

SPAIN

Route of Santiago de Compostela

Brief description

Santiago de Compostela was proclaimed the first European Cultural itinerary by the Council of Europe in 1987. This route from the French-Spanish border was – and still is – taken by pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. Some 1,800 buildings along the route, both religious and secular, are of great historic interest. The route played a fundamental role in encouraging cultural exchanges between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe during the Middle Ages. It remains a testimony to the power of the Christian faith among people of all social classes and from all over Europe.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription

1993

Agency responsible for site management

Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón
Comunidad Foral de Navarra
Comunidad Autónoma de La Rioja
Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla y León
Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (ii), (iv), (vi)

Justification provided by the State Party

Le chemin de Saint-Jacques a été une des principales manifestations de la culture européenne au moyen-âge. Son influence dans la configuration de l'art et de la civilisation ont été d'importance capitale pour les différents pays et régions de l'Europe occidentale. Les différents chemins de pèlerinage confluaient à Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, au pied de la tombe de l'apôtre et ont été jalonnés d'œuvres d'art, de réalisations architecturales et autres.

Le patrimoine culturel qui jonche ces routes est d'une richesse inestimable. Il représente l'éclosion de l'art roman; ensuite apparaissent les cathédrales gothiques; les réseaux de monastères; Burgos voit le jour ainsi que des villes aux traits urbanistiques caractéristiques. Apparaissent les travaux publics destinés au Chemin (ponts, auberges, hôpitaux,

chapelles). Le chemin, encore conservé en grande partie, offre un témoignage d'une grande valeur d'intégration dans le milieu. Il faut ajouter à cela sa nature de «chemin vivant», utilisé encore aujourd'hui par de nombreux pèlerins.

Le tronçon le plus connu, celui se trouvant sur le territoire de l'Etat espagnol et repris dans le Code calixtinien, est présenté afin d'être inclus dans la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Nous pensons que cette déclaration pourra ensuite être élargie à d'autres tronçons offrant également une grande valeur.

Le Chemin de Saint-Jacques répond aux exigences d'inclusion dans la liste du patrimoine mondial: il s'agit d'une réalisation unique en son genre et représentative de la civilisation humaine qui a exercé une influence considérable, ou plutôt fondamentale, dans la consolidation de l'Europe occidentale. C'est un témoignage unique offrant de nombreux exemples des divers styles architecturaux et biens culturels.

Le Conseil de l'Europe, lorsqu'il déclare le Chemin de Saint-Jacques, dans son ensemble, premier itinéraire culturel européen, cite parmi ses objectifs l'inclusion des tronçons ou des éléments les plus significatifs dans la liste du patrimoine mondial.

Le gouvernement espagnol répond à ce souhait en demandant d'inclure dans la liste du patrimoine mondial le bien connu sous le nom de Chemin de Saint-Jacques.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS recommends that this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv), and (vi):

- Criterion (ii): The Pilgrimage Route of St James of Compostela played a fundamental role in facilitating the two-way interchange of cultural developments between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe during the Middle Ages.

- Criterion (iv): Pilgrimages were an essential part of European spiritual and cultural life in the Middle Ages and the routes that they took were equipped with facilities for the spiritual and physical well-being of pilgrims. The Route of St James of Compostela has preserved the most complete material record in the form of ecclesiastical and secular buildings, settlements both large and small, and civil engineering structures.

- Criterion (vi): The Route of St James of Compostela is outstanding testimony power and influence of faith among people of all classes and

countries in Europe during the Middle Ages and later.

Committee Decision

Bureau (June 1993): The Bureau requested the competent Spanish authorities to envisage the possibility of combining under one nomination the two sites already on the World Heritage List (e.g. Burgos Cathedral (316) and the Old Town of Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle (347) and the site presently being proposed (The Path of Saint Jacques-de-Compostelle).

Session (1993): The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi). In response to a suggestion made by the Bureau, the Delegate of Spain informed the Committee that Spain would like to maintain the already inscribed sites of Santiago de Compostela and Burgos Cathedral as separate properties on the World Heritage List in view of their individual and particular uniqueness. The Delegate of France informed the Committee that discussions were in progress between Spain and France on a joint inscription of the Route of Santiago on both territories. He welcomed the inscription of the Spanish part and announced that the complementary part in France would be nominated in due course. In this context, the Delegate from the United States stressed the importance of considering historic transportation corridors for inclusion in the World Heritage.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- A comprehensive list of state and regional heritage legislation; Historical Monuments, Monument of Cultural Interest Decrees, Special Protection Plan for recovery and revitalization of the Route of Santiago de Compostela in La Rioja, Regional Plan for the Route of Santiago de Compostela, urban planning regulations etc

- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre, religious use, rural landscape: cultural tourism, recreation (hiking and running)

Management /Administrative Body

- Legal steering group since 1991, The Jacobean Council
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective
- Actions proposed: Different Regional Plans, Sectorial Plans, and Integrated Renovation Plans have been drawn up. Improved coordination between the different administrations

