

Lourdes, France

Pilgrimage to the Great Shrines of France



SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
Fr. Matthew Roche



Oct. 21 - Nov. 02, 2024

Your Trip Includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- All Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- 11 Nights of Accommodation at Centrally Located First-class Hotels as Follows: (or similar)
 - 3 nights: Oct 22 – Oct 25: Grand Hotel Moderne, Lourdes
 - 2 nights: Oct 25 – Oct 27: Grand Hotel de l'Esperance, Lisieux
 - 2 nights: Oct 27 – Oct 29: The Pullman Paris Centre Bercy, Paris
 - 1 night: Oct 29 – Oct 30: Mercure Nevers Pont De Loire, Nevers
 - 3 nights: Oct 30 – Nov 02: Hotel B4, Lyon
- Transfers as per Itinerary
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Wine and Mineral Water with Dinners
- Transportation by Air-conditioned Motor Coach
- Tour Escort throughout
- Assistance of a Professional Local Catholic Guide(s)
- Sightseeing and Admission Fees as per Itinerary
- Mass Daily and Spiritual Activities
- Whisper Headsets
- Luggage Handling (1 piece per person)
- Flight Bag and PDF Digital Confirmation of All Travel Documents



\$6,187 per person
from New York (JFK), NY

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Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Mon, Oct 21: Depart for Lourdes

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

Day 2, Tue, Oct 22: Arrive in Lourdes

Upon arriving at Pau or Toulouse airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrivals hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Embark on the scenic drive to Lourdes. Check-in at your hotel and relax or explore before dinner. Following dinner, you will have free time to pray the Rosary and to attend the candlelight procession. (April-October only). These processions are lit by candlelight and guided by the Most Holy Rosary. Following this prayerful experience, you will return to your hotel for an overnight.

Days 3 & 4, Wed & Thu, Oct 23 & 24: Lourdes

Over the next two days, you will wake up in a small town that is nestled within the Pyrenees Mountains. During your time in Lourdes, you will pray and meditate in yet another site of Our Lady's apparitions. Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette in 1858 and announced herself as "The Immaculate Conception", near the Grotto of Massabielle. During the first two apparitions, little Bernadette prayed the Rosary with Our Lady and left without any exchange of words. During the following apparitions, Our Lady emphasized God's love for us and the necessity of performing acts of penance for sinners. Throughout your time in Lourdes, you will have the opportunity to attend Mass at the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, watch a video presentation that explains, in detail, the story of Lourdes, drink water from the miraculous spring that has healed many, and submerge yourself in the healing baths. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to experience Christ's unconditional love, as you meditate upon the "life-size" Stations of the Cross that overlook the Grotto of Massabielle. Also, while in Lourdes, you will walk in and meditate upon the footsteps of St. Bernadette. Your group will have the opportunity to see Boly Mill, the birthplace of St. Bernadette, and the "Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. Each evening following dinner, you will have an opportunity to attend the candlelight procession and pray the Rosary before a restful overnight.

Day 5, Fri, Oct 25: Lourdes - Paris - Lisieux (St. Therese, The Little Flower)

Today, you will enjoy breakfast before departing for Pau or Lourdes Airport for your short flight to Paris. Upon arrival in Paris, visit and attend Mass at the magnificent, Sacre Coeur Basilica that stands atop Montmartre Hill. The Basilica, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was originally built in 1914, as an act of penance for the infidelity that France was experiencing during that time. While on your visit, in addition to the extraordinary artwork and architecture that forms the Basilica, you will see the beautiful mosaic of the Risen Christ, and the remarkable Grand Organ. Celebrate Mass at the Crypt that contains the Tombs of many notable Cardinals. You may have the opportunity during your free time to ascend a staircase to the Dome where you will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the city of Paris. Following this visit, you will enjoy lunch on your own and depart for Lisieux. According to Pope Pius X, St. Therese of Lisieux was the "greatest saint of modern times." Her extraordinary love for God and service to humanity will come alive as you walk in the great Saint's footsteps. You will see the beautiful Basilica of St. Therese and the magnificent mosaics and stained glass that are contained within. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Lisieux.

Day 6, Sat, Oct 26: Lisieux - Landing Beaches - American Cemetery

After enjoying breakfast, you will pray and reflect upon the life of the beloved Saint, as well as celebrate Mass. After Mass and a visit to the Basilica, you can view relics, clothing, and personal objects of St. Therese when you visit her family home, Les Buissonnets. Additionally, you will tour the Carmelite Convent, where she entered in 1888, and is currently entombed with her parents. This afternoon, transfer to the Normandy Landing beaches. The Normandy landings were the landing operations on Tuesday, June 6, 1944 (termed D-Day) of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. The largest seaborne invasion in history, the operation began the liberation of German-occupied Northwestern Europe from Nazi control and contributed to the Allied victory on the Western Front. Continue to visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, a World War II memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, that honors American troops who died in Europe during World War II. Many of the brave American soldiers of World War II are buried here, and it is encouraged to say a prayer in thanksgiving for their courage. Return to Lisieux for dinner and an overnight.

