



Pilgrimage to Shrines of Spain

With Fr. Fr. Brian Soliven



November 03 - 13, 2024

\$5,173 per person
from San Francisco (SFO)

**All Pricing Based on Double Occupancy.
Pricing available from any airport.
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Your Pilgrimage Includes:

- † Round-trip Airfare
- † Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- † 9 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
 - ~ 1 Night: Nov. 04 – 05: Hotel Sercotel Caspe, Barcelona
 - ~ 2 Nights: Nov 05 – 07: Hotel Abad Cisneros, Montserrat
 - ~ 2 Nights: Nov 07 – 09: Hotel Only You Atocha, Madrid
 - ~ 2 Nights: Nov 09 – 11: Salamanca: Abba Fonseca
 - ~ 2 Nights: Nov 11 – 13: Hotel Compostela, Santiago de Compostela
- † Breakfast and Dinner daily
- † Wine and Mineral Water with Dinners
- † Transfers as per Itinerary
- † Transportation by Air-Conditioned Motor Coach
- † Whisper Headsets Where Needed
- † Assistance of a Professional Local Christian Guide(s)
- † Sightseeing and Admissions Fees as per Itinerary
- † Mass Daily & Spiritual Activities
- † Luggage Handling (1 Piece per Person)
- † Flight Bag & Digital Confirmation of All Travel Documents



Madrid



Avila

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For Additional Details or to Book Now Visit:
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Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Sun, Nov 03: Depart for Barcelona

Make your way to your airport where you will board your overnight flight. Your meals are served on board.

Day 2, Mon, Nov 04: Arrive Barcelona

Upon arrival in Barcelona, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the arrival hall where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Make your way to the vehicle for your transfer to your hotel. Upon arrival, check-in, and have free time to rest and refresh or explore. This evening, enjoy a welcoming dinner, followed by an overnight in Barcelona.

Day 3, Tue, Nov 05: Barcelona – Manresa – Montserrat

This morning, your day will begin with breakfast and a sightseeing tour of Barcelona! Enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the Port of Barcelona, Montjuic, Plaza de España, and Plaza de Catalunya. This port created some 2000 years ago in the coastal area to protect and provide access for ships to bring in goods. Currently, it is home to numerous walking areas, businesses, cultural and sporting events. Plaza de España is right outside the center of town, formerly known for its old bull-fighting ring. Presently, the Plaza is renowned for containing the Museum of Catalan art, situated on the side of Montjuic. Plaza de Catalunya is located in central Barcelona and is known for its fountains and statues. Your day of touring will continue with a guided walk through the Gothic Quarter containing remains from an ancient Roman village, including the Cathedral of Barcelona. We will continue to the Eixample quarter to visit Antoni Gaudi's stunning, unfinished Roman Catholic Basilica, La Sagrada Familia. In the afternoon, we will travel to Manresa to visit the Sanctuary of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and the Holy Cave where St. Ignatius lived. Continue to Montserrat, home to the miraculous Black Madonna. Arrive in time for dinner and overnight.

Day 4, Wed, Nov 06: Montserrat

After breakfast, we visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, located on a rugged mountainside. According to Catholic tradition circa 50 A.D., St. Luke carved the statue of the Black Madonna and brought it to Spain. While in Spain, it kept hidden from the Moors and later was discovered by shepherds. In 880 A.D., shepherds and the Bishop of Manresa were drawn to a grotto by a bright light and heavenly music. Upon discovery of the Black Madonna statue, the Bishop of Manresa suggested to move it to Manresa. However, the statue was too heavy and could not be lifted. As a result, the Virgin remained in Montserrat and continued to be venerated there for centuries. As years progressed, several chapels were built upon the site. In the eleventh century, the abbot-bishop Oliba founded the Monastery on Montserrat next to one of these chapels. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5, Thu, Nov 07: Montserrat – Zaragoza – Madrid

This morning, following breakfast, depart for Zaragoza. While in Zaragoza, you will have the opportunity to visit the magnificent Basilica del Pilar, built upon the site of where Our Lady appeared to St. James. In 44 A.D., St. James, the Greater was spreading the Gospel in Spain, making very little progress and questioning his mission. According to Catholic Tradition, the Virgin Mary, who was still living in Jerusalem, bi-located and appeared to St. James the Greater to boost his morale. While inside the Basilica, you will view the pillar carried by angels, and from atop Our Lady appeared. After the visit to the Basilica del Pilar, continue to La Seo Cathedral (Cathedral of Zaragoza) formally known as the church of San Vicente. The Visigoth period contains architectural elements of Gothic, Mudejar, Renaissance, and Baroque styles. In addition to the famous cathedral, Zaragoza is known for its folklore and local gastronomy. Both will be explored during the walking tour of the city. This evening, continue to Madrid, where you will eat your dinner and enjoy a restful overnight.