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Not adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Castilla-León: Culture and Tourism Council; La Rioja: High Council for Cultural, Historic and Artistic Heritage; Commission for Territorial and Urban Planning; Galicia: Galician Regional Government: Council on Territorial Policy, Public Works, and Housing; Council for Culture, Social Communication and Tourism; City of Santiago de Compostela; Aragon: Regional Administration of Aragon; Navarre: Regional Government of Navarre

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- The National Government; The Regional Administrations of Castilla y León, La Rioja, Aragon, Navarre and Galicia; Provincial administrations; Municipal administrations
- The Route of Santiago de Compostela Programme, within the Public Works Ministry's 1% earmarked for culture
- European Funds: The PRODES and FEDER funds for rural towns
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, promotion, visitor management
- Average: interpretation, education

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Scientific institutions; Ministry of Culture; regional departments of Culture and Tourism

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 765,000 (surveys and figures on nights spent in pilgrim's hostels, Impact sensor on different points of the route, Tourism information offices). Trend: rising
- Visitor facilities: Hostels and camping areas; Rural Bed & Breakfasts; Information Points and Visitor Centres; Volunteer pilgrims' assistance; Guides have been published in different languages and different formats; Health guides for pilgrims; Flyers and diptychs for the towns along the routes; Pocket guides to churches; Signage for the major and secondary routes in the towns through which they run, indicating the services available (e.g., accommodations, rest areas), and the monuments along the way; Programme for making motor vehicles available to those pilgrims who might require them
- Broad-band Internet connections at 61 hostels, was part of the I-Ultreia programme carried out in collaboration with the European Institute's Route of Santiago de Compostela Foundation (FIECS). In 2004 an agreement was signed to create a Route of Santiago de Compostela Digital Centre for Jacobean Promotion
- Cultural activities along the course of the route (e.g., theatre, puppets), as well as sporting events, Concerts, guided tours of the historic centres of cities and towns; Medieval theatre performances; Medieval market recreations in the plazas of historic town centres; Museums
- Tourism management plan: Castilla y León: www.turismocastillayleon.com; La Rioja: www.asantiago.org; Galicia: www.xacobeo.es; Navarre: www.cfNavarre.es; Aragon: www.turismodearagon.com

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, archaeological surveys
- Extensive bibliography can be consulted: www.xacobeo.es

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Special projects promoted by the Jacobean Council, exhibitions, festivals, film series, conferences. A special agreement was reached with the Roman Catholic Church to open 109 churches on a special summer schedule, major tourism trade fairs, agreements with Turespaña, guided tours, trips covering the entire route and exhibitions etc.
- Websites available: Jacobean Council: <http://www.mcu.es/cooperacion/jacobeo/index.html>
The different Regional Administrations:
Castilla y León: www.turismocastillayleon.com
La Rioja: http://www.lariojatourismo.com/camino_santiago/index.php
Aragon: http://jacobeo.aragon.es/flash/principal_flash.html
Navarre: http://www.Navarre.es/home_es/Turismo/default.htm
Galicia: www.xacobeo.es
- Local participation: included in the national Curricula for Compulsory Secondary Education creation of jobs, both associated with the route itself and with services for pilgrims, subsidies, volunteer programmes

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 25th (2001)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 25th(2001); 26th (2002); 27th (2003)

Conservation interventions

- An extensive list of conservation, restoration works
- Present state of conservation: patchy

Threats and Risks to site

- Development, environmental, number of inhabitants, visitor/tourism, agricultural/forestry regimes
- Specific issues if mentioned; development of roads infrastructure; tourism pressure, especially during the summer months and Jacobean Jubilee Years; city development pressure around major urban centres; economic and demographic regression of some smaller towns, consequently leading to the abandonment of Route maintenance; lack of standardisation in Route signage
- Emergency measures taken : Regional Plan for the Route of Santiago de Compostela; Regional Strategy for Jacobean Routes, Sectorial Plan for Supramunicipal Impact on the Routes of Santiago de Compostela

Future actions:

- Regional initiatives will be brought together in a Directive Plan. These documents are aimed at achieving closer co-ordination of the administrations involved in managing the property
- Tourism Excellence distinctions, plans for renovating and zoning the Route of Santiago de Compostela

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: follow-up regarding restoration work, reports, environmental impact assessments

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: Recognition and prestige not only for the historical monuments involved, but for small towns along the way making it a cultural resource, stimulus for the organisations involved, greater commitment on the part of the public administrations and the public, social improvements with international visitor exchanges and strengthened identity
- Weaknesses of management: Difficulties for management: the large territorial extension which protection requires a great effort; diversity amongst provinces and towns; the large number of administrations and individuals involved; diversity of ownerships; visitor increase in a short period of time, seasonality of these visits; atmospheric and environmental agents