Day 7, Sun, Oct 27: Lisieux - Chartres - Paris

Your day begins with an early breakfast, before we depart for Chartres, known worldwide for its massive Cathedral Notre Dame, and its incredible stained-glass windows from the 12th and 13th centuries. The World Heritage Site, UNESCO, calls the Cathedral "the high point of French Gothic art" and a "masterpiece". You will have free time for lunch in the quaint town of Chartres. After lunch, we will continue to Paris for check-in at your hotel, followed by some free time before a delicious dinner and an overnight.

Day 8, Mon, Oct 28: Paris - Miraculous Medal - Notre Dame Cathedral (outside)

Today, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Paris. Start with Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, where we celebrate Mass, after which we will have to opportunity to view the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure. The Saint's guardian angel led her to the chapel, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her. During apparitions, Our Lady repeatedly instructed the making and purpose of the Miraculous Medal, as well as the green scapular. Our Lady said those who wear the Miraculous Medal and scapular will receive special protection and abundant graces. We will then walk to Saint Vincent de Paul Church and continue on a tour of Paris. Our panoramic tour will take us to the most recognizable symbols of the city of Paris: Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the L'Arch de Triomphe, and the Champ-Elysees, one of the world's most famous boulevards. We will make a stop at La Madeleine, with the statue of Mary Magdalene being carried to heaven by angels. Your busy day ends with a lovely meal and a comfortable overnight.

Day 9, Tue, Oct 29: Paris - Nevers

After breakfast, depart for Nevers by way of the picturesque Loire Valley to view the incorrupt body of St. Bernadette. After taking the veil in 1867, St. Bernadette lived for 12 years as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. At least three times during her short lifetime, she received the last Sacraments. In addition to asthma, she was gradually struck by other illnesses, among which were tuberculosis of the lung and a tubercular tumor in her right knee. St. Bernadette eventually died at the age of 35. St. Bernadette's incorrupt body at the Convent of St. Gildard, is miraculously preserved since her death in 1879. You will have some free time before enjoying a delicious meal and retiring for the evening in Nevers.

Day 10, Wed, Oct 30: Nevers - Paray le Monial - Lyon

After breakfast, we travel to Paray-le-Monial, the place where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the 17th century. In revealing His Heart to her, Jesus said: "Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing but has been poured out totally and consumed as proof of its love". After celebrating Mass in the Shrine of Paray-le-Monial, we will start a guided visit that features the Chapel of Apparitions, the place where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the 17th century, the room of the relics of St. Margaret Mary, the Diorama of St Margaret and the Eucharist Museum. Other highlights include the Basilica of Sacre Coeur and the Chapel of St. Claude in honor of St. Margaret Mary's Spiritual Director. After the visit, you will have free time for lunch on your own. Depart Paray-le-Monial to continue to Lyon. Dinner and an overnight.

Day 11, Thu, Oct 31: Lyon - La Salette - Lyon

After breakfast, we depart for La Salette located in a high alpine pasture in the French Alps. La Salette is the site where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1846 to two shepherds, Melanie Matthew and Maximin Gird. Our Lady appeared to these shepherds crying, lamenting over the lack of observance of Sundays and the profaning of her Son's holy name. A spring forever marks the spot where the Virgin appeared and where millions of pilgrims come to drink the fresh spring water and to pray. The stunning mountain scenery and lush mountain trails make La Salette one of the most spectacular pilgrimage sites in France, with a beautiful Basilica built to honor the Virgin Mary. In 1996, La Salette celebrated the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance. We return to Lyon for dinner and overnight.

Day 12, Fri, Nov 01: Lyon - Ars - Lyon

Enjoy a nice breakfast before we start our day. Lyon stands on the site of the ancient Roman city called Lugdunum, founded in 43 BC, which was the capital of Gaul, and later, became a major Christian center. This city is filled with renowned history, culture, and architecture. This morning we will enjoy a tour of Lyon, including a visit to the Basilique Notre-Dame of Fourviere, which was built after the Franco-Prussian War when the people of Lyon had vowed to create a Marian sanctuary if their city was spared. The Basilica is a blend of Gothic and Byzantine styles with a richly decorated interior. Fourviere Hill provides a sensational panoramic outlook of the city of Lyon. The views extend to the Croix-Rousse and the Terreaux districts, the Quartier Saint-Jean, and the Place Bellecour. In the afternoon, we will depart towards Ars where we will visit the Shrine dedicated to Saint Jean Marie Vianney, the patron saint of the priesthood. In Ars, we will be able to visit the presbytery and the Basilica where we will find the incorrupt body of the Cure of Ars and enjoy a short documentary about his life. Return to Lyon for a delicious meal and restful overnight.

Day 13, Sat, Nov 02: Return Home

This morning, you will begin with breakfast and continue with a transfer to the Lyon airport for your return flight(s) home.

**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.*