will be closed to air traffic from April 23 to May 27, 2026, for runway renovations and upgrades. Travellers planning to fly during this period should use alternative airports such as A Acoruna LCG), Vigo (VGO), or Porto (OPO) in

Portugal which are connected by bus and train.

Christchurch Camino Walking Group

The Christchurch Camino Walking Group is for people who have a Camino interest and attend our quarterly meetings. We meet on the second Sunday of the month, usually at 10 am. The walks are a mixture of flat and hill walks around Christchurch and surroundings . They provide an opportunity to try out new walks, and exercise with people who share a love for the Camino. Walks are usually completed by around 3 pm. Please contact Cecilia for more information and to join the separate mailing list: chchcaminogroup@gmail.com

Website

We have a website: chchcamino.net It contains lots of useful information regarding Camino preparation. Alan, who curates it, welcomes contributions. Please forward any general correspondence to chchcaminogroup@gmail.com , email contact including photos: chchcamino@gmail.com for the website.

Advice Given to Pilgrims

We wish to emphasise that all information and answers given by our presenters, organisers, meeting participants in our meeting record and on our website are provided in good faith, and have been found to work for them/us on that particular occasion. The information provided is a starting point for your research so that there is a range of possibilities to investigate and can be adapted to suit individual circumstances.

www.chchcamino.net

chchcaminogroup@gmail.com



Unsubscribe: If you wish to unsubscribe email Deb at chchcaminogroup@gmail.com

© Philip, 2026