

OASIS TRAILS INFORMATION BOOKLET



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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this manual is to lay out the vision and mission of Oasis Trails and also to provide practical information about becoming a part of Oasis Trails. At time of writing this mainly focusses on the Albergue, hence information about helping out at the Albergue. There is more to say than what is written down, but we hope that this will give clarity and insight into our identity and a glimpse of our work environment. Besides this information booklet we also have videos and other resources on our website and on social media (links can be found at the end of this document).

FOUNDING HISTORY OF OASIS TRAILS

In the 1960s one of the founders of Oasis Trails was a reli-hiker himself, a pilgrim, following the hippie-train to India, searching for “peace of mind”, a higher reality behind the visible world. During this journey he encountered this higher reality - the person of Jesus Christ. For someone who was searching in India for his spiritual teacher, finding Jesus was not what he had expected, but it was very concrete nonetheless. Since then Jesus has been the inexhaustible source AND the defining goal of his existence.

Since the pilgrim’s trail to Santiago has increased in popularity, it has become clear that many travelers are driven by the same unrest as those who sought their salvation in the east. Even though they may be only partially aware of it, many are searching for God. This knowledge was the motivation for Oasis Trails to start and to open an albergue along the Camino de Santiago, where perhaps some people on a spiritual journey may be surprised by encountering Jesus, just like our founder.



STATEMENT OF FAITH

ABIDING

We believe our union with Christ is foundational to daily living. Our desire is to abide in Him, to abide in His truth, to abide in his presence. We do this as individuals in our own time with Jesus, and we do this as a community during corporate worship and fellowship. We are branches of the same vine, and we find our unity in Him. As we abide in Jesus He is our nourishment and strength. Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

PRUNING

We believe that as we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit does a transforming work in our hearts. We are on a faith journey from glory to glory and grace to grace. We believe that as we abide in Him we will experience growth and that as we grow there is a pruning process, a letting go of the things in our lives that don’t bear fruit.

BEARING FRUIT

We believe that as we abide we become one with Jesus and as such we become like Him. We believe that as we are pruned, and as we grow, we bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This fruit brings glory to God as people are able to taste and see His goodness in and through us - both people in our community and on the Camino or journey.

VISION

The secret place for the INDIVIDUAL

A life of worship and devotion to Jesus. Personal growth by having intimate alone time with God and private reflection.

Doing discipleship together as a COMMUNITY

A life designed to be part of a fellowship of believers. Relating with each other as we share life by being flexible, and sacrificial and by learning, growing, teaching.

Operating the albergue to reach PILGRIMS

A life with a perspective to reach out to others. Showing the love of Jesus to the people in front of us by being intentional to meet their needs.

MISSION

To bring people in touch with Jesus Messiah through establishing hospitable spiritual places along the pilgrim route where their physical and spiritual needs are cared for.



ABOUT THE CAMINO

HISTORY OF THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

In the past pilgrims were of the Catholic tradition, traveling to Santiago de Compostela to do penance, out of thankfulness, or simply as a form of devotion. But why specifically to the nearly westernmost point of Europe?

The story goes that the Apostle James preached the Gospel in the Northwestern part of Spain and made disciples there. Upon his return to Jerusalem, he was captured by the Roman regime and was one of the first disciples to be beheaded. His disciples carefully wrapped his mortal remains and took them by ship back to their birthplace in Northwestern Spain where they were buried in a quiet place.

Centuries later a devout believer had an extraordinary vision in which the location of the grave of Saint James (San Diego or Santiago) was revealed to him - in a field (Compostela). A few believers built a chapel on that site in which the relics, the bones of James, were kept.



And so began one of the most important pilgrim's sites of the Catholic tradition, as through the ages a larger and larger cathedral was built. Since the eighth century many millions of people have travelled this way, often under extreme conditions, and it was for many their last journey. The old route has become a succession of historical monuments containing a treasure of religious objects. As a result merchants and traders gathered along the Camino because of the pilgrims, even building bridges for them, cities and towns began to spring up whose names reflect some relationship to the St. James Pilgrimage. The pilgrim's trail has since been raised to the level of a European Cultural Monument.

During the 20th century the pilgrimage lost popularity at the same rate as secularization and the decline in church attendance. Only a small flock of devout Catholics kept the pilgrimage alive. In season there were only a few "die hards" per day.

