

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Catalan version also available)

# Two Walkers to Complete +15,500-Kilometer Trek From Thailand to Catalonia on June 29, 2019 in Barcelona

- American/Croatian and Catalan duo, Jenn and Lluís, plan to arrive Catalonia by foot in early June. A press conference will be held Saturday, June 29 at La Casa dels Entremesos, Barcelona, from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
- The multi-year foot journey began in January 2016 in Bangkok, and, by June 2019, they will have walked through 21 Asian and European states/nations.

BARCELONA, May 21, 2019 -- Two walkers, who began walking in Bangkok, Thailand on Jan. 16, 2016, expect to finish their estimated +15,500-kilometer foot journey in Barcelona, Catalonia on June 29, 2019.

They will answer questions about their walk during a press conference and public session on Saturday, June 29 at <u>La Casa dels Entremesos</u>, Plaça de les Beates 2, Barcelona, from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

The walk across Asia and Europe, called Bangkok Barcelona on Foot, was inspired by a lifetime love of travel and the desire to discover the world in the most intimate way possible—one step at a time.

"Moving at three kilometers an hour creates a deeper appreciation of the world we live in," says walker Jennifer Baljko, an American/Croatian freelance writer who has lived in Barcelona since 2006. "Walking is the most primal, instinctive and human way to connect with our planet and the people who live here. Additionally, walking is an adventure into self-discovery. It is a way to slowly reveal and better understand the individual journeys we each take through life."

The couple has already walked through 19 states/nations, including: Thailand; Burma/Myanmar; Bangladesh; India; the Pamir region of Tajikistan's autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan province; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Iran; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Turkey; Greece; North Macedonia; Albania; Montenegro; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. They are currently walking in France, and expect to cross into Catalonia in early June.

One of the most surprising and fulfilling parts of the walk has been discovering the great amount of kindness that exists in our world.

"We are incredibly vulnerable when we walk. Anything can go wrong, and our health and safety can be compromised with a single wrong decision or turn. But, our experience tells us there is always someone willing to lend a hand and help us in both our best moments and in our worst moments," says walker Lluís Rodamón,\* a Barcelona-born actuary/econimist, project manager and *casteller* (participant in a Catalan

human tower group). "We have found goodness in every country we have walked. From a big smile to a cup of tea, from a meal shared with a family to an invitation to sleep on a couch or in the guest room, each act of kindness we have received has given us energy and motivation to continue. We carry in our hearts memories of all the people who helped us every step of the way. We are forever grateful to them."

# **About Bangkok Barcelona on Foot**

Two backpackers and lifetime travellers, Jenn Baljko and Lluís Rodamón\*, are walking from Bangkok to Barcelona. They set out in early 2016 to explore the world and find goodness one step at a time. They expect to complete their +15,500-kilometer journey in June 2019.

Ms. Baljko, of American and Croatian descent, has lived in Barcelona since 2006. Jennifer, a Rutgers University (New Jersey, U.S.) graduate, is a freelance writer with more than 25 years of journalism experience, and currently specializes in business, supply chain, logistics and travel writing.

Mr. Rodamón (\*last name withheld for privacy reasons), is from Barcelona, Catalonia. A University of Barcelona graduate with an MBA from the ESADE Business School, Lluís is an actuary and economist, and has worked as a project manager for multinational companies for more than two decades. He has been a member of the human tower group Castellers de Vilafranca since 1987.

## Additional information:

Website: http://bangkokbarcelonaonfoot.com

Maps: <a href="http://bangkokbarcelonaonfoot.com/mapsmapes">http://bangkokbarcelonaonfoot.com/mapsmapes</a>

Photos:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1-KDCIMZnAU8j4Dhl6jm0\_dcfTqUG\_AOG

Video clips:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1-HDP1b15zOW9x-Yb3oUh1EFz3PBo sCi

Instagram: <a>@bangkokbarcelonaonfoot</a>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bangkokbarcelonaonfoot/

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\*\* Please note: Replies may be delayed depending on the Internet and cell phone connectivity and availability while walking.