



GRAND EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE: PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE

A Spiritual Journey through Marian Shrines, Saints, and Historic Pilgrimage Sites 14 days – 13 nights

Embark on a journey that spans the spiritual heart of **Europe**, where faith, history, and culture converge across **Italy, France, and Portugal**. This **14-day pilgrimage** invites you to walk in the footsteps of saints, explore Marian shrines that have inspired devotion for centuries, and experience the rich tapestry of European heritage — all while being guided and accompanied by your own priests in **Masses at key sites**.

Your journey begins in **Italy**, a country where the echoes of saints and popes resonate through cities like **Rome, Assisi, Siena, and Florence**. Here, you will visit the **Basilicas, cathedrals, and sacred towns** that preserve the memory of **St. Francis, St. Clare, and other notable saints**. Each city offers its unique blend of spirituality and culture — from **Rome's Eternal City** with the **Vatican** and the **Catacombs**, to **Assisi**, where **St. Francis' humble life and devotion to the poor transformed the world**. **Siena and Florence** immerse you in the Italian Renaissance, revealing how art, faith, and history intertwine. From **Italy**, the journey continues to **France**, where the **Sanctuary of Lourdes** draws pilgrims to the Grotto of Massabielle, the site of Marian apparitions to Saint Bernadette. Here, you will celebrate **Mass**, light candles, drink or bathe in the spring waters, and reflect in the serene **Pyrenean landscape**. A short visit to **Toulouse and Carcassonne** enriches the journey with medieval history, fortified walls, and sacred architecture, offering a deeper appreciation for the interplay of faith & European heritage. The pilgrimage concludes in **Portugal**, a country known for its enduring Marian devotion. The **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima** provides an awe-inspiring finale, with Masses at the Grotto of Apparitions and visits to nearby sacred towns such as **Braga and Coimbra**. **Lisbon's** historic streets, **Sintra's** fairytale palaces, and coastal vistas connect pilgrims to centuries of Portuguese faith and culture, making the journey both spiritually and culturally enriching.

Throughout the pilgrimage, every day is crafted for **spiritual reflection, cultural insight, and practical guidance**, particularly for first-time visitors. From immersive city tours to contemplative walks along pilgrimage paths, the tour is designed to nurture both the mind and the soul. By journey's end, pilgrims depart with hearts renewed, faith strengthened, and memories of **Europe's** sacred landscapes and historic shrines etched deeply in their minds.

DAY 1 ROME Arrival in the Eternal City

Welcome to Italy, where your pilgrimage begins in the heart of Christendom. Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, you will be warmly greeted by your guide and driver before transferring to your hotel. After time to refresh and settle in, embark on an introductory walk through some of Rome's most beloved historic quarters. Stroll through the elegant Piazza Navona, admired for its magnificent fountains and Baroque architecture, and continue to the vibrant Campo de' Fiori, where daily Roman life unfolds amid centuries-old surroundings. As you navigate the city's charming cobblestone streets, your guide will provide helpful insights into local customs, transportation, and the spiritual significance of Rome. This evening offers an opportunity for quiet reflection as you prepare for the sacred experiences that await. Overnight in Rome. **(D)**

DAY 2 ROME Vatican Treasures and the Great Basilicas

Today is devoted to discovering the spiritual and artistic heart of the Catholic world. Following breakfast, enjoy a guided visit to the Vatican Museums, home to one of the greatest collections of sacred art ever assembled. Marvel at masterpieces accumulated by the Popes over centuries before entering the breathtaking Sistine Chapel, where Michelangelo's extraordinary frescoes continue to inspire pilgrims from around the globe. Continue into St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in Christendom, where you will celebrate Mass amidst an atmosphere of profound devotion and history.

PILGRIMAGES DESIGNED FOR YOUR GROUP

Carefully crafted spiritual journeys designed to inspire faith and fellowship.

