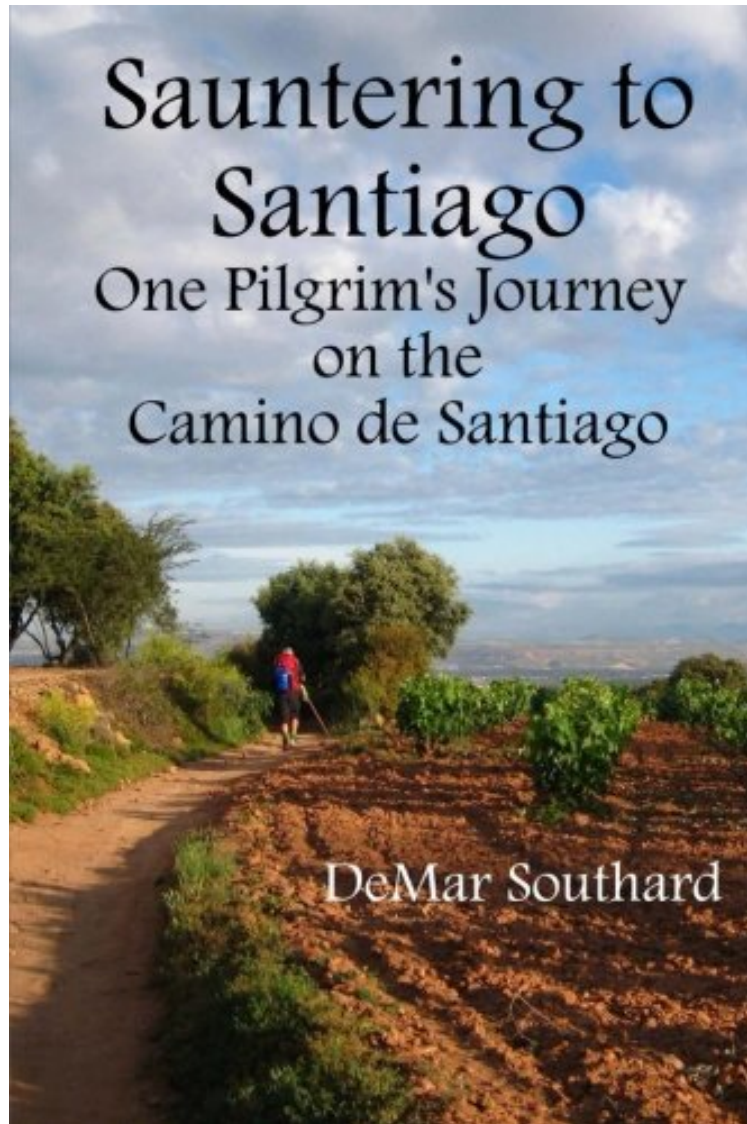


(Pdf free) Sauntering to Santiago: One Pilgrim's Journey on the Camino de Santiago

# Sauntering to Santiago: One Pilgrim's Journey on the Camino de Santiago

*DeMar Southard*

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#3057296 in Books 2013-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .65 x 6.00l, .85 #File Name: 0989920437286 pages | File size: 72.Mb

**DeMar Southard : Sauntering to Santiago: One Pilgrim's Journey on the Camino de Santiago** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sauntering to Santiago: One Pilgrim's Journey on the Camino de Santiago:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A cold beer (or two) and some pretty fine Camino writingBy VGI've read a dozen trail journals this year, from Mark Horrell's mountaineering diaries, to Hape Kerkeing's Camino journal,

