



# LOURDES AND THE PYRENEES

## Spiritual journey through Marian devotion and medieval heritage

### 7 days – 6 nights

*Journey into the heart of **Southern France** on an extraordinary pilgrimage that weaves together sacred devotion, breathtaking landscapes, and centuries of Christian heritage. From the elegant boulevards of **Toulouse** to the mystical heights of the **Pyrenees** and the world-renowned **Sanctuary of Lourdes**, this carefully crafted journey offers far more than sightseeing—it is an invitation to spiritual renewal, cultural discovery, and personal transformation.*

*Your pilgrimage begins in **Toulouse**, the enchanting "Pink City," where magnificent basilicas, historic pilgrimage routes, and timeless traditions provide a fitting introduction to the sacred history of **France**. As you travel through the medieval splendor of **Carcassonne**, one of **Europe's** most impressive fortified cities, you will encounter remarkable churches, inspiring stories of faith, and architectural masterpieces that have stood as witnesses to centuries of devotion.*

*The journey then unfolds amid the serene beauty of the **Pyrenees**, where rolling valleys, mountain shrines, and picturesque villages create an atmosphere of peace and contemplation. Here, faith and nature come together in perfect harmony, offering pilgrims moments of quiet reflection and a deeper appreciation of God's creation. The majestic mountain landscapes serve as a spiritual preparation for the highlight of the pilgrimage—the holy town of **Lourdes**.*

*For millions of believers around the world, **Lourdes** remains one of Christianity's most beloved pilgrimage destinations. It was here in 1858 that **Saint Bernadette Soubirous** received the apparitions of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, transforming this humble town into a beacon of hope, healing, and prayer. Pilgrims will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass at sacred sites, visit the **Grotto of Massabielle**, participate in the moving **Candlelight Procession**, pray before the healing waters, and experience the profound atmosphere of faith that fills the sanctuary each day. Throughout the pilgrimage, expert guides and spiritual leaders enrich every experience with historical insight, theological reflection, and pastoral care. Carefully selected accommodations, comfortable transportation, and thoughtfully planned visits ensure a seamless and meaningful journey from beginning to end.*

*Whether seeking spiritual healing, a deeper connection with Marian devotion, or simply a renewed sense of peace, this pilgrimage offers an unforgettable encounter with some of **France's** most treasured sacred sites. Return home inspired, strengthened in faith, and forever touched by the grace, beauty, and spiritual legacy of **Lourdes** and the **Pyrenees**.*

#### DAY 1 TOULOUSE Arrival in France

Upon arrival at Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, pilgrims are welcomed and transferred to the heart of Toulouse, the "Pink City," named for its terracotta brick architecture. Your orientation walk introduces the vibrant Place du Capitole, the elegant riverside quays along the Garonne, and the Basilica of Saint-Sernin, a UNESCO World Heritage Romanesque marvel renowned for its relics and pilgrimage history. Your guide situates Toulouse within the context of Catholic pilgrimage routes, highlighting its centuries-old devotion to Marian and saintly figures. The day's introduction includes moments of silent reflection along the river, inviting pilgrims to attune to both the physical and spiritual journey ahead. Evening is at leisure to explore local cafes, contemplate the city's sacred art, or prepare for prayerful participation in the pilgrimage. Pilgrims are encouraged to immerse themselves in the city's rhythm, sensing the layers of faith, culture, and history that will unfold over the next week. Overnight in Toulouse.

#### DAY 2 TOULOUSE - CARCASSONE

After breakfast, travel east to the fortified medieval city of Carcassonne, perched above the Aude River. Upon arrival, a guided walking tour explores the imposing double walls, turrets, and drawbridges of this UNESCO World Heritage citadel. Inside, the Basilica of Saint Nazaire reveals an extraordinary blend of Romanesque and Gothic frescoes, stained glass, and sculptural devotion,

#### CUSTOMIZED PILGRIMAGE PACKAGES

*Personalized rates upon request*

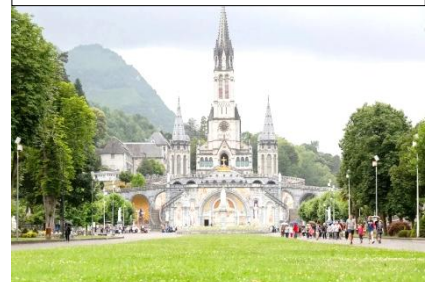
Packages fully customizable according to age groups, travel period, and accommodation preferences.

