



## ASSOCIATION VIA FRANCIGENA - CH

For valorisation culturelle et touristique des routes de pèlerinage pour Rome

Partner of the European Institute for Cultural Itineraries of the Council of Europe.  
Award SANCTI BENEDICTI 2001 of Rotary International.

Son PROJET VIA FRANCIGENA a reçu le Patronage du Saint-Siège, du Ministero Beni e Attività Culturali - I, du Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication -F, du Département Fédéral de l'Intérieur-CH

English version

The Association has 145 members in 10 countries throughout the world

**LETTER to the AMIS-FRIENDS of the VIA FRANCIGENA**

**July**

**2002**

**The Guide-Vademecum from London to the Great St Bernard Pass is printed!**

It's been a true "tour de force", but thanks to the generous co-operation of the FRIENDS of the Via Francigena we have been able to reach, in less than 3 years of work, the **2nd** milestone towards the rebirth of the Via Francigena, as complement of the **Vademecum from the Great St Bernard to Rome**.

The **ENTIRE** Via Francigena has been logistically structured with:

- A **recommended itinerary** of about 1150km based on maps at a scale of 1:25.000-50.000 in collaboration with Joe of the Confraternity of St-James and of French and Swiss walking clubs.
- It highlights the **historical and cultural** itinerary (the Italian Vademecum was based on Italian publications)
- A list of all **useful information** not just for the pilgrim but also for the tourist interested in personally **DISCOVERING** the fascinating history of Europe.

**From May 1st the Via Francigena pilgrim can carry a distinctive flag!**

The Association wishes to thank the following for their invaluable COLLABORATION:

### **At the EC level**

- The Council of Europe for their recognition to the Via Francigena ( 2nd European Pilgrim's Route), a **special V.F. LOGO**, inspired in shape and colour by the logo of the Camino de Santiago.  
The Handbook of Signposting will be presented. Upon written request, the Association will authorize the free use of the Logo, exclusively for cultural purposes. For the utilization of the European Logo, please refer to the Council of Europe, Cultural Heritage Services, Strasbourg.
- The Institut Européen des Itinéraires Culturels, our partner since 1998, for **linking the Association's website** [www.francigena.ch](http://www.francigena.ch) with the web site of the Institut <http://culture.coe.fr/routes> and for having forwarded to the Council of Europe a special request for the conservation of the territory crossed by the Via Francigena in the Val d'Elsa (Tuscany). Together we wish to obtain the issuing of a **conservation order on a network of Sites-Monuments of the Via Francigena**. Among these are the church of Santa Maria di Foro Cassio (Viterbo), the abbey of Pozzeveri (Lucca), the Commanderie des Templiers XIIs of Mormant (Haute Marne -France) under restoration.



### **At a scientific level**

- the University of Lausanne – Faculty of Geography (Prof. Racine) – for having dedicated the summer term to the study of "European Cultural Itineraries and Via Francigena", which included the co-operation of the Director of the Institut and of the President of the Ass. V.F. And together we are providing for the **3rd** Milestone of our project the indispensable detailed cartography of the route: **TOPO - FRANCIGENA**. In 2-3 months the Swiss section will be ready and, with enough help, the whole itinerary will be covered within 1-2 years.
- the Centre de Culture Européenne de St-Jean d'Angely (F) for having dedicated two sessions of 15 day's work to the subject of the Via Francigena. Among the contributions was that of Adelaide Trezzini who spoke to high school teachers and students of "The European economy at the start of the 2nd millenium; commercial exchanges between Switzerland, France and Italy". These sessions bring young Europeans into closer contact with the V.F.as a factor for cultural and commercial unity.

### **At a religious level**

- The Rev. Robert Willis for blessing the departing pilgrims at Canterbury, and the Rev. Bruno Vercesi for consigning the **Testimonium** (a parchment certificate for all those who have walked at least 130 Km of the Via Francigena) in the Grottoes of the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome.

### **At a technical-cultural level**

- The AVTP (Assoc. Vaudoise de Tourisme Pédestre) for having highlighted the itinerary of the Via Francigena in its new map of the Lake Geneva Area. This has opened the way to wayfarers and pilgrims close to Ballaigues, in the Jura, on the Swiss-French border!
- The "Polisportiva i'Giglio" and the Comune of Capranica (I-Viterbe) for respectively taking part in the meetings "Conferenza V.F. Strada Europea" held in Castelfiorentino (Florence) on October 5th, 2001 with the participation of the Institut-Luxembourg and to the Study Conference on March 2nd 2002.
- The "Giovane Montagna"-Rome, and the "Confraternità dei Romei" for organising the great event "Via Francigena -Lazio" from the 31.05 to the 8.06, which has seen the participation of Communes and Local as well as International Associations (the reception in Vatican City has been organised by the Assoc.V.F).

**Will other regions on the V.F. now follow this example and help to promote a trans-European link?**

The FRIENDS of the Via Francigena will receive upon request::

- the list of those providing a **welcome to pilgrims en route from Canterbury to Rome**: a free coffee, a meal or an overnight stay, according to availability: volunteer to have the pleasure of sharing the experience of a slow journey across Europe.
- the ***Litterae patentes peregrinatoris iter per viam francigenam facientis*** By exhibiting this document, the pilgrim will exceptionally be allowed to visit the Carolingian Church of San Pellegrino, in Vatican City, and at the Information office of St Peter's Square, will receive special information on the city of Rome, on the Basilica of St Peter, and to visit places dear to pilgrims.

Thanks to the welcome of **Anglican, Catholic and Protestant churches** from England to Rome, pilgrims of all nations will restore to the V.F. its ancient ecumenical character, particularly desirable in our time and age.

News from the FRIENDS of the Via Francigena

### **Having gained the merit of walking ALL the Via Francigena:**

- In 2001, Serge and Hughette, a Canadian couple in their 60s; Joe and 4 cyclists from Anagni.
- In 2002 Veronica has left Canterbury on Easter Day, José has left on May 10th; others, from Reims or from Switzerland; a Belgian family of 5 will leave on July 1st on bicycles.
- Those who have only travelled the Italian section, should follow Ambra's example, and travel from Aosta to Canterbury or vice-versa. A fascinating and quiet route!

### **Protagonists**

- with a rich agenda of conferences: Hughette e Serge in Canada, François Louvriot RP 51-France

### **Supporters** have offered:

- The Registro dei Pellegrini della V. F. at the Basilica of St. Peter from the Ambassador Guido Lepori.
- The Litterae patentes peregrinatoris iter per viam francigenam from M. Grazia Corbi and Prof. Faldi
- The Carta-AMIS from Diri Monney
- The European registration of the logo V.F. from Banque Raiffeisen -Vollèges and from Credit Suisse.
- The publication of the Vademecum from London to the Grt. St-Bernard from L. Ledergerber and...
- Free access to medieval monuments courtesy of the City of Pavia for the Castello Visconteo and...
- Accommodation discounts for FRIENDS pilgrims and wayfarers.

Any offer of collaboration to our VF project is welcome, especially in view of **OPENING VF BRANCHES** from the South of France, from Germany, Basel, as well as for the continuation from Rome to Bari and Jerusalem.

**The Via Francigena is the spiritual route and the oldest road of Western Europe:**

we warmly invite you to participate in its rebirth. Thank You.

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