SALT & LIGHT BLESSED JOURNEY
SHRINES OF FRANCE WITH SHROUD OF TURIN
Wed. May 27 – Tue. June 09, 2015

$4,395.00
per person double plus air taxes and gratuities

Lourdes • St. Emilion • Toulouse • Rocamadour • La Salette • Ars • Paray-le-Monial • Nevers • Chartres • Le Mont Saint Michel • Lisieux • Paris • Turin, Italy

Your 14 Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Wed. May 27
Depart Toronto
We meet at Toronto Airport for departure to France. Enjoy complimentary meals and beverage service during our overnight flight.

Day 2 – Thu. May 28
Lourdes
Upon arrival in Lourdes, we are transferred to our hotel home for the next 3 nights. Once we are settled into our rooms, we’ll partake in Holy Mass before we take some time to explore the Sanctuary. For the remainder of this day, you may wish to drink water from the miraculous spring and join your prayers with pilgrims from around the world as you kneel in the chapel built on the very rock of the Massabiel Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous 18 times. This evening, you may wish to participate in the uniquely spiritual experience of the candlelight procession. (D)
Overnight – Lourdes – Hotel Gallia et Londres (or similar) - 3 nights

Day 3 – Fri. May 29
Lourdes
This morning, we’ll attend early Mass at the Grotto. After breakfast, we walk in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette and visit Boly Mill where she was born, and the “Cachot”, an abandoned prison where Bernadette’s impoverished family lived. This afternoon, you may wish to submerge yourself into the healing waters of the baths, walk the life sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto, or just have personal time to pray and reflect. Before dinner, there is a Rosary at the grotto followed by the Blessed Sacrament Procession. This evening, you are free to participate in the Candlelight Procession. (B, D)

Day 4 – Sat. May 30
Lourdes / Saint-Émilion / Lourdes
Today, after breakfast, we will board our private coach for a day trip to Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with fascinating Romanesque churches and ruins stretching all along steep and narrow streets. In the eighth century, a Breton monk named Emilion fled to southern France to escape persecution by the Benedictine order and adopted an hermitic existence, living in a cave. It is said that he established a strong Christian community in the area, performing miracles and attracting a following of monks. The region where he settled came to be known as Saint-Émilion, acquired wealth and prominence due wine production and to its strategic position along a pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Here we will find the Saint-Émilion Monolithic Church. Constructed in the early twelfth century, the church is partly subterranean and carved out of solid rock. This is Europe’s largest monolithic cathedral! Saint-Émilion also possesses a 53-meter-high bell-tower that creates a visible landmark. By the late twentieth century, however, the 3,000 ton weight of this tower had shifted far off its supports and was thus susceptible to collapse. Saint-Émilion is one of the principal red wine areas of Bordeaux. We return to Lourdes for dinner. (B, D)
Day 5 – Sun. May 31

Lourdes / Toulouse / Rocamadour

After an early breakfast, we check out of the hotel to make our way to Toulouse, full of religious and historical treasures. We visit the Basilica of St. Sernin, named after the first bishop of Toulouse, Sernin, or Saturnin, sent there by the Pope as a missionary. The pagan population decided to kill him by dragging him through the streets tied to a bull. The crypt contains his relics and those of many other saints. It is considered to be one of the finest Romanesque churches in France. The basilica also contains a large three-manual Cavallé-Coll organ built in 1888 considered to be one of the most important organs in France. We will go to the Eglise de Jacobins (The Church of the Jacobins), built in the 1200’s and home to the Dominican monks called Jacobins. Here we find the tomb of Saint Thomas Aquinas, considered one of the greatest theologians and thinkers of the Middle Ages. We continue to Rocamadour, located approximately 100 miles from Toulouse. It owes its origin to St. Amador, who chose this area for his devotion to Our Lady. St. Amador is said to be Zacheus of the gospel, husband to St. Veronica, who wiped the face of Our Saviour as He carried the cross to Calvary. On arrival, we will go directly to the Shrine of Our Lady of Rocamadour, containing a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary and the tomb of an ancient saint. Perched on a cliff overlooking the Alzou valley, Rocamadour attracts many people to this sanctuary every year. We will stop here for the night. (B, D)

Overnight – Rocamadour – Hôtel Les Esclargies (or similar) - 1 night

Day 6 – Mon. Jun 01

La Salette / Ars

We continue to La Salette today. On September 19, 1846, Our Lady appeared to two children in the small village of La Salette. The children were looking after cattle when they first saw a bright light just before Our Lady appeared to them. They claimed that She was weeping tears of sadness and expressed Her despair at people disobeying God’s law. We will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette. Located in a high alpine pasture at an altitude of about 6,000 feet, it is naturally beautiful and the atmosphere very peaceful.

