

LEGAL PROTECTION OF CULTURAL ITINERARIES : THE ROUTE TO SANTIAGO

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Abstract

Cultural itineraries are defined by a physical element, the timetable through which they develop and by an element of civilization. Nonetheless, one of the biggest problems confronting societies is how to protect and conserve a development which is taking a downturn both culturally as well as physically. How to protect something that is hundreds or thousands of kilometers long? How to harmonize the protection of something which falls under 2 or 3 layers of jurisprudence of different countries? In this sense, the “Camino de Santiago” is, in my opinion, the cultural icon that is best defined and has the most number of protective measures encompassed by international organizations such as UNESCO and the European Union as well as the local, regional and national laws of the areas it traverses. I will attempt to explain how it is protected and how these measures, once put to action, can be applied to other cultural items: from the most simple to urban plans that protect not only the “Camino” but also the areas it traverses.”