

Camino de Santiago

12th - 19th Sept 2027



As we approach the 20th anniversary of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service, I can think of no more meaningful way to mark this milestone than by returning to the Camino de Santiago in 2027, once again inviting others to walk alongside me.

Of all the challenges I have undertaken in support of Alexander Devine, the Camino remains the one that has stayed with me the most. I had long been drawn to it: a pilgrim route walked for more than a thousand years, steeped in history, reflection, and human connection. It offered me the chance to step away from everyday life, and to challenge myself both physically and mentally.

The Camino challenged me more than I expected, yet in the hardest moments, I found strength in thinking about the countless pilgrims who had walked this path before me, often under far harsher conditions. I was deeply moved by the people I met along the way, particularly the older pilgrims, each quietly and determinedly walking their own journey. Their resilience inspired me to keep going.

Throughout the walk, Alexander, the children and families we support were always in my heart, reminding me why I was there and giving me the push I needed when my energy waned. Walking in nature, experiencing another culture, sharing moments with strangers who quickly became friends, and allowing time for reflection made the Camino a truly incredible experience.

If you feel ready to set yourself not just a physical challenge, but a personal one too, I would love you to join me in 2027. Together, we can celebrate our 20th anniversary on this beautiful trek, all whilst raising vital funds to support children and families when they need it most.

Fiona Devine

Fiona Devine MBE
Chief Executive and Founder



Thank you!

WHO WE ARE

Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is a local charity that provides specialist care and vital support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families, across Berkshire and into surrounding counties.



Alexander Devine

John and Fiona Devine set up the charity in memory of their extraordinary little boy who in early 2006, aged just eight, sadly passed away from a rare brain tumour. Their personal experience, and subsequent extensive research, led them to realise that there was a vital need for a local children's hospice service with a hospice facility in Berkshire.

VISION & AIMS

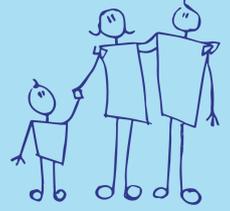
We deliver palliative care to children and families through an holistic approach that meets the individual needs of each child and their family.

Our vision is to provide a service within Berkshire and into surrounding counties that will give children and families the choice of care and support from a skilled and dedicated team.

OUR MISSION

Reaching out to every child and family that needs us, offering support and care from people who understand

200+

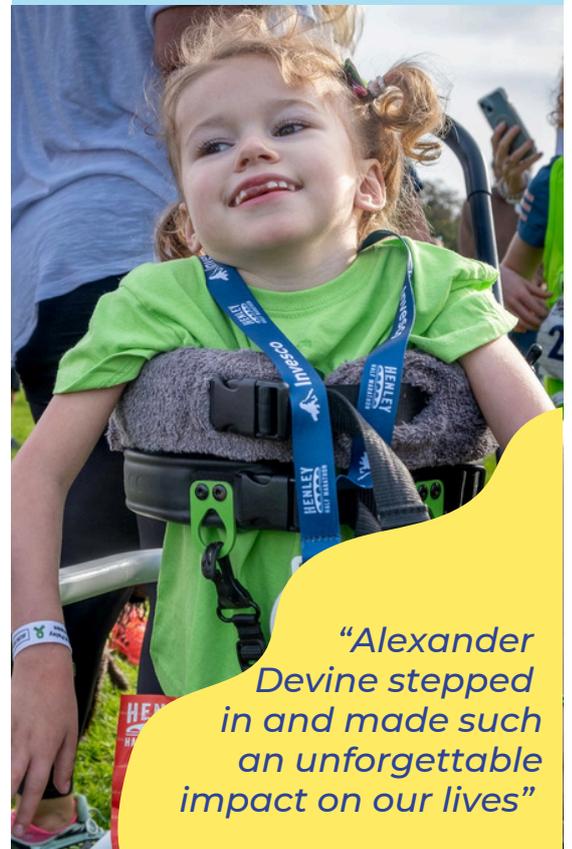


children and families currently supported by Alexander Devine



2,765+

children in Berkshire and the surrounding counties with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and research shows that this number is likely to increase by a further 11% by 2030



"Alexander Devine stepped in and made such an unforgettable impact on our lives"

THE **NEED** FOR OUR SERVICE HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER

THE ITINERARY:

Day 1 – UK to Porto

- Flight from London to Porto
- Taxi transfer to Tui (approx. 1.5 hours)
- Check-in and settle into accommodation.
- Enjoy an evening meal with fellow participants.

