

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, GERMANY & SWITZERLAND WITH **FR. PHILIP MAHALIC**

Paris · Lisieux (St. Therese the Little Flower) · Amsterdam (Our Lady of All Nations) · Ghent · Bruges · Brussels · Echt · Beauraing (Our Lady of Beauraing) · Banneux (Our Lady of Banneux) · Aachen · Kevelaer (Our Lady of Kevelaer) · Cologne · Trier · Strasbourg · Lucerne · Einsiedeln (Our Lady of Einsiedeln) · Interlaken · Berne · Geneva



April 8-23, 2024

\$8,503 per person from San Antonio (SAT)

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Spiritual Director: **Fr. Philip Mahalic**



Your Trip Includes

- † Round-trip airfare from San Antonio
- † All airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- † Hotel accommodations (or similar) in double occupancy
 - ~ 2 nights: April 09-11 | Grand Hotel de l'Esperance, Lisieux
 - ~ 2 nights: April 11-13 | Pullman Hotel, Paris
 - ~ 2 nights: April 13-15 | Kimpton De Witt Hotel, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - ~ 2 nights: April 15-17 | Golden Tulip Hotel de' Medici, Bruges, Belgium
 - ~ 2 nights: April 17-19 | Art Hotel, Aachen, Germany
 - ~ 2 nights: April 19-21 | Heidelberg Marriot hotel, Heidelberg, Germany
 - ~ 2 nights: April 21-23 | Radisson Blu Hotel, Lucerne, Switzerland

- † Breakfast and Dinner daily
- † Wine with dinners
- † Whisper Headsets
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- † Assistance of local guide throughout
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Catholic Priest, Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- † Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- † Available at optional: Travel Insurance

Not Included:
Lunches, Tips to your guide & driver, Items of a personal nature.

(<http://www.206tours.com/insurance>), Cancel for Any reason waiver @ \$399 (<https://www.206tours.com/cancelforanyreason/>)

Register Online: www.206tours.com/frmahalic



Contact Piernha at 206 Tours: Piernha@206tours.com

Sample Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 | Monday, April 8: Depart for Paris

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

Day 2 | Tuesday, April 9: Arrive Paris - Lisieux

Upon arriving at Paris airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival's hall where you will be greeted by your driver, who will transfer you to meet your Spiritual Director, Tour Escort and fellow pilgrims. Attend Mass at the magnificent, Sacre Coeur Basilica that stands atop Montmartre Hill. The Basilica that is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was originally built in 1914, as an act of penance for 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, the remarkable Grand Organ, . Celebrate Mass at the Crypt that contains the Tombs of many notable Cardinals. Time permitting 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 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. During your visit, you will see the beautiful Basilica of St. Therese, and the magnificent mosaics and stained glass that are contained within. Diner an overnight at your hotel in Lisieux.

Day 3 | Wednesday, April 10: Lisieux (St. Therese - the Little Flower)-Landing Beaches & American Cemetery

Upon waking up in Lisieux and enjoying breakfast, you will pray and reflect upon the life of the beloved Saint as well as celebrate Mass. After Mass and following the visit to the Basilica, you will have the opportunity to view relics, clothing and personal objects of St. Therese when you visit her family home, Les Buissonnets. Additionally, you will tour the Carmelite Convent of where she entered in 1888, and is currently entombed in with her parent . This afternoon transfer to Normandy Landing beaches. The Normandy landings were the landing operations on Tuesday, 6 June 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 is a World War II cemetery and 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 overnight.

Day 4 | Thursday, April 11: Lisieux - Chartres - Paris

This morning, your day begins with an early breakfast before we depart for Chartres. Chartres, known for its massive Cathedral Notre Dame. Worldwide known for the incredible stained-glass windows from the 12th and 13th century. A World Heritage site by UNESCO, which calls the Cathedral "the high point of French Gothic art" and a "masterpiece". Have some free time for lunch in the quaint town of Chartres. After lunch we will continue to Paris . Check in hotel and free time before a delicious dinner and overnight.

Day 5 | Friday, April 12: Paris

Today, you will enjoy a full sightseeing tour of Paris. After breakfast, you will visit and celebrate Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, where you will 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. According to the Blessed Virgin Mary, those who wear the Miraculous Medal and scapular will receive special protection and abundant graces. Following your prayerful and reflective experience at this elegant chapel, you will begin your sightseeing tour of Paris. After Mass we will walk to Saint Vincent de Paul Church. Continuing our day with a visit of the Notre Dame Cathedral, a perfect example of Gothic art. Our panoramic sightseeing tour via motor coach continues on to the most recognizable symbol of the city of Paris, the Eiffel Tower. Historically, the Tower's original intent was to commemorate the centenary of the French Revolution but, later assisted in meteorology, telegraphy of World War I, radio, and television. Pass by the L'Arch de Triomphe, a monument that symbolizes gratitude for those who fought for France. This monument stands at the West end of the Champ-Elysees, one of the world's most famous boulevards and another one of our stops on the sightseeing tour. We will also pass by the ever famous, Louvre Museum.* This Museum is one of the finest in the world and contains a number of pieces that truly emanate not only French art but also, European culture. Your fun-filled, busy day ends with a lovely meal and a very comfortable overnight.

