

# On The Primitive Way: Exploring the Ancient Trail of Adventure

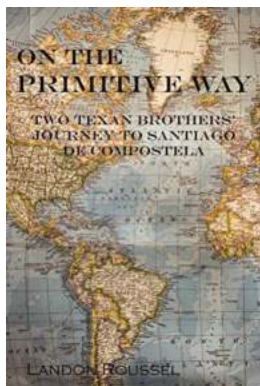


The Primitive Way, also known as the Camino Primitivo, is an ancient pilgrim trail in Spain that offers adventurers an incredible journey through history, culture, and breathtaking landscapes. This lesser-known route, which starts from Oviedo and ends in Santiago de Compostela, was the first medieval pilgrimage path to Santiago and continues to attract passionate hikers seeking a unique and challenging experience.

## Discovering the Origins

The Primitive Way dates back to the 9th century when King Alfonso II, the Chaste, ruled over Asturias, a region in Northern Spain. According to legend, the

king had a vision in which the Apostle Saint James appeared to him, encouraging him to rediscover the tomb of the apostle in Santiago de Compostela. Inspired by this vision, Alfonso II embarked on a journey along what is now the Primitive Way.



## On the Primitive Way: Two Texan Brothers' Journey to Santiago de Compostela

by Landon Roussel (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1167 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 229 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 344 pages
Item Weight	: 1.03 pounds
Dimensions	: 6.11 x 0.69 x 9.15 inches
Screen Reader	: Supported



Initially, the route was called the "Camino de las Estrellas" or the Way of the Stars, as the sky guided pilgrims during their travels. Over time, it became known as the Primitive Way due to its direct, rugged, and challenging path compared to other pilgrimage routes. While it might be a demanding terrain, it offers a rich reward of untouched landscapes and ancient charm.

### The Adventure Begins: Oviedo to Santiago

The journey on the Primitive Way starts in the enchanting city of Oviedo, the capital of Asturias. Oviedo is known for its incredible pre-Romanesque architecture, including the iconic Cathedral of San Salvador. As pilgrims take their

first steps, they can relish in the vibrant history and charm of this city before venturing into the wilderness.

As the trail meanders through the picturesque countryside, hikers will encounter quaint villages, dense forests, and majestic mountains. The route offers a deep connection to nature, allowing trekkers to immerse themselves in the tranquility of their surroundings.

One of the highlights of the Primitive Way is the stunning landscape of the Natural Park of Las Ubiñas-La Mesa. This beautiful park encompasses lush green meadows, rugged peaks, and breathtaking valleys. As you hike through this area, you can't help but feel a sense of wonder and admiration for the untouched beauty of the natural world.

## **Experiencing Authenticity and Culture**

While the Primitive Way offers remarkable scenery, it is also a gateway to authentic Spanish culture and traditions. Along the trail, you will encounter locals who are eager to share their stories, customs, and gastronomy.

Arriving in the charming city of Lugo, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a true treat. Its beautifully preserved Roman walls will transport you back in time. Experience the ancient history firsthand as you walk along these walls that date back to the 3rd century.

The journey continues, passing through picturesque towns such as Melide and Arzúa. These places are renowned for their gastronomic delights, such as octopus dishes and the famous Galician cheese, queixo. Don't miss the opportunity to embrace local culinary traditions along the way.

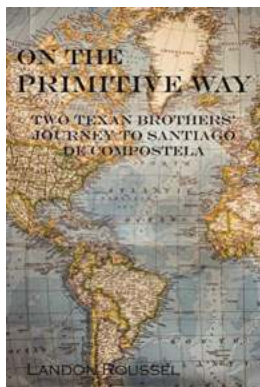
## **The Final Stretch: Santiago de Compostela**

After weeks of adventure, self-discovery, and memorable encounters, pilgrims reach their final destination – the iconic city of Santiago de Compostela.

The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is a stunning masterpiece and a symbol of the end of the pilgrimage. As you approach the impressive cathedral, a mix of emotions fills your soul. The square in front of the cathedral, the Plaza del Obradoiro, is an excellent spot for reflection and basking in the achievement of completing this unforgettable journey.

Inside the cathedral, you can pay homage to the Apostle Saint James and attend the famous pilgrim mass. The massive incense burner, the Botafumeiro, swings through the air, symbolizing the purification of the souls of pilgrims.

The Primitive Way is not just a hike; it's a transformative experience that takes you deep into history, spirituality, and nature. Embarking on this ancient trail allows you to challenge yourself physically, connect with yourself and others, and savor the beauty of the Spanish countryside. The memories, friendships, and personal growth that come from this adventure will stay with you long after you leave the trail.



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For readers interested in the Camino de Santiago, travel memoirs, and stories of healing from addiction, and for anyone ready to be moved by this heart-warming tale of healing and reconciliation, “On the Primitive Way” will keep you turning the pages as the story deepens.