The last decades of the previous century brought a change in this picture. While the abandonment of the traditional churches continued unhindered (and in Spain even increased) the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela won in popularity. Although in the middle of the previous century only a few hundred people per year made the journey, during the high season of the last few years hundreds of hikers per day have departed from the starting point at St Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrenees or Roncesvalles in the Spanish Pyrenees. It is estimated that over 300,000 people walked some portion of the Camino in 2017.

CURRENT CAMINO CULTURE & POSTMODERN PILGRIMS

The current pilgrims often have no traditional ties with the Roman Catholic Church. Many modern pilgrims are motivated to reflect on life. They come from a society that knows of Christianity, but that in fact has more to do with pluralism and universalism. In addition there are pilgrims who set out only with the motive of enjoying a physical challenge. Pilgrims come from near and far and represent every level of society and age, from retirees to students. Many are searching for answers to life's deeper questions such as, "Who am I?", "What is the purpose of my life?", and "Who is God?"

As we live out our faith as a community of believers, and show the love of Jesus to pilgrims through words and actions, our desire is that people will find answers to what their heart is searching for.

Pilgrims need food and a place to sleep every day. Traditionally, at the various stages of the journey, cheap accommodations have been established and subsidized by the church or state. These "refugios", simple shelters of refuge, have often been housed in old schools or barns and sometimes in a sober room in a monastery or church. Privately-owned shelters have sprung up along the pilgrims' trail as well. Through the years the quality of these shelters has improved, but this type of accommodation tends to be profitable and impersonal.



CAMINO MAP

There are more roads leading to Santiago De Compostela. Oasis Trails is on the French route which starts in St Jean Pied de Port. Pilgrims arriving at our Albergue are mostly already walking for five till seven days.



OASIS TRAILS SPAIN PROJECTS

ALBERGUE

Since 1999 Oasis Trails, as a Dutch Foundation, started renting the Albergue in Villamayor de Monjardín. Our facilities breathe a personal and rustic flavor. We enjoy hanging out on the terrace with pilgrims and sharing a communal meal with those that have signed up. Pilgrims can also choose to have breakfast and we offer a spread that goes beyond the typical Spanish coffee and a biscuit. After dinner we have a Jesus meditation and pilgrims are welcomed to join us. Personal attention and availability is typical. There are more volunteers than strictly necessary. People experience our place as a home and as a warm community. We look after people not only with product and a price, but we go the extra mile and offer a personal touch, putting heart into our work. Yes our building is old and imperfect, and there is not Wi-Fi throughout the whole building and the dining area is small, however it is alive and real and spreads the fragrance of Jesus' love.



COMMUNITY

In the last couple of years more people have expressed the desire to visit our community and see the work God is doing in our midst. To accommodate for this, we have opened one of our homes in Luquin, “the Guesthouse,” for people to stay in. It is informal and not an official hospitality service, but a house where a few of our long term volunteers live. The Bouwmans rent it on their private account. For us it is like a foretaste of the monastery - a place where people can stay and participate in the community. When we gather as a community for Carpet Time, Community Lunch or a Sunday gathering, one may find a variety of people gathered which gives these times the unique Oasis Trails dynamic. From all nations, from all ages, many believers, but also some not yet believers.

Weekly Rhythm:

- Monday to Friday- Carpet Time at Luquin Guesthouse

- Wednesday Community Lunch
- Sunday Gathering
- Daily Jesus Mediation at the Albergue (during the season)
- Optional: joining the communal dinner with pilgrims at the Albergue.

The Oasis Trails community has also become a place for people to be intentionally disciplined. With a mentor you go through the basics of our faith along the books of the bible spread over 12 sessions.

Many who have been disciplined while living in our community have committed their lives to Jesus in baptism!



The guesthouse is a way to visit the Oasis Trails community and see what God is doing. It works best when people are able to find their own way in the area with transport or walking and when people enjoy meeting new people and prepared to jump into community life that is rarely predictable but full of God's power and love!

The current community of Oasis Trails gives us a foretaste of what can be in the future in the monastery in Barbarin.



MONASTERY

At the time of writing we are looking at starting the renovation of the monastery in Barbarin, just 3 km away from Villamayor de Monjardín. This monastery was acquired by Oasis Trails in February 2020 and will house the community in the future! It could have place for long term workers, volunteers, guests, visitors and pilgrims!

For the year 2022 we are believing for more funds to come so we can continue to do the whole renovations.





