

EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE

Sept 20 – Oct 3, 2014

\$ 4,490.00

per person, double occupancy

*plus air taxes

*Lisbon • Santarem • Fatima • Braga • El Camino de Santiago • Burgos • Lourdes
Carcassonne • Avignon • Lyon • Ars • Paray-le-Monial • Nevers
Lisieux • Paris*

Your 14 Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Sat. Sep 20

Depart Toronto

We meet at Toronto Airport for departure to Lisbon. Enjoy complimentary meals and beverage service during your overnight flight.

Day 2 – Sun. Sep 21

Lisbon / Santarém / Fátima

Upon arrival in Lisbon, we are met by our local hosts and begin our journey. We start with a panoramic tour of this vibrant city. We will visit St. Jerome's Monastery and Saint Anthony's Church, which honours the patron saint of lost objects. Our drive will take us to Belem Quarter, the Belem Tower also known as St. Vincent's Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, 25 April Bridge and Discoveries Monument, Basilica of the Star and so much more. After our "get acquainted" visit of Lisbon, we continue to Santarem, one of the oldest cities in the world. Here, we will walk the narrow streets of this quaint town to the Church of St. Stephen where we will see the Oldest Eucharist Miracle ever recorded. It has been on display here since 1269 A.D. We will have Holy Mass here before continuing to our final destination of Fatima, one of the most important Marian shrines in the World, where we spend the next 2 nights. We arrive to our hotel for dinner and our overnight. (D)

Overnight – Fatima – Estrela de Fatima (or similar) - 2 nights



Day 3 – Mon Sep 22

Fátima

It is in Fatima that The Blessed Mother appeared to three young shepherd children and stressed to them the importance of praying the Rosary. We start our day with Holy Mass at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, an open-air chapel built on the site of the appearances. We visit the Sanctuary complex of Our Lady of Fátima, which includes the Basilica, the location of the tombs of the young visionaries, Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto, who died in 1919 and 1920 respectively and were beatified in 2000; and, the Hamlet of Aljustrel, where the children lived, and almost unchanged since 1917. We will walk the Stations of the Cross to Valinhos, the site of Our Lady's appearance after the children's return from prison. After dinner, we take part in the evening Rosary and candle light procession. (B, D)



Day 4 – Tue Sep 23 Fátima / Braga / Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast we depart Fatima and take in the rustic beauty of the Portuguese countryside. We make our way to Braga, considered the oldest Christian archdiocese in the country and one of the oldest in the world. We visit the enormous Bom Jesus do Monte, classified as a sanctuary. This is the most photographed church in Portugal and is known for its intricate zig zag Baroque style staircase (about 600 stairs in total) that lead up 381 feet to the main basilica. Pilgrims might climb the stairs on their knees while reflecting on the Passion of the Christ that is depicted by various statues along the way. But even climbing 600 stairs by foot is quite rewarding. If walking is too difficult, the site is accessible by funicular, the first one on the entire Iberian Peninsula. We will have our lunch break here before crossing the border into Spain. We arrive to Santiago de Compostela in time for Holy Mass at the St. James Cathedral. Dinner and overnight here. (B, D)

Overnight – Santiago de Compostella Hotel (or similar) – 2 nights

Day 5 – Wed Sep 24 Santiago de Compostela

In Santiago de Compostela, we walk the last couple of miles of the El Camino arriving at the Cathedral. Attend the International Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral of St. James. Tradition invites us to: hug the Saint, go under the main altar and visit the crypt where the relics of St. James are preserved. After a break for lunch, we have a tour of Santiago, taking in the Obradoiro Square, Touch the Portico de La Gloria (the Doorway of Gloria) one of only 7 Holy Doors in the World, Fonseca Palace, Gelmirez Palace and Franco Street. Remainder of the day is free.

(B, D)



Day 6 – Wed Sep 25 Santiago de Compostela / Burgos

After breakfast, we continue our journey to Burgos, the historic capital of Old Castile. We arrive in time for lunch followed by a guided visit of this beautiful city. Among other sites, we will see the Burgos Cathedral, a striking Gothic Cathedral built from white limestone, considered to be one of Spain's best cathedrals and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Remainder of the day is free for you to explore. Dinner and overnight here.

