

# Press Info – Walking2WILD10

[www.walking2wild10.wordpress.com](http://www.walking2wild10.wordpress.com)

## Contacts:

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## Key info:

- **25 young adults 19-29 years old + 6 coaches/trainers = total 31 people**
- **6 countries represented:** Austria, Bulgaria, Latvia, Romania, Spain, and Turkey
- **Hiking 110 km from Sotoserrano** (outside Parque Natural Las Batuecas-Sierra de Francia) – **Salamanca**

## Aim:

To develop in participants a **personal connection to wild places** and **pro-conservation attitudes** through an experiential journey that merges “action” and learning and concludes at the WILD10 conference in Salamanca

## Schedule:

28.09	29.09	30.09	01.10	02.10	03.10
Salamanca -> Sotoserrano ->	Valdelageve ->	Montemayor del Rio->	Calzada de Bejar ->	Fuenteroble de Salvatierra ->	Morille (Vd.I.P) ->
<b>Valdelageve</b>	<b>Montemayor del Rio</b>	<b>Calzada de Bejar (connect with Via de la Plata)</b>	<b>Fuenteroble de Salvatierra</b>	<b>Morille</b>	<b>Salamanca</b>

## Background:

“Walking 2 WILD10” arose out of the interest of youth to explore and get active for wild places in Europe. The project is a multi-faceted 12-day youth exchange that will take place in the Province of Salamanca, Spain and involve 24 young adults and 6 coaches from Austria, Bulgaria, Latvia, Romania, Spain, and Turkey. The focus will be on exploring our personal connection to nature and wilderness, topics such as diversity, sustainability and conservation, and will be set in an intercultural context and largely outdoor setting. Using innovative and nature-based teaching methodologies we will strive to instill a deeper personal connection to wild places, as well as develop participants’ skills for becoming active citizens for the Earth at a local to international level. This project will be truly unique in that it will combine a 7 day experiential journey, through natural, wild areas, that leads to Salamanca, Spain where the participants will join other youth representatives and adults from around the world to participate in “WILD10,” an international congress on the topic of wilderness. With their first-hand experience gained by walking through “wild places,” the participants will be able to disseminate their newly acquired expertise, by expressing their views to other young adults and attendees through peer-to-peer workshops, speaking events, and networking opportunities.

**Quote from Nathan Spees, WWF-Austria, Youth Empowerment Coordinator (project manager):** „Experiencing wilderness has been increasingly important to young people with whom we work as they are looking to find a retreat from the stress, consumerism and craziness in their lives – being able to find protected areas that offer such benefits is increasingly rare.”

The project will **consist of two parts:**

- 1) Hiking to reach Salamanca
- 2) Participating in the wilderness congress.

The journey will begin 110 km south of Salamanca at the edge of the Parque Natural Las Batuecas-Sierra de Francia, and head north through boulder-studded rolling hills, stands of majestic oak trees, fields of grazing bulls, and numerous rural medieval villages. After three days of walking along the “Rio Cuerpo de Hombre” (body of man river), the group will follow parts of the “Ruta de la Plata” (Silver Route), an ancient Roman road that leads from Seville to Santiago de Compostela. Besides hiking 3-7 hours daily, workshops will be led by members of the team covering topics such as flora and fauna of the area. deep connection with nature. intercultural

communication, and ecological footprint. A full day of “solo hiking” (walking alone and in silence) will allow the participants to reflect on their personal connection to the earth and experience the landscape more fully. On October 3, the group will arrive to Salamanca, crossing over the “Roman bridge” and will be greeted by the Mayor of Salamanca.

On October 4, the 10<sup>th</sup> world wilderness congress, WILD10, will begin and the young adults will have the chance to interact with attendees from around the world. There, they will have the opportunity to share their experiences with participants in two workshops and via a running video presentation of their journey.

**More Information, photos and daily updates can be found [www.walking2wild10.wordpress.com](http://www.walking2wild10.wordpress.com)**

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