VOLUNTEERING AT THE ALBERGUE

The albergue is run by volunteers. There are long term staff who are usually financially supported by their own network. These people carry the work like administration and organization and planning and training volunteers and form an integral part of the Oasis Trails community. During the pilgrims season (the albergue is open from April 1 till October 31) they are reinforced by volunteers that come for a couple of months or a few weeks (3 weeks minimum for new volunteers). Their contribution is just as valuable, because in this way a varied and capable team is formed.

Working in the albergue is a great opportunity to join a Jesus centered community and explore sharing your faith in the context of the Camino de Santiago! There are a few dimensions that have an impact on a person's time with us:

- Living in Community. Do you enjoy to live closely together with other people of various ages and from different backgrounds?
- An active rhythm of spiritual practices. Are you hungry and longing to learn and grow spiritually? Are you open minded, Jesus centered, and Bible based?
- Working with people from other nationalities, languages, ages and church cultures. Are you flexible? Can you work with different personalities? Are you a bridge builder? A team player, can you positively impact a difficult situation? Or can you add joy to an already great day? Are you a humble servant?

This is not always easy for all who join, however if you have an open heart and you do every step with Jesus, a time in Villamayor de Monjardín often leaves a deep and lasting impact. Friendships are built and we grow together in faith.



DAILY SCHEDULE AND JOBS

Schedule

The following schedule was used in 2018. It might be changed a bit by the time you get to us.

The morning

06.30	Pilgrim breakfast (Only during certain months)
08.00	Team breakfast and prayer
09.00	Cleaning and laundry

The Afternoon

14.00 or 15.00	Hospitaleros open Albergue
16.00	Cooks start cooking

The Evening

18.30	Dinner starts
19.45	Dinner ends and all volunteers help clean kitchen and dining room
20.30	Jesus Meditation (during this time someone stays out to set up tomorrow's breakfast)
22:15	Hospitaleros close albergue

Jobs

There are three main jobs at the albergue: cleaning, hospitalero-ing, and cooking. We all take turns doing these jobs, but we also like to have people using their gifts and doing what they enjoy. Please let us know what you find challenging and what you feel comfortable with. That way we can pair people up accordingly for the different tasks.

Cleaners

Every morning we clean the albergue. The bathrooms have to be scrubbed down, floors swept and mopped, sheets washed, etc. In the morning three to four people are scheduled to clean. Additional responsibilities might include serving the pilgrims breakfast, hanging and folding laundry, buying bread, and cleaning up the kitchen. Usually cleaning takes about two hours every morning with full occupancy.

Hospitaleros

The albergue opens at 2pm and everyday two people work together to meet the needs of the pilgrims. It starts with signing them in, showing them up to their room, explaining where things are, etc. In addition to that hospitaleros hang out on the terrace and remain available to pilgrims that need help or questions answered. We also like to be available to just listen and get to know the pilgrims a little bit. Sometimes we fill up quickly and then we help pilgrims find other places to stay. At dinner time the hospitaleros are responsible with setting up the dining room, welcoming the pilgrims in, and opening with prayer. After dinner we all help clean up and there are some closing tasks assigned to the hospitalero as well - taking signs down, putting chairs away, locking doors and some administration. The hospitaleros work from 2pm until 10:15pm.



Cooks

Fellowshipping around the table is something that is important to us and we love being able to offer a home cooked meal to the pilgrims as well. Pilgrims have the option of paying 10 euro for a three course meal including: bread, salad, main course, dessert, and wine. Often times we cook for 15-30 people. From 4pm until dinner at 6:30pm two people are responsible for preparing the meal. There is a head cook and an assistant cook. It is the responsibility of the head cook to decide what's for dinner. During dinner time the cooks will serve the pilgrims and also do the dishes a bit so they don't pile up to high. Don't worry, we have an industrial dishwasher! Cooking includes preparing the salad and making the main course; making dessert is optional as we always have fruit yoghurt and chocolate pudding to offer.

Workload

When scheduled for hospitalero you will only work in the afternoon. When scheduled to cook it is possible that you might be cleaning in the morning as well. Everyone will get one day off a week.

COMMUNITY SPREAD OUT OVER 3 VILLAGES

Our community happens in Villamayor as well as in Luquin. Volunteers live and work in Villamayor where the albergue is located and stay in the adjacent volunteer house. Some of our activities happen in Luquin. It is our hope that as relationships develop people will feel free to move between Villamayor and Luquin. Again the motto is: Participate, don't anticipate! Ask people you have met in Luquin for a coffee or join them on a walk. Propose to help out with shopping and get engaged!