At first glance, Spring of 2013 couldn't have been a more inopportune time for brothers Landon and Cory Roussel to walk the historic Camino de Santiago. Landon had a newborn child at home and had just completed medical school, ready to stay at home and relax with his new son before beginning residency. Cory, on the other hand, had just been released from Federal prison and had neither a job nor a penny to his name. On closer inspection, however, the time could not have been better for these two brothers, separated for over ten years by Cory's addiction and imprisonment, to walk the Way of St James. After much to do with flight planning, route mapping and child-care arranging, these two brothers finally manage to get to Spain, where they embark together from Oviedo into the mountains of Asturias Spain on the Primitive Way to Santiago. As they encounter torrential rains, blindsiding blizzards and grueling climbs, the author comes to find that the real challenge is not to endure the elements but to reconcile with each other after a tumultuous past.

Will the two brothers reconcile? Or will they be driven further apart? Is healing possible after enduring such hurt from wounds inflicted by Cory's addiction? These are some of the questions Landon wrestles with in this riveting tale as he chronicles their journey through the Asturian Mountains.

In this page-turning memoir, he captures not only their story but also the story of many who struggle to connect with loved ones when their loved ones fall down in life ... "None of us are guaranteed a future with our loved ones," he writes. "If we don't cherish moments with them for what they are, we risk not cherishing our loved ones for who they are, but rather who we want them to be." "On the Primitive Way" is a moving, heart-warming reflection on the challenge of loving someone close even as they struggle and of finding joy in each day's journey.

Praise for "On the Primitive Way":

"On the Primitive Way is the first Camino memoir to chronicle not only the Way of Saint James but also the way of two brothers: their separation, reuniting and healing on their pilgrimage."

--Martin Sheen, award-winning actor starring in *The Way* (2010)

"After eleven centuries of history, the pilgrimage still has the ability to work 'miracles.' This is what Cory and Landon experienced as pilgrims in *On the Primitive Way*. Passing the seven mountain passes that occur between Oviedo and Santiago, a metaphor for the difficulties in life they had to overcome, they were able to find at the end peace, true brotherhood and harmony with nature."

--Antón Pombo Rodríguez, best-selling author of Camino guidebooks

"If you've walked El Camino from Saint Jean, *On the Primitive Way* will make you want to walk it from Oviedo."

--Kurt Koontz, Author of *A Million Steps*

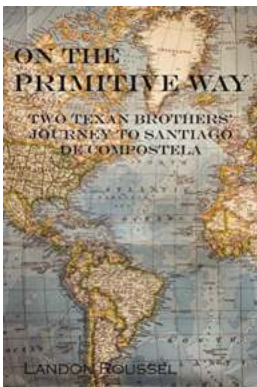
"On the Primitive Way is more than another Camino memoir, it is a story of two brothers, estranged by addiction and reconciled on the Way. Anyone who has had a family member or loved one suffering from addiction will relate to Landon's description of his struggle to love his brother even when he continues to fall deeper into substance abuse."

--Beatriz Gonzales-Stephan, Lee Hage Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies, Rice University



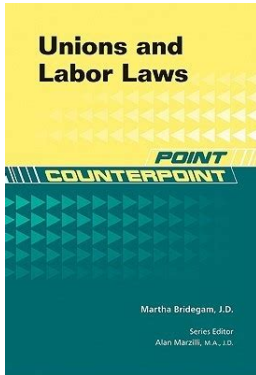
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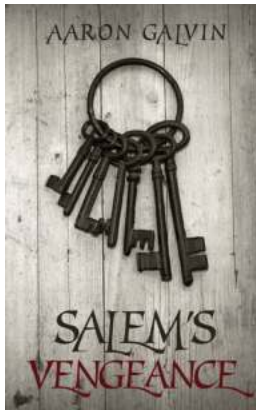
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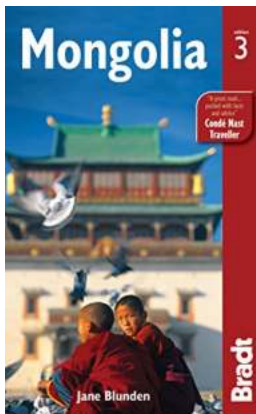
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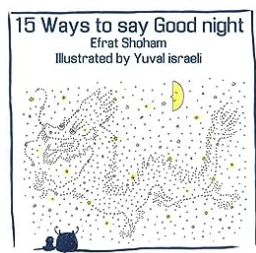
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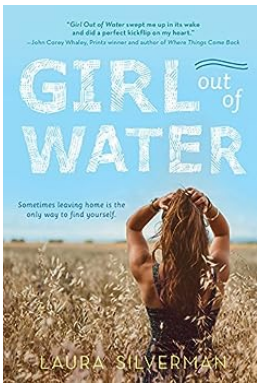
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