Day 2 - Tui to Porinno

Walking Distance: 16km

Estimated Walking Time: 3-4 hours

Depart from Tui crossing into Spain, following the Miño river valley. The path winds through the historic old town before emerging into open countryside. Gentle rolling terrain with good underfoot conditions on a mix of tarmac and compacted earth paths. Highlights include crossing from Portugal into Spain, Tui's cathedral with its captivating architecture and the evening's briefing at the cathedral to collect Credencial cards - an important pilgrim tradition marking the official start of your Camino journey.

Day 3 - O Porinno to Cesantes

Walking Distance: 19km

Estimated Walking Time: 5-6 hours

Depart Porinno heading northwest through typical Galician landscape. The path climbs gradually through shaded eucalyptus groves and pine forests on well-maintained trails. Mid-morning, the route opens to reveal agricultural land with traditional stone walls and small villages. We descend into Redondella for lunch after which we continue on a mix of forest paths and quiet country lanes. We divert from the traditional Camino route for a few kilometres to reach the coast, giving tired feet the therapeutic opportunity to paddle in the Atlantic Ocean before continuing to Cesantes.

Day 4 - Cesantes to Pontevedra

Walking Distance: 16km

Estimated Walking Time: 4-5 hours

We leave the coastal setting of Cesantes and head inland, climbing gradually through woodland and rural farmland. The path follows old Roman roads and country lanes lined with stone walls and traditional Galician architecture. Around 8km, we will reach the highlight of the day - the spectacular medieval bridge at Ponte Sampaio. The final 5km is an easy descent following the river valley into the historic heart of Pontevedra.



Day 5 - Pontevedra to Caldas de Reis

Walking Distance: 21km

Estimated Walking Time: 5.5-6.5 hours

Our morning reveals expansive vistas across Pontevedra's countryside from elevated forest paths before we descend into green valleys dotted with stone cottages and hórreos. The Rio Barosa waterfalls provide dramatic natural beauty with crystal-clear water tumbling over moss-covered rocks through ancient woodland. Our final descent reveals the thermal steam rising from Caldas de Reis' famous hot springs and the impressive Roman bridge spanning the river.

Day 6 - Caldas de Reis to Padron

Walking Distance: 18km

Estimated Walking Time: 4.5-5.5 hours

This morning offers pastoral scenes of the Umia valley with traditional farmsteads and cultivated fields. From the mid-route ridge, panoramic views extend across the Galician countryside toward distant hills. Our descent through Herbón reveals its beautiful monastery nestled in greenery and our final riverside approach to Padrón provides tranquil walking with reflections on the water and glimpses of the town's church spires ahead. You can visit the Church of Santiago and see the "pedrón" (mooring stone). Padrón is famous for its pimientos de Padrón peppers and connection to poet Rosalía de Castro.

Day 7 - Padron to Santiago de Compostella

Walking Distance: 23km

Estimated Walking Time: 6-7 hours

The longest and most challenging day with 380m total ascent and 320m descent. There is gradual but sustained climbing through the first half of the day, with the final approach involving a notable ascent to Santiago's elevated old town with the cathedral spires appearing in the distance. This is the final stage of your pilgrimage journey, and it can be very special walking the ancient, cobbled streets and having the unforgettable moment of arrival in Plaza del Obradoiro sharing tears, hugs, and celebration with fellow pilgrims from around the world. The sense of achievement after 116km walked with the Cathedral bells ringing will be a special culmination of your Camino journey.

Day 8 – Departure Day

- Visit Pilgrims office to get final Credential stamp and certification
- Special mass and blessing for pilgrims at cathedral (optional)
- Visit museum or explore medieval streets and arcades
- Public bus to Santiago Airport (60 mins)
- Flight to UK

COSTS AND FUNDRAISING

- All participants pay a non-refundable deposit of £395, followed by the balance 12 weeks before the event. See below for options and details.
- All participants must meet their fundraising target in addition to paying the deposit and balance. See below for details.
- Flight costs are extra. Participants book their own flights when their place is confirmed.
- Accommodation is in 3 star hotels in twin rooms. Single occupancy is subject to availability and at an additional cost (approx £250 to £280 per person.)
- Breakfast is included daily at your accommodation.
- A welcome dinner on your first evening in Tui is included, giving the group a chance to meet and settle in.
- A celebration meal in Santiago de Compostela is included on your final night to mark the completion of your Camino journey.
- Lunches and other dinners are not included, giving participants flexibility to explore local restaurants and manage their own budget. Your Sky Blue Adventures guide will be able to recommend restaurants and dining options at each stop.

