

Shrines of Europe

A 13 Days tour to France, Spain and Portugal

With Paris, Lisieux, Nevers, Lourdes, Santander, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima and Lisbon.

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Day 01

Depart on an overseas international flight, with dinner and breakfast on board.

Day 02 Paris - Lisieux - Paris.

Upon arrival at Paris international Airport, you will be met by your tour host, who will escort your party all the way to Lisbon. Immediate departure for Lisieux. Visit the Shrine of Saint Theresa and attend to a Mass. Time for lunch, included. Return to Paris. Depending on how much time you have left and how you feel, either you end your day at the Hotel, or you proceed to the hill of Montmartre for a visit of the Sacré Cœur, a beaming white basilica, built on top of the Butte de Montmartre, overlooking the entire city. Continue on your day's program, driving by the Trocadero, viewing the Eiffel tower from its Belvedere. It will be possible, at an extra cost, to take the lift to the second floor of the Tower. Likewise to sail along the quays of the Seine, for a short or long cruise on the famous Bateaux Mouches. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 03 Paris.

Breakfast at your hotel - your morning guided tour will take you to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal at Rue du Bac. Visit the church of Saint Vincent de Paul in Rue de Sevres, just two blocks away. Your tour of the city of light will also include a drive from the most beautiful square of this city, the Concorde, up the Champs Elysées and around the Étoile with its overhelming Arch of Triumph, quoted by Victor Hugo, "a mountain of stones for a mountain of glory". You shall visit the Notre Dame, the cathedral of Paris, built in a classic gothic style. Drive along the quays of the Seine to see the Rue de Rivoli, the Louvre, and the ancient King's Palace, rue de la Paix with its glittering stores and the Opera Square. Lunch included during your day's program. Return to the hotel for dinner and accommodation.



Day 04 Paris - Chartres - Orleans - Nevers.

Breakfast and morning departure, with your luggage, toward Chartres. You will visit one of the most beautiful cathedrals of France, after Notre Dame of Paris. Its windows are one of the most beautiful ever created by the mankind during the medieval times. Drive along to Château Roux to arrive Orleans, the city liberated by Saint Jeanne d'Arc during the year

1429. If there is sufficient time, we suggest visiting the Cathedral of Sainte Croix, dating 1287. Lunch. We will then proceed toward Nevers, where we should arrive in the late afternoon. Drive by the Gonzaga' Palace. Pay the devotion for the day at the Cathedral of Saint Cyr and Saint Juliet. Bernadette Soubirous joined the Sisters of Charity in Nevers, where she lived for the remaining 13 years of her short life. She died in the convent of St. Gilard on April 1879, aged only 35. Her body, buried in the garden of the chapel, was discovered intact when the grave was opened in 1909. During the year 1925 she was buried in a Shrine in the Chapel of Saint Gilard, where she still lies to the present days. December 1933, Saint Bernadette was canonized. Depart for the last Shrine of this journey, Lisieux. In its Basilica rests Saint Theresa or « The Little Flower » canonized May 1925. The pilgrims visiting this white Basilica come from all over the world. Time for Devotions and Mass. Dinner and accommodation at your hotel.



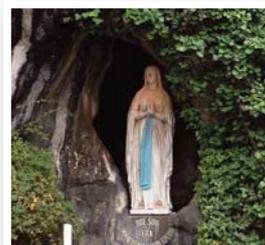
Day 05 Nevers - Limoges - Lourdes.

After breakfast Mass and a further panoramic tour of the city. Depart for Limoges, a city known for its porcelains. We stop here for lunch. If time allows, you shall visit a store specialised in this famous ware. We proceed toward the south of France, to arrive late afternoon in Lourdes. Dinner at the hotel followed by your participation to the torch light procession at the Esplanade.



Day 06 Lourdes.

The first apparition to Bernadette Soubirous, at that time only 14 years old, dates to the year 1858, the 11th of February. She was blessed 18 times and at the same time, the first miracles were announced. Soon, the devotion to the Holy Mary made Lourdes known world wide, and the first pilgrimages started to arrive. A great number of them did bring the sick, in body or in spirit. The Esplanade has been opened on the left side of the Grotto, the little river that cuts the city of Lourdes, in two parts. All the pilgrimages meet here, and it is here that is held, every night, the torch light procession, with prayers to the Holy Mary. At the end of the Esplanade you will see the Basilica, built in the year 1876, with two ramps, allowing the pilgrims to reach the Basilica, while, in the lower floor, you will find the church "du Rosaire" the



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Rosary. Facing the Basilica, you will find the grotto of Massabielle, where Bernadette did have her first vision, to its right, with its miraculous source. In a separate building, there are three pools where the sick and the healthy can bathe. Day of devotions at the Grotto. Attend Mass, either co-celebrating or just for your group. Dinner and accommodation at your hotel.

Day 07 Lourdes - Biarritz - Hendaya - San Sebastian - Bilbao - Santander.