Day 6, Fri, Nov 08: Madrid & Toledo

After breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of Madrid which includes the Royal Palace and Plaza Mayor. A visit to Toledo will be next. Toledo, located on a rocky mound isolated on three sides right by a looping gorge of the Río Tajo. Every available inch of this outcrop has churches, synagogues, mosques, and houses heaped upon one another in a haphazard spiral, which the cobbled lanes infiltrate as best they can. Toledo is known as the city of the Three Religions or Cultures. For many centuries the Christians, the Moors, and the Jews lived together in relative equality and peace. The city surrounded by walls hides great treasures: its beautiful Church of Santo Tomás, the Tránsito Synagogue, Santa María la Blanca Synagogue, the Church of San Juan de Los Reyes, Puerta de Bisagras, Puerta del Cambrón, Puerta del Sol, etc. We return to Madrid for dinner and overnight.

Day 7, Sat, Nov 09: Madrid – Avila – Salamanca

This morning, following breakfast, you will board the bus and enjoy a short transfer to the medieval city of Avila. Upon arrival in Avila, you will immediately notice the perfectly preserved eleventh-century walls surrounding the old town. The conservation of architecture in this city, to which St. Teresa was born, deems its

convents, and churches necessary to visit any Catholic pilgrimage. The Cathedral of Avila encompasses the Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance styles of its time with its artwork and architecture. La Basílica de San Vicente in Avila stands on the site of the martyrdom of St. Vincent. Visit the Incarnation Convent, where St. Teresa became a nun. Saint Teresa convinced Saint John of the Cross to reform the male Carmelite order, the reform she started when she met Saint John in Medina del Campo. After walking in the footsteps of St. Teresa, continue your journey to the village of Alba de Tormes. This town is home to the Carmelite Monastery that Saint Teresa founded in 1571. Upon arrival in Alba de Tormes, celebrate Mass at the Monastery where she died and was buried. Following Mass, you will have the opportunity to visit the museum dedicated to St. Teresa of Avila, which also holds her incorrupt heart and left arm. Continue to Salamanca for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, Sun, Nov 10: Salamanca

Following a full breakfast at the hotel enjoy full day tour of Salamanca. Salamanca is a city in the Castilla y Leon region known for its large university, the oldest in Spain that is still active along with its prominent culture. Our walking tour will bring us to the most noteworthy sites, such as; the grand Plaza Mayor, an iconic square filled with food, shopping, and city events. La Clerencia, a church, and college of the Jesuit Order constructed in the seventeenth century. La Casa de las Conchas currently a public library and monument, decorated with shells that symbolize the famous pilgrimage to Santiago (El Camino). The University of Salamanca is the oldest University in Spain and the third oldest in Europe. The Roman Bridge is a national monument that extends along the River Tormes and is among Salamanca's sturdiest bridges. La Iglesia de San Marcos, constructed in the Romanesque style contains breathtaking paintings that portray many scenes of Our Lady's life. La Iglesia de San Martin is a Church devoted to St. Martin de Porres, who is the patron saint of mixed-race people and all those seeking interracial harmony. Visit the inside of the two joint Salamanca Cathedrals (old and new), one Romanesque style and the other Gothic style. Following this eventful day, you will return to your hotel for a delicious meal and overnight at your hotel in Salamanca.

Day 9, Mon, Nov 11: Salamanca – Santiago de Compostela

Today, you will depart Salamanca and head towards the city of Santiago de Compostela (approximately four hours). While en route, you will make a stop on the calle del Agua of Villafranca del Bierzo. This main street truly emanates Baroque architecture and is filled with palaces and emblazoned houses. At the entrance of this village, you will find the Romanesque church of Santiago. According to tradition, the pilgrims who were unable to finish El Camino as a result of an illness would receive the jubilee blessing at this church. Your next two stops will be visits to the gothic styled Collegiate Church of Santa Maria and the Church of St. Nicolas, dedicated to the patron Saint of Villafranca del Bierzo. This afternoon, you will enter Galicia (approximately one hour and fifteen minutes) by way of the city, Lugo. Your first stop will be to O Cebreiro, the first village in the region of Lugo and nestled in the mountains at an altitude of 1,300 meters. While in O Cebreiro, you will have the opportunity to view the iconic palloza styles houses, and the site of a Eucharistic Miracle that occurred in the year 1300. Continue to Santiago de Compostela for your dinner and an overnight.

Day 10, Tue, Nov 12: Santiago de Compostela

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, transfer to the Tel Aviv airport for return flights home.

Day 11, Wed, Nov 13: Return Home

Early morning transfer to A Coruna airport or Santiago Airport for your return flight(s) home. You will say 'hasta luego' (see you later) to your new friends made on this journey.

**206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.*