Fundraising Model A

- **£395 registration fee then the balance of £1500 due 20th June 2027.**
- **Plus £1,000 sponsorship target** (excluding Gift Aid.)
- 80% of the sponsorship must be received by Alexander Devine by 1st September 2027. The final 20% must be received within 1 month of returning from the trip. This sponsorship will be used by Alexander Devine to help fund our vital service.
- Flights and meals are extra.

Fundraising Model B

- **£395 deposit plus £2,500 raised in sponsorship** (excluding Gift Aid.)
- 80% of the sponsorship must be received by Alexander Devine by 20th June 2027. Part of this sponsorship will go towards the cost of the trek with the remainder helping fund our vital service. The final 20% of the sponsorship must be received within 1 month of returning from the trip.
- Flights and meals are extra.

If you have any questions please contact Anne:
anneb@alexanderdevine.org
01628 822777

Sign Up Now!

THE DETAILS:

The Challenge

This is a steady-paced walk along the Camino de Santiago, covering the final 116km from the Portuguese border to Santiago de Compostela. It is an group walk for personal benefit and to raise vital funds for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service. Participants may approach it as a pilgrimage if they wish, but this is not essential.

Training is necessary. You will be walking 16 to 23km a day for multiple days. A reasonable level of fitness is required - but you don't need to be an athlete! It's important that you can manage your own routines, (ie getting up and out quickly in the morning, self-care, food, hydration, hygiene and foot care.) Pre-existing medical conditions and/or recurring injuries are very likely to resurface during 6 days of walking. The Camino is well signposted, so expert skill in navigation is not necessary. Walking poles are recommended.

Training Walk

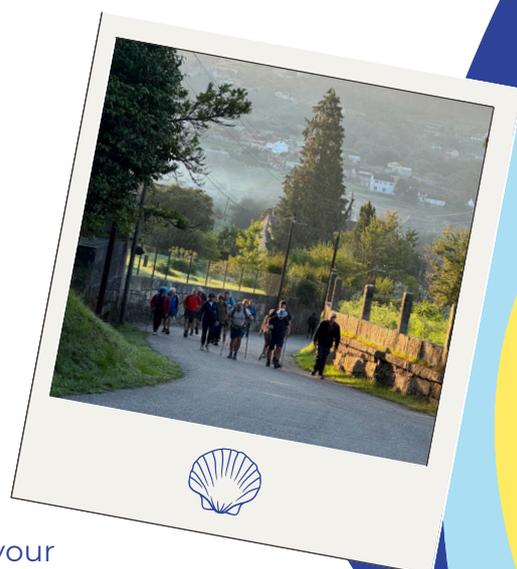
We will arrange a day in summer 2026 when we can get together to complete a training walk. As well as having the opportunity to get to know each other and our guides this will be a good opportunity to get tips on how to look after ourselves during the trek and during training.

Other details

- As you are booking your own flights it is possible to extend your trip at the start or end and to invite family or friends to be with you before or after the trek.
- Luggage transfer between accommodation is included. One bag per person is allowed (max 15kg)
- Some people prefer to pack light and trek with their packs to add to the challenge.
- Alexander Devine will provide two T Shirts for you to wear during the trek.

Terms and Conditions

- When you register you must agree to the full Terms and Conditions of the challenge. These are available on our website: www.alexanderdevine.org/camino
- Please do not book flights until you have confirmation from us of your place.
- If you choose Option 2 you must make anyone who sponsors you aware that a small amount of the amount you raise will be covering the trip costs.



THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE

WHAT IT COSTS

The specialist care and support is free of charge for families. But it costs

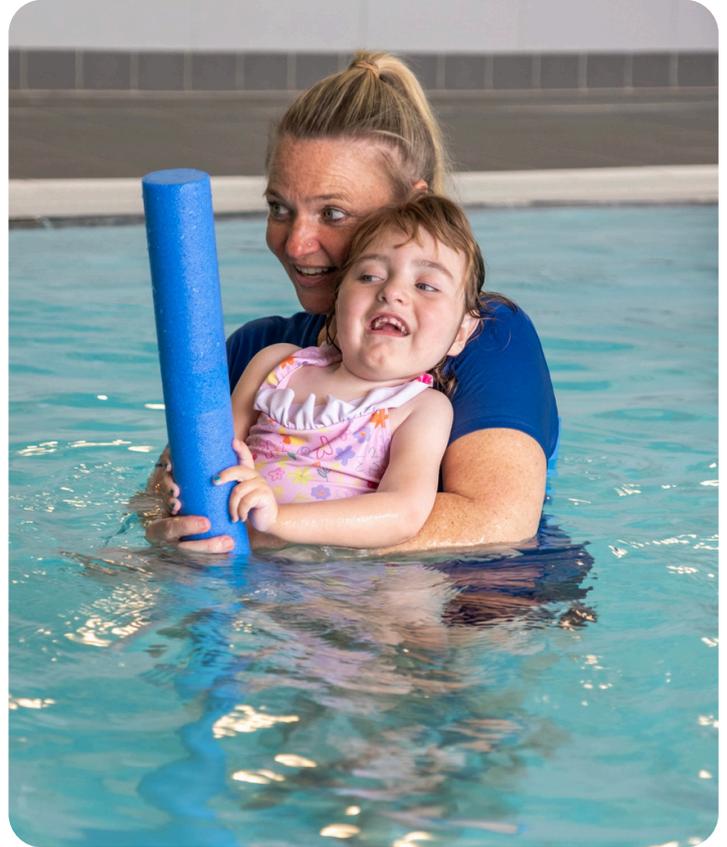
over £3million each year

just to maintain our current level of care.

With very minimal government and NHS funding, 83% of what our charity needs to meet the cost of running our service, comes from donations, fundraising and gifts in Wills.

This means for every one hour of specialist care and support that we provide to each child and their family, only 10 minutes is funded by statutory sources.

ONLY 10 minutes each hour is funded

The support we receive from individuals, businesses, schools, community groups, clubs and volunteers enables us to run our vital children's hospice service across the whole of Berkshire and the surrounding counties

HOW YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES



 **£17**

could provide a memory box for a bereaved family, full of things to treasure forever

£118 

could pay for a visit from a Clinical Nurse Specialist to help improve a child's quality of life through symptom management

£52 

could give a child with complex healthcare needs an hour of specialist care from an Alexander's Nurse

 **£442**

would fund a day at our hospice for a seriously-ill child, with plenty of fun and play as well as specialist clinical care

£96 

could pay for a Splash session in our hydrotherapy pool, time for a family to come together and have fun

£1,440 

could pay for a child with complex healthcare needs to stay with us overnight at the hospice

Ready, set... FUNDRAISE!

How to raise
£1000 towards
your challenge

£50

Cake Sale

Sell 25 cakes for £2 each (£50 or charge 10 friends £5 to enter a bake off contest).



£250

Bag Pack £200

Ask your local supermarket if you and your friends can bag pack for donations. You can also help spread the word about us!



£250

could fund everything our specialist play team need a month to give children opportunities for play.

Summer BBQ £160

Sausages, burgers, fish or veggie. Ask for donations and hold a raffle!



Auction of services

From DIY to dog-walking, car-washing to gardening, 5 jobs at £10 each.



£460

£300

£500

Collection tins £40

Put our tins at work, your local shop, school gym or pub.



£576

could pay for six Splash sessions in our hydrotherapy pool, time for a family to spend time together and have fun!



Table top sale £80

Make, decorate or donate items, or sell unwanted items on eBay. Ask our team for seasonal items you can sell for us.



£580

£750

Casual dress in the office £50

Pick a theme and charge £2 for your colleagues to take part, add a cake sale to raise even more.



£700

Quiz night £120

Invite 20 people at £6 per ticket. Your local pub may well donate the first drink!



£884

would fund two days at our hospice for a child with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition.

£1000

Match Funding

Many companies will match fund your fundraising up to £250.



You did it!

Congratulations! Now you are ready for your challenge!

And thank you, your fundraising will make a huge difference.



Sign Up Now!



Any questions? Contact Anne



anneb@alexanderdevine.org



01628 822777



www.alexanderdevine.org

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Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Registered charity no 1118947