From there, we will go onward to the little town of Ars, famous through the holy life and labors of St. John Vianney, its beloved Cure. The story of John Vianney emphasizes how God uses the simple and under-rated people to confound those who are regarded as wise by the world. A man who was considered only marginally fit to be a priest and became a saint. St. John Vianney died peacefully on August 4, 1859. His exhumed body was found dried and darkened, but incorrupt. Today, a wax mask covers his face. In 1904, his still intact heart was removed and is displayed in a reliquary in a separate chapel. St. John Vianney was named the Patron of Parish Priests throughout the world. Pilgrims can also visit the home of the Curé of Ars, which was preserved the way he left it. It contains the bed set on fire by the devil as well as the Saint's rosary, breviary, library and other personal items. We overnight here. (B, D)

Overnight – Ars – Hotel Regina (or similar) - 1 night

Day 7 – Tue. Jun 02

Paray Le Monial / Nevers

Today, we will be in Paray-le-Monial where Jesus exposed His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque during a number of apparitions. We will visit the Chapel of the Visitation that contains the Reliquary of St. Margaret containing her relics under a wax figure of the saint. We continue through the picturesque Loire Valley en route to Nevers where we will find the incorrupt body of Saint Bernadette at the Convent of St. Gilard. (B, D)

Overnight – Nevers – Hotel to be confirmed – 1 night
Day 8 – Wed. Jun 03  Nevers / Chartres / Le Mont Saint Michel
This morning we visit the Bernadette Soubirous Centre, entirely dedicated to this venerable Saint who took the veil in 1867, at the age of 23 years and spent the rest of her life totally devoted to God. She lived for 12 years as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. During her short life, Bernadette received the Sacrament of healing of the sick (last rites) at least 3 times. She suffered from asthma, and other illnesses, among them tuberculosis of the lungs and a tumor in her right knee. Saint Bernadette eventually died at 35. We have Holy Mass at the Chapel where her remains lie in a crystal reliquary. We follow this with a guided walk in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette and visit the key places associated with her life in Nevers. After our lunch break, we continue to Chartres where we will visit the famous Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Chartres, an almost perfect image of how it looked when it was built. One of the greatest achievements of architecture, it is almost perfectly preserved in its original design and details such as the stained glass windows. Then we continue to our destination of Le Mont Saint Michel in time for dinner and overnight. (B, D)
Overnight – Le Mont Saint Michele area Mercure Mont Saint Michel (or similar) – 2 nights

