



Press notification

167 pilgrims from 23 countries walk through Vienna

Two days in mid-May 167 people – most of them suffering from a rare and potentially life-threatening disease – will be walking the Jakobsweg Wien together. They represent 23 countries, and many of the pilgrims come as far away as from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and a number of European countries.

Since more and more people walk the Jakobsweg Wien every year, it is hardly a world sensation what happens 16-17 May 2018. However, for these pilgrims, it is very much out of the ordinary as they suffer from Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) and for many, it is far from an everyday occurrence to walk the kind of mileage they enter into in Vienna.

“After very successful walks on the Camino de Santiago in northwestern Spain in May 2016 and again in May 2017, we are organizing yet another walk. This happens for two reasons: First we want to raise awareness about HAE – and secondly, we aim to give the participants an exceptional experience, showing them that they are indeed able to do things people without HAE can do”, says HAEi Communications Manager Steen Bjerre.

While up to 110 people took part in the two walks in Spain, the event in Vienna will break records as it gathers 167 pilgrims.

“The organizer of the event is HAEi, the global association of national HAE organizations in presently more than 60 countries worldwide. However, as was the case the two times we have walked in Spain, it is important to have good local contacts, and I am happy that we have been able to team up with people from Verein Jakobsweg Wien. They will help us find our way from Schwechat via Basilika Kaisermühlen, Stephansdom, and Schloss Schönbrunn to Jakobskirche Pukersdorf”, says Steen Bjerre.

The Jakobsweg Wien walk leads up to the 4th Global Conference on HAE. This biannual event is the largest global HAE gathering of its kind, this time bringing together more than 650 delegates from more than 50 countries worldwide.

Facts about HAE

Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) is a very rare and potentially life-threatening genetic condition that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 50,000 people. HAE symptoms include episodes of edema (swelling) in various body parts including the hands, feet, face, and airway. In addition, patients often have bouts of excruciating abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting that is caused by swelling in the intestinal wall. Airway swelling is particularly dangerous and can lead to death by asphyxiation.

HAEi – the global non-profit network of presently more than 60 national HAE associations around the globe – is dedicated to raising awareness of HAE. The organization strives to improve time to diagnosis and facilitate access to and reimbursement of life-saving HAE therapies, which will enable lifelong health for all patients no matter where they live.



Stage 1: Schwechat to Basilika Kaisermühlen

Date: 16 May 2018

Departure Schwechat: 09:00

Walking distance: 14,8 km = approx. 3hrs

Arrival Kaisermühlen: No later than 12:00

Stage 2: Basilika Kaisermühlen to Stephansdom

Date: 16 May 2018

Departure Kaisermühlen: 12:30

Walking distance: 5,1 km = approx. 1hr

Arrival Stephansdom: No later than 14:00

For HAE Pilgrims: Welcome Lunch at the Stephani room next to the Stephansdom

For other pilgrims: Welcome Lunch and blessing at "Quo vadis?"

Stage 3: Stephansdom to Schloss Schönbrunn

Date: 16 May 2018

Departure Stephansdom: 15:00

Walking distance: 5,5 km = approx. 1hr30min

Arrival Schloss Schönbrunn: Around 16:30

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