Albergue in Villamayor de Monjardin

There are 3 dormitory rooms with a total of 22 beds. There is a private room with space for 3 people. There are 3 showers and 3 toilets. There is also a pilgrim's room with a fireplace where pilgrims are welcome to sit and relax. There is a kitchen and dining room that can seat up to 28 people. There is also an office, volunteer bathroom, and volunteer bedroom above the kitchen. We also have a meditation room that is used every evening.

Volunteer House in Villamayor de Monjardin (next to Albergue)

Room and board is provided for the volunteers. Attached to the albergue is a house where the volunteers stay. It has a bathroom/laundry room, kitchen area, and four bedrooms. Volunteers are responsible to share the chores of keeping it tidy.

Luquin

The Bouwman's live in Luquin, 2.6 km from Villamayor. Together with Michele (USA) they are currently the managing couple of Oasis Trails in Spain. They also rent a community house where the visitors stay and some of the long term staff live. During weekdays in the morning there is a time of coffee followed by worship and prayer, also known as "Carpet Time". You are invited to join! This is also a place for gathering on Sundays when the weather doesn't allow us to go outside.

Barbarin

The monastery is the location for some of our events such as our Wednesday Community Lunch. Here is also the garden to get your hands dirty, to harvest fresh vegetables or herbs or a place to just retreat and be with our Lord.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Whether you are staying for three days, weeks or three months our desire is that you are part of the community. We do recognize that people have different expectations and needs so we want to give you the freedom to be as involved as much as you desire.

Start and Finish

We begin the day with the volunteers in the Albergue with breakfast and also use this as a time to pray and share experiences. It's team-time! At

the end of the day we have a Jesus Meditation time and we invite the pilgrims to join us in this. During this time we come before God and spend time with him. We hope pilgrims will meet God also as we become quiet and listen. Following the meditation we have a cup of tea and usually have conversations with the pilgrims, sometimes sharing things that are on our hearts.

Fellowship

During the week we have times where we come together as a community. We encourage you to join us for these times. On Wednesdays we have a community lunch at the Bouwman's court yard in Luquin. Thursdays we often make a trip to Estella for visiting the local markets. On Friday mornings we worship together in the meditation room in Villamayor . On Sunday mornings we have "church" followed by lunch. In addition, we encourage volunteers to arrange to go exploring together and when possible we can try to arrange hikes, picnics, market days, and things like this. We want you to know that you are more than welcome to take initiative as well!