to various other Camino efforts in addition to journals from grimly determined thru hikers busting it through the night and rain. DeMar Southard's effort, *Sauntering to Santiago*, is the best of them so far. It's clearly written, relatively free of cliché and has a deft blend of the usual trail journal subjects: strategy, surprises, geography, sightseeing, relationships and deep thoughts. On the whole, Southard does the best job describing his experience - at least for the lower-priced trail journals, which are the only type I read. Southard is very personal in his journal, and knows it. He's aware of what he's writing, and takes care to manage it well. His personal background - musical training, education, lack of financial success - all give weight to his story in a way that's generally lacking in most trail journals. Everybody includes some of this stuff, but usually it just seems to get in the way, or add unnecessary drama. Southard's background and his hopes and fears are genuinely interesting. And his take on life is more subtle and nuanced than what we get with most trail writers. The loss of his personal trail mementoes, for example, including his pilgrim credential, is handled exceptionally well at the 24% mark (in Kindle). Of course, no self-edited book is anywhere near perfect. There are a few typos and a bit of clunky writing (but not as bad as in other SPBs - not by a long shot). There are items that should have been further explored/described (for example, he gives away his tent very early in the journal, but doesn't say any more than that. How do you go about giving away a tent in northern Spain before you've even made it to the main part of the Camino? He was essentially walking alone at that point. To whom did he give it? What did they intend to do with it? Pilgrim or local? An editor would've said, "wait a minute, wait a minute, back up - a little detail, please.") Once he makes it to the main part of the Camino, he meets (and develops deep feelings for) another hiker, a woman twenty years his junior. It would be easy enough to poke fun at Southard regarding this part of his story, but one feels no desire to do so, simply because Southard seems to be making a very honest effort to be sincere about the whole thing (and because he pokes a certain amount of fun at himself already - nothing like beating your critics to the punch). Nonetheless, the almost-romance is a bit problematic, since Southard declines to speak for the woman, and so we get a very one-sided and at times odd view of the situation. This again is a place where a professional editor would step in with some sound advice and re-writing. But as trail journals go, it's one of the best that I've encountered. Southard notes several times that he's planning a new hike, from Barcelona to Rome in 2015, I believe (maybe he's doing it right now). Here's hoping he keeps a journal. And here's a piece of unsolicited advice: sing your way across Europe. You're a voice major, man - it's probably your best weapon in dealing with the underlying theme of the current book - self-confidence, or lack thereof. So belt out the classics (from all ages) as you saunter forth. You'll take the trail by storm. Five stars. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Introspective and highly personal read. By Chuck Ashford Unique and inspiring. Demar has a way of describing human frailties and shortcomings in which all of us can relate. This is more of a "love story" than a travel log. Emotions run high at times. Equal with emotions, however, are the philosophical observations. Many of us have experienced and will relate strongly to Demar's PTSD and Prozac related observations. Simultaneously, the story will make you laugh and cry, simultaneously. This very personal story might just make you wish that circumstances would allow you such a venture...and frankly, if I am true to the content of the book, maybe I will have to make such a venture happen in my own life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. His route external journey mimics his internal journey as he discovers the joy of walking with others after a long stretch of ... By BFG The author begins his Camino in Monserrat, Spain and connects with the French Way at Logorno. The route of his external journey mimics his internal journey as he discovers the joy of walking with others after a long stretch of solitude. The author's honesty and self reflection open up an important conversation about the contrast between the modern world and all its dehumanizing effects, with the simple life of the Camino. Lessons abound if your heart remains open.

A memoir of fifty days on the Camino de Santiago and the aftermath in the life of the author. This is not a travelogue. Rather, it is a memoir of thoughts, feelings, and experiences while making a spiritual pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The author walked from Montserrat, near Barcelona, to Finisterre, experiencing solitude for the first part of the walk along the Catalan route of the Camino, then in the company of fellow pilgrims after joining the more familiar French route. This is a story of walking, experiencing, feeling, being. Along the way the author rambles on about beer, Debussy, Prozac, economics, and other sundry topics that tend to waft through the brain while walking 850 miles across Northern Spain.

About the Author DeMar Southard was born in California somewhere around the middle of the 20th Century. He's lived in nine states and two foreign countries, has earned degrees in music and business, and made a living during the first half of his life (if he lives to be 112) as a systems analyst, trainer, application programmer, and project manager. He now makes a life as an author, editor, English teacher, and professional pilgrim.