*Regrettably we will not visit the Louvre Museum, due to time limitations. However, if you wish to extend your stay in Paris by arriving a day early, this Museum is worth it, as it is one of the finest in the world and contains pieces that emanate European art and culture.

Day 6 | Saturday, April 13: Paris - Amsterdam

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Amsterdam. Upon landing into Amsterdam airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival's hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Transfer to your hotel. This afternoon we will visit the Chapel of our Lady of All Nations, one of the Virgin Mary's apparition sites. In 1945 until 1959, Our Lady appeared to Ida Peerdeman with the continuous message of love and repentance and, the prayer for Nations. Following Mass we will visit the site of a Eucharistic Miracle. In 1345, as a result of a man's illness, a Sacred Host was found preserved in his house after it was moved numerous times and after having experienced a fire that left the city in ruins. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Amsterdam.

Day 7 | Sunday, April 14: Amsterdam - Zaanse Schans - Amsterdam

Following breakfast, we will celebrate Mass. After Mass enjoy a guided tour of Amsterdam, where you will experience its seventeenth century historical and picturesque atmosphere amidst its canals and squares. During your walking tour you will view the Royal Place, Vrijheidsbeeld (National Monument), the Flower Markets, Opera House, City Hall and Begijnhof. Additionally, you will experience a glimpse from the outside of the many cultural highlights Amsterdam has to offer, such as: Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, Rembrandt House and, the Rijksmuseum. After free time for lunch we will proceed to the Zaanse Schans, a unique piece of Dutch history on the river Zaan. It is residential area in which the 18th and 19th centuries are brought to life. Stroll past the bakery museum and enjoy the smell of fresh cookies. Take a look were clogs are made. Don't miss the cheese factory, the various windmills and much more. The Zaanse Schans is a unique part of the Netherlands, full of wooden houses, mills, barns and works shops. Return to Amsterdam for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 | Monday, April 15: Amsterdam - Utrecht - Ghent - Bruges

After breakfast we will depart for Utrecht. One of the principal political, economic and cultural centers of the Netherlands. We will visit Katherine's Convent Museum (Catharijne convent) located in former hospice of the Order of St. John, telling the history of Christianity in the Netherlands. It

also holds a large collection of medieval art treasures. You will have free time for lunch, before boarding the motor coach for your transfer to Ghent. Ghent, Belgium, home to the famous painting, "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb." The large and complex altarpiece was painted by Jan and Hubert Van Eyck in 1432 and, is currently housed in Ghent's, St. Bavo Cathedral. We will celebrate Mass at St. Bavo Cathedral. After Mass continue to Bruges, The Zeebrugge port of Bruges is an important center for European trade. Diner and overnight.

Day 9 | Tuesday, April 16: Bruges

Today following breakfast, we will visit the Church of Our Lady for Mass, you will inevitably notice the preserved culture of the Middle Ages that is still present. While at the Church, you will have the opportunity to view the magnificent marble statue, Madonna and her Child sculpted by Michelangelo. Next, we visit the Holy Saviors Cathedral, Bruges Cathedral. Continue with a visit to the Basilica of the Holy Blood. Most interestingly, this Basilica also holds a venerated relic of Jesus Christ that was collected by Joseph of Arimathea and brought from Jerusalem. Modeled on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, it has a replica of the Christ's tomb. This afternoon you will have free time to enjoy lunch and a leisurely stroll in this enchanting city. Return to your hotel on time to enjoy a delicious meal and a restful overnight.

Day 10 | Wednesday, April 17: Bruges - Dinant - Beauraing - Banneux - Aachen

Following breakfast, you will board the motor coach to head to Beaurain. We will make a stop in Dinant, a charming town located below steep limestone rocks, crowned by a mighty citadel to have lunch on your own. We will continue to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Beauraing, also known as, the Virgin of the Golden Heart. In 1932, the Blessed Mother appeared to a group of young children thirty-three times. She was described as being dressed in white with a golden crown on her head with hair of gold. Our Lady came to these children during the Great Depression and advised them to sacrifice themselves to Her. Continue on to Banneux - Notre Dame, also known as, the Belgian Lourdes. Upon arrival, you will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux. In 1933, the Blessed Mother appeared to twelve-year-old Mariette Boco as the "Virgin of the Poor". Our Lady appeared to little Mariette a few times and informed her that she (Our Lady) has come to relieve the suffering of the ill and the conflicts of all nations. Continue to Aachen for dinner and an overnight.