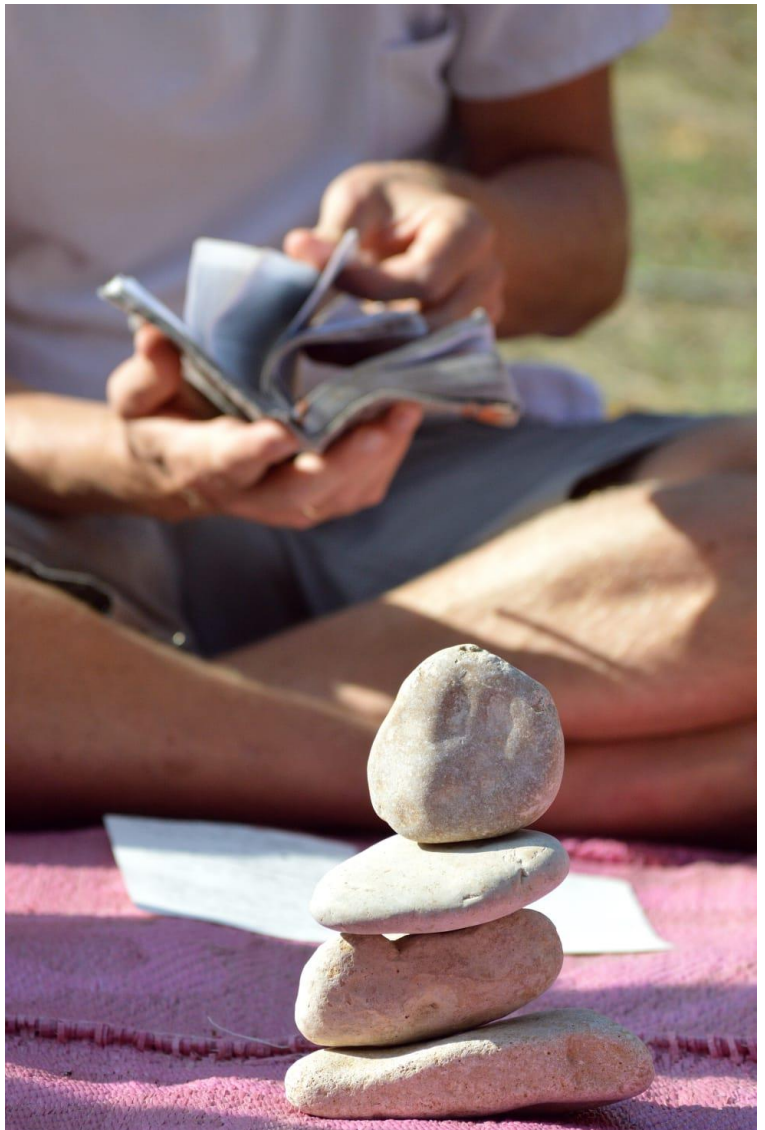


Balance

We each have individual needs, but we also live and work in community and need to put others first and care about their needs. One key to this is making our needs known and we hope that you feel this is a safe environment where you can do just that. We hope that each volunteer is able to find a balance between having time in solitude with God, having time in corporate worship, having time to just relax and enjoy fellowship, and of course working at the albergue and spending time with pilgrims. In the world there are labels (such as introvert and extrovert) and we recognize that we naturally have comfort zones in which we feel energized. However, we also see that God is our strength and joy and can equip us for each season. It may be challenging, but growth comes out of challenge. You may find yourself spending more time with people than you are used to, or spending more time alone than you are used to. Trust that He is growing something in you. Trust that there is something He wants to show you. Trust Him to be your strength and your joy.

We all have a role to play in the spiritual life of the community and we desire that everyone is able to participate in the flow of giving and receiving. We want all volunteers to feel comfortable and to be able to share what God has been teaching them, and in this way encourage the whole team.

We all have our own spiritual journey, but when we come together in unity, as one body, we have a beautiful opportunity to encourage, sharpen, and lift each other up. The time at the albergue is not just a time of working and doing shifts, at the same time we hope you will progress on your own journey to the heart of God! We want you to take full advantage of the resources and community.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT

Calle Plaza 4
Villamayor de Monjardin, Navarra
Spain
info@oasistrails.org

GIVING

If people feel led to support us financially we have options to do so for people all over the world. For people in The Netherlands and the USA we have tax deductible ways to donate. Below is more information, otherwise please contact us via info@oasistrails.org

Online donating in to our partner organization in USA

Donations can be made tax deductible via
<https://www.novo.org/projects>
choose Oasis Trails or project number 9085

Paypal

We have set up a Paypal account for people who prefer this... Easy!
The email address used is info@oasistrails.org
Link: <https://www.paypal.me/OasisTrails>

Wire Transfer to Spain

Beneficiary Name: Oasis Trails Spain
Address: Calle Plaza 4
Postcode: 31242
Place: Villamayor de Monjardin
Province: Navarra
Country: Spain

Bank name: Caixa Bank
Address: Calle San Andres 4 y 7
Post code: 31200
Place: Estella
Province: Navarra
Country: Spain
Account number : 2100 3694 7322 1021 1209
IBAN electronic format: ES2921003694732210211209
IBAN paper format: ES29 2100 3694 7322 1021 1209
SWIFT or BIC: CAIXESBBXXX

Wire Transfer to The Netherlands

Beneficiary name: Stichting Oasis Trails
Address: Beurtschipperserf 5
Postcode: 3991 KM
Place: Houten
Country: The Netherlands

Bank Name: ING
Address bank: Bijlmerplein 888
Postcode: 1102 MG
Place: Amsterdam
Country: The Netherlands
Bank account: NL17INGB0007743030
SWIFT or BIC: INGBNL2A

RESOURCES

Facebook	Albergue Oasis Trails
Website	oasistrails.org
Instagram	Oasis Trails Spain
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOiWWOVJ9KGl66PVbrmSGqw Video about volunteering with us Video about the Community Video about the Great commission Video About the Jesus Meditation Video about the Albergue Video about the monastery project longer Video about the monastery project short Video Testimony of a pilgrim 2021

If you would like to visit us, join our team volunteering or have any questions: Send us an email at info@oasistrails.org We would love to hear from you!