



Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, Spain

- TOBY DINOOP » 14 YRS » MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Santiago de Compostela Cathedral remains one of the most important cathedrals in the world as it is the burial place of the apostle, St. James the Elder. It is also important in Spain because it marks the end of the 790 kilometres (490 miles) that make up the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route.

The Apostle St. James

St. James was the brother of John the Evangelist, sons of Zebedee. James was one of the three privileged disciples, together with Peter and John, to be present with Jesus at important moments of his life, like the Transfiguration and his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. As recorded in Acts 12:2, James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa in the year 43 AD. Tradition narrates that his body was taken by sea from Jerusalem to Galicia, and was buried in a forest, today the site of the Cathedral.

Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago or Way of St. James is a pilgrimage of medieval origin, a series of roads through France and Spain, to the cathedral, with pilgrims walking, cycling or riding on horseback.

Ano Xacobeo

When the feast of St. James - July 25th - falls on a Sunday,

that year is called a Holy Year or Ano Xacobeo. During this year, the Holy Door in the cathedral, Porta Santa is opened for the whole year. Pilgrims who visit the cathedral, pray and attend Mass during the Holy Year, obtain a full plenary indulgence. 2021 is a Compostela Holy Year!



SOME FACTS

- ✦ The only other churches built atop a tomb of Jesus's apostles are St. Peter's Basilica, Rome and St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica, Chennai, India
- ✦ The Tomb of St. James also contains remains of his disciples, St. Athanasius and St. Theodore.
- ✦ The Holy Door is also known as the Forgiveness Door.
- ✦ The Cathedral is also home to the famous Botafumeiro, which dispenses clouds of incense, dates back to the mid-19th century.
- ✦ A scallop shell is worn on pilgrims to show that they are walking the Camino de Santiago. •