

The theme of my thesis is the „A Detection of the Spirit of Pilgrimage". There is a pilgrimage in Europe, 1.500 km in length, which goes from the French town, Le Puy, to the Spanish town, Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrimage is widely known as „Camino de Santiago".

My work focuses on exploring and finding the answer: What is the essence of pilgrimage?

My work is divided into two parts; the first is theoretical, introducing the world of medieval pilgrimage from the very beginning to the present. The practical section consists of my own experience with the Camino, and the analysis based on the grounded theory.

The thesis explains development of the pilgrimage and the meaning of the Camino for cultural and religious life in Christian Europe, describes my own accomplished pilgrimage from Prague to Santiago de Compostela and deals with formation of a hypothesis based on the grounded theory.

Keywords: pilgrimage, Camino de Santiago, grounded theory