

Why the Walk

In June 2017, I retire as a director at TWB Chartered Accountants. To mark this significant event in my working life I am embarking on a long-distance walk, combining the two pilgrim walks the Via Francigena and Via Francesco. My journey on foot begins in Langres France on the 2nd July 2017 and ends in Rome on the 27th September 2017.

I am inviting friends and clients to join me for the walk or part thereof. If treading the beaten paths of pilgrims is not your idea of a good time, you might consider joining me in one of the many beautiful villages along the way (surely a nice part of the world for a tax and investment conference).

The Via Francigena pilgrim walk is based on the route taken by the Bishop of Canterbury, Sigeric the Serious, who in 990 AD walked to Rome to receive his seal of office from the Pope. The Via Francesco is an Umbrian walk based around the religious experiences of St Francis of Assisi.

I have no religious motivation for doing this walk, it is a way to celebrate my walking and working life. Of course, religious walkers are still welcome. In the tradition of all pilgrims I am happy to carry anybody's sins for the journey.

Many people have asked me why I want to do such a long walk. In my earlier bushwalking days, I had a goal of walking the Alpine Way in Australia in one continuous walk but was not able to achieve this goal.

A few years ago, I was walking in Italy and came across some signs for the Via Francigena and after a little research decided that one day I had to do this walk. In 2015, I walked with Carol from Aulla to Rome, so rather than duplicate this part of the walk I turn left at San Quirico d'Orcia joining the Via Francesco at Spoleto then onto Rome.