#### INCLUDED SERVICES

- All transfer in private bus
- 6 nights in 3\*\*\* and 4\*\*\*\* selected hotels including breakfast
- Welcome dinner on the first day
- All excursions mentioned in the program.
  - ✓ Guided visit the medieval city of Carcassonne
  - ✓ Pyrenean Pilgrimage Walks
  - ✓ Walking tour in Toulouse and Lourdes
- Local english-speaking tour guide in all aforementioned excursions.
- Entrance fees for all visits in Museums.
- Guided visit to different Marian shrines and sanctuaries as described
- Mass will be celebrated at key shrines with your own priests
- 24 h. support (Hotline)

#### NOT INCLUDED

- International and local flights.
- Local city taxes (to be paid at the hotels)
- Tips for Guides, drivers and Porters
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours
- Other services not mentioned in the program





illustrating how faith shaped medieval life. Your guide highlights the lives of local saints, the role of the Church in community defense, and the intertwining of art, architecture, and prayer. Pilgrims may attend Mass within the basilica, connecting the historic spiritual atmosphere with contemporary devotion. Evening offers reflection time within the citadel or quiet prayer at nearby chapels, absorbing the enduring sacred energy of this medieval stronghold. Overnight in Carcassonne. **(B)**

#### **DAY 3 CARCASSONE - PYRENEES**

Depart Carcassonne after breakfast for the majestic Pyrenees foothills. The scenic drive passes pastoral villages, rolling hills, and rivers that have inspired centuries of Marian devotion. Along the route, stop at small mountain shrines where pilgrims light candles, offer prayers, and learn of local saints whose lives reflect both simplicity and sanctity. Guides provide insights into regional traditions, including seasonal feasts, pilgrimage practices, and the integration of faith with the natural landscape. The journey encourages contemplative reflection on the sacredness of nature, preparing hearts for Lourdes. Evening arrives at a charming Pyrenean town, offering a serene setting for personal prayer or group reflection on the transformative journey from medieval cities to these spiritual landscapes. Overnight in the Pyrenees.

#### **DAY 4 PYRENEES – LOURDES Sanctuary of Our Lady**

Arrive in Lourdes after breakfast, entering a town that has become synonymous with healing, prayer, and Marian devotion. Begin at the Grotto of Massabielle, where Saint Bernadette experienced her visions of the Virgin Mary in 1858. Your priests celebrate Mass at this sacred site, and pilgrims may drink or bathe in the healing spring waters, light candles, and join in communal prayer, enveloped by the devotion of pilgrims from around the globe. Guided visits to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Rosary Basilica reveal the architectural and spiritual legacy of Lourdes, alongside the life and sanctity of Saint Bernadette. Time is reserved for private reflection or participation in the evening candlelight procession, a moving display of faith that evokes centuries of devotion. Overnight in Lourdes.

#### **DAY 5 LOURDES - PYRENEES Pyrenean Pilgrimage Walks**

After breakfast, enjoy optional guided walks along trails historically traversed by pilgrims in the surrounding Pyrenean hills. These paths offer quiet spaces for meditation, prayer, and appreciation of the region's natural majesty. Guides provide insights into the local flora and fauna, connecting the rhythms of nature to spiritual contemplation. Return to Lourdes in the afternoon for Mass or vespers at smaller chapels within the sanctuary, fostering intimate moments of devotion and reflection. Pilgrims are invited to explore the Stations of the Cross, participate in rosary prayers, or simply sit in silence near the Grotto, absorbing the sacred atmosphere that has drawn millions over generations. Evening offers time for personal devotion or reflection on the profound spiritual experience. Overnight in Lourdes.

#### **DAY 6 LOURDES - TOULOUSE**

After breakfast, depart Lourdes for Toulouse, stopping at regional churches and shrines celebrating Marian and saintly devotion. Guides highlight sacred art, relics, and the continuing tradition of pilgrimage, providing context for how faith evolved in the region. Pilgrims may participate in Mass along the route, connecting with the spiritual heritage of local communities. Upon arrival in Toulouse, enjoy a farewell dinner where reflections on the week's pilgrimage are shared, recounting experiences of prayer, healing, and cultural immersion. Evening is an opportunity to revisit favorite sites in Toulouse or enjoy contemplative silence in a nearby church, reinforcing the journey's spiritual and historical richness. Overnight in Toulouse.

#### **DAY 7 TOULOUSE Departure**

After breakfast, pilgrims are transferred to Toulouse-Blagnac Airport for departure. Hearts are filled with the serenity of the Pyrenees, the devotion of Lourdes, and the stories of saints, martyrs, and visionaries encountered along the journey. First-time visitors leave with an enriched understanding of Marian devotion, the resilience of medieval communities, and the spiritual significance of sacred French landscapes. Pilgrims carry with them memories of candlelit processions, mountain reflections, and Masses celebrated at holy sites, ensuring the pilgrimage's lessons resonate long after the journey concludes. End of our services.