- **Customized itineraries**
- **Flexible travel OPTIONS**
- **Authentic pilgrimage experiences**

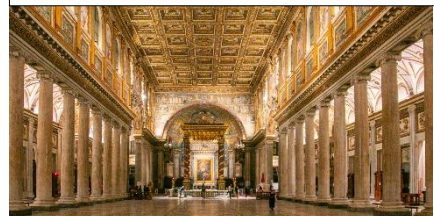
Every program can be fully tailored to your group's interests, schedule, and spiritual objectives.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Meet-and-greet assistance upon arrival
- Accommodation for 13 nights in carefully selected hotels including daily breakfast
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach throughout the tour.
- Local licensed guides during the visits.
- Airport transfers as outlined in the itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments specifically mentioned in the itinerary, including Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Siena Cathedral, Uffizi Gallery, Sanctuary sites in Lourdes, Medieval Citadel of Carcassonne, Jerónimos Monastery and Pena Palace.
- Daily Mass arrangements at appropriate churches and pilgrimage sites, subject to local church schedules and availability.
- Pilgrimage and spiritual visits as detailed in the itinerary.
- Headsets for guided visits where required.
- All applicable hotel taxes & service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- International and local flights.
- Tips for Guides, drivers and Porters
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours
- Meals (half or full board can be arranged)
- Other services not mentioned here





In the afternoon, visit the Papal Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral church of Rome, and the magnificent Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, renowned for its rich Marian heritage. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 3 ROME – ASSISI *In the Footsteps of St. Francis*

After breakfast, depart Rome and journey north through the enchanting landscapes of Umbria, often called Italy's "green heart." Rolling hills, olive groves, vineyards, and medieval villages accompany your scenic drive to Assisi, birthplace of one of Christianity's most beloved saints. Upon arrival, visit the Basilica of St. Francis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose Upper and Lower Churches house remarkable fresco cycles depicting the saint's life and mission. Participate in Mass within this sacred sanctuary, where pilgrims have gathered for centuries seeking inspiration from Francis' message of humility, peace, and love for creation. Continue to the Basilica of St. Clare and the peaceful Eremo delle Carceri, nestled among forested slopes where Francis and his companions retreated for prayer. **(B)**

DAY 4 ASSISI – SIENA *Medieval Faith and Tuscan Traditions*

Following breakfast, depart Assisi and continue your pilgrimage through the picturesque landscapes of central Italy. Upon arrival in Siena, one of Italy's most beautifully preserved medieval cities, visit the magnificent Siena Cathedral, renowned for its striking black-and-white marble façade, intricate mosaics, and artistic treasures. Attend Mass in a local church before exploring the celebrated Piazza del Campo, the heart of civic and religious life in Siena. Learn about the city's deep spiritual heritage, historic contrade, and famous religious festivals. The evening is free to wander Siena's atmospheric lanes and enjoy moments of quiet reflection. Overnight in Siena. **(B)**

DAY 5 SIENA - FLORENCE *Faith and the Renaissance*

After breakfast, depart for Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance and one of Europe's greatest centers of art, culture, and faith. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, whose magnificent dome dominates the city skyline and stands as a testament to human creativity inspired by faith. Continue to the Basilica of Santa Croce, where saints, scholars, and some of Italy's most influential historical figures are commemorated. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided visit to the renowned Uffizi Gallery, home to extraordinary masterpieces by Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and other masters whose works often reflected profound religious themes. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 6 FLORENCE – MILAN *Sacred Heritage and Modern Italy*

Following breakfast, journey north to Milan, Italy's dynamic financial and cultural capital. Upon arrival, visit the magnificent Duomo di Milano, one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world and a masterpiece of architectural devotion centuries in the making. Participate in Mass within this extraordinary sanctuary before continuing to Santa Maria delle Grazie, home to Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated masterpiece, *The Last Supper*. Later, enjoy an orientation walk through Milan's historic center, including the elegant Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and surrounding piazzas. Overnight **(B)**

DAY 7 MILAN – LOURDES *Journey to a Place of Grace*

After breakfast, depart Italy and travel westward toward Lourdes, one of the world's most important Marian pilgrimage destinations. The journey unfolds through breathtaking Alpine scenery, where towering peaks, verdant valleys, and picturesque villages accompany your route into France. As the landscapes gradually transition to the foothills of the Pyrenees, anticipation builds for your arrival at this sacred sanctuary. Upon reaching Lourdes, settle into your hotel before making your first visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. This evening, participate in the moving candlelight procession, a cherished tradition that gathers pilgrims from around the world in prayer and song, or spend quiet moments in reflection near the Grotto. Overnight in Lourdes. **(B)**

