

Templar Pilgrimage Trust



THE DALRIADAWAY

We were very pleased to help the Columba Experience, a pilgrimage for young adults run by youth workers from the Church of Scotland.

The pilgrimage runs for 85 miles along the Argyll coast from Tarbert to Oban. The route connects the Kintyre Way with the Iona Way.

It has been renamed the Dalriada Way to avoid confusion with other routes named after St Columba.

The completed route takes pilgrims from the Mull of Kintyre, where St Columba landed on the mainland of Great Britain, to Iona, from where he pursued an active missionary outreach.

The youth pilgrimage was asked to walk the middle section of the journey to Iona which had fallen into disuse many years ago and needed to be re-established.

The pilgrims walked 'in the Footsteps of Columba' taking time to explore the spiritual and cultural markers along the way.



COVID restrictions were a great challenge for the youth pilgrimage in terms of social distancing. They restricted what could be done but the pilgrimage was still successfully completed.

Pilgrims commented what a difference it made to share their faith as they walked and talked together.

Some pilgrims said that the pilgrimage had transformed their relationship with God.

THE PILGRIMS WAY

From the 12th century, pilgrims walked the 120 miles from Winchester to the shrine of St Thomas a Beckett in Canterbury. By the 18th century, the route had almost vanished, but a new route was established in the late 20th century.

As today's pilgrims make their journeys, the pilgrimage experience offers them healing, refreshment and different perspectives. The journey is as important as the destination and, in every ending, there is a new beginning.



GREEN PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Canterbury belongs to the Green Pilgrimage Network, a group of pilgrimage centres and sacred sites that aims to model green action and care across different faiths.

Pilgrims are asked to minimise the effects of their pilgrimage on the environment. They are also encouraged to become more aware of the religious teachings on protecting the environment within their own faith tradition and to take ideas for greener living home from their pilgrimage.

GREEN PILGRIMS:

- Prepare mindfully for pilgrimage
- Walk lightly and travel responsibly in the spirit of faith
- Eat and drink sustainably and ethically
- Minimise waste and water use
- Dispose of rubbish and pick up after others

see [Green Pilgrimage Europe](#)

Although we have received fewer applications in 2021 than we did in the years before the pandemic, we have already started receiving applications from pilgrims planning to travel overseas in 2022. We expect the interest in British pilgrimages to continue and the number of applications for overseas pilgrimages to increase.

We want to continue helping pilgrims from different backgrounds: people needing special care to travel, school groups, university students, teachers, priests and members of religious orders. [Please consider donating to help us help pilgrims.](#)



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www.templarpilgrimagetrust.org.uk