Day 9 – Thu. Jun 04  Le Mont Saint Michel
We will spend the day exploring Le Mont Saint Michel, a unique UNESCO World Heritage site. The rich history of Mont Saint Michel dates back as far as 708 A.D when (according to legend) the Archangel Michael told the local bishop to “build here and build high.” This site was one of the most notable places of pilgrimage during medieval times. Back then, before the causeway was built, Mont St-Michel was an island. Pilgrims would approach across a mudflat mindful of a tide that swept in. Quicksand, the thoroughly disorienting fog, and the fact that the sea could encircle any unwary hikers added to the peril. For centuries, pilgrims kept their eyes on the spire crowned by their protector, St. Michael, and eventually reached their spiritual goal. We will explore the impressive church, delicate cloisters, and dining hall where the monks ate in austere silence. A highlight is the giant tread-wheel, which six workers once powered hamster-style, to haul two-ton loads of stones and supplies from the landing below. This was used until the 19th century. From the abbey’s veranda, we’ll survey the bay stretching from Normandy to Brittany. The river below marks the historic border between the two lands. We will stop for a lunch of the Traditional Mont Saint Michel Omelette. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Day10 – Fri. Jun 05  Lisieux
Today we go to the town of Lisieux, home of St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus. St. Theresa entered the Carmelite convent at age 15 and lived a cloistered life until her death at age 24. Her last months were painful but she accepted her pain in a spirit of love. She died in 1897 and within 28 years of her death, in 1925, with public demand was so great she was canonized. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed great works. She wrote an account of her short life which was published after her death, a brief edited version of her journal called “Story of a Soul.” We will visit all the places related to her life. We visit the Basilica and the Carmel and its chapel where the Saint’s tomb may be seen, and the Gothic cathedral of Saint Pierre which was Saint Therese’s parish church. We see the Buissonnets, the house where Theresa lived with her family until she entered the Carmel Convent. Pope Saint Pius X called her “the greatest Saint of modern times”. We then continue on to Paris “city of lights” for dinner and overnight. (B, D)
Overnight – Paris – Mercure Paris Bercy Bibliothèque Hotel (or similar) – 2 nights
Day 11 – Sat. Jun 06  Paris
After breakfast, we will begin our guided tour of Paris. We will have private Holy Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, followed by a visit the incorrupt body of Saint Catherine Labouret. At an early age she entered the community of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, in Paris, France. Three times in 1830 the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouret, who then was a twenty-four year old novice. She was a Marian visionary who relayed the request from the Blessed Virgin Mary to create the Miraculous Medal worn by millions of Christians. Very nearby, is the St. Vincent de Paul Shrine. After lunch, we continue with a visit of Notre Dame Cathedral, seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Paris; The Sainte chapel, built in the 12th century upon the order of King Saint Louis to house Christ’s Crown of Thorns, now housed at Notre Dame; the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, on Montmartre, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. During our sightseeing tour, we will see the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysée, the Eiffel tower, and more. (B, L, D)

Day 12 – Sun. Jun 07  Turin, Italy
Today, we will board our short flight to Turin, Italy. Surrounded by rolling green hills with snowy Alpine peaks in the background, Turin is home to the famous Shroud of Turin. We are here for a rare exhibition of the Shroud which has only been displayed 18 times in the past, the last exhibition in 2010. On arrival to Turin, we will transfer to our hotel and the remainder of the day is free to explore this 4th largest city of Italy. We'll meet for a delicious dinner of local cuisine. (B, D)

Overnight – Turin – Best Western Executive Hotel and Suites – 2 nights

Day 13 – Mon. Jun 08  Turin, Italy
Today, we make our way to The Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, Duomo di San Giovanni. The Cathedral's Chapel of the Shroud houses the controversial Shroud of Turin, which is normally stored in a vault below the Duomo. We will see the astonishing Shroud of Turin, an old linen cloth with the image of a crucified man. Many believe it’s the image of Jesus Christ and that this cloth was used to wrap his crucified body. It bears the faint imprint of a man and the apparent sign of wound marks that correspond to those Christ sustained during his crucifixion.

We will also celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Congregation at Turin in 1864 (based of the evangelizer principles of Saint Francis of Sales), and patron saint of apprentices, boys, editors, Mexican young people, laborers, schoolchildren, and young people. He was born August 16, 1815 not far from Turin. After becoming a priest he showed tremendous empathy for the problems of the young people of Turin at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. At the Basilica of Maria Ausiliatrice (Our Lady Help of Christians), originally part of a home for poor boys founded by Saint John Bosco, we see his partially incorrupt body kept in a glass reliquary here. His Feast Day is January 31. We will spend the remainder of the day touring this beautiful city of promenades and historic buildings. (B, D)

Day 14 – Tue. Jun 09  Paris / Toronto
This morning, we make our way to the Turin airport for our flights returning to Toronto

It is our intention to operate all tours as described in the itineraries. Local operational situations occasionally force changes to be made and we reserve the right to do so.

Cost of Pilgrimage – 14 Days including travel days

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<th>Base Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>$4,395.00</td>
<td>- Based on double occupancy</td>
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Package includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Toronto
- 12 nights’ accommodation in Superior hotels
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- 2 lunches at local restaurants
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Airfare from Paris to Turin, Italy
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Local English speaking guides
- Admission fees to sites visited
- Baggage handling at hotel when available
- Daily Mass at unforgettable locations
- Salt + Light Spiritual Leader
- Services of a Professional Escort
- Donation to Salt + Light Catholic Media Ministry. A tax receipt will be issued after travel.
- This pilgrimage is based on a minimum of 30

Not included: Air taxes and fuel surcharges (approx. $650.00), gratuities (approx. $170.00 to be collected in advance), insurance, meals not specified.