(B, D)

Burgos – Corona de Castilla (or similar) - 1 night



Day 7 – Thu Sep 26 Burgos / Lourdes

This morning we leave Burgos and continue along the scenic Pyrenees Mountains en route to Lourdes, the largest Catholic pilgrimage destination in France and one of the most popular Catholic shrines in the world. We arrive in time for dinner and to join the nightly Candlelight Procession. (B, D)

Overnight - Lourdes – Hotel Saint Sauveur or similar – 2 nights

Day 8 – Wed Sep 27 Lourdes

After breakfast you will have a full day to experience Lourdes as you wish. Pray at the Grotto, bathe in the Miraculous Waters, or walk the magnificent life sized Stations of the Cross behind the Grotto. The evening is free for quiet reflection in the Grotto. (B, D)



Day 9 – Thu Sep 28

Lourdes / Carcassonne / Avignon

Today, we meet our guide and board our private coach for our continuation to Carcassonne, a medieval walled city designated by UNESCO in 1997 as a masterpiece of world heritage sites. Here, we will have a guided walking tour to discover the fortifications of this sumptuous town. We also visit the Basilica of St. Nazaire, former cathedral of the city, well known for its beautiful stained-glass windows. After our lunch break, we are back on board our coach destined for Avignon, referred to as the “City of Popes”. We have a guided visit of the Palace of the Popes; the palace-fortress built starting from 1135, which symbolizes the influence of the Christian

church in the Occident during the XIV century. We have Holy Mass at St. Pierre Church before check in and dinner of Provencal specialities. (B, D)

Overnight – Novotel Avignon Centre or similar – Avignon – 1 night

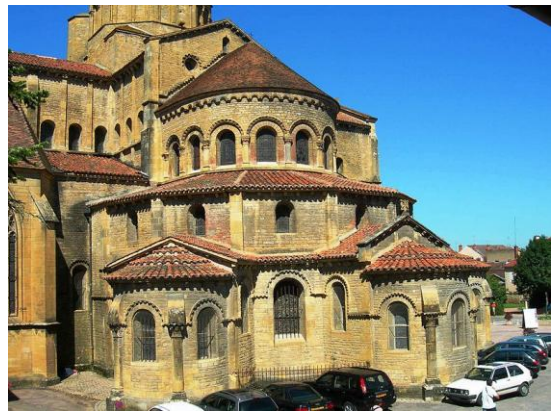
Day10 – Fri Sep 29

Avignon / Lyon / Ars / Paray Le Monial

This morning we travel to Lyon, a major Christian center of the past, whose beautiful religious buildings showcase the cultural and artistic wealth of the city. Here we have a guided visit of its two iconic monuments; the Basilica of Fourviere, a flamboyant 19th century church which offers a great view over the town; and St. Jean Cathedral, mostly Gothic but partially Romanesque, and seat of the Archbishop of Lyon.

Probably the most unique and interesting feature of Lyon's cathedral is the 14th-century astronomical clock in the north transept. A marvel of technology and beauty, it chimes at 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm while a rooster crows and angels herald. We then continue to Ars, famous through the holy life and labors of St. John Vianney, its beloved Curé. The story of John Vianney emphasizes how God used a poor and simple man who was considered only marginally fit to be a priest and became a saint.

Visit the Basilica of Ars where you can observe his preserved body in a glass reliquary. We have Mass in Ars followed by a lunch stop, before departing to Paray le Monial, known as the Sacred Heart city and considered by some to be "a town very dear to heaven". Paray le Monial is known across the world thanks to the popularity of the message of the heart of Jesus. Jesus appeared to a young nun from the Visitation Monastery, called Margaret-Mary, showing her "this heart which has loved men so much". We will have a visit of Apparitions Chapel where Saint Margaret-Mary lies in a decorated reliquary; and The sacred Heart Basilica where John-Paul II came as a pilgrim himself. We have dinner and overnight in this town of about 5,000 inhabitants.



Overnight – Hostellerie des Trois Pigeons or similar – Paray le Monial – 1 night



Day 11 – Sat Sep 30

Paray Le Monial / Nevers / Paris

After breakfast, we depart for Nevers, through the picturesque French countryside. 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 Paris, “city of lights” where we will spend the next 3 nights. We enjoy our dinner in a Parisian brasserie, and have the remainder of the evening free.

Overnight – Hotel Opera Cadet or similar – Paris – 3 nights

Day 12 – Sun Oct 01

Paris / Lisieux / Paris

Today is the Feast Day for St. Teresa and 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. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed great works. The only book of hers, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal called "Story of a Soul." But within 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonized. 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 will then return to Paris by the end of the day for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 13 – Mon Oct 02

Paris

After private Holy Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, we will 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. We continue with a sightseeing tour of this capital including 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 held at Notre Dame; the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, on Montmartre, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. During our tour, we have the opportunity to see the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysée. We enjoy our farewell dinner and final night in Paris. (B, D)

Day 14 – Sat Oct 03

Paris / Toronto

After breakfast, we depart Paris for our same day flight back to Toronto. (B)

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

\$4,490.00	- Base on double occupancy
\$1,090.00	- Additional Single Supplement

Package includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Toronto
- 12 nights' accommodation in Superior hotels
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Local English speaking guides
- Admission fees to sites visited
- Baggage handling at hotel
- 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.

Not included: Air taxes and fuel surcharges (approx. \$625.00), gratuities (approx. \$150.00 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 (Friday, June 20, 2014).
- 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 suppliers. 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.