DAY 8 LOURDES *Sanctuary of Healing and Hope*

Today is dedicated to experiencing the profound spirituality of Lourdes. Following breakfast, begin with a guided visit to the Grotto of Massabielle, the sacred site where the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette in 1858. Here, pilgrims from every corner of the globe gather in prayer, seeking comfort, healing, and renewal. Celebrate Mass with your priests before continuing your exploration of the sanctuary complex. Visit the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Rosary Basilica, and the Crypt, each offering unique insights into the history and significance of the apparitions. Learn about the life of Saint Bernadette and the enduring message of faith, prayer, and conversion associated with Lourdes. The afternoon allows time for personal devotion, reflection, or peaceful walks amid the beautiful Pyrenean surroundings. Overnight in Lourdes. **(B)**





DAY 9 LOURDES – CARCASSONNE - LOURDES A Medieval Journey Through Faith and History

Following breakfast, depart Lourdes for a full-day excursion to the extraordinary fortified city of Carcassonne, one of the most impressive medieval citadels in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Traveling through the scenic countryside of southern France, arrive at this remarkable walled city whose towers, ramparts, and cobbled streets transport you back to the Middle Ages. Enjoy a guided exploration of the historic citadel, including the Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, celebrated for its beautiful stained-glass windows and architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. As you wander through the narrow lanes, learn about the city's strategic importance, its religious heritage, and the role faith played in shaping medieval society. Following free time for personal exploration and lunch, return to Lourdes in the late afternoon. Overnight in Lourdes. **(B)**

DAY 10 LOURDES - LISBON From Southern France to Portugal

After breakfast, bid farewell to Lourdes and transfer to Toulouse, the elegant capital of the Occitanie region. Before your flight, enjoy an orientation tour of the city's historic center, known affectionately as the "Pink City" for its distinctive terracotta architecture. Following the visit, transfer to Toulouse Airport for your flight to Lisbon. Upon arrival in Portugal's capital, transfer to your hotel and settle in before beginning the next chapter of your pilgrimage through the sacred sites of Portugal. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 11 LISBON Portugal's Capital of Faith and Discovery

Following breakfast, enjoy a full day exploring Lisbon, a city where centuries of faith, culture, and maritime history converge. Begin in the historic Belém district, home to some of Portugal's most celebrated monuments. Visit the magnificent Jerónimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture and a symbol of Portugal's spiritual and imperial heritage. Continue to the iconic Belém Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries, learning how missionary zeal accompanied many of the great voyages that shaped the modern world. Later, explore the elegant squares and avenues of Baixa before wandering through the atmospheric streets of Alfama, Lisbon's oldest quarter, where historic churches, viewpoints, and hidden chapels reveal the city's enduring Catholic identity. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 12 LISBON - SINTRA – FATIMA From Royal Splendor to Marian Devotion

After breakfast, depart Lisbon for the enchanting town of Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled among lush hills and forests. Visit the colorful Pena Palace, one of Europe's most romantic royal residences, and admire its blend of architectural styles inspired by Portugal's rich cultural and religious heritage. Continue to the historic Moorish Castle, where breathtaking views stretch across the surrounding countryside and coastline. Following time to explore Sintra's unique atmosphere, continue north toward Fátima, one of the world's most important Marian pilgrimage destinations. Upon arrival, visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima and the Chapel of the Apparitions, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children in 1917. Overnight in Fátima. **(B)**

DAY 13 FATIMA - BRAGA Portugal's Spiritual Heritage

After breakfast, travel north to Braga, often referred to as Portugal's religious capital. Your visit begins at the magnificent Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte, where a grand Baroque stairway ascends through chapels depicting scenes from Christ's Passion. Celebrate Mass at the sanctuary before continuing to nearby historic towns such as Guimarães or Viana do Castelo, each rich in religious heritage and architectural beauty. Explore centuries-old churches, chapels, and sacred spaces that reflect Portugal's enduring devotion and Christian identity. Overnight in Braga. **(B)**

DAY 14 BRAGA Departure with renewed faith

After breakfast, begin your return journey to Lisbon. Depending on flight schedules, enjoy scenic views of Portugal's countryside and perhaps a final stop for prayer or quiet contemplation at a local chapel along the way. As your pilgrimage draws to a close, take time to reflect on the profound experiences shared throughout Italy, France, and Portugal—from the grandeur of Rome and the simplicity of Assisi to the healing sanctuary of Lourdes and the powerful Marian devotion of Fátima. These sacred destinations have offered opportunities for prayer, learning, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Upon arrival in Lisbon, transfer to the airport for your onward flight home, carrying with you cherished memories, renewed faith, and a deeper connection to Europe's rich Christian heritage. End of our services. **(B)**

(D) Breakfast **(A)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