Please remember to have your passport available. It might be asked for, at the border. Departure after breakfast toward Biarritz, where we shall stop in order to show you the way where take places the highest tides, in Europe. The European surfer's championships take place in this bay. We proceed toward Spain and will cross the border at Hendaya. The lunch stop will be organised in San Sebastian, a quaint city dedicated to tourism. This city is also the capital of the Basque nation half in Spain and half in France. Its name in their language is Donostia. Continuation of your journey toward the first major city of Spain, Bilbao, another Basque city. Partly destroyed during the 1936 civil war, it has been reconstructed beginning of the year 1980. Its most important monument is the Guggenheim Museum. Short panoramic tour of the city before departing for Santander. Arrive in the late afternoon. Dinner and accommodation at your hotel.

Day 08 Santander - Oviedo - La Coruña - Santiago de Compostela.

Early Mass, then breakfast. Meet your local guide for a tour of the city. Its origin dates back to the roman times, then to the third century when Saint Emeterio and San Caledonio founded a Monastery in its vicinity. Was the centre of many battles during the "reconquista" the fights against the



Moors. Depart and following the coast, with its beautiful and savage coastline, drive by Oviedo to see its spectacular Cathedral in Spanish style, to arrive at noontime at La Coruña. Lunch, followed by some free time, to enjoy the peculiar Spanish town a blend of Celtic and Roman cultures. Depart for the short drive to Santiago de Compostela. Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be met by the local guide for a comprehensive tour of this city. Final destination of the medieval pilgrimages, the city has been named after Saint James the Elder, one of the 12 Apostles, whose relics are worshiped in the Cathedral. There are still large numbers of Christians that come to Santiago, as pilgrims, walking the 170 kilometres (105 miles) which is the traditional "Way to Compostela). Late

dinner (Spanish style) and accommodation.

Day 09 Santiago de Compostela - Vigo - Porto - Fatima.



Please remember to have your passport available. It might be asked for, at the border. Departure after breakfast toward Vigo, then to the border of Tuy. Enter Portugal in to the famous farm country producing the Port wine. We shall stop in its major city, Porto for lunch and time at leisure. The

second largest city of Portugal it offers a fair climate throughout the year. The wine cellars are in its suburbs, Vila Nova de Gaia an Espinho. Proceed then on the highway taking you in a rather short time, to Fatima. You will have time to attend to the evening Mass. Dinner and accommodation at your hotel. Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 6 times to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Since, this village has been one of the most important Center of the faith. There have been a certain number of miracles, all accepted by Rome.

Day 10 Fatima.

Breakfast. Meet the local guide who will escort you for the day for the visit the Shrines; attend to the movie that will tell you about the apparitions to the 3 "pastoriños", little shepherds. You will have the opportunity to attend, again, to the evening Mass. Lunch, dinner.



Day 11 Fatima - Batalha - Nazaré - Obidos - Batalha - Sintra - Lisbon.

After breakfast at your hotel, depart toward Lisbon, visiting on the way the four villages pertaining to the life and the deeds of the three little shepherds. We will arrive at end of the morning in Sintra, a beautiful seas side resort. Lunch and, as you pleas, free time. Depart for the short drive to Lisbon. Check in at your hotel. Dinner and accommodation.

Day 12 Lisbon.

Breakfast. Meet your local guide for a morning tour visiting the city. Capital of Portugal, since its conquest from the Moors in the year 1147. Its oldest district is the Alfama. See the Castelo and the Mouraria. A visit of the churches of Sao Vicente de For and Santa Engracia will be included



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in the tour. Return for lunch at your hotel. The afternoon is free for your personal venturing and shopping. Lisbon has many opportunities and its Antiques shops are renowned. Meet at the end of the day and depart for your farewell dinner, enriched with local food and the entertainment of a "Fado" singer and orchestra, the famous Portuguese music. Transfer return to the hotel. Accommodation.



Day 13 **Lisbon.**

Please remember to have your passport available. Breakfast at your hotel followed, in due time, of the transfer departure to the airport. After checking the baggage and the air tickets, GSA services are terminated and your tour host will bid you good-bye.

Services included:

- A motor coach, air conditioned, from Paris to Lisbon, airport to airport.
- During the above mentioned Bus rental, the driver's food, accommodation and wages.
- A professional Tour Escort, from the airport of Paris to the airport of Lisbon, his food, accommodation and wages.
- Official guides for the sightseeing in Paris, Lourdes, Santander, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima and Lisbon.
- Good top 3 Stars Hotel accommodations for the entire tour. All rooms with private toilet telephone and lift.
- Full board arrangement, beginning with lunch, first day in France and ending with breakfast, last day in Portugal. Meals will be arranged either at your hotel or nearby restaurants. Lunches, when en route, at local restaurants.
- Farewell dinner in Lisbon, beverages included.
- Baggage handling in and out of Airport (Paris and Lisbon) and at all the hotels used for this tour.

Services available with a supplement:

- Visit the second floor of the Eiffel Tower.
- Short or long Seine cruise on the Bateaux Mouches.
- Beverages during dinners, except for the Farewell Dinner.
- Accommodation in 4 stars hotels.

Services not included:

- Tip to the driver and the Tour Escort.
- Whatever not mentioned in this itinerary.



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