Day 11 | Thursday, April 18: Aachen - Cologne - Aachen

Today, you will enjoy a short sightseeing tour of the village of Aachen! We will attend Mass at the Aachen Cathedral, a Gothic Marian Shrine. The Church is the oldest of Germany and contains numerous treasures such as Jesus' swaddling clothes, the Lord's loin cloth, the Blessed Virgin's Cloak and, the cloth used for St. John the Baptist's head. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to venerate the miraculous fourteenth century statue of the Blessed Virgin. Later, you will depart for Cologne where you will enjoy another sightseeing tour! Cologne was originally founded and established by the Romans in 50 A.D. When this city received relics of the Three Magi in 1194, it gained importance as a pilgrimage center. While in this city, you will have the opportunity to visit the magnificent Gothic Cathedral, "the Kolner Dom" that houses the relics. Following this visit, you will learn about the two thousand years of history to which this Rhineland city is accompanied by. In the Middle Ages, the city of Cologne served and flourished as one of the major trade routes between Eastern and Western Europe. Return to Aachen for a wonderful meal and an overnight.

Day 12 | Friday, April 19: Aachen - Trier - Heidelberg

After breakfast, will drive to Trier, the oldest city in Germany. It is situated in the Mosel wine region, and was founded before the year 16 B.C. Trier is known for its well-preserved Roman and medieval buildings, all of which you will visit during your time in this ancient city. The Porta Nigra is the only one of four Roman gates that still stands and was formally the home to a hermit monk named Simeon. Additionally, the Roman amphitheater and baths were places of relaxation for the ancient monks. Lastly, the style and size of the Constantine Basilica (Aula Palatina) truly exemplifies the strength and power that the Roman Emperor had in ancient times. We will celebrate Mass at the Trier Cathedral, followed by free time for lunch. Continue with a visit of Trier Cathedral , which not only contains a remarkable collection of artwork, but is also home to the Holy Robe that Our Lord Jesus Christ wore during the Crucifixion (Like the Shroud of Turin - it is very fragile, and is only displayed every 10 - 15 years). Lastly, visit the Liebfrauenkirche, one of the first Gothic churches in Germany and is located near the burial site of the Saint who replaced Judas Iscariot, St. Matthias. Proceed to Heidelberg for check in followed by dinner and overnight.

Day 13 | Saturday, April 20: Heidelberg - Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Heidelberg

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will start your day with a tour of Heidelberg. Visit the Old Town dominated by the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. See marketplace with the Town Hall, the Church of the Holy Spirit located nearby and have a walk on the main street. Admire the panoramic view of the city passing by the Old Bridge to the other banks of river. We will celebrate Mass at the local church, followed by free time for lunch. Proceed to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, In Rothenburg we will see picturesque lanes, half-timbered houses and an intact fortification wall that will give you a good idea what a medieval town looked like nearly 1000 years ago. Walk around the city on top of the wall to enjoy the stunning views over the old town. Return to Heidelberg for dinner and overnight.

Day 14 | Sunday, April 21: Heidelberg - Neuhausen am Rheinfall (Rhine Falls) - Muri Monastery - Lucerne

This morning after breakfast we depart for Neuhausen am Rheinfall for a boat trip where you will see the great spectacle of the Rhine Falls. After free time for lunch we will transfer to the Benedictine monastery of Muri, one of the most significant cultural monuments in the Canton of Aargau. It was founded in 1027 by Ita of Lorraine and her husband, Count Radbot of Habsburg. See the Romanesque crypt, the Gothic raised choir and the central octagon in Baroque style bear witness to the continuation of architectural alteration, renewal and addition throughout the ages. Celebrate Mass at Muri Monastery. Continue to Lucerne for dinner and overnight.

Day 15 | Monday, April 22: Lucerne - Einsiedeln - Lucerne

Today we will start with a guided tour of Lucerne. This central Switzerland city is known for its miraculous views of Mt. Pilatus and Rigi in the Swiss Alps. While in this breathtaking city, you will view from the outside the wooden Chapel Bridge that was first erected in the fourteenth century. This afternoon enjoy a scenic ride along Lake Lucerne and Lake Zug to Einsiedeln. Upon arrival, celebrate Mass at Einsiedeln Abbey. Visit the Benedictine Monastery of Einsiedeln dedicated to Our Lady of the Hermits. The abbey received this dedication due to its first inhabitant of the region around the year 850 A.D, a monk named Meinrad (St. Meinrad). This evening, you will return to your hotel in Lucerne. Enjoy a Farewell dinner and overnight at the hotel in Lucerne.

Day 16 | Tuesday, April 23: Lucerne - Zurich - Return Home

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

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