Reservations, deposits and payment:

- A deposit of $500.00 plus optional Travel Insurance Premium is due at the time of booking.
- A copy of the information page of your current passport must accompany this completed form.
- Balance is due 90 days prior to departure (Monday, March 2, 2015).
- A 3% service fee will apply when payment is made by credit card.
- If a booking is made 90 days or less prior to departure full payment is due. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and currency fluctuations.
- We recommend strongly that you purchase cancellation insurance

Please call for your personal insurance quote.

Please Contact – Liz Dachuk
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Email: lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com
Connaissance Travel Terms and Conditions

Cancellations & refunds:
All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Cancellation will be effective upon receipt of official confirmation of reservation. Cancellation Penalties as follows:
• Cancellations prior to final payment date, $100.00 administrative fee plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
• 89 – 60 days prior to departure 50% of the total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
• 59 – 30 days prior to departure 75% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
• 29 – 0 days prior to departure 100% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
• Refunds for unused accommodation and services are limited to the amounts returned by carriers, sightseeing operators and hotels. No refund or adjustment can be made for any portion of journey not used.

Connaissance Travel and Tours reserves the right to cancel a tour if the minimum number of participants is not reached by the deadline. In case of cancellation by Connaissance Travel and Tours, the full amount paid will be reimbursed and this will represent the final settlement.

Good Value and Expectations:
The Ministry of Consumer Relations requires that Ontarians traveling abroad be advised that they may encounter different living standards and practices than those at home.

Insurance:
We strongly recommend that you purchase cancellation insurance to protect you in the event of trip cancellation, protection to your baggage and to cover you against personal accidents, sickness, injury, and medical expenses or bereavement. Please call us for your quote. The insurance premium is non-refundable. It is the client’s responsibility to understand the conditions, policies, and exclusions of their insurance policy.

Flight Times:
All flight times are subject to change with or without notice to the traveller. Connaissance Travel and Tours does not accept liability for missed connections or any expenses resulting from an off-schedule, reschedule or late flight.

Flight Connections:
Included air is from and returning to Toronto only. In the event of a change in the flights, with or without notice, we cannot accept responsibility for any special connecting fares which you might purchase, not included in the journey itinerary and cannot be changed without penalty.

Air Deviations:
If you change the group air itinerary to accommodate your situation, and to retain the quoted fare for the deviation, you must reserve and pay at the time of quotation. Please note that a name change is not allowed and will be treated as a cancellation.

No Air Reservations:
Most journeys may be purchased as “land only”. The air credit is inclusive of the ground transportation credit and guests are fully responsible to make their own arrangements to meet the group at the first night’s hotel. Connaissance Travel and Tours will not be responsible for guests arriving late due to delayed flights or for covering missed journey days, missed accommodation costs, extra costs as a result of any delay, or for costs incurred due to the changes in the Connaissance start/end dates and or location. It is recommended that you purchase tickets without restrictions.

Travel Documentation:
A valid Canadian passport, with a validity of 6 months after your return home, is required for all visits outside Canada. It is the sole responsibility of the traveller to ensure proper and valid documentation. Failure to provide valid documentation may result in denied boarding of the aircraft and cancellation of your flight arrangements without refund. If you are holding a passport other than Canada, please advise us and we will determine if a visa is required for entry into the country/countries you will be visiting.

Baggage Allowance:
One piece of checked luggage and one carry-on bag weighing not more than 10lbs is allowed. Your final documents will indicate the specific regulations of the airline that we will be using.

Liability:
Connaissance Travel and Tours has made the advertised arrangements with various supplies. Although Connaissance Travel and Tours takes great care in selecting these suppliers, the company accepts no responsibility for Acts of Omissions or Errors by our suppliers or employees. The Company reserves the right to refuse any person as a group member at its own discretion. The Company reserves the right to cancel any or all departures with or without prior notice.